



'I AM ONLY THE OUTLINE OF A POEM
BETWEEN IRON BARS AND SHADOW,
A VOICE THAT THEY'VE TRIED TO
STRANGLE WITH MUTES ...'

Ángel Cuadra*

** Ángel Cuadra, poet, imprisoned in Cuba from 1967 to 1982.
'I Have Stopped in Front of Time' (translated by Donald Walsh)
was written while in prison.*



Your Excellency, Señor Raúl Castro Ruz,

I am writing to express my deep concern at the fact that in 2009, the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, there are at least 25 writers, independent journalists and librarians in prison in Cuba, 22 of them since March 2003. All are serving lengthy prison sentences – up to 27 years – on anti-state or ‘social dangerousness’ charges. Most are suffering from health complaints caused or exacerbated by prison conditions, yet access to adequate medical treatment is often limited.

PEN believes that these writers have been imprisoned for expressing their opinion in print. I therefore urge you to release all 25 writers immediately and unconditionally, in line with the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Cuba signed in February 2008. I also ask that you ratify the ICCPR without reservations and introduce the necessary legal reforms to guarantee freedom of expression.

Yours respectfully,

Name/ PEN Centre: _____

For information on International PEN's campaign Freedom to write in the Americas, visit:
<http://www.internationalpen.org.uk/go/freedom-of-expression/campaigns>

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**Presidente de la República de Cuba
Su Excelencia Raúl Castro Ruz**

(Please send via your nearest diplomatic representative of Cuba or via the UN)

