

His Excellency
The President of the Republic of Cuba
Mr. Miguel Díaz Canel
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Your Excellency;

The Protestant pastor, Rev. Ramon Rigal, and his wife Ayda Expósito have been incarcerated in a Cuban prison since April 16, 2019. Their children are separated from each other and kept by their grandparents. The family's ordeal began when their 13-year-old daughter Ruth was harassed at school for identifying herself as a Christian. After physical assaults, the parents stopped sending their children to the government-run school and started to home-school them.

On April 18, a trial began in a Guantánamo court, to which no defense attorney was admitted. On April 22, the sentence was pronounced: The Pastor was handed a two-year prison sentence under harsh conditions, while his wife has to spend 18 months in prison.

The punishment of parents, who only tried to protect their children from physical and mental violence, is totally disproportionate. In addition, the children, whose well-being must be in the interest of the Cuban state, greatly suffer under the current conditions.

We therefore humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, do everything in your power to advocate the release of the couple.

Most respectfully,