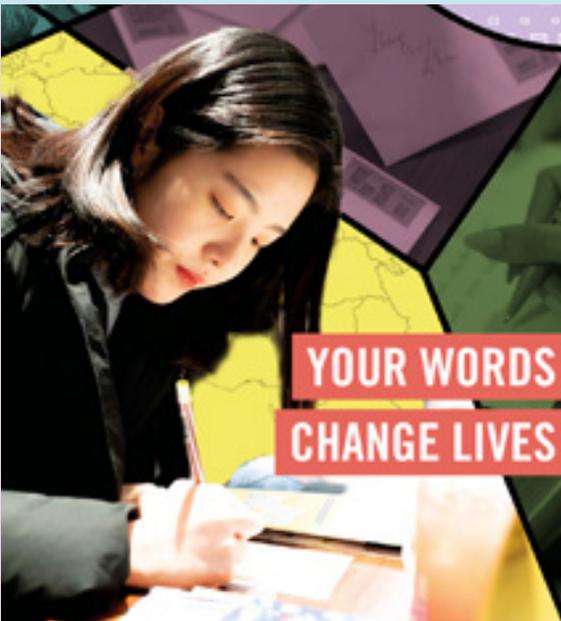




November 2022

**Our Next Meeting:
November 10th on Zoom**



Urgent Action: Cuba PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE AT RISK

NAME AND PRONOUN: José Daniel Ferrer García (He, him)

José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba,” who was arrested on July 11, 2021, in the context of island-wide protests and has been imprisoned ever since is once again being held with limited access to the outside world. According to his family, he intends to initiate a hunger strike as an extreme measure in demand of his rights. He is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

José Daniel Ferrer García is an activist and leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba”. He was detained on July 11, 2021, in the context of island-wide protests, and has been imprisoned ever since.

On July 11, 2021, José Daniel tried to attend the country-wide demonstrations in Santiago de Cuba with his son. He left his house and walked past the state security officials who constantly monitor him, but other law enforcement officials stopped him a few meters ahead.

José Daniel Ferrer García and his son were detained together and initially following his detention there was no formal record of José Daniel’s whereabouts, and the authorities did not allow his family to see or communicate with him. Amnesty International believes that the concealment of his whereabouts amounted to an enforced disappearance for the purposes of Article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which Cuba is a state party.

For his attempt to join the protests, José Daniel Ferrer García was charged with “public disorder,” however, he has not received a trial and remains in prison. In 2020, following a different trial tainted by irregularities, José Daniel was convicted to four and a half years of house arrest. According to documents seen by Amnesty International, due to the new charges of “public disorder” a Provincial Tribunal in Santiago

Images courtesy Amnesty International or in the public domain unless otherwise indicated.

Amnesty Group 48 Potluck & Letter Writing for Write for Rights

We'll gather for a potluck and writing on Saturday, December 10th, Human Rights Day, at 2pm at the home of Marty Fromer & Mary Jo Cook 4662 SW Flower Place in Portland, Marty (971)-212-3590

For those that can't attend please see the Write for Rights link: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>

revoked his house arrest in August 2021, obliging him to pass that previous sentence in prison.

On July 7, 2022, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances informed NGO Prisoners Defenders that it had written to Cuba asking the state to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of José Daniel to his family and lawyers, and to provide the Committee with detailed information about his current access to communication with the outside world.

Amnesty International also raised concerns that José Daniel Ferrer García was being held incommunicado. Prior to his detention, José Daniel Ferrer García endured constant threats and harassment.

José Daniel Ferrer García has long reported suffering health problems, related to his previous long-term detentions in prison, including, among other things, serious gastric problems, and chronic headaches. According to his family, he has lost significant weight since his detention in July 2021 and is suffering various health conditions.

Sample Letter

I am writing about José Daniel Ferrer García, leader of the unofficial political opposition group “Patriotic Union of Cuba,” who according to his family has been held in solitary confinement since August 14, 2021, with segregation from other prisoners and very limited access to the outside world.

