

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/03/96

29 January 1996

Further information on UA 439/94 (AMR 25/14/94, 13 December 1994) and follow-ups AMR 25/16/94, 19 December 1994; AMR 25/11/95, 30 August and correction, 13 September; AMR 25/12/95, 3 October; AMR 25/17/95, 15 November) - Death Penalty / Fear of ill-treatment / Health Concern / Death Threats

**CUBA Juvencio PADRÓN DUEÑAS (known as Juan Carlos)
Felix MOLINA VALDÉS
Carlos Camilo RODRÍGUEZ GORRÍN
Carlos CRUZ SEGUIS**

Amnesty International has learned that the death sentences of Juvencio Padrón Dueñas, Felix Molina Valdés and Carlos Cruz Seguis have been commuted to 30 years' imprisonment, following an appeal to the People's Supreme Court on 23 November 1995.

The three men, together with Camilo Rodríguez Gorrín, had been brought to trial on 29 September 1995, charged with the murder and robbery of two elderly people in Ciego de Avila. All four were found guilty, with Juvencio Padrón Dueñas, Felix Molina Valdés and Carlos Cruz Seguis being sentenced to death and Camilo Rodríguez Gorrín sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment.

Amnesty International welcomes the commutation of the death sentences but is nevertheless still concerned about certain aspects of this case. For example, during the investigation process several irregularities were reported, including physical pressures inflicted on the detainees to force them to accept the charges.

It has been alleged that the arrest of Juvencio Padrón Dueñas may have been in reprisal for the political activities of other members of his family. Amnesty International has received reports that one of the other defendants in the case was beaten and forced to make a statement, which he now refutes, falsely implicating Juvencio Padrón Dueñas in the murder. There is reportedly no other evidence of his involvement. Furthermore, Juvencio Padrón Dueñas is said to have received death threats while in detention, to have had access to a lawyer on only one occasion prior to the trial, and to have been denied adequate medical treatment for a neurological condition from which he has been suffering since the time of his arrest.

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

- welcoming the commutation of the death sentences passed on Juvencio Padrón Dueñas, Felix Molina Valdés and Carlos Cruz Seguis;
- urging that an independent investigation be conducted into reports that at least one of the defendants in the case was subjected to physical pressures in order to force him to sign false statements and that anyone found to have committed human rights abuses against any of the defendants be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the People's Supreme Court
Dr José Raúl Amaro Salup
Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Popular

La Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Presidente, Tribunal Supremo Popular, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511457 tsupo

Salutation: Sr Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Popular/Dear President of the People's Supreme Court

2) Minister of Justice

Dr Carlos Amat Forés

Ministro de la Justicia

Ministerio de la Justicia

Calle O # 216, 8° piso

e/ 23 y Humboldt, Vedado

La Habana, Cuba

Telexes: 511331

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Havana, Cuba

Salutation: Sr 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

4) 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 / +53 7 335261

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

National Union of Jurists

Dra Zenaida Osorio Vizcaina

Presidente

Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba

Calle 21, No. 552, esq. D

Apartado 4161

La Habana 4, Cuba

Director of Ciego de Avila Provincial Prison

Señor Director

Prisión Provincial de Ciego de Avila

Ciego de Avila, 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 20 March 1996.