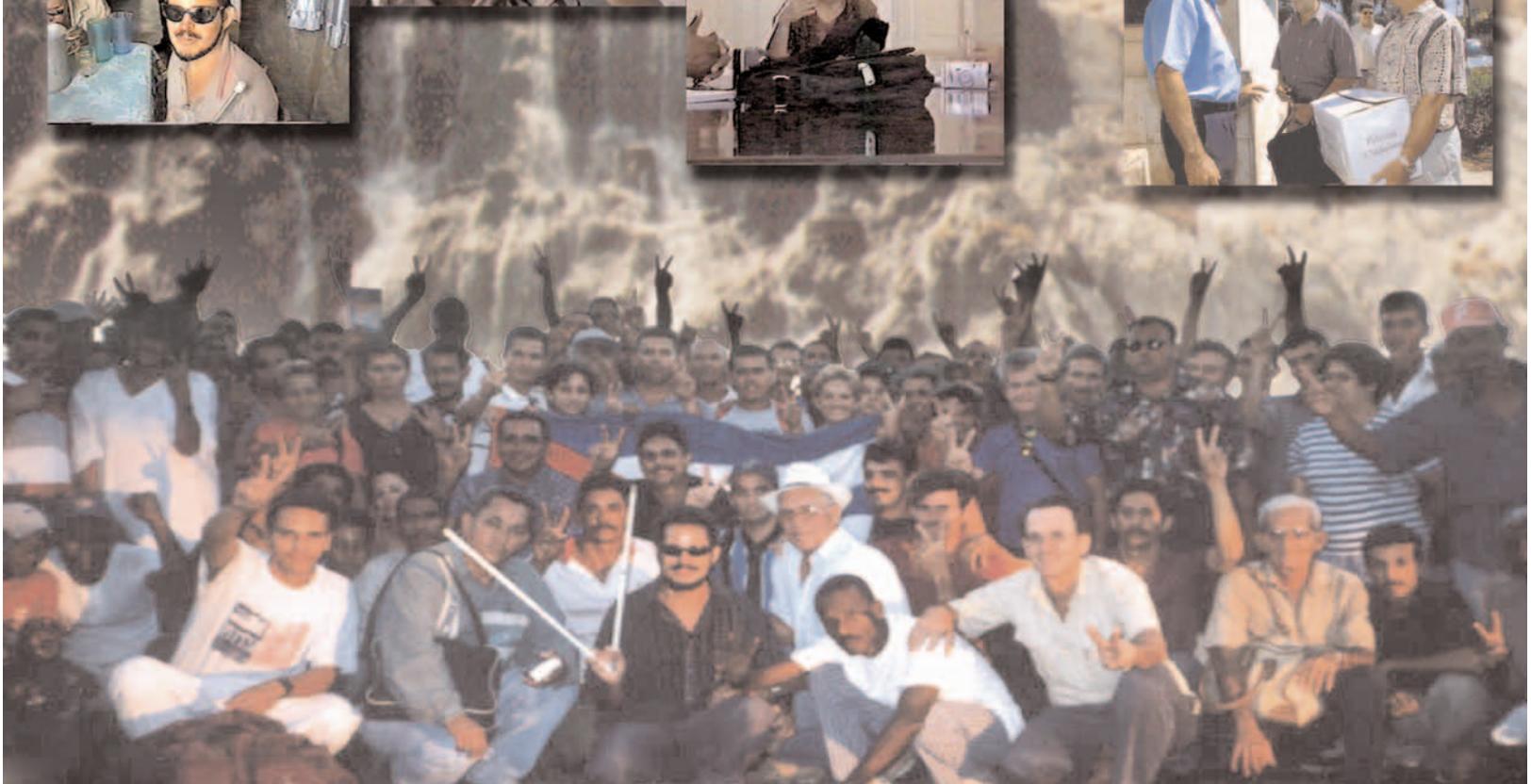


Steps to Freedom 2002

A Comparative
Analysis of
Civic Resistance
Actions in Cuba
From February
2002 to January
2003



First Edition: May 2003

Edit and Design: Marilu Del Toro, Janisset Rivero-Gutierrez, Orlando Gutierrez, Daisy Gil Ortíz

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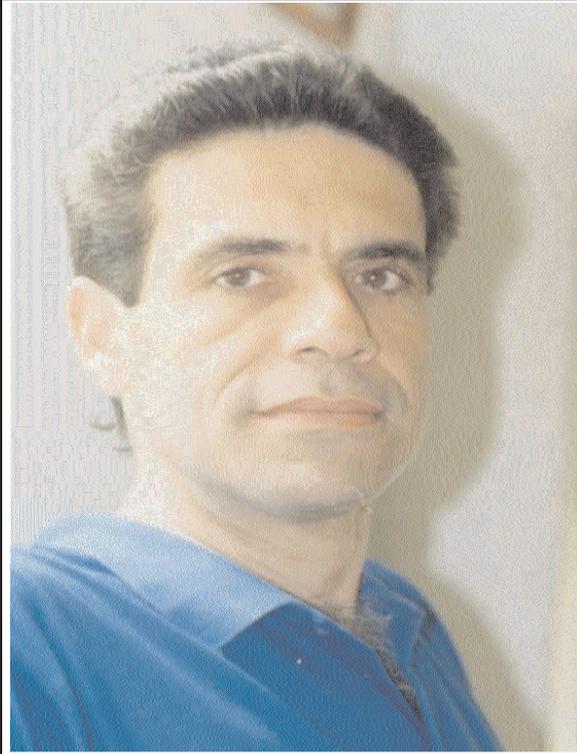
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Cover (From Left to Right):

1. Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and the Independent Fraternity of the Blind in Ciego de Avila.
2. Omar Dario Perez Hernandez, independent journalist of the El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency, interviewing a resident of Camagüey.
3. Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, director of the Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists and the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, during a meeting in Havana.
4. Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, president of the Lawton Foundation of Human Rights, the day of his release after serving three years as a prisoner of conscience.
5. Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Antonio Diaz Sanchez of the Christian Liberation Movement submitting 11,020 signatures in support of the Varela Project to Cuba's National Assembly of Popular Power in Havana.
6. *Group photo:* The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights during its Second Congress in Camaguey.

Back Cover:

Javier de Cespedes, president of the Cuban Democratic Directorate, meeting with Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas in Havana.

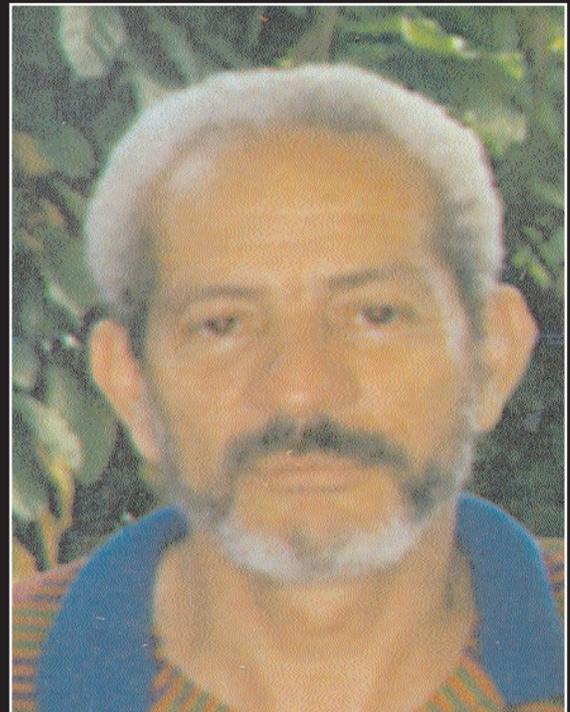


“The different groups that have been emerging since the late ‘80s and that constitute an independent civil society in Cuba are today the hope for the creation of a new Cuban national project.”

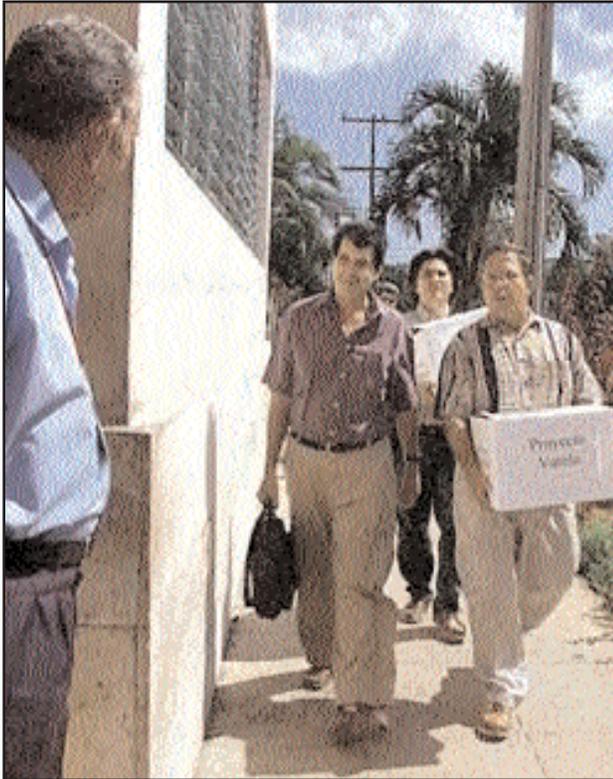
**Librado Linares Garcia,
president of the Cuban
Reflection Movement and
prisoner of conscience
April 2002**

“I will continue with my political activism. I will not abandon the struggle. I will continue pursuing Cuba’s democratization. Cuba’s problems are to be solved inside Cuba and not outside.”

**Vladimiro Roca Antunez,
upon his release
from prison
May 5, 2002**



Major Accomplishments of the Cuban Civic Resistance in 2002



Carried out 959 civic nonviolent actions.

Submitted 11,020 signatures in support of the Varela Project to the Cuban State.

Founded 4 independent clinics to provide humanitarian aid to the Cuban population

Founded 2 independent pharmacies to provide medicine to the Cuban population

Founded 20 independent libraries

Founded 36 new civil society institutions

21 new issues of independent newsletters continued publication and 6 newsletters were founded. For the first time independent video newscasts were produced.

The Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign carried out 179 vigils throughout the island

Independent civic activists organized toy drives, lunches for the poor, and medicine donations

"I am of the opinion, based on my experiences in Estonia in the 1980s, that Cuba's freedom is not far away. Cuba's dissidents are willing to live in extraordinary circumstances because they have great hope."

Former Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar
Miami, Aug. 1, 2002

"The most important thing is not to calculate when these efforts will bear fruit, but rather to struggle for these values without thinking about a moment in time, because sooner or later these efforts will triumph."

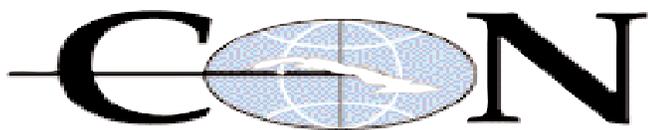
Czech President Václav Havel
Miami, Sept. 24, 2002

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February 2002 to January 2003



Cuban Democratic
Directorate



Center for the Study of a
National Option

This is a publication of the **Cuban Democratic Directorate** (“Directorio”) 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 Directorio sponsors publications and conferences in the United States, Latin America and Europe that contribute to the restoration of values of Cuban national culture and solidarity with the civic opposition 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.

This publication has been made possible thanks to the support of the International Republican Institute (IRI), a non-profit organization promoting democracy throughout the world. IRI has among its principal objectives the strengthening and training of individuals, organizations, and democratic parties through professional programs. IRI programs are non-partisan and adhere to fundamental American principles such as individual liberty, the rule of law, and the entrepreneurial spirit that promotes economic development.

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INTRODUCTION

On March 18, 2003, the Cuban regime took a step backward in history, launching a repressive sweep on a scale that had not been seen since the early years of the revolution. Using the fog of war created by the United States' engagement with Iraq, the government set in motion, on the same day the war began, a hunt for independent journalists and opposition activists -- Cuban citizens who had been part of the growing peaceful movement on the island to promote human, civil and political rights. State Security agents erupted into homes, confiscating typewriters, faxes, files and books. They cleaned out entire independent libraries, and, during two weeks of unrelenting persecution, arrested more than 80 journalists and leaders of the opposition. The regime then tried these activists in a matter of days, meting out sentences that for the most part ranged between 15 and 20 years. The highest sentence of 28 years was given to a young dissident named Luis Enrique Garcia Ferrer whose work it had been to collect signatures for the Varela Project.

Immediately following this repressive wave, and as international condemnation grew, Castro's government demonstrated its intolerance yet again, summarily trying the men and women who had commandeered a boat on a failed attempt to leave the island. Three of these men were given the death sentence and were executed by firing squad. Press and governments around the world expressed shock. But should they really have been surprised?

This issue of Steps to Freedom shows how in 2002, the nonviolent opposition to Castro's regime carried out 959 acts of civic resistance -- that is, at least 959 acts of civic resistance. These were the actions that members of the opposition were able to report to the Cuban Democratic Directorate, or acts that were otherwise documented. Due to the nature of the movement's struggle, its lack of resources and few means of communication, there were probably many more actions that could not be taken into account in this study. Still, in 1997, when Steps to Freedom was first published, there were 44 acts of civic resistance reported. Five years later, this number has multiplied many times over.

The trends that have become apparent over the years continued in 2002. Again, an impressive number of independent libraries were opened, a total of 20 new independent libraries inaugurated throughout the year. Also, a great many other groups and civil society organizations were founded, as many as 36, totaling up to 56 new institutions offering an alternative to government-sponsored organizations. In addition, in 2002, the opposition continued the diversification of its acts, particularly showing an interest in expanding its reach to the population and strengthening its ties with Cuban society. As many as 15 projects were implemented to help the people directly, such as the Heart to Heart program created by the Maximo Gomez Baez National Civic Movement in Pinar del Rio to provide food to the elderly and the disadvantaged, the Cuban Reflection Movement's monthly lunches for the poor carried out in conjunction with the Catholic organization CARITAS in Villa Clara, the Pinero Committee for Human Rights' workshops to construct crutches for the handicapped, and the Marti Current's toy drive for children, among others. In Havana, a humanitarian organization, the SOS Cuban Association for Our Children, was founded.

Also an important part of this tendency were the independent medical clinics and pharmacies established in different cities throughout the country. These pharmacies and clinics were opened with the purpose of meeting societal needs that the government was failing to meet, and in many cases, if not all, were run by opposition activists. For example, the first independent medical clinic in the Isle of Youth was established in the home of Huber Rodriguez Tudela, president of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights. A doctor volunteers his time at the clinic on Friday evenings to provide care

to the people free of charge. In the city of Candelaria in Pinar del Rio, the Union of Democratic Youth of Cuba opened an independent pharmacy that distributes medication to residents.

In 2002, the population grew bolder, using civil and social disobedience. In this issue of Steps to Freedom, there are 37 documented acts of a direct form of civic resistance -- acts of open non-cooperation. Of these noncooperation acts, an unprecedented 32 (or 86%) were spontaneous, meaning that they were not planned activities carried out by activists but rather unexpected expressions of discontent, for the most part carried out by members of the population. On 32 occasions, the people of Cuba expressed their dissatisfaction with the government's actions. The year before, in 2001, only 66% of the 24 instances of noncooperation were spontaneous protests by the population.

Perhaps this fact is not surprising considering that in 2002, the opposition also improved its capacity to communicate with the population, creating new publications and continuing to print pre-existing publications in different parts of the country. Established opposition newsletters and magazines released 21 new issues. Also, six new publications were founded, including De Cuba, a magazine edited by the Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists that reproduces the work of independent journalists and is one of the most professional publications the opposition has produced so far.

Added to all of these achievements was the fact that the Varela Project was submitted to the Cuban government's National Assembly in May 2002, just days before former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited Cuba. President Carter praised the project in his speech to the Cuban nation, a fact that helped in publicizing the project to the people. Also, in 2002, the opposition was recognized as never before, with numerous leaders receiving prestigious awards from the international community, including the Civil Courage Prize given to Vladimiro Roca, the New York Academy of Sciences' Heinz R. Pagel Award to Martha Beatriz Roque, and the much publicized European Union's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Oswaldo Payá, as well as Payá's nomination to the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.

Is it really so surprising that the Cuban government has reacted in such a brutal manner? This crackdown has betrayed both the government's weakness and its fear of the opposition. Now it falls on the men and women who make up the hundreds of opposition and civil society groups still functioning on the island to continue the work -- and the world to support them.

Marilu Del Toro
Miami, May 2003

Development of Nonviolent Civic Action

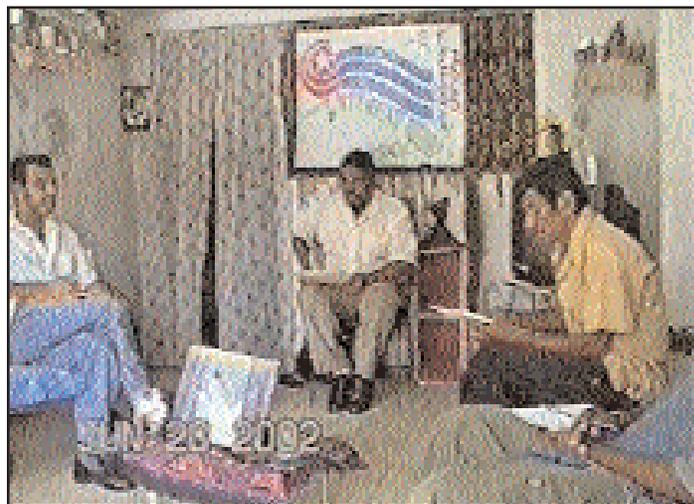
During 2002, nonviolent struggle surged with new vigor throughout Cuba. According to the data compiled in this report, activity grew in the provinces, and civic resistance this time included the spontaneous participation of a greater number of citizens not linked to human rights groups or the political opposition. On May 10, 2002, upon the delivery of 11,020 signatures supporting the Varela Project to the Cuban government, the regime's "battle of ideas," which it had launched in 2000 to stifle the opposition, was dealt a final blow. Activists, with the support of thousands of citizens, had managed to transcend the stage of defiance in the realm of ideas and had passed to defiance through concrete actions that highlighted the need for radical change from within the political and social dynamic of the island.

As was done in previous editions of *Steps to Freedom*, this report takes into account American academic Gene Sharp's categories of non-violent civic action: **protest and persuasion, noncooperation, and intervention.**

Protest and persuasion actions through which organized activists or citizens spontaneously taking action demonstrated their discontent in an explicit manner, constitute 55.5% (533 actions) of the total number of actions studied

suasion actions; and statements and displayed or spoken anti-governmental slogans, which make up 23% (123 actions) of this category, a number that includes a significant sum of spontaneous actions -- 28 actions, representing 22.7% of this final type of protest and persuasion activities.

Just as in 2001, in 2002 opposition activities in the island continued to show an aim to reach the population via public symbolic acts, such as ceremonies to honor the dead and the disappeared, marches through the streets, formal



Activists meet at the Ciudad #2/Factoria Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba.



An activist of the Association of Independent Teachers throws flowers into the Bay of Havana on July 13th

in this report (959 actions). Included in this category are vigils held as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for Political Prisoners, which represent 34% of the total protest and persuasion activities; public meetings of human rights and opposition organizations, as well as spontaneous public meetings carried out by the population to protest transportation or food supply problems, which in total constitute 23.8% (127 actions) of the protest and per-

statements, and demonstrations using clothing or posters with slogans and symbols to reach the conscience of the citizenry. However, in contrast with 2001, where 431 actions of protest and persuasion were reported -- the number doubling from the total in 2000 -- in 2002 there was a modest increase of 103 actions. This moderate growth may indicate that even though this stage of nonviolent civic struggle continues to be fundamental, it is giving way to other phases wherein action is taken that increases civic consciousness. We will return to this issue next as we look at other types of actions that took place in 2002.

Noncooperation actions in which citizens withdraw their support of government entities and activities represent 3.85% of the total actions documented here, or 37 cases. Out of these actions, 75.6% (28 cases) are cases of political non-cooperation, or instances in which citizens refused to cooperate in their academic and labor centers or with the so-called mass government organizations that require participation. It is relevant that the number of acts of political noncooperation has increased compared with 2001 and 2000, this being the most important subcategory in this typological group.

Additionally, of the **28 actions** of political noncooperation, **82.1%** were spontaneous and **17.8%** were organized, a fact that supports the idea that the citizenry is disposed not to cooperate with the structures of power that keep it repressed. This category is fundamental for a democratic transition process in a totalitarian society, precisely because a totalitarian regime relies on the incapacity of the citizenry, due to fear or misinformation, to refuse to cooperate with the system.

Likewise, for two other types of noncooperation actions -- economic and social noncooperation -- there were nine acts, all spontaneous, that ranged from labor strikes and refusal to pay fees to government unions and committees in defense of the revolution to protests at public meetings against measures taken by the government. This subcategory constitutes **14%**, or **nine actions**, of the noncooperation category.

In the category of **intervention**, or acts through which citizens obstruct the course of actions of the authorities, **389** actions are documented that represent **40.5%** of the total actions reported in this report. This category includes three subcategories: **social**, **psychological** and **physical intervention**.

The first represents those actions that seek the creation of alternative institutions. This year, social intervention represents **77.8%** of the total intervention actions; while psychological acts of intervention make up **19.7%** of this category and physical intervention **11.6%**. Actions of social intervention were in their totality organized by opposition groups and independent civil society groups including the creation of independent libraries, civic centers, and medical clinics, among others. Of the actions of psychological intervention, **94.8%** were organized while **5.19%** were spontaneous. The majority of these acts were hunger strikes and fasts by political prisoners or human rights activists. **Physical intervention** actions (**nine cases**) were mostly sit-ins in front of prisons or government establishments to make demands.

Actions of intervention grew 110% for 2002, from **145 actions in 2001** to **389 in 2002**, a fact which signifies important progress in the process of civic non-violent strug-

gle, since this stage of struggle indicates a major increase of citizen awareness, as well as a more coherent strategic vision of the civic leadership in the country. The year 2002 brought **56 new independent institutions**, of which 20 were libraries and 36 were civic centers, political and humanitarian organizations, pharmacies and medical clinics. Moreover, this year work on newsletters and independent magazines increased. This kind of media provide an information alternative to the population, which is constantly bombarded by the government-controlled press. In 2002, **six newsletters were founded**, and **21 issues** of newsletters and magazines already in existence were published. Also, a broadcast news team began working in the city of Camagüey, distributing their news to the population through video. Another important step forward in this category

was the growth of social work directly with the population via humanitarian projects, such as the distribution of medical supplies, lunches for the elderly, or basket gifts for pregnant women, all of which demonstrate the willingness of alternative and independent institutions to resolve the needs of the population and thus gain a fundamental public space for political change.

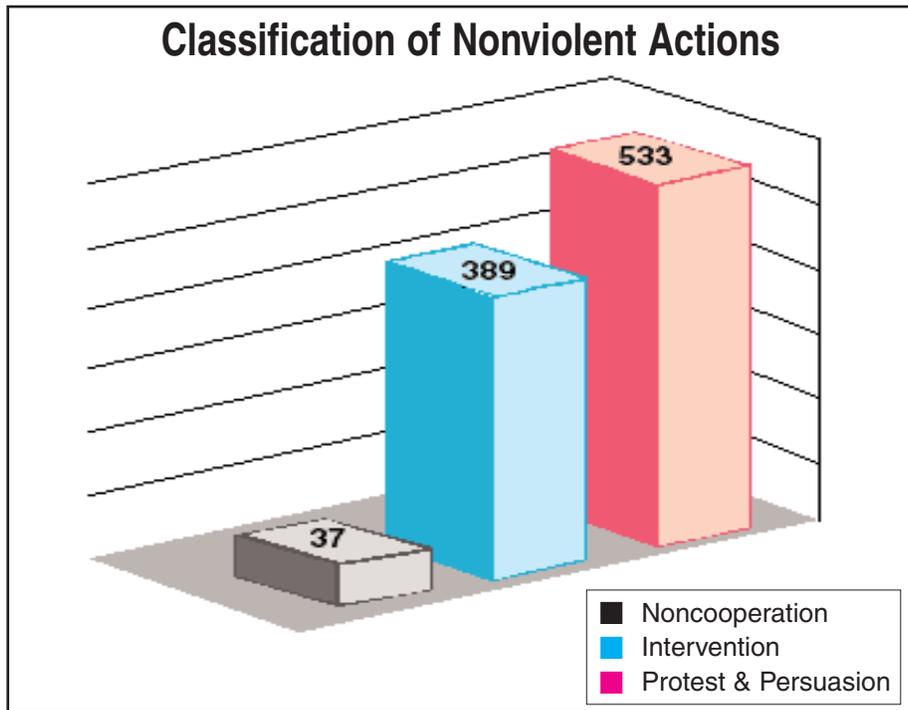


Figure #1: Total Growth of Civic Resistance Actions

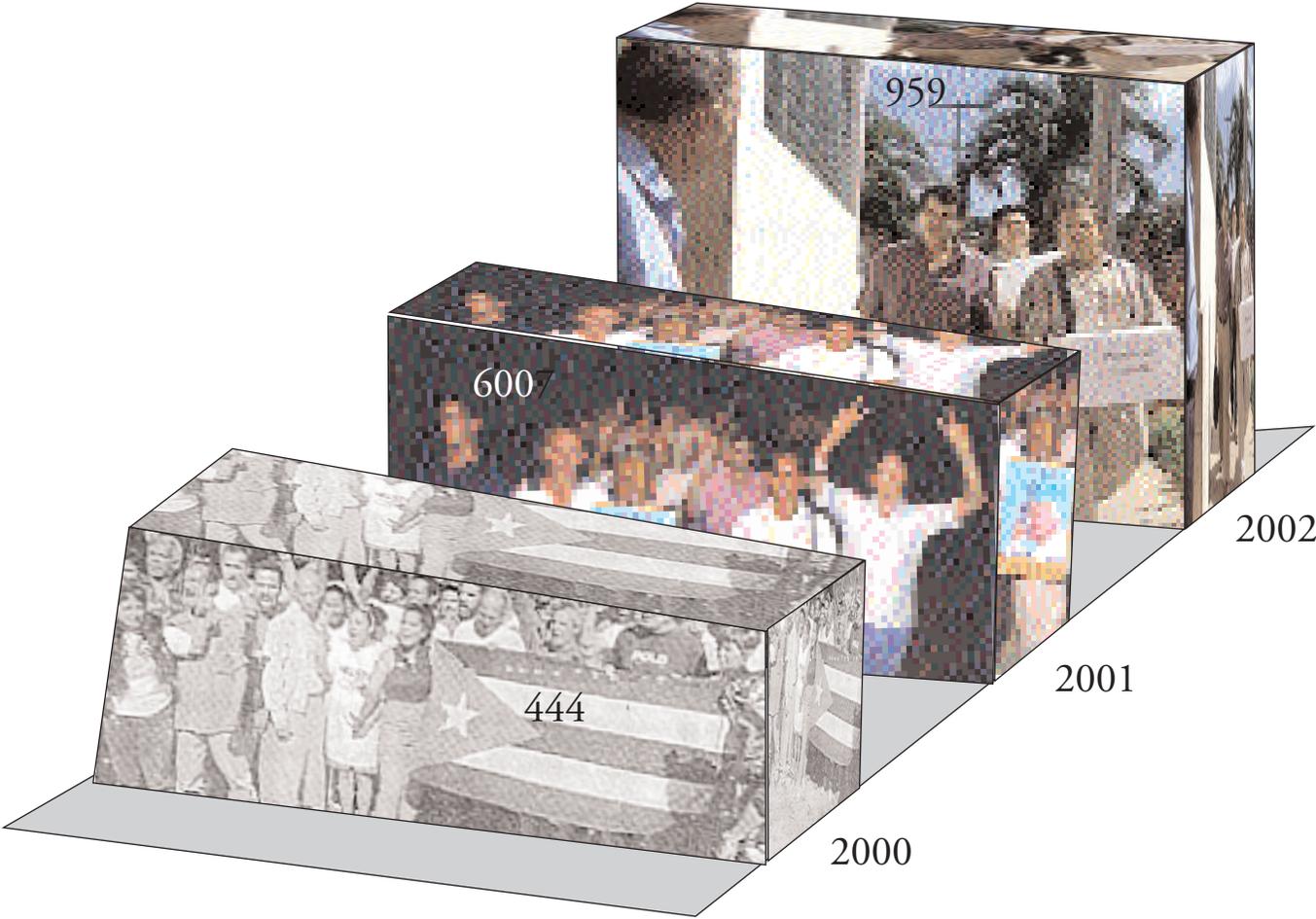


Figure #2: Comparative Percentages of Civic Resistance Activities in the Provinces and Havana

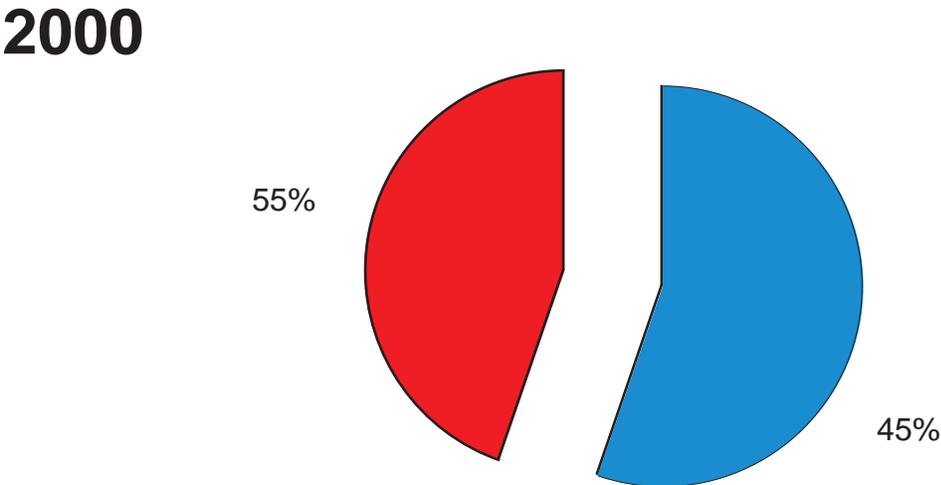
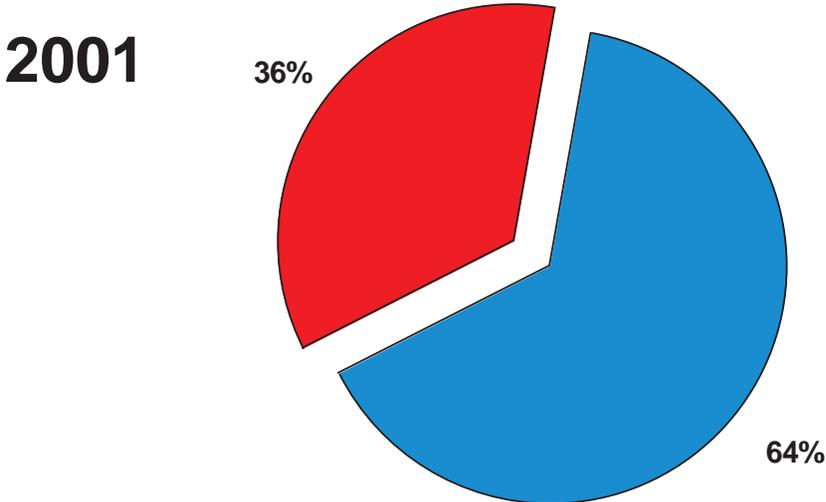
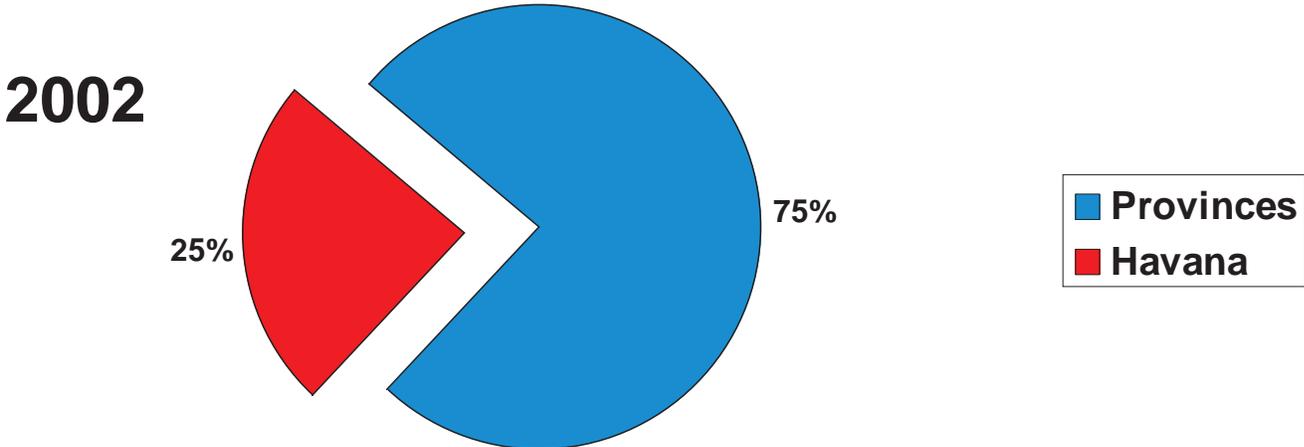
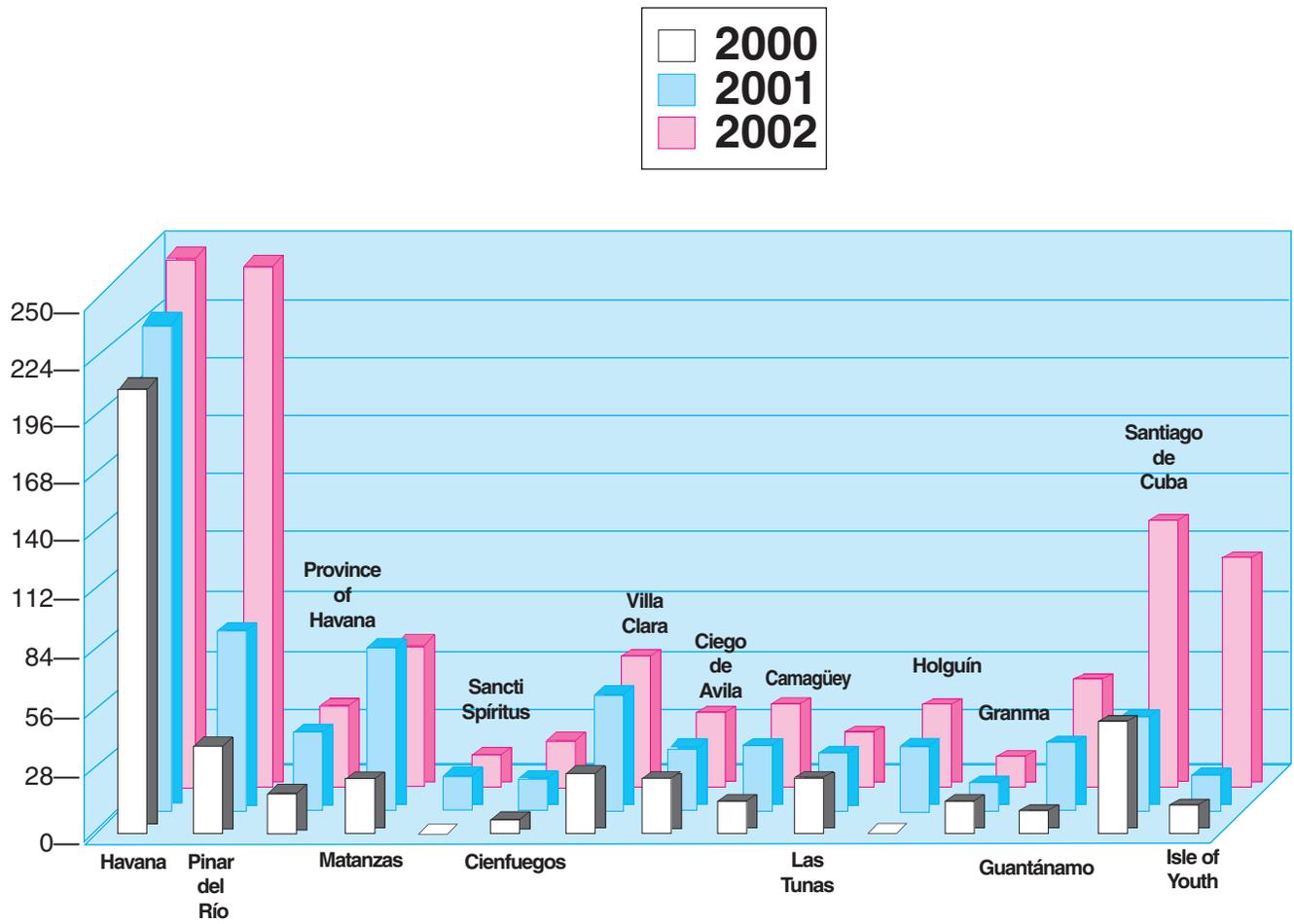


Figure #2.2: Comparison of Civic Resistance Actions Per Province



Dates and Projects that Mobilize the Opposition

Jan. 28th

Born on this day in 1853, Jose Martí was a poet, journalist, author of children's literature and the leading political leader of Cuba's struggle during the 19th century for its independence from Spain. He is also considered one of the greatest thinkers Latin America has produced. As it has done for almost everything in Cuba's history, the Revolution has reinterpreted Martí through the filter of Marxism, claiming that elements in his philosophy were the precursor to the communist system Castro later instituted. On Jan. 28th every year, the opposition holds events to honor Martí and rescue his historical significance from the revolution's distortions.

