

# Learn about the Cuban 5

Five Cubans – Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González – have been in U.S. jails since 1998. Their “crime” is that they infiltrated anti-Cuba groups based in Miami that had a history of violence against their country.

The five never hurt anyone. They possessed no weapons. They did not direct their actions against the U.S. government. Instead, they reported back home about planned terrorist attacks on Cuba.

Cuban officials met with the FBI to ask that it prevent these attacks. Instead, the FBI arrested the five and accused them of conspiracy to commit espionage. It was further proof that, ever since the 1959 Cuban Revolution, the U.S. government has been behind the many acts of terror inflicted on the socialist island.

This terror against Cuba is widely known and never punished in the U.S. For example, on Nov. 27, 2006, the Miami Herald reported that Jose Antonio Llama, a rich Miami Cuban, wants his money back. He complains that he had given \$1.5 million to the Cuban American National Foundation to buy explosives, a helicopter, speedboats and 10 light radio-controlled planes for an attack on Havana’s Revolution Square that didn’t happen.

These terrorist plans came up at the trial of the Cuban Five, who had been trying to find out about the weapons.



René González

Antonio Guerrero

Gerardo Hernández

The five were convicted in Miami in a lynch-mob atmosphere and received long sentences. In 2005, however, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Atlanta, ruled that a fair trial had been impossible in Miami and overturned their convictions.

But the five are still in prison. The government got other appeals court judges to overrule their colleagues.

The five have suffered greatly for their heroism and loyalty to their country. After arrest, they were held in solitary for 17 months. They are scattered in prisons across the U.S. Family members are allowed visits only once or twice a year. The wives of two have been denied visas to visit them.

The trial has already been condemned by the U.N. Human Rights

Commission, activists, legal scholars, and Nobel laureates, and world opinion is against their wrongful trial and continued imprisonment.

In this context, the Supreme Court is to decide this June whether to hear an appeal on the basis of the racial discrimination during jury selection process, the partiality of the venue of the trial, and other issues. However, even now there is pressure on the Supreme Court, from sectors of the government, to deny the Five a hearing.

We welcome any progressive ruling from the Supreme Court, including the chance for an appeal hearing, in a case that has been largely covered up by the U.S. media despite its implications for the right to a fair trial in this country.

However, our ultimate goal, and the only just outcome for the Five remains immediate freedom and a return to their beloved Cuba and their families.

## and help to free them!

*Issued by:*

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Fernando González



Ramón Labañino