

STEPS TO FREEDOM 2006

**A comparative analysis of
civic resistance in Cuba from
February 2006 through January 2007**



**Cuban
Democratic
Directorate**



**Center for the
Study of a
National Option**

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Cuban Democratic Directorate is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting democratic change in Cuba and respect for human rights. As part of its work, Directorio sponsors publications and conferences in the United States, Latin America and Europe that contribute to the restoration of values of Cuban national culture and solidarity with the civic opposition on the island.

The Center for the Study of a National Option is a non-profit organization that aims to help rescue and rebuild the values, traditions, and fundamental democratic civic concepts of the Republic of Cuba.

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Main achievements of the Cuban civic resistance movement in 2006

- Carried out 2,768 nonviolent civic actions.
- Organized 892 vigils for freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners.
- Carried out 24 Activities and public protests, both organized and spontaneous.
- Promoted 13 activities related to new social patterns.
- Carried out 36 hunger strikes both within and out of prisons.
- Published 23 independent newsletters and 2 new publications.
- Founded 14 new civic organizations.
- Founded 27 independent libraries.
- Promoted 7 general group petitions before government entities.
- Carried out 2 spontaneous mass protests, one in Madruga and the other in Camagüey to support non-violent opposition activists faced with injustices carried out by the regime's repressive forces.
- Carried out 88 fasts, masses, vigils, walks and hunger strikes in solidarity with opposition activist and independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas during his prolonged hunger strike to demand the right to unrestricted internet access for all Cubans.
- Set out on a March for Dignity beginning at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, with the aim of walking to Havana, calling for an end to the repression against the non-violent Cuban opposition.
- Climbed the mountainous Escambray massif, the historical location where Cuban peasants confronted the current dictatorship, to mark the anniversary of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The group released balloons printed with the word "Cambio" (change)



"A message to Cubans, to all those who want to see their homeland free: Keep up the hard work! Sooner or later, Cubans will be free and we will no longer live subject to immoral constraints. We will no longer have to cry because we don't have freedom; we won't have to call out for mercy because a master is humiliating us – although many of us refuse to be humiliated. Let's keep moving forward. We will be doing so for a people who have lived 48 years shackled to an ignominious system. Hold your heads up high so that your children will not be born captive.
Long live Free Cuba! Onwards, onwards, onwards!"

Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Kilo 8 Prison, Camagüey, November 2006



"We, those who carry out the civic struggle, will not be the ones who will help trample the memory of our nation. For Cuba, we are willing to be nailed to the cross and we will carry it, if doing so makes us a ray of light for those Cubans who want to join us in defending the right to a life as real human beings.
Freedom is what we want. May God, Country, and Freedom be the beacons for the future."

Eliécer Consuegra Rivas,
Holguín, December 2006.

"I would like the changes to become reality very soon. We are peaceful, Christian women. The most important thing is the immediate and unconditional release of our husbands and relatives. The Ladies in White will not cease in their work for freedom and peace".

Laura Pollán Toledo,
Lady in White
City of Havana August 7, 2006



A people that dreams, stands up, and fights for freedom

JANISSET RIVERO-GUTIÉRREZ

Steps to Freedom has been documenting acts of civic resistance by Cuban opposition activists for ten years. This report has been used by many researchers looking into life in Cuba and trying to assess the phenomenon of the development of civic resistance in Cuba. This resistance is facing the most ferocious totalitarian regime ever known on our continent. This report, which was started in 1997 as an effort to record the events led by Cuban people fighting for freedom, has come to be more than just that.

Steps to Freedom has become a clear and precise demonstration that Cubans today continue to advance towards freedom in spite of the regime's campaigns to discredit and minimize this struggle. *Steps to Freedom* has become an effective tool that exiled Cubans can use to tell the world that there is a head-on, direct, civic, nonviolent struggle in Cuba against the dictatorship and that every day this resistance becomes bigger and more effective. And, even more important than this, *Steps to Freedom* has become a mirror. A mirror in which civic activists can look to evaluate their actions; a mirror where they can see that their local struggle is part of a national struggle and that activities taking place in their municipalities are also occurring in other municipalities; a mirror where they can see that the Cuban opposition is harmonizing its projects, maturing its ideas and focusing its activities.

This report shows the advances made and the difficulties encountered in this struggle by the Cuban people. The first trimester of 2006 saw a growth in the number of acts of documented civic resistance, as well as an increased public presence of independent civil society organizations through their activities on the streets of Cuba. During this half year, a wide range of activities took place. These included the climb of the Escambray massif by organizations from the central part of Cuba. The massif was the cradle of Cuban resistance to totalitarianism at the beginning of the revolutionary process. Also worthy of mention are the walks and symbolic public acts by the Ladies in White on the anniversary of the repressive wave of 2003, as well as the mass popular protest in Camagüey to stop a

large-scale eviction.

The public space in which society has the right to debate, dissent and promote initiatives, which has been forbidden to the Cuban people since the installation of totalitarianism, has been reinventing the place it needs through the courageous actions of the Cuban opposition.

The increase in repression, police violence and the military presence on Cuba's streets had a significant impact on the second half of 2006, especially beginning in August. The number of actions documented fell from 280 in July to 162 in August. It must be remembered that on July 31, 2006, spokespeople for the regime announced the temporary handover of power from Fidel to Raúl Castro, as a result of the dictator's ill health. During the months following the official announcement, repression increased on Cuba's streets. Attacks, arrests, prosecutions and prison sentences for activists became a strong impediment to the activities and projects of the opposition. As a result, the number of actions fell. However, the number of statements made and calls on the authorities and on the world for the violence to cease increased. During this period, masses were celebrated calling for unity and national reconciliation. A family of activists calling for an end to repression, acts of repudiation and violence against the Cuban opposition set out on a walk to Havana from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of el Cobre, in Santiago de Cuba. In December, the number of activities began to increase again, mainly acts of protest and persuasion aimed at raising the consciousness of the Cuban people to not lend themselves to the repression nor cooperate with injustice.

In late 2006 and early 2007, a revitalization in opposition activity became discernible, despite the continuing repression and, 2007, shows a new impulse in the initiatives, with young people joining the civic movements and the emblematic figures of Cuban political prisoners, such as Jorge Luís García Pérez "Antúnez", René Montes de Oca Martijas and Francisco Chaviano González, released from prison after completing unjust sentences, reincorporating themselves to the activism on the streets.

In January 2007, another interesting and positive event took place which serves as a non-quantifiable

reference within the acts in this report. This was the reaction by Cuban intellectuals and writers, mostly members of the state-run Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC), together with others living outside of Cuba but still linked to the cultural policy of the government in Havana, to the appearance on Cuban television of two emblematic figures of intellectual repression on the island in the 60s and 70s. These people and their public appearance caused very adverse reactions among official Cuban intellectuals, and, as a result, later on in 2007, the Raúl Castro regime had them removed from the public stage.

While this type of event has nothing to do with the civic and nonviolent actions on the island, the main focus of this report, we believe that it sheds light on the differences and contradictions within the elite and the mobility and positioning of the power groups at its heart.

Also important is the proliferation, since the end of 2006, of *blogs* created by young people on the island to make their protest heard. It is dangerous for them to access the Internet, as the censorship of

this medium is very strong.

In this way, young people mock government controls to open windows of communication with the world. It must be remembered that during the first eight months of 2006, independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández was on hunger strike precisely to demand the right to Internet access for himself and the Cuban people.

Finally, the results of *Steps to Freedom 2006-2007* show the current reality of the Cuban liberation process.

Those men and women who have decided to fight for democratic change on the island are confronted by a sophisticated repressive machinery, oiled in the German school of Nazism and trained to kill and maintain political power at all costs.

In spite of these conditions, the civic and nonviolent resistance movement of the Cuban people remains undaunted, and fights on, working on Cuba's streets, showing the Cuban people that it is possible to fight, that democratic change is necessary and that the solution is not to flee the island but to stay, resist and conquer.

A critical look at the pro-democracy movement in Cuba

JOAQUÍN CABEZAS DE LEÓN

The pro-democracy movement is an endogenous socio-cultural phenomenon that arose in Cuban society in the mid 1970s. It came into being at that time in political prison, and was dedicated to disseminating and promoting compliance with and observance of the articles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its action and connotation created a challenge without precedents in Cuba's history. It became an anti-establishment agent that questioned the system from within, using peaceful methods and demanding civic traditions in its discourse.

During the 80s, the pro-democracy movement maintained its initial character, which can be called a stage of civic defense, made up of a symbolic minority. In the international context, this initial period was conditioned by the extension and broadening of scope of the multilateral policies of the United Nations and its Human Rights Commission in favor of compliance by nation states with the articles contained in the Universal Declaration. This stimulated activism related to monitoring and denouncing violations. In Cuba, the movement had to endure the onslaught of systematic and selective political repression and its attempts to organize and grow throughout the country were diminished. For this reason, the movement centered its activity largely on the capital.

The 90s was a moment of inflection for the opposition movement in terms of developing and growing in an unprecedented manner in Cuba. This happened as a result of a number of factors, amongst them the increase in its visibility in Cuban society and the articulation of different social, cultural and political projects that expressed plural criteria and were independent from events and processes that were happening within society. The pro-democracy movement thus became a legitimate representative for a sector of the population debating the closed logic of political power versus the necessity for change and reformist opening. Among the other elements with a positive influence was the organic maturing of the movement, which began to create national projects that respected plurality and proposed the absolute necessity of promoting its social extension. Thus the movement grew from its initial stage of symbolic minority to become an

emerging significant minority in an evolutionary stage.

Cultural factors which have influenced the development of the pro-democracy movement

1.-Deepening of the political, economic and social crisis suffered by Cuba as a result of the fall of socialism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

2.-Crisis of the normative systems associated with Marxism-Leninism and the revolutionary utopianism.

3.- The flow of globalization, of communications and the emergence of global tendencies towards political democracy and the market economy.

4.-The appearance of new social and cultural actors in the country looking for alternative spaces for participation – emerging civil society.

5.-The partial weakening of the totalitarian state and its conversion to a post-totalitarian state, controlled by a power elite with a strong totalitarian vocation. The pro-democracy movement has to act within a closed political system that represses any anti-establishment demonstration. It has to resort to a variety of methods to work against a policy which seeks to completely control society. Throughout the length and breadth of Cuba, the mechanisms for social control are designed to repress dissident groups, discredit their proposals, neutralize their actions, contain their expansion and isolate their mobilization mechanisms to promote the authentic demands of the population. In such a hostile context, where the maxim of the regime is watch and punish, any analysis of the pro-democracy movement should use a qualitative projection as a methodology and not restrict itself only to quantitative parameters, because otherwise its true and final dimension, conditioned as it is by the nature of its proposals, will get lost in the analysis. We are witnessing a political, social and cultural phenomenon, which reflects a new quality of primary actors, who bring forth claims to rebuild the Cuban nation from a democratic perspective.

Analyzing the relationship between the pro-democracy movement and Cuban society, as well as the attempts by those in power to halt its advance, it is possible to discern a pattern of behavior of two steps forward and one step back. Those in power launch a repressive wave against the development

of the pro-democracy movement, taking measures or punitive actions to stop and destroy the progress of the movement. These actions end up working against them, producing a reaction from the opposition movement called “liberalizing counter-waves”. These counter-waves are attempts by the opposition to gain new ground and make up losses. In this dynamic, their operations develop, which shows that, in spite of the repressive measures and their intensity, the dissident groups are organic to the underlying dynamics of society and express a will to build an alternative to the commanding order. It must not be lost from sight that the repression, in all its forms, is inherent and directly proportional to the development and growth of the dissident movement. The controlling elite assumes the political costs of repression rather than giving up ground in their control of society.

Below, in chronological order, are some of the most relevant moments for the pro-democracy movement in the last ten years, which show this pattern of behavior and conflictive inter-relationship in a dialectic of repressive waves and liberalizing counter-waves, ranging from the Concilio Cubano (Cuban Congress) to the Ladies in White.

1996: As a result of the growth and maturing of the pro-democracy movement, its new emerging leadership called for the Concilio Cubano (Cuban Congress), the greatest effort to bring together opposition groups within the country. The regime responded with a repressive wave across Cuba, preventing the meeting from taking place, imprisoning the main organizers and shooting down the Brothers to the Rescue aircrafts as they flew over international waters.

1997: The opposition leaders of the Working Group for Internal Dissidence produced the document entitled *The Nation is For All*, a critical analysis of Cuban society and a response by civil society to the development of a document by the Communist Party of Cuba in view of its fifth congress. Those involved were tried and imprisoned for the impact of the recommendations they made to those in power.

1999: The Lawton Foundation for Human Rights convened the Life and Liberty fast from Tamarindo 34, which spread to 53 fast centers in different parts of the country. These centers went on to become mechanisms for bringing together and creating union within the pro-democracy movement. Furthermore the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights called for and used a strategy of nonviolent civic resistance, creating schools of civic resistance. All this activity increased the visibility of the opposition movement, which in turn provoked an increase in harassment and repression by the

regime, who imprisoned the main leaders. Within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit held in Havana, the pro-democracy movement called a parallel meeting in which, in spite of the repressive measures, the document *Todos Unidos* was written. This was a set of declarations of principles by the vast majority of the pro-democracy organizations. At the same time, the conditions for later development were created.

The years 2001, 2002 and 2003 saw the greatest growth and maturing for the opposition movement, which managed to increase its visibility within Cuban society with a multiplicity of social, cultural and political projects which strengthened its presence. This in turn led to greater international recognition that the movement was a participant to be taken into account within the Cuban situation.

2003: In March, the Cuban government carried out the greatest wave of repression in the history of peaceful opposition, jailing 75 democratic leaders. It took this drastic decision to slow down and destroy the pro-democracy movement in light of the latter’s unprecedented growth, marked amongst other significant events, by the Varela Project. This was an initiative by the Christian Liberation Movement to collect signatures from people across Cuba, calling for laws to be transformed and a referendum held. It presented the document to the National Assembly of People’s Power in 2002, having managed to collect signatures from over 25,000 citizens, who, in addition to their signature, added their identity card number and identifying details.

The repressive wave of March 2003 was a bitter blow to the pro-democracy movement. The repression temporarily minimized the call to mobilize within Cuban society but was not able to destroy it completely because it re-organized itself, articulating new projects and initiatives, such as the appearance of the Ladies in White to demand the freedom of their imprisoned family members.

2005: On May 20 and 21, 2005, the Assembly to promote Civil Society was held in Havana. Over 150 Cuban organizations attended, to present the first steps towards democratizing the country and create strategies to achieve it.

There is no doubt that the development and strengthening of civil society in general and of the pro-democracy movement in particular is fundamental for the Cuban democratic transition. If we analyze the most probable scenarios for transition, we realize that it is extremely important that the pro-democracy movement becomes a relevant player capable of growing from the stage of being a significant emerging minority to one of greater reach, which we could call constructive

mobilization. This stage will be achieved when the democratizing movement is capable of mobilizing the population and building an alternative power based on participative democracy and a state founded in the rule of law.

The most recurrent scenes for democratic transition in Cuban society could be led from below by insurrection within civil society or by an agreed transition, resulting from dialogues and negotiations with the moderate and reformist sector arising during the succession process.

These probable scenarios have a common denominator: transition from below will not be possible if the pro-democracy movement fails to become a force for change capable of mobilizing the population or channeling social discontent and does not have sufficient power to call together and mobilize society to be able to put pressure on the regime. For the negotiated transition scenario to work, its fundamental premise must be that the opposition movement becomes an important player within society, one with which the power elite has to negotiate in order to survive in a reformed form within a new social pact.

Vaclav Havel said, referring to the lessons learned from the democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989, that it was not the attempt at political reform which caused the new awakening of society, but the inverse: the awakening ultimately caused the political reform. This maxim must be borne in mind in all the strategies of the pro-democracy movement. Reformism arises as a response to the explosive crisis; it is not the cause but the result. Cuban society stands at a crossroads. The power elite are putting all their efforts into maintaining their hegemony and has until now had the dynamic of being able to reproduce itself and reconstitute itself with its contradictions.

External factors could give the impression that it has found a critical path for survival, but we should not be deceived; in order to survive, it will have to reform itself and its nature does not permit reform.

This is its great weakness.

The regime is at the dawn of an unprecedented and relevant event. It is clear that there will be a leadership succession process and if the pro-democracy movement is not capable of converting itself into an agent for social change, its participation in this succession process will have little significance. That being the case, the succession will take place without any political or economic change and the elite will adjust its power to the new circumstances, carrying out some reforms to assure its legitimacy and cohesion.

The pro-democracy movement needs to be aware of the fact that to become a key player within Cuban society and push forward the transition, it should increase its participation in social life at all levels and grow its moral authority.

To do this, it will have to strengthen its presence and vitality. Its agenda must feed on existing conflicts between the regime's imperative to dominate and the authentic complaints of society. Furthermore, its activity must eliminate the sense of impotence and conformism with which the state has paralyzed society. The organized opposition must become a source of social emancipation. The repressive measures have not been able to destroy the pro-democracy movement but they have been effective in creating a barrier between the active nucleus of the opposition movement and the general population, which does not perceive the opposition movement as an alternative capable of becoming a counter-power.

The great challenge for the pro-democracy movement is the democratization of the country and in order to achieve this, it will have to go beyond the stage of being a significant minority and convert itself into a social movement. This can only be achieved when we assume with our own voices, the resonating calls for freedom of the populace.

Writer and poet, member of the Cuban Reflection Movement, in Camajuaní, Villa Clara.

Development of nonviolent civic actions in 2006

The classification and analysis of the data collected for this report was carried out using the methodology proposed by the American academic Gene Sharp. As indicated in previous reports, nonviolent civic resistance actions are those taken by citizens who act without physical violence to confront a totalitarian power to protest and to claim rights which have been violated. This methodology separates actions into three categories: protest and persuasion, intervention and non-cooperation. These three categories can also be seen as progressive stages in the nonviolent civic struggle, as the level of civic defiance each one implies gradually increases. Using this Sharpian analysis, protest and persuasion is the first stage in any nonviolent civic struggle, followed by non-cooperation and finally by intervention. However, these stages can take place in the same time period, and are not mutually exclusive.

A total of **2,768** actions were documented for 2006 and January 2007. This figure was 16.67% lower than 2005 to January 2006, when the total number of actions was 3,322. In our opinion, this decrease was due to the impact caused by the repression during the second half of 2006, above all after the regime announced the ill-health of the dictator Fidel Castro. This notwithstanding, the numbers collected in this report show a qualitative increase in actions, above all in the categories of intervention and non-cooperation, when compared to 2005.

During the period between February 2006 and January 2007, the Cuban people took part in **2,398 protest and persuasion activities**. This figure represents **86.6%** of the total number of actions. This was a decrease of 23.92% compared to the 3,152 actions in this category in 2005. The impact of the repression during the second half of 2006, which we see clearly reflected in the number of protest and persuasion activities which managed to take place did not, however, prevent a period of growth in civic activity in the months following January 2007, which will be analyzed in the next Steps to Freedom report, which is currently in development.

37.20% of the **protest and persuasion** activities were vigils for freedom without forced exile for political prisoners, this being the most important activity within this category. Every Wednesday, human rights activists meet in hundreds of houses and streets across Cuba to hold vigils for

freedom without forced exile of all Cuban political prisoners. At the end of each month there is a table summarizing the days and places where these vigils were held. During these vigils, the participants pray, read passages from the Bible, exchange ideas and future projects and often talk about the life and writings of political prisoners.

In addition to the vigils, other protest and persuasion actions which were important during the period of this report included meetings, public declarations, masses and symbolic public activities such as the throwing of flowers into the rivers and the sea off the coasts of Cuba on commemorative dates such as February 24 or July 13, as well as group petitions and marches. An important example in this category was the march started by Ramón Velásquez Toranzo and his wife and daughter on December 10 from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. This march, in which many activists from different parts of Cuba came to participate, crossed Cuba from East to West, reaching Ciego de Ávila, hundreds of kilometers west of its starting point in Santiago de Cuba province. This family, together with human rights activists, walked on foot, calling for an end to the aggression towards the civic opposition and the unconditional release of Cuban political prisoners. Of course, in an atmosphere of strong repression such as that experienced in the second half of 2006, the walk was repressed and at the present time, the main organizer is in prison. Another important example of protest and persuasion is the growing number of activists in the streets, above all in the central part of Cuba, distributing copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and alternative literature. This type of action was very difficult to achieve in the past because many people were afraid to receive any kind of independent literature. Now, however, more people are willing to accept it and it is possible to discern a general desire among the population to receive alternative literature. Indeed, not only do they accept material, but they often ask for more.

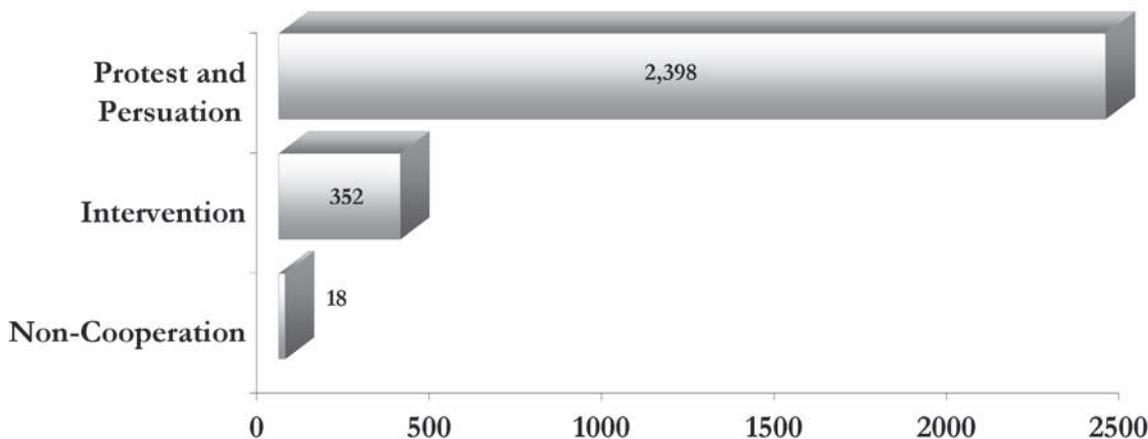
In addition to the initiatives mentioned, we have separated out within this category those actions carried out by the family members of political prisoners, especially the Ladies in White, whose work and determination have been internationally recognized. The family members of political prisoners

carried out **276 actions** of this kind, this figure accounting for **11.5%** of the total number of protest and persuasion actions. This figure was higher than that for 2005, when 182 actions were documented. It is important to mention that of the activities carried out by family members, the protests and public marches did not just take place in the province of Havana, where some took place in the very center of the capital and received significant international press coverage. Meanwhile, while people outside of prison have been defending the right of those who have been unjustly imprisoned to be unconditionally released, inside the prisons, political and common prisoners have remained active at all cost. **Forty-five protest and persuasion actions** within prisons are documented within this report,

mentioned in the 2005 report, which represents an increase of 700%. The proliferation of anti-government signs is a clear sign of the people's discontent. Within this type of action, mass public protests can also be mentioned, such as the one in November in Madruga in the province of Havana and the one in Camagüey in May, to protest against a large-scale eviction. Twenty-four spontaneous public protests are documented in this report.

In the category of intervention, a comparative growth of 149.65% can be seen compared to the 2005 figures. However, the figure does not reach the 389 actions of interventions recorded in 2002. Bearing in mind that intervention is a later phase in the nonviolent civic struggle, the fact that this category has increased, gives us an idea of the intensity

Classification of non-violent actions



not including hunger strikes and protests, which count within the category of nonviolent intervention.

Finally, it is important to mention within this category actions that can be regarded as spontaneous, because they were not started by people or groups of people within opposition organizations. This relates to anti-government signs. Within this type of spontaneous action by the population, there were 460 instances of signs, compared with 55 docu-

of the struggle which is unfolding on the island.

Intervention actions made up **12.71%** of the total number of actions documented in this study. This category includes initiatives that are very important to the development of the nonviolent civic struggle such as the publication of alternative media, newsletters or magazines, the opening of new institutions such as independent libraries or the carrying out of fasts or hunger strikes to protest violated rights. General fasts to commemorate symbolic

dates or mark concrete demands from the opposition amounted to **231 actions**. In this area, mention must be made of the national fasting campaign in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández in his strike to demand the right to unrestricted Internet access for the Cuban people. Within the category of these fasts, note must be made of those carried out by the family members of political prisoners and those carried out inside prison. This category also includes the hunger strikes by political prisoners and by common prisoners in solidarity with them. The number of hunger strikes in prison was 32. One of the main protagonists involved was political prisoner and prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta in the Kilo 8 Prison in Camagüey

Activities that can be characterized within new social patterns such as the creation of alternative institutions of civil society also have a major role within this category. Thus, 27 new independent libraries and 14 other institutions are accounted for; some new social patterns were adopted, such as in the East of the island, the blowing of whistles to protest about the situation of the country, or the dressing with some sort of symbol on clothing. A number of projects were promoted focused on protecting the environment or against social violence, which are clearly far from the social dynamic imposed by the island's ruling regime.

As mentioned before, this category also includes the publication of 25 new and existing independent newsletters, a higher figure than the 18 documented in 2005. Among them are *El Camagüeyano*, published for the last few years by the independent press of Camagüey and the newsletters, *El Cubano Libre* and *Los Pinos Nuevos*, new publications promoted from eastern Cuba. *Antorcha Universitaria*, promoted by the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement from the West of the island, and the magazine *Revista Amanecer* by the Ciego de Ávila branch of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights are both also worthy of mention. In addition to these newsletters, there is one published by the political

prisoners at Playa Manteca Prison in Holguín, a true monument to human dignity.

Moving on to actions of non-cooperation, it is possible to note that the total number in this category decreased from 29 actions in 2005 to 18 in 2006, representing a decrease of **37.93%** year on year. This decrease is the result of the strong repression to which the opposition movement was subjected during the second half of 2006. However, it must be noted that on two occasions large numbers of people did not cooperate with the repressive forces, when they refused to accept two violent evictions, where hundreds of people demonstrated. Another important but unquantifiable factor in 2006 is the refusal by neighbors of opposition activists to take part in repudiation rallies.

This category not only includes spontaneous actions of political non-cooperation, whereby Cuban citizens decide not to take part in the repression or in the arbitrary policies of government, but also protests inside prison as a way for political prisoners to not accept impositions.

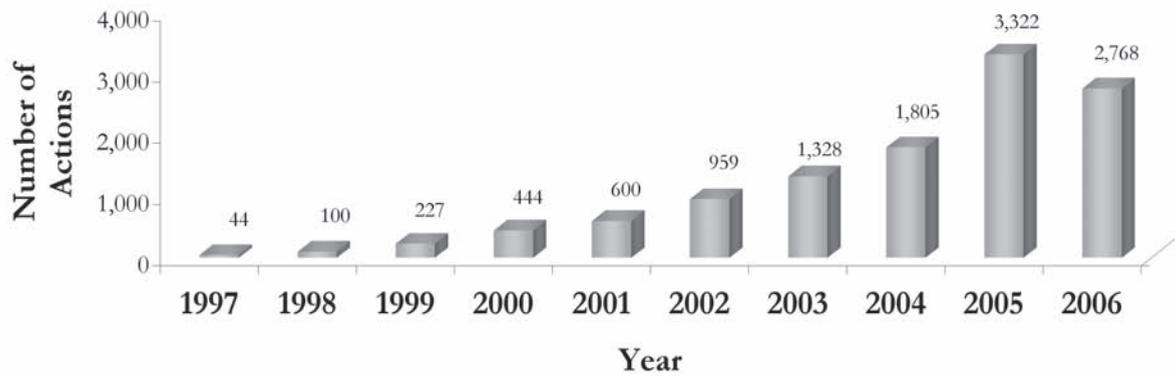
Before concluding this analysis, we must bear in mind the importance of activities carried out in the provinces, compared with those that took place in the city of Havana.

Here we see a small decrease in the percentage of actions carried out in the provinces, from 89% in 2005 to 87%. The percentage of actions taking place in Havana increased from 11% in 2005 to 13% in 2006.

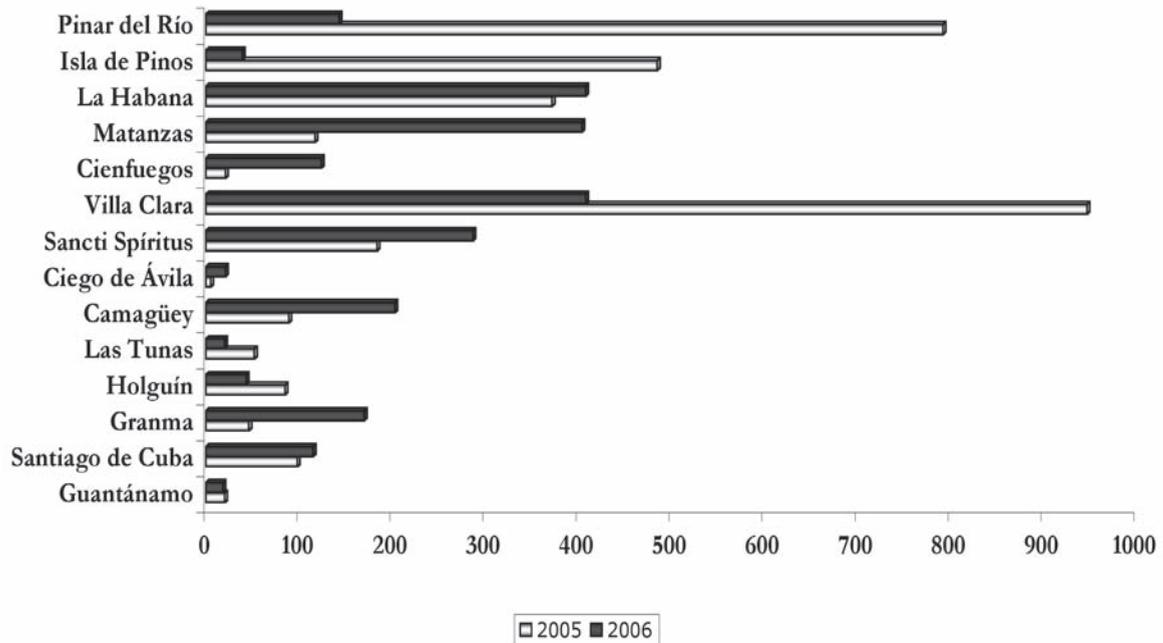
The development of actions of civic resistance in Cuba during 2006 and the beginning of 2007 clearly shows the struggle that human rights activists and the champions of democratic change are undertaking on the island.

Confronted by the most brutal repression and the mercilessness of the repressive organs of the government, the Cuban opposition has shown innovation and its political maturity by continuing and broadening its work with the Cuban people without retreating or ceding the ground gained through sacrifice and courage.

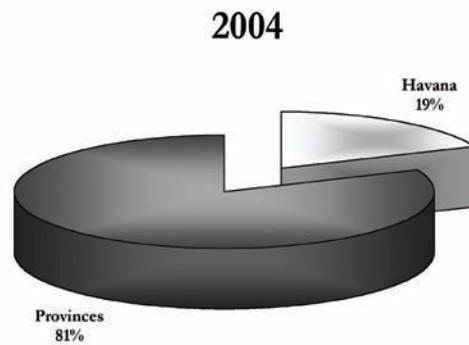
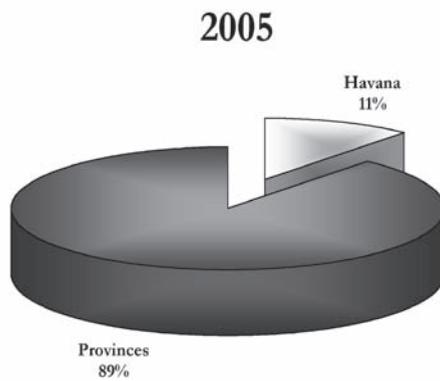
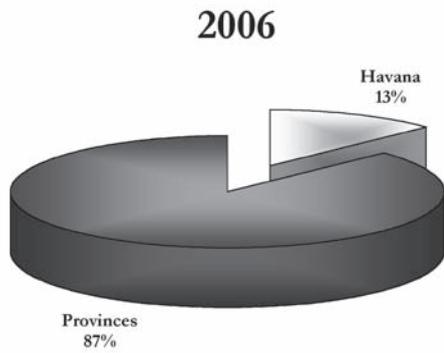
Total acts of non-violent civic resistance 1997-2006



Comparison of civic resistance actions by province



Comparative percentage of actions in Havana and the provinces



Type of Activities	Number of Actions
Organized	
Vigils – Freedom without Forced Exile	892
Meetings	332
Fasts	136
Vigils – General	90
Declarations	84
Masses – General	40
Symbolic Acts	34
New Independent Libraries	27
Distribution of Alternative Literature	25
Independent Newsletters - Published	23
Floral Offerings	22
Marches	18
Prayers	15
New Organizations	15
New Social Patterns	13
Processions	10
Group Petitions or Citizen Initiatives	7
Masses for National Unity	6
Hunger Strikes	4
Independent Newsletters – New	2
Homages to the dead	2
Whistle Blows	1
Amanecer Magazine (New)	1
Paloma Award	1
Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Civic Dignity Award	1
Youth without Censorship Award	1
Spontaneous	
Signs	460
Public Protests	24
Political Non-Cooperation	14

Activities by families of political prisoners	Number of Actions
Masses	107
Rosaries	77
Marches	61
Declarations	12
“Té Literario”	11
Fasts	6
Public Protests	4
Meetings	4
Sit-Ins	1

Activities performed in prison	Number of Actions
Declarations	33
Hunger Strikes	31
Fasts	17
Protests in Prison	11
Sit-Ins	1
Symbolic Acts	1
Political Non-Cooperation	1
Newsletter published in prison	1

Solidarity Campaign with Guillermo Fariñas	Number of Actions
Fasts outside of Prison	66
Vigils	13
Fasts inside of Prison	6
Hunger Strike inside Prison	1
Masses	1
Marches	1

Commemorative Dates	Number of Actions
February 24th (1895/1996) Grito de Baire/Brothers to the Rescue Shootdown	22
March 18th Repressive wave of 2003	40
May 19th (1895) Death of José Martí	7
May 20th (1902) Inauguration of the Republic	20
July 13th (1994) Sinking of the “13 de marzo” Tugboat	18
August 5th (1994) The “Maleconazo”	3
September 8th (1604) Feast of the Virgin of Charity	20
October 10th (1868) Grito de Yara	13
November 27th (1871) Assasination of Medical Students	1
December 10th (1948) International Human Rights Day	46
January 6th Three Kings Day	10
January 28th (1853) Birth of José Martí	23

FEBRUARY 2006

Havana, February 1, 2006. Human rights activists met at the Freedom Movement headquarters located at Calle Villaverde#15 e/ Cisneros y Heredia, Reparto La Esperanza, La Habana, where the organization held its regular activity calling for freedom for political prisoners. During the vigil, the group recited the Lord's Prayer to plead for the mental and physical health of the brothers and sisters held in Cuban prisons solely because they defended human rights and called for free and democratic elections in Cuba. The following activists participated in the event: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, President of the Freedom Movement; Lázaro Antonio Aragón Ortega, Freedom Movement; Víctor Alejo Toste, Vice President, Movement to Rescue Freedom and Democracy; José Luis Rodríguez Ibadez, MFUL; Alberto Duany Guzmán, Freedom Movement; Carlos Manuel Rodríguez García, Freedom Movement; Serafín Borges Matriz, Freedom Movement; Juan Ochoa Leyva, Political Prisoner, Freedom Movement; Nelson Fuentes Lara, Freedom Movement; Ramón Rosas Sánchez, Freedom Movement.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement. Anaika Paneca Román, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party. Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Camagüey, February 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 23 of the El Camagüeyano newsletter, which provides information on the region, was published. It featured an article on the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation analyzing the increasing number of political prisoners in Cuba, an article on the right to congregate, freedom of association and freedom of expression, which should be respected for all Cubans.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Camagüey, February 1, 2006. From his cell at the Kilo 8 Prison, political prisoner José Daniel Ferrer García made public his decision to reject all of the supposed benefits offered by the prison, including food, in an act of solidarity and protest against the inhumane treatment to which he and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta are subjected. The pair has been cruelly beaten during the previous several days.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent

journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Villa Clara, February 2, 2006. The Calixto García Íñiguez independent library was inaugurated by its director, Yunieski García López. Also present at the opening, including Idania Yáñez Contreras, Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Filiberto Pérez del Sol, Enrique Hernández Martínez, Rogelio López Silverio and Alberto González Gómez all members of opposition groups. The new library is located at Calle 1ra, #21, e/A y B, Reparto Nuevo Condado. Psalm 86 was read along with a biographical account of the independence hero Calixto García.

Source: Jorge Olivera Castillo, Cubanet. Niurvis Díaz Remón, Cubanacán Press independent press agency.

Sancti Spiritus, February 2, 2006. The residents of the Las Tosas rural neighborhood refused to participate in a Repudiation Rally led by Communist Party agents intended to intimidate human rights activists José Rivero Monteagudo, a member of the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom; Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, provincial delegate of the 30th of November Party; and Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, director of all independent libraries in the Sancti Spiritus province and a Cuban Foundation delegate. "We call not only on those in exile, but also on both domestic and international public opinion to take into account that, in spite of the great repression we face in our country, we are not going to give up; we are going to continue fighting for democracy and for change. In that, we are firm."

Source: José Rivero Monteagudo, Directorio Democrático Cubano.

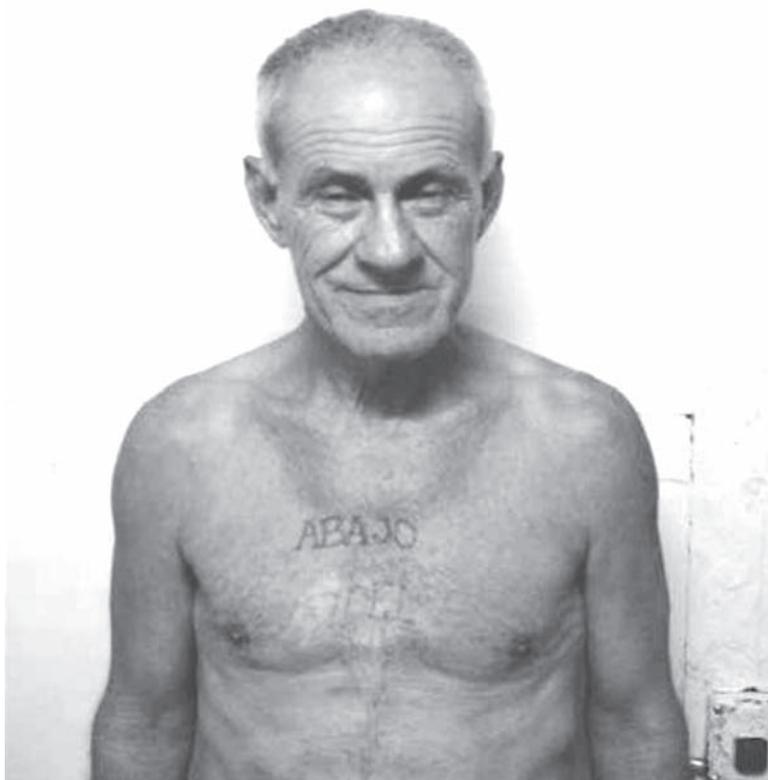
Ciego de Ávila, February 2, 2006. Hundreds of citizens from the village of Morón participated in the procession of Our Lady of Candelaria, the patron saint of Morón. This tradition, which dates back to 1855, commenced again in 2003 following 43 years of prohibition by the Cuban government. The procession, which covers many blocks in the area of Morón's Catholic church, was presided over by the Ciego de Ávila bishop, Monseñor Mario Mestril, who blessed the hundreds of candles carried by the faithful. During the 45-minute march, neighbors came out of the houses along the route and gave offerings to the Virgin of Candelaria, patron saint of the city of Gallo. Within the first block of the

Jesús Calderín Mirabal was imprisoned in 1993 for the “crime” of “disrespect to the figure of the Commander” when he shouted insults about Fidel Castro in a bar. In 1995, he was placed under house arrest for doing the same. During one of his arrests, the police took him to the hospital, where they pressured the surgeon on duty to remove the tattoo on his chest, which says “Down with Fidel”.

The doctor refused and demanded the consent of the prisoner to be submitted to surgery. Calderín refused. On another occasion, various military personnel kidnapped him from the middle of the street and took him to the Cárdenas Police unit where they burned the letters tattooed on his chest with a home-made formula of salt and lemon juice, but the words still remain.

In Cárdenas, in the municipality of Matanzas, the police have undertaken to arrest Calderín, alias Caldero, every time there is any political activity in the area.

Source: Dr. Darsi Ferrer, Director of the Juan Bruno Zayas Health and Human Rights Center.
Misceláneas de Cuba



march, listeners heard calls from the loudspeakers for spiritual freedom in Cuba. Even though political police agents closely watched their every move, peaceful dissidents taking part in the march prayed to the Virgin of Candelaria for the release of political prisoners, an end to the Repudiation Rallies, and for the light of the Patron Saint of Morón to lead the oppressors toward a path of tolerance.

Source: *José Manuel Caraballo Bravo, APLA. Cubanet.*

Villa Clara, February 3, 2006. Eight human rights activists, Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, Gregorio Pérez Lara, Adriano Castañeda Meneses, Julio César Menéndez, Jorge Perdigón Brito, Edel Peralta Ruz and Luis Díaz, were gathered at the home of Amado Ruíz Moreno and his wife, Elia Moreno, at 8 a.m. when a violent mob surrounded the house and began hurling threats, including death, by taking them to the gallows pole.

The neighbors, including the head of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, were shocked by the assault. Many shouted, “Leave these people alone; what you are doing is barbaric terrorism against them.” But the mob retorted, “If you don’t get back inside, we are going to take you down as well,” and “you are either with us or against us.” “The public acted very well, as they have in the past, because afterwards they came over to us,

they encouraged us, and they told us what had been happening outside, which was horrific,” Ruíz Moreno said. “The public supported us and confronted the mob courageously.

Source: *Amado Ruíz Moreno, Radio República.*

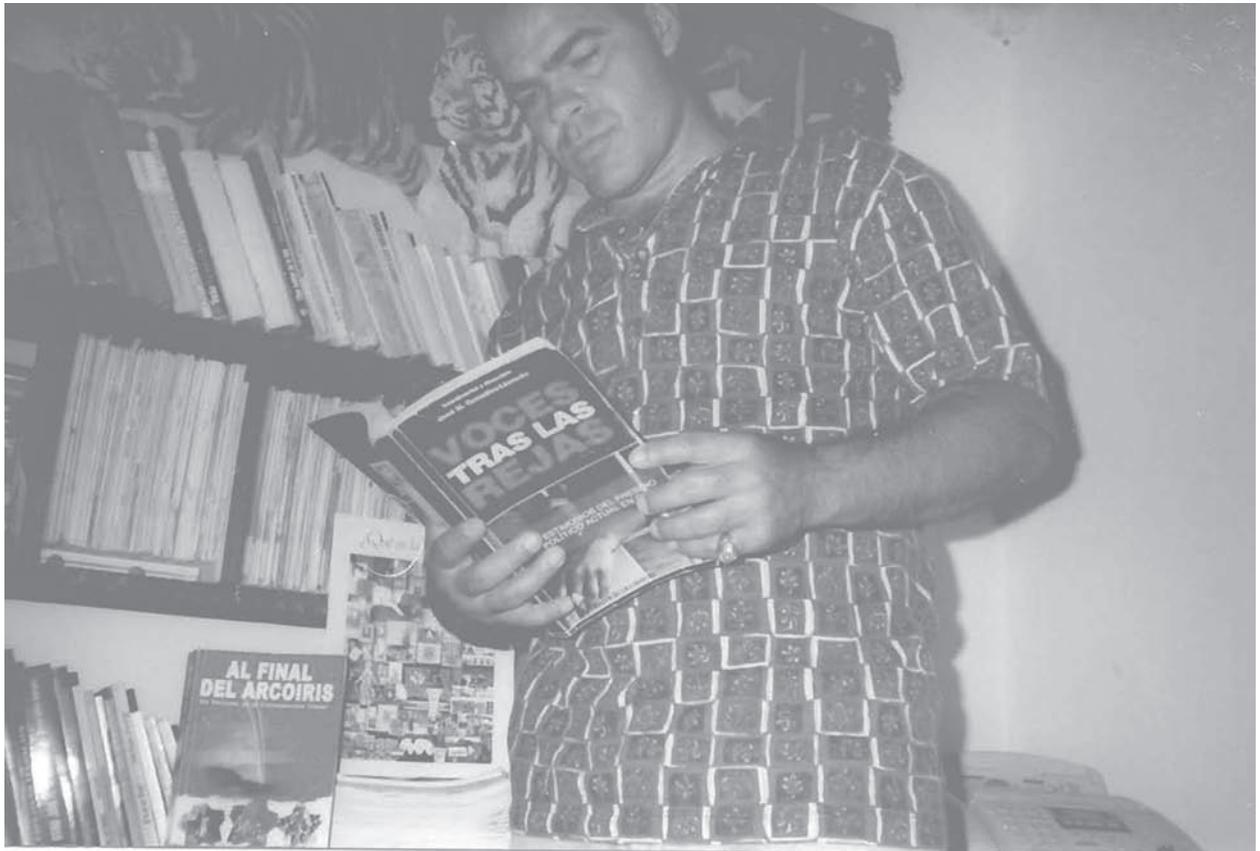
Villa Clara, February 3, 2006. The human rights activist and president of the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement, Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, declared a hunger strike to call for an end to the beatings and harassment of human rights activists. The strike took place at her home, Edificio #10, apto. 5, 3er. Piso, Reparto José Martí, in Santa Clara. It went on for 35 days.

Source: *Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Cubanacán Press. Cubanet.*

Isla de Pinos, February 4, 2006. For the first time, the Julio Tang Texier Civic Cultural Project promoted the distribution of the “Actualidad Cubana” newsletter, published in Miami by Cuban-American National Foundation.

Source: *Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.*

Matanzas, February 4, 2006. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party met at the home of one of its members, Andrés Govea Suárez, at Calle Libertad #41 e/ Estrella y San Antonio, Guareira, Colón, Matanzas. They met amidst a rally organized by State Security agents. Most of the residents in the area demurred from partaking in the three-hour



The proliferation of independent libraries throughout the provinces makes it possible for Cubans to have access to information fiercely censored by the regime. This is the case for Sergio Santa Cruz, above, seen reading testimonials from Cuban political prison.

Repudiation Rally.

As soon as the verbal attacks and threats subsided, those gathered for the meeting sang the national anthem and began the ordinary meeting, strengthened and with greater assurance of victory. Alejandrina García de la Riva, one of the Ladies in White and the wife of Peace, Love and Freedom Party President Diosdado González Marrero, was present at the meeting, her husband is one of the 75 political prisoners jailed during the Black Spring of 2003:

At the meeting's end, even though we had been repudiated and told that the streets belong to the revolutionaries, we proved that the homeland belongs to all Cubans by marching throughout the neighborhood all the way to the highway to Colón. All of the passersby looked at us and one woman called out, "God bless you!" Finally, we want to tell all of the island's opposition that we wish to unite and that the Repudiation Rallies will not stop us from our struggle to achieve a free and democratic Cuba.

Among those involved in the mob that harassed this group of citizens was Luis Caballero Fernández, Félix Cuní Menéndez, of the Combatants Association and

Yadamís Zayas, who is waiting to begin serving a two year prison sentence for stealing in the workplace.

Source: Jorge Luis Alvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Alejandrina García de la Riva, Ladies in White and the wife of Peace, Love and Freedom Party President Diosdado González Marrero, one of the 75 political prisoners jailed during the Black Spring of 2003.

Havana, February 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar in Havana. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, Lady in White and the wife of the jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, Lady in White and the wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Villa Clara, February 5, 2006. Dissidents from Cubanacán Press based in Villa Clara began a rotating 24-hour hunger and thirst fast chain. Opposition activists from nearly all of the non-governmental organizations in Villa Clara joined the activity to show their support for Guillermo Fariñas

Hernández and Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and their just demand for free access to the Internet. Every 24 hours, a Cubanacán Press journalist will take their turn in the protest.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Luis Cino, Cubanet.

Camagüey, February 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López. Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement.

Guantánamo, February 5, 2006. The John Paul II Movement for Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace was founded at the home of Keyber Rodríguez Fernández, located at Calle Abel Díaz Delgado #17, e/Martí y República, in Baracoa. Seven human rights activists participated in the inauguration.

Source: Julián Antonio Monés Borrero, MCJD. Keyber Rodríguez Fernández, Juan Pablo II Movement for Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace.

Pinar del Río, February 6, 2006. Opposition activist Humberto Vigoe Chirino, the administrator for the Varela Project and a resident of San Cristóbal, Pinar del Río, refused to sign an act of unity drafted by the Political Police, which the authorities had told him to sign. The letter, which was given to Vigoe Chirino, stated that the activist was a potential criminal. "I am convinced that this is really about intimidating me and inhibiting my civic activities," Vigoe Chirino said. "The main reason for it is that I am the administrator of the Varela Project."

Political Police officers threatened the activist with bring tried for the presumed crime of public danger for his efforts to collect signatures for the Varela Project.

Vigoe Chirino is 36 years old, married, and a father of two. He denounced the systematic violations committed against him and said that he is regularly prosecuted and harassed by political police officers.

Source: Ernesto Roque Cintero, UPECI. Cubanet.

Havana, February 6, 2006. The Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau made public a written statement in solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is a correspondent of said bureau and director of the Cubanacán Press agency, who finds himself on a complete hunger strike (no food or liquids) in the city of Santa Clara. The purpose

of the strike was to demand direct Internet access. The text of the statement was: "Guillermo Fariñas Hernández represents the spirit of rebellion against the brutal dictatorship of Fidel Castro. He has known how to patent his commitment to freedom and democracy in Cuba with capital letters, to quote the apostle José Martí, "Every honorable man can realize his actions." Fariñas began his strike on January 31. On that day, he sent a letter to Fidel Castro explaining his civic demand and his determination to die if the government refused to cede to his petition. The Cuba-Miami Information Bridge's statement concluded: "Fariñas is an example of a dignified Cuban who accepts the consequences of his ideas. We ratify our unconditional support and our solidarity."

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau.

Havana, February 6, 2006. The Ladies in White denounced that they have been the targets of Repudiation Rallies in Havana and throughout the country since March 2005. The mothers, wives and family members of jailed Cuban dissidents demanded an "end to the harassment, repression and injuries" against them and "the immediate and unconditional release of the 75 prisoners of conscience arrested and tried in March 2003. "The authorities are instigating groups of citizens to verbally assault and harass us," the group's public statement said. In response to this situation, the group of women, the recipient of the European Parliament's Sajarov Prize for Freedom of Thought, called on the Cuban people "who have allowed themselves to be led into these shameful acts... to get to know us and to meditate and analyze whether they could see themselves in our situation."

Source: Europapress.

Villa Clara, February 6, 2007. Independent journalist Niurvis Díaz Remond began a 24-hour fast in Santa Clara taking part in a chain of fasts in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández' hunger strike.

Source: Luis Cino. Cubanet.

Guantánamo, February 6, 2007. Political prisoner Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, an independent journalist and the national coordinator of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement serving a 20-year prison term at the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey, released the following public statement:

"I wish to let the people of Cuba and the international community know that, in spite of all the physical and psychological torture that I am suffering in this most recent unjust imprisonment for defending democracy, the reinstatement of a civil society



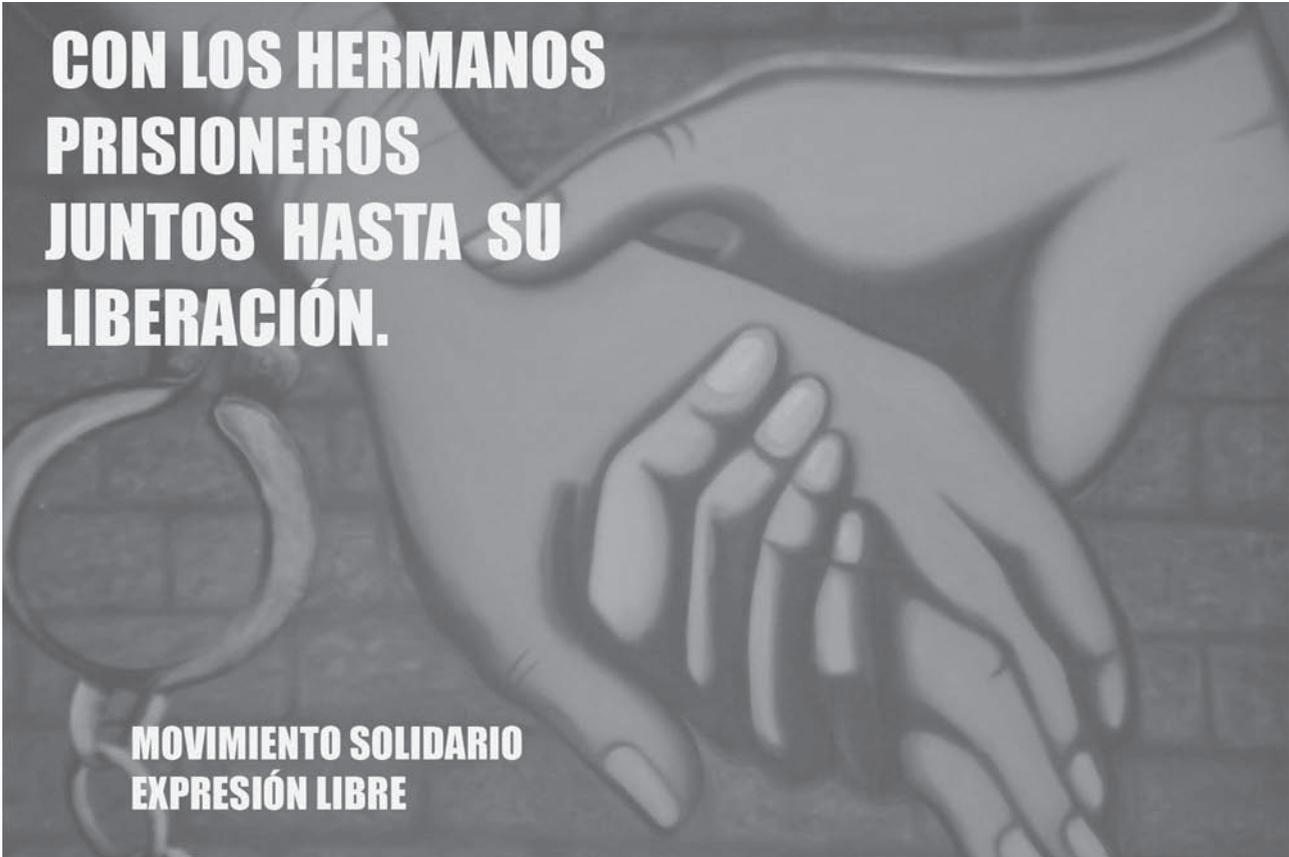
Yet again in 2006, the Ladies in White were key figures in the nonviolent civil struggle to free Cuba, with their gladiolus flowers, photos of their imprisoned relatives on their chests and their defiance of the government by marching through the streets of Havana, close to the parish church of Saint Rita, where they attend Mass every Sunday. They also take part in street demonstrations on significant dates, such as February 24th.

held captive for more than 47 years of Castroism enthroned, I will not hoist the white flag of dishonor; they cannot make me surrender and they cannot silence my voice. I struggle because the light of truth and freedom will come to this land, which has been turned into the feudal terrain of a Caesar who bleeds it. As a dignified son of this nation, I am willing to offer my life if it is necessary to defend the peace and harmony of the land of Varela and Martí. I will not discard the possibility that a clinically induced death at the hands of the commissars of terror will truncate my life, but as long as I have strength and my heart beats, I will continue to fight from within the monstrous womb of Castro's prison. The price to pay has been very high: pain, mourning and exile constitute the panacea of Fidel Castro during 47 years of reigning terror, but I do not resign myself to a life condemned; I am only a dignified follower

of Cuba's historic political prisoners. Long live a free Cuba. God, country and freedom. May human rights live and prevail in the land that I so love."

Source: Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, February 7, 2006. Political prisoners Egberto Ángel Escobedo Morales, Lázaro González Adán, René Montes de Oca Martija, Erizaldo Calvo Hernández and Jorge Luis Suárez Varona, held in the Cerámica Roja prison in Camagüey, drafted and released a letter to the country's political prisoners. "Cuba has become an island prison: the Cuban people in the street have only conditional freedom and those of us in jail are in punishment cells. All of the signers are members of the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners, victims of the despotic, arbitrary and dictatorial authorities in



CON LOS HERMANOS PRISIONEROS JUNTOS HASTA SU LIBERACIÓN.

MOVIMIENTO SOLIDARIO
EXPRESIÓN LIBRE

A flyer for the Free Expression Solidarity Movement (MOSEL), which is distributed in the streets of Camagüey, where its headquarters are located.

power,” the letter stated. “We will only be truly free on the day that the repression, totalitarianism and imperialism of this terrorist state ceases to exist. Long live a free Cuba. God, country and freedom.”
Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux InfoPress. Radio República.

Havana, February 8, 2006. Activists meet at the headquarters of the Freedom Movement, located at Calle Villaverde #15 e/Cisneros y Heredia, Reparto La Esperanza, La Habana, to pray the Lord’s Prayer to plead for the mental and physical health of the brothers held in Cuban prisons only because they defended human rights and called for free and democratic elections in Cuba. The following activists participated in the event: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, President of the Freedom Movement; Lázaro Antonio Aragón Ortega, Freedom Movement; Víctor Alejo Toste, Vice President, Movement to Rescue Freedom and Democracy; José Luis Rodríguez Ibadez, MFUL; Ramón Rosas Sánchez, Freedom Movement; Alberto Duany Guzmán, Freedom Movement; Andrés Pellicier Chacón, the Liberal Orthodox Party; Roberto Castillo Rivera, the FLD movement; Carlos

Manuel Rodríguez García, Freedom Movement; Serafín Borges Matriz, Freedom Movement; and Juan Ochoa Leyva, a political prisoner and member of the Freedom Movement, who participated from jail.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party ; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Havana, February 8, 2006. A vigil and fast takes place to call for the release of Cuban political prisoners and praying for the health of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas, who began a hunger strike on January 31. A few days later, the activist Noelia Pedraza Jiménez joined this action. The ceremony took place at Calle 40 #2906 e/29 y 33, San José de las Lajas. The following activists participated in the event: Delfín Rodríguez, Félix Camero, Luís González, Marina Barceló, Manuel Beatón, Marielín de Armas, Darelis Velásquez, Yolver Díaz and Alfredo Valle.

Source: Marina Barceló, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sajarov

Foundation.

Camagüey, February 8, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists Erizaldo Calvo Hernández and Raidel Aróstegui, jailed in the Cerámica Roja prison in Camagüey, announced a protest against their unjust imprisonment in Unit 5 of the penitentiary. The prisoners, who launched a hunger strike, have not received any response to their demands from prison authorities regarding their legal situation. Instead, they have been victimized by a disciplinary measure consisting of their isolation in punishment cells, according to Lázaro González Adán, an independent journalist also being held there.

Calvo and Aróstegui, who are 38 and 28 years old, respectively, were jailed in 2004 when the Camagüey prosecutor requested their preventative detention until the time of the trial for the alleged crime of “damages”, referring to the breaking of a few windows in the above mentioned city.

After more than two years in jail, both prisoners began a protest to demand that the government stop violating their civil and legal rights by holding them in prison without demonstrating their guilt or innocence. They called on the government to grant them fair legal proceedings and their immediate freedom.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press. Cubanet.

Holguín, February 8, 2006. The Board of Directors of the Eastern Democratic Alliance of Moa met at the home of alliance representative Francisco Hernández Gómez, located at Antonio Boizán # 25 Reparto Haiti Chiquito, in Moa, to reinitiate the organization’s activities and coordinate on a regional level. Juan Carlos Garcell, Francisco Hernández Gómez, Augusto Hernández de los Ángeles, Jorge Rodríguez Campos, Martín Ruiz González, and Omar Wilson Estévez participated in the meeting. *Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Herrera and Juan Carlos Garcell, Eastern Democratic Alliance.*

Holguín, February 8, 2006. Numerous non-governmental organizations belonging to the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas, the jailed independent journalist on a hunger strike to demand Internet access for all Cubans, the activists who have been victimized by violent physical harassment in Holguín, and with Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, a political prisoner who has been the victim of cruel and inhumane treatment at the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey.

The fast was held at the home of Carlos Manuel González Rodríguez, of the Claridad Human Rights Movement, at Calle Cepero Bonilla#2, Reparto Alex Urquiola, Banes. The following organizations

participated in the vigil: the Liberal Party of Cuba, the Cuban Liberal Movement, the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, the Claridad Human Rights Movement and the Christian Liberation Movement, all members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Villa Clara, February 9, 2007. Independent journalist Niurvis Díaz Remond began a 24-hour fast in Santa Clara as part of a chain of fasts in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández’s hunger strike.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.

Havana, February 10, 2006. Opposition activist Rolando Aguirre Patteiscu, a delegate with the Cuban Liberal Movement rebelled against the authorities by refusing to pay 12 500-peso fines levied for operating a taxi-bicycle without a license. Aguirre Patteiscu solicited a license on various occasions but was repeatedly denied one for being a political dissident. His civil disobedience of refusing to pay the fines led to a one-year prison sentence, to be served in the El Inocencio penitentiary, located at Kilometer 2 of the Quivicán Highway in Batabanó, Havana. Prisoners at this correctional facility mostly perform basic agricultural labor.

Source: Shelyn Rojas. Cubanet.

Villa Clara, February 10, 2007. Independent journalist Alaín Gómez Ramos began a 24-hour fast in Santa Clara as part of a chain of fasts in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández’s hunger strike.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.

Holguín, February 10, 2006. The attorney José Manuel de la Rosa Pérez from the Ministry of Justice ,20-9-20, presents the following finding in favor of Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, of Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley#33 e/Máximo Gómez and Diego M. Yebra, Antilla, and against the National Revolutionary Police for illegally confiscating a fax machine from the before mentioned citizens:

“On the disposition of Articles 53 and 54 of the Law of Penal Procedures, as relates to Articles 10, 58 first paragraph through 59 second paragraph, 63 and 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, all related to establish the precedent resource of the suit in accordance with the following foundations: First, that on January 31, 2006, without following the legally required formalities for carrying out the action of police instruction consisting in the search of private homes, three agents of the National Revolutionary Police arrived at the home of Miguel

Santana Abreu, at Calle René Ramos Latur Number 28 carrying a typed one-page document without a copy which according to Cuban law, must be left with the resident. They seized a fax machine belonging to the citizen Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, who has yet to have his apparatus returned to him or even a resolution of the confiscation or some form of act, constituting a violation of the right of ownership established by Article 293 of our penal code. Second, that the seizure of said apparatus does not correspond to any penal process and thus the application of the unique special disposition is entirely illegal given that under Article 60 of the Cuban Constitution, relating to Article 44, 1 and 3 of the corresponding penal law, it is guaranteed and protected. Furthermore, the institution of decommissioning, under the aforementioned penal code, is limited to an ongoing penal process and the object of the crime. Third, that neither the client I represent nor the aforementioned citizen are currently under any type of penal procedure. Therefore, it is herein ordered, and for the reasons alleged above, that the National Revolutionary Police return the confiscated apparatus. Given in Moa, on the 10th day of the month of February of 2006.

Source: José Manuel de la Rosa Pérez. Directorio Democrático Cubano.

Havana, February 11, 2006. A new independent library, named for the Ladies in White, was inaugurated in the home of Patria Díaz Castillo, Calle Aranguren No.1, e/Calzada 10 de Octubre y Dolores, Barrio La Palma, Municipio Arroyo Naranjo, in Havana.

According to Víctor Ceferino Cadulzo Peña, in addition to making books and magazines available to all those who are interested, the Ladies in White Library will host lectures and workshops on various topics as well as help children with library needs.

Source: José Antonio Fornaris, Cuba Verdad. Shelyn Rojas. Cubanet.

Matanzas, February 11, 2006. The Alternative Option Independent Movement (MIOA) released a statement calling on the Cuban government to put an end to the acts of violence committed against its people and urging Cubans not to join these acts.

The statement expressed that the violent escalation of repression organized by the political police and their supporters against civil society will not stop the popular push toward a democratic republic in which all Cubans stop being treated like slaves by their rulers and like employees of foreign citizens. They added that, according to Fidel Castro, the country is immersed in a colossal battle of ideas but that, in the streets, one observes something quite

different: police persecuting and repressing the poor, offending them, beating them, fining them and condemning them to months or years in prison.