Feb. 24th

This day has become one of the most significant that the opposition commemorates yearly because of its historical meaning on two levels. On Feb. 24, 1895, Jose Martí, in his "Grito de Baire," called for the beginning of Cuba's War of Independence against Spain. Also on this day in 1996, Castro's regime ordered MiGs to shoot down two civilian airplanes of the exile group Brothers to the Rescue while they flew over international waters. Four members - three American citizens, and one Florida resident who only some years earlier had been a rafter - were killed in the shooting. Organizations all over the island use this day to demonstrate publicly and protest the killings as well as honor the memories of Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandro, and Mario Manuel de la Peña, the youngest victim who was also a member of the *Directorio*.

May 20th

On May 20th, 1902, the first independent Cuban Republic was established. This day was celebrated historically as the day of Cuban Independence until Castro's revolution began to discount it, claiming instead that true independence had not arrived for the Cuban nation until Castro led the liberation from the "yoke of the Yankees" in 1959. Over the years, the opposition has begun a process of restoring the date to its original meaning.

July 13th

In the early morning hours of July 13, 1994, four boats belonging to the Cuban State and equipped with water hoses attacked an old tugboat that was fleeing Cuba with more than 70 people on board.

The Cuban state ships began ramming their prows into the tugboat and spraying everyone on deck, including women and children, with pressurized water. Despite the screams of the passengers and pleas to stop, the state boats continued. After some time, the tugboat began to sink, and 41 people perished, including 10 minors. Every year on this day, the opposition carries out various memorial activities to remember the victims and call for justice.

Dec. 10th

Known internationally as the Day of Human Rights, Dec. 10th is celebrated every year by the opposition as a landmark for the advancement of human rights. On this day in 1948, the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ratified, with the Republic of Cuba as a signatory. Even though the Castro regime no longer recognizes the declaration, and in fact, considers it counterrevolutionary, the opposition has worked strenuously to divulge its articles and inform the people of their rights. On this day, many groups go out into the streets to hand out copies or hold conferences or study groups to discuss human rights.



Activists gather at the Altamira Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba to carry out a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Freedom Without Forced Exile

In 2001, the Miami-based organization of former Cuban political prisoners, *Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba*, announced the beginning of a campaign of vigils to be held every Wednesday in Cuba and in exile to call for the unconditional release of all Cuban political prisoners. The campaign was named "*Libertad Sin Destierro*" or "Freedom Without Forced Exile" to emphasize the right of prisoners to their liberation without having to take the option, forced at times by the Cuban government on imprisoned dissidents, to leave the country. The vigils are performed consistently every Wednesday all over the country, from Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth to Guantanamo, and by different kinds of opposition and civil society groups.

Activities Linked to Projects and Symbolic Dates

Projects and Symbolic Dates	Actions
Vigils for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign	179
Fasts for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign	22
Feb. 24th - Commemoration of Brothers to the Rescue shutdown and start of Cuban Independence War	44
New institutions founded	36
Dec. 10th - International Day of Human Rights	25
Issues of <i>samizdat</i> published	27
Independent libraries inaugurated	20
July 13th commemorative activities	19
May 20th - Day of Cuban Independence	17
Jan. 28th - Anniversary of Jose Martí's birth	14
Activities to support the Varela Project	14
Independent medical clinics opened	4
Independent pharmacies opened	2

Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva and Leonardo Bruzon

Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, a 37-year-old blind lawyer and human rights activist, was arrested in March 2002. At the time this was written, he had yet to be submitted to a trial. Despite the Cuban government's efforts to suppress him and his family, Gonzalez Leiva has maintained a stance of unrelenting resistance toward his jailers.



Gonzalez Leiva presides over two nongovernmental organizations considered illegal by Cuban authorities: the *Fraternidad de Ciegos Independientes Cubanos* (Fraternity of Independent Blind Cubans), which works to improve living conditions for the disabled on the island, and

the *Fundación Cubana de Derechos Humanos* (Cuban Human Rights Foundation), which strives to defend human rights. In February 2002, the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights managed to draw over a hundred activists to the organization's second congress in a farm in Camagüey. Over the course of two days, the independent journalists and activists who assembled there were able to speak and plan unhindered by State Security. The event was a tremendous success, given how difficult it is to achieve an assembly of this size in Cuba because of the government's constant vigilance.

As the charismatic leader of these two organizations, González Leiva has suffered arbitrary arrests, systematic psychological torture, death threats, verbal abuse, and multiple beatings that have resulted in wounds and fractured ribs. On March 4, 2002, he and nine other activists were detained after taking part in a peaceful assembly at a hospital in Ciego de Avila to support a fellow independent journalist who State Security agents had ruthlessly beaten. The activists were arrested in a fierce crackdown, and Gonzalez Leiva, who practices nonviolent resistance, received a four-stitch wound to the forehead from a blow with a gun.

On March 21, 2002, while being held at State Security headquarters in Holguin, Gonzalez Leiva began the first of what would be a series of hunger strikes and fasts during his imprisonment. Foregoing all solid food, he protested the charges made against him of common offenses (as opposed to political crimes). As a result of his strike and the harsh living conditions in the state security facility, he fainted a couple of times and began to suffer from high blood pressure. He was, however, denied medical assistance. On May 3, 2002, he dictated a statement to his wife addressing the international community in which he stated, "I want to inform you of the real situation I am in. They have diminished my nervous system. Two months ago, I was a healthy man despite my blindness. Now, I am a sick man. They, State Security, have destroyed my nervous system, and I have blood pressure problems, even though I have never before suffered from such problems."

On June 25, 2002, Gonzalez Leiva sent an SOS message

to international human rights organizations, denouncing the consequences he had suffered after a prison psychiatrist gave him a pill that made him violently ill. Gonzalez Leiva lost consciousness and afterwards began to suffer from chest pains. He was also experiencing claustrophobia, but doctors and prison officials ignored his appeal for medical relief.

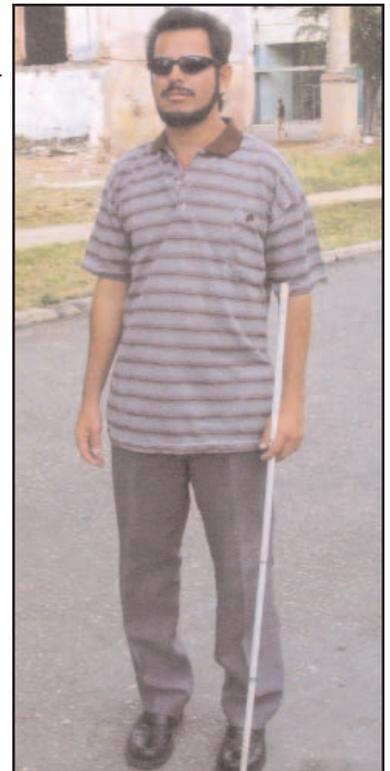
In September, Gonzalez Leiva and the nine other activists who had been arrested with him began yet another hunger strike. To make his protest known, Gonzalez Leiva shaved his head and wore only black. In October, he sent a letter to the Minister of Justice Roberto Diaz Sotolongo, requesting that he be allowed to defend himself in court.

Since then, Gonzalez Leiva, his wife, and his mother have asserted that they are being harassed with unknown chemical substances. On more than one occasion, Gonzalez Leiva has smelled and tasted strange substances that resemble detergents or disinfectants in his food and water. On one occasion, he was woken by a fan that had been aimed at him and a strong odor, which made him vomit. Similarly, his wife has complained of a foul chemical odor permeating their home and even the home of her sister. She believes that this odor is simply another of the government's repressive tactics to break the family's will. Like Leonardo Bruzon Avila, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva maintains that he is innocent of any crime and that he will continue to fight the regime's injustices. He has

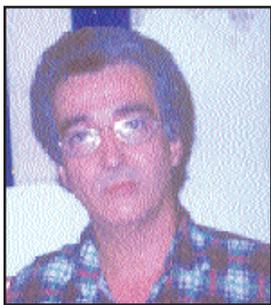
"I thank God, who is my guide and captain, for helping me to sustain my faith, my principles, and my clarity of thought."

said, "I thank God, who is my guide and captain, for helping me to sustain my faith, my principles and my clarity of thought."

Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila, president of the unofficial *Movimiento 24 de Febrero*, was arrested on Feb. 22, 2002, and at the time this report was written, had yet to be charged or brought to trial. It is believed that he was arrested as a way of preventing his participation in the commemorative activities that opposition groups carry out all over the island every Feb. 24th. (On this day in 1996, the Cuban regime shot down two civilian planes of the exile group Brothers to the Rescue and killed four members.) Bruzon Avila's arrest was part of a general sweep that the Cuban government performed in February and March, arbitrarily detaining about two dozen opposition activists. Amnesty



Avila: Even from Behind Bars, Leading the Opposition



International considers Bruzon Avila a prisoner of conscience.

In addition to his work as a human rights activist, Bruzon Avila is also director of the 24th of February Independent Library in Havana. During his imprisonment, he has maintained a courageous stance of non-violent resistance, meeting the government's ruthless subjugation with a series of peaceful hunger strikes.

On March 15, 2002, he began the first hunger strike to protest his arbitrary incarceration and authorities' refusal to allow his attorney access to his file. Previously, the defense attorney had filed a habeas corpus petition because he had not been allowed to see Bruzon Avila's case file, which included information on the motives for his arrest, charges against him and the circumstances of his detention. On April 4th, the provincial court, or the *Tribunal Popular Provincial de la Ciudad de La Habana*, rejected the lawyer's petition.

Days afterwards, Bruzon Avila was transferred from the Technical Department of Investigations to the Prison of Quivicán in the Province of Havana. On Aug. 27th, despite having already lost 20 pounds, he began a second hunger strike along with 26 other activists imprisoned in several jails who had also been detained in similar circumstances. They demanded to be informed of the charges against them or freed immediately.

On Oct. 10th, the hunger strike ended. Bruzon Avila was the only activist of the group who maintained the strike until its end. That same day, prison authorities refused to give him medical assistance, and in return, he decided to take up the hunger strike again.

In the next couple of weeks, Bruzon Avila was placed in a punishment cell. Other prisoners demanded medical care for him, but prison officials refused to help him. The Leonor Pérez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners submitted a letter to the State Council addressed to Fidel Castro denouncing Bruzon Avila's ailing health and demanding his immediate transfer to a hospital. The Federation of Cuban Journalists joined them in their petition.

Finally, on Oct. 25, 2002, Bruzon Avila was taken to the Carlos J. Finlay Military Hospital in Havana. He was permitted to stay there until Dec. 12th, at which time he was transferred to the Combinado del Este Prison in the capital. Still determined to protest his unjust imprisonment, on Jan. 10th, Bruzon began yet another hunger strike. Almost a month later, fellow political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez (a.k.a. "Antunez") was able to smuggle out a note describing how Bruzon had been rushed to the prison clinic after nearly suffering a heart attack and how his health was progressively deteriorating.

Opposition organizations in different corners of the country have carried out hunger strikes and fasts demanding his liberation. Despite differences in political strategies, opposition groups have mobilized in defense of this peaceful activist. No longer on hunger strike, Bruzon Avila nevertheless continues to maintain a position of dignity and resistance, despite the fact that he suffers

from vitamin deficiency, Parkinson's Disease and a series of other illnesses. He is just one example of the many brave men and women who make up the nonviolent resistance movement in Cuba.

During his imprisonment, he has maintained a courageous stance of nonviolent resistance, meeting the government's ruthless subjugation with a series of peaceful hunger strikes.



Recognition for the Cuban Opposition in 2002

During 2002 the international community reached out to Cuba's emerging civil society and internal democratic opposition as an increasingly viable movement representative of the aspirations and genuine interests of the Cuban population. A brief summary of these meetings follows:

MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

Feb. 4, 2002

Havana. Mexican President Vicente Fox and Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda met with a group of Cuban opposition leaders at the Mexican Embassy. Opposition leaders Martha Beatriz Roque, Elizardo Sanchez, Oswaldo Payá, Raul Rivero, Manuel Cuesta Morua, Osvaldo Alfonso Valdés, and Hector Palacios, spoke with Fox and Castañeda about the human rights situation on the island.

Source: Agence France Presse published in Diario Las Americas. El País. BBC. Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro, CubaNet. Reuters published in El Nuevo Herald. The Associated Press published in The Miami Herald.

Feb. 10, 2002

Havana. A delegation of 17 American legislators and businessmen met with a group of seven Cuban opposition activists for close to two hours, during which they discussed the human rights situation on the island and U.S.-Cuba policy. The opposition activists included Osvaldo Alfonso Valdés, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, Hector Palacios Ruiz, Gisela Delgado Sablon, Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos and Julio Ruiz Pitaluga.

Source: Agence France Presse and Omar Rodriguez Saludes of Nueva Prensa, both published in CubaNet. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa, published in Diario Las Americas.

May 13, 2002

Havana. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter met with Cuban opposition activists to discuss the human rights situation on the island. Carter met with Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, leader of the Christian Liberation Movement and spokesman of the Varela



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter meets with Cuban opposition activists in Havana.

Project, as well as with Elizardo Sanchez Santacruz, president of the Commission of Human Rights and National Reconciliation.

Source: Europa Press published in CubaNet. BBC. La Vanguardia. Aug. 2, 2002

Havana. Mexican youth leaders headed by Cristian Castaño, director of the *Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud* (Mexican Institute of Youth) and René Bolio, deputy senator and executive director of the PAN in the Federal District of Mexico, held a press conference with opposition activist Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas. The Mexican leaders announced their support for the internal opposition, the Varela



Oswaldo Payá with Mexican youth leader Cristian Castaño and Senator René Bolio, who supported the internal opposition in a press conference in Havana.

Project and the candidacy of Payá for the Nobel Peace Prize of 2003.

Source: Cuban Democratic Directorate

Oct. 14, 2002

Havana. Forty-five editors and journalists met with 10 Cuban opposition activists in the Hotel Parque Central in Havana. The journalists and dissidents talked about Cuba's current situation, the activities of civil society, and U.S.-Cuba relations. Diane MacFarlin, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, was present at the meeting as well as Cuban opposition leaders Oswaldo Payá, Vladimiro Roca, Hector Palacios, Gisela Delgado, Osvaldo Alfonso Valdés, Pedro Pablo Alvarez, and the independent Cuban journalists Raul Rivero, Claudia Marquez, Oscar Espinosa and Miriam Leiva.

Source: Miriam Leiva, CubaNet.

Jan. 16, 2003

Villa Clara. Three members of the Swedish Liberal Party met with members of the Liberal Democratic Party of Cuba and the Cuban Liberal Youth (two organizations not recognized by the Cuban government) in the city of Santa Clara. The Swedes explained the economic, social and political systems in their country and the vice mayor of the Swedish city of Upsala, Jan-Ove Jerrestal, proposed joining the parties of that city with Santa Clara, an announcement that the Cubans present welcomed.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

AWARDS TO THE OPPOSITION

March 15, 2002

Stockholm, Sweden. The Liberal Party of Sweden (Folkpartiet liberalerna) awarded its "Lars Leijonborg Democracy Prize" to Berta Mexidor Vazquez and Gisela Delgado Sablón, directors of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba, in Stockholm on March 15th. Berta Mexidor Vazquez, who was living in exile, was awarded the prize at a ceremony in commemoration of the centenary of the founding of the Liberal Party of Sweden, but Gisela Delgado Sablón could not attend because she was not allowed to leave Cuba.

Source: Liberal Party of Sweden

Aug. 15, 2002

Coral Gables, Florida. Gabriel Andreescu, a former political prisoner and intellectual once imprisoned by the Ceasescu dictatorship in Romania and current director of the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation and chair of the Center for the Rights of Man, presented the second annual Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award to Cuban dissident Angel Moya Acosta at the University of Miami.

"I dedicate this prize to all those who have struggled for the freedom of Cuba, especially to the political prisoners, those who came before me and those who are suffering imprisonment now," said Moya Acosta from his home in Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas. He added that he was surprised and moved to have been chosen for the prize.

The Cuban Democratic Directorate helped create the Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award in 2001 to recognize the work, courage and leadership of members of the nonviolent opposition in Cuba. The award is sponsored by eight nongovernmental organizations in Eastern and Central Europe and is given annually. It was first awarded to 36-year-old blind Cuban activist Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, the president of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights and the Independent Fraternity of the Blind, two opposition orga-



Gabriel Andreescu and Directorio President Javier de Cespedes name Angel Moya Acosta winner of the Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award at the University of Miami.

nizations in Ciego de Avila.

Source: Cuban Democratic Directorate.

Sept. 23, 2002

New York City. The New York Academy of Sciences held its Heinz R. Pagel Awards ceremony in honor of this year's recipient, Cuban economist and leader Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, a former political prisoner and outspoken dissident leader. Roque Cabello could not receive the award personally because the Castro regime denied her permission to travel abroad. She was honored for "her tireless promotion of democracy, human rights and freedom of access to information on Cuba." Among previous recipients of the Pagel Award was Russian dissident Andrei Sakharov.

Source: PRIMA News Agency

Sept. 30, 2002

Washington, D.C. The National Democratic Institute awarded its prestigious W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award to civic opposition leader Oswaldo Payá, who has been the main organizer of the Varela Project on the island. Payá was not allowed to travel to the event. The co-recipient of the award was the Organization of American States. Former Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright, who now chairs the National Democratic Institute, presented the award. A special video documentary on the Varela Project was also shown at the event, and Genaro Arriagada, coordinator of the 1988 "No" campaign for the Chilean Plebiscite was the keynote speaker.



Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello

Oct. 8, 2002

New York. The Civil Courage Prize of the Northcote Parkinson Fund was awarded to Cuban opposition leader Vladimiro Roca Antunez, while a "honorable mention" was awarded to Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, secretary general of the Cuban Committee of Human Rights. Neither Roca nor Arcos were allowed to leave Cuba to receive the award. Tony Santiago, Roca's international representative, and Orlando Gutierrez, national secretary of the Cuban Democratic Directorate, received the award on Roca's behalf, while Sebastian Arcos accepted the honorable mention on behalf of his uncle Gustavo.

Source: Cuban Democratic Directorate

December 17, 2002

Strasbourg, France. Cuban dissident leader Oswaldo Payá received the European Parliament's Sakharov Award.

Thanks to intense pressure from European parliamentarians, Payá



Orlando Gutierrez and Tony Santiago accept The Civil Courage Prize in New York on behalf of Vladimiro Roca Antunez.

was allowed by the Cuban government to travel to accept the award. The event, which was given significant press coverage in Europe, constituted the first time a Cuban dissident was honored with such a distinction. Upon receiving the award, Paya said, "You have awarded the Andrei Sakharov Prize to the people of Cuba. I say 'the people of Cuba' because they are the ones who so richly deserve such an award. I say it without excluding any of my fellow countrymen, irrespective of their political stance, because rights have no political, racial or cultural hue."

Source: Text of Payá's speech before the European Parliament.



Oswaldo Payá receives the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought from European Parliament President Pat Cox.

In June 2002, Václav Havel, then-President of the Czech Republic, seconded a nomination put forth by the Prague-based People in Need Foundation, proposing Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas for the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, more than 800 heads of state, legislators, religious leaders, intellectuals and political leaders around the world have endorsed Paya's nomination. The People in Need Foundation, one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Czech Republic, has led the effort to collect signatures supporting the nomination in Europe. Working with them, the Cuban Democratic Directorate has also actively sought support for Paya's nomination in the Americas.

Paya has been recognized by leaders such as Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar, former Estonian primer minister Mart Laar, United States President George W. Bush, and former president of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias.

Civic Resistance Acts in Cuba in 2002

Feb. 2002

Pinar del Rio. From Feb. to May, the Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts began offering drawing classes, which were held every day except Tuesdays and Sundays for two hours. After a break during the month of June, these classes were once again begun and held seven days a week in July and August. A special exhibit interrupted the classes in the month of Sept., but they were picked up on Oct. 9th and held through Nov. until Dec. 8th with classes five days a week. In total, 181 drawing classes were taught from Feb to Dec. 2002, totaling 362 hours of classes. The students included 20 children and 10 young adults.

Source: Rene Oñate, Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts.

Havana. The Independent Association of Teachers carried out a vigil every Wednesday of the year, from Feb. 2002 until Feb. 2003, totaling 52 vigils, as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

Santiago de Cuba. Through the course of the year, the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute, in conjunction with the Cuban Republican Party, hosted 52 vigils as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign held every Wednesday nationwide. An average of 19 people participated in each event at the Altamira Civic Community Center in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

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

Feb. 3, 2002

Matanzas. In the town of Pedro Betancourt, more than a hundred activists and residents took part in a public protest. The act, which was hosted by the Independent Alternative Option movement, was carried out in a park, where the protesters gathered and prayed for the triumph of love over hate, the reconciliation of all Cubans, and the freedom of political prisoners.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Pinar del Rio. The Independent Medical Association of Cuba inaugurated an independent medical clinic in Guane. The clinic will provide primary care to the local residents, who previously had little or no medical care at night. The clinic, which was founded in the home of Dr. Hanoi Humberto Hernandez, at Comandante Street, Murrieta #16, will be open daily after 4 pm.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Feb. 5, 2002

Guantanamo. The independent journalist Luis Torres Cardoso, with copies in hand of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, confronted government officials of the Provincial and Municipal Department of Housing when they tried to force an eviction of a couple and their three young children. After he began to resist, other neighbors and residents joined in the protest, a crowd of approximately 60 people soon gathered and prevented the eviction from taking place. The journalist was arrested and fined for \$2000 Cuban pesos.

Source: Ferdinando Castro de Lardiller, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Lux InfoPress, both reported to Puente Informativo Cuba-Miami and published in CubaNet.



Rene Oñate of the Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts meets with artists during an event in Pinar del Rio.

Feb. 7, 2002

Havana. The Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists and the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba (or CONIC, its acronym in Spanish) signed an agreement to share information with the aim of facilitating the work of each organization. According to the agreement, the CONIC will provide the institute with labor studies, research on social issues, and reports from the independent press agency Lux InfoPress, while the institute will make its studies

and articles available to the CONIC.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Havana. The National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba (or CONIC) unveiled the first issue of its newsletter "Trabajador Cubano," or "Cuban Worker" at a celebration held at the William Le Santé Independent Library. The newsletter will be published, when supplies allow, on a monthly basis and will strive to provide alternative information regularly to Cuban workers. The first issue included information about the Cuban government's labor rights violations, and future issues will contain information about the United Nations' International Labor Norms. The newsletter's debut was carried out in homage to the Cuban labor activists Orlirio Mendez and William Le Santé, who were executed in 1961.

Source: CubaNet. Joel Brito, Lux InfoPress.

Feb. 9, 2002

Camagüey. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights held its

Second Congress, a successful event attended by 114 activists, in the farm known as "La Juana," in the municipality of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, province of Camagüey. The activists discussed and debated the foundation's annual report of human rights violations and passed certain changes to the organization's statutes.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC, CubaNet.

Feb. 11, 2002

Havana. Police officers ordered a group of independent vendors selling merchandise in the streets of Havana in front of a dollar-based store to leave the area. When the vendors refused to go, the police tried forcing them into a car. While one handicapped vendor resisted, others surrounded the car, refusing to allow the vehicle to leave. A crowd gathered around them for about thirty minutes while the police tried to persuade the protesters to move to the sidewalk. They were finally persuaded to leave.

Source: CubaNet.

Camagüey. During a meeting in the second week of February, residents of the town of Florida continued to refuse to fill the presidency of the government-sponsored Committee in Defense of the Revolution #1, of zone 60. The top position of this neighborhood watch group has been vacant since 1992. Committees in Defense of the Revolution were established by the regime in the early days of its rule to watch for ideological homogeneity among the population. The top positions of other committees in the town of Florida are also vacant.

Source: Yoel Blanco, CPIC. CubaNet.

Ciego de Avila. The blind activist, Arquimides Quintana Aguiar, regional delegate of the Independent Brotherhood of the Blind, carried out an act of civic protest for nine hours in front of the headquarters of the Provincial Popular Power of Ciego de Avila. Quintana, who had been staying overnight at the Department of Physical Therapy of the Belkis Sotomayor Clinic, where he worked, for four years, had been ordered to leave. As a result, Quintana sat before the Popular Power offices from 1 pm until 10 pm, demanding that the authorities fulfill his petition for a home, which he had been making for four years. The president of the Provincial Popular Power said that they would give him a response in time, but that Quintana could not continue his protest in front of their offices.

Source: Lexter Tellez, APLA, CubaNet.

Havana. Opposition activists took part in a service at the Sagrado

Corazon de Jesús Church in the municipality of Centro Habana to pray for the freedom without forced exile of political prisoners. After the act was over, State Security beat and arrested several activists, including Fran Garcia Llerena and Fernando Fernandez Sarria of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Carlos Alberto Dominguez of the Cuban Institute of Law and Jesus Carmona Ceballo of the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. They were detained for 36 hours, charged with "disturbing the public order."

Source: Luis Oswaldo Manzaneira Cucalo of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party reported from the Centro de Informacion Cubano de La Habana to Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. Published in CubaNet.

Feb. 12, 2002

Havana. Twenty-three opposition activists carried out a peaceful march in the municipality of Centro Habana in the capital to remember the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. Several demonstrators were arrested. The organizations that participated included the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Support Group of the Internal Dissidence, Civic Martí League, Cuban Institute of Law, Nationalist Agenda, Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, and Fraternal Brothers for Dignity.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.



Yoel Blanco García talks during the celebration of the Second Congress of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights in Camagüey.

Havana. The Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers hosted a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign at its headquarters on Calixto Garcia #207, between Pereira and 27 de Noviembre streets in the municipality of Regla. This vigil began at 9 a.m. and 15 members of the Liberty Movement, the Progressive Liberal Party, the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party and the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers participated in the vigil.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Camagüey. An unidentified individual calling himself "Zorro," killed a cow from the government and distributed the meat among the residents of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes municipality in Camagüey. Zorro knocked on the doors of various townspeople in the early morning hours on Feb. 12th and told them where to find the cow so that they could take the meat. He had already appeared once several weeks before. He left a note at the site stating, "If Fidel Castro and his cronies can eat beef, why can't the people and I eat it?"

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Feb. 13, 2002

Havana. The Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party donated a wheelchair to a handicapped elderly lady, Tomasa Rodriguez Perez, who lives in the town of Puerto Padre, province of Las Tunas. This opposition organization focuses its work on providing humanitarian help, such as food and medicine, to poor families and handicapped individuals.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Feb. 15, 2002

Havana. As part of its effort to organize dissidents for a weekly Wednesday mass for political prisoners, the Liberty Movement and the Support Group of the Internal Dissidence called on activists to attend a mass at the Santa Barbara Church in the neighborhood of Párraga, municipality of Arroyo Naranjo. Parishioners and activists prayed for the health of the prisoners Camilo Perez Villanueva, Jose Miguel Lopez Santos, Andy Freeman Peña, Dianny Freeman Peña, and Vladimiro Roca Antunez, as well as for the liberation and health of all political prisoners. Eight activists of the Liberty Movement, Cuban Institute of Law, Support Group of the Internal Dissidence, and the Political Prisoners' Association participated. As they left the church, they yelled, "long live human rights," "Pedro Luis Boitel lives," and "Cuba without Castro."

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Isle of Youth. Three opposition organizations on the Isle of Youth met to create the Opposition Democratic Board of the Isle of Pines (the former name of the Isle of Youth) with the aim of coordinating their work and uniting their efforts. The organizations included the Pinero Committee for Human Rights, the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines, and the Missionaries for the Good of Mercy. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights, located on Calle 4B, between 37 and 39th streets, Apt. 2, in the capital city of Nueva Gerona. The Executive Board was made up of the directors of each organization.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Isle of Youth. Several members of four opposition organizations joined the Luis de la Mesa Arredondo Civic School for Cuban Democracy, which is located in the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and offers classes on a weekly basis to 30 students. The school aims to construct a strong civil society so that the Cuban nation can determine its fate.

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Camagüey. Human rights activist Reynaldo Hernandez de Armas began a hunger strike from his cell in the police station in the town of Florida to protest the jail sentence he received for a crime he said he did not commit. His father, Reynaldo Hernandez Lavilla, had confessed to having occasioned the bodily injuries to someone for

which his son was accused, but the provincial prosecutor refused to accept his confession. The father himself began a protest outside of the police station, refusing to leave until something was done to clear his son.

Source: Yoel Blanco, CPIC. CubaNet.

Feb. 20, 2002

Havana. The Popular Democratic Alliance (or ADEPO, its initials in Spanish) and the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation hosted an informative workshop to discuss the Second Congress that the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights held Feb. 9-10 in the province of Camagüey.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Havana. The Liberty Movement, along with the Support Group of the Internal Dissidence, requested a mass from the Santa Barbara Church in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo in the capital to pray for the health and unconditional liberation of Cuban political prisoners. Prisoners mentioned included Camilo Perez Villanueva, Rafael Ibarra Roque, Vladimiro Roca Antunez, Oscar Elias Biscet and Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (also known as "Antunez"). Sixteen activists attended the mass, including members of the Nationalist Agenda, Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Cuban Institute of Law, Support Group of the Internal Dissidence, and Liberty Movement.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Feb. 22, 2002

Prison Cuba Sí, Holguin. Abelardo Guzman Gainza began a hunger strike in the Prison Cuba Sí in the province of Holguin.

Source: Próspero Gaínza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement in Holguin.

Feb. 23, 2002

Havana. A mass was carried out at the Church of Los Pasionistas at the Plaza Roja of La Víbora in Havana in remembrance of the Brothers to the Rescue victims of Feb. 24th. Independent journalist Carlos Alberto Dominguez, who had requested the mass, was arrested in his home before leaving. Many activists were dispersed from around the church while others were detained and taken away in police cars. One activist, Celia Jorge, an older woman, was beaten.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. As part of the 24th of February memorials, the Cuban Christian Unity Movement held a vigil at night in the home of Sergio Perez Hierro, located on San Gabriel street, #415, in the municipality of El Cerro.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. The Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party held a 12-hour vigil to remember the fallen pilots. The act started at 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 23rd and ended the next day at 8:30 a.m. At 5

a.m. that morning, the activists walked to the beach known as "El Chivo" and cast flowers into the ocean. Twenty-six representatives participated in the vigil from organizations such as ADEPO, the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, the Cuban Liberal Party, the 20th of May Movement, Children of the Virgin of Regla, and the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Isle of Youth. Manuel Acosta, president of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights of the Isle of Pines, placed a sign on his door reading, "Cuba is for Cubans." State Security tore it down and threatened him with the consequences he would face if he participated in any of the activities the next day.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. Dressed in black, 12 members of the Independent Democratic Front and the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation attended a 3:30 p.m. mass in Sagua la Grande and prayed for the Brothers to the Rescue pilots.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. Despite State Security vigilance, a commemorative vigil was held in the home of Carlos Manuel Campos Moya, delegate of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party. His home is on 3rd del Este, between 3 y 4 del Norte in Placetras. Seven activists of various opposition organizations, including the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba, the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, and the Mario Manuel de la Peña Human Rights Movement, participated.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists. National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Ciego de Avila. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights called for a mass protest in front of the police station in the town of Florida to demand the return of more than 300 books that were confiscated from the Enmanuel Independent Library the year before on Christmas Day, during which the library's inauguration was planned to take place. In the early morning hours of Feb. 23, the confiscated books were returned to the library.

Source: Lexter Tellez, APLA. CubaNet.

Las Tunas. At 7 pm, about 40 activists took part in a vigil for the 24th of Feb. that was held in the home of Ramon Moises Avila Perez, on 18th Street, #2, between Salvador Cisneros and 25th of December streets. At 2:30 a.m., while the participants watched a

video showing the shoot-down of the two Brothers to the Rescue civilian planes, State Security began to throw rocks at the windows. Despite this attempt to interrupt the act, the activists remained at the vigil until 7 a.m. the next day.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Santiago de Cuba. A 12-hour fast was held in a home in the city of Palma Soriano as a way of remembering the Brothers to the Rescue pilots. From midnight on Feb. 23 until noon the next day, 13 activists fasted at Ruiz Rivera 313, between Jose Antonio Saco and 26 de Julio streets. During the fast, the participants walked to the River Cauto and despite the vigilance of State Security, were able to cast flowers into the ocean.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.



Members of the Association of Cuban Independent Teachers throw flowers into the Bay of Havana as part of a commemorative act.

Guantanamo. Approximately 60 dissidents attended a mass at the Church of La Milagrosa to pray for the late Brothers to the Rescue pilots. Members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement and Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party attended.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Feb. 24, 2002

Havana. The Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba met at the Church of Santa Ana in the neighborhood Altura de la Lisa to attend a 5:00 p.m. mass that paid tribute to the Brothers to the Rescue victims. Mario de la Peña, Carlos Costa, Pablo Morales, and Armando Alejandro were mentioned by name as the congregation prayed for them, for world peace, and for the liberation of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Havana. President Migdalia Rosado of the Tamarindo 34 Human Rights Movement threw flowers into the ocean by the Malecón (a seaside promenade in Havana). Later, along with three fellow activists, she also attended a 4 p.m. mass at *La Ermita de la Caridad* ("Our Lady of Charity Shrine") in the neighborhood of Santos Suarez where prayers were said for the four Brothers to the Rescue victims.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. In a home in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 15 activists gathered to pay tribute to the four pilots killed in the Cuban government's shooting of two Brothers to the Rescue civilian planes in 1996. The participants in the ceremo-

ny played an audio recording of the Cuban pilots showing how they coordinated the shooting right before it was carried out, and then held a moment of silence for the murdered pilots. This meeting was also held as a way of honoring the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba.

Source: El Nuevo Herald. Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. In the morning, approximately 30 activists of various organizations, such as the Liberty Movement, the 6th of January Movement, Fraternal Brothers for Dignity, the Association of Political Prisoners, and the 24th of February Movement, among others, gathered to remember the Feb. 24th victims. To close the ceremony, Armando Dominguez and Barbaro Antonio Vela went to the Malecón and threw flowers into the ocean. They were arrested as a result.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. In the municipality of Boyeros, a discussion was held on several events of Cuban history, including the Grito de Baire, the Cuban Council (or *Concilio Cubano*, a national summit of the opposition that the Cuban government frustrated in 1996) and the Brothers to the Rescue incident. Nine activists of the Martí Civic League, Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, Movement of a Transition to Democracy, NATURPAZ and Cuban Liberal Party took part.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Havana. Members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party attended mass at the Church of Los Pasionistas in the municipality of Diez de Octubre. State Security agents beat and fined some of the activists but they were nevertheless able to participate in the mass.

Source: Olga Rita, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Isle of Youth. As part of the remembrance activities for the Brothers to the Rescue victims, 12 opposition activists attended a mass at the Catholic Church of Nueva Gerona, located on 28th Street, corner of 39th Street. Afterwards, this same group walked to the General Lactret Park and there founded the 24th of February Movement delegation for the Isle of Youth.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Isle of Youth. At 9 a.m, ten members of different opposition organizations took part in a peaceful march that began in the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights in the Micro 70 district in Nueva Gerona and ended at the Las Casas River. Activists threw flowers into the water as part of a memorial service for the four Brothers to the Rescue victims. As the ceremony ended, they gave shouts of "down with the Castro dictatorship" and "long live democracy."

Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human

Rights.

