

# Steps to Freedom

2001



*A Year of  
Citizen Initiative*



A comparative  
analysis of civic  
resistance actions  
in Cuba  
between February  
2001 and  
January 2002

First Edition: July 2002

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### **Cover (Clockwise)**

1. Opposition activists in Pinar del Rio remember the fallen crew members of Brothers to the Rescue.
2. The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* holds a vigil for the release of organization members detained by the government.
3. The *Independent Alternative Option Movement* organizes a group prayer for the reconciliation of all Cubans.
4. The *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights* in Camaguey meets for its Second Congress.
5. The *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* leads a march through the streets of Havana for the liberation of political prisoners and world peace.

### **Back Cover (From Left to Right)**

*Row 1:*

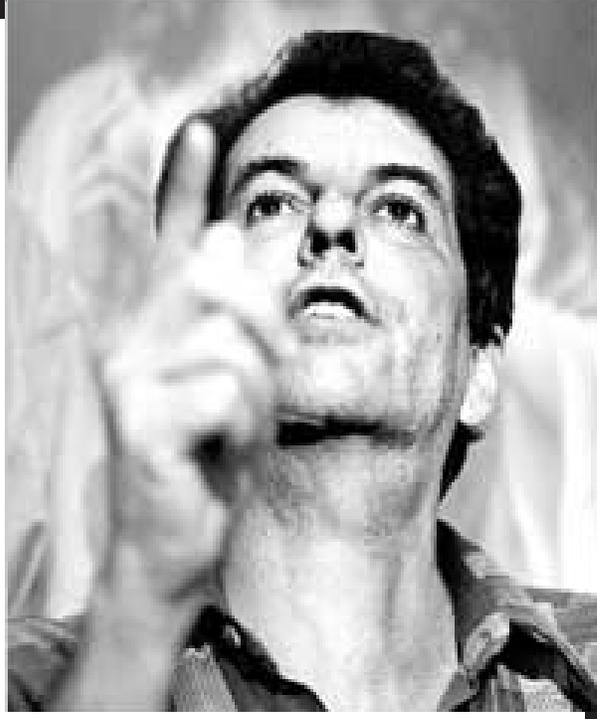
1. The *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* honor the dead at a tomb of 26 executed victims of the regime.
2. The *Ex Captive Club* holds a meeting in Briones Montoto, Pinar del Rio.
3. In Havana, the *Association of Independent Teachers* organizes a children's event.

*Row 2:*

1. The *Pinero Committee of Human Rights* holds a fast in Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines.
2. To celebrate Christmas, the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* gives out free milkshakes to the people.
3. Human rights activists in Matanzas celebrate May 20th, Cuban Independence Day.

*Row 3:*

1. The members of the *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights* make the "v" sign for "victory" at the organization's Second Congress.
2. Activists debate and exchange ideas at the Third Colloquium on Democracy and Democratization, organized in Santiago de Cuba by the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.



"What the government is most afraid of is not an American invasion. It is thousands of ordinary Cubans openly demanding change."

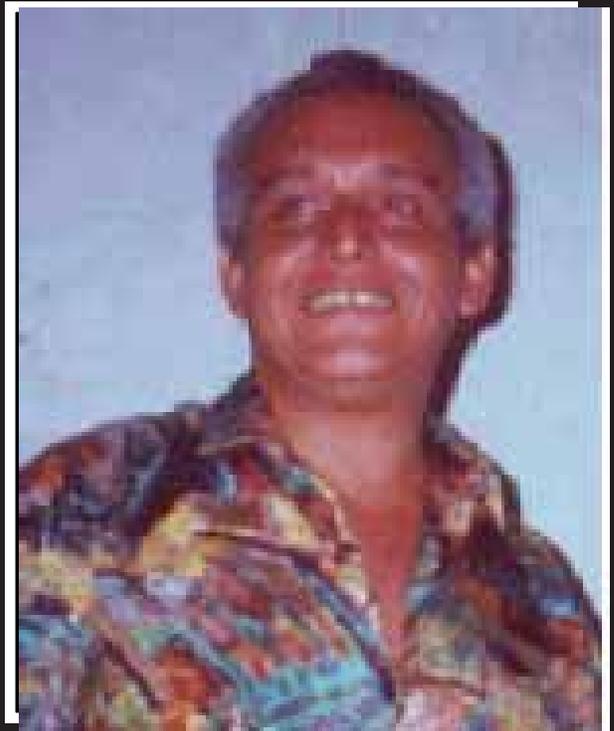
Oswaldo Payá  
*The Boston Globe*  
March 2002.

"The government is afraid of this liberating gesture, where a social vanguard is showing it has no fear. The government is afraid when the people are not afraid."

Oswaldo Payá  
Reuters  
March 2002.

"The opposition has focused on proselytizing, conscious of the role it plays in the nation's historical process. Therefore, as a significant minority, the opposition has passed from the symbolic act to the transcendent work it carries out each day in an industrious and heroic manner."

Jose Ramon Castillo  
Santiago de Cuba  
July 2002.



# Major Accomplishments of the Cuban Civic Resistance in 2001

- Carried out 600 civic nonviolent actions....
- Collected 11,020 signatures from the Cuban population for the Varela Project....
- Garnered support from 117 opposition organizations for the Varela Project....
- Achieved the participation of at least 70 activists daily for a sit-in that lasted 27 days....
- Founded 46 independent libraries....
- Carried out 65 conferences, seminars and study groups....
- Achieved national coordination with the Pro Forum-Pro Congress of the Cuban Nation held in several cities....
- Carried out the massive Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners that included vigils all over the country...
- Created 17 new civil society institutions and 3 new study centers....



Opposition members gather in the province of Camaguey.

**“In Cuba, as in all dictatorships, it is the dissenters who sustain hope and keep conscience alive. On this tormented island, they are the bravest and the best.”**

**Jeff Jacoby, *The Boston Globe***

**“That Cuban dissidents [...] were able to gather the signatures over the course of a year despite having no access to the media and plenty of harassment from security services, is itself a triumph for human rights -- and a sure sign that Mr. Castro’s system is crumbling.”**

***Washington Post* editorial on the Varela Project.**

# Steps To Freedom 2001

**A Comparative Analysis  
of Civic Resistance Actions  
in Cuba From  
February 2001 to January 2002**



**Cuban Democratic  
Directorate  
Center for the Study  
of a National Option**

This is a publication of the **Cuban Democratic Directorate** and the **Center for the Study of a National Option**.

The *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, the Directorate 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 in 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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# Introduction

As this is written, Cuba's internal resistance has entered a new phase in its liberation struggle. Eleven thousand twenty Cubans have decided to adhere to a civic initiative that seeks respect for basic freedoms. The importance of this initiative, known as the Varela Project, does not lie in its content or in the regime's response. Rather, it facilitates the 'coming out' of citizens. By signing it, ordinary citizens have shed their fears and raised their voices for change. From now on, it will be far more difficult for the Castro regime to accuse the opposition of consisting of marginal groups without any representation. The opposition now formally represents eleven thousand twenty Cubans, and these eleven thousand twenty Cubans actually represent many more thousands who have yet to overcome their fears. From now on, it will be far more difficult for the Cuban government to face the contradictions inherent to its own Constitution. The regime's impunity has ended, not only because international solidarity with Cuba's democratic opposition has increased, but also because each day fewer Cubans silently accept the regime.

When the Directorio published the first *Steps to Freedom* report in 1997, the internal opposition movement in Cuba slowly initiated a new phase of its struggle consisting of direct nonviolent action. Much previous work had gone into making this new phase possible. Between 1995 and 1996, the unification effort known as *Concilio Cubano* established the basis for communication and coordination among the different organizations that emerged across the island.

Since the late 1980s, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had served as the inspiration for Cuba's civil rights activists, providing a theoretical framework for their internal efforts. However, in 1997, dissidents made known the "Homeland is for All," that proved to be a powerful ideological instrument in the continuing political struggle with the dictatorship. This manifesto helped to articulate the democratic alternative offered by the internal resistance, as well as rebuke the government's false arguments. The visit of the Pope in 1998, a visit that may have signified a diplomatic coup for the dictatorship in the short term, resulted in the long-term spiritual empowerment of the opposition and the growth of civic defiance. Between 1997 and 1998, civic resistance actions increased from 44 to 100, prompting the dictatorship to pass Law 88, aimed at stifling internal opposition and in particular, the voices of Cuba's independent journalists.

By 1999 the opposition movement in the island had become organized nationally, representing the most popular sectors of Cuban society: youth, women, mulattos and blacks. A majority of the movement had embraced nonviolent struggle as the proper strategy with which to confront the totalitarian state. In that year alone, the opposition carried out 227 non-violent resistance actions. The Ibero-American Summit, held in Havana in November of 1999, was preceded by the Life and Freedom Fast, carried out in 53 localities across the coun-

try for 40 days and 40 nights. Hundreds of activists and sympathizers were mobilized. During that summit pro-democracy leaders were granted important recognition by presidents and foreign ministers who met with them.

Castro responded to all this with a series of speeches in which he criticized the passivity of mass organizations and of 'judges, prosecutors, policemen and State Security agents' for not responding with more severity to the growing challenge of the pro-democracy forces. Castro warned his followers that "if the Revolution loses the consensus and loses the streets, it would lose power."

At that moment the dictatorship initiated the so-called 'battle of ideas,' aimed at taking back the dictatorship's lost political ground. The endless government-sponsored round tables on television, the interminable mass rallies, the Elian Gonzalez saga, and the regime's virulent attacks on the presidents of the United States, Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay, were all manifestations of Castro's version of the cultural revolution, supposedly directed outward, but actually aimed at eliminating independent civil society.

In the year 2000, the internal opposition demonstrated that it could not be silenced in spite of the dictatorship's propaganda and repression. Civic initiatives increased to 444, with a good number already taking place in the streets. From meeting inside homes, activists went on to carry out symbolic protests in parks and marches on the streets. The perseverance and courage of many Cubans made civic resistance an increasingly viable option.

During 2001 the pro-democracy movement has not only carried out 600 actions, but it has also broadened its base of support and taken its message to a greater number of Cubans. Hundreds of activists have gone across the island on foot, on bicycle, without food and under the rain, visiting homes to inform the downtrodden, the misinformed, and the fearful that they can do something to improve their lives, that not all is lost. These activists have managed to convince thousands of Cubans to take that vital step in the struggle to take back their rights.

This courageous step may seem small for those who have not known state terror or have forgotten it. People have begun to understand that authority does not come from an all powerful elite that directs the destiny of the nation. Civic awareness and civic empowerment is beginning to flower in Cuba. This is the bedrock upon which democratic stability and governance must one day be built. *Steps to Freedom* has contributed to this effort by documenting and classifying the civic resistance actions in Cuba. The reports have become a chronicle of a nation's awakening to freedom.

**Janisset Rivero-Gutiérrez**  
**Miami**  
**July 2002**

# Development of Nonviolent Civic Actions in 2001

An analysis of the nonviolent civic actions that took place in Cuba in 2001 presents an interesting contrast with the patterns of civic resistance registered in 2000.

According to nonviolence expert Gene Sharp, nonviolent actions can be divided into different categories, such as **protest and persuasion**, when activists demonstrate to the population that protest is possible; **noncooperation**, when citizens begin to withdraw their active or passive collaboration from state institutions, and finally **intervention**, when citizens can successfully interrupt policies formulated by the elites.

Based on these categories, in 2001 protest and persuasion actions made up 71.8% (431) of the total number of actions (600). Activities in this category include marches, gathering signatures for the Varela Project, banging on pots and pans, and other symbolic actions in the streets and in front of monuments.

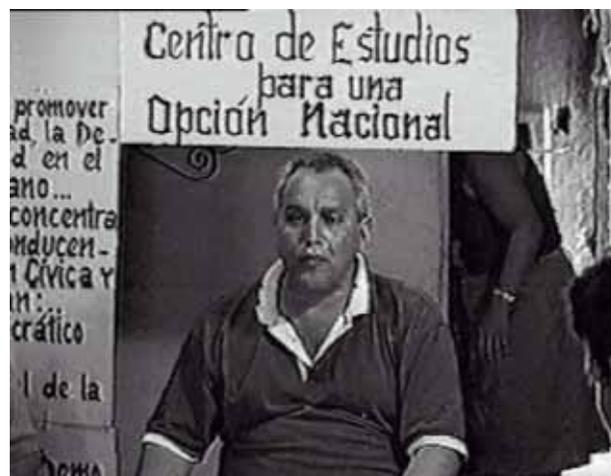
Within the category of protest and persuasion, actions linked to organized campaigns or symbolic dates made up 78.8% (339) of the total. Activities carried out for the liberation of political prisoners, such as the Freedom Without Forced Exile vigils and the Campaign for a General Amnesty, made up the rest of the sample, or 92 actions. Protest and persuasion actions doubled

to 431 in 2001 from 254 in 2000. This increase indicates that the pro-democracy movement is amplifying its public presence. Instances of the general population wearing symbols on their clothing, placing pro-democracy flags and messages on the front doors of homes, and leading demonstrations in cemeteries to honor the victims of the repressive system, actions that were registered in this year's *Steps to Freedom*, further corroborate this increase.

There were a total of 24 noncooperation actions in 2001. Of these, 19 were political, while three were social and two others economic. One interesting example of this type of action consisted of 300 youths



Opposition organizations in Matanzas celebrate Cuban Independence Day led by the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* in Pedro Betancourt.



The *Center for the Study of a National Option* is launched in Santiago de Cuba in July 2001.

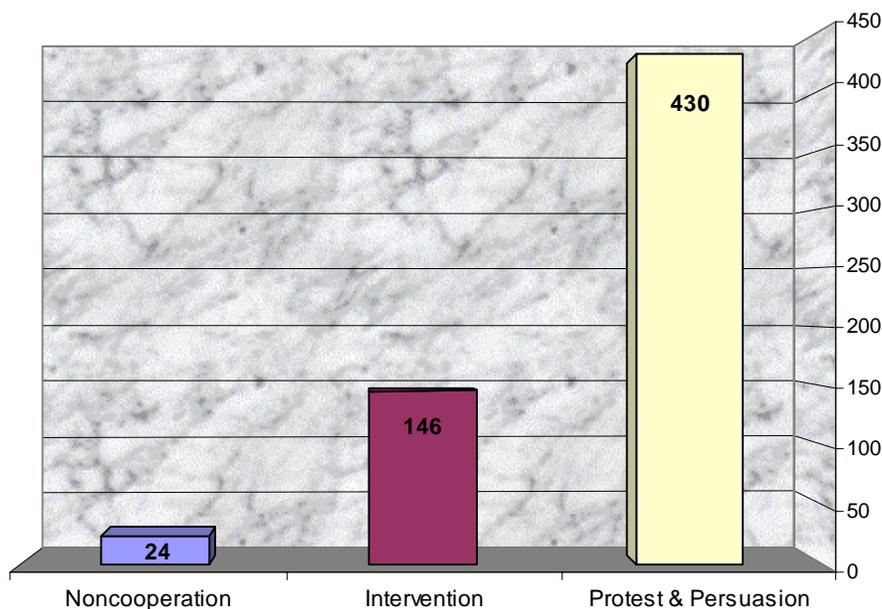
who refused to join the Communist Party in Havana. This action, which is included in the 24 listed under this category, signifies a noteworthy increase in the amount of people engaged in this type of activity. The other 19 cases of political noncooperation were other civil disobedience actions, such as the refusal to cooperate with forced evictions or the arbitrary arrest or imprisonment of activists. The three social noncooperation actions consisted mainly of students refusing to cooperate with the government's political campaigns, whereas the two economic noncooperation actions consisted of a worker's strike and a consumer's boycott.

There were 145 actions that fell under the category of intervention, actions of which 45% (66 cases) consisted of the creation of new institutions. Within this category were included the inauguration of 46 independent libraries, the founding of 20 new political organizations, journalists' associations and other civil society institutions. Psychological intervention actions represented 40% of the total, or 59 cases. Efforts to create alternative systems of communication within the population constituted 5% of the actions, with a total of four newsletters published and three new press agencies founded. The rest of the intervention actions were made up of the creation of new social patterns and physical intervention. Among the new social patterns reported were cultural activities such as three literary contests organized by dissidents, as well as an exhibition of dissident art. Gifts given to newborns on symbolic dates and the children's events held at independent libraries

held in support of his hunger strike demanding medical attention. The protest was supported by activists from different parts of the country as well as by neighbors. A total of 1890 people gathered outside the prison during the 27 days of the protest's duration.

A comparison of the total number of intervention actions in 2000 and 2001 indicates that the total amount of intervention actions has decreased. There were 168 intervention actions reported in 2000, and 146 actions reported in 2001. However, although the total number of activities is smaller, the amount of people participating in the activities has increased. Also, far more independent libraries were founded in 2001 (46) than in 2000 (26). Likewise, 27 noncooperation actions were carried out in 2000 and 24 in 2001. However, the amount of people participating in these activities also increased.

**Types of Civic Resistance Actions in 2001**



in Havana and Pinar del Rio also formed part of this category.

Five physical intervention actions were carried out in front of prisons or in places where political prisoners were confined under critical circumstances. The best known case was that of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, whose family members carried out a sit-in in front of the prison where he was

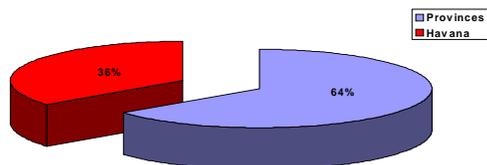
The nonviolent civic movement continues to grow, and it continues to reach out to an increasing number of citizens. Protest and persuasion actions have doubled from 254 in 2000 to 431 in 2001 precisely because activists are still seeking to demonstrate that protest is a viable option. Other types of actions have increased at a lesser rate, although with the significant changes already mentioned.

# Updated Conclusions

**1. Although the concentration of activities in the capital is greater than ever, the provinces have regained their leading role of resistance, signaling the consolidation of the movement at a national level.** Last year's edition of *Steps to Freedom* highlighted the fact that the opposition movement had regained its concentration in the capital, with the number of civic resistance actions in Havana in the year 2000 increasing in comparison to the year before. In 2000, 45% of the documented actions took place in the capital compared with 55% in the provinces, while in 1999, 33% of the actions had been carried out in the capital and 67% in the provinces. In 2001, this tendency reversed, with the provinces once again providing the majority of the resistance activities — 64% compared with 36% of the actions held in Havana.

**2. The movement has continued to diversify.** In previous editions of *Steps*, it was noted that in the past five years, the movement had grown from consisting primarily of human rights committees and political organizations to encompassing other kinds of social institutions. This tendency recurred in 2001, with the proliferation of different social institutions strengthening emerging civil society. The number of independent libraries founded in 2001 nearly doubled, shooting up from 26 libraries opened in 2000 to 46

Comparative Percentages of Civil Activities in the Provinces and Havana



libraries opened this year. There was also a similar number of other social institutions created this year compared with last year — 20 new organizations in 2001 compared with 26 last year. The figures in 2001 decreased slightly, including the creation of only 3 new civic study centers compared with the creation of 8 the year before. However, this decline was offset by the considerable growth of the independent libraries movement. As a result, the formation of new organizations continues to constitute 11% of the year's total actions, the same percentage as in the year 2000.

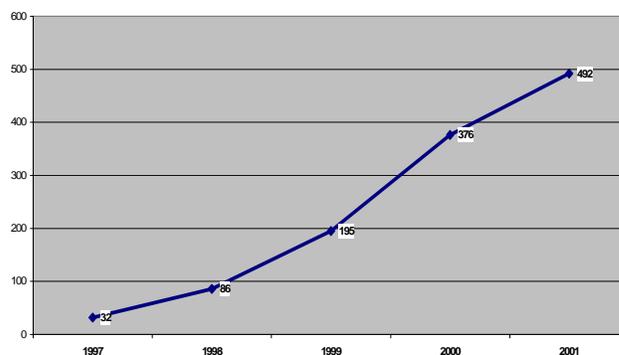
**3. The number of women in the opposition continues to grow.** In 1999, 128 cases of civic resistance actions had been carried out or reported by women, and in the year 2000,

this figure increased to 178 cases carried out or reported by women. This year, the number grew once again as **230 women led, participated in, or reported organized** civic resistance actions. Three **spontaneous** civic resistance acts were also carried out by women. (Table #1) One woman in particular who played an outstanding role in the opposition this year was **Bertha Antunez Pernet**, president of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. In an effort to back her brother, political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, while he undertook hunger strikes in prison, Bertha led several demonstrations, one of which lasted 27 days and received the support of opposition activists from all over the country. Some of these activists traveled to the site of the protest to sit with her before the Nieves Morejon Prison in Sancti Spiritus, while others held fasts and vigils, collected signatures, or attended masses to show their support for the Antunez family.

Still, despite the advances that women continue to make as part of the opposition, it is interesting to note that the total percentage of women to men in participation has decreased over the past three years. In 1999, 56% of the documented 227 actions were carried out or reported by women. In 2000, 40% of the 444 actions were carried out or reported by women, and this year, 38% of 600 actions were carried out or reported by women. These numbers indicate that even though women continue to join the opposition, men are leading the growth of the movement.

**4. Direct civic action has been maintained in proportion with the number of total actions.** Over the years, *Steps to Freedom* has measured the number of direct actions sponsored by groups of the opposition. These actions were planned ahead of time with the purpose of achieving visibility and creating an effect on the population. Direct actions include fasts, marches, vigils, public assemblies, distribution of leaflets, etc. Declarations or public statements that received little dissemination among the Cuban public are not considered direct actions. In the year 2000, 376 of the 392 organized actions had a direct impact on society, representing 96% of the organized actions and 85% of the total actions. This year, 492 of the 534 organized actions had a direct impact on the population, representing 92% of the organized actions and 82% of the the total actions.

Direct Actions



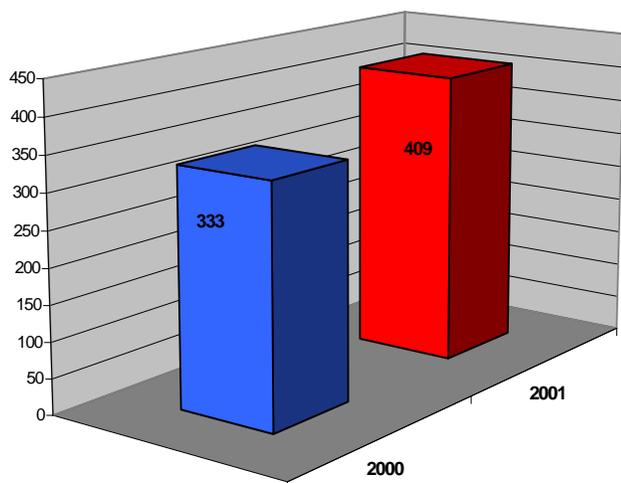
**5. The number of spontaneous actions carried out by the population continues to grow.** Citizens' spontaneous protests normally occur to express discontent with a situation and include work stoppages, anti-government banners and refusal to cooperate with government organizations or initiatives. In the year 2000, 52 of the 444 actions were spontaneous, representing 11% of the total documented resistance actions. This year, the number of spontaneous actions grew to 66, again representing 11% of the total 600 resistance actions documented and indicating that the population's awareness is growing proportionally with the organized opposition movement.

**6. The movement continues to demonstrate strategic vision, creating organizations and projects with the purpose of leveling pressure on the government and/or providing an alternative to its institutions.** For example, the independent libraries initiative has grown significantly just this past year, providing an alternative means of information and education for the Cuban population. In 2001 alone, 46 new independent libraries were opened, including libraries both incorporated into the *Project of Independent Libraries* and founded outside of it by other groups. The province of Sancti Spiritus saw its first independent library this year, and now these information centers exist in 13 of the 14 Cuban provinces. Also in an effort to provide alternative information, the *Cuban Civic Press Agency*, an independent press agency, was founded this year, and the *Cuban Information Center* in Havana was re-opened. Other important social institutions created this year include *Esperanza Verde* (or "Green Hope"), an environmental research and documentation center for the study of the ecology, the *Domingo Ramos Gallery of Alternative Art*, and the *National Office for Human Rights Information Reception*, an information bureau founded in Havana by dissident groups such as the *Independent Association of Doctors* and the *Pro Human Rights Party* to

coordinate the efforts of nonviolent opposition organizations. One endeavor in particular that demonstrates the high level of coordination and strategic vision achieved by the opposition is the Varella Project. Backed by over a hundred opposition organizations, the Varella Project has been promoted by activists of a wide array of organizations all over the island. These activists have gone out into the population to collect signatures and have coordinated the systematic delivery of letters to the Popular Power and to the government-run press to inform them of the people's support for the project. Another nationwide initiative that required coordination across the provinces was the *Foro Paralelo*, or the *Pro-Foro, Pro Congreso de la Nacion Cubana* ("Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation"). This event consisted of a series of meetings of the opposition in different cities and was planned to coincide with the 105<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Interparliamentary Union of the United Nations taking place in Havana from April 1-7. Opposition organizations used these meetings, as the name suggests, to create a forum where they could express their views on the situation in the country. In addition to these initiatives, several organizations were founded as alternatives to their official counterparts. For instance, the *National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba* (or "CONIC," its acronym in Spanish) was founded in February and has functioned to give workers a voice outside of the official union. In fact, one of CONIC's main strategies has consisted in lobbying the government-sponsored CTC for inclusion in its national congresses. Also, the *Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists* was created to promote freedom of expression and information, providing professional training and financial assistance to independent journalists, and the *Association of Independent Teachers* created *Teachers Without Borders* for teachers to lend their services to citizens outside of an official, government-endorsed setting.

**7. The movement has progressed in almost every province of the country.** Activism was maintained at the same level or grew in almost all 14 Cuban provinces. In Matanzas, especially, the number of resistance actions skyrocketed from 19 actions in 2000 to 74 actions in 2001. As a result, Matanzas became the most active province after the capital, replacing Santiago de Cuba as the province with the greatest concentration of civic resistance activities. Villa Clara, the second most active province, also showed dramatic growth, with a rise in actions from 35 last year to 58 actions this year. In addition, Camaguey and Holguin demonstrated a steady increase of resistance activities, particularly Holguin, which went from 2 documented actions last year to 20 this year. The only provinces where resistance actions decreased were Granma and Santiago de Cuba. In Granma, actions decreased from 13 in 2000 to 8 this year, and in Santiago de Cuba, the number of actions fell slightly from 59 to 55. Despite this dip, Santiago de Cuba continues to be one of the most active provinces in the country. (Fig. 2.1 and 2.2)

**Actions Linked to Projects**

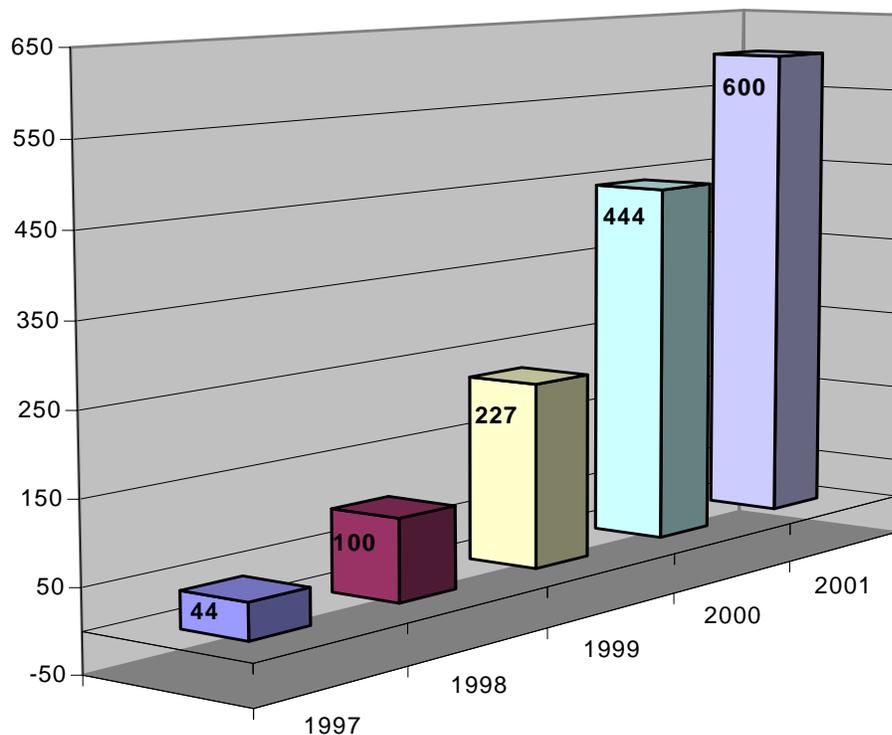


**8. Cohesion and interrelation among the independent organizations continue to grow.** Compared to prior years, there was a greater number of activities in which two or more groups participated. In 1999, out of the actions reported, 163 were carried out in coordination with other groups. In 2000, the number went up to 177 actions. This year, 230 of the reported actions were carried out with the participation of more than one organization. The emergence in 2001 of Catholic masses held every month for political prisoners and weekly vigils for political prisoners held under the banner of “Freedom Without Forced Exile” provided common gathering spaces for members of different opposition organizations. Also, the promotion of the Varela Project, which was undertaken by members of dozens of opposition groups nationwide, contributed to the greater number of actions carried out in collaboration with other organizations. Similarly, activists came together to attend an increasing number of conferences, seminars, and classes on topics with broad appeal to the opposition such as nonviolent civic resistance, human rights, and democratization.

**9. The internal opposition continues to focus on specific projects.** One of the ways in which the opposition pulls its work together at a national level is by using dates of national or international significance to carry out events that express their objectives and serve to raise awareness in the

population. Last year, *Steps 2000* noted that 333 of the total 444 documented actions were linked to a specific project or symbolic date. This year, 409 of the 600 documented actions were also linked to a specific project or date. Although the ratio of actions linked to a project or date to total actions has decreased, from 75% last year to 68% this year, the idea of carrying out an activity under the aegis of a certain project or date, either to rescue an important figure or event from historical neglect and/or add more symbolic weight to an activity, continues to be an important strategy for the opposition as a whole. Projects that emerged in 2001 and are serving to mobilize the opposition at a national level include the Varela Project and the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign (or “*Libertad Sin Destierro*”). This second initiative was the result of a joint effort with organizations in exile to hold vigils every week calling for the liberation of political prisoners, and the campaign has had tremendous success, with organizations of varying tendencies and backgrounds within the opposition participating in these vigils. Indeed, the liberation of political prisoners has emerged, over the years, as one of the most important unifying points for the opposition. It is a consciousness that has been reinforced by the General Amnesty Campaign that was initiated two years earlier and now by the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. It has become one of the opposition’s strongest and most repeated rallying cries.

