

particular protection for the inviolability of diplomatic officials and for the immovable property associated with their activities.

In the United States:

1. Shortly after 2 a.m. on 30 April 2020, Alexander Alazo, a United States citizen of Cuban origin, opened fire on the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in the United States, in Washington, D.C., using a semi-automatic AK-47-style rifle. The diplomatic premises were hit by 32 bullets. Seven people were in the building at the time of the incident. Some shots went through the windows to the interior of the building, while others hit the exterior of the building, the facade, the perimeter fence and the statue of the national hero of Cuba, José Martí.

Two years on from these terrorist acts perpetrated against the diplomatic premises and representatives of Cuba, the courts of the United States of America have not yet tried the person who perpetrated and is responsible for the acts.

The United States has not made any guarantees or taken any security or legal action to prevent the recurrence of such acts of international terrorism, which is endangering lives and putting the safety and security of Cuban missions and representatives in the United States at risk.

2. On the night of 15 September 2021, upon his arrival on a flight from Mexico, Ambassador Carlos Fernández de Cossío, who was at that time Director-General for the United States and is now the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, was intercepted at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York by an individual identified only as Chris and asked to discuss the health incidents of United States diplomats in Havana. The senior Cuban official suggested that the individual request the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations for a meeting to discuss the issue officially. The individual replied that the United States government agency to which he belonged did not operate in that manner and that it would opt to contact another person from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pay that person a lot of money and get the information that way.

On 17 September 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba sent Diplomatic Note No. 1616 to the Embassy of the United States in Havana, also transmitting a copy to the Department of State. The note expressed the strongest rejection of the aggressive and disrespectful action towards Ambassador Fernández de Cossío, who had travelled to New York as part of the delegation of the Republic of Cuba participating in the high-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly.

The United States authorities never responded to the note from the Republic of Cuba.

This incident not only put the Cuban diplomat concerned in serious danger but was also a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the norms of international law that protect diplomatic agents.

3. Since November 2020, demonstrations have taken place regularly outside the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations. The following actions have occurred during the demonstrations:

- The demonstrations have been led by the same individuals the whole time. They have occupied the space at the entrance to the Mission, preventing both Mission staff and visitors from entering the building. Mission staff and their families, including children and adolescents, work and live in this building.
- At times, the demonstrators have attempted to force their way into the Mission, thrown stones from the area in front of the Mission and threatened staff at the entrance to the building.
- The demonstrators have made threats of physical violence and threatened to use knives and firearms against the Cuban diplomats attached to the Mission.
- On multiple occasions, one or more demonstrators have followed the Mission's diplomatic staff to their homes while insulting and threatening them.
- Demonstrators have also used loudspeakers and other sound amplification devices right at the entrance to the Mission, without authorization, in violation of United States law.
- Posters, graffiti and offensive propaganda have been placed on the facade of the Mission building.
- The door to the building has been physically blocked with a rope.

Cuba, as a victim of these violations, has reported them to the host country authorities. However, the authorities in charge of the diplomatic security of the permanent missions have not always provided due protection to the Cuban Mission, despite having been informed in a timely manner, even prior to the occurrence of these events.

On several occasions, the New York City Police Department has withdrawn protection when

the aggressors arrived, refraining from intervening to enforce international law and the law of the United States itself.

The response of the United States authorities is inadequate, and the resulting impunity with which these individuals are acting could promote a dangerous escalation in their activities, which could lead to terrorist attacks against the Permanent Mission of Cuba or other actions that put the security and safety of the Mission and its staff at risk.

Both the attack against the Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the recent acts directed against the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York are direct consequences of the aggressive and hateful policy and rhetoric of the Government of the United States in respect of Cuba and the constant incitement to violence by United States politicians and anti-Cuban extremist groups that have turned these kinds of attacks into a way of life.

Cuba recalls that in the past, these kinds of demonstrations have had serious consequences, owing to their violent nature, even causing the physical injury and death of Cuban diplomats. Cuban diplomatic missions in the United States have been targets of violence, including in the bombing of the Permanent Mission in 1979, in which three people were injured, and the assassination of an official of the Permanent Mission in 1980.

Cuba has repeatedly expressed, within the relevant United Nations frameworks and to the host country at the bilateral level, its strongest rejection of these actions and the impunity with which the above-mentioned individuals have committed offences against and threatened Cuban officials and damaged diplomatic facilities and immovable property.

Cuba, as the victim of this aggression, has requested the Mission of the United States to take all necessary measures to ensure adequate protection for the Permanent Mission of Cuba and its staff in accordance with article 22, paragraph 2, of the Vienna Convention of 1961.

