



## **ASSAULT AND ARBITRARY ARREST OF GUILLERMO FARIÑAS, PRIZE SAJAROV AND MEMBERS OF DAMAS DE BLANCO (LADIES OF WHITE) IN CUBA.**

**September, 2013.**

**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad), and the Coordination of Red Democracia Joven de las Americas warn about the persecution, aggression and arbitrary arrest against Guillermo Fariñas in Cuba.

Farinas, Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2010, awarded by the European Parliament and member of the Board of Coordinators of RedLad, was arrested on Tuesday September 10 for participating in a peaceful demonstration by more than 200 protesters coachmen against the increasing in taxes.

The police force arrested the activist despite not provide reasons for his arrest, Fariñas was subjected to torture and beatings aimed to weaken him, break their health and dehydrate him. He was finally released with multiple cuts and injuries to his body. Mr. Fariñas already had a delicate state of health after a hunger strike in defense of liberty months ago.

For their part, members of the organization of the Damas de Blanco (Ladies in White), whose president Berta Soler is a member of the Redlad, have been repressed and beaten in recent weeks. On 8 September, more than 250 of them gathered in the Sanctuary of El Cobre to celebrate Mass, however, was the ninth consecutive Sunday that members of the Cuban government threatened and repressed the activists. Only the September 8, 25 Ladies of White were arrested in Matanzas, 6 in Holguin and 8 in Colón, all of them in the out of the mass.



<http://www.redlad.org/>

The Redlad, platform more than 520 organizations that defend human rights, Member of Civil Society Forum of OAS and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD), and Red Democracia Joven de las Américas, comprising more than 90 young and a presence in over 12 countries of the Region:

- Condemns the wave of violence and government persecution in Cuba against activists, human rights defenders and peaceful dissidents.
- Urges democratic governments repudiate the facts and demand the Cuban government respect to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Requests the Cuban government respect for fundamental freedoms of its citizens , in particular the freedoms of speech, press, association and assembly whose exercise on the island is virtually impossible due to the repression implemented by the Cuban government.
- It calls on the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to examine what happened and make a thorough investigation of human rights violations in Cuba.

**Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia (RedLad).  
Red Democracia Joven de las Américas.**



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