



INCIDENT REPORT DECEMBER 2020

Center for Incident Reports
Foundation for Pan
American Democracy

Cuba





The Foundation for Pan American Democracy (FDP) was established in 2015 by a group of Cuban and Cuban-American citizens concerned about the oppression and violation of human rights in Cuba and the need to defend and promote democracy in the Americas. The Foundation has no political or religious affiliation, and collaborates with local and international organizations committed to democracy and respect for human rights.

Center for Incident Reports

Foundation for Pan American Democracy

P.O. Box 441716

Miami FL 33144-1716

United States

www.fundaciondemocraciapanamericana.org



Imagine a fish tank where only a few fish, regardless of size or quality, are the ones who are in command, distribute the food, and control the water. In other words, those few in power are the ones who decide when to pollute the water or purify it or who can and cannot live inside the fish tank in such a way that the rest of the fish cannot decide anything; they cannot see beyond the glass or even know how to change their life. Since there is no other way of living for them, they have to settle for living in the fish tank under those conditions. Because a fish cannot live out of water and through dominating the tank, with water and all, they steal its life.

That is communism, a system that hijacks the very existence of being in all its aspects to make it its hostage.

It is like taking ownership of people, their time, their lives and trying to take ownership of the conditions in which they live... "

Oswaldo Payá

Incident Report

Cuba, December 2020

January 15, 2020

The **Foundation for Pan American Democracy (FDP)** Center for Incident Reports has once again found a pattern of harassment and persecution against independent activists, political opponents, communicators, artists and others.

Throughout the month of December 2020, at least **78 verified incidents** occurred throughout Cuba, with a total of 116 victims. Of the reported total, **73 people were arbitrarily detained**, due to the regime's effort to neutralize the work of dissenting citizens. These arrests did not comply with due process procedures.

A common sanctioning practice employed by the authorities are the financial impositions put on citizens. During the month of December **there were at least 4 fines**, where penalties ranged from 130 to 3000 pesos in national currency, which on average this month was 2057 pesos for those affected.

A repeated practice throughout the month was surrounding activists' homes with police.

At least 32 homes of UNPACU activists, promoters of Cuba Decide, artists and independent citizens throughout the country have had to face a constant harassment, preventing them from taking to the streets. They are threatened and those who dare to leave their homes are being arrested. These activities have been increasing compared to the previous month.

The events that occurred throughout month warn of a worrying application of harassment patterns to intimidate and criminalize the work of opposition leaders and organizations, along with independent civil society in Cuba, which are mentioned below:

- Arbitrary arrests.
- Surveillance, intimidation and harassment.
- Attacks on freedom and personal integrity.
- Life-threatening attacks and personal safety.
- Threats from public complaints.
- Criminalization of official organizations.

- Arbitrary arrests, attacks and intimidation against journalists and communicators.
- Social control over the victim.
- Attacks on human rights activists and promoters.
- Blocking activist communications (internet and phone).

Testimony

“ *... They fell on top of me like wild animals and then, when they moved me, the younger one dug her fingernails into my wrist. I complained and they didn't care. In the patrol car, when I was shouting "Down with the dictatorship!" and they pulled my hair to shut me up but I screamed more..."*

Iliana Hernández (photo), freelance journalist.

Havana, Cuba.



Cases received

1. Victim: Carlos Manuel Alvarez - Date of Incident: December 1, 2020 - Havana

The director of *El Estornudo* magazine was questioned by the State Security. He was questioned for "his ties" with the San Isidro Movement and his work for the magazine *El Estornudo*.

2. Victim: Omar Mena - Date of Incident: December 1, 2020 - Villa Clara

Arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours, due to their activities.

3. Victim: Anyell Valdés - Date of Incident: December 2, 2020 - Havana

Her house remains under police surveillance, after being one of the 6 women who were at the headquarters of San Isidro.

4. Victim: Héctor Valdés - Date of Incident: December 2, 2020 - Havana

His house remains under police surveillance, being harassed and guarded for several hours.

5. Victims: Luis Manuel Otero, Tania Bruguera, Iliana Hernández, Michel Matos - Date of incident: December 2, 2020 - Havana

The 4 activists and journalists were arrested in various locations by agents of the state security. Iliana was arrested when she arrived at the ETECSA offices. Bruguera was arrested by people dressed as civilians.

6. Victim: Adrián Rubio - Date of Incident: December 2, 2020 - Havana

The activist who protested peacefully at the headquarters of the San Isidro Movement remains under police surveillance in his home, preventing him from leaving his home. He was also a victim of an act of repudiation promoted by State Security.

