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@Further information concerning the arrest of Domiciano Torres Roca

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Amnesty International has learned that, following his trial on 13 July 1994 at which the prosecution requested a four-year sentence, prisoner of conscience Domiciano Torres Roca was eventually sentenced to three years' imprisonment accused of spreading "enemy propaganda". The prosecutor reportedly described Domiciano Torres as "anti-Cuban". She also referred to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as "an instrument of the enemy". Domiciano Torres is said to have acknowledged that he had written an anti-government poster containing the words "Down with Fidel" ("**Abajo Fidel**") but said that he had been exercising his right to freedom of expression and would not retract them. His defence lawyer, Leonel Morejón Almagro, reportedly argued that he was innocent and asked for his immediate release. It is very unusual for Cuban lawyers, who are all employed by the State and in many cases fear reprisals if they do not follow the official line, to argue so strongly on behalf of political prisoners.

In mid-September 1994, Domiciano Torres Roca was transferred from Unit 1580, a military prison (also known as "El Pitirre"), in San Miguel del Padrón, Havana, to Camaguey Maximum Security Prison, known as "Kilo 7", several hundred miles from his home in Havana. Given the current economic situation and in particular the severe

shortage of fuel and consequently transport, it is extremely difficult for family members to visit their relatives when they are held so far away.

Domiciano Torres Roca was arrested in Havana on 13 August 1993. At the time of his arrest, he was reportedly punched in the stomach and mouth by two policemen while others held him down. After being held for 42 days at the headquarters of the **Departamento de Seguridad del Estado**, Department of State Security, at Villa Marista, he was transferred to the forensic ward of the Havana Psychiatric Hospital, known as Sala Carbó Serviá. He is said to have no previous history of psychological problems and it is not clear why he was sent there.

Aged 43 at the time of his arrest, Domiciano Torres was a teacher of architecture until he was sacked from his job at the Armando Mestre Technological School in Guanabacoa in August 1992, together with others, reportedly for criticizing the government. He later became Vice-President of the **Partido Cívico Democrático**, Civic Democratic Party, an unofficial opposition group, one of a number of such groups whose activities are severely limited by the authorities, the only official party being the **Partido Comunista de Cuba**, Cuban Communist Party.

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