

Cuban dissident Ferrer in the US



José Daniel Ferrer in 2018 (Source: [Osvaldo torres riso/Commons/CC-BY-SA 4.0](#))

Cuban dissident José Daniel Ferrer was released from prison on Monday and left for the US with his family. This was confirmed by the Cuban Foreign Ministry in an [official statement](#).

The ministry stated that the decision was made after a “comprehensive assessment of Ferrer García's legal situation by the public prosecutor's office” and upon “formal request” from the US government. Ferrer served a prison sentence of four years and six months in Santiago de Cuba.

At a press conference in Miami, the chairman of the opposition Patriotic Union of Cuba (Unpacu) thanked US President Donald Trump for his efforts to secure his release. Ferrer described Trump's commitment as “crucial” to the agreement that enabled his release from prison and departure from the country. As reported by the news agency *EFE*, he praised the US president for his “firmness and support for the cause of freedom for the Cuban people.”

He emphasized that he had never thought of leaving Cuba and had “mixed feelings” about his arrival in the US. He wanted to return to the island “as soon as possible” and hoped to “put an end to the tyranny before this government” in Washington ends.

Ferrer, one of the 75 political prisoners of the “Black Spring” of 2003, spent more than half of the past 20 years in prison. Amnesty International classifies him as a “prisoner of conscience.” Ferrer was released earlier this year as part of an agreement brokered by the Vatican between Havana and Washington, but was re-arrested three months later. The Cuban government justified this on the grounds of “repeated violations of the obligations imposed by the court.” With Ferrer's departure, the opposition on the island is currently “leaderless,” dissident Martha Beatriz Roque, who was arrested with him at the time, [told AFP](#). ([Cubaheute](#))