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OMB No. 1545-1150

Short Form

Form **990-EZ**

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

2017

Open to Public Inspection

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2017 calendar year, or tax year beginning **2017**, and ending **20**

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization: **Cuba Independiente y Democratica Inc**
 Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address): **10020 SW 37 Terrace**
 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code: **Miami FL 33165-3841**

D Employer identification number: **59-2092724**

E Telephone number: **305 551-8484**

F Group Exemption Number: **03**

G Accounting Method: Cash Accrual Other (specify) _____
 Website: **www.cubacid.org**

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) -- 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other _____

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)
 Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

		1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6a	6b	6c	6d	7a	7b	7c	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received															159,105												
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts																											
	3	Membership dues and assessments																											
	4	Investment income																											
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory																											
	5b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses																											
	5c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)																											
	6	Gaming and fundraising events																											
	6a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)																											
	6b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)																											
6c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events																												
6d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)																												
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances																												
7b	Less: cost of goods sold																												
7c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)																												
8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)																												
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8															159,105													
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)															114,288												
	11	Benefits paid to or for members																											
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits															11,276												
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors															8,040												
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance															3,118												
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping															35												
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)															2,173												
17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16															138,929													
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)															20,176												
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)															31,066												
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)																											
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20															51,242												

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Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O (see instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ▶ 37a _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ _____ ; section 4912 ▶ _____ ; section 4955 ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42a The organization's books are in care of ▶ <u>Rogelio Matos</u> Telephone no. ▶ <u>305 551-8484</u> Located at ▶ <u>1880 Shore View Drive, Indialantic, FL</u> ZIP + 4 ▶ <u>32903-4522</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ 43 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ (see instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	46	Yes		No
				✓

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	47	Yes		No
				✓
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48			✓
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a			✓
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b			

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
None				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶ _____

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 . . . ▶ _____

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A ▶ **Yes** **No**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	<i>Rogelio Matos</i> Signature of officer	Date
	Rogelio Matos, President Type or print name and title	5-17-2018

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶			
	Firm's address ▶	Phone no.			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ **Yes** **No**

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2017

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

Cuba Independiente y Democratica INC

Employer identification number

59-2092724

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 12 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations
 - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, (e) 2017, (f) Total. Rows include: 1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received; 2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit; 3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit; 4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3; 5 The portion of total contributions by each person; 6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.

Section B. Total Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, (e) 2017, (f) Total. Rows include: 7 Amounts from line 4; 8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources; 9 Net income from unrelated business activities; 10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets; 11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10; 12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc.; 13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here.

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

Table with 3 columns: Line number, Description, and Percentage. Rows include: 14 Public support percentage for 2017; 15 Public support percentage from 2016 Schedule A, Part II, line 14; 16a 33 1/3% support test--2017; b 33 1/3% support test--2016; 17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test--2017; b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test--2016; 18 Private foundation.

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2013	(b) 2014	(c) 2015	(d) 2016	(e) 2017	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	3,708	1,250	40,107	121,469	159,105	325,639
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	3,708	1,250	40,107	121,469	159,105	325,639
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						325,639

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2013	(b) 2014	(c) 2015	(d) 2016	(e) 2017	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	3,708	1,250	40,107	121,469	159,105	325,639
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	3,708	1,250	40,107	121,469	159,105	325,639
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ► <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2017 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	100 %
16 Public support percentage from 2016 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2017 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2016 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2017. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support tests—2016. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ► <input type="checkbox"/>		

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2017

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Cuba Independiente y Democratica, INC

Employer identification number

59-2092724

Form 990EZ, Page 1, Part I, Line 10

GRANT #1

In February 2017 the organization received a Grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) for the amount of \$117,000

In February of 2016 the organization had received a similar grant from NED for the amount of \$103,000

The purpose of the NED grant(s) is to promote greater interaction between pro-democracy, pro-human rights activists and citizens that seek solutions for community problems and it was awarded as part of a grant between NED and the US Dept of State.

GRANT #2 - In June 2017 the organization received a grant from the International Republican Institute (IRI), an award from the United States Agency for International Development, (USAID Award AID-AAA-A-16-0040) for the provision of humanitarian assistance to political prisoners in Cuba and their families. The USAID program is for 36 months until 2019. In 2017 the organization received \$24,000

GRANT #3 - In July 2017 the organization received a grant (also through the IRI) from the United States Dept of State International Programs to support Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL Federal Award S-LMAQM-16-GR-1161, dated Aug 23, 2016). The DRL program is for 12 months until mid 2018 and we received \$16,000 to help organize Cuban small farmers to advocate for their civil, political and labor rights.

Form 990EZ, Page 1, Part I, Line 16

bank fees 79

wire transfer fees 50

office equipment and supplies 881

meeting expenses 96

Florida corporate filing 61

Travel 706

TOTAL (LINE 16) 2173

Name of the organization Cuba Independiente y Democratica, INC	Employer identification number 59-2092724
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Form 990EZ, Page 2, Part III, Line 28

GRANT #1 - For the NED program, a total of 25 Civic Centers (also known as "hubs") were supported with laptop computers, printers, digital phones, and printing supplies, as as internet access (wi-fi minutes) for reporting and communications. The goal is to assist and empower citizens to assert their civil and human rights by filing cases with local officials regarding instances of neglect, arbitrary home evictions and other human rights issues. During 2017 about two thirds of the Civic Centers also printed a weekly newsletter for dissemination in their respective provinces.

Form 990EZ, Page 2, Part III, Line 28 ---- also Page 3, Part V, Line 33

GRANT #2 - For the IRI/USAID program, approximately 45 families of current/former political prisoners or other marginalized citizens were assisted with delivery of food supplies and simple pharmaceuticals (band aids, vitamins, over the counter pain killers.). The list of commodities shipped was approved and reviewed by USAID following the guidelines of the US Dept of Commerce, and it is monitored in qarterly status reports to the grantor.

Form 990EZ, Page 2, Part III, Line 28 ---- also Page 3, Part V, Line 33

GRANT #3 - For the IRI / Dep of State program, a group of farmers from Cuba traveled to be trained in a series of workshops in Nov 2017. With the help of the International Republican Institute, the organization (Cuba Independiente) has recruited agricultural and labor experts from Latin America who are doing their work pro-bono in mentoring and supporting the farmers in how to organize and advocate for their rights including the right to sell their products in the open market.