

M-26-7

**celebration of
Cuba's
Rebellion Day**



**Celebración del
Día de la Rebelión
en Cuba**

*July 26th, 2011
26 de Julio del 2011
Toronto, Canada*

Indigenous Opening Ceremony / Ceremonia de Apertura Indígenas
Spiritual Guides / Guías Espirituales

Nana Esperanza - *Maya Council / Consejo Maya - Akijab*
Mabel Ernest - *Quechua Nation / Nación Quechua*

Organizing Groups / Grupos Organizadores

Toronto Forum on Cuba
Black Action Defense Committee
Asociación Cubanos en Toronto de Juan Gualberto Gómez

July 26th Anthem / Himno del 26 de Julio

Special Guests / Invitados especiales

Raúl Delgado Concepción – *Honourable Consul of Cuba in Toronto / Honorable Cónsul de Cuba en Toronto*
Professor Keith Ellis – *Award winning Author, Poet / Autor galardonado, Poeta*

Special presentation on Dudley Laws / Presentación especial sobre Dudley Laws

Charles Roach
Owen Leach

Special presentation on Leonard Weinglass / Presentación especial sobre Leonard Weinglass

Morteza Gorgzadeh

Letter to Obama

Skigh Johnson

DJ

Logie

Poetry / Poesía

Arnold Itwaru
Carlos Angulo
Enrique Castro
Maria Elena Mesa Mejia
Elvis Campbell
Natasha Ksonzek

Live Music / Música en vivo

Chango
Jimmy Reid
Steve Hall
Pablo Terry & Sol de Cuba

Dub Poetry / Dub Poesía

Charlie Bobus

Dance MC / Maestro de ceremonias por el baile

Fidelito

What is Revolution?

“Revolution means to have a sense of history

it is changing everything that must be changed

it is full equality and freedom

it is being treated and treating others like human beings

it is achieving emancipation by ourselves and through our own efforts

it is challenging powerful dominant forces from within and without the social and national milieu

it is defending the values in which we believe at the cost of any sacrifice

it is modesty, selflessness, altruism, solidarity and heroism

it is fighting with courage, intelligence and realism

it is never lying or violating ethical principles

it is a profound conviction that there is no power in the world that can crush the power of truth and ideas.

Revolution means unity, it is independence, it is fighting for our dreams of justice for Cuba and for the world, which is the foundation of our patriotism, our socialism and our internationalism.”

Fidel Castro – May 1st, 2001



Concepto de Revolución

“Revolución es sentido del momento histórico

es cambiar todo lo que debe ser cambiado

es igualdad y libertad plenas

es ser tratado y tratar a los demás como seres humanos

es emanciparnos por nosotros mismos y con nuestros propios esfuerzos

es desafiar poderosas fuerzas dominantes dentro y fuera del ámbito social y nacional

es defender valores en los que se cree al precio de cualquier sacrificio

es modestia, desinterés, altruismo, solidaridad y heroísmo

es luchar con audacia, inteligencia y realismo

es no mentir jamás ni violar principios éticos

es convicción profunda de que no existe fuerza en el mundo capaz de aplastar la fuerza de la verdad y las ideas.

Revolución es unidad, es independencia, es luchar por nuestros sueños de justicia para Cuba y para el mundo, que es la base de nuestro patriotismo, nuestro socialismo y nuestro internacionalismo.”

Fidel Castro - 1º de mayo del 2001

Himno del 26 de Julio

Marchando, vamos hacia un ideal
sabiendo que hemos de triunfar
en aras de paz y prosperidad
lucharemos todos por la libertad.

Adelante cubanos
que Cuba premiará nuestro heroísmo
pues somos soldados
que vamos a la Patria liberar
limpiando con fuego

que arrase con esta plaga infernal
de gobernantes indeseables
y de tiranos insaciables
que a Cuba han hundido en el Mal.

La sangre que en Cuba se derramó
nosotros no debemos olvidar
por eso unidos debemos de estar
recordando a aquellos que muertos están.

El pueblo de Cuba...
sumido en su dolor se siente herido
y se ha decidido...
hallar sin tregua una solución
que sirva de ejemplo

a éstos que no tienen compasión
y arriesgaremos decididos
por esta causa hasta la vida
¡que viva la Revolución!

Attack on the Moncada Army Barracks

An excerpt from the book: "The Twelve" by Carlos Franqui, from the Introduction by Tana de Gámez

They were students, workers, young professionals, teachers, artists, clerks. Some were poor, a few were rich, most of them were sheltered sons and daughters of middle class families. The majority worked in Spartan clandestinity, a few with the knowledge and silent admiration of their trembling parents.