7. Victim: Maikel Mediaceja - Date of Incident: December 2, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Political prisoner, UNPACU activist, promoter of Cuba Decide, is in Boniato prison, recently he was severely beaten.

8. Victims: Luis Manuel Otero, Esteban Rodríguez, Oscar Casanella, Iliana Hernández, Héctor Luis Valdés, Luz Escobar, Yúnior García, Camila Lobón, Amaury Pacheco, Katherine Bísquet, Ulysses Padrón - Date of Incident: December 4, 2020 - Havana

Activists, artists and journalists report that they remain under police surveillance in front of their homes.

9. Victims: José Luis Acosta, Marisol Cobas - Date of Incident: December 4, 2020 - Camaguey

Violently detained by agents of the national police and the political police.

10. Victim: Luis Robles - Date of Incident: December 4, 2020 - Havana

Arrested by political police in retaliation for conducting a peaceful protest on the public road.

11. Victim: Anyell Valdés - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

The activist was arrested in front of her mother and children as they left their home.

12. Victim: Aneski Jiménez - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Detained on a public road, driven to the 11th unit, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, transferred to Villa Marista torture center.

13. Victim: Alberto Aguilera - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Detained on public roads, driven to the 11th unit, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, transferred to the torture center of Villa Marista.

14. Victim: Roberto Pérez - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Detained on public roads, driven to the 11th unit, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, transferred to the torture center of Villa Marista.

15. Victim: Geobel Hernandez - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Arrested, driven to the 11th unit, in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón. Released on December 6.

16. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Detained at 1:20 a.m. on public roads. She was driven from the fifth PNR unit in Playa. She was released at 2:35 p.m.

17. Victim: Angel Moya - Date of Incident: December 5, 2020 - Havana

Detained at 1:20 a.m. on public roads. He was driven from the fifth PNR unit in Playa.

18. Victim: Hannibal Riveaux - Date of Incident: December 6, 2020 - Havana

In commemoration of International Human Rights Day, his home was under surveillance for 2 days, preventing free movement through the streets.

19. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: December 6, 2020 - Havana

Arrested at 11:09 am on public roads, near UNPACU headquarters in Calabazar, by officers and PNR police. She was driven by car and released at 11:55 a.m.

20. Victim: Lourdes Esquivel - Date of Incident: December 6, 2020 - Havana

Arrested at 11:09 am on public roads, near UNPACU headquarters in Calabazar, by DSE officers and PNR police. She was driven by car and released at 12:30 p.m., near Lawton National Headquarters.

21. Victim: Yanier Joubert Cisneros - Date of Incident: December 8, 2020 - Guantanamo

Political prisoner, suffering from dengue, was declared under quarantine by close contact of another.

22. Victim: Bartolo Cantillo - Date of Incident: December 8, 2020 - Guantanamo

Arrested, threatened with being taken to prison for his political activism.

23. Victims: Ebert Hidalgo Cruz, Evert Hidalgo Ladrón de Guevara - Date of Incident: December 9, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested in the vicinity of UNPACU Headquarters by agents Michel and Alexei Atie, preventing them from going to the headquarters.

24. Victim: Angel Moya - Date of Incident: December 9, 2020 - Havana

Arrested from 9am by the DSE and PNR, he was missing for several hours.

25. Victim: Warley Perez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arbitrarily detained in his home to prevent him from demonstrating freely on the International Day of Human Rights taken to the police unit of his municipality, released on the same day.

26. Victim: Yosvany Manuel Martínez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Detained on public roads, taken to the Guanabacoa police unit. Released that same day.

27. Victim: Marieta Martínez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested as she left her home, led to the police unit in Zanja, she remained inside a police car until she was released hours later.

28. Victim: Gustavo Garavito - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested La Fraternidad Park, driven to the police unit of Zanja, threatened with being taken to prison, released that same day.

29. Victim: Eugenio Ramírez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested in La Fraternidad park, taken to Zanja police unit, released that same day.

30. Victim: Cosme Dominguez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Detained in La Fraternidad Park, driven to the police unit of Zanja, released that same day.

31. Victim: Zaqueo Báez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested when leaving his home, and taken to the Calabazar police unit, transferred to Boyeros police unit, where he was made to wait until he was released. Released the same day 9:20pm.

32. Victim: María Josefa Acón - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested on leaving her home, with a choice to the police unit of Calabazar, moved for the 11th police unit in San Miguel del Padrón, she was to wait there until she was released that same day at 9:00pm.