Isle of Youth. Activist Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia draped a Cuban flag over his door along with a photo of Jose Martí and several signs. The political police, considering the signs anti-government, tore them down.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Isle of Youth. The final memorial activity for the Brothers to the Rescue pilots was held at 6 p.m. at the *Museo del Pinero* (Museum of the Pinero) on 37th Street, close to the Las Casas River. At this closing event, activists read a press release, held a moment of silence for the victims, and threw flowers into the river. Government agents watched the proceedings from three unmarked Lada cars as well as one police patrol car parked nearby.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. At 9 a.m., the Nationalist Civic Movement and Women Pro-Freedom took part in an act in commemoration of the date. A discussion was held on the different historical events that had occurred on Feb. 24th and the Brothers to the Rescue victims were honored. Twenty-two activists took part in the act, which was held in a private home on 6th Street, between 9 and 11 streets, in the neighborhood of Camacho in Santa Clara.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. Twelve members of the Democratic Action Movement met at a home at San Miguel 308, between Toscano and San Pedro streets, in Santa Clara to celebrate this historic date. The participants read brief biographies on the Brothers to the Rescue pilots and talked about ideas they had expressed. Despite the repression, independent journalists Maria Isabel Rey of CubaPress, was able to cover this event.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. Ten members of the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba attended a mass at the Church of Santa Maria Magdalena, where they prayed for the late Brothers to the Rescue pilots. Afterwards, these activists went to a house on Rolando Morales Avenue, #50, where they talked about the lives of the pilots.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. Twenty activists participated in a memorial vigil for the Brothers to the Rescue victims. The event took place from 8 to 10 p.m. in the home of Eloina Diaz Ruiz, provincial delegate of the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. Her home is located on Gonzalo de Quesada #42, between Salvador and Herrera Solis streets, in the city of Sagua la Grande.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Villa Clara. In Placetas, at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library II, also the home of Marte Antonio Valdés Ibagollín, four activists gathered to remember the Brothers to the Rescue victims. They held a moment of silence and prayed for them. Other activists tried to attend the event as well, but State Security intercepted them.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists. National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Villa Clara. At the home of Omar Pernet Hernandez, four activists of the Mario de la Peña Human Rights Movement gathered to remember the Brothers to the Rescue victims. They carried out a roll call of the four fallen pilots. Other activists tried to attend the event as well, but State Security intercepted them. Omar Pernet's home is on 2 Oeste, #12VA, between 5 and 6 Sur in Placetas.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Villa Clara. Despite the repression, four activists were able to meet at the home of Carlos Manuel Campos Moya in Placetas to pray for the Brothers to the Rescue victims killed in 1996. The activists were members of the National Council for Civil Rights and the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Sancti Spiritus. At 9:30 a.m., at the 20th of May Independent Library, twelve activists (members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party and the Ex Captives Club) met to commemorate the date, remembering the Brothers to the Rescue victims and the beginning of Cuba's Independence War with the Grito de Baire. The participants sang the national anthem, read press releases, and gave shouts of "long live human rights!" At 12:30 p.m., they marched for five blocks until they reached the bridge of the Yayabo River and there threw flowers into the river and prayed for the pilots.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Ciego de Avila. In the morning, a total of 13 members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights, dressed in black, walked from the neighborhood of Miraflores Nuevo, municipality of Bolivia, to the bridge on the River Caonao. They sang the National Anthem, cast flowers into the ocean and shouted anti-government slogans.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Ciego de Avila. Various vigils in remembrance of the Brothers to the Rescue pilots and commemoration of the historic date were carried out all over the eastern region of the country. In the town of Circunvalacion Norte, municipality of Jatibonico, province of Sancti Spiritus, four activists carried out a vigil. In Ciego de Avila, in the city of Morón, seven activists took part in a vigil, while in the city of Venezuela, three participants carried out a vigil. In Camagüey, eight activists held a vigil in the city of Cespedes. East of Camagüey, in the province of Las Tunas, four activists carried out a vigil in the municipality of Amancio Rodriguez.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Las Tunas. Fifty-seven opposition activists undertook a fast to commemorate the 24th of Feb. at a home on Camilo Cienfuegos, No. 220, between Antonio Barrera and 29th Street, in the municipality of Puerto Padre. The event began in the morning and ended at 6 p.m.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Las Tunas. At the seaside promenade of Puerto Padre, Ramon Collazo Almaguer, Miguel Pupo Martinez and Rafael Cuza Solorzano, all of the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, threw flowers into the ocean to remember the Brothers to the Rescue pilots.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Economists.

Holguin. Members of the local delegation of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement threw flowers into the water at the docks of Moa, Holguin, as a way of remembering and honoring the downed Brothers to the Rescue pilots.

Source: Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

Santiago de Cuba. At the cathedral in Santiago de Cuba, located close to Parque Cespedes, 35 activists from a variety of organizations attended mass, which was said for the souls of the four fallen Brothers to the Rescue pilots. The mass was held at 6 p.m. and members from the following organizations participated: The Independent Medical Association of Cuba, Gerardo Gonzalez Club of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners, Feminine Forum of Democratic Allies, "Waking the New Pines" Youth of the New Century, Pro Human Rights Party, Followers of Chibás Movement and Alternative Civic Center of Palma Soriano. Similar masses were held in the cities of Palma Soriano and San Luis, in the province of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.



Marte Valdés Ibagollín of the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library in Placetas.

Santiago de Cuba. In homage to the Brothers to the Rescue pilots, the Executive Board of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement and three other activists threw flowers into a beach near the Carretera Turística in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Guantanamo. At 8 a.m., in the neighborhood Pastorita, 15 opposition activists walked from 5 Oeste street, corner of 4 Norte, to the River Guaso. There, the members of the Club of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoner as well as of the Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party threw flowers into the ocean.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Guantanamo. A prayer session was held in the home of an activist where 25 members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, the Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party and the Club of Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners prayed for the members of Brothers to the Rescue who were killed. The gathering took place at 2 p.m. in the city of Guantanamo.

Source: Manuel Sanchez Herrero Cuban Institute of Independent Economists.

Feb. 25, 2002

Nieves Morejon Prison, Sancti Spiritús. Political prisoner Guillermo Perez Yera began a hunger strike to demand his immediate liberation. The time for his conditional release had been approaching, but the chief of the police sector of his resident city of Manicaragua asked the prison authorities to cancel his release.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet. Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Nieves Morejon Prison, Sancti Spiritus. Olga Yera, mother of political prisoner Guillermo Perez Yera, along with activists of several opposition organizations, began a peaceful protest outside of the Nieves Morejon Prison demanding that her son's conditional release, which had been revoked, be granted. Bertha Antunez Pernet of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement, Alejandro Garcia Sardiñas, Aleida Frometa, and Noel Salabarría, were among the activists sitting outside of the prison with Olga Yero and supporting her son, who was simultaneously carrying out a hunger strike inside the prison.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet. Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Feb. 26, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Anti-government signs were painted on the walls of the local farmers' market in the area known as Macurije, municipality of Minas, in Pinar del Rio. The signs called for food for the Cuban people and an end to Fidel Castro's totalitarian system. The authors were unknown.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Feb. 27, 2002

Havana. Isabel Ramos Martinez, mother of political prisoner Arturo Suarez Ramos and president of the Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners, announced the beginning of a campaign to carry out weekly fasts. Making several demands, these fasts would call for an end to the prohibition of religious literature in Cuban prisons, an end to authorities' harassment of prisoners, establishment of sanitary living conditions in the prisons, recognition of political prisoner status, and ultimately, the immediate, unconditional liberation of political prisoners. The fasting would be taking place every Wednesday from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Ramos Martinez' home, located at 240 Street, #5A05, between 5th and 5thB, in the town of Jaimanitas, municipality of Playa. The first fast was carried out on this day, Feb. 27. Members of the Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners, the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba and the Democratic Solidarity Party, as well as other independent activists, participated. The activists began by lighting the "Candle of Freedom" and singing the National Anthem. Throughout the day they read passages from the Bible and prayed.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet. Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners.

Havana. The environmental organization NATURPAZ hosted a vigil as part of the weekly vigils of the national Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. Members of the Martí Civic League, Cuban Liberal Current, and Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation attended the event.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. At 8 p.m., members of various opposition organizations met at the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights in Nueva Gerona and carried out a candlelit vigil to remember the suffering of Cuban political prisoners and demand their immediate and unconditional liberation. This vigil was held as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign that dissidents perform every Wednesday all over the island.

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

Feb. 28, 2002

Combinado del Este Prison, Havana. Activist Yosvany Aguilar Camejo began a hunger strike after he was arrested arbitrarily, along with activists Carlos Oquendo and Jose Aguilar, close to the Mexican Embassy. An incident had taken place during which citizens had tried to force their way into the embassy, and the police responded with a wave of arrests and interrogations. Yosvany's hunger strike was interrupted on March 7th when he was forced to take liquids intravenously because of his state of dehydration. Afterwards, however, he continued with his strike.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Centro Cubano de Información de La Habana, reported to Puente Informativo Cuba Miami, and Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad, both published in CubaNet.



Bertha Antúnez Pernet and Alejandro Garcia were among the activists who sat outside of the Nieves Morejon Prison

promote cultural events because, as activist Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo said, "Culture promotes civic values." On this day, the video "Analysis of the Republic: Part 1," which the Center for the Study of a National Option in Miami sent to the community center, was shown and afterwards discussed. The Center for the Study of a National Option (or CEON, its initials in Spanish) is a think tank affiliated with the Cuban Democratic Directorate that has several sister organizations in Cuba. Nineteen people participated in this event. The Plaza de Marte Civic Community is located at Bayamo Street #119, between Placido and Barnada, in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Luis Milán, BPPIL. CubaNet. Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.

March 1, 2002

Camagüey. After being violently arrested at 5 a.m. at the home of a colleague, the independent journalist, Carlos Brizuela Yera, a member of the Independent Association of Journalists was taken to the Technical Department of Investigations of Ciego de Avila. There, he began a strike, refusing to eat, drink and speak until he was freed at 8 am on March 2.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Las Tunas. Members of the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba in the city of Puerto Padre carried out a 15-hour civic resistance act from 9 pm on March 1st until noon the next day, protesting the government's recent repressive wave against the opposition. Days

before, State Security had executed a series of arrests, threats and warning acts against members of the opposition. The peaceful protest took place in the home of Reynaldo Labrado Peña located on Mártires de la Herradura, between Antonio Barrera and 44th Street.

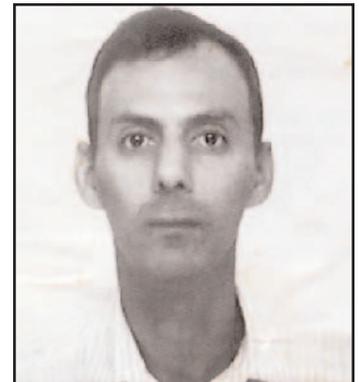
Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

March 4, 2002

Havana. An effort of the coalition "Todos Unidos" ("All United"), 81 representatives of different opposition organizations in Cuba made public a document denouncing the Castro regime's violations of its citizens' rights and exhorting the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations to condemn the Cuban government for its poor human rights record in its upcoming yearly meeting in Geneva. The document was distributed to international and independent press agencies on the island, as well as to press outside of Cuba.

Source: Agence France Presse, published in El Nuevo Herald. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. CubaNet.

Ciego de Avila. In Ciego de Avila, the capital city of the province of the same name, independent journalists and members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights gathered in front of the Antonio Luaces Iraola Hospital, where independent journalist Jesus Alvarez Castillo had been taken after a brutal beating at the hands of State Security while trying to cover a news story. Alvarez Castillo was suffering from lesions and damage to his neck and back. A large group of about 50 State Security agents and members of the National Revolutionary Police beat and arrested the protesters. Some activists shouted "Down with Fidel Castro!" "Long live Christ!" and "Long live freedom of the press!" while they were beaten and pushed into patrol cars.



Yosvany Aguilar Camejo

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Ciego de Avila. The two independent journalists and eight human rights activists who were arrested for gathering in front of the Antonio Luaces Iraola Hospital began a hunger strike from their cells in State Security's Technical Department of Investigations in the city of Ciego de Avila. State Security cordoned off the area around the station to keep other human rights activists from assembling there to protest.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet. El Nuevo Herald.

March 5, 2002

Villa Clara. Seven human rights activists began a fast in support of the eight activists and two independent journalists beaten and arrested for their protest in front of the Antonio Luaces Iraola Hospital. The extended fast took place at the home of activist

Alberto Gutierrez at Barcelona #312, between San Pedro and



Activists watch the video “Analysis of the Republic” during the opening of the Plaza de Marte Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba.

Virtudes, in the province's capital, Santa Clara.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. Police officers arrived at the home of Alberto Gutierrez, where the abovementioned protest fast was taking place, and revoked his identification card. They also tried to arrest him, but neighbors rushed to his defense and the arrest was not possible.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. Two members of the Committee in Defense of the Revolution stopped at the house of Alberto Gutierrez yet again to persuade the fasters to give up their protest. Instead, the activists gave them copies of the newsletters *CubaNet* and *Disidente*, two publications printed by the Cuban exile community.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

March 6, 2002

Havana. The Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners carried out its weekly 12-hour fast, with activists from different opposition organizations meeting at the committee's headquarters in Jaimanitas, Playa, to pray for the release of political prisoners. Similar fasts were held every week throughout the month, including 12-hour fasts on March 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Isle of Youth. Nine activists of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights met at the organization's headquarters on Street 4B, between 37th and 39th Streets, #3707, Apt. 2, in Nueva Gerona. As part of the weekly events for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign, they lit four candles and called for the liberation of Cuban political prisoners. As the event ended, the activists shouted, "Freedom without forced exile!"

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

Ciego de Avila. Members of the Cuban Foundation of Human

Rights began an extended fast in the early morning hours to protest the arrests of eight human rights activists and two independent journalists for participating in a peaceful protest on March 4 in front of the Antonio Luaces Iraola Hospital. The fasting, which only allowed for liquid consumption, took place at a home on Honorato del Castillo, #154, between República and Cuba. The activists later moved their protest to the province of Villa Clara to join members of the Democracy Movement and other organizations there.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

March 8, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. The Sueño Civic Community Center was opened on Street D, #161 (altos), between 4th Street and De Cespedes Avenue, neighborhood of Sueño, in Santiago de Cuba. Ten people participated in this event, which included the showing of the video “Analysis of the Republic: Part 2.”

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

March 9, 2002

Havana. In the province of Havana, in the town of Güines, members of five opposition organizations gathered at the home of an activist to celebrate the International Day of Women. The celebration took place at Avenue 33, #10216, in the neighborhood of Pastorita. The organizations that participated included the 10th of December Movement, the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba, the Pro Liberty and Democracy Group and the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.



Jesús Alvarez Castillo

Source: Jesus Isidro, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

March 10, 2002

Havana. The executive committee of NATURPAZ, an independent environmental organization, held a meeting at its headquarters in the Capri neighborhood in Havana to discuss the *Proyecto Perspectiva 2002* (Perspective Project 2002). The project was being considered for sending to different government bodies to propose solutions to ecological problems and violations of the environment.

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

March 13, 2002

Havana. The Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners carried out a 12-hour fast as part of its weekly effort for the liberation of political prisoners and the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The fasting took place from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Isabel Ramos Martinez' home, located at 240 Street, #5A05, between 5th and 5thB, in the town of Jaimanitas, municipality of Playa. Members of the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba and the Democratic Solidarity

Party, as well as other independent activists, also participated. The activists read passages from the Bible and prayed.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet. Isabel Ramos Martinez and Noris Duran Duran, both of the Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners.

March 14, 2002

Isle of Youth. Seven activists carried out a peaceful march through the busy thoroughfare of 39th Street carrying signs with messages such as "freedom without forced exile for political prisoners" and "freedom and democracy for Cuba." State Security agents broke up the nighttime protest, beating and arresting the protestors. The march had been organized by the Isle of Pines Foundation of Human Rights and National Territory Development, Cuban Foundation of Human Rights, and the Pinero Civic Movement for Human Rights in coordination with the Miami-based Plantados until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Of the seven activists beaten and detained, Rolando Jimenez Posada, vice president of the Pinero Foundation of Human Rights, was maintained under arrest. He began a hunger strike to protest his unjust detainment for having carried out a peaceful march.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, CubaNet.

Havana. The first union of independent journalists organized on the island, the Federation of Cuban Journalists (or FEPEC, its acronym in Spanish), which was founded in 1995 but began a process of reorganization in November 2000, reached a consensus on its statutes and emerged under its new organization. At the moment, the union had 21 members. Its executive committee includes Ulises Cabrera, Lucas Garve, Dimas Castellanos, Juan Carlos Linares and as coordinator, Manuel David Orro.

Source: Manuel David Orro, CPI. CubaNet.

Sancti Spiritus. Three opposition organizations signed and made public a document calling on the United Nations to force the Cuban government to comply with the resolutions drawn up by the Commission of Human Rights demanding the Cuban government to improve its human rights situation. The organizations sponsoring this declaration included the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Democratic Solidarity, and the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights.

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

March 15, 2002

Havana. Opposition activist Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila began a hunger strike in the Technical Department of Investigations of State Security, after being detained arbitrarily on Feb. 22. Bruzon was protesting his arrest as well as the fact that his lawyer has not been allowed access to State Security's file in which they make the charges against him. Bruzon Avila is president of the 24th of

February Movement.

Source: Luis Viño Zimmerman, CubaNet.

March 16, 2002

Pinar del Rio. A new independent library was inaugurated in the town of Briones Montoto. Named the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Independent Library after the Cuban-American U.S. congresswoman, the library is the only cultural center for the approximately 3,500 residents of this town. The library focuses on environmental issues and currently houses about 300 books.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Havana. The Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party began an ongoing fast to coincide with the 58th meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, calling on the commission to condemn the Cuban government for its human rights violations and demanding the freedom of political prisoners. The fast was held at the home of the vice president of the party, Caridad Gonzalez Lopes, in San Miguel del Padron, a municipality in Havana. The organizations that participated included the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, Association of the Children of Regla, Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba, 20th of May Movement, Hard Line Front, and Association in Defense of Political Rights (or ADEPO, its initials in Spanish). The fast was planned to continue in other locations in days to come.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana and Belkis Barzaga Lugo, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Santiago de Cuba. The Agüero Civic Community Center was inaugurated on this day. The center is located on Street C, #21 (altos), between 8th and 9th Street, neighborhood of Agüero, in Santiago de Cuba. Twelve residents and activists participated in this event, which included the showing of a video workshop provided by the Center for the Study of a National Option (or CEON) in Miami.

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

March 20, 2002

Havana. The first library of the Network of Free Libraries (Red de Bibliotecas Libres), which is also known as the BiblioRed ("biblionetwork") was inaugurated in the capital. The Reynaldo Arenas Independent Library, named after the late exiled Cuban writer, was opened on Florida 68, Apt. 12, between Vives and Puerta Cerrada, municipality of Habana Vieja. The organizers said they anticipated opening 14 other libraries throughout the country.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Havana. An agreement was reached in a meeting of the Federation of Cuban Journalists (or FEPEC, its acronym in Spanish) to name Oct. 24th the Day of the Cuban Independent Journalist, deriving the date from 1790 when the first issue of the *Papel Periodico de La Habana* was published. The purpose of celebrating this day, according to FEPEC executive member Ulises Cabrera, is to "celebrate on

an appropriate day the existence and consolidation of the independent journalists' movement in Cuba."

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

Havana. Residents who the government had evicted from their makeshift tenement homes in the neighborhood of Piedras, municipality of San Miguel del Padron, carried out a protest. At about 8 a.m., protestors blocked the traffic on the Avenue of Güines and Dario, in the neighborhood of San Francisco de Paula. They carried signs expressing themselves in favor of the Castro regime but against the eviction.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana.

Havana. A fast was carried out from March 20th-25th at Velasquez, #3823 interior, between Pasaje Rico and Cantero, in the neighborhood of Jacomino, municipality San Miguel del Padron to show solidarity with Cuban political prisoners and to demand that the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations condemn the Cuban government for its human rights violations. The fasters included members of the 24th of February Movement and the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba. The fasters made special mention of the case of political prisoner Leonardo Bruzon Avila, who had been jailed arbitrarily the previous month.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana.

Havana. A similar fast coinciding with the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission was also held in the home of the Children of Regla, in the municipality of Regla, Havana. The fasters were again calling on the commission to recognize the Cuban government's failure to comply with international human rights.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana and Belkis Barzaga Lugo, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Havana. A vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign was held by the delegation of the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba in the area of La Lisa and Mariano. Activists gathered to demand the immediate, unconditional freedom of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and to call for peace in the world. Other organizations that participated included the Popular Democratic Alliance and the Humanitarian Association of Followers of Christ the Lord.

Source: Alfredo Vivanco Gonzalez of the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba.

March 21,

Havana. Fifteen activists of different opposition organizations car-

ried out a fast from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the liberation of Cuban political prisoners, particularly for the imprisoned members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party. In this fast, members of Tamarindo 34 Human Rights Movement, Popular Democratic Alliance (or ADEPO), the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers, and the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party participated.

Source: Migdalia Rosado of the Tamarindo 34 Human Rights Movement.

Havana. The Young Cuba Popular Party, led by Rafael Ernesto Avila Perez, launched a project known as the *Plataforma de Resistencia Civica de la Oposicion*, or PRECIO ("Civic Resistance Platform of the Opposition") as a strategy for political activism against the ruling government in Cuba. The project proclaims the coordination of activists to carry out civil disobedience acts, seeks exchange with Cuban exiles, and highlights the capability of the opposition to create an independent civil society parallel to and independent from the government. The project also states that Cuba's problem must be solved with the expulsion of Castro and his cabinet from power, and that reforms cannot take place within the existing regime.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

March 22, 2002

Havana. Independent journalist Lexter Tellez Castro, while jailed at an investigations center of the Ministry of the Interior, wrote a letter to Fidel Castro and was able to get the letter out secretly through a relative. The open letter denounces the charges of "public disorder" against him, which he received for trying to cover an event, and denounces the threats

and beating he was given at the hands of State Security.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Cienfuegos. After his arrest on March 4th while trying to cover a peaceful protest, independent journalist Lexter Tellez Castro was submitted to a process of intimidation in the days that followed. Instructor Jose Emilio, of the Technical Department of Investigations, presented Tellez Castro with a declaration and tried to force him to sign it. The journalist, however, refused, claiming that the information it contained was not factual. Tellez Castro reported these events on March 22nd in a note that he smuggled out of the Ministry of the Interior facilities where he was being held in the city of Cienfuegos.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Cienfuegos. Idelisa Castro, mother of imprisoned journalist Lexter Tellez Castro, refused to sign a warning act presented to her by State Security. She was issued the act after the authorities found a state-



An activist speaks at the inauguration of the Agüero Civic Community Center, one of seven independent centers opened in Santiago de Cuba.

ment written by her son that she had hidden in her clothes after visiting him. The statement related the process of interrogation and repression that had been carried out against him since his arrest on March 4th. Idelisa Castro was forced to strip and was checked until the document was found.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

March 24, 2002

Pinar del Rio. For the first time in the area, anti-government signs were placed inside a train traveling from Guane to the city of Pinar del Rio. The signs consisted of cardboard painted with messages against the Castro regime. State Security agents stopped and searched the train for a trail of the author.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

March 25, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts hosted a 21-day sculpture workshop. The seven children and two instructors who participated created six proposals for a bust of Jose Martí, two of which were chosen to study and reproduce.

Source: Rene Oñate, Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts.

Combinado del Este Prison, Havana. Political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (a.k.a. "Antunez") initiated a hunger strike in prison to protest the prison authorities' cruel treatment of inmates. He maintained the strike until April 17. As a result, the authorities punished him by taking him to a part of the jail known as the "rectangle of death." He was kept naked there in an unlit cell normally used for prisoners with a death sentence. His deteriorated health necessitated medical intervention, and he was transferred to the prison infirmary.

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

March 27, 2002

Havana. The Domingo Ramos Independent Gallery inaugurated



**Leonardo Bruzón Avila at the
24th of February Independent Library.**

an exhibit of caricatures. The caricatures were by several local authors as well as exiled Cuban artist Pedro Martin (Coquí). The Domingo Ramos Independent Gallery is located on Avenida 33, #10216, between 102 and 108 Street, in the neighborhood of Pastorita, Güines, Province of Havana and the director is Jesus Isidro Hernandez.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro.

Havana. Three municipalities in the capital carried out the weekly vigil in support of the liberation of political prisoners without forced exile. Activists of the Progressive Liberal Party, Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoners Association, and Children of the Virgen of Regla took part in the vigils in Arroyo Naranjo, Regla, and Habana del Este.

Source: Ranulfo Nery Antigua Ramirez reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. Published in CubaNet.

Havana. Maria Gonzalez Socorro, mother of political prisoner Ariel Fleitas Gonzalez, wrote a letter to Pope John Paul II asking him to intervene before the Cuban authorities on behalf of her son. An opposition activist, Fleitas Gonzalez had been imprisoned for the supposed crime of "social dangerousness" in the Provincial Prison of Canaleta, in Ciego de Avila. However, after fulfilling his prison sentence, and being temporarily allowed "conditional freedom" as the socialist law allows, he was once again incarcerated on the same grounds.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

March 30, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Center for the Study of a National Option in Pinar del Rio, based in the home of activist Victor Rolando Arroyo, hosted a workshop titled, "Analyzing the Development of Civil Society in Cuba," in the city of Briones Montoto. Twenty-three persons attended.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, Center for the Study of a National Option in Pinar del Rio.

March 31, 2002

Pinar del Rio. During two masses, the Bishop of Pinar del Rio Jose Siro Gonzalez made reference to political prisoner Vladimiro Roca during his sermons to use him as an example of how faith helps the faithful conquer evil and "come out into the light of justice and freedom." The comments caused a stir in the parishioners, who days later were still talking about it.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Havana. The Orthodox Party of Cuba inaugurated the Eddy Chibas Independent Library at Street #28, #157, between 17th and 19th, in the area known as "El Vedado," municipality of Plaza de la Revolucion. Nelso Aguiar Ramirez and Dolia Leal Francisco were chosen to run the library, which will open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

April 2002

Havana. The Association of Independent Teachers hosted a children's drawing contest on the environment. The contest accepted entries throughout April and held its awards ceremony at the end of the month.

Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

April 1, 2002

Camagüey. "El Camagüeyano," the newsletter of the El Mayor Camagüey Press Agency, was published for the first time. The computer-printed, pamphlet-sized newsletter included news articles by the agency's independent journalists along with photos of the journalists. This first issue also had on its front cover an explanation of the newsletter's mission and its legal and moral basis on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The articles provided information about the Cuban independent libraries, the poor lighting and transportation services at night that made the city unsafe, and the government's failure to respond to damage done to the local ecology.

Source: El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

April 3, 2002

Havana. The Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners carried out its weekly 12-hour fast, with activists from different opposition organizations meeting at the committee's headquarters in Jaimanitas, Playa, to pray for the release of political prisoners. Similar fasts were also held on April 10th and 17th. On April 17th, despite State Security's maneuvering as it attempted to intercept activists and send them home, the fast was still successful.



Lexter Tellez Castro

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Havana. The Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement began to circulate a document throughout the city condemning State Security's repression against the opposition activists and independent journalists who were arrested during a sweep in the months of February and March. The statement listed the 27 individuals detained and in some cases even imprisoned in jails without having charges pressed against them or having been submitted to a trial. The statement also demanded their immediate liberation.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines carried out, as part of the massive Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign, a vigil at its headquarters, located on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53rd Street in Nueva Gerona. The activists placed a sign on the front door reading, "Freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners." State Security tore it down.

Source: "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in Isle of Pines; Carlos Serpa, UPECI. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. A new independent farming cooperative was opened, named "Desengaño," which means "disappointment." The new cooperative was opened in the area known as Jarahueca, in the municipality of Songo-La Maya. Various organizations participated in the inauguration event.

Source: Fausto Frometas, CIN-ANAIC. CubaNet.

April 5, 2002

Havana. Approximately 40 rooster breeders gathered in front of the headquarters of the Communist Party in the town of Nicolás de Bari, Province of Havana, and shouted demands for the return of their roosters, which had been confiscated by the government to be used in rooster fighting for tourism. The protesters surrounded the truck where the roosters were being held and remained there until the chief of the local National Revolutionary Police ordered the return of the roosters.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Camagüey. Members of the 24th of February Movement carried out a vigil to call for the immediate liberation of the organization's president, Leonardo Bruzon Avila, and for the freedom of 26 other political prisoners jailed in different parts of the island. The vigil was carried out in the headquarters of the organization, located at Street B #185, in the neighborhood of El Porvenir.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Holguin. In the city of Moa, activists of the National Council for Civil Rights and the Movement of Young Defenders of Human Rights carried out a peaceful march through the streets holding signs calling for the freedom of political prisoners and respect for human rights. The march was held for the Day of Political Imprisonment.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet. Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

April 6, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. The Ciudad #1 Civic Community Center was inaugurated on this day, located on Bayamo Street #21 (interior), between San Agustin and Reloj streets, in Santiago de Cuba. Twelve activists and residents participated in the showing of the video "Analysis of the Republic: Part 1." This was, at the moment, the fourth civic community center opened in Santiago de Cuba as part of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute's project to create independent civic spaces for the people.

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

April 7, 2002

Guantanamo. Prisoner of conscience Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina began a hunger strike to protest the beating he received from officials of the Provincial Prison of Guantanamo. Rodriguez Lobaina was assaulted after he refused to cooperate with the authorities and accuse the official who had fractured his jaw some months before. He refused to do so, stating that the truly responsible party was Castro's government. Political prisoner Jorge Alvarez Sanchez

joined Rodriguez Lobaina in his hunger strike.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

April 8, 2002

Isle of Youth. Honoring the 4th anniversary of his death, the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines hosted a memorial act for Cuban writer Francisco Mir Mulet at the independent library that bears his name in Nueva Gerona. The act consisted of a vigil and a discussion about his life and work. Mir Mulet was nationally recognized for years until he wrote an open letter expressing his disagreement with Castro's government. From that moment on, he suffered harassment and repression until his death on April 8, 1998. The act was held at night on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53rd Street.

Source: "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

April 9, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines began to circulate a public statement accusing three officers of the political police of violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The incident involving the officers occurred while activists of the same organization and several others of various opposition groups celebrated a Freedom Without Forced Exile vigil at the



Roberto de Miranda of the Association of Independent Teachers supervises children taking part in a drawing contest on the environment.

foundation's headquarters in Nueva Gerona on April 3rd. Some activists were arrested. The statement listed the officers by name and an account of their repression.

Source: "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines. Carlos Serpa, UPECI. CubaNet.

April 10, 2002

Havana. The BiblioRed Project of Independent Libraries inaugurated the Eliseo Diego Independent Library in the municipality of Centro Habana. The library specializes in universal literature and promoting civic values. It was opened at San Jose Street, #564,

between Lealtad and Escobar. Human rights activists and independent journalists attended the inauguration event.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

April 12, 2002

Havana. The opposition activist Jose Manuel Rodriguez Morales, vice president of the Federalist Party, began a hunger strike in front



Drawings from the Association of Independent Teachers' children's drawing contest on the environment.

of the offices of the Ministry of the Interior's Immigration Department to protest the fact that since February 2001 he had obtained a visa to emigrate to the United States, yet he had been denied consistently permission to leave the country.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

April 13, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Independent Cuban Doctors Association began a project in coordination with the Independent Clinic of Guane, to distribute medicine in rural areas of Pinar del Rio, especially to children, the elderly and pregnant women. The project began with the donation of anti-parasitic medication and vitamins.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Human rights activists launched a civic political-cultural project. Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia, president of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines, announced that the project would be carried out from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to coincide with the government's *Mesa Redonda* television propaganda shows and with its *tribunas abiertas* or "open trials." The project would consist of video showings and debates about the true reality of Cubans and the history of Cuban political prisoners, particularly in the 1960s.

Source: "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Santiago de Cuba. The Ciudad #2 or Factoria Community Center was inaugurated on this day, located on Peralejo #325, between Trinidad and Habana streets, in Santiago de Cuba. Seventeen

activists and residents attended the event, which included the showing of the film, "To Kill a Priest: Plot Against Freedom" on the life of Polish priest Jerzy Popieluzko.

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

April 16, 2002

Las Tunas. A meeting to discuss biblical issues was held at the Camilo Cienfuegos Independent Library in the province of Las Tunas. Catholics, Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's witnesses met for over two hours to exchange views on different religious topics. The purpose of this kind of discussion, said Orestes Giniebra, organizer of the event, is to enrich those who participate spiritually. The Camilo Cienfuegos Independent Library is located at 15th Street, #6A, between Avenida Candido Gonzalez and 20th, in the neighborhood of Progreso, in Colombia.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Fifty-two residents signed a letter addressed to the Ministry of Education asking the department to include the study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the school curriculum. The signatories also asked for the opening of the curriculum to other teaching methods, given that the state uses the educational system to further its own interests, and this practice clashes with parents' rights to choose the education they want for their children. The letter was delivered to the government by Evelio Manteira, president of the Freedom, Justice and Peace Independent Center of Human Rights.

Source: Milagros Beaton, APLO. CubaNet.

April 17, 2002

Isle of Youth. Eight activists carried out a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The act took place in the home of Huber Rodriguez Tudela, president of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights. Activists lit a candle, sang the national anthem, and discussed the situation of Cuban political prisoners. Despite two State Security agents who visited the house at 8 p.m. and made threats, the opposition activists continued the act and finished it as planned.

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

April 20, 2002

Havana. The executive directors of the Democratic Solidarity Party met and decided that they would formulate a petition to the Cuban government asking it to publish the contents of Resolution L-30, approved by the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Source: Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, Patria. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. The Altamira Civic Community Center was inaugurated on this day. Fifteen people participated in the opening, which included a showing of the video "Analysis of the Republic: Part 1". This center was originally opened at Building #20, neighborhood of Altamira, but it has since been moved to Carretera de

Punta Gorda #336, between 1st and 2nd of Van Van.

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

April 22, 2002

Camagüey. Felix Manuel Sotolongo Mantecón was pressured into expressing himself in favor of the Cuban totalitarian regime. He was asked to read some information about Chavez in Venezuela, and he refused to do so. School officials filed a complaint against him and asked him to sign it, which he also refused to do. When



Activists in Santiago de Cuba take part in the opening of the Ciudad #1 Civic Community Center.

he was asked why he did not want to cooperate in the reading on Chavez, he said that he did not want to become involved with political matters at school. He was told that that position was a problem, and on April 22nd, he was expelled.

Source: "El Camagüeyano," Omar Dario Perez, El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

April 24, 2002

Havana. A mass was held at the Church of Los Pasionistas in the municipality 10 de Octubre for the freedom of political prisoners and the establishment of the rule of law in Cuba. Despite the fact that the usual event coordinator Carlos Alberto Dominguez was imprisoned, twenty-two activists attended the mass, including members of the Liberty Movement, the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party and the Children of the Virgen of Regla.

Source: Olga Rita Ramirez Delgado, Centro Cubano de Informacion, reported to Puente Informativo Cuba Miami. Published in CubaNet.

Havana. Most activists were able to circumvent State Security to arrive at the customary fast, held every Wednesday, by the Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners in Jaimanitas, Playa. Approximately 25 activists took part in the 12-hour fast, including members of the committee, National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba, Democratic Solidarity Party, Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoner, Democratic Popular Alliance, Racial Integrationist Movement, Independent Democratic National Action Movement and other independent activists.

Source: National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement called on opposition activists in the region to participate in a vigil as part of the nationwide Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The vigil was held at the home of member Genaro Anache Ochoa, and various activists from other organizations also participated. At the event, which began in the morning, the dissidents signed two Cuban flags as a show of their commitment to continue working through nonviolent means for a truly democratic government in Cuba and amnesty for Cuban political prisoners. More than 40 individuals, activists and relatives of political prisoners signed the flags.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

April 25, 2002

Isle of Youth. All of the members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights took part in a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The act took place at the organization's headquarters on Street 4B, #3707, between 37 and 39th Street, 1st Floor, Apt. 2. Activists lit a candle, sang the national anthem, and discussed the situation of Cuban political prisoners. They talked about the activists who had been randomly arrested in February and agreed to begin a series of fasts in May to demand the liberation of these fellow dissidents.

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

April 26, 2002

Camagüey. In the town of Florida, officials of the Municipal Department of Housing searched the home of a 46-year-old disabled man, Jorge Vegerano. The officials wanted to evict Vegerano and his 16-year-old niece, but the man resisted and they were not able to do so. The authorities took, instead, Vegerano's and his niece's medications.

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

April 27, 2002

Isle of Youth. In the morning, human rights activists based in the Isle of Youth hosted a conference on the situation of political prisoners in the isle's territory from 1964 to 1967. The conference, which forms part of the civic and political-cultural project that the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines launched days earlier, was held at the organization's home base on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53rd Street in Nueva Gerona. Approximately 30 people attended the event, which was held to coincide with the "open tribunals" being held in Jimaguayú, Camagüey.

