

Market Research Telecast

Meryl Streep, Elena Poniatowska and more than 300 intellectuals ask to stop the repression against Cuban artists

BY MRT ON DECEMBER 9, 2021

A new call to stop the persecution against Cuban artists has been made public this Wednesday with a [statement](#) joint of 300 global intellectuals who demand an end to the repression in Cuba. Personalities at the level of Mario Vargas Llosa, Meryl Streep, Paul Auster, Orhan Pamuk, Elena Poniatowska, Isabel Allende, Zadie Smith, JM Coetzee, Jules Feiffer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Khaled Hosseini have raised their voices to demand that the Cuban government “respect the right to freedom of expression, including artistic freedom”. The demand includes “immediately ending ongoing abuses against artists, releasing all those who have been arbitrarily detained, and dropping all charges against them.”

The initiative has been promoted by the organizations PEN International, Artists at Risk Connection of PEN America and Human Rights Watch. It highlights the role that the new artistic movements play in Cuba, made up of young people unhappy and critical of the regime, who with their actions raise blisters among the nomenclature of Havana. “Cuban artists, including those who make up the San Isidro, 27N and Archipelago movements, have managed to draw attention in the country and internationally to the absolute disregard of the Cuban Government for human rights, and laid the foundations for the massive protests that occurred across the country on July 11, 2021. For years, these independent artists have organized peaceful demonstrations and used the internet to organize protests and report abuses. For example, the viral song Homeland and Life, which reformulates the old slogan of the Cuban government ‘Homeland or death’ to criticize the repression in the country, was intoned by many protesters during the protests, “the statement states.

The Archipelago platform was created by the young playwright Yunior García, a voice critical of the regime who has had to go into exile in Spain due to the harassment of which he was a victim after calling a protest in Havana. Archipelago was born after the demonstration of 300 young artists at the gates of the Ministry of Culture on November 27, 2020, produced after the arrest of several members of the dissident Movement San Isidro. The platform brings together a group of artists who from social networks demand openness and political change in Cuba. “It constitutes a plural space in which the existence of diverse ideas is important, where we learn to reach consensus, at least what unites us within that diversity, but respecting the difference, the possibility that the other has its share of truth and that we can get a collective truth, let’s say, without canceling that difference that characterizes us”, explained García.

The actions promoted by this new breed of Cuban artists have generated a repression on the part of the regime, which persecutes them, illegally detains them, imprisons them, keeps them under constant surveillance and harassment, imposes house arrest and criminal charges without legal support. “There is no valid justification for persecuting artists for their opinions. We urge the Cuban Government to respect the fundamental role that art and artists play in society and to immediately cease the harassment of artists who express political positions and on social issues that do not coincide with the government’s rigid ideology,” the statement read. Statement, which is also signed by Colombian writer Héctor Abad Faciolince, actor Alec Baldwin, Nicaraguan writer Gioconda Belli, Mexican journalist Lydia Cacho, American novelist Jonathan Franzen, activist Bianca Jagger and Spanish writer Rosa Montero. “Art must be free from censorship and repression, in Cuba and anywhere else in the world,” concludes the manifesto.

These are the personalities who sign the statement:

