

Free the Cuban Five

11 Years in U.S. prisons for *fighting* Terrorism



Gerardo



Antonio



Ramón



Fernando



René

September 12, 2009 marks 11 years of the Cuban Five's imprisonment. The Five are the victims of a terrible injustice. Their only "crime" was trying to protect their country, Cuba, from terrorist attacks carried out from inside the borders of the United States.

Please take the opportunity to read this leaflet and learn about five men who were engaged in a mission to save lives, and about the campaign to free them.

Who Are the Cuban Five?

They are five Cuban nationals — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González — arrested on Sept. 12, 1998 by the FBI and indicted on false charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and related crimes. But the Five never committed espionage nor did they plan to. They were monitoring Cuban exile terrorist organizations based in Miami, to prevent those groups from carrying out attacks on Cuba.

Background history

Miami became a base of terrorist operations against Cuba, after US.-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista was overthrown in 1959.

Thousands of his repressive police and torturers fled Cuba for Miami. Using the most violent of these exiles, the U.S. government—through the C.I.A.—launched a program of destabilization, economic sabotage and terrorism, to try to overthrow the Cuban government.

Since 1959, 3,478 Cubans have been killed by bombings, biological warfare and assassinations, carried out by those terrorists.

Organizations such as Alpha 66, Omega 7, and Brothers to the Rescue operate with impunity in Miami.

For example, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, responsible for the bombing of a Cuban airliner in 1976 that killed 73 people, walk the streets of Miami freely. **Yet the Cuban Five, who were working to stop these terrorists, are in U.S. prison.**

In the early 1990s, with the U.S. refusing to apprehend the Miami terrorists, Cuba sent the Five to Miami. The Cuban Five infiltrated the terrorist organizations and successfully stopped many plots, by monitoring their actions.

Cuban and American lives were saved.

But instead of arresting the terrorists, the FBI arrested the Cuban Five ANTI-terrorists.

The Five were illegally held in solitary confinement for 17 months in Miami, unable to properly prepare a defense.

During the seven-month trial in Miami, a witchhunt atmosphere prevailed. Despite several defense motions for a trial outside of Miami, the judge refused to grant a change of venue, even to Ft. Lauderdale, 25 miles away.

Yet one year after the prosecuting the Five in Miami, the same U.S. attorney's office argued in another federal trial that Miami was not suitable for a case linked with Cuba.

In a blow to justice, the Cuban Five were convicted June 8, 2001 and sentenced to four life terms and 77 years in December 2001.

In August, 2005, a federal appeals court overturned their convictions and ordered a new trial. The court declared that a "perfect storm" of Miami prejudice and the prosecution's misconduct denied the Five a fair trial. But the Bush administration appealed, and a year later their convictions were upheld.

The legal battle is not over; further actions will be filed in 2010, and three of the Five will soon be re-sentenced. In the meantime, there is a great need to raise public awareness of their case and struggle.

Your support is needed to help win their freedom

The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five was formed in June 2001. Since then, more than 300 committees worldwide have support of the Five, on every continent. Hundreds of members of the Mexican, British, European and other Parliaments, 10 Nobel Prize recipients, intellectuals, religious and other leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, Ramsey Clark, and Alice Walker, are calling on the U.S. government to free the Five immediately.

FREE THE CUBAN FIVE!

Read all about the Five at:

freethefive.org

See other side for more information

Write to the Five!

see other side

*Letters and cards of support are welcome
by Gerardo, Antonio, Ramón, Fernando and René.*

You can write to them in Spanish or English. They are fluent in both.

**"Ours may be one of the most ridiculous accusations of espionage
in the history of this country."**

Gerardo Hernández • #58739-004 • U.S.P. Victorville • P.O. Box 5300 • Adelanto, CA 92301

**"... My beloved brothers and I must be unjustly kept in prison, but there
we shall not cease from defending the cause and the principles we have embraced."**

Antonio Guerrero • #58741-004 • U.S.P. Florence • P.O. Box 7000 • Florence CO 81226

**"If preventing the deaths of innocent human beings ...
and preventing a senseless invasion of Cuba is the reason
I am being sentenced today, then let that sentence be welcomed."**

Ramón Labañino • #58734-004 • U.S.P. McCreary • P.O. Box 3000 • Pine Knot KY 42635

(NOTE: the envelope should be addressed to "Luís Medina,"
but address the letter inside to Ramón)

**"... I simply want to reiterate that at no time did I endanger the national security
of the United States, nor was this ever my intent, or that of my comrades."**

Fernando González • #58733-004 • F.C.I. Terre Haute • P.O. Box 33 • Terre Haute IN 47808

(NOTE: the envelope should be addressed to "Rubén Campa,"
but address the letter inside to Fernando)

**"Our trial was converted into a propaganda campaign by the prosecutors,
stirring up prejudices against Cuba among the jurors, to achieve a conviction."**

René González • #58738-004 • F.C.I. Marianna • P.O. Box 7007 • Marianna, FL 32447-7007

Support the Right of the Wives and Families to Visit the Five



Olga Salanueva (l)
& Adriana Pérez (r)



The wives of two of the Cuban Five—Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández, and Olga Salanueva, wife of René González—have been continually denied U.S.-entry visas for over 10 years. They have been unable to visit their husbands in prison for all that time. Thus, Gerardo, René and their wives are being doubly punished. The U.S. government's visa denial is a violation of international law and the U.S. Constitution. Other family members of the Five, wives, parents, and children, have had to wait for up to two years to be granted U.S. visas.

What you can do: Write a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State • 2201 C Street NW • Washington, DC 20052
and demand that the State Department immediately grant visas to Adriana,
Olga, and the other family members. Details: www.freethethefive.org

The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five
info@freethethefive.org • www.freethethefive.org

National Office: 2489 Mission St., #24, San Francisco CA 94110 • 415-821-6545
for the local contact in your area, see: www.freethethefive.org