Source: "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Las Tunas. Approximately 80 residents of the municipality of Colombia attended a meeting with the head of the aqueducts company in the area. When he announced that he could not restore running water to the neighborhood of Lorenzo Bermudez because

there was no money to do so, residents began shouting their protests. More than 400 families who live in the neighborhood of Lorenzo Bermudez have been without running water for a year.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Ceramica Roja Prison, Camagüey. A spontaneous protest took place in the prison known as "Ceramica Roja" in the province of Camagüey when prison authorities tried to force inmates to watch a televised political program. Political prisoner Virgilio Mantilla Arango began the protest by refusing to watch the program and shouting, "Down with Fidel Castro!" Other prisoners began to shout along with him. The protesters were placed in punishment cells but continued with their shouts. On the fifth day of the protest, prison guards found that Mantilla Arango had placed a sign around his neck that read, "Down with Fidel!" As the guards tried to take the sign, other prisoners began again to yell, "Down with Fidel!" and "Down with communism." Common prisoner Erisnelson Cruz Carreño cut himself and used his blood to write on the walls of Cell #7 "Down with Fidel Castro!"

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

April 29, 2002

Las Tunas. Lodge #88 of the Rebeccas of the Great Independent Oddfellows Lodge of Cuba was inaugurated in Las Tunas with the name of the 19th century Cuban patriot Brigida Zaldivar Cisneros. The Lodge was finally formed after a 10-year legal battle and represents a significant contribution to Cuba's emerging independent civil society.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

April 30, 2002

Holguin. Members of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement walked on Pedro Soto Alba Street in Moa carrying signs calling for the liberation of political prisoners.

Source: Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement. Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO, reported to the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

May 2002

Isle of Youth. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines published the second edition of "El Pinero Libre," the organization's newsletter. The 13-page publication compiled the government's violations against local residents as well as civic resistance acts the dissidents had carried out.

Source: Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Matanzas. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party published its first newsletter, named after the party. The computer-generated newsletter included information about the party's activities and articles on general Cuban issues.

Source: Peace, Love and Freedom Party.

May 1, 2002

Havana. More than 40 people took part in a spontaneous protest

at the Santa Amalia bus terminal, demanding the bus's departure. The group, which included women and children, had been waiting for four hours to leave on Route 488. Terminal officials had told the group that there was a scarcity of gasoline and that the available gasoline was being used for more complex routes. However, to solve the problem, officials agreed to give the bus some gasoline to leave.

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

Havana. A class on democracy, along with a debate on the Castro government's political manipulation, was held in the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, on Street B, #6804, between Palma and 4th Street, municipality of San Miguel del Padron. This two-part event was carried out from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and included a group prayer for the unconditional liberation of political prisoners. This prayer was part of the national Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Isle of Youth. Fifteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights attended a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile campaign at the group's headquarters on Street 4B, #3707, between 37th and 39th Street, in Nueva Gerona. The candlelit vigil began at 8 p.m. and was maintained until 10 p.m. The activists remembered and honored Cuban political prisoners and discussed the struggles of workers and independent labor unions. All of the activists of the committee also carried out a 24-hour hunger strike to protest the arbitrary arrests the government performed in February.

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

Isle of Youth. On the International Day of Workers, and as an alternative to the government-sponsored activities being held that day, the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines sponsored a discussion on the regime's violations of Cuban workers' rights. They also placed a sign on the front door of the home where the discussion was being held that read, "We demand fair salaries for Cuban workers." An officer of the political police tore down the sign. He also threatened some of the activists present with imprisonment.

Source: Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Holguin. The Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement led a peaceful march calling for the improvements in the working conditions of workers in the city of Moa.

Source: Prospero Gainza Agüero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

May 2, 2002

Havana. The Executive Committee of the Federation of Cuban Journalists met and approved an increase in membership to 30 members. The organization welcomed eight new members, now representing from 25 to 30 percent of the independent journalists in Cuba.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

May 3, 2002

Havana. A new issue of the Cuban Socialist Democratic Current, "Nueva Izquierda" ("New Left") was distributed in 11 of the 14 provinces throughout the country. This issue of the newsletter, which from the moment on was going to begin its monthly publication, was focused, according to the party, on taking to the population the idea of an alternative socialism directly tied to democratic ideals.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. The Independent Medical Association of Cuba inaugurated an independent clinic in Santiago de Cuba offering free service and focusing on aid to political prisoners and their families. The clinic receives medicine and supplies from non-governmental organizations in other countries. It was opened at Building L-27, Apt. 10, of the Antonio Maceo District in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.



Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo inaugurates the Altamira Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba.

Las Tunas. A number of farmers who sold their products at the farmers market of the town of Colombia began a strike, refusing to sell their products

because of what they consider abusive practices by the government. The Cuban government charges a 15% tax for every item sold, plus 10 pesos for daily use of the market as well as a peso for use of the board to announce the products on sale.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

May 4, 2002

Havana. The Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library showed a video of exiled Cuban writer Carlos Alberto Montaner on the television program, "Devil's Advocate," hosted by Eduardo Palmer. In the show, Montaner talked about Cuba before and after Castro. The program sparked a lively debate, especially on the issue of free trade in Cuba and the possible effects on the poorest classes. Eight people attended the showing.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

May 4, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. Making the seventh addition to its community center project, the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute inaugurated Los Maceo Civic Community Center in the city of Santiago de Cuba. The center was opened on Gallo #261, between Habana and Los Maceo Street. As part of the opening, the video "Analysis of the Republic: Part 2" was shown. Fifteen people participated in the event. Through these seven community centers that opened in 2002, activists in Santiago de Cuba were able to distribute approximately 1,500 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and about 1,200 copies of the newsletter "Fueros", as well as other publications donated from organizations abroad.

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

Prison A-500-1, Guantanamo. From isolation cell #21 of this prison, common prisoner and political dissident Jesus Aguilera Basulto began a hunger strike to protest more than four months in a sealed cell without access to sunlight and a bathroom, having to take care of his physical necessities in the cell. The prisoner used his own blood to paint anti-government messages on the walls.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

May 5, 2002

Havana. After his liberation, political prisoner Vladimiro Roca hosted a press conference in his home, where he stated that Cuba maintains its prisons closed off to international visitors, including the pope. Roca said that after his time in prison, he now understands why. He said he would continue working in the opposition to the Castro regime. Vladimiro Roca had served five years in prison for having co-authored "The Homeland Belongs to All," a manifesto critical of the Communist Party's platform and its interpretation of history. He is president of the Social Democratic Party of Cuba.

Source: Agence France Presse.

Holguin. Members of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement and other activists stood at the bus stop on Pedro Soto Alba street, calling for the freedom of Arnaldo Nico Roche, the provincial coordinator of the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba.

Source: Prospero Gainza Agüero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

May 7, 2002



Virgilio Mantilla Arango

Pinar del Rio. After a surprise raid, Manuel Torres Izquierdo, a resident of the town of Manuel Lazo, was detained for keeping meat and fish. Police took him under arrest despite his protests that he had the license necessary to possess those items. Later that day, however, when police agents invaded his home a second time to try to confiscate the freezer and the meat, about 40 neighbors helped Torres' wife prevent the officials from taking the freezer. Torres was released later that day.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

May 8, 2002

Havana. The Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party once again held a class on democracy along with a group prayer for the freedom without forced exile of Cuban political prisoners. Three organizations joined the party in the event including the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba, and the 24th of February Movement.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

La Pendiente Prison, Villa Clara. Political prisoner Amado Ruiz Moreno refused to watch the government television program, *Mesa Redonda*. As a result, prison officials canceled the family visit that was planned for May 8th.

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

Camagüey. About 500 people took part in a spontaneous protest in the town of Florida, in Camagüey. Officials of the Municipal Department of Housing tried to evict the 28-year-old women, Edilda Rosa Perez, and her 5-year-old daughter from their home. The woman doused herself in alcohol and threatened to set herself on fire. Neighbors openly criticized the authorities. The officials were forced to leave.

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

May 9, 2002

Boniato Prison, Santiago de Cuba. Political prisoner Alejandro Cabrera Cruz began a hunger strike to protest authorities' mistreatment of inmates. Cabrera Cruz also used the strike to demand a transfer to his home province of Camagüey. Incarcerating prisoners in jails far from their homes is a method of repression the Cuban government uses against political prisoners, given that the country is in a crisis of transportation and family members must struggle to be able to visit their relatives over long distances.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, Lux InfoPress.

May 10, 2002

Havana. At 11:15 am, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, accompanied by three other members of the Christian Liberation Movement, submitted 11,020 signatures to the National Assembly of the Popular Power. The movement, which is led by Payá, also released a press release after the delivery of the signatures stating that this was not the end of the project, but rather, the opening of the project to all Cubans so that they may discuss and exchange their views on it. The press release also demanded that the Cuban government dis-

close information about the project to the population since the media belongs to the state, and the state, in theory, belongs to the people.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa. Nueva Prensa Cubana. Europa Press. Agence France Presse. El Nuevo Herald. Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

May 12, 2002

Havana. In the municipality of Playa, in Havana, approximately 20 members of the Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners attended a mass on Mother's Day for the freedom of political prisoners. The mothers also wore a red or white flower as a symbol of their cause.

Source: Noris Duran, Leonor Perez Committee of Cuban Mothers for the Freedom of Political Prisoners.

May 13, 2002

Pinar del Rio. A new independent library was founded in the city of San Cristobal in the province of Pinar del Rio. The Narciso Lopez Independent Library was opened in the home of the couple Lazaro Lemus and Zoe Hernandez of the Union of Young Democrats of Cuba and is an addition to the Project of Independent Democratic Libraries of Cuba.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. The Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library III was founded in the home of Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia, president of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines, on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53rd Street in Nueva Gerona. Perez Garcia was named director of the library.

Source: Carlos Serpa, UPECI, as reported to the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

Ciego de Avila. Relatives of imprisoned human rights activist Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, 37-year-old blind lawyer, sent a letter to Fidel Castro to express their concern for Gonzalez' deteriorating health and the treatment he has received (beatings, isolation in punishment cells, lack of adequate medical attention, etc.) that is affecting his health. The relatives also sent a copy of the letter to the national attorney general.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

May 14, 2002

Pinar del Rio. In the town of Puerta de Golpe, municipality Consolacion del Sur, province of Pinar del Rio, the "In Memoriam of Heberto Padilla" Independent Library was inaugurated to honor the late poet, a native of Puerta de Golpe who was persecuted by the

Castro regime. The Cuban Labor Coordinator, an independent labor movement of the opposition, organized the inauguration of the library, which was opened at the home of its director Rafael Padilla Perez at 24th Street #2509.

Source: Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, both of AIDH. CubaNet.

Havana. The magazine of the Catholic Church, *Palabra Nueva* ("New Word") launched the VI Journalism Contest, open to both professional and amateur journalists. The contest includes features, articles, interviews, reporting, color and black-and-white photography and caricature. The contest was held independently of the Cuban government.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

May 15, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Isle of Pines Foundation of Human Rights and National Territory Development delivered a wheelchair and a package of medicines to a 9-year-old handicapped boy, Osniel Leyva Perez. The aid was donated by organizations in exile and distributed by the foundation on the island.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Matanzas. At 10:30 a.m., a group of peaceful activists of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party carried out a march while carrying a Cuban flag through the town of Guareiras, municipality of Colón, in remembrance of the fall of José Martí at Dos Ríos. The group departed from the home of activist Andres Govea Suarez on Libertad #41, between Estrella and San Antonio, and walked to the bust of Martí in the town's Central Park. There, they left flowers by the bust and recited a verse of his poetry. Later that afternoon, at 12:30 p.m., they participated in a discussion about the significance of May 20th.

Source: May 2002 newsletter of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party.

Holguin. Standing by the bridge of Los Mangos, Lenin Avenue, members of the Moa delegation of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Varela Project. A group of about 40 residents assembled around the activists, who explained the Varela Project to the people.

Source: Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

May 16, 2002

Isle of Youth. Members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines paid tribute to Cuban political prisoners



Julia Cecilia Delgado, director of the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library



Participants watch a video during the opening of the Los Maceo Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba.

by placing various signs on the facade of the foundation's headquarters, the home of President Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia, located on 30th Street, #5107, between 51st and 53rd Street, in Nueva Gerona. The signs listed the names of political prisoners and called for their eternal glory, it also stated "Freedom and Democracy for Cuba" and "Freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners." The activists also lit a candle and displayed a photo of Cuban martyr Pedro Luis Boitel and a photo of Jose Martí, along with a Cuban flag. A State Security officer tore down the signs and the photo of Boitel and threatened some of the activists.

Source: Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia, "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Matanzas. Hundreds of flyers with anti-government messages appeared in the streets of Pedro Betancourt, a municipality in the province of Matanzas. The flyers read, "Down with Fidel" and "Freedom." They had been written by hand, and were found on the morning of May 16th. Police appeared on the scene and collected the flyers.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

May 17, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Thirty-eight activists and residents met in the home of activist Giraldo Leon Corvea, in the neighborhood of Mijares, in the municipality Pinar del Rio, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of an independent Republic of Cuba. At Nueva Street, #56A, between 3rd and Lazaro Acosta Street, members of the Unitary Council of Cuban Workers, Maximo Gomez Civic Movement, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Pro Human Rights Party, independent library activists and others celebrated the day with a lunch. The humanitarian organization known as Operación Liborio, based in Puerto Rico, helped make possible numerous lunches, such as this one, held all over the country to remember the establishment of an independent Cuban government in 1902.

Source: Giraldo Leon Corvea, Unitary Council of Cuban Workers.

May 18, 2002

Havana. To honor Jose Martí on the anniversary of his death, which occurred on May 19th, 1895, the Feminine Cuban Union and

the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation hosted a vigil that began at 10 a.m. and ended the next day, May 19th, at 10 a.m. The vigil closed with a march from the home of activist Francisco Moure Saladría, at Torres Street #14, between Cisneros and San Agustin streets, in the neighborhood of Parraga, Arroyo Naranjo, to the Parque Martí. At the park, the activists left flowers at a statue of Martí. Fifty-six people from various organizations participated in the vigil, and a group of about 20 took part in the march. The organizations that were represented at this event included Civic Brotherhood, Fraternal Brothers for Dignity, Association of Political Prisoners, National Union of Opposition Activists, Republican Alternative, Center of Information on Democracy and the 13th of July Movement.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana and Belkis Barzaga Lugo, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

May 19, 2002

Pinar del Rio. In Consolacion del Sur, a municipality in the province of Pinar del Rio, more than 30 local activists and residents took part in a lunch to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Cuba. The act was successful in spite of State Security's strict vigilance.

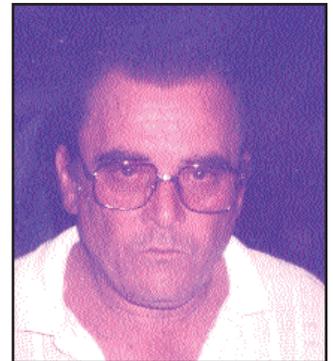
Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. Giraldo Leon Corvea, Unitary Council of Cuban Workers.

May 20, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Union of Democratic Youth of Cuba inaugurated Pinar del Rio's first independent pharmacy in the city of Candelaria. Despite the heavy rains, a group of approximately 20 people participated in the inauguration of the pharmacy, which was opened in the home of opposition activist Alberto Hernandez Suarez on 46th Street, between 35th and 37th streets. The pharmacy provides free medicine to the population, especially to current and former political prisoners. The supplies are sent from abroad by relatives of members of the organization.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Pinar del Rio. A commemorative activity was held in the city of Pinar del Rio to celebrate this historic date. Forty-six activists took part in the event, which included a lunch made possible with donations from an exile group.



Amado Ruiz Moreno

Source: Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies. Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI.

Pinar del Rio. In the municipality San Juan y Martinez, opposition activists also held a lunch to celebrate the anniversary of the republic's founding. Both activists and residents attended the event, despite the presence around the home where it was held of State Security and the constant vigilance. The agents did not interfere that day, although later they began to question those who had participated. The event began a little after 10 a.m. and ended at 3:45 p.m.

Source: Valentín Almirall Miranda, National Reflection Movement. Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies.

Pinar del Rio. In the municipalities of Guane and Sandino, lunches were also held to celebrate the anniversary of the republic. In Guane, the event was carried out with the participation of approximately 60 activists and residents, despite the intervention of political police and their attempt to interrupt the act by entering the home where it was taking place. In Sandino, another 60 activists and residents also took part in a lunch.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. Giraldo Leon Corvea, Unitary Council of Cuban Workers.

Havana. Celebrations for the 20th of May, the historical date on which an independent Republic of Cuba was established, were held throughout the country. The central event was held in Havana at the Center of Social Studies, presided over by Hector Palacios Ruiz. Forty-six opposition activists attended this commemoration, including Vladimiro Roca, Elizardo Sanchez, Oswaldo Payá, Oswaldo Alfonso, Raul Rivero, Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos, and others. There were also independent journalists and international press. Significantly, representatives of seven provinces attended.

Source: Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies.

Havana. Celebrations for May 20th were held in Guanabacoa, municipality of Regla, and in the neighborhood of Cerro, in the municipality of Marianao. Twenty-two people formed a part of the first event and more than 25 participated in the second, which was meant to allow people from the municipalities of Cerro, Centro Habana and Marianao to participate.

Source: Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies. Oswaldo Alfonso Valdés, Cuban Democratic Liberal Party.

Havana. The Project of Independent Democratic Libraries of Cuba (or PBDIC, its acronym in Spanish) announced the winners of its annual poetry contest. The first prize went to Jorge Luis Duvergel Limonta, a member of the PBDIC's Gerardo Gonzalez Literary Workshop in Santiago de Cuba who won for his poem "*Prohibido*" ("Prohibited"). The second prize was awarded to Amaury Peña Rodriguez for his poem "*Itinerario de la Luz*" ("Itinerary of the Light") and the third prize went to Lino Humberto Morales Lafita for his poem, "*Esperando un nuevo 20 de mayo*" ("Waiting for a new May 20th"). The judges made 11 special mentions.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. The Association of Independent Teachers hosted a painting contest for May 20th and gave prizes to the best entries.

Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

Isle of Youth. The Isle of Pines Democratic Opposition Board, a coalition of various opposition organizations of the region, launched the Jose de la Luz y Caballero Project, a new political, economic and social project proposing amnesty for all political prisoners and the abolition of the existing penal code (Law 62) with crimes such as "enemy propaganda," "contempt of authority" and others that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The project also proposes the abolition of the death penalty and any judicial norms that may violate human rights.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Matanzas. Even though State Security carried out an extensive operation to block opposition activists from arriving to celebrate May 20th, the Independent Alternative Option Movement successfully held its event at the organization's headquarters. Twenty-five members and activists from other organizations participated in the event, despite the fact that from the early morning hours, the political police had blocked the entrances into the town, asking travelers to identify themselves and detaining various people. They also patrolled the streets and closed several public places, including Central Park.

Source: Guido Sigler Amaya, Independent Alternative Option



Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, Antonio Diaz Sanchez and Regis Iglesias Ramirez submit 11,020 signed petitions of the Varela Project to the National Assembly in Havana.

Movement.

Matanzas. Activists of the municipality of Perico, in Matanzas, hosted a lunch to celebrate the anniversary of the republic. More than 40 activists, their relatives and residents participated in the act, which was held in the backyard of a home in a rural area.

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

Villa Clara. At the Marta Abreu Independent Library, about 30 activists and local residents took part in a celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the republic. The celebration included a lunch, and members of different organizations such as the Democratic Action Movement, Manuel Sanchez Herrero Institute of Independent Cuban Economists, and Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy (among others) took part in the occa-

sion. The Marta Abreu Independent Library is located in a home on Street 3ra, #83, between 2nd and A Street, neighborhood of Virginia, Santa Clara.

Source: Mercedes Ruiz Fleites, Marta Abreu Foundation. Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies.

Villa Clara. In the municipalities of Cumanayagua and Manicaragua, celebrations were held for the anniversary of the republic. More than 60 activists and residents attended these two events, where the participants talked about Cuba's situation.

Source: Arturo Perez De Alejo, Escambray Organization of Human Rights.

Villa Clara. In Sagua la Grande, twenty activists of a broad range of organizations joined in a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the republic. These organizations included the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, Pedro Luis Boitel Movement for Democracy, and Independent Democratic Front.

Source: Hector Palacios Ruiz, Center of Social Studies.

Granma. Eight signs stating, "Down with Fidel," were seen in the gazebo of a park in the city of Manzanillo. The signs were tied with rope and the authors were unknown. The Committees in Defense of the Revolution came out to destroy them.

Source: El Nuevo Dia, published in Disidente.

May 21, 2002

Villa Clara. Patients at the rural hospital of Matagua, a city in the province of Villa Clara, tried to walk out in protest of the conditions in the hospital. A group of pregnant women tried to leave hospital grounds because of the poor quality of the food they were being given and the leaks in the hospital's roof, which was letting in streams of water. A hospital official stopped them from leaving.

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, Grupo Decoro.

Villa Clara. Dr. Ismeli Iglesias Martinez, a resident doctor at the rural hospital in the town of Matagua, visited the local offices of the Communist Party to speak to officials about the deplorable conditions at the hospital. He was informed that the official he wanted to see was not available, so he sat on the sidewalk in front of the building in protest. Some minutes later he was called in to see the official.

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

May 23, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Political prisoner Nelson Ramirez Arocha refused to take part in the prison's political activities. As a result, prison authorities canceled his status of "minimum security." Ramirez Arocha has been denied conditional release on four occasions because of his continued refusal to cooperate with the prison's "re-education" program.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Pinar del Rio. The Center for the Study of a National Option (or CEON) in Pinar del Rio, based in the home of activist Victor Rolando Arroyo, hosted a workshop on social doctrine in the city of Pinar del Rio. Sixteen persons attended.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, CEON.

Isle of Youth. The first independent pharmacy of this municipality was opened on 30th Street, #5107, between 51st and 53rd Streets. The inauguration event was held on this day, May 23rd, to pay tribute to opposition leader Pedro Luis Boitel on the anniversary of his death. The pharmacy will specialize in giving free medicine to the public, with special emphasis on helping political prisoners and opposition activists and their families. The medicine is donated by exiled Cuban groups.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Joining in on the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign that takes place all over the island on Wednesdays, members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines held a candlelit vigil at the organization's headquarters in Nueva Gerona. The activists placed anti-governmental signs outside the building and fasted for 24 hours, reading Biblical passages and paying tribute to Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Hector Pacha Garcia, "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

May 24, 2002

Havana. A mass was held at the Church of Los Pasionistas in remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the death of Pedro Luis Boitel during which opposition activists prayed for the liberation of political prisoners. Members of the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, 13th of July Movement, NATURPAZ, Children of the Virgen of Regla Movement, and Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement attended the service.

Source: Amarilis Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Valle Grande Prison, Havana. Five political prisoners in the Valle Grande Prison - Lazaro Miguel Rodriguez Capote, Rafael Corrales, Juan Hernandez, Fernando Sarria and Ricardo Ramos - began an act of resistance on May 24th to remember the death of political prisoner Pedro Luis Boitel in 1972. The prisoners lit improvised candles made of cotton and talked to the other inmates about Boitel. The next day, they continued the act with a 24-hour fast.

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

Holguin. Members of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement and the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba, from the cities of Sagua de Tanamo and Moa, carried out a peaceful march in front of the Provincial Prison of Holguin, located on the Carretera a Bayamo Kilometro 779, in the district Pedernal. During the march, the protesters called for the uncondi-

tional liberation of political prisoners. The act was part of the activities being carried out from May 11-25 in honor of the late Pedro Luis Boitel. The protesters marched around the prison and later stood in front of the waiting room and circulated a list of political prisoners.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet. Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

May 25, 2002

Holguin. In the city of Moa, opposition activists of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement carried out a peaceful protest to demand the liberation of fellow activist Arnaldo Nicot Roque, who had been detained two days earlier on false accusations.



Hector Palacios Ruiz

The protesters gathered at 8 a.m. at a bus stop on Lenin Avenue in the district known as "La Playa" carrying a sign that read, "Free Arnaldo." By mid afternoon a crowd of about 400, including residents and members of the Rapid Response Brigades and the Communist Party, gathered around the protesters. From the government agents and sympathizers, there were shouts of "Long live Fidel!" and "Long live the revolution!" But these cries were met with shouts of "Long live human rights!" from the

townspeople and the protesters. The political police moved in to arrest the protesters, but they lay down on the floor and had to be carried by force into the patrol cars. Later, family members of the detained activists stood on the street in front of the police station to protest their arrest. Despite persistent rains, the relatives did not leave until the activists were released at 9:30 p.m.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

May 27, 2002

Pinar del Río. Activists of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba were able to participate in a civic resistance act despite police repression. The activity was intended to honor activist Adela Soto for winning first prize in the El Heraldo Literary Contest, and Soto was to read from her poems. State Security, however, positioned themselves outside of the Ambrosio Rene Oñate Independent Library, where the event was scheduled to take place, and began intercepting the activists trying to reach it. Some were able to get around the blockade and others went to the nearby Reyes Magos Independent Library. Despite several arrests and detentions, Adela Soto managed to read from her poems at both independent libraries. "These kinds of arbitrary acts are the reason for the abundant emotional charge of my work," she said.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

May 29, 2002

Provincial Prison of Holguin, Holguin. Imprisoned independent journalist Carlos Brizuela Yera demanded medical assistance for a

fellow inmate suffering from food poisoning. As a result, his family visit was cancelled. Brizuela Yera also decided to forego the "special dinner" given to prisoners every two weeks as a way of protesting the poor quality of the food at the prison.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

May 30, 2002

Havana. The National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba made public an extensive report of labor rights violations. The organization's second annual report highlighted the Cuban government's violations of the 87th Agreement of the International Workers' Organization, including the government's repression against activists of the independent Syndicalist movement. Members of the organization worked for 18 months collecting information about 104 workers, of which 51 were professionals.

Source: Alicia Zamora, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

June 1, 2002

Havana. In the town of Güines, province of Havana, the opposition activist Jose Patricio Armas Garcia, hung signs on the front door of his house denouncing his family's eviction from their farm. The government had accused his family of illegal enrichment from the farm, a charge the family denies, stating that their documentation is in order and that the land's cultivation is legal. Armas Garcia has been harassed and repressed for his act of civic resistance.

Source: Ana Rosa Veitia, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. At the Los Maceo Civic Community Center in the city of Santiago de Cuba, the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute began a course on human rights that took place over the next three months. Fifty people graduated from this course in the beginning of October. State Security maneuvering, which included patrol cars circling the area, blocked the access of about 30 persons to the course. Still, another 30 students and activists were able to attend the inauguration event. The course, which includes seven classes, was scheduled to take place over the space of three months.

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

June 2, 2002

Havana. The Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba held the awards ceremony for its literary contest, "El Heraldo." The contest, in which more than 300 Cuban citizens from all over the country participated, judged works in the categories of poetry, short story, essay, journalistic article, epistle, and memoir. The judges included the writers Raul Rivero, Hugo Araña Santoyerto and Victor Dominguez. This is the second annual El Heraldo Literary Contest of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet. Diario Las Americas.

June 3, 2002

Havana. Activists undertook a fast from June 3rd to June 21st at a home on 275th Street, #26517, between 152 and 160 Street, in Rio Verde Mejio, in the municipality of Boyeros, Province of Havana, to

demand the freedom of political prisoners and to call on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations to visit the jails in Cuba and witness the human rights violations.

Source: Father Ricardo Santiago Medina Salabarría, General Vicar of the Orthodox Church of Cuba.

Canaleta Prison, Ciego de Avila. Lexter Téllez Castro, a 27-year-old independent journalist, head of the *Agencia de Prensa Libre Avileña* (Ciego de Avila Free Press Agency) carried out acts of civil disobedience from inside the Canaleta Prison. Téllez Castro, who was arrested in March after trying to cover a peaceful opposition protest, refused to eat the prison food as a way of protesting its poor quality and the inhumane treatment of the prisoners. He said he would subsist on the food his mother brought him on her periodic visits. He also decided to forego using the mattress in his cell because of the fact that it was stuffed with sea sponge that caused rashes and skin reactions. From inside the prison, Téllez Castro called on the opposition to carry out a fast.

Source: Mirley Delgado Bombino, APLA. CubaNet.

June 6, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Center for the Study of a National Option (or CEON) in Pinar del Rio, based in the home of activist Victor Rolando Arroyo, carried out a workshop on the topic, "Analyzing the Potential of Cuban Society," in the town of Las Martinas. Fourteen people attended.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, Center for the Study of a National Option.

Santiago de Cuba. In a letter addressed to the Minister of Public Health Carlos Dotres Martínez, nine doctors and a nurse based in the province of Santiago de Cuba asked for the abolition of the norms adopted on June 28, 1999, restricting the travel of medical and paramedical professionals. The signatories also demanded that salaries, which average about \$15 to \$20 dollars monthly, be increased and that medical personnel be allowed to rest after each shift.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

June 7, 2002

Havana. Dozens of opposition activists underwent a 12-hour fast to demand the freedom of prisoner of conscience Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. The act took place in a home on

Primera Street, #296, between D and E streets in the municipality of Arroyo Naranjo in Havana. It began at 8 a.m. and ended at 8 p.m. Police motorcycle and patrol cars were seen driving by but there were no reports of repression. Oscar Elias Biscet is a medical doctor by profession who was arrested after peacefully protesting the widespread practice of abortion in Cuban hospitals and for supporting civil disobedience as a way of challenging the totalitarian regime. He had been serving time since December 1999.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Havana. The National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba (or CONIC) made public a letter addressed to the organizing committee of the Second Hemispheric Summit of the Struggle Against NAFTA. The head of the organizing committee, Leonel Gonzalez, was also the director

of the official, government-sponsored Center of Workers of Cuba (or CTC). The organization was making known its intent to participate in the summit through a presentation by its adjunct organization, the Institute of Independent Socio-Labor and Economic Studies.

Source: Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Camagüey. Three independent journalists in the city of Camagüey presented a request to the local authorities of the Ministry of Justice to have the *Agencia Camagüeyana de Prensa El Mayor* (ACP) legalized, as well as its monthly newsletter *El Camagüeyano*. Their petition was based on certain articles of the existing Cuban Constitution and on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The three activists were Ramon Hugo Armas Guerrero, Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, and Luis Guerra Juvier.

Source: Lazara Ayon Diaz, ACP. CubaNet.

June 8, 2002

Havana. Thirteen activists participated in a debate that was held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library. The activists saw a video of a lecture on democratic transitions that had taken place in Miami. The 13 participants discussed the points made during the video.

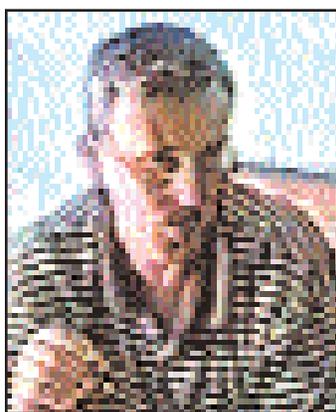
Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library.

June 9, 2002

Pinar del Rio. In a document created the day before, the Diocese Lay Council stated its support for the Varela Project. The document was read to hundreds of churchgoers during a Sunday mass at the Church of San Rosendo



Roberto de Miranda, president of the Association of Independent Teachers in Havana.



Omar Ruiz Hernandez

in the city of Pinar del Rio. Later that day, it was also read at other churches in the diocese.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Havana. With the participation of more than 10 women opposition activists, the Second Meeting of Women for Social Christian Action was held. The meeting took place in the home of Isabel del Pino, president of the independent opposition organization, Followers of Christ the Lord. The government-sponsored Federation of Cuban Women blocked access to and reduced participation in the meeting.

Source: Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, both of AIDH. CubaNet.

June 10, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines circulated a public statement denouncing the government's lack of maintenance in 78 children's parks in the city of Nueva Gerona, causing them to become unsafe for the children. In an attempt to control the backlash, the authorities said that they would improve their efforts.

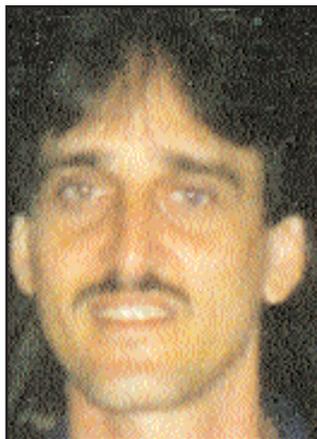
Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. "El Pinero Libre," The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Mar Verde Prison, Santiago de Cuba. Political prisoners in the Mar Verde Prison in Santiago de Cuba founded a weekly newspaper named "*El Disidente*" ("The Dissident"). The weekly is written by hand and is meant to "denounce the injustices that inmates in Cuban prisons suffer, unmask the regime that oppresses the people, and act as the bearer of a message of hope," states the text on its masthead.

Source: Jorge Luis Ramon Castillo, ICD Press. CubaNet.

June 11, 2002

Isle of Youth. Various anti-governmental signs were posted on the walls of several buildings in Nueva Gerona stating, "Freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners," "Freedom and Democracy for Cuba," and "Fidel, give food and not marches to the people." The signs listed the names of various opposition organizations, as if these groups had created them. State Security visited a number of activists and told them that they would be interrogated shortly and made to take handwriting tests to see if they had been responsible for the signs.



Lázaro Rodríguez Capote

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Isle of Youth. The first Independent Medical Clinic in the Isle of Youth was inaugurated. Located at the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights, on Street 4B, Stairs 3707, Apt. 2, between 37th and 39th Street in Nueva Gerona, the clinic is open every Friday from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m., presided over by Dr. Mariano Torrubia Alemán.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

June 12, 2002

Isle of Youth. Five opposition activists and one independent journalist carried out a peaceful march for the freedom of political prisoners and to commemorate the one-year anniversary on this day of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. The six men walked to the General Lactret Park in Nueva Gerona bearing signs that read "Fidel, give people food, not marches," "Freedom without forced exile for Cuban political prisoners," and a sign listing the names of prominent political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and calling for their release.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Matanzas. As part of the celebrations for the one-year anniversary of the Freedom Without Forced Exile campaign, activists and residents all over the province of Matanzas and in other provinces as well held vigils in their homes. The Independent Alternative Option Movement based in Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas, was able to verify that at least 35 vigils were held in different parts of the country. The breakdown of these vigils was as follows: 11 vigils in Pedro Betancourt, Matanzas; 1 in Jovellanos, Matanzas; 6 in Cardenas, Matanzas; 10 in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas; 1 in the city of Matanzas; 2 in Ceiba Mocha, Matanzas; 1 in Havana; 1 in San Jose de las Lajas, Province of Havana, and 2 in Bayamo, Granma. They were also told that in reality an additional 114 houses were the site of vigils but the participants did not want to report their names or addresses for fear of reprisals.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, Independent Alternative Option Movement.

Villa Clara. Medical doctor Ismeli Iglesias Martinez refused to attend the pro-government march being carried out to promote the government's amendment of the Constitution. Ismary Garcia, president of the local Federation of Cuban Women, walked into his office uninvited and accused him of being a counterrevolutionary and of not deserving to practice medicine in Cuba.

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, Grupo de Trabajo Decoro. CubaNet.



Adela Soto Alvarez
(photo: Nueva Prensa Cubana)

Las Tunas. Because of his religious beliefs, Jehovah's Witness Ruben Curbelo Marrero refused to participate in the government-orchestrated march in the city of Puerto Padre in favor of amending the Cuban Constitution. Five political police agents arrested him and took him to the local station, where the agents tried to force him to repeat pro-Castro slogans. When he refused to do so, he was beaten.

He was later interrogated on whether he had participated in the signature collection for the Varela Project.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

June 15, 2002

Havana. Twelve activists took part in a debate that was held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library after watching a filmed lecture on democratic transitions that had taken place in Miami. This was the second showing of the video, which sparked much interest among the activists.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library.

