



## SELECTED CASES OF ADULT MALES KILLED BY THE CUBAN STATE / CASTRO REGIME

*Selected from thousands  
of documented cases.*

### **IVÁN AGRAMONTE ARENCIBIA, Age 28. Assassinated on 5-24-1996.**

Location: Street in the city of Havana. The victim was assassinated by a police officer, 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 Luyanó funeral home, where his body laid in wake, was surrounded by a major police deployment. He left two small children.

### **DIOSDANO AQUIT MANRIQUE, Age 33. Assassinated 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 Arcia after asking for permission to break ranks to pick-up a straw hat blown off by the wind.

### **ESTANISLAO GONZÁLEZ QUINTANA Assassinated on 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 police that he had died of a heart attack. The body displayed visible bruises and a profound gash in the forehead.

### **CIPRIANO (Age 21), EUGENIO (Age 25), and VENTURA (Age 19) GARCÍA-MARÍN THOMPSON. Executed, 01-02-1981.**

Location: La Cabaña Fortress, Havana. On 12/3/1980, the three brothers plus two other men and three women broke into the Vatican Embassy ("Nunciatura") in Havana, seeking asylum. The

brothers, of very humble socioeconomic background, were members of the persecuted Jehova's Witness congregation. At least one had served political imprisonment and they had received warnings under Cuba's "dangerousness" law. A few hours after their entry into embassy grounds, a team of the Interior Ministry's Elite Special Troops burst into the complex and took them into custody. Soon they were informed that they had been "tried and sentenced to death," accused of killing a Cuban worker at the embassy. They insisted they had been unarmed. About a month later the three were unexpectedly taken from their prison cells, in the middle of the night and presumably executed. The family was denied their remains for burial. The others were sentenced to prison terms of 15 to 25 years, released several years later after the case received some international attention. The embassy worker allegedly killed in the raid had been employed from the Cuban government agency Cubalse and was said to be an intelligence agent. Subsequent investigations revealed he was alive and living in Havana, having staged his injuries to play his part in the raid. The mother served several years in political prison after the incident but was released with one of the brothers' widows after some years. She died in 1992 still claiming her sons' bones for proper burial. A U.N. Human Rights Commission Special Task Force to Cuba in 1988 heard her account in a special session surreptitiously arranged at the Spanish Ambassador. In the mid-1990s, the U.N. Special Rapporteur unsuccessfully requested from the Cuban government the brothers' remains for the family.

### **ALBERTO LAZO PASTRANA.**

**Mysterious death in prison on 9-1-1978.** Location: Combinado del Este prison,

Alberto Lazo Pastrana had been a member of Castro's Rebel Army 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 with his wife and three children, 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 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 under mysterious circumstances in the prison's hospital.

### **JULIO TANG TAXIER, Age 28.**

**Assassinated in prison on 9-3-1966.**

Location: Isla de Pinos prison. Political prisoner of Cuban-Chinese ancestry who started to serve his sentence on May 1961. In 1966 he was arbitrarily attacked with a bayonet by a prison guard when he wavered, due to physical weakness, about to begin hard penal work. He bled to death after lying on the floor in a pool of blood for four hours without medical attention.

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