

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 161/99 (AMR 25/41/99, 12 November 1999 and AMR 25/42/99, 19 November 1999) - Prisoner of conscience / Arbitrary arrests

CUBADr. Oscar Elías BISCET GONZÁLEZ, human rights activist

Released: Antonio ALONSO PÉREZ, peasant leader

According to reports, Antonio Alonso Pérez was released from detention on 26 November 1999. Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González remains detained. They were among more than 20 dissidents arrested in the run up to the Ibero-American Summit in Havana on 15-16 November.

Antonio Alonso, President of the *Alianza Nacional de Agricultores Independientes*, Association of Independent Farmers, had reportedly been held in solitary confinement in a windowless room for eight days and pressurized into giving up his position as a peasant leader. The charge of "*sacrificio de ganado*", "sacrifice of cattle", reportedly brought against him, has been dropped. Antonio Alonso was detained on 7 November as he set out to participate in a congress of independent farmers.

Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González, President of the *Fundación Lawton de Derechos Humanos*, Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, was arrested on 3 November and reportedly charged with "*ultraje a los símbolos de la patria*", "insult to the symbols of the homeland" (article 203 of the Cuban Penal Code) [corrected from previous update]. This carries a maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment. On 29 November he was reportedly moved from a detention center in Havana to a psychiatric hospital in Havana, known as Mazorra. He was allowed to see his lawyer for an hour the same day. No date has been set for a trial.

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

- asking for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González, on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully attempting to exercise his right to freedom of expression, association and assembly;

APPEALS TO:

Attorney-General

Dr Juan Escalona Reguera
Fiscal General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República
San Rafael 3, La Habana, Cuba

Telexes: 511456 fisge

Faxes: + 53 7 66 94 85

Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr. Felipe Pérez Roque
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Calzada No. 360, Vedado, La Habana, Cuba
Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950
Faxes: + 53 7 335261 / 33 3085 / 33 3460

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of the Interior
General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra
Ministro de Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba
Faxes: + 53 7 335261

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

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 31 December 1999.