

URGENT ACTION

CUBA: EX PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE DETAINED

On 14 February, according to information currently available to Amnesty International, state security officials detained former prisoner of conscience Josiel Guía Piloto in his home in Havana. At the time of his detention, he was hunger striking in protest over his constant harassment and surveillance. We call on the authorities to provide the reasons for Josiel Guía Piloto's detention, to grant him access to a lawyer of his choosing, and to ensure he is not tortured or ill-treated while in detention.

Miguel Díaz-Canel,
President of Cuba
Hidalgo Esq. 6,
Plaza de La Revolución,
CP 10400,
La Habana, Cuba
Twitter: @DiazCanelB

Dear President Díaz-Canel,

Amnesty International has received reports that former prisoner of conscience Josiel Guía Piloto, a political activist, was detained on 14 February 2023.

Prior to his detention on 14 February 2023, Josiel Guía Piloto reported that state security officials had detained him for approximately two hours on 10 February 2023 and threatened to charge him with "disobedience" if he did not report to them twice a month.

At the time of his detention, he was hunger striking in his home to protest these requirements.

Amnesty International previously named Josiel Guía Piloto a prisoner of conscience in 2019. In June 2019, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted precautionary measures for Josiel Guía Piloto, calling on Cuba to protect his rights to health, life and physical integrity. In February 2020, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention also described his 2016 detention as arbitrary and called for his release.

We urgently demand information about the grounds of Josiel Guía Piloto's detention, call on the authorities to immediately provide him with a lawyer of his choosing, and call on the authorities to ensure he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment during his detention.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Josiel Guía Piloto is a member of the Republican Party of Cuba and former Amnesty International [prisoner of conscience](#). He previously served a five-year sentence for “public disorder” and “contempt” for allegedly having criticized former President Fidel Castro on 1 December 2016.

On 11 June 2019, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights [granted precautionary measures](#) to respect and protect his rights to health, life and physical integrity. In February 2020, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention also [called](#) his previous detention in 2016 “arbitrary” and called for his release.

According to information currently available to Amnesty International, prior to his most recent detention on 14 February 2023, Josiel Guía Piloto reported that state security officials had detained him for approximately two hours on 10 February 2023 and threatened to charge him with “disobedience” if he did not report to them twice a month.

At the time of his most recent detention, he was hunger striking in protest over these requirements, information which became public through various media [reports](#) on 14 February 2023.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish, English

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 14 March 2023

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Josiel Guía Piloto (He, him, his)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: