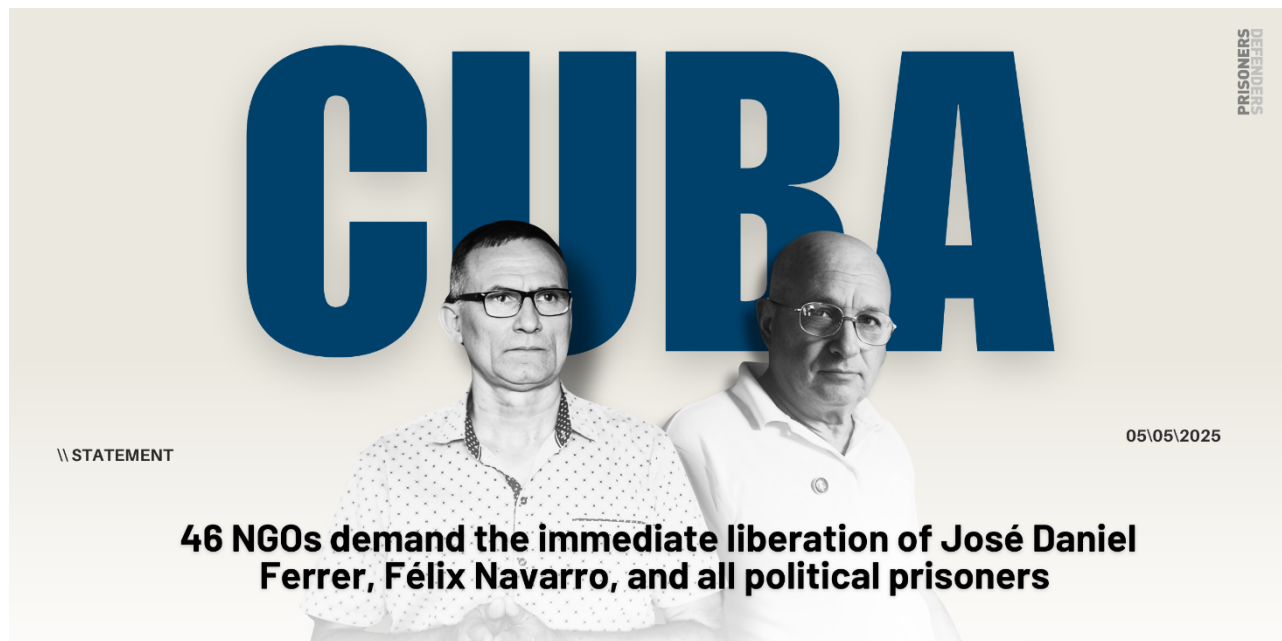


INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR THE FREEDOM OF JOSÉ DANIEL FERRER AND FÉLIX NAVARRO AND FOR SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN CUBA



José Daniel Ferrer García, president of the Council for Democratic Transition in Cuba (CTDC) and General Coordinator of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) and promoter of CubaDecide, was arrested with extreme violence at his home, headquarters of this organization in Santiago de Cuba. He was detained along with his wife, **Nelva Ismarays Ortega Tamayo**, their youngest son, only 5 years old, and activists Roilán Álvarez Rensoler, Roilán Zárraga Ferrer and Fernando González Vaillant, among others. His arrest culminates months of repression aimed at preventing Ferrer's humanitarian labor, and comes **after hundreds of arbitrary arrests carried out against the beneficiaries of this work in the UNPACU soup kitchen**, an identifying sign of the activism developed by José Daniel Ferrer in Santiago de Cuba, through which he provided daily nutrition to **more than 1,000 vulnerable and excluded people every day**.

Simultaneously, in Matanzas, **Felix Navarro Rodriguez**, vice-president of the CTDC and leader of the Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy, was arrested as he was preparing for a visit from his daughter, political prisoner **Sayli Navarro Alvarez**. Along with Felix, at least his wife, **Sonia Generosa Alvarez Campello**, was also arrested. This also follows multiple arrests and harassment to prevent the Navarro Álvarez couple from **going to mass with the Ladies in White, or to prevent them from visiting their daughter**, Sayli Navarro Álvarez, who is in prison of conscience as a punishment for her pro-democracy and peaceful activism.

In view of the violent detention in Cuba of José Daniel Ferrer and Félix Navarro, and after years of increasing and systematic repression in Cuba, which [already has 1,152 political prisoners](#), we address the international community, democratic governments, human rights organizations and the global citizenry committed to justice, to **firmly denounce this new and arbitrary detention of these two peaceful pro-democracy leaders**.

