

EXTERNAL

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION

(See AMR 25/06/90 - 14 November 1990)

@Dr Alfredo Samuel MARTINEZ LARA
LCUBA

Keywords

Theme: detention without charge or trial

Profession/association: psychiatrist

On 7 February 1991, Dr Alfredo Samuel Martínez Lara, who was arrested in March 1990, was brought to trial on charges of "rebellion" and "other acts against State security". He was found guilty of these charges, given the unusually lenient sentence of three years' "restricted liberty" and released from detention on conclusion of the trial.

Dr Martínez Lara has been imprisoned on a number of previous occasions over the past ten years. At the time of his arrest in March 1990, he was Secretary General of the unofficial Party for Human Rights in Cuba (*Partido Pro Derechos Humanos en Cuba, PPDHIC*), a body considered illegal by the Cuban authorities. He was arrested on 10 March 1990 together with eight other members of the PPDHIC following a meeting of various Cuban human rights groups held at a private residence. The other members of the PPDHIC were released pending trial in September of the same year. They were brought to trial in November 1990 and sentenced to between three months' and one year's "restricted liberty" on a charge of "illegal association". Dr Martínez, however, remained in the custody of the State Security Police and for the first eight months of his 11-month detention had no access to legal representation.

Dr Martínez was accused by the authorities of having advocated the violent overthrow of the Cuban Government by the PPDHIC and of having worked closely with CIA agents based at the US Interests Section in Havana. The prosecution had requested a five-year sentence of imprisonment, to be followed by three years' of police surveillance. It appears that at the trial little concrete evidence was presented to substantiate the accusations made.

Under the terms of the Cuban Penal Code, the following restrictions apply to anyone sentenced to a term of restricted liberty: they may not change residence without court permission; they are not permitted promotion or salary increases in their place of employment; they must appear in court if summoned to explain their conduct; they must adopt an honest attitude to work, strictly obey the law and respect the socialist way of life. They are supervised by neighbourhood organizations in coordination with the National Revolutionary Police (*Policía Nacional Revolucionaria*). Anyone so sentenced who fails to abide by these restrictions may be ordered by the court to complete the remainder of their sentence in prison.

No further action is requested at present. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Dr Martínez Lara's situation. Thank you for having appealed on his behalf.

