

April 3rd, 2008

Raul Castro Ruz, President of Cuba
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
La Habana, Cuba

Fax: 011 (53) 7 333085

Your Excellency:

I am writing on behalf of the Human Rights Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences to express the Committee's grave concern regarding the situation of six medical doctors who have been summarily tried and imprisoned in April 2003 for peacefully expressing their independent political views.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez was sentenced to 25 years in prison on April 7th, 2003, after serving a 3-year sentence in 1999-2002. He is being held in the Combinado del Este Prison. According to reports, he is suffering from hypertension and ulcer, and he has lost most of his teeth due to a severe oral infection.

Dr. Marcelo Cano Rodriguez was sentenced to 18 years in prison on April 6, 2003. He is being held in the Prison of Ariza in Cienfuegos, 420 km from his home. According to reports, he has not seen sunlight since 2004 and is suffering from severe infection of his feet.

Dr. Jose Luis Garcia Paneque was sentenced to 24 years in prison in April 2003. He is being held in the Las Mangas Prison in Bayamo. According to reports, since his imprisonment in 2003, Dr. Paneque's weight has dropped from 86 kg to 48 kg. He is suffering from pneumonia in his right lung and severe anemia.

Dr. Luis Milan Fernandez was sentenced to 13 years in prison on April 4th, 2003. He is being held in the Psychiatric Ward of the Prison of Boniato in Santiago de Cuba despite having no history of emotional or mental problems. According to reports, he shares his prison cell with violent mental patients.

Dr. Ricardo Enrique Silva Gual was sentenced to 10 years in prison on April 7th, 2003. He is being held in the Aguadores Provincial Prison of Santiago de Cuba. According to reports he has been severely beaten in prison and suffers from glaucoma.

Chair
Eugene Chudnovsky
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Joan Birman
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City College CUNY

George Bugliarello
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Karen Burke
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Ex-Director, NYAS Human Rights Program

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The Rockefeller University

Ellis Rubinstein,
President
New York Academy of Sciences
Ex-Officio

Dr. Alfredo M. Pulido Lopez was sentenced to 14 years in prison on April 4th, 2003. He is being held in the Kilo 7 Prison in Comaguey, in a barrack with 100 violent criminals. According to reports, he is suffering from cardiac arrhythmia, chronic bronchitis, chronic gastritis, and acute disorder of his vision.

The New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) is an independent, nonprofit, global membership organization committed to advancing science, technology, and society worldwide. Established in 1817, the Academy is the oldest scientific organization in New York, and the third oldest in the nation. It is an international organization with nearly 25,000 members in more than 150 countries.

Medical doctors form a large fraction of the Academy membership. They are worried about conditions of their imprisoned Cuban colleagues. The above cases of six medical doctors have attracted international attention. Amnesty to these doctors would be celebrated worldwide as a humane act expected from the new Cuban government.

I respectfully await your response to this matter of great importance to us.

Sincerely Yours,



Eugene M. Chudnovsky, Chairman
NYAS Committee on Human Rights of Scientists

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