



**3.2.18**

## **CUBA | Religious Freedom Defender Released**

A prominent Cuban advocate for freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), Leonardo Rodríguez Alonso, was released from detention March 2. He was detained Feb. 28 and held without charge in the Provincial Unit for Investigations in the city of Santa Clara until March 2.

Rodríguez Alonso was arrested on his way home to Villa Clara from the town of Caibarién, where he was leading meetings with human rights defenders. He is a regional coordinator for the Patmos Institute, an independent civil society organization that promotes inter-religious dialogue and FoRB for all.

Anna-Lee Stangl, Americas Team Leader at CSW, said, “We were very happy to learn of the release of Leonardo Rodríguez Alonso without charge today. We continue to be concerned by the fact that he was arrested and detained for almost two days without any charge. We call on the Cuban government to cease its targeting and harassment of human rights defenders, including those working on freedom of religion or belief.”