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Castro slams EU over Guantanamo inquiry

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Cuban President Fidel Castro slammed the European Union for failing to support Cuba's call for a UN probe into the U.S. mistreatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

Last week, Cuba demanded the UN Human Rights Commission to ask the U.S. to approve an independent inquiry into the situation at its military detention facility in eastern Cuba.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque demanded European leaders to support the resolution demanding the investigation.

But EU spokeswoman Krisztina Nagy said that the European Union "does not have any intention of doing so,"

"We were thinking too highly, and too honorably, of the European community" to expect that they would support the project, Castro said.

Some UN fact-finders are seeking the U.S. permission to visit Guantanamo, and question the detainees there as part of a series of wide-ranging, international human rights investigations.

But the U.S. prevents human rights officials from accessing the naval base.

Only members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as officials from U.S.-ally countries, have been allowed to see the detainees, often under the U.S. supervision.

Castro also downplayed the importance of the European Union to Cuba, saying that the island doesn't accept financial aid from EU countries.

"We've renounced humanitarian aid (from Europe), we don't need it," Castro said.

The Cuban leader also criticized the new alliances between formerly communist Eastern European states and the United States, saying that former Soviet satellites "are now rotating in the orbit of the (American) empire."