The statement also indicated that activists who defend the rights of Cuban citizens are harassed in their own homes by the fascist mobs of the Rapid Response Brigades and that the elderly, women and children are terrorized by the savage vandalism of those who, in the name of a supposed humanitarian and proletarian revolution, destroy homes, and insult and physically attack the residents within.

“It is now time to open the path toward peace, truth and ideas,” the note says. “All Cubans must conserve their calm and serenity and not collaborate with those despicable repudiation rallies that may result in fatalities that no one wants for our country. We say no to terror and violence.”

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madan. Cubanet.

Cienfuegos, February 11, 2006. Members of the National Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Cuba visited the party’s Cienfuegos delegation to help restructure that organization. They held a working meeting at the provincial headquarters, located at Calle 55 #5612 e/56 y 58, which is the home of activist Alejandro Tur Valladares.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

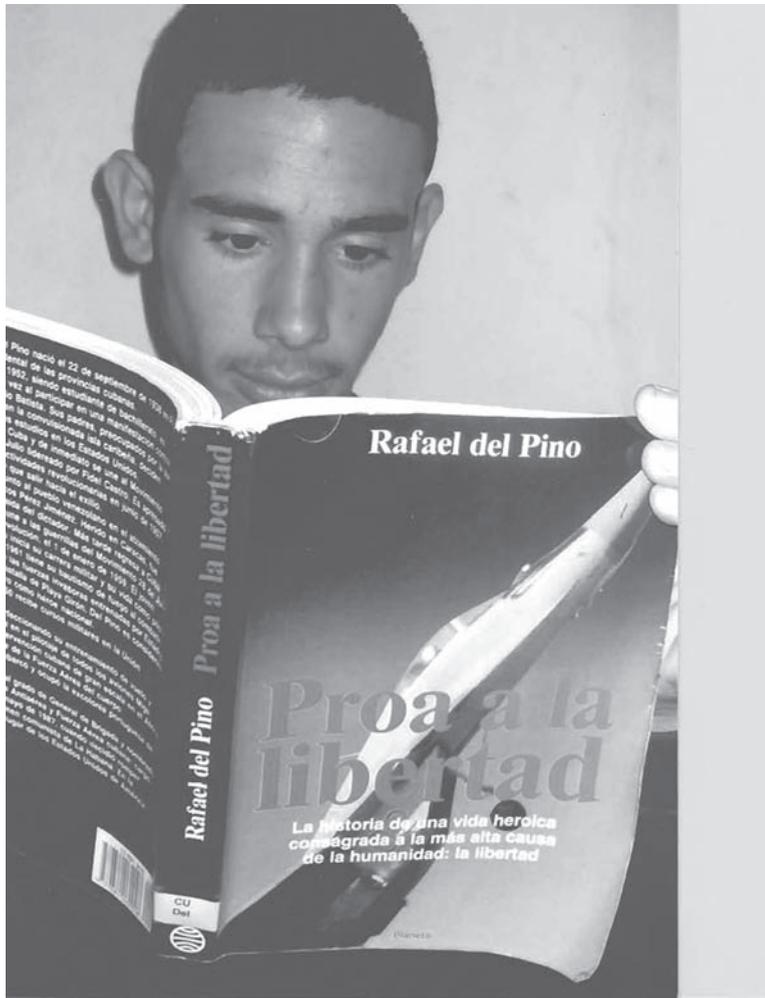
Havana, February 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly Sunday pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar.

Source: Laura Pollán, Lady in White and the wife of the jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, Lady in White and the wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Havana, February 12, 2006. Members of the Cerro municipal delegation of the Liberal Party of Cuba met with the party’s national Board of Directors to determine their plan for training new members. They met at the home of Sergio Hernández, located at Calle Panchito Gómez #253.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Camagüey, February 12, 2006. The Awakening Consciences program began with a seminar on ecology. Eight members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity movement, which sponsored the program, led the seminar. They analyzed the repercussions of the damages of the weak economy in our country, which has led to extensive ecological disorder, especially in forest and water systems. They also discussed the general report on the accords reached at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in



A young man reads the work of General Rafael del Pino, the highest-ranking former military officer who went into exile in 1987, taking with him a Cessna plane which he landed in Key West. This type of reading material, which is circulated in the independent libraries, is key to raising the consciousness of the population.

1992 and later in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997. The event was held in Reparto Torre Blanca in this city. In all, the program will include five workshops on environmental issues, visits to sites where environmental degradation can be appreciated and the possibility to distribute educational brochures on the matter, all in an effort to awaken consciences and inform citizens.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement, Barrio Adentro Program, Radio República.

Camagüey, February 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, February 13, 2006. Moisés Leonardo Rodríguez Valdés sent a letter addressed to Fidel Castro with copy to the United Nations Working

Group on Minorities from the post office at the FOCSA building in Havana, with receipt number 003199930. The letter asks for full respect for all Cubans, for the rights and freedoms afforded by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights passed by the UN General Assembly in 1948 as well as for the associated pacts and treaties.

Source: Moisés Leonardo Rodríguez Valdés .

Havana, February 13, 2006. Thirty-five neighbors of human rights activist Adrián Sánchez Ortega each wrote a letter testifying to his good conduct and the inappropriateness of the accusation against him and the resulting one-year of imprisonment or house arrest to which he was sentenced for supposedly being a socially dangerous individual.

Source: José Antonio Fornaris, Cuba Verdad. Shelyn Rojas, Cubanet. Gerardo Sánchez Ortega, MCJD.

Havana, February 13, 2006. A group of 135 Cubans, on their own accord, began an “urgent action against violence” in Cuba, calling on their compatriots to join them in the project through

signing the petition. "Many Cuban citizens view with worry how, in a country where there is no public debate about this topic, how threats and insults have substituted communication among equals and the necessary respect in our relations," said the convocation, with 135 signatures provided to Agence France Press for international dissemination. Adding that "verbal and physical violence have captured a space in our living area at all levels of daily life and should be eradicated through concrete and preventive actions."

Those who signed the action affirm that "Cuba deserves to live in peace with its neighbors and with itself, and we are responsible for making this a reality."

Source: Agence France Press.

Holguín, February 13, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance sent a message of faith and hope to the entire Cuban people and forgiveness to the oppressors. At the same time, they called on all Christian churches on the island and throughout the world, on all people of faith and goodwill, and on all democratic governments to help end the black night that has prevailed in Cuba for nearly fifty years.

Defenders of human rights live and struggle with the difficult certainty of democratic change in the homeland. Hope cries out for, and need demands, help from the entire Christian and democratic universe. Cuba has need of you for nonviolent change so that our liberty will reach fruition bloodlessly.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, president of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, February 13, 2006. Independent journalist and prisoner of conscience José Gabriel Ramón Castillo began a hunger strike to demand his conditional release on the account of his delicate state of health.

His wife, Blanca Rosa Echevarria, said that the reporter was transferred to the prison ward at Ambrosio Grillo Hospital in Santiago de Cuba. She said she feared for the life of her husband, who suffers from hepatic cirrhosis and arterial obstruction. José Gabriel Castillo, 48, is one of the 75 activists and journalists arrested in the spring of 2003 and sentenced to long prison terms for their nonviolent opposition to the Castro regime. Castillo is serving a 20-year sentence.

Havana, February 14, 2006. Víctor Yuniel Fernández Martínez and Joenni Alonso Saínz, members of the Popular Republican Party, initiate a 10-day fast at the home of Fernández Martínez, Calle Tercera # 37 e/ Ensueño y Cantera, Reparto María Luisa, San Miguel del Padrón, reported Reinaldo Gante Hidalgo, the president of this organization. "The objective of this peaceful demonstration is to

show our solidarity with our brothers currently on hunger strikes around the island, for the immediate and unconditional release of all Cuban political prisoners and remember the four Brothers to the Rescur pilots shot down by Castro's warplanes on February 24, 1996," indicated Gante Hidalgo in his report.

Other peaceful dissidents from different organizations gathered at the home to support the fasters.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez. Cubanet.

Matanzas, February 14, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a day of prayer and fasting in the Colón Municipality from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in support of Guillermo Fariñas, the independent journalist on a hunger strike since January 31. The event was held at the home of party president Juan Carlos Bueno Artola. In a setting of prayer and unity of criteria, the 12 participants in the peaceful demonstration also called for the release of Cuba's political prisoners.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez. Cubanet.

Camagüey, February 14, 2006. Various prisoners, members of the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners, at Kilo 7 and Cerámica Roja prisons make public their support for "El Coco" Fariñas and Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, who are holding a hunger strike to demand their legitimate right to freely access information. The following members of the group of political prisoners took part in the event: Armando Sosa Fortuny, Ángel Tejera Rodríguez, Raidel Carmenate Madruga, Obayane Pérez Jiménez, Frank Alexei Pita Armenteros, Enrique Martínez Rodríguez, Alexei Martínez Torres, Félix Díaz Antúnez, Jesús Rojas Pineda and Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez".

Source: Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", from Kilo 7, Camagüey, Radio República.

Havana, February 15, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, located in Havana's Párraga neighborhood, for all prisoners, but particularly all Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those disappeared while in the search for freedom.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement.

Havana, February 15, 2006. The independent trade unionist and prisoner of conscience Miguel Galván Gutiérrez, condemned to 26 years in prison, rejected the quarterly hygiene and food visit that he is entitled to in consideration of the fact that his rights are being violated as a prisoner of conscience by the orders of State Security agents in the Agüica prison.



Activists pray for political prisoners and their families during the celebration of the second anniversary of the Eastern Democratic Alliance in the Methodist church of Antilla.

Galván Gutiérrez, sentenced along with 74 others in the spring of 2003 for alleged activities against the independence and integrity of the state, helped organize labor regarding the right to unionization and, as a journalist, covered numerous events held by dissidents and opposition activists in Cuba.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez, Lux Info Press. Cubanet.

Holguín, February 15, 2006. Political prisoner Nelson Vázquez Lima, held in the Holguín Provincial Prison, declared a hunger strike to protest his removal from his home province of Cienfuegos and the confiscation of books and religious literature by prison authorities. Fellow political prisoners Randy Cabrera Mayor, Luís Cabrera Ballester and Alfredo Domínguez Batista joined the hunger strike as a symbol of solidarity.

Source: José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Granma, February 15, 2006. The members of the Bayamo Youth Movement met at the organization's headquarters to commemorate the first anniversary of an independent athletics event in the city of Bayamo. Francisco Juan Reyes Benítez, Joe Andrés Montoya Savilés, Giordanis Dieguez Rodríguez, Reynier César Tornés, Antonio Santí Soto, Daniel Díaz Sánchez, Otniel Díaz Sánchez, Nelson Vireyes, Félix Rivero Cordoví, Alexis Ramírez Rodríguez, Gabriel Díaz Sánchez and Lilia Josefa Tita Cedeño

organized the celebration, which was held at Calle Raúl Gómez#266, e/ Guillermo Tornés y C, Reparto La Unión. Also joining in were youths that attend the movement's independent gymnasium. This event, like others, was made possible by the support of the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba, and its director, Angel de Fana.

Even though the repressive forces of the regime prevented that first historical sporting event from taking place, the great effort of opposition activists on behalf of the event was remembered.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, president of the Bayamo Youth Movement.

Havana, February 16, 2006. The Liberal Party of Cuba issued 2000 copies of their information packet intended to disseminate the Party's identity and its projects, as well as to inform the Cuban people how to join the Party and participate in its activities.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 16, 2006. Members of the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party began a vigil in the Maria Luisa neighborhood to support the hunger strike of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas and to call for the release of other political prisoners. In spite of repressive operations by State Security forces, the activists maintained the activity going through February 24 in order to

commemorate the day on which the Air Force of the Castro regime shot down two Brothers to the Rescue airplanes over international waters in 1996.

Source: Raiza Martínez, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party, La Habana

Villa Clara, February 16, 2006. The Villa Clara provincial delegation of the Cuban Liberal Movement began a chain of 24-hour fasts in solidarity with the ongoing hunger strike of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. All of the group's members participated in the event, held at General Mariño #331A e/Campo y Circunvalación.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Holguín, February 16, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrated its second anniversary. The group gathered at the home of Silverio Herrera Acosta, located at Calle Camilo Cienfuegos #124 in **Moa**, to recount their activities. Similar events were also held at the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Library at Calle B #2, e/A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo, **Antilla**; as well as in **Sagua de Tanamo, San Germán, Holguín, Gíbara y Cacocum**, despite the repression.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Herrera and Juan Carlos Garcell, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Holguín, February 16, 2006. Eight activists gathered at the home of political prisoner Antonio Dorado Domínguez, located at Calle El Embarcadero #6, Mariana Grajales in **Banes**, to celebrate the second anniversary of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. They discussed the importance of this nonviolent movement for Cuba's future. Rafael Dorado Domínguez, Marta Díaz Rondón, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Arnaldo Exposito Zaldivar, Juan Luis Rodríguez Desdín, María Margarita Cruz Batista, Ramón Desdín González and Yosvani Ricardo Cruz participated in the meeting.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República.

Havana, February 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners. Fourteen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 18, 2006. Thirteen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Leonel Sánchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 18, 2006. Thirteen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 18, 2006. The Ladies in White held their literary tea gathering. Early in the morning, they marched to the Havana Cathedral to participate in the mass. From there, they went to the home of Laura Pollán, on Calle Neptuno, to hold the gathering. Those present received the seals from the Andrei Sajarov Prize. They also accepted the diplomas for Courage in the name of the prisoners of conscience from the Cuba Sí prison in Holguín. Though distant, Blanca Reyes, the wife and journalist Raúl Rivero, and Pablo Rodríguez joined in the celebration via telephone. Rodríguez, as well as Reyes and Rivero, support the Cuban opposition and the independent press from their exile abroad.

Source: Shelyn Rojas. Cubanet.

Matanzas, February 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande. Six people participated in the event.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, February 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to pray the rosary for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, February 18, 2006. About one dozen people, including family members of political prisoners and activists with the Christian Liberation Movement, gathered at the Nuestra Señora del Rosario Church in Palma Soriano to pray the rosary for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba. The relatives of



Human rights activists pose for a photo with some of the people who live in the illegal settlement of homes called Llega y Pon in Diezmero on February 19. The opposition activists went there to give out medicine, clothes, toys and children's literature to some 60 people who are surviving in subhuman conditions as a result of extreme poverty.

political prisoners read letters they have received from jail. The following activists participated in the event: Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Havana, February 19, 2006. Donations of medicine, clothing, toys and children's books were handed out to about 60 Cubans living in squalid conditions in the squatters' community of "Llega y Pon" in Diezmero. The work of Cuban human rights activists and international supporters included medical assistance for the residents. Participating were Yusnaimy Jorge Soca, Daniel Mesa Cantillo, Leticia Careaga, José Lorenzo Hidalgo, and Darsi Ferrer Ramírez, as well as a child, Dariel Ferrer Jorge.

Havana, February 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, February 19, 2006. A new non-governmental organization was officially founded under the name Commission for Attention to Political Prisoners and their Families.

The founding took place at the home of the group's vice president, Lázaro Prieto Álvarez, Calle 10 de Octubre #1468 e/Gertrudis y Lagueruela, Reparto Víbora, in Havana.

Froilán Osmany Rodríguez Sánchez is the commission's president. Also present at the NGO's founding was Sergio Pastor Martínez Carrazana, public relations; Ricardo Aguilar García, human rights; Cristóbal Soriano Argudín, finances, and organization coordinators Pedro Leonel Ordoñez, José Lorenzo Pérez Fidalgo and Daniel Mesa Castillo.

Source: Shelyn Rojas. Cubanet.

Camagüey, February 19, 2006. The Ladies

in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, February 19, 2006. Twenty-four activists celebrated the second anniversary of the Eastern Democratic Alliance by gathering at the Wenceslao Aguilera Feria Independent Library, located at Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley #33 e/ Máximo Gómez y Diego M. Yedra, in Antilla.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and José Ramón Herrera, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera.

Havana, February 20, 2006. Members of the National Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Cuba met with the party's Holguín delegation to evaluate the 2005 report. They met at the home of Julia Cecilia Delgado, 20 de mayo #531 Apt. B 14, e/Marta Abreu y Línea, Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 20 - 24, 2006. Ladies in White Alejandrina García de la Riva, Berta Soler, Laura Pollán, Julia Nuñez y Yailín, a cousin of Alexis Rodríguez Fernández, carried out a pilgrimage to the Santuario del Cobre in Santiago de Cuba. The objective of the pilgrimage was to pray to Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba, for the release of their family members and peace and reconciliation for the Cuban people. Amidst the repression they suffer, they organized the trip secretly. After attending the mass officiated by Father Jorge Alejandro at the Sanctuary, they held a "training meeting" with those who live within the Sanctuary and in the village of Cobre. Alejandrina denounced the authorities of Santiago de Cuba for not permitting the wives of other prisoners to travel to the Sanctuary, as they had planned.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, Lady in White and wife of political prisoner Diosdado

González Marrero; Miriam Leyva, Lady in White and wife of political prisoner Oscar Espinosa Chepe; Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux Info Press Agency and the director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge press agency.

Camagüey, February 21, 2006. More than 100 neighbors came out in solidarity with Herminda Bruce Díaz to oppose the injustice committed against her and her family. When police officers arrived to evict Bruce Díaz and her family, they were greeted by shouts of indignation and rocks thrown from the patios of the neighborhood surrounding Calle Osmún #28, e/Callejón Marquesado y Peralta, in Camagüey.

Source: Armando Betancourt, Radio República.

Pinar del Río, February 22, 2006. More than 25 people gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of the inauguration of the Lincoln Díaz-Balart Independent Library, located at Calle Garmendía #21 e/Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río. The library's director is José A. Ballart Ochoa. The activist Blanca Castro León y the restorer Alexis Abad Hernández are also librarians at the facility.

Source: Ramón Suárez Díaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party and José A. Ballart Ochoa, National Movement of the Free People of Cuba "Josué País García".

Havana, February 22, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, for all political prisoners, especially Cuban prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement.

Villa Clara, February 22, 2006. The Independent Library Proyecto Cuba Libre 2 opened at Avenida 41, e/14 y 16, altos C6, Bloque 2, Caibarién, in Villa Clara. Its director, Javier Delgado Torres, is an activist with the National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom. The inauguration of the library was intended to increase the democratic cultural education of civil society and possesses 293 volumes. Representatives from the Rafterers Association and the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party were present at the event.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, vice president, the National Association of Rafterers "Peace, Democracy and Freedom". Radio República.

Camagüey, February 22, 2007. A woman suffering from cataracts in both eyes places a sign in the front of her house that reads, "I'm going to Venezuela", as for the past three years, she has been requesting medical attention and has yet to receive

it while "the Venezuelans who come to Cuba for eye operations receive it immediately," said Graciela, who lives in Reparto Guernica, Camagüey. "A few hours after hanging the sign on my door, a policeman knocked and asked if I was crazy. I told him that I wanted to head to Venezuela so that I could get an eye operation in record time, as they do for the Venezuelans who are flown here and back – with healthier eyesight – for free. Like a dog attacking his master, he ripped down my sign and threatened to take me to jail for speaking ill of the Revolution. Once I had made sure that he was gone, I wrote the sign again and hung it up. A few days later, I took it down at my husband's urging," Graciela recounted. *Source: Ramón Guerra Javier, Nueva Prensa Cubana, Barrio Adentro Program, Radio República.*

Havana, February 23, 2006. Members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society held a fast at Tomás Barrero #396 to protest against the government of Communist dictator Fidel Castro for its intentions to arrest nonviolent opposition leader Martha Beatriz Roque. Also participating were members of other dissident organizations, including: "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party, The Freedom and Democracy Movement, a delegate from Pro Cambio, journalists and independent librarians. Each of the peaceful dissidents who took part in the fast hung a black ribbon on the door of his or her house and lit a candle, all in spite of harassment from informants and members of the political police.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, "El Grito de la Patria" Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, February 24, 2006. More than 18 people participated in a vigil at the home of activist Blanca E. Castro León, Calle Celso Maragoto #113 e/ Antonio Guiteras y Avellaneda, to commemorate the victims of the Brothers to the Rescue planes that were shot down.

Source: Ramón Suarez Díaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party and José A. Ballart Ochoa, National Movement of the Free People of Cuba "Josué País García".

Pinar del Río, February 24, 2006. Over 20 members of the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party gathered at the home of provincial delegate Ramón Suarez Díaz, located at Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz, Pinar del Río, for a memorial vigil for the victims of the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes, which took place on February 24, 1996. The group also called for justice to be carried out in the lamentable crime.



The Ladies in White meet in Havana after holding their Literary Tea in February in honor of their imprisoned relatives.



Some of the Ladies in White gathered in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba.



Alejandrina García de la Riva, the wife of Diosdado González Marrero and one of the Ladies in White, reads the Bible in a mass celebrated in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, where they gathered to pray for the freedom of their family members.

José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC, and Octavio Suarez Diaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party .

Pinar del Río, February 24, 2006. The Máximo Gómez Báez National Civic Movement held an activity to commemorate yet another anniversary of the downing of the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue planes over international waters. Twelve members of the movement participated in the event, held at the home of Yarobi Ramos Díaz, at Calle 5ta e/Elsa y San Ignacio, Reparto Cuba Libre, Pinar del Río.

Source: Mario Izquierdo Sotolongo, Máximo Gómez Báez National Civic Movement.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Peaceful opposition activists held a meeting at the home of Ismael Borges Reñí in the Boyeros municipality of Havana to remember the four Brothers to the Rescue murdered on this date.

Source: Radio República.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held an activity in Havana to commemorate the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes. Seventeen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held an activity in Havana to commemorate the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes. Twenty-two activists participated in the event at the home of Hector Julio Cedeño, at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held an activity in Havana to commemorate the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes. Twelve activists participated in the event at the home of Leonel Sanchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement in Punta Brava, La Lisa, held a vigil at the home of Punta Brava Delegate Silvio Benítez Márquez, Avenida 249 #4614 e/ 46 y 48, to pray for the victims of the Brothers to the Rescue airplanes and their family members. More than one dozen activists participated in the event.

Source: Roberto Miranda and Silvio Benítez Márquez, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Havana, February 24, 2006. Four prisoners of conscience from among the 75 arrested in the spring

of 2003 commemorated the 111th anniversary of the start of the war for Cuban independence and the 10th anniversary of the downing of two civil airplanes from the Brothers to the Rescue humanitarian organization by Cuban warplanes.

Efrén Fernández and Héctor Raúl Valle, members of the Christian Liberation Movement; José Miguel Martínez, vice president of the CTDC trade union and José Ubaldo Izquierdo, independent journalist with the Decoro Working Group, hung Cuban flags from the windows of their jail cells at the Guanajay prison. They invoked a prayer chain for the souls of the four Brothers to the Rescue pilots and in homage to the historical day in 1895 when Cuban patriots inspired and led by José Martí restarted the struggle for the island's independence.

"Our country's freedom has yet to be achieved; we continue to struggle to truly obtain it," said Izquierdo Hernández.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez. Cubanet.

Matanzas, February 24, 2006. In commemoration of the 111th anniversary of the start of the Cuban War of Independence and the 10th anniversary of the shooting down of the Brothers to the Rescue planes, 14 activists from the Alternative Option opposition group met at their headquarters, located at Calle 22#910, e/19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas.

The event that took place between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. featured a reflection on the country's history and the unsustainable situation it currently endures under the communist dictatorship.

At nearly the same time as the commemoration began, some 200 people arrived in front of the house carrying signs and shouting slogans. They carried sticks in their hands in a threatening manner, formed a human wall and shouted angrily. A truck with powerful loudspeakers, known in the area as trumpets, also arrived. These trumpets are capable of bursting anyone's eardrums. The loudspeakers can be heard from as far as three kilometers away. They installed a stage and started their diatribe with all kinds of offenses, disrespectful words and even death threats. The uproar continued until 2 p.m. – nearly six or seven hours berating the 14 people inside.

The neighborhood did not support this Repudiation Rally and they shouted at the mob, calling them, "Murderers, cowards, this is abuse, those people don't bother anyone!" The locals were outraged and this greatly paralysed the aggression of the fascist groups of the Rapid Response Brigades. The members of the Alternative Option were never intimidated by the attack and when the assaults on the doors became violent, they moved away from



Fourteen activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation throw flowers on the beach of Macabí, in the Municipality of Banes, in Holguín, in memory of the victims of Brothers to the Rescue, whose planes were brought down on February 24, 1996.



Members of the "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance National Movement throw floral offerings in a river in Moa, Holguín, in memory of the Brothers to the Rescue on February 24.

Activists from the Peace, Love, and Freedom Party throw flowers into the Bay of Matanzas in homage to the young people of Brothers to the Rescue murdered by the Castro regime.



them to the back patio to continue the meeting. They remained calm even when the mob tried to invade the patio and the verbal and physical attacks on property escalated.

Source: Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Radio República.

Matanzas, February 24, 2006. Members of the

Peace, Love and Freedom Party cast a floral offering into the waters of the Bay of Matanzas, north of the city of the same name, to commemorate the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes and to demonstrate their opposition to the wayward and murderous Cuban government. Andrés Govea Suárez, Raymundo de Toro, Jorge Luís Álvarez,

Rolando Wang, Ramón Verdecia, Eufemio Alberto Sigler Martín, Tania Morejón, Belkis Tellechea, Alejandrina de la Rivas and Alberto Amaya participated in the event.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. A vigil was held in homage to the four Brothers to the Rescue pilots. Six human rights activists took part in the event at Maceo #59, Guayos, Sancti Spiritus.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. Members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party held a commemorative activity in the city of Placetas to remember the Brothers to the Rescue who were violently murdered by the Castro regime’s warplanes over international waters. The event took place at Calle 5ta del Oeste #58 e/3ra y 4ta del Sur in Placetas.

Source: Amado Ruiz Moreno, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party .

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. Activists held a memorial for the downed Brothers to the Rescue pilots at the home of Bernardo Luis Ascanio Camargo, General Mariño #331 e/Campo y Circunvalación, Santa Clara. Eighteen people met in spite of the taunts and antics of the Rapid Response Brigades, a paramilitary group organized by State Security.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. To commemorate the Grito de Baire and the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue airplanes, both of which took place on this day in past years, the Proyecto Cuba Libre #2 Independent Library was inaugurated in Caibarién. Twelve activists, including representatives of the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom and the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party .

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. A joint meeting between the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, the Nationalist Civic Movement, and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba was held to commemorate the Grito de Baire and the airborne murder of four members of the Brothers to the Rescue organization.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. The Maceo Movement for Dignity carries out an activity to remember the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes, beginning at 9 a.m. at the home of Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, San Cristóbal #453, e/ A y Libertades, Reparto Raúl Sancho. Twelve people participated in the meeting, which took place under strict police surveillance.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement; Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, Maceo Movement for Dignity.

Villa Clara, February 24, 2006. Members of “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party held a memorial for the downed Brothers to the Rescue pilots at the home of Luis Silvano Agüero, Calle Zoila Estrella # 32 e/ Llorente y Maria Teresa, Báez. The group held a prayer session, fast and a march from his home.

Source: Luis Silvano Agüero and Luis Gallardo, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party

Sancti Spiritus, February 24, 2006. Activists from the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights gathered on the pedestrian walkway along the banks of the Yayabo River in Reparto Jesús María, Sancti Spiritus to remember the 1996 downing of the Brothers to the Rescue airplanes. They prayed and joined the families of the murdered pilots, Mario Manuel de la Peña, Carlos Costa, Armando Alexandre Jr. and Pablo Morales, in mourning. The 12 activists prayed for justice to shine light on such crimes in Cuba and cast flowers into the river, followed by a moment of silence.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party . National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel” (MNRC-PLB).

Camagüey, February 24, 2006. Seven political prisoners commemorated the tenth anniversary of the downing of the two Brothers to the Rescue planes with a fast in the Cerámica Roja prison in Camagüey. From their cells, René Montes de Oca Martija, Erizaldo Calvo, Egberto Ángel Escobedo Morales, Aldo Carnesolta, Raidel Aróstegui, Jorge Luis Suárez Varona and Lázaro González Adán fasted to pay homage to the four pilots who were murdered by the Fidel Castro regime on February 24, 1996. In this way, these prisoners, who are also victims of Cuba’s communist dictatorship, joined those around the nation and in exile, as well as those in other Cuban prisons, in praying for and remembering the dead and calling for an end to the obloquy and crime against those who oppose the

Castro dictatorship.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux Info Press in Camagüey. Radio República.

Camagüey, February 24, 2006. Antigovernment posters appear in the produce markets and on INRA busses during the early morning hours in the city of Camagüey, all places where many people gather. The signs referred to the shortage of food and the lack of liberty in the country, overtly rejecting the persecution suffered by independent sellers. Although the news of these signs was not published in the official media, it spread quickly by word of mouth as an important happening. Nearly everyone realized that it coincided with the anniversary of the downing of the Brothers to the Rescue planes. The police made a few arrests, but the popular discontent reached a wide audience.

Source: Fernando Tabares. Radio República.

Holguín, February 24, 2006. Fourteen activists from the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights threw flowers into the sea from the Macabí Beach in Banes in memory of the Brothers to the Rescue who were killed. They prayed for the victims' souls and for peace and tranquility for their families.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Holguín, February 24, 2006. A group of activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance, the Cuban Liberal Movement and the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sajarov Foundation, managed to cast a floral offering into the sea to commemorate the shooting down of the Brothers to the Rescue planes, in which four Cubans were murdered over international waters. The flowers were deposited in different parts of the Bahía de Nipe, the Capiro beach, the Curva and the place known as El Cabotaje. José Carlos Herrera Rodríguez, Jorge Ruiz Rivas Marín, Rolando Díaz Matos, Dailon Roberto Ramírez Aguilar, Miguel Idarte Leyva, José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Héctor Ramón Foré Sánchez, Ángel Batista Vega and Nelson Antonio Chang Lecusay participated in the activity.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Holguín, February 24, 2006. To commemorate February 24, the day when two Brothers to the Rescue airplanes were shot down over international waters by Cuban Air Force fighter jets, 20 human rights activists from different parts of the mining town of Moa gathered amidst a repressive environment to remember this date. The peaceful dissidents deposited floral offerings in rivers and creeks. They had to use the element of surprise to

achieve their goals after Augusto Hernández de los Ángeles, Omar Wilson Estévez Real, José Manuel de la Rosa Pérez and others were visited during the night by State Security agents who threatened that the public would beat them if they took to the streets on February 24. The activists all went out and commemorated the date in spite of the threat.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency. Radio República.

Holguín, February 24, 2006. Seven members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance (ADO) celebrated the Grito de Baire in a roundtable discussion of the independence struggle. They also deposited floral offerings for the Brothers to the Rescue victims shot down by the Castro regime. The meeting was held at the home of Rubildo de la Cruz Roche, who lives at Calle Felipe Romero y Los Mangos, Sagua de Tánamo.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Herrera and Juan Carlos Garcell, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Santiago de Cuba, February 24, 2006. More than 40 members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement met at the home of the group's national coordinator, Calle Princesa e/ Cortes y Virgen, to remember the patriotic day marking the start of the wars of independence. Later, they went to the provincial capital for a mass in honor of the four Brothers to the Rescue who were killed by Cuban Air Force fighter jets while conducting humanitarian missions over international waters of the Strait of Florida.

Havana, February 25, 2006. Ediciones Vitral released Metaphysics Volume II, by Father Félix Varela, during a cultural ceremony at the Pinar del Río Cathedral. The book, written in Latin in 1812, was presented in a panel comprising Amaury Carbón Sierra, Latin scholar and translator, and Amaury F. Gutiérrez Coto, editor.

This day marked the 153rd anniversary of the author's death. The book – a literary and historical gem – is bilingual.

Padre Varela's work was hidden from the populace for many decades and was recently made public by Cuban Catholics.

Source: Lucas Garve, Foundation for the Freedom of Expression. Cubanet.

Isla de Pinos, February 26, 2006. For the first time ever, the book, "Voices Behind Bars, a testimony of the historical and ongoing political imprisonment in Cuba, circulated in Isla de Pinos. The Julio Tang Texier Civic Cultural Project launched the book in

Nueva Gerona, distributing numerous copies among activists and general populace. Twenty people were involved in the book launch.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Havana, February 26, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. There, they prayed for the political prisoners to be released.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Camagüey, February 26, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, February 26, 2006. The Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Independent Library opened at Calle B, #2 e/A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo, Antilla. It has 257 volumes classified as political, novels, children's literature, sciences and other topics. The library also has about 50 magazines and other periodicals. Its director, José Ramón Herrera Hernández, said that the library's main objective is to disseminate free, democratic and uncensored literature, delivering the testimonies and opinions of Cuban writers to the public and, in other areas, revealing the reality

of the Cuban people that is censored by the official press. Seven activists took part in the inauguration.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Holguín, February 26, 2006. Members of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and Eastern Democratic Alliance held a prayer session for unity and national reconciliation at the Nuestra Señora de Caridad Church, in the Banes municipality. They prayed to the Virgin of Charity for all political prisoners and their families and placed a white flower at the Virgin's feet as a peace symbol. The following activists participated in the event: Guillermo Llanos, Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia, Maikel Verdecia, Maria Margarita Cruz Batista, Ramón Desdín González, Arnaldo Expósito Zaldívar, Juan Luís Rodríguez Desdín, Marta Cecilia Pérez Duconjer, Bárbara Ortiz Piris, Dayamis Romero Ortiz, Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Yosvani Ricardo Cruz, and Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco

Source: Marta Díaz, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Villa Clara, February 27, 2006. Fifteen members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity held a 24-hour fast in solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and human rights activist Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, on hunger strike to protest the brutal beatings against dissidents and calling for the right of all Cubans to have access to the Internet.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu



A vigil for freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners, celebrated by members of the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party.

Every Wednesday, in hundreds of homes and streets in Cuba, human rights activists gather to celebrate the vigil without forced exile for all Cuban political prisoners. The table seen on this page summarizes the days and locations where these vigils took place during the month of February. At the end of each month, a table like the one that appears below documents the vigils for freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners held in the corresponding month. During these activities, participants pray, read bible passages, interchange ideas and future projects, and speak about the lives and activism of the prisoners.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
1	8	15	22				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x	Prologación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x		x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x			x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
			x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

MARCH 2006

Havana, March 1, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party ; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Villa Clara, March 1, 2006. Members of the National Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Cuba visited the party's Villa Clara delegation to assess organizational growth plans. In total, 17 party members were present at the meeting at Calle Alemán #615 e/ Misioneros y Hospital, Santa Clara.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Villa Clara, March 1, 2006. The "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party held a vigil in Baez to pray for the freedom without exile of all Cuban political prisoners. They met at the home of the party's deputy delegate, Luis Silvano Agüero Hernández, Calle Zoila Estrella #32 e/ Llorente y Maria Teresa, Báez. They continued the event even as a government-organized mob attempted to disrupt them, and when they opened the door at the end of the vigil, a group of neighbors showed spontaneous solidarity with the dissidents and refused to cooperate with repression.

Source: Luis Silvano Agüero, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party .

Camagüey, March 1, 2006. Filiberto González Victoria, the 39-year-old political prisoner from Central Lugareño held at the Kilo 9 prison, sewed his mouth closed with wire to protest that his rights have been consistently violated during six years of imprisonment.

Source: Yosbel González Plaza, member of the group Looking at the world through prison bars

Camagüey, March 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 24 of El Camagüeyano newsletter was published, replete with many sections including a declaration signed by political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", an article on the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, the opening of an independent library, opinions and criticisms.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression

Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, March 1, 2006. Tired of waiting for the bus, Danilo Alonso Saíenz, 21, of Samá Arriba, Banes, started shouting anti-Castro phrases. He was arrested and accused of the alleged crime of disrespect to Fidel Castro. He was held for 10 hours before posting a 500-peso bail to await trial .

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera. Youths Without Censorship.

Holguín, March 1, 2006. From Banes, Liannis Meriño Aguilera called on the young people of Cuba to take off the mask of lies and not permit the dictatorship to humiliate them through cheating and repression. He called for unity and love, and for Cuban youths to free themselves and take hold of the reigns of their own fate.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera. Youths Without Censorship, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 2, 2006. Liberal Party of Cuba delegate Yuniesky García López joins others in a fast in support of the independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and activist Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, who continue their hunger strike.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement, and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Villa Clara, March 3, 2006. Demanding a response to the just request of Guillermo Fariñas and Noelia Pedraza, Roque E. Martínez Angulo and Luis Aragón García, members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity, declare a fast.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Holguín, March 3, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrated the eighth anniversary of the foundation of independent libraries in Cuba. The event, featuring lively literary debates, was held at the Gastón Baquero independent library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, Banes. The following were in attendance: Guillermo Llanos Ricardo, Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Maria Margarita Cruz Batista, Juan Luis Rodríguez Desdin, Idalmis Desdin Salguero, Ramón Desdin González, Arnaldo Expósito Escalona, Bárbara Ortiz Piris, Dayamis Romero, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco,

Nancy Rojas Feria, Andres Perez Peña and Mario Rojas Feria.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Holguín, March 3 - March 6, 2006. Following a special activity to support independent libraries, activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance began a fast in solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. They prayed for his health and for all political prisoners at the Gastón Baquero independent library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes 2007, e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Alberto Escalona Blanco, Arnaldo Exposito Zaldivar, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban and Juan Luis Rodríguez Desdín all fasted.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Camagüey, March 4 - 26, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta went on a hunger strike to protest the unjust imprisonment of the 75 nonviolent dissidents who were arrested and sentenced to long jail terms in March 2003, known as the Black Spring of Cuba. Herrera Acosta is serving a 20-year sentence at the Kilo 8 maximum security prison in Camagüey.

He describes his situation: "I have been unjustly imprisoned for three years, removed from my home province and victimized through physical and psychological torture, and the food is terrible. I am sick with symptoms that only get worse but I do not receive regular medical attention. I have heart problems, blockage in the right artery, murmurs, arterial hypertension, hepatic and renal conditions, asthma, allergies and my body weight is too low."

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa and Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship. Ileana Danger Hardy, wife of Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta.

Havana, March 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of the jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, the wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, March 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez #400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, March 5, 2006. The Mahatma Gandhi independent library was opened. Marlene Bermúdez Sardiñas, a resident of Reparto Florá and a member of the Christian Democratic Party of Cuba, runs the library. At the inauguration, they read the declaration of libraries' rights, ratified by the American Library Association in 1948, as well as a biographical description of the library's namesake. The main purpose of the library is to "break yet again the censorship imposed by the Castro regime since 1959."

Source: Armando Betancourt, New Cuban Press, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 6, 2006. Members of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba began a fast in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, in his 34th day of hunger strike without receiving a response from the authorities. In serious condition, the independent journalist has been moved to the intensive care unit.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 6, 2006. The national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, Roberto Carlos Pérez García, called on the Cuban people to not permit the Cuban Communist Party to use them in the "repudiation rallies, which are no more than fascist activities." He denounced his expulsion from his workplace simply for thinking and acting differently and refuting those who called him a mercenary.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, Radio República.

Granma, March 6, 2006. The slogan, "Amnesty for all political prisoners from the Black Spring of 2003, Down with F." appeared written in white paint on the wall of Bayamo's athletics school. The custodians of the facility notified the police of the political vandalism, which was signed "G.M.T.". The police harassed those within the school.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist with Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Cienfuegos, March 7, 2006. Bernardo Arévalo Padrón, the director of the Línea Sur Press and

former political prisoner, sent an open letter to Fidel Castro Ruz blaming him for whatever happens to the life of the well-known prisoner of conscience Jorge Luis García Pérez “Antúnez” and demanded that he be released.

Source: Bernardo Arévalo Padrón, Línea Sur Press. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Camagüey, March 7 - 23, 2006. Political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez “Antúnez” declares a hunger strike at the Kilo 7 prison to protest the jail’s refusal to serve his meals in his cell and the suspension of his telephone privileges after he made statements for the Barrio Adentro program on Radio República. On March 15, Antúnez, whose health has greatly deteriorated, will mark 16 years imprisoned for political motives.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Radio República.

Havana, March 8, 2006. Seventeen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba National Board of Directors participated in a meeting of the Habana Vieja delegation where they discussed matters of interest for the party members. They met at the home of delegate Héctor Cedeño Negrin, Calle Revillagigedo #6.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 8, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party ; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Havana, March 8, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives of political prisoners and 2005 Sakharov Prize Recipients, took advantage of International Women’s Day to once again demand the release of the 75 opposition activists arrested in March 2003, 15 of which have been given conditional releases for health reasons. Oscar Espinosa Chepe, one of these 15, called the Ladies in White “woman confronting the totalitarian Cyclops.”

Meanwhile, Gisela Delgado, the wife of peaceful dissident and member of the Group of 75 arrested in March 2003, Héctor Palacios, denounced the discrimination that Cuban women suffer as a result of the country’s ideology – celebrations for the women who share the official ideology and repression for those who do not.

Source: Agence France Press.

Havana, March 8, 2006. The Latin American

Federation of Rural Women (FLAMUR), the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, and the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party held an activity with the wives and mothers of political prisoners at Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, San José de las Lajas. Darelis Velásquez, (wife of Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández) Yamilka Morejón Morfa (wife of Jose Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernández), Marta Hernández (wife of Francisco Moure Saladrigas), human rights activists Marina Barceló, Ada Pina, Marielín de Armas, Tomasa González and Xiomara Ruiz.

Source: Marina Barceló, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Villa Clara, March 8, 2006. Activists from the Nationalist Civic Movement in Santo Clara held an event to commemorate the Cuban women who have fallen while fighting totalitarianism as well as others who continue the struggle in Cuba and in exile. The participants highlighted the lives of Zoila Almeida (“the girl from Placetás”); Polita Grau Alsina, (“Pola”), Carmelina Casanova and Lila Rodríguez Gutiérrez, who all died in exile, as well as those who suffered in prison and continue the struggle, such as Maritza Lugo Fernández.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.

Camagüey, March 8, 2006. From the Cerámica Roja penitentiary, political prisoner Lázaro González Adán sends a message of congratulations to the women of Cuba in recognition of International Women’s Day in the name of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC). In the message, he salutes the brave patriots who proved to be “faithful followers of Mariana Grajales” and he thanked them for their support and generosity.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Cubanet.

Camagüey, March 8, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation held a fast at the home of the organization’s provincial president, Eisy Marrero, located at Argentina #39, Municipio de Florida, to commemorate International Women’s Day. During the fast, they demanded an end to the brutal repudiation rallies and the immediate release of prisoners of conscience who are locked away in inhumane and unhealthy conditions.

Source: Eisy Marrero, Cuban Human Rights Foundation, Radio República.

Holguín, March 8, 2006. Eddy Silva Páez and Elina Meriño Meriño sent an open letter from Banés



Inauguration in May 2006 of the Mahatma Gandhi Independent Library. Second from the left is Roberto Marrero de la Rosa, director, and his wife, Marlene, is on the far right.

to reach out to national and international public opinion to denounce the discrimination that their family has faced. Their eight-year-old daughter has suffered from retinopathies since doctors and was provoked by the doctor's medical negligence during her premature birth causing her to go blind. On various occasions, Silva Páez and Meriño Meriño attempted to have her seen by doctors at the Orbitz International hospital plane, but public health authorities did not allow it. The parents believe that this discrimination is because they belong to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Furthermore, they contrast the attention their daughter has received with that which is provided to Latin Americans from throughout the region participating in the so-called Operation Miracle. "I am not opposed to anyone receiving help," one of the parents said, "but I am opposed to the hypocrisy and falseness of wanting to show-off the so-called Operation Miracle to the world."

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, March 8, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement, the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, the National Movement of Civic Resistance "Pedro Luis Boitel" (MNRC-PLB), and the Claridad

Human Rights Movement, members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, continued blowing their whistles as a means of peaceful resistance. The whistle takes place for one minute each evening at 6 p.m.

Source: Guillermo Llanos Ricardo, secretary general, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 9, 2006. The Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, the Villa Clara Democracy Movement, the Martí Youth Coalition and the National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom held a vigil attended by 14 dissidents. They prayed to God for the life of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who continues his hunger strike to demand the right to Internet access. Those gathered swore to continue seeking this right, because Fariñas' life was at risk.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Holguín, March 9, 2006. Duilián Ramírez Ballester begins a hunger strike to demand better food, respect for his right to make telephone calls to his loved ones and to have access to sunlight, as well as regular access to a urologist. The political prisoners health is precarious. He is only allowed

Three brothers in the civic opposition struggle: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Juan Carlos González Leiva and Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina during a meeting in Havana. Photo taken in March 2006.



Activity held on March 13, 2006 in the house of independent journalist Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia. To the left are various activists from the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the capital. Third from the left, wearing a cap, is Eliécer Consuegra Rivas; in the center is Rodríguez Albacia wearing a sweater with a white line on the chest and Juan Carlos González Leiva is the one with dark glasses. To the right is a group of members from the Eastern Democratic Alliance.



outside once a month and he receives specialized medical attention only when his symptoms warrant it. His wife and lawyer, Giordana Varela Fundicheli, said that this is the second time her husband has held a hunger strike since he was jailed in May 2005 for the alleged crime of social dangerousness.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, March 9, 2006. Political prisoners Randy Cabrera Mayor and Nelson Vázquez Lima begin a hunger strike in the cells at the Holguín Provincial Prison to demand transfers to jails in their home provinces. Nelson is from the province of Cienfuegos while Randy is from the capital.

Source: Luis Cabrera Ballester in a letter to José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Camagüey, March 10, 2006. Prisoner of conscience René Montes de Oca sent an urgent plea for help from his cell at Cerámica Roja prison to the international community, the United Nations, Pope Benedict XVI and the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Cuba in the United Nations calling for an “end to the government-sanctioned kidnapping and arbitrariness toward the peaceful human rights activists in Cuba.”

His message refers explicitly to human rights

defender Miguel López Santos, imprisoned following his peaceful protest in front of the French Embassy in Havana.

Source: Lux-Info Press, independent Cuban information and press agency.

Havana, March 11, 2006. Anti-government graffiti appeared overnight along two blocks of Calle San Francisco in Havana’s Lawton neighborhood, with phrases such as “Down with Fidel” and “Fidel is a dictator”. Around 20 police officers arrived on the scene to take photographs and make a show of force in the place. They improvised a command center in the Pestalozzi elementary school. The government sent painters to quickly cover the subversive slogans or hide them behind pro-government banners.

The signs appeared one day after Fidel Castro staged a large forced protest in front the United States Interests Section in Cuba to protest that during a baseball game between the teams of Puerto Rico and Cuba, Cuban-Americans living in Puerto Rico held up a banner reading “Down with Fidel”.

Source: Jaime Leignonier, Cubanet. Luis Cino.

Havana, March 11, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba’s Holguín delegation visited the party’s National Board of Directors to exchange ideas and hand in working documents. The main project was the constitution of the Liberal Youth organization. They met at the home of Julia Cecilia Delgado, 20 de mayo #531 Apt. B 14, e/ Marta Abreu

y Línea, Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Villa Clara, March 12, 2006. Close to 15 peaceful dissidents met at the Church of the Carmen in Santa Clara to attend mass and show their solidarity with political prisoners and the independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, whose health has vastly deteriorated as a result of his hunger strike to demand free access to the Internet. Among those activists who gathered were Noelia Pedraza Jiménez who recently concluded a hunger strike to protest the repudiation rallies and beatings committed by the Cuban Communist Party through State Security. Participants in the gathering reaffirmed their will to keep fighting for democracy and freedom for all political prisoners.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez #400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, March 13, 2006. Six members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement (MCJD) met in an unprecedented symbolic act, marching to the University of Havana to lay a wreath of white roses in memory of the leader of the Revolutionary Student Directorate, José Antonio Echeverría, and others killed in the assault on the Presidential Palace in 1957.

Source: Alexei Escudero, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement. Directorio Democrático Cubano.

Matanzas, March 13, 2006. Members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement commemorated the death of student leader José Antonio Echeverría by visiting his tomb in Cárdenas and laying a floral wreath thereupon. "Inspired by the nonviolent techniques of struggle of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, we are also

making history in confronting this dictatorship, this tyranny, and we are going to pay tribute to these martyrs of history, these martyrs of the homeland's redemption," they said in a statement to Radio República,

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 13, 2006. Activists from the Nationalist Civic Movement of Santa Clara held an event to commemorate the 1957 assault on the presidential palace by youths from the University Student Directorate and in homage to those killed on that day. The participants observed a moment of silence and prayed to honor the memory of these Cuban martyrs.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Camagüey, March 13, 2006. Political prisoners Raidel Carmentate and Ángel Tejada Rodríguez joined the hunger strike of Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", which he began on March 7, at the Kilo 7 prison to protest the jail's refusal to serve his meals in his cell and the suspension of his telephone privileges after he made declarations for the Barrio Adentro program on Radio República.

Source: Bertha Antúnez, Radio República.

Ciego de Ávila, March 14, 2006. The Cuban Human Rights Foundation publicly declared their support for the political prisoners holding a hunger strike at the Kilo 7 and Kilo 8 prisons in Camagüey and urged the Cuban government to cede to their demands. The foundation blamed the Castro regime for whatever happens to Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez" and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta. "Our brothers should know that we are with them, supporting them from the outside," the statement said. "We send a message of faith and hope for change. Jesus Christ is with us and, in the eyes of the Almighty God, we will succeed." The statement was signed by Juan Carlos González Leiva, the president of the Cuban Human Rights Foundation.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 14, 2006. Roger Cardoso Nieves, a political prisoner held in the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey, began a hunger strike to protest the treatment that the prisoners at that facility face and to demand the right of prisoners to call their loved ones on the telephone.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Camagüey, March 14, 2006. Political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", in a hunger strike at the Kilo 7 prison, called on the Cuban people

to not participate in the government's attempts to repress the dissidents who defend their rights.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, March 14, 2006. Two slogans reading "Down with Fidel, Down with the dictatorship" and "Freedom for the 75" appear in the city of Palma Soriano.

Source: Enrique Martínez Machado, human rights activist. Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths without Censorship.

Havana, March 15, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement.

Matanzas, March 15, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party participated in a mass at the San José de Colón Parish in the Colón municipality. They prayed for the release of hundreds of political prisoners and, especially, for the release of prisoner of conscience Diosdado González Marrero. They also prayed for God to intercede for the life of Guillermo Fariñas, who continues in a hunger strike.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, Lady in White and wife of Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, March 15, 2006. Magaly Broche de la Cruz, the wife of prisoner of conscience Librado Linares García, sent a letter to different public figures and to the international community. Due to the inhuman conditions in the prison, Librado suffered sicknesses that can lead to cancer or the complete loss of vision in his left eye and the partial loss in his right eye. Magaly begged the recipients of her letter to intercede with the Cuban government for her husband's freedom.

Source: Magaly Broche de la Cruz, Cuban Reflection Movement, Radio República.

Holguín, March 15, 2006. Fourteen activists belonging to different human rights organizations, members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, held a vigil to pray for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners held in Cuban jails. They prayed for the health of political prisoners on hunger strikes, Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and Jorge Cardoso Nieves in the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey, Randy Cabrera Mayor, in the Holguín provincial prison, and Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez in Kilo 7. The activists held the Cuban government accountable for whatever happens to these honorable patriots. The Youth Without Censorship press agency prayed for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who continues

his hunger strike and demanded that the Castro government respond to the striker's petitions. The event took place at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2007, Banos.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Villa Clara, March 16, 2006. Alejandro García Sardiñas, a member of the National Council for Human Rights in Cuba from Placetas, expressed his concern for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, the independent journalist and member of the Marta Abreu Social Studies Forum in Santa Clara who has spent more than 40 days on a hunger strike in the new Arnaldo Milián Castro hospital in Placetas. "We, the opposition activists of the central region from Placetas raise our voices in solidarity with Guillermo's mother, Alicia Hernández, and hope that our voices are heard so that her son's life can be saved.

Source: Alejandro García Sardiñas, National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba, Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, March 16, 2006. Members of the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom organized a vigil to pay homage to the prisoners from the Group of 75, at Maceo #59, Guayos, Sancti Spiritus.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Isla de Pinos, March 17 - 20, 2006. Activists in Isla de Pinos commemorated the third anniversary of the wave of repression that sent 75 dissidents to prison in the spring of 2003. The Julio Tang Texier Civic Cultural Project and the Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights and Territorial Development held a chain of vigils and fasts. The political police on the island mobilized the Rapid Response Brigades in the streets of Nueva Gerona, the provincial capital, in an attempt to stop the activity but they failed to impede the activists.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Havana, March 17, 2006. The Youth Without Censorship press agency met at the home of independent journalist Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and José Ramón Herrera Hernández of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina and Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, his mother, Alejandro Albacia Sánchez, Juan Carlos González Leiva, Luis Esteban Espinosa and José Fernández Cisneros all participated in the meeting to coordinate the efforts of the different organizations working

throughout the country.

Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina noted that many brave youths between 19 and 21 years of age participate energetically in the different activities of the dissident movement.

Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, meanwhile, stressed that “the unity of all the opposition groups from throughout the Cuban archipelago is extremely important,” as well as “working above all with young people, who definitely represent the future of Cuba and changes in Cuba.”

Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia spoke positively of “the working agreement reached today by the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, Youths for Democracy and the Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Rolando and Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, and Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia. Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 17, 2006. Political prisoner Léster González Pentón began a hunger strike at the Celestino Hernández Rubau Hospital in Santa Clara. González Pentón demanded that State Security provide a written guarantee that it would stop what he described as repressive acts against his wife, Yanet Ocaña, and mother-in-law, Miriam Castro. Ocaña has said that an agent named Alexander Solís has visited her on numerous occasions to intimidate her into ceasing her participation with the Ladies in White, a group of women advocating for the release of the Group of 75 political prisoners.

González Pentón, at 29 the youngest of the Group of 75, is vice president of the Alpha 3 Pro-Democracy Movement. He was condemned to 20 years in prison during the 2003 wave of repression, also known as the Black Spring of Cuba.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Camagüey, March 17, 2006. The sister and wife of political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez, Bertha Antúnez and Iris Pérez Aguilera, respectively, spent the day standing in front of the entrance to the Kilo 7 penitentiary in an attempt to learn of Jorge Luis’ health, which has deteriorated rapidly after a 10-day hunger strike.

Source: Berta Antúnez Pernet, president of the National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel”.

Holguín, March 17 - 19, 2006. Around 20 members of the Human Rights Foundation, the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Youth Without Censorship press agency commemorated the Black Spring of Cuba with different activities in the province including a daily fast, group prayers and the repudiation of continued imprisonment of political prisoners. The participants expressed their solidarity with prisoners of conscience, particularly

with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is holding a hunger strike.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Holguín, March 17 - 22, 2006. Members of the Perucho Figueredo Mini-Library, operated by the political prisoners in the Holguín Provincial Prison, began a chain of fasts to protest human rights violations in Cuba. Luis Cabrera Ballester, Luis Mariano Delis Utria, Julio Inzua Góngora, Frank Pérez Calixto, Adolfo García García and Alfredo Domínguez Batista participated in the fasts. Each member spent one day protesting the human rights violations that take place daily and reading articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The president of the mini-library, Alfredo Domínguez Batista, sent a summary of these activities to the authorities.

Source: Melba Santana Arís, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Domínguez Batista.

Pinar del Río, March 18, 2006. Members of opposition organizations in Pinar del Río commemorated the third anniversary of the 2003 wave of repression at the home of Minerva Pérez, which serves as the headquarters of the Latin American Federation of Rural Women. Pérez, the president of this group, gave a speech and issued a written statement denouncing the imprisonment of political dissidents, opposition activists and independent journalists by the menacing Cuban political police force. “Today we commemorate the third anniversary of the wave of repression, but each day should be spent commemorating and demanding the release of those who are still in jail,” she said.

Abigail Ortega, representing independent librarians, said that “every day that our brothers remain in prison should be a day for us to work and struggle for the good of our nation and for our rights as human beings.”

Carlos M. Collazo of the Peoples’ Party, denounced to the world that threats against those dissidents who remain free continue but stressed that “we have to show the world how we have managed up to this point, that there is still opposition in Cuba and that it will continue to exist as long as we have a dictatorship.

Blanca Rivera, the deputy director of the Western Cultural Project, said that “this activity should also serve to demonstrate to the family members of our prisoners that they are not alone. We give them our unconditional support and we swear that we will continue the work of their sons, husbands and brothers.”

Source: Rafael Ferro Salas, Abdala Press.

Cubanet.

Pinar del Río, March 18, 2006. The provincial delegation of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) in Pinar del Río and the National Democratic Party “Carlos Manuel de Céspedes” met in their headquarters at Calle Celso Maragoto #143 A e/ Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003, when 75 of their brothers were condemned to more than 25 years in prison for working for human rights and democratic change in Cuba. They prayed for the release of the political prisoners.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC; Ramón Suarez Diaz, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party ; José A. Ballart Ochoa, National Movement of the Free People of Cuba Josué País García

Pinar del Río, March 18, 2006. A prayer chain was started at the home of “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party provincial delegate Ramón Suárez Díaz to ask for the release of all of Cuba’s political prisoners. They chose this day as it was the date of the wave of repression of the Cuba’s Black Spring of 2003. Thirty activists from different organizations participated in the event, which took place at Avenida Borrego, edificio 32, Apto. 2, Reparto Hermanos Cruz, Pinar del Río.

Source: Ramón Suárez Díaz, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party .

Isla de Pinos, March 18, 2006. The Spanish edition of *Steps to Freedom 2004* began circulation in this municipality. The report became available at the headquarters of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project on the third anniversary of the wave of repression, during which 75 activists and independent journalists were rounded up and sent to jail. The book highlights the vigils and the work of the Ladies in White, who earned the 2005 Sahkarov Prize, celebrates free thought and the work of Cuba’s nonviolent opposition movement during 2005. After just over two months, the report was discovered by its protagonists on the island. “The report is stimulating and makes evident the high price that the democratic movement in Cuba has been willing to pay in its efforts to obtain freedom and democracy in our nation,” said Noel de la Peña Rivera, the director of the 28 de Enero Independent Library.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist with Lux InfoPress, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, March 18, 2006. Members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party

staged a fast at the home of Fina Díaz Castillo, one of the Ladies in White. About 15 people participated in the event, which displayed signs that say, “Free the 75 political prisoners and all prisoners unjustly jailed in Cuban prisons.” Upon exiting the activity, the activists were arrested by the political police and held for four hours in Havana’s Capri police station.

Source: Raiza Martínez, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party , Havana.

Havana, March 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners. Fourteen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 18, 2006. Thirteen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 18, 2006. Thirteen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Leonel Sánchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado and Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 18, 2006. The Ladies in White prayed rosaries at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. for their husbands’ release. They prayed “that the government of Cuba would be flexible, that it will react and realize that these men are being held unjustly, that our Lord Jesus Christ touches the heart of that man so that our prisoners are released.” The 30 women met in the home of Laura Pollán, Neptuno 963 e/ Aramburu y Hospital.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Havana, March 18, 2006. The Ladies in White held a fast to commemorate the third anniversary of the arrest of their family members during a political roundup that landed 75 opposition leaders in jail. Dressed all in white, they began their fast early in the morning, receiving visits from reporters in a room where a black mourning doll hang alongside a flag bearing the names of the 75 arrested dissidents with the Cuban flag in the background.

Some of the women fasting reported that they had been intimidated by State Security agents. Others complained to journalists about their husbands’ conditions.

Source: Associated Press. Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Havana, March 18, 2006. The Ladies in White marched through main Havana streets to commemorate the day that they had proclaimed the “Day of the Cuban political prisoner and prisoner of conscience”, which marked the third anniversary of the Black Spring of Cuba.

Dressed in all white, with a small ribbon emblazoned with the word “amnesty” pinned to their clothes, the thirty women marched approximately two kilometers, including along the busy Calle 23, and handed out pink gladioluses and white ribbons to passers-by, asking them to pray for their unjustly condemned husbands. Everyone who was approached accepted the flower and the ribbons. Some praised the women’s courage, while others vowed to pray for their husbands.

“We declare this the Day of the Cuban Prisoner of Conscience because the Black Spring began on March 18, 2003,” said Laura Pollán, whose husband, Héctor Maseda, the president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Cuba and an independent journalist, is serving an unjust 20-year sentence for crimes of political opinion.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Havana, March 18, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement issued a declaration to mark the third anniversary of the tragic Black Spring. The statement expressed the group’s support for Guillermo Fariñas, on a hunger strike, and blamed the Cuban government, the Communist Party and the heads of the Ministry of the Interior for the unjust incarceration of those detained in the Black Spring of 2003. The movement also held the government and ETECSA, the telephone company, for violating the universal law of freedom of information and for the possibility of an undesired development in the case of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

Matanzas, March 18, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003 wave of repression at the home of Andrés Govea Suárez, at Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, Guareira. The following were present at the vigil: Rolando Wang, Julio Osmań Díaz, Valentín Wang Díaz, Dayrelis González García, Orlando Wang Cepero, Noel Aguilar Verde, Iberta Wang and Yabelkis Govea Piedra.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and

Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, March 18, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003 wave of repression at the home of Jorge Luís Álvarez, at Rafael Aguila e/ Clotilde García y Avellaneda, Colón. Ten people, including party members and other supporters, participated in the vigil.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, March 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, March 18, 2006. Members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity joined the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement in commemorating the third anniversary of the Black Spring of Cuba with an activity at the home of Idania Yanes Contreras, Prolongation of Marta Abreu #93 C, e/B y C, Reparto Virginia, Santa Clara.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.

Villa Clara, March 18, 2006. Members of the opposition in Santa Clara commemorated the third anniversary of the 2003 crackdown at the home of Liberal Party of Cuba delegate Bernardo Luis Ascanio Camargo. Representatives of many different opposition groups attended the meeting to watch the documentary, “The Cuban Spring”.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Villa Clara, March 18, 2006. The National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom organized a chain of fasts in the city of Caibarién featuring the participation of dozens of activists in 35 residences in this city. The fast marked the third anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of the Group of 75, who were arrested and sentenced to prison in the spring of 2003. During the fast, the activists asked the Cuban government to quickly release all political prisoners in poor health, as well as the remainder of the group of 75 and

other prisoners of conscience. They also asked for a general amnesty for all political prisoners and called on the governments and nations of the world as well as humanitarian and human rights organizations to take an interest in these petitions. The activists held the fast in Caibarién from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. The following participated in the event: Margarito Broche Espinosa, María de la Caridad Noa González, and Julián Jesús Noa González, at Calle 16 #2518 e/ 27 y 27; Agustín López Ares, Misleydis Leiva García, Jikli López Ares, Nelio López Ares, María Nela Álvarez Ares and Orlando Luderio Álvarez at Avenida 39 #1421 e/ 14 y 13; Lázaro González Portal Ransolas and Aidé González Córdova at Avenida 21 #802 e/ 8 y 10; Ángel Paz Carrillo at Avenida 25 #1805; Juan José Comas Sabina at Avenida 23 #12, e/ 12 y 14; Hugo Francisco Martínez López, Olga Lidia Carrillo Rodríguez and Manuel Herrada Erquiaga at Avenida 19 #1008, e/ 10 y 12; Yariza Carrillo Santana and Jenni Castellón Rojas at Calle 16 #3710, e/ 37 y 39; Carlos Michel Morales Rodríguez at Calle 18 #2502, e/25 y 27; Rolando Astor Cabello Garmán at Avenida 5 #1013, e/ 10 y 12; Manuel Santana Padrón at Calle 24 #3511, e/ 35 y 36; Ramón Norberto Martín Ruíz at Avenida 15 #1417 e/14 y 16; Ariel Graman Martín and Leticia Rodríguez Caraballo at Avenida 7 #206, 4, e/ 2 y 4; Pedro Carvajal Miranda at Avenida 33 #1813 e/18 y 20; Javier Delgado Torna at Avenida 41, e/ 14 y 16, Bloque 2, apto. C6; Ramón Nilo Noa González at Avenida 39, e/ 14 y 16; Armando Moreno Moreno at Avenida 13 #1815, e/ 18 y 20; Raúl Pérez Gavilán at Avenida 31 (interior) e/ 10 y 12; Margarita Cunill Díaz and Ivon Lisette Bienes Cunill at Calle 18 al final #44; Duvier Herrera Landín at Avenida 39, e/ 14 y 16; Onis Díaz Carrera at Avenida 39, e/ 14 y 16; Abdel Cristóbal Vega at Calle 16 #2113, e/ 21 y 23; Yandry Fernández Jiménez at Calle 14 #2504, e/ 25 y 27; Miriam Martín Hernández at Avenida 23 #1024, e/ 10 y 12; Javier Angulo Vita at Avenida 35 #1219, e/ 12 y 14; Yosvani Martínez González at Calle 22 #101, e/ 1 y 3; Vladimir Hernández Muñoz at Calle 22 #105, e/ 1 y 3; Antonio González Soliño and Carlos Morales Soliño at Avenida 21 #1603, e/ 16 y 18; María Antonia Noa González at Calle 16 #2515, e/ 27 y 29; Yosvel Carballo Morera at Reparto Vantroy; Idalia Jiménez García and Alberto Galves Aguiar at Calle 14 #2504, e/ 25 y 27; Atilano Rubio Rodríguez and Milagro Perdomo Parrado at Calle 12, e/ 33 y 35; Fernando Cremades Hernández and Odalis Carrillo Noa at Calle 18, e/ 33 y 35; Jandier Osvaldo Vicente Bienes at Calle 18 al final #44; Esnaider Torna Arocha at Avenida 31, (interior) e/10 y 12; Arturo Isaac Díaz Rojas at Calle 16 #1122. e/11 y 13.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Villa Clara, March 18, 2006. The Cuban Reflection Movement commemorated another 18th of March with a video-debate at its Camajuaní headquarters following the screening of an alternative documentary produced by the Ford Foundation that analyzes the Cuban situation. The meeting, held at the home of Juan Manuel Sarduy Sagrado, was watched and interrupted by members of the Cuban Revolution Combatants Association from that city who took part in a rally organized by State Security Captain Leonil Gonzalo de la Rúa.

