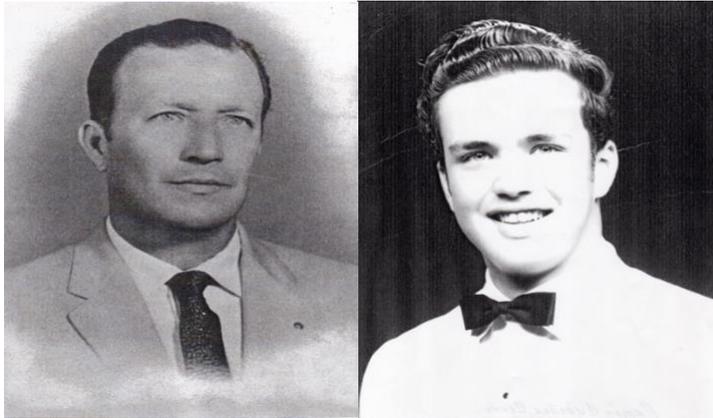




## The Cubeñas: three generations paid the highest price



*Ramón Cubeñas Ibern and Ramón Cubeñas Conde*

**Ramón Cubeñas Ibern**, age 56, was executed March 3, 1966 in Bayamo, Oriente.

His father, **Ramón Cubeñas Labrada**, had committed suicide by firing a pistol to his head in 1961 after being told his land was being confiscated by the Castro government.

His son, **Ramón Cubeñas Conde**, age 23, had been killed on October 26, 1964 during an anti-Castro infiltration mission to Cuba from overseas.

**Ramón Cubeñas Conde**, age 23, was a former student of Business Administration at the University in Santiago de Cuba. After Castro came to power and imposed a socialist regime, Ramón went into exile and took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion that failed to topple the Castro government. He then became a member of the U.S government-sponsored infiltration teams to Cuba to support the resistance of the Communist regime. On October 26, 1964, the boat loaded with explosives in which he was traveling to the island exploded, perhaps by accident. He and three other team members died.

His father, **Ramón Cubeñas Ibern**, was a landowner and businessman from Manzanillo, Oriente province. He was a longtime member and former President of the Manzanillo Rotary Club. Cubeñas Ibern had filed a complaint at INRA (Instituto de Reforma Agraria), the government entity managing the Castro government's agrarian reform, for confiscating his land despite not meeting the plot size that called for confiscation. A known anti-Communist, he was given a citation for Santiago de Cuba and told his case would be reviewed. When he arrived, he was arrested and taken to "El Castillito" prison in Santiago. This was in 1965. A few days later, government forces searched and ransacked his house and arrested his wife, María del Carmen Conde. She served two years in prison, accused of conspiring against the government.

Cubeñas Ibern was tried at a theater in his hometown of Manzanillo, with speakers blasting the proceedings, and he was not allowed a defense. He was sentenced to death, accused of conspiring against the government, of committing arson against a sugar mill, and of spying. During the trial, his demeanor is reported to have been serene, composed, and firm. He was 56 when he was executed and was survived by his wife and a daughter, Rosa Maria.

**Reproduction and redistribution of this material is authorized as long as its source is credited.**

[www.ArchivoCuba.org](http://www.ArchivoCuba.org)

*Free Society Project, Inc./Cuba Archive.  
©All rights reserved, 2020*