

Question for written answer E-007039/2014/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - EU stance towards the unjust imprisonment of Cuban patriots

Sixteen years after five Cuban patriots were imprisoned in the United States, three of them remain in this unacceptable situation. None of the five men have committed any act of violence or attacked the United States or its government.

They were sentenced to jail for having infiltrated terrorist organisations to prevent the propagation from Miami of criminal actions which have already caused the deaths of over 3 400 Cubans and wounded 2 000 since 1960. Many legal experts around the world have stated that none of these men were able to fully exercise the basic human right to a fair and speedy trial by an independent and impartial tribunal, a right universally recognised in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the United States has ratified. It should be recalled that all five were held in solitary confinement for 17 months before trial, that they were given insufficient access to lawyers and the case was tried in Miami, where there was no guarantee of a fair trial.

Does the Vice-President/High Representative not consider it essential to effectively uphold human rights by appealing to the President of the United States to immediately pardon these five people and immediately and unconditionally release the three who are still imprisoned in the United States?