



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Reference: 80vorqcn

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Type: Human rights violation

Original: English

Consent: The nature of the allegation is such that consent cannot be obtained, e.g. the victim(s) is/are dead or has/have been subject to an enforced disappearance

Related mandates

- arbitrary Detention
- freedom of opinion and expression
- freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- human rights defenders

Victims

Name: Jonathan Muir Burgos

Type: Individual

Sex: Male

Date of birth: 28/05/2009

Victim is a child (under 18 years of age)? Yes

Nationality: Cuba

Ethnic, religious, social or other background: Jonathan David Muir Burgos is Cuban of mixed ethnic background, consistent with Cuba's general population. He is a practicing evangelical Christian and active member of Tiempos de Cosecha, an unregistered Protestant congregation led by his father, Pastor Elier Muir Ávila. The family's religious community has been previously targeted by Cuban state authorities for operating without Communist Party authorization. Jonathan is from a working-class family in Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province, a predominantly agricultural region of central Cuba. His father is an evangelical pastor and his mother, Minervina Burgos López, is also a pastor. The family's religious identity and their operation of an unregistered church are believed to have been contributing factors in Jonathan's targeting by Cuban state security authorities.

Other status: Religious minority

Affiliation or activity: Humanitarian, solidarity, human rights-related activity

Submitted by

Name: Universal Justice for All

Type: Group

Email: marilia@universaljusticeforall.org

Describe the activities of the group/community, civil society or other entity:

UniversalJusticefor All(UJFA) is an international human rights NGO based in the United States, led by former refugees and. The organization pursues accountability for human rights violations through strategic international litigation, United Nations Advocacy and survivor-centered legal action across borders.

UJFA's activities include filing urgent action communications before UN Special Procedures, including the WorkingGroup onArbitraryDetention; submitting stakeholder reports to UniversalPeriodic Reviewmechanisms; providing legal representation and advocacy for displaced, persecuted, and politically imprisoned individuals, and conducting public awareness campaigns on cases of arbitrary detention, torture, and suppression of peaceful assembly.

UJFA is committed to the principle that justice cannot be limited by geography, politics, or power, and that every person— regardless of Nationality, status, or location—has the right to international legal protection.

Contact persons of the group/community, civil society or other entity:

Marilia G.

Disclosure

Does the alleged victim(s) or group/community agree to have their name(s) disclosed in a letter that may be sent to the Government, or others, such as intergovernmental organisations including United Nations entities, businesses, military or security companies?

Yes - Check Yes and write:

Yes. Pastor Elier Muir Ávila, father and legal guardian of Jonathan David Muir Burgos, has explicitly and publicly consented to full disclosure of his son's identity in all international forums. The family has actively engaged with international media, human rights organizations, and intergovernmental bodies — including Amnesty International, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and NBC News/Noticias Telemundo — specifically to maximize public awareness of Jonathan's case. Universal Justice for All has been in direct contact with Pastor Muir Ávila seeking formal written authorization, which is pending receipt. Given the urgency of Jonathan's situation and the family's publicly stated desire for maximum international intervention, this submission is filed in good faith with the family's full knowledge and encouragement. The family welcomes disclosure of Jonathan's name to any government, intergovernmental organization, or UN entity that may contribute to securing his release.

Does the alleged victim(s) agree to have their name(s) appear in a public report to the Human Rights Council?

Yes - Yes. Pastor Elier Muir Ávila, father and legal guardian of Jonathan David Muir Burgos, has explicitly and publicly consented to full disclosure of his son's identity in all public forums. The family has proactively sought maximum international and media attention for Jonathan's case, engaging outlets including NBC News, Noticias Telemundo, and NTN24, and has authorized organizations including Amnesty International and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to publish and report on his case publicly. The family considers public reporting by the Human Rights Council not only acceptable but essential to securing Jonathan's release and ensuring accountability for the Cuban government. They have expressed an urgent desire for the international community to know Jonathan's name, his story, and his condition. Universal Justice for All is in direct contact with Pastor Muir Ávila, and formal written authorization is pending receipt. This submission is filed with the family's full knowledge, encouragement, and public consent.

Please confirm that the victim, or the victim's family, or the victim's legal representative is in agreement that the case can be dealt with through the regular procedure of the Working Group

Yes

The identity and the details of the victim's case can be communicated to the Government concerned

Yes

The identity of the victim can be published in the communications report to the UN Human Rights Council

Yes

Case details

Country where the incident allegedly occurred/is occurring/might occur: Cuba

District: Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province, Cuba (location of arrest, March 16, 2026); Canaleta Maximum Security Prison, Ciego de Ávila Province, Cuba (current place of detention).

Please provide a short chronological summary of the incident: what happened; when (date/time); who was involved?

