

Jorge Luis García Pérez (Antunez) is a leader in the Cuban democratic movement. Born in 1964, Antunez was inspired early in life by reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rejecting the communist indoctrination that he was receiving in Cuba's schools. Antunez is a leader of a non-violent movement to promote human rights and democracy in Cuba. He was arrested in 1990 for peacefully protesting the Castro brothers' oppressive communist regime, and spent the next 17 years in jail as a political prisoner. During that time, Antunez endured torture, beatings, solitary confinement, and denial of needed medical care that almost cost him his life yet the Castro brothers' communist regime could not break his indomitable spirit. Since his release in 2007, Antunez has continued to advance the cause of freedom and human rights in Cuba. Antunez's wife, Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, is also a leader in the Cuban human rights community. She is the President and founder of the Rosa Parks Feminine Civic Rights Movement which is dedicated to advancing human rights and engaging in humanitarian activities such as helping homeless women and children. Antunez described his commitment to human rights and his ability to survive prison in this way: "I think that my faith in the ideas for which I fight never ceased and never will cease. I believe that faith in God and in this just cause which I defend is what helped me survive."