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:AM-CUBA-DISSIDENTS
THREE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SENTENCE TO JAIL:
HAVANA, NOV 30, REUTER - THREE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WERE SENTENCED TO JAIL TERMS BY A LOCAL COURT TUESDAY AFTER THEY ALLEGEDLY INSULTED AND SCUFFLED WITH GUARDS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE COMBINADO DEL ESTE PRISON NEAR HAVANA, THE OFFICIAL CUBAN NEWSPAPER, GRANMA, REPORTED WEDNESDAY.

TAINIA DIAZ CASTRO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SELF-STYLED CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS PARTY AND GUILLERMO VLADIMIR RIVAS, AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITEE WERE EACH SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL. THE WIFE OF GUILLERMO RIVAS, AYME LLADO CANTON WAS SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS.

(CORRECTION TAINIA ABOVE SHOULD READ TANIA.

GRANMA SAID THAT TANIA DIAS +INSULTED AUTHORITIES OF THE PRISON IN AN INSOLENT AND AGRESSIVE MANNER WHILE RIVAS DIAZ PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED ONE OF THE TWO PRISON OFFICIERS PRESENT.+ AYME LLADO CANTON WAS SENTENCED FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

THE INCIDENT AT THE PRISON GATE, THE TRAIL, AND THE SENTENCING ALL TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY.

LAST OCTOBER 20 SIX MEMBERS OF A SELF-STYLED ASSOCIATION FOR FREE ART WERE ARRESTED IN HAVANA AND SENTENCED TO UP TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON AFTER SCUEFLING WITH MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SECURITY AGENTS IN CIVILIAN DRESS.

FOR THE PAST YEAR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE BEEN TOLERATED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT BUT HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER INCIDENT, A FOREIGN INISTRY OFFICIAL DENIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CHANGED ITS LINE OF TOLERATING DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES BUT SAID THAT PUBLIC ACTS OF DEFINANCE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.
==REUTER/LEM
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