March 13, 2026: Residents of Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province, Cuba, take to the streets in protest following more than 26 consecutive hours of power outages and severe food shortages. Jonathan David Muir Burgos, born May 28, 2009, age 16, participates in the protest alongside other civilians. His father, Pastor Elier Muir Ávila, is also present.

March 16, 2026: Jonathan and his father Pastor Elier Muir Ávila respond to a police summons at the Morón police station. No arrest warrant is presented. Pastor Muir is released within hours without charge. Jonathan is detained without explanation by officers of the Cuban National Revolutionary Police (PNR) and transferred to the Technical Investigations Department (DTI) in Ciego de Ávila for interrogation. On April 2, 2026, the Morón Municipal Prosecutor's Office formally charges him with sabotage under Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code.

Late March 2026: Jonathan is transferred to Canaleta Maximum Security Prison, Ciego de Ávila — an adult facility — despite being 16 years old. He is held incommunicado for approximately two weeks with no family visits permitted and no access to legal counsel.

April 2026: Jonathan's father is finally permitted to visit. He reports Jonathan is thin, psychologically deteriorated, and desperate. Jonathan tells his father: "Dad, they're setting the prisoners against me to harm me," indicating State Security is allegedly inciting common prisoners against him. His mother reports he receives one portion of food daily in a small disposable cup, has no access to clean water, and is denied medical treatment for his chronic skin condition dyshidrosis and vasovagal syncope — a condition causing him to lose consciousness and wake up disoriented.

April 10, 2026: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights sends an official request to the Cuban government demanding urgent information on Jonathan's detention conditions. Cuba does not respond.

April 12, 2026: Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel states on NBC's Meet the Press that political prisoners in Cuba are "a great lie" — at a time when Jonathan has already been imprisoned for nearly four weeks.

April 18, 2026: A scheduled medical treatment for Jonathan's dyshidrosis cannot be administered in prison. His mother reports fear of an ongoing hepatitis outbreak in Ciego de Ávila given Jonathan's untreated and vulnerable condition.

April 24, 2026: The IACHR grants precautionary measures via Resolution 30/2026, recognizing the risk of irreparable harm to Jonathan's rights to life, personal integrity, and health. Cuba does not comply.

May 2026: Amnesty International issues Urgent Action AU 49/26 (AMR 25/1001/2026) designating Jonathan a prisoner of conscience. U.S. Representatives Carlos Giménez, María Elvira Salazar, and Mario Díaz-Balart publicly call for his release.

May 28, 2026: Jonathan turns 17 years old inside Canaleta Maximum Security Prison — alone, without his family, without medical care, and without independent legal counsel. His birthday becomes a symbol of the international campaign for his release.

Present: Jonathan David Muir Burgos remains detained at Canaleta Maximum Security Prison. No trial date has been announced. No domestic remedy is available. International intervention is urgently required.

Are there witnesses to the incident? Don't know

Is there evidence or substantiating information concerning the incident? Don't know

Does the alleged victim believe she/he was targeted due to her/his Age, Engagement in human rights, trade union, political, religious activities or other types of activities, Political or other opinion or beliefs

Jonathan David Muir Burgos is believed to have been targeted on multiple grounds:

Religion or belief: Jonathan is an active member of Tiempos de Cosecha, an unregistered evangelical Protestant church led by his father Pastor Elier Muir Avila. Cuban state authorities had previously targeted the family for operating this church without Communist Party authorization. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has documented the family's case on religious freedom grounds. Jonathan's arrest is consistent with a broader pattern of Cuban state repression against unregistered religious communities.

Political or other opinion: Jonathan participated in the March 13, 2026 peaceful protests in Morón against prolonged power outages and food shortages — a direct expression of political opinion regarding the Cuban government's failures. The Cuban government has explicitly characterized the prosecution of young protesters as a deliberate deterrent against future dissent, suggesting Jonathan was targeted as an example to others.

Age: At 16 years old, Jonathan was among the youngest protesters arrested in Morón. Cuban authorities have documented a pattern of specifically targeting minors and young people in protest crackdowns, as evidenced by the at least 33 minors currently imprisoned or facing prosecution for political reasons according to Prisoners Defenders. His youth made him a particularly visible and symbolic target for state repression.

Has the incident been reported to the relevant authorities? Yes

Please include details of any complaints filed or any other action taken by the alleged victim(s) or anyone else on their behalf?

The following complaints and actions have been taken on behalf of Jonathan David Muir Burgos:

1. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR):

On April 10, 2026, the IACHR sent an official request to the Cuban government demanding urgent information on Jonathan's detention conditions, access to medical care, and risk assessment. Cuba did not respond. On April 24, 2026, the IACHR granted precautionary measures via Resolution 30/2026, finding that Jonathan's rights to life, personal integrity, and health face risk of irreparable harm. Cuba has not complied with these measures.

