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# amnesty international

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## CUBA

### UPDATE

#### Imminent trial of four members of the 'Grupo de Trabajo'

12 October 1998

AI INDEX: AMR 25/24/98

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From left to right: Vladimiro Roca, Odilia Collazo, Marta Beatriz Roque, René Gómez and Félix Bonné.

This document is a follow-up to 'Cuba: One year later and four members of the 'Grupo de Trabajo' still imprisoned without being informed of any charges', AMR 25/16/98, 29 July 1998.

On 23 September 1998 four members of the *Grupo de Trabajo de la Disidencia Interna para el Análisis de la situación Socio-Económica Cubana*, Internal Dissidents' Working Group for the Analysis of the Cuban Socio-Economic Situation, **Félix A. Bonné Carcasés**, **René Gómez Manzano**,

**Vladimiro Roca Antunes** and **Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello**, were informed of their charges. The four, who have all been imprisoned since 16 July 1997, have all been charged with 'otros actos contra la seguridad del estado', 'other acts against state security' (Article 125 (c) of the Cuban Penal Code) in relation to a charge of 'sedición', 'sedition' (Art 100 (c) of the Cuban Penal Code). No date has been set for the trial but according to a public statement made by a spokesman of the Cuban Government on 8 October 1998, it will take place soon. According to the Cuban Penal Code, they could face up to eight years' imprisonment for the crime of 'sedition'. However, the prosecutor is asking for six years' imprisonment for Vladimiro Roca and five years' imprisonment for the other three prisoners.

Amnesty International believes that all four prisoners have been detained for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience.

The four group members were arrested following a press conference attended by foreign journalists in June 1997 during which they criticized an official discussion document -- "El Partido de la Unidad, la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos que Defendemos", "The Party of Unity, Democracy and Human Rights which we Defend". They also gave journalists a copy of their own critique of the document entitled "La Patria es de Todos", "The Homeland is for Everyone". According to the prosecutor's provisional conclusions, dated 6 September 1998, the four accused "jointly decided to elaborate and distribute various exhortations directed at different social sectors within and outside the country, in which they expressly invited them to subvert our socialist state order by boycotting the elections to be held in the year 1997 and by the non-fulfilment of the law of foreign investment, law no.77, approved by the National Assembly of Popular Power on 5 September 1995, acts which without requiring the use of arms nor the use of violence, were unequivocally aimed at undermining the stability of the Cuban state".

Vladimiro Roca is currently being held in Ariza Prison, Cienfuegos province, and Marta Beatriz Roque is in the Centro de Reeducación de Mujeres de Occidente, Women's Re-education Centre, known as "Manto Negro", in Havana. René Gómez Manzano is currently being held in Agüica Prison, Matanzas province, and Félix A. Bonné Carcasés is in Guanajay Prison, Havana province.

*Please send faxes/express and airmail letters preferably in Spanish. If not, in English or your own language:*

- Expressing concern about the charges brought against **Félix A. Bonné Carcasés**, **René Gómez Manzano**, **Vladimiro Roca Antunes** and **Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello** solely for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

- Calling for their immediate and unconditional release on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience.
- Urging that they be granted full judicial guarantees in accordance with international standards.
- Urging that all Cuban citizens be guaranteed their rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that the Cuban Government immediately cease to imprison, force into exile abroad or otherwise punish those who attempt to peacefully exercise such rights.

*Please send appeals to:*

**Head of State and Government**

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

**Telex and Fax: via Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see below)**

**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 fidge**

**Fax: + 53 7 - 333164**

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

**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 - 333 085 / - 335 261**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

This document is being sent to CARRAN coordinators for action by groups. It is also being sent to sections. Please check with the Caribbean Sub-Regional Team if sending appeals after 1 January 1999.

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / CENSORSHIP /  
 LAWYERS / TRIALS

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