**Pompeo condemns the Cuban regime’s injustices against journalist Roberto Quiñones**

Roberto Quiñones was “arrested for reporting about repression of religious freedom in Cuba,” stated the Secretary of State.

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MIAMI, United States. U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo condemned through Twitter the injustices perpetrated by the Cuban regime against independent CubaNet journalist Roberto Jesús Quiñones Haces.

Quiñones was “arrested for reporting about repression of religious freedom in Cuba,” wrote Pompeo:

We condemn the injustices committed against Cuban journalist Roberto Quiñones, arrested for reporting on Cuba’s repression of religious freedom. We will continue to use targeted sanctions to cut off resources from the Cuban regime which uses its income to repress its own people.

— Secretary Pompeo (@SecPompeo) [August 21, 2019](http://app.topicaplus.com/clicktrack.cgi?cid=30271&url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FSecPompeo%2Fstatus%2F1164159188492312576%3Fref_src%3Dtwsrc%255Etfw&u=60178&utm_source=TopicaPlus&utm_campaign=Noticias+de+Cuba&utm_medium=email)

This is not the first time that the Secretary of State refers to the journalist’s predicament, who has been sentenced to one year in prison for the alleged crime of “contempt and disobedience”.

In a recent interview with Diario de Cuba, Pompeo stated that one of the issues that most worry him about human rights in Cuba is the case of independent journalist Roberto Quiñones and his most recent arrest, as well as other aspects about freedoms in Cuba.

Roberto Jesús Quiñones Haces has been harassed, arrested and tortured by Cuban State Security on various occasions, to pressure him into abandoning his work. Guantanamo’s Secret Police, in the province where he resides, has confiscated all his working materials and has kept him behind bars for several days for the sole reason of the work he does as journalist and lawyer, which serves him to denounce the regime’s arbitrary conduct and to write about the island’s dire reality.

The most recent repressive act against Quiñones is the sentence that Guantanamo’s Municipal Court imposed on him: one year in prison, commuted to correctional work with incarceration, for the alleged crime of contempt and disobedience during his attempt to cover the trial against husband-and-wife pastors Ramon Rigal and Ayda Exposito, who were sentenced to prison terms last April 22 for home-schooling their children.

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP); outgoing U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Hemispheric Affairs, Kimberly Breier; the US. State Department; and Cuban American senator Marco Rubio, among other international organizations, have condemned Roberto Quiñones’ sentence.

On Wednesday, from its Washington, DC headquarters, the Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) released a communique condemning the arrest and one-year prison sentence of Roberto Quiñones for alleged “contempt and disobedience”. IACHR stated that [Cuban] state agents are the principal source of threats and aggression against the Press, a practice that should be “dismantled and penalized”.