

**Question for written answer E-002950/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 138
Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Forced deportation of human rights defenders from Cuba

Systematic human rights violations are an everyday occurrence in Cuba. In particular, the forced expatriation of human rights defenders is a scandal that has received little media attention.

Several organisations – such as Cuban Prisoners' Defenders, the Unión Patriótica de Cuba, the Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana, the Patmos Institute and the Damas de Blanco – have reported that the Cuban regime has stepped up efforts to drive human rights activists away from Cuba for life, by threatening them and their families with death and lengthy prison sentences. In June 2019, Cuban Prisoners' Defenders, the Unión Patriótica de Cuba, the Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana and the Patmos Institute lodged a formal complaint with the United Nations for the 'forced mass expatriation' of human rights activists.

- (1) Are you aware of these occurrences?
- (2) Were you able to discuss this at the EU-Cuba Joint Council?