

ACTION CIRCULAR

AI MEMBERS ONLY

To: All Sections/structures
From: IS Américas

Date: 24 November 2020

URGENT SOLIDARITY ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAN ISIDRO MOVEMENT IN CUBA



Photo credits: Amnesty International

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Since 19 November 2020, various members of the San Isidro Movement (“Movimiento San Isidro”) have been on hunger strike at its headquarters in Old Havana, in protest over the imprisonment of the rapper Denis Solís González. As of 24 November 2020, **Luis Manuel Otero**, [former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience](#), and **Maykel Castillo** were reportedly on their fifth day of hunger and thirst strike.

According to information Amnesty International was able to obtain, Denis was detained on 9 November, and then tried and sentenced on 11 November to eight months in prison for “contempt” (*desacato*), a crime inconsistent with international human rights law. He is now imprisoned at a maximum-security prison, Valle Grande, located just outside Havana. Members of the Movement, composed of artists, poets, LGBTI activists, academics, and independent journalists, have been protesting in recent days.

ACTION OBJECTIVES OR CALLS

Quick mass mobilization is needed to ensure that:

1. The Cuban government engages in genuine dialogue with the San Isidro Movement in Cuba and take steps to protect them.
2. Cuban authorities stop harassing members of the San Isidro Movement.
3. Denis Solís González is released, as his sentence of contempt (“*desacato*”) is a crime inconsistent with international human rights law standards.

TAKE ACTION!

Solidarity in Poetry: From 24 November 2020 and at least until dialogue is achieved, please show your solidarity by recording yourself and other activists and artists reading poems in your language of choice and uploading the videos on Twitter, using the hashtag #SusurroPoético and tagging @Mov_sanisidro and @AICaribbean. See an example [here](#) and a sample tweet below.

.@Mov_sanisidro: you are not alone. Many people across the world support you. We will read poems until genuine dialogue with the authorities in #Cuba is achieved. #SusurrosPoéticos @AICaribbean

.@Mov_sanisidro: no están solxs. Les apoyamos muchas personas en todo el mundo. Leeremos poesía hasta que haya diálogo genuino con las autoridades en #Cuba. #SusurrosPoéticos @AICaribbean

Agile advocacy: For this action, it is more strategic to avoid direct engagement with Cuban authorities. Instead, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country to request that they use all diplomatic channels to encourage the Cuban government to urgently engage in genuine dialogue with the San Isidro Movement. Use [our statement](#) and the calls provided above to draft communications.

CONTACT: For any questions or follow-up, email elina.castillo@amnesty.org