

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/14/95

1 November 1995

Further information (3) on UA 175/95 (AMR 25/08/95, 14 July 1995) and follow-up (AMR 25/09/95, 24 July; AMR 25/13/95, 25 October) - Arbitrary Arrest / Possible Prisoners of Conscience

CUBA Olançe NOGUERAS ROCE (note full name and corrected spelling), aged 27, journalist working with the Buró de Periodistas Independientes de Cuba (BPIC), Bureau of Independent Journalists of Cuba

Amnesty International has learned that Olançe Noguerras Roce was re-arrested on the evening of 26 October in Havana and is believed to be detained in Ariza Prison in Cienfuegos, his home town.

Olançe Noguerras Roce has been arrested three times in the past few weeks. On 7 October he was briefly detained by police in Cienfuegos and warned that he had 30 days to find a job with a state entity or else face charges of "dangerousness" ("*peligrosidad*"). On 20 October, he was again arrested after participating in a weekly press conference held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Havana. His place of detention was not known at first but it later emerged he had been taken to Ariza Prison, Cienfuegos, where he was held for five days. While in detention, he was reportedly told that if he did not leave the country by 7 November, he would be re-arrested and tried for "dangerousness".

Upon release on 25 October, he was warned not to leave Cienfuegos. However, he immediately defied the order and returned to Havana to go to the BPIC office (which is also the home of Yndamiro Restano Díaz, former prisoner of conscience and founder of BPIC) where he spoke on the telephone to contacts abroad about his arrest. The house was surrounded by State Security officials and the phone line cut off. The police later left and Olançe Noguerras was able to leave the building. However, he returned to BPIC next day to work and in the evening the police arrived and arrested him again. He was reportedly taken back to Ariza Prison, although his family has not been able to see him. The authorities have not publicly confirmed his arrest or the reasons for it. Apart from the previous threats of being charged with "dangerousness", one so far unconfirmed report suggests that he may be charged with "enemy propaganda" because of an article he wrote regarding safety fears at the Cuban nuclear power station in Juragua, near Cienfuegos.

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

- expressing concern at reports of the arrest of Olançe Noguerras Roce;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that members of the BPIC and other freelance journalists be permitted to carry out their legitimate work without interference from the authorities.

APPEALS TO:

1) 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: + 53 7 333164

Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

2) 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 / 512950

Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Minister of the Interior

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

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

4) Director of Ariza Prison

Señor Director
Prisión de Ariza
Cienfuegos, Cuba

Telegrams: Director, Prisión Ariza, Cienfuegos, Cuba

Salutation: Señor Director / Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Cuban Journalists' Union (official body)

Unión de Periodistas de Cuba
Calle 23 No. 452
Apdo 6646
Vedado
Havana, Cuba

Editor of Granma (daily newspaper)

Sr Jacinto Granda de Laserna
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 13 December 1995.