



---

# INCIDENT REPORT FEBRUARY 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)

“

*I do not intend to announce new positions or models, but our people have lived and suffered various political and economic systems. Today we know that any method or model that, in an alleged pursuit of justice, development or effectiveness, is placed above the person or overrides any fundamental rights leads to some form of oppression, exclusion and plunges people into calamity. We want to express from here our solidarity with all those who suffer any form of oppression and injustice, with those who are silenced and marginalized in the world... "*

Oswaldo Payá

## **Incident Report**

### **Cuba, February 2021**

---

**March 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 the month of the February of 2021, at least **41 verified incidents** occurred throughout Cuba with a total of 50 victims. Of the reported total, **26 people were arbitrarily detained** by State Security forces for the purposes of neutralizing their work and silencing dissenting voices. These arrests did not comply with due process procedures.

A common sanctioning practice employed by the authorities is imposing exorbitant fines on citizens. During the month of February, **there were at least 3 fines**, where penalties range from 30 to 2000 pesos in national currency for those affected.

The events that occurred throughout 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 due to 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

**“ ... Violence grows in our homeland, permitted and fostered by the State itself.  
They are using and abusing a public power to encourage hate scenarios...”**

**Anamely Ramos**, member of the San Isidro Movement (MSI)



## **Cases received**

### **1. Victim: Henry Couto - Date of Incident: February 3, 2021 - Guantanamo**

He was summoned to the Unit of Park 24, questioned by State Security agents, fined 2000.00 MN, for some posters that appeared in the town where he resides, threatened with being taken to prison like the activist Yanier Joubert.

### **2. Victim: Carolina Barrero - Date of Incident: February 4, 2021 - Havana**

The activist was arrested one day after having delivered a letter to the Cuban National Assembly with Solveig Font, requesting the dismissal of the Cuban Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso. State Security violently detained her in a patrol car.

### **3. Victim: Esber Ramirez - Date of Incident: February 5, 2021 - Holguin**

The activist Esber Rafael Ramírez, delegate of the Independent and Democratic Cuba Party (CID), in the town of Antilla, Holguín province, was detained during a search carried out in his home by police and armed agents of State Security. The agents not only arrested Ramírez, but also took four telephones, two computer memory storage units, money, and all the documents the human rights activist works with.

### **4. Victim: Clara Herrera - Date of Incident: February 5, 2021 - Holguin**

She was arrested with her husband during a raid on her home by policemen and armed State Security officers.

**5. Victim: Gladis Capote - Date of Incident: February 5, 2021 - Havana**

Arrested when she was going to the church of Santa Rita, taken in a police patrol to the Novia del Mediodía Bridge in the municipality of La Lisa, where they left her abandoned.

**6. Victim: Julia Herrera - Date of Incident: February 5, 2021 - Havana**

DSE and PNR agents surrounded her home from 8am to prevent her from participating in the Mass for Peace in the Cathedral of Havana. The operation stopped at 2pm.

**7. Victim: Barbarian Molinel - Date of Incident: February 8, 2021 - Havana**

Arrested when leaving his home, taken to the Infanta and Manglar police unit, fined 30.00 MN for not attending a summons that the Head of Sector of his locality gave him verbally.

**8. Victims: Dairis González, Omar Ortega - Date of Incident: February 9, 2021 - Ciego de Avila**

The police and members of the Black Berets, from the Ministry of the Interior, detained two citizens in Ciego de Ávila on February 9, who were distributing copies of the 1940 Constitution. The events took place at 11 in the morning, in the central Parque Martí , from the city of Morón, when independent journalists Dairis González Ravelo and Omar Ortega, members of the Avileña Free Press Agency (APLA), were detained in an operation in which at least 8 officers participated.

**9. Victims: Bartolo Cantillo, Celina Osoria - Date of Incident: February 10, 2021 - Guantanamo**

The house was surrounded and guarded by State Security agents, one of them was in the house that is above theirs, where Mrs. Yorvenis Leiva López lives, who is a State Security cooperator.



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

The Leader of the *Damas de Blanco* was detained by State Security when she was traveling in a public bus in Havana, and returned to her residence.

**11. Victims: Cristian Pérez, Yolanda Carmenate - Date of incident: February 11, 2021 - Las Tunas**

Threatened with being taken to court for refusing to pay arbitrarily imposed fines.

**12. Victims: Zacchating Báez, María Josefa Acon - Date of Incident: February 12, 2021 - Havana**

His home was surrounded by the political police and the national police to prevent the entry and exit of any activist, and to ensure that no activity was held for the birthday of Laura Pollán Toledo.