Source: Antonio Suárez Fonticiella, spokesman for the Cuban Reflection Movement. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, March 18, 2006. The National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom organized a chain of fasts in various municipalities of Sancti Spíritus featuring the participation of dozens of activists in 26 fasts. The fast marked the third anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of the Group of 75, who were arrested and sentenced to prison in the spring of 2003. In coordination with members of the organization in **Caibarién**, Villa Clara, the activists asked the Cuban government to quickly release all political prisoners in poor health, as well as the remainder of the group of 75 and other prisoners of conscience. They also asked for a general amnesty for all political prisoners. They called on the governments and nations of the world as well as humanitarian and human rights organizations to take an interest in these petitions. Various members of the Rafters Association in Sancti Spíritus participated from 6 a.m. to noon. Those participating at homes in Cabaiguán were: José Ramón Borges Serrano and Bárbara Viera Rodríguez at Jesús Menéndez #4; Ernesto González Pérez at Gran Canaria #11; Osmani López Almeida at República #31; Joel Díaz Martínez at Alfredo Ferrer #3; Erasmo Gómez Hernández at Raúl Cabrera #150; Yuldrey Pérez Toledo at Sta. Del Norte #6; Enrique Hernández Peralta at Manuel Brito #173; María Cabrera Carrasco at Zona de Desarrollo 3 Palmas; Carlos Pérez Madrigal at Cuba #68; Orelvis Rodríguez García at 4ta. Inter Media #89. In **Guayos**: José Arcia Piedra at Luz Caballero s/n; Ramón Quintana Noa and Emeteria Caraballo Corteza at Batey La Eperanza; Meisis Espinosa Rodríguez, Zoila Hernández Espinosa and Sailí Camacho Espinosa at Céspedes 1, apto 3; Omar Pérez Mesa at Juan A.Sánchez #100; Frank Yanes Santos and Meibi Hernández Mergarejo at Maceo #59; Omar Cabrera Rodríguez at Gallo Palmas Final s/n; Idelso Ferrer Ramos at Calle D



Members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights and of the Eastern Democratic Alliance commemorate March 18, 2006, the third anniversary of the Black Spring in Cuba. The opposition activists met at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, in Banes, Holguín.

s/n, e/ A y Campos; Leonardo López Martín at Juan A. Sánchez #105; Arturo Enrique Poján García at Céspedes #155; Eulalia García Nápoles at General Carrillo #10. In **Sancti Spiritus**: Aida Paula Zayas Muela at Carlos Roloff #126; Agustín Gómez Hernández at Edificio 8, apto. 20, Olivos 3; Aida Paula Zayas Muela at Carlos Roloff #126; Agustín Gómez Hernández at Edificio 8, apto. 20, Olivos 3. **Elsewhere**: José Rivero Monteagudo and José Cardoso Turiño at Las Tosas; Tomás García Gil and Bárbara Alfonso Zerguera at Camino de las Cañas. *Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.*

Camagüey, March 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba. *Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.*

Camagüey, March 18, 2006. The political prisoners held at the Cerámica Roja prison commemorated the third anniversary of the Cuban Black Spring by explaining that Law 88, better known as the Gag Law, was the legal instrument employed to condemn the 75 defenders of freedom and human rights. He stressed that this law is a copy

of the Soviet Union's Law 70, which was exploited by that government to condemn millions of people. They reiterated that neither prison nor torture nor death could make them give up their struggle.

Source: Rene Montes de Oca Martija, Secretary General of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 18, 2006. Fifteen activists from the Commission for Attention to Political Prisoners and their Families (CAPPCF) spent the day fasting in Camagüey to remember the third anniversary of the repressive wave of 2003. During the event, they demanded the release of all political prisoners, denounced the precarious health situation of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who had spent more than 50 days in a hunger strike and then, through the words of CAPPCF President Froilán Osmany Rodríguez, declared that despite the repressive climate they face in Cuba, the group will continue its activities.

Source: Shelyn Rojas, Cubanet.

Holguín, March 18, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance held an activity calling for the unconditional release of the 75 independent journalists and activists unjustly jailed since March 2003. The event, featuring lively literary debate, was held at the Gastón Baquero independent library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2007

e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, Banes. Source: *Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.*

Holguín, March 18, 2006. Activists from the National Movement of Civic Resistance "Pedro Luis Boitel" (MNRC-PLB), the Orthodox Party, and other member groups of the Eastern Democratic Alliance commemorated the third anniversary of the Black Spring of Cuba. The series of events included a visit to the home of Próspero Gaínza, one of the 75 condemned activists. The group joined the political prisoner's wife, María Esther Blanco Aguirre, in prayer and to demand the release of all political prisoners. Reflecting on the impact of the wave of repression and the imprisonment of the Group of 75, the activists concluded that the repressive measures failed to achieve their goal; in the end, they only served to stimulate the dissident movement. Blanca Aguirre denounced the harassment and malice that her husband suffers in prison as well as the fact that the prisoners are being held far from their residences, a heinous measure intended to make it harder for family members to visit the prisoners.

Source: *Juan Carlos Garcell, independent journalist with the Eastern Free Press Agency and public relationships manager for the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.*

Granma, March 18, 2006. Peaceful opposition activists from the Youths of Bayamo Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba held a vigil calling for release to Cuban political prisoners at Raúl Gómez 286, Reparto La Unión, Bayamo. Following the vigil, the group took to the streets to distribute Declaration on Human Rights to the Bayamo public and condemn the jailing of 75 innocent souls. Alexis Ramírez Rodríguez, Félix Rivero Cordoví, Juangel Montoya Avilés, Antonio Santí Soto, Francisco Juan Zayas Benítez, Otniel Díaz Sánchez, Benedita Sánchez and Lidia Pita Cedeño took part in the activity.

Source: *Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, president of Youth of Bayamo Planted Towards Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Radio República.*

Santiago de Cuba, March 18, 2006. A group of activists gathered at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, located at Calle 7 Final #318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto, to pray the rosary on the third anniversary of the unjust arrest and imprisonment of 75 peaceful opposition activists. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and

Norberto Díaz Peña were among those present.

Source: *Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of political prisoners José Daniel and Luis Enrique Ferrer García, and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement.*

Santiago de Cuba, March 18, 2006. More than 45 people gathered to pray a rosary at the Palma Soriano Church to commemorate the third anniversary of the imprisonment of 75 peaceful dissidents. The rosary was said from 9:00 until 9:45 a.m. in the parish, located at Ave. Martí esquina Paquito Borrero, Palma Soriano. Among those in attendance were family members and friends of those arrested from this city, who were forced to tolerate harassment from the political police, who installed loudspeakers across from the temple and played Silvio Rodríguez at maximum volume, set up a bandstand from the boxing academy and created an environment of great hostility. Prior to the prayer service, Graciela González contacted Father Francisco Sanabria, Priest of Palma Soriano, to notify him that a counterrevolutionary event would take place at the church. The priest did not object. Source: *Israel Folgar Acosta, Cuban Human Rights Foundation. Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth without Censorship. Radio República. Virgilio Delat la O, Cubanet.*

Pinar del Río, March 19, 2006. The prayer chain at the home of "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party provincial delegate Ramón Suárez Díaz to ask for the release of all of Cuba's political prisoners was completed. They chose this day as it was the date of the wave of repression of the Cuba's Black Spring of 2003. Thirty activists from different organizations participated in the event, which took place at Avenida Borrego, edificio 32, Apto. 2, Reparto Hermanos Cruz, Pinar del Río.

Source: *Ramón Suarez Diaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party and José A. Ballart Ochoa, "Josué País" Movement.*

Havana, March 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives and family members of Cuban political prisoners, met to pray for the release of their loved ones and to call on international figures such as Nelson Mandela and King Juan Carlos of Spain to visit the prisoners when they travel to the island. The petition is part of a document made public by the group titled 2005 Sahkarov Prize as part of its commemoration of the anniversary of the period they call the Black Spring.

In the text, the women asked for "immediate and unconditional liberty" for 60 of the 75 dissidents who remain in jail; 15 were granted conditional release for health reasons. Three emigrated to the United States, Spain and Sweden. In addition, they

called for an end to the threats that the 12 released prisoners who remain in the country will be rearrested. They believe that, while the 60 remain in jail, the International Red Cross should visit sick prisoners. They also asked for “international human rights organizations to be permitted to visit the jails and hospitals.”

Source: Agence France Press. Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, March 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members. After mass at Santa Rita, the 34 Ladies took their traditional silent march along Quinta Avenida in Havana.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, March 19, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003 at the home of Andrés Govea Suárez, at Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, Guareira. The following were present at the vigil: Rolando Wang, Julio Osmañ Díaz, Valentín Wang Díaz, Dayrelis González García, Orlando Wang Cepero, Noel Aguilar Verde, Iberta Wang and Yabelkis Govea Piedra.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, March 19, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003 wave of repression at the home of Jorge Luís Álvarez, at Rafael Aguila e/ Clotilde Garcia y Avellaneda, Colón. Ten people, including party members and other supporters participated in the vigil.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, March 19, 2006. Hundreds of faithful Catholics, joined by others from the general public, took part in the San José procession through the streets of Camajuaní. During the march, offerings were given to San José while members of the Cuban Revolution Combatants Association, Communist Party members and State Security officials look on.

Source: Antonio Suárez Fonticiella, spokesman for the Cuban Reflection Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 19, 2006. A simple activity took place at the headquarters of the Julio Tang Texier Independent Library in Sibanicú to commemorate the third anniversary of the jailing of 75 members of the peaceful opposition during the Black Spring of Cuba. They prayed to God and took photos of the banners that read, “Free the political prisoners” and “Long live a free Cuba”. The activity was dedicated to the library’s director, independent union leader Lázaro González Adán, who has been held at the Cerámica Roja prison in this province since October 14, 2004.

Source: Fernando Tabares. Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Radio República.

Camagüey, March 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez #400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, March 20, 2006. The Ladies in White prayed a rosary at 6 a.m. and held a prayer meeting at the home of Laura Pollán, Neptuno 963 e/ Aramburu y Hospital, supplicating for the release of their husbands. At 3:30 p.m., they took to the streets wearing bands on their clothes with the word, “Amnesty”, carrying gladioluses in their hands and white ribbons. They walked a few kilometers through Havana and handed out the gladioluses to all they passed in the streets, along the walls and standing in doorways, and asked them to pray for their unjustly imprisoned husbands. They then walked toward the Attorney General’s office, which faces the Central Park. When they were refused entry, they stood in the doorway demanding that the office immediately free their husbands. In unison they shouted “Liberty!” and released one white dove in the name of peace, one in the name of justice and a third in the name of liberty. While they observed a moment of silence for their husbands, onlookers watched attentively. At 5:30 p.m., they took part in a mass at the Santa Rita Church.

Source: Alejandrina Garcia de la Riva and Laura Pollán, Ladies in White.

Matanzas, March 20, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the crackdown of the Black Spring of 2003 at the home of Andrés Govea Suárez, at Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, Guareira. The following were present at the vigil: Rolando Wang,

Julio Osmań Díaz, Valentín Wang Díaz, Dayrelis González García, Orlando Wang Cepero, Noel Aguilar Verde, Iberta Wang and Yabelkis Govea Piedra.

Source: Jorge Luńs Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, March 20, 2006. Ten members and supporters of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the third anniversary of the Black Spring of 2003 wave of repression at the home of Jorge Luńs Álvarez, at Rafael Aguila e/ Clotilde García y Avellaneda, Colón.

Source: Jorge Luńs Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, March 20, 2006. Róger Cardoso Nieves, a political prisoner held at the Kilo 8 prison, began a hunger strike in solidarity with fellow prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera, who began a similar act of defiance on the same day. Cardoso Nieves complained that the chief of State Security at the jail, Julio César Bombino González, threatened him with worsening the conditions of his imprisonment if he did not end his hunger strike. But Cardoso was firm in his resolve. "I will continue the strike regardless of what happens to me; so long as Juan Carlos Herrera is striking – regardless of his situation – I will keep it up," he responded.

Source: Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Luis Esteban Espinosa and Liannis Merińo Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 21, 2006. Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", in a hunger strike alongside Raidel Carmenate, made public a letter affirming that "I am not willing to cede to any type of blackmail, threat or psychological torture. I alert the public opinion of a fatal outcome... All those of goodwill in the world, give your support and coverage to this protest, both for me and for the youthful Raidel Carmenate Madruga, whose delicate health is being diminished by starvation with an amazing resistance and dignity."

Source: Armando Betancourt, New Cuban Press. Radio República.

Camagüey, March 21, 2006. Political prisoner Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta refused to receive medical attention at the Kilo 8 prison, noting the evident manipulation of the medical facilities by State Security forces. Herrera said that on March 18, Dr. Heidi Borrero Elias, instead of providing medical assistance, tried to persuade him to

discontinue the strike.

Source: Liannis Merińo Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Havana, March 22, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement.

Cienfuegos, March 22, 2006. Anti-Castro slogans appeared along two central streets of the Rodas municipality. One of them, read "Long live Bush, Down with Fidel." At the second site, located across the street from the home of one Mr. Fleitas, believed by his neighbors to be a government informer, the sign read "Long live the Fifth Congress of Bush," intended to discredit the next Congress of the Cuban Communist Party.

Source: Lázaro Roger Avilés, via Alejandro Tur Valladares, Jagua Press, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, March 22, 2006. Iván Hernández Carrillo, a prisoner in the El Pre Prison, began a hunger strike to protest the confiscation of some homemade flowers he had created for his grandmother and mother for Mother's Day and to claim his right to religious assistance, which he has never received. As a penalty for his protest, he was sent to a punishment cell.

Source: Asunción Carrillo, mother of political prisoner Iván Hernández Carrillo.

Villa Clara, March 22, 2006. Family members of political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez, publicly released a letter they wrote to the United Nations Human Rights Council. The letter was signed by Iris Pérez Aguilera, the wife of Pérez Antúnez, as well as Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Alejandro García Sardińas and Damaris García Antúnez, the political prisoner's sister, brother-in-law and niece, respectively. Through it, they express their concern for the health of Pérez Antúnez, who is hunger striking, and for that of his fellow prisoner Raidel Carmenate Madruga, who joined the hunger strike in solidarity with Pérez Antúnez. The letters asks the Cuban government to reflect on the words of the Cuban representative to the United Nations, Rodrigo Malmierca to the Council on Human Rights, published in the Granma newspaper, that justice, international law, dialogue and cooperation favoring the promotion and protection of human rights for all nations and people.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 22, 2006. Members of the Nationalist Civic Movement held an activity in mem-

ory of those fallen in combat in 1962 in the Sierra Escambray Mountains, especially in El Algarrobo. During the ceremony, the memory of Martyr Tomás Hernández Gutiérrez was highlighted along with that of other brave Cubans.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Villa Clara, March 22, 2006. Twenty-three people attended a meeting at the home of the Liberal Party of Cuba delegate Bernardo Luis Ascanio Camargo to coordinate the work of independent libraries in Villa Clara province.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Camagüey, March 22, 2006. Political prisoner Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, being held at the Kilo 8 prison, sewed his mouth shut and put on a shirt with the slogan, "Down with Fidel, freedom for all political prisoners and the 75." This protest arose after prison authorities rejected Herrera Acosta's request to telephone his mother a few days prior. Shortly after that rejection, the prisoner of conscience knocked on a door to reiterate his petition and four officials cruelly refused him. The re-educator Alejandro Jordán Escalona González offended him and pushed him. With the help of the other three (Nelson Domenech, Silver Savon Diez and Jordanis Gonzalez Peraza) they beat him and dragged him back to his cell throwing him in head first.

Source: Ileana Danger Hardy, Radio República.

Holguín, March 22, 2006. Neighbors of the rural town of Manabí in the Banes municipality, protested the threatened eviction of Mariana Abreu Burneo, who has lived in the town for 22 years. Mariana's home burned down and was condemned. She began to live in a shelter that was later declared inhabitable due to the poor condition of the building. Mariana, her son and her eight-month-old granddaughter then took refuge in a storefront that had been abandoned by the Municipal Communal Company many months earlier. Now, the Housing Institute's attorney, accompanied by two police officers told her to vacate the premises or face a forced eviction and the ensuing 1,500-peso fine. For 22 years, Mariana Álvarez had written letters to many government offices, receiving only promises until now, when she was threatened with eviction.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency, Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 23, 2006. A chain of fasts began in the city of Santa Clara in solidarity with the independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas

Hernández, who has been on a hunger strike since January 31 to demand free access to the Internet for all Cubans. According to Idania Yáñez Contreras, the coordinator of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, five women from her group began a peaceful demonstration at the Movement's headquarters. Meanwhile, Niurvys Díaz Remond, a reporter with the Fariñas' Cubanacán Press agency, said that the hunger striking reporter is in the intensive care unit of the Arnaldo Milián Castro, where his health continues to deteriorate.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet. Niurvys Díaz, Cubanacán Press.

Villa Clara, March 23, 2006. The Mahatma Gandhi Independent Library opened in the home of its director, Miguel Cabrera Cabrera, in Alejandro Om 51, Santa Clara. "We propose to create a space in this community to debate information without censorship," he said, adding that his neighbors happily welcomed the alternative library and that they have already solicited Against All Hope, by Armando Valladares, and The Power of the Powerless, by Vaclav Havel.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Pinar del Río, March 24, 2006. In a letter to his mother, political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo sent a message to all Cubans urging all political prisoners on the island as well as the 11 million Cubans who suffer from the agony imposed by the regime to stay firm just as he does, with dignity, struggling against the dictatorship that has cost the lives of thousands of Cubans who have died in the sea searching for freedom. Zapata said that he has been a victim of cruel treatment, but he remains resolute. He ends his letter with, "Long live human rights and long live a free Cuba!"

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency, Radio República. Reina Tamayo Dánger, mother of political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo.

Havana, March 24, 2006. The Brothers United non-governmental organization was founded on the third anniversary of the repressive wave of 2003. The new organization is based out of the home of Armando Rodríguez, secretary of organization, at Calle C #8212-14, apto. 3, e/ Tercera y Segunda, Caballo Blanco, San Miguel del Padrón. Pavel Torres Cedeño, the president of Brothers United, said that the group arose to meet the prisoners' needs for prayer and assistance. "Their work will be to help political prisoners and their families, supporting them through the Holy Scriptures." Assistance to the captive, said Cedeño, is the founding principle of the organization. "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them," he

said, quoting Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verse 3. The organization's leadership includes Eduardo León López as vice president, Alexei Gutiérrez Estrada as secretary for human rights and Raúl Vilar as secretary for finance.

Source: Shelyn Rojas, Cubanet.

Havana, March 24, 2006. The Independent Labor Union Movement of Cuba issued a declaration accusing Fidel Castro of violating the conventions of the International Labor Organization. The group complained that the Cuban worker labors without rights, receives a salary too low to maintain his family with dignity, is not free to join with whomever he sees fit and, above all, lacks the right to go on strike. The National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC), which comprises 100 independent unions and has representation in Pinar del Río, Havana, Havana province, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Ciego de Ávila, Camagüey, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Isla de Pinos, also noted that while Cuba has legal definitions that recognize labor and human rights, these are manipulated by the Castro regime and the laborer is entirely unable to learn about his rights to freely associate, to belong to whichever union group he chooses and thus believes he is required to join the state-run Workers Central of Cuba (CTC), the only labor organization permitted on the island. The CTC responds directly to the Cuban Communist Party. "We demand that the dictatorship of Fidel Castro immediately stop violating the conventions of the International Labor Organization and grant unconditional release to our arbitrarily imprisoned countrymen," the statement closed.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist with Lux InfoPress, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Villa Clara, March 24, 2006. Twelve members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity held a 12-hour fast in solidarity with Cubanacán Press director Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is in serious condition at Santa Clara's Arnaldo Milián Castro hospital. The fast took place at the home of Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, San Cristóbal #453 e/ A y Libertadores, Santa Clara.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement; Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, Maceo Movement for Dignity.

Villa Clara, March 24, 2006. The Maceo Movement for Dignity met at the Santa Clara home of Luis Aragón García to celebrate the traditional candlelight vigil praying for the release of political prisoners. It begins with the singing of the national anthem and a prayer for the brothers in prison,

those who are on hunger strikes and for Guillermo Fariñas, who languishes in a Santa Clara hospital. The ceremony continued with a reading of Psalms 86 and 91 and a discussion of the situation of Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, who is the constant victim of death threats from paramilitary mobs. The activity closed with a determination to continue struggling for the release of their brothers and freedom for Cuba.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Holguín, March 24, 2006. Alberto González, 76, known as Beto, publicly denounces the official Cuban information regarding Cuba's medical power and notes how shocked he is that citizens of other countries receive immediate medical assistance in Cuba while he and other Cubans are left on their own. This discriminatory treatment is a source of discontent among Cubans. The former combatant in the 26 de Julio Movement lost his vision as a result of cataracts and glaucoma. He is waiting on the modernization of this province's ophthalmologic equipment to see whether he can receive an operation.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Havana, March 25, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement's Marianao delegation held a vigil to express their solidarity with the hunger strike of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, the journalist and director of Cubanacán Press. They read a statement and the activists prayed the Lord's Prayer for Fariñas' health. The vigil took place at the home of Felix Lorenzo Garúa Izquierdo, Calle 86, e/ 45 y 47, Edificio 4514, Apt. 11, Marianao. Felix Lorenzo Garúa Izquierdo, Milagros de la Caridad Hidalgo Caraballo, Marisol Garúa Hidalgo, Flora Antonina Caraballo Perez, Silvio Benitez Márquez, Alicia Curbelo Collazo, Nereida Guillermina Márquez Menendes, Andy Perasa González, Maribel Macias Aguilar, Jorge González Mesa, María Teresa Alemán Díaz, Erley Foro Díaz and Sulema Sanchez took part in the vigil.

Source: Roberto Miranda Díaz and Silvio Benítez Márquez, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Villa Clara, March 25, 2006. The María Cabrales Independent Library held a children's activity at its facility, located at Edificio 10, Apartamento 5, Reparto José Martí, Santa Clara. Its director, Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, thanked Marta Beatriz Roque for sponsoring the event and said that 25 dissidents, joined by their children, took part in the event.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, March 25, 2006. The Marta Abreu



Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement from Marianao pray during a vigil of solidarity with journalist Guillermo Fariñas, who was on hunger strike.

Women's Movement organized a children's activity promoted by the independent library network. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba in Santa Clara attended the activity, held at the home of Noelia Pedraza Jiménez along with numerous children.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, March 26, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Villa Clara, March 26, 2006. The Martí Youth Coalition baseball team from the city of Santa Clara played against the youth team from the city cited above. Following the first game, the youths played another team made up of members of the coalition and other youths present in the place who joined the activity. The games were organized to provide Cuban youths with a space for social participation regardless of their political ideologies, religious beliefs or skin color, as well as to promote moral civic values.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Cubanacán Press, Martí Youth Coalition.

Villa Clara, March 26, 2006. Three opposition

activists from various non-governmental organizations met at the Iglesia del Carmen Church to attend mass and pray to God for the life of Guillermo Fariñas, the general director of the Cubanacán Press press agency, who is in the midst of a hunger strike. They also prayed for all political prisoners.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba.

Camagüey, March 26, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez #400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, March 26, 2006. Eleven activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance observed a prayer service at the Nuestra Señora de la Caridad Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation. They prayed before the Virgin of Charity for political prisoners and their families, placing a floral wreath at the Virgin's feet.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent

Library. Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Holguín, March 27, 2006. Citizens of Banes protested openly in front of the Banes municipal ophthalmologic clinic to demand medical assistance. A single ophthalmologist, who has yet to complete her studies, is singularly responsible for 90,000 residents. The deterioration of eye care services contrasts sharply with the services that foreign citizens receive from Cuban specialists in this field as part of the so-called Operation Miracle. At the genesis of this protest is the deficient medical attention and lack of medication despite news of drug exports to other countries.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, March 28, 2006. Prisoner of conscience and independent journalist Normando Hernando González refused to stand during an activity at the Kilo 5 ½ prison and instead shouted antigovernment slogans. Nelson Molinet, a fellow political prisoner and an independent trade unionist who was a member of the Group of 75, joined Hernando González; both were taken to punishment cells.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, Yaraí Pérez Marín. Radio República. Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship.

Isla de Pinos, March 28, 2006. The new 28 de Enero Independent Library in Nueva Gerona opened at Calle 22 #103, e/ Primera y Tercera, Sierra de Caballos. "We are committed to promoting uncensored literature among the people of Isla de Pinos, estimated at more than 180,000 inhabitants, taking into account their avidity for alternative information and the fact we find ourselves geographically isolated from the rest of Cuba," said Noel de la Pena Rivera. Sergio Santa Cruz Oviedo, the coordinator of the independent library project on the island, said that, in spite of the fierce repression, twelve independent libraries are up and running on the Isla de Pinos.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Cienfuegos, March 28, 2006. Amid harassment from police and paramilitary forces, a delegation of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a meeting in the Rodas municipality. Twelve liberals attended the gathering to strengthen their bonds of friendship.

Source: Alejandro Tur Valladares, Jagua Press, Cubanet.

Camagüey, March 28, 2006. Juan Carlos

Herrera Acosta, on a hunger strike at the Kilo 8 prison since March 4, sent a message to his fellow freedom fighters both in Cuba and abroad. "Be strong," he wrote, "someday Cuba will be free. I, for my part, will continue this hunger strike until the end. My health is very delicate, but my dignity very high. I will continue describing my situation so that the world knows the reality of Cuba's prisons, which are nothing more than massive human extermination camps.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Havana, March 29, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, located in Havana's Párraga neighborhood, in communion with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, for all prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared, as well as other causes. They called for solidarity with the Cuban people in their quest for freedom and democracy. Participating in the event were Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, president of the Freedom Movement; Juan Ochoa Leyva, political prisoner, Freedom Movement; Carlos Manuel Rodríguez García, Freedom Movement. Petra Serafina Díaz Castillo, Freedom Movement; María Mercedes Almagro Redes; María de Leonel Morejón; Andrés Pellicier Chacón, Liberal Orthodox Party; Alberto Duany Guzmán, Freedom Movement.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Villa Clara, March 29, 2006. Nine members of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba began a vigil at their headquarters in support of the hunger striking activist, Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, and political prisoners throughout the country. The activity began in the evening hours with the singing of the national anthem and the reading of Psalms 99 and 100. This was followed by a debate regarding the terrorist characteristic of the armed struggle prior to 1959.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, March 29, 2006. Recent appearances of antigovernment graffiti were reported in **Palmarito, Mella, San Luis, Alto Songo, Santiago de Cuba** and in different neighborhoods of **Palma Soriano**. The signs,

which read “Down with Fidel!” and “Down with the dictatorship!” released a repressive wave against peaceful dissidents.

Source: Virgilio Delat la O, APLO, Cubanet. Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Havana, March 31, 2006. A protest took place for three hours in the middle of the day at the Guanajay prison, keeping more than 100 police officers busy. The incident was provoked by Manuel de Jesús González and Pedro Izquierdo, prisoners who demanded transfers due to complaints about mistreatment, including a brutal beating on March

10. The petition was granted by the prison warden, who facilitates their transfer to the Combinado del Este prison in Havana.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Havana, March 31, 2006. Some 500 people from 10 de Octubre and Arroyo Naranjo gathered in the Córdoba Park in La Víbora to participate in the Vía Crucis presided over by Bishop Alfredo Petit Vergel. The procession followed the route of the cross, ending at 8 p.m. Three patrol cars closed off the roads one block around the park.

Source: Jaime Leignonier, Cubanet.



The Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey held a vigil for freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners and ratified its support for the non-cooperation campaign.

Emblem of the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey.



Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day					Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
1	8	15	22	29				
x	x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2º Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x					Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x				Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x			Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x		Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
				x	Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x		x	x	Calle 134 No. 28355, Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
x					Calle 219 No. 13406, entre 134 y 136, Reparto Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
		x			Calle 134 No. 28328, e/ 289 y Final, Reparto Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetás	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x		Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x					Calle Zoila Esrella #32 e/ Llorene y Maria Teresa, Báz	Villa Clara		Luis Silvano Agüero (Partido 30 de noviembre Frank País)
	x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x		Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x			Calle Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, No. 2007, Banes	Holguín	14	Liannis Meriño Aguilera (Agencia Jóvenes Sin Censura)

APRIL 2006

Matanzas, April 1, 2006. Nearly all of the members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party met at 10 a.m. at Calle Calixto García #26, Colón, to discuss the organization's unity program as well as the progress of the party's Join Up, Women for Freedom project, the nonviolent actions in which the party has engaged to demand that the government free political prisoners and support their wives. They decided to petition international organizations and the presidents of democratic countries to free the prisoners from the spring of 2003.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, April 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 25 of *El Camagüeyano* is published. This issue features an article by Luis Guerra Juvier on the independent press, the continuation of the article on the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba and an article on the Catholic Church's social doctrine. There is also a special supplement on the history of journalism in Camagüey dating back to the first newspaper that existed there in the early days of the republican era.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, April 1, 2006. Thirteen members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a vigil in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández at the Wenceslao Aguilera Feria Independent Library, located at Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley #33 e/ Máximo Gómez y Diego M. Yedra. They proposed a widespread fast throughout the eastern provinces.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Havana, April 2, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, April 2, 2006. Members of the Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País" attended a mass at the Church of the Diezmero to mark the first anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II. They prayed for the health and release of all political prisoners.

Source: Raiza Martínez, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País", Havana.

Matanzas, April 2, 2006. Members of the Martí Youth Coalition (CJM) held a friendly baseball game in the Colón municipality. Following the game, the players discussed the lack of recreation and activities in Colón, a problem that the local government has not addressed.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Matanzas, April 2, 2006. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party's "Join Up!" women's project called members to participate in a 9:30 a.m. mass at the San Rafael de Colón Parish. They prayed for Cuba's political prisoners to be granted unconditional release and for Cuba to be a democratic country where all have equal rights and the statutes in the United Nations charter are not violated. After mass, they knelt before the altar of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre to pray for her blessing and the quick release of the prisoners.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Ciego de Ávila, April 2, 2006. The National Secretariat of the Cuban Human Rights Foundation officials awarded the Paloma Prize at the Foundation's headquarters, located at Calle Honorato del Castillo #154, e/ República y Cuba, in Ciego de Ávila. Eleven people were on hand to see the judges give this year's honors to: independent journalist and Cubanacán Press Director Guillermo Fariñas Hernández (independent journalism category); non-violent resistance leader Margarito Broche Espinosa (human rights category), the former political prisoner from the Group of 75 jailed in the spring of 2003 currently under conditional release, who is the acting president of the National Association of Rafters for Peace, Democracy and Freedom; former prisoner of conscience and the president of the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy, Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Laida Carro, Coalition of Cuban-American Women. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Camagüey, April 2, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of

all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, April 2, 2006. The Ladies in White of Camagüey held a march during the morning hours from the Plaza de La Habana to Santa Ana Church for Sunday mass. Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, Bertha Bueno Fuentes, Ileana López Valdés and Marlenes Bermúdez Sardiñas all wore white and each carried a gladiolus, which they offered to God for the health and release of the political prisoners.

Source: Armando Betancourt. Radio República.

Holguín, April 4, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy spoke out publicly against the cruel and inhumane treatment that political prisoners in Cuban prisons face, demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Holguín, April 4, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Movement of Youths for Democracy began a fast in Banes in solidarity with political prisoners and with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who has demanded free Internet access for all Cubans. Fourteen activists participated in the event at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2006, e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República . Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, April 4, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast at Calle Camilo Cienfuegos #124, in Moa, in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Omar Wilson Estévez Real, Martín Ruiz González, Silverio Herrera Acosta, Francisco Hernández Gómez, Felipe Ramos Leiva, Anabel González Méndez, Maritza Cardoza Romero and Osiel Olivares Tito were among the ten activists participating.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Holguín, April 4, 2006. Twenty members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy met at the Wenceslao Aguilera Feria Independent Library, Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley #33 e/ Máximo Gómez y Diego M. Yedra, Antilla, to support Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and pray for his well-being.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, April 4, 2006. Beatriz Nieves Molina

protested in front of the Ministry of the Interior building in Camagüey for the health of her son, political prisoner Roger Cardoso Nieves, in a hunger strike at the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Havana, April 5, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País"; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Havana, April 5, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, held an activity at the home of Joel Rodríguez Díaz, 134 #20228 e/ 289 y Final, Berenguer, Calabazar, Boyeros. The sixteen dissidents present began by singing the national anthem and then prayed for Cuba's opening to the world, freedom for its people, national unity and the release of all political prisoners. They shared information regarding the opposition activists arrested on June 13 and 22 of last year and read aloud the party's by-laws.

Source: Camilo Cairo Falcón, member of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Matanzas, April 5, 2006. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party met at Calle Calixto García #96, in Colón, to hold a fast and remember the trial of their organization's president, Diosdado González Marrero, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The brother of Pedro Luis Boitel participated in the fast and the women of the Join Up, Women for Freedom project created a mural featuring González Marrero. They also held discussions with audiovisual materials.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, the wife of Diosdado González Marrero, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Radio República.

Holguín, April 5, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast in Moa, in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Sixteen activists took part in the event, held at the home of Felipe Disney Ramos Leiva, at Calle Primera, Reparto Joselillo.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Holguín, April 5, 2006. Six activists with the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the



Activists meet in the Ileana Ros independent library to hold a fast in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas in his hunger strike to demand the right to unrestricted internet access for all Cubans.

Eastern Democratic Alliance managed to elude the watchful vigilance of pro-Castro mobs surrounding independent journalist Maikel Verdecia Torres' Banes home and hold a fast in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, April 5, 2006. The neighbors of Maikel Verdecia Torres refused to cooperate with State Security First Lieutenant Yosvani, who attempted to incite them into helping him prevent a fast scheduled by the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance at the Verdecia Torres' home in Banes. He threatened them with a thrashing, but the residents refused to cooperate.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba April 5, 2006 Activists of the Cuban Youth Movement for Democracy meet to conduct a vigil for the freedom of political prisoners and to study the real history of Cuba. In the activity several poems by Jose Marti are read.

Source: Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth Movement for Democracy, Cuban Democratic Directorate.

Villa Clara, April 6, 2006. Asunción Carrillo, mother of political prisoner Iván Hernández Carrillo, called on public opinion, the press and the exile community to pressure the Cuban govern-

ment to put a stop to the abuse, the violation of human rights and other physical violence committed against both political and nonpolitical prisoners in the country's prisons. She denounced the government for doing away with the young people of the country, saying that instead of preparing them, the government is traumatizing them. She called for an end to intra-Cuban violence and asked the Red Cross to inspect the prisons to see what atrocities take place in Cuba.

Source: Asunción Carrillo, mother of political prisoner Iván Hernández Carrillo

Holguín, April 6, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast in Moa, in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Seven activists took part in the fast at the home of Francisco Hernández Gómez, Calle Antonio Boizán #25, Reparto Haití Chiquito.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Villa Clara, April 7, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women's Movement attended a religious activity at the Buen Viaje Church in Santa Clara. They demanded freedom for political prisoners and prayed for the life of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. A heavy police presence developed outside the church.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Pinar del Río, April 8, 2006. The Cambio Independent Union was established, promoted and directed by journalist Carlos Ríos García. Its objective is to gather the concerns and reports of abuse from workers, both state-employed and self-employed. The inauguration was to be celebrated at the home of activist Blanca Rivera Sánchez, but she was arrested early that morning and driven to the political police station. At 11 a.m., Officer Ramón Beúne arrived at the residence and told Abigail Ortega Beltrán, Carlos Ríos García, Yoel Martínez Cruz and Rivera Sánchez' husband, Javier Rodríguez Rodríguez, that they would face serious consequences if they go through with the event. After a few minutes of trying to blackmail them, Beúne left the home and the group held the activity in the home of another activist.

Source: Yoel Martínez Cruz, The "I Need My Space" Project, Radio República.

Villa Clara, April 8 and 12, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women's Movement handed out alternative literature in the public street to passersbys from Santa Clara and Placetás. The passersbys eagerly accepted copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Movement coordinator Idania Yanes Contreras reported that many of the beneficiaries read the document immediately upon receiving it. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, the president of the organization, said that people in the bus terminal and in the Placetás hospital received the documents. Pedraza Jiménez said that they would continue informing the public as long as the government does not arrest them or kill them.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras and Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Pinar del Río, April 9, 2006. A fast was held at the home of human rights activist Yoel Martínez Cruz to support and give thanks to journalist Guillermo Fariñas, hospitalized for maintaining a hunger fast since January 31. The following activists gathered to honor Fariñas for his bravery and love for others: Joel Martínez Cruz, Alexander Ortega Martínez of the Democratic Front for the Freedom of Cuba, Eliosver Garriga Cabrera, Frank Jesús Serrano Cegato, Amado Macías Alvarado, Jesús Lórgiga Morales, Rosario Travieso Carrillo, Miguel Alfonso Valdés, Alberto Cabrera Llinás, Jesús Demencia Alfonso Valdés and Sergio Alfonso Cruz of the Racial Integration Movement.

Source: Yoel Martínez Cruz, Radio República.

Pinar del Río, April 9, 2006. Activists met at the Ileana Ros Independent Library to support independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas in his continued hunger strike to demand free Internet access for the Cuban people.

Havana, April 9, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly Sunday pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Cienfuegos, April 9, 2006. Members of the National Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Cuba met with the party's Cienfuegos delegation. During the meeting, they discussed different alternatives for the party to determine growth and training processes.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Camagüey, April 9, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, April 10, 2006. The Ladies in White marched through the streets of Havana to commemorate the third anniversary of the arrest of their family members. The dissident group invited the Spanish leader of the United Left, Gaspar Llamazares, to travel to Cuba to see the country's reality after the coalition vetoed a measure supporting the prisoners' release.

Villa Clara, April 10, 2006. Two members of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba paid a working visit to the group's Rancho Veloz delegation in Carralillo. Julio César Montes Merey and Roberto Carlos Pérez García arrived at the home of Guillermo Casabuena Montesinos and met with other members to plan new strategies and projects for achieving democracy through a peaceful transition. Casabuena Montesinos lives at Central Quintín Banderas #59, Rancho Veloz.

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Havana, April 11, 2006. Political prisoner Lázaro Alonso Román announced a hunger strike and refused medical assistance at the Melena del Sur prison after jail officials mistreated him. As he headed out to receive a scheduled visit from his family, carrying a toy truck he had made from old cardboard boxes for his son, two guards, the chief guard known as Parra and another named Ever, searched him before he went into the visiting room and confiscated the truck, throwing it on the ground

and kicking it apart. They then threatened and verbally berated him. Following the visit, the guards refused to hand over the foodstuffs his family had brought for him.

Source: Lázaro Alonso Román, Vivian Alonso Roman, sister of the activist; Minaldo Ramos Salgado, president of the Cuban National Commission; Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux Info Press Agency and director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge press agency.

Camagüey, April 11, 2006. Prisoners of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce refused to accept food at Camagüey's Kilo 8 prison cafeteria to protest the violations of their rights and the mistreatment they have suffered. They complained that they are not allowed to receive letters or to communicate with their families, and that they are not given medical attention. They demanded religious assistance and to be transferred to Guantánamo, which is the home province of both activists. They have spent numerous years in jail and are in poor health. They are eating only the foodstuffs from the care packages they received on family visits. They will continue their protest until they receive a response or die.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Pro-Freedom of the Press Association, Lux InfoPress

Guantánamo, April 11, 2006. Giovanni David Caballero Martín, who lives at Avenida Malecón #80, Baracoa, demanded a group of police officers respect his rights as a person and shouted at the top of his lungs that human rights are not respected in Cuba. This took place during the night at the Baracoa police station when agents harassed the young man following a violent arrest in the public street.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, April 12, 2006. The Independent Library Projects and the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project held a joint vigil in Nueva Gerona calling for the unconditional release of 11 independent librarians jailed by the Castro government for promoting uncensored literature. During the act of civil disobedience, the group lit a candle and raised a sign reading, "Freedom without Exile for the Cuban Political Prisoners." The activity was held at Calle 8 #2053 Apto. 3 e/ E y F, Reparto Micro 70. Noel De la Peña Rivera, Gerlys Pérez La Rosa, the ex-political prisoner Pedro Reyez Fuentes, Ana Bertha Julián Nuñez, Sandra Proenza Rodríguez, Vladimir Araña Rosa, Yuran DelaPhena Rivera, Carlos Serpa Maceira, Yoveni Cespedez Martí, Amaury Julián Nuñez, David Perez Placeres and Sergio Santa Cruz de Oviedo participated in the vigil.

Havana, April 12, 2006. The Freedom Movement

participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País"; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Isla de Pinos, April 13, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project paid tribute to Cuba's historic political prisoners with a vigil on the Isla de Pinos in Unit 2 of the model prison. The activists wore white T-shirts bearing the word *Cambio* (change) and made public a declaration demanding the unconditional release of the political prisoners, the holding of free elections and Fidel Castro's relinquishment of power. Sergio Santa Cruz de Oviedo, Yoveni Céspedes Martí, Yuran de la Peña Rivera, Ana Berta Julián Nuñez, Noel de la Peña Rivera and journalist Carlos Serpa Maceira all participated in the event.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Camagüey, April 14, 2006. Faithful Catholics gathered at the Church of the Merced in Camagüey to commemorate Good Friday with a procession through the streets of the city carrying the majestic image of the Lord evoking the Passion of Christ. Hundreds of lights illuminate the Holy Sepulcher and dozens of children walked ahead of the procession with burning candles. Archbishop Juan García, joined by members of the clergy, marched behind the sepulcher, inviting the faithful to repent of their sins. The procession continued along Calle Cisneros to the metropolitan cathedral. In the background, the municipal band played.

Source: Armando Betancourt Reina, Barrio Adentro. Radio República.

Havana, April 16, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for the release of Cuba's political prisoners.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Matanzas, April 16, 2006. The Martí Youth Coalition organized a baseball championship featuring the participation of 32 players divided into four teams. At the end of the games, the youths discussed the deplorable condition of the field, the lack of lighting and the fence, which is surrounded by trash heaps that neighbors have created. They also talked about the lack of importance given to the ed-

educational system and the government's attention to this situation.

Source: Juan Carlos Bueno Guerra, Martí Youth Coalition, Radio República.

Camagüey, April 16, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, April 16, 2006. Faithful Catholics met at the Cathedral of Camagüey to celebrate Easter Sunday. The figure of the resurrected Christ exited the cathedral while children headed to the plaza dressed in white, smiling as they tug their colorful balloons, and the Virgin followed. The liturgy took over the city and the choir sang Easter hymns as they marched to the Plaza of the Merced where they released the green, yellow and red balloons along with nearly 100 white doves to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit. That afternoon, the archbishop delivered a message of love and hope.

Source: Armando Betancourt, Barrio Adentro, Radio República.

Villa Clara, April 17, 2006. Members of the Nationalist Civic Movement in Santa Clara commemorated the combatants at Playa Girón, Brigade 2506, and paid posthumous homage to the deceased. During the event, the activists read proclamations condemning the assassination of the so-called "Tractor Trailer of Death", during which many soldiers suffocated to death. In addition to the organizing group's members, activists from the Marta Abreu Women's Movement and the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba also participated in the event. Later, they discussed other issues such as the growing repression against human rights activists in the region and the situation of political prisoners.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Havana, April 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The "Literary Tea" is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, April 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners. Thirteen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, April 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja. Thirteen activists were present at the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, April 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Leonel Sánchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre. Thirteen activists were present at the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Matanzas, April 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, April 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, April 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña prayed the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Havana, April 19, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.



EFE/Alejandro Ernesto

Czech diplomat Stanislav Kazecky (right) speaks with opposition activist Vladimiro Roca Antúnez (left) on Friday April 14, 2006, in Havana. Roca Antúnez reported to the diplomat the increase in repression and acts of repudiation unleashed throughout the country and of which he has been victim repeated times in his own home. Stanislav, whose visa was not renewed and was ordered to leave the island, was accused by the regime of carrying out “subversive” activities in Cuba.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Isla de Pinos, April 20, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project screened the documentary, “Single Party, Single Newspaper,” produced by the Cuban-Argentine exile Jorge Massetti at La Demajagua, La Fe and Nueva Gerona. In total, 100 people viewed the 30-minute film.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Camagüey, April 21, 2006. Prisoner of conscience René Montes de Oca Martija, held at the Cerámica Roja prison in Camagüey province, called on Cubans to engage in reflection in order to find solutions to the grave economic, political and social situations that confront the Cuban people. “We raise our voices against the injustice imposed upon us by representatives of the governing leadership,” said the secretary general of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. In closing, he added, “We support all civic non-violent actions to make real

Jose Martí’s dream - to found a new nation with all the living forces it comprises, for all and for the good of all.”

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Cubanet.

Havana, April 23, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, April 23, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement in Punta Brava, La Lisa, held a vigil at the home of the local delegate, Silvio Benítez Márquez, Avenida 249 #4614 e/ 46 y 48, to express their solidarity with and support for the ongoing hunger strike of Guillermo Fariñas. They also participated in a mass for all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. More than one dozen people took part in the vigil.

Matanzas, April 23, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party participated in a vigil at the San José de Colón Church to call for the

immediate release of the 75 brothers serving time as prisoners of conscience. They prayed to all of these victims and especially for Diosdado González Marrero, who is still waiting in his cell in Pinar del Río's Kilo 5 prison to receive the religious attention he has often requested.

Source: Alejandrina García de la Riva, the wife of Diosdado González Marrero, Peace, Love and Freedom Party.

Camagüey, April 23, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, April 26, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for all prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared, as well as other causes.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement.

Holguín, April 26 - 29, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance fasted in support of hunger striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and for Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, who had been repressed. The fast is held at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2006 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. Those gathered prayed for an end to repressive activities on the island. Participating in the fast were: Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Arnaldo Exposito Zaldivar, Nancy Rojas Feria and Andrés Peña Pérez.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library. Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist. Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República.

Pinar del Río, April 27, 2006. A group of activists showed their support for and solidarity with the independent journalist and director of the Fernando Martínez Calzadilla Western Cultural Center, during his hearing for allegedly committing bribery. The group, which was prevented from entering the courthouse, included Manuel Rodríguez Quirós, Eliosbel Garriga Cabrera, Adnel Herrera Padrón, Alexander Ortega Martinez and Yoel Martínez

Cruz.

Source: Yoel Martínez Cruz, Democratic Front for the Freedom of Cuba, Radio República.

Havana, April 27, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement issued a call to "Stop the repression" and called on those Cubans who have not joined the resistance to "do so with the courage that characterizes you, and those that will not, at least do not collaborate with and support this bloody and totalitarian regime."

Source: Alexander Santos Hernández, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Cienfuegos, April 27, 2006. Ricardo Filgueira Fajardo, 35, produces and hangs numerous anti-government signs on the walls of the Cultural House located across from his home, at Calle Aponte #44, e/ Avenida Libertad y Agramonte, in Aguada de Pasajeros, to protest the physical aggression committed against Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. The signs read, "Down with Fidel", "Freedom for political prisoners" and "Long live human rights".

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship, Ciego de Ávila. Radio República.

Guantanamo, April 27, 2006. Janet Mosquera Cayón was refused entry to the Parque 24 where her husband, the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy activist Rolando Rodríguez Lovaina had been unjustly detained.

She told the official who stopped her that if she was not permitted to see her husband, she might think that guards had beaten him or that he was unwell and she held the guard responsible for whatever happened to him. She said if, by Saturday – when Rodríguez Lobaina reaches four days behind bars – she has not received satisfactory news regarding her husband, she would go to the State Council in Havana to file a formal complaint about the officials' attitudes, as her husband has not committed a crime.

Source: Janet Mosquera Cayón, Radio República.

Matanzas, April 28, 2006. The Alternative Option independent movement issued a statement condemning the physical aggression committed against the president of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, in her Santa Suárez, Havana, home on April 25. From their headquarters in Pedro Betancourt, the movement members labeled the acts brutal and intolerable, and expressed their solidarity with the dissident. "It is unthinkable that a lady would be thrown to the floor, kicked in the stomach, dragged and elbowed in the face – all in her own home – only because she has not supported the official ideology," the group said. They also expressed their unwavering support and permanent solidarity, af-



Activists from the Julio Tang Texier Civic Cultural Project in Isla de Pinos hold a vigil wearing t-shirts from the “Cambio” campaign, in the Model Prison of Isla de Pinos.



firming that they will continue to work in favor of democratizing the country.

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madán, Cubanet. Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Alternative Option Independent Movement.

Camagüey, April 28, 2006. On the fourth anniversary of the publication of the El Camagüeyano independent newsletter, independent journalist Luís Guerra Javier invited members of the Free Expression Solidarity Movement to a symbolic activity that included the wives and family members of the political prisoners. The meeting featured an exposition by MOSEL of “Legal and illegal emigra-

tion”, produced by Jesús Álvarez and “Freedom of Expression” by Julio Romero Muñoz.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement. Luís Guerra Javier, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Camagüey, April 28, 2006. The political prisoner José Daniel Ferrer García issued a declaration from his cell in Kilo 8 prison in response to Fidel Castro’s assertion that Cuba is progressing better than ever despite the unsustainable global situation. Ferrer García noted that Cuba is the only country in the Western Hemisphere without freedom of expression, the press, association, gathering

or protest; where misery affects the vast majority of residents; with the highest percentage of the country wishing to emigrate to other countries – with many willing to risk their lives in the sea in order to free themselves of the burdensome yolk they must bear in Cuba. He said that the dictator “has always said and done whatever it takes to guarantee his continuance in power, regardless of the crime or how many times he contradicts himself.

Source: José Daniel Ferrer García, Christian Liberation Movement, political prisoner.

Holguín, April 28, 2006. Citizens of Holguín hung antigovernment banners after learning of their imminent eviction from a home located at Calle Sol #69, e/ 20 de Mayo e Independencia, Reparto Vista Alegre. The banners were hung across from the home of the eviction victims, on a gate facing the street, next to a Cuban flag and two white sheets and read, “Cancel the eviction” and “Long live human rights”. The alarmed residents destroyed part of the house. It all occurred after the municipal housing authority informed 84-year-old Milagros de la Caridad Sera Rodríguez and her seven family members (including two minors) that the home was oversized, asserting illegal expansion under Resolution 5177 of 2005. The police arrived at the home, tore down the banners and accused the family of damaging public property; and declared the home “property of the state”.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, April 28, 2006. Political prisoners Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Alexis Rodríguez Fernández and Agustín Cervantes, began a hunger strike at the Mar Verde prison in response to their unjust imprisonment, mistreatment, lack of medical attention, poor food and the violation of their basic rights. Peña Martínez added that in a sign of support, the family members and friends of the three prisoners started a chain of fasts in Puerto Padre, Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República. Milca María Peña

Martínez, wife of political prisoner Luis Enrique Ferrer García. Ana Belkis Ferrer Garcia, Christian Liberation Movement.

Las Tunas, April 29, 2006. Melba Santa Ariz, the wife of prisoner of conscience Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista, said that a group of family members and human rights defenders had begun a 12-hour fast. Similar activists also took place in Santiago de Cuba and Palmarito de Cauto in support of the hunger strike begun recently by Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Alexis Rodríguez Fernández and Agustín Cervantes, all three prisoners in the Mar Verde prison in eastern Cuba.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Cubanet. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República. Melba Santana Arís, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista.

Havana, April 30, 2006. The Ladies in White made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Camagüey, April 30, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, April 30, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance prayed for national unity at the home of Francisco Ferrer Columbié, located at Calle Moncada #5 de Sagua de Tánamo. In attendance were Rafael Mesa Columbié, Yirina Texidor Díaz, Jesús Batista, Rubildo de la Cruz Roche, Jesús Bárzaga Cordero and Raúl Torres Gómez.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
5	12	19	26				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2º Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macías (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x				Calle 30 No. 5107 e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona	Isla de Pinos	5	Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García (Fundación Cubana de DD.HH.)
x	x			Calle 275 No. 15227, e/ 160 y 152, Río Verde, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
		x	x	Calle 134 No. 28328, e/ 289 y Final, Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
			x	Calle Sta. Isabel, No. 481, Barrio Azul del Capitalino, Arroyo Naranjo	Ciudad de La Habana	16	Vivian Santana Barreto (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetás	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
	x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x		x		Prologación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
	x			Calle G, No. 18 e/ ICP y Fábrica de Pienso, Rpto Sub Planta, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	5	Roberto Carlos Pérez García (Mov. Democrático Cristiano de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x		Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x		Calle Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, No. 2007, Banes	Holguín	11	Liannis Meriño Aguilera (jóvenes Sin Censura)

MAY 2006

Cienfuegos, May 1, 2006. The common prisoner Luis Cueto, held at the Provincial Prison of Ariza, began a hunger strike after he was brutally beaten by a fellow prisoner whom State Security guards had bribed to punish Cueto after they found anti-establishment materials in his cell. He demanded that prison officials return his newspaper, correspondence and literature and that they not apply disciplinary measures against him.

Source: Magali Broche de la Cruz, wife of political prisoner Librado Linares García.

Ciego de Ávila, May 1, 2006. Juan Carlos González Leyva, the president of the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, received numerous calls from individuals and institutions protesting the physical aggression committed against dissident Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. Among those expressing their concerns were the president of the Marta Abreu Feminist Movement in Santa Clara, **Villa Clara**; Liborio Apolinar Borroto Monroy of the Human Rights Defenders in Jatibonico, **Sancti Spiritus**; and Fidel Palacio Tomás, of the Orthodox Peoples Party, in **Camagüey**.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 1, 2006. The Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba proclaimed its solidarity with dissident Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello after the Castro regime's mobs beat her. The Christian Democratic Movement condemned these acts against nonviolent opposition and human rights activists in Cuba and called on the domestic and international public opinion to urge the Cuban government to cease these terrorist activists, noting that it is a candidate to sit on the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The Christian Democrats said they oppose all violent acts against human life and demand that freedom of thought be respected.

Source: Argelia Quintero Benítez, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Camagüey, May 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 26 of *El Camagüeyano* was published featuring articles of the arrest of independent journalist Armando Betancourt Reina and on freedom of the press, a report on the environment, opinion columns, complaints and a special report on the third anniversary of the death of Camagüey's bishop, Monseñor Adolfo Rodríguez Herrera.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana;

Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Isla de Pinos, May 2, 2006. The directors and participants of the Independent Libraries and Julio Tang Texier and Cultural Civic Projects held a vigil demanding unconditional freedom for 11 independent librarians jailed by the Castro government for promoting uncensored literature in Cuba. Independent library directors from throughout Isla de Pinos as well as the developers of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project attended the civic activity, which took place at Calle 8, Escalera 2053, Apartamento 3, e/ E y F, Reparto Micro 70, Nueva Gerona. "We raise our voices in solidarity with the imprisoned librarians José Luis Díaz Paneque, Ricardo González Alfonso, José Miguel Martínez Hernández Rodríguez, Omar Bernet Hernández, Leonel Grave de Peralta, José Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernández, Fidel Suárez Cruz, Luis Milán, Víctor Rolando Arroyo Carmona and Iván Hernández Carrillo", said Sergio Santacruz de Oviedo, the coordinator of the Independent Library Project in Isla de Pinos. They lit a candle and unrolled a banner reading, "Freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners. Independent Libraries Project."

Those gathered also learned of new books on circulation in Isla de Pinos, "Castro's Hostages" and "Steps to Freedom 2004". The former is a testimony written by Cuban-American political exile Ernesto Díaz Rodríguez about what he and other Cubans have had to pay for his country's freedom, with a forward by Agustín Tamargo. They heard that Steps to Freedom has encouraged Isla de Pinos residents and has served to spur people to read and see the reports and photographs in the book.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress Agency and Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, May 2, 2006. A conference on a document to be presented to the government and discussed among the various components of Cuba's opposition movement was held at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, located at Calle Atlanta #322, e/ Alegría y Sanguily, Reparto Gavilán. Those present discussed issues relating to human rights and the responsibilities of schoolchildren, the environment and ecology, and the ethics of politics in Cuban society. As a result of this meeting, the document is drafted and prepared for submission to Cuba's government authorities at each municipi-

pal office. Among the dissidents participating in the conference were Roberto Miranda Díaz, public relations officer for the Cuban Liberal Movement; Orlando Fundora Álvarez, president of the Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoner Association; and Arturo Quesada Ortega, director of the library.

Both Elizardo Sánchez Santacruz, of the National Commission for Human Rights and Reconciliation, and León Padrón Azcuy, of the Cuban Liberal Movement, joined the conference via telephone.

Source: Leonel Alberto Pérez Belette, Cubanet.

Isla de Pinos, May 3, 2006. The Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights and Territorial Development, the Martí Youth Coalition and the Independent Libraries Project met at the home of the foundation's president to celebrate that organization's fifth anniversary as well as World Press Freedom Day. They circulated copies of "Steps to Freedom" and "The Power of Nonviolence" and read articles from the Declaration on Human Rights and the philosophical musings of José Martí. They issued a call for nonviolence. Twenty-eight activists took part in the three-hour event, during which they also discussed the creation of a bulletin on dissidence in Isla de Pinos.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress Agency and Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, May 3, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish, for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, and prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País"; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Havana, May 3, 2006. Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, the wife of political prisoner Francisco Chaviano González, delivered a letter to the Office of the General Director of Jails and Prisons advocating for the release of her husband. The letter was signed by human rights activists, including members of the Ladies in White and the Leonor Pérez Committee of the Mothers of Political Prisoners.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, Leonor Pérez Committee of the Mothers of Political Prisoners; Laura Pollán Toledo, Ladies in White.

Matanzas, May 3, 2006. Asunción Carrillo, the mother of political prisoner Iván Hernández Carrillo, who was arrested during the Black Spring of Cuba, made public a letter from her son to Fidel Castro that describes, among other things, the sadistic and perverse acts that take place in prison and

that the authorities are trained only to mistreat and despise their fellow man. He told Castro to speak no more of ending prison abuses abroad but rather to put a stop to the abuse and mistreatment that takes place in Cuban jails.

Source: Iván Hernández Carrillo, El Pre provincial juvenile prison, Santa Clara. Radio República.

Guantánamo, May 3, 2006. During the morning, 38-year-old Oscar Savón Pantoja hung a sign on his door that read, "Justice for the mutilated veterans of the war in Angola". Savón Pantoja lives at 3 oeste, e/ Calle Paseo y Uno Norte, in Guantánamo. He said he hung the sign because the government provides no assistance to his brother, Víctor Savón Pantoja, who was sent to Africa on military missions and returned to Cuba suffering severe mental trauma. In the 13 years since he returned from war, local authorities have not provided any social or economic assistance.

Source: Leonor Padilla Navarro, Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy. Radio República.

Havana, May 4, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement announced that violent acts against democracy activists have intensified in the past year throughout the island, making particular note of the April 25 attack against Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. The Cuban Liberal Movement once again demanded that the Cuban Communist Party and its repressive mechanisms understand that the Cuba to come will be greater than the current situation of the country, which has been kidnapped by a single individual.

Source: León Padrón Azcuy, Cuban Liberal Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 4, 2006. Members of the Marta Abreu Feminist Movement handed out alternative literature on the streets of Santa Clara. Passersby expressed interest in the literature discussing human rights and the opposition movement in Cuba.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Sancti Spíritus, May 4, 2006. Signs bearing the word, "Change" appeared throughout the Caracusey community in the Sierra del Escambray neighborhood in Fomento. The 50 by 50 centimeters signs were placed on the hillside visible to those entering the community. When authorities learned of the signs, they removed and confiscated them, but only after many people traveling by foot or in public transportation, had already seen them. The word "Change" is used frequently among those in the opposition movement to demand that the regime make democratic changes in the country.

Source: Hugo Araña, Cubanet.

Camagüey, May 4, 2006. Ernesto Corría walked

along the main throughway, Calle Independencia, wearing a T-shirt and a bracelet bearing the word, "Change". All the while, the nonviolent peace activist pushed a handicapped individual in a wheelchair.

Source: Armando Betancourt, Barrio Adentro. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, May 5, 2006. Members of various opposition organizations met at the headquarters of the Melinda Gates Democratic Foundation to condemn the aggression of Cuban authorities against nonviolent dissidents. Over the past few days, various members of the opposition movement within Cuba have, while in their homes, been victims of physical and verbal aggressions by the political police or groups of individuals identified with the government. Roberto Estrella Salas, in the name of the dissidents and opposition members who suffered the attacks., denounced these assaults, to the international community. Among those present at the meeting were members of Racial Integration Movement, the Bicycle-Taxi Independent Union, the Independent Libraries Project, the Latin American Federation of Rural Women (FLAMUR) and the Women's Democratic Front.

Source: Rafael Ferro, Abdala Press.

Cienfuegos, May 5, 2006. The provincial delegations of the Cuban Liberal Party from Villa Clara and Cienfuegos held a fraternal meeting in Cienfuegos to coordinate the party's work in central Cuba. Delegates Alejandro Tur Valladares and Bernardo Luis Ascanio Camargo reached working agreements during the meeting.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, May 7, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Camagüey, May 7, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, May 7, 2006. Members of the opposition movement celebrated Mothers' Day at the

home of independent librarian Marlene Bermúdez Sardinas, Calle 4ta. Paralela #583, Reparto Florá. The activity went late into the afternoon and involved a group of 11 women and 15 men. They paid homage to Jacqueline Montes de Oca of Havana, and Emilia León, Ana López and other mothers from Camagüey. Marlene Bermúdez said she was satisfied with the event but sad about the registration and decommissioning of her library, which occurred yesterday and ended with the arrest of her husband, Roberto Marrero La Rosa. Jacqueline Montes de Oca, the sister of political prisoner René Montes de Oca, said that she was pleased to be supporting Marlene because, despite Roberto's arrest, they will continue with their activities. Two men expressed their respect and admiration for the mothers of Cuba and the entire group prepared a gift card for Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. Arisbel Hernández read aloud the letter that will be personally delivered to Roque Cabello.

Source: Armando Betancourt, Barrio Adentro. Radio República.

Holguín, May 7, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba, the Claridad Human Rights Movement and the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrated mass at the San Isidoro Catholic Church. The 22 activists participating in the service prayed for all political prisoners, for the health of the hunger striking dissident Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, for Héctor Maseda, for the recovery of all who are in poor health and for an end to acts of violence committed against human rights activists in the country.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República . Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Havana, May 8, 2006. A group of 25 opposition activists held a vigil in tribute of the 105 martyrs of the 2506th Brigade, who fell while defending freedom and democracy in Cuba in 1961 on the Girón Beach. The public protest was held at the Ronald Reagan Independent Library, located at Puerta Cerrada #417, altos, e/ Figuras y Chamorro, in Habana Vieja. After singing the national anthem, they observed a moment of silence and a reading of the names of the fallen. The opposition activists in attendance, wearing white shirts emblazoned with the word, "Change", lit candles, unfurled the national flag and banners that read, "Glory to the martyrs of the 2506th Brigade" and "Long Live the 2506th", as well as the Brigade's coat of arms.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Luz Info Press independent press agency, Radio República.

