

Ambassador H.E. Mr Oscar de los Reyes Ramos  
Embassy of the Republic of Cuba  
Oscars gate 78 B  
PO Box 4081 AMB  
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern about Alain Toledano Valiente, a Christian who has faced much resistance over the last 15 years by the Cuban government because of his work. In 2003, after founding Emanuel Church, the government demanded that their church services and pastoral work were stopped. Through the years, the Emanuel Church building has been demolished twice and the Toledano family home once. On the last occasion in 2016, the family's possessions were stolen, and they were left homeless. The same day, his wife and two daughters suffered violence and mistreatment and 200 other pastors were arrested. Mr Toledano is now prohibited from traveling internationally and meeting with other pastors.

Your Excellency, I am deeply concerned about the targeting of Mr Toledano and other religious leaders. I wish to draw your attention to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Cuba has recognized and signed. Article 18 of the covenant guarantees everyone the freedom of thought, conscience and religion – and the right to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Mr Toledano and his fellow church leaders are merely carrying out their duties as religious leaders.

Representing a country concerned about the welfare of its citizens, I truly believe that you will do what is in your power to protect Mr Toledano and his family.

Therefore, I humbly petition your intervention to ensure that:

- the targeting and threats against Alain Toledano and his family cease immediately, and the travel ban is lifted;
- he is granted the full freedom to practice his legal work as a pastor without government intervention; and
- all government efforts employed against religious leaders in Cuba are halted immediately.

Sincerely,