



Executive Summary. Report January 2023 - April 2024.

INCIDENTS REPORT CENTER



Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana (FDP) supporting:





Executive Summary. Report January 2023 - April 2024

Index

FDP Incidents Report Center.....	3
Highlights of 2023.....	3
Statistics.....	5
Monthly evolution of cases by sex: Jan-Dec 2023 and Jan-Apr 2024.....	6
Comparative analysis of incidents: Significant increase in cases in 2023.....	7
Arbitrary Detentions.....	8
Comparative analysis of arbitrary detentions.....	9
IACHR Audiences.....	10
Cuba Decide.....	11
Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana (FDP).....	12
Incidents Report Center.....	12



FDP Incidents Report Center

Prepared by the Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana (FDP)'s Incidents Report Center, this report reflects a coordinated effort to document incidents from January 2023 to April 2024. During this period, the Center has received numerous reports of harassment, persecution, and arbitrary detentions directed against independent activists, political opponents, artists, communicators, and other individuals involved in defending freedom and human rights in Cuba.

It is important to highlight that the cases presented here are only those we have been able to verify and document. These incidents, unfortunately, represent only a fraction of the countless and ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by Cuban state authorities against their citizens. This report seeks not only to give a voice to the victims and highlight their experiences but also to serve as an urgent call to the international community to recognize and respond to the grave situation in Cuba. The reality faced by many people in the country is alarming, and it is likely that there are many more situations that, for various reasons, remain unreported or undocumented.

Highlights of 2023

During 2023, the FDP Incidents Report Center witnessed a worrying increase in the number of incidents related to human rights violations in Cuba. According to the data collected, the total number of incidents recorded rose to 1577 cases, representing a significant increase from the 955 cases documented the previous year. This upward trend was also reflected in the number of victims, which went from 957 people in 2022 to 1581 in 2023.

On two occasions, our center raised the complaint of recorded cases in public hearings granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In the first hearing, on "*Freedom of expression and press, and the new Social Communication Act*" along with other organizations, we highlighted that the newly enacted law of social communication in Cuba



represents another chapter in the deterioration of freedom of expression in the country. This legislation allows the state to exercise institutionalized control over freedom of expression, particularly targeting dissenters, independent journalists, activists, artists, and human rights defenders.

We call on the Inter-American Commission to request action from the Permanent Council of the OAS, in the face of human rights violations in Cuba, and to demand the release of all political prisoners.

In the second hearing, on "Monitoring of precautionary measures of beneficiaries deprived of liberty," we denounced the unjust imprisonment of more than one thousand political prisoners in Cuba. Many in unsanitary conditions, poor nutrition, and lack of medical attention. Specifically, the FDP Incidents Report Center exposed cases such as that of José Daniel Ferrer, Félix Navarro, and the situation of the Miranda Leyva family, all beneficiaries of Precautionary Protection Measures granted by the IACHR. The IACHR reaffirmed its commitment to continue highlighting human rights violations in Cuba and expressed its concern about the situation, as well as its commitment to monitoring the precautionary measures and the recommendations suggested by civil society.