Havana, May 8, 2006. Lady in White Dolia

Leal Francisco wrote a letter to Fidel Castro and delivered it to the Council of State to be passed to him. But when she arrived, no one attended her and she left without delivering the letter. The letter explained that she was the wife of prisoner of conscience Nelson Aguiar Ramírez—in various other letters, she has requested conditional release for her husband due to his serious health problems. “This terrifying problem is in your hands; do not let my husband die,” she wrote.

Source: Dolia Leal Francisco, Vedado, Ciudad de La Habana.

Havana, May 8, 2006. Artist Ilei de Jesús Urrutia Álvarez sent a public letter to the artists of the world denouncing the harassment he has suffered for not capitulating to the official dogma of the Cuban regime. “I do not feel that I owe anything to any government, for I owe nobody for my humble talent,” he wrote. He also declared his right to continue being an artist.

Source: Gladys Linares, Women’s Humanitarian Front. Ilei de Jesús Urrutia Álvarez.

Villa Clara, May 8, 2006. Different organizations held an all-night vigil to pray for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who had pneumothorax surgery and was in serious condition. The vigil took place at the home of Idania Yánes Contreras, at Prolongación de Marta Abreu #93 C, e/ B y C, Santa Clara

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.

Granma, May 8, 2006. The members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Manzanillo issued a public accusation against the government of Cuba and Fidel Castro, for the physical beating of opposition leader Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. The statement had the support of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, with the following signors: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, Lázaro Vidal García, Xiomara Moncada Almaguer, Nelson Reyes Tamayo, Aracelia Grenes, Leonardo Carlos Santana, Alberto Moreno Fonseca, María del Carmen Videu and Enrique Diéguez Segura.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, Radio República.

Havana, May 10, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorriá, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Havana, May 10, 2006. Dissident Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, promoter of the Varela Project, and two of his associates, held a press conference to discuss the project for change proposed to the government that includes the release of political prisoners and a call for dialogue. The project of political openness is explained in the document, “Common Base, Path and Hope for Cuba,” which was produced over the course of two months with the support of dozens of dissident groups, Payá said.

Source: EFE

Havana, May 10, 2006. The Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba signed a declaration protesting the human rights violations committed against activist Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, who was brutally attacked. The Assembly members called on their brothers in exile and the organizations that represent them to launch an international campaign to nominate Roque Cabello for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Source: Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 10, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women’s Movement and the Maceo Movement for Dignity passed out alternative literature and materials in Santa Clara. “We are with you,” many people told them as they quickly received the plastic bracelets, T-shirts and packets of literature inscribed with the word “Change” outside of the 20 Aniversario Medical Clinic on the corner of Calle Amparo and Terminal Intermunicipal. Passersbys eagerly accepted copies of books including *The Power of The Powerless* and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Some even fought over the white balloons. Opposition movement organizers have held many similar handouts throughout the province of Villa Clara.

Source: Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, May 10, 2006. A group of political prisoners at the Cerámica Roja prison issued a public letter of protest addressed to both national and international public opinion, international organizations and those in exile. In the letter, Francisco Pacheco Espinosa, Jorge Luis Suárez Varona, Elizardo Calvo Hernández and José Agramonte Leyva denounced the horrid living conditions in which they are kept, the shortage of medicine, the lack of medical assistance, poorly prepared food and the despotic attitude of the jailers.

Source: Armando Betancourt, Barrio Adentro. Radio República.

Camagüey, May 10, 2006. José Daniel Ferrer García, an inmate at the Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey, told the Cuban Human Rights Foundation that pris-



EFE

Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas (center), promoter of the Varela Project, together with two of his colleagues, holds a press conference on Wednesday, May 10, in Havana to announce a project for change proposed to the government of the island, which calls for the release of political prisoners and for dialogue. The project for political opening is taken up in a document entitled "Common ground, way and hope for Cuba". Payá explained that this document was put together over a period of two months with contributions from dozens of opposition organizations.

on authorities have announced new food restrictions and that the prisoners are no longer permitted to take prepared food to their cells. The inmates began to protest, complaining that the only quality food they receive is when their families come to visit and that the prison food is of horrible quality and too limited in quantity. As the protest erupted, guards arrived to stop it through intimidation and force, as the inmates shouted "Down with abuse", "Down with communism", and "Down with Fidel". Ferrer García said that he shouted these complaints very loudly and that the guards pulled him from his cell, and took him to Téllez, the section chief, in order to beat him but were stopped when other prisoners came to his aid. This stopped the guards momentarily while the inmates led Ferrer García back to his cell. The authorities later said that it was all a big confusion and that what will not be permitted is an increase in prepared food.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban

Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 11, 2006. Prisoners of conscience at the La Pendiente provincial prison in Villa Clara presented an international declaration addressed to the new Council on Human Rights based in Geneva, Switzerland. In it, Raúl Martínez Prieto and Léster González Pentón declared their opposition to the Cuban government's new decision to be a member of the new Council on Human Rights. "It would be a disgrace for the Communist dictator and murderer Fidel Castro to serve as a member of the new and prestigious human rights organization. For the council to permit this would be paramount to becoming an accomplice to the crimes, torture and violations that the dictator has committed over the past 47 years," they said.

Source: Raúl Martínez Prieto and Lester González Penton. Radio República.

Havana, May 12, 2006. The Martí Current made public a message recording the suffering of Cuban

mothers. “The mothers of the entire world, and in particular the Cubans, have suffered too much. This day is dedicated to them, and the only gift we can give them is to shout at the top of our lungs and fight with all our energy against the wars that are killing their children; the terrorism that is killing their innocent children; the mechanisms of evasion that degrade them; the violations of their human rights; discrimination; political imprisonment; and the violence that hurts all families.

Source: José Leonardo Rodríguez Valdés, promoter, The Martí Current. Radio República.

Havana, May 12, 2006. The Ladies in White celebrated Mothers’ Day by marching, as they do every Sunday and other important dates, through the streets of the capital to demand the release of political prisoners.

Source: EFE. Laura Pollán, Lady in White and wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Holguín, May 13, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held an opening ceremony for the week of honor for martyr Pedro Luis Boitel and for the release of political prisoners. The ceremony was held at the home of activist Felipe Disney Ramos Leiva, who lives at Calle 1ra #19, Reparto Joselillo in Moa. Omar Wilson Estévez, Silverio Herrera Acosta, Héctor Silót Rueda, Omar Pérez Torres, Osiel Olivares Tito, Martín Ruiz González, Felipe del Rosario and Francisco Hernández Gómez all participated in the event.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Holguín, May 13, 2006. The chief of security at the Kilo 8 prison threatened political prisoners Luis Díaz Fernández and Lamberto Hernández Planas with filing a formal accusation or punishing them for misbehavior after the pair shouted antigovernment slogans during the course of the day in honor of Pedro Luis Boitel, the political prisoner who died in 1972 while on a hunger strike. Carlos Luis Díaz was transferred to a punishment cell for energetically protesting the installation of a loudspeaker next to his cell while Juan Carlos Herrera, an independent journalist and political prisoner held there denounced the terrible conditions that political and common prisoners share at Kilo 8.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Granma, May 13, 2006. Political prisoner Félix Navarro Rodríguez sent a letter from his cell in the Las Mangas provincial prison in Bayamo to Cuba’s assistant attorney general, Rafael Pino Bécquer. In the letter, Navarro Rodríguez described the of-

fenses committed against different prisoners, saying that beatings are everyday events condoned by prison and provincial authorities as well as the State Council. He complained of the poor medical treatment afforded to prisoners and about the lives that have been lost as a result of negligence and the lack of security. The letter was delivered by the prisoner’s daughter, Sahilí Navarro Álvarez, who lives at Calle Peatonal #6, Reparto Las Canteras, Perico.

Source: Félix Navarro Rodríguez, Las Mangas provincial prison, Bayamo, Unit 6, Ward 8. Sahilí Navarro Álvarez, Radio República.

Havana, May 14, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. There, they prayed for the political prisoners to be released.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, May 14, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Cienfuegos, May 15, 2006. A representative of the National Board of Directors of the Liberal Party of Cuba visited its Cienfuegos delegation to give a presentation to members on the ways to use and disseminate information in seminars that the party organizes.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, May 15, 2006. Members of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project put together a book of condolences to mark the death of former political prisoner Eusebio Peñalver Mazorra. Among those who signed the book were two members of the Group of 75 prisoners of conscience, out on conditional release for health reasons, Roberto de Miranda Hernández and Carmelo Díaz Fernández. Other signors included: Lady in White Soledad Rivas Verdecia, the national executive board of the Committee to Support the Dissidence Brigade 2506 (CAD-2506), as well as former political prisoners and activists with groups such as the Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights and Territorial Development, Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project, and the Cuba National Commission.

The book of condolences begins with a dedication, “Eusebio Peñalver Mazorra was an indefatigable fighter for freedom and democracy in Cuba; to quote José Martí, ‘All honorable men can account for their actions.’ He always wrote with capital letters the Freedom of Cuba. Until his death he maintained his ideals and his lasting legacy is manifest in all those who struggle with dignity for the Freedom of Cuba.”

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Sindical Press and the director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge press bureau.

Las Tunas, May 16, 2006. The wife of political prisoner Luis Enrique Ferrer García announced a fast to protest her husband’s condition. The fast, which took place at her home at Circuito Norte #88C in Puerto Padre included the participation of the following members of the nonviolent opposition movement: Milka María Peña Martínez, Rosa Martínez Urquiza, Ezequiel Morales Carmentate, Melba Santana Arís, Filia Correoso Pérez, Ramón García Correoso, Ramón Bornó Guerrero, Rigoberto Hernández González, Maidelín Guerrero Peña, Pablo Salazar Fonseca, and others. Simultaneous fasts also took place in Puerto Padre, Palmarito de Cauto and Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Milka Peña Martínez, Radio República.

Havana, May 17, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, prisoners of conscience and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Santiago de Cuba, May 17, 2006. Family members of political prisoners Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Alexis Rodríguez Fernández and Agustín Cervantes García, all three members of the Christian Liberation Movement and leaders of the Varela Project, sent a letter to the Provincial Office of the Attorney General, denouncing the Castro government and State Security for whatever may happen to the trio. Amelia García Vega, Mirta María Pena Martínez, Ana Belkis García and Luisa Maria Lebeté Giral signed the document. They wrote that the political prisoners are on a hunger strike since April 28 to protest the violations committed against them on a daily basis. After 3 months and 17 days, they were sent to punishment cells and Ferrer García to the Boniato prison hospital.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Pinar del Río, May 18, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Orlando Zapata Tamayo, behind bars at the Taco Taco prison, declared a hunger strike and shouted antigovernment slogans in response to the mistreatment and torture he has suffered over the past few days.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship.

Havana, May 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners. Thirteen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, May 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja. Thirteen activists were present at the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, May 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Leonel Sánchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre. Thirteen activists took part in the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, May 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, May 18, 2006. Members of the Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País” met at the home of the organization’s acting president Anaika Paneca Román to hold a meeting arranged to discuss the situation of Cuba’s political prisoner, arbitrarily detained and kept in subhuman conditions. The group also remembered the life of Pedro Luis Boitel, who died in prison in 1972 while on hunger strike. Humberto Guerra Perugorría, the president of the Freedom Movement, joined party members Raiza Martínez Llerena, René Sánchez Cargo, Joel Díaz Soroa Juana Román, Anaika Paneca, Sergio Langazuri and Humberto Guerra Perugorría at the home of Paneca Román, Calle 12 #14619 e/ 3ra y 5ta, Diezmero, San Miguel del



Activists hold a vigil in tribute to the martyrs of Brigade 2506 in the Ronald Reagan Independent Library in the City of Havana.

Padrón, Ciudad de La Habana.

Source: Raiza Martínez, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País", Havana.

Matanzas, May 18, 2006. Nine members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the arrests and sentences of the Group of 75 at the home of Andrés Govea Suárez, located at Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, Guareira.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, May 18, 2006. Fifteen members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the arrests and sentences of the Group of 75 at the home of Raymundo de Toro, at Calle #11 #5421 e/ 54 y 56, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado

González Marrero.

Matanzas, May 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to commemorate the arrests and sentences of the Group of 75 at the home of Ramón Verdecia, at Calle Maceo 104, in Colón.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, May 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, May 18, 2006. Around 7 people, in-

cluding Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, May 18, 2006. Activists from the Antilla municipality commemorated the first anniversary of the strong response to the violent acts committed by the political police against human rights activists on May 12, 2005. According to Eastern Democratic Alliance President Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, the group followed up the event by visiting the home of the attorney Giordana Varela Fundichelli, wife of political prisoner Duilián Ramírez Ballester, to show their support for her and protest her husband's unjust imprisonment. Consuegra Rivas added that they are once again offering their unconditional support for Ramírez Ballester and his family, even though he is being held at the Cuba Sí prison, one of the country's cruelest correctional facilities. Ramírez Ballester continues his unwavering position against the Cuban regime and the people of Antilla remember him as one of their most dignified sons.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, May 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña prayed the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final #318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Matanzas, May 19, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party laid a floral offering at the base of the bust of José Martí, located on the central highway in Colón. Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Rolando Wang Cepero, Andrés Govea Suárez, Tania Morejón, Belkis Tellechea, Marlene Guerra, Anya Vázquez Chávez, Ivan Mendez Mirabal, Yordanis Martínez and Alejandrina García de la Rivas took part in the event.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, May 19, 2006. The 19 de Mayo Independent Library was inaugurated in the Torrientes neighborhood in Jagüey Grande as part of the activities commemorating Cuban Independence Day. Eight members of the Peace,

Love and Freedom Party took part in the morning event while members of State Security and the Communist Party besieged the library.

Source: Belkis Tellechea Chávez, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 19, 2006. Members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity, the Marta Abreu Women's Movement and the Liberal Party participated in a climb up Escambray Mountain to celebrate the anniversary of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. At the base of the mountain, they placed a floral offering on the bust of José Martí in the Manicaragua Central Park. Once at the summit, known as El Sijú, the group sang the national anthem, released balloons inscribed with the word "Change" and remembered the historical significance of the date. They took photos and left a sign reading "Change" atop the mountain. Nearby, they held a vigil at the headquarters of the Sajarov Movement, located on the Central Highway in Ranchuelo. They prayed for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, the former political prisoner and independent journalist who is on an extended hunger strike, as well as for the life of Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, who was brutally attacked by government mobs recently. They discussed the impact of the regime on the situation of the political prisoners and prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

The events took place thanks to the bravery of the participants, some of who had been threatened with arrest. Those taking part were Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Idania Yanes Contreras of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement; Luís Aragón García, Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo of the Maceo Movement for Dignity; Yunesky García López, Bernardo Luís Ascano Camargo and Rolando García Casadebal of the Liberal Party of Cuba.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Idalberto González Gómez, Maceo Movement for Dignity. Yunesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Marta Abreu Women's Movement, Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 19, 2006. A large group of activists from central Cuba met to remember the battlefield death of Cuban independence hero José Martí. Among the organizations represented were the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sajarov Foundation, the Independent Democratic Front and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. They met at the headquarters of the Nationalist Civic Movement, Calle 6ta. No. 16, e/ 3ra. y Carretera a Sagua, Reparto Camacho,

Santa Clara.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Holguín, May 19, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance issued a message paying tribute to the Cuban apostle, José Martí, in commemoration of his death. “The Cuban people and the defenders of human rights will not waver in standing up to totalitarian repression,” said Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, the president of the organization. “Those who oppose the regime and those who defend human rights are willing to be nailed to the cross, all for Cuban liberty.”

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Holguín, May 19, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance announced its support for the statement issued by Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello in the document, “Three Steps to Freedom”, and affirmed that they will not back down until the freedom of the homeland is achieved. As Major General Calixto García would say, “Free forever or forever fighting to be free.”

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Holguín, May 19, 2006. Political prisoners at Mayarí’s Playa Manteca prison began publishing a monthly newsletter titled, “La Voz” (“The Voice”), rudimentarily published in the jail to denounce human rights violations. The newsletter is printed by political prisoners Fidel García Roldán, Elio Terrero Gómez, Leandro Suárez Sabot, Digzán Ramírez Ballester and Carlos Miguel López Santos.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Fidel García Roldán, political prisoner.

Santiago de Cuba, May 19, 2006. About 20 members of the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy met at the home of Zoila Echevarría Gutiérrez, Edificio 21, Escalera 3, Apto. 4, Reparto Rajayoga, to take part in the “Martí in 21st Century Cuba” conference, offered by the organization’s president, Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Movement of Youth for Democracy.

Pinar del Río, May 20, 2006. The Máximo Gómez Báez Civic Movement organized an Independence Day activity that drew 18 people to the home of activist Francisco Valle Pérez, Calle 26 de Julio #9, Pinar del Río.

Source: Mario Izquierdo Sotolongo, Máximo Gómez Báez Civic Movement.

Matanzas, May 20, 2006. A group of women from the Peace, Love and Freedom Party, as well as some of the participants in the Join Up, Women for

Freedom Project, commemorated the 111th anniversary of the battlefield death of Cuban apostle José Martí. They peacefully marched in silence, carrying flowers in their hands, to the bust of Martí where they laid the flowers and sang the national anthem. Flowers were also laid in the San Rafael Cemetery chapel, in Colón, where the remains of those killed in battle lay. The Party vowed to continue using nonviolent means to work toward democracy.

Source: Ania Vázquez Chávez, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 20, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women’s Movement handed out alternative literature to the public in a Santa Clara street. Standing near the interurban bus terminal and post office in Reparto Virginia, the women passed out the book *Open Eyes*, copies of the Declaration on Human Rights and buttons bearing the word, “Change”. The recipients thanked them with gestures and words while eagerly accepting all of the information provided. The idea to hand out literature was part of a series of activities planned by the Movement to commemorate Cuban independence as well as the first anniversary of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Sancti Spiritus, May 20, 2006. Activists from the Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País” held an activity to commemorate Cuba’s Independence Day. They compared the situation in the time of the independence movement to what the Cuban people suffer today. They remembered the bravery of heroes such as Antonio Maceo, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Frank País and others who, in the course of Cuban history, have upheld the public trust and fought for freedom. They also recalled the non-governmental organizations that are performing valuable work in the community, including the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba and the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners. They closed with the national anthem. Participating in the event were Edel Peralta Rouge, Elvis Gregorio Pérez Lara, Erin Mena Lara, Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Julio César Menéndez Rodríguez, José Andrés Guerra Castañeda, Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, Reymundo Perdigón Brito, George Perdigón Brito, Yuliesky Ortega Tejeda, Yaimy Perdigón Simón, Paula Bartola Hurtado Lara and Adriano Castañeda Meneses.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”. National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel”.

Holguín, May 20, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern



The Ladies in White prayed for the immediate freedom of their loved ones and all Cuban political prisoners on May 22, feast day of Saint Rita of Casia, at Saint Rita Church in Havana.

Democratic Alliance celebrated the first anniversary of the national Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba meeting as well as the birth of the Republic of Cuba with an event at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. The twelve activists were dressed in white as a symbol of peace.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights

activist.

Holguín, May 20, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance commemorated the 20th of May in different municipalities of the province. They debated historical issues, made new proposals for a peaceful transition and declared their support for the document “Three steps to freedom”, by Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. In **Antilla**, three Eastern Democratic Alliance activists led others, all dressed in white, in a march through the city. In **Banes**, they held a conversation featuring 14 activists at the home of independent journalist Michael Verdecia Torres,



EFE/Alejandro Ernesto

The Ladies in White hold a march in Havana on May 13, Mothers' Day, on their way to place flowers at the monument to Leonor Pérez, mother of the Cuban apostle, José Martí.

located at Calle 17 #26, Reparto Mariana Grajales. On the 104th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Cuba, the people of Holguín recognized the importance of this date and the need for peaceful change on the island.

Source: *Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency, Radio República.*

Granma, May 20, 2006. Leonardo Cancio Santana, Nelson Mireyesm Xiomara Moncada, Enrique Dieguez Segura, Lázaro Vlara García, Tania de la Torre Montesinos, Alberto Moreno Fonseca and Bertha Arias Sardó participated in a vigil commemorating Cuban Independence Day. Amidst high levels of State Security repression, they kept vigil in their own homes.

Source: *Tania de la Torre, Grito de la Patria Free Press Agency.*

Granma, May 20, 2006. Twelve members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held an activity to celebrate the 104th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Cuba at the home of activist Yoandri Montoya Avilés, who lives at Calle Raúl Gómez #217 La Unión, Bayamo.

Source: *Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern*

Democratic Alliance.

Granma, May 20, 2006. In spite of the persecution they face, the *Youth Planted Towards Freedom and Democracy in Cuba* commemorated Cuban Independence Day with a meeting presided over by the group's secretary and organizer, Yoandris Montes Avilés. They discussed the importance of José Martí's legacy and the example of bravery he set for new generations. Gabriel Díaz Sánchez reported that many of those present noted the historical significance of the date and the fact that the non-violent opposition in Cuba is at its strongest point, which will help it gain more supporters. Yoandria Montes Avilés, Osniel Díaz Sánchez, Francisco Joan Reyes, Grabiél Díaz Sánchez, Feliz Rivero Cardoso, José Armando Torneo, Alexis Ramos Rodríguez, Antonio Sánchez Soto, Lilian Pita Sedeño and Giordanis Rodríguez Dieguez were in attendance.

Source: *Fernando Tabares, The Association for a Free Press, Radio República. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency, Radio República.*

Guantánamo, May 20, 2006. A group of activists from the Cuban Movement of Youths for

Democracy founded the El Yunque Independent Library in Baracoa, at the home of Julian Antonio Monés Borrero. This led many students and other youths, for the most part professionals, to visit on a daily basis. This organization is aware of its obligation to support Cuban youths and even though the place is under constant surveillance, people who come say they do not care. This is the first library of its kind in Baracoa and its collection includes many documents, works of literature and other information.

Source: Julian Antonio Monés Borrero, Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy, Radio República.

Pinar del Río, May 21, 2006. The provincial delegation of National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC), the National Movement of Free People “Josué País García” and the Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País” celebrated the 104th anniversary of the birth of the Republic of Cuba at its headquarters at Calle Celso Maragoto #143 A e/ Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda, the home of party delegate José Félix Rodríguez. In spite of a large pro-Castro operation and a repudiation rally against the activists, 25 people participated in the event.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC; Ramón Suarez Diaz, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”; José A. Ballart Ochoa, The National Movement of Free People of Cuba “Josué País García”.

Camagüey, May 21, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, May 21, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for the release of Cuba’s political prisoners.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Cienfuegos, May 23, 2006. Political prisoner Ricardo Pupo Sierra sent a message to the Cuban people from his cell at the Ariza provincial prison advising them not to fear the regime, not to be cheated by it and to speak the truth without fear. He told them to seek out information with human rights groups and to read the Universal Declaration

on Human Rights. He asked them not to become discouraged in achieving a real democracy in Cuba. *Source: Ricardo Pupo Sierra, political prisoner, Radio República.*

Camagüey, May 23, 2006. Residents of the Callejón de Nitrógeno y Pineda neighborhood protested the massive eviction being carried out by the police and special military units. During the protest, the population showed its solidarity for independent journalist Armando Betancourt and tried to prevent police from arresting him. The confrontation between the people and the police was so great that the police forces could not get to the homes to be evicted and eventually abandoned their objective.

Source: Félix Sánchez Delgado, Christian Democratic Party. Radio República.

Havana, May 24, 2006. The Freedom Movement participated in a mass held at the Santa Bárbara Parish for prisoners, especially Cuban political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and for those freedom seekers who have disappeared.

Source: Juan Francisco Humberto Guerra Perugorría, Freedom Movement; Anaika Paneca Román, Democratic Party 30th of November “Frank País”; Ángel De Fana Serrano, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Isla de Pinos, May 25, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project commemorated the anniversary of the death of Pedro Luís Boitel and the third anniversary of the founding of the Pedro Luís Boitel Video Room – the first of its type on the Isla de Pinos.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Cienfuegos, May 15-25, 2006. Members of the opposition in Cruces held activities in memory of the late student leader Pedro Luís Boitel from May 15 through the 25th. Members of Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba and the National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel” (MNRC-PLB) participated in the events. The groups observed vigils on May 15, 20 and 25, and a fast on **May 22**. During the fast, they read biblical passages and prayed for political prisoner Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. In spite of the watchful vigilance of State Security throughout the municipality, the opposition managed to pay homage to Pedro Luís Boitel one of the most brilliant men in contemporary Cuban history, an example for civic and democratic youth in Cuba, Evelardo Abreu Casteñón reported.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 25, 2006. Members of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement handed out alternative literature in the streets of Santa Clara. Despite facing repression from members of the Cuban Communist Party, the women managed to hand out information to passersbys.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Villa Clara, May 25, 2006. Nonviolent opposition leaders Idania Yánez Contreras, Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo shouted antigovernment slogans after being attacked by five female athletes and one male wrestler. The dissidents had gone to the hospital to seek information regarding the health of hunger striking activist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Villa Clara, May 25, 2006. A group of youths met at the Julio Nerey Merchena Independent Library, the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, to prepare for a series of hands-on meetings that will be held at the soon-to-be-opened cultural and recreational center. The youths played various board games and leafed through a variety of books, mostly related to Cuban history. They debated the last struggles against the Batista regime and the taking of power by the rebels. The meeting was productive.

Source: Alain Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Holguín, May 25, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a closing ceremony for the week honoring martyr Pedro Luis Boitel and for the release of political prisoners. The ceremony was held at Calle 1ra #19, Reparto Joselillo in Moa. Omar Wilson Estévez Real, Felipe Disney Ramos Leiva, Felipe del Rosario, Héctor Silót Rueda, Omar Pérez Torres, Osiel Olivares Tito, Martín Ruiz González, Francisco Hernández Gómez and Silverio Herrera Acosta participated in the event.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Camagüey, May 26, 2006. Prisoner Roberto Tejas Sánchez began a hunger strike in his cell in the Cerámica Roja prison to protest what he considers an injustice against his person. The 34-year-old from Majibacoa was arrested on the morning of April 7 in Camagüey.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Cubanet.

Havana, May 28, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the

Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Camagüey, May 28, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, May 28, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance met to pray for national unity and reconciliation in the Our Lady of Caridad Church, in the Banes municipality. There, the fourteen activists prayed for the immediate release of Cuban political prisoners and the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

They asked for unity and reconciliation among Cubans, alluding to the words of Pope John Paul II when he visited Cuba, and laid white flowers on the altar of the Virgin. The candlelight service was closely observed by State Security forces led by Major Cruz Rodríguez.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Holguín, May 28, 2006. Seven activists prayed for unity and reconciliation through dialogue at the home of activist Francisco Ferrer Columbié, who lives at Calle Moncada #5 in Sagua de Tanamo.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Villa Clara, May 30, 2006. Seventeen activists from different organizations participated in a vigil to support the ongoing hunger strike of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The vigil was held by the main entrance to Santa Clara's Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital, where the prestigious journalist is bedridden. The Liberal Party of Cuba, the Maceo Movement for Dignity, the Sajarov Movement and the Marta Abreu Women's Movement were all represented at the vigil. They recited psalms and verses from the New Testament, sang the national anthem and placed lawn signs reading, "Don't let him die" and "Long live human rights". They also prayed for Guillermo Fariñas, who

has spent more than 100 days on a hunger strike to demand free Internet access for all Cubans.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Havana, May 31, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sajarov Foundation, held a vigil on the 40th anniversary of the creation of what, in Cuba, is sadly known as the Military Units to Support Production or UMAP, concentration camps, where thousands of Cuban youths were sent to suffer horrendous mistreatment and violations of their rights. The vigil was held at the home of Luis González Medina, Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, in San José de las Lajas. *Source: Luis González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Pro-Human Rights Party. Radio República.*

Villa Clara, May 31, 2006. Members of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the Liberal Party and the Maceo Movement for Dignity held a vigil at the headquarters of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sajarov Foundation in Ranchuelos. They prayed for the

health of former political prisoner and independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is on an extended hunger strike, and for the life of the opposition activist Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, who was recently attacked in her home by paramilitary mobs. They also commented on the situation in the jails of political prisoners and prayed for liberty for all of them and for all Cubans. One dozen human rights activists attended the meeting. José Antonio Pérez Morell, a member of the group's Board of Directors, announced a conference on this brutal act.

Source: Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Member of the Board of Directors, Alternative Option Independent Movement. Radio República.

Holguín, May 31, 2006. The first Bifronte magazine was presented, featuring the release of the MLK biography and prayers for all Cuban political prisoners. Six people attended the publishing party, which took place at the home of Yosvani Anzardo Hernández, Calle 7 Sur #1207 e/ 12 y 17, San Germán.

Source: Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day					Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
3	10	17	24	31				
x	x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2º Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x					Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x				Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x			Calle Garmenia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
				x	Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x	x		Calle 134, e/ 289 y Final, Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
				x	Calle 297, No. 13009, e/ 130 y 132, Berenguer, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
				x	San Jose de Las Lajas	Ciudad de La Habana	12	Roberto Sanatana Rodríguez (Partido DD.HH. de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
	x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x		x		x	Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
	x				Calle G., No. 18 e/ ICP y Fábrica de Pienso, Rpto Sub Planta, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	5	Roberto Carlos García (Mov. Democrático Cristiano de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x		x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x		x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x					Calle Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, No. 2007, Banes	Holguín	11	Liannis Meriño Aguilera (Jóvenes Sin Censura)

JUNE 2006

Havana, June 1, 2006. Issue 9 of the *Antorcha Universitaria* independent newsletter, edited by students in Western Cuba and published by the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, was published. The issue featured the following articles: "The diplomacy of university students in Cuba", "Access of Cubans to the internet" and "Integral text of the manifesto directed to the Cuban people"; as well as poetry, letters, and the biography of the martyr Virgilio Campanera Ángel, executed by firing squad in 1961 by the Castro government.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Ciego de Ávila, June 1, 2006. A torrent of anti-Castro signs and graffiti appeared throughout the Ceballos community, featuring phrases like "Down with Fidel!" and "No more hunger!" State Security and the national police arrived on the scene to remove the text but ended up providing comic relief as they chased a dog through the streets; the dog's fur had been painted with the slogan, "Down with communism! Down with Castro!" Among the less mobile locations where the slogans could be found were the walls of the church and on the masonry of the public plaza.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Cubanet.

Camagüey, June 1, 2006. The Christian Liberation Movement published Volume 4, Issue 27 of the *El Camagüeyano* newsletter, featuring an article on the young opposition activist and sister of political prisoners, Ana Belkis García, information on the Citizen Information Service Center (CESIC) meetings, and other news.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Granma, June 1, 2006. A nighttime candlelight vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners was held in Bayamo at the headquarters of the Youth Movement of Bayamo, located at Raúl Gómez 266 e/ Guillermo Tornés y C, Reparto La Unión, Bayamo. Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba led the vigil, which included a moment of silence, the singing of the national anthem and a prayer for the release of political prisoners. The following participated in the event: Antonio Santí Soto, Yordanis Diéguez Rodríguez, Otniel Díaz Sánchez, Alexis Ramírez Rodríguez, Félix Rivero Cordoví, Yoandris Montoya Aviés, Francisco

Juan Reyes Benítez, José Tornés Milanés, Mario Olivera Castillo, Lilia Josefa Pita Sedeño and other supporters of the movement.

Source: Gabriel Yosmar Díaz Sánchez, Youths of Bayamo, Planted Towards Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Radio República.

Holguín, June 2, 2006. Ilei de Jesús Urrutia Álvarez released his second open letter to the artists of the world. In it, the Cuban painter denounced the police for threatening him on multiple occasions with confiscating his artistic tools as well as many members of the Cuban Communist Party for harassing him. In a meeting to which he had been invited, authorities criticized Urrutia for the disrespectful language of his first letter to the artists of the world and questioned his statements that artists who did not share the official ideology lacked access to galleries. In response to the charge that he used disrespectful language, he said that, although he is only 40 years old, for the past 47 years, those in his position have been harassed with the most disrespectful terms, including worm, scum, unpatriotic, delinquent and more. "After being called these slurs, I feel free of any sense of guilt for an alleged lack of respect. Nonetheless, if I have been irreverent to anyone, I remind them that whoever wishes to be respected should first respect his fellow man and not call others any epithet just because they think differently." He declared that he would not yield to the repression and reaffirmed his position as a "dissident whose religion is freedom and as an artist who, through his works, expresses an appreciation of the world in which we live."

Source: Ilei de Jesús Urrutia Álvarez, Radio República.

Villa Clara, June 3, 2006. The Eusebio Peñalver Mazorra Independent Library was inaugurated at the home of Idania Yánes Contreras, Prolongación de Marta Abreu #93, e/ B y C, Reparto Virginia. Many different organizations participated in the celebration, including the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba, the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the Liberal Party of Cuba, the Maceo Movement for Dignity, the Independent Democratic Front, the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and the Christian Democratic Movement and others. Marta Abreu Women's Movement President Noelia Pedraza Jiménez said that this new center will offer

its services daily to those who wish to read alternative literature and independent press. During the meeting, they paid tribute to former political prisoner Peñalver Mazorra, who died in exile.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship. Cubanet.

Havana, June 4, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, wife of imprisoned human rights activist Angel Moya Acosta.

Villa Clara, June 4, 2006. Opposition organizations from central Cuba started a fast to support independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who continues his hunger strike to demand Internet access for Cubans. Following the event, five dissidents declared a permanent fast for 45 days, during which they will abstain from all solid foods. The following people participated in the vigil: Liset Zamora Carrandi, Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Idania Yánes Contreras of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement; Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba; and Luís Aragón García, Maceo Movement for Dignity. Despite a large repudiation rally, the fast took place at the home of Idania Yánes Contreras, Prolongación de Marta Abreu 93 C, e/ B y C, Reparto Virginia.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement, and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Camagüey, June 4, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, June 6, 2006. The National Center for Union and Labor Training held an activity to support the formal complaints of unions and other labor groups that these trade unions have submitted to the International Labor Organization. Twelve independent union organizers from the Union of Independent Workers of Cuba (USTIC) participated in the event, which took place at Calle Baso #1, e/ Pereira y Hambrón, Regla.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Labor and Union Training

(CNCSI). Enrique Pérez González, CNCSI-Regla. Joel Brito, Corporate Social Responsibility Group of Cuba.

Villa Clara, June 6 - August 31, 2006. The National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom began a chain of fasts in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The fasters followed a seven-day rotation, each observing a different day of the week without food. Every day, seven activists – six on Saturdays and Sundays – fasted for 24 hours. The fast lasted through August 31, 87 days in all, and took place at the homes of each faster. The rotation was as follows: **Monday:** Margarito Broche Espinosa, Nelio López Ares, Lázaro Moret Hernández, Carlos Michael Morales Rodríguez, Jenny Castellón Rojas, Ramón Norberto Martín Ruíz, Rolando Pastor Cabello Garma. **Tuesday:** María de la Caridad Noa González, Alberto Garbe Aguiar, Luis Ángel Triana de la Paz, Yosvel Caraballo Morera, Orlando Ludeiro Álvarez, Marlenes Broche Espinosa, Ivón Lissete Bienes Cunill. **Wednesday:** Felicia Espinosa Rodríguez, Jikli López Ares, Raúl Pérez Gavilán, Aideé Códova González, Juan José Comas Savina, Hugo Martínez López, Idalia Jiménez García. **Thursday:** Yaqueline González Broche, Duvier Herrera Landín, Olga Lidia Carrillo Rodríguez, Ariel Orama Martín, Arturo Isaac Díaz Rojas, Margarita Cunill Díaz, Ángel Paz Carrillo. **Friday:** Julián Jesús Noa González, Javier Delgado Torna, Vladimir Santana Santana, Leticia Rodríguez Caraballo, Yaritza Carrillo Santana, Agustín Michel López Ares, Manuel Santana Padrón. **Saturday:** Ramón Noa González, Atilano Rubio Rodríguez, Misleidi Leiva García, Sergio Armando Moreno Moreno, Fernando Cremades Hernández, Pedro Carvajal Miranda. **Sunday:** Manuel Herrada Esquiada, Maríanela Ares Salsona, Yanosky Pérez, Odalis Carrillo Noa, Belky Pantaleón Balaguer, Yandys Salazar Broche, Duniesky Morales Parrado.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafterers for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Sancti Spiritus, June 6 - August 31, 2006. The National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom began a chain of fasts in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The fasters followed a seven-day rotation, each observing a different day of the week without food. Every day, three activists fasted for 24 hours. The fast lasted through August 31, 87 days in all, and took place at the homes of each faster. The following activists participated in the fast: Osmani López Arencibia, Soida Hernández,



The children's magazine *Limón Partido* (Split Lemon), published by the Independent Libraries of Cuba in the United States, was launched in Cuba, where it is popular with readers. This young girl is holding the May 2006 edition.

Omar Cabrera Gallo, Erasmo Gómez Hernández, Sailí Camacho Espinosa, Mario Cabrera Carrasco, Yuadrey Pérez Toledo, Ramón Quintana Noda, Idelso Ferrer Ramos, José Borges Serrano, Emérita Caraballo Corteza, Leonardo López Martín, Bárbara Viera Rodríguez, Frank Llénez Santos, Rodobaldo Rodríguez Rodríguez, Joel Díaz Martín, Meibi Hernández Melgarejo, Agustín Gómez Hernández, Arturo Pajón García and Meisi Espinosa Rodríguez and José Arcia Piedra.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Ciego de Ávila, June 6, 2006. Various opposition organizations held a voluntary fast of indefinite length in solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, on a hunger strike since January. Due to his deteriorated health, Fariñas has been admitted to the intensive care unit of the Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital in Santa Clara. Attorney Juan Carlos González Leyva, the

president of the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, described Fariñas' serious condition, as well as how the hospital had practically been overtaken by the military. "Hundreds of military and paramilitary personnel guard the facility and prevent dissidents from staying," he said. He also called on others to join in with the fasts and prayers, so that God might grant a satisfactory solution and save the life of the striker, who the Cuban government is criminally permitting to leave to his death. The Cuban Human Rights Foundation, Marta Abreu Foundation, League of Independent Farmers and FLAMUR decided to hold a liquid fast to support Fariñas.

Source: Abel Escobar Ramírez, Cubanet.

Holguín, June 6, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance called on the domestic and international public to pressure the Cuban government to stop dismantling independent libraries.

Since January 2006, the political police have broken into and looted five independent libraries in this province. All five were stripped of their liter-



Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance hold a fast on June 15, 2006 in the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, in the municipality of Banes, Holguín.

ary assets. They were: Calixto García and Gastón Baquero in Banes; Wenceslao Aguilera Feria in Antilla; Guillermo Cabrera Infante in Gibara and, most recently on June 1, Pedro Luis Boitel in Moa. Three of these were completely ransacked to stop readers from accessing the books.

“The independent libraries were created with the objective of breaking the information barrier that the Cuban regime has constructed over the past 40 years. They are sources of knowledge and information for all Cubans who wish to read free and uncensored literature. It is for this reason that our peaceful organization repudiates these practices of breaking into and sacking independent libraries and demands that the government grant an opening for all Cubans to the information universe.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, June 7, 2006. A commission against apartheid in Cuba was established in the capital. Among the group’s objectives is to keep a record of practices involving segregation, or apartheid, in the country; such practices are constantly being implemented. They also plan to keep the public aware of the institutionalization of this practice. The com-

mission will be autonomous and will work with the resources of its members, contributing to the creation of a list of victims of human rights violations and to denounce these violations on the international stage.

Source: Mario Echavarría, Youths for Democracy Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, June 7 and 8, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, held a 24-hour fast for the life of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is on a hunger strike. The fast and prayer session was held at the home of Vivian Santana Barreto, at Santa Isabel #481, Barrio Azul, Arroyo Naranjo. Modesto Leopoldo Valdivia Varela, Francisco Sa Fustes, Rigoberto Martínez, Adolfo Peraza Rico, Enrique Domínguez, Higinio Rodríguez, and Vivian Santana Barreto participated in the fast.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist, Radio República.

Villa Clara, June 7, 2006. Following a prayer vigil for the release of political prisoners, members of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba agreed to wear their clothing inside out. The gesture was one of solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo

Fariñas Hernández, who is in serious condition after 130 days of a hunger strike to demand free access to the Internet. The inside-out clothing is a type of nonviolent protest that has been used against different dictatorships. The Democratic Movement of Cuba called on members of the opposition to join this new action in support of the life of the director of the Cubanacán Press Agency.

Source: Aláin Ramón Gómez Ramos and Roberto Carlos Pérez García, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Havana, June 8, 2006. The Independent Light Industry Workers Union (SITIL) and the Christian Labor Union of Cuba (USCC) signed a collaboration agreement. Aurelio Bachiller Álvarez signed on behalf of the SITIL, of which he is the secretary general, while union president Carmelo Díaz Fernández signed for the USCC. Díaz Fernández said that the accord includes independent unionization training courses to help increase membership, labor activities and the commemoration of historic dates. He closed by saying that the accord “will mark a historic achievement in the struggle for independent unionization in our country.”

The participants in the signing ceremony took part in a conference to explain some of the conventions of the International Labor Organization, of which Cuba is a signatory despite its widespread violations. They discussed Conventions 87, 95 and 111, which relate to workers’ rights to establish collectives to defend their interests, respect for salaries and discriminatory employment practices on the basis of race, religious belief and sex.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Havana, June 8, 2006. Activists from the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, held a 12-hour fast to pray for the health of hunger striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The fast was held at the home of activists Luis González Medina and Luz Marina Barceló, who live at Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, San José de las Lajas.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Villa Clara, June 8, 2006. Pro-democracy activists affiliated with the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement informed nonviolent opposition activists and other people of goodwill regarding the precarious medical condition of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is in the intensive care unit of Santa Clara’s Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital after many months of a hunger strike. They held Fidel Castro responsible for whatever might happen to Fariñas.

“We are going to continue the fast until the final consequences, until they respond to Fariñas or until he dies in the attempt. The Women’s Movement is very thankful for the support received. Long live human rights, Until Freedom and Democracy!” said Bárbara Jiménez, the vice president of the movement.

Source: Bárbara Jiménez and Lissette del Carmen Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement, Radio República.

Camagüey, June 8, 2006. Political prisoners José Daniel Ferrer García, Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce, Lamberto Hernández Planas and Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández began a hunger strike at the Kilo 8 prison, saying that they would continue until the government ceded to the demands of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, June 8, 2006. Prisoner of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García sent a message to Cubans in Cuba and abroad. “It does not matter where we are; what matters is that we unite our efforts to put an end to the oppression that our people are suffering. We can work hand-in-hand and tirelessly for democracy and prosperity,” he wrote. “We must inform and guide the thousands of Cubans who suffer silently while they wait, disoriented, for something to happen. We must multiply our efforts; change depends on us Cubans, both here and in exile. To a great degree, it depends on what we do with firmness, courage and love.”

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

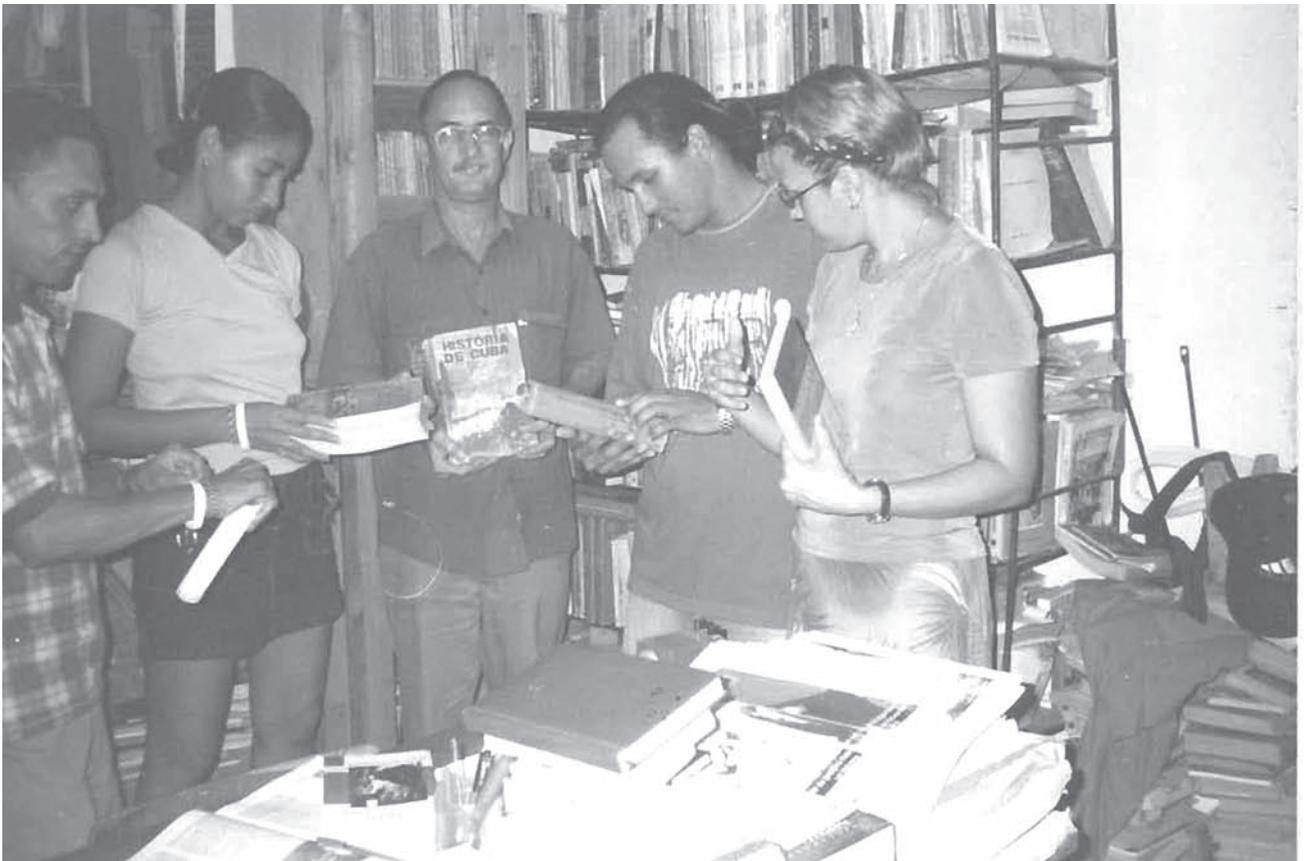
Camagüey, June 8, 2006. Independent journalist and prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta went on hunger strike in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and to protest the savage beatings that soldiers apply to inmates on a daily basis. Herrera Acosta, behind bars at the maximum security Kilo 8 prison in Camagüey, said it would be unacceptable to remain indifferent in the presence of such prison horrors. This same day, he witnesses prison authorities beat up three prisoners. Herrera Acosta is serving a 20-year prison sentence, and as an additional punishment, 400 kilometers from his home for practicing independent journalism.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Havana, June 9, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation held a 24-hour fast for the life of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is in serious condition after more than four months on hunger strike. This fast was one of many held



Activists from the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement pose for a photo during an activity held in the Jan Palach Independent Library, in Santiago de Cuba on June 13, 2006.



At another moment during the activity of June 13, readers exchange ideas and books about this new and liberating information and interpretation of history, which they have been able to access thanks to the work of independent libraries like this one, the Jan Palach Library. The books that the libraries provide are censored by the Castro regime.

throughout the country as opposition activists show their solidarity with Fariñas, whose only demand is for Cubans to have free access to the Internet.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Cienfuegos, June 9, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists from Aguada de Pasajeros lend their support to hunger striker Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, the psychologist and director of Cubanacán Press, known as Coco, in his strike for Internet access for all Cubans.

Source: Bernardo Rogelio Arévalo Padrón, director of the Línea Sur Press Agency. Radio República.

Holguín, June 9, 2006. A group of opposition activists initiate a fast in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández in Antilla at Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley #33, e/ Máximo Gómez y Diego M. Yebra. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Miguel Santana Breff, Idania Aguilera Miranda, Jorge Luis Rivas Marín, Ángel Batista Vega, Rafael Martínez Leyva, Dailor Rafael Ramírez Aguilar, Blas Évora Martínez, Deysi Rivas Sendón and Luz Marina Artigas Torres participated in the event.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, and José Ramón Herrera Hernández.

Santiago de Cuba, June 9, 2006. The Cuban Orthodox Renovation Party (PCRO) issued a public statement placing responsibility for the health and life of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas on the Cuban government. The party also borrowed the words of Lina Ruz – Fidel Castro's mother, who called for her sons' fair treatment when they were involved in the struggle against the Fulgencio Batista government, noting that, today, they are in identical circumstances.

Source: Eduardo Torres, General Coordinator, PCRO.

Havana, June 10, 2006. Ten people attended a workshop at the National Labor and Unionization Training Center on the right to freely organize labor as established in Article 87 of the International Labor Organization. At the workshop, they discussed the violations of these rights by Cuban authorities, which arrested and imprisoned seven independent labor organizers in the spring of 2003. The center is located at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Labor and Unionization Training Center ; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Villa Clara, June 10, 2006. Twelve activists participated in a fast and prayer chain to support

independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández' ongoing hunger strike. The event was held at the home of human rights defender Idania Yanes Contreras, at Calle Prolongación de Marta Abreu #93 e/ B y C, Reparto Virginia, Santa Clara. The participants represented various nonviolent opposition groups, including the Liberal Party of Cuba, the Maceo Movement for Dignity, the Independent Democratic Front, the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and the Marta Abreu Feminine Movement.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Holguín, June 10, 2006. Political prisoners began a fast at the Holguín provincial prison in solidarity with independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Among those participating were Alfredo Domínguez Batista, Luis Cabrera Ballester, Randy Cabrera Mayor, Andy Frómata Cuenca and Nelson Vázquez Lima. The fast began at 7 a.m. and ended the following Sunday morning at the same time.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, June 10, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 18, 2006. Numerous activists joined fasts in Antilla in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Niurka Reyes Breff, Nelson Antonio Chang Lecusay and Dailor Rafael Ramírez Aguilar fasted at Calle Tony Alomá #4, Playa Capíro; Giordana Rocío Varela Fundichely and Nobel Julián Domínguez fasted at Calle Antonio Maceo #19, e/ Calixto García y Carlos Manuel de Céspedes; José Ramón Herrera Hernández and María Cristina Leyva Fuentes fasted at Calle B #2, e/ A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo; Ignacio Mendoza Sánchez fasted at Calle General Núñez, Edificio 7, Apto. 4, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, June 10, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 18, 2006. Activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance joined the fast to support Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Rafael Martínez Leyva, Damaris Ramírez Ballester, Wilber Rivas Marín and Jorge Luis Rivas Marín fasted at Calle Juan George Soto Cuesta #35, Moa.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Santiago de Cuba, June 10, 2006. Political slogans written with red paint and reading "Down with Fidel" appeared on the walls of the Union of Communist Youth building in San Luis. The graffiti caused commotion among local residents as the

word spread quickly through the municipality. Within one hour, police had already repainted the wall, completely covering up the words.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Havana, June 11, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, wife of imprisoned opposition leader Angel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, June 11, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Pinar del Río, June 12, 2006. Members of the Cuban opposition group Party of the People met to discuss a new work project. Other groups invited to the event included the Melinda Gates Democratic Foundation, the Racial Integration Movement, the Women's Democratic Front, the Latin American Federation of Rural Women, the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba and many independent library directors.

The project discussed was called the Bank of the Cuban People. According to the Carlos M. Collazo of the Party of the People Ideological Front, the group's future objectives are to "Contribute to the development of the Cuban economy, which is now almost entirely collapsed. The main effort of this redevelopment will be the domestic sector, which is currently the most vulnerable as a result of the shortage of limitations that the regime imposes on Cuba's citizens. This project announces to the Cuban people that, after the fall of the Castro regime, there will be an economic future full of prosperity for the new homeland and for Cubans here and abroad, which will be based on democracy and justice."

Source: Rafael Ferro, Abdala Press, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, June 12, 2006. Members of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba met at their Santa Clara headquarters for a vigil in support of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is on an extended hunger strike to demand that all Cubans have access to the Internet. Rafael Pérez, Adalberto González Gómez, Yurbis Díaz Remón, Ana Rosa

Alfonso Arteaga, Guillermo del Sol, Joel Espinosa Medrano, Argelia Quintero Benítez, Julio César Montes Nerey and Roberto Pérez García all participated in the vigil.

Source: Roberto Carlos García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Holguín, June 12, 2006. Juan Ramón Claro Infante, Alberto García Silva, Juan Olamendi Sánchez and Pascual Silva Cruz held a fast in solidarity and support of the hunger strike begun months ago by Guillermo Fariñas Hernández was held at Calle Narciso López #83. Alexander Santos Hernández, Milita Aballe Ricardo, Jesús Rocés Claro and Olga Lidia Leyva also participated from Calle Cavada #4F.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Juan Claro Infante, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Isla de Pinos, June 13, 2006. Isla de Pinos joined the chain of fasts going on throughout Cuba in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who is on an extended hunger strike demanding Internet access for all Cubans. The 24-hour fast took place at the home located at Calle 8, Escalera 2053, Apt. 3 e/ E y F, Reparto Micro 70, Nueva Gerona. The fast was called by the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project. Sergio Santa Cruz Obriego, Vladimir Araña Rosa, Yoveni Céspedes Martí, Noel de la Pena Rivera, Ana Berta Julia Núñez, el ex-preso político Pedro Rey de Fuentes, Yuran de la Pena Rivera, David Pérez Placeres and journalist Carlos Serpa Maceira took part in the fast.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Isla de Pinos, June 13, 2006. Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project held a vigil for the release of political prisoners in Cuba. Twenty people attended the Nueva Gerona vigil.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Holguín, June 13 - July 6, 2006. Numerous nonviolent activists from the National Movement of Civic Resistance "Pedro Luis Boitel", the Cuban Liberal Movement, the Elena Mederos Foundation, the Eastern Free Press Agency and the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library #3, held 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. fasts in the mining municipality of Moa to support the hunger striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Those participating were: Silverio Herrera Acosta, Omar Wilson Estévez Real and Miguel Molina Dúran at Calle Camilo Cienfuegos #124; Felipe Disney Ramos Leyva, Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez and Jorge Rodríguez Campos at Calle 1era. No, 19, Reparto Joselillo; Francisco Hernández Gómez and Atilano Rey Cutido at

Calle Antonio Boisán #25, Reparto Haití Chiquito; Wilfredo Legrá Frómata and Pedro Terrero Leyva at Calle Luis Corona #86, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo; Héctor Siló Rueda, José Manuel de la Rosa Pérez, Martín Pérez González and Mario Brocal Borges at Calle Mario Muñoz #33F, Reparto Aserrío; Edel Jesús Hernández Reyes and Carlos Luis Hernández Reyes at Los Pinos de Centeno s/n. Additionally, the doctors Aldo Consuegra Martínez and Raima Díaz Caballero, renowned otorhinolaryngologist, joined workers from many companies in daily prayer sessions at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. to pray for the health and life of the psychologist and journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández.

Source: Felipe Disnay Ramos Leyva, Eastern Free Press Agency. Radio República. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Santiago de Cuba, June 13, 2006. The national Board of Directors of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement held an event at the Jan Palach Independent Library to discuss and develop promotional strategies for the Universities Without Borders campaign.

Source: Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Pinar del Río, June 14, 2006. Twelve activists from a variety of dissident activities joined a 12-hour fast at the Dr. Tevelio Rodríguez del Haya Independent Library to pray for the health of all political prisoners. Throughout the fast, State Security and National Revolutionary Police forces surrounded the library, which is located at Calle Celso Maragoto #143 A e/ Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC; Ramón Suárez Díaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party; José A. Ballart Ochoa, The National Movement of Free People of Cuba "Josué País García".

Havana, June 15-26, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation held a fast and vigil for 12 days in support of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. During the fast, the group prayed for his life as well as his physical and spiritual health, threatened by his hunger strike in demand of Internet access that he began in January. The activists rotated days spent fasting at Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, San José de las Lajas, in Havana province. The following activists took part: Delfín Rodríguez, Luís González, Luz Marina Barceló, Osmel de Armas, Manuel Beatón, Marielín de Armas, Alexander Marrero, Maribel Hernández, Rafael Jesús, Alfredo Valle, Carlos Jesús, Katy Hernández,

Hanoi Alcalá, Xiomara Ruiz, Ernesto Alfonso, Eddy Ramírez, Yolver Eloy Díaz, Jorge González, Dioenís Torres, Bárbara Torres, Omar Delgado, Raymer Díaz, Bárbara Marrero, Norvis García, Regla María Díaz, Darelys Velásquez, Maribel Hernández and Daniel Roberto.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Holguín, June 15, 2006. A mass was held at 7:30 p.m. at the Our Lady of Carmen Catholic Church in Antilla to pray for the health of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. Fifty worshippers attended the service.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, June 15, 2006. Twelve activists from the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes 2007, Banés.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Havana, June 16, 2006. Eight nonviolent oppositionists of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, including José Manuel Sánchez, Gladis Salgado Gómez, Camilo Carlos Falcón and Carlos Alfonso Graverán, led a peaceful march along Avenida 189 from Calle 134 to Calle 140 in a show of support for the hunger strike of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. "We want to take the chance to send a message to our brother and let him know that our delegation is fully willing to give all the support he needs for the hunger strike he is holding to protest the lack of communication and freedom on the island to access the Internet."

Source: Camilo Cairo Falcón, Boyeros Delegate to the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, June 17, 2006. The magazine *Vitral*, the freedom of light, celebrated its 12th anniversary in the Pinar del Río provincial capital with a cultural candlelight ceremony. Monsignor José Siro González, bishop of Pinar del Río, led the activity along with Manuel Cuesta Morúa, the spokesman of the Progressive Ark, and representatives from the Ladies in White and accredited diplomats in Cuba. The ceremony included the awarding of the 2006 *Vitral* literature prizes. The Pinar del Río author María del Carmen Pino won the *Vitral* prize and the grand prize for

Children's literature for her workbook, *A poem in my lap*. The prize for poetry went to poet Manuel Alberto García for his poem, "Where my sorrows roost". In the category for *décima*, a sonnet-like form of Spanish poetry, the prize went to Pinar del Río's Belisario Carlos Vilagos for "Three cloth pelicans". Jorge Santos won in the essay category with "The challenges of the lights and darks: ethics, literature and society", while Oswaldo Antonio Ramírez took the prize for narrative. A panel of prestigious Cuban intellectuals, Jorge Domingo, María del Carmen Muncio, Raúl Capote, Ismael González and Orlando Frei, comprised the jury.

"We reaffirm our faith in the strength of the small, in the effectiveness of the seed; we must just let time do its work, for this is a fertile and frank world," said Dagoberto Valdés, director of *Vitral*, in his opening remarks. Monsignor José Siro González praised *Vitral* and called for a campaign of civic literacy, quoting Father Varela in saying, "this dangerous illiteracy leads to inequity, superstition and fanaticism." The climax of the event was a performance by local musicians.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Camagüey, June 17, 2006. Eight members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement held a meeting with the activists who run the Citizen Information Service Centers (CESI), a component of this organization. The meeting was held at the movement's headquarters, located at Calle Transversal #218, Reparto Froilán Quirós, Camagüey. The meeting also featured an analysis of *Steps to Freedom 2004-05*, published by the Cuban Democratic Directorate. Those present reaffirmed their willingness to continue their constant support for the political prisoner and journalist Armando Betancourt Reina and his family members. Betancourt founded the CESIs and has coordinated them in the past.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, June 17, 2006. A five-hour fast took place to demand the release of all political prisoners in the country and for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The fast was held at the home of Francisco Ferrer Columbié, at Calle Moncada #5, Sagua de Tánamo. Joining Ferrer Columbié in the fast were Rafael Mesa Columbié, Raúl Gómez de Cádiz Sierra, Rubildo de la Cruz Roche, José Barzaga Cordero and Jesús Batista Leiva.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Havana, June 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political

prisoners. Fourteen activists participated in the event, held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, June 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Leonel Sánchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre. Thirteen activists took part in the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, June 18, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a fast in solidarity with political prisoners at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja. Thirteen activists took part in the event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, June 18, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, June 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The "Literary Tea" is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, June 18, 2006. A vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners took place at the National Center for Union and Labor Training, located at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana. Those in attendance focused their support for the independent labor organizers unjustly jailed and sentenced to long prison terms for publicizing the civil and labor rights violations in this country.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Union and Labor Training. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Matanzas, July 18, 2006. Eleven members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil to call for freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners at the home of Ramón Verdecia, at Calle

Maceo 104, in Colón.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, July 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande. Six others took part at the home of Andrés Govea Suárez, at Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, Guareira. Nine participated at the home of Diosdado González Marrero, Santa Rita 29 y Maceo, Périco, Roque. Pablo Raymundo de Toro hosted seven others at his home at Calle 11 #5421 e/ 54 y 56, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Cienfuegos, June 18, 2006. Juan Carlos Santana Sorrián and Manuel Cordero Villasón declared a hunger strike from their cells at Ariza prison to protest the abuses they suffer in that prison. Cordero was beaten when he gave a letter to prisoner of conscience Librado Linares, who was in the prison's sick ward. He sleeps on the floor in subhuman conditions.

Source: Ricardo Pupo Sierra, political prisoner from the Ariza prison. Radio República.

Camagüey, June 18, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, June 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to pray the rosary for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba. Her home is located at Calle Palomino #445 e/ Línea y Primera, Reparto La Mascota, Camagüey.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López. Berta Bueno, wife of political prisoner Alejandro González Raga.

Santiago de Cuba, June 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz

and Norberto Díaz Peña prayed the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto, as they do every Wednesday.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of political prisoners José Daniel and Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Christian Liberation Movement.

Camagüey, June 20, 2006. Norgelis Gutiérrez Bonne, 33, an inmate at the Kilo 8 prison, began a protest against the jail conditions. In response, the prison authorities locked him up in a covered punishment cell. It is common practice at this prison to punish inmates for demanding their rights.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress in Camagüey and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República.

Havana, June 21, 2006. The Boyeros delegation of the Pro-Human Rights Party of Cuba held an eight-hour fast in the home of Camilo Cairo Falcón to support the hunger strike of independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. The opposition activists denounced the repudiation rallies, of which they are often victims, and remembered that next month marks the first anniversary of preventive imprisonment for many members of their party, who remain in different provincial prisons.

Source: Camilo Cairo Falcón, Boyeros delegate to the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. Radio República.

Havana, June 21, 2006. An activity was held at the National Center for Union and Labor Training to commemorate the United Nations Day of Childhood and to remember the suffering of those children whose parents are unjustly imprisoned. The activity took place at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Union and Labor Training. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Villa Clara, June 21, 2006. More than a dozen opposition activists with the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba met at the group's headquarters at Calle G #18, e/ ICP y Fábrica de Pienso, Reparto Sub Planta, Santa Clara, to pray for Cuba's political prisoners and for Guillermo Fariñas. The event concluded with a reading of humorous poetry published in *Vitral* magazine in the January-February 2005 issue. Among those participating were Julio César Montes, Niurbis Díaz Remón, Olga González Barroso, Joel Fonseca Machado, Argelia Quintero Domínguez, Gustavo Bermúdez Quintero, Joel Espinosa Medrano, Idalberto González and Roberto Carlos Pérez García

Source: Roberto Carlos Pérez García, national coordinator of the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. *Radio República*.

Pinar del Río, June 23, 2006. Political prisoner Ricardo Santiago Medina Salabarría complained to authorities at the Taco Taco prison about the degrading and inhumane conditions in which prisoners are held at the prison. According to his wife, Katia Sonia Martín Veliz, Medina Salabarría denounced the beatings, torture and other mistreatment that prison officials inflict on the inmates.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist.

Granma, June 24, 2006. Antigovernment slogans appeared on Calle 21 between Calle Libertad and Calle Mártires. Residents of Reparto El Valle, Bayamo, saw the graffiti declaring “Down with Fidel”. It was written on the walls of the doctors’ office at Calle 21 #32. Members of the National Revolutionary Police and the political police descended on the locale to take photographs of the wall and try to obtain fingerprints. They also used police dogs. “Fidel” was written with feces.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, independent journalist with the Youth Without Censorship Press Agency.

