



---

# INCIDENT REPORT JANUARY 2021

---

**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](http://www.fundaciondemocraciapanamericana.org)

“Cuba is all Cubans, our history, our land, our diaspora, our culture, our peoples, virtues, defects and our hopes. But Cuba is also His Christian memory and the faith of His children...”

Oswaldo Payá

# **Incident Report**

## **Cuba, January 2021**

---

**February 15, 2021**

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.

In January 2021, at least **87 verified incidents** occurred throughout Cuba, with a total of 90 victims. Of the reported total, **50 were arbitrarily** detained, seeking neutralization of the work of dissident actors by State Security forces. 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 January **there were at least 5 fines**, where penalties range from 30 to 300 pesos in national currency for those affected.

**A repeated practice throughout** the month was **surrounding activists' homes with police**. At least 22 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 in the month warn of a worrying application of harassment patterns to intimidate and criminalize the work of opposition leaders and organizations and 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

**“** *... I was beaten and threatened with imprisonment for 8 years, but I don't mind going to prison, it's normal, anyone can go to prison for political reasons in the country. For me, going to prison is a good teaching, and even more for Cuba's freedom...*”

**José Daniel Ferrer Cantillo (photo)**, activist of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU).

Santiago de Cuba.



## Cases received

**1. Victim: UNPACU Members - Incident Date: January 1, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

UNPACU Headquarters continues to be under police enforcement imposed by the secret police, national police and other repressive forces. For five months, police have prevented the free entry and exit of the members of the organization to its headquarters.

**2. Victim: Yoandry Figueredo - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Guantanamo**

Arrested on the 1st at 10:00 p.m. and transferred in a patrol car to the Park 24 unit, there he was threatened by DSE Agent calling himself Kevin, with a beating and with prison for taking to the streets with posters. He was issued a warning letter and fined \$30.00 for an alleged public disorder offense. Released on the 2nd at 10:00 pm.

**3. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Havana**

Arrested on the public road near the train terminal at 3pm, when she was preparing to participate in the Peace Mass in Havana Cathedral, by the PNR and two DSE officers calling themselves Jorge and Arturo, transported by patrol car for the Aguilera police unit, kept her inside the car in the unit's parking.

**4. Victim: Caridad Burunate - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Havana**

Surrounded by police at their home from 7 am to 4 pm.

**5. Victim: Leticia Ramos - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Havana**

Surrounded by police at their home from 1:30 pm until after 6 pm.



**6. Victim: Amada Heredia - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Havana**

Surrounded by police at their home from 1:30 pm until after 6 pm.

**7. Victim: Asunción Carrillo - Date of Incident: January 1, 2021 - Havana**

Surrounded by police at their home from 1 pm to 7:30 pm.

**8. Victim: Oscar Casanella - Date of Incident: January 2, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours in retaliation for documenting what was going on in a line to purchase supplies.

**9. Victim: Lourdes Esquivel - Date of Incident: January 5, 2021 - Havana**

On January 5, 2021, Ms. Esquivel, as she came down from the bus where she was on her way to the headquarters of the Ladies in White, in Diez de Octubre, was arrested and taken to the Aguilera police unit in patrol car #731. She was inside that patrol car for two hours, released at 11:30 am, where she was threatened for her political activism.

**10. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: January 6, 2021 - Havana**

On the day of the Three Wise Men, Ms. Soler always gives gifts to the children of her neighborhood and this year she has not been able to do so, as she is surrounded by police in her own home and is being threatened by officials of the state security.

**11. Victim: Yakelin Heredia - Date of Incident: January 6, 2021 - Havana**

At about 10:30 am the Lady of White was arrested at the bus stop on the corner of the headquarters of the Ladies in White. She was moved in a patrol car to the 4<sup>th</sup> police unit, and then transferred to the Zanja unit, where she was threatened by the officers of the State security. She was released at 1 p.m.

**12. Victim: José Díaz Silva - Date of Incident: January 6, 2021 - Havana**

Mr. Silva, who is the leader of the MOPNR, was arrested and taken to the Santiago de las Vegas police unit, where he was beaten by the police and the state security.

**13. Victim: Ana Iris Miranda - Date of Incident: January 7, 2021 - Holguin**

Arrested by political police for several hours in retaliation for conducting a peaceful protest.

