

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/11/96

29 February 1996

Further information on UA 08/96 (AMR 25/01/96, 16 January 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 25/02/96, 17 January; AMR 25/05/96, 20 February; AMR 25/06/96, 22 February; AMR 25/08/96, 23 February) - Arbitrary Detention / Harassment

CUBADr Leonel MOREJÓN ALMAGRO, lawyer and national organizer of
Concilio Cubano

Lázaro GONZÁLEZ VALDÉS, deputy national organizer of *Concilio Cubano*

Mercedes PARADA ANTÚNEZ (f), deputy national organizer of *Concilio Cubano*
Reinaldo COSANO ALÉN, deputy national organizer of *Concilio*

Cubano
Dr René GÓMEZ MANZANO, lawyer, founder member of *Concilio*
Cubano

Eugenio RODRÍGUEZ CHAPLE, prominent member of *Concilio Cubano*

rearrest:Rafael SOLANO, director of *Habana Press* and member of a group
belonging to *Concilio Cubano*

Amnesty International has learned that Reinaldo Cosano Alén, who was detained on 21 February, was released after two or three days, apparently without charge. Dr René Gómez Manzano was also released a few days after his arrest on 17 February but some reports indicate he was re-arrested on the weekend of 24/25 February.

Because of communication difficulties, it is not clear whether he or Eugenio Rodríguez Chaple are still in detention at the time of writing. Contrary to previous reports indicating that she had been transferred to a detention centre, it appears that Mercedes Parada Antúnez is still in hospital under police guard.

Arrests of members of *Concilio Cubano* have continued over the past week. Amnesty International is particularly concerned at reports of the rearrest on 27 February of Rafael Solano, the director of an independent press agency called *Habana Press* which is part of the *Buró de Periodistas Independientes de Cuba (BPIC)*, Bureau of Independent Journalists of Cuba, which in turn is part of *Concilio Cubano*. His family only found out about 24 hours later that he had been taken to a police station in Marianao, Havana. When they went there, they were not permitted to see him but were told he was to be transferred today to the State Security headquarters at Villa Marista. This suggests that the authorities may be intending to charge him with a state security offence such as spreading "enemy propaganda", with which he has been threatened in the past. He has so far had no access to a lawyer. Hours before his arrest, he and his family received anonymous phone calls in which threats against their lives were made. At the time of his arrest, State Security officials reportedly said he would not be coming back this time and that he would be imprisoned for up to 10 years. Rafael Solano has been arrested on several occasions in the past eight months, three times in the last ten days, and warned that he will be imprisoned if he does not cease his journalistic activities or leave the country.

Dr Leonel Morejón Almagro was brought to trial on 23 February at a municipal court in Havana. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on a charge of "*resistencia*", "resistance", on the grounds that he resisted arrest. His defence lawyer reportedly did not have details of the prosecution's case against his client until an hour or so before the trial and was only able to speak to Dr Morejón briefly shortly before the hearing. Afterwards, the defence

lawyer, Dr José Angel Izquierdo González, was reportedly fined by the court for alleging that the trial was a "sham" ["simulado"] and was ordered to report to the authorities on 29 February. Amnesty International believes that the charges against Dr Morejón and Lázaro González Valdés, who was sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment the day before (see previous update), are politically-motivated and that they are prisoners of conscience.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Lázaro González Valdés and Dr Leonel Morejón Almagro have been sentenced to prison terms;
- expressing concern at reports of the arrest of Rafael Solano on 27 February;
- urging that he granted immediate access to a lawyer of his choice and that he be permitted family visits;
- urging the immediate and unconditional release of all three on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

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 / 511464 / 512950
Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261
Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Department of State Security

Sr Director
Departamento de Seguridad del Estado
Villa Marista
La Víbora
La Habana, Cuba
Telegrams: Director, Villa Marista, Havana, Cuba
Salutation: Señor Director / Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

National Union of Jurists
Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba
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 20 April 1996.