

# 79 DOCUMENTED DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES ATTRIBUTED TO THE CUBAN STATE IN 2023

WORK IN PROGRESS

AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF  
the  
cuban™  
D I A S P O R A



Truth and Memory Project  
Cuba Archive & American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora  
February 2024

## 79 DOCUMENTED CASES IN 2023

### SUMMARY TO 12/31/2023

9 Extrajudicial killings  
22 Other deaths in custody  
11 Other deaths in compulsory military service  
3 civilian temporary workers, “internationalists”  
34 Migrants seeking asylum

*\*59 more reported cases could not  
be documented due to lacking data.*

## NOTES

- Suggested citation: *79 documented deaths and disappearances attributed to the Cuban state in 2023*, Work-in-progress, Cuba Archive, Feb. 2024.
- This work-in-progress is available in the online database in real time.
- Search for individual case records by name at [CubaArchive.org/database](https://CubaArchive.org/database).
- Only reported cases with sufficient data are “documented;” the actual number of victims is much higher.
- See details of the Truth and Memory Project at [CubaArchive.org](https://CubaArchive.org).

## 9 EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS



### AISER ROQUE RIVERO

The 18-year-old died in police custody on February 5, 2023, in Placetas, Villa Clara, of a reported suicide hours after his arrest for an alleged domestic violence incident. He was a peaceful participant of mass protests of the July 11, 2021 all over Cuba.



### SERGIO POZO HERNÁNDEZ

The 30-year-old died February 26, 2023, in Santiago de Cuba, after two policemen at a beach exit checkpoint beat him to death for not stopping on his motorcycle.



### KEVIN CANLO MORALES

Died in March 2023 at Quivicán prison, Mayabeque, after a brutal beating at the hands of the deputy head of the prison.

## EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS



### ERNESTO MIRANDA

The 18 year old died in March 2023 at an artillery unit in Havana while in compulsory military service. His reported suicide was refuted by his family.



### RAFAEL RODRÍGUEZ

The 29-year-old self-employed worker was killed on May 4, 2023, by a police investigator, allegedly in self-defense. He had been shot from behind and his body had signs of a beating. An autopsy was done without the family's approval.



### JOELVIS VISCAY

Died in police custody on November 28, 2023 in Guantánamo. The police said he had hanged himself, but his body had bruises and no marks on the neck.

## EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

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**Jeankarlos López López**, age 22, died in custody on March 30, 2023 at Combinado del Este prison of Havana. The prisoner had been complaining of chest pain, and as he was finally being walked over to the prison clinic, he allegedly dropped dead. His mother posted on social media photos of his body full of bruises, claiming they were proof of the prison beatings that, she said, had killed her son.

**Dr. Damixi Rodríguez Domínguez**, died May 1, 2023, and **Luis Miguel Bartoló Tamayo**, died May 28, 2023. Both had been shot in Santiago de Cuba while traveling in an ambulance by a police officer, a former romantic partner of Dr. Rodríguez.

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## 22 DEATHS IN CUSTODY NOT EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS



### PABLO MOYA DELÁ

The 65-year-old political prisoner and human rights activist died in Santiago de Cuba on day 40 of a hunger strike. He was protesting a beating by common prisoners and demanding medical attention and was transferred to the hospital only when his condition became critical.



### LUIS BARRIOS DÍAZ

The 36-year-old political prisoner was serving 6 years of prison for participating peacefully in mass protests on July 11, 2021. He died in Havana on November 19, 2023, denied medical treatment for respiratory problems he suffered over three months with increasing severity.

## 6 DEATHS IN CUSTODY BY SUICIDE OR ALLEGED SUICIDE

*\*Some cases could be extrajudicial killings.*

**Raidel Montalvo**, March 25, 2023, Combinado del Este prison, Havana

**Franklin Domínguez**, April 2023, El Típico prison, Holguín

**José Luis Hernández**, July 15, 2023, Kilo 5 y medio prison, Pinar del Río

**Omar (last name unknown)**, November 4, 2023, Kilo 8 prison, Camagüey

**Yordi last name unknown**, December 14, 2023, Sierra de Cubitas penal labor camp

**Alexander Villegas García**, 2023, Ariza prison, Cienfuegos

## DEATH BY NEGLIGENCE



### DAYRON MENA BU

The 29-year-old was serving 7 years of prison for a common crime reported as a potential political retaliation. He died on September 28, 2023 in Santiago de Cuba of sepsis. His leg had been amputated for an electrocution while doing penal work. The seeming gross negligence is **potentially an extrajudicial killing**.

