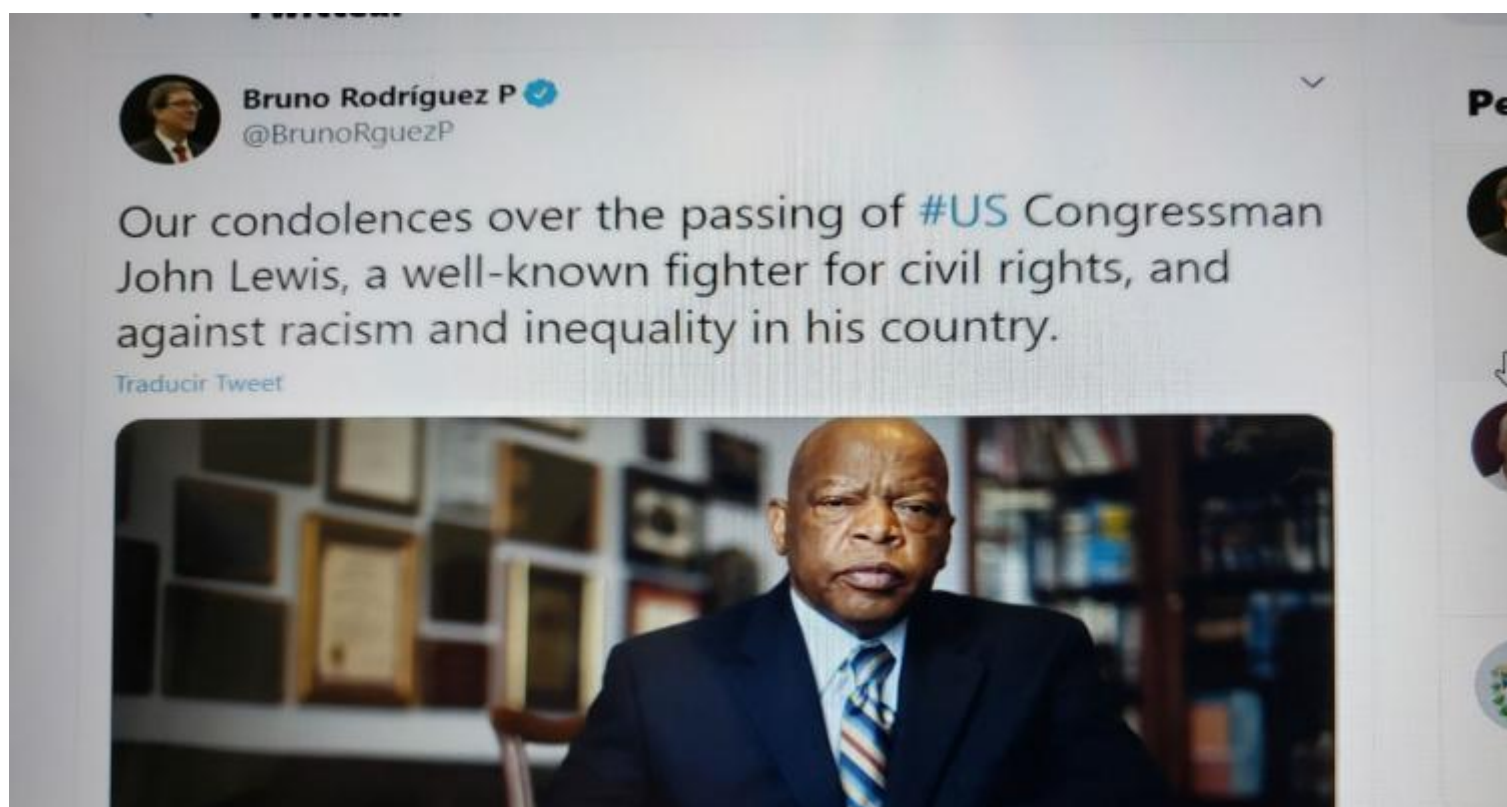


# *Cuban foreign minister extends condolences for death of John Lewis*

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Havana, July 18 (RHC)-- Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez expressed his condolences on learning of the death of U.S. Congressman John Lewis. On his Twitter account, the foreign minister expressed his sorrow at the passing of the "recognized fighter for civil rights in his country, against racism and inequality."

John Lewis died Friday at the age of 80, after a life dedicated to fighting for the rights of minorities, part of which he did from his position in Congress for 34 years as representative of the state of Georgia.

In response to his death, numerous personalities and institutions in the United States and abroad sent messages of condolence, including the Congressional Black Caucus, of which Lewis was a very important member.

Although he had been suffering from pancreatic cancer since December, Lewis maintained his activism and recently participated in several demonstrations against Donald Trump's policies and supported the Black Lives Matter movement.

His struggle for civil rights began as a student at Fisk University, when he became involved in organizing demonstrations against segregationist policies in Nashville, Tennessee. He was one of the promoters of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic 'I have a dream' speech.

In the 1960s, the police arrested him about 40 times, and as a congressman he was arrested at least five times for being consistent with his principles, which earned him great respect in the international community.

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