**Amnesty International names Roberto Quiñones “Prisoner of Conscience”.**

“*We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Roberto de Jesús Quiñones. While he awaits his release, he should be allowed access to his family*.”

CUBANET | Friday, September 13, 2019 | 8:10 am

Miami, U.S. – This past Wednesday, Amnesty International has named Roberto Quiñones a “Prisoner of Conscience”. Mr. Quiñones is a lawyer and CubaNet journalist who has been sent to prison in Guantanamo this past September 11 after being sentenced to a one-year jail term.

In a letter addressed to Cuban president Miguel Díaz Canel, AI condemns “the imprisonment of Mr. Roberto de Jesús Quiñones Haces, and independent Cuban and CubaNet journalist, who was arrested on September 11 after being sentenced to a one-year prison term in August 2019 for the alleged crime of “resistance and disobedience”.

“For decades, Amnisty International has documented how legal provisions in the penal code, such as ‘resistance’ to public officials carrying out their duties, and ‘disobedience’ have been used to suppress the rights of freedom of speech in Cuba. This imprisonment is another example of the tired tendency that continues under its administration. Therefore, we demand the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Roberto de Jesús Quiñones Haces. While he awaits his release, he should be allowed access to his family, and not be subjected to torture or other mistreatments,” concludes the letter.

 In a tweet, AI further states:

 “And while we are talking about freedom of expression, Mr. Díaz-Canel, do you

remember that we recently named another five prisoners of conscience? They

are also in prison for expressing themselves freely. These are new prisoners of conscience in Cuba. Is this what Cuba means by “continuity”?

We demand the immediate release of:

 Silverio Portal Contreras

 Eliecer Bandera Barrera

 Edilberto Ronal

 Neftali Díaz Paseiro

 Josiel Guai Piloto

 Mr. Díaz-Canel: Nobody likes to be censored.

 Today, barely 15 days later, we name independent journalist Roberto Quiñones

Haces as the sixth prisoner of conscience. We demand that you release him

unconditionally, now!”

Yesterday, other human rights organizations, independent media, journalists and Cuban civil society activists condemned the incarceration of Quiñones through a declaration published by *Article 19*.

CubaNet’s journalist was sentenced this past August 7 to a one-year prison term (which can be substituted by correctional work with internment) at a trial in Guantanamo’s Municipal Court, for the crimes of “resistance” and “disobedience”.

Quiñones was arrested and beaten by agents of Cuba’s secret police on April 22, while he was preparing to report about the trial against husband-and-wife pastors Rigal-Expósito, who were being tried for home-schooling their children. At that time, Quiñones was jailed for five days.

His case has generated reaction from international personalities and organizations, who have condemned the violence and the shady methods of the Cuban authorities.

[Translated by Ileana Fuentes]