2. Amnesty International:

Amnesty International issued Urgent Action AU 49/26 (index AMR 25/1001/2026), designating Jonathan a prisoner of conscience and mobilizing its global network to send letters to Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel demanding his immediate release, relocation from the adult prison, access to medical care, and regular family and legal visits.

3. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF):

USCIRF documented Jonathan's case in their religious prisoners of conscience database and has advocated for his release on religious freedom grounds.

4. U.S. Congress:

Representatives Carlos Giménez, María Elvira Salazar, and Mario Díaz-Balart have publicly called for Jonathan's immediate release.

Representative Mario Díaz-Balart has explicitly stated that the Cuban regime will be held accountable if anything happens to Jonathan.

5. International Media:

The family has actively engaged NBC News, Noticias Telemundo, NTN24, and other international outlets to publicize Jonathan's case and generate public pressure for his release.

6. Universal Justice for All (UJFA):

On June 6, 2026, UJFA filed an Urgent Action communication with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention requesting Jonathan's immediate and unconditional release, access to medical treatment, independent legal counsel, transfer to a juvenile facility, and referral to the Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of the Child, Torture, and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly.

Domestic remedies: A habeas corpus petition was filed before the Provincial Popular Tribunal in March 2026. The Tribunal dismissed it, demonstrating that domestic judicial remedies have been exhausted and proven ineffective. The Cuban judicial system operates under Communist Party direction and lacks independence from the state. The family has been unable to retain independent legal counsel inside Cuba. Government-appointed lawyers have provided no meaningful legal challenge on Jonathan's behalf. Exhaustion of domestic remedies has been attempted and has failed — international intervention is therefore not only appropriate but necessary.

Has the Government taken action to prevent or investigate the incident, punish the perpetrators, or ensure compensation to the alleged victim(s)? No

Is this case under consideration by any other international or regional body? Don't know

arbitrary Detention

Date of arrest

16/03/2026

Place of arrest

Morón, Cuba

What reasons were given for the arrest?

No formal reasons were given at the time of arrest. Jonathan and his father were summoned to a police station on March 16, 2026, ostensibly in connection with the March 13 protests in Morón. No arrest warrant was presented to the family. Pastor Elier Muir Avila was released within hours without charge. Jonathan was detained without explanation, transferred to the Technical Investigations Department in Ciego de Avila, and subsequently charged with sabotage under the Cuban Penal Code — a charge the family and international human rights organizations have characterized as politically motivated and disproportionate. The Cuban government has provided no official public explanation for Jonathan's continued detention.

What was the legal basis for the arrest?

The Cuban government has cited Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code (sabotage) as the legal basis for Jonathan's detention. However, no independent legal basis has been established. Jonathan was not presented with a warrant at the time of arrest, was not promptly informed of charges, and was not given immediate access to legal counsel of his choosing. The sabotage charge appears to relate solely to his participation in the March 13, 2026 peaceful protest in Morón — an act protected under international human rights law, including Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. International human rights organizations including Amnesty International have characterized the charge as politically motivated and inconsistent with internationally recognized standards of criminal legality. The use of sabotage charges against peaceful protesters is a documented pattern of the Cuban government to criminalize dissent, as previously determined by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention i

Duration of the detention

82 days

Place(s) of detention (indicate any transfer and the current place of detention)

Initial detention (March 16, 2026): Morón Police Station, Morón, Ciego de Avila Province, Cuba. Transfer (March 16–late March 2026):

Technical Investigations Department (Departamento de Investigaciones Técnicas — DTI), Ciego de Avila, Cuba — where Jonathan was held for

interrogation following his arrest. Current place of detention: Caneleta Maximum Security Prison, Ciego de Ávila Province, Cuba — an adult maximum-security facility. Jonathan has been held here since late March 2026. He is a minor (born May 28, 2009) held among adult prisoners, in violation of Article 37(c) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules).

Legal basis for the detention

The Cuban government has cited Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code (sabotage) as the legal basis for Jonathan's detention. However, no independent legal basis has been established. Jonathan was not presented with a warrant at the time of arrest, was not promptly informed of charges, and was not given immediate access to legal counsel of his choosing. The sabotage charge relates solely to his participation in the March 13, 2026 peaceful protest in Morón — an act protected under Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Amnesty International has characterized the charge as politically motivated and inconsistent with internationally recognized standards of criminal legality. The use of sabotage charges against peaceful protesters is a documented pattern of Cuban government repression, as previously determined by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in its June 2024 opinion finding the detention of 17 persons following the July 2021 Cuban protests to be arbitrary.

What are the reasons why you believe the deprivation of liberty is arbitrary?