JOSE DANIEL FERRER



FÉLIX NAVARRO



FAMILIA MIRANDA LEYVA



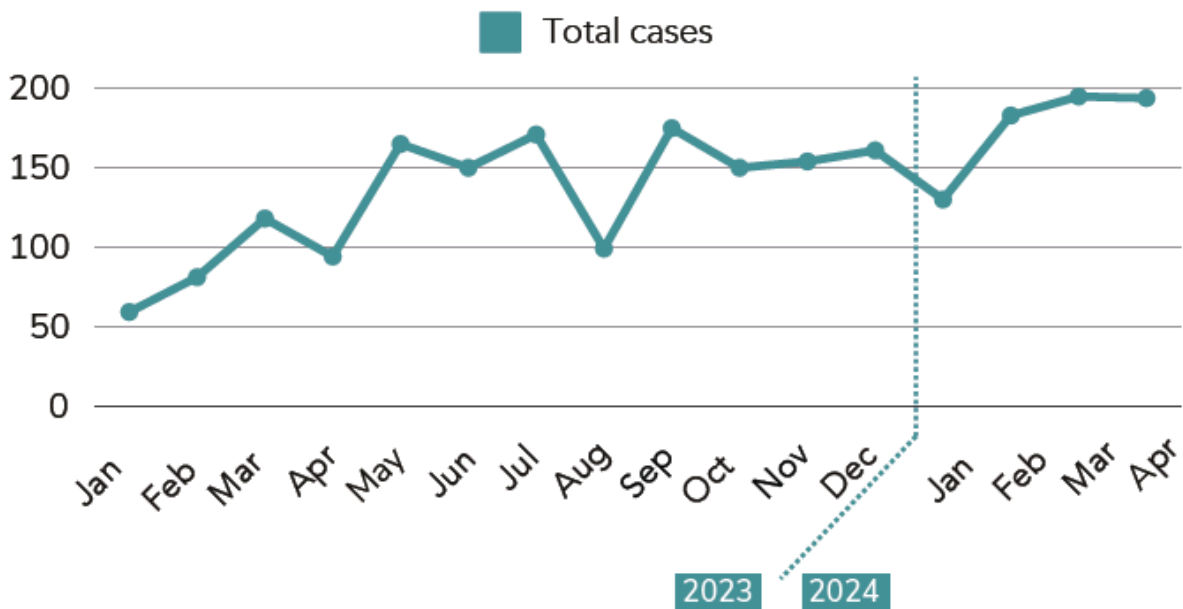
Statistics

Total incidents 2023: 1,577 cases

- Total victims of the year: 1,581 people
- Total men: 721
- Total women: 860
- Total arbitrary detentions: 800

Incidents Jan-Apr 2024: 702 cases

- Total victims of the year: 702 people
- Total men: 286
- Total women: 416
- Total arbitrary detentions: 453





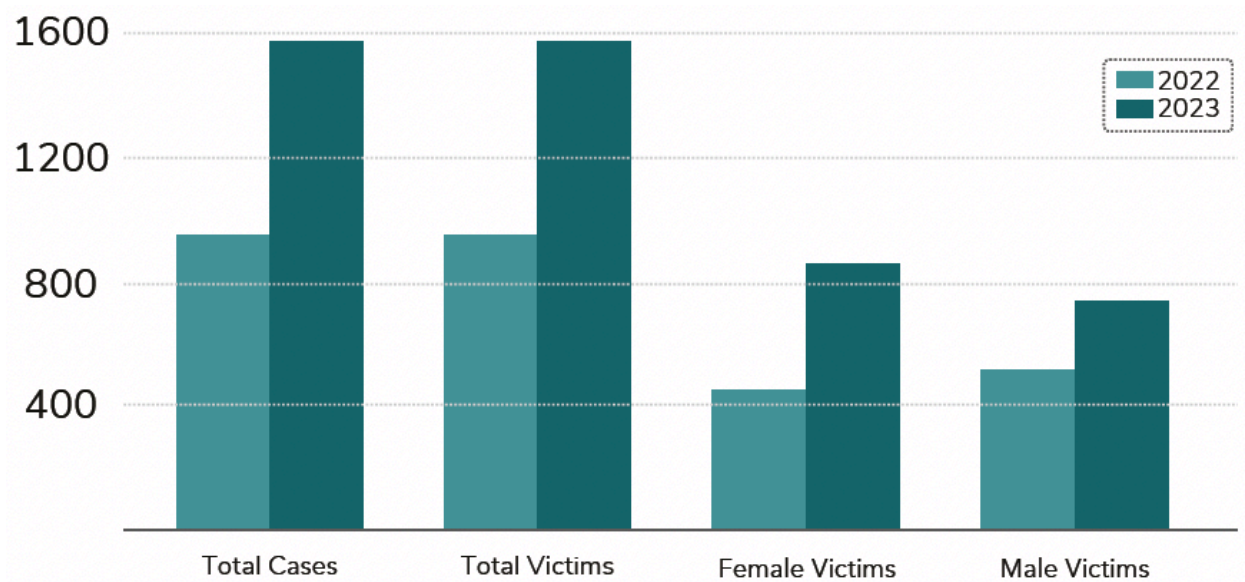
Monthly evolution of cases by sex: Jan-Dec 2023 and Jan-Apr 2024.

Month	Total cases	Total victims	Female victims	Male victims
January	59	59	25	34
February	81	81	45	36
March	118	118	60	58
April	94	93	49	44
May	165	165	56	109
June	150	155	92	63
July	171	171	90	81
August	99	99	26	73
September	175	175	112	63
October	150	150	110	40
November	154	154	106	48
December	161	161	89	72
2024 January	130	130	67	63
February	183	183	127	56
March	195	195	117	78
April	194	194	105	89



Comparative analysis of incidents: Significant increase in cases in 2023.

The year 2023 witnessed a marked increase in incidents related to human rights violations compared to 2022. According to the data collected, the total number of incidents recorded in 2023 rose to 1577 cases, representing a significant increase from the 955 cases documented in 2022. This upward trend is also reflected in the number of victims, which went from 957 people in 2022 to 1581 in 2023. Breaking down the data by gender, we observe that both men and women have been affected to a greater extent this past year, with a total of 721 men and 860 women victims in 2023, compared to 513 men and 444 women in 2022. These numbers not only reflect an escalation in repression and human rights violations but also underscore the urgent need for a more effective and coordinated response from the international community and human rights organizations.