Havana, June 25, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, June 25, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, June 25, 2006. Eleven activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, part of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, observed a prayer service at the Nuestra Señora de la Caridad Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation, as well as for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. According to independent librarian and organization member Martha Díaz Rondón, the 15 activists present discussed these issues extensively and then prayed, which they do

on the last Sunday of each month. Through their discussion, the need became evident to unify the opposition and civil society to advocate for peaceful change toward true democracy.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. *Radio República*. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Pinar del Río, June 26, 2006. Political prisoner Santiago Medina Salabarría began to sponsor the Varela Days at the Taco Taco jail. Medina initiated this celebration in response to encouragement from Monsignor José Siro González, the bishop of Pinar del Río, to rescue and disseminate the figure of Father Félix Varela y Morales. Every Monday in the provincial prison, Medina led a group in prayers for a democratic future in Cuba and freedom for all political prisoners. According to his wife, Katia Sonia Martín Véliz, the eight inmates participated in the first meeting, discussing the life of Father Varela as well as contributing their own ideas to the conversation. The goal is to incorporate other Taco Taco prisoners into the meetings.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. *Radio República*.

Havana, June 26, 2006. Marking one year since Reinaldo Bragado Breña died, a conversation was held to remember the writer and human rights activist born in Cuba in 1953, who died in Miami on June 26, 2005. The eulogy took place at the home of independent librarian Omaida Padrón Azcuy, Calle 18 e/ Línea y Calzada, Vedado. Among those paying homage were Heriberto Portales, president of the Orthodox Party, Roberto Miranda Díaz, member of the National Board of Directors of the Cuban Liberal Movement, and various journalists, neighbors and peaceful opposition activists, who exchanged information about the life and work of Bragado Breña.

Source: Miguel Iturria Savón, *Cubanet*.

Santiago de Cuba, June 26, 2006. The El Cubano Libre Independent Library was inaugurated at Calle Céspedes 206, e/ General García y Máximo Gómez, San Luis. The library is run by Maura Iset González Furquet, who is also the president of the Latin American Rural Women’s Foundation. She declared that the library puts a collection of literature crossing various topics within the reach of the Cuban public, who will also have access to books that are banned by Cuba’s totalitarian government. Gualdymar Parra Santana, Israel Folgar Cardona, José A. Estrada Varela, Jenny Estrada Forján and

Pedro Enrique Martínez Machado, members of the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Farmers' League.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Radio República.

Havana, June 27, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement issued its annual statement expressing, among other issues, the group's intention to develop an improved internal work structure and to apply new designs that allow it to better prepare both the movement brass and the rank and file for democracy. Among its other goals, the group mentioned addressing conflicts at the community and regional levels as well as emphasizing its work with young professionals and students.

Source: León Padrón Azcuy, President, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Isla de Pinos, June 28, 2006. Human rights activists from different organizations met on this island to coordinate peaceful activities designed to encourage the "Freedom without exile for all Cuban political prisoners" campaign.

Amnesty International has qualified these prisoners as prisoners of conscience:

Héctor Pachaga Sia, Manuel de Jesús Pozo Fortunato, Reinaldo Gómez Quintero and Carlos González Rojas represented the following organizations: the Cuban Human Rights Foundation on Isla de Pinos, the Independent Workers' Confederation of Cuba, the Ernesto Díaz Madruga Civic Cultural Project and the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library.

Source: Radio República.

Villa Clara, June 30, 2006. Peaceful opposition leader Pedro Cabrera Pacheco (Liván) arrived at the Manicaragua police station to object to the 1,500-peso fine handed to him more than 15 days prior for being caught in the street with a box filled with

10 fish steaks. The police chief, Sergio Vilariño Rodríguez, told him that the fine was legal. After exchanging words with the chief, the dissident told him that this was a political action due to his dissident activism.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Villa Clara, June 30, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women's Movement announced that several prisoners in different jails around the country were fasting in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. In the Boniato prison in **Santiago de Cuba**, the following prisoners took part in the fast: Eduardo Díaz Castellanos, Manuel Ubals González, Ernesto Durán Rodríguez, Ricardo Galván Casal, Rolides Nieves Rodríguez, Reinaldo Labrada Peña, Oscar Tamayo Rivero, Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía, Yordanis Loret Casero, Onel Casaldo Garlobo, José Girón Cabrera, Andrés Vargas Nieves, Jorge Cervantes Díaz, Félix Barrero Oblán, Mario Antonio Román Llanes, Vladimir Ulises Román Llanes, Edilberto Aguilar Guevara, Franklin Isaac Martínez, David Rosabal Cabrera, Faustino Peralta Calcio, Hermes Estrada Videau, Carlos Arévalo Yong and Osmel Cedeño Mustafá. In the Combinado, in **Guantánamo**, the following inmates fasted for 12 hours every day: Jesús Mustafá Felipe, Claro Sánchez Altarriba, Alberto Martínez Fernández and Alfredo Noa Estupiñán. Meanwhile, the following inmates are participating at the Kilo 8 prison in **Camagüey**: Leonel Casas Díaz, Roger Cardoso Nieves and Rainer Carmenate Madruga have joined José Daniel Ferrer García, Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce, Lamberto Hernández Planas, Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, who have been fasting since early in June.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
7	14	21	28				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2º Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle 30, No. 5107, e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona	Isla de Pinos	5	Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García (Fundación Cubana de DD.HH.)
x				Avenida 289, No. 13406, e/ 134 y 136, Berenguer, Calabazar, Boyeros	Ciudad de La Habana	5	Camilo Cairo Falcón (Partido Pro Derechos Humanos)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetás	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x	Prologación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x	x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

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Havana, July 1, 2006. Twenty people attend the inauguration of the Pat Tillman Independent Library, part of the BIBIORED library network project. The event takes place at the new library, located at Calle Soledad No. 602 e/ Salud y Jesús Peregrino, in Havana. The inauguration features Minardo Salgado, the president of the Cuba Commission, an organization that supports the use of civil disobedience as a means of resistance, as well as Belinda Salas of the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba, and other leaders and community members without any political association.

The director of the library, Julio Beltrán Iglesias, a former rafter who recently returned to Cuba, is a member of the Cuba Commission. He reads the biography of Pat Tillman, an American football star and a volunteer soldier in the 75th Ranger Regiment of the U.S. army who died in Afghanistan. "Pat wanted to serve his people with a minimal salary through his military career, turning down multimillion-dollar contracts with the Arizona Cardinals. This is our modest homage to someone who has given his life for his country," the librarian said.

Source: Ernesto Roque Cintero, UPECI. Cubanet.

Havana, July 1, 2006. The 10th issue of the University Torch, an independent newsletter is published. This bulletin, aimed at university students in the western part of the country and published by the Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement, includes articles titled "Something to Say...", "Signals of a Happy Neighbor", and "Does Racism Exist in Cuba?", as well as a discussion of Internet access in Cuba, poetry, letters and the biography of José Antonio Echeverría.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Camagüey, July 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 28 of El Camagüeyano, an independent newsletter from the region, is published. This issue features an article on the participation of the Ladies in White of Camagüey and their supporters in the Santa Ana Church. The newsletter also reports on the non-cooperation campaign, complaints about social and economic problems in the country, the details of the trial of Camagüey native and dissident Ernesto Corría, and information on human rights. The José País García Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, July 2, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, July 2, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement meet in multiple homes around Punta Brava, La Lisa, for vigils commemorating the fourth anniversary of the movement and to call for the immediate unconditional release of all political prisoners. They also pray for the hunger striking Guillermo Fariñas. The vigils are held at the homes of Punta Brava delegate Benítez Márquez, Avenida 249, No. 4614 e/ 46 y 48; Nereida Guillermina Márquez Menéndez, Calle 50 #24508 e/ Avenida 247 y 245; and Maribel Macias Aguilar, Calle 50 y Final.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Camagüey, July 2, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Cienfuegos, July 3, 2006. Political prisoner Ricardo Pupo Sierra, an activist with the Human Rights Party in Cuba, sends a message to the Cuban people to resist cooperating with the dictatorship. "A nation is more than the will of one man, group or party," he said from his jail cell. "A nation is a composition of many wills. A nation is the right to rights, freedom, the diversity of ideas, criteria, freedom of thought," He calls on the Cuban nation to take to the streets in search of the truth and thus gain freedom.

Source: Ricardo Pupo Sierra, Ariza Provincial Prison. Gladys Linares Blanco, Women's Humanitarian Front. Radio República.

Villa Clara, July 3, 2006. In a radio report,



Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights gather in the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, in Banes, Holguín to celebrate United States Independence Day on July 4.

Alaín Ramón Gómez Ramos refers to the popularity of the word “Change” and the fear and hate that it inspires among the Revolution and its members. “Change resounds. It is spoken in the alleyway and expresses great need. The alarming situation facing the Cuban people can no longer be accepted. Many wish for change,” he said. He reports that many dissidents use stickers with this word and post them in visible places such as bicycles and the doors of their homes. When no one is looking, the enemies of change destroy the stickers. But they are posted again. “It does not matter that they rip them off the walls for they can never rip them from the hearts of the millions of Cubans who want change.”

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Cubanacán Press. Radio República.

Holguín, July 3, 2006. Independent journalists with the Youth Without Censorship Press Agency send a message to the Cuban people following a series of repressive actions that the political police has taken against the group: “The youths of this Press Agency wish to inform the Cuban people that we will continue reporting all of what occurs in every corner of this island so that the whole world is aware of the Cuban reality that this government

hides and we will contribute with our small grain of sand to break down the information blockade that the government has built up over the past half century.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, director, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, July 4, 2006. The Neo-Catholic Party makes public a declaration proclaiming the group’s political-religious ideology. “We have two fundamental doctrines: first, we embrace the faith that it is necessary to free our country from this dictatorship. And second, we are aware that the struggle must be based here; in other words, we completely renounce emigration from this country,” said 49-year-old Gerardo Lezcano Naranjo, the president of the Neo-Catholic Party.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares Balmaseda, Cubanet.

Camagüey, July 4-17, 2006. Responding to the cruel and subhuman treatment they face, four prisoners of conscience begin a hunger strike of six hours everyday. Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández, Lamberto Hernández Planas, Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta demand an end to the exile of Cuban political prisoners and a stop to mistreatment and aggression against them

by the military and paramilitary groups used to these ends, which has created a dangerous prison mafia.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress in Camagüey and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship.

Camagüey, July 4, 2006. The El Apóstol Independent Library in Camagüey implements an innovative system to avoid persecution by the political police. "In homage to the 4th of July, the United States Independence Day, our library has launched a library delivery service, created to put the books and brochures that the government has censored, into the hands of the citizenry, anything they choose from a catalog of books," explains librarian and former prisoner of conscience Alejandro Cabrera Cruz. "This way, people who do not come to our independent library out of fear of punishment can access the library's circulation with speed and safety because we bring the books to their homes." Through this system, the library has been able to distribute the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, biographies of famous democrats from the past and present, books on the United States, the history of Cuba and works from the world of literature.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Lux InfoPress, Cubanet.

Holguín, July 4, 2006. Twelve activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance hold an activity to celebrate the 230th anniversary of independence in the United States. The event is carried out at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance; Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Santiago de Cuba, July 4, 2006. A group of fifteen activists hold an 18-hour fast in solidarity with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández who is in his 155th day of a hunger strike. Members of the dissident organizations the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, the Cuban Farmers' League and the Latin American Federation of Rural Women participate in the event.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without

Censorship. Radio República.

Havana, July 5, 2006. The Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation, led by former political prisoner Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz, present their semiannual report indicating an unfavorable situation of civil and political rights in Cuba. The five-page document stresses the negative human rights situation on the island. The list of 316 prisoners and others subjected to the judicial process indicates that Cuba occupies the first place in the hemisphere in these types of statistics, and also the first place in most of the world in so-called "offenses against the state" and others with a political character. The report adds that, of the cases that have been documented, the total number of prisoners fell from 333 to 316, but noted that variances above the 300 mark are virtually irrelevant. Such a level confirms the government's social control and its restrictions on the freedom of opinion, expression, association and peaceful protest. Amnesty International continues to recognize the number of prisoners of conscience in Cuba at 81, estimated as among the highest in the world, the report said.

The report also discusses the lack of other rights, such as the prohibition of satellite television and Internet access for Cubans. It also notes that the government's justification for these restrictions is that 'they are due to the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States', but, in our opinion, this explanation is insufficient."

Source: Richard Roselló, Cubanet

Pinar del Río, July 6-8, 2006. The Western Cultural Project, based at Calle 266 e/ Isabel Rojas y Proyecto, holds a fast in solidarity with Guillermo "Coco" Fariñas and all political prisoners. Blanca Rivera Sánchez, the acting president of the project, says that the main objective of these fasts is to develop a consciousness of the serious situation faced by political prisoners in Cuban jails, above all those that have been held for more than one year without trial.

Fuente: Mario Echaverría Driggs, Youths for Democracy Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, July 8, 2006. The attorney of independent journalist Oscar Mario González requests his client's release after serving almost one year in prison without a trial. The petition argues that this measure is arbitrary and in violation of the law. The prisoner's family makes the legal petition public.

Source: José Antonio Fornaris, Cuba Verdad, Cubanet.

Havana, July 9, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the



Members of the Punta Brava delegation of the Cuban Liberal Movement celebrate the fourth anniversary of its foundation with a vigil for freedom for all political prisoners. The newspaper *La República*, published by the Cuban Democratic Directorate, can be seen on the wall behind the activists.

Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, July 9, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, July 11, 2006. Independent journalist José Antonio Fornaris sends an open letter to the president of the Cuban parliament, Ricardo Alarcón, complaining that justice has not been carried out against those responsible for sinking the “13th of March” Tugboat. Two days later 12 years would’ve been reached since the tragic event, which cost the

lives of numerous persons including 11 children. The youngest had not even turned seven months.

Fornaris, the director of the Cuba Verdad Press Agency and a member of the Board of Directors of the Pro-Freedom of the Press Association, along with Moisés Leonardo Rodríguez, the primary organizer of the Martí Current, and the attorney Wilfredo Vallín, launched a campaign last summer for justice in this case. The letter from Fornaris to Alarcón expresses in the final paragraph: “As the National Assembly of Peoples’ Power is the supreme organ of the State, and as on more than one occasion we have heard them define their position in favor of justice and legality, we request through you that the case of the ‘13th of March’ Tugboat, where more than 40 Cubans died, several of them children, have justice.”

Source: Luis Cíno, Cubanet.

Matanzas, July 12, 2006. A pair of nonviolent dissidents hold a 24-hour fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Eufemio Álvarez la Fe y Luis Alberto Amaya

Fleitas hold their solemn event in Jagüey Grande.
Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Villa Clara, July 12, 2006. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, president of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement of Santo Clara, shouts, "Down with Fidel!" when three men belonging to the paramilitary mobs physically assault her as she was walking to her Santa Clara home.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Villa Clara, July 12, 2006. Numerous dissidents from central Cuba attend a mass at the Church of Carmen in Santa Clara. The mass is dedicated to the memory of the 13th of March Tugboat victims. During the ceremony, the names of those who died in the massacre are read aloud. The following are among the participants: Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Idania Yánes Contreras, and Liset Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement; Bernardo Luís Ascanio Camargo, Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party; Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, Maceo Movement for Dignity; Idalberto González Gómez, Civic Cuban Nationalist Movement. At the end of the service, the dissidents are harassed and repressed during the evening by paramilitary mobs working for the government.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement, and Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party.

Pinar del Río, July 13, 2006. Nineteen activists with the Máximo Gómez Báez Civic Movement hold an event to condemn the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat. The vigil takes place in the home of Miguel Ángel Ramos Mesa-Blanco, Calle Los Pinos Final, Gran Panel, #82, Reparto Hermanos Cruz.

Source: Mario Izquierdo Sotolongo, Máximo Gómez Báez National Civic Movement.

Pinar del Río, July 13, 2006. Political prisoners Fidel Suárez Cruz, Diosdado González Marrero, Emilio Leyva, Javier Cabrera Pérez, Horacio Julio Piña, Normando Hernández, Eduardo Díaz Fleitas and Manuel Pérez Soria, hold a 24-hour fast, in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas, at the Kilo 5½ Prison.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Havana, July 13, 2006. The leaders of the Party for Human Rights of Cuba hold a pre-dawn memorial for the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat crime. Ten people participate in the event, which is held at Calle Isabel, e/ Masó y Aranguren, Barrio Azul, Arroyo Naranjo. State Security officers surround the site.

Source: Camilo Cairo Falcón, Party for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Ten members of the National Center of Union and Labor Education hold a symbolic event on the Havana shoreline in which they toss flowers into the sea to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat, which occurred on this day in 1994.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education ; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold an activity in Havana to commemorate the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat. Fifteen activists participate in the event, held at the home of Reynaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413, e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.



Activists from the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy celebrate the 15th anniversary of the organization they founded on July 16, 1991. The movement calls for University autonomy.



Laypeople outside the parish church of Our Lady of Carmen, in Cojimas, prepare to begin the procession in honor of the patron saint of fishermen and of this small town located east of Havana. The mass and procession took place on the feast day of the Virgin of Carmen, July 16.

EFE REUTERS

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold an activity in Havana to commemorate the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat. Sixteen activists participate in the event at the home of Hector Julio Cedeño, at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold an activity in Havana to commemorate the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat.

Eleven activists participate in the event at the home of Leonel Sanchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, July 13, 2006. On the 12th anniversary of the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat when the vessel was sunk eight miles off the shores of Havana by Cuban government tugboats, members of the Party for Human Rights hold a vigil at the home of activists Luis González Medina and Luz Marina Barceló, located at Avenida 40 # 2906 e/ 29 y 33 San José de las Lajas. They pray for the victims

who were cruelly murdered that day and demand justice for their deaths.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Peaceful dissidents Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Margarita Albacia Sánchez, Laid Hernández Albacia, William Cepera García, Alejandro Albacia Sánchez, Araceli Vázquez Walter, Magdalena Milián Gómez, Yurisel Pérez Rodríguez, Yurisel Ortiz Rodríguez, Guillermo Guerra Rodríguez, Armando Pérez Mendoza, Kevin Ramos Velásquez, Dinora Figueredo González, Yandira Velásquez Ortega, Maribel Ortega Jiménez, Milagros Pérez Jiménez and Eduardo Ochoa Jiménez hold a 24-hour fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Ten members of the Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País" hold a vigil to commemorate the fellow Cubans killed aboard the 13th of March Tugboat. The activists declare this day to be one of national mourning under the motto, "The sea cries and the dead demand justice."

Source: Raiza Martínez, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party, Havana.

Havana, July 13, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Oscar Elías Biscet González launches a fast of undefined length from his jail cell at the Combinado del Este Prison to demand that the Cuban government ratify, observe and apply international human rights agreements.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, LuxInfo Press, Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Radio República.

Matanzas, July 13, 2006. Activists with the Alternative Option Independent Movement hold a vigil at their Pedro Betancourt headquarters to observe the 12th anniversary of the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat.

Sixteen members of this nonviolent opposition organization sing the national anthem, pray for the victims and their families, and recount reports of this brutal deed. Caridad González recalls how government boats chased, crashed into and sank the tugboat and then, assisted by another boat that shot strong streams of water against the tugboat's passengers, forced men, women and children into the water. Many of those who fell overboard died, as no one rescued them.

The event concludes with the participants committing to work toward justice for the victims of

this crime, which the Cuban authorities have labeled an accident. Throughout the vigil, uniformed guards from the Ministry of the Interior and paramilitary rapid response brigades closely look on.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship agency. Cubanet. Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, MIOA.

Matanzas, July 13, 2006. A group of dissidents commemorate the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat along the northern coast of Matanzas. They cast floral offerings into the sea and sing the national anthem. Jorge Luis Álvarez García, Tania Morejón, Ramón Verdecia, Andrés Govea, Rolando Wang Cepero, Eufemio Álvarez, Luis Amaya and Alejandrina García de la Rivas participate in the event.

Source: Jorge Luis Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, July 13, 2006. Activists with the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba and the Independent Democratic Front cast a floral offering and bouquets of flowers into the Cubanicaí and Biricú Rivers to commemorate the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat and the murders of the innocent Cubans aboard the vessel. They hold a moment of silence and condemn the brutal murder.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Villa Clara, July 13, 2006. Groups of nonviolent dissidents hold a series of fasts in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Participating are: Oramis Díaz Corcho, Lázaro Vega González, Juan Carlos Fernández Morales, Orelvis Suárez Clavero, Julio Enrique Pérez Rodríguez, Miguel Fernández Javier, Juan Carlos Suárez Corcho and José González Pérez in **Quemado de Güines** for 24 hours; Olga Lidia González Barroso, Alexis Ohms Pérez and Aramilda Contreras in **Santa Clara** for 12 hours; José Reyes Velásquez in **Manicaragua** for 24 hours; Iris Pérez Aguilera, Amado Ruiz Moreno, Dora Lara Morales, Blas Fortún Martínez, Miguel García Hernández, Elia Rosa Moreno, Ariel Rivero and Alejandro Gabriel Martínez Martín in **Placetás** for 24 hours; Ángel Luis Bayardo Menas, Silvia Morales Pérez, Luis Silvano Agüero Hernández, Jorge Prieto Rodríguez, José Luis Díaz Castellanos, Cándido Eugenio García Fuentes, Eliécer Hernández Cárdenas and Joan Rodríguez Morales in **Báez** for 24 hours.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly

to *Promote Civil Society in Cuba*.

Villa Clara, July 13, 2006. Peaceful opposition activists gather at the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba headquarters to commemorate the tragic sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat, which occurred in 1994. They sing the national anthem and pray for the dead as well as for Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who continues his hunger strike. They read some fragments about the vessel's sinking from the book, "*Fidel Revealed*".

At the end of the event, activist Guillermo del Sol Pérez reads from one of his eloquent and emotional poems and leads those present in a moment of reflection. More than 12 members of the opposition are present.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República. Cubanacán Press.

Villa Clara, July 13, 2006. Members of the nonviolent opposition of Manicaragua participate in a commemorative act to remember the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat. The opposition organizations represented in the act are: the Independent Teachers' Association of Cuba, the Martí Youth Coalition, the Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País", and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. More than one dozen activists attend the event, held at the home of dissident Pedro Cabrera Pacheco Iván, Calle Francisco Dámaso Rodríguez #2.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos. Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República. Cubanacán Press.

Sancti Spíritus, July 13, 2006. A group of nonviolent dissidents hold a fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Raimundo Perdigón Brito, Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, Jorge Perdigón Brito, Yasley Ortega Tejeda, Edel Peralta Roche, Leonel Molina Labrada, Elvis Gregorio Pérez Lara, Eric Mena Lara, Paula Lara Hurtado, Segundo Rey Cabrera González and Adriano Castañeda Meneses fasted in **Cabaigúan** for 24 hours; and Liborio Apolinar Borroto Monroy, Osmani Borroto Rodríguez, Martha Cárdenas Alfonso, Yausli Prieto Cárdenas, Antonio Amarante, Ricardo Rivas Rivero, Lázaro Loredó Pérez, José Gerardo Morejón, Daniel Cuadrado Domínguez and Belizardo Núñez fasted in Jatibonico for 12 hours.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Sancti Spíritus, July 13, 2006. Opposition activist René Gómez Manzano, jailed in the Nieves Morejón Prison, declares a hunger strike to protest

his continued detention without trial. He has been in jail since July 22, 2005.

Source: Lucas Garve, Foundation for the Freedom of Expression. Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Sancti Spíritus, July 13, 2006. Activists from the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights gather on the pedestrian walkway along the banks of the Yayabo River in Reparto Jesús María, Sancti Spíritus, to remember the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat. They cast flowers into the river as a symbol of the pain and fraternity with the brothers and family members of these innocent people, drowned only because they sought a free land. Cards bearing biblical passages and small copies of the New Testament are given out. They sing the national anthem while calling for justice and freedom for the people of Cuba. Eleven members of the group are present.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party. The "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance National Movement.

Ciego de Ávila, July 13, 2006. A group of nonviolent dissidents hold a 24-hour fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Participating in the event are: Julio Columbié Batista, Idel Pérez Díaz, Santa Pedroso González, Jenny Borgoñez Columbié, Yusney Columbié de Armas, Wilder Ávila Columbié, Manuel Guerra Rodríguez, Juan Carlos González Leyva, Luis Esteban Espinosa Echemendía, Tania Maseda Guerra, Marcelo Tilhert Pérez and Santa González Pedroso in **Ciego de Avila** while Rafael Rivas Ramírez joined in from **Morón**.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Ciego de Ávila, July 13, 2006. A vigil takes place at the headquarters of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, located at Calle Honorato el Castillo #154, e/ República y Cuba, Ciego de Ávila. They read Psalm 22, "A cry of anguish and a song of praise", and Chapter 3 of the Book of Job, which discusses the virtue of patience and hope of those who believe in God. They talked about the suffering of the Cuban people, of the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat – the children in particular – and they note that these are not the only victims of the regime but that many persons have disappeared at sea, drowned by the Cuban Coast Guard.

The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights calls for July 13th to be a national day of mourning in Cuba,

as a symbol of what occurred on that day in 1994 and as a reminder of all those who have perished at sea while trying to escape from Cuba or have been killed by the Cuban Coast Guard.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Holguín, July 13, 2006. Members of the “Pedro Luis Boitel” Civic Resistance National Movement in Moa deposit flowers in the sea to pay tribute to the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat. At the same time, they observe a moment of silence for the innocent souls lost at sea. The event takes place in Reparto La Playa. Pedro Terrero Leyva, Omar Suárez García, Alejandro Arauda Martínez, José Manuel de la Rosa Pérez, Wilfredo Legrá Frómata, Atilano Rey Cutiño and Bárbara Presort Verdecia, all take part in the solemn activity. In the same municipality, from other points along the port, numerous activists also toss flowers into the sea in memory of the victims of that tragic incident. Augusto Hernández de los Ángeles, Edel Jesús Hernández Reyes, Mario Brocal Borges, Osiel Olivares Tito, Omar Pérez Torres, Francisco Hernández Gómez, Héctor Silot Rueda, Miguel Molina Durán, Solemni Abad Alpajón, Felipe Disney Ramos Leyva and María Ester Blanco Aguirre participate.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Oriente Province Free Press Agency. Felipe D. Ramos Leiva, Oriente Province Free Press Agency, Cubanet. Radio República.

Holguín, July 13, 2006. Members of the “Pedro Luis Boitel” Civic Resistance National Movement in Moa meet to commemorate the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat. They meet at Calle Camilo Cienfuegos #12, Reparto La Playa. Silverio Herrera Acosta, Omar Wilson Estévez Real, Mario Antonio Brocal Borges, Miguel Molina Durán, Anabel González Mendez, Martiza Cardoza Romero and Osiel Olivares Tito are presents.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez

Holguín, July 13, 2006. Activists from the Eastern Democratic Alliance commemorate yet another anniversary of the sinking of the 13th of March Tugboat by the totalitarian regime by casting offerings from the location known as the Bridge of Miguel in Sagua de Tánamo. Francisco Ferrer Columbié, José A. Bárzaga Cordero, Rubildo de la Cruz Roche, Luis Leyva Cortiña, Rafael Mesa Columbié and Yirina Texidó Díaz take part in the event.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez and Felipe D. Ramos Leiva, Oriente Province Free

Press Agency, Cubanet. Radio República.

Holguín, July 13, 2006. Activists with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance in Banes pay homage to the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat at Morales Beach. They pray for the victims, toss flowers to the sea and hold a moment of silence in honor of the victims. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Eulalio Batista Cruz, Gloria Oliva, Danny Batista Cruz, Alfredo Rojas Gallo, Maria Margarita Cruz Batista, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Sergio Abreu Paz, Idalmis Desdin Salguero, Bárbara Ortiz Piris, Dayamis Romero and Yosvani Ricardo Cruz take part in the event. The solemn activity takes place at Playita de Torrenteras, a beach located along this municipality.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Holguín, July 13, 2006. Activists with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance in Banes pay homage to the victims of the 13th of March Tugboat. They march towards the Bay of Banes and, at the location known as Embarcadero, cast flowers into the sea in memory of the victims. They hold a moment of silence and pray for the eternal rest of those killed in this tragic incident. The march is held early in the morning to evade the vigilance of the Rapid Response Brigades that have been mobilized to try to prevent the action.

Ten human rights activists participate in the event, and in reading a document that advocates increasing efforts in the struggle for the democratization of Cuba so that events such as the sinking of this vessel are not repeated.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera. Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, July 13, 2006. A group of nonviolent dissidents hold a 24-hour fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Gualdimar Parra Santana, Maura Iset González Urquet, Pelango de Jesús Cajilde Laite, José Armando Estrada Varela, Jenny Estrada Forjón, Neysa Julia Laite Beatón, Israel Forguer Acosta, Pedro Enríquez Martínez Machado, Yiosvani Zamora Alba, Maidelis Cardona Alemán, Eilán Forguer Acosta and Isabel Forguer Cárdenas fast in **San Luis**, while Teresa Francisca Ramau, Celia Blanca Rigal and Adrián San Emeterio Ramón fast in **Songo La Maya**.

Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu

Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.

Guantánamo, July 13, 2006. Political prisoners Jesús Mustafá Felipe, Claro Sánchez Altarriba, Alberto Martínez Fernández and Alfredo Noa Estupiñán, hold a 24-hour fast at the Combinado de Guantánamo prison in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas.

Guantánamo, July 13, 2006. A group of nonviolent dissidents hold a 12-hour fast in solidarity with hunger-striking independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Yordis García Fournier, Yanet Mosqueda Cayón, Leonor Padilla Navarro and Herminia Ramírez Jiméne, with the Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement, participate in the event. *Source: Lisette Zamora Carrandi, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República. Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba.*

Havana, July 14, 2006. Signs appear along the Havana-Melena highway reading, "Down with inspection points," and, "We don't want inspection points in our region". The signs appear in response to the government's installation of inspection points at the exits of some cities and towns to register those who move packages.

Source: Luís González Medina, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. Radio República.

Camagüey, July 14, 2006. Members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement hold a joint meeting with the provincial coordinator of the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey, Roberto Marrero la Rosa. The activists share their experiences and discuss the need for increased cooperation between the two independent civil society organizations. They also address the issue of humanitarian assistance for political prisoners and their family members, with all organizations committing their support.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, July 16, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, July 16, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa

Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Guantánamo, July 16, 2006. Members of the Cuban Youths Movement for Democracy meet to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of their organization, singing the national anthem and remembering the organization's period of struggle. They pay homage to José Antonio Echevarría, Alberto Tapia Ruano, Virgilio Campanería, and Pedro Luis Boitel, as well as imprisoned activists such as Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Claro Sánchez Altarriba, Carlos Luís Díaz Fernández, Yordelis Duvalón Guiver Ortiz, Oswaldo Rams de la Cruz, and Randy Cabrera Mayor. The group also recognizes the Cuban martyrs who have given their lives to achieve a prosperous life, free from the strident ideologies and repression of the communist regime. They stress the importance of Cuba's university students as the foundation for an open civil society and as a challenge for future generations in the training of professionals, as well as the teaching of ethical and moral values that will drive Cuba to complete freedom. They recall the victims of student repression in Cuba and throughout the world. The Universities Without Borders project, which is centered on reforms for university autonomy in Cuba, remains the base of their work and the changes that today's Cuba demands, they said. During the event, a group of government operatives attempt to block the activity, but are rebutted by the resistance and stalwartness of those gathered.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Pinar del Río, July 17, 2006. Seventeen independent trade unionists hold a 12-hour fast at the CONIC office in Pinar del Río to support the cause of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, who is serving time in prison for his work in opposition to abortion and the death penalty. The activists say that they were adopting the campaign for the immediate release of Dr. Biscet.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC; Ramón Suarez Diaz, Democratic Party 30th of November "Frank País"; José A. Ballart Ochoa, The Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Camagüey, July 17-26, 2006. The Ladies in White of this province participate in a novena for Saint Anne in the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey. "We march along the entire Avenida General Gómez to the church carrying flowers," says Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of Dr. Alfredo Pulido López, a Camagüey native who was among the 75 activists imprisoned in 2003. "We will lay these

flowers at the feet of the Virgin and ask for freedom for all political prisoners in Cuba. We do this with the great hope that all of them may soon be in their homes.” She adds that, at the end of the mass, the Ladies will join hands and march about the church grounds, noting the progress they have made in gaining space and recognition within the religious community.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Radio República.

Holguín, July 17, 2006. Activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance dissident organization in Banes hold an activity as part of the humanitarian assistance project “Hands of Love,” consisting of offering spiritual and material assistance to those people who are precariously exposed or ignored by the island nation’s current government, such as the physically handicapped, the elderly, children and those with serious illnesses.

In this instance, they hold a cultural activity to celebrate the sixth birthday of a child suffering from numerous illnesses, including heart failure. His family lives in extreme poverty, his mother is physically disabled and his father is mentally ill.

Yet, thanks to the group, Octavio Sánchez Rojas happily enjoys his birthday together with his new family members, who have followed his development for the past two years. The party takes place at the child’s home, at Bajada de Rondón #195, Banes. Martha Díaz Rondón, a human rights activist who partakes in the celebration, says that the Banes chapter of Eastern Democratic Alliance will continue sponsoring such events for the most precarious and poor who have been victims of government negligence for more than 46 years.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Havana, July 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gather at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, July 18, 2006. Fourteen members of the Cuban Liberal Party met to hold a fast in support of political prisoners. The fast takes place at the home of activist Julia Cecilia Delgado, who lives at 20 de mayo #53 Apt. B14 e/ Línea y Marta Abreu, El Cerro, in Havana.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, July 18, 2006. Twenty members of the National Center of Union and Labor Education hold a vigil for the release of imprisoned union organizers in poor health. The event takes place at the organization’s office, located at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, in Havana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Matanzas, July 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, July 18, 2006. Around seven people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gather at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, July 18, 2006. The Pedro Luis Boitel Cuban Political Imprisonment Movement releases its Declaration of Principles, in which the organization made of political prisoners expresses its support for the measures presented by the U.S. government’s Commission for a Free Cuba. The group also urges President George W. Bush to implement the commission’s measures. “Cuban political prisoners, conscious of the intolerance and lack of political will of the Havana regime, supports all actions that pressure the dictator to concede greater openness with the objective of implementing in Cuba a democratic system governed by rule of law, in which all citizens can go about their lives without any interference but the most minimal limitations, where they will be guaranteed the inalienable choices and liberties to which they, as humans, are entitled,” the document said. “We further support all initiatives that support or assist the democratic forces within Cuba that, in an unequal battle of titanic proportions, struggles and resists against the totalitarian hordes of hate and oppression.” The declaration accuses the Cuban government and the official state media of distorting the purposes of the U.S. commission and of misleading the people of Cuba to believe that it represents a military threat

from the United States.

The following prisoners sign the document: from the Kilo 7 Prison in Camagüey, Armando Sosa Fortuna, Ángel Tejada Rodríguez, Alejandro González Fraga, Jesús Rojas Pineda, Alfredo Pulido López, Ramón Delgado Prieto, and Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez; from the nearby Kilo 8 Prison, Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández and Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce; from the Cerámica Roja Prison in the same province, Egberto Escobedo Morales and René Montes de Oca Martija; from the Holguín Provincial Prison, Andy Frómata Cuenca; from Nieves Morejón, in Sancti Spiritus, Pedro Molinero Urbi; from the Boniato Prison in Santiago de Cuba, Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía; from Ariza Prison in Cienfuegos, Luis Cueto Echevarría; From the Combinado del Este, in Havana, Rafael Ibarra Roque; and from the Agüica Prison in Matanzas, Mario Pérez Aguilera, who remains in a prolonged hunger strike. The members and executive board of the Civic Resistance National Movement “Pedro Luis Boitel” also sign the declaration.

Source: Jorge Luis García Pérez “Antúnez”, from Kilo 7, Camagüey.

Santiago de Cuba, July 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña pray the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Pinar del Río, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education begin offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to begin to prepare those who may become the country’s future labor leaders. The course is given at the center’s branch, at Calle Celso Maragoto #143-A, e/ Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education . Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 20, 2006. During the morning hours, a sign from the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation appears at Calle 289 e/ 135 y 136, Reparto Berenguer, Calabazar. Police and members of the paramilitary Rapid Response Brigades are present at the location.

Source: Camilo Cairo Falcón, Boyeros Delegate to the Party for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, July 20, 2006. The National Center of

Union and Labor Education begin offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to begin preparing those who may become the country’s future labor leaders. María Elena Mir Marrero conducts the 12-class course, which is being offered at the center’s local branch, at Calle 5ta Avenida D #47812, e/ 478 y 480, Guanabo, Habana del Este.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education . Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education begins offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country’s future labor leaders. Enrique Pérez González conducts the 12-class course, which is offered at the center’s local branch, at Calle Bazo #1 Altos, e/ Pereira y Hambrón, Regla.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education . Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 20 - August 29, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education begins offering a Labor Organizing Course throughout the country. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country’s future labor leaders. The course is given at the center’s headquarters, located at San José #564, Altos, e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana, as well as at 10 different branches throughout the country. Participants attend the twice-weekly classes for six weeks.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education . Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 20, 2006. The Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation holds a political-cultural event to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the party’s founding. They recognize the many years of struggle and recommit themselves to tirelessly work until the day when Cuba is free and human rights are respected without exception throughout the island. These are the basic principles for which this organization was founded and towards which it has worked to this date.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights Party affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Havana, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education begins offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective

of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders. Emilio González Torres conducts the 12-class course, which is given at the center's local branch at Avenida 89 #4416 e/ 44 y 46, Alturas del Río, Güines.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education .Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Villa Clara, July 20, 2006. Political prisoner Guillermo Fariñas Hernández calls on his fellow dissidents to cease their permanent fast and fast only sporadically. According to Idania Yanes Contreras, the coordinator of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the hunger-striking independent journalist said, "We need opposition activists out in the street; we cannot continue here in our houses. We need to take the opposition to the street, which is exactly what State Security does not want." Fariñas was referring to the permanent fast that members of the opposition in Santa Clara engage in for his health.

Source: Idania Yanes, Contreras. Radio República.

Camagüey, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education begins offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders. Marilín Díaz Fernández conducts the 12-class course, which is given at the center's local branch at Calle Luis Aldana #98, e/ Cándido González y William Soler, Sibanicú.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Las Tunas, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education has begun offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders. Juan Ramón Morales Ortiz conducts the 12-class course, which is given at the center's local branch at Calle José Aguilera #87 Altos, e/ 36 y Sendero, Las Tunas.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education , Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Holguín, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education has begun offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders.

Magalys Hernández Hernández conducts the 12-class course, which was given at the center's local branch at Edificio 33, Apt. 35, Reparto Villa Nueva. *Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education , Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.*

Granma, June 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education has begun offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders. Gabriel Díaz Sánchez conducts the 12-class course, which is given at the center's local branch at Calle Raúl Gómez García #278, e/ Guillermo Tornés y C, Reparto la Unión, Bayamo.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education ,Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Santiago de Cuba, July 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education have begun offering a Labor Organizing Course in this province. The objective of the course is to start preparing those who may become the country's future labor leaders. Antonio Viñalet conducts the 12-class course, which is given at the center's local branch at Calle San Basilio #357, e/ Carnicería y San Félix.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education , Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social sponsibility of Cuba.

Havana, July 23, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of Cuba's political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, July 23, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Granma, July 23, 2006. Nonviolent dissident Yoandris Gutiérrez Vargas takes down a paper flag that members of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution have hung on the door of his house in Bayamo in the lead-up to the July 26 holidays. Gutiérrez Vargas paints the number "75" on the



ADALBERTO ROQUE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES.

The hunger strike by Guillermo Fariñas was reported in the international press. "Internet Censorship/Permission Denied". This photo was published in "Business Week" in 2006.



Independent journalists Carlos Serpa Maceira (left) and Guillermo Fariñas. Date of photo unknown. Both have succeeded in overcoming censorship.



Fariñas' life was in danger in July, six months into his hunger strike to protest about not having access to the Internet.



EFE/Alejandro Ernesto

Alicia Hernández, mother of the independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas, director of the independent press agency Cubanacán Press, reported to the press agency EFE July 17 2006, that her son was into his sixth month on hunger strike. The interview took place in the home of Hernández and her son, in the city of Santa Clara, in the province of Villa Clara. Fariñas, a 43-year-old psychologist, began a hunger strike on January 31 to demand unrestricted access to the Internet for all Cubans.

flag in black, a reference to the March 2003 wave of repression, and hangs it up again.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, *Bayamo Youth Movement*; Marilín Díaz Fernández, *Lux Info Press*; *Cubanet*.

Pinar del Río, July 24, 2006. A chain of fasts

begin in the Pinar del Río province in solidarity with the political prisoners and, in particular, with Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who has been on a hunger strike since January 31 to demand Internet access for all Cubans.

Source: Mario Echavarría Driggs, *Youths for*

Democracy Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, July 24, 2006. A book of condolences is started at the headquarters of the Independent Teachers Association of Cuba (CPIC) in response to the death of Dr. Rolando Espinosa, in Miami, an exiled Cuban teacher. Roberto de Miranda, president of the association, who was out of jail on conditional release, said of his late fellow teacher, "We are saddened by the loss of Dr. Espinosa. We hold in our hearts the gratitude we feel for this great Cuban teacher, for all of the support he has given Cuban teachers expelled from the Cuban educational system because of their beliefs."

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Ciego de Ávila, July 24, 2006. Independent journalist and political prisoner Pablo Pacheco Ávila sends a message of faith and hope to the Cuban people from his prison cell in the city of Morón. He also describes the horrid conditions of life in jail. Pacheco Ávila is a member of the Ciego de Ávila Independent Journalists Cooperative. *Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.*

Granma, June 24, 2006. The nonviolent opposition activist Enrique Piñeiro hangs up a sign with the word, "Change", on the door of his home in Manzanillo. Authorities order him to remove the sign, but he refuses and leaves it hanging. The 40-year-old dissident is a member of the Guacanayabo Gulf Union of Human Rights Activists, which is led by Julio Antonio Valdés Guevara.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez. Cubanet.

Villa Clara, July 25, 2006. Anti-government graffiti appears around the city of Santa Clara. "Down with Fidel!" was scrawled throughout the La Espinaca market and on buildings in Reparto Virginia. Police and onlookers rush to the scene as government workers quickly paint over the words to make the slogans disappear. It is particularly noteworthy that the graffiti appears in the midst of preparations for the government-organized July 26 celebrations.

Source: Bernardo Luis Arcanio. Radio República.

Camagüey, July 25, 2006. Political prisoner Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, one of the 75 dissidents rounded up in the spring of 2003, speaks out against the falseness of the Cuban penitentiary system and the reeducation of convicts. "According to Fidel Castro, jails will be turned into schools, but instead, the youths kept here are turned into true masters in the use of arms, as they are forced to learn how to defend themselves. Here, youths lose more than their freedom; in these centers of degradation, they lose their hope. Here, the young are not reformed; on the contrary... there is really no reeducation

system. The youths here receive no reeducation; that does not exist here... youth is wasted inside these walls."

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, July 26, 2006. Common prisoner Alfonso Espinosa begins a hunger strike to demand medical attention for his delicate health, a result of his multiple illnesses. The most pressing concern is his left liver, a condition for which he has been awaiting an operation for more than two years. According to José Daniel Ferrer García, one of the 75 dissidents arrested in 2003, Espinosa is inspired to start the hunger strike after the chief warden of the Kilo 8 prison threatened to beat him if he continued protesting.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency.

Camagüey, July 27, 2006. The blind attorney Juan Carlos González Leiva, president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, calls on the Cuban government to grant conditional release to the prisoner Roger Cardoso Nieves. The 43-year-old political prisoner recently held a hunger strike that led to his falling into a state of dementia. He bases his petition on the fact that "the prisoner presents clear signs of insanity, such as that he refuses to sleep in a bed and embraces a Bible, repeating: "God have mercy on me," González Leiva said, noting that Cardoso does not even recognize close family members. Cardoso's mother, Beatriz Nieves, who lives in Reparto Montecarlo, Camagüey, says that she is depressed and desperate regarding her son's condition, noting that he does not even react when she talks to him about his 16-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Cubanet.

Pinar del Río, July 28, 2006. Alberto Hernández Suárez, the president of the Union of Democratic Youths of Cuba, sends a letter to Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque explaining that he was sentenced to a year in jail for the alleged crime of social dangerousness and is presently serving his sentence at the Taco Taco Prison in this province, suffering subhuman food and hygiene conditions. In his letter, he alleges that the accusation of social dangerousness is an arbitrary crime based on the concern that the accused is likely to commit a crime in the future. He notes that he has never committed a crime in the past nor could he commit one in the future. He concludes his letter by urging the foreign minister to apply justice in his case.

Source: *Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.*

Havana, July 30, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of their unjustly imprisoned husbands.

Source: *Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.*

Havana, July 30, 2006. The national executive board of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party attend an event commemorating the anniversary of the death of Frank País, a leader of the Cuban youth. They meet at the home of party member Anaika Paneca Román, located at Calle 12 #14619 e/ 3ra. y 5ta., Alturas de Diezmero, San Miguel del Padrón, Havana.

Source: *Raiza Martínez, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, Havana.*

Camagüey, July 30, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: *Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.*

Holguín, July 30, 2006. Activists from the Human Rights Foundation of Cuba and the Eastern Democratic Alliance observe a prayer service at the Our Lady of Charity Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation.

They pray for political prisoners and their family members before the Virgin and lay a white floral offering at her feet. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Alfredo Rojas Gallo, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Bárbara Ortiz Piris, Dayamis Romero Ortiz, Arnaldo Exposito Zaldivar, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Sergio Abreu Paz, Randall

Abreu Paz, Nancy Rojas Feria, Andrés Pérez Peña and Mario Rojas Feria participate in the service.

Source: *Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.*

Villa Clara, July 31, 2006. Human rights activists from the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement in Santa Clara shout pro-democracy slogans at government mobs who had surrounded the homes of Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Idania Yánes Contreras following the announcement that Fidel Castro had temporarily passed power to his brother, Raúl. The incident takes place at Edificio 10, Apt. 5, Reparto José Martí, the home of Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, and at Prolongación de Marta Abreu #93 C, e/ B y C, Reparto Virginia, the home of Idania Yánes Contreras.

Source: *Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement.*

Granma, July 31, 2006. The national executive committee of the Democratic Solidarity Party (PSD) issues a declaration after hearing Fidel Castro’s announcement regarding his surgery. “For 47 years, we have been witnesses of all the manipulations of the Cuban government and even though it is very possible that the Cuban governor’s sickness is true, the PSD observes these developments with great caution. We believe that it would be unwise to raise false expectations; we already have had many experiences with similar situations and now, more than ever, the Cuban opposition must demonstrate all of the political maturity it possesses and react shrewdly regarding the truly historic and decisive moment that the nation now faces... It is now time to create the light for Cubans to be able to freely choose how we want to live and what type of government we wish to have. Surely, we shall choose democracy, economic freedom and respect for human rights.”

Source: *Democratic Solidarity Party, Cubanet.*

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
7	14	21	28				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2º Reperto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Aleman y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x	Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x		x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reperto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

AUGUST 2006

Camagüey, August 1, 2006. Volume 4, Issue 29 of the *El Camagüeyano*, an independent newsletter is published. This issue features various sections, including an article by independent journalist Luis Guerra Juvier commenting on the policy of repression of the Cuban government, an article on human rights that focuses on the right to education, opinion columns, criticisms, and a presentation of the Christian Liberation Movement's *Todos Cubanos* Program.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, August 2, 2006. More than twenty human rights activists participates in an activity to mark the release of political prisoner Alexei Solórzano Chacón, a member of the 24 de Febrero Movement, from the Melena Dos Prison in Güines. After his release, Solórzano goes to the home of Virgilio Marante to participate in an event calling for the release of all political prisoners and to celebrate his release from prison.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Independent Press Bureau Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Camagüey, August 2, 2006. Clients at the Arroyón natural spa protest the horrible conditions of the installations and the poor quality of the food and drink offered to them. The installation is in terrible disrepair. The swimming pool is full of debris, with pieces of metal at the pool's bottom, and is notably dirty. The windows are broken, the electrical wiring is defective, and the restaurant's fans do not work. The center appears to be in a state of complete abandonment, as its employees acknowledged. The clients protest, saying that they had bought into a hoax.

Source: Luís Guerra Juvier, independent journalist, Nueva Prensa Cubana (NPC) Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, August 3, 2006. Opposition activists from this municipality join the initiative of prisoner of conscience Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet González and demand that Cuba sign, implement, and honor international agreements on human rights. Six activists from the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba, Vladimir Araña

Rosa, Isabel Lago Grete, Juan Carlos Soto, Marta Benítez, Tomás Brian and Arosmin Díaz Kolb, hold an eight-hour fast to support Biscet's campaign. They fast at Calle 9 #8 e/ 28 y 32, Sierra de Caballos, Nueva Gerona. Upon the door of the building, they hang a poster with the number "75" surrounded by a ring of barbed wire – a symbol of political prisoners in the country.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge, Radio República.

Havana, August 3, 2006. The Committee for Assistance to the Dissidence Brigade 2506 releases a statement regarding the transfer of power in Cuba. "We do not accept a succession of power that entails the same totalitarian system prevailing because of Castro and his cabal. We call on the entire Cuban opposition to unit in our convictions for freedom and democracy in the country, to begin a new path toward prosperity in the construction of our nation. To do this, we should seize this opportunity to remove this dictatorship that has punished us so brutally for 47 years. Now is the time for Cuba." The letter is signed by the Executive Committee for Assistance to the 2506 Dissidence Brigade, Ivonne Martínez Fraga, Giselle A. Paz Llamas and Carlos Serpa Maceira.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Radio República.

Havana, August 3, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists Ariana Montoya Aguilar, Olga Borrero Cuello, Minaldo Ramos Salgado, Reinaldo Calvo, Felícito Champañat Castañeda and Héctor Julio Cedeño Negrín meet at the Reinaldo Arenas Independent Library, located at Calle Revillagigedo #8, e/ Monte y Corrales, la Habana Vieja to fast for eight hours and read the letter sent from prison by Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet, in which he called for the help of the opposition, the Cuban people and his fellow political prisoners to demand that the government sign, implement and honor international human rights agreements.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Radio República.

Havana, August 3, 2006. The Independent Teachers Association of Cuba holds a vigil to posthumously award Dr. Rolando Espinosa with

the status of Distinguished Teacher. Espinosa died recently in Miami, where he served as president of the Association of Cuban Teachers in Exile.

In announcing the award, Roberto de Miranda Hernández, leader of the Independent Teachers Association of Cuba and a prisoner of conscience free on conditional release due to his health, expresses that even after Espinosa left the country, he never stopped loving Cuba and was an example of infinite selflessness as an educator. A banner hanging for the occasion read, "Professor Espinosa patented his commitment to an education free of politics." A book of condolences was begun for him at the Felix Varela Independent Library, located at Calle Campanario # 354 e/ San Rafael y San Miguel, Centro Habana. Among those who signed the book were three prisoners of conscience from the Black Spring of 2003, Roberto de Miranda Hernández, Carmelo Díaz Fernández and Edel José García Díaz as well as Ladies in White Blanco Soledad Díaz Verdecia and María Margarita Borges Hernández.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Radio República.

Ciego de Ávila, August 3, 2006. Opposition leader Juan Carlos González Leiva, president of the Ciego de Ávila-based Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, issues a call to the Cuban government to begin a period of peaceful transition to democracy. The call comes following the temporary transfer of power from Fidel Castro to his brother Raul. "I think that it is the time, the opportunity, the last chance that the Cuban government has to begin an orderly and peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba," said González Leiva.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Human Rights Foundation of Cuba, Ciego de Ávila. Radio República.

Camagüey, August 3, 2006. Political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez" and common prisoner Ramón Delgado Prieto, fast throughout the day in solidarity with nonviolent dissidents Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and Mario Pérez Aguilera, who continue their hunger strikes. They demand an end to the repressive practices and harassment that members of the opposition face both inside and out of the nation's prisons and call for their inalienable rights to be respected and for an improvement in their prison conditions. They ask that they be offered the chance to receive religious assistance from a Catholic priest; they have been requesting this for many months and have received only arbitrary refusals from authorities.

They demand rapid medical attention for their multiple health problems, particularly

the respiratory problems that have only been preliminarily diagnosed.

Source: Berta Antúnez Pernet, president of the Pedro Luis Boitell Civic Resistance National Movement (MNRC-PLB). Radio República.

Pinar del Río, August 4, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Orlando Zapata Tamayo announces that he is beginning a hunger strike to protest the violence that the military exercises against his person, shaving his head and face by force. Zapata says that, for him, his hair represents his love for his family and his beard his love for his fellow freedom fighters.

Zapata, 39, is serving a 25-year prison term following his arrest during the wave of repression of 2003.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship. Reina Tamayo Dánger, mother of political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo.

Camagüey, August 4, 2006. From his cell at the Kilo 7 prison, prisoner of conscience Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez" issues a call to the people of Cuba to resist cooperation with the regime. Considering that the Cuban communist system at this moment is in agony, "urgency demands that a call be made to raise the conscience of everyone, young and old, workers and professionals, military and civilian, to refuse to continue cooperating with an unjust system and reject taking part in acts of repression that the government and its repressive branches cowardly prepare and launch against its peaceful opponents who do nothing but defend their human rights and dignity." The regime, he says, while stomping on your condition and human dignity, "intends to use you as an instrument for its domination, be it through confrontation and aggression or simply by pressuring you to participate in rallies and demonstrations, shouting slogans of hate and revenge that belie the spirit of tolerance, brotherhood and respect that have always characterized the Cuban person, educated in Christian faith and love and who has a long tradition of solidarity and fraternity."

For these reasons, Antúnez concludes, "We invite you to not cooperate with repression and, even more, to join those who defend human rights and justice and advocate for a free, pluralistic and prosperous society."

Source: Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez", Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Radio República.

Holguín, August 4, 2006. Nonviolent dissidents from Sagua de Tánamo and Moa, members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, release a statement ratifying the call to the Cuban people to resist cooperation with the dictatorship. "We reiterate our call for non-cooperation with the repression in



EFE/ARCHIVO/Stringer

The dissident Hilda Molina (left) consoles Teresita Rodríguez, the widow of Gustavo Arcos Bergnes in the Cathedral of Havana on August 17, 2006, when a mass was held for the Cuban opposition activist who died on August 8.

Cuba, a call that our organization has made since the repudiation rallies and beatings against peaceful dissidents increased in September 2005 throughout the island. Today, this call is of even more valid and important, for the regime is responding to the surgery of Cuban President Fidel Castro by holding meetings in every neighborhood throughout the country to warn the people of supposed military intervention by the United States and by creating more Rapid Response Brigades to harass, beat and if needed kill those who oppose the regime.

After condemning the violence committed against the peaceful activist Omar Pérez Torres of the Unión del Níquel Service Company, the statement concludes: “People of Cuba, do not cooperate with repression, do not cooperate with the repudiation rallies, do not cooperate with the immoral, inhuman and degrading rallies, do not cooperate with injustice, do not cooperate with lies, do not cooperate with violence, do not cooperate with the violent, do not cooperate with political manipulation. Say no, just as many brave Cubans have already done, tell them, ‘nobody picks me to do that, I don’t get

involved in that.’ People of Cuba, do not cooperate with repression.”

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Oriente Province Free Press Agency. Chief of Public Relations of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Radio República.

Holguín, August 4, 2006. After one year since its founding, the Youth Without Censorship Press Agency publicly ratify the agency’s willingness to “continue informing Cuba and the world about what is really happening in this country and without manipulation.” This, despite the fact that the young members of the agency have been the victims of surveillance, persecution and threats of being jailed and sentenced to long prison terms for the mere act of informing the Cuban people and the world of the realities that the actual regime conceals.

“In this time when Cubans are full of doubt and disinformation, still repressed in different ways, the agency reiterates its commitment with humanity to continue its informational labors.

“This August 4, we celebrate our first anniversary and we thank those people and organizations both



EFE/ARCHIVO/Stringer

Gustavo Arcos Bergnes died in Havana on August 8, 2006. This photo was one of the last taken of the President of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights on June 2, 2006. He was a companion in the struggle with thousands of young people against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and participated with Fidel Castro in the assault on the Moncada Barracks, but the Cuban dictator condemned him to many years of prison for opposing communism. Together with other opposition activists, he set up the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, of which he was the President until he died. Hundreds of people attended a mass held in the Cathedral of Havana in his honor. Arcos Bergnes had presided over the Hispanic Cuban Foundation of Spain since 2000.

on the island and abroad who have contributed to the development of our work during this successful year.”

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, director, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, August 4, 2006. Two antigovernment signs appear at the corner of Calle

Martí and Calle San Félix, reading: “Fidel, you have finally met your end” and “Fidel, you should have died long ago”.

These signs provoke a severe crackdown against leaders of the local opposition movement, who are visited and warned that they are under police surveillance and cannot leave their homes. Among these activists are Juan Antonio Núñez Dávila and

Eduardo Torres, the general coordinator of the Cuban Orthodox Renovation Party.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Oriente Province Free Press Agency (APLO). Cubanet.

Pinar del Río, August 5, 2006. Activists with the Máximo Gómez Báez National Civic Movement hold an event to commemorate the Havana “Maleconazo”. Thirteen people take part in the activity, held at the headquarters of the movement, Calle Escuela # 12, e/ 6ta y Avenida Los Castillo, Reparto Fénix, which is also the home of the group’s president, Mario Izquierdo Sotolongo.

Source: Mario Izquierdo Sotolongo, Máximo Gómez Báez National Civic Movement. José A. Ballart Ochoa, The Free People of Cuba National Movement “Josué País García”.

Havana, August 5, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education hold a conference on the causes and effects of civil disobedience to build on the anniversary of the event known as the “Maleconazo,” which occurred in Havana on August 5, 1994. The conference takes place at Calle Baso #1, Altos, e/ Pereira y Hambrón, Regla.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, August 5, 2006. Activists with the Party for Human Rights, affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, commemorated the first demonstration of mass civil disobedience against the Castro regime by the people of Cuba, which took place in Havana in 1994, and came to be known as the “Maleconazo”. The celebration takes place at the home of activists Luz Marina Barceló Padrón and Luis González Medina, who live at Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, San José de las Lajas, in Havana.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Havana, August 6, 2006. As they have done every Sunday since March 30, 2003, the Ladies in White attend mass at Santa Rita de Casia Church and march along the center of Quinta Avenida in Havana’s Miramar neighborhood. The only difference about this week’s march is that it is the first since Fidel Castro handed over power.

“This August 6, we walk with our traditional gladiolus in one hand and white lily as a sign of peace and love in the other. We continue our struggle because we are convinced that nothing is impossible for those who are right,” said Laura Pollán Toledo, the wife of political prisoner Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

The Ladies in White have long expressed their objectives: “We aspire to be able to live in freedom

and democracy. We yearn for rights to be respected and for peace among all people. These have been important issues for Cuba throughout centuries and are evidenced by Cuba’s key role in the creation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and at many other instances [...]. We shall not give up our efforts, even though we are vulnerable, peace-loving women, but rather, inspired by our immense tenacity and passion for our families, our people and our nation. We cannot always be many; the multiple difficulties that exist in our country are well known, as is the repression that everyone faces. Yet every Sunday, whenever it is possible, we shall be together and surely increase the efforts to participate.”

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of political prisoner Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta. Cubanet.

Havana, August 7, 2006. The Pro-Freedom of the Press Association (APLP) nominates Oscar Mario González Pérez for the annual freedom of speech prize given by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) in New York. In the nomination, the association asserts that this independent journalist surpassed the requirements to obtain this award.

The 62-year-old Oscar Mario González Pérez, graduated as a journalist from one of the courses offered, free of charge, by the Catholic Church of Cuba to Cubans residing on the island. The nomination took into account his well-known career, his unwavering support for freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and his illegal arrest and detention, which lasted for more than one year. González cultivates a style of political journalism and uses his fine sensitivity to write what will surely become required reading for researchers and historians who seek to understand life in Cuba during the sad years of the Fidel Castro dictatorship.

At the present time, the APLP counts 61 independent journalists among its membership, five of which live abroad, and four who are in Cuban jails.

Source: Juan González Febles, Cubanet.

Havana, August 8, 2006. Teresita Rodríguez, the wife of more than 25 years of late opposition leader Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, tells members of the Cuban opposition movement that the last words of her husband, the leader of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, were a call for unity among the internal dissident movement and the exile. Gustavo Arcos Bergnes died in a Havana hospital. He was 79.

Source: Ernesto Roque Cintero, UPECI. Cubanet.

Isla de Pinos, August 9, 2006. Twenty members

of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the killing of Ernesto Díaz Madruga. Díaz was the first martyr of the forced labor program imposed on political prisoners in the Isla de Pinos. The meeting also features the launch of the book, "Boitel Lives", and the screening of a documentary produced outside of the country, "In a Place Without a Soul". The commemoration is held at the group's headquarters in Escuela de Cabo, Isla de Pinos.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press. Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Cubanet.

Holguín, August 9, 2006. The Armando Villadares Independent Library is founded at Calle Donato Mármol #167, Gibara. The library is run by Alberto García Silva, 33, and has 260 books and 30 magazines and periodicals. Its primary objective is to overcome the barriers of misinformation imposed by the Cuban government.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Isla de Pinos, August 10, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project inaugurates a series of dissident films at the Pedro Luis Boitel Censorship-Free Video Room with a showing of "A Mano Limpia" hosted by the Dominican journalist Oscar Haza's and weekly news summaries from Televisión Martí. The film series was held to support the Campaign for the Freedom without Exile of Cuban Political Prisoners.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, LuxInfoPress, Cuba-Miami Information Bridge. Radio República.

Holguín, August 10, 2006. The Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Independent Library is founded at Calle A #13, Gibara, Holguín. The library, which is run by Gonzalo Garrido Carralero, features 270 volumes. According to Garrido Carralero, the library's goal is to bring a wide spectrum of censorship-free literature to the people of Cuba, including books on economics, politics and world literature.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Villa Clara, August 11, 2006. Members of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement distribute alternative literature in Santa Clara. Walking through the streets of Reparto José Martí and Reparto Virginia, members of the group pass out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Cuba Today, a social, economic and political analysis" by Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, the "Black Calendar of Cuban Totalitarianism" as well as a calendar featuring Cuban baseball players, brochures on the "Cuban Patriotic Junta", bracelets

printed with the word, "Change", and other items. "The people enthusiastically accepted the literature and even asked for other titles. During the delivery, there were no altercations with groups sympathetic to the Castro regime in the area," said Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator of the movement. She added that the lack of information in official publications in Cuba has led many people to write off these state-run sources and to seek out other information media.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency.

Villa Clara, August 11, 2006. A delegation of members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, from the Ranchuelo Municipality in Santa Clara holds a traditional candlelight vigil. The service begins with the singing of the national anthem followed by a prayer for the release without exile of political prisoner who remain in Cuban jails. Then the Letter to the Hebrews 13:3 is read and the group say the prisoner's prayer. They also observe a moment of silence for the late opposition leader Gustavo Arcos Bergnes. The vigil is held at the home of Suárez Torres, located at Jerónimo Caballero, e/ Panchito Gómez Toro y General Acebo.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship, Radio República .

Havana, August 13, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, August 13, 2006. The Cuba National Commission (CNC) issues a public call to the Cuban people to resist cooperation with repressive acts against human rights activists. The statement comes after members of the so-called Rapid Response Brigades assault the group's headquarters at Calle Lealtad #406 e/ San José y San Rafael, Centro Habana, for 12 hours.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux Info Press. Cubanet.

Camagüey, August 13, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political



Two photos of one event: A group of opposition activists meet in Güines to celebrate the release of a dissident brother and hold an activity for political prisoners.

prisoner *Alfredo Pulido López*.

Granma, August 13, 2006. Nonviolent opposition leader Enrique Piñeiro hangs a large cardboard sign upon his front door featuring the word “CHANGE” written in red paint. The political police had removed another similar sign from his door before dawn that morning. The original sign had been hanging since July 24 and government officials had already ordered him to remove it. “I became indignant to see that they had taken down the sign because they, the communists put their’s up and we respect their signs,” Piñeiro said.

Source: Roberto Santana, Cubanet.

Camagüey, August 14, 2006. Antigovernment signs appear during the morning in the area surrounding Finlay Park, near the bus terminal in the city of Camagüey. Although the police had removed all of the signs by 7 a.m., many of those who frequent the area had a chance to read the slogans, such as “Enough lies”, “We want a different life”, and “Down with Fidel!” before their removal. Rumors abound that similar signs appeared elsewhere in the city.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, correspondent, Lux InfoPress. Radio República.