José Daniel Ferrer García was last able to communicate with his family by telephone on June 4, 2022, and was last permitted only a 10-minute visit with his wife on October 11, 2022, according to his family. Additionally, his family told Amnesty International he has been held in a cell separated from other prisoners since August 2021.

Prolonged solitary confinement, segregation from other prisoners, may violate the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, particularly when combined with isolation from the outside world, and facilitates torture or other ill-treatment. In some circumstances, including this one, it can itself constitute torture or other ill-treatment.

Detained on July 11, 2021, before he reached island-wide mass protests, José Daniel Ferrer García, is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his consciously held beliefs. I call on you to immediately release him and pending that, allow his family regular visits and communication with him.

Sincerely,

TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. Click [here](#) to let us know the actions you took on Urgent Action 67.22. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of Cuba
Hidalgo Esq. 6, Plaza de La Revolución, CP 10400, La Habana, Cuba
Email: despacho@presidencia.gob.cu
Twitter: @DiazCanelB
Facebook: @PresidenciadeCuba
Salutation: Dear Mr. President,

Ambassador Lianys Torres Rivera
Embassy of Cuba
2630 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: 202 797 8515
Email: repcion@usadc.embacuba.cu
Twitter: @EmbaCubaUS @Lianystr
Facebook: @EmbaCubaUS
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Please take action as soon as possible until December 14th, 2022

Tell Alabama Governor Kay Ivey to Commute Rocky Myers' Death Sentence

Rocky Myers, a Black man, has been on death row in Alabama, USA, since 1994. A nearly all-white jury convicted and sentenced him to life without the possibility of parole for the murder of his white neighbor. The trial judge overrode their decision and imposed a death sentence — a practice now outlawed in Alabama.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/rocky-myers/>

AIUSA Group 48

<https://aipdx.org>
www.facebook.com/aiustg48/

Group Coordinators

**Marty Fromer
and Terrie Rodello**

**Treasurer
Tena Hoke**
tena.hoke@gmail.com

**Newsletter
Daniel Webb**
pdx.videozine@gmail.com

**OR Area Coordinator
Marty Fromer**
martyfromer@gmail.com

**Indonesia
Max White**
maxw33@comcast.net

**Prisoners' Cases
Jane Kristof**
kristofj@pdx.edu

**Concert Tabling
Will Ware**
ww_ware@yahoo.com

**Central Africa/ OR State
Death Penalty Abolition
Terrie Rodello**
tarodello@igc.org

www.amnestyusa.org

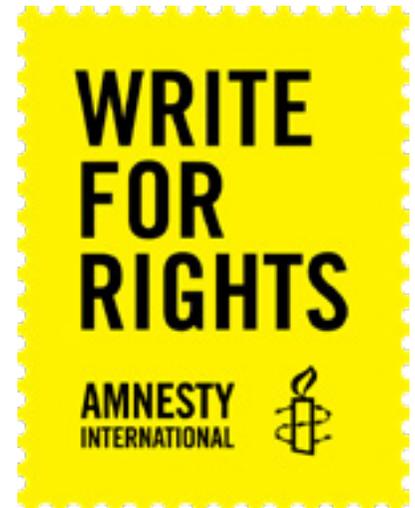
Postage Rates
Within the United States
\$0.58 - Domestic Letter up to 1oz,
standard envelope size
\$0.40 - Domestic Postcard
International Postage
\$1.30 - Up to 1 oz

Amnesty International Responds to Plan to Block Asylum Access for Venezuelans at the Border

October 13, 2022--In response to the Biden Administration's announcement about a new process for Venezuelans seeking safety, Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International said:

"Within days of the Interagency Coordination for Refugees and Migrants R4V revealing that there are 7.1 million Venezuelans seeking international protection, the Biden administration shamefully announced a new plan to block access to asylum for Venezuelans seeking safety at the US border. While we acknowledge the important step taken by the Biden administration in the creation of a new parole program for 24,000 Venezuelans, we are greatly alarmed at the expansion of the application of Title 42. This new policy aimed at stemming the flow of Venezuelans seeking safety at the border is again demonstrating that Title 42 has no basis in public health and runs contrary to US and international obligations to uphold the rights of all to seek safety. All people have a right to seek safety, regardless of familial or financial ties, and any parole program should not supplant the right to seek asylum.