33. Victim: Yeilis Torres - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested as she left her home to prevent her from peacefully demonstrating on International Day of Human Rights, taken to the La Lisa police unit, threatened with going to prison for her political activism, released the same day.

34. Victim: Oscar Espinosa - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Guantanamo

Arbitrarily detained 72 hours before the date, he went on hunger strike.

35. Victims: Niubis Bisset, Kenya Arguelles - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

UNPACU activists, arrested on the public road by political police officers, preventing their passage to the organization's headquarters.

36. Victims: Miraida Martín, Samuel Leblan - Date of incident: December 10, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested as they left Miraida's home, to prevent them from demonstrating peacefully, driven to the outskirts of the city, released that same day.

37. Victims: José Daniel Ferrer García, José Daniel Ferrer Cantillo, Nelva Ortega, Ebert Hidalgo, Evert Luis Hidalgo Ladrón De Guevara, Yaimara Márquez Ladrón De Guevara, Aimée Hidalgo Ladrón De Guevara, Haydee Hidalgo Ladrón De Guevara, Miraida Martín, Aníbal Riveaux, Maidolis Oribe, Moraima Díaz, Abel Peña, Zaqueo Báez, Adrián Quezada - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Santiago de

Besieged by unknown minions of the Sand security of the State, preventing free movement within the country, without mobile phone service for about 7 days.

38. Victim: Luis Santos - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Villa Clara

Harassed by political police for several hours when he tried to visit an activist's home.

39. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested at 11:10 am at the corner of the national headquarters of Lawton by agents of the DSE and PNR, she was transferred to the PNR unit in Cotorro, where she was forbidden to eat food

40. Victim: Angel Moya - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arrested at 11:10 am on the corner of Lawton's national headquarters by DSE and PNR agents, she was transferred to the PNR unit in Cotorro.

41. Victim: Ivan Hernandez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours as part on international human rights day.

42. Victim: Humberto Mena - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Harassed by political police when he was on the public road with his underage daughter. He was subsequently arrested.

43. Victim: Roberto Pérez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours due to his opposition activities.

44. Victim: Aneski Jiménez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours due to his opposition activities.

45. Victim: Alberto Aguiar - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours due to his opposition activities.

46. Victim: Carlos Tamayo - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

Subpoenaed by the political police for questioning and threatened due to opposition activities.

47. Victim: Francisco Rangel - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Matanzas

Detained by political police for several hours when leaving his home.

48. Victim: Yosmany Martinez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was arrested by political police for several hours on his way out of his home.

49. Victim: Warley Perez - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was arrested by political police for several hours on his way out of his home.

50. Victims: Ana Iris Mirada, Ada Iris Miranda, Fidel Batista - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Holguin

The members of the Miranda Leyva family were detained by the political police for several hours to prevent them from conducting a peaceful protest on international human rights day.

51. Victim: Odalis Mérida - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Holguin

Arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours on international human rights day. She was fined 3000 Cuban pesos.

52. Victim: Ediyersi Santana - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) was harassed, watched and threatened by political police that if he left his home he would be arrested on International Human Rights Day.

53. Victim: Reinaldo Escobar - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

A freelance journalist was arrested by political police for several hours as he left his home.

54. Victims: Eduardo Pérez, Mario Hernández, Lázaro Hernández - Date of incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

These members of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic (MOPNR) were arbitrarily detained by the police for several hours on International Human Rights Day (HRD).

55. Victim: Osmani Pardo - Date of Incident: December 10, 2020 - Havana

The activist was arrested by political police on International Human Rights Day (HRD).

56. Victim: Osvaldo Navarro - Date of Incident: December 12, 2020 - Havana

A member of the Citizens for Racial Integration Committee, he was detained by political police for 8 hours to prevent him from traveling to the United States.

57. Victim: Héctor Valdés - Date of Incident: December 12, 2020 - Havana

A freelance journalist was the victim of an act of repudiation.

58. Victim: Esteban Rodríguez - Date of Incident: December 12, 2020 - Havana

Harassed by political police in retaliation for having transmitted on their social networks the situation that the Cuban people are faced with due to COVID 19.

59. Victim: Virgilio Mantilla - Date of Incident: December 14, 2020 - Havana

Detained by political police for several hours due to his opposition activities.

60. Victim: Carlos Alvarez - Date of Incident: December 14, 2020 - Matanzas

The freelance journalist was arrested by political police for several hours as he left his grandmother's home.

