

Extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of civilians attempting to flee Cuba

November 21, 2022

Cuba's totalitarian regime is the only government in Latin America's history that systematically prevents its citizens from leaving the country and that kills them for trying. It violates, with total impunity, essential rights enshrined in international human rights accords as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose article 3 reads: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." and whose article 13 reads: "Everyone had the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to that country."



Articles 283 and 284 of Cuba's Penal Code, updated September 1, 2022, forbid the citizens from leaving or seeking to leave without government authorization and punish attempts to do so with one to three years of prison and with three to eight years of prison if violence or intimidation are employed. Attempting to organize or incite an "illegal" exit is punished with two to five years of prison and providing information or assistance to do so with one to three years. Articles 285 to 288 punish with seven to ten years of prison for "trafficking in persons," understood as entering the country for the purpose of encouraging or helping citizens to leave the national territory for third countries and with twenty to thirty years of prison and up to a life sentence if a weapon is present or violence or intimidation are employed.

Cuba's dictatorship has used migration as a tool of political control since its beginnings. Revolutionary laws have punished leaving the country with confiscation of property –at times the most extreme– and stripping of numerous citizen rights. In the 1960s and 1970s, any adult citizen who applied for an exit permit was force into agricultural and other hard labor for years before being granted permission to leave. Today, health professionals and other personnel considered essential cannot not leave the territory even on short trips abroad unless authorized at the highest levels. In addition, Cubans who "desert" from internationalists missions and human rights defenders who have established residence in other countries or travel abroad without the intention of emigrating are not allowed to enter their country.

The Cuban regime encourages citizens to leave en masse when it is deemed convenient to release internal social, political, and economic pressure, secure new outside sources of revenue, and extract concessions from neighboring countries, the United States in particular. But who may leave and who must stay is dictated by the government and agents of the State have persistently for over six decades used violence against civilians attempting to flee. This has resulted in numerous extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances as well as in many death and prison sentences carried out by the "revolutionary" justice system.

International law and the responsibility of the international community

Killing and imprisoning people seeking to leave their country, or preventing them from doing so with mines, walls, and other means is an obvious abomination. It is also a “crime against humanity” according to international customary law and its prohibition is considered “a peremptory norm of international law from which no derogation is permitted and which is applicable to all States.”¹

The Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court in 1998 reflects the latest consensus among the international community on this matter; it is a binding treaty with 123 State parties to date that offers the most extensive list of specific acts that may constitute a crime against humanity. Four of these crimes are perpetrated by Cuban authorities against fleeing civilians as part of “a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts against any civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack.” These are, with numbering as per the Rome Statute:

- a. Murder.
- h. Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, ... national, ... or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law.
- i. Enforced disappearance of persons.
- k. Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

The definition of these crimes against humanity also contains these required elements: 1. a physical element; 2. a contextual element: “when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population”; and 3. a mental element: “knowledge of the attack.”

Cuba has not signed the Rome Statute, however, it is a member of the United Nations, which has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with its Charter, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, Heads of State and Government affirmed their *responsibility to protect* their own populations and accepted a collective responsibility to encourage and help each other uphold this commitment. This embodies a political commitment to end the worst forms of violence and persecution and seeks to narrow the gap between Member States’ pre-existing obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and the reality faced by populations at risk.²

Selected crimes against Cuban civilians attempting to leave their country

This report summarizes selected documented cases of:

- I. Executions by firing squad for attempting to flee Cuba;
- II. Extrajudicial killings of civilians attempting to escape by sea: massacres;
- III. Forced disappearances in “illegal” exit attempts;
- IV. Extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of civilians fleeing towards the U.S base at Guantánamo;
- V. Civilians killed extrajudicially attempting to obtain asylum in embassies.

Individual case details are available at CubaArchive.org/database. Cuba Archive believes there are many more cases of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances than it has documented, however, it can only do so for cases for which sufficient information and credible reports are available.

¹ “Background,” Crimes Against Humanity, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>

² “About”, The Responsibility to Protect, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/about-responsibility-to-protect.shtml>

I. Executions by firing squad for attempting to flee Cuba

Cuba Archive has to date documented **29 executions by firing squad** of individuals who attempted to flee Cuba or entered the national territory seeking to rescue family members. Death sentences were delivered by revolutionary tribunals in the absence of basic due process of law. Some of the persons attempting to flee had carried weapons and some even subdued or killed armed guards, but most of the escapees did not incur in violent acts. Selected cases include the following.