**13. Victim: Liusmilay Claro - Date of Incident: February 12, 2021 - Guantanamo**

State Security officers, accompanied by the national police, raided his home, allegedly for receiving money from enemies of the Cuban government. They confiscated more than 10,000 CUP, despite explaining that it belonged to her husband. She was taken to the Park 24 unit and threatened with harm to her, as well as to her relatives.

**14. Victims: Yunia Figueredo, Frank Korea - Date of Incident: February 12, 2021 - Havana**

Agents of the Political Police and the National Revolutionary Police raided the home of independent journalists Frank Correa and Yunia Figueredo. The search of the independent journalists' home lasted for more than two hours.

**15. Victim: Marieta Martínez - Date of Incident: February 13, 2021 - Havana**

Arrested on the public highway, in the vicinity of her home, taken to the Zanja police unit where she remained inside the car for around 7 hours in high temperatures.

**16. Victim: Miguel Angel López - Date of Incident: February 14, 2021 - Guantanamo**

The UNPACU activist and promoter of Cuba Decide was intercepted on the public highway by two State Security agents, who did not identify themselves and threatened to remain under surveillance.

**17. Victim: Manuel Ramos - Date of Incident: February 15, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Pastor Manuel Cecilio Ramos was summoned to Santiago at around 8:00am to be interrogated for social media posts against the government, and was threatened with arrest if he continued his pro-democracy work.

**18. Victim: Juan Antonio Madrazo - Date of Incident: February 15, 2021 - Havana**

State Security arbitrarily detained Juan Antonio Madrazo, activist and national coordinator of the Citizen Committee for Racial Integration (CIR) in Havana. At around 9:20 in the morning, the activist was approached by two political police officers at the corner of his house at 23 and C, in El Vedado. They identified themselves as Marvin and Ricardo, who told Madrazo they wanted to have a conversation, a common euphemism for political police to demand questioning.

**19. Victim: Ariolvis Batista - Date of Incident: February 17, 2021 - Guantanamo**

Summoned to the Park 24 police unit, questioned by the Chief of Interrogation of his province, threatened for his political activism, since the dictator was in his region that day. They suggested

that he leave the organization. And, as he refused, he is pending trial for contempt, a false crime fabricated by State Security.

**20. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: February 18, 2021 - Havana**

Surrounded and under repression by the DSE-PNR at the national headquarters of *Damas de Blanco*, on February 18 beginning at 8 am. When leaving the headquarters at 8:50 a.m., Berta Soler was followed by a DSE agent and a patrol car with four uniformed policemen, two women and two men, returning after departure time, 10:15 a.m. headquarters.

**21. Victim: Cosme Dominguez, Gustavo Garavito - Date of Incident: February 20, 2021 - Havana**

The political police detained two members of the Patriotic Union of Cuba in Havana. After being questioned, the activists were stripped of the money they were carrying, according to a testimony submitted to Radio Martí, Cosme Damián Domínguez Peñalver, one of the affected activists. “On February 20, leaving the UNPACU headquarters, the activist Gustavo Garavito Gómez and I, Cosme Damián Domínguez Peñalver, coordinator of the Perucho Figueredo branch, in Old Havana, were arbitrarily detained by State Security officials and the National Police,” said Domínguez Peñalver.

**22. Victim: Omar Torres - Date of Incident: February 20, 2021 - Ciego de Avila**

He was arbitrarily detained and released shortly thereafter, for the second time in 24 hours, in the Ciro Redondo municipality, Ciego de Ávila province. According to the former sailor, minutes before his arrest, officers of the National Revolutionary Police (PNR) arrived at his home without any arrest warrant and told him that he should go with them, under the threat of charging him for "disobedience" if he did not. Torres Sosa was also arrested at 7 pm, and released three hours later by officers of the National Revolutionary Police (PNR), after being interrogated and threatened by the State Security of that territory.

**23. Victim: José Díaz Silva - Date of Incident: February 22, 2021 - Havana**

In the popular court of Boyeros in Santiago de las Vegas, where he was summoned for an oral hearing, Mr. Silva has a prosecutor's petition with a precautionary measure of house arrest, asking the Prosecutor's Office for two years and eight months in prison for an fabricated threat made up by State Security.

**24. Victim: Anyell Valdés - Date of Incident: February 22, 2021 - Havana**

The home of Anyell Valdés Cruz, one of the people gathered at the headquarters of the San Isidro Movement last November, suffered an act of repudiation amid a State Security operation that, according to other activists, was intended to evict the activist.

**25. Victims: Daineris Moya, Albert Portuondo, Equizander Benitez - Date of Incident: February 22, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Police officers went to their homes, looking for them to arrest them, and they were not to be found.

