



International Federation of Liberal Youth

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Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010

From: Bart Woord, President of the International Federation of Liberal Youth
[Name of the Representative of the Member Organization sending the letter.]

To: [Name of the Member of Parliament]

Subject: Human Rights in Cuba

Sir/Madam,

The people pictured in the enclosed leaflet are ordinary people, however they are exceptionally brave. They put their safety and security at risk to ask for ordinary things -- ones we take for granted, such as uncensored access to books and magazines or the right to form organizations not under state control or to participate in deciding how their country should be run.

These people were deprived of their freedom seven years ago for demanding their most basic rights. On what is generally known as Cuba's Black Spring, beginning March 18th 2003, the Cuban government arrested and sentenced 75 dissidents all over Cuba –writers, independent librarians, and human rights defenders. Some have been released for health reasons or thanks to negotiations with foreign governments, but 54 of these prisoners of conscience are still in jail. Together with around 150 other political prisoners, they are confined in awful conditions just for writing, establishing small libraries in their homes, and peacefully working for democratic change.

After 51 years of relentless dictatorship, the people of Cuba are desperate for change. The recent death of political prisoner Orlando Zapata while on a hunger strike and the subsequent decision by other dissidents to turn to this extreme form of pressure illustrates the depth of hopelessness in Cuba.

It is high time for the Cuban people to exercise their inherent human rights and attain self-determination and democratic pluralism. They deserve our support, in fact, it is our duty to assist them. You can help in specific ways by:

1. Asking your government to allow Cuban human rights defenders access to the internet at its embassy in Cuba and to support Cuban civil society through outreach programs that assist groups fully independent from the Cuban government.
2. Asking your government to regularly visit human rights defenders outside of Havana. You can also visit the island and see the reality yourself.
3. Demanding that your government only hire and pay Cuban workers directly demand at its embassy in Cuba. (Currently, all diplomatic missions and foreign businesses acquiesce to the Cuban government's requirement that they only hire workers from state enterprises that pre-select them for political allegiance and retain over 90% of their hard currency wages, paying them in worthless local currency.)



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4. Demanding that companies based in your country implement best business practices and refuse partnerships with the Cuban state that violate the rights of workers.

5. Ask your government/MPs to adopt political prisoners and to care for their cases.

6. To start a working group on Cuba to monitor the situation of human rights and human rights defenders.

We hope that these suggestions will help you in moving forward. The people on the enclosed card are thankful to you. For questions, please contact cuba@iflry.org.

Best regards,

[First Name Second Name, MO Position]

[Bart Woord, President of the International Federation of Liberal Youth]