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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

Situation of human rights in Cuba

**Report submitted by the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights, Christine Chanet**

Summary

In the light of the mandate entrusted to her as personal representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in pursuance of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2002/18 and 2003/13, Christine Chanet attempted on several occasions to contact the Cuban authorities in order to initiate a dialogue with them for the purpose of fulfilling her mandate.

On 26 June 2003, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner requested President Fidel Castro Ruz to pardon the detainees whose cases had been finally resolved by that date on the basis of article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88. No reply was received to this request.

Despite these difficulties, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner has made an effort to carry out an objective and impartial assessment of the evolution of the situation in Cuba in relation to civil and political rights, in accordance with her mandate. She gave a hearing to non-governmental organizations and the representatives of member States of the Commission who wished to meet her in New York and Geneva. She familiarized herself with all the documents relating to Cuba which were made available to her by the Office of the High Commissioner and the special rapporteurs.

Positive aspects must be noted in the sphere of economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the areas of education and health, where the Cuban authorities are making major efforts, in particular as regards funding.

Similarly, where civil and political rights are concerned, improvements in the exercise of religious freedom by Catholics should be highlighted, in particular following the visit by Pope John Paul II to Havana.

President Carter's visit in 2002 was the occasion for a public debate on the situation of human rights and democracy during an event at the University of Havana which was broadcast on Cuban television.

Lastly, Cuba has cooperated with the Commission on Human Rights thematic special rapporteurs, namely the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, who launched a joint urgent appeal on 8 April and 19 May 2003. The Government of Cuba also replied to the urgent appeal launched on 8 April 2003 by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

It is also impossible to ignore the disastrous and lasting economic and social effects of the embargo imposed on the Cuban population over 40 years ago, as well as its impacts on civil and political rights.

The extreme tension between Cuba and the United States of America has created a climate which is far from conducive to the development of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. United States laws and the funding provided for “building democracy in Cuba” make members of the political opposition on the island appear to be sympathetic to foreign influences and provide the Cuban authorities with an opportunity to tighten repression against them.

An unprecedented wave of repression was unleashed in March-April 2003 in Cuba, the pretext being the active role played by the United States Interests Section in Havana vis-à-vis the political opposition. Nearly 80 members of civil society were arrested. They were tried and sentenced to very long prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years, either under article 91 of the Criminal Code, or on the basis of article 91 combined with the provisions of Act No. 88 on acts “contrary to the independence and integrity of the State”.

The prosecution cited the publication of articles or interviews in the media, communication with international non-governmental organizations and exiles in the United States or in Europe, possession of audio or video cassettes originating from the United States Interests Section in Havana, and communication with groups which were not officially recognized - trade unions, professional associations and independent Cuban academic groups.

Those arrested were tried in very short order - a few weeks, or even a few days, in trials not open to the public. The accused were assisted by counsel who did not belong to an independent bar association. They are currently being held in conditions affecting their physical and mental health which are all the more worrying as the Cuban authorities have provided the High Commissioner and the special rapporteurs who signed the urgent appeals with very brief information about them, or none.

Meanwhile, three persons who attempted to hijack a ferry in order to sail to the United States were executed on 11 April 2003. The hijacking involved no violence. Nevertheless, the persons concerned were tried under a summary procedure provided for in Act No. 5, the “Criminal Procedure Act”, and in pursuance of the December 2001 law against terrorism - Act No. 93 or the Cuban law against terrorist acts. Within one week, all remedies had been exhausted and the persons concerned had been executed, whereas Cuba had been observing a moratorium on the application of the death penalty since April 2000.

Given this situation, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner urges the Cuban authorities not to cause the Cuban people to undergo suffering due to the absence of fundamental rights and freedoms in addition to the economic and social suffering they have borne for so long.

To that end, the Personal Representative has drawn up 10 recommendations intended to put an end to the current situation through restoration of the guaranteed fundamental rights of citizens in the country and international protection of those rights through Cuba’s accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as its two optional protocols and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 2002/18, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the steps necessary to send a personal representative with a view to cooperation between her Office and the Government of Cuba in the implementation of the resolution. In its resolution 2003/13, the Commission, after expressing its satisfaction with the appointment of Christine Chanet as Personal Representative of the High Commissioner, requested the Government of Cuba to receive her and provide her with all the facilities necessary for her to fulfil her mandate.
2. On 6 February and 12 May 2003, Christine Chanet, by a letter addressed to the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva, invited the Cuban authorities to meet her with a view to planning a constructive dialogue with her. On 30 May 2003, the High Commissioner sent a letter backing up this request. On 26 June 2003, the Cuban authorities notified the High Commissioner that they did not recognize Christine Chanet's mandate.
3. In these circumstances, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner gathered information from the Commission's thematic special rapporteurs who had had occasion to inquire into the situation of human rights in Cuba during the period under consideration and from non-governmental organizations which wished to express their views. The hearings were held at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Personal Representative of the High Commissioner also held discussions in Geneva with representatives of member States of the Commission on Human Rights who wished to meet her.
4. Lastly, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner familiarized herself with the concluding observations adopted by the treaty bodies to which Cuba has submitted reports, as well as reports on the situation of human rights in Cuba drawn up by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

