

**Question for written answer P-005043/2018  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Francisco Assis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Cuban dissident on hunger strike hovering between life and death

After a first 'show trial' in 2017 that put him in prison for 12 months, Tomás Nuñez Magdariaga, Cuban political dissident and human rights activist, was arrested on 14 August 2018, as a result of trumped up charges concerning alleged 'threats' made by an accuser who, regretful of his actions, has publicly recounted the details of the farcical action, ordered by the Ministry of Interior, and has tried in vain to withdraw the accusations. From 14 August to the present, Tomás Nuñez has been on hunger strike. After 48 days without eating, he has no strength left to move or speak. His condition is critical. He could die at any moment.

Political repression in Cuba has been growing steadily since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the USA in 2015. From November 2017, a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between Cuba and the EU has been provisionally applied. Under Article 22 of the PDCA, both parties agree to cooperate with the aim of 'respecting and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights'.

Against this backdrop: is Article 22 a mere farce? What steps will the EU undertake to obtain the immediate release of Tomás Nuñez in order to try to save his life?