

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2755/07
by Luís Queiró (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Trial of Rolando Jiménez Posada

The Cuban regime is continuing to violate human rights, in spite of all the appeals from international organisations and the criticisms and campaigning of countless eminent figures.

Notwithstanding the state of health of the Cuban leader Fidel Castro, the regime has lately been showing no signs of moving towards greater democratic liberalisation or acting more in keeping with human rights.

According to international media reports, a Cuban lawyer, Rolando Jiménez Posada, was sentenced on 23 April 2007 to 12 years' imprisonment, having been charged with, among other things, 'disrespect' to President Fidel Castro.

The reports also stated that the court refused to let Mr Jiménez Posada conduct his own defence and tried him in his absence.

Furthermore, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation has indicated that two secret summary trials were held within the space of less than a month and neither independent lawyers nor relatives of the defendants were allowed to attend.

The Union has to give substance to its repeated statements on human rights.

Has the Commission been following the above reports, and has it taken or will it take any action in this matter? Does it believe that the Union can, should, or will take any significant and useful initiative likely to alter the current situation, not least by making Cuba respect human rights?