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AM-CUBA-DISSIDENT
HUMAN RIGHTS DISSIDENT RECEIVES PERMISSION TO LEAVE CUBA:
,HAVANA, AUG 29, REUTER - CUBAN DISSIDENT, RICARDO BOFILL, PRESIDENT OF THE SELF-STYLED CUBAN COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (COMITE CUBANO PRO DERECHOS HUMANOS) SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW MONDAY THAT HE HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE ISLAND'S GOVERNMENT TO LEAVE CUBA.

BOFILL, WHO CALLED THE REUTER OFFICE, SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE BECAUSE HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR KIDNEY STONES AND OTHER AILMENTS.

WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD GO TO THE UNITED STATES HE SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING +THE EUROPEAN OPTION.+

HE DID NOT SAY IF HE WOULD STILL BE IN CUBA WHEN A MISSION FROM THE U.N HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISITS CUBAN IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO LOOK INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE.

BOFILL'S COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DISMISSED AS A MINISCULE GROUP BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN TOLERATED SINCE 1986 BUT IT RECEIVES NO OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVISTS DELIVERS TYPEWRITTEN INFORMATION TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND JOURNALISTS IN HAVANA ON ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALMOST DAILY.

IN 1988 THE COMMITTEE REPORT, +SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA+, WAS DRAWN ON HEAVILY BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS OWN ANNUAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND.

BOFILL HAS BEEN CHARGED IN THE CUBAN NEWS MEDIAL AND ON TELEVISION WITH BEING A +CHARLATAN+ AND +A TRAITOR MANIPULATED BY THE CIA.+

BOFILL WAS JAILED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1967 ALONG WITH A FACTION OF COMMUNISTS WHO CRITICIZED THE POLICIES OF FIDEL CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT. AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL IN 1972 HE WAS JAILED ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASSION FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROPAGANDA. IN TOTAL, BOFILL SPENT EIGHT YEARS IN CUBAN PRISONS.

OVER PAST MONTHS HUNDREDS OF CUBAN DISSIDENTS INCLUDING SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF BOFILL'S COMMITTEE HAVE LEFT CUBA AFTER BEING GRANTED PERMISSION BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

==REUTER/LEM

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