



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

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January 10, 2017

His Excellency Raúl Castro Ruz
Republic of Cuba
Plaza de la Revolution
Havana, Cuba

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the twelve and a half million working women and men of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), I write to express again our ongoing concern over the violent treatment of independent trade unionist and journalist Iván Hernández Carrillo, Secretary General of the recently reorganized Independent Trade Union Association of Cuba (ASIC). The most recent attack took place on the evening of December 28 upon his return to Colon after meeting in Havana with the Embassy of France and conducting other union business.

Mr. Hernández Carrillo has denounced the actions of the state security officers who beat him brutally and detained him for several hours without charges. During these events, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was traveling in the company of another civil society activist from the prominent Ladies in White, Caridad Burunate Gómez, who was also intimidated, detained and interrogated. Mr. Hernández Carrillo and Ms. Burunate Gómez were then taken to the police station in Matanzas. As in previous instances in which he was detained and beaten, he and Burunate Gómez were released with no charges and no explanation of their treatment and detention. Those detaining Mr. Hernández Carrillo did threaten that they could at any time return him to the prison where he spent eight years until his conditional release in 2011.

Between December 27 and December 30 at least three other ASIC activists were harassed and detained by police. In Havana, ASIC activists Felipe Carrera Hernández, Mateo Moreno Ramón and Emilio Alberto Gottardi were interrogated and held by police who questioned their trade union activities. If the government of Cuba wishes to live up to the human rights standards and commitments it has made, he and others must be allowed to exercise their rights of freedom of expression and association.

Letter to His Excellency Raúl Castro Ruz
January 10, 2017
Page two

Our organization has met with Mr. Hernandez and other ASIC leaders twice in the last year and will continue to monitor the situation faced by Mr. Hernández Carrillo and ASIC activists. We hope to see concrete action regarding labor and human rights and signs of real change consistent with the transition toward normalized relations between Cuba and the United States. The respect for human rights should accompany such a process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Trumka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/CF/kb
OPEIU#2

cc: Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez, Embassy of Cuba, Washington, DC