**Growth of Actions since 1997**



# New Conclusions

(1) **Alternative communications** – Pro-democracy forces traditionally try to develop alternative means of communication with which to put their message out to the public. One of the key problems faced by the civic resistance movement in Cuba is the need to communicate not just with the outside world but also with other provinces, since the regime keeps a tight grip on the mass media. Underground newsletters began to circulate in 2000, in a local and limited way attempting to reach out to those who do not belong to the pro-democracy movement. Three of these newsletters as well as three new independent press agencies were founded in 2001. The hundreds of activists who visited homes throughout the island on a daily basis to promote the Varela Project is another example of the development of alternative means of communication to reach out to the people. The growth of the independent libraries nationwide also constitutes a positive step in this direction, since different communities have access to information censored by the regime in these private homes.

(2) **Increase in the number of people participating in different activities** – The increase in the amount of people participating in both spontaneous and organized civic resistance actions is another interesting aspect of *Steps to Freedom 2001*. The 11,020 signatures gathered for the Varela Project, as well as the noncooperation of 300 youths who refused to join the Communist Party in Pinar del Rio, or the amount of people from both the pro-democracy movement and the general population that joined Antunez' family to protest the fact that he was denied medical attention, are examples of the trend towards an increasing citizen participation in nonviolent civic resistance actions. The difficulties inherent to gathering the information for this report have prevented us from being able to determine the exact amount of people that participated in the different activities; however, the participation of a total of 6,980 people were registered for the 238 actions for which this information was available. If this amount of people were doubled in the remaining 362 activities, this number could easily come to approximately 13,960 persons. A movement that mobilizes thousands of people at a national level cannot be considered insignificant.

(3) **Important historical dates.** In *Steps to Freedom 2000*, a trend was detected that consisted in the remembrance of historical dates that the regime has attempted to either minimize or negate. The pro-democracy movement has restored historical figures that the dictatorship has tried to eliminate from the collective memory, such as Eduardo Chibas, Pedro Luis Boitel and Frank Pais. In 2001 the amount of demonstrations and commemorations of the birth date and death of Jose Marti doubled (15 actions) in comparison with 2000 (8 actions). Taking into account the importance of Marti for the dictatorship's propaganda, the pro-democracy movement's

attempts at restoring his true political identity constitute a challenge to both the official ideology and the propaganda apparatus that upholds it. Another interesting conclusion that can be gleaned from the actions recorded in *Steps to Freedom 2001* are those related to May 20<sup>th</sup>, the traditional Cuban Independence Day, which the dictatorship has tried to abolish from history. The restoration of this date by the pro-democracy movement also constitutes a relevant fact for our analysis.

(4) **Increase of public activities** – The growth of protest and persuasion actions during 2001 indicate that the pro-democracy movement is growing nationally among the population. Of the 600 actions contained in this report, 425 constitute public activities. This amount represents 70.8% of the total. The banging of pots and pans, Freedom Without Forced Exile vigils, marches, and the demonstrations in parks and coasts of the island are an essential part of this type of activity.

(5) **Increase in spontaneous activities** – The fact that the pro-democracy message has been disseminated among the population corroborates the increase in spontaneous activities, or activities not organized or planned by the opposition, from a total of 52 in 2000 to 66 in 2001. Among the most noteworthy of these actions was the civic protest carried out by a group of doctors from Santiago that was begun spontaneously and later became more organized, as well as diverse protest activities that were carried out to prevent the eviction of families in different parts of the country.

(6) **More instances of negotiation** – With increasing frequency, the Cuban regime appears to be negotiating with the opposition, showing greater weakness under the pressure of the movement. Last year, *Steps to Freedom 2000* highlighted 12 resistance acts, either spontaneous or planned, that were carried out with specific socioeconomic or political demands. Information about the government's reaction to these acts was available. (There were many other protests made with specific demands, but the results were unknown.) Of these 12 documented acts, 4 were repressed. This year, *Steps to Freedom* once again highlighted 12 resistance acts made with specific demands. Of these acts, the government repressed only one. (Table #3). Every other case was met with some kind of compromise or negotiation on the government's behalf.

The activities of the pro-democracy movement during 2001 showed systematic growth, with the movement continuing to expand its base of support among the general population. This phase necessitates a greater public presence for the opposition as well as an improvement in the communications between the opposition and the general population.

Figure #1 : Total Growth of Actions

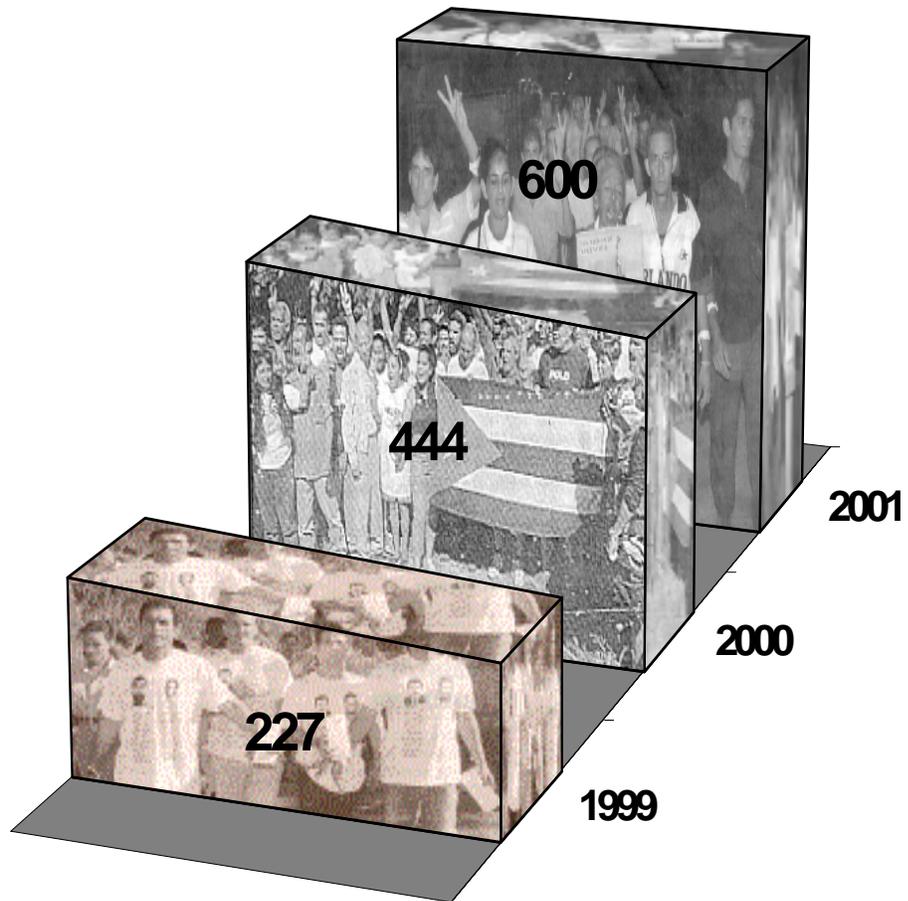
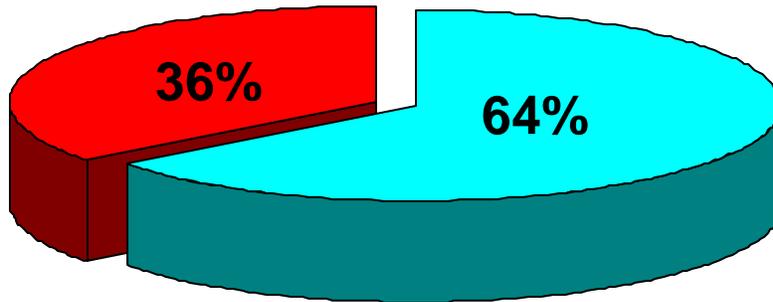


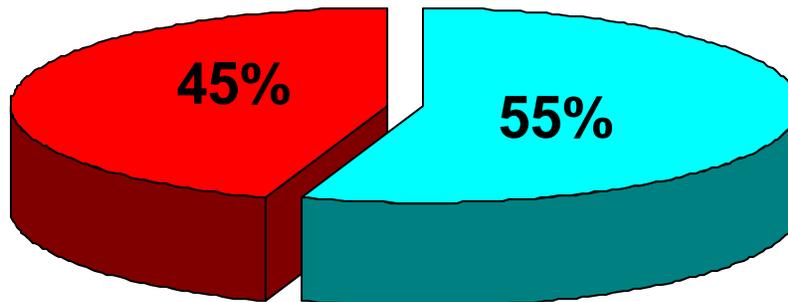
Figure #2: Comparative Percentages of Civil Activities in the Provinces and Havana



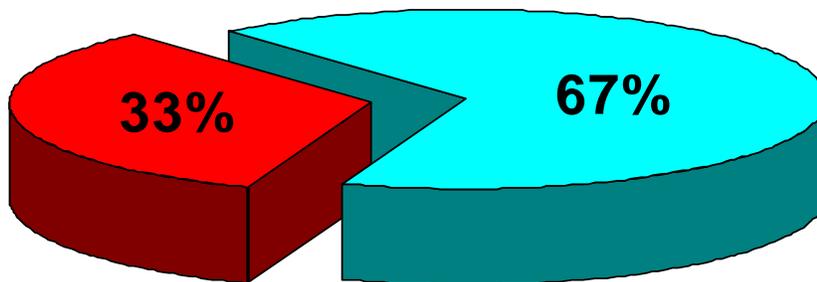
**2001**



**2000**



**1999**



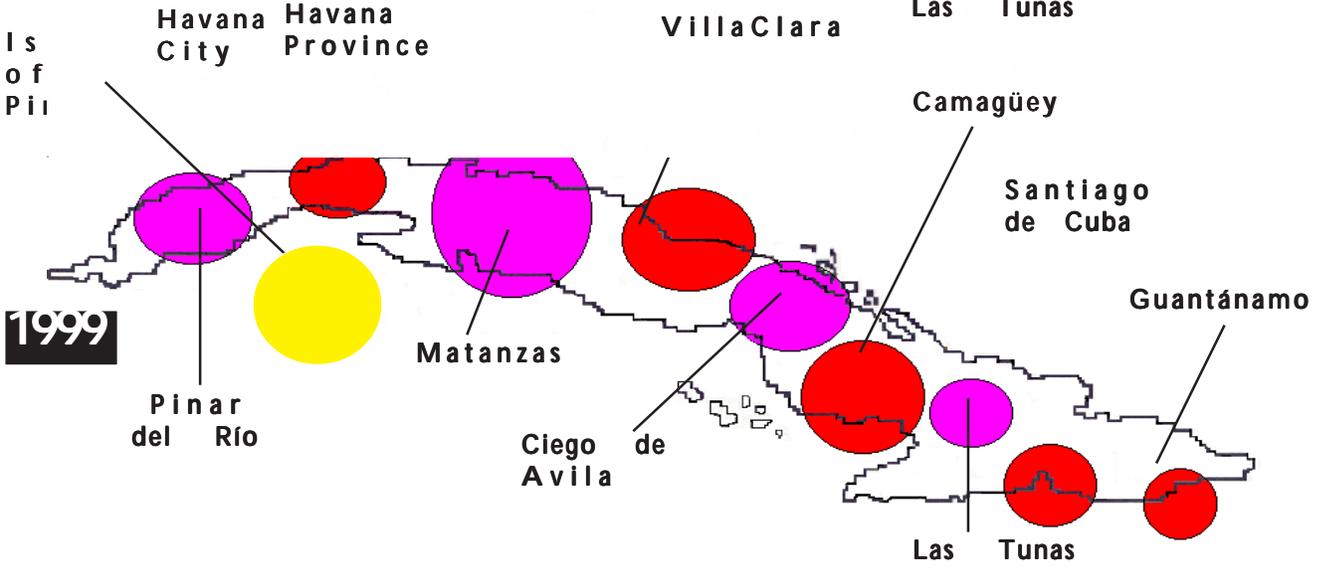
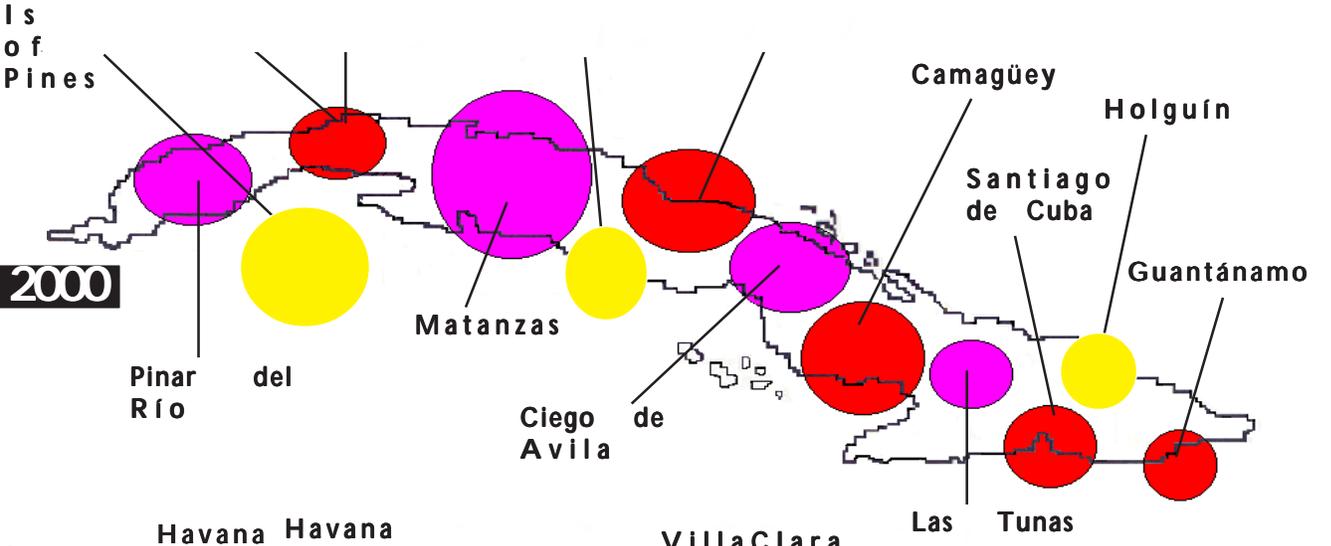
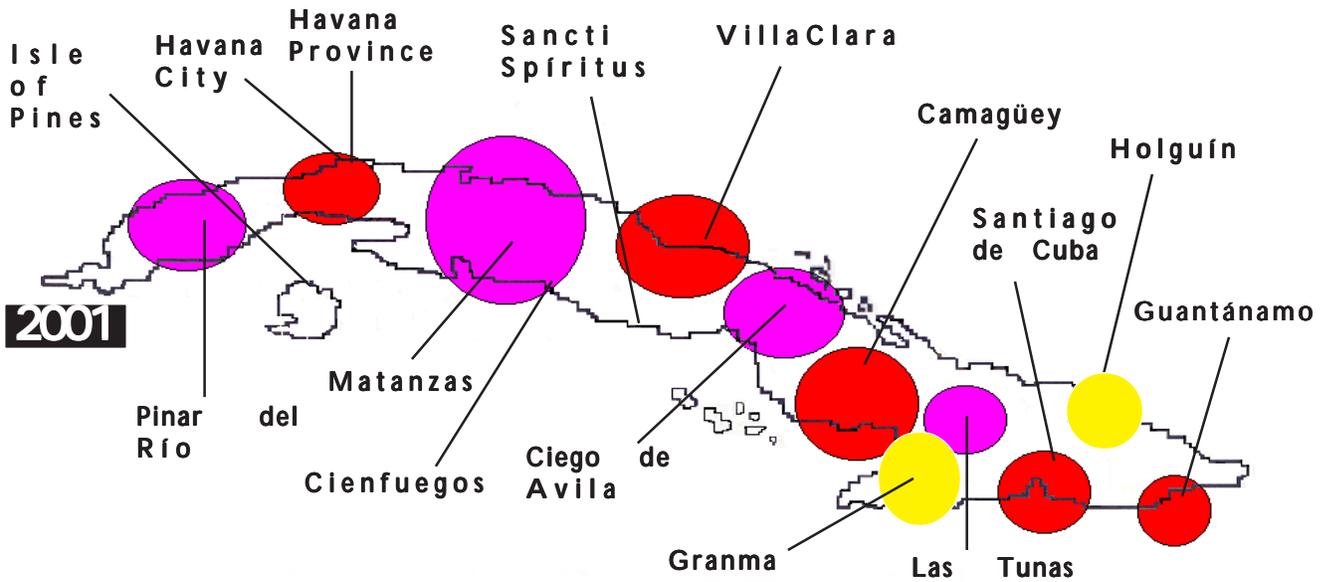
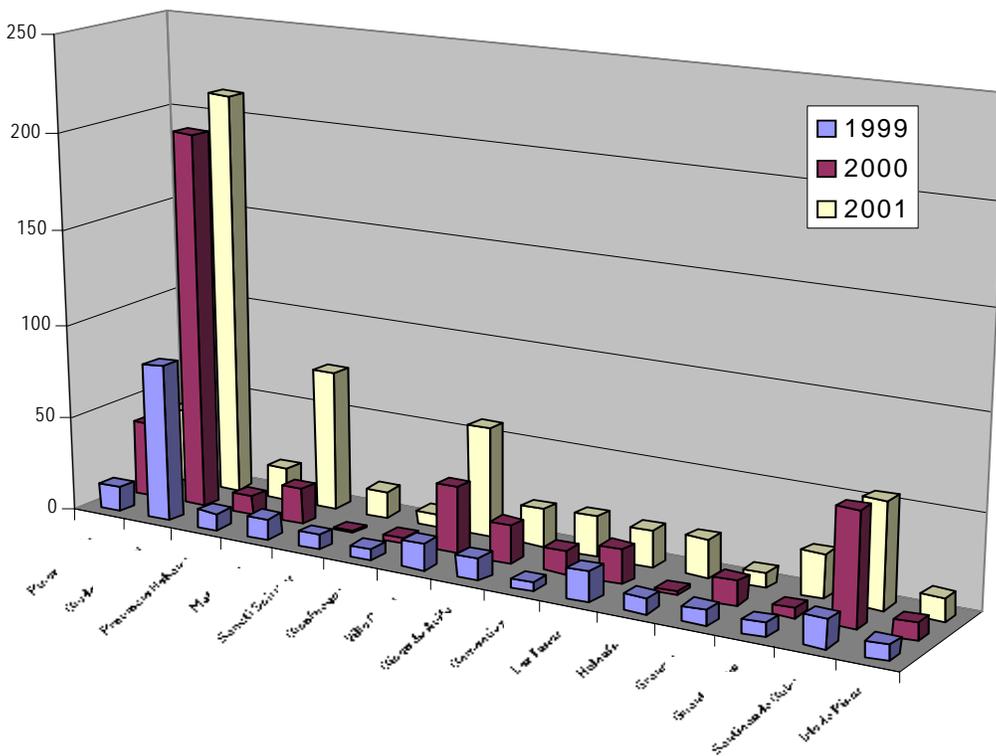
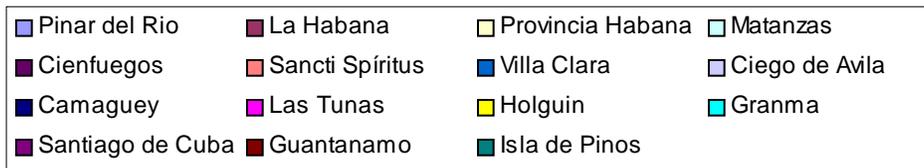
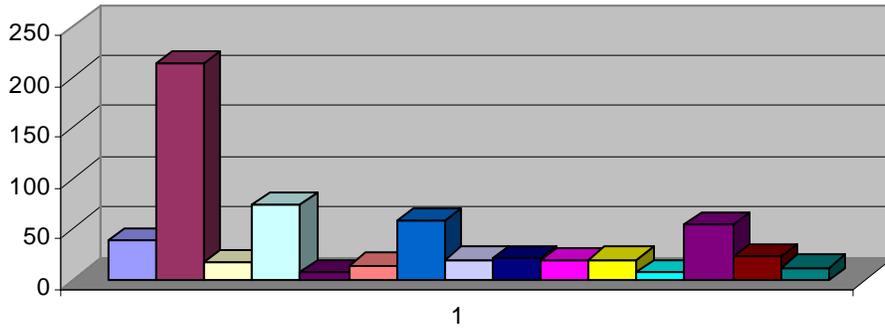


Figure 2.1: Increase in Number of Major Opposition Activity Zones

# Fig. #2.2 Comparison of Civic Actions Per Province



## Table #1. Women Leaders of the Civic Opposition

NAME	ORGANIZATION OR ACTIVITY
Adalis Garcia de la Riva	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Adela Soto	Independent Library Director
Aleida Frometa Gonzalez	Mother of Political Prisoner Andres Frometa Cuenca
Aleida Godinez Soler	National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba
Alejandrina Garcia de la Riva	NotiCuba
Alicia Zamora Labrada	National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba
Alida Viso Bello	Independent Journalist
Alina Alvarez Cabrera	Independent Library Director
Amarilis Hernandez Rodriguez	Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement
Ana Aguillilla Saladrigas	Wife of Political Prisoner Francisco Chaviano Gonzalez
Ana Iris Cabrera de la Riva	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Barbara de la Riva Linares	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Beatriz del Carmen Pedroso Leon	Independent Library Director
Berta Peraga	Independent Library Director
Bertha Antunez Pernet	Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement
Caridad Diaz Beltran	Lux InfoPress
Cecilia Chavez	National Confederation of Independent Workers
Dorka de Cespedes	HavanaPress
Elizabeth Pruneda Balmaseda	Independent Library Director
Fara Armenteros	UPECI
Felicia Matas Machado	Activist – Villa Clara
Gladys Linares	Feminine Humanitarian Front
Gloria Esther Cabrera Lara	Mother of Political Prisoner Ernesto Lucas Corral Cabrera
Graciela Alfonso	NotiCuba
Helaine Ibarra	Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement
Ines Guerra Ochoa	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Lazara Marti Lopez	Independent Library Director
Maqalys Lopez Garcia	Independent Library Director
Maria de los Angeles Menendez	Jesus Yanez Pelletier Foundation
Maria Elena Alpizar	NotiCuba
Maria Elena Rodriguez	Independent Journalist
Maria Luz Jimenez	Pro Human Rights Party
Maritza Lujo Fernandez	Frank Pais 30 <sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party
Maritza Alvarez Carrazana	Independent Library Director
Maritza Quintana Pardo	Activist – Ciego de Avila
Marta de la Riva Linares	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello	Cuban Institute of Independent Economists
Migdalia Rosado	Tamarindo 34 Human Rights
Mirelis Noda Ramos	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Moraima Pires	Grupo Decoro
Noemi Sanchez	Independent Library Director
Ohalys Victore	Cuba-Voz
Olga Rita Ramirez Delgado	Cuban Center of Information
Onelia Silver Sarmiento	Center of Pro Human Rights Veterans
Orlin Yanez	Jesus Yanez Pelletier Foundation
Sunset Noguerras Rofes	Independent Journalist
Teresa Diaz Zulueta	Peace, Love and Freedom Party
Vivian Acosta Suarez	Activist – Santiago de Cuba
Yeny Cesar Linares	Cuban Feminine Unity
Yunaibis Castillo Betancourt	Wife of Political Prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina

Table #2. Activities Linked to Projects and Symbolic Dates

	<i>Projects and Symbolic Dates</i>	<i>Actions</i>
1	<i>Inauguration of independent libraries</i>	46
2	<i>General Amnesty for political prisoners</i>	19
3	<i>Support for Jorge Luis Garcia Perez “Antunez”</i>	17
4	<i>Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign</i>	39
5	<i>Varela Project</i>	28
6	<i>Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation</i>	5
7	<i>July 13<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of 13th of March Tugboat Sinking</i>	41
8	<i>May 20<sup>th</sup> – Cuban Independence Day</i>	3
9	<i>Pedro Luis Boitel Campaign</i>	19
10	<i>Memorials for September 11<sup>th</sup> victims</i>	8
11	<i>February 24<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of the Independence War and Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down</i>	20
12	<i>December 10<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>	25
13	<i>Anniversary of the 40-day Tamarindo 34 Fast</i>	5
14	<i>January 28<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of Jose Marti’s Birth</i>	15
15	<i>October 10<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of the 10-Year War</i>	2
16	<i>Literary contests</i>	3
17	<i>Acuarela Project (for children)</i>	1
18	<i>Courses for independent journalists</i>	8
19	<i>Donation of supplies to newborns</i>	2
20	<i>Conferences, seminars, study groups, etc.</i>	65
21	<i>Masses for political prisoners</i>	11
22	<i>Fasts and hunger strikes</i>	27
	<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>

## Table #3. Protests with Specific Demands and Results

Date	Type of Action	Negotiation	Results
	<b>Socioeconomic</b>		
Feb. 1, 2001	Neighborhood residents refuse to buy milk rations because of a price increase.	Yes	The government reduces the cost to the original amount.
June 8, 2001	More than 40 people board a bus by force in protest of the shortage of bus tickets.	Yes	The bus is allowed to leave with all the passengers.
June 25, 2001	Dozens of neighbors protest a family's eviction.	No	The protest is repressed and several protesters are arrested.
July 12, 2001	Workers at a cigar factory refuse to cooperate with managers to take disciplinary action against a co-worker.	Yes	The worker is not punished.
Sept. 17, 2001	Opposition activists join in the protests of self-employed workers ( <i>cuentalpropistas</i> ) to lift the government's ban on selling produce directly to the public.	Yes	The ban is lifted.
	<b>Political</b>		
Feb. 1, 2001	Political prisoner Antunez begins a hunger strike to demand medical treatment for an illness. His sister, Bertha Antunez, also begins a hunger strike to support him.	Yes	The authorities promise to give him specialized medical treatment but do not follow through.
April 1-27, 2001	Antunez begins another hunger strike demanding medical treatment. Bertha Antunez leads a protest outside the prison and is backed by activists from all over the country.	Yes	His demands are met.
May 11, 2001	Fifty dissidents assemble at a court in Havana the day of activist Jose Orlando Gonzalez Bridon's trial.	Yes	The trial is postponed.
Aug. 22, 2001	Yunaibis Castillo Betancourt, wife of prisoner of conscience Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, threatens to begin a hunger strike if Nestor is not transferred to a hospital.	Yes	The authorities promise to meet her demands.
Nov. 29, 2001	Six activists carry out a hunger strike to demand that Aleida Frometa Gonzalez be allowed to see her son, political prisoner Andres Frometa Cuenca.	Yes	After two days of protest, she is allowed to see him.
Jan. 22, 2002	Activists sit in front of the offices of the Popular Power and refuse to leave until they speak to officials about ending the repression against the Varela Project	Yes	Officials promise to investigate the problem.
Jan. 23, 2002	Three opposition leaders stand outside a police station to demand the release of a detained independent journalist.	Yes	After six hours, the journalist is released.

## CIVIC RESISTANCE ACTIONS IN CUBA

### **February 1, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Heberto Padilla Independent Library* was founded in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, 1<sup>st</sup> Street #28, between C & D Street, neighborhood of El Rosario. Magalys Lopez Garcia was chosen as the new library director.

Source: Gisela Delgado Sablon, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Havana.** Hundreds of residents of the rural municipality Santa Cruz del Norte, province of Havana, refused to buy milk rations because of a price increase. In the towns of Cundini, Machado, Valle Elena, Jibacoa, and San Juan, the people refused to pay for their rationed amounts, the price of which had been raised from 25 cents to one peso. They protested openly about the price hike. After several days of tension, the government once again reduced the price to the original cost.

Source: Moraima Pires, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

### **Matanzas.** The *General Pedro Betancourt Avalos*

*Independent Library* was founded at 22nd Street #1910 B, between 19th and 21st Street, municipality of Pedro Betancourt. Miguel Sigler Amaya was named library director.

Source: Gisela Delgado Sablon, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Santa Clara, Villa Clara.** The *Marta Abreu Independent Library* was founded at 3rd Street #83, between 2nd and A, neighborhood of Virginia. Mario Osvaldo Ruiz Fleites was named director.

Source: Gisela Delgado Sablon, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Sancti Spiritus.** Political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez began a hunger strike to protest the refusal of prison authorities to provide him with adequate medical treatment for a respiratory condition. He was transferred to a provincial hospital rather than taken to a hospital in Havana where he could receive the specialized treatment he needed for his condition.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

### **February 2, 2001**

**Havana.** While confined in the prisoners' ward of the Carlos J. Finlay Military Hospital, prisoner of conscience Rafael Ibarra Roque, president of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*, began a hunger strike to demand medical attention for his wife, well-known activist Maritza Lugo Fernandez. Vice president of the same organization, she had been imprisoned at the Manto Negro Prison in Havana since December 15.

Source: Ruben Rodriguez, Agencia Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Villa Clara.** Jose Artiles, resident of the city of Santa Clara, painted a sign on his door that read, "Revolution yes, demagoguery no," as well as other epithets against dictator Fidel Castro. The signs had been painted by noon, and neighbors and passersby congregated outside Artiles' home. He was detained for a few days and then released.

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, CNP. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **February 3, 2001**

**Havana.** Julio Borges of the *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement* led a conference on civil disobedience attended by 41 opposition activists from different organizations. The conference was held in the home of Lissi Rico Cantillo on Street B #171, La Guinera district, in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, in Havana. Members participated from the following organizations: *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement, Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party, National Opposition Union, Arroyo Naranjo Group of Support for the Internal Dissidence, Association of Political Prisoners, Cuban Feminine Unity, 13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement, Nationalist Agenda, Cuban Popular Party, Democratic Solidarity Party, Cuban Socialist Democratic Movement, Cuban Liberal Movement, Humanitarian Committee of Help for Prisoners and their Families, Confederation of Democratic Cuban Workers* and *Naturpaz*. The conference proposed various alternatives to create civic resistance for a government. It was sponsored by the *Liberal Institute Francisco de Arango*



**Activists of the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* in Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas, participated in group prayer for the reconciliation of all Cubans, the triumph of love over hate, and freedom for political prisoners.**

y Parreño.

Source: Maria Elena Rodriguez, independent journalist. CubaNet.