I. FACTORS AND DIFFICULTIES HINDERING THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

5. The economic, trade and financial blockade of Cuba which has been in force for 40 years has been regularly condemned by the United Nations General Assembly over the past 12 years. The latest resolution on this subject, resolution 58/7 of 4 November 2003, was adopted by 179 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions. Notwithstanding these resolutions, the initial blockade was strengthened in 1992 by the Torricelli Act (*Cuban Democracy Act*) and in 1996 by the Helms-Burton Act (*Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act*).
6. The restrictions imposed by the blockade help to deprive Cuba of vital access to medicines, new scientific and medical technology, food and chemical water treatment. The disastrous effects of the blockade in terms of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Cuban people have been denounced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (see all the reports issued by these specialized agencies in 2002).

7. The blockade, and particularly the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, also have serious impacts in terms of the civil and political rights of Cuban citizens, by provoking a reaction on the part of the Cuban authorities, who respond with repressive laws. As the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba, Carl-Johan Groth, noted in 1997 in his report to the Commission at its fifty-third session, by means of the above-mentioned laws “the United States of America assumes the right to be the outside party that determines the rules for converting the current totalitarian system into a different, more pluralist one” (E/CN.4/1997/53, para. 46).

8. As a result, many Cuban citizens who are regarded by the Government of Cuba as being involved in this effort are identified as “mercenaries working for foreign interests” who should be punished under repressive laws such as Act No. 88.

9. President Carter, when preparing his report of 21 May 2002 following his visit to Cuba, pointed out that the best-known dissidents are unanimous in opposing the strengthening of a very hard United States line towards Cuba as well as any funding of their activities - which might substantiate the claim, long upheld by President Castro, that they are “lackeys of Washington”.

10. In 2003, the United States Interests Section in Havana’s active dealings with those opposing the Castro regime, and repeated incidents, exacerbated the already high tension between Cuba and the United States.

II. POSITIVE ASPECTS

11. Despite a particularly unfavourable environment, the efforts of the Government of Cuba, especially in the budgetary field, have enabled it to maintain a sound health system which has helped to lower infant mortality and extend the life expectancy of all its citizens.

12. Where education is concerned, 100 per cent of children attend school, and data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNESCO place Cuba among the leading United Nations Member States in respect of school success rates, particularly in mathematics.

13. Illiteracy (now 0.2 per cent) is being wiped out.

14. In efforts to combat discrimination against women, the level of female employment in the public sector has stood at 49.6 per cent since 1996, and there has been a steady rise in the proportion of women in the National Assembly and the judiciary, and in decision-making posts.¹

¹ See the concluding comments adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twenty-third session, in June 2000 [*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/55/38)*, paras. 252-277].

15. Where civil and political rights are concerned, an improvement in the exercise of freedom of religion was noted at the time of Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba.
16. President Carter's visit in May 2002 offered an occasion for a public debate on human rights and democracy at the initiative of Havana, which was broadcast live on television.
17. Cuba has ratified a number of conventions in the field of human rights and has submitted reports to the appropriate treaty organs.
18. During the period under consideration, the Cuban authorities have responded to the urgent appeals launched on 8 April 2003 by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and on 19 May 2003 jointly by the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders.

III. SUBJECTS OF CONCERN

19. One subject of concern relates primarily to the arrest of almost 80 persons in March-April 2003 in what the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention regards as arbitrary detention. In its Opinion No. 9/2003, the Group categorized them as persons detained in contravention of articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see E/CN.4/2004/3/Add.1). These persons were arrested while working as journalists, writers, members of associations, human rights defenders or members of political parties and opposition trade unions.
20. Most of those detained support the Varela project, which involves the collection of signatures for the organization of a referendum on changing the electoral system and the fostering of other legislative reforms.
21. The charges levelled against the accused persons fall in some cases solely under article 91 of the Cuban Criminal Code, covering acts contrary to the independence or integrity of the State, and in others under article 91 combined with Act No. 88, on protection of Cuba's national and economic independence.
22. Several of the accused persons have been charged with such actions as receiving funds from foreign countries or engaging in activities deemed to be subversive by the State, giving interviews to Radio Marti, a network broadcasting from the United States, communicating with international human rights organizations, possessing radio or video equipment, or participating in trade unions, associations or academic groups deemed to be "counter-revolutionary".
23. These persons were tried in very short order, sometimes within a few days, denying them sufficient time to prepare their defence. Neither independent counsel nor diplomats nor foreign journalists were allowed to attend these trials. Prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years were imposed.

