

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: AMR 25/17/99**

**Further information on EXTRA 32/99 (AMR 25/14/99, 4 March 1999 and AMR 25/16/99, 23 March 1999) - Death Penalty / Imminent execution 31 March 1999**

**CUBA Francisco PORTUONDO MEDINA**

**Raúl Ernesto CRUZ LEON, Salvadorean national, aged 27**

**Otto René RODRÍGUEZ LLERENA, Salvadorean national, aged 40**

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Otto René Rodríguez Llerena was sentenced to death on 30 March 1999, following a trial on 15-16 March.

He had been detained in July 1998 and charged with terrorism, after trying to bring explosives into the country. He pleaded guilty, admitting both that act and planting a bomb in a Cuban hotel in August 1997.

There is no further news about Raúl Ernesto Cruz León or Francisco Portuondo Medina, who were sentenced to death on 23 March and 3 March 1999 respectively.

Amnesty International fears that all three men are at risk of imminent execution, as death sentences in Cuba are sometimes carried out within weeks of trial judgment. Condemned prisoners appeal automatically against their death sentences at the People's Supreme Court. If that court upholds the sentences, they must then be ratified by Cuba's ruling Council of State. Execution is by firing squad.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Concern about the death penalty in Cuba is exacerbated by the authorities' failure to uphold their own guarantees of fair trial, particularly the right to defence.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Otto René Rodríguez Llerena, Raúl Ernesto Cruz León and Francisco Portuondo Medina have been sentenced to death and urging that their sentences be commuted;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their families and friends, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments;
- urging that all other pending death sentences be commuted and that no further death sentences be passed.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of State and Government

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz

Presidente de los Consejos de Estados y de Ministros

La Habana, Cuba

**Telegrams: Presidente, Havana, Cuba**

**Telexes: 511122/ 5111464 (Via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Faxes: + 53 7 333 085 / 335 261 (Via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your excellency**

President of the People's Supreme Court

Dr José Raúl Amaro Salup  
Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Popular  
La Habana, Cuba

**Telegrams:Presidente, Tribunal Supremo Popular, Havana, Cuba**

**Telexes:511457 tsupo**

**Salutation:Sr Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Popular / Dear President of the  
People's Supreme Court**

Attorney General

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

**Telegrams:Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba**

**Telexes:511456 fisge**

**Faxes:00 (537) 57 07 95**

**Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

**Telegrams:Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Havana, Cuba**

**Telexes:511122 / 511464 / 512950**

**Faxes:+ 53 7 335261 / 333085**

**Salutation:Sr Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

National Union of Jurists

Dra Zenaida Osorio Vizcaina, Presidente  
Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba, Calle 21, No. 552  
esq. D, Apartado 4161, La Habana 4, Cuba

Granma (daily newspaper)

Granma, Apdo 6260, 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 28 April 1999.