## 14 DEATHS IN CUSTODY FROM MEDICAL CONDITIONS/DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE

*\*Some cases could be extrajudicial killings.*

**Carlos Galindo Ruiz**, May 16, 2023, Arnaldo Milián Hospital, Santa Clara, Villa Clara

**Luis Hernández Valdivia**, July 11, 2023, San Juan y Martínez Prison #4, Pinar del Río

**“Kiko” Pineda**, July 12, 2023, Amalia Simoní Hospital, Camagüey

**Lázaro Almenares Álvarez**, September 5, 2023, Las Mangas Prison, Bayamo, Granma province

**Rafael Mojena Jerez**, September 5, 2023, Las Mangas prison, Bayamo, Granma province

**Denis González Sifonte**, September 21, 2023, police station, Sibanicú, Camagüey

**Fernando García Consuegra**, October 9, 2023, Valle Grande prison, Havana

**Luis Barrios Díaz**, November 19, 2023, Havana

**Reinaldo Pérez Betancourt**, November 28, 2023, Amalia Simoní Hospital, Camagüey

**José Miguel** (last name unknown), November 26, 2023, Amalia Simoní Hospital, Camagüey

**Oscar Reyes del Rosario**, November 2023, hospital in Camagüey

**Damián** (last name unknown), 2023

**Santiago López Gómez**, December 24, 2023, Ariza prison, Cienfuegos

**Jorge Verdecia Blanco**, 2023



# 11 CONSCRIPTS IN COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE NOT EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS



## MAIKOL ARCIA HERNÁNDEZ

Committed suicide on May 28, 2023 at San José de las Lajas, Havana province. He was forced into military service having a mental disorder and a metal plate in the brain. They assigned him to guard a weapons depot, disregarding his threats to kill himself.



## DARIEL CABRALES

The 21-year-old died on April 13, 2023 at a sugar mill in Cienfuegos, buried under kilos of sugar by accident. He was a conscript of the Juvenile Labor Army, EJT



## HUMBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

Killed on June 15, 2023, shot accidentally by a fellow recruit.



## GABRIEL LÓPEZ AVILA

The 20-year-old committed suicide on August 8, 2023 in Holguín, having just completed the 2-year compulsory military service.

## DEATHS IN THE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

### Medical condition/denial of medical care

**Yurismay Bocourt.** The 23-year-old female “volunteer” militia, died October 28, 2023 after fainting from an unexplained cause during a “defense exercise” in San Cristóbal, Artemisia.

**Yordan, last name unknown,** died November 2023 in Havana, forced into duty and military exercises despite being very ill, reportedly from dengue. The cause of death was reported as a bacterial infection in the brain.

### Suicide

**Juan Guerrero Silva.** The 18-year-old committed suicide by hanging in June 2023 while on guard at a Navy unit in Holguín. He was conscripted despite a history of mental problems and a recent confinement at a psychiatric facility. His commanders ignored doctors’ requests not to put him on guard alone or give him arms.

### In accidents

*\*Many accidents result from negligence.*

**Ennier Hechavaría Silva** died June 18, 2023 at the Antiaircraft Unit of Holguín

**Jaison Martínez Rondón,** died January 27, 2023 in Mayabeque

**Alex Javier Rodríguez,** age 19, died July 9, 2023

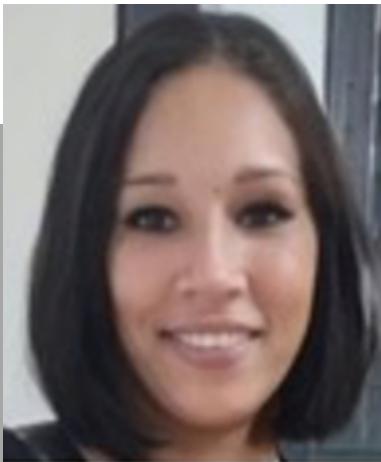
**Danilo Paz,** died April 2023 in Holguín

### 3 “INTERNATIONALISTS”



#### DR. NARLYS MARTÍNEZ

Died on June 1, 2023 in Cuba, shortly after her repatriation from a medical mission to Venezuela after falling ill from an insect bite not treated adequately.



#### DR. YAMISLAI BUENO SOLER

The 32-year-old died on October 15, 2023 in a traffic accident while serving on a medical mission to Venezuela.

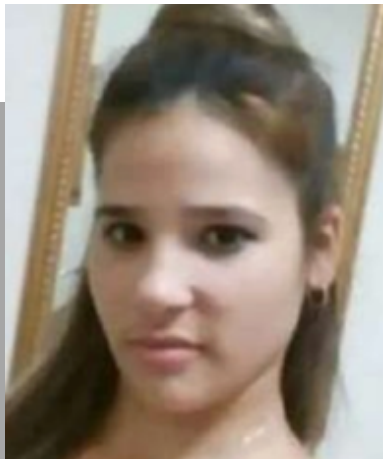


#### ADRIÁN DÍAZ ARAUJO

Died on November 30, 2023; his cause of death was only reported as “suddenly.” He was a nurse serving on a medical mission to Guatemala.

