



Hon. Mr. José Manuel García Margallo
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of Spain

Madrid, November 2nd 2014

Mr. Minister:

We have become aware through the media of your visit to Cuba during this month of November, which contemplates an **interview with Raúl Castro**, and as you can expect, this is an issue that concerns us.

In this regard, there are of particular importance the gestures, words and acts which define and provide the content of the bilateral relations between Spain and our country, inter alia for the influence of the Spanish positions in the European Union regarding the Cuban issue, since this visit will be performed within the initiative aimed to relaunch the relationships between the European Union with Cuba, process which Spain has driven.

We have always opted for dialogue, but we have also required that in all the meetings with whom currently hold power in Cuba, **a claim in favor of Human Rights is made**, jointly with claims regarding the dignity of the individual, social justice and democratic values.

We truly believe that if a transition process is to be encouraged in Cuba, it must begin by **including all the members and groups that conform the civil society, the opposition and the exile**, in all of the initiatives that affect the general interests of the people of Cuba. Otherwise, we will assist to an agreement which will be incomplete and improbable, that will not benefit at all the Cuban society, who will interpret it as an acceptance of the political segregation imposed more than half a century ago, or, at best, as an ingenious and failed initiative.

Any agreement with Cuba that doesn't put Human Rights and individual liberties of the Cubans ahead of everything else, would translate into a renunciation of the paradigm that Spain represents, it would be another series of encounters and meetings to talk about the Cubans, but not to talk with the Cubans, and not even to talk between Cubans.

Mr. Minister, we want to reiterate what we expressed in our **letter to the Foreign Ministers of the EU**, during their February meeting destined to draft the framework of the relationships with the island:

"We democrats work to be able to create a fair society with equal rights and opportunities for everybody, without excluding from the future many people who currently hold key posts in the Cuban government. But it is essential not to lower the standards we apply to people who have to accept that the human dignity, social fairness, social justice and the liberties of everybody have to be respected; the country doesn't belong only to them, despite the fact they have tried to do it for more than fifty years. Hence, the need of our two considerations:

the respect for Human Rights and a dialogue inclusive with the Cubans and between Cubans”.

Mr. Minister, the Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos wants to request that during your visit you intercede in the way to see more suitable, for the following people whom the Government keeps under ***“licencia extrapenal”***, a condition which impedes a full performance of their rights and liberties, and which is measure that is being applied to them since they refuse to accept exile, a condition that was tried to be imposed in the agreement signed off between the Cuban Government, the Spanish Government and the Catholic Church, in return of their liberty.

They are the following:

***Arnaldo Ramos Lauzurique
Ángel Juan Moya Acosta, Diosdado
González Marrero, Eduardo Díaz Fleitas
Félix Navarro Rodríguez
Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutiérrez
Iván Hernández Carrillo
Jorge Olivera Castillo
José Daniel Ferrer García
Librado Ricardo Linares García
Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello
Oscar Elías Biscet González.***

The rest of the prisoners from the same repressive wave of 2003 also find themselves in the same situation, which were exiled and are not allowed to return to Cuba.

We would also ask for your intercession in the cases of the prisoners ***Armando Sosa Fortuny*** y ***Rolando Sarraf Trujillo***, accused of ***“Otros Actos Contra la Seguridad del Estado”*** and ***“Espionaje”*** respectively, for whom we ask you to request their release for humanitarian reasons (we supply additional information of these two cases in the annex).

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and requests.

Respectfully,

Alejandro González Raga

Executive Director OCDH

Elena Larrinaga de Luis

President OCDH