



NEWS RELEASE

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URGENT REQUEST FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES DEPOSITED WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CUBAN OPPOSITION LEADER JOSÉ DANIEL FERRER OF UNPACU

Alexandria, Virginia - For several weeks, the Communist government of Cuba and the party apparatus have ruthlessly targeted Cuban opposition leader José Daniel Ferrer, leader of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (“UNPACU”). Unlawfully detained on October 1, 2019, Mr. Ferrer has since been subjected to all forms of torture.

With the support of Mr. Ferrer’s family and a coalition that represents a large cross-section of Cuba’s opposition movement, the Global Liberty Alliance (“GLA”) requested that the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights of the Organization of American States press the Cuban government to adopt precautionary measures to protect the lives of Mr. Ferrer and his other UNPACU colleagues who have been unlawfully detained in Cuba for weeks.

“There’s no doubt that the Cuban regime wants to destroy UNPACU, they have been trying since the birth of the organization. José Daniel’s leadership and his commitment to democracy keep us firm in our mission. We will continue to work for the release of José Daniel Ferrer, José Pupo, Fernando González, Roilan Zarraga, all political prisoners and freedom and democracy for the Cuban people,” said Carlos Amel Oliva Torres, UNPACU’s Youth Coordinator.

Founded in 2011, UNPACU is the largest opposition group in Cuba. Since its creation, its members have been subjected to imprisonment, torture, forced labor and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and punishment. There are currently close to 50 of UNPACU’s leaders held as political prisoners in Cuba. You can learn more about UNPACU [here](#).

“The government and Communist Party of Cuba remain committed to silencing people and organizations with different points of view by any means necessary, including torture and other gross violations of fundamental rights,” said Jason Poblete, Chief Counsel of the GLA.

“There is no rule of law in Cuba but independent lawyers on the island still pursued every legal mechanism possible to help Mr. Ferrer and his colleagues, including habeas. Ferrer’s defense team has also meticulously documented how the Communist Party breaks its own laws. The Commission must act promptly, as should other stakeholders in a position to help protect Mr. Ferrer,” added Poblete.

“The arrest of José Daniel Ferrer carried out in blatant violation of all international legal norms once more shows the desperation of the Cuban regime in its intent to stifle any dissent. We call on the global community to raise its voice on behalf of Cuba’s brave human rights defenders and condemn the ruthless dictatorship,” said Pepe Hernandez, President of the Cuban American National Foundation (“CANF”).

On October 18, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo strongly condemned the latest detention of Mr. Ferrer and his colleagues stressing in a press statement it is just another recent *“example of the Castro regime’s continuous and flagrant violation of human rights, which has recently escalated into a wave of repression against freedoms of speech, expression, and religion.”*

Attached is a copy of the Request for Precautionary Measures, a memo prepared by independent lawyers in Cuba outlining how the Communist Party has abused Cuba’s laws to violate the fundamental rights of Mr. Ferrer and his UNPACU colleagues. Updates coming soon.

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