24. On 26 June 2003, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner appealed to President Fidel Castro Ruz to pardon the detainees whose cases had been finally resolved. No reply had reached her by the time this report was written.

25. Particularly alarming information on the conditions in which these persons are being held has been communicated to the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner. The prisoners are often transferred from one place of detention to others which are far from their families, who encounter great difficulties in seeing them. They are placed in very trying conditions from the physical and psychological point of view, either in total isolation or in dangerous proximity to ordinary criminals. According to these reports, they are punished when they refuse to share cells with these prisoners and to wear the same uniform; some of them are over 60 years of age and suffer from chronic illnesses.

26. The Personal Representative of the High Commissioner has a list of 75 persons (see annex) which is not exhaustive but which, at the time this report was written, had been verified with a number of sources.

27. Another particularly serious cause for concern is the execution of Enrique Copello Castillo, Barbaro Leodat Sevilla García and Jorge Luis Martínez Isaac, carried out on 11 April 2003. On 2 April 2003, in Havana Bay, these persons attempted to hijack a ferry carrying many passengers and force it to sail to the United States. The passengers escaped by jumping into the water, and the pirates were overpowered by coastguards. No blood was shed. The hijackers were tried under a procedure provided for in Act No. 5, the Criminal Procedure Act, under which there was no possibility of appeal. The three men were prosecuted on the basis of the December 2001 Anti-Terrorist Act. Nine days after the events, they were shot. The trial was held and all remedies exhausted in the space of a week.

28. This state of affairs is particularly disturbing since Cuba had been observing a moratorium on the application of the death penalty since April 2000.

29. This incident shows that Cuban citizens are seeking to leave the country by all means available, even illegal ones, and go to other countries in the region.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

30. **Alongside the positive aspects relating to the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights that reflect the efforts supported by the Government of Cuba in the fields of health and education, a number of positive elements are to be noted as regards the exercise of civil and political rights. They have to do with the status of women, improvements in the exercise of freedom of religion following Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba, the public debate on human rights held in the country on the occasion of President Carter's visit, and cooperation between the Cuban authorities and the Commission's thematic special rapporteurs.**

31. However, the period covered by this report saw extreme tension between Cuba and the United States of America, compounding the lasting and disastrous effects of the blockade, especially on the most vulnerable individuals, children, women and the elderly. This was the context for an unprecedented wave of repression involving nearly 80 members of civil society, who were accused of offences which involved no violence against persons or property and had to do with the exercise of their fundamental freedoms. They were sentenced to very long prison terms of between 6 and 28 years.

32. The arrest of 79 of these persons was considered arbitrary under the terms of opinion No. 9/2003 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and according to reports from a variety of sources, the conditions in which several of them are being held are alarming from the physical and psychological point of view.

33. It is also in this context that the moratorium on the application of the death penalty which had been observed in Cuba since April 2000 was suspended, and three persons were condemned to death and executed after they attempted to hijack a ferry, although the incident had ended without bloodshed.

34. In addition, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner considers that the suffering inflicted on the people of Cuba as a result of the blockade is compounded by restrictions on the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals which the Cuban authorities have the power to eliminate. With the aim of securing the progress called for in the above-mentioned resolutions, the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner submits her recommendations.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

35. The Personal Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recommends that the Government of Cuba should take the following measures:

(a) Halt the prosecution of citizens who are exercising the rights guaranteed under articles 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) Release detained persons who have not committed acts of violence against individuals and property;

(c) Review laws which lead to criminal prosecutions of persons exercising their freedom of expression, demonstration, assembly and association, and in particular Act No. 88 and article 91 of the Criminal Code, in order to bring these provisions of the law into line with the above-mentioned provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(d) Uphold, without exceptions, the moratorium on the application of the death penalty introduced in 2000, with a view to the abolition of the death penalty;

(e) Reform the rules of criminal procedure to bring them into line with the requirements of articles 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(f) Establish a standing independent body with the function of receiving complaints from persons claiming that their fundamental rights have been violated;

