

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This is a limited action. Please send up to 10 appeals per section.

1 September 1993

Further information on UA 21/93 (AMR 25/03/93, 29 January 1993) - Legal Concern/Health Concern/Hunger Strike and AMR 25/04/93, 26 February 1993

CUBA: Amador BLANCO HERNANDEZ, aged 41, former university professor and President of the unofficial Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos "José Martí", "José Martí" National Human Rights Commission and new name:

Joel MESA MORALES, aged 29, Vice-President of the Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos "José Martí"

Amnesty International has learned that Amador Blanco Hernández, the President of the unofficial Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos "José Martí", "José Martí" National Human Rights Commission, and Joel Mesa Morales, the Vice-President of the group, are to be brought to trial on the morning of 3 September at the *Tribunal Provincial Popular de Villa Clara*, Villa Clara People's Provincial Tribunal, in Santa Clara, accused of enemy propaganda. According to the Provisional Conclusions of the prosecution, of which Amnesty International has received a copy, a sentence of eight years' imprisonment will be requested for both men.

The document says that the two had been devoting themselves to carrying out a propaganda campaign with the aim of discrediting the Cuban Revolution through the compilation of "innumerable false reports of alleged physical ill-treatment and attacks, persecution, insults and threats". It says that the reports were sent abroad by various means to be transmitted by US-based radio stations to Cuba with the specific aim of showing the Cuban population that "a totalitarian government of terror and persecution" had been installed.

Amador Blanco Hernández was arrested at his home in Caibarién, in the province of Villa Clara, on 10 December 1992 and taken to the headquarters of the Departamento de Seguridad del Estado (DSE), Department of State Security, in Santa Clara. Shortly after his arrest, he went on hunger strike for several weeks, as a result of which he reportedly lost consciousness on more than one occasion. Joel Mesa Morales was arrested at his home on 26 January 1993 following a search of his home during which state security officials reportedly confiscated a camera, three diaries and several copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Amnesty International believes that Amador Blanco Hernández and Joel Mesa Morales are prisoners of conscience, detained solely on account of their non-violent activities in opposition to the Cuban Government. There is no

evidence that they have used or advocated violence. The two have reportedly decided not to appoint a lawyer of their choice since they believe that they have not committed any offence and also that the outcome of the trial has already been determined by the state. According to Cuban law, they should therefore be defended at the hearing by an abogado de oficio, a lawyer assigned by the state. They are currently being held in Santa Clara Provincial Prison.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters in Spanish, English or your own language:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Amador Blanco Hernández and Joel Mesa Morales on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience detained solely on account of their non-violent activities in opposition to the Cuban government and in support of human rights.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Dr Fidel Castro Ruz
Presidente del Consejo de Estado
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: President Castro, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950

Faxes: + 53 7 333085 / + 53 7 335261

(These telex and fax numbers are for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - please ask them to forward your message to President Castro)

Salutation: Señor Presidente/Dear President

2) Attorney-General:

Dr Juan Escalona Reguera
Fiscal General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República
San Rafael 3
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511456 FISGE

Faxes: + 5 37 333164

Salutation: Señor Fiscal General/Dear Attorney General

3) Minister of Justice:

Dr Carlos Amat Forés
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Calle O, No. 216, 8vo piso
e/ 23 y Humboldt, Vedado
Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511331 MINJU

Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Sr Roberto Robaina González
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Calzada No. 360, Vedado

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Havana, Cuba

Telexes: 511122 / 511464 / 512950

Faxes: + 53 7 333085 /+ 53 7 335261

Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Director of Villa Clara Provincial Prison

Sr Director

Prisión Provincial de Villa Clara

Santa Clara

Provincia de Villa Clara, Cuba

Newspaper

Granma

Apartado 6260

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

and to diplomatic representatives of Cuba accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 October 1993.