**26. Victim: Angel Moya - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Havana**

He was detained on the public highway on Porvenir Avenue and taken to the Cojímar police unit, where he was kept for more than 8 hours in a patrol car at 7:30 p.m. He was released under threats for his political activism.

**27. Victim: Berta Soler - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Havana**

In the morning hours Soler was stopped on public roads of Porvenir Avenue and taken to the Cotorro police unit. She was released at 7 p.m where she was threatened for her political activism.

**28. Victim: José Daniel Ferrer García - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

The General Coordinator of UNPACU, was beaten by two henchmen at the service of the regime who were posing as garlic salesman. Ferrer received this beating for feeding the people and providing free medicine. At night, several agents at the service of State Security stoned his home in an act of repudiation.

**29. Victim: Geovel Hernandez - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Havana**

State Security officials showed up at his home, for the sole purpose of threatening and harassing him for his political activism.

**30. Victim: Daineris Moya - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Violently detained on public roads when she was demonstrating peacefully with other members of the organization. She was taken to the police unit and threatened with being beaten and imprisoned, for the crimes of attack, spread of epidemic and disorderly conduct. Her mobile phone was stolen. This was done by an agent of the political police Wilfredo, along with others. There was also the Sector Chief of the area, who told her that "she was a retard" and that he was going to beat her up whenever he wanted, and that nothing was going to happen.

**31. Victim: Albert Portuondo - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Violently detained by agents of the political police on public roads, when he was peacefully demonstrating with other members of the organization. Driven to the police unit. They raided his home to steal the phone, he was threatened with being taken to prison and that a "package" may appear in the yard of his house.

**32. Victim: Equizander Benitez - Date of Incident: February 24, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

Violently detained by agents of the political police on public roads, when he was peacefully demonstrating with other members of the organization. He was taken to the police unit, beaten and tortured. They wrapped a cable around his neck, he was threatened with death, and with being taken to prison, where an inmate would sexually abuse him. Fined to 2000 pesos.

**33. Victim: Yannaïda Calas - Date of Incident: February 25, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

She was detained at her home by the political police officers Mario, Rafael and Antonio. They took her to the Micro 3 PNR. There they told her that they were going to give her a fine of 5,000.00 MN and also that she would be taken to prison if she did not stop cooking at the UNPACU headquarters. They proposed that she leave the organization, and that they were going to find a job for her in Comunes. This woman is a UNPACU supporter and cook.

**34. Victim: Claudia Reyes - Date of Incident: February 25, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

She was arrested at home by political police officers Mario, Rafael, Addriel and Antonio. They took her to The Micro 3 PNR. She was threatened with being taken to prison if she continued to work at UNPACU Headquarters.

**35. Victim: Kenya Arguelles - Date of Incident: February 25, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

She was detained and taken to the PNR of Micro 3. There she was threatened by agents Addriel and Antonio; they said that they are going to arrest her husband and deport him to Las Tunas, and that they did not care that she was pregnant, but that she was going to be taken to prison and when the baby was born they were going to take it away and take it to the Casa de la Patria. This activist has been threatened with abortion and is hypertensive.

**36. Victim: Eduardo Sánchez - Date of Incident: February 25, 2021 - Havana**

He was arrested at home by political police officers and taken to the Zanja PNR, threatened with taking him to prison and also death.

**37. Victim: Marilyn Alvarez - Date of Incident: February 26, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

She was detained near the UNPACU headquarters by agents Mario and Braulio, and two uniformed repressors, preventing her from entering the headquarters. They told her that she had no need to look for food there, because he had offered her a job as a hairdresser and she did not want to accept. After several hours they took her to her home.

**38. Victim: Marina Paz Labaceno - Date of Incident: February 26, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

She was detained by agents of the political police near the UNPACU headquarters for peacefully demonstrating against the Castro y Canel dictatorship. She was put in a police car and was transferred to the park of the polyclinic '28 de septiembre'. From there they took her to 'el Palecete.'

**39. Victim: Anibal Riviaux - Date of Incident: February 26, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

He was detained at the corner of the headquarters by agents Braulio, Mario and an agent who beat José Daniel Ferrer, as well as by other agents. He was mounted on a patrol and taken to the Motorizada Unit. There, agent Braulio made suggestions for him to leave the UNPACU and leave the country.

**40. Victim: Ernesto Riberí - Date of Incident: February 26, 2021 - Santiago de Cuba**

There, agent Mario threatened him for his political activism.

**41.Victim: Cristian Perez - Date of Incident: February 27, 2021 - Las Tunas**

His home was surrounded by the political police and the national police to prevent the entry and exit of any activist



## 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.