**14. Victim: Ada Iris Miranda - Date of Incident: January 7, 2021 - Holguin**

Arrested by political police for several hours, in retaliation for participating in a peaceful protest.

**15. Victim: Fidel Batista - Date of Incident: January 7, 2021 - Holguin**

Arrested by political police for several hours, in retaliation for participating in a peaceful protest.

**16. Victim: Yoandry Figueredo - Date of Incident: January 7, 2021 - Guantanamo**

The UNPACU sympathizer was persecuted on the public highway by the political police and the national police, to confiscate the organization's working materials. He had to return to headquarters.

**17. Victim: José Díaz Silva - Date of Incident: January 9, 2021 - Havana**

The leader of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic (MOPNR) was detained by the political police for three hours due to his opposition activities.

**18. Victim: Cosme Dominguez - Date of Incident: January 10, 2021 - Havana**

His house was under police enforcement by the state security and the national police.

**19. Victim: Miraida Martín - Date of Incident: January 10, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

His home, which is one of UNPACU's headquarters, was besieged by repressive agents of the state security, preventing activists from entering the Los Maceos headquarters.

**20. Victim: Henry Couto Guzmán - Date of Incident: January 11, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Arrested, summoned to the park 24 unit, accused of putting up posters. They fingerprinted him, issued a warning letter and also punched him in the face.

**21. Victim: Roilan Alvarez - Date of Incident: January 12, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Subpoenaed to the municipal court of Mella to await the determination of the judge of the process in which he is wrongfully accused, cited to define whether he will work for the government, as he is supposedly sanctioned for 1 year and 6 months for disobedience.

**22. Victim: Reinaldo Abreu - Date of Incident: January 12, 2021 - Havana**

Political police officer showed up at his home, issuing him a verbal subpoena to the 6th police unit on January 14 at 9 a.m.

**23. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer García - Date of Incident: January 13, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Arrested at the corner of the UNPACU Headquarters, dragged through the streets by several State Security agents, they forced him into a police patrol car, leading him to unit # 2. Transferred in a private car to the outskirts of the city, interrogated by the head of the Confrontation of the province. Arbitrarily detained for 8 hours.

**24. Victim: Juan Carlos Hernández - Date of Incident: January 13, 2021 - Camaguey**

Arrested, incommunicado, allegedly transferred to Las Tunas. His current whereabouts are unknown, he is missing.

**25. Victim: Hannibal Riveaux - Date of Incident: January 13, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Political police officers remain stationed around UNPACU's headquarters preventing his passage to UNPACU.

**26. Victim: Roilan Zárraga - Date of Incident: January 13, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Political police officers remain stationed around UNPACU's headquarters preventing his passage to UNPACU.

**27. Victim: Fernando González - Date of Incident: January 14, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Violently detained around the main of UNPACU headquarters, he was pushed and driven in a police patrol to the #2 unit, threatened for his political activism, questioned by the officer of the State security known as Mario. Released after 8 hours of detention.

**28. Victim: Talía Alvarez - Date of Incident: January 14, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Intercepted in the corner of UNPACU headquarters by an unknown State Security agent, to prevent her and her little girl from taking the lunch that the organization provides to social cases. Several activists demonstrated peacefully on the public highway and managed to allow her to pass.

**29. Victims: José Daniel Ferrer García, Nelva Ortega - Date of Incident: January 14, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

General Coordinator of UNPACU and his wife declare themselves in Hunger Strike for all the arbitrary actions and abuse of power committed by the State Security towards peaceful dissidents, and for preventing food to supply the dining room that provides service to social cases, as well as for the police siege that they have maintained for 6 months and 6 days, preventing the free movement of their members.

**30. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer Cantillo - Date of Incident: January 15, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Stopped in the vicinity of UNPACU's main headquarters to prevent food from entering the dining room. Beaten by a henchman of Security while being held by three others. Driven to Unit # 1 in the Head of Confrontation's car. Fined and threatened with going to prison.

**31. Victim: Fernando González - Date of Incident: January 15, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Stopped in the vicinity of UNPACU' sede principal, to prevent food from entering the dining room. Driven to the #1, threatened by his political activism. I ruled that same day.

