

## URGENT SOLIDARITY ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVIMIENTO SAN ISIDRO IN CUBA 27 November 2020



Luis Manuel Otero. Photo credits: Amnesty International

### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Since 19 November 2020, various members of the San Isidro Movement have been on hunger strike at its headquarters in Old Havana, in protest over the imprisonment of the rapper Denis Solís González. As of 26 November 2020, **Luis Manuel Otero, former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, and Maykel Castillo were reportedly on their seventh day of hunger strike.**

On the night of November 26, various sources reported that Cuban state security agents broke into the Movement's headquarters in Havana and took away 14 of its members, including Luis Manuel Otero and Anamely Ramos. **Until the morning of November 27, the whereabouts of Luis Manuel and Anamely are unknown and, according to our information, they are being held incommunicado.** Other members were sent home and reportedly prevented from leaving their homes.

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 in recent days been protesting.

The San Isidro Movement has been fighting to protect freedom of artistic expression in Cuba since at least 2018, when Decree 349, a dystopian law that stand to censor artists, was enacted. For more information, see the sources provided below.

### WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Quick mass mobilization is needed to ensure that:

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

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Solidarity in Poetry:** Please show your solidarity by recording yourself reading poems, singing or performing any other sort of art in your language of choice. Your video should:

1. Be no more than 1:30min long.
2. Recorded horizontally with your smartphone or camera of choice.
3. Be sent to [elina.castillo@amnesty.org](mailto:elina.castillo@amnesty.org) for collection by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

We will share the videos on social media, using the hashtag #SusurroPoético and tagging you, @Mov\_sanisidro, @AICaribbean and @AtRiskArtists.

## FOR MORE INFO

1. Statement on the current state of San Isidro Movement members (Nov 2020):  
Amnesty International : <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/11/cuba-harassment-exemplifies-ongoing-assault-freedom-expression/>
2. PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (ARC):  
<https://pen.org/press-release/pen-america-condemns-arbitrary-arrest-and-sentencing-of-cuban-rapper/>
3. Amnesty International names Luis Manuel Otero a prisoner of conscience:  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/03/cuba-release-artist-prisoner-of-conscience/>
4. PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) Decries Detention and Apparent Assault of Cuban Artists  
<https://pen.org/press-release/pen-america-decries-detention-and-apparent-assault-of-cuban-artists/>
5. Amnesty International on Decree 349: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/08/cuba-new-administrations-decree-349-is-a-dystopian-prospect-for-cubas-artists/>
6. PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) "Art Under Pressure: Decree 349 Restricts Creative Freedom in Cuba" white paper: [https://pen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Art-Under-Pressure\\_online.pdf](https://pen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Art-Under-Pressure_online.pdf)

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