Presidente de Cuba

Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez

Hidalgo Esq. 6, Plaza de La Revolución

CP 10400, La Habana

Cuba

Oldenzaal, May 2025

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to draw your attention to the situation of Loreto Hernández García.

Loreto Hernández García is a black Cuban activist, priest, and vice president of the Asociación Yorubas Libres de Cuba, which practices the African Yoruba religion. He was arrested by police on July 15, 2021, after peacefully participating in an anti-government demonstration. In February 2022, a court in the city of Santa Clara sentenced him to seven years in prison for "disturbing public order" and "contempt”. Both charges are frequently used in Cuba to restrict the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. In the unfair trial, he, his wife, Donaida Pérez Paseiro, and 14 other demonstrators were found guilty.

According to his family, Loreto Hernández García has been held in solitary confinement several times since 2021, sometimes for more than two weeks. He suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure, and other health problems that cannot be treated in prison. Due to his poor health, he hopes for conditional release. However, authorities have told him that he will only be released if his wife, who was released from prison on January 15, 2025, ceases her activism.

In light of the above, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Loreto Hernández García, as he is unlawfully detained solely for exercising his human rights.

I thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,