**32. Victim: Niubis Bisset - Date of Incident: January 15, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Arrested in the vicinity of the headquarters, she was not allowed to pass and the activists who were at the headquarters demonstrated peacefully. She managed to get in and when she left she was taken into custody in a police patrol to unit # 2.

**33. Victim: Ariolvis Batista - Date of Incident: January 15, 2021 - Guantanamo**

Verbally subpoenaed by the Head of Sector of his municipality to the police unit of Park 24. He did not show up, because it wasn't an official subpoena.

**34. Victim: Ariolvis Batista - Date of Incident: January 16, 2021 - Guantanamo**

Violently detained in his home, beaten by two agents of the political police, a Search and Capture officer, and two of the national police. Driven in a police patrol car to the Park 24 unit, accused of the false crime of contempt for not attending the summons. He was detained for about 9 days, during which he remained on a hunger strike. Threatened with being taken to prison and fined.

**35. Victim: Evert Matos - Date of Incident: January 16, 2021 - Havana**

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

**36. Victim: Yosvany Martinez - Date of Incident: January 18, 2021 - Havana**

Arbitrarily detained by the political police, on his way to the UNPACU headquarters in Calabazar. Transferred to Capri's police unit, threatened with being taken to prison for his political activism.

**37. Victim: Esquizander Benitez - Date of Incident: January 19, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

The head of his local sector showed up at his home, leaving the activist's mother a subpoena for him to appear in his community's police unit.

**38. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer García - Date of Incident: January 19, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Public health officials went to UNPACU's National Headquarters, informing him that he had to suspend the food program for people in need, as it could allegedly be infected with COVID-19. He refused to comply with the order, saying that he will not leave these people helpless, he will only stop providing his help if the government cares and supports social cases.

**39. Victims: María Josefa Acón, Zaqueo Báez - Date of incident: January 20, 2021 - Havana**

His home, which also functions as a UNPACU headquarters in Calabazar, was surrounded for 6 hours by political police and national police officers.

**40. Victim: Melquiades Blanco - Date of Incident: January 20, 2021 - Camaguey**

Arbitrarily detained by political police for several hours. He was severely beaten.

**41. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer García - Date of Incident: January 21, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Political police officers dressed as health officials appear at his home, which functions as the UNPACU headquarters, demanding that he suspend the food aid he provides to people in need. He communicated that he would not leave so many people stranded.

**42. Victims: María Josefa Acón, Zaqueo Báez - Date of incident: January 21, 2021 - Havana**

His home, which serves as UNPACU's headquarters in Calabazar, was surrounded by agents of the political police for 7 hours.

**43. Victims: Yolanda Carménate Fernández, Cristian Pérez - Date of incident: January 21, 2021 - Las Tunas**

Some Public Health officials came to his home, claiming that there were mosquito larvae in some tanks (just washed), which is why they called the PNR agents and applied fines of \$ 300.00 and \$ 30.00 to both victims.

**44. Victim: Adrián Rubio - Date of Incident: January 22, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours in retaliation for dressing himself as a pioneer boy for a peaceful protest.

**45. Victim: Jorge Luis Arias - Date of Incident: January 22, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours in retaliation for dressing himself as a pioneer boy for a peaceful protest.

**46. Victim: Anyell Valdés - Date of Incident: January 22, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours in retaliation for dressing himself as a pioneer boy for a peaceful protest.

**47. Victim: Karel Parra - Date of Incident: January 23, 2021 - Las Tunas**

He was the victim of a break-in at his home as a method of repression. And then he was arrested.

**48. Victim: Equisander Benitez - Date of Incident: January 25, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

At his home, the head of the Sector in his area was introduced to leave him a (verbal) subpoena with his mother, to show up at 2:00 p.m. that same day in the PNR Unit for an interview with two political law enforcement agents.

**49. Victim: Yoe Suarez - Date of Incident: January 25, 2021 - Havana**

Subpoenaed by political police for questioning and threatened due to his journalistic activities.

**50. Victim: Adrián Rubio - Date of Incident: January 26, 2021 - Havana**

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

**51. Victim: Eralidis Frometa - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

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

**52. Victim: Norges Rodríguez - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed, guarded and threatened by political police to prevent him from leaving his home.

