

## **Fidel Castro Declares No Act of Terrorism is Justified**

Date: Sunday, March 14, 2004

Havana, Mar 14 (PL) Cuban President Fidel Castro said "no act of terrorism is justified, no matter who does it," referring to last Thursday bomb attacks in Madrid that killed 200 people and wounded 1,468.

In an interview granted Friday night to Chilevision and broadcast Saturday evening by Cuban television, Fidel Castro slammed at Jose Maria Aznar's administration for lying to the Spanish people, manipulating the information on the attack and taking advantage of the confusion and pain for political gaining.

The Cuban leader accused the US and Spanish governments of "knowing very well" the origin of the Madrid attacks, "lying" to the Spanish people for "electoral purposes" and "deceiving" the United Nations.

After saying he was stunned by what happened in Spain, he insisted the US government knew it well and the Spanish government more than anyone else knew it perfectly well; but they lied to the Spanish people, they deceived them.

He wondered if the truth would be known 72 hours after the elections.

"It is terrible," he continued, "that Spaniards have been victims of this attack because the people of Spain were the ones that most protested" the war in Iraq.

"No act of terrorism is justified, no matter who does it, but for reasons of a strictly political nature, it is in the interests of some and not others because everyone knows that more than 90 percent of the Spanish people opposed that war in Iraq," Fidel Castro recalled.

"It is inconceivable the Spanish people had to pay for the guilt of others", he said.

The only way to fight terrorism, he suggested, is "to seek sincere cooperation" because war "is not going to put an end to it, it is going to make it worse and worse, it is going to sow ever more hatred, more dissatisfaction, more tragedy."