

Cuba: 45 Documented Deaths Attributed to the Cuban State in 2014

Extrajudicial Killings: 6
Hunger Strike: 2
Denial of medical care: 10
Suicide / Alleged Suicide: 3
Accident in prison: 1
Exit attempts: 22
Total: 45

*Exit attempts – of undetermined attribution: 4

[See case details at www.CubaArchive.org/database/.](http://www.CubaArchive.org/database/)

**The above numbers are only for cases properly documented; these totals do not represent the actual number of deaths in 2014. Many more deaths were reported at sea in exit attempts for which there is insufficient data, including names, and deaths reported in prison are very limited, as international monitoring is not allowed and reporting from the prisons leads to reprisals.*

Selected Profiles

See a full list of cases at the end.

I. EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

Luis Enrique Guerrero, Age 18, June 27, 2014, Tuinicú, Taguasco, Sancti Spiritus. Was detained and taken to the police station, accused of robbing a sugar mill. The police told the family he had committed suicide by hanging, which they refused to believe. His body was full of bruises, had sutures not typical of an autopsy, and the tips of his toes and heels were missing. The mother and two relatives were arrested for accusing the police of murdering him.

Vicente Medrano Ramos, age 50, May 2014, Guantánamo. Medrano was found dead with his throat cut at home, which was very close to a permanent security ring surrounding the Guantánamo headquarters of UNPACU, a peaceful opposition movement. He sympathized with UNPACU, which had repaired the roof of his home with assistance from abroad. The head of his neighborhood committee (Committee for the Defense of the Revolution) and other regime sympathizers had threatened him with death for publicly expressing his gratitude around town.

Antonio Tejada Leyva, age 40, October 19, 2014, Guantánamo Hospital. Antonio was arrested after a brawl at a party. After having a minor hand injury treated at the hospital, he was taken to the police station and beaten by police apparently after he had argued with them. His mother had been searching for him and gone to the police station, but told he was not there. After going back repeatedly, they allowed her to see him; he was in a cell in a catatonic state with no bowel control. They took him to the hospital, but it was too late to save his life. Prison

authorities tried to force the doctor to certify he had died of injuries from the street brawl, but the doctor refused.

Sandy Pablo Martínez, age 30, July 28, 2014, Kilo 7 prison, Camaguey. Young prisoner serving a sentence for having killed his partner. Fellow prisoners reported he had been beaten by prison guards for three days, handcuffed to his cell bars, and lit on fire. He died screaming for help with no one coming to his assistance. Prison authorities told the family he had committed suicide. A trial was held and the man in charge of the prison was sentenced to one and a half years for negligence, but the family insists the trial was a sham to cover up those truly responsible.

Luis Miguel Arias Cala, age 25. October 13, 2014, Hospital Vladimir Lenin, Holguín. Died a few months after being forcefully injected with a toxic mix while imprisoned. He had been serving an 8-year prison sentence from age 17 for hitting a man with a brick who was sexually assaulting his wife who died after surgery due to alcohol poisoning. His sentence had been increased on three successive occasions by seven more years for complaining to prison authorities and sending information of prison abuses to two human rights groups. His health had deteriorated considerably and he suffered several conditions including ischemic cardiopathy and asthma. He went on a hunger strike to demand his release at least on medical leave and after 77 days, paralyzed from the waist down, he was transferred to the penal wing of a hospital. A fellow prisoner from the ward (subsequently threatened with death) told the family that a doctor had him forcibly injected with a substance the nurse had refused to administer. His condition deteriorated immediately and he

was moved to the intensive care unit. His care was deficient and he developed large bruises and was not fed. After his lungs filled with water and becoming bloated, the doctors did not treat him and he died.

II. HUNGER STRIKE

Alexander Duarte Vidal, Age 40. September , 2014. Penal wing of the Hospital Clínico Querúbico "Enrique Cabrera" ("National Hospital"), Havana. The prisoner was serving a 10-year prison sentence for robbing an exchange house. He was out on a pass when the police stopped and searched him, accused him of carrying a black market roll of film and of attempted assault. He went on hunger strike and was put in a punishment ward. Two months into the strike, fellow prisoners reported he was already dead when they took him to the hospital.

