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NOI Official Press Statement

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan leads delegation on successful and much anticipated Cuba visit

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On March 19, 2006, Min. Louis Farrakhan led a twenty-three member delegation to Havana, Cuba to study disaster relief preparedness. Min. Louis Farrakhan and the delegation embarked on the nine-day fact-finding mission in the wake of the horrifying and abysmal response of the U.S. government to the devastation and despair caused by Hurricane Katrina. The slow response and lack of preparation of the U.S. government contributed to the unnecessary deaths of over 3,000 Louisiana residents. "As Mayor Lindsey said at the end of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders Report, "We live in two separate so Black, one White, separate and unequal." This remains as true today as it was when written decades ago, and gives me even more of an incentive to serve on Gov. Rod F Blagojevich's Commission."



Min. Farrakhan expressed outrage and disappointment upon learning that the [U.S. government rejected Cuba's offer](#) to provide over 1,600 doctors to aid in the Hurricane Katrina relief. The delegation learned how the Cuban government implements life-saving, rapid-response strategies in the face of impending disasters.

During an approximately one-hour-long press conference on March 27, 2006, in Havana, Min. Farrakhan stated, "That's why the whole world is turning against America. You need a better government. We need regime change in America. We need a better policy, a better domestic policy and a better foreign policy, so that the greatness of America can be felt by all its neighbors."

During the mission, the Cuban government provided the delegation with unfettered access to officials in various governmental departments to impart how the various agencies would minimize and/or eliminate human casualties during, and immediately after natural disasters.

The delegation learned methods and strategies of collecting vital information in advance of disasters that would provide for a more measured and precise evacuation plan. The Cuban government apprised the delegation of procedures it implemented which prevented the loss of any life during Hurricanes Wilma and Henry and a nominal loss of life during Hurricane Charley.

The delegation, led by Min. Louis Farrakhan, intends to initiate disaster preparedness pilot projects throughout the United States based on information learned from the Cuban mission.

government. The information will be tailored to meet the unique needs of those particular communities.

Of the over 12 million Cubans on the island, 72,000 of them are medical doctors. In the over 40 million Black citizens in America, only 30,000 of them are medical doctors. Of this disparity, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro offered [nearly 1,000 full scholarship medical school in Cuba](#) for Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans.

During the above-mentioned press conference, a reporter asked Min. Farrakhan why American students seek to attend medical school in Cuba. Min. Farrakhan who is in return down life-saving support critically needed for Blacks and the poor, responded by escalating costs of medical school education in the United States, which is beyond the most poor people, as well as many in the middle class.

Between 2004 and 2006, Cuba, through its "Operation Miracle" project, has conducted 187,000 cataract removal surgeries in Latin America and the Caribbean. During a meeting with Min. Farrakhan and a select number of delegates, Commander-in-Chief and the Cuban government offered, through its affiliates, 100,000 cataract-removal surgeries to the [poor and uninsured citizens of America](#) free of charge. The program is set to begin in coming months.

FinalCall.com News will be providing additional full coverage including articles, photos, and features on the Cuba visit.

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