

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 186/94 (Amr 25/05/94, 11 May 1994) - Prisoner of Conscience / Legal Concern

Cuba: Francisco CHAVIANO GONZALEZ, President of the unofficial Consejo Nacional por los Derechos Civiles en Cuba (CNDCC), National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba, aged 40

Jorge O. LORENZO PIMIENTA, Vice-President of CNDCC

Mario RODRIGUEZ CASTELLON, member of CNDCC

Abilio RAMOS MOYA, member of CNDCC

Terina FERNANDEZ GONZALEZ, member of CNDCC and sister of Francisco Chaviano

According to reports, Francisco Chaviano González, who was arrested by State Security police in Havana on 7 May 1994, is still being held under investigation at the State Security headquarters known as Villa Marista.

Although Francisco Chaviano has been receiving weekly visits from his wife, he has not been permitted access to a lawyer. His family have reportedly been told that he is accused of revealing state security secrets which in certain circumstances carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment. It is not clear what the basis for such a charge might be. However, moments before his arrest, a stranger delivered documents to his home allegedly describing human rights abuses. Before he had time to read the papers, state security officials arrived at the house and arrested him. They also seized files belonging to the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba (CNDCC), of which Francisco Chaviano is the President, including all those documenting cases of "rafters" who have lost their lives at sea while trying to illegally flee from Cuba. Four other members of the CNDCC also had their homes searched. As far as Amnesty International is aware, no further action has been taken against them.

Amnesty International believes that Francisco Chaviano is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his peaceful activities in defence of human rights. He is a former mathematics teacher who spent a year in prison after being caught trying to leave Cuba by boat in March 1989. Upon his release, he set up the Consejo de Lancheros, Rafters Council, which later evolved into the CNDCC.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Francisco Chaviano González on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for his peaceful activities in defence of human rights;
- urging that he be granted immediate access to a lawyer of his choice;
- seeking assurances that while in detention, he be treated in accordance with international standards;
- urging that he and other members of the National Council for Civil Rights

in Cuba be permitted to carry out their legitimate activities in defence of human rights without interference from the authorities.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz
 Presidente de los Consejos de Estado
 y de Ministros
 La Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente Castro, Havana, Cuba

Telex: 511122 / 511464 / 512950

Fax: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261 [These telex and fax numbers are for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - please ask them to forward your message to the President]

Salutation: Señor Presidente/Dear President

2) 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

Telex: 511456 fisge

Fax: + 53 7 333164

Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

3) Minister of Justice:

Dr Carlos Amat Forés
 Ministro de Justicia
 Ministerio de Justicia
 Calle 0 # 216, 8° piso
 e/ 23 y Humboldt, Vedado
 La Habana, Cuba

Telex: 511331

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Havana, Cuba

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

4) Department of State Security (Villa Marista)

Colonel Adalberto Rabeiro García
 Jefe del Centro de Investigaciones
 Departamento de Seguridad del Estado
 Villa Marista
 La Víbora

La Habana, Cuba

Fax: + 53 7 408036

Tel: + 53 7 403535

Salutation: Sr Colonel/Dear Colonel

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Sr Roberto Robaina González
 Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Calzada No. 360
Vedado
La Habana, Cuba
Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261

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

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 September 1994.