

URGENT ACTION

DEMAND RELEASE OF CUBAN GRAFFITI ARTIST

Cuban graffiti artist Danilo Maldonado Machado ('El Sexto') has been transferred to another new detention centre where he continues to be detained without charge since his arrest on 26 November. He is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

On 14 December **Danilo Maldonado Machado (also known as 'El Sexto')** was transferred to El Combinado del Este, a maximum-security prison in the outskirts of Havana, the capital of Cuba. According to his relatives, this is the sixth time he has been transferred between police stations and prisons since he was detained on 26 November. Danilo Maldonado's family have not been able to visit him at El Combinado del Este yet, but his mother told Amnesty International that she spoke to him by telephone on 15 December.

Danilo Maldonado was arrested at his home in Havana the morning of 26 November, hours after the announcement of Fidel Castro's death. That same day, Cuba-based newspaper *14 y medio* reported that he had graffitied the words "He's gone" (*Se fue*) on a wall in Havana.

Danilo Maldonado's relatives told Amnesty International that at Valle Grande prison, where he was previously held before being transferred to El Combinado del Este, he was held naked in solitary confinement for several days. Amnesty International has not had access to Cuban jails since 1988. According to news reports, El Combinado del Este is a high-security prison, where convicted murderers and political prisoners being punished for their political views are traditionally held.

Danilo Maldonado's family has presented a Habeas Corpus petition for the preservation of his individual rights before the Provincial Court of Havana (Tribunal Provincial de la Habana) seeking his immediate release.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to release Danilo Maldonado Machado ('El Sexto') immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to guarantee the peaceful right to freedom of expression, assembly and association including for dissident, opponent or activist voices and to repeal all legislation which unduly limits these rights;
- Urging them to ensure that, pending his release, he is provided with any medical care which he may require, in particular if he refrains to eat; that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; and that he is granted regular access to family and lawyers of his choosing.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 JANUARY 2017 TO:

President of the Republic

Raúl Castro Ruz
 Presidente de la República de Cuba
 La Habana, Cuba
 Fax: +41 22 758 9431 (Cuba Office in Geneva); +1 212 779 1697 (via Cuban Mission to UN)
 Email: cuba@un.int (c/o Cuban Mission to UN)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Attorney General

Dr. Darío Delgado Cura
 Fiscal General de la República
 Fiscalía General de la República
 Amistad 552, e/Monte y Estrella
 Centro Habana, La Habana, Cuba

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Señor Fiscal General**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Her Excellency Her Excellency **Teresita Vicente**, Embassy of the Republic of Cuba, 167 High Holborn WC1 6PA, 020 7240 2488, Fax 020 7836 2602, secembajador@uk.embacuba.cu, www.cubadiplomatica.cu **Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.** This is the second update of UA 273/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr25/5279/2016/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 20 October 2015, Danilo Maldonado Machado was released after spending almost 10 months in prison without trial following accusations of “aggravated contempt”. Amnesty International considered him a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression (see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr25/2710/2015/en/>).

Danilo Maldonado Machado was accused of “aggravated contempt” after being arrested on 25 December 2014 for transporting two pigs with the names “Raúl” and “Fidel” painted on them, which he intended to release in an art show in Havana’s Central Park. He was never formally charged nor brought before a court during the almost 10 months he spent in detention.

Further information on UA: 273/16 Index: AMR 25/5301/2016 Issue Date: 16 December 2016