

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 25/16/00

12 July 2000

Further information on EXTRA 47/00 (AMR 25/15/00, 16 May 2000) - Death Penalty/Imminent Execution

CUBAJorge Luis Rodríguez Mir

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Jorge Luis Rodríguez Mir remains under sentence of death in Cuba. It is vital that pressure is maintained on the Cuban authorities while they consider an application for a review of his conviction.

Jorge Luis Rodríguez Mir was convicted of the murder of a policeman in November 1999. His mother has applied for a review of the trial and conviction on the grounds that the court allegedly failed to hear all the evidence, including the testimony of important witnesses. It also allegedly failed to take into account Jorge Luis Rodríguez Mir's medical history when they convicted him. According to his family he suffers from schizophrenia and epilepsy.

His mother applied for the review at the end of June. Her application should be processed within two months.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Concern about the death penalty in Cuba is exacerbated by the authorities' failure to uphold their own guarantees of fair trial, particularly the right to adequate defence.

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

- expressing concern at the retention of the death penalty in Cuba and urging that the sentence of Jorge Luis Rodríguez Mir be commuted;
- expressing concern that he was sentenced to death despite evidence that he suffers from mental illness;
- noting that international standards oppose the use of the death penalty against people with serious mental impairments;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their families and friends, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments;
- urging that all other pending death sentences are commuted and that no further death sentences are passed.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of State and Government

Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz

Presidente de los Consejos de Estados y de Ministros

La Habana

Cuba

**Telex: 511122/ 5111464 (Via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Telegrams: Presidente, Havana, Cuba**

**Fax: + 53 7 333 085 / 335 261 (Via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your excellency**

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 669485 (If someone answers, say -'Fax, por favor'.)**

**Salutation:Sr Fiscal General/Dear Attorney General**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr. Felipe Pérez Roque  
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Calzada No. 360

Vedado, La Habana, Cuba

**Telegrams:Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Havana, Cuba**

**Telex: 511122 / 511464 / 512950**

**Fax:+ 53 7 335261 / + 53 7 333085**

**Salutation:Sr Ministro/Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

National Union of Jurists

Sr. Arnal Medina Cuenca  
Presidente  
Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba  
Calle 21, No. 552, esq. D  
Apartado 4161  
La Habana 4, Cuba

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 9 August 2000.