They were led and inspired by an articulate twenty-six year old rookie lawyer, himself the son of a wealthy planter and educated in one of Havana's exclusive Roman Catholic schools, the College of the Marian Fathers. His had been the only voice which dared condemn publicly Batista's military coup d'etat of 1952, three months before national elections. In fact, four days after the coup and ten days before the United States officially recognized the dictator, that lone voice went on record at one of Cuba's highest civil courts, indicting the tyrant and asking for a public trial. His name was Fidel Castro y Ruz.

For nearly a year the young rebels trained secretly at the residence of a partisan in the fashionable Vedado district of Havana. It was not far from the local police precinct and only a few blocks from the interrogation cells of the dreaded Service of Military Intelligence. They trained without disrupting their normal activities in and out classes, jobs, homes, restaurants, stores, and in the middle of a busy modern city. (Can one imagine such goings on in Park Avenue, Mayfair, or Passy?)

They sold their books and jewelry, they took extra jobs and mortgaged their cars, properties, businesses, until they raised fifteen thousand dollars with which to purchase guns and uniforms. They had no outside help, no offers of support from powerful individuals, organizations, or foreign land. (Neither did they have to contend, as yet, with the antagonism of the then unsuspecting United States and the long-reaching arm of its CIA and Green Berets.) So meager was their arsenal that when time came for the uprising many anxious and well-trained partisans had to be left behind for lack of weapons. ("If only we had had twenty more hand grenades...!")

At last, on July 26th of 1953, at the closing of Santiago's yearly carnival, 150 rebels with two girls for nurses and a physician, disguised themselves in army uniforms and stormed the island's second largest military encampment, the Moncada fort, headquarters of the 1,000 troops of the Maceo regiment. The plan was to infiltrate the installation, hold the soldiers at bay and seal the arsenal to prevent its being used against the people, while another contingent would take over the post's radio station and broadcast an appeal to the citizenry urging them to join the insurrection.

But for a couple of mishaps they might have succeeded. For one, the car transporting their heavy weapons got lost in the departing throngs of carnival and failed to arrive in time. As it turned out, the attack on Fort Moncada was the Revolution's first major setback and perhaps its finest hour. The magnitude of the enterprise and the courage and ideals which had inspired it shook the lethargic people out of their apathy and vulcanized them into protest, underground resistance, and eventually into overt action.

As in every revolution, the price was high. Half of the rebels died, not in combat, but under torture. Their captors were eager to pin the blame for the aborted insurrection on some high official or foreign instigator. The irate tyranny could not conceive that the near-defeat it suffered had been inflicted by a group of ill-equipped youthful civilians with no ties whatsoever to disgruntled politicians, army chiefs, or an exotic ideology. There simply was nothing to confess to, and the truth was too compromising for the government, too indicative of oppression and discontent to be admitted.

The revenge of the armed forces and the embarrassed dictator was to surpass the savagery of the Machado dictatorship of the twenties. One of the voices that speak to us in this book is that of a living martyr of the Moncada

atrocities. From an adjoining cell she was forced to hear the agony of her brother and her fiancé as they died under questioning. At the end, in an effort to extract from her the information the victims had not revealed, she was shown the eyeball of one and the testicles of the other. Wanton murder of even innocent civilians became rampant in Cuba's eastern provinces.

Castro under arrest in July 1953

Eventually, the fleeing hunted rebels and their leaders were caught and brought to trial. They received sentences ranging from five to fifteen years. But, from that defeat, the Revolution gained its Bill of Rights in the form of one of the most extraordinary documents of our time: Fidel Castro's own defense. After being held incommunicado for 76 days, denied the use of books and legal papers and counsel, aided only by a privileged memory, he gave a devastating dissertation in which he reviewed the human and legal rights of men to rebel against tyrannical lords, from the struggles of Oliver Cromwell against Charles I, to the American and the French Revolutions. He quoted from the Rights of Man and the American Declaration of Independence, from the writings of Rousseau, Milton, Balzac, Locke, Saint Thomas Aquinas, José Martí... Turning against his captors he indicted them for abetting the inhumanity and corruption of the dictatorship. He reviewed Cuba's chronic social injustices and economic ills; 33% illiteracy, 30% unemployment, the majority of the people living in hovels, sustaining themselves on a diet of roots and rice, unable to give their children shoes, medical care, a hope, a skill, a future. This in the middle of one of Latin America's most prosperous 'democracies,' where customarily government officials took office as paupers and finished their term as millionaires.

In the presence of the 100 soldiers guarding him in that courtroom, Fidel Castro accused Batista of a reign of terror and illegality which left the people no other course to liberation than a civilian uprising. And instead of asking for an acquittal, he closed his defense by demanding to be sent to join his brother-rebels already serving jail terms in the Isle of Pines prison, ending with these prophetic words; "Sentence me, it does not matter. History will absolve me."