The deprivation of liberty of Jonathan David Muir Burgos is arbitrary on multiple grounds, consistent with Categories I, II, III, and V of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's established categories: Category I — No legal basis: Jonathan was arrested without a warrant and without being promptly informed of the charges against him. He was summoned to a police station under the pretense of a routine inquiry and detained without due process. No independent judicial authorization for his detention has been made public. His father, who accompanied him to the same police summons, was released within hours without charge — demonstrating the absence of any objective legal basis for Jonathan's continued detention. Category II — Exercise of protected rights: Jonathan's detention stems exclusively from his participation in a peaceful protest on March 13, 2026 — an act protected under Articles 19 (freedom of expression) and 21 (freedom of peaceful assembly) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The charge of sabotage has been applied solely to criminalize his exercise of these internationally protected rights. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention established clear precedent in its June 2024 opinion, finding that the detention of 17 persons following the July 2021 Cuban protests was arbitrary on identical grounds. Category III — Violation of fair trial standards: Jonathan has been denied access to independent legal counsel of his choosing — he has only two government-appointed lawyers in whom his family has no confidence. He has been held in pretrial detention for over 82 days without a trial date being set. He was not promptly informed of charges at the time of arrest, in violation of Article 9 of the ICCPR. The sabotage charge is subject to military tribunal jurisdiction — a forum that does not meet international standards of independence and impartiality required under Article 14(1) of the ICCPR. Category V — Discrimination: Jonathan has been targeted and detained on the basis of multiple protected characteristics: His age — a 16-year-old minor prosecuted as an adult and placed in a maximum-security adult prison in direct violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Beijing Rules. His religion — as a member of an unregistered evangelical church previously targeted by Cuban state authorities. His political opinion — for participating in anti-government protests against power outages and food shortages. His family background — as the son of a pastor whose unregistered church had drawn prior state security attention. Additional grounds: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has already granted precautionary measures via Resolution 30/2026, recognizing the risk of irreparable harm to Jonathan's life, personal integrity, and health — independently confirming the arbitrary and dangerous nature of his detention. Amnesty International has designated him a prisoner of conscience, further establishing that his detention has no legitimate criminal basis. Cuban President Díaz-Canel's public denial of the existence of political prisoners on April 12, 2026 — weeks after Jonathan's arrest — demonstrates the political nature of the detention at the highest level of the Cuban state. A habeas corpus petition filed before the Provincial Popular Tribunal in March 2026 was dismissed, confirming the absence of any effective domestic judicial remedy. The combination of no arrest warrant, no prompt notification of charges, no access to independent counsel, no trial date after 82 days, placement of a minor in an adult maximum-security prison, denial of medical care, and active targeting by State Security inside prison constitutes one of the most comprehensive cases of arbitrary detention this Working Group is likely to encounter. Immediate action is urgently required.

Are the reasons for the deprivation of liberty authorized by the law?

No

If yes, please elaborate

No. While the Cuban government has cited Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code (sabotage) as the legal basis for Jonathan's detention, this authorization is incompatible with Cuba's obligations under international human rights law on the following grounds: 1. Incompatibility with international law: The application of sabotage charges to peaceful protest activity directly contradicts Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protect freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. A domestic law cannot legitimately authorize detention that criminalizes the exercise of internationally protected rights. The UN Human Rights Committee has consistently held that domestic legal provisions that restrict ICCPR rights beyond what is necessary and proportionate are themselves violations of international law — regardless of their validity under domestic law. 2. Violation of juvenile justice standards: Cuban law permits the prosecution of 16-year-olds as adults. However, this domestic provision directly violates Article 37 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Cuba is a State Party, which requires that detention of minors be an absolute last resort and for the shortest appropriate period. It further violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), which require that minors be held separately from adults at all times and that juvenile justice prioritize rehabilitation over punishment. Cuba's domestic law cannot override its binding treaty obligations under the CRC. 3. Absence of due process at arrest: Even under Cuban domestic law, detainees are entitled to be informed promptly of charges and to have access to legal counsel. Neither requirement was met at the time of Jonathan's arrest on March 16, 2026. He was detained following a police summons with no warrant presented, no charges explained, and no immediate access to counsel — violations of Cuban domestic procedural law as well as international standards. 4. Disproportionate and politically motivated application: Even where a domestic law exists, its application must be necessary, proportionate, and non-discriminatory under international human rights standards. The application of a sabotage charge — one of the most serious offenses in the Cuban Penal Code, typically reserved for acts of violent sabotage against state infrastructure — to a 16-year-old who participated in a peaceful street protest is manifestly disproportionate and discriminatory. It reflects political motivation rather than legitimate criminal justice. 5. Pattern of politically motivated application: The sabotage charge has been systematically applied by Cuban authorities against peaceful protesters, a pattern the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has already determined to constitute arbitrary detention in its June 2024 opinion regarding detainees from the July 2021 protests. The repeated use of this charge against protesters establishes that it is being deployed as a tool of political repression rather than as a legitimate criminal justice measure. 6. Military tribunal jurisdiction: The application of sabotage charges subjects Jonathan's case to potential military tribunal jurisdiction under Cuban law. The trial of a civilian minor before a military tribunal is inherently incompatible with the right to a fair and public hearing before a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal established by law, as guaranteed under Article 14(1) of the ICCPR. In sum, while Cuban domestic law provides a nominal legal basis for the detention, that basis is itself incompatible with Cuba's binding obligations under international human rights law and therefore cannot legitimately authorize Jonathan's continued imprisonment. The Working Group has previously and consistently held that detention authorized by domestic law but incompatible with international human rights standards constitutes arbitrary detention under Category I.