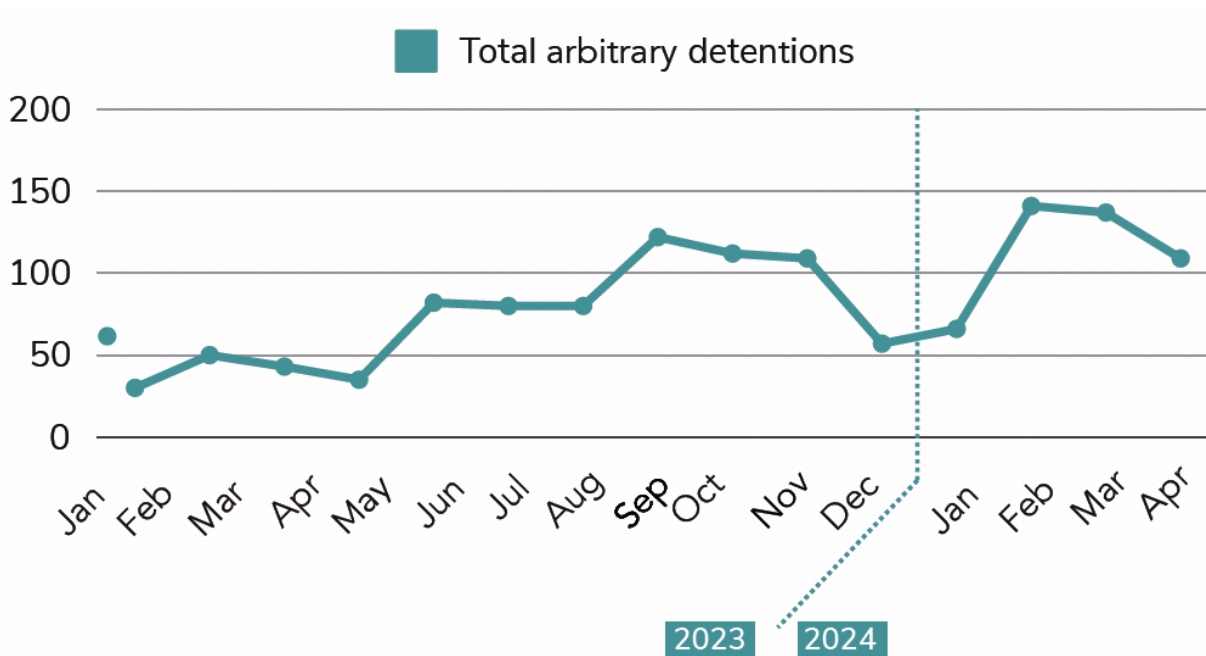




Arbitrary Detentions

Arbitrary detentions are defined as deprivations of liberty that lack a legal basis, are contrary to human rights proclaimed in international instruments, and do not meet the standards of a fair trial. In the Cuban context, these detentions have experienced a worrying increase in 2023. According to data collected by the FDP Incidents Report Center, the total number of arbitrary detentions recorded in 2023 amounted to 800 documented cases.

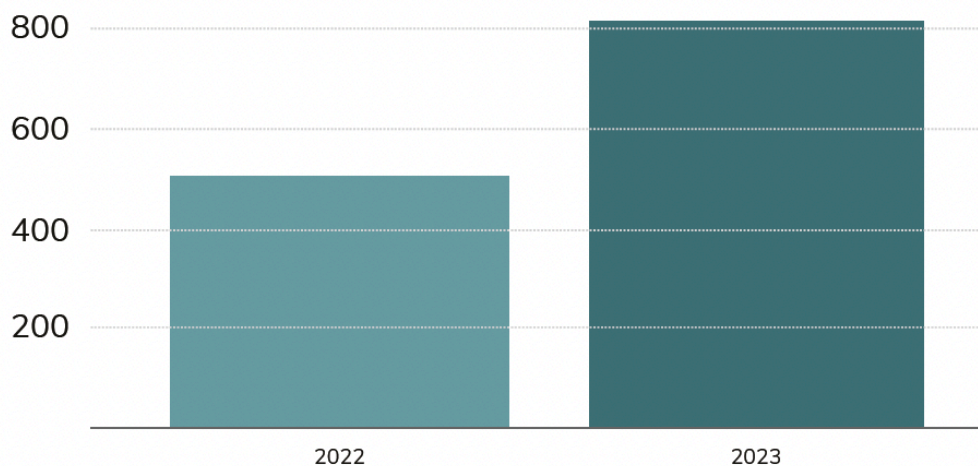
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its resolution 1997/50, establishes criteria for determining the arbitrariness of a detention, including the absence of a legal basis, the violation of fundamental rights, and discrimination. According to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, a detention is considered arbitrary when there is no legal basis, when the exercise of rights and freedoms is punished, or when the trial does not meet impartiality and fairness standards.





