



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 September 2013

English only

Human Rights Council

Twenty-fourth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[02 September 2013]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

International inquiry into the death of Cuban dissident Oswaldo Paya

United Nations Watch calls for an international and independent investigation into the alleged murder of Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá, a world-renowned figure and recipient of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize, who died in a car crash in Bayamo, Cuba, on July 22, 2012, together with fellow activist Harold Cepero.

In dramatic testimony by the driver of the car, Ángel Carromero describes, in a Washington Post interview dated 6 March 2013, how their vehicle was followed, harassed and ultimately rammed from behind by a car bearing government license plates. Mr. Carromero further alleges that, following the crash, he was drugged, mistreated and coerced by Cuban authorities into making a false confession.

The revelations corroborate the claims made by the families of the victims and other witnesses, as well as the report by Spain's ABC news agency about text messages sent contemporaneous with the incident from the mobile phones of Mr. Carromero and another passenger, Aron Modig, indicating that their car was chased and then hit, causing the crash.

Significantly, according to the family of Oswaldo Payá, state security agents had repeatedly threatened to kill him.

Mounting and credible allegations that the Cuban government may have been complicit in the murder of its most prominent critic, a leading figure in the human rights world, cannot go ignored by the international community.

The families of the victims, and the people of Cuba, have a right to know the truth, and they have a right to justice. This can only happen with the creation of an international and independent inquiry. We therefore respectfully urge the Human Rights Council and all Member States of the United Nations to support our call.

This statement has been endorsed by a cross-regional coalition of eminent persons, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate; Armando Calderon Sol, former President of El Salvador; Alfredo Cristiani, former President of El Salvador; Luis Alberto Lacalle, former President of Uruguay; Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru; Luis Alberto Monge, former president of Costa Rica; Edward McMillan-Scott, Vice-President of European Parliament; Markus Meckel, former Foreign Minister of Germany; Irwin Cotler, MP, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; Zbigniew Romaszewski, former Speaker of Polish Senate, a founder of the Solidarity movement; Stanislav Shushkevich, former president of Supreme Soviet of Belarus, a current opposition leader in Belarus; Arnold Vaatz MP, Deputy Leader CDU, Germany; Emma Henriksson MP, Group leader, The Christian Democrats, The Swedish National Parliament; Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson, former Foreign Minister of Iceland; Emanuelis Zingeris MP, Lithuania, President of Parliamentary Forum for Democracy; Josep Antoni Duran i Lleida, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya President, President of the External Affairs Commission of the Spanish Parliament; Mantas Adomėnas MP, Lithuania; Laura Alonso, MP, Argentina; Mbarka Bouaida, former MP, Morocco; Philip Claeyns, MEP, Belgium; Michael Danby, MP, Australia; Mátyás Eörsi, Secretary-General of Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, former MP, Hungary; David Kilgour, former MP, Canada; Adam Lipinski MP, former State Secretary of Poland; Martin Palouš, former Ambassador, Czech Republic; Marco Perduca, Italian Senator, co-vice president of Nonviolent Radical Party.

Other names include Hillel Neuer, Executive Director, United Nations Watch; John Suarez, International Secretary, Cuban Democratic Directorate; Carl Gershman, President, the National Endowment for Democracy; Ken Wollack, President, National Democratic

Institute; Lorne Craner, President, International Republican Institute; David Kramer, President, Freedom House; Zohra Yusuf, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; Yang Jianli, Chinese dissident and former political prisoner, President of Initiatives for China; Carlos E. Ponce, General Coordinator, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy; Faisal Fulad, Secretary General, Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society; Art Kaufman, Senior Director, World Movement for Democracy, National Endowment for Democracy; Alessandro Pettenuzzo, European Union of Public Relations; Lehlohonolo Chefa, Executive Director, Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho; Anki Flores, Former Secretary-General of the Antiracism Information Service, Geneva; Shauna Leven, Director, René Cassin organization; Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Executive Director, Gram Bharati Samiti, India; Duy Hoang, Spokesperson, Viet Tan; Dickson Ntwiga, Executive Director, Solidarity House International Foundation; Nazanin Afshin-Jam, President, Stop Child Executions; Atamao Kane, President, South Pan-African International; Okay Machisa, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association; Obinna Egbuka, President, Youth Enhancement Organization International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization.

Other names include Zofia Romaszewska, a founder of the Solidarity movement, Poland; Fernando Savater, philosopher, writer and activist, Spain; D. José Luis Orella, President, Foro Arbil, Spain; Sasha Gosh-Siminoff, Executive Director, Syrian Emergency Task Force; Jorge Ocejo Moreno, President, Organización Demócrata Cristiana de América, Former Mexican Senator; Viktorija Bražiūnaitė, Chair, Young Leaders Forum; Mazen Hasan, Chairman, Syrian Expatriates Organization; Judge Mukete Tahle Itoe, Co-ordinator, Refugee Welfare Association (REWAC), Cameroon; Janelle Saffin MP, Australia; Corina Fusu MP, Moldova; Tadeusz Iwinski MP, Poland; Werner Schulz MEP, Germany; Aurelija Stancikiene MP, Lithuania; Povilas Urbsys MP, Lithuania; Fabian Hamilton MP, United Kingdom; Patricio Walker, Senator, Chile; Lincoln Diaz-Balart, former U.S. Congressman; Matteo Mecacci, former MP, Italy; János Horváth MP, Hungary; Rene Bolio, former Senator, Mexico, President of Concertation Mexicana; Rosa Díez González MP, Spain; Antonio Cantó García del Moral MP, Spain; Francisco Sosa Wagner MEP, Spain; Carlo Casini MEP, Italy; Annelie Enochson MP, Sweden; Alf Svensson MEP, Sweden; Penilla Gunther MP, Sweden; Ramon Espadaler, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya President of General Assembly, Catalan Minister of Interior; Josep Maria Pelegrí, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya Secretary General, Catalan Minister of Agriculture; Joana Ortega, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya Vice President, Vice President of Government of Catalonia; Salvador Sedó i Alabart, International Relations Secretary, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya, Member of the European Parliament; Josep Sanchez Llibre MP, Spain.

For the full and updated list, United Nations stakeholders are invited to visit <http://www.unwatch.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=bdKKISNqEmG&b=1316871&ct=13168729>