

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 



**ARTIST JAILED FOR
PROTECTING FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION**

LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA

 **CUBA**

ABN 64 002 806 233

 **CHALLENGE
INJUSTICE.**

LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA | CUBA

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara (he/him) is a self-taught Black Cuban artist. He loves to paint, dance, and wear bright pink suits. His home in San Isidro, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Havana, is a haven for the community – an open house for people to meet and connect.

Frustrated by Decree 349, a law seeking to silence critical artists, Luis Manuel became a leader of the San Isidro Movement: a diverse group of artists, journalists and activists defending the right to freedom of expression whose members have been intimidated, surveilled and detained.

On 2 May 2021, state security officials took Luis Manuel from his home, where he had been on hunger strike protesting against the confiscation of his artworks by the authorities. He was taken to a hospital and denied access to the outside world. Upon his release a month later, security officials continued to watch his every move.

On 11 July 2021, Luis Manuel posted a video online, saying he would be taking part in one of the largest demonstrations Cuba had seen in decades. Luis Manuel was arrested before the protest took place and taken to Guanajay maximum security prison, where he remains. In June 2022, he was sentenced to five years in prison, after a trial behind closed doors. In prison, Luis Manuel's health is declining and he's not getting proper medical care.

Tell Cuba to immediately free Luis Manuel



ACT NOW

Tell the president to immediately and unconditionally release Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara as he has been detained solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Grab a petition and start collecting names and emails, or write a letter with the salutation "Dear President,".

SHOW LUIS MANUEL YOU'RE WITH HIM

Print off the solidarity letter template and send your messages and artwork of

friendship and hope, so Luis Manuel knows you are standing with him.

Post your petitions, letters and solidarity letters to:

Amnesty International Australia,
Locked Bag 23,
Broadway NSW 2007
Australia

Make sure you post them to us by 31 January 2023.

We'll post them to the target, include them in the handover in February 2023 and make sure that Luis gets your solidarity messages.