

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 25/13/95
Distr: UA/SC

25 October 1995

Further information (2) on UA 175/95 (AMR 25/08/95, 14 July 1995) - and follow-up: AMR 25/09/95, 24 July 1995 - Arbitrary Arrest / Possible Prisoners of Conscience

CUBA: Rafael SOLANO, Director of Habana Press
 Hector PERAZA LINARES, 45, journalist working with Habana Press
 José RIVERO GARCIA, journalist working with Habana Press and other
 independent journalists
 new names:
 Roxana VALDIVIA, member of the Bureau of Independent Journalists of Cuba
 (BPIC)
María DE LOS ANGELES GUTIERREZ GONZALES, Accountant with BPIC
 Yndamiro RESTANO, Director of BPIC
 Olançe NOGUERA, journalist with BPIC

Amnesty International is concerned about further detentions and harassment of journalists, some of whom could face imprisonment as prisoners of conscience. Cuban state police recently strengthened their crackdown on independent journalists, issuing warnings that if they did not find work with a state entity, they could be imprisoned for four years on charges of "peligrosidad", "dangerousness". It is the first time that this provision, previously used against some human rights activists, has been used by the Cuban authorities against independent journalists.

Those affected have either been working with the *Buró de Periodistas Independientes de Cuba* (BPIC), Bureau of Independent Journalists of Cuba, which only began its activities on 19 September 1995, or Habana Press, which was set up some months ago.

Most recently, on 12 October María de los Angeles Gutierrez González was summoned by the Havana state police and warned to leave her job with BPIC. She had previously been detained on 4 October for four hours and given the same warning.

On 10 October Hector Peraza Linares was summoned by police in the town of Quivicán, Havana province. He was given 10 days to cease work as an independent journalist with Habana Press and find another job or be tried for "vagrancy" according to the "dangerousness" provision. He had previously been detained on 3 October and given the same warning.

On 7 October Olançe Noguera, who works with BPIC, was briefly detained by state police in Cienfuegos province and warned that he had 30 days to find a job with a state entity or else face charges of "dangerousness".

On 3 October Roxana Valdivia was detained by state security in Havana and held for 28 hours with her husband. She was forced to return to her home in Ciego de Avila, province of Cienfuegos. She was warned that she would be jailed again if she returns to Havana and remains in contact with former prisoner of conscience and founder of BPIC, Yndamiro Restano, who was only released from prison in June 1995.

On 15 September Rafael Solano and Yndamiro Restano were interrogated

individually by state security. Their relatives were told that the journalists would be detained again and that the state would not be responsible for any future violent action against them because of the illegal activities they are engaged in.

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

- expressing concern at reports that those mentioned above have been issued with official warnings of facing charges of "dangerousness" if they continue their work as independent journalists;
- urging that members of the BPIC and other freelance journalists be permitted to carry out their legitimate work without such interference from the authorities.

Please send up to 10 appeals per section.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telex: 511456 fisge

Fax: + 53 7 333164

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

Telex: 511122 / 511464 / 512950

Fax: + 53 7 333085 / + 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 OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Cuban Journalists' Union (official body)

Unión de Periodistas de Cuba

Calle 23 No. 452

Apdo 6646

Vedado

Havana, 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 December 1995.