

SAMPLE APPEAL

Raúl Castro Ruz
Presidente interino (Interim President)
c/o Cuban Mission to the United Nations
315 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY, 10016

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the deteriorating health of Normando Hernández González.

I understand that alarm for Hernández's well-being has increased since he was transferred to a provincial hospital in Camagüey in December after suffering further health complications and that he returned to prison shortly after. Hernández is reported to have mal-absorption syndrome, a disease of the intestine causing difficulties in absorbing nutrients that carries with it acute conditions such as malnutrition, heart disease and anemia. As a result Hernandez has reportedly lost around 35 pounds of body weight, and there are growing fears that he may die in detention.

Hernández was arrested in his hometown of Camagüey, along with 74 others considered to be dissidents by the Cuban government. Hernández, then 33, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment under Article 91 of the Cuban Criminal Code for reporting on the conditions of state-run services in Cuba and for criticizing the government's management of issues such as tourism, agriculture, fishing and cultural affairs. Since his arrest, there have been consistent reports of abuse, appalling prison conditions and denial of medical attention.

Alarmed at the reports of the deteriorating health of Normando Hernández González, I respectfully urge the Cuban authorities to provide, as a matter of urgency, all necessary medical attention to him. In addition, I request the immediate release of all writers and journalists held in Cuban prisons in violation of their right to freedom of expression as recognized in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[Your name and signature]