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22 November 2019

**OPEN LETTER TO MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL BERMÚDEZ, PRESIDENT OF CUBA:
Request for access to Cuba to monitor the trial of José Daniel Ferrer García**

President of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel:

As an independent human rights organization, we are writing this open letter to you to formally repeat our request for access to Cuba. On this occasion, specifically to monitor the trial of José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the political opposition group, the Patriotic Union of Cuba (Unión Patriótica de Cuba, UNPACU), who is deprived of his freedom while awaiting trial.

According to information available by Amnesty International, José Daniel Ferrer García was [detained](#) on 1 October 2019 and has been kept incommunicado for a large part of his detention, according to his family.

In November 2019, Amnesty International received information suggesting that José Daniel Ferrer García may have been tortured and subjected to ill-treatment during his detention. [We remind](#) your government of its obligation to prevent torture and other ill-treatment, in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), to which Cuba has been state party since 1995. We also ask you to take steps to duly and diligently investigate allegations of torture, in line with the Istanbul Protocol, and to protect José Daniel Ferrer García and his family from reprisals for having reported possible acts of torture.

Amnesty International recently received a document, apparently issued by the Provincial Prosecutor of Santiago de Cuba, dated 7 October 2019, stating that José Daniel Ferrer García has been charged with the offence of “injuries” (*lesiones*) and placed in preventive detention as a precautionary measure. This document was given to his family more than 30 days after his detention, according to their reports.

As part of our human rights work, and as an independent organization, we make periodic visits to most countries in the world. Observing trials is one of the tools we use in many countries as it allows us to objectively monitor the human rights situation in specific cases.

In this context, Mr President, we reiterate our request to visit Cuba, so we can monitor *in situ* the forthcoming trial of José Daniel Ferrer García.

Yours sincerely,

Erika Guevara-Rosas
Americas Director
Amnesty International