1988 RR-88-102. Human Rights

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AM-CUBA-RIGHTS

CUBAN NEWSPAPER LAUNCHES BITING ATTACK ON DISSIDENT

HAVANA, MARCH 18, REUTER - THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S OFFICIAL DAILY NEWSPAPER, GRANMA, DEVOTED TWO PAGES FRIDAY TO A TAUNTING ATTACK ON RICARDO BOFILL, THE LEADER OF A SELF-STYLED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE IN HAVANA WHICH HAS WRITTEN AND DISTRIBUTED DOZENS OF DOCUMENTS DENOUNCING ALLEGED HAMN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA.

THE ARTICLE, WHICH OCCUPIES ONE FOURTH OF THE FRIDAY EDITION FOLLOWS AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER ON WEDNESDAY WHICH CALLED BOFILL AND HIS FOLLOWERS +TRAITORS+ AND SAID +NOW IS THE TIME TO UNMASK THEM.+

THE ARTICLE, BITINGLY SACARSTIC IN ITS STYLE, ACCUSES BOFILL OF BEING A LIAR, THIEF AND SWINDLER +WITH A MONSTROUS EGO AND AN INSACIABLE THIRST FOR FAME AND NOTORIETY.+.

AMONG THE PHOTOGRAPHS PUBLISHED ON THE TWO PAGES ARE ONES SHOWING BOFILL WITH THOMAS GERTH, THE NUMBER TWO MAN AT THE UNITED STATES INTEREST SECTION IN HAVANA AND JERRY SCOTT, ITS INFORMATION OFFICER.

USING BITING GIBES AS IT EXPLORED BOFILL'S LIFE SINCE HIS BIRTH IN HAVANA IN 1943, THE ARTICLE CHARGES THAT BOFILL HAS CONSTANTLY LIED. AMONG THE LIES ARE ALLEGED PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF BOFILL THAT HE WAS BORN IN SPAIN, THAT HE HAD TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA AND AT UNIVERSITIES IN ARGENTINA AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT HE HAD WRITTEN A NOVEL PUBLISHED IN SPAIN FOR WHICH ANOTHER CUBAN WRITER CLAIMS AUTHORSHIP.

THE ARTILE ACCUSES BOFILL OF HAVING FALSIFIED A LETTER FROM THE DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS OF MIAMI WHICH SAID HE HAD BEEN NAMED AS THEIR CORRESPONDENT IN CUBA.

AMONG THE MOST SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE ARTICLE WAS THAT BOFILL HAD BEEN AN INFORMER IN 1958, A YEAR BEFORE THE TRIUMPH OF THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA, OF A CAPTAIN SERAFIN, THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE TOWN NEAR HAVANA WHERE BOFILL AND HIS FAMILY LIVED.

THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT WHILE HE WAS IN A CUBAN JAIL FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTION, HE HAD SENT MANY WRITTEN +ALERTS+ TO CUBAN AUTHORITIES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER PRISONERS.

==REUTER/LEM )
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