

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/43/97

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Americas Regional Program
Date: 28 November 1997

Further information on MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Dr Desi MENDOZA Rivero
CUBA

(See AMR 25/28/97, 19 August 1997; AMR 25/40/97, 17 November 1997)

Keywords

Theme: POC

Profession/association: doctor

Summary

Amnesty International has learned of the sentence of eight years' imprisonment imposed on Dr Desi Mendoza in connection with a critique he had made of the handling of a dengue fever epidemic in Santiago de Cuba in the east of the country. The prosecution had called for a 13 year prison sentence. He was reportedly accused during the sentencing hearing of **having behaved in a way which was "politically opposed to the Cuban social system"**. AI regards Dr Mendoza as a prisoner of conscience and continues to call for his release. Please see details in the earlier document AMR 25/40/97, 17 November 1997.

Recommended Actions

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in Spanish or your own language, should be sent urgently to the addresses below. If you have written previously on this case you should mention it.

- o express deep concern at the eight year prison sentence imposed on Dr Mendoza
- o express alarm that a doctor could be imprisoned for speaking out on a matter of public health
- o ask for details of his current situation and for details of any medical care he is receiving
- o urge the immediate release of Dr Mendoza on the grounds that he should not be prosecuted for exercising his right to freedom of expression

Addresses

Sr. Roberto Robaina González (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
 Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Calzada No. 360
 Vedado
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +53 7 333085 +53 7 335261
 (Salutation: Señor Ministro)

Dr. Juan Escalona Reguera (Attorney General of the Republic)
 Fiscal General de la (State Prosecutor)
 República
 Fiscalía General de la
 República
 San Rafael 3
 La Habana, Cuba
 Tl: + 53 7 333164 / 320411
 Fax: + 53 7 333164
 (Salutation: Señor Fiscal General)

Sr. Director (Director of Boniato Prison)
 Prisión de Boniato
 Apartado 5007
 Puerto de Boniato
 Santiago de Cuba
 Cuba
 (Salutation: Sr. Director)

Faxes and telephone calls expressing serious concern about Dr Mendoza could be made to the Embassy of Cuba in your country.

Please send copies of your letters to:

Sr. Carlos Dotres Martínez (Minister of Public Health)
 Ministro de la Salud Pública
 Ministerio de la Salud Pública
 Calle 23, No. 301
 Vedado, La Habana, Cuba
 Tl: 511149
 (Salutation: Señor Ministro)

and to the Cuban diplomatic representative in your country.