

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 25/10/98
Distr: PG/SC

To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / Americas Regional Program
Date: 30 April 1998

FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

(See AMR 25/01/97 - 29 January 1998)

Dr Omar del Pozo Marrero
CUBA

Prisoner of conscience Dr Omar del Pozo, a 49-year-old Cuban physician serving a sentence of 15 years' imprisonment, was released from prison on 6 April 1998. He was president of a non-violent opposition group, the Unión Civica Nacional (National Civic Union) and had been arrested in April 1992 on charges of "revealing state security secrets". Dr del Pozo was suffering from hypertension, a stomach ulcer and heart and kidney problems and was said to be suffering malnutrition which had led to the loss of almost all his hair and several teeth.

Dr del Pozo was one of some 100 political prisoners to be released following the Pope's visit to Cuba in January 1998. However, in his case and those of 13 others, early release was conditional on agreeing to go into exile. Following negotiations between the Cuban and Canadian governments, the 14 were permitted to emigrate to Canada.

No further action is required. Thank you to those who have appealed on Omar del Pozo's behalf over the years.