His Excellency
President Miguel Díaz-Canel
c/o Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
Stavangerstr. 20
10439 Berlin
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern for the Protestant pastor Maikel Pupo Velázquez. On 26 September 2026, he was arrested in Camagüey by state security officers on a charge of “disobedience” and was initially held incommunicado. His family learned of his whereabouts only after searching for him. He is now being held in La Cerámica Roja prison.

Pastor Velázquez founded the community known as the “Church of the Holy Blessing Word of Fire” and had planned a large gathering at the Cándido Gonzalez Morales Stadium in Camagüey to pray for Cuba. On 25 September 2026, he received a summons and cancelled the event as instructed by the competent authorities. He then went to the venue to announce the cancellation in person. As he approached, officers arrested him.

The Republic of Cuba signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 28 February 2008. Article 18 of the Covenant protects the right to freedom of religion. The detention of Pastor Velázquez constitutes a grave violation of this human right.

I respectfully urge you to do everything within your power to help secure his release.

Yours respectfully,