

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/07/98

23 February 1998

Further information on EXTRA 10/98 (AMR 25/03/98, 29 January 1998) - Prisoner of Conscience / Legal Concern

CUBA Juan Carlos Recio Martínez, aged 29, journalist  
Cecilio Monteagudo Sánchez, aged 26

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The trial of Juan Carlos Recio Martínez and Cecilio Monteagudo Sánchez began on 3 February 1998 at Villa Clara People's Provincial Tribunal and was concluded on 6 February. On 13 February the court ruled that Cecilio Monteagudo had been convicted on a charge of "enemy propaganda" and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He is believed to have been returned to Villa Clara Provincial Prison (known as "La Pendiente"), Santa Clara, Villa Clara Province, where he was being held prior to the trial. Juan Carlos Recio Martínez was convicted of "other acts against state security" and sentenced to one year's "correctional work without internment". He has been ordered to report for work to the Abel Santamaría Agricultural Production Cooperative in Camajuani, Villa Clara Province.

Cecilio Monteagudo was convicted on the grounds that he wrote a leaflet calling on people not to vote in the local elections that took place in October 1997.

The leaflet was never printed or distributed. Juan Carlos Recio was convicted on the grounds that he knew of the existence of the leaflet but did not inform the authorities of it.

Amnesty International believes that both men were convicted solely on account of their peaceful political activities and that their convictions should therefore be quashed. Their trial took place as the authorities announced that they were intending to release some 300 other prisoners, including prisoners of conscience convicted on similar charges, as a result of initiatives undertaken by the Vatican during the Pope's visit to Cuba in January.

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

- welcoming the decision by the authorities to release some 300 prisoners, including prisoners of conscience;
- urging them to release immediately and unconditionally all those imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, including Cecilio Monteagudo Sánchez;
- urging them to quash the conviction of both Cecilio Monteagudo Sánchez and Juan Carlos Recio Martínez on the grounds that they have been punished solely on account of their peaceful political activities.

1) 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**

2) 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 335261**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of the Interior  
General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra  
Ministro de Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

National Union of Jurists  
Unión Nacional de Juristas  
Apartado 4161  
La Habana 4, Cuba

Editor of Granma (daily newspaper)  
Sr Jacinto Granda de Laserna  
Granma, Apdo 6260, La Habana, 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 6 April 1998.