June 16, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Three priests offering mass in the main churches of the city of Pinar del Rio alerted parishioners about the government's impending attempt to alter the Cuban Constitution. In the Our Lady of Charity Shrine, Father Manuel de Cespedes expressed his sadness for the government's effort to mobilize citizens to sign a petition making the current regime untouchable. In the Church of San Rosendo, during the first mass of the day, Father Juan Carlos Carballo also criticized this effort and reminded his parishioners of the Pope's call to the Cuban people to "be the agents of their own history." In the 10:00 a.m. mass of the same church, Father Vicente Cabrera called for an end to hypocrisy justified by fear, saying that Cubans honored socialism with their words but disdained it in their hearts. He also said that it was time to act responsibly.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

June 17, 2002

Isle of Youth. A sign reading "freedom" was placed on a building that had been occupied by the government for its petition campaign to amend the Constitution. The sign was seen on 37th Street, between 32 and 34 Street. The office the government occupied is normally the headquarters of an association for the physically disabled.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

Holguin. Opposition leaders Angel Moya Acosta, Marcel

Valenzuela Salt, and Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, each of a different opposition organization, arrived together at the Cuba Sí Prison demanding to see political prisoner Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. This act was significant given that only family members are allowed to see prisoners on specific days.

Source: Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Peace, Love and Freedom



Mario Burgal Roman teaches a class for the Second Course on Human Rights at the Altamira Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba.

Party.

June 18, 2002

Havana. The promoters of the Varela Project - among them, Oswaldo Payá, Elizardo Sanchez, Hector Palacios and Vladimiro Roca - made public a press release demanding that the National Assembly of Popular Power and the Cuban government "respect the existing constitution." The promoters also called on the government to allow the Cuban people to decide their own fate by voting on the reforms formulated in the Varela Project.

Source: EFE. Diario Las Americas.

Isle of Youth. Carlos Serpa Maceira, an independent journalist, refused to sign the government petition to have the Constitution amended and thus make Castro's regime untouchable. Army officer Antonio Herrera Sanchez appeared at Serpa's home in La Demajagua, a rural town some miles away from the capital city of Nueva Gerona. The officer said that Serpa Maceira was the only one who had not yet signed the petition and pressured him to sign. Serpa Maceira refused. Some hours later, directors of the Committee in Defense of the Revolution again visited Serpa Maceira, but he maintained his stance and did not sign. They said that because of his position, the future of his 9-year-old daughter was at risk.

Source: Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia, "El Pinero Libre," Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines.

June 20, 2002

Havana. The first dissident mural on the island was built in Güines, a town in the province of Havana. The public mural, named *Cubanía*, is located on the front porch of dissident Jose Patricio Armas' home and was created with the intent of informing the population of important events. The mural includes a section called "Confrontation," in which articles of the Miami-based newspaper *Diario Las Americas* are juxtaposed with articles from the official Cuban daily *Granma* so that Cubans may come to their own conclusions about the events reported. The mural is also decorated with Cuban and American flags and includes quotations of Jose Martí and Abraham Lincoln. Armas is president of the 10th of December Movement.

Source: Anna Rosa Veitía, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Havana. Organizations of the coalition group, the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, signed the "Social Declaration of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society," praising the more than 60,000 Cuban citizens who did not sign the government-sponsored petition to amend the Cuban Constitution and make the current government "untouchable." In the declaration, the organizations also highlighted the fact that former communist countries in Eastern Europe that no longer existed had adopted a similar attitude of intolerance.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

June 24, 2002

Isle of Youth. In the city of Nueva Gerona, the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights began to circulate a public statement in which they accused Fidel Castro of violating the human rights of the Cuban people. The statement denounced the political persecution of the Cuban people as a result of Castro's ideas and the violations of their "freedom of opinion and expression, as well as freedom of peaceful assembly and association."

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

June 27, 2002

Canaleta Prison, Ciego de Avila. Imprisoned independent journalist Lexter Tellez Castro began a hunger strike, refusing to eat and drink, to demand his immediate and unconditional release. Tellez Castro said he had not committed any crime to justify his incarceration. He was arrested after covering a peaceful protest in front of a hospital in Ciego de Avila where independent journalist Jesus Alvarez Castillo was recovering from a beating at the hands of Ministry of Interior officials.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Julio 2002

Pinar del Rio. "Patria y Libertad" ("Homeland and Liberty") was

the name given to the magazine founded by the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party in Pinar del Rio. Printed in half-page size with front and back covers in color, the magazine consists of articles written by members of the party, independent journalists, and other opposition activists in the province. Its main objective, according to director Ramon Suarez Diaz, is to create an open space where the reality of Cubans and the human rights violations they suffer daily can be examined.

Source: Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Combinado del Este Prison, Havana. Political prisoners, members of the Local Jorge Mas Canosa Committee, an organization created jointly with activists of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement and the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, completed the first issue inside prison of the newsletter "La Patria Libre" ("The Free Homeland"). Written by hand on legal-sized paper, the newsletter included hand-drawn illustrations, accounts of the repression inside the jail, articles by the prisoners, and even some photos. In this issue, which followed the visit of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter to Cuba, the prisoners drafted an open letter to Carter.

Source: Local Jorge Mas Canosa Committee.

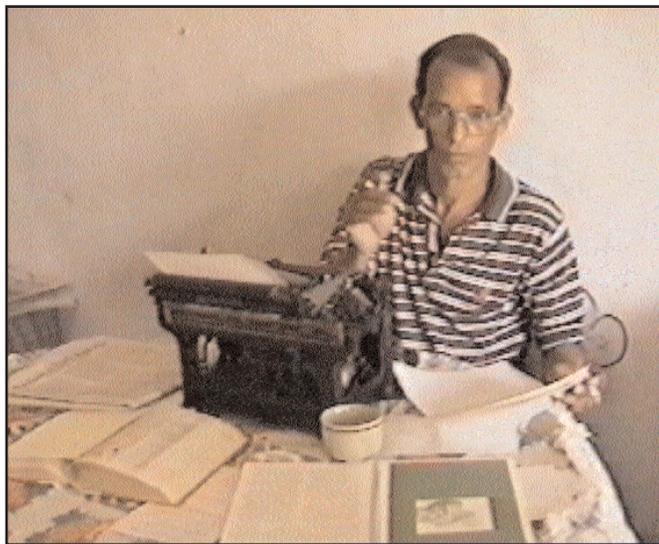
Isle of Youth. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines published the third issue of its newsletter "El Pinero Libre." The 14-page publication compiled different acts of oppression on the government's part and resistance by the local activists.

Source: Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines

Isle of Youth. The monthly issue of "El Patriota" was published once again. Eighty copies of the newsletter were distributed in the city of Nueva Gerona. "Living in truth is a way out of helplessness," said a message on its cover. Huber Rodriguez Tudela and the Pinero Committee for Human Rights write and edit this newsletter.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Camagüey. The El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency published issue #6 in July of its newsletter, "El Camagüeyano." This issue included the news reports of the agency's independent journalists, focusing on opposition activities and the government's violations of the people's rights, and also reprinted an article from *El Nuevo Herald* and messages from exile organizations abroad.



Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, journalist of the El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency

SAMIZDAT ... in Cuba

Samizdat is a Russian word that roughly translates into “self-publishing.” During the Soviet Union, it was a term that came to be used to refer to literature critical of the practices of the Soviet government that was written, copied and circulated by dissidents and resistance activists.

Cuba in 2002 saw a flourishing of *samizdat* among the opposition, in particular written publications created by activists offering a different perspective from the official, government-backed media. These publications were diverse, ranging from the Manuel Marquez Sterling Society’s sophisticated *De Cuba* magazine, to the hand-crafted *Disidente* and *La Patria Libre* newsletters created in jail by political prisoners. Some, such as *De Cuba*, focused on cultural issues and published short stories and poetry. Others reported the Cuban government’s human rights violations and the activities of the opposition movement. Lacking the resources to print many copies, the groups who edited them hoped they would be passed from hand to hand, recycled among readers. For the most part, this was indeed the case. The Cuban people are hungry for information, a fact that has compelled them to seek and to share.

As many as six newsletters were founded in 2002. Also, several newsletters continued publication and improved the quality of their issues, despite inherently adverse conditions. These included *El Patriota*, the official publication of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights in the Isle of Youth; *Fueros*, the monthly publication of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute in Santiago de Cuba; *El Pinero Libre*, the bi-monthly news bulletin put out by the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Youth, and *Los Pinos Nuevos* published by the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement in Guantanamo.

One particularly original communication system that emerged in 2002 was the news-cast begun by the El Mayor Camaguey Free Press Agency in the city of Camaguey. Using a home video camera, these resourceful independent journalists went out into the streets to tape interviews with residents. They spoke with

El Patriota newsletter

the poor and the homeless, showing the less-than-perfect reality rarely covered by the official press. They also spoke with dissidents, reporting on the activities of the opposition. From their makeshift studio created in a home, anchors read reports provided by independent journalists from all over the country. The newscasts were taped and passed around on video from house to house.

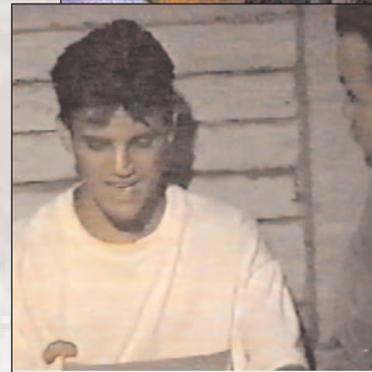
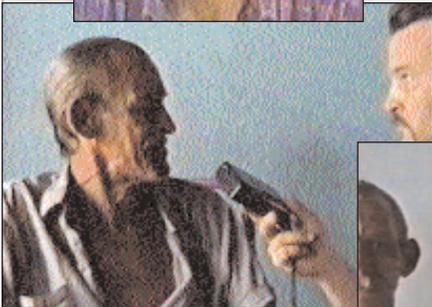
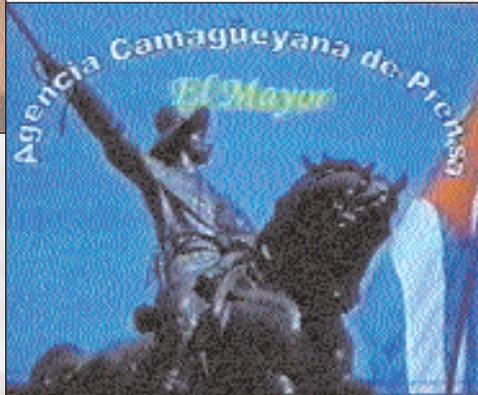
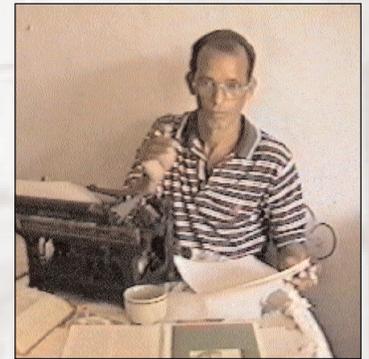
In 2002, the opposition movement achieved a new victory with the proliferation of Cuban *samizdat*.



- PUBLICATIONS FOUNDED IN 2002**
- Trabajador Cubano*
founded Feb. 2002
National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba, Havana
 - El Camagueyano*
founded April 2002
El Mayor Camaguey Free Press Agency, Camaguey
 - Disidente*
founded June 2002
Political Prisoners in the Mar Verde Prison, Santiago de Cuba
 - Patria y Libertad*
founded July 2002
Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party
Pinar del Rio
 - La Patria Libre*
founded July 2002
Political Prisoners of the Comité Local Jorge Mas Canosa,
Combinado del Este Prison
Havana
 - De Cuba*
founded Dec. 2002
Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists
Havana



The first newscast of the opposition in action



Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

July 19, 2002

Havana. In the clinic Norte de Güines, in the Province of Havana, about 20 patients waiting to have tests done carried out a spontaneous protest after being informed that they could not be seen because of a lack of supplies and some equipment that had broken. The patients had been waiting for hours, and began to complain that it was inconsiderate and unprofessional to have been made to wait only to be informed that the tests would not be possible.

Source: Amarilis Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Sancti Spíritus. Prisoner Mario Alberto Perez Aguilera began a hunger strike to demand that his rights be respected. In his cell, he had no water and his toilet was clogged, causing an unbearable smell. Perez Aguilera was serving a three-year sentence for having stolen a pig.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

July 20, 2002

Havana. Reynaldo Perez Serrano, a worker at the Funeral Home of the municipality of Güines, refused to sign the government-sponsored petition to have the Constitution amended for the irrevocability of the Castro regime. He had also resigned from the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution and the Cuban Communist Party. He was fired from his job for refusing to sign the petition.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress.

July 22, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Julio Tang Texier Independent Library was inaugurated in Nueva Gerona, the capital of the special municipality Isle of Youth. The library was opened on 20th Street, #5304, between 53 and 54, and stated as its purpose to try to meet the city residents demand for information. The library, which is maintained by Ramon Urrutia Marrero, was named after a political prisoner who was assassinated by Castro's regime on September 3, 1966.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

July 20, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. Ten activists and residents attended the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center to see the video of Workshop #1 of the Center for the Study of a National Option.

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

July 24, 2002

Havana. A woman disrobed in protest after a doctor refused to prescribe a medication to her because she did not have the proper documentation to receive the prescription. Maria Esther Lopez, 53, visited Clinic #8 in the municipality of Habana Vieja where she was told that the kind of medicine she sought was only prescribed to

people who had the "tarjetón," a document that requires a complicated bureaucratic process to obtain. Lopez removed her clothing and began walking through the street yelling that she was "tired of living in Cuba." Officers of the National Police tried approaching her, but she threatened to throw rocks at them. After a couple of hours, she dressed herself and retreated to her home on Puerta Cerrada #218, between Alambique and Florida streets.

Source: Victor Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. At 7:30 p.m., 18 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights participated in a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign that was held until 10:30 p.m. They talked about cases of political prisoners since 1959 and the cruel and inhumane treatment to which many of the prisoners had been subjected. Closing the act, the activists went outside and passed out 89 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to residents.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Isle of Youth. Hoping to express a sense of solidarity and fraternity with the handicapped, the Pinero Committee for Human Rights hosted its first workshop to build crutches and canes for the physically impaired. The workshop was held in the home of a member of the committee in Nueva Gerona.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Matanzas. In the city of Jagüey Grande, residents protested when they discovered that the shipment of beef being offered to them for sale was bad. It had been several months since residents had been able to buy beef, and on this occasion, because the meat was rotten, the people began voicing their frustration. The police had to intervene to quiet the crowd.

Source: Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, both of AIDH. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. According to reports from political prisoner Carlos Luis Diaz Fernandez, after meetings in the city of Santiago de Cuba from July 24-27, activists and political prisoners agreed to create the Jorge Lincoln Mas Canosa Democratic Committee Without Borders, which would be made up of both political prisoners and activists from various opposition organizations. The organization would be dedicated to defending the rights of prisoners and of all Cubans in general.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

July 27, 2002

Havana. A meeting was held with the participation of nine representatives of several opposition organizations with the aim of coordinating their work. At the meeting, they saw a video of democratic transitions in different non-democratic systems of the world. This act was held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in El Cerro, Havana.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Santiago de Cuba. Fifteen activists participated in a viewing and discussion of the video workshop "Analysis of the Republic: Part 1" at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center.

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

July 29, 2002

Havana. The Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library held a movie showing for children and a discussion about human values. Seven children participated in this event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement launched an indefinite vigil in support of political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina. It was held in different locations, including the home of activist Eduardo Quintana, the Milagrosa Church in the city of Guantanamo, and the home of Luis Diaz Sanchez, acting president of the organization. Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina is the president of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

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

Guantanamo. Yunaibis Castillo Betancourt, wife of political prisoner Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, along with Luis Diaz Sanchez, Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and Ulises Manresa Osoria of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, went to the Provincial Department of State Security to speak with officials about Rodriguez Lobaina's situation in prison. The activists spoke with Mayor Luis Tellez and requested that the inmates jailed with Rodriguez Lobaina cease their aggressions against him. The official said he would look into the case.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

July 30, 2002

Havana. Because of the protests expected on August 5th (the anniversary of a large protest that took place in 1994), State Security agents detained opposition leaders Marcel Valenzuela and Rogelio Menendez. Valenzuela was taken to his home, where State Security carried out a search. Activists gathered outside in a gesture of solidarity. The officials asked the activists to identify themselves and told them that they would be called to appear before State Security

the following week.

Source: Report by Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, Agencia de Información de Derechos Humanos. Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The Cuban Reflection Movement hosted a workshop on nonviolent struggle at its headquarters in the city of Camajuaní. Activists from the area and from other cities discussed different strategies for nonviolent civic resistance as well as initiatives for civic participation created by the opposition. One of these initiatives was the "Pilot Mini-Referendum of the Varela Project" created by the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute. This project, which the institute presented at the workshop, looks at the work that the opposition must carry out to prepare for a national referendum.

Source: "Fueros," Culture and Democracy Independent Institute. Librado Linares Garcia, Cuban Reflection Movement.

July 31, 2002

Isle of Youth. At 8:00 p.m., 18 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights participated in a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign that was held until 10:00 p.m. The activists gave shouts of "freedom without forced exile" upon ending the act.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Aug. 2002

Isle of Youth. In Nueva Gerona, the Pinero Committee for Human Rights published its monthly edition of "El Patriota."

The publication listed the different opposition activities carried out during the month and informed the public about the adverse conditions suffered by some families. It also included a list of the political prisoners in the Isle of Youth.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Camagüey. Using a home video camera, the resourceful independent journalists of the El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency began producing their own newscast, going out into the city of Camagüey to videotape interviews with residents and using the reports of independent journalists all over the country to inform the local population. They spoke with residents living in poverty, the homeless, and others who wished to express their viewpoints to a non-official news outlet. The videotape was later passed around among the residents.

Source: El Mayor Camaguey Free Press Agency.

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement published the August issue of its newsletter "Los Pinos Nuevos." Printed in black and white on letter-size paper, the newsletter included the



The 13 de Marzo Independent Library in Camagüey, run by Osmani Cadalso Granados, was named after the tugboat that was sunk by the Cuban government on July 13th,

photos of the editorial staff on the front cover and articles on activities of the opposition, human rights violations, and the state of political prisoners in the province.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democratic Movement

Aug. 2, 2002

Havana. A group of sailors who were put to work temporarily on the reparation of the "Manuel Ascunce" Primary School stopped working and left after an announcement that they would not be receiving a meal. About 15 of the 30 workers abandoned their places.

Source: Victor Manuel Dominguez, Lux InfoPress .

Ciego de Avila. Independent journalist Jesus Alvarez Castillo refused to sign a declaration about the events of March 4th. That day, a peaceful protest took place outside of the hospital where he was recovering from a beating at the hands of Ministry of Interior officials. The 10 demonstrators were beaten and arrested. Alvarez Castillo refused to provide any information about the event because he said he was not fully conscious and aware of what was happening. Because of his refusal, the authorities charged him with perjury and threatened to imprison him for six months to a year.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Aug. 3, 2002

Provincial Prison of Holguin, Holguin. Anti-government messages were written in the courtyard of the prison.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Eighteen activists and residents took part in a viewing and discussion of the video workshop "Analysis of the Republic: Part 2" at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center.

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

Aug. 4, 2002

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Political prisoners Leoncio Rodriguez and Ernesto Duran began a hunger strike, joined by fellow inmate Oscar Diaz Acosta, in protest of the beating to which Rodriguez was subjected and against the confiscation of his letters and personal belongings.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Aug. 5, 2002

Havana. The "Young Cuba" Cuban Popular Party resumed its series of movie debates with the showing of the documentary "*Al filo del machete*" ("By the machete's blade"). Because of popular interest, especially from young people, the film had to be shown several times in different locations. The documentary was made by Cubans in exile and focused on the armed fight against Castro in the 1960s. The movie series had been interrupted by state repression and the

difficulty in Cuba of obtaining videos with factual information.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. The National Group of Attention to Political Prisoners was founded with the aim of coordinating food and personal supplies to Cuban political prisoners. More than 10 former political prisoners and opposition members agreed to establish delegations of the organization throughout the country to facilitate the shipments to the prisoners in different parts of the island.

Source: Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, AIDH. CubaNet.

Matanzas. State Security unleashed a massive effort to suppress the events planned for this day, which marked the eighth anniversary of a large spontaneous protest that took place in Havana. Nevertheless, despite the numerous beatings and arrests, 13 activists in the city of Pedro Betancourt were able to carry out their plans and hand out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (One of these activists had been arrested and yet joined the group distributing the copies once he was released.) Also, in the town of Pedrozo, Carlos Martinez Rey distributed copies of the declaration, in Jovellanos, Dr. Joel Santiago Valdez handed out copies, and in Cardenas, the brothers Juan Carlos Paso Gonzalez and Jorge Luis Paso Gonzalez, along with Pablo Tihier Valle and Armando Socorro Cartaza, distributed copies.

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, Independent Alternative Option Movement.

Villa Clara. In the city of Placetas, signs were seen posted on the walls with messages such as "Down with Fidel" and "May the dictator die." Also drawn on the signs were crosses and the letter "V" for victory. In the afternoon, the political police visited Juan Antonio Soto, 62, member of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party. He admitted to having carried out the act. He was detained for eight hours and he was given a warning act.

Source: Regina del Sol and Alejandro Hernandez, both of AIDH. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. Approximately 20 activists reached the seaside promenade of the city of Caibarien and stayed there from 11 am - 12 pm to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the "Maleconazo" protest in Havana. They called for respect for human rights and freedom for political prisoners.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Camagüey. Members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights led a peaceful demonstration calling for the liberation of their fellow activists and the two independent journalists who were beaten and detained on March 4th. The protest took place in the Catholic church of the city of Camagüey, and lasted an hour and 40 minutes. The participants lit a candle and read a psalm from the Bible. They also prayed for the liberation of all Cuban political prisoners. From across the street in Martí Park, State Security agents watched the proceedings.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Common prisoner Roberto Brito Bridevilla began a hunger strike to protest the mistreatment and abuses of prison guards against him.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Guantanamo. To commemorate the 8th anniversary of the protest that erupted in Havana known as the "Maleconazo," eight members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement took to the streets of the city and began handing out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They told the people who they were and that they wanted them to know their rights. The people responded with enthusiasm, and the activists said they wished they had more than the 400 copies they distributed that day. The activists went to Jose Martí Park and sat by the bust of Martí. There, State Security officials began to arrive but they simply greeted the activists and took no further action. The group walked around the city for some time, and later returned to the park, finishing the act with a moment of silence.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Aug. 6, 2002

Havana. Yosvani Aguilar Camejo, an opposition activist imprisoned at the Prison 1580, began a hunger strike to protest the cancellation of his family visits. Aguilar Camejo, 29, a member of the 13th of July Pro Human Rights Movement, was imprisoned after a bus tried to force its way into the Mexican embassy some months before. He is accused of having participated in that incident.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. The activist Lazaro Reynold Mendez Tur sent letters to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the National Assembly of the Popular Power, the Municipal Prosecutor of the Isle of Youth, and the General Attorney of the Republic of Cuba denouncing the harassment against him of State Security agent Rafael Garcia Gonzalez. Mendez Tur is vice president of the Board of Assistance to Political Prisoners and their Families as well as religious leader of the Lutheran Church in Isle of Youth.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Political prisoner Leoncio Rodriguez Ponce climbed to the roof of the prison and began shouting accusations against the regime and his jailers. A group of about eight prison guards pulled him down and began beating him. Fellow political prisoner Ernesto Duran Rodriguez tried to intervene, protesting their beating. He and Rodriguez Ponce were taken to punishment cells. Several weeks later they were submitted to a trial without defense lawyers and sentenced to two more years of imprisonment.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

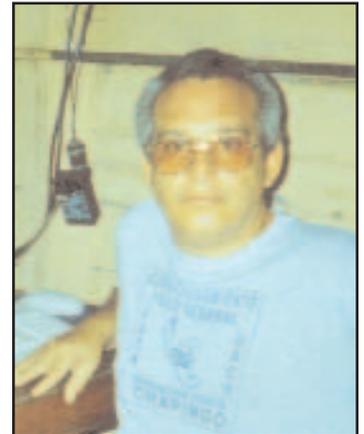
Aug. 7, 2002

Havana. An agreement between two independent labor organizations was signed to facilitate cooperation between them. The Democratic Federation of Workers of Cuba and the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba met at the William Le Santé Independent Library, where they decided to share information, such as studies, surveys and cases of workers' rights violations, to further common goals.

Source: Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Aug. 10, 2002

Villa Clara. An affiliate of the Independent Medical Association of Cuba was founded in Santa Clara at an event attended by the representatives of several opposition organizations. The organization opened its headquarters at the home of Dr. Sandra Dominguez Ayala at Toscano 260, between Berenguer y Padre Tudurí. There were 10 doctors and paramedics as members at the time of the opening. The organization stated that its purpose was improving the health and hygiene habits of the population, rescuing the history of medicine in Cuba, watching for the highest quality care for patients, and exchanging information with other doctors and scientists throughout the country and the world.



Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo

Source: Omar Ruiz Hernandez, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Twelve people attended a showing of the video documentary "Steps to Freedom," produced by the Cuban Democratic Directorate. They also saw four shows of the program "Devil's Advocate" featuring Cuban exiled writer Carlos Alberto Montaner. This event was held at the Ciudad #2 o Factoria Civic Community Center.

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

Aug. 12, 2002

Camagüey. Hundreds of flyers with anti-government slogans were dispersed throughout the Ceramica Roja prison. The activist Virgilio Mantilla Arango, a member of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights and the presumed author of the act, was consequently disrobed, shackled and beaten.

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

Aug. 13, 2002

Holguín. The Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement took to the streets of Moa to distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Varela Project.

Source: Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement. Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO, reported to the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

Aug. 14, 2002

Isle of Youth. With a 24-hour fast they started the day before and a vigil, 16 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights took part in the nationwide Freedom Without Forced Exile campaign of civic acts for political prisoners. The activists had begun fasting at 6 p.m. the day before, and maintained the fast until the next day. At 7:30 p.m., they began a vigil, during which they discussed the situation of current Cuban political prisoners. The vigil ended at 10 p.m., at which time activists shouted in favor of the liberation of political prisoners and distributed 95 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the neighborhood.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Aug. 15, 2002

Havana. Dr. Wilfredo Vallin lectured on the life and ideas of Orthodox Party leader Eduardo Chibás Rivas at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in El Cerro, Havana. Eighteen persons participated in this event.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Aug. 17, 2002

Havana. The Toco-ro Independent Library (named after the Cuban national bird) was inaugurated on 2nd Street, between A and B, in the neighborhood of El Rosario, La Güinera, municipality of Arroyo Naranjo. The library, sponsored by the independent ecological organization, NATURPAZ, is the first to specialize solely on ecological issues. At the opening event, a photo exhibit was shown with pictures of damage done to the environment in Cuba. Magdalena Prado Padrón was named director, and twenty people attended the opening event.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén. Jose Antonio Fornario, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. At the Ciudad #2 o Factoria Civic Community Center, seven activists participated in a debate after viewing the workshop, "Considerations of Cuban Judicial and Legal Elements," filmed at the Center for the Study of a National Option in Miami.

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

Aug. 20, 2002

Havana. The Analysis and Discussion Group of the Moderate

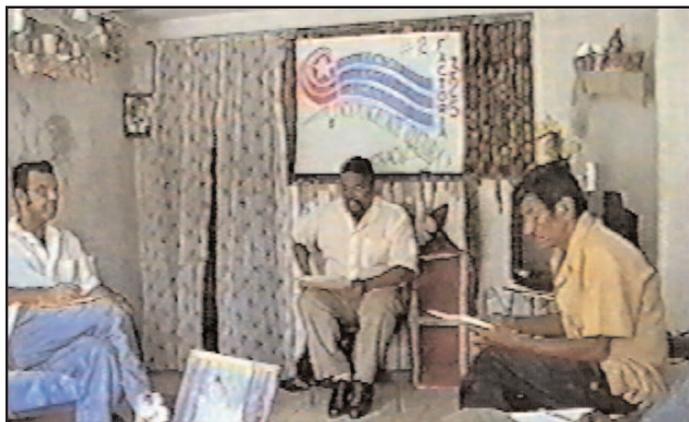
Opposition launched the AnteProject of the Letter of Cubans' Fundamental Rights and Duties with the aim of making the public aware of their rights and responsibilities and encouraging a debate on this topic. Group leaders announced the availability of 109 houses throughout the country where Cubans would be able to obtain a copy of the project, which contains 47 articles.

Source: The Associated Press. El Nuevo Herald.

Aug. 21, 2002

Havana. A vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners was held at Parque de los Chivos, a park in the neighborhood of La Fernanda. Organizations such as the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, 24th of February Movement, Children of the Virgen of Regla, and the Confederation of Independent Workers of Cuba, among others, participated in this event.

Source: Olga Rita Ramirez, Centro Cubano de Información, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.



Activists meet at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba for a class on human rights.

Isle of Youth. After maintaining a hunger fast for 24 hours since the day before, 15 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights met at the committee's headquarters to hold the weekly Freedom Without Forced Exile vigil for Cuban political prisoners. At 8:00 p.m., they began a vigil, during which they discussed the situation of Cuban political prisoners. They held the vigil for four hours, creating a document titled "Freedom Without Forced Exile" to be circulated among the residents of Nueva Gerona for their signatures and to be sent to the State Council demanding an end

to the government's persecution of the people.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Villa Clara. In the city of Santa Clara, at the Doctor Celestino Hernandez Robau Hospital, a sign stating, "Down with Fidel Castro," was posted in the equipment center. Days before, a similar sign had appeared in Paseo de la Paz, a nearby avenue.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Aug. 22, 2002

Villa Clara. The Cuban Reflection Movement hosted a lunch for the poor, providing about 60 lunches to residents of Camajuaní. This lunch was co-hosted with the local branch of CARITAS, the Catholic organization.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Aug. 24, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. Eighteen activists and residents attended the Ciudad #2 o Factoria Civic Community Center and saw four shows of the program "Devil's Advocate," which is produced in Miami, featuring exiled Cuban writer Carlos Alberto Montaner.

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

Aug. 25, 2002

Guantanamo. Forty-three supporters of the Varela Project and relatives of political prisoners sent a letter to Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly in Cuba, denouncing the government's fraud during its petition campaign to have the Constitution amended, specifically denouncing the government seeking signatures from several sectors of the population, such as political prisoners, that should not be required to participate according to Electoral Law. The letter was signed by these 43 citizens, who also gave their identification numbers.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, as reported to the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

Aug. 27, 2002

Havana. Twenty-six political prisoners confined in Havana and in the Province of Havana began a hunger strike to protest their imprisonment. They had been arrested in February and March and still had not been brought to trial or informed of a date when they would be tried. Human rights organizations on the island pledged to support the prisoners on their protest with their own fasts and resistance acts. After many days, the prisoners began to abandon the strike. However, Leonardo Bruzon Avila maintained the fast for 59 days, reaching a critical state of health and having to be transferred to a hospital for medical intervention.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. The Rafael Roberto Larramendi Olive Independent Library was founded in Centro Habana, the municipality in the capital city. The library was opened at San Nicolas 204, between Virtudes and Concordia, and will be presided over by Maria Antonia Hernandez Martinez. Its more than 500 books are predominantly world literature. The library was named after the late follower of Eduardo Chibás and member of the Cuban Orthodox Party. Approximately 20 people, most of them human rights activists, attended the inauguration event.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Havana. Once again, the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in El Cerro, Havana, held a movie showing for children. After the movie, the librarians spoke with the children about the importance of human values and offered them cookies and soft drinks. Seven children participated.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of

Cuba.

Villa Clara. Five teachers who worked in schools in the municipality of Manicaragua were fired from their jobs for refusing to sign the government petition seeking to amend the Constitution and perpetuate Castro's regime. The Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba, an independent organization that defends the rights of teachers and is presided over by activist Roberto de Miranda, reported these reprisals.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Aug. 28, 2002

Valle Grande Prison, Havana. Prisoners on hunger strike to protest their unjust imprisonment and demand their immediate liberation signed a declaration stating their purpose. In the declaration, they called for human rights, freedom for political prisoners, an end to terrorism and a free Cuba. The statement was signed by the seven hunger strikers: Rafael Corrales Alonso, Ricardo Ramos Pereira, Juan Hernandez Herrera, Fernando Sarria Fernandez, Lazaro Miguel Rodriguez Capote, Jose Francisco Ramirez Calleja and independent journalist Carlos Alberto Dominguez.

Source: CubaNet.

Havana. Activists began fasting to support the prisoners on hunger strike in the Valle Grande Prison. The fasts were held at a home on Street A, #8016, between San Miguel and Dolores streets, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padron.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Inmate Carlos Garcia Saya began a hunger strike to protest the unjust sentence he was given of more than 30 years' imprisonment.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Aug. 30, 2002

Havana. The *Comité Ciudadano Gestor del Proyecto Varela* ("Citizens' Committee Promoting the Varela Project"), led by opposition activist Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, made public a document titled, "First a Referendum" (Referendo Primero). In it, the members of the committee announced that they would be abstaining from elections in October for the National Assembly of Popular Power, the Castro government's legislative body. The committee stated that it would not participate in the elections because it considered them "illegitimate and unconstitutional" and because they were carried out in an environment of "intimidation." It also demanded that the Cuban government publish the Varela Project and submit it to the people's consideration.

Source: Agence France Presse. El Nuevo Herald. Juan Carlos



Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina

Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Aug. 31, 2002

Havana. The political police suppressed a spontaneous protest that erupted at the train station in the capital as hundreds of passengers waited for the trains to arrive. Some had been waiting for days, and when the news began to circulate that station officials had decided to offer a train to construction workers headed to work on tourist facilities rather than allow the passengers to board, the people began to voice their frustration. More than 100 police officers had to intervene, which they did by beating some protesters with their sticks.

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

Santiago de Cuba. At the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center, six activists met to watch a video of the workshop titled "The Situation of the Internal Opposition in Cuba" provided by the Center for the Study of a National Option (CEON).

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

Sept. 2002

Isle of Youth. The Pinero Committee for Human Rights published the Sept. issue, #26, of "El Patriota." The newsletter reported activities the opposition had accomplished that month, denounced government abuses, and informed the public about the families affected by Hurricane Isidore and other issues.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Santiago de Cuba. The third volume of the newsletter Fuegos ("Rights") was published in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Edited by Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, Fuegos is the official newsletter of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute. This black-and-white, computer-generated issue consisted of 38 pages of articles reflecting on current issues of the opposition, written by authors both in Cuba and abroad. It included articles such as "The Varela Project: A Step Toward Freedom," and "Language of the Cuban Civic Opposition: Toward a Common Vocabulary."

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

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement published the Sept. issue of its newsletter "Los Pinos Nuevos," focusing in this issue on human rights abuses in the regime's prison system and on the creation of the Jorge Lincoln Mas Canosa Democratic Committee Without Borders, created by both political prisoners and activists outside prison.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Sept. 1, 2002

Matanzas. The Peace, Love and Freedom Party began an indefinite fast to back the political prisoners also on strike since Aug. 27. The fast was held daily from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the home of Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, president of the party, in Perico, Matanzas. Some additional organizations that participated included Independent Alternative Option Movement, Unitary Council of Workers of Cuba, Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy, Democratic Solidarity Party, Association of Independent Teachers, Cuban Republican Party and the Cuban Love Civic Movement.

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

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Political prisoner Jorge Luis Larrazabal, in an act of civic defiance, shouted to prison guards, "You are the violators of human rights" after he was taken to the Provincial Hospital of Guantanamo for a medical appointment and prison officials did not allow him to see his wife and fellow activists who had gone there to speak with him. Assuming a negative and intolerant attitude, Mayor Cerce wanted to block access to the prisoner. As the exchange between them grew tense, a large crowd of about 100 people in the hospital gathered around to see what was happening. Larrazabal's shouts were seconded by some of the other activists present. As a result, eight military guards took the prisoner and dragged him away. He was confined in a sealed punishment cell for 21 days.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.



Margarito Broche Espinosa

Sept. 2, 2002

Matanzas. Nine opposition activists carried out a fast for the freedom of Cuban political prisoners in a home in El Roque, a town in the municipality Perico. State Security agents arrived at the fast and arrested two activists, Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, president of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party whose home it was, and Ramon Diaz Hernandez. As they were forced into the police cars, the activists shouted "Long live human rights!" and "Freedom for political prisoners!"

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Camagüey. Promoters of the Varela Project in the city of Camagüey submitted a letter to Diosdado Cardoso Fernandez, president of the Provincial Electoral Commission, asking him and his organization to disseminate information about the Varela Project. They also submitted a similar request to numerous government-backed agencies, such as the University Student Federation, the Association of Combatants of the Revolution, and the Central of Cuban Workers, among others.

Source: Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, independent journalist and Varela Project promoter.

Holguin. A Cuban family living in Holguin, the capital city in the province of the same name, created a protest mural in the facade of their home. Agustín Sosa hung signs with messages such as, "I have worked for 45 years and I have nothing" and "We want freedom, equality and civil rights." According to Sosa, the incident that prompted the protest was his 6-year-old's and 1-year-old's fall into a hole 3 meters in diameter in the living room. The Sosas' home has been declared "uninhabitable," but the family has not been able to buy the materials it needs from the government, which controls the island's building supplies.