With the text of the speech circulating in Cuba and even abroad, with the Moncada atrocities coming to light day by day, public sentiment rose to appoint that Batista was forced to yield to the cries demanding amnesty for the young prisoners or risk further unrest, the last thing he wanted his American sponsors to know. Before setting them free, every attempt was made by the regime to corrupt the rebels with offers of government jobs and private enterprises. Not one of them accepted. Instead they drafted and signed a joint statement asserting their position. ("It seems that there will be an amnesty for us if we make a tacit agreement to respect the illegal regime in power by force in the Republic. The cynics who suggest such things believe that after twenty months in prison we have lost our integrity under the hardships that have been imposed upon... We can be deprived of our rights by force, but nobody will succeed in persuading us to return to freedom by offering us an unworthy accord, gifts, or jobs... We will not yield one atom of our honor in exchange for freedom... We hereby refuse to accept an amnesty at the price of dishonor. Our spirit is undaunted. We will bear our fate with courage and remain as a living indictment of the tyranny.") They won, on their terms. Shortly after the amnesty they went into self-imposed exile in Mexico, there to reorganize and begin training for another try.

Asalto al Cuartel Moncada

Acción cuyo objetivo era desencadenar la lucha armada contra la dictadura de Fulgencio Batista (1952-1958). A pesar de su derroche de valentía y dignidad, los asaltantes -inferiores en número y armas- no pudieron tomar la fortaleza. La orden del dictador fue eliminar a diez revolucionarios por cada soldado del régimen muerto en combate. La masacre se generalizó y fueron asesinados la mayoría de los asaltantes. Los sobrevivientes fueron detenidos tras feroz cacería, enjuiciados y condenados a prisión.

La acción

Un grupo de jóvenes, liderados por Fidel Castro, se colocaron a la vanguardia de la lucha por la verdadera independencia de Cuba. En el año del centenario del héroe nacional José Martí, el 26 de julio de 1953 ellos protagonizaron el asalto a los Cuarteles Moncada y Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, en Santiago de Cuba y Bayamo respectivamente.

En la madrugada de ese día, 135 combatientes, vestidos con uniformes del Ejército y dirigidos por Fidel, precisaban el plan de ataque. Se organizaron en tres grupos, el primero de los cuales, con Fidel al frente, atacaría la fortaleza. Los otros dos grupos, mandados respectivamente por Abel Santamaría —segundo jefe del movimiento— y Raúl Castro, tratarían de tomar dos importantes edificios contiguos al cuartel: el Hospital Civil, donde se atendería a los heridos, y el Palacio de Justicia, donde radicaba la Audiencia, desde cuya azotea apoyarían la acción principal.

Cuando todos estuvieron listos, se le dio lectura al «Manifiesto del Moncada», redactado por el joven poeta Raúl Gómez García bajo la orientación de Fidel. Gómez García leyó sus versos «Ya estamos en combate» y Fidel les dirigió esta brevísima exhortación:

"Compañeros: Podrán vencer dentro de unas horas o ser vencidos; pero de todas maneras, ¡ójiganlo bien, compañeros!, de todas maneras el movimiento triunfará. Si vencemos mañana, se hará más pronto lo que aspiró Martí. Si ocurriera lo contrario, el gesto servirá de ejemplo al pueblo de Cuba, a tomar la bandera y seguir adelante. El pueblo nos respaldará en Oriente y en toda la isla. ¡Jóvenes del Centenario del Apóstol! Como en el 68 y en el 95, aquí en Oriente damos el primer grito de ¡Libertado o muerte! Ya conocen ustedes los objetivos del plan.

Sin duda alguna es peligroso y todo el que salga conmigo de aquí esta noche debe hacerlo por su absoluta voluntad. Aún están a tiempo para decidirse. De todos modos, algunos tendrán que quedarse por falta de armas. Los que estén determinados a ir, den un paso al frente. La consigna es no matar sino por última necesidad. De los 135 revolucionarios, 131 dieron el paso al frente. Los cuatro arrepentidos recibieron la orden de regresar a sus puntos de origen, y poco después de las 4:00 de la madrugada, todos comenzaron a salir en los autos hacia Santiago.

Los grupos dirigidos por Abel y Raúl cumplieron su objetivo: la toma del Hospital Civil y la Audiencia. El grupo principal, dirigido por Fidel, llegó según lo previsto hasta una de las postas, la No. 3, la desarmó y traspuso la garita, pero una patrulla de recorrido que llegó inesperadamente, y un sargento que apareció de improviso por una calle lateral, provocaron un tiroteo prematuro que alertó a la tropa y permitió que se movilizara rápidamente el campamento. La sorpresa, factor decisivo del éxito, no se había logrado. La lucha se entabló fuera del cuartel y se prolongó en un combate de posiciones.