## 34 MIGRANTS SEEKING ASYLUM

12 DROWNED  
8 DISAPPEARED  
1 MURDERED  
11 IN ACCIDENTS  
2 OF MEDICAL CONDITION



### BARBARA AROCHA

The 20-year-old disappeared with 9 others after leaving from Caibarién, Cuba, in January 2023 in a rustic vessel.



### ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

Drowned in the Rio Grande on January 23, 2023 trying to cross from Mexico into the United States.



## JAIRON ABRAHAM CRUZ

The 17-year-old was shot to death on January 23, 2023, at a hotel in Mexico on the way to the U.S. with his sister, mother, and stepfather, who was kidnapped but escaped. A Cuban man at the hotel (name unknown) was also killed.



## DAVID DIOSDALI CEPEDA

the 39-year-old disappeared after boarding the train “the beast” in Mexico. He was last heard of on August 6, 2023.



## MARIO BERNAL

Died August 19, 2023 in Honduras of a reported heart attack on his way to the U.S.



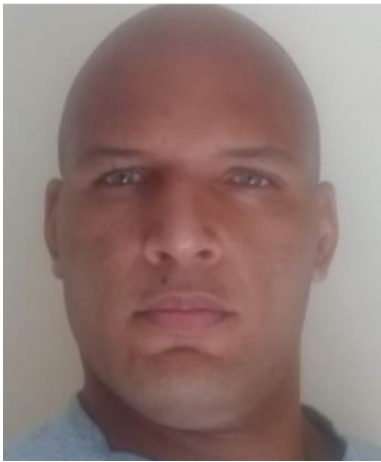
## 8 OF THE 17 VICTIMS OF A SHIPWRECK

**Nayelis Rodríguez**, age 19 (photo); **Yamily Triana**, age 35; **Yoan Almaguer**; **Kevin Medina**, age 22; **Tito González**; **Jaile López**; **Armando García**; **Michel Fumero**, and **9 others of unknown names** drowned Jan. 24, 2023, a day after leaving from Cárdenas, Matanzas, in a rustic boat with 28 people that caught fire. 11 passengers managed to swim to a nearby key and were rescued. 6 bodies were recovered and 11 are missing.



## 7 OF THE 11 VICTIMS OF AN ACCIDENT IN CHIAPAS

**Sharkira Martínez**, age 21 (photo), **Zulema Amaral**, and **María Fernanda Lara**, age 12, **Dayanis Morales**, age 23, **Alicia Rodríguez**, **Naelys Carrillo**, and **Aylen Moreira**, age 34 (traveling with her two small children, who were injured) and 4 other Cuban female migrants died October 1, 2023 in Chiapas, Mexico, when the van in which they were traveling at high speed overturned. They intended to reach the U.S. The driver fled the scene.



## GABRIEL GÓMEZ OMA

The 37-year-old disappeared after leaving Cuba on a windsurfing board the night of August 23, 2023, seeking to reach the U.S.



## YASMANI REINA

Disappeared in November 2023 with another male after they jumped from a raft near Cayman Islands trying to swim to shore.



## LUIS & MERCEDES OLIVA

Luis Oliva, age 17, and Mercedes Oliva, age 27, drowned on October 16, 2023 in the Suchiate river on the Guatemala-Mexico border after falling from a raft.





## GLEIBER BARRERO

Disappeared with **Redenio Valdés** after leaving Cuba in October 2023 on a rustic boat that sank. Eight other rafters reached the Cayman Islands.



## YASMANI REINA

The 26-year-old was killed in a traffic accident in Mexico on December 29, 2023.



## LUIS MÉNDEZ ROMERO

The 55-year-old died on November 16, 2023 at an immigration facility in Mexico after feeling ill and asking to be repatriated to Cuba.

## MIGRANTS SEEKING ASYLUM

**Bárbara Bell Sánchez** was killed February 2, 2023 in a traffic accident in Guyana when the minibus in which she was riding collided with a truck and caught fire.

**Oryalis Cepeda** died February 3, 2023 in Guatemala when the truck in which she was being transported with around 20 migrants overturned. She was traveling with her 16-year-old son.

**Reynaldo Cruz Rodríguez**, age 33, drowned in May 2023 in the Rio Grande trying to reach the U.S.

**Jorge Fonseca Machado**, age 57, was last seen on August 31, 2023 at the Aguas Calientes immigration center on the Guatemala-Honduras border.

**Humberto Martínez Cañizares** was last seen on October 5, 2023 in Mexico on his way to the U.S.

**Evangelio Pupo Velázquez** died on October 28, 2023 in a traffic accident in Mexico on his way to the U.S.



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