

URGENT ACTION

BROTHERS ARRESTED AFTER LISTENING TO HIP-HOP

Two brothers are currently serving prison sentences in Cuba for politically motivated offences. They are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Brothers **Antonio Michel Lima Cruz** and **Marcos MáiqueLima Cruz** have been imprisoned since Christmas Day 2010. They are members of the Cuban Council of Human Rights Rapporteurs (Consejo de Relatores de Derechos Humanos de Cuba) and both are independent journalists. They were arrested as they were holding a Christmas celebration with a group of family and friends at their home in Holguín, eastern Cuba. During the celebration, they played songs by a Cuban hip-hop group whose lyrics criticize the lack of freedom of expression in Cuba. They also danced on the street in front of their house whilst holding the Cuban flag. Shortly after midnight, police officers and officials from the Department of State Security arrived, accompanied by approximately 40 government supporters. The police entered by force and arrested the brothers. Later the same day, police returned and arrested their father and mother as well as several other friends who were at the family house at the time. The parents and friends of the brothers were detained for several days before being released without charge.

Following a summary trial in May 2011, Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos MáiqueLima Cruz were sentenced to two and three years imprisonment respectively for "insulting symbols of the homeland" (*ultraje a los símbolos de la patria*) and "public disorder" (*desórdenes públicos*). Amnesty International believes these sentences to be politically motivated, relating to the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression by the brothers, and that the sentences are disproportionate to the alleged offences. Therefore the organization has adopted them as prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the Cuban authorities to release Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos MáiqueLima Cruz immediately and unconditionally, as 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 3 MAY 2012 TO:

Head of State and Government

Raúl Castro Ruz
 Presidente de la República de Cuba
 La Habana,
 Cuba
 Fax: +53 7 83 33 085 (via Foreign
 Ministry); +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban
 Mission to UN)
 Email: cuba@un.int (c/o Cuban Mission
 to UN)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Attorney General

Dr. Darío Delgado Cura
 Fiscal General de la República,
 Fiscalía General de la República,
 Amistad 552, e/Monte y Estrella,
 Centro Habana,
 La Habana
 Cuba

Salutation: 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: +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban
 Mission to UN)

Email: correominint@mn.mn.co.cu

Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz are both currently being held at the La Ladrillera prison in Holguín Province. Antonio Michel Lima Cruz is suffering from prostate problems and is reportedly not receiving sufficient medical treatment. He is also eligible for conditional release having served over half of his sentence, but the authorities have refused to respond to petitions from his family and lawyer.

Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz are members of the Cuban Council of Human Rights Rapporteurs (Consejo de Relatores de Derechos Humanos de Cuba) – an island-wide umbrella group of organizations, and the Republican Youth Impact Movement (Movimiento Impacto Juvenil Republicano). In common with all groups deemed to be critical of the government, both organizations are denied official recognition. The brothers are both independent journalists, and were co-founders of the online newspaper Candonga, which was closed by the Cuban authorities in 2009.

Name: Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz
Gender m/f: Both male

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