

**LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA  
CUBA**

## **Jailed for protecting freedom of expression**

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara 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**

## **WRITE TO THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES**

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.

Please send letters to the President of Cuba % the embassy in Canada:

His Excellency Hector IGARZA CABRERA  
Ambassador for the Republic of Cuba  
388 Main Street  
Ottawa ON K1S1E3

Email: [despacho@presidencia.gob.cu](mailto:despacho@presidencia.gob.cu)  
Twitter: @DiazCanelB  
Facebook: @PresidenciaDeCuba  
Salutation: Dear President

## **SHOW LUIS MANUEL YOU'RE WITH HIM**

Send your messages and artwork of friendship and hope, so Luis Manuel knows you are standing with him.

**Address:**  
Amnesty International  
Americas Regional Office  
Luz Saviñón 51  
Colonia Del Valle Norte  
Alcaldía Benito Juárez  
C.P. 03103  
Mexico City  
Mexico