Jane Aaron

Hector Abad Faciolince

Jose Luis Acevedo Daza

Chimamanda Danger Adichie

Ben Andoni

Folu Agoi

Ayad Aktar

Shahidul Alam |

José Antonio Albertini

Carlos Alberto Montaner

Still Alinejad

Isabel Allende

Diane Alméras

Angelica Altuzar Constantino

Ileana Álvarez González

Asieh Amini

Carlos Aníbal Alonso

Kwame Anthony Appiah

Marie Arana

Homer Aridjis

Salman Asif

Reza Aslan

Jessica Atal

Fidaa Ataya

Paul Auster

Nadezhda Azhgikhina

Asiel Babastro

Badiucao

Alec Baldwin

Jürgen Banscheraus

Peter barbey

Lee Bellavance Diamond

Gioconda Belli

Carlos Betancourt

Katherine Bisquet

Erling Borgen

Beatriz Bracher

Luis Brandoni

Nick Brandt

Asiel Babastro

Marta Breen

Badiuca

Mogos Brhane

Alec Baldwin

Roberto Briones

Jürgen Banscheraus

Roberto Brodsky

Peter barbey

Tania bruguera

Lee Bellavance Diamond

Ahmed Burić

Gioconda Belli

Romana Cacchioli

Carlos Betancourt

Lydia cacho

Katherine Bisquet

Jennine Bonnet Crucet

Erling Borgen

Adriana carranca

Beatriz Bracher

Iliana Cepero placeholder image

Luis Brandoni

Francisco Céspedes

Sandra Cisneros

Baltasar Cevc

Jorge Encinas Cladera

Helena Chávez Mac Gregor

Jennifer Clement

Suhyun Choi

J.M. Coetzee

Isabel Coixet

Sarah Cooper

Anton Corbijn

Armando Correa

Jeff Cowen

Ricardo Cravo Albin

Luis de la Paz

Maria del Pilar Clemente

Fanny del Rio

Simple Demi

Jeanne Demuth

Denise Desautels

Ernesto Diaz Rodriguez

Reinier Diaz Vega

Nelson Dino

Ana Dipp

Jan J. Dominique

Theophilus Donoghue

Rita Dove

Christopher Durang

Gregorio Duvivier

Jennifer Egan

Kai Eide

Alvaro Enrigue

Louise Erdrich

Maria Eugenia Ayala

Lena Falkenhagen

Jules Feiffer

David Francis

Julia Franck

Jonathan Franzen

Julia Fullerton-Batten

Coco Fusco

Inga Gaile

Angye Gaona

Yunior Garcia Aguilera

Ivette Garcia Gonzalez

Dominique Gaucher

Sylvia Geist

Chris Geres

Ulrike Gerold

Jaime Hales

Daniel Gimenez-Cacho

Signe Hammer

Amber Ginsburg

Daniel Handler

Jorge Glem

Wolfram Hänel

Jacques Godbout

James Hannaham

Susanne Goga

Linda Hansen

Francisco Goldman

Dennis Haskell

Monica Gomez

Tom Healy

Adam Gopnik

Elke Heinemann

Nina Gorfer

Georges helal

Eric Gottesman

Elizabeth Hemmerdinger

Scarlett Hooft Graafland

Alban Nikolai Herbst

Nicholas Griffin

Ramon Hernandez

Niall Griffiths

Khaled Hosseini

Lev Grossman

Iman Humaydan

Jean-Louis Grosmaire

Tanya Huntington

Wendy War

Siri Hustvedt

Lars Gule

David Henry Hwang

Agnete G. Haaland

Tiina Itkonen

Solomon Hailemariam

Bianca Jagger

Jeffrey James

Chang-rae Lee

Elisha July

Joanne Leedom-Ackerman

Wanuri Kahiu

Svenja Leiber

Kätlin Kaldmaa

Jonathan Lethem

Sofia Karim

Jonathan Levi

Mary Karr

Luciana Levinton

Entela Kasi

Gwyneth Lewis

Lucina Kathmann

Christoph Links

Nicholas Kawinga

John Lithgow

Phil Klay

Aurora López Cancino

Hubert Klöpfer

Jorge Manes Rubio

Joseph Kozer