Vladimir Cuné Vélez, age 31, August 25, 2014, Combinado del Este prison ("Hospital Nacional de Reclusos"). The prisoner had been on hunger strike for 47 days in protest of his sentencing for robbery with violence, demanding a review of his unjust conviction. In January he had staged a one month hunger strike and had been promised a review; when it did not happen, he resumed the hunger strike. He was held in a punishment cell under abhorrent conditions and was taken in grave condition to the prison hospital just hours before he died.

III. DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE

Carlos Alberto Suárez Romero, age 52, May 10, 2014, Quivacán prison, Artemisa. The prisoner was complaining of strong chest pain and was taken to the prison clinic, but sent back to his cell without treatment. He and fellow prisoners continued to plead for medical care, but the warden refused. He was finally taken to the clinic many hours later, in critical condition. The doctor did not check him, said he was faking it, and sent him back to his cell; he died five minutes later apparently of a heart attack.

Leovigildo Almaguer Peña, age 40, October 20, 2014, Boniato prison, Santiago de Cuba. Common prisoner who for months suffered constant headaches, chest pains, cramps, and loss of vision after a brutal beating by prison guards. His pleas for medical care went ignored even after his symptoms worsened over time, and he died six months after the beating. Prison authorities refused to give the family a death certificate; they ignore the cause of death.

Santo Julio Arias Fonseca, age 39, October 17, 2014. Manzanillo, Granma province. Having suffered strong chest pain for three days, prison authorities refused him medical care. Hours before his death, fellow prisoners had yelled demands that he be treated. He was taken to the infirmary and given an injection, then returned to his cell. A while later, a fellow prisoner found him dead.

Yerisbel Calzada González. October 28, 2014. Morón Prison. For days, the prisoner had been vomiting and had diarrhea and a high fever, but did not receive adequate medical treatment. Seventeen other prisoners had similar symptoms and were not being treated. The Morón prison houses 500 inmates used as cheap labor.

IV. EXIT ATTEMPTS

Yunier Fernández Hernández, age 32, and eight others. August 2014, at sea. Yunier worked at the Universidad de Ciencias Informáticas (UCI), outside of Havana and had a son. He was part of a group of nine rafters (eight men, one woman) that left in a rustic vessel from the northern coast of Cuba August 19th, seeking to get to the United States. Four decomposed bodies including Yunier's were found five days later by U.S. Coast Guard; five were missing despite a 24-hour sea and air search by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Seventeen "rafters" died at sea including Héctor Alejandro Bazán, age 16, August 31, 2014 and Yerisbel Milanés Santander, who died in her seventh month of pregnancy. Bazán died of dehydration hours before his group was rescued. 32 passengers left the fishing town of Manzanillo on Cuba's southeast coast on August 7th to seek a new life in the United States aboard a homemade boat. Their improvised automobile motor with a propeller broke down after a of couple days and they begged passing crafts from Cuba for help, but were ignored. A few of the men headed back to Cuba in an improvised raft, but disappeared. Strong winds pushed the craft westward and it drifted for three weeks. The desperate occupants had no food and water, some drank salt water and their own urine, others injected themselves with their own blood extracted with syringes. Many died of dehydration and survivors had to throw the bodies overboard. The craft was spotted by a fishing boat some 80 miles northeast of Yucatán, and the Mexican navy rescued sixteen survivors, but one subsequently died in a Mexican hospital.

See full list of 2014 documented deaths in the next page.

