

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 25/38/97

21 October 1997

This is a Limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per Section.

Further information on EXTRA 139/97 (AMR 25/37/97, 17 October 1997) - Prisoners of Conscience / Possible POCs / Legal Concern

CUBARicardo GONZALEZ ALFONSO, journalist  
Daula CARPIO MATA (f), member of the unofficial *Partido Pro Derechos Humanos en Cuba* (PPDHC), Party for Human Rights in Cuba  
Jenny Julia GODOY CARPIO (f), 15, Daula Carpio Mata's daughter  
María Felicia MATA MACHADO (f), 54, Daula Carpio Mata's mother  
Roxanna CARPIO MATA (f), Daula Carpio Mata's sister  
Ileana PEÑALVER DUQUE (f)  
Vicente GARCIA RAMOS  
Guillermo FARIÑAS CABEZAS [note correction of name]  
Lilian MENESES MARTINEZ (f)  
Iván LEMA ROMERO [note correction of name]  
José Antonio ALVARADO ALMEIDA  
José Miguel LLERA BENITEZ  
Danilo SANTOS MENDEZ  
Arélis FLEITES MENDEZ [note correction of name]

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Journalist Ricardo González Alfonso was released without charge on the afternoon of 18 October. Following his arrest at his Havana home on 16 October, he was taken to a police station known as Territorial Siboney in Playa, Havana. On release, he said that he had not been ill-treated or questioned but simply warned that if he did not give up writing reports for the independent press agency *Cuba Press*, he would have to choose between imprisonment and exile. He said that, while in the police station, he refused to eat in protest at the fact that his detention was carried out without an arrest warrant. He reportedly shared a cell with five others and the first night had to sleep on the floor because there were only four bunks.

Seven of the 12 members of the unofficial *Partido Pro Derechos Humanos en Cuba* (PPDHC), Party for Human Rights in Cuba, who were arrested in Santa Clara on 14 October after going on hunger-strike in protest at the arrest on 9 October of PPDHC member Daula Carpio Mata, have also been released. Six were released on 18 October: María Felicia Mata Machado, José Antonio Alvarado Almeida, Lilian Meneses Martínez, Ileana Peñalver Duque, Arélis Fleites Mendez and Guillermo Fariñas Cabezas. On 20 October, 15-year-old Jenny Julia Godoy Carpio, who had reportedly continued her fast while held in a minors' detention centre, was released after agreeing to come off hunger-strike. The six released on 18 October are reportedly facing trial on various charges, including attacking state security [*atentado contra la seguridad del Estado*], enemy propaganda, associating with others to commit a crime [*asociación para delinquir*] and attacking international peace [*atentado contra la paz internacional*]. Unofficial reports indicate that the trial may take place within the next 10 days. While in detention, the six reportedly refused to sign official documents acknowledging the charges. Five others remain in detention - Roxana Alina Carpio Mata, Danilo Santo Méndez, José Miguel Llera Benítez, Vicente García Ramos and Iván Lema Romero - and are believed to be under investigation on similar charges.

Daula Carpio Mata, who is the provincial delegate of the PPDHC for Villa Clara province, was detained on 9 October and is imprisoned in Guamajal Women's Prison.

She is reportedly facing imminent trial on a charge of verbally intimidating a prison doctor. Amnesty International is seeking further information about the basis for the charges against her and the other PPDHC members. The organization believes that the charges may have been brought against them as punishment for their peaceful and legitimate political activities and that they may therefore be prisoners of conscience.

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

- welcoming the release without charge of Ricardo González Alfonso but urging that he be permitted to continue his legitimate peaceful work as a journalist;
- welcoming the release of the seven PPDHC members, but noting reports that the adults and some or all of the five who remain in detention are reportedly facing imminent trial on several charges;
- requesting further information about the basis for the charges and expressing concern that they may have been arrested solely on account of their peaceful political activities;
- requesting that all those still in detention, including Daula Carpio Mata, be permitted immediate access to a lawyer of their choice, as well as family visits and any necessary medical attention.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of the Interior

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra  
 Ministro del Interior  
 Ministerio del Interior  
 Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba  
**Faxes: + 53 7 33 5261 (attn: Ministro del Interior)**  
**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Havana, Cuba**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

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**  
**Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950**  
**Faxes: +53 7 333085 / +53 7 333460**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) 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**  
**Telexes: 511456 fisge**  
**Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Cuban Journalists Union (official body)  
*Unión de Periodistas de Cuba*  
 Calle 23 No. 452, Apartado 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 21 November 1997.