

# URGENT ACTION

## OPPOSITION LEADER DETAINED

On 1 October 2019, Cuban authorities detained José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba” (Unión Patriótica de Cuba - UNPACU) in Santiago de Cuba. He was held incommunicado for 72 hours and remains in detention without charges. Ferrer García should be informed of the charges or otherwise release him, have access to lawyers of his choosing and family as well as access to medical care.

**Miguel Díaz-Canel**  
**President of the Republic of Cuba**  
Hidalgo, Esquina 6. Plaza de la Revolución  
La Habana, CP 10400  
Cuba  
Email: [despacho@presidencia.gob.cu](mailto:despacho@presidencia.gob.cu)  
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Dear President Díaz-Canel,

*I write to you to condemn the detention of Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba” (Unión Patriótica de Cuba - UNPACU), since 1 October 2019.*

*Cuban authorities have harassed and intimidated José Daniel Ferrer García for more than a decade due to his political activism. His detention follows the naming by Amnesty International of six prisoners of conscience in less than two months.*

***I therefore demand that your administration:***

- ***Immediately informs José Daniel Ferrer García of the charges or otherwise release him;***
- ***Ensures he has immediate access to a lawyer of his choosing and can communicate with his family;***
- ***Ensures he has prompt access to a proper medical examination, if requested – and to medical care on request or as necessary throughout the period of detention.***

*Yours sincerely,*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to information available to Amnesty International, José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba” (Unión Patriótica de Cuba - UNPACU), was detained by authorities on 1 October, for reasons not yet known. He was held incommunicado for at least 72 hours. José Daniel Ferrer García is one of the most critical voices in the Caribbean state.

According to his wife, on the morning of 1 October, law enforcement officials detained José Daniel Ferrer García in his house in Santiago de Cuba.

Under international human rights standards, anyone who is arrested or detained must be informed of the reasons why they are being deprived of their liberty at the time of their arrest. International standards also require that individuals are brought before a judge promptly after arrest or detention. However, based on the information available to Amnesty International, as of 7 October the authorities had not formally informed José Daniel Ferrer García of the grounds for his detention nor had they brought him before a court. As such, his detention may be arbitrary.

Furthermore, according to his wife, authorities did not provide José Daniel Ferrer García with access to his family or a phone call until 72 hours after his detention. People held in custody are entitled to notify a third person that they have been arrested or detained and where they are held. Detention without access to the outside world – incommunicado detention – facilitates torture or other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance.

Currently, José Daniel Ferrer García is held in detention in Santiago de Cuba. According to his wife, his health is delicate, however, authorities have denied him medical assistance and he was prevented from receiving medication from his family.

Cuban authorities have imprisoned, harassed and intimidated José Daniel Ferrer García for more than a decade due to his political activism. Amnesty International previously declared José Daniel Ferrer García a prisoner of conscience, along with 74 others who were imprisoned in 2003 solely for the peaceful expression of their opinions.

In 2018, José Daniel Ferrer García was held incommunicado for 10 days.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Spanish, English

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 19 November 2019

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** José Daniel Ferrer García (He, his, him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** n/a