

URGENT ACTION

CUBA: PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE AT RISK

José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba,” who was arrested on 11 July 2021 in the context of island-wide protests and has been imprisoned ever since is once again being held with limited access to the outside world and has initiated a hunger strike according to his family. He is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Miguel Díaz-Canel, president of Cuba

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Email: despacho@presidencia.gob.cu

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing about José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba,” who according to his family has been held in solitary confinement since 14 August 2021, with segregation from other prisoners and very limited access to the outside world.

José Daniel Ferrer García was last able to communicate with his family by telephone on 4 June 2022 and was last permitted only a 10-minute visit with his wife on 11 October 2022, according to his family. Additionally, his family told Amnesty International he has been held in a cell separated from other prisoners since August 2021.

Prolonged solitary confinement, segregation from other prisoners, may violate the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, particularly when combined with isolation from the outside world, and facilitates torture or other ill-treatment. In some circumstances, including this one, it can itself constitute torture or other ill-treatment.

Detained on 11 July 2021, before he reached island-wide mass protests, José Daniel Ferrer García, is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his consciously held beliefs. I call on you to immediately release him and pending that, allow his family regular visits and communication with him.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

José Daniel Ferrer García is an activist and leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba”. He was detained on 11 July 2021, in the context of island-wide protests, and has been [imprisoned](#) ever since.

On 11 July, José Daniel tried to attend the country-wide demonstrations in Santiago de Cuba with his son. He left his house and walked past the state security officials who constantly monitor him, but other law enforcement officials stopped him a few meters ahead.

José Daniel Ferrer García and his son were detained together and initially following his detention there was no formal record of José Daniel’s whereabouts, and the authorities did not allow his family to see or communicate with him. Amnesty International believes that the concealment of his whereabouts amounted to an enforced disappearance for the purposes of Article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which Cuba is a state party.

For his attempt to join the protests, José Daniel Ferrer García was charged with “public disorder,” however, he has not received a trial and remains in prison. In 2020, following a different [trial tainted by irregularities](#), José Daniel was convicted to four and a half years of house arrest. According to documents seen by Amnesty International, due to the new charges of “public disorder” a Provincial Tribunal in Santiago revoked his house arrest in August 2021, obliging him to pass that previous sentence in prison.

On 7 July 2022, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances informed NGO Prisoners Defenders that it had written to Cuba asking the state to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of José Daniel to his family and lawyers, and to provide the Committee with detailed information about his current access to communication with the outside world.

In July 2022, Amnesty International also [raised concerns](#) that José Daniel Ferrer García was being held incommunicado.

Prior to his detention on 11 July, José Daniel Ferrer García endured constant threats and harassment.

José Daniel Ferrer García has long reported suffering health problems, related to his previous long-term detentions in prison, including, among other things, serious gastric problems, and chronic headaches. According to his family, he has lost significant weight since his detention in July 2021 and is suffering various health conditions.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish, English

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 14 November 2022

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: José Daniel Ferrer García (He, him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr25/5863/2022/en/>