Los asaltantes se hallaban en total desventaja frente a un enemigo superior en armas y en hombres, atrincherado dentro de aquella fortaleza. Otro elemento adverso, también accidental, fue que los atacantes no pudieron contar con varios automóviles donde iban las mejores armas, pues sus ocupantes se extraviaron antes de llegar al Moncada en una ciudad que no conocían. Comprendiendo que continuar la lucha en esas condiciones era un suicidio colectivo, Fidel ordenó la retirada. Al mismo tiempo que esto ocurría en Santiago, 28 revolucionarios asaltaban al cuartel de Bayamo, operación que también fracasó.

Después del asalto

Fidel Castro detenido después de la acción del Moncada

Inmediatamente después de estos hechos, la dictadura reaccionó con una brutal represión. Batista decretó el

estado de sitio en Santiago de Cuba y la suspensión de las garantías constitucionales en todo el territorio nacional; clausuró el periódico «Noticias de Hoy», órgano del partido socialista popular, y aplicó la censura a la prensa y la radio de todo el país. Creaba así las condiciones para lanzar a los cuerpos represivos con violencia y sin riesgo de publicidad contra la rebeldía popular. En relación con los asaltantes del Moncada, ordenó que se asesinara a diez revolucionarios por cada soldado muerto en combate. Excepto unos pocos combatientes que pudieron escapar ayudados por el pueblo, casi todos los demás fueron capturados y gran parte de ellos asesinados en los días sucesivos. Sólo seis asaltantes de los dos cuarteles habían perecido en la lucha; pero las fuerzas represivas del régimen asesinaron a 55, y a dos personas ajenas a los acontecimientos.

Además, a diferencia del trato humano dado por los revolucionarios a los militares que cayeron en su poder, los asaltantes prisioneros fueron torturados antes de ser ultimados, y después se les presentó como caídos en combate. Más tarde, ante el tribunal que lo juzgaba, Fidel Castro denunciaría el crimen:

No se mató durante un minuto, una hora o un día entero, sino que en una semana completa, los golpes, las torturas, los lanzamientos de azotea y los disparos no cesaron un instante como instrumento de exterminio manejados por artesanos perfectos del crimen. El cuartel Moncada se convirtió en un taller de tortura y muerte, y unos hombres indignos convirtieron el uniforme militar en delantales de carniceros". Los crímenes cometidos en esos días por el régimen los denunció Fidel Castro en su alegato de autodefensa La historia me absolverá. Allí Fidel pasó de acusado a acusador y denunció todos los males que hacían sufrir al pueblo cubano.

Repercusión

Antiguo Cuartel Moncada, actual Ciudad Escolar 26 de Julio

El asalto al cuartel Moncada terminó en una derrota militar; sin embargo, tuvo una trascendencia extraordinaria para el pueblo cubano y para el movimiento de liberación nacional que se iniciaba. En 1961, el entonces comandante Raúl Castro Ruz y Ministro de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias (FAR), al referirse a la importancia histórica de este acontecimiento manifestó: ...En primer lugar inició un período de la lucha armada que no terminó hasta la derrota de la tiranía. En segundo lugar, creó una nueva dirección y una nueva organización que repudiaba el quietismo y el reformismo, que eran combatientes y decididos y que en el propio juicio levantaban un programa con más importantes desmanes de la transformación socioeconómica y política exigida por la situación de Cuba... Como expresó Fidel: El Moncada nos enseñó a convertir los reveses en victorias.

El Cuartel en la actualidad

Después del triunfo de la revolución el Moncada fue convertido en una ciudad escolar que tomó el nombre de "Ciudad Escolar 26 de julio" y un espacio de ella se dedicó a un museo sobre los hechos relacionados con el asalto.





UNITED AGAINST IMPERIALISM: Our mission is to educate ourselves, in order to educate others, so that we can take a just stand on issues related to Cuba.

In addition to organizing a variety of educational, cultural and political activities on Cuba, we also offer a website with extensive up-to-date news, information and online resources (such as videos and free online books) and we publish an online newsletter, which we e-mail to our distribution list. Toronto Forum on Cuba is also an active member organization of the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network (LACSN). Our goals for this year include focusing our efforts towards developing the following **very important** campaigns:

“**CUBA FOR THE WORLD**” – this Campaign attempts to reflect on Cuba’s unstoppable internationalist approach to the needs of humanity in the field of medicine, whereby Cuban medics save lives from Haiti to El Salvador to Guatemala to Bolivia to Africa to Asia and while, at the same time, Cuba is educating tens of thousands of youth from all continents, including the first one from Canada, to become doctors for humanity. PLEASE HELP US COLLECT MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BE SENT TO CUBA. You let us know and we will take care of the rest!

“**FREE THE CUBAN FIVE**” - this year, is the last year of the legal battles for the release of the Cuban Five from U.S. prisons. We will focus on increasing our efforts and channelling much of our energy to ending this injustice and we need your ideas and support more than ever, to make it a reality.

WE COUNT ON YOU to help us carry out these campaigns and we are ready to do whatever it takes in order to materialize them and thus pay our debt to the heroic example of the Cuban nation and her Five Heroes of Humanity.

