

Pray for Cuba.

9 - 15 February 2020



Apostle Alain Toledano Valiente told CSW, 'In Cuba, pastors are more at risk than criminals and bandits.' Just under a year ago Cuba voted in a new constitution which contains fewer protections for freedom of religion or belief. Since then, church leaders and human rights defenders have faced increased harassment and restrictions on their freedoms. Yet they continue to defy the government's intimidation, determined that they should be able to practise their faith publicly and freely. Find out more about Cuba at csw.org.uk/cuba

Sunday 9 February

There has been increased pressure on religious leaders, with some being arbitrarily prohibited from leaving the island. In July 2019 four leaders were prevented from travelling to Washington DC to participate in the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. Pray that all travel restrictions would be immediately lifted.

Monday 10 February

'They want me to stop being a pastor.' Apostle Alain Toledano Valiente, who leads a large unregistered church, has received multiple police summons as a result of his ordinary pastoral work - and in September was charged with the crime of 'disobedience'. Ask God to protect and sustain him.

Tuesday 11 February

In July 2019 some Catholics were prevented from attending the funeral of Cardinal Jaime Ortega. Among them was Dagoberto Valdes Hernandez, who had known the Cardinal since his student days. Pray that God would soften the hearts of the authorities and grant their citizens the basic right to grieve according to their beliefs.

Wednesday 12 February

In August 2019 the government withdrew its permission for the Catholic Church to hold public celebrations for National Youth Day. Despite this, the Church went ahead with their plans and simply ensured the festivities were held in Catholic properties. Thank God for the Church's determination in the face of opposition.

Thursday 13 February

In October the US Commission on International Religious Freedom called for Caridad Diego Bello, Cuba's Head of the Office of Religious Affairs (ORA), to be forbidden from entering the US because of their responsibility for severe religious freedom violations. For many years religious leaders have repeatedly identified ORA officials as responsible for the majority of these violations. Praise God that their voices have finally been heard.

Friday 14 February

Pray this verse over all religious communities in Cuba: 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33)

Saturday 15 February

God our Father, be near to all those religious communities which are being denied their right to practise their faith. Protect and sustain them, and give them the courage to resist the government's measures to limit their fundamental human rights. Amen.

CSW everyone
free to believe

CSW is a human rights organisation advocating for freedom of religion or belief, and as Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.