

## **SOME ACTS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION REPORTED IN CUBA IN THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012**

During April 2012 we were able to verify at least **402 arbitrary detentions for political reasons**, most of them for periods of at least 24 hours to several days. This number is less than one third of those reported for the previous month (1158).

We documented cases like that of Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, who was in jail for 27 days with no formal charges, in the bivouac of the secret political police in Santiago de Cuba, and those of Bismark Musteleir Galan and Dany Lopez de Moya, both activists of Cuba's Patriotic Union (UNPACU) led by Ferrer Garcia. Those two were detained on April 1 and 18 respectively, and they remain interned in high security prisons: Mustelier, without known formal charges, and Lopez de Moya was summarily sentenced to one and a half years in prison under the charges of "contempt and resistance to arrest".

Despite the remarkable reduction regarding the previous month, in terms of the number of politically-motivated arbitrary detentions, the government of Cuba retains the first place in the whole of Iberoamerica for this type of abuse. If the number of detentions in April 2012 is compared with the figure for the same month in previous years a clear growing tendency will be noticeable.

This year, at least nine peaceful dissidents have been jailed in high security detention centers, usually under inhuman and degrading conditions, typical of the overgrown prison system of the Cuban government, made up by between 150 and 200 prisons, correctional centers, labor camps and other places of mandatory internment. Between 70 and 80 thousand inmates languish therein, several thousands of which are absolutely innocent or have committed alleged or real misdemeanors not punishable by prison internment.

**- Documented cases of temporarily detained persons for political reasons since January 2010:**

YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	YEAR 2012
January----117	January----268	January---631
February---235	February---390	February--604
March----- 83	March-----264	March--- 1158
April----- 162	April-----244	April----- 402
May----- 120	May-----349	
June----- 104	June-----212	
July-----125	July-----251	
August----- 184	August-----243	
September-- 90	September--563	
October-----310	October-----286	
November--244	November--257	
December---300	December--796	

Havana, May 3 2012.