"We are also concerned with media reports that the Title 42 expansion is due to also include nationals of Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Last month, Amnesty International released a groundbreaking report finding that Haitians expelled under Title 42 were subject to arbitrary detention and discriminatory and humiliating ill-treatment that amounts to race-based torture. We urge the Biden administration to reconsider this and to instead work diligently to put an end to Title 42, not to expand it. Eradicating this deadly policy is a critical first step towards restoring asylum and preserving the human rights of asylum seekers; anything else is a band-aid that is not solving the issues at hand."



Call on the President of the Central African Republic (CAR) to respect his commitments to justice.

Victims of war crimes in CAR are desperately waiting to be summoned to court to testify to the human rights violations they have suffered and to hold those responsible to account. Act now and demand justice for them by sending an email to President Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/call-on-the-president-of-the-central-african-republic-car-to-respect-his-commitments-to-justice/>

The US Government & Twitter Must do More to Counter Antisemitism

November 1, 2022--In light of the recent surge in antisemitic rhetoric, messages and memes, Amnesty International USA reiterates its condemnation of antisemitism in the strongest possible terms and demands action to counter antisemitism by the US government, Twitter and other social media companies.

Antisemitism is hatred. It attacks the rights and well-being of Jews around the world and the very notion of universal human rights. The right to be free from discrimination is a fundamental principle of human rights law, and all governments are obliged to combat discrimination in all its forms.

Antisemitism is the most commonly reported anti-religious hate crime in the United States, which is a crisis we must work to end. We must hold accountable — in our personal interactions, in our workplaces, in our communities, and in our activism — those who commit, encourage or acquiesce in such abuse against Jewish people, whenever and wherever it is inflicted.

The US government has a duty under international law to protect people from discrimination and incitement to violence based on identity. Twitter and other social media companies have a similar obligation. The US government, Twitter and other social media com-

panies are failing in this regard.

US government officials at all levels should speak out forcefully against antisemitism. And they should pass comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and ensure that all laws aimed at combatting antisemitism and other forms of discrimination are in compliance with Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibits “advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.”

Twitter and other social media companies should ensure that their policies and practices also comply with Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Now, more than ever, Twitter needs to focus on further developing and supporting its content moderation systems and teams. A Twitter that tolerates antisemitism or any kind of hate is not only in violation of its human rights responsibilities, but also undermines the civil discourse that the platform says it supports.

We stand in solidarity with all who are targeted for their identity, and we reiterate our commitment to building a world in which every person can enjoy the full range of their human rights, free from hatred and discrimination.

Russian Attacks on Critical Energy Infrastructure in Ukraine Amount to War Crimes

October 20, 2022--Reacting to the news that Russian attacks on energy facilities in Ukraine over recent days have led to a nationwide blackout in the country, Marie Struthers, Amnesty International’s Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said:

“The strategy behind Russia’s latest warfare tactics is unmistakable. In bombing Ukraine’s critical civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, the Russian army clearly intends to undermine industrial production, disrupt transportation, sow fear and despair and deprive civilians in Ukraine of heat, electricity and water as the cold grip of winter approaches.

“Russia’s targeting of Ukrainian civilian infrastructure is unlawful. The morale of the civilian population is not a lawful target, and carrying out these attacks with the sole purpose of terrorizing civilians is a war crime. All those responsible for ordering and committing these criminal attacks must be held to account.

With Russia ramping up its efforts to terrorize civilians in Ukraine, the international community must urgently respond and condemn these heinous attacks.”

On October 20, the Ukrainian authorities announced that there will be power outages across the country, after Russian attacks over recent days seriously damaged about 40% of the country’s energy facilities.

Amid efforts to repair the damaged facilities, the Ukrainian authorities have resorted to planned power outages to ensure the remaining energy infrastructure is not overloaded.

The Ukrainian authorities have also urged people across the country to minimize their electricity use between 7am and 11pm each day, while the use of street lights will also be limited nationwide starting today.