

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE

**Human rights activists Ivonne Malleza Galano and her husband Ignacio Martínez Montejo continue to be held without charge since their arrest on 30 November. They were detained for staging a peaceful demonstration in a park in Havana City, Cuba.**

Cuban authorities held **Ivonne Malleza Galano** incommunicado for 10 days after she was arrested at Fraternity Park in Havana City on 30 November. On 10 December, she was allowed a phone call to inform family and friends of her whereabouts. She is currently held at the Alternative Center for Processing Detainees (*Centro Alternativo de Procesamiento de Detenidos*), located in the southern outskirts of Havana City. **Ignacio Martínez Montejo**, who was also arrested at the demonstration, is being held at the same location.

Relatives were allowed to visit Ivonne Malleza Galano and Ignacio Martínez Montejo on the morning of 12 December. They were told by staff at the Alternative Center for Processing Detainees that Ivonne Malleza Galano and Ignacio Martínez Montejo are being accused of public disorder and could be investigated for up to 60 days. However, they have not yet been formally charged or informed of the reasons for their ongoing detention.

If, as it seems, Ivonne Malleza Galano and Ignacio Martínez Montejo have been detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, they are prisoners of conscience, and should be released immediately and unconditionally.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Calling on the Cuban authorities to charge Ivonne Malleza Galano and Ignacio Martínez Montejo with recognizable criminal offences or release them immediately;
- Asking them to ensure that anyone charged is given a fair trial in compliance with international standards;
- Urging the authorities to remove unlawful restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly in Cuba.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JANUARY 2012 TO:**

#### Head of State and Government

Raúl Castro Ruz

Presidente de la República de Cuba

La Habana, Cuba

Fax: +537 83 33 085 (via Foreign

Ministry); +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban

Mission to UN)

Email: cuba@un.int (c/o Cuban Mission to UN)

**Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency**

#### Attorney General

Dr Juan Escalona Reguer

Fiscalía General de la República,

San Rafael 3, La Habana, Cuba

**Salutation: Señor Fiscal General /**

**Dear Attorney General**

#### **And copies to:**

Interior Minister

General Abelardo Coloma Ibarra

Ministro del Interior y Prisiones

Ministerio del Interior, Plaza de la Revolución,

La Habana, Cuba

Fax: +537 85 56 621, +1 212 779 1697

(via Cuban Mission to UN)

Email: correominint@mn.mn.co.cu

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 355/11. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR25/006/2011/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 30 November, Ivonne Malleza Galano, a member of the Ladies in Support (Damas de Apoyo) to the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco), and her husband Ignacio Martínez Montejo, were arrested by police officers while they were staging a peaceful demonstration in Fraternity Park (*Parque de la Fraternidad*) in Havana City. The protest was against hunger and poverty, and they were holding a banner with the slogan "Stop hunger, misery and poverty in Cuba". Ivonne Malleza Galano was handcuffed and pushed into a police vehicle. Two police officers arrived, tried to confiscate the banner and detained her, along with Ignacio Martínez Montejo. Video footage posted on the internet shows Ivonne Malleza Galano being arrested by the police officers at Fraternity Park while the crowd gathered round her and asked the officers to let her go.

Ivonne Malleza Galano is a member of the Ladies in Support (Damas de Apoyo) to the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco). The Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco) are a group of female relatives of former prisoners of conscience and current political prisoners. They organize peaceful marches where they distribute flowers and call for the release of those who are still detained. In 2005, the European Parliament awarded The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the Ladies in White. The Ladies in Support emerged as a solidarity group who support and participate in activities organized by the Ladies in White.

Name: Ivonne Malleza Galano

Gender m/f: f

Name: Ignacio Martínez Montejo

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 355/11 Index: AMR 25/007/2011 Issue Date: 13 December 2011