

**EXTERNALAI Index: AMR 25/21/97**

**22 July 1997**

**Further information on UA 221/97 (AMR 25/20/97, 18 July 1997) - Arbitrary arrest/Legal concern/prisoner of conscience (POC)**

**CUBA**  
**Vladimiro ROCA ANTUNES**  
**María Beatriz ROQUE CABELLO**  
**René GOMEZ MANZANO**  
**Felix A. BONNE CARCASES**  
**Luis LOPEZ PRENDES, journalist**  
**new name: Odilia COLLAZO VALDES**

Amnesty International has received reports that at least one other person connected with the *Grupo de Trabajo de la Disidencia Interna para el Análisis de la Situación Socio-Económica Cubana*, the Internal Dissidents' Working Group for the Analysis of the Cuban Socio-Economic Situation, has been arrested.

The organization has also been informed of the release of journalist Luis López Prendes on 18 July 1997, two days after his detention. Although he has not apparently been charged, his identity card, which Cubans are required to carry at all times and several other documents, were reportedly confiscated.

Odilia Collazo Valdés, president of a support committee for the Internal Dissidents' Working Group as well as Secretary-General of the *Partido Pro Derechos Humanos en Cuba (PPDHC)*, Party for Human Rights in Cuba, was arrested in Havana on 17 July. Like the other four Working Group members she is believed to be held under investigation on as yet unspecified charges at the State Security headquarters, Villa Marista. She has been harassed and detained on several occasions in the past, the most recent being on 2 July following a press conference for foreign journalists held on 27 June by the Working Group. She was among some 40 members of several unofficial groups belonging to the support committee for the Working Group who were detained around that time. All were released within hours or days.

The Cuban authorities have acknowledged the detention of the four Working Group members but have not given any reason for their arrest. It is not known whether they have acknowledged the arrest of Odilia Collazo Valdés. As far as Amnesty International is aware, none of the five detainees has had access to a lawyer since their arrest. It is feared that they may be indicted and tried on charges against state security. Normally detainees in criminal cases are permitted access to a lawyer as soon as the prosecutor remands the detainee in custody. However, for reasons of state security, the prosecutor may deny both the detainee and his/her lawyer access to the case documents until the preparatory phase of the investigation, which may last several weeks or months, is concluded. During this period, detainees are frequently subjected to psychological pressures to sign incriminatory statements. Those detained on state security charges are not permitted release on bail.

Amnesty International believes that all five detainees are prisoners of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and is seeking their immediate and unconditional release

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

- welcoming the release of journalist Luis López Prendes and requesting that he be permitted to carry out his peaceful legitimate activities without further interference from the authorities;
- urging that Odilia Collazo Valdés, Vladimiro Roca Antunes, María Beatriz Roque Cabello, René Gómez Manzano and Felix A. Bonne Carcasés be immediately and unconditionally released, on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association;
- urging that as long as they are in detention, they be provided with full judicial guarantees, including immediate access to a lawyer of their choice.

**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**

**Telex: 511456 fidge**

**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**

**Telex: 511122 / 511464 / 512950**

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

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister**

3) Minister of the Interior

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra

Ministro de Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Plaza de la Revolución

La Habana, Cuba

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister**

4) 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:**

Cuban Journalists Union (official body)

Unión de Periodistas de Cuba

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Apartado 6646

Vedado, Havana

Cuba

Editor of *Granma* (daily newspaper)

Sr Jacinto Granda de Laserna

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 2 September 1997.