

URGENT ACTION

CUBA STILL DETAINING PEACEFUL PROTESTORS

Three people who were involved in a peaceful anti-government protest in Havana, have now been detained for more than seven weeks without charge. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Human rights activists **Ivonne Malleza Galano** and her husband **Ignacio Martínez Montejo** have been detained without charge since 30 November 2011. New information has revealed that **Isabel Haydee Álvarez** was arrested with them and is also being held without charge. Ivonne and her husband were arrested by police officers as they were staging a peaceful demonstration in Fraternity Park (Parque de la Fraternidad) in Havana on 30 November 2011. Isabel Haydee Álvarez was an onlooker at the demonstration and was also arrested when she protested against the couple's detention. The three were initially held at the Alternative Centre for Processing Detainees. Ivonne Malleza Galano and Isabel Haydee Álvarez are now both being held at the Women's Provincial Prison (Prisión Provincial de Mujeres) in Havana, popularly known as "Manto Negro", while Ignacio Martínez Montejo is being held at Combinado del Este prison, also in the capital.

The three have yet to be formally charged and no date has been set for them to appear in court. They have apparently been informed by the authorities that they were arrested for "public disorder". Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. Ignacio Martínez Montejo started a hunger strike on 12 January in protest at their detention, but was forced to give up on 16 January when he started getting chest pains. He was transferred to the prison hospital and has now been returned to his cell.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the Cuban authorities to release Ivonne Malleza Galano, Ignacio Martínez Montejo and Isabel Haydee Álvarez immediately and unconditionally, as Amnesty International believes they are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression;
- Urging the authorities to remove unlawful restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly in Cuba.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 MARCH 2012 TO:

Head of State and Government

Raúl Castro Ruz
 Presidente de la República de Cuba
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +537 83 33 085 (via Foreign
 Ministry); +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban
 Mission to UN)
 Email: cuba@un.int (c/o Cuban Mission
**Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your
 Excellency**

Attorney General

Sr. Darío Delgado Cura
 Fiscalía General de la República,
 San Rafael 3, La Habana, Cuba
 Salutation: **Señor Fiscal General / Dear
 Attorney General**

And copies to:

Interior Minister
 General Abelardo Coloma Ibarra
 Ministro del Interior y Prisiones
 Ministerio del Interior, Plaza de la
 Revolución,
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +537 85 56 621, +1 212 779 1697
 (via Cuban Mission to UN)
 Email: correominint@mn.mn.co.cu

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 355/11. Further information:
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR25/007/2011/en

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

CUBA STILL DETAINING PEACEFUL PROTESTORS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 30 November, Ivonne Malleza Galano, a member of the Ladies in Support (Damas de Apoyo) to the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco), and her husband Ignacio Martínez Montejo, were arrested by police officers while they were staging a peaceful demonstration in Fraternity Park (Parque de la Fraternidad) in Havana City. The protest was against hunger and poverty, and they were holding a banner with the slogan "Stop hunger, misery and poverty in Cuba". Ivonne Malleza Galano was handcuffed and pushed into a police vehicle. Two police officers arrived, tried to confiscate the banner and detained her, along with Ignacio Martínez Montejo. Video footage posted on the internet shows Ivonne Malleza Galano being arrested by the police officers at Fraternity Park while the crowd gathered round her and asked the officers to let her go. Isabel Haydee Álvarez was an onlooker at the demonstration and was arrested when she protested the couple's detention.

Ivonne Malleza Galano is a member of the Ladies in Support (Damas de Apoyo) to the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco). The Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco) are a group of female relatives of former prisoners of conscience and current political prisoners. They organize peaceful marches where they distribute flowers and call for the release of those who are still detained. In 2005, the European Parliament awarded The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the Ladies in White. The Ladies in Support emerged as a solidarity group who support and participate in activities organized by the Ladies in White.

Ignacio Martínez Montejo is a member of the Community Communicators Network (Red de Comunicadores Comunitarios), an opposition group headed by former prisoner of conscience Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. On several occasions during 2011 Ivonne and Ignacio were arbitrarily detained for short periods while attempting to carry out their peaceful dissident activities.

Mayra Morejón, a member of the Ladies in Support who participated in the demonstration with Ivonne and Ignacio on 30 November has said she has received a call from Cuban State Security warning her that if she left her house she would also be detained.

Prisoner of conscience Wilman Villar Mendoza died in the early hours of 20 January in Juan Bruno Zayas Hospital in the city of Santiago de Cuba where he had been transferred from prison on 13 January due to health concerns arising from a hunger strike protesting at his unfair trial and imprisonment. In a private trial on 24 November, a court sentenced the activist to four years in prison on charges related to his participation in a public demonstration against the government.

Name: Ivonne Malleza Galano
Gender m/f: f

Name: Ignacio Martínez Montejo
Gender m/f: m

Name: Isabel Haydee Alvarez
Gender: m/f: f

Further information on UA: 355/11 Index: AMR 25/001/2012 Issue Date 20/01/2012