



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations
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Washington, D.C. 20006
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August 4, 2016

His Excellency Raúl Castro Ruz
Republic of Cuba
Plaza de la Revolution
Havana, Cuba

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the twelve and a half million working women and men of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), I write to express our deep concern over the violent treatment of independent trade unionist and journalist Iván Hernández Carrillo after his return to Cuba from an extended trip abroad meeting with unionists and human rights activists in Europe and the United States.

According to reports, on Sunday, July 31, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was arrested during a search of his luggage at Havana's José Martí International Airport. Police confiscated his phone, passport and luggage, and detained him. He was then taken to the police station after being kicked, beaten and forcibly thrown into a police car. Mr. Hernández Carrillo was held in deplorable conditions in a police station without access to communication. His family was denied contact or further information regarding his brutal treatment and detention. He was released in the middle of the night on August 2, with no charges and no explanation of his treatment and detention.

In 2011, Hernández Carrillo, a leader of Cuba's Independent Trade Union Coalition (CSIC, in Spanish), was freed from prison after eight years of detention subsequent to a wave of arrests and detentions in 2003. Since then, he has suffered recurring harassment and arrest. If the government of Cuba wishes to live up to the human rights standards and commitments it has made, he and others must be allowed to exercise their rights of freedom of expression and association.

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We will continue to monitor the situation faced by Mr. Hernández Carrillo and CSIC activists. We hope to see concrete action regarding labor and human rights and signs of real change consistent with the transition toward normalized relations between Cuba and the United States. The respect for human rights should accompany such a process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Trumka". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/CF/kb
opeiu#2

cc: Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez, Embassy of Cuba, Washington, DC