

ORAL QUESTION H-0314/03
for Question Time at the part-session in June 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Lennart Sacrédeus
to the Commission

Subject: Violation of human rights in Cuba

In March this year, 78 opposition figures were imprisoned in Cuba. Summary trials with no chance of a proper defence or the presence of independent individuals were held in April, followed by sentences of 15 and 28 years. The prisoners are now serving their sentences under inhuman conditions, in solitary confinement or together with hardened criminals, most often so far from home as to make visits by relatives impossible. These conditions are clearly a violation of human rights.

Given that the Commission has recently opened an office in Havana and that the Cotonou agreement makes certain stipulations regarding human rights, what does the Commission intend to do to secure the release of political prisoners in Cuba? What is the Commission doing to ensure that the treatment of the Cuban prisoners improves and that they are moved nearer to home? What steps will the Commission take to support the prisoners and their relatives?

Tabled: 16.05.2003

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