Are the reasons for the deprivation of liberty linked to the exercise by the victim of her/his human rights or fundamental freedoms?

Yes

If yes, please elaborate

Yes. The deprivation of liberty of Jonathan David Muir Burgos is directly, exclusively, and causally linked to his exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms, specifically: 1. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly (Article 21, ICCPR): Jonathan was arrested solely because he participated in a peaceful protest in Morón on March 13, 2026. The protest was a civic response to prolonged power outages exceeding 26 hours and severe food shortages — a legitimate and protected form of public expression. No evidence has been presented that Jonathan engaged in any violent act. His father, who accompanied him to the same police summons three days later, was released within hours — demonstrating that Jonathan's detention was not based on individual criminal conduct but on his participation in the protest itself. 2. Freedom of Expression (Article 19, ICCPR): Jonathan's participation in the protest constituted a direct expression of political opinion regarding the Cuban government's failure to provide basic services. This is a core protected freedom under international human rights law. The Cuban government's use of the sabotage charge to criminalize this expression is precisely the kind of restriction that Article 19(3) prohibits — it is neither necessary nor proportionate, and serves solely to suppress legitimate dissent. 3. Freedom of Religion or Belief (Article 18, ICCPR): Jonathan is an active member of Tiempos de Cosecha, an unregistered evangelical Protestant church led by his father Pastor Elier Muir Avila. The Cuban government had previously targeted the family for operating this church without Communist Party authorization. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has documented the family's case on religious freedom grounds. Jonathan's arrest and the targeting of his family are consistent with a documented pattern of religious persecution of unregistered faith communities in Cuba. 4. Rights of the Child (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 13, 14, 15): As a 16-year-old, Jonathan is entitled to the rights of freedom of expression, freedom of thought and religion, and freedom of association under the CRC, to which Cuba is a State Party. His exercise of these rights — participating in a protest and practicing his faith in an unregistered church — directly triggered his arrest and detention. His detention in an adult maximum-security prison, denial of medical care, and prosecution as an adult further violate the specific protections the CRC affords him by virtue of his status as a child. 5. Right to Participate in Public Affairs (Article 25, ICCPR): Jonathan's participation in the March 2026 protests was an exercise of his right to participate in the conduct of public affairs — a right guaranteed under Article 25 of the ICCPR. The Cuban government's response of arresting and imprisoning him for this participation constitutes a direct violation of this right and a deliberate attempt to deter future civic engagement by young Cubans. The direct causal link between Jonathan's exercise of these protected freedoms and his detention is confirmed by the timing of his arrest — three days after the protest, via a police summons rather than a formal arrest warrant — and by Amnesty International's formal designation of him as a prisoner of conscience, which by definition means his detention is solely attributable to the peaceful exercise of his fundamental freedoms.

If applicable, do you know if the right to a fair trial has been respected? (for example : the right to defend yourself and the right to legal assistance; the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law; the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law; the right when charged with a criminal offence to be informed of the nature and cause of criminal charges brought against them; etc.)

No

In the case of an asylum seeker, migrant or refugee who has been subjected to prolonged administrative detention, was she/he was guaranteed the possibility of administrative or judicial review of the detention, or remedy?

No

Can you indicate if complaints were made to the administrative or judicial authorities, or remedies sought with respect to this particular case ?

