

# CUBA | LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA



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## Artist jailed for defending freedom of expression

**Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara is a self-taught Black Cuban artist who 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.**

A leader of the San Isidro Movement, which was formed to oppose government censorship, Luis Manuel

posted a video online on 11 July 2021 to say he would be joining one of the largest demonstrations Cuba had seen in decades. As a result, he was arrested and taken to prison.

Luis Manuel was sentenced to five years' imprisonment following a trial behind closed doors, and is now in Guanajay maximum security prison. His health is declining and he is not receiving adequate medical care.

### Send a message of support and solidarity

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara  
Amnesty International Americas  
Regional Office  
Luz Saviñón 519  
Colonia Del Valle Norte  
Alcaldía Benito Juárez  
C.P. 03103  
Mexico City, Mexico

**Language** Spanish, English or poems in any language

**Suggested message** I act in hope for your freedom

**Creative action** Write a letter; draw or paint a postcard based around the #TheEternalFlame concept; or read a poem out loud. Share on social media, tagging Luis Manuel:

🐦 @LMOAlcantara

📘 @LuisManuelOteroAlcantara

📷 @luismanuel.oteroalcantara

and the San Isidro Movement:

🐦 @movsanisidro

📘 @MovimientoSanIsidro

📷 @mov\_sanisidro

### Can I

**Send a religious card or message?** Yes

**Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes

**Include my name and address?** Yes

### Send an appeal letter

Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara.

**Write to** President of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez  
c/o Embassy of the Republic of Cuba  
167 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6PA  
✉ despacho@presidencia.gob.cu  
🐦 @DiazCanelB  
📘 @PresidenciaDeCuba

**Salutation** Dear President  
**In your letter tell him 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.

**'[The] song of an artist can reach millions of people and make them cry, a picture from a visual artist can transform the feeling of what is happening in a country. This is something an artist must take responsibility for.'**

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, in an interview with Index on Censorship

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS  
2022**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

