

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 25/22/92  
Distr: UA/SC

12 March 1992

Further information on UA 22/92 (AMR 25/03/92, 16 January 1992) - Possible Prisoners of Conscience/Medical Concern/Legal Concern

CUBA: Bienvenida CÚCALO SANTANA (female), Secretary General of the Movimiento Femenino Humanitario Cubano, Cuban Women's Humanitarian Movement  
Joel DUEÑAS MARTINEZ, aged 21 ) members of the  
Arturo GARNICA TORRES, aged 27 ) above movement

---

Amnesty International has learned that Arturo Garnica Torres, who is the son-in-law of Bienvenida Cúcalo Santana, was released shortly after his arrest although the exact date is not known. However, both Bienvenida Cúcalo Santana, the Secretary General of the **Movimiento Femenino Humanitario Cubano**, Cuban Women's Humanitarian Movement, and Joel Dueñas Martínez, who is a member of the same organization, are believed to be still held for investigation in connection with the group's activities.

Some reports suggest that they are to be charged with enemy propaganda (**propaganda enemiga**) and illegal association (**asociación ilícita**) although there is no confirmation. According to one report, the arrests are connected with a letter the group sent to the Council of State (**Consejo de Estado**) calling for the release of political prisoners. There has been no recent news of their place of detention but it is thought they are being held in Villa Marista, the headquarters of the Department of State Security (**Departamento de Seguridad del Estado**). It is not clear whether they have had access to lawyers neither is there any recent information concerning the state of health of Joel Dueñas Martínez, who suffers from chronic epilepsy and at one point just after his arrest was said to have suffered 21 fits in one day. They are believed to be receiving family visits.

The three were arrested in Havana on 31 December 1991 following searches of their homes. Amnesty International believes that Bienvenida Cúcalo Santana and Joel Dueñas Martínez are probably prisoners of conscience detained solely on account of their peaceful activities on behalf of the **Movimiento Femenino Humanitario Cubano**.

No further action is required at present from the Urgent Action network although Amnesty International is pursuing its concerns in these cases through other means. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.