**Cuban police briefly arrested more than 100 dissidents over the weekend (ENH)**

By Juan O. Tamayo

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One human rights activist described ‘a state of paranoia’ as at least 100 dissidents were arrested ahead of key anniversaries.

Police briefly arrested more than 100 Cuban dissidents over the weekend in a multi-pronged campaign to prevent public demonstrations marking the anniversaries of the deaths of five Castro opponents, activists reported Monday.

Former political prisoner Angel Moya and nine other government opponents also were detained and there was no word on their whereabouts as of late Monday, said his wife, Bertha Soler, leader of the dissident group Ladies in White.

“There’s a kind of state of paranoia” in which security agents are sweeping up anyone they consider a threat, said Havana human rights activist Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz, who put the number of confirmed weekend arrests at more than 100.

Most were freed hours or days later, not in time to join protests marking the Feb. 23, 2010 death of political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo after a lengthy hunger strike, or the deaths of four South Florida men whose Brothers to the Rescue airplanes were shot down by Cuban fighter jets on Feb 24, 1996.

One crackdown that elicited surprise was that against the group Ladies in White in Havana, which has been largely left alone during the past two years, when they attended Sunday mass at the Santa Rita church and then marched around the neighborhood.

But police and pro-government mobs have not allowed the women to protest any other way, and swiftly arrested 20 of them when they appeared to be taking their march outside their usual boundaries, Soler told El Nuevo Herald.

“We walked to our usual bus stop and about 15 got on a bus that filled up, so the rest of us started walking to another bus stop, and all of a sudden we were surrounded by police cars, motorcycles, buses, everything,” she said.

She said that she and 19 other Ladies in White members then were shoved into an empty bus and driven away. They were held on the bus for more than four hours, Soler said. Dissidents said that police in other parts of the island have tried to avert protests by beating activists and surrounding their homes.

Police on Saturday detained three well known government critics — musician Gorki Aguila, graffiti artist Danilo “El Sexto” Maldonado and singer Ismael de Diego — before a planned concert at a park. They were freed Sunday.