

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



European Union Special Representative for
Human Rights

Eamon GILMORE

Brussels, 21 September 2021

Dear Alejandro González Raga/Cuban Observatory of Human Rights,

Thank you for your detailed correspondence of 8 September. The EU has been following the developments in Cuba very closely. The protests, which were the largest in scope and intensity since 1994 were for the most part peaceful, although some did turn violent, with the authorities responding with repression, and in some cases force.

On 19 July HRVP Borrell, in a declaration on behalf of the European Union, expressed concern regarding the repression of the protests, and unequivocally supported the right of all Cuban citizens to express their views peacefully, to make demands for change, and to assemble to give voice to their opinions, including on the internet.

The arbitrary arrest of political activists, protestors and journalists is unacceptable, and reports of summary trials extremely concerning. The Government must ensure due process, and I would like to reiterate calls for the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained prisoners.

HRVP Borrell also called on the Cuban government to respect the human rights and freedoms enshrined in universal Human Rights Conventions, many of which you have detailed in your correspondence. This is also a call that I would like to reiterate. Human rights and fundamental freedoms must be upheld.

With regard to the death of Diubis Laurencio Tejada, media sources indicate that the Cuban Military Prosecutor's Office has now formally accused a Cuban Police officer in connection with this death. The EU will follow this trail closely and will continue to demand that justice be done in the case of Mr. Tejada.

The protests came about as a result of legitimate grievances. The country's deep economic crisis, which has been compounded by external factors, has resulted in hunger, queues for food and other essentials, and lack of water and basic medicines, among other things. It is important that the Government engage in inclusive dialogue with its citizens to ensure that solutions that are acceptable to all and that benefit all are found.

The EU stands ready to support all efforts addressed toward improving the living conditions of Cubans, in the context of the partnership established under the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Cuba.

Finally, it is up to Member States and/or the High Representative to propose listings under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime that they believe to be most appropriate, and for the Council to decide on those proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Eamon Gilmore,

EU Special Representative for Human Rights