

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 161/99 (AMR 25/41/99, 12 November 1999) - Prisoner of conscience / Arbitrary arrests

CUBADr. Oscar Elías BISCET GONZÁLEZ, human rights activist
Antonio ALONSO PÉREZ, peasant leader

Released Ramón Humberto COLÁS CASTILLO, independent librarian and political activist
Héctor PALACIOS RUIZ, political activist

According to reports all but six of the more than 20 dissidents arrested in the run up to the Ibero-American Summit, which took place in Havana on 15-16 November 1999, have now been released.

The released include: Héctor Palacios Ruiz, Ramón Humberto Colás Castillo and the mothers of three political prisoners detained after they took part in a peaceful demonstration calling for the release of political prisoners.

Two of those still in detention are Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González, president of the *Fundación Lawton de Derechos Humanos*, Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, and Antonio Alonso Pérez, President of the *Alianza Nacional de Agricultores Independientes*, Association of Independent Farmers, who was detained on 7 November as he set out to participate in a congress of independent farmers.

Oscar Biscet has reportedly been charged with "*desórdenes públicos*", "public disorder", which carries a maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment if no weapons or explosives are used. He is reportedly now being held at a detention centre in Havana but relatives have been told that he will be moved to a prison to await trial, although no date has been set for the trial yet.

Antonio Alonso Pérez has reportedly been charged with "*sacrificio de ganado*", "sacrifice of cattle" and, on 15 November, was reportedly transferred to the Manguito Prison in Santiago de Cuba province to await trial. Amnesty International believes that he may have been detained in connection with his work with independent farmers, and is seeking further information.

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

- urging that all those still detained in connection with the recent Ibero-American summit be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González, on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully attempting to exercise his right to freedom of expression, association and assembly;
- asking for details about the charges made against Antonio Alonso Pérez;
- urging that all those detained be granted immediate access to lawyers of their choosing.

APPEALS TO:

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 66 94 85
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
Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950
Faxes: + 53 7 335261 / 33 3085 / 33 3460
Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

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

COPIES TO:

National Union of Jurists
Unión Nacional de Juristas
Apartado 4161
La Habana 4, 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 5 December 1999.