

In the wake of the July 11 mass protests, Cuba has exhibited the highest rates of repression recorded in decades with more than 5,000 arbitrary arrests and more than 1,200 political prisoners prosecuted, most of them currently in prison, as well as hundreds of reports of spontaneous torture seen on social networks and in the media. Activists, opponents and, above all, non-politically active civilian protesters have been prosecuted for peacefully exercising their freedom of expression.

Our study on torture is based on a proprietary methodology that we have already implemented on numerous occasions and that has been adopted in more than 200 procedures in the last two years and a half by the United Nations mechanisms since the creation of Prisoners Defenders. Only in the last 2 years and a half, the results of this methodology have been as follows. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has adopted a total of 15 arbitrary detentions and prosecutions of political prisoners filed by Prisoners Defenders. In other Special Procedure complaints, the United Nations and its Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, association, human rights defenders, slavery, human trafficking and others, have adopted communications from Prisoners Defenders such as Forced Expatriations, in 2019, or labour slavery exercised by the State Party abroad over more than 50,000 professionals. Likewise, the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances has adopted 192 urgent actions on enforced disappearances.

In this report on torture, thanks to direct contact with hundreds of families affected by July 11, and victims themselves, we asked them to fill out a declaration form to assess the state of mistreatment and torture that their relatives suffered in prison or while detained. Neither the form nor the invitation to fill it out had any information regarding the subject, so the answers were spontaneous and without a previous segmentation. The answers to the form were fulfilled through a system in which it is not possible to see the following questions before filling the previous one in. It was, therefore, a blind, random and spontaneous test on more than 300 families. 97 relatives responded on date, describing the torture and ill-treatment of 87 detainees and prisoners of conscience out of more than 1,200 present in 12 months. We complemented the study with other 14 additional cases.

The typologies of torture and ill-treatment were divided into the following:

Deprivation of medical care to political prisoners

Forced labour and forced tasks not related to their status as detainees or prisoners.

Highly uncomfortable, damaging, degrading and prolonged postural patterns

Solitary confinement

Use of temperature as a torture mechanism

Physical aggressions

Abnormal driving to locations unknown to inmates and family members

Intentional disorientation

Deprivation of liquids and/or food

Intentional sleep deprivation

Deprivation of communication with family, defense and relatives.

Threats to them, their integrity, their safety and the safety of their loved ones

Display or threatening exhibition of weapons or elements of torture.

Intentional subjection to anguish, grief, or uncertainty about the situation of a family member.

Humiliation, degradation and verbal abuse

The results surprised even those of us who are familiar with these situations in Cuba:

100% reported having suffered one or more types of torture and ill-treatment.

77% described cases with 5 or more types of torture.

23% reported suffering from 10 or more types of the aforementioned typologies.

The two cases with the highest number of typology were a minor, Jonathan Torres Farrat, who at the age of 17 is literally being destroyed in prison, and a 26 year old young man, Ivan Hernandez Troya. The most worrying case, however, is the case of the pro-democratic, peaceful and humanist leader José Daniel Ferrer, who has been subjected in a punishment cell since July 11 to constant sonic attacks of low intensity that are destroying his nervous system, and even recently had symptoms compatible with chemical food poisoning, so we have instructed him to stop all intake of prison food and only eat food brought by his relatives and delivered by hand. He has been doing this for 3 days now, and the chemical affectations are diminishing, although the after-effects of the sonic attacks and the

confinement in solitary punishment cell persist. We can conclude that his situation can be described as currently being slowly killed in prison.

Given that the study was random, spontaneous and blind, and that the sample is very relevant with respect to the total, we can conclude that the sample is homogeneous and statistically valid, and that the report scientifically demonstrates that ALL political prisoners in Cuba, 100%, are subjected to torture.

We remain at the Committee's disposal to collaborate in the study of each case, of each detail, so that the truth may be exposed, and the State Party may, with the Committee conclusions, reduce or stop the torture to which it subjects all political prisoners. There are no political considerations about a system or a way of perceiving politics in our report or intentions. In Prisoners Defenders we respect every ideology, every conceptual political conception, but the defence of ideologies must be peaceful, among other attributes, and it is our duty to protect people who suffer torture for their way of thinking, as ideology cannot serve as an excuse to exercise on people the worst hell that a human being can suffer, torture.

We offer our utmost respectful collaboration with the Committee to expose the truth about these situations.