

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 38/91 (AMR 25/01/91, 5 February 1991) - Torture/
Medical Concern

CUBA:Orlando AZCUE RODRIGUEZ
Orlando DOMINGUEZ DE LA COBA
Israel LOPEZ TOLEDO

Amnesty International has learned that Orlando Azcué Rodríguez has come off hunger-strike and agreed to wear the prison uniform, and has been transferred to Pinar del Río Provincial Prison. Israel López Toledo, who is still on hunger-strike and continues to refuse to wear the uniform, has reportedly been transferred to the hospital at Kilo 7 Prison where he has been force-fed on several occasions. His condition is said to be serious. It is not clear whether Orlando Domínguez de la Coba is still on hunger-strike and refusing to wear the uniform. As of 1 February, he had not been transferred to hospital or force-fed.

The hunger strike began on 17 January after the three prisoners had been transferred in their underwear to Kilo 7 Prison from Combinado del Este Prison, where they had been refusing to wear prison uniform since 1 January. When they arrived at Kilo 7, they are said to have been forcibly dressed in the prison uniform and chained to the bars of their cells so that they could not remove them again. Once they started rejecting food, their water supply was also cut off but it is understood that it was later reconnected. Orlando Azcué and Israel López Toledo were also reportedly beaten by guards on at least three occasions. Orlando Domínguez de la Coba, who has only one arm, was not beaten.

Amnesty International believes that being held chained to the bars of their cells, beaten and deprived of water while on hunger strike constitutes torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. During a 1988 visit to Cuba, the Secretary General of Amnesty International was assured by the Cuban authorities that measures were being taken to ensure that such practices did not occur, and it is some time since such serious reports of ill-treatment have been received by the organization. On 8 February, in a telex to the Cuban Government, the Secretary General expressed the hope that this was only an isolated incident and sought assurances that such abuses continue to be outlawed in Cuba. So far no reply has been received.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/telephone calls/airmail letters:

- urging an immediate investigation into the reports that Orlando Azcué Rodríguez, Orlando Domínguez de la Coba and Israel López Toledo were chained to the bars of their cells to prevent them removing their uniforms, deprived of water while on hunger strike and, in the case of Orlando Azcué Rodríguez and Israel López Toledo, beaten by guards on at least three occasions;
- urging that appropriate measures be taken against anyone found to be responsible for mistreating these prisoners;
- urging that all political prisoners be held in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and be granted

adequate medical supervision, in particular Israel López Toledo whose condition is said to be serious as a result of his prolonged hunger strike.

APPEALS TO:

General Abelardo Colomé Ibarra
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza de la Revolución
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 511560 MINREX HAB
Telegrams: Ministro Interior Colomé, Havana, Cuba
Telephone: 30 15 66

Dr Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa
Fiscal General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República
San Rafael 3
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telexes: 511456 FISGE
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba

Mayor Lázaro Donis Roca
Director
Cárcel Provincial de Camaguey
Kilómetro 7
Carretera de Nuevitas
Camaguey, Cuba

Telegrams: Mayor Roca, Cárcel "Kilo 7", Camaguey, Cuba
Telephone: 61803

COPIES TO:

Granma
Apartado 6260
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

CODEHU
1040 S.W. 27 Ave
Miami
FL 33135, USA

(Coordinating Body of Human Rights Organizations in Cuba)

and to diplomatic representatives of Cuba in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 April 1991.