

FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR
WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)

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Priority question

AUTHOR(S): Elisabetta Gardini

SUBJECT: Christian activist arrested - Eduardo Cardet
(please specify)

TEXT:

On the 30th of November, Eduardo Cardet, national coordinator of Christian Liberation Movement (MCL), was arrested after having criticized the Cuban regime in an interview by stating that: "Castro was a man hated and rejected by the Cuban people."

Mr. Cardet is currently being detained and awaiting trial in the Holguin provisional prison. His wife reported he received substantial injuries as a result of the beating during the arrest. Mr. Cardet is facing charges of assault, public scandal and resistance among others.

The MCL is a key opposition actor in Cuba and a strong proponent of democracy and human rights. Their members have for a long time been subjected of harassment and violence by the regime, including the suspicious death of the movement's founder and Sakharov prize winner Oswaldo Paya in a car accident in 2012.

Given the arrest of Mr. Cardet and the arrests of other human rights defenders following the death of Field Castro, what is the Commission doing to promote human rights and support opposition movements such as the MCL in Cuba? And what concrete actions are the Commission taking to put pressure on the Cuban regime in regards to the case of Eduardo Cardet?

Signature(s):

Date: 02.2.2016