**53. Victim: Camila Acosta - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

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



**54. Victim: Camila Lobón - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

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

**55. Victim: Tania Bruguera - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of her home by the political police, preventing her from leaving.

**56. Victim: Iliana Hernández - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of her home by the political police, preventing her from leaving.

**57. Victim: Escobar Light - Incident Date: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of her home by the political police, preventing them from leaving.

**58. Victim: Katherine Bisquet - Incident date: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of her home by the political police, preventing her from leaving.

**59. Victim: Anyel Valdés - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of her home by the political police, preventing them from leaving.

**60. Victim: Adrián Rubio - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of his home by the political police, preventing him from leaving.

**61. Victim: Yoel Bravo - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Villa Clara**

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

**62. Victim: Héctor Luis Valdés - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours on his way to the Ministry of Culture. He was severely beaten and fined 150 Cuban pesos.

**63. Victim: Camila Lobón - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent her from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture. She was stripped naked and searched in her private parts.

**64. Victim: Celia González - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent her from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture. She was stripped naked and searched in her private parts.

**65. Victim: Mikhail Rodriguez - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture. He was severely beaten.

**66. Victim: Yunier Gutierrez - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture. He was severely beaten.

**67. Victim: Oscar Casanella - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**68. Victim: Solveig Font - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**69. Victim: Julio Llorpiz Casal - Date of incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**70. Victim: Amaury Pacheco - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours while preparing to join the demonstration at the Ministry of Culture.

**71. Victim: Luis Manuel Otero - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**72. Victim: Maykel Osorbo - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**73. Victim: Ulysses Padrón - Date of Incident: January 27, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by political police for several hours to prevent him from conducting a peaceful protest at the Ministry of Culture.

**74. Victim: Sulaine Videaux - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Arbitrarily arrested on public roads, transferred to #2 Unit, where she was charged with false crimes of disobedience and resistance and put in a jail cell. She moved in the early morning of the 29th to unit #1, where she remained until the 30th, when she was released under threat of going to trial.

**75. Victim: Zaqueo Báez - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

Arbitrarily detained by DSE agents in Centro Habana, transferred to the Calabazar PNR Unit, where he was interrogated and threatened with disappearing or going to prison very soon for his political activism. Duration of detention: 2h 30min.

**76. Victim: Cosme Dominguez - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

Arrested near his home and transferred to the Zanja PNR Unit, where he was threatened with going to prison for his political activism. The detention lasted 1h and 30min.

**77. Victim: Oscar Espinoza - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Guantanamo**

Summoned by the Park 24 Unit, interrogated by the major and head of the unit who calls himself José Antonio, threatened with being taken to prison for some posters that appeared in the distribution where the victim lives. Duration of the incident: 3 h.

**78. Victim: Escobar Light - Incident Date: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

Harassed and blocked at the door of their home by the political police, preventing them from leaving.

**79. Victim: Carlos González - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by the political police for several hours in retaliation for having shown solidarity with the activists who held a protest at the Ministry of Culture. He was fined 30 Cuban pesos.

**80. Victim: Kirenia Nunez - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

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

**81. Victim: María Matienzo - Date of Incident: January 28, 2021 - Havana**

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

**82. Victim: Luis Manuel Otero - Date of Incident: January 29, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by the political police for several hours as he prepared to arrive at the Capitol, to peacefully demand the resignation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Culture.

**83. Victim: Michel Matos - Date of Incident: January 29, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by the political police for several hours as he prepared to arrive at the Capitol, to peacefully demand the resignation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Culture.

**84. Victim: Katherine Bisquet - Incident date: January 29, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by the political police for several hours as he prepared to arrive at the Capitol, to peacefully demand the resignation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Culture.

**85. Victim: Yasser Castellanos - Date of Incident: January 29, 2021 - Havana**

Detained by the political police for several hours as he prepared to arrive at the Capitol, to peacefully demand the resignation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Culture.

**86. Victim: Jesus David - Date of Incident: January 31, 2021 - Havana**

Subpoenaed by the political police to be interrogated and threatened, due to their opposition activities.

**87. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer García - Date of Incident: January 31, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

He was the victim of an act of vandalism at home as a method of frightening him. His home was stoned.

## 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.

