

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 247/93 (AMR 25/06/93, 30 July 1993) - Prisoner of Conscience/Health Concern/Fear of Ill-treatment

CUBA:Luis Alberto PITA SANTOS (aged 46), prisoner of conscience
Jesús CHAMBES RAMIREZ, probable prisoner of conscience

Amnesty International continues to be concerned for the well-being of prisoner of conscience Luis Alberto Pita Santos, who is held in the *Prisión Especial de Máxima Seguridad de Camagüey*, Camagüey Special High Security Prison, known as "Kilo 8".

His wife was reportedly able to visit him in mid-November for the first time in eight months. Visits had previously been suspended because he had declared himself to be "*plantado*" - a form of protest in which political prisoners refuse to wear the uniform worn by common prisoners and to obey prison discipline in other ways. He had also undertaken several hunger strikes.

It is not clear whether the fact that he was allowed a visit means that he has stopped his protest. However, his food rations have been increased and he is allowed to spend time in the prison grounds. It is not known whether he is receiving medical attention. He is said to be extremely thin, weighing between 80 and 90 pounds, and his state of health was described by a prison official as delicate. He is said to have told his wife that he has been subjected to various kinds of pressure by prison officials, including beatings, in order to force him to give up his protest. He was also said to have been chained for long periods to the bars of his cell and to have been denied medical treatment. In April 1993 he was injured after a prison official lifted him into the air several times letting him fall to the ground in an attempt to make him put on his uniform and in May he was said to have been handcuffed and chained by the ankles for up to sixteen hours a day.

Luis Alberto Pita Santos was arrested on 9 October 1991 and is serving a five-year sentence for *desacato*, disrespect, *asociación ilícita*, illegal association, and *clandestinidad de impresos*, clandestine printing. He is a former university professor and the president of the unofficial *Asociación Defensora de los Derechos Políticos (ADDEPO)*, Association for the Defence of Political Rights.

Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience detained solely on account of his peaceful and legitimate political activities and believes that he should be immediately and unconditionally released.

There is no further news of Jesús Chambes (possibly Chamber) Ramírez, who was also reported in May to be held in chains, together with Luis Alberto Pita Santos, in "Kilo 8". Chambes is also said to be a member of ADDEPO and to be serving a ten-year sentence for "enemy propaganda". No further action is required on his behalf at present.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Luis Alberto Pita Santos on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely because of his non-violent political beliefs;
- urging that his physical integrity be guaranteed while in detention and that

he be granted all necessary medical attention.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz
 Presidente de los Consejos de Estado
 y de Ministros
 Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente Castro, Havana, Cuba

Telex: 511331 [Ministry of Justice - asking them to forward your message to the President]

Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

2) Attorney General:

Dr Juan Escalona Reguera
 Fiscal General de la República
 Fiscalía General de la República
 San Rafael 3
 Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba

Telex: 511456 fisge

Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

3) Minister of the Interior:

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Plaza de la Revolución
 Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba

Telex: 511122 / 511464 / 512950

Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261

[These telex and fax numbers are for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - please ask them to forward your message to General Colomé]

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

4) Director of "Kilo 8" Prison:

Sr Director
 Prisión Especial de Máxima Seguridad de Camagüey
 Carretera de Nuevitas
 Albaiza
 Camagüey
 Cuba

Telegrams: Director, Prisión Especial Máxima Seguridad, Camagüey, Cuba

Salutation: Sr Director / Dear Director

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Sr Roberto Robaina González
 Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Calzada No. 360
 Vedado
 Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261

Newspaper:

Granma

Apartado 6260

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

and to diplomatic representatives of Cuba accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after January 13 1993.