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## £CUBA

### @Further Information concerning the Arrest of Domiciano Torres Roca (AMR 25/10/1993, September 1993)

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Amnesty International has received further news of prisoner of conscience Domiciano Torres Roca, the Vice-President of the unofficial **Partido Cívico Democrático**, Civic Democratic Party, who was arrested in Havana on 13 August 1993.

According to recent reports, Domiciano Torres Roca is awaiting trial on a charge of "**propaganda enemiga**", "enemy propaganda", in El Pitirre Prison, municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, Havana. After being held for 42 days at the headquarters of the **Departamento de Seguridad del Estado (DSE)**, Department of State Security, at Villa Marista, he was transferred to the forensic ward of the Havana Psychiatric Hospital, known as Sala Carbó Serviá. He is said to have had no previous history of psychological problems and it is not clear why he was sent there. However, in the past, some political prisoners have been held there, ostensibly to undergo tests to determine whether they were fit to stand trial, and conditions in the forensic ward were such that it was feared that the measure was taken as an act of intimidation. Detainees were often held with violent psychopaths and other seriously disturbed people for several days or weeks, making their stay a very traumatic experience.

It is not clear how long Domiciano Torres spent in the hospital before being transferred to prison. At the time of his arrest he was reportedly punched in the stomach and the mouth by two policemen while others held him down and while held in Villa

Marista, his state of health was said to have deteriorated, though details were not available. It is not clear whether he has had access to medical attention or to a lawyer since the time of his arrest.

Domiciano Torres Roca, aged 43, was a teacher of architecture until he was sacked from his job at the Armando Mestre Technological School in Guanabacoa in August 1992, together with others, reportedly for criticizing the government. As far as Amnesty International is aware, he has neither used nor advocated violence. The organization therefore believes that he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his attempts to peacefully exercise his rights to freedom of expression and association, and is urging his immediate and unconditional release. The Civic Democratic Party is one of a number of unofficial opposition groups whose activities are severely limited by the authorities, the only official party being the **Partido Comunista de Cuba**, Cuban Communist Party.

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