

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/19/97

18 July 1997

Further information (3) on EXTRA 106/96 (AMR 25/31/96, 11 July 1996 and follow-ups AMR 25/37/96, 24 September 1996 and AMR 25/10/97, 3 June 1997) - Legal concern/Ill-treatment and new concerns: harassment/prisoner of conscience/possible POC

CUBA Nestor RODRIGUEZ LOBAINA

Radamés GARCIA DE LA VEGA

Ramón RODRIGUEZ

Rafael FONSECA OCHOA

new name: Heriberto LEYVA RODRIGUEZ

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Amnesty International is concerned at further developments relating to members of an unofficial youth group called *Jóvenes por la Democracia*, Young People for Democracy, which has been campaigning for, amongst other things, changes in the Cuban university system. Radamés García de la Vega, who was detained on 30 April 1997, was reportedly tried on 17 June 1997 and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, charged with "desacato a la figura del Comandante en Jefe", "disrespect to the Commander in Chief", i.e. President Fidel Castro.

Heriberto Leyva Rodríguez, also a member of the group, was reportedly detained on 13 July 1997 and is being held at the provincial headquarters of the National Police in Palma Soriano, Santiago de Cuba province. He has been charged with "desacato a un juez", "disrespect to a judge", reportedly because, at the end of the trial of Radamés García de la Vega, he exclaimed "*Esto es una prueba de que en Cuba no existe libertad ni democracia*", "This is proof that in Cuba there is no freedom or democracy".

Nestor Rodríguez Lobaina, President of the group, remains imprisoned in the Combinado de Guantánamo Prison. He had been sentenced in April 1997 to 18 months' imprisonment, charged with "resisting authority" and "disrespect".

There is no new information about Nestor Rodríguez' father, Ramón Rodríguez, or Rafael Fonseca Ochoa, also a member of Young People for Democracy, who were both threatened with arrest in April and May 1997 respectively.

Amnesty International is seeking the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience, Nestor Rodríguez Lobaina, Radamés García de la Vega and Heriberto Leyva. The organization believes they have been detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

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

- urging that Nestor Rodríguez Lobaina, Radamés García de la Vega and Heriberto Leyva Rodríguez be immediately and unconditionally released, on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly;
- urging that Heriberto Leyva Rodríguez be granted immediate access to a lawyer of his choice;
- urging that no reprisals be taken against relatives and others who try to make these cases public.

**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**  
**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**

4) Department of State Security

Sr Director  
Departamento de Seguridad del Estado  
Versalles  
Santiago de Cuba, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Director, Seguridad del Estado, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba**  
**Salutation: Señor Director / Dear Sir**

**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 29 August 1997.