(g) Review the regulations relating to travel into and out of Cuba in order to guarantee freedom of movement as defined in article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(h) Authorize non-governmental organizations to enter Cuba;

(i) Foster pluralism in respect of associations, trade unions, organs of the press and political parties in Cuba;

(j) Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocols and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Annex**LIST OF PERSONS IN CIVIL SOCIETY ARRESTED
IN MARCH-APRIL 2003**

1. **Nelson Alberto Aguiar Ramírez**, President of the Orthodox Party of Cuba, 13 years' imprisonment for anti-government activities under Act No. 88.
2. **Oswaldo Alfonso Valdes**, President of the Liberal Democratic Party, member of the All Together Committee and the Committee for the Varela project, 18 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
3. **Pedro Pablo Alvares Ramos**, President of CUTC (independent trade union), 25 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
4. **Pedro Argüelles Morán**, Director of the Cooperative of Independent Journalists press agency, member of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
5. **Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona**, member of the Forum for Reform and the Union of Independent Cuban Journalists and Writers (UPECI), 26 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
6. **Mijail Barzaga Lugo**, member of the 30 November Organization, 15 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
7. **Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez**, President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, 25 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
8. **Mario Enriquez Mayo**, Camaguey correspondent of the independent Felix Varela press agency, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
9. **Margarito Broche Espinosa**, member of the Asociación Nacional de Balseros, Paz, Democracia y Libertad del Centro Norte de Cuba, 25 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
10. **Marcelo Cano Rodríguez**, doctor, member of the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN) and member of the Independent Medical College of Cuba, sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88 and article 91 of the Criminal Code.
11. **Juan Roberto de Miranda Hernández**, member of the College of Independent Teachers, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code. He was accused in particular of establishing an independent college of counter-revolutionary teachers (decision No. 8/2003 of the people's provincial court, Havana, 5 April 2003).

12. **Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández**, age 65, President of the Independent Workers Press Agency of Cuba (APSIC) and member of CUTC, 16 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
13. **Eduardo Díaz Fleitas**, member of the 5 August opposition movement, 21 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
14. **Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez**, member of the Christian Liberation Movement, active member of the Committee for the Varela project, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
15. **Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista**, member of the Christian Liberation Movement and active member of the Committee for the Varela project, 14 years' imprisonment.
16. **Oscar Manuel Espinosa Chepe**, age 62, journalist, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88. He is accused in particular of broadcasting the programme "*Talking with Chepe*" on Radio Marti.
17. **Alfredo Felipe Fuentes**, member of the Committee for the Varela project, 26 years' imprisonment.
18. **Efrén Fernández Fernández**, member of the executive of the Christian Liberation Movement and activist supporter of the Varela project, 12 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
19. **Juan Adolfo Fernández Sainz**, journalist in the Patria agency, 15 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
20. **José Daniel Ferrer García**, activist supporter of the Varela project and coordinator of the Christian Liberation Movement, 25 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
21. **Luis Enrique Ferrer García**, member of the Christian Liberation Movement, coordinator of the Varela project in Las Tunas, 28 years' imprisonment.
22. **Orlando Fundora Alvarez**, President of the Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoners Association, 18 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
23. **Próspero Gainza Agüero**, member of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement, 25 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
24. **Miguel Galván Gutierrez**, journalist in the unofficial Havana Press agency, coordinator of the Varela project, 26 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88.
25. **Julio César Galvez Rodríguez**, member of the unofficial organization Cuba Free Press, 15 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.

26. **Edel José García Díaz**, journalist, member of an unofficial press agency, 15 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
27. **José Luis García Paneque**, surgeon, director of the unofficial press agency Libertad, 24 years' imprisonment and confiscation of his medical and communication equipment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88.
28. **Ricardo Severino González Alfonso**, journalist with his own private bookshop, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code for publishing aggressive and false information against the Cuban Government.
29. **Diosdado González Marrero**, political activist, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
30. **Léster González Penton**, independent journalist, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
31. **Alejandro González Raga**, journalist, 14 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
32. **Jorge Luis González Tanquero**, member of the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes independent movement, activist supporter of the Varela project, 20 years' imprisonment.
33. **Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares**, activist supporter of the Varela project, owner of an independent bookshop, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
34. **Iván Hernández Carrillo**, journalist in the independent agency Patria, 25 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88. He is accused in particular of possessing a computer from the United States.
35. **Normando Hernández González**, director of the College of Independent Journalists, 25 years' imprisonment, under article 91 of the Criminal Code and other provisions, for criticizing the Government on Radio Marti.
36. **Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta**, independent journalist in the province of Guantánamo, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
37. **Regis Iglesias Ramírez**, spokesperson of the Christian Liberation Movement, activist supporter of the Varela project, 18 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
38. **José Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernández**, bookseller and activist in Havana, 16 years' imprisonment.
39. **Reinaldo Miguel Labrado Peña**, member of the Christian Liberation Movement and activist supporter of the Varela project, 6 years' imprisonment.
40. **Librado Ricardo Linares García**, President of the Cuban Reflection Movement, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code, accused of counter-revolutionary activities such as meetings, lectures and seminars.