### **February 5, 2001**

**Matanzas.** More than 100 residents of Pedro Betancourt, in the province of Matanzas, participated in a prayer for the reconciliation of all Cubans, the triumph of love over hate, and freedom for political prisoners. The *Independent Alternative Option Movement* organized this civil resistance act, and the president and vice president of the organization, Ariel and Guido Sigler Amaya, respectively, were arrested as a result. State Security broke up the event, pushing and insulting those present.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

### **February 8, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** The *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters*, led by Margarito Broche in



**Margarito Broche  
Espinoza,  
President of the  
Peace,  
Democracy and  
Freedom  
National  
Association of  
Cuban Rafters**

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the city of Caibarien, began a vigil to demand the freedom of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, an end to the government's repression of the people, and a general amnesty. Representatives of more than 15 organizations participated in the vigil. Antunez was carrying out a hunger strike at the inmates' ward of the hospital, where he was being treated for a lung condition, to call attention to the human rights violations of the Cuban prison system.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia Diaz, CNP. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **February 12, 2001**

**Sancti Spiritus.** Bertha Antunez, sister of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, began a hunger strike in front of the hospital in Sancti Spíritus where her brother was being kept without receiving proper medical treatment for his condition. Her protest, backed by supporters who traveled in from other parts of the country, was meant to call attention to

Antunez's hunger strike in the hospital.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Club of Political Prisoners and Ex Political Prisoners*, led by Marcelo Amelo Rogriguez, requested affiliation to the *National Coordination of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners*. The new club resulting from this union was called the *Club Gerardo Gonzalez, Brother of the Faith* to honor the political prisoner by that name who died on September 1, 1975, murdered by prison guards. The objectives of the new organization included helping prisoners, former prisoners, and their families; defending human rights; morally and materially supporting the prisoners once they were released from jail; maintaining close ties with the committees of political prisoners in jail; and maintaining close ties with other clubs on the island and in exile, among other objectives.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.

### **February 14, 2002**

**Havana.** Opposition groups signed a document calling members of the internal resistance all over the country to remember the fallen pilots of *Brothers to the Rescue* on February 24, the fifth anniversary of the shoot-down. The document proposes throwing flowers to the sea or to a river and holding a minute of silence in memory of Pablo Morales, Mario de la Peña, Carlos Costa and Armando Alejandre. It was signed by Leonardo Bruzon Avila of the *24<sup>th</sup> of February Movement*, Ramon Santiago Lopez Saborit of the *National Civic Union*, Barbaro Vela of the *6<sup>th</sup> of January Civic Movement* and Marcos Lazaro Torres Leon of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia Diaz, CNP. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

**Isla de Pinos.** The *Pinero Committee of Human Rights* released a signed document inviting the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations to pressure the Cuban government to allow political and civil liberties to flourish in the country. The document also asks the countries of Latin America, especially Argentina and Mexico, for their solidarity in Geneva. The document was signed by the officers of the organization: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, president; Ibrahím Valera Sabon, vice president; Leonor C. Martinez, treasurer; and Juan Torres Mariño, director of the newsletter "El Patriota."

Source: *Pinero Committee of Human Rights*.

### **February 16, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** The *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party* held a fast in Villa Clara to demand freedom for political

prisoner Rafael Ibarra Roque and proper medical attention for his wife, political prisoner Maritza Lugo. The fast took place in the home of Amado Ruiz Moreno, the party's delegate in Placetas.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia Diaz, CNP. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **February 19, 2001**

**Havana.** A teacher with no affiliation to any political organizations, Moises Leonardo Rodriguez Valdes, made a call to the Cuban nation through the independent press, to pray every last Sunday of the month at any place they choose for national reconciliation and unity. "It is only an activity of a civic nature to foster the spirituality necessary for the inevitable and unstoppable changes that the Cuban nation needs," said Rodriguez Valdes. His invitation, he said, was to all Cuban citizens, regardless of race, sex, religion, or ideology. The purpose of the prayer was to ask that Cubans take up the faith and to pray for the victims of violence, for the imprisoned, for political prisoners, and for an end to political imprisonment in Cuba.

Source: Maria Elena Rodriguez, independent journalist. CubaNet.

### **February 20, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Juan Gualberto Gomez III Independent Library* was founded at Los Pinos Street, Building 111, Apartment A-4, 2nd Floor, Hermanos Cruz Neighborhood. Diana Margarita Canton Martinez was chosen as the director of the library.

Source: Gisela Delgado, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Democracia Independent Library* was founded at Rio Seco "La Ilda," Carretera San Juan y Martinez, in San Juan y Martinez, Pinar del Rio.

Source: Gisela Delgado, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Amor, Paz, Democracia y Libertad Independent Library* was founded at Libertad #38, interior Carretera Cementerio, in San Juan y Martinez, Pinar del Rio.

Source: Gisela Delgado, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

### **February 21, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Carlos Quintela Center of Agricultural Studies*

held a meeting in Santiago de las Vegas, province of Havana, to discuss issues relating to agriculture. Members of the Carlos Quintela Center in Matanzas, Havana, and Pinar del Rio also attended the meeting.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.** Activists and residents in the central region of the country carried out a demonstration banging on pots and pans at 7 pm to protest the rationing measures imposed by the government. Of these protesters, five were members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, who held the protest in the home of Raimundo Perdigon Brito in the town of **Las Pozas, Sancti Spiritus**. It was reported that all the members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* also participated, as well as residents in other parts of the province of Villa Clara, namely in **Sagua la Grande, Camajuani, Placetas, and Cifuentes**.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. Maria Elena Alpizar, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Several different opposition

organizations met at the *Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library* to create an effective unified front for the nonviolent struggle for democracy.

Source: Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **February 22, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Independent National Labor Confederation of Cuba* (CONIC, by its acronym in Spanish) was officially created at the *William Le Sante Independent Library*, in Arroyo Naranjo, specializing in labor topics. The organization was created at a time when the official *Cuban Confederation of Workers* was preparing to celebrate its 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. The national officers selected were Aleida Godinez Solder, president; Alicia Mora Labrada, Secretary of International Relations; Ramon Pimentel Diaz, secretary of labor issues; and Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, secretary of education, culture, and history. These directors stated that they were against violations of worker rights and the International Working Norms, arbitrary expulsion of workers for political or ideological reasons, the incarceration of opposition leaders, the country's currency duality, and the centralization of the economy, among other issues. They also agreed to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a new Labor Code and the right to form labor unions freely.



**Members of the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba meet in Havana.**

Source: Aleida Godinez Soler, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

### **February 23, 2001**

**Combinado del Este Prison, Havana.** Jose Orlando Gonzalez Bridon, president of the *Confederation of Cuban Democratic Workers* and political prisoner confined at the Combinado del Este Prison in Havana, went on hunger strike from Feb. 23 – Feb. 25 to call for the immediate freedom of political prisoners, respect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to pay tribute to the Brothers to the Rescue members who were killed on February 24, 1996.

Source: Maria Esther Valdez Suarez, wife of Jose Orlando Gonzalez Bridon. *Confederation of Cuban Democratic Workers*. Promotora Internacional de Derechos Humanos.

**Las Tunas.** Members of the *Pro Human Rights Party* read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the public as they stood by the seawall in the city of Puerto Padre. State Security agents arrested Juan Ladron de Guevara and Maria Luz Jimenez while they explained the declaration to dozens of people.

Source: El Nuevo Herald.

### **February 24, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Twenty activists in the town of La Coloma in Pinar de Rio took part in a ceremony to remember the four members of Brothers to the Rescue who were killed five years before by Cuban MiGs. During the ceremony, the activists held a moment of silence, sang the national anthem, spoke about Mario, Pablo, Armando, and Carlos, and threw flowers twined with black ribbon into the sea. Hundreds of town residents watched the activists, and according to Raul Arteaga Delgado of the *Pro Human Rights Party*, the political police probably did not break up the activity because of their presence. The day before, about a dozen activists had been warned by State Security that if they left their homes on February 24th, they would be beaten.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Numerous anti-government signs were posted on the walls of the Workers' Social Club in the town of

Bacuranao, municipality Habana del Este, in the capital. Also, flyers with similar slogans appeared inside the club.

Source: Ruben Rodriguez, Agencia Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Twelve members of different pro-democracy organizations threw flowers into the sea in the Havana coast near La Punta.

Source: *Civic Brotherhood*.

**Matanzas.** In the city of Matanzas, the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* carried out a tribute to the four Brothers to the Rescue pilots shot down by the Cuban regime while on a rescue mission in the Florida straits to pick up rafters. The ceremony was held at the "Los Judios" beach, and participants maintained a minute of silence, performed a roll call of the victims, and cast flowers into the ocean. Victor Jimenez Perez, delegate of the organization, and Pedro Ariel Pereira Lopez, subdelegate, presided over the activity.

Source: Rodolfo Damian, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Matanzas.** Opposition activists participated in a fast, held by the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*, to remember the four Brothers to the Rescue pilots shot down by the Cuban regime. The fast was held in the home of organization president, Diodado Gonzalez Marrero, at Santa Rita 29, between Maceo and Santa Teresa, in El Roque, Perico, Matanzas, and ran from 8 am until 4 pm. Despite preventive measures by the political police to keep activists from reaching the site of the fast, 14 activists



**Opposition activists in Pinar del Rio remember the Brothers to the Rescue pilots murdered on February 24, 1996.**

nevertheless participated. At the fast, they sang the national anthem, prayed the Our Father, read Psalm 20 and closed the activity with shouts of "Long live a free Cuba!" and "Long live human rights!" Members of the party who participated included Mario Gonzalez Rodriguez, Ramon Diaz Hernandez, Ramon Mederos Acosta, Teresa Diaz Zulueta, Adalis Garcia de la Riva, Ana Iris Cabrera de la Riva, Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Noel Lopez Perez, Rolando Boan Cepero and Andres Govea Suares. Other activists included Mirelis Noda Ramos,

Alexander Aguilar Sosa, Herminio Torres Aguiar, Jorge Luis Alvarez, Ariel Sigler Amaya, Marta de la Riva Linares, and Barbara de la Riva Linares.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, *Independent Alternative Option Movement*. Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Matanzas.** On the 106th anniversary of the Independence War of 1895, activists took part in a homage to Independence War veterans. They gathered at the Pedro Betancourt Cemetery in Matanzas. They brought a floral wreath, held a minute of silence, sang the national anthem and yelled out several times "Long live a Free Cuba!" Juan Francisco Sigler Amaya and Jose Antonio Perez Moreno of the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* led the act.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, *Independent Alternative Option Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** Despite strong repressive action, activists were able to carry out ceremonies to honor and remember the four Brothers to the Rescue crew members shot down by the Cuban government. Remembrance ceremonies were carried out in Placetatas at the home of Omar Pernet Hernandez, president of the *Mario Manuel de la Peña National Human Rights Movement* and at the home of Carlos Manuel Campos Moya of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.



**Omar Pernet,**  
**President of the**  
**Mario Manuel de**  
**la Peña National**  
**Human Rights**  
**Movement**

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Villa Clara.** A memorial act was carried out in Cifuentes at the home of Eugenio Cardet Garcia, national coordinator of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, to honor the fallen Brothers to the Rescue members. Fifteen activists attended.

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Villa Clara.** In Baez, under the vigilance of State Security, Rafael Lopez Borges, delegate of the *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba*, and Eduardo Gonzalez of the *Frank*



**Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party make the sign for "victory" in El Roque, Matanzas.**

*Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* led a group of 12 in a remembrance activity for the *Brothers to the Rescue* martyrs during which they shouted slogans to honor the four pilots and to demand respect for human rights. They also read a press release and sang the national anthem.

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Sancti Spiritus.** In order to prevent her from carrying out any resistance actions on this

day, activist Bertha Antunez Pernet was arrested by State Security forces and taken to a remote location near the Gavilan River in the heart of the Escambray Mountains. A local farmer who helped Antunez find her way out of the area also joined her in throwing flowers into the Gavilan River in remembrance of the murdered members of Brothers to the Rescue.

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Ciego de Avila.** Activists Milagros Diaz and Victor Gomez threw flowers into Punta Alegre Beach and then carried out a fast at their home located at Agramonte #26, Punta Alegre, Chambas.

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Holguin.** At the home of human rights activist Prospero Gainza Aguero located at Calle B #28, La Playa, Moa, a fast and vigil were carried out in remembrance of this date.

Source: Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

**Camaguey.** Also as part of the commemorative activities for the Brothers to the Rescue pilots, the delegation of **Jaguey** of the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* in the province of Camaguey made a floral offering in their honor in the municipality Victoria de Girón. The **Matanzas** municipality delegation cast flowers into the ocean by the seawall of Matanzas. The **Cardenas** delegation deposited flowers into the ocean at **Playas Largas**, and the **Havana** delegation threw a floral wreath into the ocean by the "Malecón," or seawall in Havana.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, *Independent Alternative Option Movement*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Members of various opposition organizations in Santiago de Cuba met at the *Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library* to create a group that could improve unity and coordination among the organizations and guarantee more efficient work. At the meeting, a commission was created by the leaders of three different groups – Manuel de Jesus Diaz of the *Republican Party*, Jose Manuel Escobedo of the *National Board for a Transition to Democracy* and Ricardo Arias Rojas, director of the library.

Source: Marilin Lahera, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** In the meeting place known as *La Casona* in Santiago de Cuba, representatives from different opposition organizations gathered to join in the festivities of the historic date, called *El 24 es de Todos* by the opposition. Thirty activists arrived at La Casona and took part in the event, discussing the Independence War and Jose Martí, and reading the “Agreement for Democracy.”

Source: José Ramón Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute Project*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Several opposition organizations participated in the drafting and signing of a document in Santiago de Cuba titled “Mensaje a Ginebra” (“Message to Geneva”) in which they state that human rights violations continued and even increased in Cuba in the last year. Using the historic date – the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence War of 1895 and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting of the Brothers to the Rescue planes – the organizations asked the United Nations Human Rights Commission to extend solidarity and support to the opposition working through civic and democratic means to bring a change to the country. The document was written in anticipation of the meeting April 1 – 7 of the Interparliamentary Conference of the United Nations in Havana. It was signed by 24 representatives of different opposition organizations, including the *Christian Liberation Movement*, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*, and *Homeland, Independence and Freedom Christian Pro Human Rights Civic Movement*.

Source: Jorge Luis Ramon Castillo, ICDPRESS. *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### **February 25, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** Psychologist Guillermo Fariñas Hernandez, president of the *Marta Abreu Foundation for Human Rights*, began a hunger strike to protest the use of psychiatry in political repression. Resident of the city of Santa Clara, Fariñas Hernandez, 37, has been interned three times in a psychiatric hospital in less than a year without showing symptoms of mental illness. He said that he would only cease the hunger strike when the Communist Party and the Cuban government guaranteed that it would no longer use

such repressive tactics against opposition activists. He also asked for an end to the practice of house arrest without a judicial order and the detainment and then release of activists in remote locations.

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, CNP. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Villa Clara.** The *Jorge Mas Canosa Independent Library* was inaugurated under the direction of Lester Gonzalez Penton at Calle 1ra, #28, between A and Rio, in the Ramon Ruiz del Sol neighborhood in Santa Clara, Villa Clara.

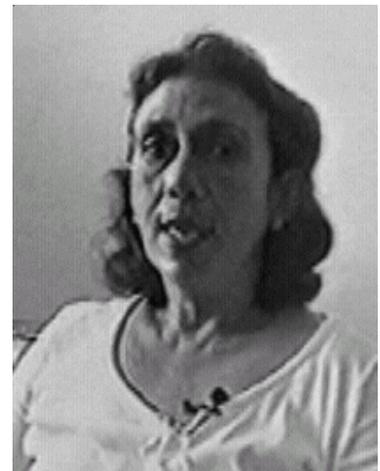
Source: Lester Gonzalez Penton, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Havana.** In a tribute for the four fallen Brothers to the Rescue pilots, several opposition organizations together carried out an activity on the ocean’s edge in Havana in the area known as “La Punta.”

Source: *Civic Brotherhood*.

### **March 1, 2001**

**Havana.** Women gathered to pray for the freedom of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience during mass at the Church of Santa Rita in Havana. Among them were relatives of prisoners, such as Ana Aguillilla, wife of well-known political prisoner Francisco Chaviano Gonzalez. The Church of Santa Rita is located on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 26<sup>th</sup> Street, in the municipality Playa. Every Sunday at this church since November 2000, mass has been held for political prisoners. Those who participate include members of the *Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners*.



**Ana Aguillilla Saladrigas**

Source: Maria Elena Rodriguez, independent journalist. CubaNet.

### **March 2, 2001**

**Isla de Pinos.** The *Pinero Committee of Human Rights* met to celebrate its fourth anniversary and to re-affirm its mission of defending civil liberties and fighting against the violations of the regime. Members gathered at the home of organization leader, Huber Rodriguez Tudela, in the Micro 70 neighborhood of Nueva Gerona.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, NotiCuba. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Two opposition groups presented a request to the Department of Education to include the study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the school curriculum. Signed by the *Union of Democratic Youth of Cuba* and the *5<sup>th</sup> of August Pacifist Movement*, the document also suggested including the study of other UN declarations that Cuba has signed in the past, such as the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

**Havana.** The first Meeting of Politics and Social Communications Alternatives of Cuba took place in Havana, after an initial attempt to hold the meeting was frustrated by Castro's political police. At the event, sponsored by the *Felix Varela School of Social and Humanistic Studies*, affiliated with the *Analysis and Discussion Group of the Moderate Opposition* (or MROM, its acronym in Spanish), the relationship between politics and journalism was discussed and a declaration was approved stating a series of ethical principles the parties agreed to follow. The declaration endorsed freedom of expression and assembly, free participation in Cuban social and political life, and free flow of information, and highlighted Cuba's need to have a positive international environment to stimulate the democratization of its society. Among those who signed the declaration were the MROM, Pedro Pablo Alvarez, president of the *Unitary Council of Cuban Workers*, and independent journalists Reynaldo Escobar, Manuel Vazquez Portal, Manuel David Orrio, Lucas Garve, Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, Carmelo Diaz Fernandez and Juan Carlos Linares.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

### March 5, 2001

**Manto Negro Prison, Havana.** Maritza Lugo Fernandez, vice president of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*, wrote a daring accusation of the Cuban government's human rights violations from the Women's Western Prison Manto Negro. The document, titled "I Accuse," made international headlines.

Source: *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*. El Nuevo Herald. Diario Las Americas.

### March 6, 2001

**Havana.** An independent library opened in the rural area of Valle Elena, municipality Arcos de Canasí, province of Havana. It was named the *Carlos Quintela Independent Library* after the anti-Castro Cuban journalist who espoused the cause of the Cuban farmer. This new library was opened in the home of director Jose Manuel Rios, who is also a member of the *Support Group for the Association of Independent Teachers* and the *Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba*.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, independent journalist. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Association of Independent Teachers* formed *Teachers Without Frontiers* for independent teachers to lend their services to any who solicit them, either in Cuba or



internationally.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, independent journalist. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Christian Liberation Movement* made public the Varela Project, a civic effort to achieve a referendum by collecting signed petitions from the Cuban population. The



**Oswaldo Paya Sardiñas,**  
*Christian Liberation Movement*

Varela Project was written by Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, president of the *Christian Liberation Movement*, which is based in his home at Calle Peñon #276, between Ayuntamiento and Marquez, in the district of El Cerro in Havana.

Based on the existing Cuban Constitution, the Varela Project asks for a referendum to vote on the following points: the right to free expression and assembly, amnesty for political prisoners, the right to form private companies, and new electoral legislation.

Source: *Christian Liberation Movement*. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Opposition organizations backing the Varela Project made a call to all Cubans to support this project. Signing a document that stated the reasons for their support, 117 representatives of different opposition organizations – independent journalists, labor unions, trade associations, etc. – endorsed the project. Some of these representatives included Hector Palacios Ruiz, Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, Oswaldo Payá, Raul Rivero, and Gustavo Arcos. The document would be available for other organizations to

continue to sign. Palacios Ruiz read the call to an independent press agency in Cuba.

Source: *Todos Unidos*. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas. CubaNet.

### March 7, 2001.

**Havana.** At the request of the opposition group, *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity*, a mass was held in the afternoon at the Church of Santa Barbara, in the neighborhood of Parraga, Havana, to honor the Cuban martyr, Pedro Luis Boitel. Having died in 1972 during a hunger strike against the communist regime, Boitel is considered a hero of the resistance. About 50 activists participated in the service, and State Security surrounded the church but did not intervene. The priest who presided over the service said that mass was given for everyone, regardless of ideological beliefs.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** The independent ecological organization, *Naturpaz*, inaugurated *Esperanza Verde (Green Hope)*, a center for documentation and research to promote the care of the environment. The center was opened at Villegas #456, between Muralla and Sol, municipality of Old Havana, in the city of Havana and will house a collection of books and information specializing in ecology as well as the work of ecology researchers. It will also host workshops and debates. *Esperanza Verde* was opened as part of a larger project carried out since May 2000 to promote community efforts that help raise awareness about the conservation of the environment.

Source: Pedro Crespo Jimenez, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

### March 8, 2001

**Havana.** On the International Day of the Woman, a group of opposition activists paid tribute to women political prisoners, especially the prominent human rights defenders Maritza Lugo Fernandez, Belkis Barzaga Lugo, and Julia Cecilia Delgado. A vigil was carried out from 10 am until 6 pm in the home of Santiago Felipe Morales, member of the *Hard Line Front* at Avenue 71, #11,425, municipality Playa, Havana. During the act, participants sang the national anthem and called out slogans to honor women and human rights.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### March 12, 2001

**Havana.** Activists carried out a protest of banging on pots and pans at the headquarters of *Civic Brotherhood*, the farm of El Valle, located at San Agustin, #44 Interior, between Paz and Arnau, Callejas, municipality of Arroyo Naranjo in Havana. The organizations that participated included *Civic Brotherhood*, *Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners*, *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement*, 13<sup>th</sup> of

*July Movement*, *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights*, and the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*. Despite efforts to prevent and block the event, approximately 50 activists participated.

Source: Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

### March 13, 2001

**Havana.** A seminar was held at the home of activist Rogelio Travieso at Reforma #12222, between Independencia and America, in the Marti neighborhood of El Cerro, to discuss the Varela Project. It was intended as an open forum to address any doubts from the public. About 20 persons attended the event.

Source: Osvaldo Alfonso Valdes, *Cuban Liberal Democratic Party*.

### March 14, 2001

**Havana.** The *Carlos Quintela National Center of Agricultural Studies and Research* held a general meeting at its headquarters in Santiago de las Vegas. Members discussed topics relating to agricultural research as well as an event being hosted in the exile community by the *School of Agricultural and Sugar Engineers*. Members of the *Latin American Federation of Rural Women* also attended the meeting.



**Miguel Arcángel Camejo Planes, Director of the Carlos Quintela National Center of Agricultural Studies**

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Granma.** The *Antonio Bachiller y Morales Independent Library* was founded at Aguilera #248, between Milanés and Martires, in the municipality of Bayamo in Granma. Juan Carlos Martínez Nuñez was named director.

Source: *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

### March 17, 2001

**Havana.** The *Francisco Arango y Parreño Independent Library* was founded at San Nicolas Street #206, between Virtudes y Concordia. Lazaro Jaime Martinez was named director of the library, which will specialize in liberal topics.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

### March 20, 2001

**Havana.** Independent journalist Carlos Castro Alvarez of CubaPress delivered a letter and a report of human rights violations on the island to the Czech Embassy in Cuba, addressed to Czech President Vaclav Havel. The letter stated

that he, Castro Alvarez, was bringing these human rights violations to light and placing evidence in the president's hands so that the United Nations Human Rights Commission could make a fair decision at the yearly meeting in Geneva. The journalist also made the letter public to the international media.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Promoters of the Varela Project, among them Oswaldo Paya Sardiñas, Antonio Diaz Sanchez, Jose Rodriguez Garrido and Regis Iglesias Ramirez, submitted the project to radio and television stations, newspapers, and magazines in the capital with a letter reminding each representative of the press that according to Article 53 of the Cuban Constitution, all Cubans have the right to access and use the media since the press belongs to the state and therefore the people. The Varela Project has not received any attention in the state-controlled media.

Source: Nueva Prensa Cubana. CubaNet.

#### **March 21, 2001**

**Matanzas.** The *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* drafted a request addressed to the United Nations asking countries to vote "in favor of a resolution that criticizes the Cuban government for its sad conduct with human rights." The request was signed by approximately 50 members of the organization and called attention to the situation of political prisoners, who are tried unfairly and are forced to live with dangerous common prisoners.

Source: Caridad Diaz Beltran, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

#### **March 23, 2001**

**Havana.** Prisoner of conscience Angel Moya Acosta, coordinator of the *Democratic Liberty Movement of Cuba* rejected the supposed benefit of being transferred to a farm for prisoners when the authorities offered him a transfer. This kind of benefit is at times given to common prisoners, but Moya Acosta refused on the grounds that he did not want to legitimize the authority that had him imprisoned. He was arrested in December of the previous year while he participated in a peaceful march for human rights. When he

tried to call his family to inform them of his arrest and attempted to defend this right before a police officer, he was accused of *desacato* ("contempt of authority") and was later sentenced to a year in jail and 10 years of exile from the capital, where his wife and children live.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. CubaNet.

#### **March 25, 2001**

**Havana.** The words "Fidel, Assasin" appeared painted on the walls of a gas building on Calle B, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and Avenida del Rosario, in the municipality Arroyo Naranjo, in Havana. A security official from the Hotel Habana Libre-Trip accused the opposition activists in the area of being responsible for the sign.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.



**The Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba hold a vigil in Havana to pray for liberty without exile for political prisoners.**

copies.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **March 27, 2001**

**Havana.** A vigil was held from 8 pm to 10 pm in which a group of about 10 opposition activists prayed for liberty without exile for political prisoners and respect for human rights. They also sang the national anthem and read passages from the Bible. Sponsored by the *Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba*, the vigil took place at Calle 200 #8113, between 81 and 85, Altura de la Lisa.

Source: *Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba.*

#### **March 26, 2001**

**Havana.** A handful of opposition activists risked arrest to hand out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the busy district of El Vedado, on Street 23 and L Street, in front of the famous ice cream shop, Coppelia. The activists – Alejandro Chang Cantillo, Marcel Valenzuela and Raul Arencibia of *Civic Brotherhood*, as well as Rogelio Menendez of the *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement* – managed to distribute dozens of

**Havana.** The opposition alliance known as the *Meeting of Civilist Criteria* made public a document addressed to the participants of the 105 Conference of the Interparliamentary Union, scheduled to be held in Havana from April 1-7. In the document, the dissidents stated that the people's situation necessitated a response that would allow Cubans to direct the nation toward a genuine democracy and the establishment of a true State of Law where human dignity would be respected, different political parties would exist, and private business as well as free press would be allowed. The document asked the participants to persuade Cuban authorities to permit a popular plebiscite with international observers.



**Oswaldo Alfonso,  
Cuban Liberal  
Democratic Party**

Source: Oswaldo de Cespedes, CPI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Miguel Saludes Garcia, promoters of the Varela Project, sent letters to 17 lay publications in different dioceses of the country, asking them to make the Varela Project known to Cubans. The letters reminded them that in his visit to the island, the Pope called Cubans to be “the agents of their own history.”

Source: Regis Iglesias Ramirez, Varela Project activist. CubaNet.

### March 29, 2001

**Havana.** Opposition activists hosted a seminar, with an attendance of 20 participants, to discuss the Varela Project and the five primary points for a referendum. One of the participants in the seminar, Oswaldo Alfonso Valdes, president of the *Cuban Liberal Democratic Party*, explained that the seminar was meant to dispel any doubts about the Varela Project. This was the second seminar held to inform the public about the Varela Project.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### April 2001

**Havana.** The opposition organizations of Arroyo Naranjo, a municipality in Havana, have arranged religious services for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in every church in the area. Every Wednesday at 4 pm in the church of **Virgen de Fatima**, members of the *Marti Civic League* attend mass for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. On

Fridays, at 7 pm, the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated with the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* and the *Hard Line Front* attend mass at the **Church of Sagrado Corazón de Jesús**. In the **Church of Santa Barbara**, in the Párraga neighborhood of Havana, the *Liberty Movement* attends mass at 5 pm.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### April 1, 2001

**Havana.** In Arroyo Naranjo, opposition activists took part in a protest, banging on pots and pans for 10 minutes to ask for the liberation of political prisoners, mentioning in particular the prisoners Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, Maritza Lugo, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, and Vladimiro Roca. As part of this same protest, activists held a 12-hour long fast. Over 50 members of the opposition participated.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** The *6<sup>th</sup> of January Movement*, led by Barbaro Vela Crego, held a meeting in the municipality of Marianao, Havana. Twelve activists were able to reach the site to take part in the meeting, but another two dozen activists were intercepted by State Security and made to leave the area.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Nieves Morejon Prison, Sancti Spíritus.** Political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez began a hunger strike in the Nieves Morejon Prison in Sancti Spiritus to demand specialized treatment at a civilian hospital for a respiratory condition. Antunez held the hunger strike for 27 days, finally accepting food after he was seen by a specialist and the authorities assured him that they would begin the process to have him taken to a hospital. Bertha Antunez, his sister, received news of his decision to end the strike on the afternoon of April 28.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco of NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana. El Nuevo Herald.

**Nieves Morejon Prison, Sancti Spíritus.** Because political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez had begun a hunger strike to demand specialized medical attention, his sister Bertha Antunez Pernet and her husband Alejandro Garcia Sardiñas led a protest in front of the Nieves Morejon prison in Sancti Spiritus to call attention to Antunez' hunger strike and ask that his demands be met. This protest was reinforced by opposition activists traveling into town from other parts of the country. About 70 demonstrators gathered daily in front of the prison.

