

**Translation of the  
PROYECTO VARELA**

**A PEOPLES' PETITION  
BASED ON OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

The undersigned signatories request that the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power submit to Popular Consultation, by Referendum, each one of the following proposals:

- 1.A. That the following necessary changes be made to our laws, while preserving the common good and the respect for the Human Rights universally recognized and human dignity, in order to guaranty to our citizens:
  - 1.A.1. The right to freely associate as per their own interests and ideas, in order that they may legally organize associations and other organizations, whether social, political, economic, cultural, of syndicates, students, religious, humanitarian or of any other kind, respecting the principles of pluralism and the diversity of those present in society.
  - 1.A.2. The rights of freedom of speech and press, in order that persons, individually or in group, may manifest and express their ideas, creeds and opinions by means of the spoken word or in writing and by any other medium of defusion and expression.
- 1.B. The laws that guaranty these rights should be in force in a term not to exceed sixty days following the Referendum.
- 2.A. That an amnesty be declared to all detained, sanctioned or incarcerated for political reasons and who have not participated in acts attempting directly against the lives of other persons. This Amnesty law shall be in force in a term not superior than thirty days following the Referendum.
- 3.A. That current laws be amended as may be necessary in order to guaranty to citizens their right to organize private enterprises, whether individual or cooperative, to engage in commercial activities, which may be for profit or to render services, and that contracts for the operation of these enterprises may be entered under fair conditions between employees and these enterprises, assuring that no one may profits exploiting the work of others. The new laws should guaranty the respect of the rights of employees and citizens as well as the interests of society. These new laws should be in force in a term no longer than sixty days following the Referendum.
- 4.A. The electoral law must be transformed in order to guaranty:
  - 4.A.1. The determination of electoral districts, in order case, to elect by direct vote Delegates to the Municipal Assemblies of the Peoples' Power, the Delegates to the Provincial Assemblies of the Peoples' Power as well as the Delegates to the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power. Each

elector may vote for only one Delegate.

- 4.A.2.1. That each of the districts for the municipal elections, select by the direct vote of its electors one Delegate to the Municipal Assembly of the Peoples' Power. Each elector my vote for only one Delegate candidate.
- 4.A.2.2. That each of the Districts determined for Provincial elections, select by direct vote one Delegate to the Provincial Assembly of the Peoples's Power. Each elector may vote for only one Delegate.
- 4.A.2.3. That each of the Districts determined for municipal elections select, by direct vote, one Delegate to the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power. Each elector may vote for only one Delegate.
- 4.A.3. That citizens be nominated as candidates for Delegates to the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies and for candidates for Members to the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power, solely and directly by the supporting signature of electors of the corresponding Districts, under the conditions expressed under 4.A.4., 4.A.4.1., 4.A.4.2. and 4.A.4.3. of this Petition.
- 4.A.4. That the necessary and sufficient conditions in order that a citizen may be nominated as a candidate shall be:
  - 4.A.4.1. Meet the conditions established under Articles 131, 132 and 133 of the Constitution of the Republic in order that a citizen may have the right to vote and be elected.
  - 4.A.4.2. The submission to the pertinent authorities in a term of not less than thirty days before the elections of the supporting signatures in favor of the candidacy of not less than 5% of electors of the District that they aspire to represent. Each elector may only support in this manner an aspiring candidate for Delegate to the Municipal Assembly o f the Peoples' Power, for an aspiring candidate as Delegate of the Provincial Assembly of the Peoples' Power and an aspiring candidate as a Member to the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power.
  - 4.A.4.3. Reside in the corresponding District when aspiring as a candidate to Delegate to the Municipal Assembly of the Peoples' Power, reside in the corresponding Province when aspiring to be a Delegate to the Provincial Assembly of the Peoples' Power and to reside in the country when aspiring to be a candidate as a Member of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power. In any case, in order to be a candidate a person must reside in the country for at least during the year prior to the election.
- 4.A.5. That the electors, those aspiring as candidates and candidates have the right to meet in assemblies, with no other condition than the due respect of the public order, to expose

their proposals and ideas. All citizens shall have the right to the fair use of the means of diffusion.

- 4.B. The new electoral law, with the content herein expressed, shall be in force in a term not superior than sixty days following the holding of the Referendum.
5. That general elections shall be held in a term comprised between the preceding 270 days and 365 days following the Referendum.

(Translated to English, from its original Spanish, above are the dispositive provisions of the above petition, known as the "Proyecto Varela", which was drafted by the citizen Osvaldo Payá Sardiñas, residing at Calle Piñon # 276, between Ayuntamiento and Márquez, fronting the Manila Park, El Cerro, Havana, Cuba, with the accompanying signature of more than the required members of Cuban citizens needed to support this form of Petition under the Cuban Constitution in force on the time of filing this Petition. The original Petition included a transcription of the legal precedents from such Constitution supporting the Petition. Subsequently, a substantial additional number of Cuban citizens joined supporting the Petition. This translation was done in New York City, New York State, U.S.A. by Agustin de Goytisoló, an attorney graduate of the Universities of Havana, 1947, and Georgetown in Washington DC, 1978, who practices in Miami-Dade FL and is a Florida Civil Law Notary, using free time beginning on December 31, 2003 and ending on January 1, 2004)