



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

CUBA

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in Cuba on the FoRB Victims List

Santería



Loreto Hernández García

Religion or Belief: Santería
Arrested: July 15, 2021
Sentence: 7 Years' Imprisonment
Reports of Torture: Yes
Reports of Medical Neglect: Yes
Reason for Persecution: Leadership role in the Free Yorubas; criticizing the government



Donaida Pérez Paseiro

Religion or Belief: Santería
Arrested: July 16, 2021
Sentence: 8 Years' Imprisonment
Religious Leader: Yes
Reason for Persecution: Leadership role in the Free Yorubas; criticizing the government

SANTERÍA PRACTITIONERS

Santería practitioners whose beliefs and practices do not align with the government face arrest, detention, and imprisonment. The Free Yoruba Association of Cuba is an independent Santería group, unregistered with the government, whose leaders and members face particularly intense persecution.

PROTESTANTS

Protestants face persecution because of their advocacy for human rights and religious freedom, and unregistered denominations or individual churches face particular harassment. The Cuban government arrested Protestants who participated in the July 11, 2021 protests criticizing the government's crackdown on human rights. Reports indicate Protestants have experienced violent arrests, been held incommunicado, and endured abusive prison conditions. Exiled Protestant clergy have been denied re-entry to the country.



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NOT RELEASED

Loreto Hernández García
Donaida Pérez Paseiro

RELEASED

Denis Rosabal
Elizabeth Cintra García
Ibrahim Figueredo
Jorge Naranjo
Lisdani Rodríguez Isaac
Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo
Yéremi Blanco Ramírez
Yarian Sierra Madrigal