

**From:** [CSW](#)  
**To:** [ctcinfohub@gmail.com](mailto:ctcinfohub@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Hi Roger, your January news from CSW: Celebrating breakthroughs  
**Date:** 30 January 2025 14:32:03

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**CSW everyone  
free to believe**



## Pastor Lorenzo: Free!

**On 17 January 2025, Pastor Lorenzo was released from prison!**

This incredible news came as the result of negotiations to release 553 political prisoners between Cuba, the Vatican and the administration of US President Joe Biden.

We were fortunate enough to [receive a video](#) from Pastor Lorenzo's family of the exact moment he stepped out of the prison gates and was reunited with his wife, daughter and son. **It was a powerful reminder of the importance of sustained advocacy and prayer, which we all have been undertaking since his arrest in July 2021.**

You signed petitions, wrote letters to Members of Parliament, and

protested with us outside the Cuban Embassy in London. Countless prayers were prayed and words of encouragement were sent to the family throughout that time. **Thank you!**



## **'I realise I can heal.' Equipping communities in Colombia**

Last year we travelled to Colombia to roll out more of our psychosocial workshops, designed for both human rights defenders and survivors of human rights violations. Those who defend human rights are also likely to experience trauma themselves, as they live in the same context as those they are supporting.

The training has had a profound impact already, with participants like Pastor Jairo\* telling us:

*'This workshop is like a breath of fresh air for me...I didn't know I had trauma and needed help. I just felt pain and was directionless, but listening to this workshop, **I realise I can heal. I feel hope.**'*

Read the full story and many more in the latest edition of **[Response](#)** – our quarterly magazine and prayer diary, giving you key insights into the world of freedom of religion or belief. Available

to download now!

*\*name changed for security*

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## More good news: Mubarak Bala released

Justice in cases involving violations of freedom of religion or belief can feel all too rare.

We're therefore encouraged to share the news that **Mubarak Bala, President of the Nigerian Humanist Society**, has been released from prison after more than four years behind bars.

Mr Bala was arrested in 2020 after being accused of insulting Islam on social media. His case has served as a reminder of the incompatibility of blasphemy laws with the freedoms of expression, and religion or belief, and how they can drive religious extremism.

We welcome and celebrate his release, whilst remaining concerned

for his ongoing safety.



## Join a movement of regular givers and help set people free

We were persistent in raising Pastor Lorenzo's case through advocacy channels such as the United Nations – inspiring hundreds of people to sign a petition for his release and mobilising thousands to pray for him and his family.

And now we can celebrate that he is free!

Regular givers play a crucial role in breakthroughs like these, as these donations enable us to keep working on cases year in, year out, until people like Pastor Lorenzo are free.

[Would you consider making a monthly gift to CSW, and help to set people free from religious persecution?](#)

By giving monthly, you enable us to continue working towards real and lasting change. To not just free one person, or protect one community, but also to tackle systems of injustice that could change entire nations.





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## Our manifesto #2

We believe  
**no one should suffer discrimination, harassment  
or persecution because of their beliefs.**



CSW is a human rights organisation specialising in freedom of religion or belief, and as Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.  
CSW, PO BOX 99, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3YF. Registered Charity No. 281836

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