Source: Victor M. Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Sept. 4, 2002

Havana. Prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva began a fast, abstaining from solid food, to protest his unjust incarceration and the prosecutor's claim that a six-year-sentence would be sought for him. Gonzalez Leiva also began dressing in black and shaving his head and beard as part of his protest.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. The Agramonte Current of Independent Lawyers made public to the independent press a document listing and analyzing the irregularities in the prosecutor's provisional conclusions against detained human rights activist Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva.

The document was signed by president of the organization, Rene Gomez Manzano.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. After beginning a 24-hour fast the day before at 6 p.m., fifteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and seven members of the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women assembled at the committee's headquarters. They carried out the weekly vigil of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign and they decided to continue fasting on a weekly basis to support the political prisoners in Cuban jails also fasting or on hunger strike to protest their unjust treatment at the hands of the regime.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights. Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Sept. 5, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Maximo Gomez Baez National Civic

Movement launched a project to help poor residents of Cuba Libre, an area in the city of Pinar del Rio known as a "marginal" neighborhood. The project, named "Heart to Heart," offers food to the handicapped, the elderly, and in general, to socially disadvantaged individuals. The meals are distributed in the home of activist Raidel Ramirez Valdés, who also runs the Luis Urtelio Mendez Independent Library.

Source: Victor M. Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Matanzas. A lecture on democratic transitions that had been filmed in Miami was shown at the headquarters of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party.

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



Independent journalists Normando Hernandez and Jesus Alvarez Castillo and human rights activist Lester Gonzalez Penton in Camagüey.

Villa Clara. A delegation of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters assembled at the Provincial Tribunal of Remedios to support five young rafters who had been repatriated and were being tried for trying to leave the country. Three of the rafters were members of the organization.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters

Sept. 6, 2002

Havana. Despite the police vigilance and

repression, the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba (or CONIC) held its second annual meeting. The meeting was attended by CONIC members as well as by leaders of the also non-governmental Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba and the Union of Christian Workers. The organizations formed work agreements.

Source: Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. More than 500 Catholics in the city of La Fe signed a letter addressed to the Cuban government, demanding that the government return the community's church to them. The regime had occupied the church in 1995 to provide shelter during a hurricane but afterwards established a cultural center in the church. As a result, residents of La Fe have been attending mass and carrying out their religious services in a private home. Moreover, despite a generous donation of an Italian Episcopalian bishop for the construction of a new cultural center, the government continues to occupy the church.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters held a vigil to ask the United States Interests Section in Havana for a meeting where the association would be able to present 25 cases of the regime's violations of migratory agreements. Thirty-two members participated in the vigil.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters

Sept. 7, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The visual arts gallery *Espacio Interior* ("Interior Space") was opened in the city of Pinar del Rio. The gallery's first exhibit featured close to 50 artworks of drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture made by a group of mostly young people who participated for four months in workshops hosted by the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba. According to one of the directors, René Oñate, the gallery is meant to provide a space free of government influence. Fifty people participated in this inauguration event.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Sept. 8, 2002

Villa Clara. The Cuban Reflection Movement participated in a mass to celebrate this day, which is considered the day of the patron saint of Cuba, Our Lady of Charity of el Cobre. The activists took part in a procession and lit candles for the virgin, calling the attention of the people to their causes.

Source: Librado Linares García, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Sept. 10-11, 2002

Isle of Youth. In honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, in the U.S., opposition activists held vigils for two days in the headquarters of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights in Nueva Gerona, Isle of Youth. The vigils were meant to remember the people who died and to act in solidarity with the American people.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Matanzas. The opposition organization, the Independent Alternative Option Movement, based in the city of Pedro Betancourt, held a vigil from 8 p.m. on Sept. 10th until 4 p.m. the next day to remember the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Every half hour, the activists, wearing black armbands to express their mourning, read a verse of the Bible. They also hung a black ribbon on the front door of the home where the vigil was held, indicating that the event was taking place.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Sept. 10, 2002

Isle of Youth. Fifteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights initiated a 24-hour fast to call for the release of Cuban political prisoners and to show their support for the impris-

oned activists also carrying out fasts at Prison 1580 and the Prison of Valle Grande.

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

Sept. 11, 2002

Havana. At 7 a.m., members of the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba (or USTIC, its initials in Spanish) held a memorial act for the victims of Sept. 11 attacks on the United States at its headquarters on Street 200, #8113, between 81st and 85th Street, in the neighborhood of Altura de la Lisa. At the event, 14 activists present held a minute of silence in tandem with the American people at 8:46 a.m.

Source: Olga Rita Ramirez, Centro Cubano de Información, Frank País 30th of November Democratic Party.

Isle of Youth. In remembrance of the Sept. 11 victims of the terrorist attacks on the United States, 15 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights gathered at the committee's headquarters in the home of president Huber Rodriguez. Having begun a 24-hour fast the day before, at 7 p.m. they started a vigil. They lit four candles and held a moment of silence for the terrorism victims. They also talked about the situation of Cuban political prisoners and they expressed their support for the U.S. embargo on the Cuban government. This vigil was carried out as part of the weekly Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Matanzas. Members of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party began a vigil to remember the victims of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks on the U.S. The act began at 8:46 a.m., the precise time the first plane hit the World Trade Center. The activists said a prayer, read Psalm 6 and held a moment of silence. The event ended at 8:40 p.m. after a day of meditation and worship.

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

Matanzas. The Independent Alternative Option Movement held an event to remember and commemorate the victims of the Sept. 11th attacks on the United States. The vigil began at 8:45 a.m. and was held until 4 p.m. Every half hour throughout the day, activists read Biblical passages. They held candles and wore black armbands to express their mourning. They also began signing a book of condolences, which was opened to the public, that condemned terrorism and showed solidarity with the families of the victims. The activists shouted, "Down with terrorism" and "Long live peace."

Source: Miguel Sigler Amaya, Independent Alternative Option Movement.

Sept. 12, 2002

Matanzas. In the town of Cidra, the Peace, Love and Freedom Party held a remembrance act at the cemetery to commemorate the first month since the death of Carlos Falcón. Twenty-three persons attended the event.

Source: Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, Peace, Love and Freedom

Party.

Guantanamo. For the third time, a group of opposition organizations published the newsletter "Todos Unidos" (or "All United," which has no affiliation to the coalition of the same name in Cuba). The newsletter specializes in information about human rights abuses in the region, and consists of approximately 300 copies with each printing. The newsletter is financed by the activists themselves and often receives a much wider circulation than its copies indicate, since readers tend to pass them on.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Sept. 13, 2002

Ciego de Avila. Maritza Calderín Columbié, wife of prisoner of conscience Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, addressed an open letter to the World Union of the Blind, which was meeting at the time in Havana. In the letter, which was distributed to the independent press on the island, she criticized the union for choosing to hold their meeting in a country that persecuted the blind and called on the union to help her husband in his struggle for freedom.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Sept. 14, 2002

Pinar del Rio. In the early morning hours in the city of Pinar del Rio, signs appeared bearing slogans such as "Down with Fidel" and "Down with communism." The political police hurried to the scene, taking with them paint and tools to erase the slogans.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. At about 10 a.m., the executive directors of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights made its first donation to a handicapped resident in the city of Nueva Gerona. The activists gave a pair of hand-made wooden crutches to Rafael Cabrera Ramirez, intending with this act to help the less fortunate and to show to the public that despite the government's excuses, it is possible to meet their needs.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Sept. 16, 2002

Isle of Youth. At 6 p.m., 15 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights gathered at the committee's headquarters in the home of pres-

ident Huber Rodriguez and began a 48-hour fast to show their solidarity with political prisoners also on fast or hunger strike, such as

Leonardo Bruzon Avila and Emilio Gonzalez Leiva. The activists also expressed their support for the U.S. embargo on the Cuban government, saying that they agreed with the lobbying efforts of Cuban-Americans on Sept. 17 and 18th in Washington, D.C., to keep the embargo.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Villa Clara. In the town of Marta Abreu, province of Villa Clara, the Wilfredo Lam Independent Library, named after the famous Cuban painter, was inaugurated. The library housed 250 books upon its opening, and will be main-

tained by director Miriam Fernandez Armas. It is located at Villuendas 60, altos, between Martí and Independencia.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Sept. 17, 2002

Camagüey. When government officials attempted to evict a family in the municipality of Florida, neighbors gathered in front of the house to protest. Gertrudis Begerano, 49, and her two children -- a daughter of 17 and a son of 22 with hepatitis -- were pushed and beaten out of the house. Neighbors yelled out words such as "thugs" and "killers." Begerano said that she had been to the National Assembly and the Institute of Housing, but the authorities had failed to take action to help her.

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

Sept. 18, 2002

Isle of Youth. After 48 hours fasting, fifteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights began a vigil at 6 p.m. as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. They sang the national anthem and lit a candle. (On the island, these vigils have come to be known as the "act of the candle.") Despite the presence of State Security on the street, the vigil was maintained until 10 p.m. The activists closed it with shouts of "freedom without forced exile for political prisoners."

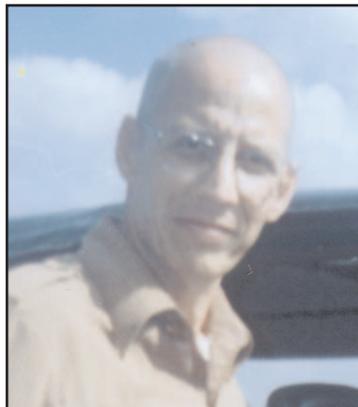
Source: Huber Rodriguez Tudela, "El Patriota," Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Sept. 20, 2002

Havana. A group of parents, whose children attend the Heroes de Giron Elementary School in



Librado Linares, president of the Cuban Reflection Movement, speaks at a workshop in Camajuaní.



Carlos Alberto Dominguez

of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

Camagüey. Promoters of the Varela Project in the city of Camagüey submitted a letter to Leonardo Tracter Jordan, Provincial Coordinator of the Committees in Defense of the Revolution, asking him and his organization to disseminate information about the Varela Project the same way they had done for the government-sponsored petition to have the Constitution amended.

Source: Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, independent journalist and Varela Project promoter.

Prison A-500-1, Guantanamo. Political prisoner Randy Cabrera Mayor began shouting anti-government slogans within the prison, loud enough for visiting family members to hear where they were gathered with the inmates. He also painted these same messages on the walls of the jail. He was beaten violently.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Sept. 28, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. Seven activists met at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center and saw the film "To Kill a Priest: The Plot Against Freedom" on the life of Polish priest Jerzy Popieluzko.

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

Oct. 2002

Camagüey. The eighth edition of the newsletter "El Camagüeyano" was published in the city of Camagüey, featuring a special editorial supporting the American embargo on the communist regime and criticizing efforts in the U.S. Congress to have sanctions lifted. This issue also featured news of the Cuban Democratic Directorate members who had been in Cuba to visit members of the opposition and sign the Varela Project. In addition, it reproduced the "Agreement for Democracy," a document the Cuban Democratic Directorate sponsored and promoted in 1998 that was signed by over 80 pro-democracy organizations in Cuba and in exile establishing the main points of agreement for a future democratic system on the island.

Source: "El Camagüeyano," El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

Guantanamo. The Oct. issue of "Los Pinos Nuevos" was printed and distributed in the city of Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement concentrated mostly on denouncing human rights abuses in this issue and publishing press releases from the organization or letters by jailed dissidents.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Oct. 1, 2002

Havana. Activists of the 24th of February Movement launched a 10-day campaign for the liberation of Cuban political prisoners at the organization's Information Center, located at Street C, 8216, between Second and Third Street, in the neighborhood of Dolores,

municipality San Miguel del Padron. Calling it "Castro, don't condemn our brothers," the campaign consisted of fasts, vigils, human rights conferences and movie debates about political prisoners.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. At the Park of Santa Clara on Paseo La Paz, 30 activists took part in a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile of political prisoners.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Oct. 4, 2002

Villa Clara. Activist Ramon Mesa Rodriguez went out with a sign, on one side bearing the message, "Long live human rights," and on the other a quotation of Jose Martí. This act caused a great commotion in the city of Camajuaní.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Guantanamo. Members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement began a campaign, gathering at Parque Martí in the city's center to distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and books on Martí. They made a point of talking to passersby about the situation of Cuban political prisoners. They remained at the park from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and repeated this act every day until Oct. 10th.

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

Oct. 6, 2002

Havana. The Democratic Solidarity Party finished its elections, during which Fernando Sanchez and Pablo Silva were voted president and vice president of the party, respectively. The elections, which had begun three months earlier, consisted of voting for a National Committee comprised of 186 members, who in turn voted for a National Executive consisting of 17 members. The Democratic Solidarity Party is a liberal organization and a member of the Analysis and Discussion Group of the Moderate Opposition, a coalition of liberal groups, social democrats and Christian democrats.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

Oct. 7, 2002

Matanzas. In the city of Cardenas, the words, "Down with Fidel" were painted on the walls of a hospital. People began gathering near the hospital when they saw the words, which painted at about three feet tall, were hard to miss. The political police arrived and painted over them.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Oct. 8, 2002

Havana. The Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba and the Fund of Cuban Studies in Exile launched the Human Rights of the 21st Century Literary Contest. The theme of the contest was established as "paths toward democracy, Cubans on the island and in exile and their roles for the future of Cuba." The deadline

the municipality of Güines, gathered at the school to complain to the principal about the new municipal regulation forbidding parents to visit their children during snack time. Before this rule was implemented, parents were allowed to take food to their children in the morning, a fact that was helpful if they had managed to acquire a snack for them that they did not have at breakfast time.

Source: Jose Izquierdo, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Boniato Prison, Santiago de Cuba. A group of prisoners -- including both prisoners of conscience and common prisoners with life sentences and the death penalty -- in the Boniato Prison in Santiago de Cuba addressed a statement to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and to public opinion, and submitted a copy to the Provincial Director of Prisons Colonel Serra, announcing that they would begin a peaceful strike on Sept. 23rd to claim their basic human rights, which were being violated with the sub-human living conditions and the treatment they were receiving in the prison.

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

Sept. 21, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. At the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center, ten activists met to watch a video of a workshop titled, "The Current State of the Internal Opposition in Cuba," produced by the Center for the Study of a National Option (CEON) in Miami.

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

Sept. 22, 2002

Villa Clara. In an effort with CARITAS, the Cuban Reflection Movement hosted a lunch for the poor, providing 60 lunches to residents of Camajuaní.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Santiago de Cuba. Opposition activists in the city of Santiago de Cuba submitted an open letter to the country's Culture Minister Abel Prieto and published the letter in the newsletter "Fueros", denouncing the political police's intervention on Sept. 15th during the opening of the First Independent Gallery of Visual Arts in the city. The gallery, which was sponsored by the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute, along with organizations abroad such as the Hispano-Cuban Foundation and the Center for the Study of a National Option, was not inaugurated as planned because of the state's repression. Thirteen opposition activists signed the letter to the minister.

Source: "Fueros," Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.

Sept. 24, 2002

Pinar del Rio. In the Chapel of Las Mercedes, in the diocese library of Pinar del Rio, Father Vincent offered a mass for the men and women imprisoned in Cuba's jails. Followers of various religions and opposition activists, as well as residents of the area, attended the mass, during which the priest discussed the growth of prisoners on the island.

Source: Adela Soto, Nueva Prensa Cubana

Las Tunas. Roberto Esquivel Lezcano, a resident of the municipality of Puerto Padre, voiced his dissatisfaction at a meeting where more than 100 people were assembled to nominate the candidates for the positions of the Popular Power in the neighborhood of Los Corrales. Esquivel Lezcano denounced the disappearance of several stores that before had served the population as well as the deterioration of the streets and buildings and the increase of drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution and domestic violence. After his comments, other residents approached him and told him they agreed with him but that he was probably going to suffer reprisals.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Sept. 25, 2002

Havana. Because he was unhappy with the government's failure to respond to his housing situation, Juan Galván Torres, a 66-year old farmer, refused to pay his dues to the National Association of Small Agriculturers (or ANAP, its acronym in Spanish). Galván Torres' home had been deteriorating daily since Hurricane Lily devastated it and the government had failed to provide him with the building materials he needed. Officials of the agro-industrial complex visited him to pressure him to give up his farm and intern himself in a nursing home. When he refused and an argument ensued, the authorities called him "paranoid" and later arranged for him to be interned at a psychiatric hospital for several days. He was finally released because he showed no signs of mental illness.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. After finishing a 24-hour fast they began the day before at 6 p.m., 22 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women met at 7 p.m. in Nueva Gerona for a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. They remembered Leonardo Bruzon Avila and Emlio Gonzalez Leiva, two political prisoners at that time on hunger strike. The vigil ended at 10 p.m.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Sept. 26, 2002

Villa Clara. For his book of poems *Instrumento del Sueño* ("Instrument of a Dream"), Domingo Hernandez Varona was named the winner of the Espuela de Plata 2002 Poetry Contest. This year, the contest, which is co-sponsored by the Cuban Reflection Movement in Cuba and the Center of the Study for a National Option in Miami, was dedicated to Cuban writer Eliseo Diego. The awards ceremony began with a conference on Diego and then continued with a recital, during which nine attending poets who had participated in the contest were able to read from their works. At the end of the event, last year's winner Frank Dimas read from his poem "The Flight of Vultures" and the 2002 winner was named. As part of the award, Hernandez Varona's book will be printed abroad in time for next year's contest. The jury this year included jury president Hugo Araña, as well as Eduardo Gonzalez Bonachea and Rigoberto Diaz Cutiño.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia and Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, both

announced was Dec. 31 and the Board of Directors of the Project of Independent Libraries would be judging the entries. The winning essays would be published abroad.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Prison A-500-1, Guantanamo. From Cell #16 in Company #5 of this prison, common prisoner and political dissident Jesus Aguilera Basulto began a hunger strike to protest the deplorable living conditions in the jail.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Guantanamo. In an effort to protest the abusive treatment against political prisoner Randy Cabrera Mayor, the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement members Ulises Manresa Osoria and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the center of Guantanamo.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Oct. 9, 2002

Isle of Youth. Members of eight opposition organizations gathered to pray for the immediate, unconditional liberation of 11 Cuban political prisoners incarcerated since February and held illegally without a trial since that time. The event took place at the Eddy Chibás Independent Library at 28th Street, #157, between 17th and 19th Streets, in the Vedado neighborhood of Havana. After their prayers, the activists read verses 31 and 46 from Matthew 25.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The Democratic Action Movement hosted a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. Each of the 15 participants lit a candle to remember the prisoners. The case of Humberto Eladio Leal Suarez, a political prisoner living in subhuman conditions in the Kilo 8 Prison in Camaguey, received particular attention. The act was held at San Miguel 308 and also served to commemorate Carlos Manuel de Cespedes' Oct. 9th liberation of his slaves in the 19th century.

Source: Isabel Rey Rodriguez, CubaPress. CubaNet.

Oct. 10, 2002

Havana. During a ceremony held by the Project of Independent Democratic Libraries of Cuba, October 10th was named the "Day of the Independent Librarian." Thirty independent library activists and independent journalists attended the event, which was held at a home on Perseverancia 214, altos, in the municipality Centro

Habana.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. President of the Liberal Democratic Party of Cuba Osvaldo Alfonso Valdés spoke on the historical importance of this date for the Cuban nation at a conference in the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in Havana. Fourteen persons participated.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Boniato Prison, Santiago de Cuba. Political prisoners Carlos Luis Diaz Fernandez, Francisco Herodes Diaz Echemendía, Alejandro Cabrera Cruz and various other inmates who supported them began a hunger strike to condemn the abuses of prison authorities against the prisoners, and the poor food and lack of medical assistance in the jail. Alejandro Cabrera Cruz and Manuel Rodriguez Cabrales continued the hunger strike for 10 days until a prison director met with them. However, the official did not agree to meet their demands, and instead threatened them with a transfer to another jail if they did not end their protest.

Source: Culture and Democracy Independent Institute

Guantanamo. In spite of police maneuvering and the pre-sence of several State Security (MININT) patrol cars, 11 activists of several organizations, including the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, the Unitary Council of Cuban

Workers and the Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party were able to reach the bust of Jose Martí in the city's central park. They shouted for a free Cuba and human rights.

Source: Luis Diaz Sanchez, "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Oct. 11, 2002

Ciego de Avila. At the Hugo Cortijo Colleras Gallery, a painting exhibit drew residents in the town of Morón because of its uncommon political and social themes, which are normally censored by the Ministry of Culture. Two of the paintings that were provoking much comment were Angel Llopiz' "Twin Towers" and Roberto Torres' "The Magic Bone," which showed people hunting down cats to make a stew.

Source: Jose Manuel Caraballo, APLA. CubaNet.

Oct. 12, 2002

Cienfuegos. Signs bearing the message, "Down with Fidel," appeared posted to the walls of several government facilities in the town of Cruces. The signs were seen on the House of Combatants,



Members of the Cuban Reflection Movement in Camajuani, Villa Clara.

the Office of Local Industries, the Los Almendros Cabaret and the Corina Rodriguez Elementary School. Political police began a search to look for the authors of the signs.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Oct. 13, 2002

Holguin. Prisoner of Conscience Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva sent a letter from prison to the Minister of Justice Roberto Diaz Sotolongo requesting that he be allowed to act as his own defense lawyer during his trial, given that he is an accredited lawyer in Cuba. He also asked for the trial to allow international press into the courtroom and be broadcast on television, thus providing for more transparency.

Source: Pablo Pacheco, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

Oct. 15, 2002

Havana. In honor of the International Day of the Rural Woman, the independent Federation of Latin American Rural Women (or FLAMUR, its acronym in Spanish), donated seven packages of supplies to poor women in the provinces of Havana, Matanzas, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey. The donations went to women who had given birth on that day. The organization also held an exhibit of the goods they had made - such as children's



Members of the Independent Alternative Option Movement make the "V" sign for "victory."

clothing - and afterwards, donated the items to families and members of the organization.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CubaNet.

Havana. Three prominent opposition activists announced the creation of a kind of opposition parliament, known as the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, consisting of 321 independent grassroots organizations throughout the island. The main spokesperson for the assembly, Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, said that the assembly included a wide range of civil society organizations, ranging from human rights groups to independent libraries and associations of independent journalists.

Source: El Nuevo Herald. The Associated Press, published in The Miami Herald. EFE, published in Diario Las Americas.

Oct. 17, 2002

Havana. Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, spokesman for the Citizen's Committee Promoting the Varela Project, made public a declaration demanding that Castro respect the rights of the Cuban people. Payá wrote the statement in response to Castro's claims during his almost three-hour interview with American journalist Barbara Walters. Payá affirmed that the government had systematically violated Cubans' right to submit a petition for a referendum, which is provided for in the existing Constitution, through its repression of Varela Project activists.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Prison A-500-1, Guantanamo. In the jail adjoining the Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, political prisoner Randy Cabrera Mayor, from Cell #21, a cell with no windows and poor ventilation, began a hunger strike to protest his impossible living conditions. Cabrera Mayor was not being allowed out to take in the sunlight, and between the heat and the mosquitos, his health was at risk.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.



Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva and his wife, Maritza Calderin Columbié (left) and a fellow activist (right)

Oct. 18, 2002

Havana. Residents of the Frank Pais neighborhood in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, began commenting that they would not be voting in the upcoming Popular Power elections (to take place Oct. 20-27) if the government did not first solve the lack of drinkable water in the area.

Source: Victor M. Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Oct. 19, 2002

Havana. An exhibit featuring 50 photographs showing damage to the environment in Cuba was opened at the Toco-ro Independent Library, located on 2nd Street, neighborhood of Rosario, in the Arroyo Naranjo municipality of Havana. The photos, which were taken by members of the environmental organization NATURPAZ, showed scenes such as homeless people digging through garbage cans, contaminated rivers and ocean, and children playing in puddles of water polluted with sewage.

Source: Amarilis Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Six activists gathered at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center to watch and discuss a video of the workshop, "Ten Steps to Effect the Rehabilitation of the Cuban Economy" held by the Center for the Study of a National Option in Miami.

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

Oct. 20, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Despite pressure from the Electoral Commission of his town, Alberto Hernandez Suarez refused to take part in the elections for the Popular Power held on this day. Hernandez is the vice president of the Union of Democratic Youth of Cuba and runs an independent pharmacy from his home that provides medicine at no cost to the population.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Oct. 22, 2002

Matanzas. Three signs with the words "Down with Fidel" were posted on two buildings in the city of Cardenas. Marcial Almazán Diaz was accused of carrying out the act, which Cuban political police considers "enemy propaganda." State Security agents searched his home and found paint and two other signs with the same message. Almazán Diaz was arrested.

Source: Rodolfo Damian, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Villa Clara. In a joint effort with CARITAS, the Cuban Reflection Movement hosted a lunch for the poor, providing 60 lunches to residents of Camajuaní.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Oct. 23, 2002

Havana. Thirty-eight activists gathered in the home of political prisoner Leonardo Bruzón Avila before a march to the Church of Sagrado Corazon, where they would be participating in a mass for his liberation. However, on the way to the church, while activist Virgilio Amarante handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, state security agents tried to break up the demonstration, harassing and pushing the activists. They confiscated the copies of the declaration and fined Amarante for distributing them. They also detained three activists. Determined to continue with the

act, the remaining activists went to the home of Julia Cecilia Delgado, former political prisoner, and held it there. They prayed for the freedom of political prisoners, held a minute of silence for the fallen victims of the Castro regime, and watched a religious video.

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

Isle of Youth. In the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights, 22 opposition activists, members of the Committee and of the Organization of Rural Women Missionaries for the Good of Mercy, took part in a 48-hour fast to demand freedom for Cuban political prisoners, especially for Leonardo Bruzón Avila, who was in a critical state of health after a prolonged hunger strike in prison. During the act, the activists discussed the situation in Cuban jails, lit candles and agreed on writing a document that would be sent to the upcoming Ibero-American Summit.

Source: Luis Cino, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Oct. 24, 2002

Havana. The Leonor Perez Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of Conscience submitted a letter to the State Council, addressed to Fidel Castro, denouncing the precarious health of prisoner of conscience Leonardo Bruzón Avila and asking that he be transferred immediately to a hospital to prevent his death. Bruzón Avila had maintained a hunger strike for 59 days to protest his unjust and illegal incarceration.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Oct. 25, 2002

Havana. The Assembly to Promote Civil Society, consisting of more than 300 civil society organizations all over the island, made public a document and launched a campaign to disseminate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The campaign was scheduled to take place from Nov. 10 to Dec. 10, the anniversary of the signing of the declaration in 1948. The purpose of this campaign, according to the statement by the directors of the assembly, was to inform the general public about their rights and to incorporate them into the debates about the declaration.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alen, CubaNet.

Havana. Human rights activists addressed a letter to the Minister of Justice denouncing the illegal eight-month detainment of 24 members of the opposition. The signatories were Mayelin Cedeño Constantín, Jesus Adolfo Reyes Sanchez, Enri Saumell Peña, Sergio Perez Herrero, Carlos Rios Otero and Orlando Zapata Tamayo.

Source: Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana.

Havana. A meeting was held in support of the 25 Cuban political prisoners being detained without trial or due process. At this event, the activists discuss ways to continue supporting them. Twenty-six activists took part in this meeting, which was held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba; Mijail Barzaga Lugo, Agencia Noticiosa Cubana.

Oct. 26, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. Six activists gathered at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center to watch and discuss a video of the "Evaluative Workshop on the Current Situation in Cuba" held by the Center for the Study of a National Option in Miami.

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

Oct. 27, 2002

Havana. The Syndicalist Christian Central and the Cuban Commission sponsored a conference titled, "The Right to Free Unionization," in Havana. The speaker, Victor Manuel Dominguez, discussed agreements 87 and 98 of the International Workers' Organization and the seven agreements of which Cuba was signatory. Eighteen representatives of different opposition organizations, including the 28th of January Movement, Orthodox Party, Christian Liberation Movement, Democratic Solidarity Project and Conservative Cuban Republican Party took part in the conference and debate.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. CubaNet.

Matanzas. In response to the arrest of Gilberto Caballero, a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy, close to a dozen opposition activists in the municipality of Colón organized a protest of banging on pots and pans in Caballero's home. Activists believe he was arrested to prevent a sports event organized by the opposition. They also used their protest to express their solidarity with prisoner of conscience Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila.

Source: Lisette Hernandez Caraballo, Patria. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Oct. 28, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Ernest Hemingway Independent Library was inaugurated, the first in a rural area of the Isle of Youth, in the town of La Demajagua, approximately 20 kilometers from the capital Nueva Gerona. The library, directed by independent journalist and activist Carlos Serpa Maceira, was opened as part of the Project of Independent Democratic Libraries of Cuba.

Source: Manuel David Orrio, CPI. CubaNet.

Oct. 29, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. The words, "Down with Fidel," were painted in black on a wall on the corner of San Pedro and General Portuondo in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Interestingly, the authorities did not respond as usual, immediately trying to paint over or cover up the sign. Instead, the sign remained for several days.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Matanzas. The Emilia Casanova Rodriguez Independent Library was opened in the city of Cardenas on San Jose 481, between Industria and Obispo streets. Antonio Rojas, a member of the Independent Alternative Option Movement, was named director of the library, and at the inauguration explained that the library had been named after the woman patriot of the 19th century who had

given much of her fortune to the independence of Cuba from Spain.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Matanzas. In Pedro Betancourt, an independent medical clinic was opened to offer free services to the population. The clinic was established at 22nd Street, #1910, between 19 and 21st Streets, and is presided over by medical doctor Maria Victoria Sigler Amaya and nurse Josefa Lopez Peña. It serves approximately 15 patients a day, primarily people suffering from respiratory and circulatory problems, vitamin deficiency and intestinal parasites.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The local delegation of the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba hosted a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for the health of prisoner of conscience Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila. The vigil, which began at 8 pm, was maintained until midnight and took place at the home of the party's delegate in Santa Clara, located at Septima del Este, #22.

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

Oct. 31, 2002

Havana. The night of his liberation from prison, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet made statements to the press where they had gathered to greet him at his mother's house in the neighborhood of Lawton in Havana. He denounced Cuban authorities' treatment of prisoners, saying that it was humiliating and that were treated like animals. Biscet had been incarcerated for three years after displaying a Cuban flag upside down during a press conference to signal the nation's distress under the regime.

Source: AFP, published in Diario Las Americas.

Nov. 2002

Isle of Youth. The Pinero Committee for Human Rights published its monthly newsletter "El Patriota," issue #27 in Nueva Gerona. The typewritten newsletter bore on its cover the message, "Brothers, the communist regime must disappear for Cubans not to be enslaved."

Source: "El Patriota," Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Matanzas. During its third literary discussion of the year, the Abraham Lincoln Independent Library showed the documentary "*Al filo del machete*" ("By the Machete's Blade") to an audience of mostly young people in their 20s and under. The documentary was made by Cubans in exile and focused on the armed fight against Castro in the 1960s. According to independent journalist Rodolfo Damian, the viewers present seemed surprised to hear another perspective on Cuban history.

Source: Rodolfo Damian, Nueva Prensa Cubana. Diario Las Americas.

Villa Clara. The Cuban Reflection Movement hosted its first baseball contest, calling it "Baseball: Our National Pastime." The event, which consisted of questions testing baseball knowledge, was open to the population and was held primarily to strengthen the

Havana. The SOS Cuban Association for Our Children was founded in the capital with the purpose of helping and lending humanitarian aid to mentally and physically challenged children and adolescents. The organization, presided over by opposition activist Maria Elena Rodriguez, was established at Rabí 866, between Santa Irene and San Bernardino, in the neighborhood of Santos Suarez, municipality Diez de Octubre.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

Havana. Political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, such as Carlos Oquendo Rodriguez, Rolando Lorenzo Garcia, and Jose Aguilar Hernandez, confined in different prisons in Havana, carried out a fast to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims.

Source: Diario Las Americas.

Havana. In the home of former prisoner of conscience Rene Gomez Manzano, in the capital, a vigil was held to remember the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat that the Cuban government sunk on July 13, 1994, after the tugboat tried to leave Cuban waters. Members of the Agramonte Current of Cuban Lawyers and the Cuban Orthodox Party participated in the event.



Source: Carlos Serpa, UPECI. Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Havana. In Guanabo, at the Helen Martinez Independent Library (named after one of the infants killed in the tugboat sinking), dozens of children participated in a remembrance activity for the tugboat victims. Similarly, after arresting opposition activist Maria Elena Mir Marrero, who was going to hold a memorial event in her home, the event was nevertheless carried out at the Benjamin Franklin Independent Library in Guanabo.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Valle Grande Prison, Havana. Six political prisoners held a 24-

hour fast to remember the 13 de marzo tugboat sinking and to express mourning for the victims. The prisoners were able to send a clandestine note to the press agency Cuba-Verdad notifying the independent agency of their fast.

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

Havana. At the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library, a fast with the participation of 21 persons was held in remembrance of the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking. This library is located in the home of former political prisoner Julia Cecilia Delgado at 20 de Mayo #531, Apt. B-14, in the district Cerro of Havana.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Isle of Youth. In Nueva Gerona, activists began a signature drive to denounce the fact that Castro's government did not arrest or try anyone for the sinking of the 13 de Marzo tugboat and the resulting death of the 41 Cubans onboard trying to flee the island. The Isle of Youth Cuban Foundation of Human Rights and the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, as well as the Evangelino Cossio Cisneros Independent Library, sponsored this signature drive, which was launched from a home on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.



Isle of Youth. Members of the Democratic Solidarity Party and the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba, as well as the 13th of July Movement and a group of women activists, carried out a ceremony by the seawall in Nueva Gerona to remember the dead of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.

Source: Diario Las Americas.

Villa Clara. More than a hundred members of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters threw flowers into the ocean in different points throughout the city of Caibarien as a way of remembering and praying for the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.

Source: Prospero Gainza Aguero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

Villa Clara. From 8 to 10 p.m., members of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters carried out a vigil and discussion on the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking and the four members of Brother to the Rescue shot down by Cuban fighter planes. During the vigil, the assembled activists called for the freedom of political prisoners.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters

Villa Clara. From 10 to 12 pm, the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters hosted a seminar on nonviolent civic struggle and civil disobedience.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Camagüey. The Project of Independent Libraries in the city of Santa Cruz del Sur held a vigil to remember the 41 Cubans killed in the sinking of the tugboat.

Source: Diario Las Americas.

Las Tunas. In the city of Las Tunas, in the province by the same name, the Democratic Solidarity Party held its elections as well as a remembrance activity for the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking. Representatives from independent labor unions and agricultural associations also took part in the ceremony for the tugboat victims.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Granma. In Bayamo, the Independent Alternative Option Movement carried out a peaceful march from the city's center to the nearby river of the same name. At the river, they cast flowers into the water in remembrance of the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims.

Source: Carlos Serpa, UPECI. Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Holguin. A mass was held at the Santísima Trinidad Catholic Church in Sagua de Tanamo to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat victims. Members of the Moa delegation of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement participated.

Source: Prospero Gainza Agüero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

Holguin. The delegation of Moa, Holguin, of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement deposited flowers in the Bay of Sagua de Tanamo to remember the 41 victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat.

Source: Prospero Gainza Agüero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

Guantanamo. At 6 p.m., 10 members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party attended a mass at the Catholic church on Paseo and Cuartel streets to pray for the victims of the 13

de Marzo tugboat sinking.

Source: Luis Torres Cardoso, Unitary Council of Cuban Workers. Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Guantanamo. Members of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement were able to circumvent State Security and travel to Santiago de Cuba, where, along with their delegation at this city, they were able to carry out a march to the Shrine of El Cobre. They carried out this procession while holding flowers and candles. Some activists wore t-shirts with the photos of political prisoners. The act was meant to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the regime's sinking of the 13 de Marzo tugboat, during which 41 Cubans were killed. The 23 activists prayed for the souls of victims.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and Eduardo Quintana Arbois, both of "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.



Members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights hold up signs with messages such as "Long live democracy" and "The Homeland Belongs to All."

July 15, 2002

Holguin. The Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement participated in a fast calling for the liberation of Arnaldo Nico Roche, provincial coordinator of the National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba. The fast was held in the home of Prospero Gainza Agüero on Street D #28 in La Playa, Moa.

Source: Prospero Gainza Agüero, Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement.