Havana, August 15, 2006. The Liberal Party of Cuba issues 1900 copies of their information packet intended to disseminate the Party’s identity and its projects, as well as to inform the Cuban people how to join the Party and participate in its activities.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Guantánamo, August 15, 2006. At 6 p.m. today the procession starts at the local Catholic church, and goes through the city of Guantánamo carrying the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre. Around one thousand people participate in the procession, singing hymns

and carrying the cross. State Security makes its presence known during the peaceful activity. David Rodríguez Paján and Noelmis Sevilla Terrero are among those participating in the procession.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, August 16, 2006. The father of a prisoner of conscience demands the release of his son in a call to the international community.

“My name is Alfredo Pulido García, the father of political prisoner Dr. Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, who is serving a 14-year sentence at the Kilo 7 Prison in Camagüey. I want to inform the international community and the entire world that my son has been in jail for 41 months despite never committing a crime. He is a prisoner of conscience because he is an opponent of the government. I believe that it is enough that he is serving time for a crime he never committed, and he is also ill. Why is he sick? Because he has done nothing wrong, he is simply part of the opposition—something that exists throughout the world. All of the governments of the world have an opposition, all except for this one. I believe that it is time for the government to realize how inhumane it has been with all of these prisoners and to release them all, not just my son, because they are all innocently serving unjust sentences.”

Alfredo Pulido López, 45, is an independent journalist and one of the organizers of the Varela Project. He was sentenced to 14 years for his peaceful opposition to the regime.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Radio República.

Villa Clara, August 16, 2006. Various nonviolent opposition activists with the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba together with other

dissidents from the Martí Youth Coalition and the Nationalist Civic Movement of Cuba from Santa Clara meet together at the cemetery carrying out a vigil to pray for Cuban political prisoners, their release and their families. They also pray for the soul of the recently deceased human rights activist Gustavo Arcos Bergnes. They beseech God for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, praying for God to enlighten the independent journalist in his already prolonged hunger strike. At the end of the vigil, they pray for the Cuban people to be able to act in unity and peace to establish a rule of law that will benefit all equally. At the end of the vigil, the dissidents present reaffirm their desire to continue their peaceful struggle toward democracy in Cuba.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Granma, August 16, 2006. Political prisoner Félix Navarro Rodríguez sends a letter from his cell at the Las Mangas Provincial Prison in Bayamo, to Dr. Rafael Pino Bécquer, the Deputy Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba, denouncing the abuses that he has suffered at the hands of Captain Rogelio Hernández Arévalo, the second in command at the prison, as well as Captain Jorge Núñez, who runs the prison's State Security unit, and Colonel Modesto Castillo Herrera, the prison warden. In his letter Navarro Rodríguez characterizes the prison as "a dungeon of pain, torture, crime and all types of violations".

Source: Sahilí Navarro, daughter of Félix Navarro Rodríguez, Radio República.

Havana, August 17, 2006. Alexei Escudero, a member of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, reveals the results of a public opinion poll of working people between 22 and 40 years of age. The poll focuses on questions regarding the role of unions.

"The general opinion is that the union does not respond to the workers' interests, but rather is closely controlled by the administration and responds solely to their instructions. The unions only interact with their rank and file in order to collect union fees, control their participation in labour vigilance and require unconditional attendance at administration orientations. Overall, young people feel that the unions and their leadership are the same thing, and that these organizations no longer serve the interests of their members. In one production unit that was polled, 95% of the mostly young workers were unaware of the role of the Cuban Workers Central regarding labor rights.

Source: Alexei Escudero, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement. Radio República.

Havana, August 18, 2006. Thirty-nine members

of the Cuban Liberal Party begin a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners. The event begins at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro, continuing at the home of Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre, and concluding at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, August 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gather at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The "Literary Tea" is an activity where the letters written by political prisoners are read and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, August 18, 2006. Members of the United Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC) make public its proposed "Constitutional Standards" project, which is derived from the bylaws of the CUTC and earlier projects such as the Labor, Administration, Social Justice and Women Codes. Doctors Maybell Padilla and Francisco Leblanc are in charge of the program, working with organized labor around the island to follow the structure of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Latin American Workers' Central (CLAT) and the World Confederation of Labor (WCL).

Source: Aimée Cabrera, Cubanet. Joel Brito, Cuban Task Force for Corporate Social Responsibility. Cubanet.

Matanzas, August 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Ciego de Ávila, August 18, 2006. Twelve nonviolent opposition activists meet at the home of independent farmer Ideal Pérez Díaz in the Violeta neighborhood at the city of Ciego de Ávila. Blind attorney Juan Carlos González Leiva leads the group, which responds with shouts of "Long live human rights!" to a Repudiation Rally that lasts until 8 p.m.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, August 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gather at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Granma, August 18, 2006. Numerous members of the Youth of Bayamo Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba meet at their organization's headquarters, located at Calle Raúl Gómez 217 e/ B y C, Reparto la Unión, to participate in a vigil. During the meeting, they discuss the precarious situations of many political prisoners.

The event revives and lifts the spirits of many of the youth leaders of the Cuban democracy movement. Yandris Montoya, Alexis Ramírez, Antonio Santí, Francisco Juan Reyes, Alexis Guerra, Diosnadis Diéguez, Osniel Díaz, Félix Rivero, José Armando Tornés and Michel Pérez participate.

Source: Daniel Díaz Sánchez. Directorio Democrático Cubano. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, August 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña pray the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Holguín, August 19, 2006. Political slogans lambasting Fidel and Raúl Castro appear during the morning on a wall at the Calle Torrentera bus stop in Banes. Police photographed the signs, which read "Down with Fidel" and "We don't want Raúl", in hopes of discovering trails of their authors. Hours later, the Rapid Response Brigades were mobilized at a nearby fire station to receive instructions and proceed to intimidate the local populace.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, August 20, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Matanzas, August 20, 2006. Ten activists with

the Alternative Option Independent Movement (MIOA), including José Antonio Pérez Morell, Yoany y Yovany Junco Sardiñas, and Ulises Sigler González, hold a fast to demand that the Castro dictatorship grant immediate and unconditional release to all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. While the activists met, military and paramilitary groups gather along that block of Calle 22, between Calle 19 and Calle 21, to disrupt the meeting by playing loud music and shouting insults and threats via a loudspeaker. Residents of the area stood up to the pro-government groups, calling them "abusers". Through the loudspeakers, the pro-government groups shouted hysterically, "We have thousands of armed men who are mobilized and ready to shoot you." They also referred to the dissidents using the traditional epithets of "traitors" and "mercenaries".

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madan, Alternative Option Independent Movement. Cubanet.

Camagüey, August 20, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Las Tunas, August 20, 2006. Fifteen activists met at the local branch of the National Center for Union and Labor Training for a workshop on the exception mechanisms by which the right to strike has been suppressed as well as the analysis of the violation of collective bargaining agreements in Cuba. The activity concludes with a call for the unconditional release of imprisoned union organizers and other political prisoners in Cuba. Juan Ramón Morales Ortiz leads the event, which is held at Calle José Aguilera #87, Altos, e/ 36 y Sendero.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education ; Juan Ramón Morales, Las Tunas Branch; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Villa Clara, August 21, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women's Movement and the Alternative Option Independent Movement sign an accord of friendship and collaboration at the home of Gloria Amaya, Calle 22 #1910, e/ 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Alternative Option Independent Movement.

Camagüey, August 21, 2006. Political prisoner

Jorge Luis García Pérez “Antúnez” announced that his solid food strike is to become a full-blown hunger strike in his effort to garner support for dissidents Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and Mario Pérez Aguilera, who have been on hunger strikes for many months, to demand fair treatment and respect for the rights of jailed opposition activists and, lastly, to call on his fellow Cubans to resist cooperating with the regime and its repressive forces.

Source: Jorge Luis García Pérez “Antúnez”, Kilo 7 Prison, Camagüey. Bertha Antúnez Pernet, Radio República.

Holguín, August 21, 2006. Luis Cabrera Ballester, held at the Holguín Provincial Prison, was sent to a punishment cell after writing José Martí quotations on a chalkboard inside the prison. These cells are designed to cause members of the nonviolent opposition to give in; there, prisoners are given water only once daily, forced to tolerate extreme heat, cockroaches, rodents and mosquitoes. Cabrera Ballester was sentenced to four years in prison in 2002.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Villa Clara, August 22, 2006. Berta Antúnez Pernet, sister of Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez and niece of Omar Pernet Hernández, both Cuban political prisoners, send a message of thanks to her neighbors and the people of Cuba in general for their refusal to cooperate with the repressive regime. She thanks the Cuban exile community for having “echoed the Non-Cooperation Campaign with messages encouraging Cubans to not participate in activities against human rights defenders.”

She thanks her neighbors and friends for alerting dissidents to surveillance activities or to planned assaults, as well as for refusing to inflict hurt on dissidents and for considering that the time has come to resist cooperation with the dictatorship and to not allow the regime to use them for unjust purposes. She concludes her message with “Enough. Down with the double morality.”

The message is to overcome fear and cease acting like automotons according to what one really thinks and say, “No,” to the dictatorship.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet. “Pedro Luis Boitel” Civic Resistance National Movement, Radio República.

Villa Clara, August 22, 2006. Teresita Paz, the widow of the late Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, joined by family members, friends, members of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights and accredited diplomats in Cuba, bid their final farewell to the human rights activist. At the behest of the deceased,

his mortal remains were cremated and buried in Caibarién. There was no public wake.

Cardinal Jaime Ortega officiated the funeral mass. In his homily, the Cardinal emphasized God’s love as the only truth and pointed out Arcos Bergnes’ Christian values.

Arcos Bergnes was one of the founders of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights in 1983 as well as the Madrid-based Hispano-Cuban Foundation, in which he served as president until his death. He was always one of the top figures in the Cuban dissident movement, he participated actively in island politics since 1953, alongside his brothers Luis and Sebastián, and earned an honorable place in the struggle for freedom and democracy in Cuba.

Source: Lucas Garve, Freedom of Expression Foundation. Cubanet.

Camagüey, August 22, 2006. Several prisoners at the Kilo 8 maximum security prison, both political and common, began a massive hunger strike to protest the mistreatment and abuse they suffer daily at the hands of the guards.

The strike grows daily, as more prisoners join in, noting that this has been demonstrated to be an effective way to demand the simple right to be treated like a human being. Proof of this is revealed in the prison authorities’ concern in this matter.

Some of the prisoners have had to be admitted to the Camagüey provincial hospital, as their health has deteriorated.

Source: Mario Echavarría Driggs, Youths for Democracy Press Bureau. Radio República.

Camagüey, August 22, 2006. From his cell at the Kilo 8 Prison, political prisoner José Daniel Ferrer García, a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an organizer of the Varela Project who was sentenced to 25 years in prison in the Black Spring of 2003, issues a public statement calling on Cubans to resist cooperation with the lie. “Ask yourselves, why do I have to belong to organizations whose primary goal is to uphold tyranny? Why must I participate in false elections that only benefit the oppressor of my people? Why do I have to play along with one who causes so much strife? Why do I fear pushing my fellow citizens to do the right thing? Why should I not say what I believe? Why shouldn’t I join those who are fighting for a better future for everyone? Why should I not participate in projects designed to pull the country out of its economic, political and social crisis? Why shouldn’t I express my discontent in public? Why don’t I denounce the injustices and protest against them if they are universally recognized rights and my conscience and responsibility requires this of me? The wellbeing of a nation depends to a large extent

on the civic virtues of its children.”

Source: José Daniel Ferrer García, Kilo 8 Prison, Camagüey. Guillermo Llano Riacardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Havana, August 24, 2006. A literary contest titled “Letter for a Brother in Prison” is launched. The contest, organized by the Martí Youth Committee, will continue through March 1, 2007. There are three age groups in the contest and all are welcome to participate. Participants should send their letters to Calle 401 #17409, e/ 174 y 176, Reparto Nueva Aurora, Santiago de las Vegas, Boyeros, Ciudad Habana, C.P. 17200. The letters received will be sent to the more than 300 political prisoners that languish in Cuban prisons.

Edgar López Moreno, the president of the Coalition, stressed “the human value of the idea” and the importance for “the whole country to become aware that there are more than 300 political prisoners suffering everyday in jail and that they need support and solidarity.”

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, August 24, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project makes their unconditional support for the Non-Cooperation with the Dictatorship Campaign known through a comunique. The Pedro Luis Boitel and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Censorship-Free Video Rooms and the Ernest Hemingway Independent Library, which make up the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project, will publicize the campaign by distributing related stickers and brochures and sponsoring public meetings with the residents.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Syndicated Press Agency, director of the Press Bureau of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge.

Havana, August 25, 2006. The Latin American Federation of Rural Women has launched a national campaign with the slogan, “With the same coin”, to demand the right for Cubans to shop everywhere in the country using the national currency.

According to the federation’s leader, Maura González Jurquet, the group will begin collecting signatures throughout the island in order to present, in accordance with the Constitution, a bill that would return certain rights to Cubans that should never have been rescinded.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Cubanet.

Villa Clara, August 25, 2006. Eight members of dissident organizations from Cuba’s central zone meet at the Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital to pray for independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas

Hernández in front of his room. Fariñas remains in serious condition.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Cubanet.

Villa Clara, August 26, 2006. Thirty members of different organizations visit independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández in the Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital in Santa Clara. Fariñas remains in serious condition. Activists come from the following Villa Clara municipalities: Aguada de Pasajeros de Cienfuegos, Placetas, Manicaragua, Santa Clara, Ranchuelo and Báez. They say a prayer for the quick recovery of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández. “He did not say a single word and only opened his eyes for a few moments,” said Idania Yáñez Contreras, the coordinator of the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. “Moreover, his face appeared quite inflamed.” When their visit ended, they exited the hospital amidst repressors who surrounded them. Hours before the group arrived at the hospital, paramilitary groups and members of the Communist Party of Cuba deployed throughout the hospital and the surrounding area in an attempt to inhibit the dissidents from visiting Fariñas. The mobs were led by State Security Captains Alexander Solís Hernández and Pedro Pérez, who were inside the hospital to oversee the massive visit.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency.

Havana, August 27, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, August 27, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, August 27, 2006. Activists from the Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance observe a prayer service at the Our Lady of Charity Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation. They pray for political prisoners and their family members before the Virgin and deposit a white floral offering at her feet. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia

Evora, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Nancy Rojas Feria, Andrés Pérez Peña, Mario Rojas Feria, Marta Cecilia Pérez Duconjer, Alfredo Rojas Gallo, Elio Díaz Pupo, Sergio Abreu Paz, Randall Abreu Paz, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Bárbara Ortiz Piris and Dayamis Romero participated in the service.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Havana, August 28, 2006. Members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation pray for the release of prisoners of conscience in a vigil. Nine members of the party, including Acting Secretary General Modesto Leopoldo Valdivia Varela, participate in the vigil. Valdivia said that the peaceful civic act began with the national anthem and a prayer for the political prisoners. That was followed by a conversation regarding the general situation of the country. The activity took place at Modesto Valdivia's home, located at Santa Isabel #481, e/ Maceo y Aranguren, Reparto Barrio Azul, Arroyo Naranjo.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, August 30, 2006. The "Josué País García" Free People of Cuba National Movement conducts an activity to commemorate the fourth

anniversary of the group's founding at the home of the movement's president, José A. Ballart Ochoa, who lives at Garmendia # 21 e/ Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río. More than 20 people participated in the event.

Source: José A. Ballart Ochoa, The National Movement of the Free People of Cuba Josué País García. José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC.

Holguín, August 31, 2006. Eleven human rights activists in the Banes municipality hold a fast in solidarity with prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, in worrisome health after a prolonged hunger strike that began on June 8. The fasters include members of the Foundation for Human Rights, the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Cuban Liberal Movement. They meet at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library to pray for the health of Herrera Acosta and to fast for eight hours.

They also discussed the life and achievements of Herrera Acosta, highlighting both his work while in prison as well as while he worked as an independent journalist with the Eastern Free Press Agency and as national coordinator of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement until his arrest and imprisonment in the 2003 crackdown.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day					Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
2	9	16	23	30				
x	x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x					Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x				Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x			Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x		Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
				x	Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x		Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x		x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

SEPTEMBER 2006

Havana, September 1, 2006. A social-cultural evening about the permanence, influence and strength of the Lux Info Press magazine among Cuban workers is held. The activity honoring the magazine, in print for more than 70 years, takes place at the National Center for Union and Labor Training headquarters at Calle San José #564, Altos, e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, September 1, 2006. Nine members of the Party for Human Rights in Cuba meet at the home of Modesto Leopoldo Valdivia Varela in Arroyo Naranjo. According to the event's host, the peaceful civic activity begins with the singing of the national anthem, followed by a prayer for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. Later, they hold a discussion on the economic, political and social situation in Cuba and describe problems that prisoners face in Cuban jails.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, September 1, 2006. Eight members of different dissident organizations around the country meet at the Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital in Santa Clara to visit independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández, who continues his hunger strike. At the hospital, they hold hands and pray, in front of his hospital cubicle, for the hunger striker's health. There are no confrontations with Rapid Response Brigades prowling the area. Those present represent the Nationalist Civic Movement of Cuba, the Party Pro Human Rights of Cuba and the Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship. Radio República.

Camagüey, September 1, 2006. Volume 4, Number 30 of the El Camagüeyano, an independent newsletter, is published featuring various sections including a summary of the events that take place on the feast day of the Virgin of Charity in the province, an article on the rights that should be respected for all Cubans, especially the freedom of press and freedom of thought. This issue also features a section on complaints and a report on the Constitutional Reform Project proposed by the Christian Liberation Movement.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, September 1, 2006. The first edition of The Free Cuban, an independent newsletter published by the Eastern Democratic Alliance, is released. The issue features an explanation of how this newsletter is returning to historical significance, as it was the voice of the Mambis [freedom fighters during Cuba's war for independence] in the east. Other articles in the newsletter include: "The birth of a nation", "A summary of Cuban history", "The home in Cuba: A success of the revolution?", and "The union and unionization in Cuba during the third millennium". The issue includes a section titled, "Echoes from prison", with information provided by political prisoners from eastern Cuba, as well as one on "News briefs from Cuba", written by independent journalist Liannis Meriño Aguilera.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Holguín, September 1, 2006. The Association of Young Writers of Eastern Cuba (AJEO) is founded in San Germán. The group is "born with the purpose of promoting and publicizing the work of those authors who freely express their ideas and the result of their literature, as well as those who, for various reasons, have chosen not to participate in or belong to official Cuban organizations, such as the Saíz Brothers Association (AHS) or the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC), or who have been expelled from these groups for political reasons," a statement released by the groups' founders said.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal, Cuban Liberal Party.

Isla de Pinos, September 3, 2006. The third anniversary of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project, as well as the anniversary of the death of this martyred political prisoner, is celebrated. During the activity, two books are launched, "Boitel Lives" and "Voices From Behind Bars", as well as the magazines, Letters from Cuba, Cubanet and Miscellany from Cuba. Documentaries produced by Cubans in exile are also screened.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Havana, September 3, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, perform their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom of their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, September 3, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, September 4, 2006. Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, wife of political prisoner Francisco Chaviano González, refuses to strip naked and squat down during a family visit to see her husband at the Combinado del Este Prison. According to Aguililla, jail authorities tell her that a body cavity search is mandatory for all women visiting prisoners in the jail. She protests to authorities, claiming that they intend only to humiliate her.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, Leonor Pérez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners.

Holguín, September 4, 2006. The Amanecer Human Rights Movement is founded in the Gibara municipality. The president of the group, George Mora, who lives at Avenida Ronda de la Marina #11, Gibara, says that the Movement will defend human rights in the spirit of the Declaration on Human Rights, denounce the violations committed by the regime, support political prisoners and their families, and promote freedom and democracy in Cuba. There are seven members in the group in this municipality, and they say they intend to spread to all corners of the country.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship, Radio República .

Isla de Pinos, September 6 - October 11, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists Pedro Pablo Meneses and Francisco Alfaro hold a hunger strike in Nueva Gerona as a form of civic protest. The strike takes place at Meneses' apartment on Calle 46, Reparto Gerona Norte, which has no electricity or gas service. The dissidents protest the high cost of living resulting from the so-called "energy revolution" as well as the electricity rate hikes and

the price increases for air and sea travel between Batabanó and the Isle of Youth. They demand an end to the harassment, repression and repudiation rallies on the Isle of Youth and throughout the country. They demand the release of Cuban political prisoners, the improvement of living conditions in the country's jails, and the return of the Catholic Church in La Fe, Isla de Pinos, which has been converted into a "Cultural House". The Castroite authorities have not responded to their demands.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist, Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, September 6, 2006. Ten activists with the National Association of Rafters for Peace, Democracy and Freedom participated in a procession with the Catholic Church of Caibarién. They pray for the release of all Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Holguín, September 6, 2006. Young writers in Holguín establish the Association of Young Writers of Eastern Cuba. The group's primary goals are to encourage the reading of censored literature in Cuba and to create and disseminate projects in eastern Cuba involving independent literature with which the Cuban government has not tampered. Among the group's planned activities are workshops on recreational writing named after the Cuban author Reinaldo Arenas. The general coordinator of the organization is the young poet and novelist Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal. Yosvani Anzardo Hernández is in charge of public relations.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship.

Havana, September 7, 2006. One dozen members of the Cuban Liberal Movement in Punta Brava, La Lisa, hold a vigil on the eve of the feast day of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. They pray for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners on the island. The activity takes place at the home of Punta Brava delegate Silvio Benítez Márquez, at Avenida 249 #4614 e/ 46 y 48.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Cuban Liberal Movement.

Havana, September 7, 2006. Fifteen members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, hold a vigil for freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners in the municipality of Guanabacoa. The activity takes place at the home of human rights defender Roberto Emeterio Rodríguez, located at Calle Príncipe Alberto #113 e/ Padilla y San Antonio, Guanabacoa. Once the candle is lit the group sings



Hundreds of people participated in the procession of the Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, the patron saint of Cuba, Friday September 8 in Havana.

EFE/ALEJANDRO ERNESTO

the national anthem and then pray to God and to Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre asking for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship.

Havana, September 7, 2006. Twelve activists hold a vigil on the eve of the feast day of Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba, at Calle 40, #2906, e/ 29 y 33, San José de Las Lajas. They pray for the release of all political prisoners, for an end to the



EFE/ALEJANDRO ERNESTO

A man lights a candle whilst walking with many others during the procession of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, the patron saint of Cuba, Friday September 8 in Havana.

suffering of the people of Cuba and for protection for Cubans both on the island and abroad who desire a peaceful transition and a better future for the whole country. The following activists participate in the event: Nara Caldero, Michel Espinosa, Jesús Valle Coello, Alfredo Valle, Gilberto Sosa, Félix Camero, Delfín Rodríguez, Arnaldo Nerey, Milagro Morell, Madelín de Armas, Luz Marina Barceló and Luis González Medina.

Source: Luis González Medina, provincial coordinator of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation; Radio República.

Matanzas, September 7, 2006. Asunción Carrillo Hernández sends a letter from Colón to Dr. Rafael Pino Bécquer, the Deputy Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba, to denounce the abuses and human rights violations suffered by her son, political prisoner Iván Hernández Carrillo, who is being held at the El Pre Juvenile Prison in Santa Clara.

Source: Asunción Carrillo Hernández, Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, September 7-9, 2006.

Members of the Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement begin a march to the Sanctuary of El Cobre to pray for their fellow members serving time as political prisoners. Upon arriving, they find themselves with the political police. They commence the activity with a mass and the police watch every movement they make because the police are behind them.

Source: Adrián Morabas Bestard, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Isla de Pinos, September 8, 2006. A special mass is held for the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre at the Virgin of Dolores Parish, located at José Martí esquina a 28, Nueva Gerona. The image of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre is carried in procession through the General Lactret Park in the company of the faithful and devotees. The locals also participate in the pilgrimage alongside the opposition activists. Members of the Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights and Territorial Development, the Ernesto Díaz Madruga Cultural Civic Project and the Pedro Luis Boitel Abraham Independent Library all take part in the event. At the entrance to the church, the priest says a special prayer for the wellbeing

The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement at the Sanctuary of El Cobre in Santiago de Cuba on September 8, 2006. The young people call for freedom for political prisoners and for Cuba.



and prosperity of all people throughout the world, including the sick, the imprisoned and those that suffer. During the pilgrimage, candles are lit to illuminate the image of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. People pray and sing religious songs.

Source: Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in Isla de Pinos, Radio República.

Havana, September 8, 2006. One dozen members of the Cuban Liberal Movement take part in a service at the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre Parish, Avenida 249 e/ 42 y 44, Punta Brava, to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. They pray for the lives of all political prisoners on the island, in particular for those prisoners who are members of the Liberal Movement.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Liberal Movement.

Havana, September 8, 2006. Numerous followers accompany the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre through the streets of Centro Habana in a procession from the church, which is located on Calle Salud, along Zanja, Galiano and Reina. Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino follows the procession and then officiates mass. The prayers and songs of the fervent

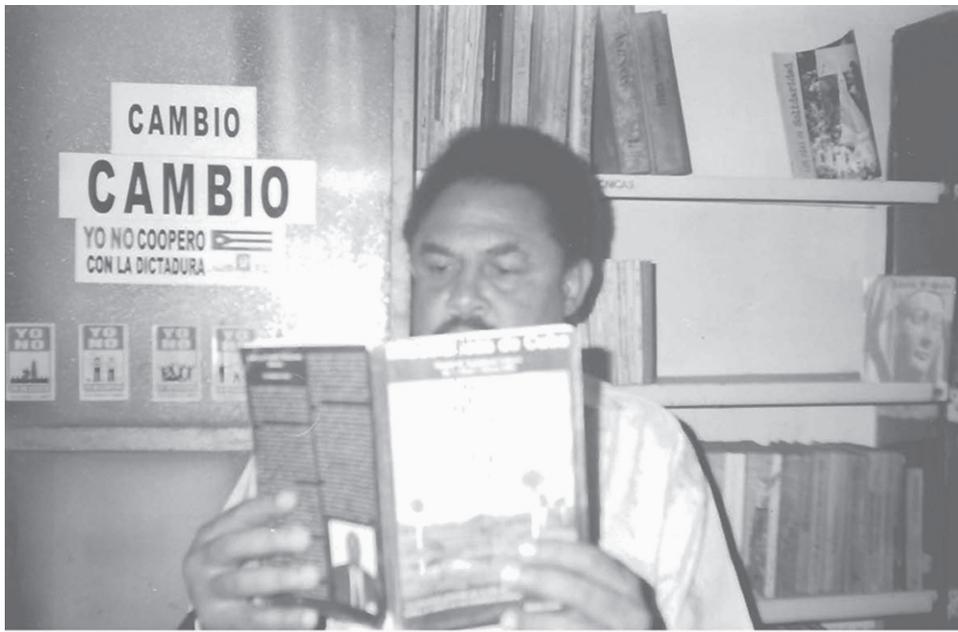
Christians are followed by prayers for family, unity and national reconciliation. The Ladies in White are represented; they pray for the release of their loved ones and other political prisoners in Cuba. In this year's activity there is a large deployment of State Security and National Police forces in the area and within the church.

Source: Miriam Leiva, independent journalist, Cubanet.

Havana, September 8, 2006. Members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, meet at the town church in San José de las Lajas to join the community in celebrating the feast day of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre. During the mass, they pray for the future and the wellbeing of the Cuban people, and for the release of all Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Villa Clara, September 8, 2006. A party is held to celebrate the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre at the La Purísima Concepción Church in Caibarién. The event is sponsored by Father Francisco García. Layman González Perdomo, visiting from Rome, exhorts



Signs reading “Cambio” (change) and “Yo no coopero con la dictadura” (I do not cooperate with the dictatorship) begin to appear on walls, buses and even on the doors of some houses.

Cubans to focus on reconciliation, forgiveness and tolerance. Father Francisco also emphasizes the unity and peace among the Cuban people. The procession begins after mass, at around 9 p.m.; the group sings the national anthem and marches with umbrellas and candles through light rain and a mysterious blackout. About 30 opposition activists join the group of more than 1000 partaking in the event, with the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters, and the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, both present. The activists pray to the patron saint of Cuba for the release of the prisoners, the observation of the United Nations Charter, and for respect for human rights on the island. The mass and procession take place amidst heavy surveillance by members of State Security, social workers, communist party members and paramilitary groups.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters. Radio República.

Villa Clara, September 8, 2006. Members of different dissident groups in Santa Clara meet to take part in the procession of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre at the Buen Viaje Church. After the procession, the activists march through the streets of the city, ending with a multi-organization meeting. The event takes place without disruption despite the efforts of the political police.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta

Abreu Women’s Movement. Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party.

Sancti Spiritus, September 8, 2006. Around 20 dissidents from different organizations participate in the procession of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre in Santi Spiritus. According to Raimundo Perdigón Brito, who lives at Calle Obdulio Morales #150, Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus, the Christian Liberation Movement, the Democratic Party 30th of November and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, all take part in the event. The activity begins at 5 p.m. in the Caridad Church with mass, followed by the procession of the holy image of the Virgin through the streets of the town. The march draws more than 10,000 people, an unprecedented number. State Security agents make their presence known as they observe the peaceful activity.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship. Radio República.

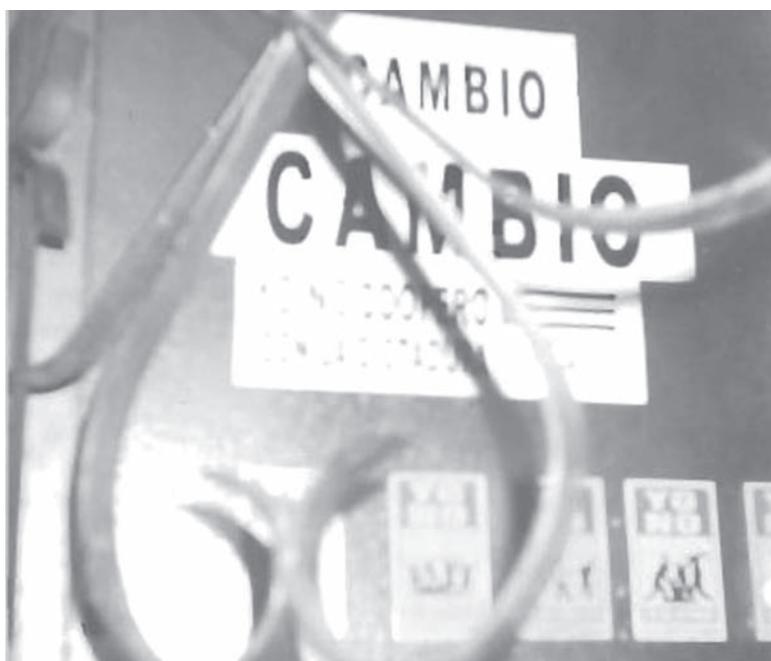
Camagüey, September 8, 2006. The people of Camagüey gather to pay homage to the patron saint of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre. The group lights each other’s candles, creating a ring of light in a gesture of faith. They sing to the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre. Later, the Cuban Coat of Arms is unfurled in the front of the sanctuary and the group pray for fraternity.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, September 8, 2006. Members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement



The non-cooperation campaign, which began with a call made by political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, gains strength and spreads throughout Cuba. The message is spread through many different means, including the entrance into the country of flyers, pamphlets, stickers and other materials promoting non-cooperation. Here a young woman from Havana shows one of these flyers with the key messages.



Signs reading "Cambio" (change) and "Yo no coopero con la dictadura" (I do not cooperate with the dictatorship) begin to appear on walls, buses and even on the doors of some houses.

participate in the procession of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre, bringing forth in solidarity their prayer intention for the political prisoners and all Cuban people.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Camagüey, September 8, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. Once there, they hold a small human rights vigil.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, September 8, 2006. Activists with the Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement meet at the National Sanctuary of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre to commemorate the Cuban Patron's day. They pray for the release of Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Santiago de Cuba, September 8, 2006. Various human rights activists and the family members of political prisoners from Palma Soriano hold a fast at the National Sanctuary of the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre to commemorate the Cuban Patron's feast day.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Villa Clara, September 9, 2006. Magali Broche de la Cruz, wife of political prisoner Librado Linares García, protests publicly after government agents prevent her, along with her father and small child, from traveling to the town of Remedios to visit an ill relative. The authorities surround the car to physically prohibit her from taking the road out of Camajuaní to Remedios. Magali shouts that she is a decent woman and decries the sad situation in which Cuban authorities openly violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promising to denounce the act.

Source: Magali Broche de la Cruz, Cuban Reflection Movement, Radio República.

Holguín, September 9, 2006. Political prisoners at the Holguín Provincial Prison fast to demand that State Security and prison authorities put an end to the threats by common prisoners against the prisoners of conscience. They also cite other violations, including the contempt charges against political prisoner Randy Cabrera Mayor, the prohibition of prisoner of conscience Alfredo Domínguez Batista from using the prison

telephone, the constant searches robberies of their personal belongings by common prisoners on behalf of the soldiers at the prison, the opening of their personal correspondence, and the refusal of prison authorities to allow political prisoner Alfredo Domínguez Batista to go out into the sunlight. Randy Cabrera Mayor, Luis Mariano Veliz, Adolfo García, and Alfredo Domínguez Batista all take part in the protest.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Havana, September 10, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, perform their weekly Sunday pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of Cuba's political prisoners.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, September 10, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Isla de Pinos, September 11, 2006. A historical meeting takes place at Calle 30 #5107 e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, which killed 3,000 people from 36 countries, including Cubans. The Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights, the Ernesto Díaz Madruga Civic Project and the Pedro Luis Boitel Abraham Independent Library sponsor the event. They send out a message of sympathy and solidarity to the families of the victims and to the American public at large for their loss. Before closing, they pray and observe a moment of silence in memory of all those who died in the attack.

Source: Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Right. Radio República.

Pinar del Río, September 11, 2006. The provincial delegation of the CONIC and the "Carlos Manuel de Céspedes" National Democratic Party commemorated the fifth anniversary of the destruction of the World Trade Center at Calle Celso Maragoto #143-Ae/Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda. They lament the terrorist attack, which caused thousands of deaths, and express their support for the measures taken by the United States government.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC;



A group of opposition activists celebrate the third anniversary of the foundation of the Julio Tang Texier Civic Cultural Project on September 3 in Isla de Pinos.

The front cover of the first edition of *El Cubano Libre*, an independent newsletter of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, which was launched in September.

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El cubano libre



Carlos Manuel de Céspedes

El cubano libre de Oriente retoma su legado histórico



Antonio Maceo y Grajales

La Alianza Democrática Oriental (ADO) se ha propuesto publicar este boletín mensualmente con el objetivo de romper las barreras de censura e información que llevan a cabo las autoridades cubanas contra su propio pueblo.

El cubano libre en su primera edición, fue fundado en Guáimaro el 11 de abril de 1899 por Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, para de esta forma darle a conocer al pueblo cubano lo que estaba aconteciendo en la lucha contra el colonialismo español. Así tuvo una segunda edición el 3 de agosto de 1899 en el municipio de Cueto, actual provincia de Holguín, esta consecución la llevó a cabo otro lustre prócer de nuestra independencia, Antonio Maceo y Grajales, pero esta vez salió como un semanario de 12 columnas para resaltar las doce colonias levantadas en armas contra el gobierno español, relatando así los combates que lloraban los dignos cubanos de la época.

La ADO retoma hoy a 137 y 111 años de fundado *El cubano libre*, e inspirados en la labor de aquellos patriotas que en circunstancias históricas distintas lo lograron hacer. Nos hubiera gustado abundar más en temas que aquellos tocaron pero hoy el gobierno clasifica y desclasifica lo que le viene a su antojo. Esa es la circunstancia histórica que nos ha tocado vivir, así, respecto a nuestra historia tenemos fe por libros de historiadores ya exiliados, pues el régimen actual manipula la mayoría de los textos que ven la luz editorialmente.

Querido lector de *El cubano libre*, queremos mantenerle informado de lo que ocurre en nuestra querida isla, pero que pasa sin ser advertido debido a la vorágine de la vida. Queremos rastrear informativamente lo que ocurre en las provincias orientales y cómo se desenvuelve la sociedad civil emergente en un medio hostil, donde activistas de Derechos Humanos, sindicalistas y ololeocarios independientes, movimientos y partidos políticos exigen hoy las garantías que necesita el pueblo cubano y sus mejores hijos que arriesgan su existencia por el solo hecho de reclamar los derechos inalienables del ser humano, y lo hacen también en pos de una democracia con todos los atributos. Anslamos despertar el espíritu libertario que animó a nuestros antepasados y que llevamos dentro. No somos escritores e intelectuales de alto valor literario ni periodistas con formación académica, sólo nos mueven los anhelos de libertad de expresión, asociación e imprenta que intentamos llevar a sí, cubano. A continuación leerán crónicas, comentarios, poemas, acercamientos a la educación cívica y sinoidal y visiones más o menos acertadas de la vida carcelaria que llegan a nuestras manos, ilustrando cómo se desenvuelve nuestra sociedad civil tras 47 años de un gobierno totalitario y tiránico que mantiene esclavizado a un pueblo noble y humilde, y que hoy da pasos firmes hacia una verdadera transición, verdadera democracia. De ti solo pedimos que no cooperes con quien te oprime, si no quieres no te afines a la oposición pública al régimen, sólo levanta la cabeza con dignidad, di no a la injusticia y no cooperes con el mal, porque un futuro de paz y esperanza te aguarda como *El cubano libre* que eres.

Ramón Suárez Díaz, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party; José A. Ballart Ochoa, Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Havana, September 11, 2006. A vigil is held to commemorate five years since the terrorist attacks against the people of the United States, which killed thousands of innocent citizens of that country. Those gathered pray for the deceased and demand justice for those killed. They pray that such abominable actions are never repeated anywhere in the world.

Source: *Luis González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party of Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.*

Villa Clara, September 11 - 16, 2006. Political prisoner Alexander García Lima holds a fast in his cell at the El Pre Prison in Santa Clara to protest the recent Summit of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Cuba. He says that this will only lead to further the suffering of the Cuban people and further consolidate the power of the Fidel Castro regime to oppress the Cuban nation.

Source: *Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.*

Villa Clara, September 11, 2006. Magali Broche de la Cruz, the wife of political prisoner Librado Linares García, protests publicly in front of her coworkers, complaining of the informants of the political police who follow her even wearing the uniform of the place where she works to be able to maintain their surveillance. Broche de la Cruz says that she has worked there for 20 years and everyone knows her. She shouts at the informants that they are abusers and warns them that she will complain to Party officials. She promptly leaves the workplace and walks to the town hall and the Party offices to denounce what has been happening. She tells the official that it is a shame that government authorities are breaking their own laws and that, until the surveillance ceases, she will not return to her job.

Source: *Magali Broche de la Cruz, Camajuani, Cuban Reflection Movement, Radio República.*

Camagüey, September 11, 2006. Ten members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement meet at the Henry Reeve Citizen Information Center, Calle Transversal 218 e/ 3ra y 4ta, Reparto Froilán Quirós. They discuss terrorism and analyze a journal on the subject titled, "Terrorism and its consequences".

Source: *Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.*

Havana, September 12, 2006. Antigovernment graffiti appear in the San José de la Lajas municipal park, reading, "Down with Fidel!"

Source: *Luz Marina Barcelo, Party for Human*

Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Camagüey, September 12, 2006. Political prisoner Lázaro González Adán makes public a letter written to all those that struggle for freedom and democracy in Cuba, encouraging his countrymen to remain strong and loyal to the ideals of freedom. "There is no greater satisfaction for me than to know that my brothers live to struggle for the truth," he writes.

Source: *Marilín Díaz Fernández, wife of political prisoner Lázaro González Adán; Lux Info Press. Cubanet.*

Holguín, September 12, 2006. The second issue of the literary magazine Bifronte is published, featuring a dossier on the Cuban narrative exhibiting the work of authors inside and outside of Cuba. The coordinators of the magazine, Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal and Micharl Hernández Miranda, say that they appreciate "reading about our culture's past without missing the connection with the today that we suffer." The magazine counts on the advice of Father Oliver Hernández.

Source: *Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal, AJEO; William Navarrete, Miscellaneous of Cuba.*

Havana, September 15, 2006. The National Center for Syndical and Laboral Education holds a vigil to remember the anniversary of the shooting of three eclectic workers in the 1960s. Seventeen people participate in the event at the Center's offices, located at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: *Victor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Syndical and Laboral Education; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.*

Havana, September 16, 2006. The Executive Committee of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) holds a meeting with members of independent unions affiliated with this entity, where various subjects be treated objectively that will be addressed in the XIX Congress of the state-run Cuban Workers' Central (CTC), on September 25 and 26 in Havana.

CONIC Secretary General Aurelio Bachiller Álvarez initiated the meeting by recalling the seven independent union members jailed in March 2003; he urges those present to demand the release of these prisoners to the independent and international press. Among the independent union workers who participate in the meeting is Carmelo Díaz Fernández, out of prison under conditional release. Members of the Free Workers Union of Cuba (STLC), the United Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC) and the Christian Union Central (CSC)

among others taking part in the meeting.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez, Lux Info Press. Cubanet. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, September 17, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, perform their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the for the unconditional release of their unjustly imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, September 17, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group asks for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, September 18, 2006. Thirty-six members of the Liberal Party of Cuba begin a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners. The event begin at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro, continuing at the home of Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre, and concluding at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, September 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gather at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, September 18, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education organizes a seminar titled “The battle of ideas: a political problem for respecting workers’ rights”. A total of 25 labor activists and other private citizens attend the two-session seminar, to take place on alternate days at the Center’s branch office, located at Quinta Avenida D #47812, e/ 478 y 480, Guanabo.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education;

María Elena Mir Marrero, Guanabo Branch; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, September 18, 2006. Dr. Darsi Ferrer Ramírez writes a letter to Dr. Juan Escalona Regueira, Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba, to denounce the harassment and abuses he has suffered at the hands of police officers and the cruelty of these officers to lock his innocent five-year-old child in an apartment with the stove’s gas valves open. He asks the attorney general to fulfill his obligation to impose justice and charge those guilty of the crimes. He also asks him to ensure legal protection for all Cuban citizens regardless of their political beliefs.

Source: Dr. Darsi Ferrer Ramírez, Director, “Juan Bruno Zayas” Health and Human Rights Center.

Matanzas, September 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, September 18, 2006. Around seven people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gather at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Granma, September 18, 2006. Numerous members of the Youths of Bayamo Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba meet at their organization’s headquarters, located at Calle Raúl Gómez #266 e/Guillermo Tormes y C, Reparto La Unión, to joyfully celebrate the Day of the Dissident in Bayamo. They hold a political event, opening with the national anthem followed by a moment of silence on behalf of all political prisoners in Cuba, those that have died in the past for their beliefs, and for those in exile. Despite threats from sectors of the military, numerous members of the group take part in the event, which also celebrates the third anniversary of the founding of the Youth Movement in Bayamo, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. They vow to continue their struggle.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, Youths of Bayamo. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, September 18, 2006. Belkis

Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña pray the rosary, as they do every Wednesday, at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Cienfuegos, September 19, 2006. The Leonor Pérez Association of Women, comprised a half dozen women from the province, is founded. The group intends to add other women of good will to channel humanist ideals for the betterment of humankind. They also plan to offer material and spiritual assistance to those suffering from injustice, and are willing to receive donations of used clothing, toys and food to be given to family members of political prisoners, people in need, and the homeless. Although they define themselves as a non-political group, they plan to work with existing women's groups in the country.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship, Radio República .

Havana, September 20, 2006. The National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba hold a meeting with members of independent unions affiliated with the group to broach various subjects that will be addressed in the XIX Congress of the state-run Cuban Workers' Central (CTC) on September 25 and 26 in Havana. Aurelio Bachiller Álvarez begins the meeting by remembering the seven independent union leaders who were jailed in March 2003 for exercising their "right to free unionization". Carmelo Díaz Hernández of the Christian Syndicated Union also speaks about the level of corruption and inefficiency at all levels of the public sector. They discuss issues such as productivity pay, gender equality in the workplace and the problem of retirees and the pensioned.

The meeting takes place at the CONIC headquarters. The Free Workers' Union of Cuba, the United Council of Cuban Workers and the Christian Union Central all participate in the meeting, vowing to continue denouncing social and labor violations in the country.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez, Lux Info Press/Cubanet.

Villa Clara, September 20, 2006. A sticker bearing the word "Change" adorned with the image of José Martí appears overnight in the entrance to the Provincial School of Social Work in Santa Clara. According to dissident sources in the region, this sticker, which also appears frequently in educational areas and other unexpected locations, to the horror

of the political police; they are forced to realize that, in spite of their surveillance, "Change" is appearing right under their noses.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship. Radio República.

Villa Clara, September 20, 2006. Numerous members of the Maceo Movement for Dignity attend a cultural activity promoted by the Pablo Morales Barbas Independent Library and its director, Olga Lidia González Barroso, to discuss the work of the libraries in the province. This library is located at Calle Toscazo #161 A, e/ Calle Martí y San Vicente, Santa Clara.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Olga Lidia González Barroso, independent librarian.

Camagüey, September 20, 2006. Independent librarians meet in the city of Camagüey to fortify the efforts of this opposition force. The meeting takes place at the 20 de Mayo Independent Library, located at Calle 9 #23 e/ Pasaje B y 2da Venega, Reparto Garrido, Camagüey. The topic of discussion is "One day later". It begins with the singing of the national anthem, a moment of silence for political prisoners and the reading of Psalm 23.

The meeting proceeds smoothly and without police harassment. Among those participating are: the director of the 20 de Mayo Library, Fidel Palacios, representing the 24 de Febrero Movement; José A. Mola Porro, alternate delegate of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba; Roberto Marrero la Rosa of the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey; Marlene Bermúdez, independent librarian, and others. They stress the importance of the upcoming meeting of independent librarians, to be held in Santa Clara on October 10. A healthy showing is expected.

Source: Fernando Tabares, Association for a Free Press, Radio República.

Villa Clara, September 23, 2006. Twelve nonviolent opposition activists meet during the morning in Santa Clara to participate in a conference on human rights and reopen the José Julián Martí Pérez Independent Library. The Martí Youth Coalition, the Independent Teachers Association of Cuba and the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba sponsor the meeting. The reopening begins with the singing of the national anthem, and is followed by a prayer for the release of the political prisoners, for the health of Guillermo Fariñas Hernández and especially for those who are sick with Dengue Fever. Joel Espinosa Medrano delivers a brief historical summary of the rise of human rights and opens the floor for discussion. Later, they open the doors of the Independent Library, which

has moved here from Havana. They announce the library's objectives and make reference to the Cuban apostle José Martí. Members of the Nationalist Civic Movement of Cuba also participate in the event.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Villa Clara, September 23, 2006. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez sends an open letter to the national and international public opinion denouncing the State Security officers who have been harassing her in recent days.

"I want to stress that, since the dictator announced the transfer of power, the harassment has increased not just against me, but has become a constant irritant for those around me as well. At the present time, my whole family is affected by this, especially my five-year-old son, my immediate family, my brothers and sisters in the struggle and other members of the dissident movement who visit my house," she said, noting that she plans to continue fighting for her ideals.

"This terrorism will not frighten us nor impede my brothers in the opposition from visiting me because we are not afraid and we are aware of the risks associated with this struggle. I demand that the security agencies of this province to play their cards and, if they really fear my anti-establishment attitude, then lock me up, lock up my body. It does not matter; the Cuban people are already locked up in this country, which has been a prison for the past 47 years.

"But they will never be able to lock away my thoughts nor those of my brothers and sisters in struggle. I am not afraid and with courage will accept the consequences of my actions as I go forward. I will respond always with the ideals of liberty that I defend and shall continue to defend."

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República.

Havana, September 24, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, perform their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of their family members unjustly imprisoned.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Matanzas, September 24, 2006. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party commemorate the anniversary of the group's founding with a vigil on the Day of the Virgin of Mercy, patron saint of prisoners. Tania Morejón Soca leads the activity which draws 10 participants, at the home of Ramón Verdecia, Calle Maceo 104 e/ Máximo Gómez y

Colón, in Colón.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, September 24, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, September 26, 2006. The Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement organizes an activity for local children at the Henry Reeve Center. Children meet here every Saturday for Christian education and lessons on morality and values, to play games and to share a snack.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, September 27, 2006. The family members of Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, the Havana provincial delegate of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, hosts a homecoming at their home to celebrate Martínez Báez' release from prison after completing an unjust three-year sentence for supporting freedom and human rights in Cuba.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party of Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Holguín, September 27, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance ratifies yet again the call for the Cuban public to resist cooperation with the repudiation rallies organized by paramilitary groups working for State Security, especially in municipalities of this province.

The group urges Cubans not to cooperate with the Castro regime. They say that, with everyone's help, it will be possible to dismantle the terrorism that State Security practices against the people of Cuba.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Ríos, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Havana, September 29, 2006. The National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) makes public a proclamation on the occasion of the XIX Congress of the state-run Cuban Workers' Central (CTC). "CONIC rejects and denounces the interventionist words of the Second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of the FAR during the closing ceremony of the XIX Congress

of the CTC on September 27 in the Conventions Palace.”

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Sindical Press Agency, director of the Independent Press Bureau Cuba-Miami Information Bridge.

Havana, September 30, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Movement meet in Punta Brava to plan a recruitment strategy for the “I do not cooperate” campaign. To this end, they plan to develop alternatives so that the populace internalizes the message to change their mentality

regarding the Cuban regime.

“It is the task of all activists to insist that their neighbors not belong to the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) or the Cuban Workers’ Central (CTC), nor that they help fund the Territorial Troop Militias, among other morally obligatory tasks that they must have in this crucial moment that the nation is living through,” said Silvio Benítez Márquez, a representative of the Coordinating Council.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares Balmaceda. Cubanet.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
6	13	20	27				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2 ^a Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macías (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle 30, No. 5107, e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona	Isla de Pinos	5	Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García (Fundación Cubana de DD.HH.)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetás	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
	x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x		x		Prologación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x			Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x	x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

OCTOBER 2006

Havana, October 1, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of their loved ones unfairly imprisoned.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, October 1, 2006.

The Martí Youth Coalition publishes the first issue of the “Awake, Youth” newsletter. The newsletter features information and commentary on the reality in Cuba today.

Source: Edgard López Moreno, Martí Youth Coalition.

Camagüey, October 1, 2006. The special supplement to the El Camagüeyano, an independent newsletter, is published announcing the All Cubans Program for constitutional reform, proposed by the Christian Liberation Movement

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Camagüey, October 1, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, October 1, 2006. Political prisoner Nelson Vázquez Lima declares himself on hunger strike to protest the mistreatment he has suffered at the Holguín Provincial Prison.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency.

Holguín, October 1, 2006. The second issue of The Free Cuban, the independent newsletter published by the Eastern Democratic Alliance, is published. In this issue, the editorial page is dedicated to the celebration of the events of October 10, 1968, and features the following articles: “October 10, More than a holiday; the feeling, struggle and forging of a nation”, “Constitutionality and civility of the Cuban people”, “Faith and materialism: the reality in

Cuba”, “The elderly in Cuba”, and the Echoes from Prison section, featuring testimony from Cuban political prisoners. There is also a special report on the Hands of Love Project, A hope-inspiring project.”

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship.

Granma, October 4, 2006. Activists from the Youths of Bayamo Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba hold a candlelight vigil to support the release of Cuban political prisoners. During the vigil, they reiterate their commitment to raising their voices and breaking the censorship barriers so that all Cubans can enjoy freedom and democracy. The participants recommit themselves to the fight for a free Cuba for the Cuban people.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, Youth Without Censorship Press Agency. Radio República.

Havana, October 7, 2006. Ten members of the Cuban Liberal Party participated in the mass of Our Lady of the Rosary in the Guatao community in La Lisa. They pray to the Virgin for the life and health of political prisoners and for their immediate release from jail. At the end of the service, they march as pilgrims around the church until they approach the Virgin and sing the National Anthem, followed by vigorous applause for the Virgin Mary and God. During the activity members of the Communist Party and municipal government are seen at the church.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, October 8, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned husbands and family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, October 8, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.



Puente Informativo Cuba-Miami

Doctor Darsi Ferrer Ramírez, together with his wife and son, pose in front of their home with “Cambio” (change) signs, one of them pasted to the door of the house. Ferrer Ramírez joined hundreds of other opposition activists in the non-cooperation with the dictatorship campaign.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Isla de Pinos, October 10, 2006. Twenty people celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Plantados group, formed by former political prisoners. The event includes a vigil for freedom without exile for political prisoners on the island, during which they demand the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the exit from power by Fidel Castro.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Isla de Pinos, October 10, 2006. Activists from Nueva Gerona meet to stress the importance of independent libraries in Cuba, as these institutions provide Cuban readers with a free and uncensored vision. Among the books currently in circulation are: *Steps to Freedom*, published by the Directorio Democrático Cubano; *The secret wars of Fidel Castro*, by Juan Benemelis; *Trials of peaceful*

dissidents in Cuba, State Terrorism, compiled by Frank Hernández Trujillo; *How the night came*, by Huber Matos; *Pedro Luis Boitel: Diary of a martyr*, by Eduardo Figueroa; *Camilo Cienfuegos*, by Carlos Franqui, and others.

In addition, numerous documentaries have been screened at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, including *In a place without soul*, *At the blade of the machete*, and *The fall of a dictator*.

Source: Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, president, Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, October 10, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold three activities to commemorate the historical Grito de Yara. The first event takes place at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, located at Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro. Fourteen activists take part in the event. Seventeen activists participate in the event at the home of Hector Julio Cedeño, at



Members of the Independent Trade Union for Workers in Light Industry (SITIL) hold a vigil to support the Proclamation made by the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) on September 29 and for freedom for political prisoners.

Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja. Thirteen take part in the event at the home of Leonel Sanchez, located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, October 10, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education holds an event to commemorate the 138th anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in Cuba and to advocate for the rights of the people of Cuba who, now in the 21st century, are ideologically enslaved. During the vigil, they read the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Twenty activists take part in the event, which takes place at the center's main headquarters, at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Union and Labor Training; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, October 10, 2006. The Young Peoples Party of Cuba commemorates the historical date of October 10 with a workshop to study the statement made on this date 138 years ago by Carlos

Manuel de Céspedes in La Demajagua. They also recognize certain members of the organization with diplomas.

Other activists and members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, the Municipalities of Cuba Movement and the Democracy Information Center also take part in the event.

Source: Lucas Garve, member, Foundation for Freedom of Expression. Cubanet.

Havana, October 10, 2006. The Masons of Cuba celebrate the Grito de Yara in the Grand Lodge of Cuba. The event is presided over by Grand Master Edmundo Cabrera Pérez and other high functionaries of the above mentioned institution.

The main speech recalled the freeing of the slaves in Cuba by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Cuba's founding father. They also present a detailed description of the liberal principles of Cuban philosophy and of the wars of independence against the Spanish metropolis.

Source: Leonel Pérez Belette, Cubanet.

Havana, October 10, 2006. The membership of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, in San José de las Lajas say



The Ladies in White celebrate being awarded the Human Rights 2006 Prize by Human Rights First. The U.S. non-governmental organization recognized in this way the work carried out by the group since March 2003, when the regime unleashed a wave of repression against Cuban opposition activists.

they will join the National Congress of Independent Librarians, sponsored by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The meetings are scheduled to begin on October 10 and run until the February 24, 2007.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Matanzas, October 10, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold an activity at the home of Diosdado González Marrero, Santa Rita #29 e/ Maceo y Santa Teresa, El Roque, Perico, to commemorate the Congress of Independent Librarians. They observe this historic date in history when the 10-year War was declared and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes pronounced the Grito de Yara, ending slavery in Cuba. Andrés Govea, Rolando Wang Cepero, Annia Vázquez Chávez, Alejandrina García de la Rivas and Dayrelis González Marrero take part in the event. During the event, the party calls on all Cubans to intensify the struggle against

the present regime, taking inspiration from the extraordinary example of sacrifice, generosity and altruism exhibited by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes. As another inspiration, they look to the strength of will demonstrated by Cuba's political prisoners who, despite their humiliating captivity and the pressure, blackmailing and cunning of their captors, remain stalwart in their struggle.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero. Raimundo Del Toro, Radio República.

Villa Clara, October 10, 2006. Independent journalists celebrate the third anniversary of the Cubanacán Press agency in Santa Clara.

They discuss the agency's achievements since its founding and recall its original members. The event also serves to induct Joel Espinosa Machado into the agency's association of journalists.

The director general of Cubanacán Press, Guillermo

Fariñas Hernández, sends a message of salutation and congratulations from a hospital where he has been recovering from the seven-month hunger strike that he underwent for the sake of all Cubans having access to internet.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Villa Clara, October 10, 2006. The Congress of Independent Libraries is inaugurated at the home of Noelia Pedraza Jiménez. Various opposition activists from different organizations participate in the event, which is the subject of heavy military attention. At the end of the meeting, as the participants retire to their homes, two of them, Orestes Suárez Torres and Nancy González García, are brutally beaten near the corner of Circunvalación and Calle Campo.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras and Noelia Pedraza Jiménez, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Camagüey, October 10, 2006. Seventeen activists of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights meet at the Los Mangos de Caridad farm in the Las Mercedes agricultural workers' community of Florida, Camagüey. The activity involves a conversation about Carlos Manuel de Céspedes and the history of the Cuban independence movements. It begins at 9 a.m. and ends with a lunch in the afternoon. During the activity, the values of Cuba's independence leader are discussed, focusing on the importance of this history for a peaceful and democratic transition in today's Cuba.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Camagüey, October 10, 2006. Members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement (MOSEL) meet at Calle Domingo Puente #173 A in Camagüey to review and develop new ideas for the already organized Cubans to the Rescue program, which is a proposal to gather interested Cubans to build the base for a free Cuba of the future, where common values are restored and reestablished. Besides the members of MOSEL, representatives of three local non-governmental organizations also participate in the meeting.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, October 10, 2006. Activists with the "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance National Movement and members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to passersby in the street at various locations throughout the municipality of Moa.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency.

Holguín, October 10, 2006. Activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance hold activities to commemorate the start of the war of independence on October 10, 1868. The events will take place: at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in **Banes**; at the Wenceslao Aguilera Feria Independent Library, Calle Celia Sánchez Manduley #33 e/ Máximo Gómez y Diego M. Yedra, in **Antilla**; and at the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Independent Library, Calle B #2 e/ A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo, in **Antilla**.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, October 10, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance honors prisoner of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García with the Second Annual Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Prize for Dignity. Ferrer García, serving a 25-year sentence at the maximum security Kilo 8 Prison in Camagüey, was imprisoned in 2003 during the Black Spring of Cuba. In granting him the prize, the alliance is highlighting the resolute and dignified position of all the political prisoners that serve unjust jail sentences in Castro's prisons.

The award includes a statue of the founding father and 300 dollars, which will be given to Ferrer García's family.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, president of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, October 10, 2006. A candlelight vigil takes place at the offices of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement at Calle Princesa #107 e/ Cortes y Virgen to commemorate yet another anniversary of the first shout of independence in 1868 by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes. Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, the director of the movement's Center for Alternative Studies, gives a moving patriotic speech to the members of the youth organization and other activists who attend the event, including members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Isla de Pinos, October 11, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists Pedro Pablo Meneses and Francisco Alfaro Diéguez brought an end to the hunger strike they began on this island on September 6, due to their precarious state of health brought on by the fast. Nevertheless they have not given up their demands; they have been protesting against the price hike in tickets to travel between Isle of Youth and Batabanó; the forced sale of home electronics at inflated prices; the increased electricity rates, and the government's refusal to return the La

Fe Church to the Catholic Church. They demand the unconditional release of all political prisoners and seek an end to the repression of nonviolent dissidents, repudiation rallies, impediments that prevent dissidents from attending universities and the expulsion of opposition activists from their places of employment.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Villa Clara, October 12, 2006. The Nationalist Civic Movement organizes a pilgrimage to the necropolis, the local cemetery in the city of Santa Clara, to remember the first to fall at the Escambray, the martyrs Porfirio Ramírez and Plinio Prieto among others. This date is chosen by the Nationalist Civic Movement to pay homage to all those fallen, executed by firing squad, and killed in combat.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Granma, October 12, 2006. Nonviolent opposition activists hold a vigil in Manzanillo to pay homage to Mario Ramírez Fonseca on the fifth anniversary of his death. The peaceful demonstration is conducted by María del Carmen Videaux, the acting organizer of the Workers and Farmers' Party. Víctor, Eladio and Alberto Moreno Fonseca, Mario Ramírez Fonseca also founded the Martí Revolutionary Party in 1986. Ramírez Fonseca died in exile in the United States in an accident at the age of 56. Those gathered pay homage to Mario, a tireless fighter for the rights of man.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Camagüey, October 13, 2006. Prisoners of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García and Juan Carlos Herrera Costa found the Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz course of study at the Kilo 8 prison. The course, Herrera explains, is mainly designed to teach common prisoners about their rights. It will involve reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a guided discussion to help them recognize Cuba's contemporary reality that the government tries to hide, and information of all kinds including world history, society, economics and other topics. In addition, one of the objectives of the course will be to teach the prisoners about what is involved in the nonviolent struggle for democracy, the different alternative groups and the various projects that work toward peaceful change in the largest island of the Caribbean.

Herrera said that he and Ferrer would write the assignments and readings that will be given to the prisoners to help them gain consciousness.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent

journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Cubanet.

Isla de Pinos, October 14, 2006. The first anniversary of the founding of the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes censorship-free video room, located at Calle 8 e/ Ey F, escalera 2055, Apto. 3, Reparto Micro 70, is celebrated at the home of Sergio Santacruz Oviedo, the coordinator of the independent library project on this island. Even though the institution was inaugurated on October 10, 2005, they celebrate the event on this day by singing the national anthem and holding a vigil for the 138th anniversary of the shout of "Independence or Death!" in La Demajagua. The act of civil disobedience is convened by the independent library project in this municipality. Niurdes Mejía, Sandra Prohenza, Alfredo Pérez, Yurán de la Pena, Yoenti Céspedes and Osvaldo Hernández Carrillo participate in the event.

Source: Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, president, Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, October 14, 2006. The Elena Mederos Independent Library, directed by Albertina Isabel Fonseca, holds its first activity as part of the first Congress of Independent Libraries, which is part of the Association to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The event begins with the singing of the national anthem and continues with an explanation of the work that the Congress will do, and a call for a united opposition movement in Cuba. *The battle of Isla de Pinos* video, a testimony of Cuban political prisoners, is screened. During the meeting, Mercedes Correoso Bouly, the mother of political prisoner Yosiel Rosales Correoso, speaks about the situation of her son, who is awaiting trial at the Valle Grande Prison.

Source: Lucas Grave, Freedom of Expression Foundation. Cubanet.

Villa Clara, October 14, 2006. Activists from the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the Maceo Movement for Dignity and the Cuban Liberal Party hand out literature along the streets of Santa Clara to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the "Santaclarazo", when dozens of local activists were brutally beaten by political police agents. The activists then visit independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas Hernández at the Arnaldo Milián Castro hospital, where they pray for political prisoners.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party.

Camagüey, October 14, 2006. Family members of nonviolent opposition activists commemorate the second anniversary of the imprisonment of independent librarian and trade unionist Lázaro

González Adán. The event is held at the Julio Tang Texier Independent Library, located at Calle Luís Aldana #98, e/ Cándido González y William Soler in the Sibanicú municipality.

Those present sing the national anthem and remember the two years of imprisonment of González Adán, during which he has suffered mistreatment, humiliation, harassment, abuse and repression at the hands of government agencies and other prisoners who are working for the political police.

At the event, Lázaro's father, Claudio González, joins activists Venancio and Adalberto González Recio, Tomás González Rodríguez, Jordán Marcelo Huerta, Basulto Rodríguez and others.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Camagüey, October 14, 2006. Jailed independent trade unionist Lázaro González Adán observe the second anniversary of his imprisonment at the Cerámica Roja Prison with a fast that lasts until 6 p.m. He is joined in this solemn act by twenty common prisoners and political prisoners: René Montes de Oca, Egberto A. Escobedo, Jorge Luis Suárez, Raidel Aróstegui, Aldo Carnesolta, Francisco Pacheco and Elizardo Calvo. Some of these men wear black, as well as González, as a sign of protest.

Likewise at the Kilo 8 Prison in this same province, political prisoners Carlos Luís Díaz Fernández, Lamberto Hernández Planas, Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and José Daniel Ferrer García fast in support of González Adán and demand his release.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, October 15, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned loved ones..