Source: Pedro Arguelles, CAPI (Cooperativa Avileña de Periodistas Independientes). Nueva Prensa Cubana. Bertha Antunez, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance*

*Movement.*

**Granma.** Five independent libraries were inaugurated in the region of Bayamo-Manzanillo in the province of Granma. The inauguration was undertaken as part of the cultural-educational campaign called “Waiting for a New May 20<sup>th</sup>” and was sponsored by the local branch of the *Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba*. It took place at the *Jose Antonio Saco Independent Library*, located on Francisco Vicente Aguilera Street, #248, in the city of Bayamo. *The Francisco Vicente Aguilera Independent Library*, *La Bayamesa*, *Jose Joaquin Palma Independent Library*, *Genesis* and the *Abraham Lincoln Independent Library* were the five new centers opened, specializing in Economics, Physical Education, Art and Literature, Religion, and United States history, respectively. Also as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> of May Campaign, literary contests, conferences, and round table debates on national and international issues were planned for the next few weeks until May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Source: Moraima Pires, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

#### April 2, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Mahatma Gandhi II Independent Library* was founded at Zona #3, Building 24, Apartment 7, Sandino. Lazaro Romero Solis was named director.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *San Pablo Independent Library* was founded at Finca La Irene, s/n, Carlos Manuel De Cespedes and Manuel Lazo in Sandino. Lazaro Romero Solis was named director.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *San Isidro Labrador Independent Library* was founded at Clodoveo Pedroso Street #24 E, in Las Martinas. David Reyes Estrada was named director.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Martin Luther King II Independent Library* was founded at Francisco Rivera Street #104, between Jose M. Padron and Isabel Rubio, San Juan y Martinez. Alina

Alvarez Cabrera and Juan Padron will be managing this new library.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Escambray Independent Library* was opened at Sandino Street A-66, in the town of Lopez Peña in San Cristobal. Alina Alvarez Cabrera and Juan Padron were chosen as its directors.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Havana.** Human rights activists gathered at the El Valle Farm in Havana as part of the *Foro Paralelo*, a meeting held parallel to the 105 Conference of the Interparliamentary Union taking place in Havana from April 1-7. As part of the opening activities, Carlos Rios Otero, president of Project Change 2000, read a document that was signed by more than 50



**Carlos Rios Otero makes a presentation in Santiago de Cuba about the Pro Forum Pro Congress of the Cuban Nation.**

*Naturpaz*, *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights* and the *Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Ex-Political Prisoners*.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, NotiCuba. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The event, Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation, a gathering of the opposition coinciding with the 105<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Interparliamentary Union of the United Nations held in Havana, took place from April 2-7 in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Because of the government’s repressive actions, only three days’ worth of activities were carried out instead of the five that had been scheduled. The opening event, which was held at a private home in Calle Nueva #2, between San Antonio and Paseo de Martí, consisted of a conference and debate on the life and work of Cuban historical figure, Felix Varela. The conference was led

o p p o s i t i o n organizations. The document stated that the signatories wanted to explain the real situation of the country, which has been under the totalitarian control of power by Fidel Castro for more than 40 years. Organizations that took part in the launch of the Foro Paralelo included *C i v i c Brotherhood*, *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement*, *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*,

by Luis Enrique Cantillo Ruiz, president of the *Homeland, Independence and Freedom Pro Human Rights Civic-Christian Movement*.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, member of the Coordination Bureau for the Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation.

#### April 4, 2001

**Holguin.** Residents in the city of Moa, province of Holguin, burst out in protest, causing a public disturbance, when it was announced that each person would only be able to buy a ration of 2 pounds of plantains. The incident occurred at Placita #6 (Market #6) when the manager announced the reduction of the rations to the long line of waiting customers. Already affected by the scarcity of food, the people openly voiced their frustration with the inefficiency of the local government.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

#### April 5, 2001

**Havana.** Opposition activists mailed the Varela Project to 22 media in the seven eastern provinces of the country, proposing that the media divulge the contents of the project and information about it to the public. The driving principle behind this act is that all Cubans have the right to make use of the media because it is owned by the state and therefore belongs to the people.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### April 6, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** The second event of the Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation took place on April 6 at the home of an activist at #325, Peralejo Street, on the corner of Trinidad. About a dozen activists participated in discussion about the power of the citizen.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, member of the Coordination Bureau for the Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation.

#### April 7, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** The closing event of the Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation on April 7<sup>th</sup> consisted of a discussion on the Varela Project as well as a reading of the congress's application for observer status at the Interparliamentary Conference in Havana.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, member of the Coordination Bureau for the Pro-Forum, Pro-Congress of the Cuban Nation.



**Rosalia and Gladys Ibarra Lugo carry a sign that reads: "We ask the world to intercede for the freedom of our parents Maritza Lugo and Rafael Ibarra."**

#### April 9, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** Cuban teacher Valentin Almirall Miranda began circulating an open letter in the province of Pinar del Rio addressed to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations asking it to condemn the Cuban government "for its repeated violation of human rights and its denial of doing so." The letter, dated April 6 and titled, "Open letter from a Cuban Teacher," states that he, Almirall Miranda, wants reconciliation, love, peace, democracy and freedom for his country. He also denounces the repression to which the government has subjected him and his family. Almirall Miranda was a teacher for 31 years until he was expelled for his political beliefs and has since joined and founded opposition groups. He is a member of the *Movement of National Reconciliation (MORENA)* in the municipality of San Juan y Martinez in Pinar del Rio.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The two daughters of imprisoned opposition activists Rafael Ibarra Roque and Maritza Lugo posted a sign calling for the liberation of their parents. The oldest daughter, Gladys, was 18, and the youngest, Rosalia de las Nieves, was 10 at the time of this protest. Ibarra Roque and Lugo are president and vice president, respectively, of the prohibited *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**El Guayabo Prison, Camaguey.** Three common prisoners in El Guayabo Prison in Camaguey underwent a hunger strike

to protest the prison's negligence in providing medical assistance and its mistreatment of the prisoners. Iosvany Hernandez Garcia, Evaristo Guerrero Liusmidé and Silvio Ramos Garcia went for 4, 7, and 8 days, respectively, without food. El Guayabo is known to have harsh and even subhuman living conditions.

Source: Pablo Pacheco Avila, CPIC. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Froilan Gonzalez and Mario Raul Denis submitted a letter to the offices of the Popular Power in the municipality of **Contramaestre** in Santiago de Cuba asking the five representatives of that municipality to inform law enforcement about the Varela Project and the effort being carried out to collect signatures. Similar letters were also submitted to the authorities in **San Luis** and **Songo La Maya**, both municipalities in Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

#### April 10, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** A total of 105 residents in the province of Santiago de Cuba signed letters in support of the Varela Project that were presented to the offices of the Popular Power in two different municipalities. In **Palma Soriano**, the activists Vivian Acosta Suarez, Oscar Piña Martinez, Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares and Reinaldo Rodriguez Curtiada submitted a letter with 63 signatures to the Popular Power. In the municipality of **Julio Antonio Mella**, Grave de Peralta and Rodriguez Curtiada submitted a letter with another 42 signatures. In the first instance, the letter was accepted without mishap, but in the second, the receptionist refused to take them. Leaving the letter with her, the activists informed the receptionist that it followed the provisions of the existing Constitution and it was her duty to accept it.

Source: Marilyn Lahera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### April 12, 2001

**Havana.** The *Committee of Social Self-Defense of Cuba* and the *Children of the Virgen of Regla* carried out a hunger strike at Agramonte Street, #552, in the municipality of Regla to demand the immediate release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, particularly the release of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez. The hunger strikers included Luis Osvaldo Manzaneiro of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party*, Roberto Peraza of the *Committee of Social Self-Defense of Cuba*, Maria de los Angeles Borrego of the *Racial Integrationist Movement* and Ismany Otaño Almanza. The hunger strike was maintained for over a week.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** These same activists of the *Committee of Social Self-Defense of Cuba* and the *Children of the Virgen of Regla*



**Gladys Linares, *Feminine Humanitarian Front***

also sent a letter to Dr. Carlos Dotres, Cuba's minister of Public Health, to call attention to the case of Antunez and demand proper medical care for him.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Combinado del Este Prison, Havana.** Political prisoner Rafael Ibarra Roque sent, from the Combinado del Este prison, a letter to dictator Fidel Castro denouncing the violations committed against him by the Cuban authorities. Ibarra Roque is president of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party* and is currently serving a 20-year sentence.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### April 15, 2001

**Havana.** A mass was held at the Church of Santa Rita de Acacia, in the Miramar district of Havana, for the disappeared under the Castro regime. Mothers and relatives of the disappeared attended the service, carrying pictures of the victims. The participants agreed to continue attending mass at this church for the same purpose every Sunday at 10 am.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress, CubaNet.

**Granma.** The *National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba* created a delegation in the municipality of Guisa in the province of Granma. Members of alternative union organizations and human rights organizations attended the meeting, where the new directors were elected. The steps for developing independent, democratic unionization were discussed as well as strategies for dealing with the state's

policies.

Source: Victor Manuel Dominguez Garcia, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

#### **April 17, 2001**

**Havana.** Regis Iglesias, spokesman for the *Christian Liberation Movement*, and opposition activist Gladys Linares submitted a letter to the Popular Power in the municipality 10 de Octubre in Havana with 45 signatures from the population informing them of the Varela Project.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

#### **April 21, 2001**

**Havana.** Despite the repressive tactics of State Security and the Rapid Response Brigades, the *Cuban Feminine Unity* was able to hold a meeting to coordinate its restructuring. The meeting took place at the farm of El Valle, headquarters of *Civic Brotherhood*, in the municipality Arroyo Naranjo in Havana. Yeny Cesar, Silvia Gandara, and Lissi Rico were chosen as the executive directors. This organization works to prepare women activists to provide for the well being of their families and of Cuban society.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, NotiCuba, Nueva Prensa Cubana. *Civic Brotherhood*.

#### **April 22, 2001**

**Valle Grande Prison, Havana.** Six political prisoners in the Valle Grande Prison in Havana carried out a hunger strike to show support for Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, also undertaking a hunger strike in the Nieves Morejon jail in the province of Sancti Spiritus. The strikers, members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Committee Pro Amnesty for Political Prisoners* founded in jail, included Douglas Faxe Rosabal, Lazaro Constantin Duran, Liuba Salas Garcia, Hector La Roque Rego, Juan Carlos Perez and Miguel Lopez Santos.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Eduardo R. Chibás Independent Library*, which specializes in children's literature, hosted a children's party with a clown and a magician. The party was originally planned for 20 children that normally attend the library, but the number of guests doubled as passersby stopped and join the festivities. Library director Yassera Sesin Herrero said that the event was meant to draw children to the library so that they would make use of the book collection.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.



**Isabel del Pino Sotolongo**

#### **April 23, 2001**

**Havana.** Opposition activist Isabel del Pino Sotolongo went on hunger strike to protest the fact that she was given only a few hours to find a defense lawyer after she was informed of charges against her. President of the *Humanitarian Association of Followers of Christ the Lord*, del Pino Sotolongo went to the Popular Municipal Tribunal of Centro Habana to inquire about charges brought against her,

and was informed that she had to return at 2 pm that afternoon for the trial. She was threatened with arrest if she did not appear.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Unitary Council of Cuban Workers* published an open letter addressed to the General Secretary, Pedro Ross Leal, of the official *Center of Workers of Cuba* (or CTC), anticipating the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of this same organization and submitting a series of suggestions and topics for discussion at the congress.

Source: Desafíos, *Solidarity of Cuban Workers*. CubaNet.

**Holguin.** The Holguin-Moa Provincial Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Civic Resistance Movement* held a hunger strike from April 23-25 demanding that the Cuban government provide specialized medical treatment to political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, who had also been on hunger strike for more than 20 days demanding the same. The hunger strike was held at Calle B, #28 in La Playa-Moa, Holguin. Those who participated included Prospero Gainza Agüero, Elio Hidalgo Dominguez Cabreja, Jorge Luis Gainza Clapé, Osmar Wilson Estevez Real, Roberto Guzman Gainza, and Amarilis Hernandez Rodriguez.

Source: Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

#### **April 24, 2001**

**Holguin.** A mass was held at the Santísimo Trinidad Catholic Church in the Sagua de Tánamo municipality of Holguin for the health and well being of political prisoners. Members of the Holguin-Moa Provincial Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Civic Resistance Movement* and the *Christian Liberation Movement* attended the mass and prayed for sick prisoners Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, Abelardo Guzman Gainza, Juan José Moreno Reyes and Oscar Elias Biscet.

Source: Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel*

*National Civic Resistance Movement.*

#### **April 25, 2001**

**Havana.** In support of the ongoing hunger strike that political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez was maintaining in the Nieves Morejon Prison in Sancti Spiritus since April 1st to demand medical treatment, and the simultaneous protest that his sister, Bertha Antunez Pernet, was leading outside the prison, members of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party* collected signatures and undertook a fast in the home of activist Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo in Havana.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.*

**Jovellanos, Matanzas.** The home of Tomas Fernandez Tier, also the headquarters of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*, was opened to the public for prayer and vigils in support of Antunez's strike in prison and his sister Bertha's protest.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.*

**Santiago de Cuba.** Signatures were collected in the homes of activists Jose Ramon Castillo and Helaine Ibarra to show solidarity with Antunez's hunger strike and the demonstrators keeping vigil outside of the Nieves Morejon Prison in Sancti Spiritus.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.*

**Sancti Spiritus.** Opposition members from Ciego de Avila traveled to Sancti Spiritus to support Bertha Antunez in her protest in front of the Nieves Morejon Prison to call attention to her brother's hunger strike. Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, president of the *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*, Marcelo Tier Perez and Marcelo Tier Piñeiro, both delegates of the *Democratic Solidarity Party*, and independent journalist Pedro Arguelles were among the activists who joined the protest to support to the political prisoner Antunez.

Source: Pedro Arguelles, *Cooperativa Avileña de Periodistas Independientes (CAPI)*. Nueva Prensa Cubana. *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.*

#### **April 26, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** The first meeting in the province of Pinar del Rio of the directors and members of the *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba* was held. Diana Margarita Canton led a conference of the objectives of the project followed by a debate. There was a discussion about the projects of each of the 17 libraries and then a literary reading. The participants decided they would hold the meeting every month.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Four pro-democracy activists, Alejandro Chang Cantillo, Marcel Valenzuela, Raul Arencibia, and Rogelio Menendez, handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the corner of 23 and L, in front of the popular ice cream shop, Coppelia.

Source: Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Camaguey.** Opposition activists in the city of Camaguey began a fast, for an indefinite time period, to show their solidarity with political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, on hunger strike in the prison of Nieves Morejon in Sancti Spiritus. Members of the *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*, the *Cuban Christian Democrat Party*, and the *Julio Sanguily Committee* participated in the fast, which took place at the headquarters of the *Cuban Christian Democrat Party* and was planned to last from 6 am until 6 pm, with 10 fasters at a time and a daily rotation.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPI. CubaNet.

#### **April 27, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** Eduardo Mosqueda Perez, 27, was arrested and beaten after distributing 300 copies of a CubaNet newsletter in the city of Santiago de Cuba. This information from the non-profit organization based in United States that publishes the work of Cuban independent journalists is considered counterrevolutionary by the Cuban government.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **April 29, 2001**

**Sancti Spiritus.** Members of several opposition organizations departed from Havana and traveled to the province of Sancti Spiritus in an act of solidarity with political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, who had been on hunger strike in prison from April 1-27. The activists included Yeny Cesar of the *Cuban Feminine Unity*, Francisco Maurel of the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*, Enrique Iglesias of *Naturpaz*, Raul Arencibia as an independent activist, Rogelio Menendez Rios of the *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement* and Marcel Valenzuela Salt and Alejandro Chang of *Civic Brotherhood*. They gathered at the home of the prisoner's sister Bertha Antunez to show their support.

Source: Graciela Gonzalez Alfonso, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

#### **May 1, 2001**

**Havana.** Assembling from different opposition organizations in a private home in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, opposition activists celebrated the passing in Geneva of a United Nations resolution recommending an improvement in its human rights situation to the Cuban government. The celebration was originally blocked by the political police and had to be

postponed; however, it was finally carried out. It was held from 9 am to 6 pm in the home of Emilio Leiva Perez, General Secretary of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation*. Leiva Perez was arrested after the event.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Las Tunas.** The *Mariana Grajales Independent Library* was founded at Calle 18 #2 between Salvador Cisneros and 25 de diciembre, in Puerto Padre, Las Tunas.

Source: Berta Mexidor Vazquez, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

### May 2, 2001

**Holguin.** Opposition activists took part in a vigil held at the home of Prospero Gainza Agüero in Moa, Holguin, to support political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez in his hunger strike. The activists also demanded medical attention for political prisoner Vladimiro Roca Antunez and a general amnesty for all political prisoners. The act lasted 12 hours and about 10 activists participated.

Source: Bertha Antúnez, Report of Activities *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* (Holguin-Moa)

### May 3, 2001

**Havana.** Asking that they submit the Varela Project to the National Assembly, about 50 residents in Güines, Havana, signed a letter that was delivered to their representatives in the local office of the Popular Power. This action was part of larger, nationwide effort to promote the Varela Project, allowing for citizens to ask their representatives that they present the project at a meeting of the National Assembly.

Source: Jadir Hernandez, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Bayamo, Granma.** More than 20 members of the opposition from a variety of organizations celebrated the ninth anniversary of the *Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba*. Fifteen new members were inducted into the organization.

Source: Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, Agencia Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### May 4, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* published for the first time its newsletter titled *Fueros*

(“Moral Rights”). The editor, Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, wrote, “In these pages the reader will find doubts, worries, dissensions – a constant reflection on cubanness in the perpetual cultural memory of the nation.”

Source: Jose Ramón Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### May 7, 2001

**Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo.** Political prisoners Yorkis Pineda Laurencio and Yonni Labañino Matos, both 27 years old, in the provincial prison of Guantanamo, appealed to the prison authorities for better medical treatment for inmates and were met with reprisals. Prison guards beat them and confined them in punishment cells. Pineda Laurencio was thrown against a door and received a wound to his eye. In protest, Labañino Matos, an invalid missing his left leg, injured himself with his crutch and used his blood to write on the wall, “Down with the tyranny of Fidel Castro!” As punishment, an official by the name of Arturo handcuffed him to his crutches and left him lying on the floor for hours.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

### May 11, 2001

**Havana.** Approximately 50 dissidents appeared at the Popular Municipal Tribunal of the 10 de Octubre Municipality in Havana to lend their support to Jose Orlando Gonzalez Bridon, independent labor union activist to be tried that day for “enemy

propaganda.” It was announced later in the day that the trial had been postponed.

Source: Oswaldo de Céspedes, CPI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** At the headquarters of *Civic Brotherhood*, the farm known as “El Valle” in Arroyo Naranjo, opposition activists from different organizations met to form a commission to aid political prisoners. Other organizations that also participated included the *13th of July Movement* and the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*.

Source: Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

### May 12, 2001

**Matanzas.** The *Emilio Maspero Independent Library* was opened at Calle Maceo 20 in Perico, Matanzas.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.



**José Orlando  
González Bridón**

### May 13, 2001

**Havana.** The *Jose Angel Buesa Independent Library* was inaugurated in the neighborhood of Santos Suarez in Havana. Independent journalist and writer, Adela Soto, was named the library director.

Source: Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** On Mother's Day, a group of about 20 opposition activists, mostly women, tried to carry out a commemorative act at 10 am to honor the mothers of the victims of the "13 de Marzo" tugboat as well as all the mothers of Cubans who have died trying to cross the Florida Straits. The activists were going to leave a floral wreath in an area known as "the

mothers' corner" in a park in Havana located on the corner of Calzada de 10 de Octubre and Santa Amalia, municipality of Arroyo Naranjo. However, State Security turned out to prevent the event, and one activist, Ileana Gonzalez, was arrested. Nevertheless, in the afternoon, the floral wreath was placed in the park with a ribbon that read: "For the mothers of the '13 de Marzo' tugboat and for the mothers of prisoners. Long live Human Rights!"



**René Montes de Oca  
Martijas**

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

**Matanzas.** The *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* created the "Jornada Boitel Vive" (Boitel Lives Campaign) from May 13 – May 25 to honor Boitel from the date of his birth to the date of his death. As part of the inauguration activities, in the city of Jovellanos, province of Matanzas, a ceremony was held to pay tribute to Boitel and all Cuban political prisoners. The relatives of Cuban political prisoners were present, and the organization made a gift to Lumidia Acosta Tieves, mother of prisoner Angel Moya Acosta, and his wife Berta Soler Fernandez. Former political prisoners were invited, and many of Boitel's contemporaries from the time period during which he carried out his hunger strike attended the event.

Source: Felix Navarro Rodriguez, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Holguin.** A meeting was held as part of the activities to honor Pedro Luis Boitel in Moa, Holguin, at the home of Prospero Gainza Agüero, a member of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. The objectives of the organizations and future projects of civil disobedience were discussed. Documents relating to the life and work of Pedro Luis Boitel were also read and discussed. The event began at

10 am and lasted until 2 pm. Because it was Mother's Day, the activists took a floral offering to the dock of the La Playa-Moa neighborhood and cast it in the ocean in remembrance of all Cuban mothers who had drowned trying to escape the Castro regime.



**Eddy Alfredo  
Mena González**

Source: Bertha Antunez, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

### May 14-18, 2001

**Havana.** The *Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz Independent Library* for children and adolescents held several activities. The library, located at Calle Martí, 264-C in Campo Florido, Habana del Este, showed the film, "The Life of Jesus Christ." The children talked about the movie afterwards and were given a snack. There was also a reading of the biography of Ignacio Agramonte, a Cuban patriot who fought for independence, and a drawing session during which a group of about 20 teens made sketches of Agramonte.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, independent journalist. CubaNet.

### May 14-23, 2001

**Matanzas.** As part of the Boitel Lives Campaign, activists visited and took flowers to the tombs of those who were killed during an armed uprising against the Castro regime in the 1960s. These visits were carried out in the province of Matanzas, in the cities of **San Jose de los Ramos** on May 14, **Calimete** on May 15, **Bolondron** on May 20, **Matanzas** on May 22 and **Jovellanos** on May 23. Similar activities were also held in the municipal cemetery of **Las Tunas** on May 20 and in **Aguada de Pasajeros** on May 21.

Source: Felix Navarro Rodriguez, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

### May 15, 2001

**Havana.** Rene Montes de Oca, secretary general of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated with the Andrei Sakharov Foundation*, sent a letter to the independent press agency Cuba Voz in support of the Varela Project, stating that this project sought a practical solution for the Cuban nation and is necessary for a peaceful transition to democracy.

Source: Ohalys Victore, Cuba-Voz. CubaNet.

### May 16, 2001

**Havana.** In the home of independent journalist Angel Pablo Polanco, a colloquium was held, hosted by the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* and the

*National Council for Civil Rights* on the situation of current political prisoners.

Source: Bertha Antúnez, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Seven opposition activists submitted a letter and the Varela Project to the local Popular Power in the municipality of **Santiago de Cuba**, backed by 372 signatures from the population. This action is part of a larger effort to inform all the representatives in the National Assembly about the project and ask them to present it in parliament. A similar letter and the Varela Project were also submitted to the representatives in the municipalities of **Güines** and **Arroyo Naranjo**.

Source: Omar Rodríguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

### May 17, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** The opposition members in Santiago de Cuba inaugurated a campaign in honor of Boitel and called it the “*Jornada Internacional por el Preso Político Pedro Luis Boitel*” (“Pedro Luis Boitel International Campaign for the Political Prisoner”). The inauguration event took place in the home of political prisoner Eddy Alfredo Mena González located on Calle Corona #403 between Los Maceo and San Maceo in Santiago de Cuba. It was hosted by the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* and was also attended by members of the *Club of Political Prisoners and Ex Political Prisoners* and the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*. The participants, numbering about 30, said a prayer for peace, read a press release, and held a discussion on the “*Agreement for Democracy*,” a document signed by pro-democracy organizations in Cuba and in exile in 1998.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### May 18, 2001

**Matanzas.** During an activity that lasted about 3 hours on Calle Mesa, #32, in **Colón, Matanzas**, activists met to honor Pedro Luis Boitel. The home where the event took place was decorated with photos, signs calling for a general amnesty, and quotations of Boitel and Jose Martí. Poems were read

and clothes donated from the exile community were given to children. Also, a new member was incorporated into the organization. Similarly, six new members also joined the organization in the municipality of **Union de Reyes** in Matanzas.

Source: Felix Navarro Rodríguez, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Sancti Spiritus.** Members of the *Democratic Solidarity Party* carried out a remembrance act in honor of Jose Martí on the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. The act was planned to take place in a park in the province of Sancti Spiritus and was going to include leaving a floral arrangement by a bust of Martí and handing out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, political police agents and the Rapid Response Brigades dispersed the activists, forcing them to find another site. They held the ceremony by a ceiba tree not far from the park.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### May 19, 2001

**Matanzas.** Members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* placed flowers by the bust of Jose Martí in a park in Guareiras, municipality of Colon in Matanzas. The activity had to be carried out at 3:30 am because State Security was threatening to prevent it. Members who participated included Noel Lopez Perez, Rolando Boan Cepero, and Andres Govea Suarés.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Sixty-two activists sign a statement by the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* in support of Cuba’s political prisoners, among them Jorge Luis Perez Garcia Antunez and Marcelo D. Amelo Rodriguez.

Source: *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** In the headquarters of the *Club of Political Prisoners and Ex Political Prisoners* in the city of Santiago de Cuba, an activity was held as part of the Pedro Luis Boitel International Campaign for the Political Prisoner. Only about 20 people were able to participate because the political police prevented others from arriving. A poem by Jose Martí and a



**Members of the Cuban Foundation  
for Human Rights**

**03/06/201. Havana.** Opposition organizations backing the Varela Project made a call to all Cubans to support this project. Signing a document that stated the reasons for their support, 117 representatives of different opposition organizations – independent journalists, labor unions, trade associations, etc. – endorsed the project.

**01/23/02. Cojímar, Havana.** Members of the *Orthodox Party, Association of Independent Teachers* and *Maceistas for Dignity* held a vigil for freedom without forced exile for political prisoners.



**05/03/2001. Havana.** Requesting that they present the project to the National Assembly. 50 residents in Güin... a letter that was d... representatives in the Popular Power. This larger, nationwide effort for the Varela Project, allow... ask their represent... present the project a... National Assembly.

**08/06/2001. Pinar del Rio.** Valentin Almira Miranda submitted a letter signed by 30 citizens to a delegate of the National Assembly from the municipality of San Juan y Martinez.



**Havana.** The *Independent Teachers Association* organized a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

**10/10/2001. Cienfuegos.** Organized by the *Justice and Peace Commission*, delegates of all the dioceses in Cuba met for the VIII Social Catholic Week at the church of Monserrat in Cienfuegos. The delegates approved courses of action, using the defense of human rights as one of its guiding principles. The commissions also decided to support the Varela Project and the right of Cuban citizens to participate in a referendum.



**Isla de Pinos.** Activists in Nu... Girona celebrated a vigil for Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners.

# FAITH IN VICTORY!

**Havana Province.**  
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**07/13/2001. Jatibonico, Camaguey.** Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva and Marcelo Tier Piñero walked through the town of Jatibonico collecting signatures for the Varela Project. State Security agents accosted them, pushed them into a car, beat them, and later dropped off each activist in a different remote location. The agents took the Varela Project petitions. They also ripped from the blind Gonzalez Leiva's hands the walking stick he used.

**08/15/2001. Agüica Prison, Matanzas.** In a letter sent from the Agüica Prison, political prisoner Angel Moya Acosta announced his support for the Varela Project. In his letter, Moya Acosta stated that the Varela Project is consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban opposition and those in exile.

**05/24/2001. Las Tunas.** Activists of the Varela Project submitted 390 signatures in support of the project to the offices of the Popular Power in the municipalities of **Puerto Padre** and **Jesus Menendez** in the province of Las Tunas.



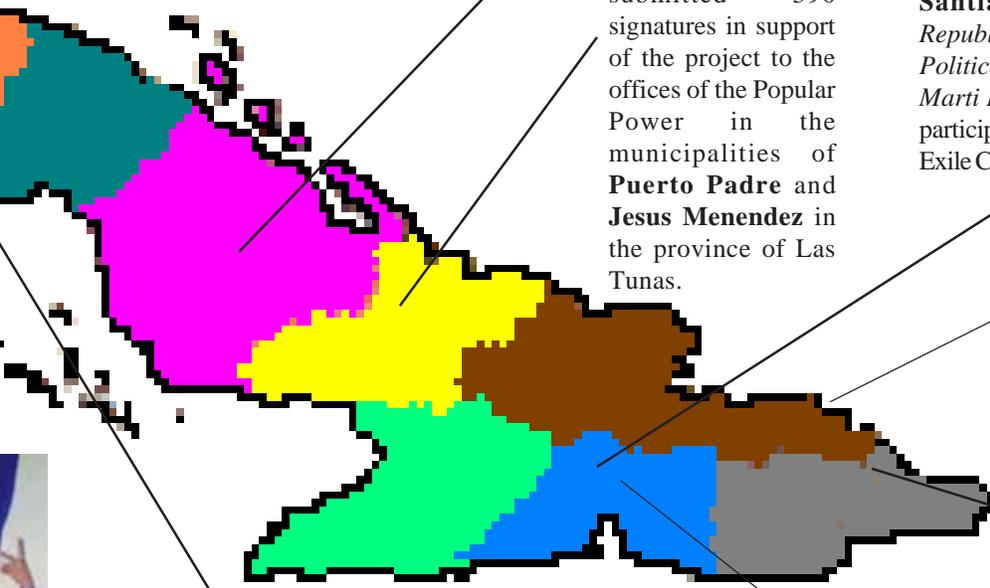
**Santiago de Cuba.** Activists of the *Cuban Republican Party, Eastern Front of the Persecuted, Political Prisoners and Former Political Prisoners, Marti Pro Democracy Women* and *Orthodox Youth* participated in a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

**04/04/2001. Holguin.** Residents in the city of Moa burst out in protest when it was announced that each person would only be able to buy a ration of two pounds of plantains.

**04/04/2001. Guantanamo.** Protesting the beating of another political prisoner, **Yonni Labañino Matos** used his blood to write on the wall "Down with the tyranny of Fidel Castro."

**08/21/2001. Manicaragua, Villa Clara.** Activists presented the Varela Project to the offices of the Popular Power in Manicaragua, Villa Clara, as part of an ongoing effort to promote the project, bring it to the attention of municipal representatives, and formally request that they present it before the National Assembly.

**04/10/2001. Santiago de Cuba.** A total of 105 residents in the province of Santiago de Cuba signed letters in support of the Varela Project that were presented to the offices of the Popular Power in two different municipalities. In **Palma Soriano**, the activists Vivian Acosta Suarez, Oscar Piña Martinez, Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares and Reinaldo Rodriguez Curtiada submitted a letter with 63 signatures to the Popular Power. In the municipality of **Julio Antonio Mella**, Grave de Peralta and Rodriguez Curtiada submitted a letter with another 42 signatures.



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letter from the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* were read. Members also talked about the “Agreement for Democracy” and a declaration being signed by opposition members in the area asking for an amnesty for political prisoners and for the liberation of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez and Marcelo Amelo Rodriguez.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### May 19-25, 2001

The *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*, based in the city of Ciego de Avila, carried out a fast for a week to protest repressive actions that the Cuban government had carried out in the preceding months and to pray for an end to the government’s repression and a change to democracy, freedom, and rule of law in Cuba.

