

# Cuba mock trial convicts militant, U.S.

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HAVANA --

Cuban law students concluded a two-day mock trial by convicting anti-communist militant Luis Posada Carriles and the United States of decades of terrorism against the government of Fidel Castro.

Delivered at a courtroom set up outside the U.S. mission in Havana, the verdict was a foregone conclusion. No sentence was issued.

The communist government has long accused the Cuba-born Posada of masterminding a 1976 bombing of a jetliner that killed 73 people and a string of 1997 Havana hotel bombings that killed an Italian tourist - charges he denies.

Cuban authorities were enraged when a U.S. federal judge threw out immigration charges against Posada last week, freeing him from house arrest

Cuba characterizes Posada as "the executioner" and the "best known terrorist in the hemisphere" - phrases repeated in the 10-page judgment against him.

The Communist Party's youth wing organized the event, hoping to pressure the United States to bring more serious charges against the 79-year-old, who has spent a lifetime trying to undermine Castro.

"This tribunal declares the accused, Luis Faustino Clemente Posada Carriles, and the government of the United States of America, guilty of all of the terrorist acts expressed herein," said the tribunal's black-robed president, Iala Rodriguez. To the side of the bench was an empty seat, presumably for Posada.

Hundreds of students and several dozen people who testified over two days occupied rows of plastic chairs outside U.S. Interests Section as ocean winds howled through the plaza.