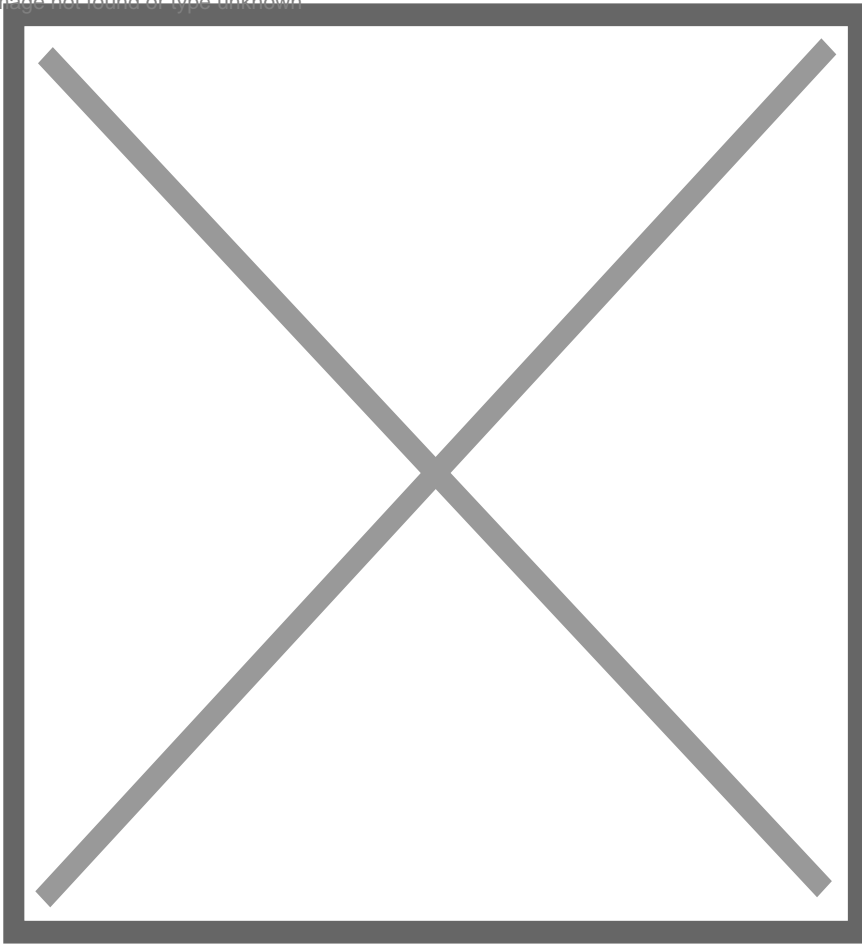


Guarantees assured in proceedings over riots in Cuba

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Joselín Sánchez, magistrate of the People's Supreme Court (TSP).

Havana, Aug 19 (RHC) -- Cuban judicial authorities assured that the legal proceedings following last July's riots are progressing with the required legal guarantees, according to Granma newspaper.

In an interview, Joselín Sánchez, magistrate of the People's Supreme Court (TSP), said that 'the investigations of the most aggressive, violent and harmful acts have not yet entered the courts.'

To date, the investigations of the most serious acts are still ongoing, while the proceedings for lesser crimes continue in municipal courts.

Sanchez, who is also the director of Supervision and Attention to the Population of the TSP, informed that 23 cases related to the events had been filed, and 67 defendants have been tried.

He added that the predominant crime typology is public disorder, with 58 implicated, although there are others such as resistance and damages.

Among the guarantees provided by the law are the right to provide evidence, both on the part of the complainant and the accused; the latter to appear with a lawyer of his choice; to testify or refrain from doing so, as well as the right to establish appeals, he underlined.

No defendant under 16 years of age, the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the country, has been criminally sanctioned by the courts, the magistrate ratified.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office professionals of the Republic continue to follow up the events of July 11 and 12, according to the chief prosecutor of the Directorate of Criminal Proceedings of the entity, Lisnay María Mederos.

Among others, the investigative processes of the most critical events, in which acts of violence against persons, authorities, and goods were evidenced, continue to be processed.

These received precautionary measures of bail, house arrest, and provisional imprisonment.

Of these processes, he said, one group has already concluded, and the Prosecutor's Office is evaluating the procedural decisions to be adopted, and the rest are nearing completion.

It is an obligation to ensure the legality of the proceedings, the terms of decision making, the determination of individual responsibility, and the concurrent circumstances, together with proportionality and rationality, in correspondence with the defense of the protected legal assets, he emphasized.

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