Yes

If yes please elaborate

International remedies sought: 1. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR): On April 10, 2026, the IACHR sent an official request to Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla demanding urgent information on Jonathan's detention conditions, access to medical care, and risk assessment. Cuba did not respond within the five-day deadline or at any time thereafter. On April 24, 2026, the IACHR granted precautionary measures via Resolution 30/2026, finding that Jonathan's rights to life, personal integrity, and health face risk of irreparable harm. Cuba has not complied with these measures. 2. Amnesty International: Amnesty International issued Urgent Action AU 49/26 (index AMR 25/1001/2026), designating Jonathan a prisoner of conscience and mobilizing its global network to send letters to Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel demanding his immediate release, relocation from the adult prison, access to medical care, and regular family and legal visits. No response from Cuban authorities. 3. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF): USCIRF documented Jonathan's case in their religious prisoners of conscience database and has advocated for his release on religious freedom grounds. 4. U.S. Congress: Representatives Carlos Giménez, María Elvira Salazar, and Mario Díaz-Balart have publicly called for Jonathan's immediate release. Representative Mario Díaz-Balart has explicitly stated that the Cuban regime will be held accountable if anything happens to Jonathan. On April 20, 2026, Mike Hammer, head of the U.S. mission in Cuba, held a video call with Jonathan's father expressing the Trump administration's concern and support for his release. 5. Freedom House: Freedom House publicly called for Jonathan's immediate release, describing his detention as "a chilling reminder that the Cuban regime is willing to imprison even minors for exercising their fundamental rights to free expression and peaceful assembly." 6. International Media: The family has actively engaged NBC News, Noticias Telemundo, NTN24, and other international outlets to publicize Jonathan's case and generate public pressure for his release. 7. This submission: Universal Justice for All is simultaneously submitting this communication to the relevant UN Special Procedures mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. Domestic remedies: A habeas corpus petition was filed before the Provincial Popular Tribunal in March 2026. The Tribunal dismissed it, demonstrating that domestic judicial remedies have been exhausted and proven ineffective. The Cuban judicial system operates under Communist Party direction and lacks independence from the state. The family has been unable to retain independent legal counsel inside Cuba. Government-appointed lawyers have provided no meaningful legal challenge on Jonathan's behalf. Exhaustion of domestic remedies has been attempted and has failed — international intervention is therefore not only appropriate but necessary.

freedom of opinion and expression

If the incident involves arrest of an individual or individuals, the identity of the authority involved (individual and/or ministry and/or department), the legal statute invoked, location of detention if known, information on provision of access to legal counsel and family members, steps taken to seek domestic remedy or clarification of person's situation and status.

Cuban National Revolutionary Police (Policía Nacional Revolucionaria — PNR), Morón station, Ciego de Avila Province, acting under the authority of the Cuban Ministry of the Interior (MININT). Subsequent interrogation was conducted by the Technical Investigations Department (DTI), Ciego de Avila. Cuban State Security (G2) has been identified as actively involved in Jonathan's ongoing mistreatment inside Canaleta prison. Legal statute invoked: Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code — Sabotage. Formally charged by the Morón Municipal Prosecutor's Office on April 2, 2026 — 17 days after arrest. Carries 7 to 15 years or more under aggravated circumstances. Subject to potential military tribunal jurisdiction. Location of detention: — Morón Police Station (March 16, 2026) — DTI, Ciego de Avila (March 16, 2026) — Canaleta Maximum Security Prison (late March 2026 — present) Access to legal counsel: Two government-appointed lawyers only. Family has no confidence in them. No independent counsel permitted inside Cuba. Access to family members: Held incommunicado for approximately two weeks after transfer. First family visit permitted mid-April 2026. Visits remain limited and irregular. Brief early morning phone calls permitted, during which Jonathan has pleaded for help and reported being targeted by prisoners at State Security's instigation. Medical condition and denial of care: Suffers

from dyshidrosis progressed to life-threatening streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, vasovagal syncope, and two untreated intestinal parasites. Requires four medical specialists — none provided. Scheduled treatment on April 18, 2026 not administered. Weighs 105 pounds. One meal daily in a disposable cup. No clean water. Insect infestation infecting skin. Medical appointment in Washington D.C. rescheduled eight times since 2023 due to humanitarian visa delays. Steps taken to seek domestic remedy: Habeas corpus petition filed and dismissed by the Provincial Popular Tribunal in March 2026. No independent legal counsel retained. No Cuban authority has responded to family inquiries. Government-appointed lawyers have filed no meaningful challenge. Steps taken to seek international remedy: IACHR precautionary measures granted via Resolution 30/2026 on April 24, 2026, sent to Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla. Amnesty International Urgent Action AU 49/26. USCIRF documentation. Freedom House public call for release. U.S. Congressional demands.

freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

In what type of activity/ies is the alleged victim (person(s) or organization) engaged?

