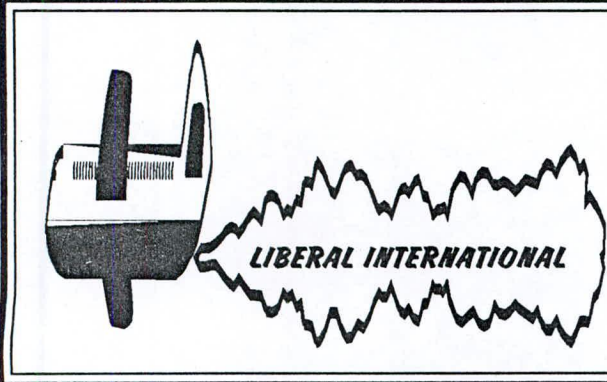


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# LONDON AEROGRAMME ARCHIVO

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## CUBAN FREEDOM PRIZE RECIPIENT RELEASED FROM JAIL



*Maria Elena Cruz Varela*

The Cuban poet Maria Elena Cruz Varela, who in 1991 was convicted to two years in a Cuban prison, was released by the authorities on 24 May for good behaviour, six months before her prison term was over. The dissident went immediately to her father and brother in the province of Matanzas. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, the Cuban authorities had gone to Ms Cruz Varela's flat in Havana and moved all her belongings to Matanzas. It is as yet unclear whether or not her release was under condition of her moving to Matanzas. Maria Elena Cruz Varela belonged to the dissident group Criterio Alternativo before her arrest and is actively supported by the Cuban Liberal Union. She was awarded The Liberal International Prize for Freedom 1992. The presentation of the Prize at the LI Congress in Mainz in September 1992 by German Justice Minister Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger was experienced by most Congress delegates as one of the most moving moments of the Congress. The Liberal International will continue to actively monitor her situation.

## APPOINTMENT OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER URGED

The establishment of an International Court for Human Rights must be fostered, and a UN Commissioner for Human Rights and Minorities appointed. These are two of the demands that the Liberal International puts to the World Conference on Human Rights, which will take place in Vienna, 14-25 June 1993. The Liberal International will take part in the meeting in its official capacity as Non Governmental Organisation in the United Nations. On 15 January in its meeting in Rome the Bureau of the LI and the LI Human Rights Committee adopted this position, that also includes recommendations that the World Conference should extend the existing humanitarian conventions to cover all the victims of internal armed conflicts, and should draw up a UN convention providing immediate international intervention in the event of flagrant breaches of international law and human rights of minorities. In its statement the LI Bureau stresses the close inter-relationship between human rights, democracy and development: The recent recognition of new human rights, such as the right of development and the right to a healthy environment, is part of a continuing evolution of international human rights standards. Such new rights should be elaborated so as to enrich existing fundamental rights. The LI Bureau also pledges in favour of giving the UN Human Rights programme material and financial resources "in alignment with its role".

## MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A CONTRADICTION?

Heide Schmidt MP of the Austrian Liberal Forum and Jan Dirk Blaauw MP (Chairman of the LI Human Rights Committee) will take part in a round table discussion on 'Migration and Human Rights: a Contradiction?' organised by the Liberal International and the Austrian Group of LI on the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 13 June. The forum, to be chaired by the chief editor of Der Standard, Dr Gerfried Sperl, also includes Christian Allesch of the Institute of Psychology and Professor Rudolf Rizman of the University of Ljubljana. The meeting is part of the LI presence at the World Conference, where the LI will take part with a delegation of 15. Together with the Christian Democrat International and the Socialist International the LI is organising the round table discussion at an early stage of the Conference, to discuss political priorities and put pressure on the governments. The LI is to be represented at this meeting by Friedhelm Frischenschlager MP and Jan Dirk Blaauw MP.