Source: Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*.

### May 20, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** An affiliate of the Emilio Maspero Independent Library was founded in the city of Pinar del Rio. The library was named after the Argentine labor leader.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

**Havana.** More than 40 opposition activists from the municipality of Güines, province of Havana, met to celebrate the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. The celebration took place in the home of Onelia Silver Sarmiento, subdirector of the *Center of Pro Human Rights Veterans*.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

**Havana.** A literary meeting was held at the *Jose Angel Buesa Independent Library* in Santos Suarez, Havana, to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, date of Cuban Independence and the founding of the republic. Some of the topics discussed included freedom of the press, the poetry of exiled women Cuban writers, and the work of Reinaldo Arenas.

Source: Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** An affiliate of the *Emilio Maspero Independent Library* was founded at Calle 35 #4007 in Artemisa, province of Havana.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

**Matanzas.** In Bolondron, Matanzas, activists visited and took flowers to the graves of those who were killed during the years of armed insurrection against Castro in the 1960s.

Source: Felix Navarro Rodriguez, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Matanzas.** The *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* celebrated Independence Day at the home of the Sigler brothers, members of the organization, in the town of Pedro Betancourt in Matanzas. The members who attended had to circumvent State Security agents and National Revolutionary Police officers attempting to intercept them on their way to the event. The activists walked 8 kilometers through woods and cane fields to dodge the police.

Source: Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Villa Clara.** In Placetas, a new independent library was opened. The *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* founded the *Pedro Luis Boitel II Independent Library*.

Source: *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** The 20<sup>th</sup> of May II Independent Library was founded at Calle 2da Oeste #24-A, between 5ta and 6ta del Sur, in Placetas.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Sancti Spiritus.** The 20<sup>th</sup> of May Independent Library was founded at Calle 26 de Julio #30, between 3ra del Oeste and Ferrocarril, in the Reparto Colon.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.



**Members of the Independent Alternative Option Movement and other opposition organizations from Matanzas.**

### May 21, 2001

**Havana.** Political prisoner Miguel Lopez Santos initiated a hunger strike at the offices of State Security in Villa Marista. Lopez Santos was demanding a fair trial and protesting the deceptive methods used against him. Previously, he had been held at the prison of Valle Grande with no formal charges stated against him. When he signed his release papers, he was not allowed to go but rather was taken to a police station. Realizing that a plot was being created against him, he began the hunger strike. Two days later, on May 23, Lopez Santos was taken to court. He was given no time to find a lawyer and no one was allowed to testify on his behalf. He was charged with “social dangerousness” and sentenced to three years in jail.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Villa Clara.** In the home of Bertha Antunez Pernet, president of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, eight activists from different opposition organizations commemorated Pedro Luis Boitel, who died in 1972 after a prolonged hunger strike demanding the release of political prisoners. The activity was part of a larger campaign to remember Boitel, carried out from the date of his birth, May 13, to the date of his death, May 25.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Political prisoner Marcelo Diosdado Amelo Rodriguez, 53, died in the Saturnino Lora Hospital in Santiago de Cuba on May 20th. He had suffered for months from high blood pressure and the prison authorities had refused to give him the medication that his relatives brought for him. His family gathered to mourn him the next day at his home. When prison guards appeared at the wake, the mourners began to attack them verbally, driving them out and shouting “Murderers!” and “Down with Fidel!”

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

### May 22, 2001

**Matanzas.** At the cemetery of Matanzas, activists of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* held a remembrance act to pay tribute to those who had struggled for freedom and democracy.

Source: Tomas Fernandez Tihert, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** For the funeral of Marcelo Diosdado Amelo Rodriguez, about 80 opposition activists participated in the procession to the cemetery. The area was surrounded by political police and State Security, who tried to persuade the mourners to bring the funeral car to the front of the

procession. An altercation ensued with the dissidents shouting “Freedom!” and the police beating and arresting the participants.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

### May 23, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** Wilson Bravo Miranda refused to join the Union of Young Communists after his supervisors at the Empresa Cubana del Petroleo, a state-run oil company, asked him to become a member. Receiving threats from his bosses, Bravo Miranda ultimately left his job, fearing that he would be deliberately implicated in a harmful situation.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

### May 24, 2001

**Havana.** Members of *Civic Brotherhood* attended the trial of Jose Orlando Bridon Gonzalez, opposition labor activist, to show solidarity with him and to protest the government’s arbitrary trial. The members gathered at the Provincial Tribunal of 13 de Octubre where he was being tried.

Source: Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

**Las Tunas.** Activists of the Varela Project submitted 390 signatures in support of the project to the offices of the Popular Power in the municipalities of **Puerto Padre** and **Jesus Menendez** in the province of Las Tunas.

Source: Marilyn Lahera, APLO. CubaNet.

### May 25, 2001

**Havana.** At around 7:30 am, activists arrived at the Colón Cemetery to pay tribute to Pedro Luis Boitel on the 29th anniversary of his death. State Security agents did not allow them to enter the cemetery to hold the ceremony by his grave. As a result, they held their act outside, reciting a prayer for Boitel and for all current political prisoners suffering in Cuba’s jails. The *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* organized this act.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. Jorge Omar Lorenzo Pimienta, *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba*.

**Havana.** In the afternoon, three activists of the *Mario Manuel de la Peña Movement for Human Rights* managed to evade State Security to place flowers and a Cuban flag on the tomb of Pedro Luis Boitel. Activists have located his grave even though the exact site was unknown for some time because the Castro regime buried him in an unmarked grave.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Matanzas.** Approximately 30 opposition activists participated in the closing of the Boitel Lives Campaign in Perico, Matanzas. The *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* organized the event.

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Holguin.** The Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, as well as the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* and the *Club of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners* hosted a closing ceremony for the Boitel campaign. Participants read Psalms and held a moment of silence for Marcelo Diosdado Amelo, an activist who passed away a few days earlier in prison. They also read the “Agreement for Democracy” and made mention of the Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award, which had been given to opposition activist Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva that same day.

Source: Holguin-Moa delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Holguin.** A fast was carried out to demand amnesty for all political prisoners at the home of Prospero Gainza Aguero at Calle B #28 F in the neighborhood of La Playa in Moa, Holguin. The fast began at 6 am and was held until 6 pm.

Source: Holguin-Moa delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

#### May 26, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** In the town of Lopez Peña in Pinar del Rio, shouts of “Down with Fidel Castro!” were heard at a nightclub when electricity service blacked out twice. The police officers present did not interrupt the spontaneous protest.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** State Security agents quickly collected dozens of flyers reading, “No Castro, No Problem” in the Calixto Garcia Hospital in Havana. According to witnesses, the agents surrounded the hospital looking for possible culprits. No arrests were reported.

Source: El Nuevo Herald.

#### May 29, 2001

**Ciego de Avila.** In Moron, Ciego de Avila, signs were posted on the Policlínica Norte reading, “Freedom for political prisoners” and “We want democracy and freedom of expression.” State Security detained an activist of the *Cuban Commission of Human Rights* in his home for several hours, accusing him of having posted the signs.

Source: Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, CAPI. CubaNet.

#### May 30, 2001

**Havana.** The “*Young Cuba*” Cuban Popular Party founded seven independent libraries in Havana. These libraries will promote the study of the life and work of Jose Martí and the history of the Republic of Cuba. They will serve as study centers to educate the youth about the Cuban history they were not taught in the state-run schools and also to prepare them for the future republic. Having founded three new libraries previously, there were now 10 libraries opened by this organization. They were the *Juan Gualberto Gomez*, *Sebastian Arcos Bergnes*, *Mario Manuel de la Peña*, *Mahatma Gandhi*, *Jose Julian Marti Perez*, *Ignacio Agramonte*, *Paz y Amor*, *Herberto Padilla*, *Aurora*, and *Shalom Independent Library*.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

#### May 31, 2001

**Havana.** The *Unitary Council of Cuban Workers* inaugurated the *Emilio Maspero Independent Library* with an act attended by opposition activists of the independent labor union movement as well as other dissidents. The library was named after Emilio Maspero in homage to his work in defense of labor rights for Argentine and Latin American workers. Elizabeth Pruneda Balmaseda was named library director, and the library was opened at Carlos III 809, Apt. 10, in Havana. The first Emilio Maspero Independent Library, an affiliate of the library opened in Havana, was founded on May 12 at Calle Maceo 20 in **Perico, Matanzas**. Two other affiliates were also opened on May 20<sup>th</sup>, one at Calle 35 #4007 in **Artemisa, Havana**, and another in the city of **Pinar del Rio**.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

#### May 31, 2001

**Havana.** The *Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists* was created in Havana as an association of independent journalists. The society was founded to promote freedom of expression and information, continue the professional preparation of alternative Cuban journalists, defend the ethics of social communication, and morally and financially support the families of independent journalists. Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, Jorge Olivera Castillo and Carmelo Diaz Fernandez were elected to the executive board.

Source: Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, independent journalist. Diario Las Americas.

#### June 2001.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* published the second issue of its newsletter *Fueros*.

Source: Jose Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

#### June 3, 2001.

**Pinar del Río.** Members of the *5<sup>th</sup> of August Pacifist Movement* undertook a fast at Entronque de Herradura, Pinar del Río, to demand freedom for political prisoners and respect for human rights. The resistance act took place at the home of Eduardo Diaz Fleitas at Calle 20 #1303A. An officer of the political police arrived and asked them to take down the sign and Cuban flag that they had posted outside because it was a “provocation.” The sign’s message called for the liberation of prisoner of conscience Oscar Elias Biscet and all other political prisoners. Diaz Fleitas refused to take the sign down, stating that it was not meant to be a provocation and would not come down until the demand was met.

Source: Lazaro Raul Gonzalez, CPI. CubaNet.

**Cienfuegos.** A resident of Cienfuegos, Maria Rosa Gala Olivera, threatened to begin a hunger strike in front of the offices of the Provincial Housing Department if the government failed to provide a solution to improve her critical housing situation. She made the statement in front of one of the Housing officials, and the next day she received a visit from the Municipal Director of Housing. He made promises that he was going to try to help her.

Source: Sunset Nogueras Rofes, independent journalist. CubaNet.



**Members of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement meet at a home in Santiago de Cuba.**

**June 5, 2001.**

**Santiago de Cuba.** Two doctors in the city of Santiago de Cuba began a demonstration to protest the government’s human rights violations and its lack of medical assistance to political prisoners. A married couple, the doctors Luis Milan Fernandez and Lissandra Laffita Hernandez, worked at the 28<sup>th</sup> of September Clinic and the Clinica Estomatologica of Mella, respectively. They wore black armbands to ask for adequate medical attention for political and common prisoners and freedom for political prisoners imprisoned for nonviolent actions.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivero, APLO. CubaNet.

**June 7, 2001**

**Pinar del Río.** The “To be Educated is to be Free” Independent Library was opened at Kilometro 5 ½ of Carretera San Luis, in the neighborhood Forteza in San Luis, Pinar del Río. The library will specialize in young adult and children’s literature and provide activities for the local children and teens of San Luis.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Peaceful opposition activists carried out a civil disobedience act to commemorate the 40-day fast led by Oscar Elias Biscet at Tamarindo 34 in Havana in 1999. This year the act was planned to take place outside the apartment where it was held originally. Migdalia Rosado, president of *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights*, the organization hosting the fast, was arrested the night before in an attempt to prevent it. The 17 fasters were arrested, despite the shouts of neighbors supporting their action. Later they concluded the fast at the El Valle Farm, home of opposition activist Marcel Valenzuela Salt of *Civic Brotherhood*. Similar fasts to commemorate the Tamarindo 34 fast of 1999 were also held in the city of **Holguin** and in **Placetas, Villa Clara** and **Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines**.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

**Havana.** In the home of Aida Valdes, about 40 opposition activists and journalists attended the inauguration of a photo exhibit on the plight of Cuban political prisoners since 1959, denouncing the situation of the existing 428 political prisoners, imprisoned for nonviolent action, and demanding the liberty of 50 sick prisoners and 15 women. The exhibit was timed to coincide with and commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup>

anniversary of the Tamarindo 34 fast held in Havana by Oscar Elias Biscet.

Source: Agence France Press. El Nuevo Herald. Diario Las Americas. Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Matanzas.** A fast was held in Perico, Matanzas, in the home of Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero. Sponsored by the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*, the event was meant to commemorate the second anniversary of the 40-day Tamarindo 34 fast held in Havana and led by Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet in 1999. It took place from 7 am until 5 pm and included the participation of about 9 members of the party as well as members of other organizations.

Source: *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Villa Clara.** Members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National*

*Civic Resistance Movement* held workshops for opposition activists on civic leadership in different cities in the eastern region of the country. In **Placetás**, the workshop was held in the home of prominent opposition leader Bertha Antunez Pernet. The other three workshops were carried out in the homes of activists in **Moa** and **Sagua de Tanamo, Holguin**, and the city of **Santiago de Cuba**.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Eight doctors and a nurse began a fast in the city of Santiago de Cuba to call attention to demands they were making to the Department of Public Health (or *Ministerio de Salud Pública*, “MINSAP”). The protesters were demanding higher salaries, the right to rest after finishing a shift, and the abolition of the Department of Public Health’s provision that states that doctors cannot travel legally without first being cleared by the department. The protest was planned to last 9 days, 24-hours a day, with fasters alternating turns. Several days after the protest had begun, four more doctors joined the existing group of 9. The protest ultimately lasted 20 days and was concluded on June 27.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivero, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **June 8, 2001**

**Holguin.** More than 40 people boarded a bus by force in protest of the shortage of tickets in the terminal of Moa, province of Holguin. Only 25 tickets are sold for the bus that runs from Moa to the town of Melba on a single trip daily. When tickets were no longer available, those who had not been able to buy tickets forced the doors of the bus open and boarded it. The local police arrived and asked all the standing passengers to get off the bus, but the others also climbed down and began shouting that no one would go if they were not all allowed to go. They were also shouts of “How long will this crisis last?” The police could not contain the crowd and left. Finally, bus terminal officials let all the passengers board.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **June 11, 2001.**

**Holguin.** The residents of Sagua de Tánamo, in the province of Holguin, protested a blackout that lasted 12 hours. Shouts of “Where is Chavez’ oil?” and “What excuse are you going to give us now?” were heard throughout the town. The electricity had gone out at 12:30 pm and did not return until 12:30 am.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **June 13, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** An 11-year-old child in the city of Caibarien refused to write a letter rejecting American President George W. Bush, the American embargo, and the Helms-Burton Law

as part of his in-class work. Agustin Ortueta Carrillo said that he would not write the letter because he wanted to live in the United States. Ortueta Carrillo is a student at the Abel Santamaria Elementary School. These letters were going to be collected and sent to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP. CubaNet.

#### **June 19, 2001**

**Las Tunas.** A colloquium was held at the *Octavio Paz Independent Library* in the city of Las Tunas on the “Psychology of the Cuban.” Psychologist and keynote speaker Ramon Humberto Colas presented information on the topic and led the discussion that followed. Directors and volunteers of the independent libraries attended the event as well as other opposition activists, independent journalists, and two visitors from liberal Swedish organizations.

Source: Jose Luis Garcia Paneque, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **June 20, 2001**

**Havana.** A total of 13 opposition organizations were represented at an event held at the farm of El Valle in Arroyo Naranjo to demand the liberation of political prisoners as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The event was sponsored by *Civic Brotherhood* and was attended by organizations such as the *Cuban Feminine Unity*, *Naturpaz*, *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*, and *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

Source: Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*.

#### **June 21, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** Approximately 20 opposition activists attended a mass held for Marcelo Diosdado Amelo Rodriguez, an activist who had passed away a month earlier in prison after the government refused to lend him medical assistance. The mass took place at the Church of Santa Teresita in Santiago de Cuba at 5 pm. Family members and friends also attended the event.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **June 23, 2001.**

**Havana.** A mass was arranged by the *6<sup>th</sup> of January Movement* and the *Center of Information on Democracy* at the Santiago Apostol Church in Santiago de las Vegas, Havana. Political police tried to block dissidents from attending, and one was beaten and detained for several hours. The mass was called with the idea of afterwards placing flowers by the monument of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Cuban independence leader.

Source: Ruben Rodriguez, Agencia Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** The first convention of the *Democratic Solidarity Party* was held in Havana. The party is a member of Liberal International. Approximately 60 guests, including members of other opposition organizations on the island and representatives of liberal Swedish groups that traveled to Havana for the event, attended the convention. A 13-page report was also read detailing the activities the party had carried out since its founding in 1993. The party reaffirmed its political line and its adherence to the *Analysis and Discussion Group of the Moderate Opposition*.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa.

#### June 24, 2001

**Camaguey.** As a way of reclaiming their civil rights, opposition activists carried out an 8-hour fast, from 10 am until 6 pm, in a private home at San Esteban 654, between Lugareño and San Ramón, in the city of Camaguey. Twenty-seven activists from the *Committee of Social Self-Defense*, *Christian Democrat Party*, *Julio Sanguily Committee*, *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*, and *Grupo Decoro* participated in the fast.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### June 25, 2001

**Matanzas.** About a hundred neighbors protested as the Municipal Housing Department evicted a family in Jagüey Grande, Matanzas, from their home. The family was being accused of illegal occupation, despite claiming that they had papers from the same department stating that the occupation was legal. Neighbors openly criticized the eviction, resulting in two arrests.

Source: Alida Viso Bello, independent journalist. CubaNet.

**Las Tunas.** In the morning, a sign appeared posted to the front of the “El Amanecer” butcher shop. The sign read, “Down with Fidel. We want democracy.” Agents of the Committees of Defense tore down the sign and burned it. Later in the day, police cars appeared and blocked off the area.

Source: Hector Riveron Gonzalez, Agencia Libertad. Nueva

Prensa Cubana.

#### June 27, 2001

**Matanzas.** Vigils calling for freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners were held in different parts of the country. In the cities of **Bolondron**, **Jagüey Grande**, **Cardenas**, **Jovellanos**, **Torriente** and **Matanzas**, in the province of Matanzas, a total of about 90 activists took part in the vigils.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The activists Raul Arencibia Fajardo and Eduardo Miguel Canelo Collazo distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to passersby in the Parque Central and Parque de la Fraternidad.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.



**Maritza Lugo Fernández, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.**

**Camaguey.** A vigil took place in the home of Rene Leon Ruiz of the *Committee of Social Self-Defense*, where participants also called for freedom and respect for human rights and labor rights. Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm opposition activists in different parts of the island hold these vigils.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

#### June 28, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** Medical professionals who participated in a protest since June 7th, as well as other professionals sympathetic to their cause, signed and faxed a statement to the minister and vice minister of Public Health as well as the

country’s officialdaily, Granma, and international press agencies. The statement, titled “Manifiesto 2001,” made the following three demands to the government: create a new Constitution that would include rights and liberties acknowledged internationally, open the economy, and extend a general amnesty to all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. Twenty professionals signed the statement.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### June 29, 2001

**Santiago de Cuba.** During the time of carnival, the conga line of the neighborhood of San Agustin in Santiago de Cuba, as it made its way to the Paso Franco neighborhood, was heard

chanting, “The parrot fainted from talking so much,” a veiled reference to the fainting spell Castro suffered during a speech earlier that month. The political police began beating and arresting the revelers.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Three doctors – Adrian Rodriguez Noa, Luis Milan Fernandez and Lisandra Laffita Hernandez – submitted a copy of the Manifesto 2001 to the secretary of Dr. Duran, the director of the Department of Public Health of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **July 4, 2001**

**Havana.** In the Pro Liberty and Democracy Center of the Cuba Commission opposition members from several organizations celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S. Independence. The celebration was held at the *Sebastian Arcos Bergnes Independent Library*, and the participants discussed the ideals of freedom and democracy symbolized by the United States.

Source: Jesus Isidro, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** A demonstration took place that spanned the area in Havana from Parque Martí to the Church of the Virgen of Regla. Protesters were calling for freedom for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The political police ended the demonstration with beatings and arrests.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** About 40 members of different opposition organizations took part in a fast in a home at Avenida 71, between 114 and 116, in Marianao, Havana, to call for the freedom of political prisoners and particularly for the prompt liberation of political prisoner Angel Moya. The fast was held from 10 am until 4 pm.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Medical doctors Luis Milan Fernandez and Adrian Rodriguez Noa submitted a copy of the Manifesto 2001 to the Communist Party and the Department of Public Health in Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Luis Alberto Rivera, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **July 5, 2001**

**Isla de Pinos.** Signing a declaration, 23 representatives of five opposition organizations made a call to the Cuban nation, both on the island and in exile, to come together to work for the following objectives: amnesty for political prisoners, a

state of law in Cuba, an end to Cuban migration that leads to deaths in the ocean, the elimination of political crimes from the Cuban penal code, and a popular referendum.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, *Pinero Committee of Human Rights*.

#### **July 7, 2001**

**San Miguel del Padron, Havana.** The Executive Board of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* held a meeting at the Baraguá Farm in Havana. Approximately 15 members participated.

Source: Maritza Lugo Fernandez, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

#### **July 9, 2001**

**Cienfuegos.** Anti-government signs appeared in the city of Cienfuegos, on Avenida 46 and Avenida 48. “Down with communism,” “Down with hunger and misery,” and “Liberty and democracy” were several of the slogans on the signs. State Security arrived and took pictures of the signs, warning that the author would receive severe prison sanctions.

Source: Jorge Olivera, Havana Press. CubaNet.

#### **July 9-13, 2001**

**Caibarien, Villa Clara.** A number of opposition organizations from the region held a series of vigils to remember the 13 de Marzo victims, the disappeared in the Florida Straits, the four pilots of Brothers to the Rescue, and Cuban political prisoners, as well as to support the United States’ pledge to send funds to the opposition. The vigils took place from 9 am until noon and from 8 pm until midnight in homes of opposition members. The organizations that participated included: the *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters*, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, *Mario Manuel de la Peña Movement for Human Rights*, *Democratic Solidarity Party* and *Cuban Reflection Movement*. They are as follows:

#### **July 9, 2001**

The first of the Caibarien vigils took place, at Ave. 39 #1603, between 16 and 18 Street, from 8 am to 12:00 pm. Nine activists participated.

#### **July 9, 2001**

A group of 32 activists carried out a vigil from 8 p.m. to midnight at Ave. 39 #1603, between 16 and 18 Street.

#### **July 10, 2001**

Twelve activists carried out a vigil at Ave. 25 #1421, between 14 and 16 Street.

#### **July 11, 2001**

The Rafters Association carried out a vigil with the participation of 34 adults and 11 children at Ave. 22 #1828,

between 18 and 20 Street.

### **July 12, 2001**

A total of 34 activists and 11 children participated in a vigil carried out at Ave. 34 #1603, between 16 and 18 Street.

### **July 13, 2001**

A vigil was held at Ave. 34 #1603, between 16 and 18 Street.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*, Margarito Broche, *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters*.

### **July 10, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Six workers in a state lumber yard in Pinar del Rio refused to accept their wages in protest over their poor working conditions and low salaries. Although the laborers did not stop working, they did not accept payment on the grounds that the salary of 110 pesos they received a month, plus the \$2 extra they were receiving that month for overtime, was unfairly low. The laborers also demanded shorter shifts, safer equipment and working conditions, and better meals.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Domingo Ramos Gallery of Alternative Art* was opened in Güines, Havana. The gallery has been supported by a number of artists, some of which have been expelled from their jobs with the state for their work with the gallery. Jesus Isidro Hernandez was named gallery director.

Source: Jadir Hernandez, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Ciego de Avila.** Anti-government messages were painted on the walls of the Policlínica Norte in the town of Morón after similar signs were erased from a prior incident. The signs called for freedom and democracy and freedom for political prisoners and prisoners suffering from AIDS.

Source: Pedro Argüelles Moran, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana

### **July 11, 2001**

**Havana.** Promoters of the Varela Project submitted a letter to Radio Güines, the radio station of this municipality in the province of Havana, asking the director of the station to disclose information about the project to the public.

Source: Jadir Hernandez, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Led by Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, the *Center for the Study of a National Option* in Santiago de Cuba was inaugurated in a meeting, during which participants read the "Agreement for Democracy" and were shown a video of a workshop that had been held at its sister organization in Miami. They also read an article by Miami-based activist Orlando Gutierrez titled "Las duras verdades del cambio" ("The Harsh Reality of Change").

Source: *Center for the Study of a National Option. Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.*

### **July 12, 2001**

**Havana.** Workers from a cigar factory defended co-worker and dissident Camil Lopez Mena who was going to be punished by the factory's directors. Lopez Mena left the factory for 10 minutes during a break to participate in a nearby opposition activity. As a result, the factory's director and other managers wanted to take disciplinary action. Overwhelming support

from his co-workers, however, prevented his punishment. Lopez Mena belongs to the opposition organizations *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba* and the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

Sources: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Villa Clara.** Ten activists of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* cast flowers into the Sagua la Grande River at 10 pm in Villa Clara.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.



**Jose Ramon Castillo speaks at a meeting of the Center for the Study of a National Option in Santiago de Cuba.**

**July 13, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** In the home of opposition activist, Lazaro Ramos, in the city of Pinar del Rio, a vigil was held to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking and commemorate the 41 Cubans who were killed. Fifteen members of different organizations attended the event, which lasted from 8 am until 3 pm.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Twelve activists of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* deposited 340 plastic bottles in the ocean, each with a flower inside and a flyer reading, "The sea cries, the dead demand justice." The act was carried out in remembrance of the 13 de Marzo victims.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba.

**Havana.** Members of the *13th of July Movement* launched a raft onto the ocean bearing flowers and a sign that read, "For the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat, July 13." They also read a press release and sang the national anthem.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba.

**Havana.** In front of the Castle El Morro, members of *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights* cast flowers into the bay and distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Havana.** Members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* walked the length of the *Malecón* (the seawall in Havana) to Parque Maceo and the street San Lazaro distributing 600 copies of a flyer reading, "The sea cries, the dead demand justice."

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Havana.** At 7 pm, Dolores Iglesias, member of the *Cuban Labor Coordination* concluded a solemn service that had been held to remember the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat

sinking with a prayer to Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba. Opposition activists came from other parts of the country and representatives from about 20 organizations attended the event.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.

**Havana.** In the early morning hours after midnight, several opposition activists gathered in El Paseo Jose Martí in Old Havana to commemorate the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking. They read a press release and afterwards walked to the dock and cast flowers into the ocean. Activists from the *Cuban Liberal Movement* and *Naturpaz* participated.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Havana.** A mass was held at 5 pm in the Church of Güines, province of Havana, to remember and pray for the 41 victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** The promoters of the Varela Project submitted six

letters backed by over thirty signatures from the population to the offices of the Popular Power in the municipality San Antonio de los Baños, Havana.

Source: Carlos Castro, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Several opposition activists met in the home of Mercedes Constantin of the *Center of Information on Democracy* to make a prayer chain and pray for the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.

Source: Ruben Rodriguez, Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**July 13, 2001.**

**Havana.** In the morning, opposition activists of the *10th of December Movement* cast flowers into the Mayabeque River to remember the 41 Cubans killed in the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes of HavanaPress, published in Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Matanzas.** A mass was held for the families of loved ones disappeared in the ocean and the families of political prisoners. Activists of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*



**Members of Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy participated in a human rights workshop.**

attended. Afterwards, they took part in a prayer chain that was held in the home of the organization's president and they read from the Psalms.

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Matanzas.** In Jovellanos, the *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* and a Methodist pastor led a prayer chain to remember the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Matanzas.** In Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas, the *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* performed a prayer chain to remember the tugboat victims.

Source: Felix Navarro, *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy*.

**Matanzas.** The *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* held a vigil from 9 am until 2 pm in Perico at the home of an organization member to remember the 41 Cubans killed in the sinking of the 13 de Marzo tugboat. Activists had to evade the maneuvering of political police to reach the site of the vigil.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Matanzas.** A remembrance act was held for the 13 de Marzo victims at the Bay of Matanzas in the area known as "Los Pinitos." The *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* sponsored the event, which took place at 10:30 am and was also attended by activists from other organizations.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Matanzas.** Vigils were held in the cities of **Matanzas**, **Cárdenas**, and **Varadero**, in the province of Matanzas, to remember the 13 de Marzo victims. Over 50 opposition activists in total attended the vigils.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.

**Villa Clara.** In the *Marta Abreu Independent Library* at Calle 3ra #83 between 2 and A, in the neighborhood of Virginia, city of Santa Clara, Osvaldo Ruiz Fleites, library director, hosted a discussion on the events of July 13, 1994, when the tugboat was sunk, and on the nature of the Castro regime. Ten members of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated with the Andrei Sakharov Foundation*, the *Marta Abreu Human Rights Foundation* and the *Cuban Reflection Movement* participated. One of the speakers, Jose Moreno Cruz, was arrested afterwards.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** Twenty-five activists cast flowers in the Cubanicy River in Santa Clara and sang the national anthem to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims. The *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation*, the *Movement of Maceistas for Dignity* and the *Independent Democratic Front* participated in the event.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** Despite heavy police repression, seven activists participating in the memorial vigils in Caibarien cast flowers into the ocean at 6 am.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** Five activists of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* once again cast flowers into the Sagua la Grande River at 10 am.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** A group of about 8 activists attended an event at the home of opposition member Carlos Manuel Campos Moya at 3ra del Este, between 3 and 4 Norte, Placetas, to remember the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking. Activists were expected from the cities of Sancti Spiritus and Baez but State Security prevented many from arriving at the event.

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** At 11 am, members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* and the *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba* held a minute of silence and carried out a march through the streets of Placetas to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking. Bertha Antunez Pernet, president of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, wore a shirt bearing a slogan calling for amnesty for political prisoners.

Source: Alejandro Garcia Sardiñas, *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba*. Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Cienfuegos.** The *Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy* hosted a prayer chain to remember the 13 de marzo tugboat victims.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Camagüey.** Led by director Rolando Alvarez Tendero, volunteers of the *13 de Julio Independent Library*, which took its name from the day of the tugboat sinking, cast flowers into the ocean in Santa Cruz del Sur to remember the victims.

Source: Ramon Humberto Colas Castillo, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Camagüey.** Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva and Marcelo Tier Piñero walked through the town of Jatibonico collecting signatures from the residents for the Varela Project. State Security agents accosted them, pushed them into a car, beat them, and later dropped off each activist in a different remote location. The agents took the Varela Project petitions. They also ripped from the blind Gonzalez Leiva's hands the walking stick he used.

