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AI Index: AMR 25/20/99
Distr: PG/SC

To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / Americas Regional Program
Date: 15 April 1999

FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

(See AI Index: AMR 25/23/98, 18 September 1998)

**Reinaldo Alfaro García
CUBA**

Theme: Conditional release of POC / ill-health / access to medical care

Summary

Amnesty International has learned that Reinaldo Alfaro García, Vice-President of the unofficial *Asociación de Lucha Frente a la Injusticia (ALFIN)*, Association for Struggle against Injustice, and a member of the executive of the unofficial *Partido Solidaridad Democrático (PSD)*, Democratic Solidarity Party, was conditionally released from prison on 23 March 1999, having carried out over half his sentence. According to reports, his release was on condition that he leaves the country and he is now applying for asylum in the USA.

Background

Prisoner of conscience Reinaldo Alfaro García was convicted and sentenced to three year's imprisonment on 28 August 1998 on charges of '*difusión de noticias falsas contra la paz internacional*', 'spreading false news against international peace', after more than three months in detention without charge or trial. He was reportedly suffering from serious back problems following earlier spine surgery, as well as from various allergies, stomach problems and anaemia. Amnesty International in its original action expressed concern that given the lack of medical care available to prisoners in Cuba, Reinaldo Alfaro García's health reportedly continued to deteriorate.

**No further action from the health professional network is required.
Many thanks to all those who campaigned on Reinaldo Alfaro García's behalf.**