

URGENT ACTION

CUBAN MAN STILL IMPRISONED, PARENTS HARASSED

Prisoner of conscience Antonio Michel Lima Cruz was released from prison in Cuba on 24 October. His brother Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz, also a prisoner of conscience, still has a minimum 10 months to serve. Their parents continue to be harassed.

On 24 October, **Antonio Michel Lima Cruz** was released from La Ladrillera prison in the eastern province of Holguín, having completed his sentence. He and brother **Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz** had been detained on 25 December 2010 at their home in Holguín. They had been playing songs by a Cuban hip-hop group, whose lyrics criticize the lack of freedom of expression in Cuba; they also danced in front of their house whilst holding the Cuban flag. Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz were sentenced to two and three years in prison respectively for "insulting symbols of the homeland" (*ultraje a los símbolos de la patria*) and "public disorder" (*desórdenes públicos*). It is believed that their imprisonment was politically motivated, making them prisoners of conscience.

Their parents **Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao** and **Adisnidia Cruz Segreo** have been subjected to constant harassment – including frequent short-term arbitrary detention – in relation to their peaceful activities as government critics. A group of approximately 10 police officers and 10 officials from the Department of State Security forced their way into the parents' home on 11 August without a warrant. They were both arrested and had materials confiscated, including laptops and mobile phones. During the arrest, Marcos Antonio Lima Dalmao, who has a history of cardiac problems, started to experience chest pains and was taken briefly to hospital before being transferred to the Department of State Security's provincial headquarters (known as *Pedernales*) in Holguín Province. Both he and Adisnidia Cruz Segreo were held without charge until 15 August.

Two unknown individuals attempted to violently mug Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao on 28 September as he was heading to a meeting with other government critics, before fleeing as bystanders intervened. His wrist was fractured in two places. Immediately following the incident he became aware that he was being filmed from across the street by an unknown individual on a motorcycle. He believes that the authorities had been trying to capture footage of his involvement in a violent clash in order to use it against him.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the Cuban authorities to release Marcos Máiquel Lima Cruz immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to immediately cease the harassment of Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao and Adisnidia Cruz Segreo, and all other citizens who peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 DECEMBER 2012 TO:

Head of State and Government

Raúl Castro Ruz
 Presidente de la República de Cuba
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +53 7 83 33 085 (via Foreign
 Ministry); +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban
 Mission to UN)
 Email: cuba@un.int (c/o Cuban Mission
 to UN)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Attorney General

Dr. Dario Delgado Cura
 Fiscal General de la República,
 Fiscalía General de la República,
 Amistad 552, e/Monte y Estrella,
 Centro Habana,
 La Habana, Cuba
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Interior Minister
 General Abelardo Coloma Ibarra
 Ministro del Interior y Prisiones
 Ministerio del Interior,
 Plaza de la Revolución,
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban
 Mission to UN)
 Email: correominint@mn.mn.co.cu
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 92/12. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR25/011/2012/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Antonio Michel Lima Cruz was due to be released on 25 December, but was given an early release due to a policy which grants prisoners a two-month reduction in their sentence every year for “good conduct” (“*buena conducta*”), applicable after one year in prison. This means that Marcos Máique! Lima Cruz may be released on 25 August 2013.

Antonio Michel Lima Cruz was incarcerated at La Ladrillera prison in Holguín Province, where his brother Marcos Máique! is still held. Following his release, Antonio Michel Lima Cruz told Amnesty International that he continues to suffer from prostate problems, which began during the six months he and his brother were held in pre-trial detention in Pedernales where he received no medical attention. During his time at La Ladrillera, Antonio Michel Lima Cruz said that he did not receive sufficient medical treatment and the medication he was provided with was not effective, forcing him to depend on medication supplied by family and supporters.

Antonio Michel Lima Cruz and Marcos Máique! Lima Cruz are members of the Cuban Council of Human Rights Rapporteurs (Consejo de Relatores de Derechos Humanos de Cuba) – an island-wide umbrella group of organizations – and the Republican Youth Impact Movement (Movimiento Impacto Juvenil Republicano). Both organizations have been denied official recognition, which is the case for all groups deemed to be critical of the government. The brothers are both independent journalists and were co-founders of the online newspaper Candonga, which was closed by the Cuban authorities in 2009.

Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao is the Holguín Province coordinator of the organization Patriotic Union of Cuba (*Unión Patriótica de Cuba, UNPACU*), an umbrella group of Cuban dissident organizations operating in and around the province of Santiago de Cuba, which seeks democratic change by non-violent means. Adisnidia Cruz Segreo is a member of the Ladies in White, a movement that campaigns for the release of political prisoners and for the lifting of restrictions on fundamental civil and political freedoms in Cuba. Both are regularly arbitrarily detained for short periods. Adisnidia Cruz Segreo was held without charge for several hours on 21 October to prevent her from attending mass with other Ladies in White. Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao was last detained on 13 October when he was arrested on the street and held for five hours before being released without charge.

Name: Antonio Michel Lima Cruz (m), Marcos Máique! Lima Cruz (m), Marco Antonio Lima Dalmao (m), Adisnidia Cruz Segreo (f)
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 92/12 Index: AMR 25/025/2012 Issue Date: 26 October 2012