Jonathan David Muir Burgos was engaged in the following activities at the time of and prior to his arrest: 1. Religious activity: Jonathan was an active and devoted member of Tiempos de Cosecha (Harvest Time Independent Church), an unregistered evangelical Protestant congregation in Morón, Ciego de Ávila. He participated regularly in church activities and served as a pianist during religious services. The church is led by his father Pastor Elier Muir Ávila and his mother Pastor Minervina Burgos López, and operates outside state control without Communist Party authorization. In 2024, the Office of Religious Affairs of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party repeatedly sent government officials to intimidate Pastor Muir Ávila into closing the church. State Security agents were also reported to throw rocks at the family following religious services, demonstrating prior state targeting of the family's religious activities. 2. Peaceful civic protest: On March 13–14, 2026, Jonathan participated in peaceful protests in Morón, Ciego de Ávila, alongside hundreds of other residents. The protests were a spontaneous civic response to prolonged power outages exceeding 26 hours and severe food and medicine shortages. During interrogation following his arrest, authorities specifically questioned Jonathan about whether he called for freedom during the protests — confirming that his speech and civic participation were the basis for his detention. 3. Student and community member: Prior to his arrest, Jonathan was a student and active community member in Morón. He had no prior criminal record and no history of organized political opposition activity. He lived at home with his family and participated in community life through his church. 4. Medical patient: Jonathan has been a medical patient requiring ongoing treatment for dyshidrosis, a chronic and serious skin condition that has progressed to life-threatening infections caused by beta-hemolytic streptococcus and staphylococcus. He also suffers from vasovagal syncope and two untreated intestinal parasites, requiring four medical specialists — none of whom have been made available to him in detention. He had a medical appointment scheduled at a hospital in Washington D.C. that has been rescheduled eight times since 2023 due to delays in obtaining a humanitarian visa — demonstrating that his medical needs were recognized and being addressed prior to his arrest, and have since been completely neglected in detention.

human rights defenders

Please indicate the status of the alleged victim(s) as a human rights defender: in what human rights activity is the alleged victim (person(s) / organization) engaged?

Jonathan David Muir Burgos is recognized as a human rights defender on the following grounds, consistent with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (A/RES/53/144): 1. Defense of the right to freedom of religion or belief: Jonathan actively participated in and supported Tiempos de Cosecha, an unregistered evangelical Protestant church operating outside Communist Party authorization in Morón, Cuba. By continuing to practice and support his faith community in the face of sustained state intimidation — including government officials sent to close the church in 2024 and State Security agents throwing rocks at the family after religious services — Jonathan and his family were defending the fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief as protected under Article 18 of the ICCPR and Article 6 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. 2. Defense of the right to peaceful assembly and expression: Jonathan's participation in the March 13–14, 2026 protests in Morón constitutes a direct exercise and defense of the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, as protected under Articles 19 and 21 of the ICCPR. Under Article 1 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, everyone has the right to promote and strive for the protection and realization of human rights at the national level — including through peaceful public protest. 3. Symbol of a broader human rights movement: Jonathan's case has become a powerful symbol of the struggle for civil and political rights in Cuba. His continued imprisonment despite widespread international condemnation has drawn global attention to Cuba's systematic repression of peaceful dissent, the imprisonment of minors, and the targeting of religious communities. Religious leaders, human rights organizations, and international bodies have cited his case as emblematic of a broader pattern of state repression. In this sense Jonathan's very existence as a political prisoner — and his family's courageous public advocacy on his behalf — constitutes a form of human rights documentation and advocacy recognized under the UN Declaration. 4. Family as human rights defenders: Pastor Elier Muir Ávila and Pastor Minervina Burgos López have actively engaged international media, human rights organizations, intergovernmental bodies, and foreign governments to document and publicize Jonathan's case and the broader repression of protesters and religious communities in Cuba. Their advocacy constitutes human rights defender activity under the UN Declaration. The Cuban government's prior targeting of the family's church, the use of Jonathan's detention as a tool of coercion against his father, and the ongoing harassment of the family are consistent with the documented global pattern of retaliation against human rights defenders and their families. 5. Coercion by proxy: The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has explicitly documented that Jonathan's continued detention while his father was released the same day represents an attempt at coercion by proxy — using a child as leverage against a human rights defender. This pattern is recognized by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders as a form of reprisal against defenders through their family members, which itself constitutes a violation of the UN Declaration. Note on age: Jonathan was 16 years old at the time of his arrest and has since turned 17 in detention. The UN has explicitly recognized that children can be human rights defenders entitled to enhanced protection. The Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 12 affirms children's right to participate in civic life, and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders has called for heightened protection of child human rights defenders — making Jonathan's case particularly urgent and compelling under this framework.

Perpetrators

Please specify the number of alleged perpetrators: 6

Is the identity/occupation of the alleged perpetrator(s) known? Yes

1. Cuban National Revolutionary Police (Policía Nacional Revolucionaria — PNR), Morón station, Ciego de Ávila Province: Carried out Jonathan's initial arrest and detention on March 16, 2026 following the police summons. Specific officers have not been publicly identified by name.
2. Technical Investigations Department (Departamento de Investigaciones Técnicas — DTI), Ciego de Ávila: Conducted Jonathan's interrogation following his arrest, specifically questioning him about whether he called for freedom during the March 13 protests. DTI is a specialized investigative body of the Ministry of the Interior responsible for criminal investigations and political interrogations. Specific agents have not been publicly identified by name.
3. Cuban State Security (Seguridad del Estado — G2): Allegedly inciting common prisoners against Jonathan inside Canaleta Maximum Security Prison, as reported by his father. G2 is the political intelligence and repression arm of the Ministry of the Interior. Specific agents have not been

publicly identified by name.