Visit our website at <http://torontoforumoncuba.weebly.com>.

▪To receive our free electronic newsletter, please send an email entitled “**SUBSCRIBE**” to:

torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com.

▪If you are interested in joining Toronto Forum on Cuba or to volunteer your time, skills and/or resources, please contact us at torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com and tell us a little about yourself.



UNIDOS CONTRA EL IMPERIALISMO: NUESTRA MISIÓN ES EDUCARNOS A NOSOTROS MISMOS, CON EL FIN DE EDUCAR A LOS DEMÁS, PARA QUE PODAMOS ASUMIR UNA JUSTA POSICIÓN SOBRE TEMAS RELACIONADOS CON CUBA.

Además de organizar una variedad de actividades educativas, culturales y políticas sobre Cuba, también ofrecemos un sitio web con una amplia selección de noticias, información y recursos en línea (por ejemplo, videos y libros electrónicos gratuitos) y publicamos un boletín electrónico, que enviamos por correo al listado de nuestra lista de distribución. Toronto Forum on Cuba es también una organización miembro activo de la Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Solidaridad. Nuestros objetivos para este año incluyen a enfocar nuestros esfuerzos hacia el desarrollo de las siguientes **importantes** campañas:

“**CUBA PARA EL MUNDO**” – esta campaña intenta reflejar el verdadero imparable enfoque internacionalista que Cuba demuestra al cuidar las necesidades de la humanidad en el campo de la medicina, con los médicos cubanos que salvan vidas en Haití en El Salvador en Guatemala en Bolivia en África en Asia, mientras que al mismo tiempo, Cuba está educando a decenas de miles de jóvenes de todos los continentes, incluso al primer estudiante desde Canadá, a ser médicos para la humanidad. **POR FAVOR AYÚDENOS A RECOGER VARIOS MATERIALS MÉDICOS PARA ENVIAR A CUBA.** Uds. nos informan y nosotros lo coordinamos!

“**LIBERTAD PARA LOS CINCO**” - este año, es el último año de las batallas legales para la liberación de los Cinco de las prisiones de los Estados Unidos. Nuestro enfoque será de aumentar nuestros esfuerzos, dedicando la mayor parte de nuestra energía a poner fin a esta injusticia y, para realizarlo, necesitamos sus ideas y apoyo más que nunca.

CONTAMOS CON UDS. para ayudarnos a llevar a cabo estas campañas, y estamos dispuestos a hacer lo que sea necesario para lograrlo, así pagando hacia nuestra deuda con el ejemplo heroico de la nación cubana y sus Cinco Héroes de la Humanidad.

Visiten nuestro sitio web en <http://torontoforumoncuba.weebly.com>.

▪Para recibir nuestro boletín electrónico gratuito, por favor nos envíen un correo titulado “**SUSCRIBIR**” a:

torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com.

▪Si Ud. está interesado en unirse a Toronto Forum on Cuba, o para ofrecer su tiempo, habilidades y/o recursos, por favor contáctenos en torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com y nos cuenten un poco sobre Ud.



Black Action Defense Committee

The Black Action Defense Committee (BADC) is honoured to be participating in tonight's July 26th Celebrations commemorating Leonard Weinglass and Dudley Laws.

In 2008, a delegation of BADC founders, friends and supporters including our late Brother Dudley Laws, had the pleasure of visiting Cuba under the patronage of ICAP (Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples) in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. In Cuba we saw some of the best examples of what we struggle to achieve here in Toronto - an egalitarian society where all groups, no matter how marginalized due to race, class, or gender have adequate representation and full rights under the law; a society where social justice is paramount and one in which all citizens are given an equal opportunity to realize their full potential.

In 2008, The Black Action Defense Committee and the Toronto Forum on Cuba jointly organized a very successful Cuban Hurricane Relief event at the Jamaican Canadian Association under the patronage of the Consul General of Cuba. We are inspired by Cuban internationalism not only in the Caribbean region but also in our ancestral home of Mother Africa. We will never forget that when Africa called, Cuba was there to answer the call.

The Black Action Defense Committee will continue its work as an agent for social change and as a community service organization and in parallel will continue to provide unequivocal support for Cuban solidarity work.

We realize that this journey is not an easy one and fraught with many obstacles. We can relate to the unjust imprisonment of the five Cuban patriots in the U.S. because our community leader Brother Dudley Laws was also imprisoned on several occasions without a single conviction simply because of his ideals of equal rights and justice. We are proud to say that like the Cuban people, he did not waver in his principles and conviction.

We are inspired by the selfless examples Brother Dudley Laws, Leonard Weinglass, and the Five Cuban Patriots.

We know that in the final analysis, in the words of Fidel Castro, "History will absolve us."

EMAIL: info@badc.ca

WHO ARE WE?