The arrests against these two peaceful pro-democracy activists, recently excarcerated after the agreement between the Vatican and the Cuban regime this past January, take place in a context of **intensification of authoritarianism by the Cuban regime** and only a few hours after the burial of the same Pope with whom the regime made the excarcerate agreement. In addition, the facts show that [the 230 excarcerations](#), **carried out under ignominious and unacceptable prison-domiciliary conditions**, have not been a gesture of openness but, on the contrary, the wave of repression and the hundreds of arbitrary detentions of short duration demonstrate an even more profound involution of the regime.

Both detentions are officially justified by alleged violations of parole conditions, but the violence and indiscriminate nature of the detentions (even leading to the **detention of a 5-year-old minor**), and the certification of their **political imprisonment as arbitrary and caused by ideological motives, certified by multiple NGOs and by the United Nations Group for Arbitrary Detention**, discredit these spurious arguments of the regime. Ferrer's family, in addition, filed a Habeas Corpus in November 2024, certifying the full completion of his sentence in August of that same year. Navarro, for his part, was never officially informed of any conditions imposed on his liberation, and his detention in 2021 occurred after he voluntarily went to a police station to inquire about other detainees on July 11 of that year.

These are not isolated events. They are part of a systematic policy of repression against dissident and/or plural voices. The judicial proceedings against them have taken place in a systematic and generalized

framework of absolute absence of due process, an accusation [that was made in detail by 6 United Nations Human Rights Mandates](#).

For all the above:

1) We demand from the Cuban regime the immediate and unconditional liberation of José Daniel Ferrer, Félix Navarro, and all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience arbitrarily detained in Cuba.

2) We call on the United States, the European Union, Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom and, in general, all democratic governments and international human rights bodies and organizations to raise their voices in condemning these violations, and to exert concerted, coordinated and effective diplomatic, political and legal pressure to put an end to this brutal repression.

The Cuban people deserve to live in freedom, with rights and dignity. It is neither dignified nor legitimate to normalize authoritarianism. Public silence, which has yielded null results in the abolition of governmental repressive barbarism in Cuba, is nevertheless used by the regime to perpetuate its crimes. Let this statement be a call to conscience and action. Those who risk their freedom to defend democracy need the public solidarity of all.

Signatories:

- Consejo para la Transición Democrática en Cuba (CTDC)
- Unión Patriótica de Cuba (UNPACU), organización promotora de CubaDecide.
- Prisoners Defenders
- Unión de Presas y Presos Políticos Nicaragüenses (UPPN)
- Red Femenina de Cuba
- Asociación Raíces de Esperanza en España
- Consorcio Justicia
- Defiende Venezuela
- Asociación Sindical Independiente de Cuba (ASIC)
- Democratic Spaces
- DemoAmlat (iniciativa de Transparencia Electoral)
- Más Voces Foundation
- Foundation NewGeneration
- Alas Tensas
- Observatorio de Género de Alas Tensas (OGAT)
- Árbol Invertido
- ODV Democrazia e Libertà
- Plataforma Cívica Archipiélago
- Comité Ciudadano para la Integración Racial (CCIR)
- Di.Verso
- Fundación Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Justicia - Bolivia
- Consejo de Relatores de Derechos Humanos de Cuba
- Civil Rights Defenders
- Campo de Girasoles
- V Formation
- Red de Líderes y Lideresas (RELLIC)
- Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana
- Sociedad Internacional de Derechos Humanos (SIDH/ ISHR/IGFM)
- Observatorio de Derechos Culturales
- Observatorio de Libertad Académica
- MenschenDeCuba e.V.
- PatriaYVida e.V.
- Fundación para los Derechos Humanos en Cuba (FHRC)
- Naturpaz
- Freedom House
- Unidad de Defensa Jurídica, Registro y Memoria para Nicaragua (UDJ/UDR)
- Movimiento San Isidro (MSI)
- Partido Demócrata Cristiano de Cuba
- Solidaridad de Trabajadores Cubanos (STC)
- Partido del pueblo (PDP)
- Movimiento Democracia (MD)
- Movimiento Opositores por una Nueva República (MONR)
- People in Need
- Movimiento Cubano Reflexión (MCR)
- Damas de Blanco
- Movimiento Libertad y Democracia para Cuba

- Fundación Nacional Cubano Americana (FNCA/CANF)