

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 24/92 (AMR 25/05/92, 16 January 1992) and follow-up AMR 25/08/92, 20 January 1992 - Prisoner of Conscience/Legal Concern

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CUBA:                   Sebastián ARCOS BERGNES, member of the executive of the Comité Cubano Pro Derechos Humanos (CCPDH), Cuban Committee for Human Rights, aged about 60

Amnesty International has learned that Sebastián Arcos Bergnes, a member of the executive of the unofficial Comité Cubano Pro Derechos Humanos (CCPDH), Cuban Committee for Human Rights, was not in fact released from detention on 16 January 1992 as was previously reported. According to latest reports, he is still being held under investigation at the headquarters of the Departamento de Seguridad del Estado (DSE), Department of State Security, at Villa Marista. His brother, Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, the Secretary General of the CCPDH, who was arrested with him on 15 January but released the next day, was able to visit him on 22 January where he was told that Sebastián could be brought to court on a charge of rebellion. As far as Amnesty International is aware, he has not had access to a lawyer.

Sebastián Arcos Bergnes was arrested on 15 January 1992, together with his brother Gustavo and another member of the CCPDH executive, Jesús Yanes Pelletier. That evening extracts from the trial of three men who had been sentenced to death a few days earlier, after being convicted of terrorism, sabotage and enemy propaganda (see UA 16/92, AMR 25/02/92, 13 January 1992) were broadcast on Cuban television. They had been caught entering the country illegally from the USA, allegedly with the purpose of carrying out sabotage attacks and terrorist actions. During the trial, one of the defendants, who has since been executed, read from a notebook the names and addresses of the three CCPDH leaders whom they alleged they had been told to contact if they encountered any problems. The names and addresses were also reportedly shown in large letters on the television screen. Following the television broadcast, large groups of people gathered outside the house of Gustavo Arcos Bergnes and carried out what is known as an "*acto de repudio*", "act of repudiation". Such acts, which have become frequent over recent months and which the authorities claim are the spontaneous response of ordinary citizens to so-called "counter-revolutionary activities", are known in many cases to involve the so-called Destacamentos Populares de Respuesta Rápida, People's Rapid Response Detachments, in coordination with the security forces and Communist Party organizations. The three CCPDH members were subsequently arrested. Jesús Yanes Pelletier was released at the same time as Gustavo Arcos Bergnes.

Amnesty International believes that Sebastián Arcos Bergnes is a prisoner of conscience detained solely on account of his peaceful human rights activities and political views. The CCPDH executive has consistently dissociated itself from the use of violence in order to bring about political change in Cuba and has called for

dialogue with the authorities. They have also specifically denied any links with the three men on trial or any other violent groups or individuals.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Sebastián Arcos Bergnes on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely on account of his peaceful human rights activities and political views;

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- requesting that he be humanely treated while in detention;

- requesting that he be allowed full access to lawyers.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President:

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz  
Presidente del Consejo de Estado  
y del Consejo de Ministros  
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Presidente Castro, Havana, Cuba**

**Su Excelencia /  
Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior:

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

**Señor Ministro /  
Dear Minister**

3) Head of Investigations at the Department of State Security:

Coronel Adalberto Rabeiro García  
Jefe de Investigaciones  
Departamento de Seguridad del Estado  
Villa Marista  
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Coronel Rabeiro, Villa Marista, Havana, Cuba**

**Señor Coronel /  
Dear Sir**

4) Attorney General:

Dr Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa  
Fiscal General de la República  
Fiscalía General de la República  
San Rafael 3  
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba  
**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba**  
**Telexes: 511456 FISGE**

**Señor Fiscal General /  
Dear Attorney General**

5) Minister of Justice:

Dr Carlos Amat Forés  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Calle O No. 216, 8vo piso  
e/ 23 y Humboldt, Vedado

**Señor Ministro /  
Dear Minister**

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

**Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Havana, Cuba**

**Telexes: 511331 MINJU CU**

**COPIES TO:**

Information Bureau of the Human Rights Movement in Cuba

3901 S.W. 109 Ave, Apt B10

Miami

FL 33165

USA

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 5 March 1992.