Julio Casielles, William Le Santé, Luis Méndez

Julio Casielles Amigó, William Le Santé Nacer, age 36, and Luis Méndez Pérez, age 34, were captured while attempting to leave Cuba by boat and executed by firing squad on January 18, 1961, within twenty-four hours of their one-day trial at which no evidence was presented. The coworkers were sentenced to death on the basis of a letter signed by three hundred union members that only stated that they “could be” capable of the November 30, 1960 bombing (sabotage) of an electrical utility plant.

José Durado, Antonio González, and Pablo Rodríguez, three Protestant Ministers, were executed for having left Cuba “illegally” with a group on August 13, 1963. They had reached Anguilla Key in the Bahamas but two Cuban Navy patrol boards raided the cay and took the group back to Havana, where the three ministers were executed.



Juan Lima Sotelo

Juan Lima Sotelo, age 28, had infiltrated Cuba with two friends, **Victor Vargas Rodríguez and Juan Sánchez Ruano,** planning to retrieve his girlfriend. They were surprised by a Cuban vessel at Cayo Sal, north of Cuba and the border guards shot at them with automatic rifles; Sánchez was killed and Lima Sotelo, and Vargas Rodríguez were executed on September 2, 1963. Juan Sánchez Perdomo, the fisherman who was the contact inside Cuba, was sentenced to 30 years of prison and died in prison of a heart attack. José Manuel Pérez Hernández was also sentenced to 30 years of prison but was released after 12 years.

Sergio Armas Ayala, Miguel Conde Green, and Abel Calante Boronat, age 22, were executed on November 2, 1964 for attempting to hijack the boat *Tres hermanos* from Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines, seeking to escape Cuba. They were sentenced to death by revolutionary tribunal for killing the boat’s captain, although he had apparently arrived wounded at the hospital and had been killed by authorities to use the case to instill fear on the people of Isle of Pines. The trial was held very publicly to create terror and several “co-conspirators” were sentenced to prison in the same trial.

The brothers **Ventura, Cipriano, and Eugenio García Marín, ages 19, 21, and 25 respectively,** were executed January 2, 1981, for attempting to secure asylum at the **Nunciature (Vatican embassy) in Havana.** Of very humble socioeconomic background, they were Jehovahs Witnesses, who are fiercely

persecuted in Communist Cuba. They had received several warnings of their impending arrest and at least one had been in prison for practicing his faith. On December 9, 1980, with two men and three women, they forced a door at the embassy and requested asylum. Hours later, the nuncio, Ambassador Giulio Einaudi, authorized a raid of Elite Special Troops. The group was captured and tried summarily; the brothers were sentenced to death for allegedly killing the embassy's butler with a pistol but they insisted they had been unarmed, which was later confirmed by other sources. A subsequent investigation revealed that the butler allegedly killed in the raid was an intelligence agent who had staged his injuries with fake blood. The brothers' mother was sentenced to 20 years of prison, together with other relatives, for assisting the group, and other asylum-seekers were sentenced to 15 to 25 years of prison.



Lorenzo Copello, Bárbaro Sevilla & Jorge Martínez

Lorenzo Copello Castillo, age 33, Bárbaro Sevilla García, age 22, and Jorge Martínez Isaac, age 40 (photos above), were executed by firing squad on April 11, 2003 for “acts of terrorism” nine days after hijacking the Baraguá ferry, that sailed in Havana Bay, and taking its passengers hostage. Armed with a pistol and several knives, they planned to take it to the U.S. to request asylum. The ferry ran out of fuel in the high seas and Cuban Coast Guard patrol boats persuaded the hijackers to have it towed back to Cuba for refueling. Instead, they were captured, tried summarily, and sentenced to death despite having caused no injuries to passengers or damage to the vessel. While awaiting the appeal, the families were notified at 5AM that they had been killed and told to go to the cemetery for the burial. Eight friends or family members accused of participating were sentenced to varying prison terms and five young men are still serving 30 years of prison to life in inhumane conditions (photos below).



