

URGENT ACTION

CUBAN PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE FREED

Independent journalist and prisoner of conscience Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias was released on 9 April after spending almost seven months in prison without charge in Cuba. He has thanked Amnesty International and believes international action on his case led to his release.



Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias in Havana on 9 April after his release © Hablemos Press

In the afternoon of 9 April, **Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias** was released from Valle Grande prison, on the outskirts of the capital Havana. He was detained on 16 September 2012 in relation to his work as an independent journalist and was never been formally charged. Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias initiated two hunger strikes to protest against his detention, the last one began on 8 March and lasted 22 days until he received an assurance from the Cuban authorities of his upcoming release. On 5 April he was transferred from Combinado del Este prison, where he spent the vast majority of his detention, to Valle Grande prison.

After his arrest, Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias said that he had been appointed a lawyer but he could not access his case-file. During his arrest at Santiago de las Vegas police station in September 2012 police officers told him that the public prosecutor had ordered his preventive detention.

According to the conditions of his release, the judicial authorities lifted the precautionary measures (*medida cautelar*) that led to his pre-trial detention and he was unconditionally released without charge.

Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias thanks Amnesty International for its support and the international mobilization expressed on his case which he believes directly lead to his release.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

Name: Calixto Ramón Martínez Arias
Gender m/f: Male

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