July 16, 2002

Quivicán Prison, Havana. Political prisoner Jose Manuel

Pereira undertook an act of civil resistance inside the prison where he was being held without trial since February. While the prison director was addressing the inmates, Pereira climbed to the roof of one of the barracks and began shouting, "Long live human rights!" and "Freedom for political prisoners!" After this act, prison guards searched his belongings and confiscated some books they deemed "subversive." Pereira is a member of the opposition Civic Martí League.

Source: Jose Antonio Fornaris, Cuba-Verdad.

July 17, 2002

Villa Clara. Residents of the rural outskirts of the city of Santa Clara -- areas known as El Túnel, Pasta Gravi and Tumba la Burra - - refused to pay their dues to the Committees in Defense of the Revolution to demand that they be provided with their quotas of eggs and canned fish. The residents had been receiving these supplies sporadically until they were cancelled.

Source: "El Camagüeyano," El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement published the July issue of its newsletter "Los Pinos Nuevos" (or "The New Pine Trees," a phrase taken from a poem of Jose Martí referring to the new generations in favor of democracy.) The newsletter, which circulated in the cities of Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba for several months, was meant to provide a space for opposition activists and independent journalists to make a realistic portrayal of Cuban reality. The newsletter included a long list of human rights violations, including violations committed in the prisons and reported by political prisoners to the organization.

Source: Juan Carlos Herrero Acosta, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement and "Los Pinos Nuevos."

July 1, 2002

Isle of Youth. The Ernesto Diaz Madruga Independent Library was inaugurated in the city of Nueva Gerona at a home on 37th Street, #810, between 8th and 10th streets. The independent library was named after the first victim in the Isle of Youth to forced labor imposed on political prisoners. The library will specialize in human rights issues and the history of political prisoners during Castro's rule. The director, Lazaro Reynol Mendez Tur, is also the vice president of the Board of Assistance to Political Prisoners and their Families.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Camagüey. Jorge de Armas, a 60-year-old farmer, refused to sign the government petition to alter the Cuban Constitution. As a result, officials of the Candido Gonzalez Morales Cooperative of Agricultural Production restricted the supply of milk, vegetables and any other supplies that are sold to the farmers who participate in the cooperative. The Candido Gonzalez Morales Cooperative of Agricultural Production is located on the 18th Kilometer of the highway between the sugar factory known as *Batalla de las Guásimas* and the town of Vertientes.

Source: Normando Hernandez, CPIC. CubaNet.

July 2, 2002

Isle of Youth. Eighteen opposition activists began a 24-hour fast as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. They ended the fast the next day at the weekly vigil for this campaign in Nueva Gerona.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Isle of Youth. On this day, it was reported that a new organization was founded in the city of Nueva Gerona. The Board of Assistance for Political Prisoners and their Families was opened on 45th Street,

#3211, between streets 32 and 34. The organization's objective is to help political prisoners and their relatives with donations of medicine and food, inform the public about the government's violations of human rights, and help relatives with lodging when they arrive from out of town to visit prisoners.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

July 3, 2002

Isle of Youth. After concluding their fast, 18 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights met at this organization's headquarters, which is also the home of Huber Rodriguez Tudela. There, on Street 4B, between 37th and 39th Street, the activists began a vigil at 8 pm. for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. They lit a candle and talked about the situation of political prisoners in Cuban jails. Despite State Security vigilance, they concluded the act at 10 p.m. when they went out into the street and distributed 30 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

July 5, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts held a children's drawing contest that drew 43 children, with an average age of 10. The contest was open-ended and the children were free to choose the subject of their liking.

Source: René Oñate, Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts.



Miguel Sigler Amaya of the Independent Alternative Option Movement

Havana. In the municipality of Cabañas, province of Havana, and other cities throughout the country,

members of the Martí Current began collecting toys and clothes for distribution on January 6th, Three Kings' Day. The drive, known as the Three Kings Project of the Millennium, has been carried out during previous years. It must begin months ahead of time because of the project's restricted ability to receive large donations from abroad.

Source: Moisés Rodriguez Valdes, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. In Nueva Gerona and other cities in the Isle of Youth, signs stating, "Long live the Constitution of 1940," were posted anonymously in the streets.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

July 6, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Prominent opposition activist and economist Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello gave a presentation titled "Three Economies Without System" during the annual meeting of the Independent Economists of the Diocese of Pinar del Rio, which

drew 50 participants. The lecture, which was held at the home of several Catholic sisters, prompted a lengthy debate on the country's current economic situation. Roque Cabello highlighted the fact that the country's situation was changing with the emerging civil society of more than 400 independent organizations.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

July 9, 2002

Combinado de Pinar del Rio, Pinar del Rio. In this prison, in the municipality of Sandino, signs calling for an end to Castro's regime appeared in the cells, hallways, bathrooms and cafeteria.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Ceramica Roja Prison, Camagüey. Prisoners carried out a 24-hour protest that included signs that were hung throughout the prison with messages such as "Down with Fidel," "Down with communism," and "Long live human rights!" Almost all of the prisoners took part in the protest, in which they demanded better food and medical assistance for the inmates.

Source: Yoel Blanco Garcia, CPIC. CubaNet.

July 10, 2002

Isle of Youth. Having begun a 24-hour fast the day before, 15 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights met at the committee's headquarters and took part in the weekly vigil of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. As they ended the act, the activists went out into the street, which is Street 4B of Nueva Gerona, and handed out 42 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Villa Clara. The Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters held a vigil to remember the 13 de Marzo tugboat sinking, the four downed pilots of Brothers to the Rescue, and all the Cuban rafters who had disappeared at sea. Forty-five members of the organization participated in this vigil, as well as a representative of the Mario Manuel de la Peña Human Rights Movement.

Source: Margarito Broche, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Granma. On this day it was reported that several days before, in the city of Bayamo, a coalition of dissident groups, *Concilio Bayamo*, was created to encourage citizen participation in building a free and democratic Cuba. The coalition drew up a program of activities that included the political and ideological training of activists. The

Association of Independent Teachers of Cuba and Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba hosted the meeting where the coalition, which consists of nine independent opposition organizations, was founded.

Source: Ernesto Roque, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

July 11, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Members of the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sahkarov Foundation took part in a cleaning project and cleared 800 meters of weeds and shrubbery blocking access to the cemetery of Manuel Lazo, a town in the municipality of Sandino, province of Pinar del Rio. The shrubbery had been growing for months on the road that stretches from Real Street to the cemetery, but the government had refused to take action, claiming that it did not have the resources to clean it. The opposition organization carried out the cleaning project to show its commitment to the town.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.



Dr. Oscar Biscet (center) with fellow activists in Havana.

Isle of Youth. Huber Rodriguez Tudela wrote and published a special edition of "El Patriota" as a way of paying tribute to Cuban historical figure Jose de la Luz y Caballero on his birthday as well as commemorating the newsletter's second anniversary. Thirty copies of the newsletter were distributed to the population.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

July 12, 2002

Holguin. A group of about 85 fishermen gathered outside of the local offices of the Popular Power for a demonstration organized by the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuba Rafters. The workers called for their right to fish and to have the regime's fines on them removed.

Source: Margarito Broche, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Guantanamo. On this day, 21-year-old Yacer Ravelo Diaz was fired from his job at the National Office of Statistics, where he was Chief of Organization and Cartography, after he refused to sign the government-promoted petition to have the Constitution amended.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

July 13, 2002

Cuban Reflection Movement's ties to society. Twenty-two baseball aficionados took part in the contest, hailing from several different cities of the Cuba's central region. One of the most important questions of the contest was, "What does baseball mean to Cuban society?" The first prize went to Blas Sequeda, the second prize to Jorge Luis de Paz Rodriguez and the third prize went to Cristo Tomás Rodriguez. An essay by baseball expert Orlando China was read as part of the event.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Camagüey. "El Camagüeyano" was once again published, providing the people with an alternative source of information. This ninth issue of the newsletter, published by El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency, highlighted the case of political prisoner Leonardo Bruzon Avila, who was in a delicate state of health after a 59-day hunger strike. It also featured an article by Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas in response to Castro's statements during an interview with Barbara Walters and a summary by agency director Ramon Armas Guerrero of arguments in response to the question, "What is Democracy?"

Source: "El Camagüeyano," El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

Guantanamo. The Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement published its November issue of "Los Pinos Nuevos," including primarily information about human rights violations and reports from political prisoners about the actions of prison officials against both common and political inmates.

Source: "Los Pinos Nuevos," Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Nov. 1, 2002

Havana. A religious service for Cubans drowned in the Florida straits while trying to leave the country, executed by the regime, or imprisoned for political reasons was held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in the municipality of El Cerro, on 20th of May Street, #531, Apt. B14, between the streets of Marta Abreu and Linea. Despite State Security's attempts to block activists from attending, 26 people participated in the service, which was presided over by the ministers Ricardo Medina and Ernesto Paez of the Orthodox Christian Missionaries. Also at the service, prayers were held for the 26 Cuban political prisoners being held without trial since February.

Source: Hector Maseda, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet. Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Havana. During the religious ceremony held at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in the municipality of El Cerro, State Security tried to enter the homes of neighbors so that they could film and hear what was taking place in the library. However, the neighbors refused, in solidarity with the dissidents.

Source: Hector Maseda, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Las Tunas. At the Panchito Gomez Toro Polytechnical School, the student Loandris Labrada Perez refused to participate in the elections of the "pioneers" (term given to elementary school students)

and in the political act held that day. As a result, his mother was visited later in the afternoon and fined. Loandris does not participate in religious activities because of his religion. He is a Seventh Day Adventist.

Source: Guillermo Ramos Navarro, Libertad. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Camagüey. A three-day fast and vigil was held at the 13 de Marzo Tugboat Independent Library in the city of Camagüey to remember and show solidarity with Cuban political prisoners, particularly Leonardo Bruzon Avila and Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva. The act began at 6 a.m. on Nov. 1st and was held until the early morning hours of Nov. 4th.

Source: Alfredo Pulido Lopez, "El Camagüeyano," El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

Nov. 4, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Members of the opposition in this western region of the country sent an open letter to dictator Fidel Castro requesting a general amnesty for all Cuban political prisoners. The letter especially called for prompt amnesty to be granted to Leonardo Bruzon Avila, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva and Emilio Leiva Perez, three prisoners who had resorted to hunger strikes to claim their liberation and were suffering health problems. The directors of the newsletter "El Pinareño," the 20th of May Foundation of Human Rights, NATURPAZ, and the San Isidro Independent Library - organizations based in the city of Sandino - signed the letter.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Nov. 5, 2002

Isle of Youth. Members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and the Latin American Federation of Rural Women began a fast as a gesture of solidarity with prisoners of conscience Leonardo Bruzon Avila and Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, who were also fasting in jail to protest their illegal incarceration. The activists maintained the fast for 48 hours, ending it on Nov. 7 at 6 p.m.

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

Nov. 6, 2002

Havana. The *Todos Unidos* Coalition ("All United") hosted a press conference where it made public a message to the heads of state that would be meeting in the upcoming days at the Ibero-American Summit in the Dominican Republic. At the conference, Oswaldo Payá, reading a statement from the coalition signed by more than 160 organizations, denounced the Cuban regime's continued violation of human rights and asked



Gisela Delgado Sablon is director on the island of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

the other governments not to remain silent and to support the Varela Project. Independent and international press attended the event.

Source: Agence France Presse, published in El Nuevo Herald. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Havana. Recently liberated Oscar Elias Biscet spoke at a press conference about the Cuban government's torture of prisoners and called on international human rights organizations to intervene and supervise Cuban prisons. Biscet related accounts of human rights abuses and showed, while holding up a plate, the poor amount of food the prisoners were given compared with what they should be given. International and independent members of the press attended the conference, although no representatives of the official Cuban were seen.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet. Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. At 8 p.m., 22 members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women met in Nueva Gerona for a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. They remembered Leonardo Bruzon Avila and they talked about the widespread scarcity of food and basic necessities on the island. The vigil ended at 10 p.m.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Guamajal Prison, Villa Clara. Inmate Carlos Mujica Cabello painted the messages, "Freedom for the people of Cuba" and "Long live the Cuban-American Foundation" in the windowless cell where he was confined. Prison guards gave him paint to erase the words, but he refused to do so. Mujica was suffering from an infected wound that he received while in jail.

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

Nov. 9, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. From 2 pm to 7 pm, 21 activists met at the Altamira Community Civic Center and paid tribute to Rolando Carmenate Diaz, co-founder of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute who passed away in 1998 at the age of 34. They also participated in the *Primer Encuentro de Activistas de Derechos Humanos* ("First Meeting of Human Rights Activists"). Twenty-eight activists attended this event.

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

Nov. 11, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Residents of Kilometer 7 ½ on the highway to the town of Luis Lazo, in Pinar del Rio, prevented authorities from evicting a family with two children from the home they had been occupying for six years. The Municipal Prosecutor and the Institute of Housing were trying to remove Daisy Perez, Daniel Marino and their two children from the house. Uniformed and plainclothes agents arrived on the scene, forced their way into the home and dragged Perez into a bus, where they handcuffed her. They also

began to throw the family's belongings out of the house. Neighbors were indignant and intervened, preventing the eviction from taking place.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Nov. 12, 2002

Havana. A campaign, organized by Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and other human rights activists, was launched nationwide that would seek the signatures and identification numbers of Cuban citizens to petition international organizations such as Amnesty International, the International Red Cross and Human Rights Watch to supervise the workings of Cuban prisons. Diverse opposition organizations across the island cooperated to begin this campaign.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet.

Camagüey. A group of 17 students submitted a letter to the directors of the University of Camagüey asking them, before they took any action against two students who supported the Varela Project, to make the project known to professors and students so that they could decide whether the project was a valid citizen initiative. The next day, the two students, Harold Cepero Escalante and Yoan Columbié Rodriguez, both four-year veterinary students, were expelled from the university. On Sept. 26, Roger Rubio Lima, a second-year student at the Jose Marti Superior Pedagogical Institute, also in Camagüey, had been expelled, as well, for supporting the Varela Project.

Source: Miriam Leiva, CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Ten activists met at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center and saw the documentary, "Voices from the Island of Freedom," produced by the People in Need Foundation and Czech Television.

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

Nov. 13, 2002

Havana. Opposition activist Yosvany Aguilar Camejo began a hunger strike to call attention to and denounce the state of Cuban prisons and the situation of the people. Camejo's strike was also addressed to the heads of state meeting in the next couple of days at the Ibero-American Summit to take place in the Dominican Republic.

Source: Maria Elena Rodriguez, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Havana. Independent journalists Maria Elena Rodriguez Gonzalez and Jesus Garcia Leiva of HavanaPress Agency distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the street Serrano y Encarnación, in the municipality Diez de Octubre. This act was carried out as part of the campaign to raise awareness about the declaration that Martha Beatriz Roque and the Assembly to Promote



Osvaldo Alfonso
(photo: Nueva Prensa Cubana)

Civil Society began on Nov. 10th.

Source: Estrella Garcia, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Havana. Opposition activists of five organizations went public with a vigil for the freedom without forced exile of political prisoners, holding the candlelit demonstration in a park on the corner of Monte and Belascoain, in Havana. After the vigil, the activists handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organizations involved included Republican Alternative Movement, 24th of February Movement, Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party, Association for the Rescue of Human Values and Orthodox Christian Missionaries.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Twenty-two activists, members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and the Latin American Federation of Rural Women, met at the committee's headquarters in Nueva Gerona to join in a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign. During the act, the activists lit two candles and spoke about the current situation in Cuba's jails. They finished the vigil at 11 p.m. with shouts of "freedom without forced exile." They also went out into the street and distributed CubaNet newsletters to neighbors and residents.

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

Santiago de Cuba. The Culture and Democracy Independent Institute participated in the weekly Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign with a vigil demanding the unconditional release of all Cuban political prisoners. Approximately 20 activists took part in this event, which was held in tandem with the Cuban Democratic Directorate's launching of its own Campaign in Solidarity with the Internal Opposition, announced during a conference in Seoul, South Korea.

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

Nov. 14, 2002

Havana. The Union of BiciTaxi Drivers was founded in Havana with 35 members. The union was established with the purpose of providing a means for the owners of bicitaxis -- three-wheeled bicycles used to transport mostly tourists around the city -- of organizing and protesting against government abuses and fines. The inau-

guration of the union took place at the Reinaldo Arenas Independent Library, Florida 168, municipality Habana Vieja, in the capital.

Source: Victor M. Dominguez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Nov. 15, 2003

Isle of Youth. The documentary "*Al Filo del Machete*" ("By the Machete's Blade") was shown as part of a discussion on the history of political prisoners since the revolution that was held at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.



Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, Rene Gomez Manzano and Felix Bonne Carcassés present a list of the organizations that form the Assembly to Promote Civil Society.

Havana. The Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party announced the creation of the *Proyecto Una Mano Amiga* ("Helping Hand Project") in the neighborhood of Dolores, municipality San Miguel del Padron, in the capital. The project aims to collect money, clothes, food, etc. for political prisoners by Nov. 30th and the celebrations to be held that day for the anniversary of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Source: Estrella Garcia, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Havana. The Independent National Labor Confederation of Cuba (or CONIC, its acronym in Spanish) sent a letter to the government's organizing committee of the Second Meeting of the Fight Against NAFTA to take place from Nov. 25 to Nov. 28 in Cuba. The letter reminded the committee that more than five months earlier it had submitted a

request to be included in the event and the discussions.

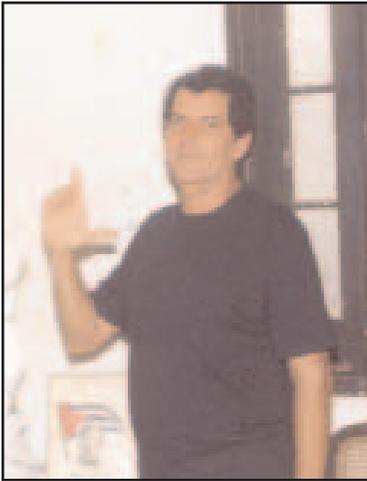
Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Cienfuegos. Political prisoner and independent journalist Bernardo Arevalo Padron underwent a 24-hour hunger strike on this day, which marked the fifth anniversary since his imprisonment, to protest his unjust incarceration.

Source: Marvin Hernandez Monzon, CubaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 16, 2002

Havana. In Güines, Province of Havana, the Domingo Ramos Independent Gallery opened an exhibit consisting of 13 works of



Oswaldo Payá makes the "L" sign for "liberation."

new gallery director Jose Luis Medina Hernandez, who described his works as surrealist and postmodern. Medina Hernandez used to work in the Department of Propaganda but was fired for receiving visits of "disaffected" individuals in his home.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Opposition activists Jose Alberto Castro and Agustin Cervantes Garcia, both members of the Christian

Liberation Movement, hung signs on the front doors of their homes with messages such as "Down with the dictatorship" and "Long live human rights." The two live in the area of Lumumba, municipality of Contramaestre in Santiago de Cuba. They were arrested because of this protest.

Source: Estrella Garcia, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 19, 2002

Havana. With the aim of supporting Venezuelans' defense of their democracy, members of the Lux InfoPress News Agency and the Institute of Social, Laboral and Economic Investigations, as well as other independent activists, met at the William Le Santé Independent Library in Havana,

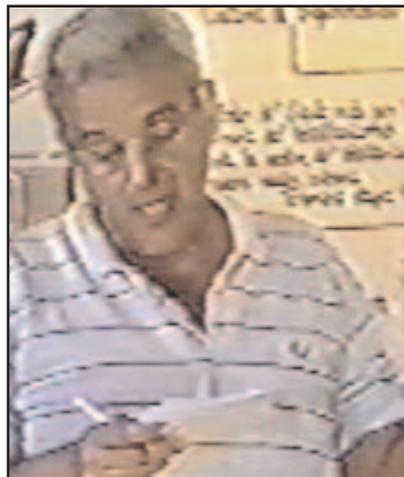
Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. Fourteen people participated in a viewing of the workshop, "Making a Nation," and Workshop #2 of the Center for the Study of a National Option. This event was held at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center.

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

Nov. 20, 2002

Isle of Youth. Approximately 20 activists participated in a five-hour vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners. The vigil, which took place at the headquarters of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights in Nueva Gerona, included a candlelit ceremony and a conference, given by president of the committee Hubert Rodriguez



Joaquin Cabezas de Leon

Tudela, on the life of 19th century Cuban priest Felix Varela. Toward the end of the event, activists handed out 60 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to neighbors and residents.

Source: Luis Cino, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 21, 2002

Provincial Prison of Guantanamo, Guantanamo. Thirty-eight-year-old political prisoner Jorge Luis Larrazabal Zulueta began a fast to protest the mistreatment to which he was being subject at the hands of prison authorities. The incident that triggered his decision occurred when Mayor Pablo Reyes Cobos, director of the jail's internal affairs, ordered that he be locked up. Larrazabal was sentenced to three years for supposed acts of "contempt of authority" and "enemy propaganda."

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet. Luis Cino, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 22, 2002

Havana. A children's movie was shown to nine children from the neighborhood at the Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda Independent Library in El Cerro, Havana. There was also a discussion about national symbols and their original meanings in an effort to counteract the regime's manipulation of these symbols.

Source: Julia Cecilia Delgado, Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba.

Villa Clara. In a joint effort with CARITAS, the Cuban Reflection Movement offered a lunch for the poor, providing 60 lunches to residents of Camajuaní.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Santiago de Cuba. Organizations and members of the civic opposition took part in a workshop titled, "Language of the Civic Cuban Opposition: Towards a Common Vocabulary," at the headquarters of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute, at Bacardí #5, between Crombet and Hatuey streets, San Pedrito, Santiago de Cuba.

Source: "Fueros," Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.

Nov. 23, 2002

Pinar del Rio. Dozens of priests and lay Catholics met for the Sixth Assembly of the Penitentiary Pastoral of the Diocese of Pinar del Rio. They made a call to the Cuban government to allow the church to offer religious assistance to the prison population of the province. Current conditions of the regime limit the ability of priests to help the prisoners directly, forcing them to go through family members to give them food and humanitarian help.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Pinar del Rio. The second children's course of visual arts began at the Ambrosio Oñate Independent Library. At the time of its opening, 12 children ranging from the ages of nine to 14 were enrolled in the course. The library has as an affiliate the Espacio Interior Workshop-Gallery. Rene Sixto Oñate is the director of this arts cen-

ter.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.

Havana. Various opposition groups gathered at the Church of Los Pasionistas, in Diez de Octubre, Havana, to attend a mass held in the memory of Jorge Mas Canosa, late president of the Cuban-American National Foundation. Some of the activists were detained.

Source: Estrella Garcia, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 24, 2002

Havana. Opposition activists requested a mass at the Church of Los Pasionistas, in Diez de Octubre, Havana, for the immediate and unconditional release of all Cuban political prisoners.

Source: Estrella Garcia, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Nov. 25, 2002

Havana. The Assembly to Promote Civil Society presented a document to the press in which they condemned the repression against three students in the province of Camagüey who were expelled from the university for supporting and signing the Varela Project. The assembly censured this act, which deprived Cuban citizens of their right to hold their own beliefs and express them freely. Eleven members of the assembly's Public Relations Commission signed the statement.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. The Culture and Democracy Independent Institute reported on this day that in the month of November, a new organization known as the Cuban Republican Fraternal Party was founded.

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

Santiago de Cuba. A workshop titled, "Language of the Opposition," was held at the Los Maceo Civic Community Center in Santiago de Cuba. Five organizations, such as the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, People's Party, Freedom, Justice and Peace Center of Human Rights, Association of Independent Teachers and the Orthodox People's Party participated in this workshop. It was also covered by the independent press agency APLO (or Free Oriental Press Agency).

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

Nov. 26, 2002

Havana. Ten activists carried out a demonstration in front of the Jose Martí monument in Havana's Central Park. The activists spoke about human rights and distributed copies of the Varela Project. All ten were detained and taken to a police station for questioning.

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

Havana. Independent journalist and writer Victor Dominguez read from his new novel *Operación Caldosa* ("Operation Stew") and poet Eler Gerardo read from her book of poetry during a literary event held at the Cuba Commission's Elena Diaz Verson Independent Library. Dominguez read the first chapter of his book, depicting present-day Cuba with humor and satire. Gerardo read several poems from her published work *Peregrino de los Dias* (Pilgrim of the Days). Also featured at the reading was a photographic exhibit about the environment and the unsanitary living conditions in Havana. About 20 people attended the event.

Source: Jorge Olivera, HavanaPress. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Guantanamo. The Alexandria Independent Library (*Biblioteca Independiente Alejandria*) was inaugurated in the city of Guantanamo, named after the ancient city. Part of the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba, the library was opened on Aguilera Street, #555-A, between Luz Caballero and Carlos Manuel streets. Jose Alvarez Frómata was named director.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Nov. 27, 2002

Havana. In the municipality of Guanabo, a new independent labor organization was founded. The Free Union of Cuban Workers was established with 26 members. The organization, presided over by former elementary schoolteacher Maria Elena Mir Marrero, opened to anyone wishing to join and asserted as its mission rescuing human values, promoting awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and advancing radical changes in the country. The organization hopes to represent the interests of the more than 100,000 residents of the area.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Nov. 28, 2002

Havana. Members of the Humanitarian Association of Followers of Christ the Lord began distributing flyers in different areas of the capital. Because State Security forbid the organization to meet for its anniversary celebration, members decided they would respond with a campaign to shower the city with flyers reading, "Long live Christ the Lord," "Respect the right of our children," and other such slogans. The flyers were disseminated in the municipalities of Centro Habana, San Miguel del Padrón, and Diez de Octubre.

Source: Amarilis Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Cienfuegos. On this day, it was reported that signs were posted anonymously calling for freedom and a change of government in the municipality of Cruces.

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

Nov. 29, 2002

Guantanamo. Opposition activists met at the José Martí Central Park in the city of Guantanamo to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Cuban Independence leader Jose Martí. Activists were able to deposit flowers at the bust of Martí, despite intensive harassment by State Security. In the group was five-year-



old Alexander Camajuaní Lopez, who said, as he placed the flowers on the bust, "Martí, I am offering you these flowers so that you can help me to become a free little boy - me and all the children of Cuba."

Source: Ramona Sanchez Ramirez of the Brothers to the Rescue Christian Democratic Party, as

reported by the Puente Informativo Cuba-Miami.

Nov. 30, 2002

Combinado del Este, Havana. A group of eight political prisoners carried out a day-long fast on this historical date to support other political prisoners and to denounce the authorities' cruel treatment of them. The eight activists, who included well-known inmates Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (a.k.a. "Antunez") and Rafael Ibarra Roque, also gave shouts in favor of human rights. Days before, they had written a declaration, which they managed to smuggle out of the prison, explaining the cases of several prisoners that were being denied medical assistance and were being harassed.

Source: Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, CubaNet. Bertha Antunez.

Havana. The Green Cuba Independent Library specializing in ecology was inaugurated in the area of Barreras, municipality Guanabacoa, in Havana. Hiran Garcia Casola was named director of the library, which he said would use the method of peaceful civic resistance to seek free spaces and to seek exchanges with the Cuban exile community that would help build a society parallel to Castro regime's intransigence. Garcia Casola also affirmed that the library would denounce any destructive action taken against the Cuban environment. The library bore on one of its walls an enormous Cuban flag and a sign quoting Jose Martí.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Havana. The Citizen's Committee Promoting the Varela Project made public a press release denouncing the regime's response to the Varela Project. In the press release, the committee stated that the government had been both repressive and deliberately unfair in its rendering of a decision on the project. They used tactics of intimidation, following Varela Project spokesman Oswaldo Payá for days, then trying to pressure each of the members of the committee to accept an envelope, claiming it was from the National Assembly. When the members refused, fearing that the document was not authentic, State Security insisted on returning and leaving it or having relatives sign for it. In the envelopes, the committee members found a document that appeared to be a recommendation from the Commission of Constitutional Matters to Ricardo Alarcon on whether to accept the Varela Project. The document distorted the purpose and true nature of the Varela Project. As a result, in its press release, the Citizen's Committee demanded that the Commission and Alarcon publish the Varela Project so that Cuban citizens could form their own opinions about it.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Twelve members of the Pinero Committee for

Human Rights and five members of the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women assembled at the committee's headquarters to begin a 24-hour hunger strike to call on Cubans to pursue a national reconciliation and on the Cuban government to release all political prisoners. This act was held as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Villa Clara. The Cuban Reflection Movement kicked off the first module of its Leadership Formation Course. At the movement's headquarters in the home of Manuel Sarduy Segueredo in Camajuaní, five people from the organization's study group participated in this first class. Two essays, one titled "The State" by exiled sociologist Ricardo Puerta and another titled "Democracy as a Universal Value" by thinker Amartya Sen were the central focus of the class.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Holguin. In the municipality of Moa, the population began a spontaneous protest after waiting through the night for the state-run food store to open. When store employees said upon opening at 7 am that there would be no sales because of a lack of several products, the people began to voice their annoyance. As a result, the local government had to hurry to fill the shelves. The store opened the next day, a Sunday, to sell.

Source: Juan Carlos Garcell, APLO. CubaNet.

Dec. 2002

Camagüey. The 10th issue of "El Camagüeyano" was distributed in the city of Camagüey. The newsletter included accounts of the expulsion of three students from the University of Camagüey for having supported the Varela Project and, in the case of two of the three students, for having signed it. The newsletter reproduced the letters of these students to university officials, asking them to consider their rights before expelling them. It also included a reproduction in full of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: "El Camagüeyano," El Mayor Camagüey Free Press Agency.

Santiago de Cuba. The Culture and Democracy Independent Institute published an article as an informative supplement to its newsletter "Fueros." A short account of a run-in with State Security, the article was written by "Fueros" Editor Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo.

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

Havana. The Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists, an independent association of non-governmental journalists in Cuba and a member organization of Reporters Without Borders, founded the magazine "De Cuba." The first issue of this bimonthly publication included feature articles, poems, illustrations, and photos. One of the largest of its kind to be published so far, "De Cuba" is

an unprecedented accomplishment for independent journalists in Cuba and demonstrates how the movement is gaining in professionalism, reach and sophistication.

Source: Raul Rivero, independent journalist.

Dec. 3, 2002

Santiago de Cuba. The National Alliance of Independent Farmers (or ANAIC, its acronym in Spanish) made public a press release supporting the reorganization of the independent cooperative movement in Cuba. The alliance stated that since its establishment, the cooperative movement in Cuba had managed some gains but had not fully developed a plan in keeping with the economic and social strategies of cooperatives at an international level. As a result, the alliance announced its commitment to modify the statutes of its member cooperatives and begin a new fiscal year under reorganization on Jan. 1, 2003.

Source: Antonio Alonso, president of the National Alliance of Independent Farmers. CubaNet.

Dec. 4, 2002

Havana. The Fraternal Brothers for Dignity Movement and the 6th of January Movement collaborated to make possible a peaceful march from the Church of Santa Barbara to the Chapel of San Eduardo in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana. State Security tried to impede the demonstration and detained about 10 activists, but the act was still carried out.

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



Members of the opposition exchange ideas during the First Meeting of Human Rights Activists in Santiago de Cuba.

Dec. 4-7, 2002

Pinar del Rio. The Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts hosted a series of conferences on human rights and the repercussions of the violations of these rights in the world of the arts. The conferences took as a departure point two essays written by Castro in the 1960s and 1970s as well as "Contemporary Artists Outside of Cuba: Five Generations," an article by exiled intellectuals Fuentes Perez, Cruz Taura and Pau Llosa.

Source: Rene Oñate, Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts.

Dec. 5, 2002

Havana. The Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba (or USTIC, its acronym in Spanish) made public a press release in Havana denouncing the government's closing of 72 sugar refineries and its subsequent downplaying of the consequences in the state-run press. The regime alleged that only 200,000 workers were affected rather than the 500,000 independent analysts estimated. The regime also claimed that the closings would not have undue ramifications for workers because of the measures it had taken.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.



Granma. In the town of Buey Arriba, the Rafael Espinosa Mendoza Association of Independent Farmers was created with the purpose of providing a way for local farmers to help each other with the surplus of their production. The association, consisting of 55 farmers upon its founding, was not made into a cooperative because of the wide physical distances among the members. Former political prisoner Cesar Sanchez was named the local delegate and director. The association was named after a guerrilla rebel who had fought against Batista as part of Castro's army but later also fought against Castro until he was executed in 1964.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Dec. 7, 2002

Sancti Spiritus. The Comandante Cesar Baez Independent Library was opened in the town of Las Tozas despite the political police's repression and interception of more than 50 people who were going to attend the event. Approximately 20 people attended the inauguration, which included a religious blessing and a lunch. The library was opened in the home of its director, Ana Perdigon. It was named after a rebel who fought against Castro's army in the region of the Escambray Mountains.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Dec. 9, 2002

Valle Grande Prison, Havana. Five political prisoners confined in the Valle Grande Prison carried out a fast for four days to commemorate the International Day of Human Rights and the 54th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These prisoners, along with independent journalist Carlos Dominguez, were arrested in February 2002 after participating in a mass. None has been brought to trial. The prisoners were Lazaro Miguel Rodriguez Capote, Rafael Corrales Alonso, Ricardo Ramos Pereira, Juan Hernandez Herrera and Fernando Sarrias Fernandez.

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

Isle of Youth. Five activists demanded freedom for four imprisoned independent journalists. On the front porch of a home located on 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53, in Nueva Gerona, the activists hung a Cuban flag and a photo of Jose Martí as well as a

photo of detained independent journalist, Lexter Tellez Castro. They lit a candle and activist Lazaro Ricardo Perez Garcia spoke about how the five were being held arbitrarily. The Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Pines and "Plantados" Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba organized the act. The five activists included, apart from Perez Garcia, Carlos Gonzalez Roja, Yoan Ramos Roja, Alfredo Rodriguez Echemendia and Luis Ernesto Brito. The four journalists included, apart from Tellez Castro, Bernardo Arévalo Padron, Carlos Alberto Dominguez and Carlos Brizuela Yera.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Holguin. In Moa, members of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Varela Project in front of the locale of the Electoral Commission. They were detained, along with independent journalist Juan Carlos Garcés.

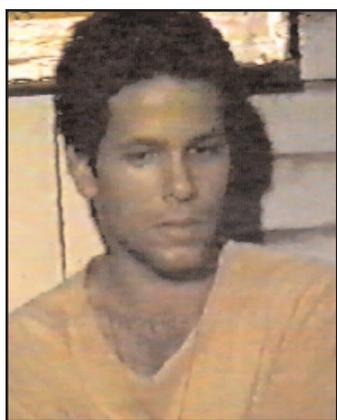
Source: Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists.

Santiago de Cuba. Videos of the workshops hosted by the CEON titled "The State" and "Reform of the State" were shown at the Ciudad #2 o Factoria Civic Community Center.

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

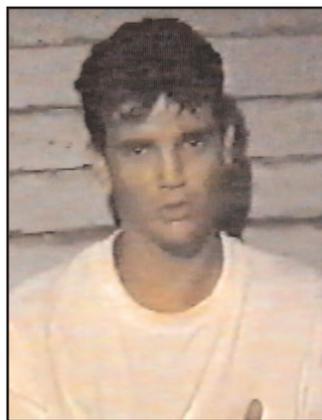
Dec. 10, 2002

Havana. A group of Masons donated baby supplies to the mother of most urgent need who had given birth in the Hijas de Galicia Hospital in Havana. The provisions went to Zoraida Sosa Diaz, who had a baby boy on Dec. 5th. The Teresa Blanco and Santa Irene Circuit of the Masons were responsible for the donation, and they chose Dec. 10th because it marked the anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Cuba's founding.



Harold Cepero Escalante

Havana. In the home of opposition leader Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, located in the neighborhood of Santos Suarez, municipality Diez de Octubre in Havana, more than 50 activists (members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society) attended a commemorative event to celebrate the 54th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Day of Human



Roger Rubio Lima

Rights. At the event, Roque Cabello announced the closing of the campaign that had begun a month earlier to inform the population about human rights. Also, lawyer Rene Gomez Manzano lectured about the Cuban Constitution throughout the country's history.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPIC. CubaNet. The Associated Press, published in The Miami Herald.

Havana. Civil society and opposition organizations paid tribute to the magazine Vitral for playing a vital role in teaching civic and religious values to the Cuban population. Its founder, agricultural engineer Dagoberto Valdes, began the magazine in 1993, and the Catholic Center of Civic and Religious Formation has since been publishing the magazine on a bimonthly basis. The tribute event took place at a private home that serves as the headquarters of opposition organization, the Cuba Commission, in the municipality of Güines. More than 20 members of organizations such as the Pro Human Rights Veterans' Center, the Mayabequino Pro Human Rights Committee, the Sebastian Arcos Bergnes Rural Civic Independent Library, and the Pro Liberty and Democracy Center attended the tribute.

