



TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

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**PROTECT
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
NOW**

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LADIES IN WHITE, CUBA

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families and widespread impunity, they continue their struggle – transforming pain into hope.

Members of the Ladies in White in Cuba have been repeatedly subjected to short-term and arbitrary detention and intimidation. The Ladies in White was formed by a group of women relatives of 75 prisoners of conscience who were imprisoned in 2003. All have since been released and the Ladies in White now campaign for the release of other political prisoners and to lift restrictions on fundamental freedoms in Cuba.

Join us in urging the Cuban authorities to take all necessary measures to put an end to all acts of harassment and intimidation against the Ladies in White and other activists in Cuba, and ensure they can all exercise their peaceful human rights activities free from fear and reprisals.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image. Members of the Ladies in White – relatives of political prisoners – demonstrate during their weekly Sunday march in Havana, Cuba, July 2010. © AP Photo/Javier Galeano
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Dear President,

I am dismayed by the ongoing short-term and arbitrary detention, acts of repudiation and intimidation faced by the Ladies in White, because of their peaceful calls for the release of all political prisoners and for the lifting of restrictions on fundamental civil and political rights in Cuba.

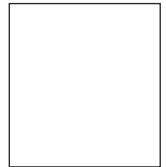
I urge you to:

- stop all forms of harassment and intimidation against the Ladies in White and other human rights activists, and publicly recognize the legitimacy and importance of their role in society
- immediately and unconditionally release anyone in Cuba detained solely for the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, association or assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____



Raúl Castro Ruz
Presidente de la República de Cuba
La Havana
Cuba

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Image. Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco) marching in Havana, Cuba, 23 May 2010. © Carlos Serpa Maceira
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