SELECTED CASES OF EXTRAJUDICIAL ASSASSINATIONS PERPETRATED BY THE CUBAN COMMUNIST REGIME: ADULT MALES

The following is a sample of the thousands of cases documented by Armando M. Lago, Ph.D. and the Truth Recovery Archive on Cuba. A full bibliography is available on request.

IVÁN AGRAMONTE ARENCIBIA, Age 28. Assassinated on 5-24-1996. Location: Street in the city of Havana. The victim was assassinated by police officer Iosvani Martorán Fernández, who detained him in the street as he carried a few kilos of bread by bicycle. Agramonte tried to get away, but was reached again by the officer, who beat him and after handcuffing him, shot him point blank in the head with his firearm. Still alive, he was taken to the “Miguel Henríquez” hospital, where he died. The corpse, however, displayed visible bruises and a profound gash in the forehead.

ALBERTO LAZO PASTRANA. Mysterious death in prison on 9-1-1976. Location: Combinado del Este prison. Alberto Lazo Pastrana had been a member of Castro’s Revolutionary Army who had fought against the Batista dictatorship. When Castro took power, he grew disenchanted and joined the opposition. Captured for alleged counter-revolutionary activities, he served a ten-year prison sentence. After his release, he was denied work as well as permission to leave the country. Desperate, he built a raft with his family to flee Cuba. Having left late at night on the primitive vessel, they were soon spotted by a Cuban Coast Guard patrol. Despite their cries for mercy, the Coast Guard boat rammed and sunk the raft. The father made it to shore exhausted, the wife’s body washed ashore the next day, partly devoured by sharks. The children’s bodies were never found. The father was captured and tortured despite his devastating grief, then sentenced to 18 years in prison. As he was to be released in a general amnesty declared by Castro, he developed a colon ailment and died suspiciously in the prison’s hospital.

JULIO TANG TAXIER, Age 28. Assassinated in prison on 9-3-1966. Location: Isla de Pinos prison. This political prisoner of Cuban-Chinese ancestry started to serve his sentence on May 1961. In 1966 he was arbitrarily attacked with a bayonet by prison guard Privada Arcía when he wavered, due to physical weakness, in answering an order to begin hard penitual work. He bled to death after lying on the floor in a pool of blood for four hours without medical attention.


DIOSDANO AQUIT MANRIQUE, Age 33. Assassinated in prison on 12-17-1966.

Location: Orange grove at Isla de Pinos prison. Small grocery store (bodega) owner, resident of Prado Street No. 512, Cruces, Las Villas province. Political prisoner was shot in the back arbitrarily by Corporal Arcía after asking for permission to break ranks to pick up a straw hat blown off by the wind.