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White flowers from Oscar López Rivera in tribute to Fidel. Autor: Jorge Luis Guibert Publicado: 23/11/2017 | 02:25 pm

Inspiring Leadership

Oscar López Rivera has paid tribute to Mariana Grajales, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, José Martí and Fidel Castro, in Santiago de Cuba, where he was awarded the coat of arms of the province. The leadership of the Commander-In-Chief during the Missile Crisis was highlighted

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"I'm deeply touched, and hope that this moment will enable me to go on, that it will fuel our struggle for Puerto Rico", the pro-independence activist Oscar López Rivera announced, after placing a bouquet of white roses at the monolith where the ashes of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, are interred at the Santa Ifigenia heritage cemetery, together with the monuments of the founding fathers of the nation. A minute's silence was then observed.

The Puerto Rican activist was accompanied by members of the Party Central Committee, First Secretary of the organization in Santiago de Cuba Lázaro Expósito, the Chairman of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Power Beatriz Johnson Urrutia, the President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples Fernando González, and also by his daughter Clarisa López, among others. He learned details about the memorials to Mariana Grajales Cuello, the Mother of the Homeland, to Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, and to the National Hero, José Martí.

López Rivera and those accompanying him, also met with the provincial leadership and visited the 26 de Julio museum, located on the site of the former Moncada Barracks.

Lateras a special ceremony, the director of the Casa del Caribe cultural center, Orlando Vergés, awarded to the distinguished visitor the Mpaka, symbol of the Fire Festival, whose 38th edition on July 3 to 9 next year will be dedicated to the popular culture of Puerto Rico.

As a token of admiration for his example of fighting spirit and resistance, the Santiago de Cuba Assembly of the People's Power bestowed on López Rivera the Coat of Arms of the Province - the highest distinction awarded by that administration to personalities who contribute in great measure to social progress.

The days when the statesman shone

In the words of Director of the Council of State Historic Affairs Office Doctor Eugenio Suárez Pérez, speaking on Tuesday: "No wonder Comandante Ernesto Guevara wrote in his farewell letter to Fidel in 1965 –referring to the dignity, honor, courage, firmness and revolutionary lucidity of the Commander-In-Chief – that never before had a statesman shone as brightly as in those days of the Missile Crisis".

Highlighting Fidel's leadership and honor, when in late 1962 the USSR installed their powerful strategic missiles, withdrawing them later, Suárez set out in his lecture the many examples which revealed the Comandante's courage and strong sense of historic occasion, in response to that perilous situation 55 years ago.

The meeting included a screening of a documentary by ICAI on those moments when the leader of the Revolution addressed the people to explain Cuba's stance under the threat of a US nuclear attack.

Translated by ESTI

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