Harold Alcalá, Yoanny González, Maykel Delgado, Ramón Grillo, Wilmer Ledea

II. Extrajudicial killings of civilians attempting to escape by sea: massacres

The killing by revolutionary government of civilians attempting to flee the country began immediately after it came to power on January 1, 1959. Just six days later, **Remberto Brausen** was assassinated by Cuban Navy vessels while swimming towards the U.S. Guantánamo Naval Base to request asylum. Many such cases have followed. Cuba Archive has to date documented **168 extrajudicial killings** and **24 forced disappearances** in “illegal” exit attempts from Cuba. Scores more victims associated with documented

cases cannot be documented due to lacking data. Thousands more have disappeared at sea seeking to flee. There is no way of knowing if State authorities had a hand in their disappearance but it can be presumed in an undetermined number of cases, perhaps in many. Because State archives would likely have this information, their preservation is very important.

Following are selected cases of mass killings in exit attempts.

The Barlovento Massacre, 1962: 5 killed

Guan Xi Lui, Lee Suey Chuy, Fernando Gil García, Yak Kim Pan, and Amalia Cora Corzo were killed on January 15, 1962 when a Cuban Navy patrol boat that opened fire with machine guns on the yacht *Pretexto*, used for rentals to foreign tourists, in which they had left from the Barlovento (now Hemingway) marina, north of Havana. The group had been infiltrated by a spy and authorities were waiting for them. Of the 29 on board, 5 were killed and 14 survivors were sentenced to twenty years of prison.

The Prendes family, 1964: 4 killed

Mercedes Prendes López, age 29, and her children **Porfirio Rivero Prendes, age 3**, and **Marita Rivero Prendes, age 5**, as well as **a friend of unknown name** were killed after Cuban Border Guards shot at their vessel with machine guns around 5 miles from the coast after leaving Cuba on March 27, 1964 in a boat stolen from the former Miramar Yacht Club. The mother had left with a male friend and was seeking to join her husband, the children's father, who had left earlier for exile. An informant had given away their planned escape. A 7 year-old daughter survived.

The Banes massacre, 1964: 6 killed

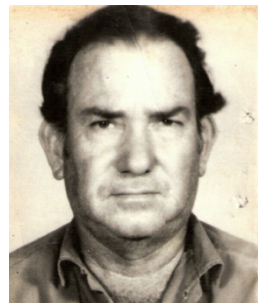
Idalia Fernández Gago, age 1, Emilio Tribons Batule, Gaspar Pulido, Odalys Anzardo, Carmen Amelia Batule, age 4, and Isaac Batule, age 5, were killed by Cuban Border Guard while trying to flee the island by sea after leaving from Banes beach on April 9, 1964.

The Lazo family massacre, 1971: 4 killed

In 1971, the raft in which a mother, father, and three children was trying to flee was rammed and sunk by the Cuban Coast Guard boat despite pleas by the parents. The **mother** washed ashore devoured by sharks and remains of the **three children** were not found; their names are unknown. The father, **Alberto Lazo Pastrana**, was able to swim to shore and survived; he was sentenced to eighteen years in prison, where he died in 1978 of a mysterious illness without receiving medical attention.



Alberto Lazo



Vicente Fleitas

The Canimar River Massacre, 1980: around 56 killed

A tourist excursion service had recently been inaugurated on the boat *XX Aniversario* to navigate along the scenic Canimar river that flows into Matanzas Bay. On July 6, 1980, it was hijacked by three youngsters seeking to escape to the United States: Roberto Calveiro, age 16, and the brothers Silvio and Sergio Aguila, ages 18 and 19 respectively. Sergio had taken several firearms from his obligatory military service. When the three took control of the vessel and shouted "To Miami!", the surprised passengers screamed in approval. A security guard posing as a civilian pulled his gun and Sergio shot and wounded him. Concerned for his health, they placed him on a small boat and sent him back to shore with a passenger who refused to leave. Authorities ordered two high-speed Cuban Navy patrol boats to prevent the escape, which opened fire on the boat as it headed into open seas, killing and wounding passengers. A Cuban Air Force plane then flew overhead and, as parents held children up in the

air, opened fire and left more dead and wounded. A huge boat used for heavy industrial work was then brought in to ram and sink the *XX Aniversario*, and it also fired at surviving passengers in the water. Sergio locked himself in the cabin and committed suicide. Silvio and Roberto were sentenced to thirty years in prison and released to exile in Spain after enduring years of torture and isolation. The number of victims was kept secret, the recovered bodies were not handed to the families, and communal funerals were forbidden. At least 56 are said to have died, including four children: **Lilian González, age 3, Delio Gómez age 17, Marisol Martínez, age 17, Osmany Rosales, age 9, and Marisel San Juan, age 11.** The names of only six other passengers are known: **Onelia Quintana, Mirta de Armas, Juan Domínguez, Luis Espinosa, Primitivo Pulgarón, Vicente Fleitas, and José San Juan.** (*See a more detailed report at CubaArchive.org: *Truth and Memory project: Reports.*)

