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"Just Another Cuban": A Conversation with Eliécer Ávila

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



“Just Another Cuban”: A Conversation with Eliécer Ávila

August 7, 2014 | 7:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library 220

In this informal conversation, Eliécer Ávila will share his experiences and impressions about the year since his first visit to Miami and his direct interaction with Cubans throughout the island. He will exchange opinions with the audience about the topics that most concern Cubans on and off the island, such as the recent customs regulations, the purchase of real estate property, and foreign investment in Cuba. The purpose of the talk is to shed light on the current social, political, and economic context faced by Cubans on the island.

Born in Puerto Padre (Las Tunas, Cuba) in 1986, Eliécer Ávila earned a degree in computer engineering at the University of Information Sciences in Havana. He has been a professor of computer science and programming at the Polytechnic Information Institute in Boyeros, Cuba, and as a self-employed worker. He has participated in national and international events on citizens' right to information in the United States, Spain, Peru, and Sweden.

Ávila first came to the public spotlight in 2008, when he asked then-president of Cuba's parliament, Ricardo Alarcón, why Cubans could not travel freely or have open access to the Internet. In 2012, he started his own Internet channel on YouTube, under the title *Un cubano más* (“Just Another Cuban”). In 2013, Ávila launched the political movement, *Somos +*, which promotes the construction of a “modern, prosperous, and free country.”

The event, to be conducted in Spanish, is free and open to the public. To RSVP and for more information, please call (305) 348–1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.

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