Cuba Archive
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Case #	First Name	Last Name	Age	Year	Mo.	Day	Location of Death	Province
EXTRAJUDICIAL OR DELIBERATE KILLING								
95	Luis Miguel	Arias Cala	25	2014	10	13	Hospital Vladimir Lenin, Holguín	Holguín
1562	Liosbel	Díaz Beoto	32	2014	12	16	At sea, off the coast of Cuba	
167	Luis Enrique	Guerrero	18	2014	6	27	Police station, Tuinicú	Sancti Spíritus
1162	Sandy Pablo	Martínez	30	2014	7	28	Kilo 7 prison	Camagüey
1092	Vicente	Medrano Ramos	58	2014	5		At home	Guantánamo
2158	Antonio	Tejeda Leyva	40	2014	10	19	Hospital	Guantánamo
HUNGER STRIKE								
186	Vladimir	Cuné Vélez	31	2014	8	25	Hospital, Combinado del Este prison	Ciudad de La Habana
893	Alexander	Duarte Vidal	40	2014	9	6	Hospital Clínico Querúbico	Ciudad de La Habana
MEDICAL CONDITION / DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE								
431	Leovigildo	Almaguer Peña	40	2014	10	20	Boniato prison	Santiago de Cuba
273	Santo Julio	Arias Fonseca	39	2014	10	17	Centro Típico, Manzanillo	Granma
143	Yerisbel	Calzada González		2014	10	28	Morón Prison	Ciego de Ávila
2132	Lázaro	Hernández Valdez	42	2014	1	12	Hospital, Combinado del Este prison	Ciudad de La Habana
2	Alejandro	Pereira Ríos		2014	1	24	Hospital Clínico Quirúrgico	Ciudad de La Habana
348	Juan Lázaro	Rivero	85	2014	1	18	Hospital, Combinado del Este prison	Ciudad de La Habana
758	Carlos Alberto	Romero		2014	8		Kilo 5 y medio prison	Pinar del Río
333	Wilfredo	Sarmiento Vio	39	2014	8	21	Kilo 5 y medio	Pinar del Río
1787	Carlos Alberto	Suárez Romero	52	2014	5	10	Quivacán prison	Artemisa
558	Jorge Luis	Sucre del Villar		2014	8		Kilo 5 y medio prison	Pinar del Río
SUICIDE / ALLEGED SUICIDE								
1362	Dairo	Andino León	18	2014	11	18	Cell at State Security	Cienfuegos
909	Yuleisis	de la Rosa		2014	8	25	Combinado del Este prison	Ciudad de La Habana
617	Víctor Roniel	Moya Yanez	18	2014	10	18	Military unit	Matanzas
ACCIDENTAL / UNINTENTIONAL								
579	Marlon	Rodríguez	14	2014	8		Hospital Militar Naval	Ciudad de La Habana
EXIT ATTEMPT								
1958	Yaimel	Almeida Zamora		2014	8		At sea	
933	Miguel	López Maldonado		2014	8		At sea	
1976	Alexis	Sánchez Rosabal		2014	8		At sea	
1393	José Ramón	Acosta	35	2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast	
615	Adrián	Allegue	28	2014	10	26	Near coast of Miami, Florida, USA	
1683	Rafael	Baratuti OFarrill	50	2014	8		At sea	
1133	Héctor	Bazán de la Paz	16	2014	8	31	At sea, off the coast of Yukatán, Mexico	
1595	Enrique	Buitrago Milanés	45	2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast	
1986	René	Cabrera Rubio		2014	8		At sea	
1636	Humberto	de la Paz Acosta		2014	8		At sea	
1379	Daylén	de la Paz Milán		2014	8		At sea	
1231	Nouris	de la Paz Milán		2014	8		At sea	
1188	Eddy Miguel	de la Paz Romero		2014	8		At sea	
134	Yunier Felipe	Díaz		2014	8		At sea	

1601	Yunier	Fernández Hernández	32	2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast
1016	Yudersy Lean	Gaínza		2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast
1281	Alberto	González Mesa	25	2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast
308	Jorge Lázaro	Lazo Vega		2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast
204	Lester	Martínez		2014	8		At sea, near Florida coast
1798	Yaylin	Milanés Santander		2014	8		At sea
1361	Carlos Manuel	Pardo	30	2014	9	3	Hospital
1763	Ahmed	Vargas Roa		2014	8		At sea

EXIT ATTEMPT: UNDETERMINED ATTRIBUTION

466	Juan Antonio	Breuil Espinosa	25	2014	6	7	Finca Niña Bonita, Playa Baracoa	Artemisa
618	Luis Adrián	González Torres	34	2014	6	7	Finca Niña Bonita, Playa Baracoa	Artemisa
240	Orlando	Gutiérrez Padilla	43	2014	6	7	Finca Niña Bonita, Playa Baracoa	Artemisa
764	Yariel	Valdés Rodríguez	26	2014	6	6	Finca Niña Bonita, Playa Baracoa	Artemisa