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, October 15 - 30, 2006. The Shalom Independent Library, which belongs to the Young Peoples Party of Cuba, located at Calle Zapote #310, Municipio 10 de Octubre, hold an activity to celebrate six years since its creation. Among

the activities, there is a screening of movies with historical themes, including *The Patriot* and *The Passion of Christ*, as well as Cuban movies from the alternative genre, including *Ninety Miles* and *Photoshop*. There is also an exhibition of visual arts featuring works by Valdés Lobo and Alejandro Lima. The library has created a database with more than 2,300 volumes by 300 authors in digital format.

Source: Lucas Garve, Foundation for the Freedom of Expression. Cubanet.

Camagüey, October 15, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group pray for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Granma, October 15, 2006. Independent librarians María del Carmen Videau, Xiomara Moncada, Tania de la Torre and Ángel Caballero hand out symbolic flyers at the Congress of Independent Libraries. Manuel Silva, another librarian, hangs a poster in his home advertising the meeting.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, "El Grito de la Patria" Independent Press Bureau. Radio República. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, October 15, 2006. On World Rural Women's Day, the Latin American Federation of Rural Women (FLAMUR) launch a campaign titled, "Inventory of rural poverty". The initiative consists of quantitative and qualitative evaluations of living conditions for the rural population in Cuba. This socioeconomic study will rely upon the indicators used by the United Nations for determining poverty indices, which will enable the study to reveal the reality of the Cuban rural family in terms of: income level; availability of goods and services, including health, education, potable water, electricity, communication and information, the social consequences of alcoholism, domestic violence, suicide and other factors.

The study that the FLAMUR team will carry out includes independent medical measures and criteria to determine the health situation in the rural sector, including intestinal and vaginal parasites, illnesses such as malnutrition and neuropathy, illnesses that largely affect rural children and women as a result of the lack of medication and sanitary infrastructures. The work will begin in the pilot communities of Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Güines and Santiago de las Vegas, as well as in the Escambray area.

The group hopes to use the study as the basis

to demonstrate that the Cuban government has abandoned its rural poor as well as to form part of the report that it will present at the First International Meeting of the Latin American Federation of Rural Women, which will take place later this month in Bogotá, Colombia.

Source: Virgilio Delat la O, Cubanet.

Isla de Pinos, October 16, 2006. Graffiti reading “Down with Fidel” appears at the University Preparatory Institute in the José Carlos Mariátegui rural community of this island, causing a mobilization of police and State Security forces that search the area for fingerprints and conducts handwriting tests and interrogates the student body. They are unable to find the offender.

This institute has horrible living conditions; the food is bad and there is never enough; sanitary conditions are unsafe; the water is not drinkable and there are too few teachers and faculty members. These factors lead to debilitate the students’ learning.

The situation is similar at the University Preparatory Institutes Numbers 5 and 18, which stand in stark contrast to the bonanza that foreign students enjoy at the Antonio Maceo and Clara Zetkin Institutes.

Gerdis Pérez la Rosa, president of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement calls on students and parents to organize and fight for their rights.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, Cubanet.

Havana, October 16, 2006. The Ladies in White celebrated at the home of Laura Pollán Toledo after being awarded the 2006 Human Rights Prize by the Human Rights First organization. The government refuses to allow them to travel to New York for the awards ceremony.

Source: Laura Pollán, Lady in White, wife of political prisoner Hector Maceda Gutierrez.

Pinar del Río, October 17, 2006. The October 10th Democratic Movement is founded in this province. The group selects Amable Fernando Ramón Pérez as their president and Jaime Jesús Machuá Martínez as their vice president. The group’s objectives are to work for the interests of the people of Cuba by confronting the government with criticism and formal complaints.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Ciego de Ávila, October 17, 2006. Members of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights launches the second annual *El Punto Guajiro Cubano* contest. Twelve activists participate in the activity at the Human Rights Secretariat, Calle Honorato del Castillo #154, Ciego de Ávila. The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, the Cuban League of Independent Farmers and the Latin American Federation of Rural Women sponsor the event.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Havana, October 18, 2006. Thirty-seven members of the Cuban Liberal Party begin a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners. The event begins at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro, continuing at the home of Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre, and concluding at the home of Héctor Julio Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, October 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners, and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Villa Clara, October 18, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party joins a national chain of fasts in solidarity with prisoner of conscience Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The fast lasts for 12 hours at the home of Bernardo Luis Ascanio Camargo, provincial delegate of the Cuban Liberal Party.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement and Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party.

Camagüey, October 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including the Ladies in White and family members of political prisoners and activists, gather at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience on the island.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, October 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña pray the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Havana, October 19, 2006. Workers affiliated with the Independent Union of Light Industry Workers (SITIL) hold a vigil to demonstrate their unconditional support for the proclamation issued

by the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) on September 29. They call for the release of political prisoners, particularly those union organizers unjustly imprisoned, and the freedom of independent labor organizing in Cuba. The vigil is held in the Lawton neighborhood in the 10 de Octubre municipality.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Sindical Press Agency, director of the Independent Press Bureau Cuba-Miami Information Bridge.

Granma, October 19, 2006. Directors of independent libraries from the Granma province that are members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba are debating their plans in the Congress of Independent Librarians. The participants in these meetings are: María del Carmen Videau, Mariana Grajales Independent Library; Xiomara Moncada, Jesús Llanes Pelletier Independent Library; Nelson Mireyes, Bachiller Morales Lemus Independent Library; Ángel Caballero, Frank País Independent Library I; Daniel Silva, Juan Carlos Martínez Independent Library; Lourdes Cecilia Gómez, Bachiller and Morales Independent Library II; Gabriel Yosmandria, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Independent Library; and Tania de la Torre, Rafael María Merchán Independent Library.

The Congress was dedicated to Luis Elio de la Paz Ramón, director of the 20 de Mayo Independent Library, Elio Enrique Chávez Ramón of the 10 de Octubre Independent Library, and Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, representative of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, "El Grito de la Patria" Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, October 20, 2006. The National Center of Union and Labor Education organize a candlelight vigil for the Day of Cuban Culture. The vigil is held at the CNCSL's main headquarters, located at Calle San José #564, Altos, e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana, and involves a reflection about what the Cuban identity has been and the essence of being Cuban, transcending differences of race, sex, religion and ideology. Fifteen people participate in the vigil.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, October 20, 2006. The 41 year old political prisoner Alexander Roberto Fernández Brito, serving a one-year sentence, begins a hunger strike to demand medical assistance and to address the inflammation of his leg caused by a broken bone, which occurred over one month ago. He has yet to

receive the needed medical attention.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, independent journalist, Youth Without Censorship Agency. Radio República.

Havana, October 20, 2006. The leadership of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, forms a committee to assist the opposition organization 2506 Brigade, in support of a resolution made by Segundo Miranda. The committee's objective is to host various activities in support of the opposition movement's work in the region, and to strengthen Cuba's independent civil society.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Foundation.

Havana, October 22, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida and 26 in Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, October 22, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, October 23, 2006. Political prisoners Reinaldo Labrada Peña and José Gabriel Ramón Castillo of the Group of 75, and Eduardo Castellanos, begin a hunger strike, according to Labrada's wife, Giselda Verdecia García.

They decide to begin the strike to formalize their complaints: that it is impossible to take their meals in their cells; the manipulation of their telephone rights (lack of regularity and lack of privacy), and the lack of religious attention. They also call for an end to the physical and verbal mistreatment they receive and the confiscation of the medications that their family members bring them. Verdecia reports that the level of ferocity has increased against the political prisoners since Fidel Castro became ill.

Source: Giselda Verdecia García, Ladies in White.

Isla de Pinos, October 25, 2006. Nonviolent dissidents from Isla de Pinos hold a vigil in honor of the 80th birthday of Mario Chanes de Armas, who has spent 30 years in Cuban prisons. Those gather to read a prayer for the quick recovery of

Chanes, who resides in a hospital facility seriously debilitated by Alzheimer's disease. They recall his active participation in the Cuban struggle for freedom and democracy. Manuel Pozo Fortunato, a prison mate of the activist, describes his friend's personal courage and humanity that enabled him to remain firm in his ideals even after 28 years behind bars. The Isla de Pinos Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, the Ernesto Díaz Madruga Cultural Civic Project and the Pedro Luis Boitel Abraham Independent Library sponsor the event, that takes place at Calle 30 #5107 e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona.

Source: Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, Isla de Pinos Human Rights Foundation.

Villa Clara, October 25, 2006. Members of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement distribute alternative literature to the people of Santa Clara as part of the activities taking place in support of the Congress of Independent Libraries. These women regularly distribute uncensored information to Santa Clara residents despite being persecuted by State Security and members of the Rapid Response Brigades.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youth Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, October 25, 2006. A sign reading "Change" appears in the Aguada de Pasajeros municipality, followed by another reading "Down with Fidel" in the identification card offices, which is adjacent to the National Revolutionary Police. Opposition activists in the town also echo the "I don't cooperate with the dictatorship; I want a change" slogan. Even after police breaks into the Adam Smith Independent Library, the library's directors decide to proceed with the plans for the nationwide Congress of Independent Libraries, scheduled through February 24, 2007.

Source: Reinaldo Rogelio Arévalo Padrón, Línea Sur Press Agency, Radio República.

Holguín, October 25, 2006. Human rights activist Lorenzo García Rodríguez starts a hunger strike after he was detained by government authorities. The president of the Claridad Human Rights Movement is charged with allegedly organizing a constant confidence scheme, printing illegal documents and gaining illicit earnings – in spite of the fact that García has a license to laminate identification cards and other documents.

García is the director of the Félix Varela Independent Library, which was the subject of a meticulous inspection by the political police, which then proceeded to confiscate numerous volumes.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, president of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, October 26, 2006.

Independent libraries in Santiago de Cuba participate in the Congress of Independent Libraries. The meeting focuses on the organizational aspects of the libraries, which strive to thwart government censorship and inform readers with uncensored media to counteract the slanted information disseminated by the government.

Source: Pedro Enrique Martínez Machado, independent journalist, Farmers' League. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, October 26, 2006. The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the director of the Frank País Independent Library, Alina Ramírez, hold a meeting with independent librarians. 14 independent librarians and human rights defenders participate in the activity. The meeting is held at Callejón de América #25, e/ Barnada y San Agustín, in Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Havana, October 27, 2006. Neighbors of Miguel Valdés Tamayo, human rights activist out of jail on conditional release, defend him after he is attacked by a group that takes orders from the political police.

About 10 to 15 people approach him as he leaves his home. Two women charge him and rip his clothes. At this point, neighbors come to the defense of the 49-year-old activist, and the group of agitators retreats. Valdés Tamayo was released for health reasons after serving two years of his 15-year sentence. He suffers from life-threatening heart failure.

He is currently providing exceptional assistance to the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, which is led by Martha Beatriz Cabello.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares Balmaceda. Cubanet.

Havana, October 27, 2006. Stickers with the word "Change" appear on a mailbox in San José de las Lajas. As often happens in response to these incidents, the political police arrives on the scene, investigates the area and then rips off the stickers and takes them away.

Source: Luis González Medina, provincial coordinator of the Party for Human Rights. Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, October 28, 2006. The Ernest Hemingway Independent Library ratifies its commitment to uncensored literature on the third anniversary of its founding. The institution is located in the rural community of Escuela de Cabo, La Demajagua, 22 kilometers from Nueva Gerona, the municipal capital of the Isle of Youth

Source: Mario Echavarría Driggs, Independent Press Bureau Cuba-Miami Information Bridge; Carlos Serpa Maceira, Syndicated Press Agency,



A vigil for the freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners is held in the Ernest Hemingway independent library.

director of the Independent Press Bureau Cuba-Miami Information Bridge.

Havana, October 29, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida and 26 in Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Camagüey, October 29, 2006. Bertha Antúnez Pernet, the sister of political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez, reports that a sign reading “Down with Fidel!” appeared at the Kilo 7 Prison in Camagüey. Her brother has told her that he has been punished as a result of the incident, even though he did not write the sign.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet. Civic Resistance National Movement, Radio República.

Camagüey, October 29, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political

prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, October 29, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance observe a prayer service at the Our Lady of Charity Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation. They pray for political prisoners and their family members before the Virgin and lay a floral offering at her feet. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Arnaldo Expósito Zaldivar, Santo Alberto Escalona, Idalmis Desdin Salguero, Bárbara Ortiz Piris, Dayamis Romero, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Marta Cecilia Pérez Duconjer and Alfredo Rojas Gallo take part in the service.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Villa Clara, October 30, 2006. Local residents belonging to the Hospital People’s Council protested to different government agencies that garbage has piled up without being collected.

“We cannot tolerate this anymore because it is very dangerous as fewer than 15 days ago, dozens of people were admitted to hospitals in Santa Clara with Dengue Fever,” said Dr. Julio Cárdenas, who

lives in the area.

But the community group's efforts resolve nothing; they were told, among other explanations, that there was not enough fuel to run the garbage truck.

Source: Guillermo Fariñas, Cubanacán Press. Cubanet.

Camagüey, October 30, 2006. Political prisoner Jorge Luís García Pérez "Antúnez" began a hunger

strike in his cell at the Kilo 7 Prison after a prisoner named Lázaro Núñez Victoria attacked him at the behest of prison authorities. Jorge Luís affirms that he will not abandon it until he is granted the opportunity to denounce the situation he is going through in that prison.

Source: Bertha Antúnez Pernet, sister of Jorge Luís García Pérez "Antúnez". Radio República.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
4	11	18	25				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle 30, No. 5107 e/ 51 y 53, Nueva Gerona	Isla de Pinos	5	Lázaro Ricardo Pérez García, Fundación Cubana de DD.HH.)
x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
	x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x		x		Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x		x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
		x		Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x		x		Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

NOVEMBER 2006

Pinar del Río, November 1, 2006. Néstor Hernández Escalona wrote a letter to Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque asking him to take action as needed to cease the human rights violations taking place at the Kilo 5 Provincial Prison and other Cuban prisons. Armando Cabrera Rodríguez, Greorky Calero González, Diosdado González Marrero, Eduardo Rodríguez Valdez, Fidel Suarez Cruz, Ariel Cruz Pascual, Enrique González Silva, Yorensy Valles Ramos, Thomas Jinagera Casar, Emilio Leyva Pérez, Laudes Anga Romero, Leonel Enrique Borrero Carballeo and Juan Lorenzo Cordero Gomes also signed the letter.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Lux InfoPress, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau.

Havana, November 1, 2006. The executive board of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba issued a statement in response to recent incidents of police harassment at independent libraries. They asked that these institutions be allowed to continue to operate as social and cultural information centers. To those libraries that have not been targets of government harassment, they urged an increase in activities to disseminate culturally relevant documents among the general public. The First Congress of Independent Libraries, which began on October 10, 2007, will continue until February 24, 2007.

The executive board also sent a note signed by Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello to the Heads of State attending the XVI Ibero-American Summit. "The democratic governments and institutions of the world should not cooperate with a dictatorial system that oppresses its people for more than 47 years," the letter read. It included a list of ten points exposing the precarious situation that the Cuban people suffer.

Source: Lucas Garve, Foundation for the Freedom of Expression. Cubanet.

Ciego de Ávila, November 1, 2006. The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights launched a call for solidarity to the local community, international public opinion, churches and human rights institutions in response to the drastic increase in government-sponsored violence and repression over the last few weeks, including repudiation rallies, the destruction of libraries, beatings, and the appropriation of cash and medication from the families of political prisoners. The group noted that the rise

in repression began on July 31, when Fidel Castro announced that he was temporarily transferring power.

Source: Tania Maceda Guerra, Cubanet.

Camagüey, November 1, 2006. The El Camagüeyano bulletin, a newsletter of the independent Agramontist press was published. This issue featured a story on the prayer chain started by political prisoners Alfredo Pulido López, a native of this province, a report on the arrest of human rights activist José Mola Porro, the regular section called "Your rights, Cuban", and news of a local character.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, November 1, 2006. The third issue of The Free Cuban was published by the Eastern Democratic Alliance. This issue described the struggle for historical truth and articles such as, "Pain and forgiveness", "Criminal dangerousness", "Economic growth in Cuba and the fantasy file", "Prose poem to the Ladies in White", "The Cuban: inventor of...?" and the regular sections, "Echoes from Prison", which is written by political prisoners, and news briefs from around Cuba.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Holguín, November 1, 2006. Family members of the deceased former soldier, Carlos Manuel Rojas Cancino, refused to allow the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution to provide an honor guard during his burial in Banes. They alleged that the association had abandoned Rojas during his illness, which left him bedridden for many years.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Santiago de Cuba, November 1, 2006. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement published the second issue of Los Pinos Nuevos, an independent newsletter focused on eastern Cuba. The issue included articles titled, "Beyond footprints", "Free but in debt?" an interview with the young musician Alexis Odio Sánchez, a section dedicated to poetry, and information on culture and society.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina and Gerardo Sánchez Ortiga, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.



The front cover of the newsletter Los Pinos Nuevos, second edition, published November 1, 2006 by the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement (MCJD).

Members of the Ladies in White and independent journalist Carlos Serpa Maceira show the Steps to Freedom 2005 report, published by the Cuban Democratic Directorate. The edition was distributed throughout the country. It is a source of joy for the opposition activists who see their actions mentioned in the book and it also serves as moral support in its promotion of the nonviolent civic struggle.



Havana, November 2, 2006. Hundreds of people took to the streets in Madruga, a municipality in Havana province, when political police arrived at the door of human rights activist Eddy Hernández Arencibia to evict him. Hernández Arencibia, who lives at Avenida 19 #4216 e/ 42 y 44, Reparto La Sabana, is much loved by his neighbors. “The people leapt into the streets declaring that this was an injustice and that we have worked hard to

make a home via legal means,” explained Odalys Rodríguez, the wife of Hernández Arencibia. “The police could not get to my house because the whole town got in front of them. They came with special troops to beat us, but there were so many people gathered that they could not do that. All of the women made a chain in the front and the men made one behind us. The people of this town – children, women, men, the elderly, even people that I do not

know – did not let the police get into our house.” During the protest, which began around 7 p.m., the police beat several men who tried to defend the women who found themselves facing the forces of repression. .

Source: Odalis Rodríguez, Radio República.

Matanzas, November 2, 2006. Neighbors of Alberto Sigler Estrada, an activist with the Alternative Option Independent Movement, intervened in his favor during an assault against his person. Sigler Estrada was walking along a street in the Socorro neighborhood of Pedro Betancourt, where he lives, when Terencio Camejo, a collaborator with the political police, attacked him. Dozens of neighbors who witnessed the assault protested energetically to impede the attacker from achieving his objective. The protest forced the local police chief to come to the scene; he promised to take measures to prevent the repetitions of such attacks, but nothing has been done as of yet.

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madan. Cubanet. Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Alternative Option Independent Movement.

Las Tunas, November 2, 2006. When human rights activist Josué González Hernández happened upon three political police in civilian clothing beating a young man outside of a dollar store at the corner of Avenida Libertad and Máximo Gómez in Puerto Padre, he protested the abuse and reminded the police that their violent attitudes matched those of Batista’s guards. He promised to denounce their actions. In response, the police began to accost González Hernández.

Source: Ezequiel Fernández Carmenate, Christian Liberation Movement, Radio República.

Holguín, November 2, 2006. Political prisoner Alfredo Domínguez Batista issued a call for non-cooperation on behalf of his fellow political prisoners. “The political prisoners of the Holguín Provincial Prison call on the people of Cuba, who suffer from a lack of rights, to non cooperation. To the mother who is full of sadness, to the youth with no future, to the child with no toys, do not cooperate. To the Cubans who do not have the right to participate in the active social and political life, so that we do not continue to be discriminated against and to demand our place, and for them we must stop playing along with Fidel Castro’s government. By what manner? By not cooperating in “the battle of ideas”, which achieves nothing but the consumption of the country’s resources at the expense of the working people. Do not cooperate in the repudiation rallies. To our brothers who have abandoned and have given up everything for a new nation, for a sustainable future for this country that has lived in pain, hu-

miliation and misery for more than 46 years, for democracy and the liberties taken from us, all united, we will be able to say, ‘it was not in vain’, thanks to non-cooperation.”

Source: Guillermo Llanos Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Havana, November 3, 2006. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement sent a letter to the Chief of the Department of Religious Affairs, an adjunct department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba of the State Council. The youths, believers and non-believers alike, asked for a national project to reopen the Saint Thomas Catholic University in Villanueva, which the current government shut down in 1961. The letter mentioned the visit of John Paul II to Cuba, which bore numerous and valuable results for society and the community of believers, especially Catholics who were comforted by the visit, but the decision of those in charge of government lamentably two of their main proposals were vetoed: free access to the communications media and the freedom of religious education. This group of youths also sent a letter to the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Havana describing their faith and hope in a more humane and fraternal country, and urging the necessary reopening of the Saint Thomas University in Villanueva. “Now is the time to definitively open the forces of civic and ethical education in Cuba,” the letter said. *Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Radio República. Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist.*

Havana, November 4, 2006. A discussion was held at the home of José Alberto Eiras, director of the Diosdado Aquit Manrique Independent Library. The Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba sponsored the conference at Calle Justicia #624, Apto. 1, Luyanó. During the event, the Assembly revealed a document it produced titled, “To propitiate a day after”. The adults are presented with gifts: books on a variety of topics as well as copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the children received age-appropriate literature and some toys.

Source: Juan González Febles, Cubanet.

Matanzas, November 4, 2006. The Alternative Option Independent Movement issued a statement demanding that Matanzas provincial authorities cease their proceedings against dozens of persons, mostly youths, who refuse to work in state-run enterprises by applying the social dangerousness law and imprisoning them. The statement also called on the local government to stop harassing, persecuting and fining the truck drivers who transport the populace and an end to the repressive action against street vendors and other citizens who have economic

activities that benefit the people. Furthermore, the communiqué affirms that they will denounce everything that affects citizens. The letter was signed by the Board of Directors of the Alternative Option Independent Movement: José Antonio Pérez More, Ulises Sigler González, Michael Medina and Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, member of Alternative Option Independent Movement and director of the Martí Civic Foundation, Jesús Roque Sixto, Gladys Roque González and Jorge Luis Roque.

Havana, November 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for the release of their imprisoned husbands and loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler Fernández, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, November 5, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, November 6, 2006. Independent labor organizer Aurelio Bachiller Álvarez, the secretary general of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC), publicly declared that he would continue to defend “the rights of workers in Cuba,” and stands by his commitment “with a democratic unionism” following his arrest and the threat of sanctioning him to a 30-year prison term if he continues his union activism. “I would like to remind the political police of Fidel of something that José Martí once said: ‘a just principle defended from the depths of a cave can achieve more than an army.’”

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Syndicated Press Agency, director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau.

Havana, November 6, 2006. A mass in the Church of the Passion in memory of journalist Rosa Berre, the director in exile of the Cubanet website is backed by a group of independent journalists. Father Evelio preached a homily, speaking of love, forgiveness and reconciliation among men. In contrast to this message, numerous State Security

agents and members of paramilitary brigades stood watch outside the church. Government agents also began selling alcoholic beverages in the area and – feigning coincidence – a television program recorded a scene near one of the church’s side entrances that involved a bride, an ambulance and running children, which caused an uproarious distraction to the service. All of the activity ended quickly when the church service let out. The prior evening, State Security officials visited three members of the group in their homes, with the purpose of discourage them from participation in this celebration.

Source: Amarilis C. Rey, Cuba Verdad, Cubanet

Havana, November 7, 2006. Reverend Ibrahim Pina Borges, a proponent of the proposed law on religious services and associations, sent a letter to Ricardo Alarcón, the president of Cuba’s National Assembly, requesting a response to this grassroots initiative designed to regulate the status, functioning and organization of different religious sects operating without legal protection in the country. The proposal is based on Article 88G of the Constitution.

Source: Reverendo Ibrahim Pina Borges. Cubanet.

Havana, November 7, 2006. Fifteen members of the Cuban Liberal Movement held an activity at the home of the group’s coordinator for the Western provinces, Silvio Benítez Márquez, who lives at Avenida 249 #4614 e/ 46 y 48. They reviewed the institution’s achievements throughout the country and demanded the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Movimiento Liberal Cubano.

Camagüey, November 7, 2006. Activists with the Citizen Information Service Centers (CESIC) met at the headquarters of the Free Expression Solidarity Movement, which sponsors the centers, to develop a strategy for the “Cubans to the Rescue” program. The activists discussed human values that have been lost in contemporary Cuba and programs that are being developed for other citizens, inviting them to participate. The movement’s headquarters are located at Transversal #218 e/ 3ra y 4ta, Reparto Froilán Quirós.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, November 9, 2006. Independent journalist and prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, on a hunger strike since June 8 consuming only liquids in the afternoons, declared that he would maintain his stance. “Whatever happens, I am not going to be quiet and will continue my struggle from this point forward and maintain my firm position in opposition to the atrocities

committed in this prison,” said Herrera Acosta, in imprisoned since 2003.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Havana, November 9, 2006. Human rights activists, independent librarians and independent journalists attended a mass held to honor the memory of Cubanet director Rosa Berre at the Church of Jesus of the Mount. Father Luis Alberto Formoso presided over the service. There was only one coercive action related to the event, when political police agents prevented activist Francisco Rodríguez Mora from leaving his house to attend the religious service. The La Estrella Solitaria Information Center, part of the Republican Peoples' Party, had requested the mass.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cubanet.

Villa Clara, November 10 - December 10, 2006. The Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the Liberal Party of Cuba and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights expressed their solidarity with prisoner of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García in a civil activity in honor of the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The objective of the event was to bring together activists from different opposition groups and to read a bible passage and articles of the declaration. They prayed for the release of political prisoners and for democratic change in Cuba.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Camagüey, November 10 - December 10, 2006. Prisoner of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta began thirty days of fasting and prayer to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The activity began with the reading of the declaration and passages from the Bible. Fellow political prisoners Lamberto Hernández Planas, Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández and Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce also participated. Throughout the month, they prayed to Jesus Christ three times daily.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress in Camagüey and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. José Daniel Ferrer García, Christian Liberation Movement. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Guantánamo, November 10, 2006. A group of political prisoners joined the Sunday fast led by political prisoner Andrés Frómata Cuenca in the Combinado Prison in Guantánamo. The new

participants were Claro Sánchez Altarriba, Jesús Mustafá Felipe, Alberto Martínez Fernández, Jorge Cervantes, José Ángel Simón Rodríguez, Ricardo Galván Casal, Claudio Lafita Galván, Abel López Pérez and Karen Álvarez Rodríguez.

Source: Andry Frometa Cuenca, political prisoner, Radio República.

Cienfuegos, November 11, 2006. Sixteen students in their fourth year of law school at the Nguyen Van Troi School refused to sign a document requiring that students commit to participate in the University Student Federation (FEU) Congress the following day. The students refused to sign because they are tired of attending these activities, where they simply make proposals that are never addressed; and in the end they are not listened to.

Source: Alejandro Tur Valladares, Jagua Press.

Havana, November 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for the release of their unjustly incarcerated family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, November 12, 2006. The Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners held its usual march, this time to the Corpus Christi Church in Havana. At the end of the march, the women gathered to draft a declaration supporting a general amnesty for all political prisoners.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, wife of political prisoner Francisco Chaviano, Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners.

Cienfuegos, November 12, 2006. The University Student Federation (FEU) Congress events scheduled to take place at the university in Cienfuegos had to be canceled when only eight of the 100 people invited to attend arrived, according to one of the people who attended the meeting.

Source: Alejandro Tur Valladares, Jagua Press.

Camagüey, November 12 - 26, 2006. The Free Expression Solidarity Movement held a nationwide prayer chain to pray for the health of prisoner of conscience Alfredo Pulido López, sentenced to a 14-year prison sentence at the Kilo 7 prison in Camagüey. Other nonviolent organizations, both religious and secular, joined the prayer chain. The goal is to develop solidarity based in faith, devotion and trust in one true and omnipotent God. The movement has previously supported

men and women of different faiths, Evangelical and Pentecostal Christians, members of the Independent Evangelical Church and the Prophetic Adventist Church, and quite a few followers of the Catholic faith. They were joined in this effort by the Ladies in White, the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey, the Tabernacle of God Methodist Church, the Amor Rosacruces organization, the Amazon League and other groups, including the youth groups participating in the campaign for the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Rebeca Rodríguez Souto called on the people of Cuba to support this campaign for the health and freedom of her husband, political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Barrio Adentro, Radio República. Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, November 12, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, November 13, 2006. Lady in White Alejandrina García de la Riva hand delivered a letter written by political prisoner Néstor Hernández Escalona, also signed by his fellow prisoners of conscience at the Kilo 5½ Prison, Diosdado González Marrero, Fidel Suárez Cruz and Emilio Leyva, to government official María Elena Rodríguez at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, located at Calzada 360, Vedado. In the letter, the prisoner denounced the human rights violations committed against inmates. He demanded medical attention, regular hours of sunlight and open-air exercise time.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Isla de Pinos, November 14, 2006. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project held a vigil as part of the Freedom without Exile for Cuban Political Prisoners campaign. Fifteen people attended the event and then stayed to watch the documentary, *At the blade of the Machete* in the “Pedro Luís Boitel Censorship-Free Video Room.”

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Villa Clara, November 15, 2006. Guillermo Fariñas fasted for 12 hours in solidarity with prisoner

of conscience Francisco Chaviano González, whose health is deteriorating in a cell in the Combinado del Este prison in Havana.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, November 17, 2006. Independent Library Conrado Primitivo Pérez Hernández held a cultural activity in the Manicaragua municipality as part of the Congress sponsored by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The event was hosted by librarian Ismadia Cevedo Valdés of Calle Juan Bruno Zayas, Sur #32, Manicaragua. Those gathered discussed different books, made numerous proposals, reached agreements and confirmed their disposition to continue the nonviolent struggle to the end.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Sancti Spíritus, November 17, 2006. The Yayabo Press independent agency was founded in the city of Sancti Spiritus with the objective of reporting on activities relating to the province. The director of the press agency is Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, who leads a team of independent journalists from the agency’s offices at Calle Obdulio Morales #50, Las Tosas. Twelve members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights participated in the founding ceremony.

Source: Guillermo Fariñas, Cubanacán Press. Cubanet.

Camagüey, November 17, 2006. Political prisoner Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez made a call for a national period of opposition to the Castro government from his cell at the Kilo 7 prison. He proposed the dates November 30 to December 10 for the united dissident action.

Source: Guillermo Fariñas, Cubanacán Press.

Havana, November 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, November 18, 2006. Thirty-nine members of the Liberal Party of Cuba began a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners at three different homes in the capital. The event took place at the homes of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El

Cerro; Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de octubre; and Héctor Julio Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Matanzas, November 18, 2006. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, November 18, 2006. Around seven people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, November 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña prayed the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Havana, November 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for the release of of their unjustly imprisoned family members..

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, November 19, 2006. Rural and farmers' associations affiliated with the Rural Civic Development Project, including ANAIC, FLAMUR, UJR and CENAIC, showed their support for the planned Farm Workers' Congress, convened by the Farm Workers Party for the third quarter of 2007 in eastern Cuba. The organizations behind the project have already begun to prepare the presentations and materials to be used to support the establishment of an agrarian policy for sustainable development in rural Cuba. The National Alliance of Independent Farmers of Cuba (ANAIC), which organized similar events in 1998 and 1999, was brutally repressed by

State Security agents.

Source: Virgilio Delat la O, Eastern Free Press Agency, Cubanet.

Havana, November 19, 2006. Members of the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners at the Combinado del Este Prison in Havana held a fast to protest the regime's repressive actions against dissidents and independent activists. A group of prisoners in Building 2, North Wing, Company 21, Cell 18, shouted, "Long live human rights!" and "Long live freedom!" as they banged on the cell doors with jugs and spoons.

Source: Mario Echavarría Driggs, Radio República.

Villa Clara, November 19, 2006. Members of various dissident groups participated in a cultural event at the Jesús José Sardiñas Jiménez Independent Library, located at Calle César #16, e/ 3ra y Carretera de Sagua, Santa Clara. Library director Idalberto González Gómez hosted the event, which drew members of the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, Plantados, Maceo Movement for Dignity and Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Camagüey, November 19, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, November 20, 2006. Twenty members of the Cuban Liberal Movement from Punta Brava, La Lisa, held a vigil at the home of local delegate Silvio Benítez Márquez, Avenida 249 #4614 e/ 46 y 48, to call on the Castro regime to free all political prisoners. They discussed methods and means to bring the "I do not cooperate with the dictatorship" campaign to the people of Cuba.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Movimiento Liberal Cubano.

Villa Clara, November 21, 2006. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba distributed pamphlets to residents of Santa Clara along the main street, Avenida Paseo de la Paz. The passersby who received the documents, which included the United States government's "Compact with the People of Cuba", expressed thanks to the dissidents.

Source: Félix Reyes Gutiérrez, Cubanacán Press. Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's

Movement and Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, November 22, 2006. A new independent library opened in Arroyo Naranjo named after Eusebio de Jesús Peñalver Mazorra. The new literary establishment, located at Calle Santa Isabel #481, e/ Maceo y Aranguren, Arroyo Naranjo, has 300 books on various subjects. Many party members were present at the library's opening to reaffirm their participation in the first Congress of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Villa Clara, November 22, 2006. The Youth of Escambray Independent Library opened in Manicaragua, Santa Clara. It is located at Calle Angola #18, e/ Juan Bruno Zayas y Desvío de Jibacoa and has 250 books on various topics.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Cubanet.

Camagüey, November 22, 2006. The Free Expression Solidarity Movement sent a message of prayer, solidarity and recognition to political prisoner Armando Betancourt Reina for his 45th birthday, to be celebrated on November 30 for maintaining his principles. The message concludes: "today your brothers and sisters in the struggle, and on behalf of an entire nation that is day-by-day opening its eyes to see the truth with greater clarity. On this, your birthday, we dedicate something from Martí to you: 'There must be a certain amount of decorum in the world, just as there must be a certain amount of light. When there are many men without decorum, there are always others who themselves possess the decorum of many men. These are the ones who rebel with terrible strength against those who rob nations of their liberty, which is to rob men of their decorum. Embodied in those men are thousands of men, a whole people, human dignity.'"

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, November 22, 2006. The Free Expression Solidarity Movement went public with its "Cubans to the Rescue" program, which is designed to bring together civil society organizations that wish to participate in the task of recovering moral and human values in contemporary Cuban society. "The nation is consumed by dual moral standards, the lack of self-esteem, the absence of a sense of right and wrong, disrespect for others, amorality, atheism, the lack of conscience, hypocrisy, the lack of patriotism, the inability to make one's own decisions, labor injustice, decadence in family values, proclivity to the criminal and prostitution," the proposal stated.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, November 24 - December 1, 2006. The Cuban Commission on Human Rights for people afflicted by HIV and AIDS held a prayer chain, titled "Ninth for Life". During these nine days, participants lit white candles wrapped in red ribbons in a show of solidarity with and respect for the victims of this epidemic. On December 1, World AIDS Day, participants deposited their candles in the nearest place of worship to remember the victims of this global tragedy. The Cuban Commission on Human Rights for people afflicted by HIV and AIDS called on members of civil society to participate in the prayer chain to support those affected by the disease. "HIV does not make us different; we seek respect, not just of our basic rights, but also of the inalienable rights of all men," said Ignacio Estrada Cepero, the leader of the commission.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República . Ignacio Estrada Cepero, Cuban Commission on Human Rights for people afflicted by HIV and AIDS.

Isla de Pinos, November 25, 2006. The 2005 edition of *Steps to Freedom* circulated for the first time on this island during a vigil organized by the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project to demand freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners. Fifteen people attended.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Villa Clara, November 25, 2006. A new independent library was inaugurated in the city of Santa Clara in spite of the recent spate of closures of such institutions throughout Cuba. Named for the late activist Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, the new library in Reparto José Martí opened in response to the government's seizure of the María Cabrales Independent Library on October 27. Nine peaceful opposition activists attended the inauguration. They read a biography of Gustavo Arcos and a few paragraphs pertaining to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Source: Benito Key, Cubanacán Press.

Villa Clara, November 25, 2006. Human rights activists met for a luncheon to exchange opinions. Attendees at the meeting included delegates from the Martí Youth Coalition, the Liberal Party of Cuba, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Independent journalists from Cubanacán Press were also there.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement. Alain Gómez Ramos, independent journalist.

Havana, November 26, 2006. The Ladies in

White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly Sunday pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Sancti Spiritus, November 26, 2006. Librarian José Ramón Borges Serrano inaugurated the Segundo Borges Arzola Independent Library at Calle Jesús Menéndez #4, e/ Agramonte y Santa Lucia, Cabaigüan, Sancti Spiritus. Twelve local activists from the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom attended the event.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Camagüey, November 26, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, November 26, 2006. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance observed a prayer service at the Our Lady of Charity Church in Banes to pray for national unity and reconciliation. They prayed for political prisoners and their family members before the Virgin Mary and laid a white floral offering at her feet. Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Maikel Verdecia Torres, Arnaldo Expósito Saldivar, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Bárbara Ortiz Piris and Dayamis Romero participated in the service.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library. Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Matanzas, November 27, 2006. Eighteen members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party organized a long walk to the medical students monument on Calle Camilo Cienfuegos, in the city of Colón, where they laid a floral offering.

Source: Jorge Luis Alvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González

Marrero.

Havana, November 28, 2006. Members of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, and the Committee for Assistance to the 2506 Dissidence Brigade held a vigil calling for the release of all Cuban political prisoners, respect for all human rights in the country and the establishment of a democratic state comprising the participation of all points along the Cuban political spectrum.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Cienfuegos, November 29, 2006. Opposition and human rights activist Bernardo Arévalo Padrón refused to sign a written declaration renouncing his position as a nonviolent dissident. The declaration was presented to Arévalo by Antonio García Agüero, the president of the María Victoria Production Cooperative Basic Unit, where Arévalo worked as an agricultural worker, when due to his refusal he was fired.

Source: Yoel Espinosa Medrano, Cubanacán Press; Cubanet. Bernardo Arévalo Padrón, Linea Sur Press.

Villa Clara, November 29, 2006. Independent Library Conrado Primitivo Pérez Hernández held a cultural activity in the Manicaragua municipality as part of the Congress sponsored by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The event took place at Calle Juan Bruno Zayas Sur #42. Those gathered discussed different books, made numerous proposals, reached agreements and confirmed their disposition to continue the nonviolent struggle to its ultimate consequences.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Villa Clara, November 29, 2006. Cesar Páez Independent Library II, located in the Báez community, hosted a civic-cultural activity within the context of the Congress of Independent Libraries. Said activity counts on the participation of various Independent librarians from the province. They agreed to increase their contact with the people of Cuba, boost their lending rates and increase the distribution of uncensored information to the citizenry.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship, Radio República .

Villa Clara, November 29, 2006. The "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party celebrated its founding on the eve of its anniversary at the home of dissident and political prisoner Margarito Broche Espinosa. Beginning at 8 p.m. with a vigil,



Members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party demonstrate in a street in Havana to support the national campaign for the freedom without forced exile for political prisoners.

the event continued for two hours with a dialogue on the founding and the trajectory of the party and the importance of this date. They also observed a moment of silence for those political prisoners who have been executed by the Castro regime, called for the release of all political prisoners and discussed the precarious health situation of some of the captive dissidents, including Librado Linares, Drs. Pulido and Paneque, Omar Pernet, Normando Hernández and Héctor Palacios. They concluded with prayers and the reading of Psalm 37. Twenty activists took part in the event at Calle 16 #2518, e/ 25 y 27, Caibarién, Villa Clara, including representatives of this organization and others from the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, vice president, the National Association of Rafters “Peace, Democracy and Freedom”. Radio República.

Villa Clara, November 30, 2006. Members of the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party in Placetas met at the home of provincial delegate Amado Ruiz Moreno, located at 5ta del Oeste #58, e/ 3ra y 4ta del Sur, to commemorate the organization’s anniversary.

Source: Amado Ruiz Moreno, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party.

Sancti Spíritus, November 30, 2006. Members of the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom held a roundtable discussion at Calle Jesús Menéndez #2, e/ Agramonte y Santa Lucía, Caibaiguán. Ten

people participated.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafter's for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom.

Sancti Spíritus, November 30, 2006. Sixteen nonviolent dissidents with the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights celebrated another anniversary of the former organization, which grew out of the rebellion of the Cuban people and the valiant action of Frank País against the Batista dictatorship.

The activity took place at the home of the party’s provincial delegate Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, who lives at Calle Obdulio Morales #50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spíritus. They analyzed past achievements and reaffirmed their eagerness and earnestness to continue working to develop more effective and efficient methods to develop the civil society in Cuba.

They also read passages from *Participatory Democracy: Populism Revised*, by Joseph F. Zimmerman. Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Osmani Borroto Rodríguez, Liborio Borroto Monroy, Elvis Gregorio Pérez Lara, Erin Mena Lara, Paula Bartola Gustavo, Ilcia Romero Silva, Irma Gómez Ortiz, Tomás Manuel Pérez Pérez, Julio César Menéndez Rodríguez, Leona Molina Labrada, Edel Peralta Rouge, José Andrés Guerra Castañeda, Adriano Castañeda Meneses, George Perdigón Brito and Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito all participated in the event.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party. .

National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel”.

Camagüey, November 30 - December 10, 2006. The national period of opposition convened on November 17 by political prisoner Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez began. It will end on December 10, Human Rights Day.

Source: Guillermo Fariñas, Cubanacán Press.

Holguín, November 30, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance called on the people of Antilla on behalf of human rights defenders in this municipality in response to a campaign of defamation and lies propagated by the regime.

“We say to you, suffering people of Antilla, despise the present and fear not the future. Do not cooperate with those who wish to manipulate your lack of freedom. Do not cooperate with plots to hurt or harass the peaceful Cubans who defend you. Do not spy on your neighbors. Do not cooperate with anything that goes against your conscience or against your interest. Do not cooperate with evil. Cuba will be free and you will have a voice in the democracy.”

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Granma, November 30, 2006. Alexis Ramírez Rodríguez and members of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights inaugurated the José María Izaguirre Independent Library and its collection of more than 100 books. The library is located at Calle Rojas #69 altos, e/ Pío Rosado y Estrada Palma, Reparto El Cristo, Bayamo, Granma.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day					Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
1	8	15	22	29				
x	x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x					Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x				Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x			Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macías (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x		Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
				x	Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x		Reparto Mico 70, Nueva Gerona	Isla de Pinos	20	Carlos Serpa Maceira (Periodista Independiente Lux Info Press)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
	x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
				x	C. General Manno, #361 e/ Campo y Circunvalación, Rpto. Virginia	Villa Clara	10	Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia (Agencia Jóvenes Sin Censura)
x	x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetás	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseiros)
	x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x		x		x	Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x		Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x		Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x		Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x		Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x		Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x			Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)

DECEMBER 2006

Camagüey, December 1, 2004. The Camagüeyano Bulletin has published Volume 4, Number 33 of this news bulletin. This issue features a reflection on Christmas and includes a commentary on publications from abroad regarding crimes of the Castro regime, section, "Your rights, Cuban", and other information of interest.

Source: Luis Guerra Juvier, Nueva Prensa Cubana; Julia Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Holguín, December 1, 2006. The fourth issue of The Free Cuban, an independent newsletter printed by the Eastern Democratic Alliance, is published. This issue features the following articles and columns: "Is there Rule of Law in Cuba?", "Alcoholic Cuba", "Which mission?", "Sculpture to the Mothers of Banes", "110th anniversary of the death of Antonio Maceo", "The cooperativization", "Christmas in Cuba: Past and Present", and the regular section "News Briefs from Cuba."

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Santiago de Cuba, December 1, 2006. The Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement publish the second issue of its newsletter that circulates in Eastern Cuba, Los Pinos Nuevos, and the following articles are published: "It is also December 10, 1948," "Night of Hope and Love for a people who suffer", "Freedom for the political prisoners", and "An interview with Alexis Odio", poems by Michel Hechavarría and Professor Randy Caballero and a Testimony by Juan Carlos Hernandez Hernandez. *Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina and Gerardo Sánchez Ortiga, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.*

Matanzas, December 2 - 10, 2006. As part of the beginning of the "I demand my rights" campaign, activists with the Independent Alternative Option Movement and the Marta Abreu Women's Movement hold a group fast from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. demanding that the Castro dictatorship release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, end the repression against the people, and the need to foster in the Island a climate of peace, tolerance and respect for differences. They pray and read psalms and biblical passages while debating and reflecting on how to obtain freedom for the jailed oppositionists and how to solve the serious problems that affect society. Groups meet

simultaneously until December 10th, International Human Rights Day, at the homes of activists in the provinces of Matanzas, Villa Clara and Holguín, where activists of the aforementioned organizations reside and/or their family and friends, according to the communiqué that is signed by representatives of the two opposition organizations.

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madan, PayoLibre.com. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Caridad González González, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya, Independent Alternative Option Movement.

Havana, December 3, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Cienfuegos, December 3, 2006. Hundreds of stickers appeared throughout the Aguada de Pasajeros municipality featuring different slogans, such as, "I don't cooperate with the dictatorship", "I want change", "I'm not an informer", and "I don't follow". State Security forces and the Rapid Response Brigades that they manage had the job of tearing down the stickers.

Source: Bernardo Arévalo Padrón, Línea Sur Press Agency, Radio República.

Villa Clara, December 3, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party and the provincial delegation of this organization distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the city of Santa Clara.

Source: Idania Yanes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement and Yuniesky García López, Cuban Liberal Party.

Camagüey, December 3, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from the city of Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana to ask for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, December 3, 2006. Activists with



December, the month of Christmas, in which all the churches on the island are decorated with pretty nativity scenes. Here two children pose next to Baby Jesus, placed opposite an altar. Note the crucifix on the boy's chest and his gesture, as though he is showing us the wonder, the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of which was banned in Cuba for over 40 years.

the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a fast from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. to call for the prompt release of Maura Iset González Urquet, who is detained by agents of the State Security at their headquarters at Versailles, in Santiago de Cuba, as well as the release of all political prisoners. The event took place at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, which is directed by Marta Díaz Rondón, at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Guillermo Llanos Ricardo, Alfredo Rojas Gallo, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Nancy Rojas Fera, Andres Peña Pérez, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Arnaldo Expósito Saldivar, Mario Rojas Fera, Bárbara Ortiz Piris and Dayamis Romero take part in the fast.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucia Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Holguín, December 4, 2006. Eastern Democratic

Alliance President Eliécer Consuegra Rivas issued a public statement condemning the government's proposed measures against labor indiscipline. He says that the relaxation of discipline is a response to the low salaries perceived by workers amidst the rising cost of living, act as elements that removes the incentive to work. According to Consuegra, "the government's solution should be the transition to a democracy; that is the solution that the worker, the Cuban laborer, will have to satisfy his basic needs with a dignified salary."

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Radio República.

Camagüey, December 5, 2006. It is known that some political and common prisoners have shown support to the initiative led by prisoner of conscience José Daniel Ferrer García. This consists in commemorating December 10, International Human Rights Day. Over the past few days, they have been reading articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a psalm from the Bible, and praying to God every day until December 10, when they will read all 30 articles of the Declaration.

At the Kilo 8 Prison, fasts take place as well as

readings and prayers. Among the participants are Juan Carlos Herrera, Carlos Luis Díaz and Lamberto Fernández as well as various common prisoners. . This initiative began at the Cerámica Roja Prison by independent librarian and unionist, Lázaro González Adán together with several common and political prisoners.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress in Camagüey and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República.

Camagüey, December 6, 2006. Reports of support for the non-cooperation campaign against the dictatorship by way of spreading stickers pasted around the city reading, “I don’t cooperate as an informer” while at the same time identifying the role carried out by the Committees in Defense of the Revolution in the denunciation of Cuban citizens. The procedures that State Security uses to recruit informers and the different ways that informers, known as *chivatos*, operate, are also reported.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República.

Holguín, December 6, 2006. The Eastern Democratic Alliance refutes the statements of Raúl Castro regarding the Cuban government’s willingness to come to the table to negotiate the so-called “historic differences with the United States.” The Alliance say that the true difference is the one that exists between the totalitarian dictatorship (the government) and the democracy (the people). This is evidenced by the imprisonment of 300 political dissidents, the constant violations of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the discrimination against Cuban citizens who lack access to the services enjoyed by foreign tourists, the persecution of those who think differently from the government, the prohibition of property or business ownership, and many other repressive measures against the people.

The government would need to sit down to negotiate with the people of Cuba. Should that occur, the Alliance predicts success to the discussions.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, president of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Radio República.

Isle of Pines, December 7, 2006. The people of Isle of Pines show their support to the “I don’t cooperate with the dictatorship” campaign. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project distribute pamphlets relating to this campaign to the estimated 87,000 residents of this Isle of Pines and also hold meetings at the Pedro Luis Boitel and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Censorship-Free Video Room at the Ernest Hemingway Independent Library. During the activity, it is announced that the Julio Tang

Texier Cultural Civic Project was the first civic group at the Isle of Pines to unconditionally support the “I don’t cooperate with the dictatorship” campaign, which has been promoted from the interior of the island by political prisoners.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Villa Clara, December 7, 2006. Members of different dissident organizations from throughout central Cuba met for a working lunch in Santa Clara to discuss criteria. Attendees at the meeting included delegates from the Martí Youth Coalition, the Cuban Liberal Party, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Independent journalists from Cubanacán Press were also there.

Source: Idalberto González Gómez, Nationalist Civic Movement.

Villa Clara, December 7, 2006. The Maceo Movement for Dignity hosts an activity to commemorate the death in battle of Major General Antonio Maceo Grajales at the home of Roque Emilio Martínez Angulo, San Cristóbal #453 e/ A y Libertades, Reparto Raúl Sancho in Santa Clara. They discuss the life and labor of this Cuban hero and namesake of this organization who set an example of dignity and decorum. *Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Roque E. Martínez, Maceo Movement for Dignity.*

Holguín, December 7-12, 2006. Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights begin a fast and prayer chain to ask for the release of independent journalist Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia of the Youth Without Censorship Press Agency, who was arrested on December 4. Five activists participated at Calle 27 #26, Reparto Mariana Grajales, Banes; six activists meet at calle 4, #4 reparto Mariana Grajales; 6 activists participate at Banes. Ten activists participate at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #2007, e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero. *Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas and Guillermo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.*

Matanzas, December 8, 2006. Alejandrina García de la Riva, the wife of prisoner of conscience Diosdado González Marrero and a member of the Ladies in White, advocate during the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for

the authorities to “lift the embargo on freedom of opinion, expression and thought that they have imposed on the people of Cuba” as well as the release of political prisoners “so that peace can truly reign in Cuba ... along with love and reconciliation among all Cubans.” Alejandrina makes her public call at Perico, in this province of Matanzas.

Source: Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Alejandrina García de la Riva. Radio República.

Cienfuegos, December 8, 2006. More than 300 antigovernment signs calling for “Change” are pasted on lampposts and walls along the entire stretch of the main street in Aguada de Pasajeros. Many of the stickers placed at a public street read, “I want change, I do not cooperate.”

Source: Bernardo Rogelio Arévalo Padrón, director, Línea Sur Press Agency. Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship.

Havana, December 9, 2006. Forty members of the Ladies in White gathered at the home of Laura Pollán Toledo, wife of political prisoner Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez, to read letters and poems from their imprisoned family members, and to share experiences and other information about the political prisoners. Laura Pollán decorates her home for the occasion with doves and a sign hanging on the front door that reads, “Long Live Human Rights”. Journalists from around the world visit the house to interview the women.

Following the meeting, and in spite of an incessant rainstorm, the Ladies in White marched peacefully with white umbrellas to call for the release of the political prisoners. According to some of the participants, many of those that see them marching encourage them in their struggle for the release of the prisoners.

Source: Melba Santana Aríz, wife of political prisoner Reinaldo Labrada Peña, Radio República.

Havana, December 9, 2006. Members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, and the Committee for Assistance to the 2506 Dissidence Brigade hold an activity to commemorate the 58th anniversary of International Human Rights Day. The activity takes place at the party’s provincial headquarters, the home of Luís González Medina and Luz María Barceló, Calle 40 #2906 e/ 29 y 33, San José de las Lajas.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Matanzas, December 9, 2006. Gloria Amaya González, the 78-year-old mother of prisoners of conscience Ariel and Guido Sigler Amaya, shares a

letter addressed to Yolanda Brito, the vice president of the pro-government Council of Churches of Cuba, in which she criticizes the organization for its partiality, as many of its members defend what they consider the so-called family rights of Castro’s five spies who are in U.S. jails to celebrate Christmas with their imprisoned spouses but at the same time keep silent the atrocities that the Cuban government commits against its own people on the island. She reminds Brito that Christmas belongs to all who have God in their hearts – not just those we like.

Source: Gloria Amaya González, mother of prisoners of conscience Ariel and Guido Sigler Amaya. Oscar Sánchez Madan, PayoLibre.

Villa Clara, December 9, 2006. Activists with the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters, the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, and independent librarians meet to await the dawn of International Human Rights Day at Avenida 31 e/ 12 y 14 #10 interior, Caibarién. At midnight, they all shout, “Long live human rights!” and committ themselves to continue fighting for human rights to be respected in Cuba.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters. Radio República.

Holguín, December 9, 2006. Forty-one activists with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Claridad Human Rights Movement in Holguín meet to pray for the release of all Cuban political prisoners. They also demand an end to the repudiation rallies and the repression against the nonviolent resistance movement. They call on the international community to pressure the Cuban government to free political prisoners, and to celebrate December 10th. They particularly push for the release of prisoner of conscience Lorenzo García Rodríguez, the president of the Claridad Human Rights Movement, who was sentenced to one year in jail for social dangerousness. García is serving his sentence at the Cuba Sí Prison in Holguín, where he is in poor health. All present recognize the jailed dissident’s laudable work, noting that despite his imprisonment, he continues to preside over the organization. The meeting takes place at Carretera Central #45 e/ 5ta y Partazas, Reparto Alex Urquiola, Holguín.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Pinar del Río, December 10, 2006. A meeting takes place to celebrate the Human Rights Day at the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party headquarters, located at the home of Ramón Suarez Díaz, Avenida Borrego, Edificio 32 Apto. 2^a,

Members of the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10 in the municipality of Banes, Holguín.



Reparto Hermanos Cruz, Pinar del Río. 20 persons participate.

Source: Ramón Suárez Díaz, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party. José A. Ballart Ochoa, “Josué París García” Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Pinar del Río, December 10, 2006. Yet another anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is celebrated at the home of activist Rafael Madera Lulo, Calle Celso Maragoto #113^a e/ Antonio Guiteras y Avellaneda, Pinar del Río. More than 25 people attended the event, where some of the articles of the Declaration are given out. They ask for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: José A. Ballart Ochoa and Blanca Castro León, “Josué País García Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Pinar del Río, December 10, 2006. The provincial delegation of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC), and the PND National Democratic Party Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, and the Josué País García Free People of Cuba National Movement with headquarters at Calle Celso Maragoto #143 A e/ Coronel Pozo y Avellaneda celebrate the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The meeting was disrupted by a gigantic repudiation rally in which more than 120 men participate from the paramilitary Militias and the Rapid Response Brigades. It is sponsored by the patrol cars from the National Revolutionary Police, lasting over six

hours. Nonetheless, 18 activists successfully hold their meeting.

Source: José Félix Rodríguez Rodríguez, CONIC; Ramón Suarez Diaz, the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party; José A. Ballart Ochoa, The “Josué País García” Free People of Cuba National Movement.

Havana, December 10, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for their unjustly imprisoned family members and hold their regular march along Quinta Avenida to demand freedom for their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, December 10, 2006. Members of the National Center of Union and Labor Education hold a vigil to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Fourteen members of the CNCSL participate to denounce the violation of rights in Cuba, at the Center’s headquarters located at Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, December 10, 2006. Twelve members of the Cuban Liberal Movement from Punta Brava, La Lisa delegation join other townspeople in



Members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement hold a discussion about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

participating in a mass to commemorate Universal Human Rights Day. They pray for the life and health of political prisoners at the Punta Brava Parish, located at Avenida 249 e/ 42 y 44.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Liberal Movement of Cuba.

Havana, December 10, 2006. Women from the Latin American Federation of Rural Women celebrated International Human Rights Day with a mass in the Our Lady of Charity Chapel in Bejucal Highway, followed by a peaceful meeting featuring a conversation about human rights, at the Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoners Association's headquarters located at Sofia 330, Párraga, Arroyo Naranjo.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Havana, December 10, 2006. Eighteen members of the Cuban Liberal Party meet to watch a video on civil rights and to discuss International Human Rights Day at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona located at Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, December 10, 2006. At the home of activist Hector Julio Cedeño of the Cuban Liberal Party located at Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja, 24 fellow human rights activists meet to discuss Human Rights Day.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández

Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, December 10, 2006. At the home of activist Leonel Sánchez of the Cuban Liberal Party located at Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre, 12 fellow human rights activists meet to discuss Human Rights Day.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, December 10, 2006. The National Patriotic Front convenes a march today at the park located at Calzada and Calle D in the capital, across from the UNESCO offices, with the intention of commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Fifteen people take part in the march. Upon arriving at the Park they notice the presence of military and paramilitary groups. The government had declared Sunday, December 10, "Defense Day", and as a result military brigades are gathered at the park performing military exercises that help conceal the presence of members from the Rapid Response Brigades. "Before they completed circling the park, [the government groups] started insulting them and punching, kicking and pushing them. There are people who know how to hit the activists without leaving marks on their faces. They hit their bodies, their ribs, elbowed them and shoved them, and the opposition, as previously planned, fall on the floor raising their hands. They do not respond to the insults; they know how to control themselves," said

Dr. Darsi Ferrer Ramírez, the leader of the Front and a participant in the march. Ferrer values the way the group behaved by saying: "The fifteen of us shared the dignity of being able to march as we did because 300 people could not stop us. State Security's repressive machine could not stop us."

Source: Darsi Ferrer Ramírez, National Patriotic Front, Radio República. Cubanet.

Matanzas, December 10, 2006. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold a simultaneous activity in various locations in an effort to distribute copies of the Declaration of Human Rights to passersby in parks and streets of this province. Rolando Wang and Valentin Wang in **Guareira**; Andrés Govea Suárez and Pablo Raymundo de Toro in **Jaguey Grande**; Jorge Luis Álvarez García and Fabio Hernández in **Colón**; Luis Amaya and Eufemio Álvarez in **Jovellanos**; Ramón Verdecia in **Cárdenas**.

Source: Jorge Luis Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, December 10, 2006. Orestes Suárez Torres, the president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights in Villa Clara and a member of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, host six other activists with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights at his home from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. They read biblical passages, pray to Jesus Christ and discuss the situation in Cuba regarding human rights and the Declaration of Human Rights. Then they shout repeatedly "Long live human rights!" The event ends at 4 p.m. and the library is located at Calle Jerónimo Caballero s/n, e/ Coronel Acebo y Panchito Gómez Toro, in Ranchuelo.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Orestes Suárez Torres.

Villa Clara, December 10, 2006. Representatives of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters and the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party meet at Avenida 31 e/ 12 y 14 #10 interior, Caibarién, to discuss the significance of this date. They pass out medication and human rights literature.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Villa Clara, December 10, 2006. Members of the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party in Placetas meet at the home of provincial delegate Amado Ruiz Moreno, located at 5ta del Oeste #58, e/ 3ra y 4ta del Sur, to commemorate

the anniversary of Human Rights Day.

Source: Amado Ruiz Moreno, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party.

Villa Clara, December 10, 2006. Political opponents Guillermo del Sol, Luis Azcaño Tamargo, Yoel Espinosa Medrano, Yuniesky García López and Alain Ramón Gómez pay visits to a few of the island's highly regarded human rights defenders—Idania Yáñez, Miguel Cabrera and Guillermo Fariñas—and participate in a meeting with members of the following dissident organizations: The Martí Youth Coalition, the Cuban Liberal Party, the Democracy Movement, the Nationalist Civic Movement of Cuba and the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. This constitutes an expression of unity of the opposition movement in central Cuba on such a meaningful day for nonviolent dissidents.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, December 10, 2006. Activists from the "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights hold an activity to commemorate Human Rights Day at the home of nonviolent dissident Tomás Manuel Pérez Pérez, who lives at Camino de Las Cañas #259, Sancti Spíritus. They read articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and analyze the continuous violations that the people of Cuba endure. They made comments and work proposals on how to disseminate information regarding these laws throughout civil society. They sang the national anthem and then march through the streets of the city handing out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 17 activists participate, among them: Leona Molina Labrada, Edel Peralta Rouge, Elvis Gregorio Pérez Lara, Erin Mena Lara, Sergio Cristóbal Valles Pacheco, Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Adriano Castañeda Meneses, Segundo Rey Cabrera González, Aurelio Cabrera González, Tomás Manuel Pérez Pérez, Julio César Menéndez Rodríguez, José Andrés Guerra Castañeda, Israel Cabrera González, Ilcia Romero Silva, Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito and George Perdigón Brito.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party. "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance Movement.

Sancti Spíritus, December 10, 2006. Five political prisoners held at the Nieves Morejón Provincial Prison in Sancti Spiritus hold a 12-hour fast. Independent journalist and activist with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights Raimundo Perdigón Brito, who organized the event, says that the group prayed to Jesus Christ for an improvement of the human living conditions in Cuba. They read



EFE/ALEJANDRO ERNESTO

Héctor Palacios, a member of the Group of 75 who was released from jail for health reasons, greets some of the Ladies in White after they carry out their traditional Sunday march along 5th avenue in the City of Havana on Sunday, December 10, Human Rights Day.

biblical passages and pray for the unconditional release of political prisoners in Cuba and all who are unjustly jailed.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party.

Ciego de Ávila, December 10, 2006. Members of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights commemorate International Human Rights Day on December 10. The meeting of five activists and independent journalists takes place in Morón at Calle 8, #15 A, Morón, Ciego de Ávila. They read the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They also read passages from the Bible and discuss the human rights situation in Cuba. The meeting was a conclusion of the 40-day campaign that José Daniel Ferrer García called for from his cell at the Kilo 8 Prison in Camagüey.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. Representatives of the Christian Democratic Party, the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement and the February 24th Movement participate with the Ladies in White in the mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey. In this way, the activists jointly commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the conclusion of the mass, the activists meet in the plaza outside the church and pass out copies of the Declaration. They also support an activity taking place at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library. The library's director, José Antonio Mola Porro, has called for this event from prison, and his wife, Emilia Aguilar, is conducting it.

Representatives from other Independent Libraries meet at the Library to discuss the importance of the recognition and respect without subtleties, human rights for all citizens.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República. Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner



EFE/ALEJANDRO ERNESTO

This is December 10, 2006, Human Rights Day, a date celebrated by almost all political and civil democratic organizations in Cuba. Here a group of agents of the Castro regime are trying to stop some opposition activists from holding a peaceful march in a square in Havana. Doctor Darsi Ferrer is trying to support his wife, while behind her the other human rights activists are surrounded by the mob, which is pushing and beating them.

Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. Political prisoners from Camagüey at the Cerámica Roja Prison celebrate International Human Rights Day. They light a candle, read all of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and discuss this document and general topics relating to freedom and democracy. Inmates Lázaro González Adán and René Montes de Oca lead the discussion. At the nearby Kilo 8 Prison, political prisoners José Daniel Ferrer and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta observe this day by concluding the month-long call that began on November 10 of hanging signs on the bars of their jail cells reading, “Long live International Human Rights Day”, “Long live democracy”, “Long live Cuba, free of the claws of the tyrant-in-chief”,

and “Down with exile”. They hold discussions, hang signs of protest and chant slogans of the movement. This provokes that political prisoners Carlos Luis Díaz Fernández, Lamberto Hernández Planas, and Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce be sent to punishment cells.

At the Kilo 7 Prison, political prisoner Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez and Alejandro González Raga fast and pray to conclude the period of reflection called by Antúnez on November 30. At the activity fourteen prisoners participate, defending human rights and praying in particular for the health of political prisoner Normando Hernández González, who is seriously ill. They also sent a denunciation to the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, with the request that it be shared with international



AFP PHOTO/STR/GETTY IMAGES

A government mob pushes the opposition activist Carlos Ríos (above, center) and another unidentified opposition activist in an attempt to prevent a march organized by the National Council of the National Patriotic Front on Sunday, December 10, Human Rights Day. Some 200 henchmen of the regime used force to prevent the progress of the peaceful march.

organizations.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. José Daniel Ferrer García, Christian Liberation Movement. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. The Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, which is led by political prisoner José Antonio Mola Porro, and located at Calle Pasaje C #7, e/Pasaje D y Camilo Cienfuegos, Reparto La Ceiba, Camagüey, holds a get-together to discuss the importance of compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The participants discuss the social repercussions of this international legal document and its overlap with the Varela Project as well as with the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. The nine dissidents gathered pray for the health and release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience

in Cuba, especially for Hernández González and Alfredo Pulido López, members of the Group of 75 dissidents jailed during the Black March of Cuba, and who are both extremely ill.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Emilia Aguilar Castro, wife of José Mola Porro.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. The meeting of the members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement begins commemorating the 58th anniversary of the Universal Proclamation on Human Rights. The directors of the movement and the members present agree to send out an open letter to the Cuban authorities.

