



Miguel Guerra Mora, 36 years old, was forcibly disappeared by state agents with Daniel Cosme Ramos, 46, and Federico Martí Jiménez on May 19, 1991 when they tried to escape Cuba in search of asylum

Miguel was a surveying technician and dredging consultant. He had a wife, a twelve-year-old boy (with him in the picture), and a one-year-old daughter.

His mother, María Teresa, writes: "He was a studious and cheerful young man. In his private life he was very loving and responsible with his family. What was his biggest flaw according to the ethics of Castroism? Despite being a good worker and efficient technician, they could not forgive him for his progressive ideas and secretly spied on him and harassed him." For this reason, Miguel and two companions, Daniel and Federico, were disappeared after trying to leave the country in a plastic boat at the service of the dredge at their workplace in the port of Palo Alto, Ciego de Ávila province.

Authorities initially told the family that the three had been caught in a storm and that they had searched for them unsuccessfully. The following week, Miguel's boss traveled to visit the family in Camagüey and informed them that there was evidence that they had fled the country, betraying the revolution, but insisting they had escaped to another country. They were officially declared missing.

His mother confides: "We suffered years of anguish looking for any clue of their whereabouts. We even contacted Interpol to no avail and, when we wanted to investigate with Cuban authorities, they told us to accept that they were in another country or had capsized at sea. Five years after desperately searching for them, a distant relative who was a border guard, out of compassion, let us know very confidentially what had happened. They had been under surveillance and had been pursued the day of their attempted escape. Refusing to surrender, they had been machine-gunned and sunk; no trace was left of them or the boat. What can one say in the face of so much viciousness and deceit?... We still do not know if that is the whole truth or if my son was captured, tortured, and buried in one of those cemeteries in Cuba where they secretly put those caught trying to leave the country. Someday we or our descendants will unearth the truth in a free Cuba. Meanwhile, every May 19th we will memorialize them by laying flowers at sea, mixed with their brave blood."

Sources: Testimony of Miguel Mora's mother, María Teresa, copies of his identity card, copy of the document declaring Miguel Guerra Mora disappeared by the Cuban government (September 17, 1993, and copy of the response to the family's INTERPOL inquiry, Stockholm 930422. <http://database.cubaarchive.org/case-record-simple-search/1862/>

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