



LATVIJAS BIBLIOTEKĀRU BIEDRĪBA

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF LATVIA

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RESOLUTION ON IMPRISONED CUBAN LIBRARIANS FOR IFLA 2006

Whereas IFLA's commitment to defend freedom of access to information is based on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees everyone the right to "seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers"; and

Whereas the IFLA resolution on human rights and librarians, adopted in Munich, Germany, 1983, states:

"In the name of human rights, librarians must, as a profession, express their solidarity with those of their colleagues who are persecuted for their opinions, wherever they may be" (<http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/munich.htm>); and

Whereas IFLA/FAIFE's Mission and Actions statement declares:

"IFLA/FAIFE responds to violations of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression affecting libraries and librarianship. IFLA and IFLA/FAIFE supports and co-operates with relevant international bodies, organisations or campaigns such as UNESCO, International PEN, Article XIX, Index on Censorship, IFEX and Amnesty International" (<http://www.ifla.org/faife/faife/presen.htm>); and

Whereas in 2003 the Cuban government intensified a campaign of repression directed against Cuban citizens who have opened a network of uncensored libraries designed to

challenge government control of information, resulting in one-day trials which sentenced a number of the librarians to prison sentences of 20 years or more; and

Whereas Cuban court documents, removed from the island and published on the Internet, prove that the independent librarians were arrested for the alleged crime of opening libraries, and that thousands of books in their collections, including copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, books by George Orwell and other classic works of freedom, were labeled "subversive" and ordered to be seized or burned by the Cuban courts (<http://www.ruleoflawandcuba.fsu.edu>); and

Whereas the independent librarians imprisoned in Cuba have been named as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International which, along with other human rights organizations such as International PEN, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, is demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the librarians on the grounds that they have been convicted for exercising their right to freedom of expression; and

Whereas computers being shipped to Cuba by organizations in the United States were recently confiscated by U.S. border agents; therefore

Be it Resolved that

IFLA protests the ongoing persecution of independent librarians in Cuba and the seizure and burning of their library collections, and we join Amnesty International and other human rights organizations in calling for the immediate release of the independent librarians in Cuba who are imprisoned for exercising their rights to intellectual freedom; and

that IFLA expresses solidarity with all those in Cuba, in both the official and unofficial library world, who struggle against difficult economic and political obstacles in order to meet the information needs of the Cuban people; and

that IFLA condemns the 2005 seizure by United States border agents of computer equipment being shipped to Cuba, which is a violation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Adopted at the 11th Conference of the Library Association of Latvia (LAL),
Riga, 28 February 2006*

Anna Mauliņa
LAL President

(The original document with signature sent to IFLA HQ by mail.)



LIETUVOS BIBLIOTEKININKŲ DRAUGIJA LITHUANIAN LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION

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Dear IFLA Headquarters,

Lithuanian Librarians' Association would like to propose

DRAFT OF A RESOLUTION ON CUBA FOR THE IFLA 2006 CONFERENCE AGENDA

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Signed by:

Vida Garunkštytė
President
Lithuanian Librarians Association

Emilija Banionytė
Vice-President
Lithuanian Librarians Association

March 9, 2006
Vilnius, Lithuania

(The original document with signatures sent to IFLA HQ by mail.)