

32 documented deaths in 2020 attributed to the Cuban state

Cuba Archive can only document cases for which it has credible and sufficient information and understands that the actual number of victims is higher.

I. 2 extrajudicial killings of civilians



Hansel Hernández Galiano, age 26, was shot to death by two policemen in Guanabacoa on June 24, 2020. According to the authorities, he was surprised stealing parts from a bus depot and had tried to escape.

Yamisel Díaz Hernández, age 38 was shot to death by an Interior Ministry officer on July 5, 2020 in Artemisa province. Authorities alleged it was in self-defense after Yamisel had attacked the officer with a machete when intercepted transporting stolen horses. Yamisel's father reported that the injuries on the body did not correspond to the official report.



II. 16 deaths in custody

Prison deaths are not reported by authorities and go mostly unknown or independently recorded. Given the absence of due process and the nature of Cuba's laws, it is often unclear whether to determine if certain prisoners are serving for common or political causes. Many are sentenced for "pre-criminal dangerousness" and human rights activists are often sentenced for "economic crimes" or charges of "domestic violence." All inmates face extremely poor prison conditions: excessive punishment, mistreatment, malnourishment, and lack of medical attention and medications. Meanwhile, they cannot support their families, who rely on them. Many are driven to mental illness and some commit suicide. But when prisoners are reportedly found dead, there are often no witnesses and death certificates are usually kept from their families. Many inmates in are reported to have committed suicide in punishment cells, where they may not have any clothing or other items.

1 political prisoner in hunger strike



Yosvany Aróstegui Almenteros died August 7, 2020 at the Amalia Simón Hospital of Camaguey on the 40th day of a hunger strike in protest for his unjust detention. He had been isolated and denied water as well as family visits. The human rights activist had been

sentenced to 15 years in jail for domestic violence, which, he insisted, were fabricated charges.

2 extrajudicial killings

Lázaro Bruzón Formental, died from a cerebral ischemia in June 2020 at Kilo 8 prison of Camaguey 4 weeks after a beating by prison guard Alberto.



Roberto Jiménez del Sol, age 56, died August 7, 2020 at the Military Hospital of Matanzas from a presumed beating. His family was told he died from a heart attack but his body had bruises and blows to the head and neck. Jiménez had been the administrator of an Adidas store owned by the military conglomerate CIMEX and had been arrested for missing items from the inventory.

4 reported suicides, potential extrajudicial killings

Orelvis Alejo Mirabal, age 44, March 22, 2020, Canaleta Prison, Ciego de Avila.

José Negret Gómez, age 31, was reportedly found hanging April 23, 2020 inside a severe punishment cell at Combinado del Este prison, Havana.

Political prisoner **Abel Rodríguez Santana**, age 28, June 5, 2020 at Combinado del Este prison, Havana.

Jorge Rodríguez Pérez, 2020 (date unknown) at Típico Provincial Prison, Las Tunas.

5 from medical conditions/denial of medical care

Isaac del Toro Leiva, age 47, died August 2, 2020 at Caguayo prison, San Luis, Santiago de Cuba having been denied medical attention. Infected with VIH-AIDS, he had apparently contracted citoplasmosis.

Sandy Fernández Ortiz, age 36, died of sepsis May 24, 2020 in Santiago de Cuba. He had cut a wart on his face while shaving and it had become infected. Prison authorities refused him medical treatment. He was serving a 4-year prison sentence for pre-criminal social dangerousness.



Aismel Blanco Castellano, age 20, died July 24, 2020 in Santiago de Cuba, denied medical care for an infection acquired after injecting cooking oil into his arms to protest the violation of his judicial and penitentiary rights.



Dr. José Alberto Alonso Méndez, died of coronavirus on October 4, 2020 in Angola.

Alfredo Borges Barrera, age 27, died in 2020 at Provincial Prison Combinado de Guantánamo of an alleged overdose of medication.

Yuris Matamoros, age 29, died March 25, 2020 in Venezuela. His body was found two days later in suspicious circumstances. Forced to live in very poor conditions, he was surveying the local population for coronavirus without any protective gear.



Miguel Alvarez Sánchez, age 70, died of cancer November 2, 2020 in Havana while serving a 30-year prison sentence for reportedly selling secret information to Mexican companies, for which he insisted on his innocence. He had been Chief of Staff to the former president of the Cuban Parliament.

12 asylum seekers



Identical twins **Sandy and Yandy Morejón Brito** and six others (names unknown) disappeared after leaving Cuba on February 22, 2020 "illegally" (without government authorization) in a makeshift raft.

2 of reported violence among prisoners

Junior Rodríguez Stop, age 36, was stabbed to death on May 24, 2020 at the Canaleta Provincial Prison at Ciego de Ávila.

Ariana Nieves González, age 23, drowned November 18, 2020, reportedly with two male companions (name unknown) in the Río Bravo trying to reach the United States from Mexico.



Nadir Rodríguez González, age 52, was murdered with an ax on July 30, 2020 at a work camp in Ciego de Avila.

Sandi Carrasco Moreno, age 33, committed suicide on January 1, 2020 in Tapachula, Mexico, after waiting for four months to receive political asylum in México as the first step to requesting asylum in the United States.

III. 4 "internationalists" in medical brigades



Yoel Rodríguez Torre, age 46, a nurse, died of coronavirus August 23, 2020, at Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela.



Dr. Guillermo Sáez, age 51, died of coronavirus in La Guaira, Venezuela, on August 6, 2020.



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