

LETTERS

Message from CASTRO

I cannot make up good news, because that would be unethical; and if there were bad news, these will only be of benefit to the enemy. Given the specific situation facing Cuba and the plans designed by the empire, the information about my health condition becomes a state secret that cannot be continuously disseminated; and my compatriots should understand that. I cannot let myself be trapped by the vicious circle of the health parameters that are constantly changing during the day.

I can say that my condition is stable, but only with time could I speak about the true evolution of my health status.

The best I could say is that my condition will remain stable for many days to come before I could give a verdict.

I very much appreciate all the messages sent by our compatriots and by many people in the world.

I feel sorry for having caused so much concern and bother to our friends in the world.

I feel in a very good spirit.

The important thing is that everything in our country is going on and will continue to go on very smoothly.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces and the people are ready to defend the country.

Our compatriots will have a complete information in due time, as was the case when I fell down in Villa Clara.

We must struggle and work.

Fidel Castro
August 1st, 2006, 5.30 pm
Havana

MINORS IN JAMMU JAILS

The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo-motu cognizance based on a distressing news story reported in the *Kashmir Times* dated 14 March 2006 of 'Minors languishing in Jammu Jails'. It has directed that a copy of the news item be sent to the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and I.G. (Prison), Jammu and Kashmir to look into the allegations contained in it and submit their comments.

The news report indicated that inmates belonging to various age groups are serving sentence in various jails in Jammu Division. While some of them are above the age of 60 years.

Besides, there are inmates who are minors and languishing in the jails of Jammu region. It was reported that the High Court Bar Association after visiting the jails of Jammu Division, had submitted a report in this regard. The report revealed that 275 people are lodged in court Bhalawal Jail under the Public Safety Act, PSA including Pakistani and Afghan inmates.

Gowhar Ahmed Bhat, Wasim Raja Dar and Jalaluddin Shah, all aged 16 years, are also lodged in the jail. The report further adds that persons who are serving their detention under PSA have been detained twice and thrice on the same ground which have already been relied upon by the concerned authority or have been quashed by the court. The courts also fixed dates for hearing beyond two months, which is alleged to be contrary to Cr PC. Harassment by the public prosecutors is also alleged, resulting in prolonged trial of the cases. The under trial prisoners are not being produced in various jails of Jammu division due to absence of escorts.

NHRC, New Delhi