

# TRUTH RECOVERY ARCHIVE ON CUBA

## VICTIMS OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST REGIME. SELECTED CASES OF INDIVIDUALS IN DETENTION OR SERVING PRISON SENTENCES FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES

### November 2005 report Work in progress

To date, 1197 deaths in prison have been documented -primarily from assassinations, medical negligence, and suicide. Many more are documented to have occurred during detention at State Security facilities or at the hands of police and other security personnel of the Cuban government. **This number, however, is believed to fall way short of actual deaths.** The majority of this material comes from Armando M. Lago, Ph.D.'s, *Cuba. The Human Cost of Social Revolutions*, manuscript pending publication. A full bibliography is available on request. Investigation continues.

### SELECTED CASES - WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTATION

**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, Cruces, Las Villas province. Political prisoner was shot in the back arbitrarily by Corporal Arcia after asking for permission to break ranks to pick-up a straw hat blown off by the wind.  
*Sources: Valladares, 1985, p. 256. Beruvides, 1993, p. 88. Eduardo de Juan, 1997, p. 279. Montaner, 1984, p. 265. Cuban American National Foundation, The Quilt of Fidel Castro's Genocide, 1994. Presidio Político Cubano, 1997, ps.115, 155. WAQI-Radio Mambí, p. 98. Gómez-Estrada, 1990, p. 212. Encinosa, 1994, p. 214. Icosov, 1982, p. 366. Pardo Mazorra, 1992, p. 564. Pérez Coloma, 1996. Encinosa, 1994, p. 214. Nuestra Cuba, 1998, p. 99. Díaz Rodríguez, 1995, p. 105. Instituto de la Memoria Histórica Cubana contra el Totalitarismo, 2002 p. 26. Circuito Sur, July 2002, p. 7. Telephone testimony of Reinaldo Aquit Manrique (ex-political prisoner and brother), 12 December 2002. Testimony by brother Laureano Aquit, in person to M. Werlau (TRAC), Miami, 2-2004.*

**OWEN DELGADO TEMPRANA, Age 15.**  
**Assassinated on 23-03-81 in an  
assylum attempt.** Location: G-2 State Security police headquarters at Villa Marista, Havana. Entered on 13-02-81 with his family the embassy of Ecuador asking for political assylum. Seven days later, on 21-02-81, Cuban Special Forces stormed the embassy and took the entire family into custody. At State

Security headquarters, as members of his family endured beatings, Owen yelled for them to stop. He was brutally beaten, suffering severe blows to the face and head, one which nearly severed his ear. Taken to the Pinar del Río hospital, he lapsed into a coma and died two days later. The government refused to return his body to the family for burial.

*Sources: Hidalgo, 1994, p. 84. Bower, 1995, p. 19. Beruvides, 1993, p. 108. Cuban American National Foundation, The Quilt of Fidel Castro's Genocide, 1994. WAQI-Radio Mambí, p. 16. Encinosa, 1994, p. 209. Circuito Sur, <http://members.aol.com/aquadacuba/cs/datafusi/ecuador1.htm>.*

**ESTANISLAO GONZÁLEZ QUINTANA**  
**Assassinated while under arrest. 9/12 1995.**  
Location: Police Unit of Consolación del Sur, Pinar del Río. had been detained on September 8, 1995 on charges of "unlawful economic activity." Relatives were informed four days later by officers of the Consolación del Sur police unit that he had died of a heart attack. The victim's corpse, however, displayed visible bruises and a profound gash in the forehead.  
*Sources: U.S. Department of State, 1997, p. 11. Organization of American States, InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights, 1997 Annual Report, p. 692. U.N. Commission on Human Rights, 7 February 1996, p. 16. U.N. General assembly, 24 October 1995, p. 27.*

**JOSÉ RAMÓN GUIT CRUZ, Age 16.**  
**Assassinated by police on 03-71.** Location: City of Camaguey. High school student. After painting his alias, "Agapito" (for Eros, the Greek god of love) on Camaguey city walls, he was detained on false charges of painting anti-Castro slogans. His arrest radicalized him and he started to organize public protests. He was arrested several times and, finally, shot dead by the revolutionary police. During his funeral, the government sent tanks to the streets to contain a large protest.  
*Sources: Encinosa, 1994, p. 238. Testimony of Pastor Emilio Nedoya (Camaguey resident), 5 June 2002.*

