

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 257/91 (AMR 25/19/91, 25 July 1991) and follow-up (AMR 25/20/91, 26 July 1991) - Prisoner of Conscience/Legal Concern/Health Concern

CUBA: Roberto LUQUE ESCALONA, writer and former journalist, aged 55

Amnesty International has learned that Roberto Luque Escalona was released from detention on 21 August 1991 but is still pending trial on a charge of disrespect, **desacato**, under article 144.2 of the Cuban Penal Code, which carries a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment. It is not clear when the trial might take place. He is believed to have ended his hunger strike about ten days after arrest.

Amnesty International believes that, if convicted and imprisoned, Roberto Luque Escalona will be a prisoner of conscience punished solely for peacefully expressing his political beliefs and is urging that the charge against him be immediately dropped.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- welcoming the provisional release of Roberto Luque Escalona but urging that the charge against him be immediately dropped on the grounds that, if convicted and imprisoned, he would be a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully expressing his political beliefs;
- requesting that all independent human rights monitors and non-violent political dissidents be permitted to carry out their legitimate activities unhindered.

APPEALS TO:

1.

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz
[Salutation: Su Excelencia]
Presidente del Consejo de Estado
y del Consejo de Ministros
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente Castro, Havana, Cuba
Telexes: 51212 P DESP PRESID

2.

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra
[Salutation: Señor Ministro]
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza de la Revolución
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba
Telexes: 511122; 511464; 511560 MINREX HAB

3.

Dr Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa
[Salutation: Señor Fiscal General]
Fiscal General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República
San Rafael 3
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba
Telexes: 511456 FISGE

COPIES TO:

CODEHU (Coordinating Body of Human Rights Organizations in Cuba)
1040 S.W. 27 Ave
Miami
FL 33135
USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Cuba in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 October 1991.