

*August 31, 2005*

As participants at the conference commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Solidarity Movement, we find it reprehensible that the prisoner of conscience, Pedro Pablo Alvarez, faces harassment and threats at the hands of Cuban state security due to his daughter's presentation at this event.

Here today, a diverse group of individuals involved with the struggle for democracy throughout the world, have gathered in the spirit of Solidarity. We salute the work of Pedro Pablo Alvarez, secretary general of the United Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC).

Pedro Pablo is serving an unjust prison term of twenty-five years at El Combinado del Este Prison. His only crime was to defend the rights of the Cuban worker based on the very rights the government has written into law but denies indiscriminately from every worker in this supposed "worker's paradise."

Like Lech Walesa, Pedro Pablo Alvarez is simply a working man who believes in the ideals of truth and justice, and lived out that commitment by helping defend his fellow workers.

Therefore, we demand:

The immediate and unconditional release of Pedro Pablo Alvarez and the six other independent labor union leaders that were arbitrarily arrested during Cuba's Black Spring of 2003;

That the Cuban State allow free and independent labor unions to form and organize without interference from the government;

That the 300+ prisoners of conscience on the island of Cuba be released and exonerated of their charges.

In solidarity with Pedro Pablo Alvarez,

**Akbar Atri**, executive committee member, Takhim Vahdat, *Iran*

**Donald Jensen**, director of communications, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, *U.S.A.*

**Mart Laar**, former prime minister, *Estonia*

**Carl Gershman**, president, National Endowment for Democracy, *U.S.A.*

**Maung Maung**, general secretary, Federation of Trade Unions, *Burma*

**Heba F. El-Shazli**, regional program director, Solidarity Center, *U.S.A.*

**Marko Djuricic**, member, Serbian Parliament, *Serbia*

**Adrian Karatnycky**, counselor and senior scholar, Freedom House, *U.S.A.*

**Pavol Demes**, regional director, German Marshall Fund of the United States, *Slovakia*

**Pavel V. Isayev**, chairman of the board, Center for Social Partnership, *Russia*

**Omar Lopez Montenegro**, founding member, Cuban Democratic Coalition, *Cuba*

**Blanca Reyes**, founder, Damas de Blanco, *Cuba*

**Susana Alvarez**, member of executive board, Consejo Unitario de Trabajadores Cubanos, *Cuba*

**Sandy Acosta**, program officer, Freedom House, *U.S.A.*

**Nguyen Van Tran**, Alliance pour la Democratie au Vietnam, *Vietnam*

**Joshua Muravchik**, scholar, American Enterprise Institute, *U.S.A.*

**David Pryce-Jones**, senior editor, *National Review*, *U.S.A.*

**Agnieszka Gratkiewicz**, Lech Walesa Institute, *Poland*

**Gneyan Scdowski**, journalist, *WProst Weekly*, *Poland*

**Manuel Scherer**, University of Vienna, *Austria*

**Zdislaw Krasnodebski**, director, Forschungstelle Ostmitteleuropa, University of Bremen, *Germany*

**Michael Rubin**, resident scholar, American Enterprise Institute, *U.S.A.*

**Sonja Licht**, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, *Serbia & Montenegro*

**Peter Ackerman**, chairman, Freedom House, *U.S.A.*

**David Hawk**, human rights advocate, *U.S.A.*

**Andrei Sannikov**, Charter 97, *Belarus*

**Ida Garibaldi**, program officer, New Atlantic Initiative, *U.S.A.*

**Radek Sikorski**, executive director, New Atlantic Initiative, *U.S.A.*

**Christopher DeMuth**, president, American Enterprise Institute, *U.S.A.*

**Vincuk Viacorka**, chairman, Belaursian Popular Front, *Belarus*

**Julian Lewis**, member of Parliament, *United Kingdom*

**Lord Salisbury**, former member of Parliament, *United Kingdom*

**Lorne W. Craner**, president, International Republican Institute, *U.S.A.*

**Hafez Albukari**, chairman, Yemeni Center for Polling & Communications Research, *Yemen*

**Alexandre Milinkevich**, founder, *Ratusha*, *Belarus*

**Anatol Liabedzka**, chair, National Committee of the Civic Union Party, *Belarus*

**Kang Cheol Hwan**, dissident, *North Korea*

**Bogda Zukowska**, Bank Pelao SA, *Poland*

**Jessica Barnes**, program officer, Freedom House, *U.S.A.*

**Robert Pernetta**, Visions for Central Europe

**Jan McLaughlin**, journalist

**Wiesaw Szczepinski**, *Poland*

**Bartłomiej Michalowski**, *Poland*

**John Kubinec**, *U.S.A.*

**Sue Koffel**, *U.S.A.*

**Hossein Namdar**, *Iran*

**Lhsula Domoszewska**, *Poland*

**Marcin A. Rotwesko**, *Poland*

**Patrick LaCombe**

**Kim Hedge**

**Stephen Morris**

**Nadisa Aztyk**

**Adam Mroczek-Karp**

**Jery M. Nouvakowski**

**David Edward Muchler**

**James Thomas Snyder**