



## **Che Guevara Portrayed As “Heroic Guerrilla” at Duke University Museum Exhibition**

**Key Facts Prepared by Aida Levitan, Ph.D., Chair of FACE**

### **WHAT:**

FACE (Facts About Cuban Exiles) and other organizations have protested the Duke University Nasher Museum Exhibition in which a Che Guevara portrait is entitled “Day of Heroic Guerrilla.” The exhibition has also been featured with a photo of the Guevara portrait in Duke University Magazine’s Winter 2018 Edition. The Catalog, published by Duke, has a two-page spread which links Che Guevara to “liberating America.” The document’s text refers to Guevara’s death as occurring under “tragic circumstances,” as if this death was a great tragedy for humanity.

### **WHO:**

Dr. Vincent Price, President of Duke University (dukepresident@duke.com), and the Director of the Nasher Museum, are responsible for this exhibition.

FACE (Facts About Cuban Exiles), CABA (Cuban American Bar Association) and HNBA (a national non-profit organization that represents Hispanic legal professionals) have all protested and sent letters to the President of Duke University. Victor Diaz, Esq., Valedictorian graduate of Duke; Nelson C. Bellido, and Tim Mendoza, also Duke graduates, have written to Dr. Price to protest the exhibition and catalog.

### **WHEN:**

This exhibit hangs at Duke’s Nasher Museum until July 21, 2019 and travels next to the Block Museum at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, from September 21 through December 8, 2019.

### **WHY THE PROTEST AND RESEARCH TO SUPPORT PROTEST:**

The Duke University exhibition, catalog and magazine romanticize as a hero one of the most despicable murderers of the Cuban Revolution, whose dictatorship is now more than 60 years old. This dictatorship is responsible for the deaths of thousands of people and the exile of millions of Cubans. Not only is the title of the portrait of Che Guevara as a hero inaccurate, but the exhibition, catalog and magazine article are also extremely insensitive and offensive to the millions of Cubans who suffered the effect of Guevara’s brutality and the regime that he supported. They are also insensitive to Venezuelans, who are currently suffering abuses, exile and deaths as a result of a system that rests on the policies supported by Guevara and now actively defended by Raul Castro’s dictatorship. **For research link, please see p. 2.**

Documentation on Che Guevara's Crimes:

[http://cubaarchive.org/home/images/stories/che-guevara\\_interior-pages\\_en\\_final](http://cubaarchive.org/home/images/stories/che-guevara_interior-pages_en_final)

Dr. Armando Lago and Maria Werlan, former leaders of the Cuba Archive Project, documented every death of the Castro-Guevara regime. In total, they conservatively estimated the death count at 107,805. In addition, Dr. Lago found, and confirmed by two or more independent sources, that Che Guevara ordered the execution of thousands of Cubans without due process and personally executed 159 Cubans.

**WHAT FACE IS REQUESTING:**

FACE would like to supply documented materials to Duke University and its museum and the magazine as well as to the Block Museum at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, to offer visitors a balanced presentation of the historic events that continue to impact the Americas and the world. For example, we would like for the university and the director of the museum to include in their libraries and bookstores the FACE publication *Cubans: An Epic Journey*, which documents how Che Guevara and other revolutionaries dismantled a dictatorship, promised democracy, and, instead, installed "the dictatorship of the proletariat," a proletariat that has been escaping Cuba for sixty years, becoming the Cuban exiles of today.

FACE would like the university and the museum to present speakers such as world-renowned writer and journalist Carlos Alberto Montaner who would be able to recount the true story, based on academic documentation, about the Cuban revolution and its leaders. FACE can provide other recommendations on speakers.

FACE would also like the opportunity to submit an article about the true nature of Che Guevara and documents that back up our assertions.

In addition, FACE has requested to Duke Magazine that the magazine publishes its letter of protest and other letters from people of Cuban descent, featuring their personal stories and how the Che Guevara and Castro regime impacted their lives.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Aida Levitan, Chair of FACE at 305.975.3757 or at [aidalevitan@gmail.com](mailto:aidalevitan@gmail.com).