The Tugboat Massacre of July 13, 1994: 37 killed

On July 13, 1994, a group of around 70 family members and friends, including many children, boarded the tugboat *13 de marzo* in the middle of the night hoping to escape to the United States. As they made their way out of Havana's harbor, three tugboats waiting in the dark started their chase. They sprayed the boat with high-pressure water jets, ripping children from their parents' arms and sweeping passengers off to sea. Finally, one of the attacking tugboats rammed the *13 de marzo* and made it sink. Passengers who had taken refuge in the cargo hold were pinned down and desperately pounded on the walls, the children wailing in horror as they all went down. Survivors clung to life holding on to random pieces of the wreckage in the high seas while the three pursuing tugboats circled around them creating wave turbulence to make them drown. The attack stopped suddenly when a merchant ship with a Greek flag approached Havana Harbor and Cuban Navy ships then picked up survivors. Brought to shore, the stunned women and children were interrogated and sent home. The men were kept in detention for months and given psychotropic drugs. None of the bodies of the 37 victims were returned to their families for burial, 8 were children. Survivors and relatives of the dead were denied information and put under surveillance. Many were dismissed from their jobs and systematically harassed by the authorities. Eventually, most survivors left for exile abroad. (*See a more detailed report at CubaArchive.org: *Truth and Memory project: Reports.*)



The names of the 37 victims follow, all are disappeared, presumed drowned.

Angel Abreu Ruíz. Age 3

Rosa María Alcalde Puig. Age 47

Pilar Almanza Romero. Age 31

Lissett Alvarez Guerra. Age 24

Yaltamira Anaya Carrasco. Age 22

Jorge Balmaseda Castillo. Age 24

Giselle Borges Alvarez. Age 4

Lázaro Borges Briel. Age 34

Martha Carrasco Sanabria. Age 45

Manuel Cayol. Age 56

Luliana Enríquez Carrazana. Age 22

María Miralis Fernández Rodríguez. Age 27

Rigoberto Feu González. Age 31

Joel García Suárez. Age 20.

Leonardo Notario Góngora. Age 28

Amado González Raices. Age 5.

Augusto Guerra Martínez. Age 45

Juan Mario Gutiérrez García. Age 10

Jorge Levrígido Flores. Age 28

Caridad Leyva Tacoronte. Age 5

Ernesto Alfonso Loureiro. Age 25

Reynaldo Marrero Alamo. Age 48

Hellen Martínez Enriquez. Age 5 months

Mayulis Méndez Tacoronte. Age 17

Odalys Muñoz García. Age 21

José Carlos Nicle Anaya. Age 3

Yousell Pérez Tacoront. Age 11

Perodín Almanza, Yasser. Age 11

Fidencio Ramel Prieto Hernández. Age 51

Xicdy Rodríguez Fernández. Age 2

Omar Rodríguez Suárez. Age 33

Julia Ruíz Blanco. Age 35

Miladys Sanabria Leal. Age 19

Eduardo Suárez Esquivel. Age 38

Estrella Suárez Esquivel. Age 48

Eliécer Suárez Plasencia. Age 12

Martha Tacoronte Vega. Age 3

The Bahía Honda Massacre, 2022: 7 killed

On October 28, 2022 a boat carrying 28 unarmed civilians was rammed and sunk by the Cuban Coast Guard off the coast of Bahía Honda, Artemisa Province, Cuba, to prevent them from leaving. Seven passengers were killed including a toddler: **Nathali Acosta Lemus, Israel Gómez, age 29, Aimara Meizoso León, Elizabeth Meizoso (two years old), Yerandy García Meizoso, Indira Serrano Cala, age 18, and Omar Reyes Valdés.** Survivors, including the mother of the dead child, reported that the authorities had threatened them, deliberately sank the vessel, and delaye rescuing survivors in the water. Authorities threatened survivors and family members of victims and even held some in detention attempting to force them to change their testimony and remain silent. The world community has remained mum.



Left to right, top to bottom: Aimara Meizoso, Elizabeth Meizoso, Indira Serrano, Omar Reyes, Nathali Acosta & Yerandy García. Photo collage: 14ymedio.com.

