

**Canaleta Prison. Ciego de Ávila, Cuba. February 2, 2010**

Respectable Mr. Nelson Mandela:

We who sign this letter are Cuban political prisoners of conscience, who want to send our sincere congratulations to the twentieth anniversary of your well deserved and historic release from prison.

On February 11, 1990, with your release, the world witnessed the beginning of a process of change from irrational social order to an inclusive and equal society made up of all South Africans, putting an end to the repugnant apartheid regime.

It was a difficult road, full of hard sacrifices that fortunately, thanks to your persevering and all-encompassing look to the future of South Africa: "with all and for the good of all" as the Cuban apostle José Martí said, culminated as a model for those that love freedom and equality for everyone and condemn segregation in all its manifestations.

We, and many other Cubans, as well as you and many of your countrymen, know the pain of prison, only for wanting to create our own identity, what we consider best for the common good, which is nothing but equal rights and responsibilities for all citizens.

Exactly one month and one week after the twentieth anniversary of your release from prison, we will honor the seventh year of our unjust imprisonment. We are citizens condemned to long sentences for civic and peaceful acts, such as the collection of signatures requesting a referendum, independent journalism and the defense of human rights. The ultra totalitarianism that has reigned in Cuba for more than half a century, is a system of segregation in terms of civil and political rights that, while not clearly defined in laws and public signs, can in practice only be used in order to support the government.

For peacefully dissenting from this unjust order, as what happened during apartheid in South Africa with you and the South African National Congress, we are constantly accused of defending the interests and ideologies of foreign powers, an argument used to mask political repression and justify long prison sentences.

Hon. Mr. Mandela, permit us in this letter to borrow one of your famous phrases, adapt it to our reality and use it as a call to all people of goodwill. "Do not appeal to our reason, but rather to your hearts."

From behind the bars of intolerance we celebrate as our own the twentieth anniversary of your release, and we feel sure that you with your grand heart, you will celebrate as if it were your own, next March 18th, the suffering of our seventh year in prison.

Once again we wish you and all South Africans happiness in this worldwide celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the end of your captivity.

May God continue blessing you. From Cuban prisons, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience:

Cuban prisoners of conscience who signed the letter to Mr. Nelson Mandela regarding the 20th anniversary of his release from prison:

<b>Prisoner</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Prison/Province</b>
1. Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez	48	20 years	Canaleta. Ciego de Ávila
2. Adolfo Fernández Sainz	61	15 years	Canaleta. Ciego de Ávila
3. Pedro Arguelles Moran	62	20 years	Canaleta. Ciego de Ávila
4. Pablo Pacheco Ávila	39	20 years	Canaleta. Ciego de Ávila
5. Félix Navarro Rodríguez	56	25 years	Canaleta. Ciego de Ávila
6. Efrén Fernández Fernández.	47	12 years	Guanajay. Havana Province
7. Alfredo Felipe Fuentes	60	26 years	Guanajay. Havana Province
8. Héctor Raúl del Valle Hernández	41	12 years	Guanajay. Havana Province
9. José Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernández	44	16 years	Guanajay. Havana Province
10. Regis Iglesias Ramírez	40	18 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
11. Ricardo González Alfonso	60	25 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
12. Ángel Moya Acosta	46	20 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
13. Julio Cesar Gálvez Rodríguez	65	12 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
14. Omar Rodríguez Saludes	38	27 years	Toledo. City of Havana
15. José Miguel Martínez Hernández	46	13 years	Quivicán. Havana Province
16. José Daniel Ferrer García	39	25 years	El Típico. Las Tunas
17. Alfredo Domínguez Batista	49	14 years	El Típico. Las Tunas
18. Iván Hernández Carrillo	39	25 years	Guamajal. Villa Clara
19. José Luis García Paneque	44	24 years	Las Mangas. Granma
20. Leonel Grave de Peralta	33	25 years	Boniato. Santiago de Cuba
21. Jesús Mustafá Felipe	65	26 years	Provincial de Guantánamo. Gtmo.
22. Arnaldo Ramos Lauzerique	67	20 years	Nieves Morejon. Santi Espiritu
23. Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodríguez	54	25 years	Nieves Morejon. Santi Espiritu
24. Omar Moisés Ruiz Hernández	62	18 years	Nieves Morejon. Santi Espiritu
25. Luis Enrique Ferrer García	33	28 years	Mar Verde. Santiago de Cuba
26. Alexis Rodríguez Fernández	44	15 years	Aguadores. Santiago de Cuba
27. Ricardo Silva Gual	36	10 years	Aguadores. Santiago de Cuba
28. Ariel Sigler Amaya	45	20 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
29. Normando Hernández	39	25 years	Combinado del Este. City of Havana
30. Horacio Julio Piña Borrego	43	20 years	Km cinco y medio. Pinar del Río
31. Eduardo Díaz Fleitas	58	21 years	Km cinco y medio. Pinar del Río
32. Rolando Jiménez Posada	42	12 years	El Guayabo. Isle of Youth
33. Arturo Pérez de Alejo Rodríguez	53	20 years	Prisión Provincial el Pre. Villa Clara