4. Canaleta Maximum Security Prison administration and staff, Ciego de Ávila: Directly responsible for Jonathan's detention conditions including denial of medical treatment, inadequate food and water, infestation of insects, and placement among adult prisoners. Specific administrators and staff have not been publicly identified by name.

5. Cuban Ministry of the Interior (Ministerio del Interior — MININT): Has overall institutional authority and supervisory responsibility over the PNR, DTI, G2, and the Cuban prison system. Currently headed by Minister Lázaro Alberto Álvarez Casas.

6. Cuban Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía General de la República): Responsible for filing and maintaining the sabotage charge against Jonathan and for his continued pretrial detention. Currently headed by Fiscal General Yamila Peña Ojeda.

The specific names and ranks of individual officers, agents, interrogators, and prison staff directly involved in Jonathan's arrest, interrogation, transfer, detention, and mistreatment have not been publicly disclosed by the Cuban government, which has maintained complete opacity regarding the individuals responsible for his case.

Were the alleged perpetrators State agents or believed to be State agents? Yes

Yes. All identified perpetrators are confirmed State agents operating under the direct authority of the Cuban government and the Communist Party of Cuba. This is not a case involving non-state actors, private individuals, or parallel armed groups. Every entity responsible for Jonathan's arrest, interrogation, transfer, detention, mistreatment, and continued imprisonment is an official organ of the Cuban state:

The Cuban National Revolutionary Police (PNR) is the official national law enforcement body of Cuba operating under MININT. The Technical Investigations Department (DTI) is a formal investigative body of MININT responsible for political interrogations. Cuban State Security (G2) is the official political intelligence and repression apparatus of the Cuban state operating under MININT. Canaleta Maximum Security Prison is an official Cuban state detention facility administered under MININT authority. The Cuban Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía General de la República) is the official state prosecutorial body responsible for criminal charges. The Ministry of the Interior (MININT) has overall supervisory authority over all of the above entities.

Furthermore, the targeting of Jonathan's family's unregistered church in 2024 by the Office of Religious Affairs of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party — a direct organ of the ruling party — demonstrates that state persecution of this family predates Jonathan's arrest and operates at the highest levels of the Cuban government and party apparatus.

There is no ambiguity regarding state responsibility in this case. Jonathan's arrest, detention, and ongoing mistreatment are acts of the Cuban state carried out by its official agents acting in coordination under state authority and direction.

If the alleged perpetrators were State agents, were they acting in their official capacity? Yes

Yes. All perpetrators were acting entirely in their official capacity as agents of the Cuban state throughout every stage of Jonathan's arrest, interrogation, transfer, detention, and ongoing mistreatment. Specifically:

Cuban National Revolutionary Police (PNR): Officers issued an official police summons to Jonathan and his father on March 16, 2026, carried out his arrest at a police station, and processed his initial detention — all in their official law enforcement capacity under MININT authority.

Technical Investigations Department (DTI): Agents conducted a formal political interrogation of Jonathan following his arrest, specifically questioning him about his speech and conduct during the March 13 protests — a function that falls squarely within the DTI's official mandate as a state investigative body.

Cuban Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía): Prosecutors filed the formal sabotage charge against Jonathan under Article 343 of the Cuban Penal Code — an official prosecutorial act carried out within the Fiscalía's formal legal authority.

Canaleta Maximum Security Prison administration: Prison officials authorized and administered Jonathan's transfer to and continued detention at Canaleta — an official state detention facility — and are officially responsible for the conditions of his confinement including the denial of medical care, inadequate food and water, and placement among adult prisoners.

Cuban State Security (G2): The alleged incitement of common prisoners against Jonathan by G2 agents, while constituting a human rights violation, represents the use of official state intelligence infrastructure and authority for purposes of political intimidation and punishment inside an official state facility — an act carried out by state agents using their official access, authority, and resources.

Office of Religious Affairs of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party: Officials sent to intimidate Pastor Muir Ávila into closing Tiempos de Cosecha in 2024 acted in their official capacity as representatives of the ruling party's religious affairs apparatus.

At no point did any perpetrator act outside or beyond their official state role. The entire sequence of events — from the pre-arrest targeting of the family's church in 2024, through the arrest, interrogation, transfer, and ongoing detention and mistreatment of Jonathan — constitutes a coordinated exercise of official Cuban state power directed against a minor and his family for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental rights. This coordinated, multi-agency, official state action makes Cuba's responsibility under international human rights law unambiguous and inescapable.