

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 39/2007
MONDAY 26 MARCH 2007**

The Opposition is concerned at the pressure which is being exerted by the authorities on a private citizen to remove an internet camera which faces the Bay of Gibraltar.

This is an unusual request. In the past, for example, Gibtelecom placed an internet camera in John Mackintosh Square so that people could view the progress of the works there, and this Government itself placed an internet camera at the frontier not that long ago so people could see the queues.

Mr Jimmy Bruzon has informed the Opposition that a few days ago he was approached by the police at his home in Palace Gully and questioned about a camera which he had placed in the roof of his dwelling. The police said that they had received a complaint.

Mr Bruzon then went to the police station of his own accord to explain the situation in person and to let the police know that this was an internet camera aimed at the Bay of Gibraltar, and that it could be viewed live on his website at www.llanito.net Mr Bruzon explained that he was doing nothing illegal.

In response to another telephone call, Mr Bruzon went to the police station again yesterday Thursday. This time he was asked whether he had planning permission for the camera which was on a Government rented flat. Mr Bruzon was surprised given that there are antennas and satellite dishes everywhere. He was advised to remove the camera and ask for permission.

It is curious to note in the same conversation at the police station, Mr Bruzon was also asked about the incident that happened in December when the Spanish officials were in Gibraltar and he was not allowed by the police to demonstrate with a single placard. The demonstration that he is organizing this Monday, the day that the talks take place, was also raised with him by the police in the same meeting.

Mr Bruzon was subsequently contacted by the housing department and told that they wanted to see the camera and he has been waiting for them to turn up.

The Opposition consider that it is completely unacceptable that there should be all this interest surrounding Mr Bruzon's activities whenever Mr Pons and the Spanish delegation arrive in Gibraltar. It leaves a very bad taste that this should be happening all the more so now that the police are now more answerable to the people of Gibraltar and less to the Governor under the new Constitution.

Surely both the police and the housing department must have better things to do with their time.

It is also not clear who filed the complaint to the police or for what reason, given that the camera is “live” on the internet and what it is transmitting can be readily observed from any computer in Gibraltar or anywhere else.

ENDS