

Whoever says that youth is lost definitely does not know the young Cubans and especially the Matanzas. Our educational system prepares them both for school life, as well as economic, social and political life of the Island and the rest of the world.

Last May witnessed it. With the immense responsibility involved, several members of the Federation of Middle School Students (Feem) and the University Student Federation (FEU) of Matanzas, participated in the XVIII Latin American and Caribbean Student Congress, based in Venezuela.

Near the end of his fifth year in the medical career, Ofreidy Águila Cedeño, president of the FEU of Medical Sciences, spoke with Girón about the experience in the land of Bolívar and Chávez.

“The University of Medical Sciences of Matanzas was granted a position to form the delegation. For this purpose, the FEU councils of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the subsidiaries of Cárdenas and Colón met, where the proposals were evaluated. Subsequently, the commission itself presented three proposals for the Council of the FEU of the University to select the delegate, where I was elected by majority vote.

“This meant a challenge. Representing Cuba, my classmates, the young people from Matanzas, at the forefront of students, as spokesperson for the FEU's daily actions, was a commitment to all those who trusted me.”

The nerves of the first plane flight could not diminish the mission of Ofreidy, and carrying the Cuban flag during the journey contributed to remain calm. He confessed to feeling safe with the emblem.

I did not know what I could find, because despite the reality published by the Cuban press, social networks have echoed news, which instantly landed, understood its falsehood.

“Since we arrived we received a revolutionary people and one hundred percent Chavista, who follows Maduro. We were gratified to see that the reality of Venezuela is not that published by the representatives of the right, but that there is tranquility in the streets, very similar to Cuba. Children go to school in the morning, young people go to their educational campuses.

“On one of the tours and visits to centers of importance in the capital, specifically Bolivar Park, something happened that will mark my life forever. Sitting in that park was a group of elders, and when we passed without having a flag in our hand that identified us, they began to shout: Long live Cuba, Long live Fidel, and I couldn't help the tears because of the emotion. At that time I felt even more Cuban, more revolutionary and more proud of our conquests.

“That experience gave us strength. Our work in social networks during those days became more intense. Many people did not believe that what we were living was true. The Cuban press always giving reality, something that I evidenced when, when communicating with my family, they were shouting at me: Hey, you came out in the newspaper!

As a representative of the FEU, Ofreidy enjoyed the event to the fullest, which included conferences and exchanges with relevant figures in the educational and fighting processes in

the region.

“With a palpable joy I participated in the conference dedicated to the role of women in the current context, chaired by Piedad Córdoba; Teresa Viera Hernández, director of the Center for Youth Studies; and the rector of the Bolivarian University of Venezuela, César Trómpiz. It was really a spectacular experience, I could appreciate the struggles that women carry out in the countries of the continent, discrimination, abuse and exclusion of those who are victims. We were able to establish benchmarks with the situation of women on the Island and the role of Cuban organizations that allow them to have the same rights and duties as men.

“That particular aspect was explained in his speech Teresa Viera, known to us as Professor Tere, who set her cubanía high and what it means to be a woman in Cuba. I felt so proud of the teacher that I could not help when the conference ended giving him a hug.

“The appointment also enabled the exchange with students from other countries. It was difficult and moving to hear from his own voice the constant struggle to have a free public education, specifically Brazilians, who are assaulted daily by the police and even taken out of educational centers. We could see that with respect to the rest of the world, Cuba has a strengthened student movement, because the battle we have to fight is the constant struggle for our overcoming.

“The closing of the congress was a luxury. It was chaired by Nicolás Maduro Moros. We did not exchange directly, but in his intervention he made things so clear and explicit that no question was necessary. His support for young people, for women's and social struggles and movements was the highlight of the meeting and interaction space for students in the region. ”

Ofreidy Águila Cedeño, the enthusiastic president of Medical Sciences, returned home. Any space is perfect to tell your experience and in the face of the question of how you value the future of the Latin American and Caribbean student movements, you respond convinced.

“Undoubtedly, on the rise. Soon we will see more movements like that of our country, strengthened on the basis of the revolution, for an emancipatory education. ”

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