Comparative analysis of arbitrary detentions

During the period from 2022 to 2023, there has been an alarming increase in the number of arbitrary detentions in Cuba, reflecting a worrying deterioration in respect for human rights and legal guarantees in the country. Data obtained by the FDP Incidents Report Center show that in 2023 the total number of arbitrary detentions amounted to 800 cases, compared to the 500 cases recorded in 2022, representing a significant increase of 60% in just one year. This increase not only evidences an escalation in state repression against dissent and human rights defenders but also reflects a pattern of intensification of persecution and violence by the Cuban regime. Arbitrary detentions not only represent a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights but also generate a climate of fear and repression in Cuban society. This increase in arbitrary detentions highlights the urgent need for the international community to increase pressure on the Cuban state to respect human rights and release all political prisoners. It also underscores the importance of strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanisms for human rights violations in Cuba, as well as providing support and solidarity to human rights defenders and activists who face persecution and repression for their work in favor of democracy and fundamental rights.





IACHR Audiences

During its 188th period of sessions held between October 30 and November 10, 2023, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) held 33 public hearings on various human rights issues in the region, in addition to internal sessions focused on matters relevant to its institutional mandate. The FDP Incidents Report Center actively participated in two of these public hearings. The first, on "Freedom of expression and press, and the new Social Communication Law," addressed the worrying situation in Cuba where, according to FDP and co-petitioner organizations, the new legislation represents another advance in the deterioration of freedom of expression.

This regulation facilitates state control over the expression of dissenters, independent journalists, activists, artists, and human rights defenders through measures such as internet cuts, censorship, cyber harassment, fines, arbitrary detentions, and lack of procedural guarantees. The IACHR highlighted Cuba's uniqueness as the only country on the continent where freedom of expression lacks any guarantee, reaffirming its commitment to highlight these violations.

In the second hearing, on "Monitoring of precautionary measures of beneficiaries deprived of liberty in Cuba," FDP and other organizations exposed the inhumane detention conditions in Cuba, particularly in the context of 10 precautionary measures. Abuses against detainees for political reasons, solitary confinement, incommunicado detention, denial of penal progression, and violations of due process were denounced. Special attention was given to gender-based violence against the *Ladies in White* and harassment of relatives of political prisoners. FDP presented the cases of José Daniel Ferrer and Félix Navarro, both promoters of Cuba Decide and beneficiaries of a precautionary protection measure by the Commission. Additionally, the case of the Miranda Leyva family was introduced. This family was harassed in spite of having a Precautionary Protection Measure by the Commission. The IACHR regretted the absence of the state at this hearing as well, expressing its deep concern and reiterating its commitment to monitoring the precautionary measures and recommendations of civil society.



Cuba Decide

Cuba Decide is a citizen initiative that seeks to transform the political and economic system in Cuba, promoting a peaceful and democratic transition process. This initiative is the continuation of the Varela Project, the largest organized peaceful movement in Cuba, led by the iconic opposition leader Oswaldo Payá in the 2000s. In 2012, Oswaldo Payá was assassinated in an attack that, according to the conclusions of a report presented by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the State of Cuba bears responsibility.

Cuba Decide constitutes a movement made up of thousands of Cubans, both on the Island and in exile, who actively promote the implementation of the Binding Plebiscite. This strategy seeks to mobilize Cuban citizens through non-violent peaceful methods, activating the Cuban diaspora and coordinating efforts with influential actors in the international community. The goal is to pressure the Castro family, the leaders of the military conglomerate, and the dictatorship's intelligence services to recognize and respect the sovereign will of the Cuban people, thus paving the way for a democratic transition.

Since its launch in 2015, the Cuba Decide platform has achieved massive support. Thousands of citizens, including prominent opposition members, have responded to calls for change on the Island and have become fervent promoters of the initiative. According to a survey conducted in 2020, approximately 70% of Cuban citizens on the Island are familiar with Cuba Decide.

The efforts of the promoters of Cuba Decide have managed to capture the attention of the international community, influencing governments and institutions to reconsider their support for the Cuban regime. Sanctions have been proposed against individuals involved in state crimes and the illegitimacy of the regime has been denounced, all in an effort to contribute to the recovery of the sovereignty and self-determination of the Cuban people. The Cuba Decide initiative remains firm in its commitment to fight for a future in which freedom and democracy prevail in Cuba, representing a beacon of hope and a call to action for all those who long for significant change on the Island.



Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana (FDP)

The Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana (FDP) was established in 2015 by a group of concerned Cuban and Cuban-American citizens 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.

Incidents Report Center

Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana
P.O. Box 441716, Miami FL 33144-1716, United States
www.fundaciondemocraciapanamericana.org