**LYDIA PÉREZ LÓPEZ - Age 25, eight  
months pregnant, and UNBORN CHILD.**  
**Assassinated in prison, 07-07-61.** Location: Guanajay National Women's Prison, Pinar del Río province. Kicked in the stomach by prison guards 30 days before her due date, she lost her baby, received no medical attention, and bled to death.  
*Sources: Mora, 1986, p. 194. Valladares, 1985m p. 371. Ana Lázara Rodríguez, 1995, p. 71. Beruvides, 1993, p. 157. Teresita Mayans, El Nuevo Herald, 14 de octubre de 1996, p. 12-A. Presidio Político Cubano, 1997, p. 160. Nuestra Cuba, 1998, p. 53. Cuban American National Foundation, The Quilt of Fidel Castro's Genocide, 1994. WAQI-Radio Mambí, p. 55. Pardo Mazorra, 1992, p. 567. Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on*

*Human Rights, 5th Special Report, 1976, p. 2. Díaz Rodríguez, 1995, p. 104. Circuito Sur, July 2002, p. 68.*

**DR. EDMUNDA SERRAT BARRIOS - Age 70.**  
**Assassinated under arrest on 06-09-81.**  
Location: G-2 State Security police headquarters at Villa Marista, Havana. A lawyer, she had served a three year sentence as a political prisoner -doing forced labor in Granja America, a concentration camp in the province of Havana- for opposing the Cuban judicial system and Marxist educational reforms. After her release, she began acting as defending lawyer in cases brought against the government. In August of 1981, during one of such cases, she objected to the conduct of the judges and was immediately detained during the trial. She was taken for interrogation at State Security Police headquarters in Villa Marista. A few days later, her family was informed of her death of an alleged heart attack. Her wake was held at a state funeral home and her coffin was sealed and under surveillance. A State Security policeman who later defected reported she had been beaten to death.  
*Sources: Carreño, 1987, pp. 113-115 and p. 141. Mora, 1986, pp. 61-62. Beruvides, 1993, p. 176. Cuban American National Foundation, The Quilt of Fidel Castro's Genocide, 1994. Circuito Sur, [http://www.aguadadepasajeros.bravepages.com/eng/ish/Edmunda\\_Serrat.htm](http://www.aguadadepasajeros.bravepages.com/eng/ish/Edmunda_Serrat.htm).*

**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 Private Arcia when he wavered, due to his very poor physical condition, in answering an order to go do hard penal farm work. He lay on the floor in a pool of blood for four hours without medical attention and bled to death.  
*Sources: Valladares, 1985, p. 255. Beruvides, 1993, p. 179. Eduardo de Juan, 1997, p. 285. Vargas Llosa, 1998, p. 195. Loreda and Perez Diez Arguelles, 1988, p. 93. Gómez-Estrada, 1990, p. 212. Nuestra Cuba, 1998, p. 70. Sov, 1982, p. 360. Pardo Mazorra, 1992, p. 568. Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 4to. Informe Especial, Reporte de 1967, 7 de abril de 1967, pp. 6-7. Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 5to. Informe Especial, 1976, p. 3. Clark, de Fana and Sanchez, 1001, p. 20. Ruiz, 1972, p. 68. Díaz-Rodríguez, 1995, p. 104. Instituto de la Memoria Histórica Cubana contra el Totalitarismo, 2002, p. 25. Circuito Sur, July 2002, p. 83. Cuban American National Foundation, The Quilt of Fidel Castro's Genocide, 1994. Presidio Político Cubano, 1997, pp 115, 161. WAQI-Radio Mambí, p. 70.*

**ABBREVIATED LIST OF ADDITIONAL  
SELECTED CASES**

**Minors**

**Junior Flores Díaz. Age 17.**

Summer 1995. Location: Punishment cell in Valle Grande prison, El Morado, Havana province. **Died in prison, denied medical attention.** Vomiting incessantly, his calls for help were ignored. He was found dead in a pool of vomit and blood.

**Máximo Galán Zaldivar. Age 17.**

01-20-79. State security office in Guantánamo. Leader of a youth group of rock-and-roll fans. **Assassinated** while under arrest for ideological deviation.

**Armando González Peraza. Age 14.**

02-12-61. Las villas province. **Assassinated** by police, who claim he committed suicide.

**René Martínez. Age 14.**

13-06-62. City of Matanzas. **Assassinated** while under arrest.

**Leonardo Matas Pich. Age 16.**

30-01-62. Location: Juvenile prison in Guanajay, Pinar del Río. **Assassinated** in prison.

**Ramón Rivero. Age 16.**

13-10-65. Location: State security office in Havana. **Assassinated** under arrest.

