

CUBAN COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

SOME ACTS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION REPORTED IN CUBA DURING FEBRUARY 2012

During the month of February this year, we documented at least 604 arbitrary detentions for political reasons, lasting between several hours and some days, at a level similar to the two preceding months.

This February, the government released four political prisoners – three under conditional release, and a fourth, Rafael Ibarra Roque, after serving the whole of his 20 year sentence, including regular penal reductions.

We have observed a relative increase in political repression in several provinces, particularly against the Ladies in White, who were the target of numerous acts of violence and dishonor, including some cases in which they were forced to undress or were groped by police agents.

At least six Evangelical preachers were arrested, given fines or threatened for preaching at public places: four in Bayamo, Granma, and two in Pina,

Ciego de Avila. (See details on Table for days 14th and 25th of February, respectively).

It has been predicted that this modality of political repression would diminish in March, as a result of the visit of His Holiness, Benedict 16, to then increase again to the levels of the previous months.

Documented cases of short term arrests, for political reasons, since January 2010:

YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	YEAR 2012
January----117	January----268	January --- 631
February---235	February---390	
March-----83	March-----264	
April----- 162	April-----244	
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	