III. Killings and disappearances of civilians fleeing towards the U.S base at Guantánamo

During the 28-year existence of the infamous Berlin Wall (1961-1989), 235 persons were killed by German border guards as they attempted to cross into West Berlin.³ The Wall came down November 9th 1989, yet Cuba's replica at Guantánamo has lasted 33 more years and its toll is believed to be considerably larger. It displays the same scheme: barbed wire, high fences, mine fields, and watch towers with armed sharpshooters ready to fire at unarmed civilians and stop them from reaching the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo. Meanwhile, Caimanera, the town closest to the U.S. base, has been kept for decades under a permanent state of siege to prevent Cuban citizens from fleeing. Only its residents (population of around 10,500) and heavily-vetted visitors are allowed entry after passing three control points. See a video report in Spanish at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy2uQwEoXDc>.

Successive U.S. administrations have by and large been silent on the systematic killings by Cuba, presumably to avoid provoking the Cubans or fearing the base could be overrun by asylum seekers. Theodore Scotese, who was Commander at the base's Camp Bulkeley in 1968, confirms that they knew that Cuban border guards had orders to shoot to kill to prevent people from "fence-jumping" into the U.S. side. (U.S. government records are classified.)⁴ The Clinton administration filed a rare protest in the 1990s after a dramatic increase in the number of unarmed civilians shot by Cuban Border guards and denounced that bodies were being fished out of the bay with harpoons. The Cuban government then built a sea wall in the bay to prevent swimming towards the U.S. base (see Google Earth); a net allows authorized maritime traffic. See a testimony (in Spanish) on the sea wall at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcoKMXxhWNg>. See a testimony (in Spanish) on how U.S. personnel is aware of these killings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGLJ0JkOrF4>

Cuba's "Berlin Wall" has cost countless lives, limbs, eyesight, and/or years of prison for attempting to cross it to reach the U.S. base. Cuba Archive has documented **19 extrajudicial killings, 3 forced disappearances, and 6 civilians blown up by mines**. Anecdotal accounts indicate that the actual number of victims is many times more on all counts. The international community that has for years expressed widespread concern and support for the rights of purported terrorists from the Middle East imprisoned at the US base in Guantánamo, it entirely ignores the killings and systematic abuse of prisoners—common and political—who endure torture, beatings, malnutrition, and abject conditions on the Cuban side that lead to countless deaths and enormous human suffering.



Otoniel & Rubén Rey Terrero

Following are elected profiles of civilians killed and disappeared attempting to reach the U.S base at Guantánamo.

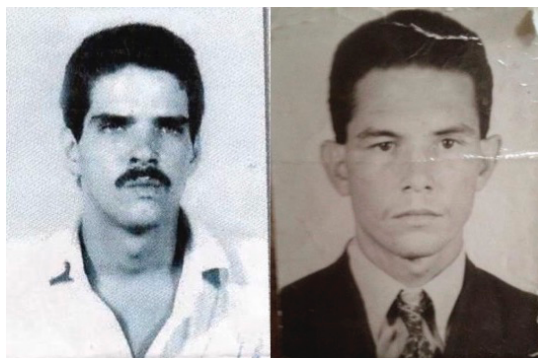
The brothers Otoniel and Rubén Rey Terrero, ages 22 and 25 respectively, disappeared on September 11, 1993 after leaving from the southern coast of Santiago de Cuba planning to reach the U.S. base at Guantánamo. Two other brothers were in prison at the time also for attempting to

³Alexandra Hildebrandt, *Figures, Facts. Berlin: Die Deutsche Bibliothek Verl. Hans am Checkpoint Charlie*, 2nd ed. 2005; and Hertle, Hans-Hermann; Nooke, Maria, *The Victims at the Berlin Wall, 1961–1989: A Biographical Handbook*. Ch. Links Verlag, 2011, p. 15.

⁴ Maria C. Werlau, telephone interview with Theodore J. Scotese (of Knoxville, TN), January 2007; *The 'Fence-Jumpers' of Gitmo, Circa 1968, Letters to the Editor, The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 4, 2007.*

escape to the base. The family later learned that Otoniel and Ray had been killed by authorities while their three companions had survived and escaped Cuba.

