

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 402/92 (AMR 25/31/92, 18 December 1992) - Fear of ill-treatment/Legal concern

CUBA: Gustavo ARCOS BERGNES, Secretary-General of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights
Francisco CHAVIANO GONZALEZ, President of the Consejo Nacional por los Derechos Civiles en Cuba, National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba
René DEL POZO POZO, spokesperson for the Comisión Cubana de Derechos Humanos y Reconciliación Nacional, Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation
Angela HERRERA (female), President of the Coalición Democrática Cubana, Cuban Democratic Coalition
Alvaro PRENDES, leading member of the Corriente Socialista Demócrata Cubana, Cuban Democratic Socialist Current
Vladimiro ROCA, leading member of the Cuban Democratic Socialist Current
Paula VALIENTE (female), President of the Asociación Madres por la Dignidad, Association of Mothers for Dignity

Amnesty International has learned that Paula Valiente has been released and the sieges of the homes of Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, Francisco Chaviano González, Angela Herrera, Alvaro Prendes and Vladimiro Roca have ended. Most are believed to have come to an end by about 19 or 20 December 1992. Details are still emerging of what happened while the pro-government crowds were surrounding the houses.

The home of Vladimiro Roca, a leading member of the Corriente Socialista Democrática Cubana (CSDC), Cuban Democratic Socialist Current, was subjected to an official search by state security agents and all of the group's documents were confiscated. Another leading member of the CSDC, Rolando Prats, was attacked in the street by three civilians on 15 December 1992 and beaten with a wooden stick. His attackers stole his bag which contained personal effects and CSDC documents. He was taken to hospital by police but later transferred to a police station where he was fined 30 pesos for disrupting public order before being released. Five days earlier he had been stopped near Vladimiro Roca's home by five individuals and threatened with death if he did not stop his activities and leave the country.

In the last week of December, retired army colonel Alvaro Prendes, whose home was under siege for several days, was subjected to a *consejo de guerra sumarísima* (summary courts martial) in which he was deprived of his pension and all his military decorations as well as being ordered to be evicted from his home because of his activities with the CSDC. The eviction has reportedly not yet taken place.

The home of Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz, the President of the Comisión Cubana de Derechos Humanos y Reconciliación Nacional (CCDHRN), Cuban Commission of Human Rights and National Reconciliation, had also been under siege from 11 December until 22 December 1992 with members of his family, including his brother and elderly mother, inside. He himself had been arrested on 10 December 1992; he was later released on bail (see UA 392/92, AMR 25/30/92, 14 December 1992). Government mobs burst in, breaking the

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doors down and damaging furniture. Hundreds of books were also destroyed. On 17 December 1992 an official search of the house was carried out by the authorities (some of whom were said to be the same ones who had been overseeing the mobs) and all CCDHRN files were taken away.

No further action is required. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.