Source: Fabio Prieto Llorente, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

**Las Tunas.** Several organizations took part in a vigil held at the *Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Independent Library* in the municipality of Amancio Rodriguez to commemorate the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims. Participants read passages from the Bible and an article from 1998 published in the newsletter of the *Cuban Committee of Human Rights* about the tugboat sinking. Members of the *Democratic Solidarity Party*, the *Labor Union of Independent Sugar Workers* and the *Project of Independent Libraries* participated in the event.

Source: Ramon Humberto Colas Castillo, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Las Tunas.** The *Democratic Christian Party Brothers to the Rescue* hosted a fast and vigil at Madrigal #24 in Puerto Padre, Las Tunas.

Source: Ramon Moises, *Democratic Christian Party Brothers to the Rescue*.

**Las Tunas.** The *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights* remembered the events of July 13, 1994, with a vigil in the home of one of its members in Guayabal, Las Tunas.

Source: Ramon Humberto Colas Castillo, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba*.

**Sagua de Tánamo, Moa, Holguin.** A mass is held at the Santisima Trinidad Church in Sagua de Tánamo, Moa, Holguin, to remember and pray for the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat. Fifteen members of the Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* attended the mass.

Source: Holguin-Moa Delegation, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Holguin.** In Moa, members of the Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* held a peaceful march from the home of an activist to the ocean, carrying flowers and signs. By the water's edge, they read the names of the 13 de marzo tugboat victims, cast the

flowers into the ocean, and shouted several times "Long live human rights!" They shouted for human rights and freedom for political prisoners and they read Biblical passages. The march was scheduled to take place at 9 am but did not begin until 11:20 am because of the presence of political police surrounding the place of departure.

Source: Elio Hidalgo, Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Opposition activists from the area were planning a remembrance act to honor the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims at the bridge of the Canto River. However, the political police appeared at the site, and the activists had to relocate the activity to the home of Carlos Piña Martinez at Cespedes 166 and the corner of Avenida Libertad, and the home of Dagoberto Estrada. Later, the activists cast flowers into the river.

Source: Fausto Frometa, independent journalist, Santiago de Cuba

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *National Board for a Transition to Democracy* in Santiago de Cuba remembered the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat. At the beach of Juraguá, members of the organization read a press release, sang the national anthem, held a moment of silence, and cast flowers into the ocean.

Source: Fabio Prieto Llorente, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** A mass was held at the Church of Santa Teresita in Santiago de Cuba in remembrance of the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat that was sunk by the Cuban government when families on the boat were trying to leave the island. A large number of State Security agents surrounded the church but no detentions were reported.

Source: Fabio Prieto Llorente, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **July 14, 2001**

**Nueva Gerona, Isla de Pinos.** Signs appeared at a cafeteria in the neighborhood Micro 79, Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines, that stated, "Fidel is a liar and a murderer." After the appearance of the signs, State Security agents visited the human rights activist Yodalmis Pompa and asked her to abandon her opposition activities.

Source: Fabio Prieto Llorente, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **July 15, 2001**

**Havana.** Employees of the company, Empresa de Pintura Vitral, based in Havana, met with leaders of the *National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba* (or CONIC, its

acronym in Spanish) at the *William Le Sante Independent Library* and aired their concerns over their working conditions. During the meeting, the government's V Congress of the Chemical Union was discussed. It was noted that the individuals invited to the congress were politically sympathetic with the government and that the CONIC had not been invited to attend. It was decided that a letter would be signed by members of the independent labor union



movement expressing its consternation at not having been allowed to participate in the congress and voice important issues.

Source: Aleida Godinez Soler, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Forty opposition activists issued a statement in support of three Cuban exile members of the Miami-based Democracy Movement charged by U.S. authorities with illegally entering Cuban waters to deposit a floral wreath commemorating the 1995 ramming and sinking by the Cuban Coast Guard of a tugboat trying to escape the island. Forty-one people were killed in the incident. The opposition activists based their statement on Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that people have the right to enter and leave their country freely. A federal jury in Key West later acquitted the Miami-based exiles of all charges.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzaneira Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

#### **July 19, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Foundation of Associated Independent Journalists* was created in Havana, constituted by independent journalists seeking to challenge Castro's government in the pursuit of truth.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP. CubaNet.

**Havana.** A leader of the *Unitary Council of Cuban Workers* submitted a copy of the Varela Project backed by 15 signatures of town residents to the office of Popular Power in Regla.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

#### **July 20, 2001**

**Havana.** A group of opposition activists participated in a vigil at the El Valle Farm in Arroyo Naranjo to pray for the liberation of political prisoners. The act was held as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign being carried out by the opposition all over the country and by the Cuban exile community in Miami.

Source: Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, independent journalist.

**Havana.** The *Democratic Solidarity Party* celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the home of organization president Odilia Collazo in San Miguel del Padron in the city of Havana.

Source: Luis Cino, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** University graduates refused to work on a survey about the government-run show *Mesa Redonda* aired daily. One student stated that he was tired of being used as political propaganda.

Source: Maria Elena Rodriguez, Cuba Voz. CubaNet.

#### **July 23, 2001**

**Matanzas.** In Ceiba Mocha, Matanzas, several high school students refused to write letters to President George W. Bush meant to describe and explain Jose Martí to the American government. The students were members of the Pentecostal Church of that region. They cited apolitical religious grounds for their decision. The authorities tried to force them but their parents intervened and the matter was dismissed.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, independent journalist. CubaNet.

#### **July 24, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Reinaldo Arenas Independent Library* was inaugurated in the Old Havana district of the capital, at Florida #158, between the streets Vives and Puertas Cerradas in the neighborhood of Jesus Maria. Maria Lopez and independent journalist Dorka de Cespedes will be running the library.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

**Villa Clara.** A vigil, sponsored by the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation*, was held in the home of activist Felicia Matas Machado in Santa Clara, Villa Clara, to demand the freedom of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Isle of Pines.** The *Missionaries for the Good of Mercy* were

founded, as an association of women dissidents dedicated to carrying out humanitarian activities in their locality.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, *Pinero Committee for Human Rights*.

### July 26, 2001

**Camagüey.** “Down with the dictator Castro” and “Long live Commander Huber Matos” were just some of the anti-government signs that appeared posted to the back of the oncological hospital in the province of Camaguey.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Pinar del Rio.** Dozens of anti-government slogans were painted in different parts of the town Lopez Peña in San Cristobal, Pinar del Rio. The signs had messages such as “Down with Fidel” and “Justice to the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.”

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

### Julio 27-29, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** Catholic economists of the diocese of Pinar del Rio held their annual meeting to analyze the economic problems of the country. More than 50 economists participated in a debate in which the topics included the incompetence of leaders and businessmen, *caudillismo*, and the government’s application of extreme economic models paired with the absence of administrative focus, among others.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. Cubanet

### July 29, 2001.

**Havana.** The opposition organization, *Human Rights Municipalities of Cuba* was created in the capital. The organization established as its mission denouncing human rights violations and defending human rights through civil disobedience. Rogelio Menendez, 41, of the *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement*, will lead this new group.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### July 30, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** Anti-government slogans were painted on the walls of the Center of Military Warning on the street Real in Manuel Lazo, Pinar del Rio.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Cienfuegos.** Anti-government slogans were painted to the

front of an auto shop in Cruces located on the street Independencia and the corner Camilo Cienfuegos. “Down with Fidel,” read the painted lettering.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Camagüey.** Members of the opposition submitted 40 signatures in support of the Varela Project to the municipal government of Minas, Camaguey.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana

### August 2, 2001

**Combinado de Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** Members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoner Movement* began to organize “round tables” in the Combinado de Guantanamo Prison. These round tables (or discussion forums) were initiated in the prison in response to the daily round tables presented on television by the Cuban government. The prison authorities were angered by the establishment of these forums and called a meeting of common (non-political) prisoners to find ways to block the initiative from spreading to other parts of the prison.

Source: Jorge Dante Abad, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

### August 5, 2001

**Las Tunas.** Residents of the area of Amancio Rodriguez, in the Las Tunas province, prevented the police and members of the government housing institution from removing

Ana Escalona and her family from their house. The family was ordered to vacate the house; but after they refused, the police broke down the door and tried to remove them forcefully. A large crowd of about 80 local residents confronted the police and prevented the family’s removal. The police detained Ana Escalona’s husband.

Source: Luis Gonzalez Ramirez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

### August 6, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** Valentin Almiral Miranda submitted a letter signed by 30 citizens to a delegate of the National Assembly from the municipality of San Juan y Martinez.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** In the municipality of Plaza de la Revolucion, a letter signed by 42 citizens was submitted to the local office of the National Assembly. The petition urges the National Assembly to approve and implement the Varela Project.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.



**Victor Rolando Arroyo**

### August 7, 2001

**Havana.** The *National Coordination of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners* and the “*Leonor Perez*” *Committee of Mothers for Amnesty* made a public declaration requesting the government to grant amnesty to all political prisoners. The document, named the “August 5<sup>th</sup> Declaration,” bases its request on articles from the current Cuban Penal Code and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. It also asks for the abolition of the death penalty in Cuba.

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

**Havana.** A group of opposition leaders and representatives from dissident organizations agreed to the establishment of the Day of the Cuban Opposition to be celebrated September 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of Jesus Yanes Pelletier, a well known dissident who passed away on this day last year. The meeting of the opposition leaders took place in the headquarters of the *National Coordination of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners*.

Source: Regina del Sol, AIDH. CubaNet.



### August 8, 2001

**Matanzas.** Political prisoner Belkis Barzaga Lugo went on a nine-day hunger strike in the women’s prison in Matanzas to demand specialized medical attention for intense pains she was suffering in her back and lower abdomen. The

activist is a member of the *Frank Pais 30<sup>th</sup> of November Democratic Party* and is serving a sentence of a year and six months for carrying a sign calling for amnesty for political prisoners during a public religious activity.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

### August 9, 2001

**Havana.** Raul Chang Galvez of *Civic Brotherhood* carried out an act of protest in his home in the neighborhood of Párraga, municipality Arroyo Naranjo, in Havana, during which he buried the Cuban Constitution of 1976. He was arrested the next day.

Source: Luis Cino, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### August 11, 2001

**Guantanamo.** A mass was held in Baracoa, Guantanamo, for the freedom and health of political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina and nine other political prisoners. Marcel Valenzuela Salt, vice president of *Civic Brotherhood*, as

well as Yeny Cesar of the *Cuban Feminine Unity*, attended the mass, along with Lobaina’s father, Ramon Rodriguez.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### August 13, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** More than 300 members of the Union of Young Communists who were nominated by that organization to become members of the Cuban Communist Party declined their nomination, a fact that seems to be causing concern at the Union of Young Communists because of the lack of interest among young people in joining the communist party.

Source: Adela Soto, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** A dozen opposition activists and independent journalists contributed to a colloquium hosted by the *Cuba Commission* at its headquarters in Güines. The participants analyzed Fidel Castro’s political tactics and life.

Source: Jesus Isidro Hernandez, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Cuba Sí Prison, Holguin.** Political prisoner Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet refused to wear the uniform of the common prisoner in the Cuba Sí Prison in Holguin. Biscet is president of the *Lawton Foundation of Human Rights* and is serving a three-year sentence for calling a peaceful march to demand freedom for political prisoners and respect for human rights.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### August 14, 2001

**Camagüey.** The advisory council of the *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights* met to discuss that organization’s performance during the first part of the year. The meeting, held at the house of the director of the *Association of Independent Journalists of Camagüey*, was attended by 25 representatives of the *Democratic Solidarity Party*, the *Christian Liberation Movement*, and the foundation itself. There was heavy police and state security presence in the vicinity of the house, but no one was detained. During the meeting, the human rights report for the first part of the year was approved. The document would be provided to the press and foreign embassies.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### August 15, 2001

**Agüica Prison, Matanzas.** Political prisoner Angel Moya Acosta, in a letter sent from the Agüica Prison,



**Angel Moya Acosta**

announced his support for the Varela Project. In his letter, Moya Acosta states that the Varela Project is consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban opposition and those in exile.

Source: Caridad Diaz Beltran, Lux Info Press. CubaNet.

**Ceramica Roja Prison, Ciego de Avila.** Ernesto Victor Lopez Conde began a hunger strike in the Ceramica Roja Prison on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Lopez Conde is serving a 15-year sentence for sabotage. The political prisoner began the hunger strike to protest his relocation to the prison of Kilo 7. As a result of his actions, the prisoner was beaten and handcuffed.

Source: Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **August 16, 2001**

**Havana.** Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello and Arnaldo Ramos Lauzurique, both independent economists of the *Cuban Institute of Independent Economists*, sent various letters to Cuba's economy and sugar ministers challenging them to answer questions about the state of the economy and the improper use of public funds for political propaganda instead of social purposes. These letters were part of a campaign known as "Previous Action" that is being carried out by the *Manuel Sanchez Herrero Institute of Independent Economists*.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet. El Nuevo Herald.

**Havana.** The *February 24<sup>th</sup> Independent Library* inaugurated the *Acuarela (watercolors)* Project designed specifically to help children. According to the library's director, Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila, the purpose of the project includes introducing children to different art forms and defending the rights of children. The library also includes a children's video section.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP.CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Center for the Study of a National Option* hosted its second presentation at Calle Ateneo #863, between L and Horno, neighborhood of Vista Hermosa. "The State" by sociologist Ricardo Puerta was read to an assembly of 30 activists, followed by an open debate led by Jose Ramon Castillo of the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

Source: Jose Ramon Castillo, *Center for the Study of a National Option*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** In commemoration of the anniversary of his death, a bouquet of sunflowers was placed at the base of a monument to Eduardo Chibás, founder of the *Orthodox Party*, in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Carlos Pascual, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **August 19, 2001**

**Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** Prisoners in the Guantanamo Prison carried out a massive protest, shouting "Down with Fidel Castro!" because of a beating suffered at the hands of guards by prisoner Jesus Catala. The protest ended when the highest-ranking prison authorities personally negotiated with the leaders of the protest.

Source: Political prisoner Randy Cabrera Mayor. Milagros Beaton, APLO. CubaNet.

#### **August 20, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** "Down with Fidel" was painted on the walls of a hospital in the town of Manuel Lazo. No arrests were reported.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Pinar del Rio.** "Down with Fidel" and "End the blackouts" was written on the walls of a beauty salon in the town of Las Martinas.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *National Office for Human Rights Information Reception* was founded with the purpose of coordinating the efforts of organizations that use peaceful methods to promote democracy and freedom. This project includes participation by the *Independent Association of Doctors*, the *Marti Civic League*, the *Pro-Human Rights Party*, the *Patriotic Alliance*, and the *Youth Movement for Defense of Human Rights*. This project is represented outside of Cuba by Mr. Bill Barker of the Presbyterian Church of North Carolina.

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

**Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** After he was beaten in the Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina created signs in the prison clinic stating that he was innocent and asking that his life be respected.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

#### **August 21, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** Activists presented the Varela Project to the offices of the Popular Power in Manicaragua, Villa Clara, as part of an ongoing effort to promote the project, bring it to the attention of



Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina

municipal representatives, and formally request that they present it before the National Assembly.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, independent journalist.

#### **August 22, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Carlos Quintela Center of Agricultural Studies* held a conference to discuss the potential in this province to produce food, a topic of interest to this region because of its deficiency in food production.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Carlos Quintela Center of Agricultural Studies* in Santiago de las Vegas, Havana, held a meeting to discuss the harvesting of coffee, among other topics.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Guantanamo.** Yunaibis Castillo Betancourt and activist Luis Diaz Sanchez arrived in the morning at the Guantanamo Prison and said that if political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina was not returned to the hospital, the *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*, as well as other opposition organizations in the area, would begin an indefinite hunger strike. They did not leave until 2 pm after being told that Nestor would be taken back to the hospital.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*

#### **August 24, 2001**

**Havana.** In the farm of El Valle, in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, members of *Civic Brotherhood* and the *Cuban Feminine Unity*, as well as other activists, carried out a candlelight vigil for 10 minutes to pray for freedom without forced exile for political prisoners.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** In the neighborhood of Santos Suarez, municipality Diez de Octubre, Migdalia Rosado hosted a 10-minute vigil for the liberation of political prisoners as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: Migdalia Rosado, *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights*.

#### **August 25, 2001**

**Havana.** Cuban dissidents of the *Analysis and Discussion Group of the Moderate Opposition* held a press conference to announce a series of recommendations to the Cuban government. The group, which is made up of several opposition organizations, said the document they presented made a call to the Castro regime to create new legislation that would make the national market more attractive to foreign investment and allow the participation of Cubans in and

outside the island. It also called for freedom for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The dissidents said they would submit the document directly to the government in a few days.

Source: Agence France Press. El Nuevo Herald.

#### **August 27, 2001**

**Guantanamo.** The *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement* and the *Club of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners* began a fast in front of the home of the Guantanamo Prison director at the street Carlos Manuel, between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2 Norte. The fast was meant to protest the brutal beating, ordered by State Security, suffered by Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina in jail. A total of 17 activists took part.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

#### **August 28, 2001**

**Sancti Spiritus.** A delegation of four dissident leaders from different organizations presented to the local government a group of signatures gathered in support of the Varela Project.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **August 29, 2001**

**Havana.** Multiple organizations took part in ceremonies held at the *Parque de la Fraternidad* (Fraternity Park) in the capital to call for freedom without forced exile for political prisoners. Members of the *6<sup>th</sup> of January Movement*, *24<sup>th</sup> of February Movement*, *Change 2000*, *Center of Information on Democracy*, and *Center of Independent Workers* took part in a ceremony that included lighting candles, distributing copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and leaving flowers in the park.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Arroyo Naranjo, Havana.** In a park in Arroyo Naranjo, known as the *Parque del Entronque de la Calzada de San Agustín*, activists carried out a similar act for freedom without forced exile for political prisoners. Passersby with no known political affiliation with the groups asked for copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, Cuba Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** In the Mahatma Gandhi Park on 5ta Avenida in Playa, Havana, the *Pro Human Rights Party*, *13th of July Movement* and *Civic Brotherhood* peacefully demanded freedom without forced exile for political prisoners.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Six members of the Cuban opposition belonging to the organization *Human Rights Municipalities of Cuba*

carried out a political demonstration in a central part of Havana. The activity took place in front of the Payret Park and the Capitol Building on the night of August 29<sup>th</sup>. This central location was chosen because of the large public presence it would provide. According to Rogelio Menendez, the president of the organization, the purpose of the demonstration was to create public awareness about the conditions of political prisoners and to make known the organization's opposition to the government. The activists carried photos of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet during the demonstration.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana. *Human Rights Municipalities of Cuba*. Diario Las Americas.

**Isla de Pinos.** Various anti-government signs were placed in the Abel Santamaria Market in the early morning hours. The signs read "Down with Fidel" and "Down with the dictatorship." Over the last few months, these kinds of signs have appeared more frequently than before, in spite of the fact that these forms of expression are severely punished by the political police.

Source: Fabio Prieto Llorente, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Villa Clara.** Approximately 45 activists and over 100 friends and supporters attended the trial of activist Amado Ruiz Moreno at the Provincial Tribunal of Placetas to show their solidarity with Ruiz Moreno and their opposition to the trial. They shouted expressions such as "Down with Fidel!" "Freedom for political prisoners!" "Freedom for Amado!" and "Freedom for Cuba!" Standing on a platform, Ruiz Moreno made the "V" sign for victory. Later, as he was escorted into a patrol car, he shouted "Long live human rights!"

Source: Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

#### **August 30, 2001**

**Guantanamo.** Relatives of political prisoners sent letters to the General Attorney denouncing the abuse of prison guards against the prisoners and demanding that the government take disciplinary action against the guards. One letter described the case of Randy Cabrera Mayor, a political prisoner who was beaten for refusing to comply with a political activity in jail. The other letter described the case of Carlos Luis Diaz Fernandez who was beaten when he refused to give over a book to the authorities. The two letters were signed by Cabrera Mayor's wife and Diaz Fernandez's sister, respectively.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet.

#### **August 31, 2001**

**Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** Political prisoner Yorkis Pineda Laurencio cut himself to write with his own blood "Down with Castro" on the walls of his cell in Guantanamo Prison.

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

#### **September 2, 2001**

**Villa Clara.** Independent teachers in Santa Clara commemorated the first anniversary of the founding of their organization with an assembly held in this city.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **September 3, 2001**

**Havana.** Twelve independent labor activists began the first congress of the dissident *National Confederation of Independent Workers* in an apartment building in Havana. Although State Security surrounded the building, the activists proceeded with the activity. The participants included Luis Montecelo, Reinaldo Cosano, Lazaro Ramos, Pedro Giralda Cabrera, Giordani Rivas, Ismael Ortega, Sergio Gonzalez Suarez Inclan, Ivan Hernandez Carrillo, Rafael Chang, Gilberto Calderin and Cecilia Chavez.

Source: Aleida Godinez Soler, Lux Info Press, CubaNet.

#### **September 4, 2001**

**Canaleta Prison, Ciego de Avila.** Rene Montes de Oca, 38, of the *Party for Human Rights*, carried out a seven-day hunger strike at the Canaleta Prison to protest the cancellation of a family visit.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Diario Las Americas.

#### **September 5, 2001**

**Camaguey.** More than 20 persons representing several human rights organizations, including the *Julio Sanguily Movement*, *10<sup>th</sup> of December Human Rights Movement*, *8th of September Movement*, and *Cuban Christian Democratic Party*, participated in a general assembly at Bayardo Agramonte 127, between Acción Cívica and Amalia Simoni, to assess the human rights situation in that region.

Source: Pedro Arguelles, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Camaguey.** "Down with Fidel" appeared written on the walls of the clinic in the municipality of Cespedes.

Source: *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights*. Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Pro-democracy civic activists inaugurated the *Juan Clemente Zamora y Lopez Silveiro Studies Center* in a private home located at Ateneo #863, between L and

Horno, in the Vista Hermosa neighborhood. The center will be dedicated to providing seminars and courses on democratic thought and practice to the residents of that neighborhood.

Source: Jose Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute Project.*

### **September 6, 2001**

**Havana.** Several dissident organizations presented a letter to the South African Embassy addressed to the Third World Conference against Racism held in Durban, South Africa. In the letter, the dissident organizations denounced the racist and totalitarian practices of the Castro regime.

Source: Jesus Isidro Hernandez, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **September 8, 2001**

**Havana.** Twenty members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* carried out a fast from 10 am to 6 pm for the triumph of democracy in Cuba.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.*

**Ciego de Avila.** Six soldiers were arrested for having organized a reading club where they met to discuss Jose Marti's writings criticizing Marx and praising the United States.

Source: Rosa Garcia Menocal (mother of one of the arrested soldiers). EFE. Carta de Cuba. CubaNet.



**Activists in Campo Florido hold a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign**

**Santiago de Cuba.** At the Our Lady of Charity Sanctuary (*Santuario de la Caridad del Cobre*) more than 100 members of the opposition participated in a mass for the liberation of political prisoners. Among the activists who participated were the members of the Holguin-Moa Delegation of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, independent journalist Marilyn Lahera, Jose Manuel Diaz Preval of the *Republican and Orthodox Party* and Jose Ramon Castillo of the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.*

Source: Jose Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.*

### **September 9, 2001**

**Havana.** Members of the democratic opposition held a meeting in Güines to celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of an alliance between different pro-democracy organizations. State Security Police surrounded the home where the event was held, but did not enter.

Source: Jadir Hernandez, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **September 11, 2001**

**Las Alambradas de Manacas Prison, Villa Clara.** A message of sympathy for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and anti-government slogans were painted on the walls of the prison Las Alambradas de Manacas in the province of Villa Clara.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana. CubaNet.

### **September 12, 2001**

**Havana.** An editorial calling for the "isolation" of countries that sponsor or give sanctuary to terrorists, and applauding

existing human rights and civil liberties in the United States appeared in the *Tribuna de La Habana* newspaper. The editorial, which was later quickly erased from the digital archives of the newspaper, originally appeared on the Internet in the anti-Castro Cuban-American magazine, *Contacto.* How

the editorial made it to the pages of a government daily in Havana remains a mystery.

Source: El Nuevo Herald.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* initiated a course on human rights at the Juan Clemente Zamora y Lopez-Silveiro Study Center.

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.*

### **September 14, 2001**

**Santa Clara, Villa Clara.** The *Democratic Action Movement* and the *Marta Abreu Independent Library* began gathering

signatures in a condolence book for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The book, kept at a home on Calle 3ra., 83, in the Virginia neighborhood, was open to the public and expected to be presented on the 20<sup>th</sup> to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. Other events were also held in Santa Clara and the neighboring province of Matanzas in remembrance of the September 11 victims.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas

### **September 15, 2001.**

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Friends of Liberty Independent Library* hosted a vigil to remember the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. Approximately 30 activists attended the event, which was held at the library, based in the home of Berta Peraga, Martí #137 Interior, between Colón and Cipman Valdes in Pinar del Rio.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI.

### **September 16, 2001**

**Perico, Matanzas.** A mass was held at the behest of the opposition for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks at St. Michael the Archangel Church. Attending the mass were members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*, including Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Ramon Diaz Hernandez, Mario Gonzalez Rodriguez, Adalis Garcia de la Riva, and Ramon Mederos Acosta.

Source: *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

### **September 17, 2001**

**Las Tunas.** The government once again allowed farmers to sell produce directly to the public after having prohibited it for several months. Members of opposition organizations and independent journalists had joined with self-employed workers (*cuentalpropistas*), to protest the prohibition and had spoken with government officials. Its lifting was regarded as a victory by the pro-democracy activists in the area.

Source: Luis Gonzalez Ramirez, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana

### **September 18, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Carlos Quintela National Center for Agricultural Studies and Investigations* was founded to carry out an independent technical assistance program for the independent cooperatives and farmers in general.

Source: Fausto Frometa, Centro de Informacion ANAIC.

### **September 19, 2001**

**Havana.** Three dissident organizations began gathering signatures of condolence for the victims of the September 11 attacks at different places in Havana. Hundreds of people

visited a home at Campanario 564 between Dragonos and Zanja in Central Havana and another home at San Rafael and Escobar, where the *24<sup>th</sup> of February Movement* and the *Humanitarian Association of Followers of Christ the Lord* set up books for people to sign.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** Similarly, another opposition organization, the *Cuba Commission*, set up a book of condolences in the small town of Güines.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

### **September 20, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** The second part of a human rights course hosted by the Juan Clemente Zamora y Lopez-Silveiro Study Center was held at La Casona, a meeting place at Gallo #261, between Havana and Maceos. Cleiby Reyna Olivares, who heads the center, spoke on "The Human Rights Perspective."

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### **September 24, 2001**

**Havana.** Members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* participated in the morning mass at the Our Lady of Mercy. After the mass ended, the party members marched to Parque de la Fraternidad, where they carried out a public protest for the liberation of political prisoners. More than 16 members of the organization participated.

Source: Amarilis Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet. *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Havana.** A small group of Cuban dissidents carried out a vigil to honor the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. The dissidents gathered at 38<sup>th</sup> Street in the Miramar neighborhood of Havana and after the vigil walked to Our Lady of Mercy to attend the mass there.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

**Matanzas.** Members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* gathered at Sta. Rita 29, between Maceo and Sta. Teresa, in Perico, to pray for the release of political prisoners and commemorate the second anniversary of the founding of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*. Along with activists from other organizations, eight members of the party attended, including Ramon Diaz Hernandez, Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, and Adalis Garcia de la Riva.

Source: *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Ciego de Avila.** The *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights* carried out a conference on human rights at the *Ignacio Agramonte Independent Library*, located on Honorato del

Castillo street, between the streets of Republica and Cuba. About 24 persons participated in the event.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Signs appeared throughout Palma Soriano condemning the Castro regime. “Fidel Castro, murderer,” “Fidel Castro, tyrant,” and “Fidel Castro, terrorist,” appeared on the walls of the Cultural Center, a home for the elderly, a blood bank and other state offices. Police vigilance was doubled after these events.

Source: Milagros Beaton, APLO. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Hundreds of residents and about 60 dissidents attended mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Cuba and the Church of San Francisco to celebrate the Day of Our Lady of Mercy, patron saint of prisoners, and to pray for the freedom of political prisoners and respect for human rights.

Source: Milagros Beaton, APLO. CubaNet.

**Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** Gloria Esther Cabrera Lara, 67, began a hunger strike in front of Guantanamo Prison to protest the abuses committed by prison authorities against her son, political prisoner Ernesto Lucas Corral Cabrera.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.*

#### September 25, 2001

**Havana.** Thousands of Cubans called out for freedom during the mass held to honor the Virgin of Mercy in Havana. During the mass, public prayers were also held for ideological tolerance, for political prisoners, for those persecuted for their ideas, for the needy, and for a national dialogue and reconciliation.

Source: Cuba Verdad, CubaNet.

#### September 26, 2001

**Havana.** The *National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba*, or CONIC (its acronym in Spanish) presented an official request to Leonel Gonzalez Gonzalez, president of the



organization committee of the Hemispheric Summit of the Fight Against the ACLA (*Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas*, or Area of Free Commerce of the Americas), to be allowed to participate in the debates over the ACLA.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada of Lux InfoPress, CubaNet.

**Havana.** About a dozen opposition activists attended a mass in the Church of Santa Barbara in Arroyo Naranjo, the customary mass dissidents attend every Wednesday, that was dedicated to the victims of September 11 in the United States and to the freedom of political prisoners. After the service, the dissidents gathered outside the church and shouted “Long live human rights!” and “Long live Pedro Luis Boitel!” in honor of the political prisoner who died in 1972 after a hunger strike to protest prison conditions.

Source: Carlos Alberto Dominguez, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

#### September 27, 2001

**Villa Clara.** In Santa Clara, members of the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba* participated in an organized manner in the different masses that were held to honor Our Lady Of Mercy.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Guantanamo.** At the Agostino Neto Hospital, political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina protested the authorities’ desire to transfer him back to the Combinado de Guantanamo Prison. Rodriguez Lobaina had been beaten by another prisoner in jail and was recovering from a broken jaw. For his protest, he arrived at the prisoners’ ward in the hospital without the bandages that the doctors had prescribed for his head and jaw.

