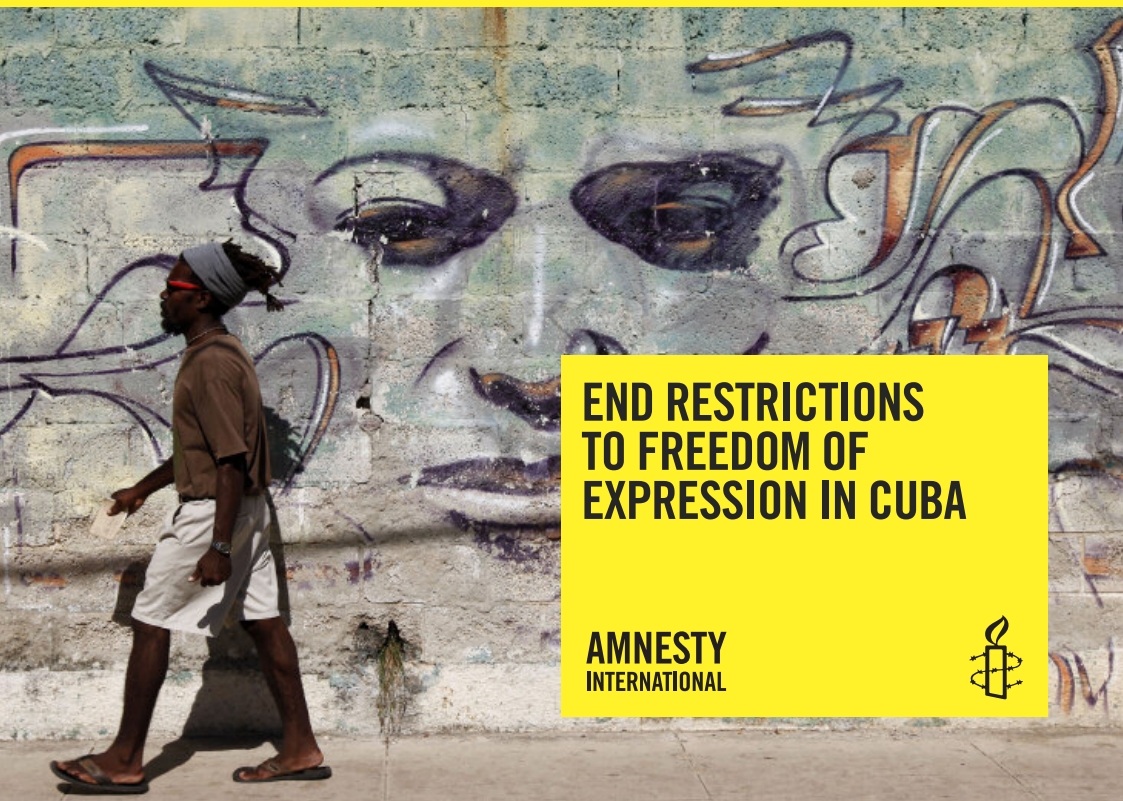


END RESTRICTIONS ~~TO FREEDOM OF~~ ~~EXPRESSION~~ IN CUBA

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**END RESTRICTIONS
TO FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION IN CUBA**

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END RESTRICTIONS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CUBA

Independent journalists, political dissidents and human rights advocates in Cuba face a persistent pattern of harassment, detention and imprisonment following unfair trials, simply for the expression of their conscientiously held beliefs.

Criminal charges such as “dangerousness” are used to restrict people from exercising freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the lack of an independent judiciary means they do not receive a fair hearing. More than 50 prisoners of conscience are currently serving long sentences for criticizing the Cuban government and for advocating greater respect for fundamental freedoms.

In Cuba, all media outlets are state-owned and access to the internet is strictly controlled. Cuban bloggers have to dictate their posts via telephone to contacts abroad and are unable to view their blogs from within Cuba due to restrictive filters imposed by the authorities.

As a result of these restrictions, Cubans are unable to enjoy their fundamental right to seek, receive and impart information.

TAKE ACTION NOW

**PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE CUBAN PRESIDENT,
RAÚL CASTRO RUZ**

For further information, visit: www.amnesty.org/en/region/cuba

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Dear President Castro,

I am writing to you to express my concern at restrictions on freedom of expression in Cuba. Freedom of expression is critical to the dignity and personal development of every individual. It is also essential for the fulfilment of other universally recognized human rights.

I therefore urge you to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, sentenced for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and to ensure that no criminal charges or other forms of harassment are brought against independent journalists, human rights advocates or political dissidents as a result of the lawful exercise of freedom of expression.

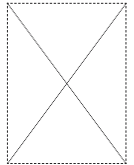
I also urge you to review all legal provisions which limit freedom of expression and freedom of association, with the aim of bringing them into line with international standards contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Yours respectfully,

Name: _____

Country: _____

Date: _____



President Raúl Castro Ruz

Havana

Cuba

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*Image: A mural in Havana, October 2009.
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