

# PROFILE OF WUILLY ARTEAGA

Cuba Archive, an initiative of the U.S.-based non-profit organization Free Society Project, Inc., is co-sponsoring Wully's trip to the U.S. and helping him raise funds for his activities including donating musical instruments to deprived musicians in Venezuela.

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Wully, "Willy," Arteaga is a 23 year-old violinist, pianist, composer, and singer from Venezuela. With his violin, he joined the mass street protests that began in March all over his county. Braving water cannons, tear gas, and sheer violence by the authorities, his iconic form of peaceful resistance has elicited strong support in Venezuela and internationally.

Wully Moisés Arteaga Narsa was born on January 18, 1994 in the city of Valencia. The second of three siblings, He spent his early years in a strict family setting in which religion (Christian) played a central role. The family was very poor and culture was not a significant part of their environment, but he displayed musical inclinations early on. He started educating himself on music online on his own online and, at 17, took his first violin classes at Valencia's "El Sistema," a publicly-financed music education program founded in 1975 to provide classical music education to impoverished children. His enthusiasm and talent were such that just six months later he was admitted to the Mozart Children's Orchestra of Valencia. From there, he progressed quickly; in 2012 he was accepted as a first violinist for Carabobo Youth Symphonic Orchestra and in 2014 he joined the Symphonic Orchestra of Caracas as violinist, soon being selected for a seven-country European tour. Having separated from that orchestra, he works in musical projects as composer, pianist, violinist, and singer.

Wully has overcome great personal and financial struggles and plays his violin on the streets for sustenance. Ironically, his father, Willy Rufino Arteaga, is retired from Venezuela's National Guard, which has been repressing peaceful demonstrators all over the country. When, in May, the National Guard destroyed Wully's violin, the outpouring of support included a new violin signed by Colombian singer Shakira.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK/WUILLYARTEAGA