



# PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

## Pray for the Persecuted Christians in CUBA

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the Body also.

(Hebrews 13:3)



Total Population: 11,326,616

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 56% – **Evangelical Witness: 4.4%**

Death Rate: 9.14/1000 per year: Just today: 284

### Cuba protests spread as Christians Pray

(VOM and Evangélico Digital )

#### Evangelicals Call to Prayer

Inside and outside Cuba, evangelical leaders have called to prayer for the island.

"Brothers and sisters, pray for Cuba, the people are on the streets, asking for freedom, the situation is chaotic and very agitated", said a message shared by Moisés de Prada, the leader of Assemblies of God in Cuba. "Everything points to the fact that this is going to get more complicated. People are in the streets in every province now, and there are clashes with the riot police. I urge you to pray that God takes control and prevents a bloodbath".

#### Christian Persecution Inside Cuba

Despite the change in leadership in 2018, churches in Cuba face unrelenting pressure from the government, which remains committed to communism's atheistic ideology and sees churches as a threat to the revolution begun by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro in the 1950s. Cubans remain poor, with the government seeking to control every aspect of life. When church leaders resist state teachings that are contrary to God's Word and disobey government restrictions on Christian witness, they are called in for interrogation. Although gathering in unregistered churches and constructing new church buildings are banned, many churches boldly worship despite the risks.

**Major Religions in Cuba:** Most Cubans are atheists. A significant number of Cubans engage in superstitious and spiritist practices, including the Afro-Cuban religion of Santería. There is only a 4.4% Evangelical witness.

The government persecutes Christians.

#### A History of State Pressure on Churches

Christians in Cuba have denounced lack of religious freedom, slander campaigns and human rights abuses for many years. Christian journalists have been threatened, evangelical pastors investigated, worship places closed, and individuals abused. Only a minority of Christian churches have been allowed to operate with normality in Cuba, as international organisations have denounced.

#### What It Means To Follow Christ In Cuba

Unlike the overt violence Christians faced during the communist revolution, more subtle methods of persecution are now used by the Cuban government, largely out of concern for its global reputation. Christian leaders are often summoned by government officials for questioning or held for up to 48 hours to pressure them, and churches are demolished by hired gangs so the government can deny responsibility. Legal church buildings are seized, and no new church buildings have been legally built in the country since the revolution. Many believers meet in illegal house churches, often extensions of the pastor's home or shaded structures in the backyard of a family's home. Churches continue to grow through active evangelistic activity, but some believers have never owned a Bible because of government oppression. Though no Christians are known to be imprisoned in Cuba, many are closely watched so that they are effectively under house arrest. In addition, Christians are often denied jobs and educational opportunities.