**Elio Rodríguez. Age 13.**

22-08-61. La Víbora, Havana. **Assassinated** by police, who claim he committed suicide.

**Raúl Torres Pérez. Age 17.**

03-06-62. Calixto García University Hospital, Havana. **Assassinated.** Developed cancer while serving prison for political reasons and was denied medical care. Eventually transferred to the hospital, he asked his guard to allow him to go to the bathroom. Denied permission, but unable to control his urge, he attempted to stand up and walk. The guard pistol-whipped him in the face, threw him to the floor, and shot him.

**Jorge Varas Bileves. Age 16.**

04-04-62. State Security headquarters, Havana. **Assassinated** while under arrest. Cuban authorities claim he committed suicide.

**Women**

**Maria Capiro (aka Maria Catil)**

17-09-86. Location: State security office in Arroyo Naranjo, Havana. **assassinated** while under arrest.

**Gloria Casañas Hernández**

20-06-65. Location: State Security office. **Disappeared while under arrest** after an anti-Castro human rights demonstration.

**Dolores Correoso ("Lolín") - Age: 55**

13-08-78. Location: Guanajay National Women's Prison, Pinar del Río. While serving a 20-year prison term, developed breast cancer and was **denied medical treatment.**

**Aselia Fernández**

13-09-82. Location: Morón, Camaguey. **Assassinated** by police.

**Ana Marta García Delgado**

21-09-86. Location: State security office in Santa Cruz del Norte, Havana province. **Assassinated** by police while under arrest. **Was six months pregnant.**

**Olivia Aida García Soler**

26-04-65. Location: State security office in Santiago de Cuba, Oriente province. (Employee of the Cuban Electric company and former union leader.) **Assassinated** by police while under arrest.

**Julia González Rosquete**

10-01-62. Location: Guanajay National prison for Women, Pinar del Río province. Developed a mouth infection from a beating by prison guards. **Denied medical care**, she died of septicemia.

**Julia González de Méndez**

01-06-73. Location: State security office in Alquizar, Havana province. **Assassinated** by police while under arrest.

**Estrella Gutiérrez**

22-06-62. Location: State security office in Perico, Matanzas province. **Assassinated** by police while under arrest.

**Livia Gouvernier - Age: 20**

Date: 11-12-59. Location: State security office in Havana. University student. **Assassinated** by police while under arrest.

**Rosario Marquez**

05-05-62. Location: State security office in Miramar, Playa, Havana. **Assassinated** while under arrest.

**Orelvis Martínez Limonta**

07-07-92. Location: Santa Clara, Las Villas province. **Assassinated** while under arrest.

**Silvia Montiel**

11-12-84. Location: Manto Negro Prison in La Lisa, Havana. Died in prison under mysterious circumstances.

**Delia Navarro - Age: 39**

03-08-62. State Security office in Havana. Became crazed after being tortured, committing **suicide** while under arrest.

**Caridad Pavón Rodríguez**

27-02-82. Location: State Security headquarters in Havana. Leader of the anti-Castro Zapata movement. **Assassinated** during interrogation, after enduring torture and savage beatings. Cuban authorities claim she committed suicide.

**Sister Aida Rosa Pérez - Age: 42.**

12-12-67. Location: State Security pavilion at the Military Hospital in Havana. Former sister in the Catholic order of Sisters of Charity; had left her order and convent in Guatemala for health reasons, suffering from congenital heart disease. In the course of several months, she was repeatedly detained for expressing anti-Communist views and eventually sentenced to 12 years in prison. After serving 2 years she died of a heart attack while doing hard agricultural labor in prison.

**Caridad Placencia (aka Caridad Plasencia)**

15-09-75. Location: State security office at Reparto Lawton, Havana. **Assassinated** by police while under arrest.

**Dora Victoria Reyes**

30-08-84. Location: State Security headquarters in Havana. Had served a prison sentence and was released from prison. Given permission to visit relatives in Havana, she was detained there and **died while under arrest.**

**Alba Serrano - Age: 25**

30-10-67. Location: Guanajay National Women's prison, Pinar del Río province. **Suicide.** Sentenced to prison for pursuing black market activities, she was sent to the lesbian cellblock in punishment. Her relatives overreacted very negatively and, unable to endure the shame, she hung herself in her cell.

**Berkis Tercio ("La mariposita") - Age: 19**

15-02-2002. Location: Agricultural penal farm No. 5, Camaguey province. Committed **suicide** by hanging herself three days after being assaulted by a prison guard.

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