

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2013

Mr. Steven W. Hawkins  
Executive Director  
Amnesty International USA  
5 Penn Plaza  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

We would like to respectfully request that you add to your list of Prisoners of Conscience the name of Sonia Garro Alfonso, a Cuban pro-democracy advocate who has been unjustly imprisoned in one of Castro's gulags for over a year and a half.

As a member of the Ladies in White, one of the leading pro-democracy groups in Cuba, Sonia has been harassed and beaten for her peaceful demonstrations against the Castro regime. In March 2012, she was arrested shortly before Pope Benedict's visit to the island, a period in which the regime stepped up its crackdown on pro-democracy advocates. She may soon face a sham trial which will once again demonstrate the regime's utter disdain for due process and the rule of law.

The sad reality is that cases like that of Sonia remain all too common under Cuba's totalitarian rule. The dictatorship has only intensified its violent campaign against those who call for democracy and human rights, as demonstrated by the increase in recent years in detentions and the ongoing weekly arrests and beatings of the Ladies in White as they peacefully march to church every Sunday.

Last year, Amnesty International issued two Urgent Action notices calling for Sonia's release. We commend these steps, but more needs to be done to secure her release. Adding her to the Prisoners of Conscience list would be an important step toward this goal and would shine a spotlight on the dismal human rights situation in Cuba.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

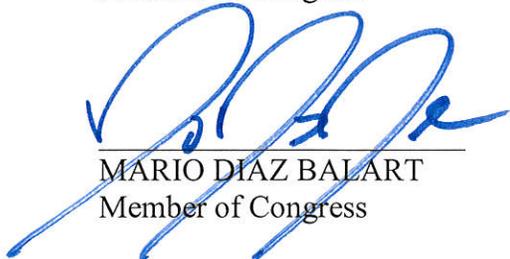
Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



MARIO DIAZ BALART  
Member of Congress



JOE GARCIA  
Member of Congress