The *Asociación de Cubanos Juan Gualberto Gómez* was founded in 2007 with the main objective of promoting and supporting the ties of friendship and cooperation among all Cubans residing in Toronto. It is the meeting place for those who wish to maintain the cultural traditions and the values that identify our Cubanía (Cubanness).

WHY IS IT CALLED JUAN GUALBERTO GÓMEZ?

Our Association pays homage to the distinguished Cuban, who played a very important role with José Martí in the preparation of the Independence War in 1895. He firmly opposed the Platt Amendment and was one of the most notable leaders the black race in Cuba ever had. He was also a great journalist, polemicist and speaker. He was in favour of the independence movement and nationalism.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To promote and spread the Cuban culture and identity in Toronto.

- To offer support through counselling (especially to new Cuban emigrants) in matters such as emigration and available resources in the communities.
- To support the solidarity movement with Cuba in Toronto.
- To promote cooperation and cultural exchanges between Toronto and Cuba.
- To integrate Cubans residing in Toronto into this association.
- To strengthen the ties with the Cuban Consulate in Toronto.

OUR ACTIVITIES

The Association has a plan of socio-cultural activities directed to fulfill its established objectives. This plan covers festivals, fairs, expositions and informative workshops, among other activities. It offers a space for the Cuban community to meet and feel at home.

WEBSITE: <http://asociacioncubanosjgg.blogspot.com/> * **EMAIL:** asociacion.jgg@gmail.com

¿QUIÉNES SOMOS?

La "Asociación de Cubanos Juan Gualberto Gómez" se fundó en el año 2007 con el objetivo fundamental de fomentar y fortalecer los lazos de amistad y cooperación entre los residentes cubanos en Toronto y de estos con su patria. Es un espacio de encuentro para todos los cubanos que deseen mantener las tradiciones culturales y los valores que identifican nuestra cubanía.

¿POR QUÉ SE LLAMA JUAN GUALBERTO GÓMEZ?

Nuestra Asociación rinde tributo al insigne cubano, que junto a José Martí, desempeñó un papel muy importante en la preparación de la Guerra de Independencia de 1895. También se opuso firmemente a la Enmienda Platt y es uno de los líderes más importantes que ha tenido Cuba. Fue un gran periodista, un gran polemista y orador, un gran independentista y nacionalista.

NUESTROS OBJETIVOS

Promover y difundir la cultura e identidad cubana en Toronto.

- Ofrecer apoyo, especialmente a los nuevos emigrantes cubanos, en cuanto a
- consejería en términos de emigración y recursos disponibles en la comunidad.
- Apoyar el movimiento de solidaridad con Cuba en Toronto.
- Fomentar la cooperación y los intercambios culturales entre Toronto y Cuba.
- Agrupar a los cubanos residentes en Toronto.
- Estrechar los vínculos con el Consulado Cubano en Toronto.

NUESTRAS ACTIVIDADES

La Asociación cuenta con un plan de actividades socio-culturales encaminado a cumplir con los objetivos establecidos. Este plan abarca festivales, ferias, exposiciones y talleres informativos, entre otras actividades, y propicia un espacio para que la comunidad cubana se reúna y se sienta en familia.

WEBSITE: <http://asociacioncubanosjgg.blogspot.com/> * **EMAIL:** asociacion.jgg@gmail.com

*This year's
July 26th Celebration
is dedicated to the memories of
Dudley Laws
and
Leonard Weinglass*

*Este año, la
Celebración del 26 de Julio
es deidicada a las memorias de
Dudley Laws
y
Leonard Weinglass*



*Dudley
Laws*

*Leonard
Weinglass*

*Two tireless fighters for social justice
and prisoners' rights, in solidarity with
the Cuban Five.*

*Dos luchadores incansables por la justicia
social y derechos de los presos, en
solidaridad con los Cinco.*

DUDLEY LAWS

Brother Dudley Laws – Laid to Rest

May 7, 1934 – March 24, 2011

A welder and mechanic by trade, Dudley Laws emigrated to the United Kingdom in 1955 and became involved in defending the West Indian community. In 1965, he relocated to Toronto, Canada, where he worked as a welder and taxi driver. He joined the Universal African Improvement Association, a Garveyite organization. In 1988, he founded the Black Action Defence Committee.

Dudley is best known for his unmitigated stand against police violence toward members of the Black community, poor Whites, First Nation, and oppressed people nationally and internationally.

Dudley passed away recently after battling cancer and kidney disease. We're proud to honour his legacy – 50 years of community activism – by profiling his life's perspective...as written by Dudley.

The journey that I have traveled over the past seventy-six years has brought me enormous knowledge and wisdom. The developing years of my childhood, with my parents, siblings, my extended family and community has instilled in me the precious value for honour and respect of human lives.