Iskander Maleras Pedraza, age 26, and **Luis Angel Valverde, age 30,** were killed by Cuban Border guards on January 19, 1994 as they swam towards the U.S. base at Guantánamo with two friends. When they were around fifty meters from the base, sharpshooters shot at them with long-range automatic rifles from a watchtower on Cuban territory. Their friends pulled their dead bodies out of the water. The following day, two members of each family were told by authorities to go by themselves to the Guantánamo cemetery; they were shown their bodies riveted with bullet wounds and had them buried in a field of unmarked graves. The two border guards who shot them were celebrated in state-controlled media and awarded medals for their deed. One of the two survivors made it into the base and eventually to the United States, another was apprehended by Cuban Border guards, tried, sentenced to prison, and eventually left for the U.S. The victims' families were persecuted and eventually granted political asylum in the U.S. See Iskander's mother's testimony at [youtube.com/watch?v=GmuE2SO6nxE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmuE2SO6nxE)



Iskander Maleras & Luis Angel Valverde

IV. Civilians killed extrajudicially attempting to obtain asylum in embassies

Julián Espinosa Montesinos, age 19, Adalberto Hernández Borrego, and Israel Leal Rodríguez were shot to death by revolutionary militia on December 11, 1961 while attempting to seek refuge at the **Embassy of Ecuador in Havana.**

Esteban Bencomo López, age 47, was brutally beaten to death by state agents on April 12, 1980 when he tried to enter the **Embassy of Peru in Havana.** The barber had been a vocal critic of the regime and was attempting to join his wife and 10-year-old son, already inside embassy premises with thousands of Cubans seeking to flee the country. State Security officers visited his mother and asked her to go to the morgue to identify the body. It was full of bruises and so deformed that authorities did not allow an open the casket before the burial. His wife and son spent 13 days inside the embassy and found out he had been killed only when allowed home after their exit was authorized in the Mariel boatlift.



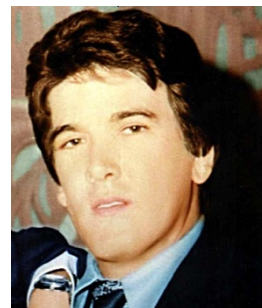
Owen Delgado

Owen Delgado Temprana, age 15, had entered the **embassy of Ecuador** with his parents and 12 family members on February 14, 1981, seeking political asylum. On February 21, 1981, a Special Forces' team stormed the embassy and took them to State Security Headquarters at Villa Marista, Havana. Owen was brutally beaten, suffering blows to the face and head, and one of his ears was nearly severed. Later transported to the Pinar del Rio hospital, he lapsed into a coma and died March 3, 1981. His body has not returned to the family for burial. Several members of his family were sentenced to long prison terms.

V. Forced disappearances in “illegal” exit attempts

3 forcibly disappeared, 1991

Miguel Guerra Mora, age 36, Martí Jiménez, and Daniel Ramos, age 46, disappeared at sea May 19, 1991 after leaving in a small motorboat belonging to a state maritime enterprise at the port of Palo Alto, Ciego de Avila, in an exit attempt from Cuba. The Cuban government confirmed they had taken a vessel out to sea and commanded a search but that it had been caught in a storm (there was good weather). They were officially declared disappeared and after five years of desperately searching for them, a distant relative of Guerra Mora who was a member of Cuba's Border Guard sent the family word to stop looking because they had been gunned down and killed to prevent the escape.



Miguel Guerra Mora

3 forcibly disappeared, 2003

Independent journalist from Camaguey province, **Omar Pérez Hernández,** disappeared December 17, 2003 with four friends: **Ramón Estrada Murciego, Isidro Sánchez Vázquez, Alfredo Torres Paz, and Maximiliano Abreu Becerra.** They were planning to flee Cuba by sea to avoid arrest. Omar had been repeatedly harassed, detained, and interrogated by State Security and threatened with a long prison sentence. His relatives believe they were entrapped by State Security and forcibly disappeared by state authorities.

3 forcibly disappeared, 2004

Noel Abreu García, Jorge García Sánchez, Idania García Quesada, age 32, and Enrique Vázquez Escobar, age 40, disappeared December 24, 2004, as they headed toward the southern coast of Cuba to attempt to flee the country. 24 hours earlier, one of the wives had reported to Cuban authorities the planned attempt, seeking to prevent her husband from leaving. The group was never heard from and relatives believe it was forcibly disappeared.



Noel Abreu García, Jorge García Sánchez, Idania García Quesada & Enrique Vázquez Escobar

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