

Prayer Diary: Cuba

16-22 April 2023



David, Maridilegnis and Lorena

‘Although we would like to see total victory, we know that you have been praying for this. He looks a little different to us, better. Step by step.’ – Maridilegnis Carballo, wife of Pastor Lorenzo.

Be encouraged that your prayers are being answered, step by step, for Pastor Lorenzo and his family. The Cuban pastor is now in a minimum-security prison which is closer to home, so his wife and children can visit more often. Yet Pastor Lorenzo shouldn’t be imprisoned at all. The independent church leader is serving a seven-year sentence for peacefully protesting on 11 July 2021.

Since these protests, the government crackdown has only intensified, and Cuba is experiencing the biggest wave of emigration in decades. Find out more at csw.org.uk/cuba

Sunday 16 April

Last year we recorded 657 violations of freedom of religion or belief – more than double the 272 we documented in 2021. Pray that Cuban authorities would end their repressive rollback on human rights, which has affected both registered and unregistered religious groups.

Monday 17 April

We recorded this staggering jump in violations of freedom of religion or belief, despite all of CSW’s documenters being forced into exile over the course of the year due to continuing threats and harassment. Pray for more documenters to take up the work of investigating and exposing injustice, and for their safety.

Tuesday 18 April

Many religious leaders have been forced to leave Cuba under threat of imprisonment – including Alain Toledano Valiente, Yordany Díaz and Carlos Sebastián Hernández Armas. Pray for God’s provision as they adjust to life in a new country, far from close family members and their friends.

Wednesday 19 April

In Genesis 28:15, God spoke this encouragement over Jacob: ‘I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land...’ Ask God to watch over those who have been forced into exile because of their beliefs. Pray that they will one day be able to return to their homeland in freedom.

Thursday 20 April

Continue to pray for Pastor Lorenzo’s unconditional release from prison. Praise God for the improvement Maridilegnis has seen in her husband’s condition so far: ‘Now he does not have to wear a uniform. The colour of his skin has improved because before his skin was a strange colour from lack of sunlight.’

Friday 21 April

Give thanks that Pastor Lorenzo’s family have been able to bring him hot food and even some recordings of Christian songs. Yet the ongoing separation, grief and worries are a heavy burden to bear. Pray that Pastor Lorenzo will be granted regular visits home, and that God would sustain them all with a daily blessing of peace.

Saturday 22 April

‘The Lord is in control and even though years pass, we are in His hands.’ – Maridilegnis

Father God, thank you that Cuba remains in your hands. Transform this nation into one of freedom and justice, where freedom of religion or belief is upheld for all. Amen.