Living in Jamaica the first twenty years of my life has taught me respect for my elders, the beauty of nature, and the expectation of a better life and a more caring world. As I traveled to England in the late fifties and went through a transformation from a warm people and climate to a cold and racist country, I was compelled to fight discrimination and racism. My ten years of residing in England ended in 1965, the year I came to Canada.

These forty-four years of living in Toronto, Canada have caused me to be involved in many different struggles, including the criminal justice system, immigration, public housing, police community relationship, racial profiling, and many other issues of concern to the Afro-Canadian community, and to society in general.

One of the first lessons that I learned and that was very clear to me, was that a community must be organized if that community hopes to achieve and sustain progress, justice and respect. Because of this view, and the historic philosophic teachings of the Honourable Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and many others, I have joined and co-founded many organizations in England and in Canada. The need for community-based organizations, national, and international groups of cultural and political organization cannot be overstated.

Soon after my arrival in Canada, I became a member of the Jamaican-Canadian Association, of which I am still a member. Then I joined the Universal African Improvement Association (the Garvey movement), and became its President in 1972. Some of the organizations that I co-founded were: The Brixton Neighbourhood Association, and the Standing Conference of the West Indies (in England); the Black Youth Community Action Project (BYCAP), Black Inmates & Friends Assembly (BIFA), the Black Action Defence Committee, of which I am now its executive director (in Canada), and the various other committees that were formed in support of victims and their families due to the police's use of deadly force.

In continuation of my community involvement, I am always inspired by the teachings of the Honourable Marcus Garvey in his Philosophy and Opinions, he tells us, "Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people; action, self-reliance, the vision of self, and the future has been the only means by which the oppressed has seen and realized the hope of their own freedom."

At the present time in Toronto, and other parts of Canada, the African-Canadian community has extreme problems of internal acts of crime that has taken the lives of hundreds of young Black men since the early 1990's. There is the problem of unemployment and unskilled youth; there are problems of young African-Canadian youth who are dropping out or being pushed out of the educational system; there are also problems of and the condition of public housing. All these issues are of urgent concern to most of us in the African-Canadian community.

For many years, individuals and organizations have made enormous attempts in consulting with the three levels of government to address these problems in our community; these efforts have not been addressed, nor have they been achieved to a satisfactory degree.

The failure of government to ban the manufacturing, sales, and distribution of guns has caused the unlimited usages of these deadly weapons in the African-Canadian community and the destabilization of hundreds of families, the deaths of hundreds of Black youths, and the imprisonment of hundreds more.

For many years, the Black Action Defence Committee has been at the forefront of the struggle for the establishment of an Independent Civilian Oversight to investigate police misconduct. Although the government has called many commissions of inquiries, which have recommended the establishment of such a body, the government is reluctant to do so.

It is my opinion, and the opinion of others in and outside of our community, that if such a body is established, and citizens of Ontario and Canada have the means by which to make complaints on police abuse, this would greatly improve the relationship between the African-Canadian community and the police.

Over the past few years, the provincial government has spent over two billion dollars in the building of "super jails" in Maple Hurst and Penetanguishine, and the planning of a youth jail in Brampton. To my knowledge, the provincial government has not built a training centre where young adults could be trained with skills for gainful employment.

The establishment of the Afro-centric School is a very positive advancement in the lives of some of our children especially those who are unable to cope in the present school system. Some of our children need a more tender approach; a culturally sensitive place of acceptance and welcome that would develop the intelligence and genius in them.

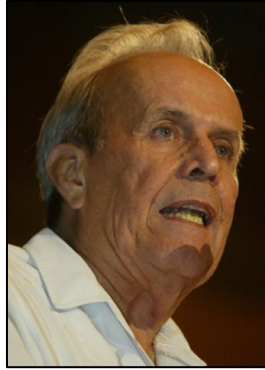
These seventy-seven years have given me unlimited knowledge of my community and its people. Many persons living and deceased have given years of their lives for the betterment of our children and community; the continuation of this process is now the task of the growing youth leadership in which I have tremendous confidence. My hope is that they will call upon the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of those of us who have traveled the path of leadership.

In my visitations to the jails and prisons, I saw the hundreds of young Black men in these institutions and reflected on the various problems in our community. I must say, that no child was born a criminal; it is the environment in which they grew that made them what they have become.

All of us must, therefore, accept our responsibilities and work to change the acts of violence, poverty, unemployment, and economic dependency. Those of us who have gained reorganization have achieved honour because of the sacrifices men and women that have preceded us made. We must now prepare our children to climb on our shoulders to the pinnacle of greatness that they must achieve.

LEONARD WEINGLASS

The **President of the Cuban Parliament, Ricardo Alarcón**, said: *“The history of the struggles of the American people can not be written without mentioning on every page, the name Leonard Weinglass,”* he wrote and added: *“now and always we shall owe him our homage and gratitude.”*



Alarcon said the struggle for the freedom of the Cuban Five must continue and pointed out that it will be harder without Lenny.