Carlos Manuel Alvarez

Enrique Krauze

Luis Alberto Mariño Fernandez

Ebo Krdum

Lesley Marshall

Konstantin Küspert

Emile martel

Marco Kusumawijaya

Yann Martel

Maira Landa

Sara Martinez Castro

Hello Larsmo

Michel matos

Hamlet Lavastida

Colum McCann

Eric Lax

Jay McInerney

Layda Melian

Toni Navarro

Dinaw Mengestu

Ralf Nestmeyer

Claire Messud

Hege Newth

Arno Rafael Minkkinen

Sylvie Nicolas

Marta Minujín

Lynn Nottage

Herman Mondaca Raitieri

Yanelys Núñez Leyva

Ricardo Montaner

Kurt Oesterle

Milena Montaña Cavero

Jorge Olivera Castillo

Rosa Montero

Nduko o'Matigere

Charles Montpetit

Begoña Osés

Rick Moody

Raquel Otheguy

Michel Mouffe

Amaury Pacheco del Monte

Silvanos Mudzvova

Orhan Pamuk

Paul Muldoon

Gregory Pardlo

Maximillia Muninzwa

Daniel Quarry

Victor Muñoz

Michel Perea Enríquez (Nonardo Perea)

Besnik Mustafaj

Izet Perviz

Perumal Murugan

Virginia Phiri

Azar Nafisi

Juan Enrique Piedrabuena Ruiz-Tagle

Ahmed Naji

Claudia Piñeiro

Robert Pinsky

Alix Ritchie

Plato

Romina Ressia

Elena Poniatowska Love

Kurt Roessler

Antonio Silver

Alexis romay

Ahmet Prince

Jose A. Ruano

Francine Prose

Karina Sainz Borgo

Marilyn Pupo

Fakhri Saleh

Shwan Dler Qaradaki

Salomón Salcedo Baca

Alicia Quinones

Arturo sandoval

Selma Raljevic

Francis Sanchez

Sergio Ramirez

Philippe Sands

Alejandro Riaño

Sandra Santana

Elvira Rodríguez Puerto

John Ralston Saul

German Rojas

George Saunders

Anamely Ramos

Simon Schama

Claudia Rankine

Steve Schapiro

Farvash Razav

Stacy Schiff

Elif Refig

Manfred Schlösser

Molly Ringwald

Eugene Schoulgin

Arturo ripstein

Torsten Schulz

Dread Scott

Alice Sebold

Daniel Seekersway

Gabriel Seisedos

Ask Selvaratnam

Ingeborg Senneset

Oleg Sentsov

Enrique Serna

Oumar Farouk Sesay

Jan Schlegel

Kim Schwanhäufse

Helene Schmitz

Flamur Shala

Paata Shamugia

Omaid Sharifi

Guillermo Sheridan

Musa Sheriff

Gary Shteyngart

Jane Smiley

Kiki Smith

Zadie Smith

Bosco Sodi

Andrew Solomon

Burhan Sonmez

Chak Sopheap

Alec Soth

Vee Speers

Art Spiegelman

Cornelia Springer

Kjersti Løken Stavrum

Richard Stengel

Siri Stolt-Nielsen

Tom Stoppard

Michi Strausfeld

Meryl Streep

Rose Styron

Daniel Suarez

Aatish Taseer

Apple Tataragic

Rae Marie Taylor

Jennifer Teo

Astrid Vehstedt

Danielle Thibault

Burkhardt Veigel

Ma Thida

Oscar Vela

Colm Toibin

Leni Velasco

Mauricio Tolosa

Xavier Velasco

Carles Torner

Rule of Vienna

Edmundo Torrejón Jurado

Melissa Verreault

Daniel Torres Rodriguez

Lia Villares

Julie trebault

Felix Villeneuve

Calvin Trillin

Ayelet Waldman

Salil Tripathi

Per Wästberg

Margarita Trushina

Peter Wawerzinek

Tanja Tuma

Jacob Weisberg

Scott Turow

Catrina Wessels

Anne Tyler

Tara Westover

Kanchana Ugbabe

Herbert Wiesner

Luis Alberto Urrea

Tobias Wolff

Alexis Valdes

Kacey Wong |

Mario Vargas Llosa

Yotuel

Carlos Vasconez

Gabriel Zaid