

UNIVERSAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

International Human Rights NGO — Co-Founded by Refugees

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2026

Universal Justice for All Files First-Ever Simultaneous Communication Before Four UN Special Procedures Mechanisms on Behalf of Cuban Political Prisoner Jonathan David Muir Burgos, 17

The NGO — co-founded by refugees and led by international human rights lawyers — becomes the first organization to file a simultaneous four-mandate UN Special Procedures communication for Jonathan's case, demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

UNITED STATES — Universal Justice for All (UJFA), an international human rights NGO co-founded by refugees and based in Florida, today announced the filing of a formal simultaneous communication before four United Nations Special Procedures mechanisms on behalf of Jonathan David Muir Burgos, a 17-year-old Cuban national currently held in Canaleta Maximum Security Prison in Central Cuba.

This marks the first time any organization has filed a simultaneous communication across four UN Special Procedures mandates for Jonathan's case — the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. The submission was assigned reference number 80vorqcn on June 6, 2026.

Jonathan was arrested on March 16, 2026, days after participating in a peaceful protest in Morón, Ciego de Ávila Province, triggered by power outages exceeding 26 hours and severe food shortages. He has been charged with sabotage — a charge that could keep him imprisoned until his 30s or beyond. He is currently held among adult prisoners in a maximum-security facility, denied independent legal counsel, and denied medical treatment for multiple serious conditions including life-threatening skin infections caused by beta-hemolytic streptococcus and staphylococcus, vasovagal syncope, and two untreated intestinal parasites.

A habeas corpus petition filed on his behalf was dismissed by the Provincial Popular Tribunal in March 2026. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted

precautionary measures via Resolution 30/2026 on April 24, 2026, finding risk of irreparable harm to his life, personal integrity, and health. The Cuban government has not responded to any international request or complied with any precautionary measure.

"Jonathan's case is not an abstraction to us. I come from a family that knows what it means to have someone taken by this regime. I know the silence. I know the fear. And I know that the only answer to that silence is action. Today we took action — before four UN mechanisms simultaneously — because Jonathan deserves every tool international law has to offer, deployed all at once."

— Marilia Garcia Lazo, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Universal Justice for All

"From a litigation standpoint, this submission is airtight. Jonathan's detention satisfies every category of arbitrary detention recognized by the Working Group — no warrant, no due process, no independent counsel, charges grounded solely in the exercise of protected rights, and a minor placed in an adult maximum-security prison in direct violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Cuban government has no legal defense for what they have done to this child. We intend to make that undeniable."

— Niurys Robaina, Litigation Director and Co-Founder, Universal Justice for All

KEY FACTS OF THE CASE

Name: Jonathan David Muir Burgos

Date of Birth: May 28, 2009 (age 17)

Date of Arrest: March 16, 2026

Formally Charged: April 2, 2026 — Sabotage, Article 343 Cuban Penal Code

Current Detention: Canaleta Maximum Security Prison, Ciego de Ávila, Cuba

Days Imprisoned: 82 days as of June 6, 2026

Health: Life-threatening streptococcal and staphylococcal skin infections, vasovagal syncope, two untreated intestinal parasites — all denied treatment

Legal Counsel: No independent counsel — two government-appointed lawyers only

Family: Father: Pastor Elier Muir Ávila; Mother: Pastor Minervina Burgos López

UN Reference Number: 80vorqcn — filed June 6, 2026

ABOUT THE SUBMISSION

Universal Justice for All filed simultaneous communications under four UN Special Procedures mandates:

1. UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention — requesting urgent action and immediate release
2. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression — addressing Jonathan's arrest for speech during protests
3. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association — addressing his arrest for participating in protests

4. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders — addressing his status as a child human rights defender and the coercion of his family

PRIOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION

Jonathan's case has already attracted significant international attention:

— Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: Precautionary measures granted via Resolution 30/2026, April 24, 2026

— Amnesty International: Prisoner of conscience designation, Urgent Action AU 49/26 (AMR 25/1001/2026)

— U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom: Case documented in religious prisoners database

— U.S. Congress: Representatives Giménez, Salazar, and Díaz-Balart have publicly demanded his release

— Freedom House: Public call for immediate release

— U.S. Mission in Cuba: April 20, 2026 video call between Mike Hammer and Jonathan's father

— **The Cuban government has not responded to any international request or complied with any measure.**

ABOUT UNIVERSAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

Universal Justice for All (UJFA) is an international human rights NGO co-founded by refugees and US-based. Led by Executive Director Marilia Garcia Lazo, a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Oxford specializing in International Human Rights Law, and Litigation Director Niurys Robaina, an honors graduate of Florida International University College of Law, UJFA pursues accountability for human rights violations through strategic international litigation, UN advocacy, and survivor-centered legal action. UJFA is committed to the principle that justice cannot be limited by geography, politics, or power.

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