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## CUBA

### Release of Pentecostal Minister: Reverend Orson Vila Santoyo

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Amnesty International has learned that Reverend Orson Vila Santoyo, a Pentecostal minister belonging to the Assembly of God Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Camagüey, Cuba, has been conditionally released. He reportedly has to present himself to the authorities once a month until his sentence expires later this year.

Rev. Orson Vila Santoyo, who is the supervisor of the Central District of the Assembly of God, **superintendente del Distrito Central de la Asamblea de Dios**, had been arrested on 25 May 1995, following his refusal to allow State Security agents to close down his home which was used as an evangelical centre. He was subsequently sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for "disobedience", "**desobediencia**" (article 147 of the Penal Code), and "illegal meeting", "**reunión ilícita**" (article 209). He carried out the first part of his sentence at the Cerámica Roja Prison in Camagüey province and was later moved to "Las 40" Penitentiary, also in Camagüey.

Amnesty International considered Rev. Orson Vila Santoyo to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely because of his attempts to peacefully exercise his rights to freedom of religion, expression and association, and called for his immediate and unconditional release.

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / BANNING / CENSORSHIP /  
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