



NYC Committee To Free the Cuban Five

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“The story of the Cuban Five is one of courage, great sacrifice and love. It is a story for the ages...The treatment the (Five) have received is shameful; the silence around this treatment even more so. Where are the...people with the courage to insist that prisoners not be subjected to torture?”

Alice Walker (from *Letters of Love and Hope: The Story of the Cuban 5*)

September 24, 2007

Mr. Peter Keisler
Acting U.S. Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Keisler,

Once again, we write to your office in reference to gross violations of the fundamental human rights of five honorable Cuban men: Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Rene Gonzalez, Fernando Gonzalez, and Gerardo Hernandez.

We remind you of your obligation as an officer of the United States, which is a member nation of the United Nations, to protect and enforce the Constitutional and international human rights of these five men. Specifically, we urge you to consider and to follow the findings of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions that found both the procedures leading to the detention of these men, and the manner and duration of their detentions to be “in contravention of article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights...” (Opinion No. 19/2005 (United States of America)). As you know, the United States is a signatory to the ICCPR.

We, the undersigned, implore you to cease your continuing prosecution and detention of these five heroic men, who were working to stop terrorism both here and abroad. We also urge you, as you consider this case, to restore the rights of these five prisoners by:

1. Facilitating the granting of visas to Adriana Perez, wife of Gerardo Hernandez, and to Olga Salanueva, wife of Rene Gonzalez **immediately**; and
2. Minimizing the length of time it takes to grant all five prisoners visas for their families.

The fact that their rights have been denied in the above manner only proves the political nature of this case; a circumstance which has so clearly affected their ability to be treated justly and fairly.

On Friday, September 28, supporters of the Cuban Five, representing a diverse cross section of the population and who agree that the human rights of the Five have been violated and who should be freed, will be traveling to Washington DC to deliver this letter in person. In addition, we will be delivering a petition signed by over 1,000 people and organizations in a campaign initiated by Rainbow Solidarity for the Cuban 5 and supported by countless organizations in the U.S. and around the world. We urge you or an assistant to receive this petition and letter in person.

We also wish to arrange a meeting at your convenience, but as soon as possible, where we can discuss the ongoing delays and the irregularities of this prosecution in more detail. This opportunity can only deepen the mission of your office: justice. Rectifying this situation will strengthen the U.S. government's standing, both domestically and internationally, in promoting democratic values. We urge you to make this your task.

Sincerely,

Signers attached