

LASA expresses concern over increased repression in Cuba and condemns persecution of Alina López Hernández

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The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) condemns the political repression in Cuba, and in particular the recent persecution of Cuban historian and intellectual Alina López Hernández. Professor López Hernández is a renowned academic, and member of several Cuban and international professional organizations, including the Academy of History, the Writers' Association of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC, by its Spanish acronym) and LASA.

For several months now, Alina López Hernández has been subjected to acts of repression and intimidation by the Cuban authorities, through agents of the National Revolutionary Police (PNR, by its Spanish acronym), State Security agents, and other institutions such as the Attorney General's Office, in flagrant violation of her human rights and civil rights. These forms of violence include: direct harassment and harassment through social networks; physical attacks; arbitrary detention; cutting off and slowing down Internet access; restricting her freedom of movement and preventing her from travelling abroad to attend professional meetings; and pressure and threats against family members, colleagues and friends.

Finally, she was accused of the crime of "disobedience" and held under house arrest since June 14 of this year for refusing to obey an illegal and unconstitutional summons, and was found guilty by a national court on November 28. The hearing took place in a militarized and intimidating context, with clear demonstrations of violence by the authorities, arbitrariness and violations of the rights of defense, against both Ms. López Hernández and the citizens who attended the hearing.

Leading Cuban and international intellectuals and civil society organizations spoke out and denounced the acts of repression against the historian.

[Acoso judicial contra una académica en Cuba](#)

[Prisoners Defenders denunció la persecución contra la intelectual cubana Alina López Hernández: "Está procesada en violación de sus DDHH"](#)

[Condenamos el juicio político a la profesora Alina Bárbara López Hernández](#)

Therefore, LASA denounces and condemns the political persecution of historian Alina López Hernández and all those who dissent from the policies of the Cuban government. Our association also reiterates its commitment to freedom of expression and academic freedom, essential for intellectual and academic work.

About LASA

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the world's largest professional association constituted by individuals and institutions devoted to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. LASA currently has over 12,000 members from around the world and a committee that defends academic freedom and human rights.

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or send an email to lasa@lasaweb.org.

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