

Miguel Díaz Canel
Presidente de la República de Cuba
Hidalgo, Esquina 6. Plaza de la Revolución
La Habana, CP 10400
KUBA

Maykel Castillo Pérez und Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara

Dear President Díaz-Canel,

Maykel Castillo Pérez and Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara have been imprisoned since 2021 in connection with the peaceful protests that took place all over the country in July 2021. They are prisoners of conscience who are detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

On 8 March 2022, the Central Havana Popular Municipal Tribunal announced that oral hearings would soon start. The charges against the two men include "insults to symbols of the homeland", "resistance", "assault", "public disorder" as well as "defamation of institutions, organisations, heroes and martyrs". The prosecution has called for sentences of ten and eight years respectively.

Maykel Castillo Pérez's health has deteriorated while in prison, and Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara is also in poor health.

I therefore ask you to:

- immediately and unconditionally release Maykel Castillo Pérez and Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara.
- To drop all charges against them.
- To ensure that both men receive adequate medical care.

Should their case be brought to trial, I further appeal to you to ensure that it is independently monitored and that they, and all other Cuban citizens, are able to exercise their right to freedom of expression without restrictions.

Yours sincerely