A Castro court summons me again.

“It seems that State Security has not had enough with the beating I received on April 22 from police agent Yorvanis Vargas.”

Roberto Jesús Quin1ones Haces. Tuesday, August 6, 2019. 12:13 pm

GUANTANAMO, Cuba.- Apparently, it hasn’t been enough for State Security in Guantanamo province that I was beaten on April 22 by police agent Yorvanis Vargas Tamayo, while I was in handcuffs. Now, I am accused for the alleged commission of the crime of “resistance and disobedience”.

While in a detention cell at the First Police Station in Guantanamo, in the evening of Friday, April 26, I was visited by a State Security official who introduced himself as “Major Bryan”, chief of counterintelligence. He told me that there would be an attempt to give a just solution to my case. However, I have yet to witness one iota of justice and –I hope I’m wrong- I don’t think I will receive any justice from a Castro court due to the control that State Security exercises upon the courts that handle this type of case.

A case like this shows the world how this dictatorship exercises its absolute power against its citizens if they that dare to fight for their rights. On one side you have the State, with its pack of police, informants, state security agents, prosecutors and judges. On the other side we find the citizens, in a state of total defenselessness.

**“Justice” in the Cuban “State of law” in my case**

CubaNet reported at the time what transpired at the entrance of the People’s Municipal Court of Guantanamo on April 22, when I was beaten by the previously-named police agent.

On April 30, I was summoned by the Military Prosecutor’s Office, First Lieutenant Jose Angel Bertran Nuñez in charge of the case regarding the actions of the police. When it came to issuing a verdict on the complaint made by the head of Guantanamo’s First Police Station against the police agents, this prosecutor exonerated them from any responsibility, saying that they had acted in compliance with their duties. One can infer that in Cuba, the communist regime’s police has the right to harm its citizens and to cause them lesions without their actions being considered a crime, in spite of what is stated in Article 46 of Cuba’s constitution that states that every person has a right to his or her physical integrity. I filed a formal complaint against this decision. The prosecutor had five working days to resolve the matter. Sixty-seven working days have transpired and he has not done so. And if they have, I have not been notified of the solution as the law requires.

In May, I was again summoned by the Department of Citizen Affairs of Cuba’s Office of the Attorney General in Guantanamo. The prosecutor Karelia Suarez Manso informed me that his organism –charged by the Constitution to enforce the law- had no jurisdiction to emit judgement on what had transpired. I also filed complaint letters befoe the Department of Citizens Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior, and before the Military Prosecutors Office. More than sixty working days have passed, and I still have not received an answer, which constitutes another crass violation of what Article 61 of Cuba’s constitution states.

Also in May, I was summoned by police captain Pelegrin. Before this officer and also before the chief of Guantanamo’s First Station of Cuba’s National Police, I received a proposal to pay a fine in order to close the case. I replied that I would not pay a penny toward said fine because I had been the victim of the police’s actions and because to pay a fine was equivalent to admitting responsibility. I did not accept the proposal nor will I accept any punishment, as benign as it may seem. If, as a result, I must go to jail, I will go to jail. This is not about empty pride but about upholding my dignity. And from prison, I will condemn all the injustices that come to my attention, to the best of my possibilities, and I will counsel the inmates.

My stance elicits diverse reactions from my own family, since at present, my father is very ill. He is an elderly man, 87 years old who resides in Cienfuegos; State Security prevents me from visiting him, as they say I must request their permission to leave Guantanamo province.

Since 7 pm, my wife’s Nauta Hogar service has been interrupted, preventing her from communicating with our children, which in itself is another violation of the Constitution, this time of Article 50. In order to transmit this text, I went to the internet room at the Guantanamo Central Post Office, to find that my account has also been blocked.

This Monday I went twice to the Lawyers’ Registration Unit at the Guantanamo Justice headquarters so that I could obtain a document that certifies that I hold a lawyer’s degree, a document I need in order to conduct my own legal defense. In the morning, I was informed that the head of the department was in a meeting. In the afternoon, I was told that she had left early. The provincial assistant director asked me to be there today at 8:00 am. I arrived at 7:40 am, to be told that the head of the department would not be in. Therefore, I have been unable to obtain the document that would allow me to conduct my own defense in tomorrow’s trial. It is self-evident that State Security is behind all these obstacles.

“I do not expect anything positive from Castro’s government, but I will not kneel before the oppressors of the Cuban people,” he added in a text published yesterday.

“I am grateful for all the support and solidarity I’ve received from my brothers and sisters in the opposition, from members of my church, from neighbors and colleagues. I extend the same gratitude to American diplomats and political leaders who have pronounced themselves publicly about my case, amongst them his Excellency Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State, who expressed his concern over my well-being on July 31st. I don’t think it’s a coincidence that I was summoned the very next day to face trial.”

“I am grateful for the show of support throughout all these years from people who do me the honor of reading my articles, and, of course, to my brothers and sisters in the administration of CubaNet and also Radio Marti, for their permanent solidarity.”

“No one will give us freedom. Freedom is a choice that lies within us. Together with many other fellow Cubans, I have chosen to be free, and I don’t think there is anything extraordinary about that. I am in God’s hands.”

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