

December 27, 2005 Update on Non-Combat Victims of the Castro Regime

The following information is derived primarily from Armando M. Lago, Ph.D.'s "Cuba: The Human Cost of Social Revolution," manuscript for publication. This work documents loss of life and disappearances for political and military reasons during the Cuban revolutionary period. Each documented case is substantiated by historical data and reports from independent sources.

The following table comprises non-combat deaths attributed to the Castro regime onwards from January 1, 1959, date the Castro government assumed power. Due to the ongoing nature of the work and the difficulty of obtaining and verifying data from Cuba, the following totals are, thus, not exhaustive. The Truth Recovery Archive on Cuba (T.R.A.C.), or "Cuba Archive," continues investigating reported cases and documenting previously unreported cases. Because this work is in progress, totals change as research advances.

**Table: Non-combat Victims of the Castro Regime
January 1, 1959 to Date
(Documented to March 25, 2005)**

Firing squad executions	5,640
Extrajudicial assassinations ¹	1,203
Deaths in prisons ²	2,199
Missing and disappeared	198
	9,240
"Balseros" (high end of estimated range) ³	77,833
Total	87,073

Note: This table excludes documented deaths of civilians -both Cuban and otherwise- resulting from international military incursions, sabotage, or support for international subversion sponsored by Cuba.

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Truth Recovery Archive on Cuba
Free Society Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 757 / Summit, NJ 07902
Tel. 973.701-0520 / info@CubaArchive.org
www.CubaArchive.org

¹Includes 187 assassinations during attempts to leave the island and seek asylum abroad.

²2,199 deaths in prisons include 200 for lack of medical attention, 155 assassinations, 272 suicides, 1,315 due to accidents and other reasons, including natural cause that may have been precipitated by prison conditions and 258 deaths in the U.M.A.P. farm labor concentration camps. Executions, even when they mostly occurred within prisons or of prisoners at the time of death, are tallied separately (see table above).

³The estimated number of victims has been derived from data in studies by the Oceanographic Institute of the University of Miami and the University of Havana and reports by the U.S. Coast Guard. The actual number of rafters who have perished at sea is very difficult to corroborate. Francisco Chaviano, who attempted inside Cuba to collect information on disappearances, including rafters, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 1995.