

Sender: _____

President of the Republic of Cuba
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(Place/Date): _____

CUBA: JOSÉ DANIEL FERRER HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR MONTHS

Dear President,

I am writing to demand information regarding José Daniel Ferrer García, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Cuba, who, according to his family, has been held incommunicado for more than eighty-two days, without access to the outside world. The latest information received by his family in March 2023 indicated that he is suffering from serious health problems and is not receiving adequate medical attention. The last time he was able to communicate with his family by phone was on March 6, and the last conjugal visit, according to his family, took place on March 14. Additionally, on March 17, José Daniel received a visit from the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba. Since then, family visits, conjugal visits, and phone calls have been denied. Prior to that, his family had already informed Amnesty International that he has been held in a separate cell from other prisoners since August 14, 2021.

Detention without access to the outside world—being held incommunicado—facilitates torture and other ill-treatment and forced disappearances. In certain circumstances, it can itself constitute a form of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Similarly, solitary confinement should only be used in exceptional circumstances, and if sustained for prolonged periods, it can also violate the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. On May 18, 2023, Amnesty International sent you an open letter informing you of this situation, José Daniel's deteriorating health, and demanding his immediate release. To date, no response to this letter has been received.

José Daniel Ferrer García, who was detained on July 11, 2021—before he could join the massive protests that took place across the island—is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his human rights.

I urge you to release José Daniel immediately and unconditionally and, pending his release, end his isolation and allow his family to communicate with him without delay.

Sincerely,