

Cuba accuses U.S. of violating treaties

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HAVANA --

Cuba accused the U.S. government on Friday of violating international anti-terrorism treaties by allowing Luis Posada Carriles, a man Havana accuses of violent acts against the country, to walk free of all charges after an immigration indictment against him was dropped.

"The U.S. government has not only violated its own laws and supposed commitment to its self-proclaimed 'War Against Terrorism,' but also to its own international obligations," said a government declaration published Friday in the Communist Party newspaper Granma.

The declaration detailed several international treaties it said the United States had violated, but did not say whether it would take any diplomatic action.

The 79-year-old Posada was freed of all charges on Tuesday when a U.S. district judge threw out an immigration indictment against him, accusing the U.S. government of "fraud, deceit and trickery" while trying to buy time for a separate criminal investigation.

Detained on immigration charges in March 2005, the Cuban-born Posada had been awaiting trial in Texas on charges of lying to U.S. immigration officials. He was freed on bond last month pending his court appearance, but until Tuesday was still under house arrest and had been required to wear an electronic monitoring device.

"We'll have to see now what the White House does," the Cuban declaration said. "It still has the option to fulfill its international obligations to detain Luis Posada Carriles and extradite him to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

Havana accuses Posada of orchestrating a string of 1997 Havana hotel bombings, which killed an Italian tourist, and in the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people.

Venezuela is seeking to extradite Posada in the jetliner explosion, but a U.S. federal judge ruled that Posada cannot be sent there or to Cuba for fear he may be tortured.

Accusing the U.S. government of hypocrisy, the Cuban declaration noted that "meanwhile, it maintains a prison in part of the territory it occupies in Cuba in Guantanamo and maintains prisons in the length and breadth of the planet where the most aberrant and inhumane acts are committed."

The Cuban government's statement said the U.S. could have continued to hold Posada under the U.S. Patriot Act, which was passed after the 2001 terror attacks on the United States, by simply declaring him a national security risk.