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Release of Prisoner of Conscience - Roberto González Tibanear

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Amnesty International has learned that prisoner of conscience **Roberto González Tibanear** was released on 28 August 1997. He was tried on 27 August and convicted of "desacato", "disrespect" (article 144 of the Penal Code), and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. Since Roberto González had been imprisoned since 26 November 1996 he had already served the nine-month sentence and was therefore released.

Background

In July 1994 Roberto González travelled as a tourist to Sweden where he sought asylum. His asylum claim was rejected by the Swedish authorities and he was sent back to Cuba in March 1996, together with other members of his family. On 26 November 1996 he was arrested in Havana, after making anti-Castro statements to foreign journalists. He was not brought to trial until nine months later. It was believed that he was to be charged with "instigación a delinquir", "incitement to commit a crime", "desacato", "disrespect" and "desorden público", "public disorder", but only the charge of "disrespect" was considered at the trial.

No further action is necessary. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.

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