

18 December 1997

Further information on EXTRA 139/97 (AMR 25/37/97, 17 October 1997) and follow-ups (AMR 25/38/97, 21 October, AMR 25/39/97, 30 October, and AMR 25/42/97, 24 November) - Prisoners of Conscience / Possible POCS / Legal Concern / Hunger Strike

**CUBA** Daula CARPIO MARTÍ (f)

José Antonio ALVARADO ALMEIDA (m)

Lilián MENESES MARTINEZ (f)

Ilzana PEÑALVER DUQUE (f)

Danilo SANTOS MENDOZA (m)

Iván LEMMA ROMERO (m)

José Manuel LLERA BENITEZ (m) [correction: previously José Miguel Llera Martínez]

Roxanna Alina CARPIO MARTÍ (f), sister of Daula Carpio Mata

Vicente GARCÍA RAMOS (m), all members of the unofficial *Partido Pro Derechos Humanos*

*en Cuba (PPDH), Party for Human Rights in Cuba*

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Amnesty International is continuing to urge that the charges brought against the above nine members of the unofficial *Partido Pro Derechos Humanos en Cuba (PPDH), Party for Human Rights in Cuba*, be dropped. It believes that those in detention are prisoners of conscience and should be released immediately and unconditionally. Eight members were arrested on 14 October 1997 in Santa Clara after they began a fast in protest at the arrest of PPDH provincial delegate, Daula Carpio Mata on 9 October. Seven of the eight PPDH members, as well as Daula Carpio herself, who joined the fast two or three weeks later, are reportedly continuing their fast (in which they are reportedly consuming only liquids, including soups) and are said to be in a very weak state. Latest reports indicate that the current situation of each of the nine PPDH members is as follows:

Daula Carpio Mata: sentenced to 16 months' "correctional work with internment" after being convicted on a charge of "assault", "atentado", on the grounds that she verbally threatened a prison doctor during the trial of another PPDH member in July. Reports indicate that one of the prosecution witnesses may have been pressurized to testify against her. Amnesty International believes that from the information available there is no credible basis for the charge against her. The sentence was confirmed on appeal on 8 December and she was ordered to present herself at a work centre on 12 December. She did not do so, reportedly for health reasons. She has been continuing her fast and is said to be suffering from sharp pains in her ears and a constant headache. On 16 December three police officers went to her home and, despite being shown a doctor's note recommending she take complete rest, took her away to Guamajal Women's Prison.

José Antonio Alvarado Almeida: sentenced to 18 months' "correctional work with internment", confirmed on appeal, but has not started his sentence. On 22 November, he was hospitalized and placed in intensive care after reportedly suffering a heart attack. On 3 December he was discharged from hospital to his home where he has continued his fast. He is said to have lost about 50 pounds [23kg] in weight. He has been told to report to Villa Clara Provincial Prison on 25 December, where he will be told which work camp he is to go to.

Lilián Meneses Martínez: sentenced to 18 months' "correctional work without internment", confirmed on appeal, but has not started her sentence. She is said to be suffering from dizziness, dry lips and an abnormally rapid heart rate (*taquicardia*) as the result of her fast. She has been told to report to a work centre on 25 December despite having recently been informed by the director that there is no work for women there.

Ilzana Peñalver Duque: sentenced to 18 months' "correctional work without internment", confirmed on appeal, but has not started her sentence. She is still fasting and is said to be suffering from memory and vision disturbance, loss of feeling in her legs and to have lost a lot of weight. She has been told to report for work at the Ovidio Rivero Agricultural Production Centre on 17 December and warned that, if she continued to present medical certificates stating she was too ill to work, her sentence would be changed instead to one of imprisonment.

Danilo Santos Méndez: sentenced to 18 months' "correctional work with internment", confirmed on appeal, but has not started his sentence. He is still fasting and is said to be suffering from abdominal pain and exhaustion and to have lost a lot of weight. It is not clear when he has to report for "correctional work".

Iván Lema Romero: sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, confirmed on appeal. He started his sentence in Guamajal Prison but has recently been transferred to Manacas Prison, Santa Clara. He is still fasting and is said to be very weak.

José Manuel Llera Benítez: sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, confirmed on appeal, which he is serving in Las Grimas Prison, Placetas, Villa Clara. He is still fasting and is said to be suffering from pains in his joints, vomiting and dizziness. Latest reports indicate that prison officials unsuccessfully tried to get common prisoners to provoke him by offering them extra passes. He has also reportedly been warned by officials that he will be put in a punishment cell if he refuses to work.

Roxanna Carpio Mata: sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, confirmed on appeal, and initially sent to Guamajal Women's Prison. On 20 November she was transferred to hospital where it was discovered that she was pregnant. She has now reportedly given up her fast and has been returned to prison.

Vicente García Ramos: sentenced to 18 months' "correctional work with internment", confirmed on appeal. He is believed to have stopped his fast and to be serving his sentence in Villa Clara Provincial Prison.

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

- urging that the charges against all of the above-named members of the PDDHC be immediately dropped, and that those detained in prison or work centres be released unconditionally on the grounds that they have been targeted solely because of their peaceful political activities;
- expressing concern at reports that, despite his state of health, José Manuel Llera Benítez has been threatened with being sent to a punishment cell if he does not work;
- expressing concern at reports that, despite their state of health, others have been threatened with imprisonment if they refuse to attend a work centre and that, in the case of Daula Carpio Mata, this threat appears to have been carried out;
- requesting that those in custody who are on hunger strike and who request medical attention be granted immediate access to all necessary treatment to ensure their wellbeing.

**APPEALS TO: (This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per Section).**

1) Minister of the Interior

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra  
Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba**  
**Faxes: + 53 7 33 5261 (attn: Ministro del Interior)**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

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**  
**Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950**  
**Faxes: +53 7 333085/ 333460/ 333261**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) 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**  
**Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Cuban Journalists Union (official body)

Unión de Periodistas de Cuba, Calle 23 No. 452,  
Apartado 6646, Vedado, Havana, Cuba

2) 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 1 February 1998.