

## Action Circular – One-year anniversary of the July 11 protests in Cuba

08 July 2022

### Background

On 11 July 2021, thousands of people took over the streets in several cities in Cuba, in a protest unlike anything seen in decades. The government responded with repressive tactics. A year later, hundreds of people remain in prison simply for peacefully expressing themselves, including prisoners of conscience Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and Maykel Castillo. **To commemorate this historical moment, we will have special content for the one-year anniversary. See below for detailed guidance on how to join us.**

### Take action!

We ask S/s and activists to share the press release and special video on 11 July 2022 and/or on the days immediately following the anniversary. [You can find them in English and Spanish here.](#) Please share both assets widely on social media and with the press.

The **key message** for this day:

A year after the historical July 11 protests, the Cuban authorities insist on maintaining their web of control to silence people. Instead of repressing them, the Cuban authorities have an obligation to protect people's right to express themselves and to demonstrate peacefully. We urge the Cuban government to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained for the exercise of their freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to immediately end the policy of repression which is a human rights violation designed to maintain a culture of fear and quash all forms of dialogue.

Our **main calls** for this action are as follows:

To the Cuban government:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

To Third States / international community, take the anniversary as an opportunity to:

1. Publicly urge the Cuban authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.
2. Publicly express solidarity with peaceful protestors and support for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Here's a sample copy for social media that you can use as is or as a base to develop your own:

"A year after the historical #11J protests in Cuba, hundreds of people are still in prison, facing unfair trials, and with menacing sentences in prison. The reason? Simply expressing themselves. We urge the Cuban government @diazcanelB to release them, now!"

If you have any advocacy opportunities around the #11J anniversary, please use the information included here and in the release to complement your talking points. For additional information and support, contact [elina.castillo@amnesty.org](mailto:elina.castillo@amnesty.org)