Source: Alida Visa Bello, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### September 28, 2001

**Camaguey.** Former political prisoner Jose Agramonte Leiva refused to participate in festivities organized by the government-run neighborhood watch committees. As a result, he was roughed up and beaten.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet

#### September 29, 2001

**Havana.** Members of the *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity and Civic Brotherhood* carried out a demonstration in Managua Street, in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, for the release of political prisoners and handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, Havana Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Opposition activists took part in a mass offered at the Church of San Miguel de Arcangel in San Miguel del

Padron, Havana, to pray for the victims in the United States of the September 11 terrorist attacks and for the liberation of Cuban political prisoners. After the service, opposition activists carried images of Saint Michael and of Our Lady of Charity (the patron saint of Cuba) out of the church. State Security and political police agents tried to prevent the demonstration by threatening the dissidents with arrest, but they continued with the activity.

Source: *24th of February Pro Human Rights Movement*. Carta de Cuba.

**Villa Clara.** In Camajuaní, the *Cuban Reflection Movement* hosted its second annual Espuela de Plata Literary Contest. The prize went to Frank Dimas of Santiago de Cuba for a poem titled “The Flight of Vultures” (“El vuelo de los buitres”). During the award ceremony, activist Joaquin Cabezas de Leon presented a lecture on Cuban writer Gaston Baquero, whose work has been banned by the Cuban regime. Other writers also read some of their poems. Finally, the gathering concluded with a lunch. A total of 13 writers participated in the event.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

#### October 2, 2001

**Havana.** Karl Hamilton, professor of the University of Stockholm, led a conference on democratic transitions in Eastern Europe. The conference was held at the *Liberal Institute Francisco Arrango y Parreño* of the *Democratic Solidarity Party*, a member organization of Liberal International. About 40 opposition activists participated.

Source: Ruben Rodriguez, Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### October 3, 2001

**Havana.** At 8:30 pm, opposition activist Lissi Cantillo hosted a 10-minute vigil for political prisoners as part of the Freedom without Forced Exile Campaign that consists of vigils every Wednesday. Members of the *Liberal Movement* and the *National Union of Oppositionists* participated. A similar vigil was also held at the headquarters of the *Martí Civic League*.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** In the Miguel Enrique Hospital at 7 pm, a visitor, Anabel Cabrera, began shouting that the government treated Cuban citizens like dogs and that its sanitation campaign was only for the sake of tourists.

Source: Ricardo Ramos Pereira, *Frank Pais 30th of November*

*Democratic Party.*

#### October 4, 2001

**Villa Clara.** Opposition activist Ramon Meza Rodriguez walked around the center of the city, Camajuaní, with a sign reading “Long Live Human Rights!” A few days later Meza was picked up and beaten by the police for this protest.

Source: Librado Linares, *Cuban Reflection Movement*,

#### October 10, 2001

**Havana.** Members of the opposition met at the the farm of El Valle in Havana to call for freedom for political prisoners and to celebrate the first anniversary of a hunger strike carried out by the *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement*. They also read a document, signed by the *13<sup>th</sup> of July Movement*, denouncing the “most cruel dictatorship” and its repression of opposition activists.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** At the headquarters of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, a fast was held from 10 am until 4 pm to ask for democracy and an end to Castro’s dictatorship. A total of 11 activists participated in the fast.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzaneira Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.



**Húbert Rodríguez Tudela,**  
*Pinero Committee for  
Human Rights*

**Havana.** Leaders of the opposition drafted and signed a message to the heads of state meeting for the XI Ibero-American Summit in Lima, Peru. The message stated that Cuba had never met with the agreements it had made in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> summits and that, moreover, it had continued repressing human rights activists and dissidents. The document, titled, “SOS: Solidarity from Inside Cuba,” called on leaders of Latin America to demand an answer from the Cuban government on why it had not followed through on its agreements.

Source: Migdalia Rosado Hernandez, *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights*.

**Havana.** Members of the opposition gathered at the Plaza de Armas in Old Havana to pay tribute to Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Cuban leader who began the War of Independence against Spain on October 10, 1868, and to honor the men and women who had died while struggling for the country’s freedom. The activists read poems and left flowers in the plaza. They later marched peacefully to the Cathedral of Havana and participated in a mass.

Source: Carta de Cuba.

**Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines.** In Nueva Gerona, the

*Missionaries for the Good of Mercy* made a humanitarian donation to the first child delivered on this day, who was born to a farming family residing at Poblado La Demajagua, Km 7 ½, Carretera Siguanea.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, *Pinero Committee for Human Rights*.

**Matanzas.** Members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* in Perico marched peacefully through the town of El Roque to commemorate the beginning of the Independence War and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes' freeing of his slaves. The march ended at a Spanish fort where members of the organization gave shouts of "Freedom!" and "Long live human rights!"

Source: Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Villa Clara.** The delegations of *Democratic Action* in the cities of **Manicaragua, Calabazar de Sagua, Placetas** and **Santo Domingo** held vigils to call for liberty without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners. It was announced that these vigils would continue every Wednesday in conjunction with vigils being held in other parts of the country and abroad as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Sancti Spiritus.** A discussion was held in the home of opposition activist Raimundo Perdigon Brito in Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus, on different topics relating to the country, the Varela Project, and terrorism. The *Democratic Solidarity Party*, the *Captive Pen Club* and the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* participated.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. CubaNet.

**Ciego de Avila.** "Down with Fidel" and "Down with Raul" were just a couple of the slogans written on the walls of two buildings in the Micro A district of the Vista Hermosa neighborhood in Ciego de Avila.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. CubaNet.

**Kilo 7 Prison, Camaguey.** Thirty-eight prisoners, 31 of which were members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement* in the Kilo Siete Prison in Camaguey, carried out a 24-hour hunger strike. The prisoners began the civil disobedience act by singing the national anthem and then calling out with shouts of "Long live a free Cuba!" "Stop the human rights violations!" "Democracy and Justice!" and "Until when will we be slaves!" The prisoners left their trays intact in the prison cafeteria. Some did not wear shirts or shoes to recall the freed slaves that had fought in the Independence War.

Source: Carlos Alberto Dominguez, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

### **October 10-12, 2001**

**Cienfuegos.** Organized by the *Justice and Peace Commission*, delegates of all the dioceses in Cuba met for the VIII Social Catholic Week at the Church of Monserrat in Cienfuegos. The delegates approved courses of action, using

the defense of human rights as one of its guiding principles. The commissions also decided to support the Varela Project and the right of Cuban citizens to have a referendum.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet. El Nuevo Herald. Diario Las Americas. Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, *Christian Liberation Movement*.

### **October 11, 2001**

**Havana.** Isabel del Pino Sotolongo of the *Humanitarian Association of Followers of Christ the Lord* sent a letter to the

Municipal Tribunal of Centro Habana denouncing the government's arbitrary acts against her and her family and its abuse of power. Sotolongo had a trial pending before the tribunal.

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Sebastian Arcos Bergnes Independent Library* was inaugurated in Batey Cruz, a town in San Jose de las Lajas, province of Havana. The library was opened at Street 83, #3006, between 30 and 32, sponsored by the *Cuba Commission* and the *Association of Independent Engineers and Architects of Cuba*. Jose Ubaldo Izquierdo was named director. At the moment of its inauguration, the library had a



**Activists from Manicaragua hold a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.**

collection of 200 books.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP, published in CubaNet.

#### **October 12, 2001**

**Havana.** On the walls of a pharmacy on street 158, between Avenues 67 and 69 of La Lisa in the capital, a message was painted reading, "Fidel, number one terrorist." Residents noticed the sign in the morning, and the authorities quickly painted over it.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI, published in CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* created ICD Press, an affiliated press agency. This agency will dedicate itself to divulging information about the institute to the public, informing the public about topics of interest, and conducting surveys and research on different economic, social and political topics.

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.*

#### **October 12-19, 2001.**

**Havana.** The *Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists* provided 8 classes on journalism, English, and Spanish grammar for members of the opposition, especially for independent journalists.

Source: Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, independent journalist.

#### **October 15, 2001**

**Provincial Prison of Matanzas, Matanzas.** Five men accused of having sold the boat Elian Gonzalez' mother and stepfather used to escape Cuba went on hunger strike in jail. The five Cubans had been incarcerated for almost two years, and with their protest they were denouncing the fact that they had not been brought to trial. They were also claiming their innocence.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Las Tunas.** Juan Basulto Morell, director of the *Ernesto Lecuona Independent Library*, sent a letter to Raul Suarez, National Assembly representative, to denounce statues erected in Cuba to two individuals who had used violence for their causes and to ask that a statue be erected instead to positive figures of Cuban history such as composer Ernesto Lecuona or singer Rita Montaner.

Source: Juan Basulto Morell, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **October 17, 2001**

**Havana.** Representatives from different groups of the opposition met at the headquarters of the *Fraternal Brothers for Dignity* in Arroyo Naranjo to participate in the Congress of the Opposition.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa

Cubana.

**Matanzas and Havana.** The *Independent Alternative Option Movement* carried out activities in several cities in the province of Matanzas and in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, to remember and pay tribute to Cuban political prisoners. Dissidents read biographical information about political prisoners such as Vladimiro Roca Antunez and Angel Moya Acosta, carried out a candlelight vigil for 10 minutes and shouted for freedom several times. In the province of Matanzas, vigils were held in the capital city and in the towns of **Pedro Betancourt, Cardenas, Jaguey Grande, Jovellanos, and Torrientes.** These activities were done as part of the weekly effort, every Wednesday, throughout the island to remember political prisoners.

Source: Alida Viso Bello, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **October 19, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* and the *20<sup>th</sup> of May Movement* carried out a fast at the headquarters of *20<sup>th</sup> of May* at Avenue 71, #11425, between 114 and 116 in Marianao. With the fast, activists protested terrorism in the world and the terrorism committed by the Cuban regime over its 42 years of government.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.*

#### **October 22, 2001**

**Havana.** Independent journalist Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez founded the *Cuban Civic Press Agency* in his home at Francos #10, Apt. 53, between the Streets Carlos III and Estrella in Centro Habana. Galvez Rodriguez will serve as the director of the agency.

Source: Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez, *Cuban Civic Press Agency.*

**Havana.** The *Jose Lezama Lima Independent Library* was founded in the home of independent journalist Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez at Francos #10, Apt. 53, between the streets Carlos III and Estrella in Centro Habana. Visual artist Beatriz del Carmen Pedroso Leon was named library director.

Source: Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez, *Cuban Civic Press Agency.*

**Havana.** The *Cuban Center of Information* was reopened at Avenue 51 #10816 between streets 108 and 110 in Marianao. Delfin Travers Acosta was named director.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.*

**Matanzas.** At 9:30 a.m. in Pedro Betancourt, members of the *Independent Alternative Option Movement* began

distributing copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. People in the streets gathered to get copies and began a spontaneous debate about human rights.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, *Independent Alternative Option Movement*.

**Villa Clara.** The *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters* held a seminar on nonviolent struggle at Avenue 39, #1603, between streets 16 and 18, in Caibarien. About 20 members of the opposition took part in the seminar.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **October 25, 2001**

**Provincial Prison of Ciego de Avila, Ciego de Avila.** Political prisoner Rene Montes de Oca refused to meet with his family during their visit if it meant having to wear the uniform of a common prisoner. Political prisoners often refuse to wear the prison uniform to deny the implication that they have been jailed for common crimes and not for their political beliefs.

Source: Pedro Argüelles, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Antonio Esquijarro Gonzalez, *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* reported to Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Representatives of different resistance organizations signed a document titled, "Vindication of the Varela Project," reaffirming their support for the project and rejecting the Varela-Martí Project, another initiative introduced by several opposition groups designed to collect signatures to ask the U.S. government to lift its embargo on Cuba.

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

#### **October 27, 2001**

**Prison of Morón, Ciego de Avila.** Political prisoner Luis Campos Corrales began a hunger strike in the Prison of Morón, province of Ciego de Avila. Campos Corrales was protesting the unjust trial, without a defense lawyer or the admission of family members, to which he was submitted. He was also protesting the fact that an eye infection was damaging his eyesight and he had not been given any medical attention. Moreover, he was demanding a transfer to a prison in Havana so that his mother would not have to travel 500 kilometers to visit him for 2 hours.

Source: Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **October 28, 2001**

**Sancti Spiritus.** Opposition organizations in Sancti Spiritus carried out a fast in solidarity with Amado Ruiz, political

prisoner and member of the *Frank País 30th of November Democratic Party*. Half a dozen activists of the party and the *Ex Captive Club* met in Las Tosas, Sancti Spiritus, to carry out the fast, during which they also called for the liberation of political prisoners and distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **October 29, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Signs and flyers asking for the resignation of Fidel Castro appeared throughout the town of Manuel Lazo in the municipality Sandino, Pinar del Rio. The message was also painted on several buildings.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** A group of dissidents, led by Elsa Morejon, wife of political prisoner Oscar Elias Biscet, addressed an open letter to the Catholic Church in Cuba asking for it to intercede for Cuban political prisoners. Sponsored by *Women Defenders of Political Prisoners*, the initiative was backed by 15 prominent dissidents. The letter asked the Church to request amnesty for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience as well as improvements in the living conditions of all prisoners.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

#### **October 30, 2001**

Seven representatives of different opposition organizations signed a letter that was submitted to the State Council calling for an amnesty for political prisoners and an end to the repression against opposition activists. The *Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners* sponsored the initiative.

Source: Jorge Olivera, Havana Press. CubaNet.

#### **October 31, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Frank País 30th of November Democratic Party* held a debate on the document, "SOS Solidarity," at the headquarters of its *Cuban Center of Information*, Avenue 51, #10816, between 108 and 100 in Marianao. Members from the *20th of May Movement* and the *Democratic Popular Alliance*, or ADEPO, attended the event and added their signatures to the document.

Source: *Frank País 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Ciego de Avila.** Political prisoner Luis Campos Corrales wrote on the walls of his cell "Down with Fidel," "Down with prison terrorism," "Democracy," and "Freedom." In the middle of the night, he also shouted epithets against Fidel Castro.

Source: Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, CAPI. Nueva Prensa

Cubana.

**Las Tunas.** In Puerto Padre, Las Tunas, the *Pro Human Rights Party* hosted a public exhibition at the Park of Puerto Padre of anti-government artwork. The artwork depicted the government's repression, especially against political prisoners. Political police at the event beat six opposition activists.

Source: EFE. El Nuevo Herald.

#### **November 1, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** Promoters of the Varela Project read a document titled, "Vindication of the Varela Project" in La Casona, the conference center of the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*, located at Gallo #261, between Habana and Los Maceos in Santiago de Cuba. Nineteen representatives of five opposition organizations attended the reading.

Source: ICD Press, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

#### **November 2, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Bienvenido Velazques Salabarría, resident of Pinar del Rio, protested the electricity blackouts in his home, voicing his frustration against the arbitrary shortages. As a result, he was beaten, arrested, and jailed for 5 days.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Nineteen opposition organizations expressed their support for the *Manuel Marquez Society of Journalists*, an independent press agency that had been attempting to carry out courses on journalism but had been blocked on various occasions by State Security. Since October 12, a repressive backlash had been unleashed on the society to prevent it from carrying out preparatory courses on journalism. These opposition organizations voiced their support and solidarity with the society, which made their support public through a press release.

Source: *Manuel Marquez Society of Journalists*. CubaNet.

**Havana.** Representatives from several opposition organizations took part in a mass at the Colón Cemetery for deceased loved ones and a ceremony that was held by the grave of Pedro Luis Boitel. About 40 activists participated, including members from the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, *Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners*, *Confederation of Cuban Democratic Workers* (or CTDC), *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei*

*Sakharov Foundation*, *Popular Democratic Alliance* (or ADEPO), and the *Committee of Rafters for Freedom*.

Source: Marcel Valenzuela Salt, *Civic Brotherhood*. Radio Martí.

#### **November 5, 2001**

**Las Tunas.** Signs reading "Down with Fidel" and "We are dying of hunger" appeared in a park in the town of Chaparra, municipality of Jesus Menendez in Las Tunas. These signs also appeared in the movie theatre.

Source: Hector Riveron Gonzalez, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **November 6, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** "I demand human rights," read the sign that Orlando Hernandez Serrano placed in the front of his home in the busy area of District 10, Santiago de Cuba. Hernandez Serrano is a member of the opposition group, *Orthodox Youth*. State Security threatened to evict him if he did not remove the sign.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **November 7, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* hosted classes on democracy and on nonviolent civic resistance, at its headquarters at Calle B #6804, between 4<sup>th</sup> and Palma, San Miguel de Padron. These two classes were followed by a group prayer, which was carried out as part of the weekly Freedom Without Forced Exile vigils.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

#### **November 8, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Carlos Quintela Rodriguez Independent Library* was founded in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana. Sponsored by the *Union of Independent Cuban Journalists and Writers*, the new library took its name from civic leader and journalist Carlos Quintela and specializes in providing information on ecology and the environment as well as providing a center for the preparation and instruction of independent journalists. The library is located at San Miguel #66, between Gonzalo and Dolores, in the Santa Amalia neighborhood of Arroyo Naranjo, Havana. Lazara Marti Lopez was named library director.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

**Ciego de Avila.** The *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*



**Ricardo González Alfonso,  
Manuel Marquez Sterling  
Society of Journalists**

held a meeting, attended by about 30 opposition activists from different cities in the region. The members read passages from the Bible and approved the program for the next congress of the foundation, to be held in January in honor of Jose Martí.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **November 10, 2001**

**Matanzas.** The *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* held a peaceful march through the streets of the town El Roque, in Perico, carrying a Cuban flag and calling out for freedom for political prisoners and respect for human rights. The march was done in commemoration of the first anniversary of a similar protest led by Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. Eight members of the party participated.

Source: Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

#### **November 14, 2001.**

**Havana.** The coalition of opposition organizations known as “Todos Unidos” (“All United”) held a press conference in Playa, Havana, attended by international press agencies and independent Cuban journalists, during which they made public a message to the heads of state meeting at the Ibero-American Summit in Lima, Peru. In their message, they communicated to the Latin American leaders that they needed to recognize the critical situation Cubans suffer of being denied their rights and extend solidarity to the rights of Cubans, including their right to a referendum. Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas read the press release. Also representing Todos Unidos were Pedro Pablo Alvarez, Hector Palacios Ruiz, Oswaldo Alfonso Valdes, among others.

Source: Oscar Espinosa Chepe, CubaNet; Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

#### **November 16, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Association of Independent Teachers* released a document detailing their plans for the reconstruction of the educational system in a post-Castro Cuba. The document was submitted to the Center for the Study of a National Option (CEON) in Miami.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro, Cuba Net. CEON.

**Matanzas.** The *Independent Alternative Option Movement* commemorated another anniversary of the founding of

their organization at their headquarters, located at a private home on Calle 22, #1910, between 19 and 21 Street, in Pedro Betancourt. Thirty persons attended.

Source: *Independent Alternative Option Movement*.

#### **November 19, 2001**

**Havana.** For its third meeting, ten members of the *Socialist Movement* and a Belgian Social Democrat met in El Vedado, Havana, to plan for a larger summit to be held in January in Pinar del Rio. At the meeting, the members discussed the program for the summit and the growth of membership, among other topics.

Source: Diana Margarita Canton, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** The *Circle of Free Veterans of Cuba* was founded in Havana with the objectives of working for peace and democracy and denouncing the Cuban government’s violations of human rights. The organization will be led by Lino Humberto Mones Laffita and will have delegations in other provinces of the country.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

#### **November 22, 2001**

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* announced the winners of its Arrecife 2001 Literary and Visual Arts Contest. The Institute sponsored this contest in the genres of essay, painting, short story, poetry and literary criticism. A panel of judges evaluated the entries, and prizes were given in national currency. The grand prize of 3000 pesos was intended for the essay that expressed in the most profound and original way some socio-cultural aspect of Cuban life. This prize went to Joaquin Cabezas de Leon for “Cuba Between Utopia and Hope” (“*Cuba entre la utopia y la esperanza*”).

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*. ICDPress.



### **November 24, 2001**

**Santa Clara, Villa Clara.** The *Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists* sponsored a debate on the topic of family in Cuba and the “Previous Action” project. The debate took place in the home of activist Felicia Matas Machado on Padre Chao 154 and Ciclon, in Santa Clara. Members of the *Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation* attended the debate and agreed to promote “Previous Action.”

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Ciego de Avila.** Sponsored by the *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*, the *Teresa de Calcutta Independent Library* was inaugurated in the town of Miraflores Nuevo, Ciego de Avila. Maritza Alvarez Carrazana was named the director and said that the library would serve as an information center as well as a place where activities would be held to inform the public about the work of the *Cuban Foundation of Human Rights*. The new library is located at Miraflores Nuevo 234, Bolivia, Ciego de Avila.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

### **November 26, 2001**

**Havana.** Activists of the *Leonor Perez Committee of Mothers* and other opposition organizations in Santiago de las Vegas performed a 10-minute vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign that consists of vigils every Wednesday. After the vigil, the group of about 15 activists participated in a discussion about political prisoners including the accounts of former political prisoners and their experiences.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **November 27, 2001**

**Havana.** A group of 14 opposition activists attempted to carry out a tribute to the medical students shot by the Spanish government in 1871, but State Security forced them to change their plans. The activists were going to leave flowers by the monument where the students had been killed. However, State Security visited 8 of the activists and told them they could go to jail for carrying through with their plans. The activists instead left flowers in the park called Trillo, centrally located in the neighborhood of Cayo Hueso.

Source: Aimee Cabrera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **November 28, 2001**

**Havana.** A man coming from the street Mayía Rodriguez approached with rocks in his hands and stood before the gates of the prison, Villa Marista. He threw the rocks at the sign that read, “Department of State Security” and destroyed it. He was arrested.

Source: Migdalia Rosado, *Tamarindo 34 Human Rights*.

### **November 29, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Six activists carried out a hunger strike in front of the Provincial Prison of Pinar del Rio known as the 5 ½ Prison to protest the authorities’ refusal to allow Aleida Frometa Gonzalez to visit her son, political prisoner Andres Frometa Cuenca. Aleida had traveled over 1,000 kilometers from the opposite end of the country, Guantanamo, for his regulation monthly visit. She was not allowed to see him, nor was she allowed to submit to him a package of food she brought with her. Aleida joined the protesters, among them Bertha Antunez Pernet of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. On November 30, Aleida was allowed to see her son.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet. Bertha Antunez Pernet, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

**Havana.** A group prayer was carried out for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and their families in a private home on street Maria Luisa #64 in the neighborhood of Parraga in Arroyo Naranjo. This act was sponsored by the *6<sup>th</sup> of January Movement* and was attended by a dozen activists from different opposition organizations.

Source: Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **November 30, 2001.**

**Havana.** The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* held an event at its headquarters in San Miguel del Padron, Havana, attended by its members as well as other opposition organizations, to celebrate the 30th of November, the historic date from which the party takes its name. Twenty-six activists participated, although many more attempted to reach the event but could not because of police repression.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Villa Clara.** The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* held an activity at the home of activist Carlos Manuel Campos Moya at 3ra del Este, between 3 and 4 Del Norte, in Placetras, to celebrate the date from which the organization takes its name. About 40 activists attended the event.

Source: Bertha Antunez, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*.

### **December 3, 2001**

**Holguin Provincial Prison, Holguin.** Political prisoners painted anti-government slogans on the walls of the Holguin Provincial Prison. Rafael Jorin Garcia and Ismael Herrera Rodriguez were punished for these actions.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. Nueva Prensa Cubana

#### **December 4, 2001**

**Havana.** Members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* were able to attend a mass at the Church of Santa Barbara in Arroyo Naranjo for the liberation of political prisoners, despite heavy police repression preventing activists from arriving.

Source: Aimee Cabrera, HavanaPress. *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

#### **December 5, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Cuban Democratic Socialist Current* began circulating the newsletter “Nueva Izquierda” (“New Left”). This newsletter will be aimed at explaining the goals of the organization as well as the goals of democratic socialists and social democrats.

Source: Diana Margarita Canton, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** A vigil for the release of political prisoners was held in the home of Humberto Guerra Perogurria, president of the *Liberty Movement* in Arroyo Naranjo.

Source: Aimée Cabrera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Matanzas.** Simultaneous vigils for the release of political prisoners were carried out in six different towns in this province. About 30 activists participated in each vigil.

Source: Alida Viso Bello, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

#### **December 6, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Jesus Yanez Pelletier Foundation*, named after the deceased human rights activist, was founded in Havana. A press conference was held by Pelletier’s widow Maria de los Angeles Menendez, his younger daughter Orlin Yanez and former political prisoner Julio Ruiz Pitaluga to announce the creation of this new human rights organization.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Three signs calling for Fidel Castro’s downfall appeared on the walls of a gasoline station in Guira de Melena.

Source: *Christian Liberation Movement*. Carlos Castro, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Ciego de Avila.** Five activists met to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the National Secretariat of the *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights* at a private home located at Honorato del Castillo 154, between Republica and Cuba, Ciego de Avila. The main purpose of the meeting was to prepare for a planned congress of the organization.

Source: *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights*.

#### **December 9, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Syndicalist Union of Independent Cuban Workers* called on all workers in the country to support a national labor strike called for this date. The strike was called to bring international attention to the constant violations of workers’ rights carried out by the Castro Regime.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald.

#### **December 10, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Pro-democracy activists of the *Maximo Gomez Baez Movement* commemorated the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the home of activist Ricardo Cordon in this city. Police forces surrounded the home, but did not enter to stop the event.

Source: *Pro Human Rights Party*. Adela Soto, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Pinar del Rio.** The *Democratic Front for Cuban Freedom* commemorated the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the home of Lazaro Ramos, in the Cuba Libre neighborhood of this city.

Source: Adela Soto, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Opposition activists from different organizations celebrated Human Rights Day (and the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), as well as the birthday of Acting President of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, Luis Osvaldo Manzaneira Cucalo, at the headquarters of the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba* (the home of activist Odilia Collazo). Despite arrests and repression, 52 people participated.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Havana.** During the celebration of the Universal Day of Human Rights, the *Liberal Progressive Party* was created at the Heberto Padilla *Civic School for Democracy* in the Rosario neighborhood of Arroyo Naranjo, the municipality in Havana. The directors of the new party included 28-year-old Norberto B. Sanchez, Ernesto Colas Garcia as national delegate, and Reinol Peña Delgado.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** The *Calixto Garcia Movement* carried out an activity to commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to issue diplomas of recognition to political prisoner Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet.

Source: Alida Viso Bello, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Havana.** Twenty pro-democracy organizations gathered at the home of Aida Valdes Santana, president of the *National Coordination of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners*, to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: AIDH. Cuba Net

**Havana.** Activist Migdalia Rosado handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the streets of Havana.

Source: *Civic Brotherhood*.

**Havana.** Dissidents met in the home of pro-democracy leader Odilia Collazo at Praga 3828, between Rico and Avenida Ciudad Mar, in the Ziche neighborhood in the municipality of San Miguel del Padron to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Havana.** Members of *Civic Brotherhood* commemorated the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at a meeting in the farm of El Valle in Arroyo Naranjo.

Source: *Civic Brotherhood*.

**Isle of Pines.** Evading a police cordon and systematic repression, six human rights activists gathered at a park in Nueva Gerona to read a statement in support of the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, distribute copies of it to passersby and sing the Cuban National Anthem.

Source: *Pinero Committee for Human Rights*.

**Matanzas.** A group of 121 activists carried out a fast in this city for the release of Cuban political prisoners.

Source: *Pedro Luis Boitel Democracy Movement*.

**Bolondron, Matanzas.** Activist Justo Julio Sierra handed out 50 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: *Pedro Luis Boitel Democracy Movement*.

**Matanzas.** Three human rights activists marched through the streets of El Roque celebrating the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and distributing copies of the declaration. These activists included Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Mario Gonzalez Rodriguez, and Ramon Diaz Hernandez.

Source: *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Matanzas.** Ramon Diaz Hernandez, a member of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*, posted a sign in his home at Altamizar Street, Building 2, Apt. 2, El Roque, stating, "Long Live the 53rd anniversary of Human Rights!"

Source: NotiCuba.

**Matanzas.** Dissidents gathered in Perico to read Jose Marti's thoughts on human rights in defiance of the widespread repression against such activities.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald

**Matanzas.** Anticipating demonstrations for the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, combined forces of State Security

and the political police detained activists of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*. At 10 am, while they were being held at a place in the Frank Pais neighborhood of Colón, the activists sang the national anthem and shouted for freedom for political prisoners. State Security moved them to their offices and to the Prison of Agüica. Later that evening they were released.

Source: *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Villa Clara.** Political prisoners and their families across the island began a nation-wide fast in commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Fasts were held in the **Kilo 5 ½ Prison** in Pinar del Rio, in the **Combinado del Este** in Havana, **La Pendiente** in Santa Clara, **Nieves Morejon** in Sancti Spiritus, **Kilo 8** in Camaguey, and the **Combinado** prisons in **Guantanamo** and **Boniato**.

Source: *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance*



**At a vigil in Nueva Gerona, activists hold up a sign reading, "Freedom without forced exile for political prisoners."**

*Movement*. Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Villa Clara.** Dissidents gathered in Camajuaní to read the works of Jose Marti on human rights. The activity became especially significant given the fact that the regime's repressive forces managed to prevent other such activities throughout the island.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald

**Villa Clara.** Thirty-five dissidents met in Caibarien to read Jose Marti's thoughts on human rights in defiance of the widespread repression against such activities.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald

**Villa Clara.** Members of the *Association of Independent Teachers* met in Santa Clara to commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Kilo 7 Prison, Camagüey.** More than 25 political prisoners carried out a vigil to demand respect for human rights by the Castro regime. Family members reported that the prisoners were severely beaten by guards in reprisal for this activity.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald

**Camagüey.** A dozen members of the *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights* gathered to pray and commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Jesus Alvarez Castillo, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Camagüey.** Members of the *Project of Independent Libraries* organized a meeting where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was read and debated.

Source: CAPI.

**Ciego de Avila.** Pro-democracy activists carried out a meeting to commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the *Virgilio Pinera Independent Library* in this city. Dissident leaders Roberto Valdivia and his wife Maritza Quintana Pardo were the main speakers at the event.

Source: Alida Viso Bello, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana

**Cienfuegos.** Dissidents gathered in this city to read Jose Marti's thoughts on human rights in defiance of the widespread repression against such activities.

Source: Carta de Cuba. El Nuevo Herald

**Las Tunas.** A new opposition organization was founded in

Las Tunas under the name *Popular Democratic Party* and under the leadership of Armando Parra Loma. At its inaugural meeting, members debated the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Luis Gonzalez Ramirez, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Holguin.** In Moa and Sagua de Tanamo, members of the *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*, the *Christian Liberation Movement* and the *National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba* carried out a public demonstration in demand of respect for human rights in Cuba.