In the letter, they call on the government to respect all of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stressing the relevance of Article 19, “which establishes the right to the freedom of expression, in all forms of expression.” They note that this right guarantee that those who sincerely express their opinions be not “limited nor

persecuted, imprisoned or mistreated in any way for any opposition, by any means whatsoever, and with full liberty of expression. To comply with this article, it would be appropriate for the so-called Law 88 to be rescinded. This law was applied primarily to the Group of 75 dissidents arrested in 2003, who ended up serving extreme and absurd prison sentences.”

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. Political dissidents from the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) and invitees meet at the Julio Tang Texier Independent Library in Sibanicú to commemorate International Human Rights Day and conclude the campaign begun in November by Kilo 8 prisoner of conscience, José Daniel Ferrer García.

They read 20 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Psalm 23 and pray for the release of all political prisoners. They also hold a conversation on human rights, freedom and democracy. In closing, they make a modest toast to freedom.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, pray the rosary in Camagüey. Around seven women participate at Calle Palomino No 45445 e/ Línea y Primera, Reparto La Mascota, Camagüey.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, December 10, 2006. The Independent Library The Apostle, directed by former political prisoner Alejandro Cabrera Cruz, distributes copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other texts from the free world to all of its users. The library is located at Calle 8, #25 e/ B y C, Reparto Simoni, Camagüey.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Prisoners of conscience Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista, Randy Cabrera Mayor, Luis Cabrera Ballester and Luis Mariano Utria observes a day of fasting and prayer at the provincial prison during which they pray for the release of political prisoners. They also discuss the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to their fellow prisoners at the jail.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Activists with

the Claridad Movement and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights meet at Cepero Bonilla, e/ Carretera Central y Calle B, Reparto Alex Urquiola, Holguín, to commemorate another anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 23 activists sing the national anthem, read the 30 articles of the declaration and honor the actions of important leaders who have struggled for human rights, including Mahatma Gandhi, Lech Walesa, and Vaclav Havel.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Activists from the Latin American Federation of Rural Women, the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrate the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library directed by Marta Díaz Rondón, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. They distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and call for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba. Eleven activists took part in the ceremony.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist. Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Peaceful opposition activists affiliated with the Eastern Democratic Alliance hold an activity to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the proclamation of Universal Declaration of Human Rights with cultural activities and discussions about the date's significance. They meet at the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Independent Library, located at Calle B #2 e/ A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo, Antilla.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, José Herrera and Juan Carlos Garcell, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Several citizens shout, “Down with Fidel!” repeatedly during a blackout in the city of Banes, at the intersection of Calle Céspedes and Calle General Marrero, right next to a national police station.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, provincial president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Luis Esteban Espinosa, www.PayoLibre.com.

Holguín, December 10, 2006. Activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance hold an activity to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They discuss the significance of this date. The activity takes place

at the home of Francisco Hernández Gómez, Calle Antonio Boisan #25, Haití Chiquito, Moa.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Omar Wilson Estévez, "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance National Movement.

Granma, December 10, 2006. Alberto Moreno Fonseca, the provincial president of the Farm Workers Party (POC), leads an activity commemorating International Human Rights Day. Following mass at the Catholic Church in Manzanillo, the dissidents leave as a group towards Central Park and walk towards the Farm Workers Party (POC) headquarters. However, as they march, they are riddled with insults and threats culminating in a repudiation rally in front of the POC's headquarters.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, December 10, 2006. Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Alexis Rodríguez Fernández together with other political prisoners holds a 24-hour fast at the Mar Verde Prison in this province. In abstaining from sustenance, they intend to demand the release of political prisoners from Cuban jails and stress the significance of December 10, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, December 10, 2006. Ramón Velásquez Toranzo, his wife, Bárbara González Cruz, and daughter, Rufina González Velásquez, begin a March for Dignity at the sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. As they march, they pass out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related material. They march for the release of Cuban political prisoners and an end to repression.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, president, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Santiago de Cuba, December 10, 2006. The Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement meet at the home of the group's national coordinator, Gerardo Sánchez Ortega, to commemorate the day in which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established. Twenty-five activists from Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo provinces attend the meeting, together with independent journalist, Aidet Rodríguez Rodríguez. They walk along the main streets of this city to distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Gerardo Sánchez Ortega, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Santiago de Cuba, December 10, 2006.

Members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement Movement hold a Christmas vigil at the home of Edel de las Vegas González in Reparto Martí. They pray for the health and freedom of Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Guantánamo, December 10, 2006. Political prisoners, Claro Sánchez Altarriba, Andry Frómata Cuenca and Abel López lead a protest at the Guantánamo Provincial Prison in which they throw out numerous signs from their prison windows to communicate Human Rights Day. The proclamations read: "Long live human rights" and "Free Cuba's political prisoners".

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Guantánamo, December 10, 2006. The "John Paul II" Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace Cuban Movement issue a press release recognizing the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The lack of knowledge and undervaluing of human rights have led to acts of barbarity, denigrating the conscience of humanity. The greatest aspiration of man is to be in a world in which humankind is free from terror and misery, and enjoys the freedom of his belief" the statement said.

After expressing the group's solidarity with the work of peaceful dissidents in Cuba, the movement "calls on all democratic governments of the world to strongly condemn Cuba's inexcusable acts of repression that patently violate the country's international obligations" and to demand the release of Cuba's political prisoners.

The movement says the press release, "is working towards the ideals of the late Pope John Paul II, who inspired us when he visited Cuba. We are also inspired by the ideals of José Martí, a true revolutionary, the voice of Cuba in the international community. Cuba should not go on, forgotten as a relic of the cold war, a living museum piece from a failed and discredited system."

Source: Julián Antonio Monés Borrero, press and information director, the "John Paul II" Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace Cuban Movement. Radio República.

Guantánamo, December 10, 2006. Activists with the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement commemorate International Human Rights Day with a march in and around the Martí Park in Guantánamo. They later met at the home of one of the marchers where they have a discussion.

Source: Leonor Padilla Navarro, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.



The Ladies in White march through the streets of Havana on December 10th to commemorate Human Rights Day.

Guantánamo, December 11, 2006. Political prisoner Andry Frómata Cuenca begins a hunger strike from his cell at the Combinado de Guantánamo Prison after he is punished with solitary confinement after members of the Guantánamo Political Prisoners organization sent out proclamations and

are reprimanded by the prison's guards.
Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Marielis Castro, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights.

Sancti Spíritus, December 14, 2006. The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and Marta

Abreu Women's Movement expressed their support for the proposal of José Daniel Ferrer García to extend the days of fasting and prayer throughout the country.

In their cells at Nieves Morejón Prison, prisoners René Gómez Manzano, Roberto de Jesús Guerra, Blas Giraldo Reyes and Raimundo Perdigón fast for 12 hours, read biblical passages and pray to God for all political prisoners.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Idania Yánes Contreras, Marta Abreu Women's Movement. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, December 14 - 28, 2006. A chain of fasts for the health of political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez" takes place in Sancti Spíritus. Each day, groups met at a different location to continue the chain. This takes place at the homes of the following activists: George Perdigón Pacheco, Calle Obdulio Morales #48, Comunidad Las Tosas; Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco, Calle Obdulio Morales #50, Comunidad Las Tosas; Leona Molina Labrada, Calle Obdulio Morales #8, Comunidad Las Tosas; Edel Peralta Rouge, Zona Desarrollo #2, Comunidad Las Tosas; Sergio Cristóbal Valle Pacheco, Calle José Bernal #13 e/ Máximo Gómez y Línea; José Andrés Guerra Castañeda, Camino de Santa Cruz #26, Zona de Aeropuerto; Elvis Gregorio Pérez Lara, Erin Mena Lara and Paula Bartola Hurtado Lara, Calle Segunda #16 e/ Primera y Tercera, Zona Desarrollo; Tomás Manuel Pérez Pérez, Camino de las Cañas #259, Reparto Colón; Julio César Menéndez Rodríguez, Calle Pérez Luna #11, e/ Céspedes y Martí; Ilcia Romero Silva and Irma Gómez Ortiz, Calle Bartolomé Mazo #2 e/ Céspedes y Carretera Central; Adriano Castañeda Meneses, Ismael Conde #165 e/ Guillermo Moncada y San Telmo; Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, Calle Mártires del Yayabo, Comunidad las Tosas.

Source: Ana Margarita Perdigón Brito, "Frank País" 30th of November Democratic Party, the "Pedro Luis Boitel" Civic Resistance National Movement.

Camagüey, December 14, 2006. At the Kilo 7 Prison, political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez Antúnez and Alejandro González Raga lead a fast and prayer day in which 14 defenders of human rights pray for the life and health of prisoner of conscience and independent journalist, Normando Hernández González and sends out a letter to the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, in which they demand the immediate release of Normando and respect for his life asking for the letter to be sent to international organizations.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban

Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, December 16, 2006. The Cuban Liberal Movement's Commission for Attention to Political Prisoners and their Family Members organize a mass vigil to demand that the regime immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and in solidarity with the brave Cubans who were verbally and physically attacked by government mobs as they marched peacefully in front of the UNESCO headquarters in Havana on the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The activity takes place at the home of José Lorenzo Pérez Hidalgo, in the Las Delicias del Diezmero neighborhood. It began at 10 a.m. and concludes twelve hours later with a march to the Rincón Church.

Source: Álvaro Yero Felipe, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship Agency. Radio República.

Havana, December 17, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, December 17, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prays for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, December 18, 2006. Wives and family members of political prisoners gather at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The "Literary Tea" is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez.

Havana, December 18, 2006. Forty members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners. The fasts took place at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro; the home of Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre; and at the home of Héctor Julio

Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.
Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Cuban Liberal Party.

Havana, December 18, 2006. Independent journalist María Dolores Prada distributes pamphlets on the streets of Santos Suárez, section of 10 de Octubre, Municipality of Havana, bearing the slogan “I do not cooperate with the government.” María Dolores Prada is the secretary general of the Light Industry Independent Union.

Source: Aurelio Bachiller Álvarez, National Confederation of Independent Workers of Cuba (CONIC); Víctor Manuel Domínguez, Sindical Press.

Matanzas, December 18, 2006. Nine members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party hold a vigil to call for freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners at the home of political prisoner Diosdado Suárez Marrero, located at Santa Rita 29 y Maceo, Périco, Roque.

Source: Jorge Luis Alvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, December 18, 2006. A total of 24 members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party take part in a chain of vigils for freedom without exile for Cuban political prisoners. They take place at the homes of: Govea Suárez, of Calle Libertad 41 e/ 3 y San Antonio, **Guareira**; Ramón Verdecia Camejo, of Calle Maceo 104, **Colón**; Luis Amaya of Torriente; and Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, of Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, **Jaguey Grande**, which is the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Independent Library.
Source: Jorge Luis Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, December 18, 2006. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gather at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, December 18, 2006. Members of the Cuban Liberal Party hold a candlelight vigil to pray for prisoners. During the vigil, they read Psalm 10, pass out dissident literature, and pray for the New Year, for political prisoners, dissidents and for the development of the work of women within the Cuban opposition movement. Eleven participants attend the home of Yosvani Anzardo Hernández,

Calle 7 sur #1207 e/ 12 y 17, San Germán.

Source: Luis Felipe Rojas Rosabal and Yosvani Anzardo, Cuban Liberal Party.

Santiago de Cuba, December 18, 2006. Belkis Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña pray the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Villa Clara, December 19, 2006. Eight people meet at the José Julián Martí Pérez Independent Library, at Calle 3ra y Circunvalación #20, Reparto Brisas del Oeste, to discuss the book, *Cuba Today, a perspective*, by former political prisoner Vladimiro Roca, the economist and well-known dissident. The economic, political and social situation of contemporary Cuba is discussed which gives way to a rich exchange of opinions.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República. Yoel Espinosa Medrano, Cubanacán Press.

Holguín, December 19, 2006. Ramón Velásquez Toranzo, his wife, Bárbara González Cruz, and his daughter, Rufina González Velásquez, arrive in the city of Holguín to continue their long walk to request the release of Cuban political prisoners. In Holguín, a group of activists with the Claridad Human Rights Movement join the marchers as they walk one kilometer into the center of the city carrying banners with large, visible words painted in black condemning the repression and demanding the release of the political prisoners. During the walk, a mob interferes, instigated by State Security.
Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Radio República.

Havana, December 20, 2006. As part of the celebration of its 13th anniversary, the Democratic Solidarity Party (PSD) releases a statement expressing that today, more than ever, Cuba needs more open spaces to exchange ideas on issues such as the succession, continuance, change and everything related to the Constitution of the Republic. They call for a conversation to be able to begin a broad dialogue on the subject, calling on the people of Cuba to work together so that democracy can be achieved without violence and as part of a national understanding.

Source: National Executive Board of the Democratic Solidarity Party, Payo Libre.

Holguín, December 22, 2006. Lorenzo García Rodríguez, the imprisoned president of the Claridad Human Rights Movement, jailed at the Cuba Sí



The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement of Santiago de Cuba hold a vigil on December 10 for the release of Cuban political prisoners.

Prison, holds a fast to support the March for Dignity that independent journalist Ramón Velásquez Toranzo has begun.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Lorenzo García Rodríguez. MDHC.

Ciego de Ávila, December 23, 2006. The Cuban Foundation for Human Rights published the inaugural issue of the “Dawn” magazine. The magazine contains information, reports and complaints compiled from February to July of this year.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Directorio Democrático Cubano.

Havana, December 24, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, December 24, 2006. Ten members of the National Center of Union and Labor Education organize a memorial ceremony for union leader Ángel Cofiño on the anniversary of his death. The vigil is held at the center’s main offices, Calle San

José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana, in which 10 persons participate.

Source: Victor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center of Union and Labor Education; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, December 24, 2006. The Members of the Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, meet for a cultural and religious activity at the home of Luís González Medina and Luz Maria Barceló, who live at Avenida 40 #2506 e/ 29 y 33 San José de las Lajas. They celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of baby Jesus. They pray to God for a bright and just future for the people of Cuba. They sing the Ave Maria and pray for the goal of the struggle: liberty for the Cuba nation in the immediate future.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Camagüey, December 24, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana, to pray for the release of political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Holguín, December 24, 2006. Activists with



December 24 in Banes, Holguín: The Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrates Christmas Eve in solidarity with Cuban political prisoners and shows its support for the non-cooperation campaign with the signs they are showing to the camera. To the right is a little Christmas tree and the signs opposite it wish Cubans in exile a Happy New Year.

the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrate Christmas Eve at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library in Banes. The 17 people that participate in the celebration, sing the national anthem, recall the political prisoners locked up in Cuban jails and send out a special greeting to Cubans in exile that remain committed to the fight for democracy. They also promote the non-cooperation with the dictatorship campaign, both in Cuba and abroad.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship press agency. Radio República. Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, December 24, 2006. A group of activists gather for dinner and prayer for the birth of Jesus at the home of dissident Silverio Herrera Acosta, at Calle Camilo Cienfuegos 124, Moa Centro, Moa.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Villa Clara, December 25, 2006. Members of the Nationalist Civic Movement of Cuba, the Liberal Party, the Christian Democratic Movement of

Cuba and the Martí Youth Coalition meet in Santa Clara to celebrate Christmas and reaffirm their determination to continue the peaceful struggle until democracy reigns once again in Cuba.

Source: Alain Ramón Gómez Ramos. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, December 25, 2006. The Cabaigüán delegation of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters celebrate the ninth anniversary of the founding of this organization by restructuring the local delegation, which has six members.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Guantánamo, December 25, 2006. Numerous activists meet at the offices of the “John Paul II” Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace Cuban Movement in Baracoa. They pray for the release of political prisoners and screen the movie, “The Public Life of Jesus”. Former prisoner of conscience Rodolfo Bartolemi Cobas participates in the activity and describes his experience in jail.

Source: Julián Antonio Monés Borrero, “John Paul II” Freedom, Reconciliation and Peace Cuban



Berta Soler, wife of the political prisoner Angel Moya Acosta poses in front of a poster alluding to human rights which hangs on the door of the house of Laura Pollán, wife of political prisoner Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Both women are Ladies in White.

Movement.

Camagüey, December 26, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta begins a hunger strike at the Kilo 8 Prison and, during the afternoon, he sews his mouth closed. He is protesting against the cancellation of his end-of-year family visit, noting that this measure came as punishments for his repeated complaints and his refusal to participate in the so-called reeducation program.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent

journalist, Youths Without Censorship press agency. Radio República. Ileana Dánger Hardy, wife of political prisoner Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta.

Holguín, December 27, 2006. The Youths Without Censorship Press Agency honors prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, one of the Group of 75 dissidents arrested in the spring of 2003, by naming him the group's top correspondent during 2006. The jailed independent journalist is serving a 20-year sentence at the maximum

security Kilo 8 Prison in Camagüey for the mere act of informing the world about the reality in Cuba today.

“Herrera Acosta is a tireless whistleblower of the constant human rights violations that Castro authorities in that prison commit,” the agency said. The independent press also lauded three other correspondents, political prisoners José Daniel Ferrer García and Randy Cabrera Mayor, and human rights activist Marta Díaz Rondón, of Banes.

Source: Liannis Meriño Aguilera, independent journalist, Youths Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Granma, December 27, 2007. Members of the Youths of Bayamo, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba visited María del Carmen Jerez, the president of the Manzanillo-based organization, Gulf of Guacanayabo. They agree on coordination between the two groups, without either giving up autonomy, within the framework of the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Both groups jointly condemn the human rights violations in Manzanillo and say they will coordinate on any other activity as they determine.

Source: Gabriel Yosmar Díaz Sánchez, president of Youth of Bayamo Planted Towards Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Radio República.

Villa Clara, December 28, 2006. The Diosdado Aquit Manrique Independent Library played host to a civic and religious activity as part of the congress sponsored by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. After singing the national anthem and saying an opening prayer, those present discuss the current situation in Cuba. Library director Orestes Suárez commented on the chapter of “Against All Hope”, by Armando Valladares, that describes the death of Diosdado Aquit Manrique.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Sancti Spiritus, December 28, 2006. The Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters, the dissident organization led by prisoner of conscience Margarito Broche, one of the Group of 75 dissidents arrested in the spring of 2003, announces the founding of two new municipal delegations in this province Las Tosas and Sancti Spiritus. José Rivero Monteagudo will lead the delegation in Las Tosas and Amaury Castillo, who is also the association’s provincial organizer, will lead the Sancti Spiritus group.

Source: José Ramón Borges, via José Rivero Monteagudo. Radio República.

Villa Clara, December 29, 2006. Members

of the Alternative Option, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement and the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights hold a joint meeting in Báez to express their support for the Alternative Option’s “I demand my rights” campaign.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Guantánamo, December 29, 2006. Political prisoner Miguel Ángel López Herrera, a member of the Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement, begins a weekly fast to take place every Friday that he will use to stress his demand for the release of all Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Leonor Padilla Navarro, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, December 30, 2006. Twelve members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement organize a children’s Christmas activity at Calle Domingo Puente #173 A, e/ Dolores Betancourt y Palmira, Reparto Torre Blanca. Twelve children participated.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Noelia Pérez Cedeño, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement.

Havana, December 31, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners go on their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita Church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They pray for the release of their unjustly imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, December 31, 2006. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attend Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana, to pray for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, December 31, 2006. Members of the Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement meet at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, located at Pasaje C #7, e/ Pasaje B y Camilo Cienfuegos, Reparto La Ceiba. Librarian Emilia Aguilar Castro, leader of the group is drafting a declaration demanding that authorities respect human rights.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Freedom of Expression Solidarity Movement. Emilia Aguilar Castro, independent librarian.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day				Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
6	13	20	27				
x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2 ^a Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x				Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x			Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x		Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x	Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x		Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x	Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x		x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x		Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x		x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x			Calle Carlos Manuel De Cespedes, No. 2007, Banes	Holguín	3	Liannis Meriño Aguilera (Agencia Jóvenes Sin Censura)

JANUARY 2007

JANUARY 2007

Havana, January 1, 2007. The independent newsletter, University Torch, was published. This edition featured an article titled, “A Congress to forget,” describing the annual meeting of the government-run Union of Communist Youths, as well as poetry and a special supplement titled, “Memories of a Congress: the future must be better”.

Source: Néstor and Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Holguín, January 1, 2007. The fifth issue of The Free Cuban was printed by the Eastern Democratic Alliance. This issue included the following articles: “Is there rule of law in Cuba? (Part II)”;

“Independent journalism in Cuba, a challenge for death”;

“A rebellious temperament”;

“Beatriz in Wonderland”;

“The naval base at Guantánamo”;

“Hell within Hell”;

“Human and difficult; and Martí in us”. There were also the regular sections, Echoes from Prison and News Briefs from Cuba.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship.

Santiago de Cuba, January 1, 2007. Issue 3 of Los Pinos Nuevos, the newsletter printed by the Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy in eastern Cuba, was published. This issue included the following articles: “Homage: Words of the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Monseñor Pedro Meurice Estiú, in his greeting to John Paul II on January 24, 1998”;

“Justice and Peace”;

and “Something to Say”. There was also poetry by Randy Caballero Suárez, reflections by Juan Carlos Hernández Hernández, and the following sections: Facts, and Opinions, Economics and Religion.

Source: Néstor Rodríguez Lobaina, Cuban Youths for Democracy Movement.

Villa Clara, January 2, 2007. Members of the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement distributed alternative literature in Reparto Brisas del Oeste and Reparto Virginia in the city of Santa Clara. The works passed out included: *Cuba, a political and social analysis*; *The economy today: salvation or condemnation*; *Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba*; *Bulletin of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights*; *Martí in his own words*; *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; *The 20th of May*; *Now is the time for Cuba*; *I do not*

cooperate with the dictatorship.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 2, 2007. The human rights activists and fiancés Noelia Pedraza Jiménez and Ariel Sigler Amaya, announced that they were beginning a hunger strike to protest the government’s refusal to permit them to get married. Sigler Amaya is a political prisoner at the Youths of Villa Clara Prison in Santa Clara. The two activists communicated their hunger strike to the military general Raúl Castro Ruz, temporarily the head of state of Cuba.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 3, 2007. Members of the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement, the local delegation of the Liberal Party of Cuba and representatives of the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba in Villa Clara met to coordinate plans to publicize the “I demand my rights” campaign, to work towards the release of political prisoners and an end to the repression of democrats and the general population, as well as to foment a climate of peace, tolerance and respect for differences in Cuba.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, January 3, 2007. The participants in the March for Dignity arrived in the city of Camagüey during the afternoon. The march left the Our Lady of Charity Sanctuary in Santiago de Cuba on December 10, en route to the capital. The marchers hope to draw national and international attention to the human rights violations in Cuba.

Source: Tania Maceda Guerra, CPIC. Cubanet. Radio República.

Matanzas, January 4, 2007. The spokesman for the Alternative Option Independent Movement expounded on the “I demand my rights” campaign. One of the campaign’s proposals is to disseminate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to all corners of Cuba so that the country’s citizens can know their rights and then demand and fight for them. They will continue this drive during 2007.

Begun by the Alternative Option and the Marta



Hundreds of activists participated in the wake for Valdés Tamayo, taking turns in the honor guard.



EFE/Stringer

Some of the 75 political activists arrested during a massive repression in 2003 who have been released from prison for health reasons. (Left to right), Marcelo López, Oscar Espinosa Chepe, Roberto de Miranda, Carmelo Díaz, Marta Beatriz Roque and Orlando Fundora, hold an honor guard for dissident Miguel Valdés Tamayo, who died on Wednesday, January 10 at the age of 50 during the night, as a result of a heart attack. Valdés Tamayo was a member of the Fraternal Movement for Freedom and one of the 75 opposition activists who were tried and imprisoned in 2003. He was freed in June 2004 for health reasons.



Companions in the struggle for democracy in Cuba, friends and relatives of Valdés Tamayo surround the coffin. In the center, wearing a sleeveless blouse, is his widow, Bárbara Elisa Collazo Portillo.

Abreu Women's Movement, the campaign has been endorsed by the following organizations: the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights in Ciego de Ávila, the Eastern Democratic Alliance—which includes numerous groups from throughout eastern Cuba, the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom and the Liberal Party of Cuba.

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madán, independent journalist and spokesman for the Alternative Option Independent Movement. Radio República.

Camagüey, January 4, 2007. Ramón Velásquez Toranzo and his March for Dignity reached Toranzo en route to the national capital. Velásquez and his wife and daughter left El Cobre, in Santiago de Cuba, on December 10, and have crossed more than 300 kilometers to reach Sibanicú.

They decided to march to the capital to demand the release of Cuba's political prisoners, respect for the human rights described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and an end to the repression against nonviolent dissidents.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Lux Info Press, Radio República. Directorio Democrático Cubano.

Havana, January 6, 2007. Members of the Party of Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, organized a children's activity to

celebrate Three Kings' Day. The children of party members, political prisoners Hector Raúl Valle and José Ubaldo Izquierdo, and other neighborhood children joined in the festivities. They shared soda, candies, cake and gifts that had been donated by members of the party and others who sympathize with its cause. They held raffles and played games like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. The organizers also passed out children's books donated by the Andrei Dimitri Sakharov Independent Library, where the party was held. The library is located at Avenida 40 #2506 e/ 29 y 33 San José de las Lajas, the home of Luis González Medina and Luz Maria Barceló.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Party for Human Rights affiliated to the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Camagüey, January 6, 2007. Independent civic organizations joined the children's activities organized for Three Kings' Day by the Catholic Church, which included lunches, children's theater, choral presentations and gift giving. The presence of the dissident groups was modest but effective, and the Ladies in White sent presents to the children of political prisoners in Camagüey.

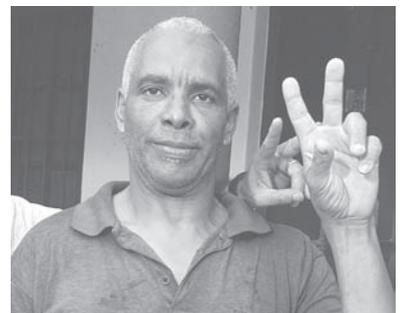
Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, January 6, 2007. Numerous children celebrated Three Kings' Day at the Santa



GETTY IMAGES/JUAN CARLOS BORJAS/AFP

Carmelo Díaz Fernández (second from left) and Orlando Fundora (second from right), two of the 75 imprisoned in the Black Spring of 2003, arrive at the wake for Miguel Valdés Tamayo on January 11, 2007.



Miguel Valdés Tamayo.



Hundreds of children pose with the Three Kings in Saint Ana church in Camagüey on January 6, 2007.

Ana Church in Camagüey. The children received gifts and learned about the meaning of Christmas and the wise men. At the end of the activity, they had a snack.

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz, Free Expression Solidarity Movement.

Las Tunas, January 6, 2007. Seven nonviolent dissidents with the Eastern Democratic Alliance held an activity to celebrate Three Kings' day at Calle Roberto Mirabal #69, Manatí. Miguel Martorell Quiñones led the activity.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, January 6, 2007. A group of peaceful opposition activists hosted a Three Kings' Day celebration at the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Independent Library, located at Calle B #2 e/ A y C, Reparto Pueblo Nuevo, Antilla. The activists José Ramón Herrera Hernández, Giordana Varela Fundichely, Luis Cabrera Ballester and Ronald Ruiz Rojas led the event; 31 children attended.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern

Democratic Alliance. Giordana Varela Fundichely, The Free Cuban newsletter.

Holguín, January 6, 2007. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrated Three Kings' Day at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. They made costumes of the wise men, and then passed out toys, cake and soda. They also played games and sang children's songs. Thirteen children participated in the event.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library; Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Holguín, January 6, 2007. Nine children attended an activity celebrating Three Kings' Day at the Calixto García Independent Library in Samá Arriba.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, January 6, 2007. Eight pro-democracy



Father Cambra of Saint Ana church, in Camagüey, enjoys seeing the happiness of the children, who have just received presents left in the church by the Three Kings.

activists from the Elena Mederos Association, the National Movement of Civic Resistance “Pedro Luis Boitel” and the Eastern Democratic Alliance, joined by five other sympathizers held an activity to celebrate Three Kings’ Day in Moa at the home of Francisco Hernández Gómez, Calle Antonio Boizán #25, Haití Chiquito. Fifteen children took part in the festivities, receiving toys, candies and school supplies.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO). Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Granma, January 6, 2007. Members of the Youths of Bayamo and the Eastern Democratic Alliance held an activity to celebrate Three Kings’ Day at Raúl Gómez #66 Reparto la Unión, Bayamo. The 18 children that attended received toys and school supplies.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Gabriel Yosmar Díaz Sánchez, Youths of Bayamo Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Guantánamo, January 6, 2007. Activists with the Eastern Democratic Alliance celebrated Three Kings’ Day at the home of Mariela Castro, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes #803. Nineteen children participated in the event.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO). Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Havana, January 7, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, January 7, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana, to pray for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: *Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.*

Isla de Pinos, January 8, 2007. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project began vigils in support of the “Freedom without exile for Cuba’s political prisoners” campaign. During the vigil, they demanded the unconditional release of local political prisoners Rolando Jiménez Posada, Fabio Prieto Llorente and Rafael Millet Leiva.

Source: *Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.*

Villa Clara, January 8, 2007. As part of the “I do not cooperate with the dictatorship” campaign, members of the Liberal Party of Cuba distributed hundreds of copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They also passed out pamphlets from the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba and issues of the *Plantados* magazine.

The campaign is intended to boost citizen awareness to discourage participation in the repudiation rallies and state-sponsored public events, as well as to avoid membership in the government organizations and paramilitary groups.

Source: *Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República. Yuniesky García López, Liberal Party of Cuba.*

Las Tunas, January 8, 2007. The National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba (CONIC) and Eastern Democratic Alliance are in charge of running a new Independent Library inaugurated this day in Manatí, Las Tunas.

Miguel Martorel, the CONIC delegate in Manatí and the provincial president of the Eastern Democratic Alliance, said that the groups propose “creating a space in this community to debate uncensored information where lies and hypocrisy do not come between the reader and the written word.”

Source: *Alejandro Morales, Youths Without Censorship. Cubanet.*

Havana, January 9, 2007. The Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation issued an end-of-year report, noting that the human rights, political and economic situation was unfavorable and tended to worsen during the second half of 2006. The report added that Raúl Castro, acting president since July 31, 2006, “has done nothing to improve the critical situation regarding the aforementioned rights.”

Source: *Elizardo Sánchez Santacruz, Cuban Commission on Human Rights. Richard Roselló. Cubanet.*

Matanzas, January 10, 2007. Juan Francisco Sigler of the executive board of the Alternative Option Independent Movement described progress

in the “I demand my rights” national campaign. A few weeks ago, members of the Alternative Option began holding seminars with groups of three to five sympathizers. During these meetings, they passed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and trained them on how to disseminate this document and the other messages of the campaign. Sigler said that the population is interested in the campaign and the rights established in the international rights convention.

Source: *Oscar Sánchez Madam, independent journalist. Radio República.*

Granma, January 10, 2007. A group comprising members of multiple dissident organizations and independent librarians met at a home in Manzanillo at 6 p.m. for a prayer chain that lasted until the next day, when the funeral for Miguel Valdés Tamayo was planned. Valdés Tamayo was one of the Group of 75 dissidents arrested in the spring of 2003. According to the declaration affirmed by the activists, he set an example in the fight for freedom in Cuba.

Source: *Tania de la Torre Montesinos, “El Grito de la Patria” Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.*

Havana, January 11, 2007. Opposition leaders, including Marta Beatriz Roque, Vadimiro Roca, Elizardo Sánchez, members of the Ladies in White, and European diplomats met at the Colón cemetery to bid a final farewell to the great opposition leader Miguel Valdés Tamayo.

In a eulogy for the late activist, independent union organizer Carmelo Díaz Fernández, sentenced to 16 years in prison in the Black Spring of 2003 but free on conditional release for health reasons, described the ethical principles of Miguelito, as they called him, and the altruism with which he dedicated himself to work for a better Cuba.

Earlier, guards of honor by activists from many different dissident groups watched over the mortal remains of Valdés Tamayo during his wake.

Source: *Carlos Serpa Maceira, Sindical Press Agency and director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República. EFE.*

Matanzas, January 11, 2007. Political prisoner Julio César López Rodríguez declared a hunger strike to demand a trial. He has been imprisoned for more than one year without being charged. During his strike, he even refused family visits. He is in poor health in the Canaleta Prison in Matanzas.

Source: *Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Cubanet.*

Villa Clara, January 11, 2007. A group of activists met to establish the Miguel Valdés Tamayo



Some Ladies in White and other activists meet at the entrance to the church of Saint Rita, after taking part in the Sunday mass prior to their march through the streets of Miramar.

Independent Library in Caibarién, in memory of the former political prisoner who recently died in Havana. The library is located at Avenida 41, Bloque B, Apartamento C6, Caibarién and is run by Gabriel Delgado Torna.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, vice president, the National Association of Rafters "Peace, Democracy and Freedom". Radio República.

Havana, January 12, 2007. Activists with the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba inaugurated the Félix Varela Independent Library in Marianao as part of the celebration of the Congress of Libraries organized by the Assembly. The library has 27 members of civil society, whose names were announced during the event. Francisco Borges Robert is the director of the library. In his inaugural message, he said that the library was "a new step in my life... making my dream come true."

Source: Richard Roselló. Cubanet.

Havana, January 12, 2007. The provincial Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, released a statement calling on its members and all those in Cuba who are dignified and love liberty to support the march for dignity led by Ramón Velásquez, his wife and his daughter. The family is marching to the capital from El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba.

The organization is eagerly awaiting the marchers' arrival in Havana Province and promised to provide all the support they deserve and join them as they walk through this province. "Do not lose hope; you will not be alone as you arrive in western Cuba."

Source: Luís González Medina, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei

Sakharov Foundation. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 12, 2007. Members of the Marta Abreu Women's Movement, the local delegation of the Liberal Party of Cuba and representatives of the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba in Villa Clara met to coordinate plans to publicize the "I demand my rights" campaign, that proposes to work towards the release of political prisoners and an end to the repression of democrats and the general population, as well as to foment a climate of tolerance and respect for ideas and opinions that diverge from the official viewpoints.

Source: Ahmed Rodríguez Albacia, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Havana, January 14, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for a quick release for their jailed family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, January 14, 2007. Independent journalist Ramón Velásquez Toranzo, joined by his wife and daughter, resumed their march for dignity and national unity at kilometer 440 of the Central Highway in Camagüey. Joining them on this stretch of the march were Roberto Marrero of the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey and Fidel Gonzalo Palacios Tomás of the February 24th Movement.

Velásquez' eighteen-year-old daughter, Rufina, said that her family was "prepared to face the difficulties presented during the march because it is a peaceful

act.”

Marrero called on fellow dissident politicians and others to join the march or speak out in support of it, noting that the march’s specific objectives fit into the missions of all groups that struggle against the dictatorship. A united front of support is important for this project to succeed, he said.

Source: Félix Reyes Gutiérrez, Cubanacán Press. Cubanet. Marilín Díaz Fernández, correspondent, Sindical Press Agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, January 14, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana, to pray for the release of political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Villa Clara, January 15, 2007. A vigil was held from 8 p.m. until midnight in memory of Miguel Valdés Tamayo, a political prisoner who died on January 10. It was held at the home of Margarito Broche Espinosa, Calle 16 #2518 e/ 25 y 27, Caibarién, Villa Clara.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, National Association of Rafters “Peace, Democracy and Freedom”.

Camagüey, January 15, 2007. Roberto Marrero La Rosa, president of the Christian Democratic Party of Camagüey, issued a statement expressing that the release of political prisoners, respect for human rights and an end to the violence against members of the opposition are not only the primary objectives of the March for Dignity, but are the glue that binds the many organizations that comprise Cuba’s nascent civil society. He ended by calling on all people to join together and declare their support for the march. Because of its objectives and intentions, the march should be adopted by all those who fight against the dictatorship and its horrors, he said, adding that unity and support are very important for this project.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press.

Granma, January 15, 2007. The Miguel Valdés Tamayo Independent Library was founded in Manzanillo; it will be led by Leonardo Cancio Santana. The library’s inauguration took place as part of the Congress of Libraries sponsored by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba and the celebration of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, “El Grito de la Patria” Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Havana, January 16, 2006. More than 20 opposition political activists, including members of the Ladies in White and other family members of political prisoners, attended mass in the central chapel of the Colón Cemetery to pray for the eternal rest of dissident Miguel Valdés Tamayo.

After the mass, Lady in White Laura Pollán announced that there will be nine masses for Valdés Tamayo in different churches and memorial services in churches throughout the country for those who wish to attend.

At the offices of the Cuban Teachers’ Association in this city, a book of condolences was begun for Valdés Tamayo. The Ladies in White, political prisoners and members of pro-democracy organizations all signed the book.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, Sindical Press Agency and director of the Cuba-Miami Information Bridge Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 16, 2006. Oppositionist Yancy Ruiz Martínez said that she would abstain from food and drink in protest after being detained arbitrarily by the political police and accused of the supposed crime of social dangerousness. The activist through persons in solidarity with her sent a note in which she communicates that she had begun the strike to protest what she considered to be a violation of her rights. She added that Raúl Rodríguez Vélez, who was charged with the same crime, was also going on a hunger strike.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women’s Movement. Radio República.

Ciego de Ávila, January 16, 2007. Ramón Velásquez Toranzo, his wife, Bárbara González, and their 18-year-old daughter, Rufina, arrived at 5 p.m. in Quesada, about 8 kilometers east of Ciego de Ávila. During part of the march, the family was joined by dissidents Roberto Marrero and Fidel Palacios. They have walked about 500 kilometers in their route to Havana.

Source: Marilyn Díaz Fernández, correspondent with Lux InfoPress and a member of the Association for the Freedom of the Press. Radio República.

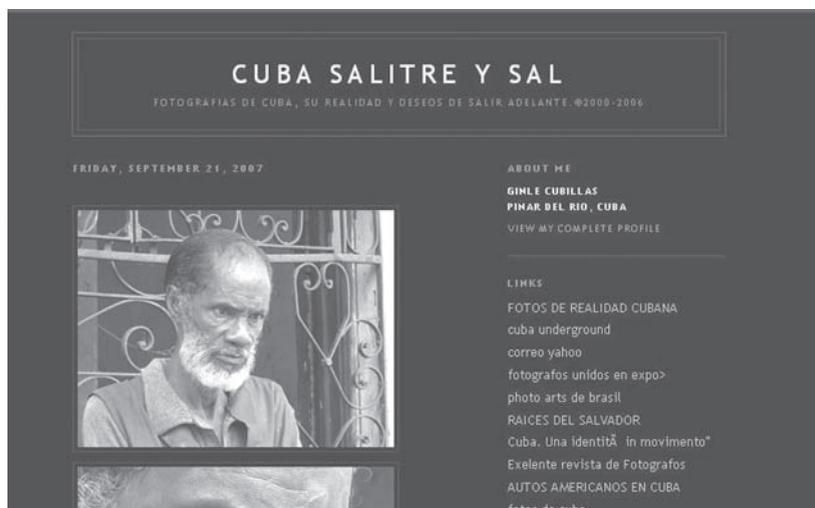
Villa Clara, January 17, 2007. Various opposition groups gathered for a meeting sponsored by the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Independent Library to discuss the entire project of the “I demand my rights” campaign. More than 25 dissidents attended the meeting, part of the Congress of Independent Libraries promoted by the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. They represented the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement, Liberal Party of Cuba, Alternative Option Independent Movement, Pro-

“Generación Y is a Blog inspired by people like me, with names which begin with or contain the letter “y” who were born in Cuba in the 70s and 80s and are marked by the “schools in the countryside” (escuelas al campo), Russian cartoons, illegal exits from the country, and frustration. So I especially invite Yanisleidi, Yoandri, Yusimí, Yuniesky and others who drag around the letter “y” to read what I’ve written and write to me”.



Above: The blog Generación Y, clandestinely published on the Internet in Cuba by Yoani Sánchez. Left: Havanascity, created anonymously, which is dedicated to publishing the disastrous state of the Cuban capital, showing photos of the city and its inhabitants.

The blog Cuba Salitre y Sal published by someone called Gingle Cubillas (could be a pseudonym) denounces the reality of Cuba and its people and “the interest in the arts and in improving life in Cuba” through the camera lens.



Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, Cuban Nationalist Civic Movement, National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom, and the Ladies in White.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Villa Clara, January 17, 2007. A memorial mass was held at 8 p.m. for the recently fallen activist Miguel Valdés Tamayo at the Santa Rosa de Lima Church in Ranchuelo. Members of the peaceful opposition movement attended the event; Orestes Suárez Torres of the Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, called the service; it was led by Father Disley Brito.

Source: Idania Yánes Contreras, coordinator, Marta Abreu Women's Movement.

Havana, January 18, 2007. In an act convened by the Free Union of Cuban Workers at its Guanabo headquarters, members remembered William La Santé, Luis Olirio Méndez and Julio Casielles, who were executed on January 18, 1961.

“The memory of La Santé, Méndez and Casielles encourages us to maintain our principles of free, democratic and independent unionization, an objective for which they gave their lives and served as an inspiration for the creation of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba,” said the union’s secretary general, María Elena Mir Marrero.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Sindical Press. Cubanet.

Havana, January 18, 2007. Wives and family members of political prisoners gathered at the home of Laura Pollán, the wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. The “Literary Tea” is an opportunity to share letters written by the political prisoners and for the wives and family members to comment on the specific situations of their loved ones.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, January 18, 2007. Thirty-nine members of the Liberal Party of Cuba began a chain of fasts in support of political prisoners at three different homes in the capital. The event took place at the homes of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro; Leonel Sánchez, Calle 10, Reparto Capri, 10 de Octubre; and Héctor Julio Cedeño, Revillagigedo #6, Habana Vieja.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, January 18, 2006. The National

Center for Union and Labor Training organized a candlelight vigil to commemorate the executions of union leaders from the Federation of Electricity, Gas and Water Plants in Cuba, William Le Santé Mager, Julio Casielles Amigó and Luis Orliro Méndez Pérez. Sixty-five people from different groups took part in events and vigils held throughout Cuba.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Center for Union and Labor Training; Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, January 18, 2007. The Free Union of Cuban Workers (STLC) held a memorial for William Le Santé, Luis Olirio Méndez and Julio Casielles, union leaders executed on January 18, 1961, in its Guanabo offices located at Calle 5ta Avenida D, #47812, e/ 478 y 480, Habana del Este. The union’s secretary general, María Elena Mir, spoke about the importance of these leaders, who gave their lives and served as an inspiration for the creation of the National Independent Workers Confederation of Cuba. Juan Carlos Hernández, the STLC delegate from Marianao, spoke about the significance of the word, “Change.” Many of those in attendance wore T-shirts bearing this word.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Sindical Press. Cubanet.

Havana, January 18, 2007. Twenty activists with the Cuban Liberal Movement held a vigil to pay tribute to the martyr of the Group of 75, Miguel Valdés Tamayo. The vigil took place at the movement’s regional headquarters in Punta Brava, La Lisa.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Movimiento Liberal Cubano.

Matanzas, January 18, 2007. Six members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a vigil for the release of Cuban political prisoners at the Gustavo Arcos Bergnes Library, which is in the home of Eufemio Álvarez la Fe, Calle 30 e/ 25 y 33 #2524, Torriente, Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Camagüey, January 18, 2007. Around 7 people, including Ladies in White, family members of political prisoners and activists, gathered at the home of Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, the wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López, to say the rosary and pray for all of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Santiago de Cuba, January 18, 2007. Belkis

Cantillo, Amelia García Vega, Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Gerardo Miranda, Yuniel Santos de la Cruz and Norberto Díaz Peña prayed the rosary at the home of Ana Belkis Ferrer García, Calle 7 Final # 318, Loma Blanca, Palmarito de Cauto.

Source: Ana Belkis Ferrer García, sister of the imprisoned Ferrer García brothers and member of the Christian Liberation Movement.

Havana, January 19, 2007. Fifteen members of the Cuban Liberal Movement held a vigil to call for the release of all political prisoners, especially one of the leaders of this group in western Cuba, Alexander Santos Hernández. Santos has been in jail unjustly since 2006. They prayed also for the soul of Miguel Valdes Tamayo, and planned to start a book of condolences for this true Cuban patriot. The book will remain open for one week.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Movimiento Liberal Cubano.

Havana, January 20, 2007. Following Sunday mass at the Angel Custodia Church in this city, 13 family members of political prisoners belonging to the Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners wrote a letter of condolence for the death of political prisoner Miguel Valdés Tamayo.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners. Gregoria Corrales, mother of political prisoner Luis Campos Corrales.

Havana, January 21, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Camagüey, January 21, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church in Camagüey, located at General Gómez #400, esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana, to pray for the release of political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Havana, January 23, 2007. Isabel Ramos, the mother of political prisoner Arturo Suárez Ramos, and Ana Aguililla, the wife of political prisoner Francisco Chaviano González, held a mass for the soul of deceased political prisoner Miguel Valdés Tamayo at the Corpus Cristi Church in Havana. Joining the family members at the 9 a.m. mass was Liberal Party human rights activist Caridad García.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners. Isabel Ramos, mother of political prisoner Arturo Suárez Ramos.

Camagüey, January 23, 2007. José Ferrer Daniel García, a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and coordinator of the Varela Project, announced that political and common prisoners at the Kilo 8 Prison would jointly partake in activities remembering Martí and Gandhi. The events, which will run through January 30, include reading the writings of both forward-thinking philosophers, as well as their biographies. They will recite poetry written by Martí and discuss his ideas, reflecting on his conceptions as they relate to the sad reality of Cuba under the Castro dictatorship.

Source: Ricardo Llano Ricardo, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Liannis Meriño Aguilera, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Camagüey, January 23, 2007. Independent librarians from this province met to commemorate the birth of José Martí. Political prisoner José Antonio Molá Porro called the meeting, which was attended by library directors and activists involved in the independent libraries movement. They read philosophical texts written by Martí, discussed the book, *Boitel Lives*, by Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez, and talked about the mistreatment and abuse that prisoners suffer in Cuban jails, as described in the testimonies of the political prisoners.

In closing, they shouted in union, “I do not repress, I do not repudiate, I do not cooperate, I want change!”

Source: Julio Romero Muñoz. Emilia Aguilar Castro, wife of José Antonio Mola Porro. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 24, 2007. As part of the Congress of Independent Libraries, members of various dissident organizations met at the Miguel Valdés Tamayo Independent Library in Caibarién to analyze the work that the library has completed since its recent founding. They also shared opinions about the words, “change” and “non-cooperation”, and discussed the “I demand my rights” campaign. They observed a moment of silence in memory of Miguel Valdés Tamayo and called for freedom without exile for all political prisoners and for human rights to be respected.

Source: María Caridad Noa González, vice president, the National Association of Rafterers “Peace, Democracy and Freedom”. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, January 24, 2007. The National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights,

Peace, Democracy and Freedom held a mass in memory of Miguel Valdés Tamayo. Twelve people attended the mass in Cabaiguán.

The group also hung signs on the doors of their homes with a black ribbon in a sign of mourning for the death of the well-known dissident. They said they would keep the signs hanging until February 10.

Source: José Ramón Borges, Sancti Spiritus delegate of the National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom. Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, January 25, 2007. The Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project held a vigil in support of the “Freedom without exile for political prisoners in Cuba” campaign. During the solemn event, they distributed information and screened the documentary, “As they saw them leaving,” produced by exiled Cubans.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 25, 2007. Members of the Liberal Party of Cuba distributed censored literature in Santa Clara to protest the imprisonment of Yancy Ruiz, who was sentenced on January 23 to one year in jail for the alleged crime of social dangerousness.

They distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issues of the weekly pamphlet printed by the Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba and a few issues of El Nuevo Herald. When passing out the literature, they commented to each person about the arbitrary jailing of Yancy Ruiz.

Source: Yoel Espinosa Medrano, Cubanacán Press. Cubanet.

Santiago de Cuba, January 25, 2006. Prisoner of conscience Lázaro González Rojas announced that he had begun a hunger strike in the Aguadores Prison in this province to protest the harassment he suffers at the hands of State Security and to demand his transfer to the Mafo jail in Contramaestre, where he is from.

González Rojas was accused of the alleged crime of social dangerousness and sentenced to three years in jail.

Source: Luis Esteban Espinosa, Youths Without Censorship. Radio República.

Isla de Pinos, January 28, 2007. In spite of the threats from political police in Isla de Pinos, members of the Julio Tang Texier Cultural Civic Project and the Isla de Pinos Foundation for Human Rights and Territorial Development held a vigil at the El Abra farm to mark the birth of Cuban Apostle José Martí. Martí stayed at this farm when the Spanish colonial power in Cuba forced him out

of the Cuban mainland.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, independent journalist, Lux Info Press.

Havana, January 28, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of political prisoners, made their weekly pilgrimage to the Santa Rita church at 5ta. Avenida y 26, Miramar. They prayed for freedom for their imprisoned family members.

Source: Laura Pollán, wife of jailed independent journalist Héctor Maseda Gutiérrez. Berta Soler, wife of political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta.

Havana, January 28, 2007. Fourteen members of the Liberal Party of Cuba held a conference to commemorate the birth of José Martí. They read facts about the life of the Cuban hero and discussed his achievements. The activity was held at the home of Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, at Falgueras 413 e/ Lombillo y Pinera, El Cerro.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Reinaldo Hernández Cardona, Liberal Party of Cuba.

Havana, January 28, 2007. A vigil was held to honor the birth of José Martí at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Calle José Martí, Reparto El Diezmero, San Miguel del Padrón Municipality. About nine activists with the “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party partook in the religious service.

Source: Raiza Martínez, “Frank País” 30th of November Democratic Party, Havana.

Havana, January 28, 2007. Members of the National Center for Union and Labor Training held an event to commemorate the birth of José Martí. Ten people participated at the center’s offices, Calle San José #564 e/ Lealtad y Escobar, Centro Habana.

Source: Víctor Manuel Domínguez García, National Union and Labor Training Center. Joel Brito, Group for Corporate Social Responsibility of Cuba.

Havana, January 28, 2007. The Havana Masons’ Lodge celebrated its anniversary with a commemorative event in front of the monument to Cuban independence hero José Julián Martí Pérez. The activists all wore white, drawing a large crowd who enjoyed the cultural presentations by artists on the patio and inside the lodge. The Masons gave a brief history of their organization in Cuba and of José Martí, and a group of them hung a floral offering on the mausoleum erected to Martí in Havana’s Central Park, paying homage to the venerable Mason and apostle.

Source: Leonel Alberto Pérez Belette, Cubanet.

Havana, January 28, 2007. Members of the Orthodox Liberal Party celebrated the 154th

anniversary of the birth of José Martí and the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Eduardo Chibás Independent Library, located at the party's headquarters. Just 12 of the 30 dissidents invited were able to attend, due to the repressive actions of the Rapid Response Brigades that prevented the others from leaving their homes. Yet despite the repression, the meeting went on, with discussions of Martí and the projects at the Eduardo Chibás Independent Library.

Source: Roberto Santana Rodríguez, independent journalist. Radio República.

Havana, January 28, 2007. Twelve members of the Cuban Liberal Movement from the Punta Brava, La Lisa, delegation marched through the streets of Punta Brava in homage to José Martí, marching from the organization's offices to the Martí bust in the Punta Brava park.

Source: Silvio Benítez Márquez, Movimiento Liberal Cubano.

Havana, January 28, 2007. The Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners commemorated the anniversary of the birth of José Martí. During the vigil, they read poetry that Martí dedicated to his mother, Leonor Pérez. They also read biographical information about Martí.

Source: Ana Aguililla Saladrigas, Leonor Pérez Committee of Mothers for the Release of Political Prisoners.

Havana, January 28, 2007. Prisoner Emilio González Peñalver tossed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the windows of Cellblock #3 at the maximum security Combinado del Este Prison.

Source: Ángel Enrique Fernández Rivero, political prisoner. Mario Echavarría Driggs, independent journalist.

Havana, January 28, 2007. The Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, paid homage to the Cuban hero of independence José Martí on the 154th anniversary of his birth. Members met for a vigil in his honor and called for liberty for the people of Cuba and for all political prisoners. They shared information about the life and work of Martí and culminated the activity with a group prayer that their dream of seeing a free homeland "with all and for the good of all" would soon be a reality.

Source: Luís González Medina and Julián Enrique Martínez Báez, Pro-Human Rights Party, an affiliate organization of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Matanzas, January 28, 2007. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party commemorated the

birth of José Martí by depositing floral offerings at the bust of the Cuban hero in Colón. Among the participants were Ramón Verdecia and Jorge Luis Alvarez.

Source: Jorge Luis Alvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party. Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, January 28, 2007. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party commemorated the birth of José Martí by depositing floral offerings at the bust of the Cuban hero in Guareira. Among the participants were Andrés Govea Suárez and Rolando Wang.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Matanzas, January 28, 2007. Luis Amaya of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party commemorated the birth of José Martí by depositing floral offerings at the bust of the Cuban hero in Jagüey Grande.

Source: Jorge Luís Álvarez García, Peace, Love and Freedom Party, Matanzas; Alejandrina García de la Riva, wife of political prisoner Diosdado González Marrero.

Villa Clara, January 28, 2007. Members of the National Association of Rafters for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom paid homage to José Martí with an event that ran from 11 a.m. to midnight. They read works analyzing his achievements, his historical legacy and his relevance in the contemporary context. They awarded the "Kiss of the Fatherland" prize to four outstanding activists from this organization: Osvaldo Gaicendía Palacios, Ramón Norberto Martín Ruíz, Rolando Pastor Cabello Garma, and medical Doctor José Luís Coma Mendiola. The prize consisted of 200 Cuban pesos. The event took place at the home of Margarito Broche Espinosa, located at Calle 16 #2518 e/ 25 y 27, Caibarién.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, National Association of Rafters for Peace, Democracy and Freedom.

Villa Clara, January 28, 2007. A number of youths with the Martí Youth Coalition in the city of Santa Clara met at the home of independent librarian Joel Espinosa Medrano to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Martí. They reflected on the importance of his life work and read some of his poetry. At the end of the meeting, they gathered outside of Espinosa's house to pray to God for Martí and for the suffering nation of Cuba.

Source: Alain Gómez Ramos, Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba. Radio República.

Sancti Spíritus, January 28, 2007. The provincial chapter of the National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom recalled Martí on the anniversary of his birth. In the meeting held at the Segundo Borges Arzola Independent Library, they prayed for political prisoners, read from the book, *Martí in his own words*, and built on the words of Martí to analyze the contemporary Cuban situation. They also discussed plans for 2007 in this province; they said they planned to continue holding candlelight vigils in 12 different homes and to promote the “I do not cooperate with the dictatorship” and “I want change” campaigns.

Source: José Ramón Borges, Sancti Spíritus delegate of the National Association of Rafterers for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Freedom. Radio República.

Camagüey, January 28, 2007. The Ladies in White, the wives, mothers, sisters and family members of political prisoners from Camagüey, attended Sunday mass at the Santa Ana Church, located at General Gómez # 400 esquina a Bembeta y Plaza de Santa Ana. The group prayed for the release of all political prisoners.

Source: Rebeca Rodríguez Souto, wife of political prisoner Alfredo Pulido López.

Camagüey, January 28, 2007. The Julio Tang Texier Independent Library in Sibanicú commemorated the birth of José Martí. Those gathered analyzed some of his ideas, especially those relating to the freedom of men and of Cuba. Lázaro González, labor leader and independent librarian, sent a letter from prison where he has been held for more than two years, sending his support to the meeting's participants.

Source: Marilín Díaz Fernández, Sindical Press, Pro-Freedom of the Press Association. Radio República.

Las Tunas, January 28, 2007. A new José Martí Pérez Independent Library was founded in Manatí in homage to the 154th anniversary of the birth of the Cuban hero. The library, which is located in the home of activist and independent librarian Victor Pérez at Calle Roberto Mirabal #69, has more than 300 books. The library's main goal is to break the barrier of misinformation established by the regime.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Las Tunas, January 28, 2007. Members of the Independent Eastern Workers' Federation and the Eastern Democratic Alliance held a vigil at Calle Roberto Mirabal #69, e/ 103 y Cándido Rodríguez in Manatí to commemorate the 154th anniversary of

the birth of José Martí. Twelve activists participated in the event, which took place hours after the José Martí Independent Library was founded at the same location.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance.

Holguín, January 28, 2007. Ten activists commemorated the birth of apostle José Martí with a discussion of his works at the home of Francisco Hernández Gómez, at Antonio Boizán #25 Haití Chiquito, Moa.

Source: Eliécer Consuegra Rivas, Eastern Democratic Alliance. Juan Carlos Garcell Pérez, Eastern Free Press Agency (APLO).

Holguín, January 28, 2007. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation, the Eastern Democratic Alliance and Latin American Federation of Rural Women celebrated the birth of Cuban apostle José Martí at the Gastón Baquero Independent Library, located at Calle Carlos Manuel de Céspedes # 2007 e/ Avenida de Cárdenas y General Marrero, in Banes. Later, in the Plaza Martí in Banes, they deposited a floral offering at the base of his statue in memory of his birth. They discussed the verses of the poet, philosopher and freedom fighter. Marta Díaz Rondón, Juan Oriol Verdecia Evora, Santo Alberto Escalona Blanco, Arnaldo Exposito Zaldivar, Benigno Pérez Santiesteban, Idalmis Desdín Salguero, Dayamis Romero Ortiz, Bárbara Ortiz Piris and Nancy Rojas Feria participated in the event.

Source: Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women's Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library. Dayamis Romero Ortiz, human rights activist.

Santiago de Cuba, January 28, 2007. The Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy held an activity in homage to José Martí at a bust of the hero next to the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery. Cemetery regulations prevented the youths from reaching the Cuban apostle's mausoleum. They deposited a floral offering and read a letter, a verse from Martí's poetry and some of his philosophical writings.

Source: Gerardo Sánchez Ortiga, Cuban Movement of Youths for Democracy.

Granma, January 28, 2007. Twelve dissidents and independent librarians met at the Miguel Valdés Tamayo Independent Library for a conference on José Martí, given on the anniversary of his birth.

Source: Tania de la Torre Montesinos, “El Grito de la Patria” Independent Press Bureau. Radio República.

Villa Clara, January 29, 2007. Three important civil society organizations joined the “I demand my

rights” campaign. The Independent Democratic Front, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights for those affected by HIV and AIDS, and the “Chicos Libres” New Independent Project joined forces to support this important initiative. The campaign continues to gain support throughout the country.

Source: Ignacio Estrada Cepero, Youth Without Censorship press agency. Radio República.

Holguín, January 29, 2007. Activists from the Cuban Human Rights Foundation prayed for national unity and reconciliation at the Our Lady of Charity Church in Banes. They also prayed for the political prisoners and deposited a white rose on the altar as a sign of peace.

Source: Juan Carlos González Leiva, Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. Marta Díaz Rondón, Lucía Iñiguez Women’s Movement, Eastern Democratic Alliance, Director of the Gastón Baquero Independent Library.

Havana, January 30, 2007. Reacting to the growing number of stickers bearing the word, “Change”, that have appeared recently in the Guanabacoa municipality, the political police began calling dissidents into the police station. As each was being interrogated, the others remained outside, protesting the police tactics and supporting those detained inside.

Source: Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba. Radio República.

Matanzas, January 31, 2007. One dozen activists with the Alternative Option Independent

Movement and the Marta Abreu Women’s Movement met to discuss the course of the “I demand my rights” campaign”, designed to pressure the Castro dictatorship to respect human rights. After the meeting, some of the group took to the streets to distribute uncensored alternative informational material, considered subversive by the regime: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Todos Unidos Movement working program, The Republic newspaper, edited by the Cuban Democratic Directorate, and newsletters of Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba. They also handed out stickers from the “I do not cooperate with the dictatorship” campaign.

Source: Oscar Sánchez Madan, independent journalist. Radio República.

Granma, January 31, 2007. A new dissident organization was born in the city of Manzanillo that will represent the Youths of Bayamo in that city. The group’s representative, Juan Roberto García Guerra, lives at 6ta Avenida #19C, e/ Calle 1ra y Avenida Paquiro Rosales, Reparto Caimari. One of the main commitments of the group is to support the development of dissidence among youth, denounce all types of labor violations and hold activities coordinated by the provincial delegation, such as vigils for the release of Cuban political prisoners and other events commemorating the struggle and those who fight it.

Source: Gabriel Díaz Sánchez, president, Youths of Bayamo.

Vigils for Freedom without Forced Exile

Day					Address	Province	Number of Participants	Source
3	10	17	24	31				
x	x	x	x	x	Avenida Borrego edificio 32 apto. 2ª Reparto Hermanos Cruz	Pinar del Río	20	Ramón Suarez Diaz (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x					Calle Garmendia #21 entre Volcán y Antonio Guiteras, Pinar del Río	Pinar del Río	15	José A. Ballart Ochoa (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
	x				Calle Escuela # 18 entre Calle 6ta y Avenida Los Castillos, Rpto. Fenix	Pinar del Río	15	José Izquierdo Sotolongo (Mov. Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
		x			Calle Celso Maragoto #113a e Antonio Guiteras y Avallaneda	Pinar del Río	15	Rafael Madera Lulo (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
			x		Calle Jesús A. Labrador # 14 entre Julián Alemán y Rp. Careaga	Pinar del Río	15	Alexis Abad Hernández (Movimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
				x	Antonio Rubio #189D entre Volcán y Máximo Gómez	Pinar del Río	15	Mario Pérez Macias (Mocimiento Nacional del Pueblo Libre de Cuba)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 22 #1910 El 19 y 21, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	18	Ariel Sigler Amaya (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle Anglona #759, El Minerva y Mercedes, Cárdenas	Matanzas	12	Eduardo Marcos Pacheco Ortiz (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Edificio 13 Plantas, Pido 10 Apto. 11, Ciudad de Matanzas	Matanzas	6	Rafael Moreno Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Barrio Socorro, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	5	Alberto Sigler Estrada (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 12 # 1280, El 11 y 13, Bolondrón	Matanzas	4	Justo Julio Sierra Silva (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 23 # 1002 El 10 y 12, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	7	José Antonio Pérez Morel (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 21 # 2208 El 22 y 24, Pedro Betancourt	Matanzas	8	Yoeni Junco Sardiñas (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	5ta del Oeste # 58, Entre 3ra y 4ta del Sur, Placetas	Villa Clara	14	Amado Ruiz Moreno (Partido Democrático 30 de noviembre)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 16, entre 25 y 27 # 2518, Caibarién	Villa Clara	6	Margarito Broche Espinosa (Asociación Nacional de Balseros)
x		x		x	Edificio 10, Apto 5, 3er Pizo, Rpto. José Martí, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Noelia Pedraza Jimenez (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
	x		x		Prolognación Martha Abreu, 93C e/ B y C, Rpto Virginia, Santa Clara	Villa Clara	12	Idania Yanes Contreras (Movimiento Femenino Martha Abreu)
x	x	x	x	x	Calle 4ta D #42 Finca Santo Laya, Santo Domingo	Villa Clara	8	Luisa Ramón Rodríguez (MIOA)
x	x	x	x	x	Obdulio Morales # 50, Comunidad Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Bienvenido Perdigón Pacheco (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x	x	x	Bartolomé Masó # 2, Reparto Kilo 12, Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Irma Gómez Ortiz (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x			x	Calle Ismael Saure Conde # 167, e/Guillermo Moncada y Santelmo	Sancti Spiritus	8	Adriano Castañeda Meneses (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
			x	x	Avenida de los Mártires, e/ Maceo y Villuendas, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Osmany Borroto Rodríguez (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x	x	x	x	Avenida de los Mártires # 36, e/ Maceo y Cisneros, Jatibonico	Sancti Spiritus	8	Liborio Apolinar Borroto (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
x	x	x		x	Calle Placido # 51, e/ Calderón y Tirso Marín, Santi Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus	8	Segundo Rey Cabrera (Mov. Nacional Resistencia PLB)
	x				Loynaz 127, entre Martí y José Miguel Gómez	Granma	10	Tania de la Torre (Agencia de Prensa Grito de la Patria)