41. **Marcelo Manuel López Bañobre**, spokesperson of the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN), 15 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88.
42. **Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutiérrez**, independent journalist, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88. His fax machine, typewriter, books and certain articles were confiscated.
43. **José Miguel Martínez Hernández**, activist supporter of the Varela project, owner of a private bookshop, 13 years' imprisonment.
44. **Mario Enrique Mayo Hernández**, legal specialist, director of the unofficial Felix Varela press agency, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
45. **Luis Milan Fernández**, doctor, member of the unofficial organization Medical College of Cuba, 13 years' imprisonment.
46. **Nelson Moliné Espino**, President of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba (unofficial), 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
47. **Angel Juan Moya Acosta**, activist, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
48. **Felix Navarro Rodríguez**, activist supporter of the Varela project, 25 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
49. **Jorge Olivera Castillo**, Director of the unofficial Havana Press agency, 18 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
50. **Pablo Pacheco Avila**, independent journalist, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
51. **Héctor Palacios Ruíz**, Director of the Centre for Social Studies, Secretary of the All Together Committee, 25 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code and Act No. 88. He is accused in particular of possessing an independent bookshop at his home.
52. **Arturo Pérez de Alejo Rodríguez**, President of the human rights organization Frente Escambray, activist supporter of the Varela project, 20 years' imprisonment.
53. **Omar Pernet Hernández**, head of the Mario Manuel de la Peña national human rights movement, 25 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
54. **Horacio Julio Piño Borrego**, activist supporter of the Varela project, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
55. **Fabio Prieto Llorente**, independent journalist, 20 years' imprisonment.

56. **Alfredo Manuel Pulido López**, independent journalist, activist supporter of the Varela project and member of the Christian Liberation Movement, 14 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
57. **José Gabriel Ramón Castillo**, teacher, activist in Santiago, 20 years' imprisonment.
58. **Arnaldo Ramos Lauzerique**, member of the Cuban Institute of Independent Economists, 18 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
59. **Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodríguez**, activist supporter of the Varela project, owner of an independent bookshop at Sancti Spiritu, coordinator of the Christian Liberation Movement, 25 years' imprisonment.
60. **Raúl Rivero Castañeda**, Director of Cuba Press, 20 years' imprisonment for subversive activities. His contacts with the foreign press, particularly Agence France Presse and the association Reporters sans frontières, were also criticized by the Havana people's provincial court on 5 April 2003.
61. **Alexis Rodríguez Fernández**, coordinator of the Christian Liberation Movement in Palra Soriano, activist supporter of the Varela project, 15 years' imprisonment.
62. **Omar Rodríguez Saludes**, Director of the independent press agency Nueva Prensa, photographer, 27 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
63. **Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello**, economist, director of the Cuban Institute of Independent Economists and coordinator of the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society, 20 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
64. **Omar Moisés Ruíz Hernández**, independent journalist, 18 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.
65. **Claro Sánchez Altarriba**, activist in Santiago, 15 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
- 66 and 67. **Ariel** and **Guido Sigler Amaya**, activists in the unofficial movement Alternative Option in Matanzas, sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
68. **Ricardo Silva Gual**, doctor, member of the Christian Liberation Movement, 10 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
69. **Fidel Suárez Cruz**, farmer, opposition activist in Pinas del Río, owner of a private bookshop, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.
70. **Manuel Ubals González**, President of the unofficial movement Cuban Liberty Council, 20 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.

71. **Julio Antonio Valdés Guevara**, Director of a private bookshop, opposition activist in Granma, 20 years' imprisonment.

72. **Miguel Valdés Tamayo**, opposition activist in Pinar del Río, 15 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.

73. **Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández**, trade union activist, 12 years' imprisonment under article 91 of the Criminal Code.

74. **Manuel Vásquez Portal**, independent journalist, 18 years' imprisonment under Act No. 88.

75. **Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta**, activist supporter of the Valera project, 15 years' imprisonment.