Source: *Cuban Reflection Movement*.

**Boniato Prison, Santiago de Cuba.** Political Prisoner Eddy Alfredo Mena Gonzalez went on hunger strike to protest the authorities' cancellation of two family visits, to which he had a right, according to existing regulations.

Source: Jose Ramon Castillo, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*. Grisel Mena Gonzalez, sister.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* organized a conference on Democracy and Democratization at the Casona Armaignac, located at Gallo #261, between Havana and Maceo. A group of 25 participated in the meeting, which concluded with the signing of a document titled, "Statement of Principles of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Democracy and Democratization."

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Twelve persons completed a three-month course on human rights organized by the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute* and received diplomas in an official graduation ceremony.

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Several pro-democracy organizations met at the Casona Armaignac to commemorate the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Seventy-eight persons participated.

Source: *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

**Guantanamo.** Eighteen activists from different pro-democracy organizations distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights outside the Milagrosa Church after the 8 p.m. mass.

Source: *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

**Guantanamo.** Nine members of the *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement* and one member of the *Party for*

*Human Rights* handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Pedro Agustin Perez Cultural Plaza.

Source: *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.*

**Guantanamo.** Activists from different opposition organizations met to commemorate another anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also to inaugurate the *Jose Antonio Echevarria Independent Library*. Among those present were Jose Guerra Dominguez, Francisco Correa, Ada Kaly Marquez Abascal, Ferdinando Castro Dlardiller, Noemi Sanchez, Alberto Fonseca, Luis Diaz Sanchez, Eduardo A. Quintana Arbois, Ivan E. Letorneaut Borges, and Arturo Acosta.

Source: *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.*

**Combinado de Guantanamo Prison, Guantanamo.** Political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina began a hunger strike in demand of the following: that common prisoners stop their harassment and beatings; that he not be forced to dress in the uniform of common prisoners, that the authorities cease trying to impose on him

communist indoctrination as part of the so-called “re-education” plan, and that he be moved from the wing where he was being kept.

Source: *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.*

#### December 11, 2001

**Havana.** More than a dozen human rights activists participated in a mass held for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks at the Cathedral of Havana. The presiding priest welcomed the activists to the mass and encouraged their activities. Upon leaving the cathedral, the dissidents held a minute of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks.

Source: Carlos Alberto Dominguez, Cuba-Verdad. Cuba Net

**Kilo 7 Prison, Camaguey.** A group of political prisoners drafted a document detailing the tortures and abuses carried out by prison authorities and smuggled it out to human rights activists. The *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights* made the document public.

Source: CPIC. Cuba Net

**Isle of Pines.** Human rights activists sent a letter to the Cuban Attorney General in complaint of the government’s repression of a group of peaceful activists demonstrating on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Universal Day of Human Rights. Political police officers beat the group of 10 activists, including two independent journalists, forced them into cars and dropped them off at remote locations with no means of transportation back to their homes. In the letter, the activists denounced this violation of their civic rights.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen. CubaNet.



**Opposition activists debate during the Conference on Democracy and Democratization at the Casona Armaignac.**

#### December 12, 2001

**Pinar del Rio.** In spite of arrests and repression, opposition activists met at the home of Juan Padron, coordinator of the independent libraries, to sing the Cuban National Anthem and read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Adela Soto, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana

#### December 14, 2001

**Havana.** Twenty-four people carried out a peaceful march in Arroyo Naranjo. Organized by the *Pro Human Rights Party*, the marchers called for democracy, respect for human

rights on the island, freedom of expression and the release of political prisoners.

Source: Associated Press. El Nuevo Herald.

**Havana.** The *Christian Liberation Movement* prepared and delivered to different foreign embassies in Havana a report detailing the widespread repression throughout the island. The report concluded by stating the following: “The Varela Project has not died. The campaign for a popular referendum continues and all the disinformation, repression and fraud will not prevent us from achieving our goal....”

Source: Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas

**Matanzas.** In spite of arrests and repression, opposition activists gathered at the home of the Sigler Amaya brothers in Pedro Betancourt to read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and denounce the harassment carried out against pro-democracy activists by State Security.

Source: Cuba Press. Nueva Prensa Cubana

### **December 15, 2001**

**Pinar del Rio.** Forty-five former political prisoners who participated in the armed peasant uprisings against the Castro Regime in the 1960s met with young dissidents in Antonio Briones Montoto to commemorate another anniversary of the internal banishment of 2,500 peasant families to this town by the government. Ever since, the members of these families have been forced into internal exile, without being allowed to leave these ‘captive areas.’ Evelio Hernandez Ramirez, one of the leaders of the former political prisoners, said to the young dissidents, “Now more than ever we must struggle for our ideas, so that a democratic government may be established in Cuba.” Those held in these captive areas cannot sell or trade their furniture or move anywhere else, especially not to their original farms in the Escambray mountains in the central part of the island.

Source: Grupo Decoro. Cuba Net

**Combinado del Este Prison, Havana.** Political prisoner Cecilio Gonzalez Reinoso, 63, initiated a hunger strike in demand of medical attention for his illness.

Source: Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, APSIC. CubaNet

### **December 16, 2001**

**Havana.** Civic activists and leaders marched to the St. Lazarus Shrine in the outskirts of Havana to pray for a change towards democracy and the release of political prisoners.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** In a spontaneous protest, a group of neighbors prevented police forces from beating 28-year old Raersi Sierra Uranga.

Source: Press Bureau of the *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### **December 17, 2001**

**Havana.** In Santiago de las Vegas, eight pro-democracy activists evaded a police cordon and entered the St. Lazarus Shrine to participate in a popular religious ceremony. The presence of the activists became an act of defiance against the regime’s attempts at repression.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

**Las Tunas.** The *Reinaldo Arenas Independent Library* was founded in Guayabal to commemorate the second congress of the *Cuban Foundation for Human Rights*.

Source: Carlos Brizuela Yera, CPIC. CubaNet.

**Santiago de Cuba.** Dr. Lisandara Laffita Hernandez was fired from her job at a local clinic as a result of having worn a black

ribbon in protest over the lack of human rights in Cuba since June 5<sup>th</sup> of last year.

Source: ICDPress, *Culture and Democracy Independent Institute*.

### **December 18, 2001**

**Havana.** Members of the *Maceo Dignity Movement* distributed white flowers at the entrance to Our Lady of Carmen and organized a prayer for human rights in the island as well as reconciliation and dialogue among Cubans.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. Cuba Net

**Villa Clara.** Local activists founded the *Escambray Human Rights Organization* in Santa Clara, but local government authorities denied their request to formally register the organization because they said its creation had not been “authorized” by the government.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **December 19, 2001**

**Havana.** The *Project of Independent Libraries* and the *Center for the Study of a National Option* called for entries for the Third Annual El Heraldo Literary Contest.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. Cuba Net

### **December 21, 2001**

**Holguin Provincial Prison, Holguin.** Political prisoners wrote “Down with Fidel Castro” on two bedsheets and tied them onto a window looking out on the prison’s central square.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. Cuba Net

### **December 23, 2001**

**San Miguel del Padron, Havana.** The *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* held a meeting from 9:30 am until 2 pm to discuss the organization’s national management structure. The meeting took place at the party’s headquarters at Calle B #6804, between Palma and 4ta, Segunda Ampliacion de Luyano Moderno, in San Miguel del Padron.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

### **December 26, 2001**

**Florida, Camaguey.** The *Emmanuel Independent Library* was inaugurated at the home of Pastor Lazaro Iglesias Estrada. However, State Security forces broke up the meeting and brutally beat and arrested those present.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen. Cuba Net

### **December 28, 2001.**

**Havana.** The *National Independent Labor Confederation of*

*Cuba* (or CONIC, its acronym in Spanish) sent a letter addressed to Pedro Ross Leal, general secretary of the government-sponsored Center of Workers of Cuba, in complaint of the government's consistent refusal to include the opposition organization in events on labor issues. In a meeting with officials after she delivered the letter, Aleida Godínez Soler of CONIC explained that the organization had petitioned to be included in two different summits to discuss issues such as general wage reform, economic protection for the worker, Labor Code reform, etc., and had been ignored or worse, had been repressed. The letter asked that CONIC be included on the Ninth Congress of the National Union of Workers in Education to be held later in the year.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress.

#### **January 1, 2002**

**Matanzas.** Members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* gathered at the San José Church in the city of Colón with hundreds of others to pray for world peace.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

#### **January 2, 2002**

**Havana.** Members of the *Martí Movement* sent a letter to the Popular Power requesting the co-existence in Cuba of religious and state schools. The petition was based on principles established in Articles 63 and 88 of the Cuban Constitution. It also mentioned Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that suggests encouraging understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and ethnic groups, as well as the right of parents to choose the kind of education they wish for their children.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

#### **January 6, 2002**

**Havana.** A gathering of 30 carried out a vigil to honor Cuban writer and journalist Carlos Quintela on the first anniversary of his death in exile. The ceremony took place at the *Carlos Quintela Independent Library*, which is based in the Valle Elena neighborhood, municipality of Santa Cruz del Norte, province of Havana. During the presentation, speakers discussed Quintela's life and journalistic career in addition to the well-known piece he reported on Radio Martí called "A mi manera" ("My Way") with which he criticized and exposed Castro's regime. "His spirit is with us, guiding us in the effort to reconstruct civil society in Cuba," said Jose Manuel Rios Ramos, director of the library.

Source: Edel Jose Garcia, CNP. CubaNet.

**Matanzas.** In the town of Roque, the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* held a Three Kings Day celebration for the children of the neighborhood. Approximately 40 children attended the event, given at the home of organization

president Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero. The parents of the children were not affiliated with the opposition. According to the organization, the fact that the event was well attended by the people of Roque demonstrated their solidarity with the organization.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

#### **January 7, 2002**

**Havana.** Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas of the *Christian Liberation Movement* released a statement after meeting with a delegation of U.S. legislators calling attention to the relevant issues in Cuba. The press release stated the following:

"Do not ask us whether we want the embargo or investments, tourism and other exchanges. Ask how Cubans are going to be able to participate when they cannot travel, own companies and express themselves freely since they are marginalized in their own country. [...] Because it is much more important right now to define ourselves with respect to Cubans' rights, we are asking for a popular referendum."

The U.S. legislators attempted to get a vote, in a show of hands, from the opposition activists on whether they supported the embargo, but the activists refused to vote.

Source: Miriam Leiva, CubaNet. Oswaldo Paya Sardiñas, *Christian Liberation Movement*. Diario Las Americas.

#### **January 8, 2002**

**Ciego de Avila.** Hundreds of flyers appeared at night in the city of Ciego de Avila reading "Down with Fidel!" This slogan is punishable by law and can provoke several years in jail for the author. State Security and political police agents, in response, began intercepting Cubans on the street that night and asking them for their documents of identification. The next day, the commotion in the city continued and several people were arrested under suspicion of having carried out the act.

Source: Jesus Alvarez de Castillo, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Lester Téllez Castro, APLA.

#### **January 9, 2002**

**Ciego de Avila.** Anti-government signs were posted in the municipality of Venezuela, in Ciego de Avila, in the early morning hours. "Down with Fidel" was one of the slogans written with chalk on the signs, which had been posted on the walls of the pharmacy, a farming goods shop, and a refrigeration repair shop.

Source: Jesus Alvarez Castillo, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Santiago de Cuba.** The *National Alliance of Independent Farmers of Cuba* (or ANAIC) held its annual meeting at the

farm of ANAIC president, Antonio Alonso. The meeting, which had been attempted once before but cancelled by State Security, drew members of the organization from all over the country, as well as members of the *Carlos Quintela National Center of Agricultural Studies and Investigations*. The accomplishments of the year were discussed as well as the funds that had been received and the ways they had been used. It was decided that independent farming cooperatives would have to submit periodic reports detailing their activities. The headquarters of the organization were also moved to another locale.

Source: Fausto Frometa, Information Center of ANAIC. CubaNet.

### January 10, 2002

**Villa Clara.** Twenty-four opposition activists from different organizations based in the central region of the country made a call to the international community asking for support to change “our reality, present and future...as a poor nation subordinate to a totalitarian regime” and to establish, through nonviolent resistance, “democracy as a universal value.” Twenty-four representatives of 14 organizations signed the document, which was sponsored by Margarito Broche Espinosa, president of the *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters* in Caibarien, Villa Clara.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, *Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters*.

### January 11, 2002

**Havana.** Opposition activists from different organizations in Havana gathered at the Church of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus on the street of Reina in the municipality Centro Habana. These are monthly meetings and, according to Antonio Diaz Quintanal, general secretary of the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba* who spoke with HavanaPress, the number of activists who attend is expected to continue growing.

Source: Aimée Cabrera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Holguín.** Signs bearing the slogan, “Down with Fidel,” appeared on three streets in San Guzman, Holguin. The signs had been made from shoe polish on cardboard and were posted in central areas of the city.

Source: Manuel Gonzalez, APLO. CubaNet.

**Ciego de Avila.** Ariel Fleita Gonzalez, member of the *Cuban*

*Foundation of Human Rights* imprisoned since December 18 without a trial, began a hunger strike to protest his arbitrary arrest and demand his freedom. In a note to Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, Fleita Gonzalez wrote, “I don’t want medical assistance. I don’t want their food. If my condition gets worse, I will tell them what to do with me. I ask Amnesty International for help.”

Source: Lexter Tellez, APLA. Jesus Alvarez Castillo, CubaPress. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

### January 14, 2002

**Ciego de Avila.** After nightfall, flyers appeared scattered over eight blocks in the municipality Venezuela in the city of Ciego de Avila. Made from the pages of old books, the flyers were written over with anti-Castro slogans in crayon. A sign that read “Down with Fidel” was also posted on the back of an ambulance. This was the third incident of anti-government signs appearing in Ciego de Avila in less than two weeks.

Source: Lexter Tellez, APLA. CubaNet.

### January 15, 2002.

**Havana.** Opposition members in Havana met at the headquarters of *Naturpaz* at Calle Segunda, number 67, between A and D, in Rosario, municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, to pay tribute to Martin Luther King on the anniversary of his birth.

Source: Aimée Cabrera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

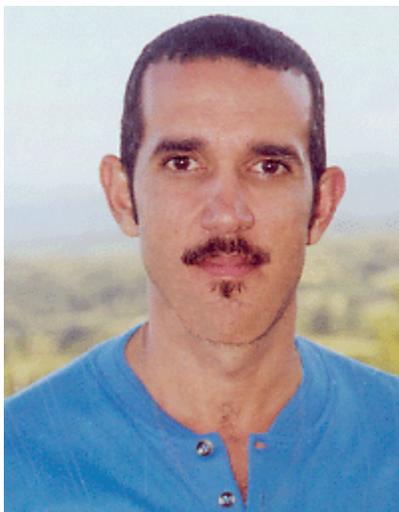
**Isla de Pinos.** The *Isle of Pines Foundation of Human Rights and National Territory Development* published the third issue of the

newsletter *Democratic Torch (Antorcha Democrática)*. The ten copies, which covered the period from November to December, were delivered to leaders of the opposition and exile community. Director Carlos Serpa Maceira said he hoped to publish 50 copies for the next issue. “The contents of *Antorcha Democrática*, which are written with a type writer, are supposed to serve as a beacon of light in the midst of the darkness and lack of information that the communist regime imposes on the Isle of Pines,” said Serpa Maceira.

Source: Fabio Prieto, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### January 18, 2002

**Guantanamo.** On the street Paseo, corner of San Gregorio, in the city of Guantanamo, signs were posted in the early morning hours with the slogans “Down with Fidel!” and “Down with the dictatorship!”



**Juan Fausto Frometa,**  
*National Alliance of Independent  
Farmers of Cuba*

Source: Jorge Servet Toledo, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

**Guantanamo.** Close to 200 participated in a protest against the trial of opposition activists Alberto Martinez Martinez, 17, of the *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement* and Alexander Lobaina Jimenez, 31, of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, who were arrested November 20, 2001. Martinez Martinez was expelled from school for having spoken about the Elian Gonzalez case. The trial was to take place at the Provincial Military Court of Guantanamo, located on the street Paseo, corner of 5 Oeste. Among the participants were members of the following organizations: *Club of Political Prisoners and Former Political Prisoners*, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*, *Democratic Solidarity*, *Independent Medical Association*, *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*, CONIC, ANAIC, and fellow schoolmates of Alberto Martinez Martinez from the Diosmedes Cordona Politechnical Institute.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*. Radio Martí.

#### **January 21-23, 2002**

**Villa Clara.** Members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* carried out an act of support for political prisoner Amado Ruiz Moreno, charged unfairly with a common crime. For his birthday, activists expressed their solidarity by sending telegrams and letters, from January 21-23, with messages such as "Keep faith in God!" and "The truth will set us free!"

Source: Bertha Antunez, *Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement*. Radio Martí.

#### **January 21, 2002**

**Guantanamo.** Signs were posted in the afternoon on the street of Ahogados, corner of Crombet, in memorial of 8 young men killed by Castro's troops close to the border of the Naval Base in Guantanamo. The signs listed the names of the victims. It had been 8 years since their death.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and Jorge Servet Toledo, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

**Las Tunas.** A group of nonviolent activists began a fast in front of the headquarters of the municipal government of Puerto Padre in the province of Las Tunas to demand that the authorities cease its repressive actions against opposition members collecting petitions for the Varela Project. They also wanted to deliver a letter claiming the people's constitutional rights, with a copy of the Varela Project. The

participants were demanding that they receive a definite response from the authorities. The fast extended to the next day, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and the activists included Ezequiel Morales Carmona, Jose Eduardo Perez, Ramon Moises Avila, Oscar Perez, Joaquin Iglesias, Roger Morales, Erdwin Parra, Alexis Guerrero, Nivaldo Hernandez and Gilberto Mora. Members of the political police and the Rapid Response Brigades surrounded the fasters. As a result, 40 persons gathered at another locale (the home of Frank Corrales, Calle 45, #15, between Rene Guzman and Aurelio Rivas in Puerto Padre) to continue the fast if it became necessary.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, CAPI, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

**Havana.** Leaders of the *National Independent Labor Confederation (CONIC)* and *Unitary Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC)* met in Havana to honor fallen labor leaders and discuss joint work in the year 2002. Among members of the CONIC present were Aleida Godinez Soler, Victor Manuel Dominguez Garcia, and Alicia Zamora Labrada and members of the CUTC included Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos and Carmelo Diaz. The two organizations signed an agreement of work meant to strengthen the independent labor union movement, the defense of workers' rights, and the coordination of action for the year. They also honored the leaders of the labor union movement that were executed on January 18, 1961, at La Cabaña by the communist regime.

Source: Victor M. Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.



**Jose Daniel Ferrer,**  
*Christian Liberation  
Movement*

#### **January 22, 2002**

**Guantanamo.** Several signs appeared in Guantanamo, on the street Pedro A Perez, corner Narciso Lopez, reading "Down with the dictatorship!" and "Down with Fidel!"

Source: Jorge Servet Toledo, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

**Las Tunas.** Opposition members from different cities continued to gather in Puerto Padre to support the Varela Project and a protest by members of the *Christian Liberation Movement* and other organizations that was taking place in front of the Popular Power. Several days before, political police had searched the homes of activists and confiscated petitions for the project, an action that had led members of the *Christian Liberation Movement* to sit in front of the offices of the Popular Power demanding to speak with the authorities. They were refused until opposition activists from out of town began arriving to support them. The authorities then met with them and said they would investigate the problem. However, State Security stopped the bus carrying the activists on the return trip home and beat them brutally.

They resisted with shouts of “Freedom!” and other passengers in the bus protested the beating. Agents confiscated the petitions they carried.

Source: El Nuevo Herald.

### **January 23, 2002**

**Havana.** Activists of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*, along with the *Popular Democratic Alliance* (or ADEPO), the *20<sup>th</sup> of May Movement*, and the CTDC held a religious service on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm as part of the *Jornada Martiana* to honor Jose Martí. The service was held at the Church of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus in the neighborhood Diezmero, municipality San Miguel del Padrón, Havana. Participants prayed for freedom for the Cuban people.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*. *Centro Cubano de Información*. Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. Cubanueva.com. CubaNet.



**In Cojimar, members of the Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba, Orthodox Party and Maceistas for Dignity make the sign for “victory” during a vigil.**

**H a v a n a .**  
E l i z a r d o  
S a n c h e z S a n t a  
C r u z , O s w a l d o

Payá Sardiñas, and Pedro Pablo Alvarez, three of five activists who had met with a Spanish political party leader at the Spanish Embassy, stood in protest outside the police station where independent journalist Omar Rodriguez Saludes was being held. Rodriguez Saludes had attempted to cover the meeting between the dissidents and Antoine Duran Lleira, president of the Democratic Union Party of Catalonia, and he was arrested. The three dissidents remained in front of the police station until the journalist was released almost six hours later at 11:45 pm.

Source: Alida Vizo Bello, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

**Havana.** Members of the *Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba*, *Orthodox Party*, and *Maceistas for Dignity* carried out a vigil in Cojimar for political prisoners as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: *Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba.*

*Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.*

### **January 24, 2002**

**Havana.** A group of opposition activists participated in a mass at the Los Pasionistas Church in the municipality 10 de Octubre in Havana to pray for the freedom of political prisoners. This mass for political prisoners is held every 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzanera Cucalo, *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*. *Centro Cubano de Información*. Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. Cubanueva.com. CubaNet.

### **January 25, 2002**

**Havana.** A conference was held at the *Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library* in the home of Julia Cecilia Delgado at 20 de mayo #531 Apt. B 14, between Marta Abreu y Línea, in the Cerro district of Havana. **T w e n t y - f i v e** opposition activists, members of several organizations such as the *Christian Liberation Movement* and the *Association of the Reconciliation and Rescue of Human Values*, participated in a discussion about the life and work of Independence leader

Jose Martí on the 149th anniversary of his birth. Dr. Wilfredo Vallin Almedia, Director of the *Center of Liberal Studies*, was the featured speaker and presented an overview of Martí's life.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, *Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.*

**Havana.** As part of its *Jornada Martiana*, the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* hosted a workshop on the life and work of Martí in the home of activist Olga Rita at Avenida 51 #10816A, between 108 and 110, in the neighborhood of Los Quemados, municipality of Marianao. A group of approximately 20 participated. On her front door, Rita placed a large poster of Martí along with the following quotation: “It feels as if a child of mine is killed every time someone is deprived of liberty.” Similar signs were posted by other activists in the area, and to this day, some are still displayed on their doors.

Source: Olga Rita Ramirez Delgado, *Centro Cubano de Información*.

**Matanzas.** The *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* held its first meeting of the year. The growth of the membership was one of the accomplishments discussed, as well as the schedule of activities for the year.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*. Alejandrina Garcia de la Riva, NotiCuba.

### **January 26, 2002.**

#### **Pinar del Rio.**

From January 26-29, opposition activists carried out a vigil in solidarity with members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* that had been detained in Havana.

Source: *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*. *Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba*.



**Members of the Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba in Campo Florido, Havana, hold a vigil for political prisoners.**

**Havana.** Members of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* carried out a peaceful march as part of the *Jornada Martiana* to honor Independence leader Jose Martí. In the early hours of the morning, the activists visited and left flowers at three historic sites in San Miguel del Padron, Havana.

Source: Luis Osvaldo Manzaneira Cucalo, *Centro Cubano de Información* of the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*. Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

**Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo.** Political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, president of the *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*, began a hunger strike to protest State Security's attempts to endanger his physical well being, including his incarceration in a cell with tuberculosis-infected prisoners and its attempts to destabilize and harm his family. Rodriguez Lobaina, 35, is serving a six-year sentence at the Provincial Prison of Guantanamo for "contempt of authority" to the figure of Fidel Castro.

Source: Graciela Alfonso, NotiCuba. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

### **January 28, 2002**

**Havana.** At 12:10 am, 10 human rights activists placed flowers by the bust of Cuban Independence leader Jose Martí, known as the Apostle of Cuba, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón in Havana. This floral offering was made by the *Confederation of Cuban Democratic Workers* (or CTDC), the *Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba*, ADEPO, the *20th of May Movement* and the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party* as part of a week-long tribute to Martí

called the *Jornada Martiana 2002* announced by the *Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party*.

Source: Olga Rita Ramirez Delgado, *Centro Cubano de Información*. Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. CubaNet.

**Isla de Pinos.** Members of the *Missionaries for the Good of Mercy* made their second humanitarian donation to the first child born on this day. They provided a collection of clothes and supplies to a child born to a 17-year-old girl in the rural town of Mella Baquero.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, *Pinero Committee of Human Rights*.

**Matanzas.** Despite attempts by State Security and the National Police to prevent the event, members of the *Peace, Love and Freedom Party* carried out a ceremony to honor Jose Marti on the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Inés Guerra Ochoa, Mario Gonzalez Rodriguez, and Juan Carlos Buenos Artola managed to evade the political police and place a floral wreath by the bust of Martí in a park in Guareiras. They sang the national anthem and recited a verse of Martí's poetry.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Matanzas.** In the city of Matanzas, the *Democratic Solidarity Party* and the *Confederation of Cuban Democratic Workers* held a "Cafe Martiano," a celebration of Martí's life and work.

Source: Diosdado González Marrero, *Peace, Love and Freedom Party*.

**Guantanamo.** In the city of Guantanamo, members of the *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement* performed a ceremony to honor Independence leader Jose Marti on the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. They met on the street of Maximo Gomez, between the streets of Aguilera and Crombet, and marched in a peaceful manner to the nearby Jose Marti Park, which is centrally located in the city. They placed a floral wreath by the bust of Marti.

Source: Luis Díaz Sánchez, *Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement*.

**January 29, 2002**

**Havana.** Two dissidents, Rene Gomez Manzano and Felix Bonne Carcassés, members of the *Task Force of the Internal Dissidence* who wrote “The Homeland Belongs to All,” announced the launching of a project called “Initiative for the Homeland that Belongs to All” (“Iniciativa por la Patria de Todos”) It is an alternative project, based on the rejection of the ruling government, and asks for the publication of the universal and American declarations of human rights, alternative candidates for elections, international supervision of elections, abolition of certain existing laws, entrepreneurial freedom for Cubans, and increase of food rationing, among other points. The authors called on the internal dissidence to support this new initiative.

Source: Agence France Press. CubaNet.

**January 30, 2002.**

**Isle of Pines.** More than a hundred residents in the

municipality of Nueva Gerona protested the government’s attempt to evict a pregnant woman from her home. Yaisbel Santos Peña, eight months pregnant and mother of a two-year-old, was about to be forced from her home when neighbors came to her defense and prevented government officials from carrying out the eviction. The government claimed that her residence in this house was illegal, despite the fact that her family had constructed it.

Source: Fara Armenteros of UPECI. CubaNet.

**Havana.** The *Association of Independent Teachers* held an event in Campo Florida, Havana, to call for the liberation of political prisoners as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: *Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba. Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.*



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**Members of the *Maximo Gomez Civic National Movement* in Pinar del Rio, hold a vigil for political prisoners.**

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# Agreement for Democracy

**We recognize as the fundamental principle of the new Republic that Cuba is one and independent, whose sovereignty resides in the people and functions through the effective exercise of representative multiparty democracy, which is the government of the majority with absolute respect for the minority.**

All governments must respect the sovereignty of the people, therefore, at the end of the current tyrannical regime, the provisional or transition government shall be obligated to return sovereignty to the people by way of the following measures:

- (1) Guarantee the people's participation in the decisions of the nation through the exercise of universal, direct, and secret voting to elect its representatives, and the right to seek public office.
- (2) Immediately issue a general amnesty for the liberation of all political prisoners, including those who have been sentenced for fictitious common crimes, and cancel the pending political causes against Cubans in exile, so as to facilitate their return to the homeland and their reintegration into the national society.
- (3) Organize an independent, impartial and professional judiciary.
- (4) Recognize and protect the freedom of expression, of the press, of association, of assembly, of peaceful demonstration, profession and religion.
- (5) Protect the Cuban people from arbitrary expulsion from their homes as well as against all forms of detention, search, confiscation or arbitrary aggression, and from violation of their correspondence, documents and other communications, and defend all Cubans' right to privacy and honor.
- (6) Immediately legalize all political parties and other organizations and activities of civil society.
- (7) Refer to the Constitution of 1940, when applicable, during the transition period and convoke free elections with the supervision of international organizations within a time period not greater than one year, for a Constituent Congress which will establish a Constitution and which, during its existence, shall have authority to legislate as well as to oversee the executive. Having thus achieved democratic legitimacy, it shall call general elections in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- (8) Recognize and protect the freedom of economic activity; the right to private property; the right to unionize, to bargain collectively and to strike; the Cuban people's right to genuine participation in their economic development; access to public health and education, and initiate the reestablishment of civic values in education.
- (9) Take immediate steps to protect Cuba's environmental security and protect and rescue the national patrimony.
- (10) Propitiate and guarantee the professionalism and political neutrality of the Armed Forces and create forces of public order whose rules of conduct shall adjust to the principles of this Agreement.

Cuba shall resurrect from its own ashes, but it is the sacred obligation of all Cubans - both within the oppressed island and in diaspora - to place our hands on the plough without looking backwards but rather into the deepest part of our hearts, to convert those ashes into fertile seeds of love and creation. Now, as 100 years ago, our national aspiration remains the construction of a Republic based on the formula of triumphant love:

## **With All and for the Good of All**

**Signatory organizations of the Agreement  
in Exile:**

*Acción Cívica Cubana.* José Luis Pujol  
*Acción Democrática Cubana.* Juan Carlos Acosta  
*Agenda-Cuba.* Pedro L. Solares  
*Alianza Cubana.* José Pérez Linares  
*Alianza de Jóvenes Cubanos.* Ana M. Carbonell  
*Asociación Medioambientalista Cubana.* Néstor Penedo/Andrés Solares  
*Asociación Nacional de Ganaderos de Cuba.* Henry Rose  
*Asociación Integral Mambisa.* Pedro Luis Ferro  
*Asociación Democrática de Profesionales del Servicio Exterior.*  
José R. Huerta  
*Coordinadora Internacional de Ex Prisioneros Políticos Cubanos.* Guillermo Rivas-  
Porta  
*Coordinadora Social Demócrata.* Dr. Lino B. Fernández  
*Comité Cubano Pro Derechos Humanos.* Dr. Ricardo Bofill  
*Confederación Campesina de Cuba.* José M. Pou Socarrás  
*Cruzada Cubana.* Gerardo González Fundora  
*Cuban American Veterans Association.* Andrés García  
*Cuba Democratique.* Lázaro Jordana  
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