



## NATIONALITY IS NOT A POLITICAL COIN

*The Caribbean Island that is seen as a paradise for foreign tourists, is also a limbo in which government-critics are forced out of their own country, those who refuse to leave suffer permanent harassment, and those who want to leave are called defectors and face the wrath of a totalitarian and abusive government. This apparent contrary attitude of the Cuban state shows a clear pattern of abuse and manipulation of its international human rights obligations against its own people.*

### **CUBA: BETWEEN FORCED EXILE AND DEFECTORS REJECTION**

As it was recently reported by the International Society for Human Rights (IGFM), Cuban artist Hamlet Lavastida was forced into exile on September 25, 2021 after being unfairly imprisoned for almost three months. Lavastida is accused by the Cuban judiciary of planning a “terrorist” attack, the evidence are some messages exchanged through social media where the artist allegedly proposed to mark Cuban paper money with critical messages towards the regime. Lavastida was escorted to the airport and sent out of the country, forced to board a one-way flight with no return to Poland with his girlfriend in exchange for his release.

Hamlet Lavastida’s case is not uncommon. Back in 2011 the Cuban government offered an









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