Source: Jose Izquierdo, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Havana. More than 30 members of the Democratic Solidarity Party celebrated this day of human rights and the ninth anniversary of the party's founding. President Fernando Sanchez Lopes related an account of the organization's highlights over the years and affirmed how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was one of the party's fundamental documents.

Source: Omar Rodriguez Saludes, Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Matanzas. Mario Gonzalez Rodriguez yelled out, "Long live human rights," in a park in the town of Perico. Gonzalez Rodriguez is a member of the Peace, Love and Freedom Party.

Source: Angel Pablo Polanco, NotiCuba.

Isle of Youth. Despite eight interruptions by State Security, members of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in the Isle of Youth were able to carry out an act to celebrate the 54th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each time State Security agents appeared at the organization's headquarters - located in a home on 30th Street, #5107, between 51st and 53rd Streets, in Nueva Gerona - they would tear down the activists' signs stating, "Long live human rights" or "Freedom without forced exile for political prisoners." The activists also handed out copies of the Declaration of Human Rights, as well as newsletters published in exile, around the city's bus terminal.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. Thirty-five members of the Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters, Democratic Solidarity Party, Jose Antonio Saco Independent Library and the Jose Martí Commission of Human Rights undertook a vigil and a discussion to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Villa Clara. In Santa Clara, several opposition organizations collaborated in the distribution of approximately 1,400 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Reason, Truth and Freedom Alpha 3 Movement for Human Rights, Maceista Movement for Dignity, Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and the Mario Manuel de la Peña Movement for Human Rights handed out the copies of the declaration at Parque Vidal, the city's central park.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Ciego de Avila. The First Workshop of the Independent Press was held in the city of Ciego de Avila, marking the 54th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commemorating the International Day of Human Rights. In total, 16 people participated in the event, during which journalists from four independent press agencies from the region discussed and debated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also present were members of the Cuban Committee of Human Rights and the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights, as well as volunteers of the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Independent Library.

Source: Jose Manuel Caraballo, APLA. CubaNet.

Camaguey. Sixteen activists from this province, representing various opposition organizations, met in the city of Camaguey. There, they read certain articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and passages from the Bible, and they sang the National Anthem. The Christian Liberation Movement, Christian Democratic Party, Cuban Foundation of Human Rights, Julio Sanguily Movement and 10th of December Movement for Human Rights were among the organizations that participated.

Source: Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, Christian Liberation Movement.

Camaguey. Luis Guerra, reporter of the independent press agency El Mayor, handed out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the area of Casino Campestre, city of Camaguey. He said that most people seemed shocked when he explained that he was distributing the copies because it was the International Day of Human Rights.

Source: Omar Diaz Perez, El Mayor. Nueva Prensa Cubana.

Las Tunas. More than 15 activists of the Popular Liberal Party in the city of Las Tunas met at the home of Armando Parras, president of the organization, to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights along with the first anniversary of the party. Members discussed human rights issues and the situation of political prisoners and agreed to continue supporting the Varela Project. They also distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights throughout the city.

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

Santiago de Cuba. Claro Sanchez Altarriba and Osvaldo Ramos de la Cruz of the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, along with

members of the Orthodox Youth, Pro Democracy Women of Martí, and Eastern Front of the Persecuted, Political Prisoners and Ex-Political Prisoners distributed more than 2,000 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the streets of Santiago de Cuba.

Source: Aydée Rodriguez, Santiago Press. Manuel Marquez Sterling Society of Journalists.

Santiago de Cuba. With 11 activists in attendance, the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute carried out its annual "Colloquium on Democracy and Democratization" at the Altamira Civic Community Center.

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

Santiago de Cuba. Calling it the "Celebration of Liberation," various opposition and civil society organizations in this region of the country hosted a meeting where they discussed Cuba's history signing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and signed a document titled, "Call from Santiago de Cuba: For Rights and Liberties" denouncing the regime's treatment of Cubans as second-class citizens and calling on Cubans to strive for their rights. Twenty members participated from organizations such as the Christian Liberation Movement, Independent Medical Association of Cuba, Jose de la Luz y Caballero Independent Center of Social Studies, Cuban Fraternal Republican Party, Culture and Democracy Independent Institute and Liberty, and Justice and Peace Center of Human Rights.

Source: Culture and Democracy Independent Institute.

Boniato Prison, Santiago de Cuba. From inside the prison known as "Boniato," political prisoners and other opponents to the dictatorial regime began a 24-hour fast at 6 a.m. to protest the inhumane treatment of inmates in the prison, including the beatings they receive at the hands of prison guards and military officers, the poor food, the chronic lack of medical attention and other conditions that violate basic human rights. Eddy Alfredo Mena Gonzalez, a political prisoner and one of the fasters, wrote a document listing their demands and signaling the Cuban regime as the responsible party for these violations.

Source: Eddy Alfredo Mena Gonzalez, Pedro Luis Boitel Political Prisoners Organization and Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Guantanamo. When State Security began arresting opposition activists in front of the Agostino Neto Hospital in the city of Guantanamo as activists tried to hand out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, another 20 activists began to protest, and residents standing by joined in their cries. Despite State Security's orders to go home, the activists continued to pass out the copies of the declaration.



Bernardo Arevalo Padron

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Guantanamo. After the activist Alberto Martinez Fernandez, president of the Club of Prisoners and Ex Political Prisoners, was arrested and taken to the police station, about 30 activists gathered at the organization's headquarters, on Street 5 Oeste, #1151, where they posted a sign reading, "December 10th, Day of Human Rights" and another stating, "The Varela Project goes, for the rights of the people."

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Guantanamo. At the home that served as the headquarters for the Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement, activists posted a sign with large letters painted in red and blue in the front yard stating, "We salute the 10th of December, Day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," accompanied by the message, "Respect for the rights of others is peace." At 10 a.m., they began an event that included the reading of a press release commemorating the date and the distribution of copies of the declaration to those who passed on the street. Approximately 11 activists of several organizations participated in this event, which was maintained until 10 p.m. Even though State Security visited the headquarters and attempted to intimidate the activists, they did not attempt to tear down the sign.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist. Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, Cuban Youth for Democracy Movement.

Guantanamo. Activists of the Guantanamo delegation of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party distributed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the city and then gathered in the home of vice delegate, Jose Alvarez Frómota on Aguilera Street, #555, between Carlos Manuel and Luz Caballero Street. There, they debated the 30 articles of the declaration.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Guantanamo. At the home of independent journalists and labor union activist Luis Torres Cardosa, more than 20 members of the Unitary Council of Cuban Workers met and debated the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That day they also distributed copies of the declaration throughout the city.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Guantanamo. Activists of organizations such as the "Young Cuba" Cuban Popular Party, Brothers to the Rescue, and the Pro-Human Rights Party of Cuba distributed copies of the declaration in different points of the city and concluded their efforts attending the 5 p.m. mass at La Milagrosa Catholic Church. There, they participated in a mass for the liberation of political prisoners. Once the mass ended, members of the National Independent Labor Confederation of Cuba distributed copies to churchgoers as they left.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Guantanamo. More than 30 activists of the Council for the Freedom of Cuba and the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party arrived at the First Unit Police Station in the city of Guantanamo and demanded the release of activist Manuel Uvals

Gonzalez, who had been detained since 2 p.m. At midnight, on 8 Oeste Street, they shouted in favor of human rights and freedom.

Source: Luis Torres Cardosa, independent journalist.

Dec. 11, 2002

Havana. In Güines, three members of the Citizens' Committee Promoting the Varela Project submitted a letter to their representative of the Municipal Assembly of Popular Power, Lidia Maria Rodriguez Cabrera, requesting that the government allow the dissemination of information about the project on the local radio station. The letter also denounced State Security's repression of the citizens who have signed the project and the volunteers who have collected the signatures.

Source: Jose Izquierdo, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. Fifteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and five members of the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women assembled at the committee's headquarters assembled at the headquarters of the committee in Nueva Gerona and from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. held a vigil for the freedom without forced exile of all Cuban political prisoners. They ended the act shouting, "Freedom without forced exile!"

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Dec. 13, 2002

Havana. In the Cerro district of the capital, anti-government signs were hung in several places at night, between Thursday and Friday. The signs bore messages such as "Down with Fidel," "Down with the dictatorship," and "Long live the opposition." They had been made with a stencil, evidently to avoid revealing the author's handwriting. They were seen in Manila Park, Paniagua Street, and on the walls of the Institute of Petroleum on Churrucá Street.

Source: Amarilys Cortina Rey, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Dec. 14, 2002

Havana. The Association of Independent Teachers held the award ceremony for its 20th of May Children's Drawing Contest. The contest, which had as its theme the date of Cuban independence from Spain, judged the drawings of 136 children and adolescents from all over the country. Four participants were recognized at the awards ceremony, which was attended by more than 50 children. Cuban organizations in exile, including the Cuban Democratic Directorate, helped to sponsor the contest. The drawings were exhibited afterwards at the association's headquarters at Campanario #354 in the municipality Centro Habana.

Source: Ernesto Roque, CPI. CubaNet.

Dec. 16, 2002

Isle of Youth. Sixteen members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women assembled at the committee's headquarters in Nueva Gerona and from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. held a vigil for the freedom

without forced exile of all Cuban political prisoners. Despite the interruption of a State Security agent that appeared at the place, the activists finished the vigil as planned.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodriguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Dec. 17, 2002

Havana. "Down with Fidel" and "Long live human rights" were the messages of two signs posted on a wall on the street of San Nicolas, between Vives and Puerta Cerrada streets, in the neighborhood of Jesus Maria, La Habana Vieja. State Security arrived, tore down the signs, took fingerprints, and began questioning residents.

Source: Dorka de Cespedes, HavanaPress. CubaPress.

Dec. 18, 2002

Havana. In San Nicolas de Barí, Province of Havana, residents of the town of El Mamey informed the independent press that they would not be voting in the upcoming elections in January because of the government's failure to respond to their needs. Since August, the bridge connecting the town to the city of Güines had become impassable, and residents had been forced to travel much farther to reach the city. Also, bus service had been discontinued as a result, a considerable inconvenience to the 2,000 town residents.

Source: Jose Izquierdo, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Dec. 19, 2002

Havana. A meeting of various opposition groups and international journalists was held in the home of Vladimiro Roca Antunez, who made public a proposal from the coalition "*Todos Unidos*" proposing 36 initiatives that the government should adopt to revitalize the economy. It also called for the liberation of approximately 250 political prisoners.

Source: Agence France Presse, published in Diario Las Americas.

Santiago de Cuba. Fifteen people met at the Ciudad #2 or Factoria Civic Community Center and watched the documentary "Bringing Down a Dictator."

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

Granma. A new independent library, named after anti-Castro opposition leader, Jesus Yanes Pelletier, was inaugurated on Masó #61, corner of Guadalupe, in the city of Manzanillo. The library's director, Xiomara Moncada Almagro, asserted upon its opening that the library would focus on serving the local residents and represented a tri-bute to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Dec. 20, 2002

Havana. At a meeting of Assembly to Promote Civil Society, the group's Commission of Organization and Coordination decided to welcome certain political prisoners, such as Rafael Ibarra Roque, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ("Antunez"), and Carlos Oquendo

Rodriguez, among others, into the assembly as honorary members. These prisoners had asked to be included in the coalition group.

Source: Maria Elena Alpizar, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. The Culture and Democracy Independent Institute held the awards ceremony for its Arrecife Literary Contest. Thirty-five people attended this event.

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

Dec. 23, 2002

Havana. Approximately 10 activists of different opposition organi-



Members of the Association of Independent Teachers with Isabel del Pino Sotolongo (center), president of the Association Followers of Christ the Lord.

zations participated in a commemoration act to honor the late Cuban political prisoner and activist Sebastian Arcos Bergnes at the independent library named after him in the town of Batey Cruz, in the province of Havana. They held a moment of silence, sang the national anthem, and read a press release on the life of Arcos Bergnes. Members of the Pro Liberty and Democracy Center, the Francisco Riveron Hernandez Independent Library, the Syndicalist Union of Independent Workers of Cuba, the Center of Pro Human Rights Veterans and the Liberal Democratic Party of Cuba.

Source: Jose Izquierdo, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. In Nueva Gerona, the Cuban Orthodox Party made public a press release demanding the liberation of activists Oscar Elias Biscet, Raul Arencibia Fajardo, Virgilio Marante Guelmes, Orlando Zapata Tamayo and Rogelio Menendez Diaz and condemning this repressive act on the regime's behalf.

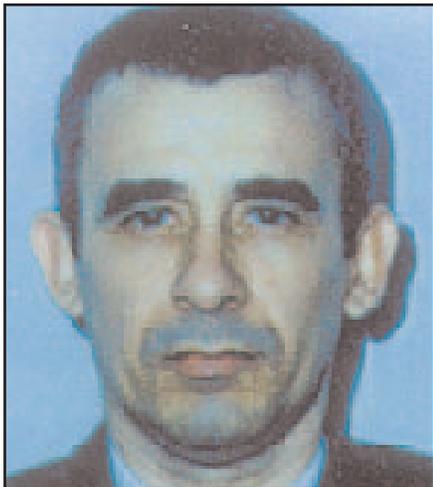
Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Dec. 25, 2002

Isle of Youth. Twelve members of the Pinero Committee for Human Rights and five members of the Latin-American Federation of Rural Women assembled at the committee's headquarters in Nueva Gerona and from 7 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. held a vigil for the freedom without forced exile of all Cuban political prisoners. At the vigil, they discussed the meaning of Christmas. They agreed to write

a letter that would be circulated among the population for signatures and later sent to the State Council demanding the liberation of the activists arrested on Dec. 6th, among them prominent leader Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet.

Source: "El Patriota," Huber Rodríguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.



Rafael Ibarra Roque

Villa Clara. The Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters celebrated its fifth anniversary on this day with a dinner. More than 60 people participated in this event, including members of the Cuban Reflection Movement and Alfa 3.

Source: Margarito Broche Espinosa, Peace, Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters.

Dec. 26, 2002

Matanzas. Members of the Independent Alternative Option Movement held a fast to show their solidarity with prisoner of conscience Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and the three others who were also arrested with him on Dec. 6th while trying to organize a seminar on human rights. These other activists were Raul Arencibia Fajardo, Virgilio Marantes Guelmes, and Orlando Zapata Tamayo. The fast was held at 22 Street #1910, between 19 and 21st Street, in the city of Betancourt. The protesters wore black armbands to show their discontent.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. The activists of the Cuban Foundation of Human Rights in Nueva Gerona, the capital city of the special municipality Isle of Youth, used a hunger strike to demonstrate their solidarity with Oscar Biscet and the three other activists detained with him on Dec. 6th. The fast was held at a home at 30th Street, #5107, between 51 and 53 Streets.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The Ernesto Diaz Madruga Independent Library was unveiled in the city of Sagua la Grande. The library is a new addition to the Project of Independent Libraries of Cuba, and its director Pedro Velazco Almeida thanked the Support Group of Democracy (GAD) in Miami and the Democratic Action Movement in Villa Clara for contributing funds and making the library possible. The library was opened at Calixto Garcia 163, between the streets of Clara Barton and Martí.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Dec. 30, 2002

Villa Clara. Six members of the Cuban Reflection Movement's Study Group took part in another class of the organization's Leadership Formation Course. This was the second class of the course's first module, and it was held at the organization's headquarters in the home of member Manuel Sarduy Sequeredo in the city of Camajuani.

Source: Joaquin Cabezas de Leon, Cuban Reflection Movement.

Jan. 2003

Havana. Residents of Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, in the poor neighborhood of *El Hueco*, district of Párraga, began to comment that they would not be voting in the government elections on Jan. 19 if first they did not receive kerosene. The residents had not received the kerosene to which they had a right through their rationing booklet. The government ceded to their demands, supplying the kerosene to the local store known as "Los Chinos."

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Havana. The Cuban Liberal Youth was founded in Havana with delegations in Santa Clara and Pinar del Rio. The objective of the organization, according to its president Mailén Namer, is to raise awareness and provide a space for debate about liberal values. Also, the organization, which is for young people from the ages 16-30 living in or out of Cuba, hopes to prepare its members to be political actors and efficient public workers.

Source: Ana Leonor Diaz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Isle of Youth. The December issue of "El Patriota," a newsletter published by the Pinero Committee for Human Rights, was published and distributed in Nueva Gerona. One hundred copies of the typewritten, 13-page publication were printed and handed out, with messages on its pages to readers to be passed on to others. The cover showed a cartoon of Castro sitting on a cart being pulled by a yoked animal representing "the people." The newsletter compiled news of opposition activities as well as human rights violations in the Isle of Youth.

Source: Huber Rodríguez Tudela, Pinero Committee for Human Rights.

Jan. 3, 2003

Havana. The Assembly to Promote Civil Society held a press conference to release a public statement in which it asked all opposition activists on the island to observe the electoral process to take place on Jan. 19th for the positions of the National Assembly of Popular Power. During the press conference, which took place in the home of opposition activist Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello in Havana, the directors of the Assembly said the country's Electoral Law allowed the population to be present at the polls and observe the voting process.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Jan. 5, 2003

Province of Havana. The Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz Independent Library held a children's party to celebrate Three Kings' Day. In the town of Campo Florido, municipality Habana del Este, 15 adults

and 24 children participated in the event. The children were given toys and school supplies, played games, danced and ate cake and sweets. The party was meant to help revive the tradition of celebrating Three Kings' Day, which before the revolution was the date on which children received their gifts during the Christmas season.

Source: Reinaldo Cosano Alén, CubaNet.

Jan. 6, 2003

Havana. At its headquarters in Havana, the Jesus Yanez Pelletier Foundation celebrated Three Kings' Day with a children's party. More than 40 children received gifts from the foundation, which is named after the late Cuban human rights activist.

Source: CPI, CubaNet.

Havana. Also at its headquarters in Havana, the Association of Independent Teachers held a Three Kings' Day celebration for the local children and distributed toys.

Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

Jan. 9, 2003

Santiago de Cuba. In Palma Soriano, the couple Elvia Cedeño and Jose Miguel Peralta refused to join the government labor union because they believed it did not represent the interests of its members. Cedeño, who works in the South Policlinic's Department of Statistics, and Peralta, who is a baker at the 27th of November Supermarket in the Nito Ortega district, were taken to the National Revolutionary Police headquarters for questioning and were threatened with losing their jobs if they did not join the government organization.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Jan. 10, 2003

Guantanamo. Julia Leyva Betancourt, 40, Secretary of the labor union at the Sol Ensartado tobacco factory, resigned because of her discontent with management's failure to respond to the needs of the workers. Sol Ensartado, located on the Jamaica Highway to Guantanamo, belongs to the Provincial Company of Tobacco. Leyva Betancourt made inquiries about the fact that the workers had not been paid in dollars since June, but was met with promises that were never fulfilled.

Source: Marilyn Diaz Fernandez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Jan. 13, 2003

Santiago de Cuba. The Medical Association of Santiago de Cuba began a peaceful civic protest to demand that the government respect Cubans' human and constitutional rights. Dr. Luis Milián Fernandez, one of the protesters, submitted an Open Declaration

announcing the protest to Lina de Feria, the director of the Carlos J. Finlay Policlinic where he worked. He also told Feria that he would be wearing a black armband to express his mourning and discontent for his violated rights. In addition, Milián displayed a black ribbon on his apartment's front door in Building 20 of the Antonio Maceo Urban Center. The doctors' protest was held until Jan. 19 and included the participation of 11 doctors in total.

Source: Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, ICD Press, reported to Directorio Democrático Cubano and CubaNet.

Jan. 14, 2003

Pinar del Rio. A series of conferences was begun in the city of Pinar del Rio focusing on the life and work of Cuban thinker Jose Martí and aiming to rescue his work from the Castro government's Marxist interpretation. The first conference titled, "Martí: A Man of Peace," took place at the Reyes Magos Independent Library. Law expert Leonardo Costales Pita lectured to an audience of twenty activists and residents who participated in the conference. The series, sponsored by the Unitary Council of Cuban Workers, included conferences on Jan. 14, 21, and 28 and Feb. 1st.

Source: Victor Rolando Arroyo, UPECI. CubaNet.



Raul Rivero

Jan. 15, 2003

Havana. The Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy submitted an open letter to the Conference of Bishops of Cuba asking the Catholic Church to take on a bigger role helping the Cuban people. The letter denounced the Cuban government's disregard for the Pope's call to "open all its possibilities to the world" and also denounced the Catholic Church's remaining on the outside of the human rights violations of the people. Felix Navarro, president of the party, and six other members of the Board of Directors signed the letter.

Source: Claudia Marquez Linares, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Valle Grande Prison, Havana. The political prisoners in the Valle Grande Prison, which is on the outskirts of the capital, carried out a vigil as part of the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign for political prisoners held by opposition organizations throughout the country. The vigil was carried out in solidarity with a similar activity being held that night by the 30th of November Frank Pais Democratic Party in the municipality of San Miguel del Padron in Havana.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UPECI. CubaNet.

Santiago de Cuba. The Cuban Republican Party and the Christian Liberation Movement hosted a vigil for the Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign during which activists discussed the situa-

tion of Cuban political prisoners, specifically the cases of independent journalists Bernardo Arevalo Padron, Carlos Alberto Dominguez, Lester Tellez Castro and Carlos Brizuela Yero, and prayed for their health.

Source: Fara Armenteros, UEPCI. CubaNet.

Jan. 16-18, 2003

Havana. The Cuban Socialist Democratic Current held its First National Conference in the country's capital.

Source: Manuel A. Brito, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Jan. 18, 2003

Villa Clara. An independent library named after anti-Castro guerrilla fighter Porfirio Guillén Amador was inaugurated in Santa Clara. The library was opened in the headquarters of the Democratic Action Movement at San Miguel 308, between Toscano and San Pedro streets. Guillén Amador died in 1963 in combat in the Escambray Mountains against Castro's revolutionary forces. The opening of the library coincided with a series of masses held for the guerrilla fighter in provinces of Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.

Source: Omar Ruiz, Grupo Decoro. CubaNet.

Jan. 20, 2003

Havana. The Cuban Socialist Democratic Current (CSDC) closed its First National Conference with a tribute to Diego Vicente Tejera in the Colón Cemetery in Havana during which they left a floral wreath on the grave. Tejera was born in Santiago de Cuba in 1848 and is considered the first Cuban socialist. Representatives of the delegations of the CSDC attended the ceremony, as well independent journalists and visiting foreigners.

Source: Manuel A. Brito, Grupo Decoro.

Isle of Youth. The third edition of *Pedro Luis Boitel, Diary of a Martyr* was presented at the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library and the Ernest Hemingway Independent Library in Nueva Gerona as part of the "Freedom Without Forced Exile Campaign" for political prisoners. The 61-page book, published by the Fund of Cuban-American Studies of the Cuban-American National Foundation, reveals for the first time the name of the author, Eduardo Figueroa, who was a cellmate of Boitel's and remains imprisoned. The book relates Boitel's last months before he died of a prolonged hunger strike in jail.

Source: Carlos Serpa Maceira, UPECI. CubaNet.

Jan. 22, 2003

Havana. Directors of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society presented a report listing violations of Cuba's electoral law during the elections of Jan. 19 to the Republic's Attorney General and the Municipal Popular Tribunal of Centro Habana. They also presented the document in a press conference. Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcasses and Rene Gomez Manzano denounced the regime's repression in the report, listing cases of violations compiled by hundreds of dissidents all over the island.

Source: Alicia Zamora Labrada, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Jan. 23, 2003

Pinar del Rio. Opposition groups organized under the Coordination of the Democratic Opposition in Pinar del Rio launched the Martí Campaign (*Jornada Martiana*) to honor Cuban thinker Jose Martí in a series of activities that would be held until Jan. 28, the date of Martí's birth. At the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party in Pinar del Rio, on Calle Cavada, #106, Dr. Juan Carlos Martinez Mendez was the featured speaker at a conference on the life and work of Martí. The Coordination of the Democratic Opposition in Pinar del Rio includes more than 10 organizations as well as several independent journalists and independent libraries.

Source: Dr. Richard Acosta, Association of Independent Doctors of Cuba and the Pro Human Rights Party of Cuba, reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba-Miami.

Jan. 24, 2003

Pinar del Rio. Jose Hidalgo Gato, representative of the Social Democratic Party of Pinar del Rio, gave a lecture on the life and work of Jose Martí as part of the *Jornada Martiana* at the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Source: Dr. Richard Acosta, reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

Jan. 25, 2003

Pinar del Rio. Dr. Richard Acosta, a representative of Pro-Human Rights Party of Cuba and the Association of Independent Doctors of Cuba, gave a lecture on the life and work of Jose Martí as part of the *Jornada Martiana* at the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Source: Dr. Richard Acosta, reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

Jan. 26, 2003

Pinar del Rio. Valentin Almiral Miranda, representative of the National Reflection Movement, gave a lecture on Jose Martí as part of the *Jornada Martiana* at the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party.

Source: Dr. Richard Acosta, reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

Jan. 27, 2003

Havana. At its headquarters in Havana, the Association of Independent Teachers hosted a *cena martiana*, or a dinner in honor of Jose Martí. Members of various organizations attended this event.
Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

Guantanamo. The workers of the Transport Base belonging to the Empresa de Acopio Provincial (Company of Provincial Provisions) in Guantanamo refused to participate in a meeting and left after the company failed to pay them for a day's work. An administrator had tried to hold a meeting to explain the reason for the failure to pay, but the workers left en masse. The Company of Provincial

Provisions is located at Kilometer 2 ½ of the Guantanamo-Baracoa Highway.

Source: Marilyn Diaz Fernandez, Lux InfoPress. CubaNet.

Jan. 28, 2003

Pinar del Rio. In the morning, different opposition groups took part in paying tribute to Jose Martí by leaving flowers at a bust of Martí in the city of Pinar del Rio. In the afternoon, organizations comprising the Coordination of the Democratic Opposition in Pinar Del Rio took part in a debate at the headquarters of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party. Later that night, the organizations took part in another conference on Martí at the Our Lady of Our Charity Shrine.

Source: Dr. Richard Acosta, reported to the Puente Informativo Cuba Miami.

Pinar del Rio. The Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts hosted a children's drawing contest with the theme "The World We Love." Fifty-nine children up to the age of 12 participated in the contest, which was also co-sponsored by several independent libraries in the city of Pinar del Rio.

Source: Rene Oñate, Interior Space Project of Plastic and Applied Arts.

Havana. The Association of Independent Teachers hosted a poetry contest for the 150th anniversary of Jose Martí's birth and for other fallen heroes of Cuba's history. Prizes were given to the best works.

Source: Roberto Larramendi, Association of Independent Teachers.

Havana. More than a hundred masons gathered at the statue of Jose Martí in the Paseo del Prado promenade in the capital to pay tribute to the Cuban thinker on the 150th anniversary of his birth. The national concert band played the Cuban national anthem and the Masonic anthem, and Jose Manuel Collera Vento, grand master of the masons, gave a 15-minute speech as the main speaker. This was only the second time that the Cuban government had permitted such an event. The first time was in 2001.

Source: Juan Carlos Linares, Cuba-Verdad. CubaNet.

Villa Clara. The human rights organization Alfa 3 hosted a commemorative act in honor of Jose Martí for the anniversary of his birth at the *Parque de los Mártires* ("Martyrs Park") in Santa Clara. About 20 members of the organization, along with members of the Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, the Maceo Movement for Dignity, and the Mario Manuel de la Peña Human Rights Movement participated in the act. Despite the presence of more than 20 State Security and National Revolutionary Police agents, the demonstrators left a floral wreath and sang the national anthem as they had planned. They then proceeded to the home of activist Felicia Marta Machado to close the event.

Source: Moreno Cruz, Press Section of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

Villa Clara. The provincial delegation of the Democratic Solidarity Party in Villa Clara carried out an event in honor of the 150th anniversary of Jose Martí's birth in a home on 11th Avenue, between 6th and 8th streets in Caibarien. Rolando Cabello, provincial delegate, presided over the event, which consisted of a discussion of Martí's life and work as well as a discussion on civil society and a ceremony for the liberation of Cuban political prisoners. Twenty members of the Democratic Solidarity Party, as well as Margarito Broche Espinoza and Maria de la Caridad Gonzalez Noa of the Peace Democracy and Freedom National Association of Cuban Rafters participated.

Source: Ibraín Dionisio Rodriguez, Press Section of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

Villa Clara. The final class of the first module of the Cuban Reflection Movement's Leadership Formation Course, sponsored by the HispanoCuban Foundation and the Center of the Study for a National Option, was carried out at the Cuban Reflection Movement's headquarters in the city of Camajuaní, a home in Barrio Obrero #1. State Security intercepted activists who tried to reach the site, including



Jose Luis Garcia Paneque

those who had come from other cities for the event. Nevertheless, the class had nine participants. For the course's second module, the Cuban Reflection Movement took the classes to other cities in the central province of Villa Clara. In Caibarien, two classes of the Leadership Formation course were offered, one in which nine activists participated and another in which 12 activists participated. Similarly, in Placetas, two classes were held during which six people participated in the first and seven in the second. In Santa Clara, two classes were also held, with nine participants in the first class and three participants in the second, and in Manicaragua, two classes were also offered, 13 people participating in the first and 10 in the second. The second and third modules of this course are currently pending and are planned to take place in 2003.

Source: Ibraín Dionisio Rodriguez, Joaquin Cabezas de Leon and Librado Linares Garcia, all of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

Villa Clara. Activists from several organization of this central region of the country paid tribute to Jose Martí, leaving flowers in a park in Santa Clara. In this act, the Alfa 3 Reason Truth and Liberty Human Rights Movement, Cuban Reflection Movement, Maceistas for Dignity, Pro Human Rights Party Affiliated With the Andrei Sajarov Foundation, and the Mario Manuel de la Peña Human Rights Movement participated.

Source: Librado Linares Garcia, Cuban Reflection Movement.



Jorge Luis Ramon Castillo, vice president of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute

Santiago de Cuba. Activists of the Culture and Democracy Independent Institute, the Followers of Chibás Movement and independent journalists took part in a discussion about the lesser known aspects of Jose Martí's life and personality. To close the event, activists left flowers at the bust of Martí on Santo Tomás Street, corner of San Felix, in the neighborhood of Veguita de Galo.

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

Guantanamo. At the Jose Antonio Echevarria Independent Library in the city of Guantanamo, six people participated in a debate on Jose Martí.

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

Jan. 29, 2003

Villa Clara. The words "Down with Fidel" were painted in different places in the city of Caibarien. The messages were seen on the corner of the street formerly known as 20 de Mayo, the supplies store, and Buildings 1 and 2 in the neighborhood of Bantroi. Agents of the Ministry of the Interior painted over the words and dispersed passersby who had stopped to watch.

Source: Moreno Cruz, Press Section of Cuban Reflection Movement.

Villa Clara. A group of members of the Frank Pais 30th of November Democratic Party appeared at the police station in Baez to demand the release of their fellow activists -- three party members who had been detained and threatened the day before. The detained activists were released.

Source: Ibraín Dionisio Rodriguez, Press Section of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

With the Cuban Democratic Directorate as one of its sponsors, on February 20, 1998, the "Agreement for Democracy" was ratified in Miami by organizations in exile and in Cuba to establish that despite geographical separation, Cubans are united for the country's future democracy. At the time, twenty-seven organizations in Cuba and 47 in exile signed the document. More groups have since joined in signing the agreement.

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
Cuba Independiente y Democrática (CID). Húber Matos
Directorio Revolucionario Democrático Cubano.
Juan Fernández de Castro y Orlando Gutiérrez
Ex-Club (Asoc. de Ex Prisioneros y Combatientes Políticos Cubanos)
Rolando Borges
Ex-Confinados Políticos de la UMAP. Francisco García
Federación Sindical de Plantas Eléctricas, Gas y Agua en el Exilio.
René L. Díaz
Free Cuba Foundation. John Suárez
Frente Nacional del Presidio Político Cubano. Rufino Alvarez
Grupo de Apoyo a la Disidencia. Frank Hernández Trujillo
Grupo de Trabajo de la Disidencia Interna. Ruth C. Montaner
Hermanos al Rescate. José Basulto
Liga Cívica Martiana. Miguel Angel Aldana
M.A.R. por Cuba. Sylvia G. Iriondo
Morris County Cuban Association. Rolando Ríos
Movimiento Democracia. Ramón Saúl Sánchez
Municipios de Cuba en el Exilio. Roberto Pereda
Movimiento Revolucionario 30 de Noviembre Frank País.
Israel Abreu Villareal
Movimiento Humanista Evolucionario Cubano. Ricardo H. Trelles
Mujer Cubana. Estela Rose
Mujeres Luchadoras por la Democracia. María Márquez
Movimiento Luchadores por la Libertad y la Independencia de Cuba
Alfredo Mustelier Nuevo / Carmen Julia Arias Iglesias
Organizaciones Cubanas Unidas de la Zona Norte (OCU)
Rigoberto Peguero
Partido Independentista Cubano. Alberto Martínez Echenique
Partido Acción Nacionalista. Sergio Ramos
Partido Cubano de Renovación Ortodoxa. Diosmel Rodríguez
(Representación en el Exterior) Partido Social Demócrata Cubano
Tony Santiago
Presidio Político Histórico Cubano - Casa del Preso
Luis González Infante
Puente de Jóvenes Profesionales Cubanos. Dr. Nicolás Gutiérrez, Hijo
La Rosa Blanca. Dr. Rafael Díaz Balart
Unión de Ex Presos Políticos Cubanos. Jorge Dulzaides
Unión Liberal Cubana. Carlos Alberto Montaner
Unión de Soldados y Oficiales Libres. Alvaro Prendes Signatory

Signatory organizations of the Agreement in Cuba:

Agencia de Prensa Sindical Independiente de Cuba.
Carmelo Díaz Fernández
Comité Cubano de Opositores Pacíficos.
Vicky Ruiz Labrit
Comité Cubano Pro Derechos Humanos. Gustavo Arcos Bergnes
Comisión Nacional Cubano de Ayuda Humanitaria y Religiosa a
Prisiones
Antonio Díaz Quintanar
Comisión Cubana de Derechos Humanos José Martí
en la República de Cuba. Prof. Amador Blanco Hernández
Consejo Nacional por los Derechos Civiles en Cuba
Jorge Omar Lorenzo Pimienta
Pedro Herrada Delgado
Consejo Unitario de Trabajadores Cubanos.
Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos
Corriente Liberal Cubana
Celia Jorge Ruiz
Grupo de Trabajo de la Disidencia Interna
Jesús Yáñez Pelletier Vocero de:
Félix A. Bonne Carcassés
René Gómez Manzano
Vladimiro Roca Antúnez
Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello
Hermandad Cívica Cubana
Alejandro Chang Cantillo
Instituto Cubano de Estudios Sindicales.
Vicente Escobal Rabeiro
Liga Cívica Martiana.
William Ernesto Herrera Díaz
Movimiento Acción Democrática.
Luis R. Hernández Rodríguez
Movimiento Cubano Reflexión.
Librado Linares García
Movimiento Cristiano Amor y Paz.
Lázaro Rodríguez Torres
Movimiento Cubano de Jóvenes por la Democracia.
Heriberto Leyva Rodríguez
Movimiento 24 de Febrero.
Mario Remedio De Los Cueto
Movimiento Nacional de Resistencia Cívica Pedro Luis Boitel.
Berta Antúnez Pernet
Movimiento Opción Alternativa.
Angel Moya Acosta
Movimiento por la Democracia Pedro Luis Boitel.
Iván Hernández Carrillo
Movimiento Pro Derechos Humanos del Golfo de Guacanayabo.
Marta Leyva López Chávez
Organización Feminista Independiente.
Cecilia Zamora Cabrera
Partido Acción Nacionalista. Aguilero Cancio Chong
Partido Cubano de Renovación Ortodoxa
Antonio Alonso Pérez
Partido Democrático 30 de Noviembre Frank País.
Rafael Ibarra Roque
Partido Paz, Amor y Libertad
Diosdado González Marrero
Partido Pro Derechos Humanos Afiliado a la Fundación Andrei Sajarov
Israel Feliciano. Delegación de Villa Clara
Proyecto de Bibliotecas Independientes
Berta Mexidor Vázquez / Ramón Humberto Colás Castillo
Proyecto Instituto Independiente Cultura y Democracia
José Gabriel Ramón Castillo
Unión Nacional de Ex Presos Políticos Cubanos
Omar Pernet Hernández. Delegación de Villa Clara
Unión Nacional de Opositores. Dr. Frank Fernández Loveira



"We now share not only the same ideals but also the same streets."
Faith in Victory!