61. Victim: Michel Matos - Date of Incident: December 14, 2020 - Havana

The activist and member of the San Isidro Movement (MSI) was arbitrarily detained by political police for an hour.

62. Victim: Roilán Alvarez - Date of Incident: December 14, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Repressive forces and political police prevented them from entering UNPACU's headquarters, which has been under intense police harassment and monitoring for more than 5 months, preventing members of the organization from entering.

63. Victim: Osmel Rubio - Date of Incident: December 15, 2020 - Havana

Day of Human Rights activist was arrested by political police for several hours.

64. Victim: Iliana Hernández - Date of Incident: December 15, 2020 - Havana

A freelance journalist was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours.

65. Victim: Luis Manuel Otero - Date of Incident: December 15, 2020 - Havana

A member of the San Isidro Movement (MSI), he was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours as he left his home.

66. Victim: Anamely Ramos - Date of Incident: December 15, 2020 - Havana

The independent artist was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours.

67. Victim: Maykel Castillo - Date of Incident: December 15, 2020 - Havana

A member of the San Isidro Movement (MSI) he was arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours.

68. Victim: Miguel Angel López - Date of Incident: December 16, 2020 - Guantanamo

A member of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU), he was arrested and beaten by a state security officer calling himself Yohaine, fined 3000 CUP.

69. Victim: Liusban Jhon Utra - Date of Incident: December 19, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested on public roads, taken to unit # 2 and beaten. His clothes were torn, leaving him half naked, they took photos of him in these conditions, they deported him to Las Tunas in a train guarded by the national police. He returned the next day to Santiago de Cuba, where he lives with his wife.

70. Victim: Alfonso Chaviano - Date of Incident: December 19, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested at 7pm, around UNPACU Headquarters, taken to unit #2, he was told that he was on the list of the dead, not to consume the medicine given to him by the organization, released four hours later.

71. Victim: Iliana Hernández - Date of Incident: December 19, 2020 - Havana

A freelance journalist was arrested by political police for several hours as she left her home.

72. Victims: Ebert Hidalgo, Ada Ladrón De Guevara - Date of Incident: December 23, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested in the vicinity of UNPACU's headquarters to prevent him from entering. When they were preparing to return to their home, Ebert was arrested and taken in a police patrol car to unit #2, threatened by agent Braulio with being taken to prison for non-payment of fines.

73. Victims: Ebert Hidalgo, Wilder Cervantes - Date of Incident: December 24, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Intercepted by political police officers and the national police, preventing them from entering the headquarters that remains under police harassment more than 5 months.

74. Victim: Roilán Alvarez - Date of Incident: December 24, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Cited to the court of his municipality; the judge presented him with a document claiming that he was obligated to serve 1 year and 6 months for the false crime of disobedience, which he had to fulfill by working for the State or on his own, cited on December 1.

75. Victims: Yolanda Carmentate, Cristian Pérez - Date of incident: December 26, 2020 - Las Tunas

UNPACU members, ex-political prisoners woke up to police harassment.

76. Victim: Liusban Jhon Utra - Date of Incident: December 26, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Ex-political prisoner, detained and led to the #2 unit, beaten, fined to 2000 CUP (for putting posters on public road) and 100 CUP (for violating the police fence that prevents entry to the organization's headquarters), threatened with being taken to prison. He remained in handcuffs for about 17 hours. Released during the same day.

77. Victim: Samuel Leblan - Date of Incident: December 27, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested in the surroundings of the UNPACU headquarters, taken to unit # 2, fined 100 CUP (for violating the police blockade that prevents entrance into the headquarters) and 30 CUP (for disturbing public order, for peacefully demonstrating on December 10 when they last arrested him), accused of illegal possession of knives, because he had bought a knife for housework and brought it when he was arrested.

78. Victim: Ebert Hidalgo - Date of Incident: December 31, 2020 - Santiago de Cuba

Arrested in the vicinity of UNPACU's headquarters, when he intended to enter the headquarters. He was arrested by the head of Enfrentamiento and other repressive forces, preventing his access to it.

Appreciation and Thanks

Incident reporting is an effort by the Fundación Para La Democracia Panamericana (FDP) Incident Reporting Center to make cases of abuse and persecution that Cubans have had to face in the interior of the island for more than six decades visible to the public.

This publication is made possible thanks to the contribution of hundreds of people who managed to overcome fear and censorship in Cuba, and they deliver their incident report so that the eyes of the world can see the suffering that activists must experience for freedom, democracy and human rights.

We are grateful for the collaboration of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) for the publication of this report.