“We must all multiply our commitment until our brothers are free. We must do so without intermission or rest. It is the least we can promise this resolute, self sacrificial and lucid man, who will for ever be our beloved comrade Leonard Weinglass.”



Ramón: Farewell to one very special human being!

With great pain we received the sad news about the departure of our dear Leonard Weinglass. Those who had the honor of meeting him, will keep his example of dignity, intelligence and excellent human being, in our minds and hearts forever. Weinglass was not only our counsel in this fight for justice and freedom, he was a real brother and friend, and a great teacher in every aspect of life.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends all over the world. The best way to honor him is to follow his path, we will keep on fighting til the final victory!!! The heart of the Cuban Five, our families and the Cuban people is with this unforgettable brother!!!



“Five hugs”, *Ramón, Antonio, Gerardo, René, Fernando*

Para Weinglass de Ramón Labañino

Con gran dolor recibimos la triste noticia del fallecimiento de nuestro querido Leonard Weinglass. Aquellos que tuvieron el honor de reunirse con él, conservaremos para siempre en nuestras mentes y corazones su ejemplo de dignidad, inteligencia y de excelente ser humano. Weinglass no fue solamente nuestro abogado en esta lucha por la justicia y la libertad, fue un verdadero hermano y amigo, y un gran maestro en todos los aspectos de la vida.

Les hacemos llegar nuestras más profundas condolencias a su familia y amigos en todo el mundo. La mejor manera de honrarlo es seguir su senda, nos mantendremos luchando hasta la victoria final!!! El corazón de los Cinco, de nuestras familias y del pueblo de Cuba está con este hermano inolvidable.

“Cinco abrazos”, *Ramón, Antonio, Gerardo, René, Fernando*

Gerardo Hernández: In memory of Leonard Weinglass

Not that long ago Len came to visit me and we worked for several hours preparing for the next step of my appeal. I noticed at the time that he was tired. I was worried with his advanced age that he was driving alone after a long trip from New York. The weather was bad and the roads from the airport up to Victorville wind through the mountains surrounding the high desert. I mentioned my concern to him but he did not pay it any attention. That was the way he was, nothing stopped him.



When we would meet the same thing would always happen. At some point in our conversation, while listening to him talk, my mind would separate from his words and I would focus on the person. I would realize that here is this great man, the tremendous lawyer, the legendary fighter for justice, right here in front of me. I told him that I had seen images of him in documentaries on TV dedicating himself to important legal cases that he had participated in from a very young age. With pride I would tell people watching, "that is the lawyer of the Five". It did not matter how much I read or heard about Len I knew through his humility and modesty that there was a lot I still had to discover about this man who had dedicated his life to his profession.

Len always insisted that our case, like the others that he had dedicated lots of his time to, was essentially a political one. He cautioned us from the start that this struggle would be long and difficult. His experience with the "system" had taught him that. For our part, beyond the professional relationship we had, we always thought of him as one *compañero* in the battle for justice.

Len leaves us at an important moment, but he leaves us prepared to carry on the path. On more than one occasion he expressed his admiration and respect for the other lawyers on our legal team, and I think that he has left confident that our case is in good hands.

Like other people, who during these years have accompanied us in our struggle to make justice prevail, he will not be with us to see the inevitable triumph. We are confident that day will arrive and to Len, and to all the others, we will pay them a well deserved tribute in our homeland.

On behalf of the Cuban Five, and our families, and from the millions of Cubans, and brothers and sisters from all over the world who trusted and admired him, we send our most sincere condolences to Len's family and friends.

Leonard Weinglass, Presente!

*Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo
USP Victorville, California
March 23, 2011*

Carta de Gerardo Hernández Nordelo

No hace mucho tiempo vino a visitarme. Trabajamos por varias horas preparando los próximos pasos de la apelación. Lo noté algo cansado. Me preocupó que con su avanzada edad estuviera manejando solo, tras un largo viaje desde Nueva York y con el mal tiempo de aquellos días, por las peligrosas carreteras de las montañas que encierran a Victorville. Le hice la observación, pero le restó importancia. Así era él, nada lo detenía.

Siempre que nos encontrábamos me ocurría lo mismo: en algún momento de la conversación, escuchándolo, mi mente se apartaba de sus palabras para enfocarse en la persona, en el gran hombre, en el tremendo abogado, en la leyenda que tenía enfrente. Alguna vez le comenté que había visto imágenes suyas en documentales de la televisión dedicados a importantes casos legales en los que participó desde muy joven, y que con orgullo les había dicho a algunos aquí: "ese es el abogado de Los Cinco". Pero no importa cuánto haya leído o escuchado, sé que, por su humildad y su modestia, me queda mucho por descubrir sobre esa vida consagrada a lo más noble de su profesión.

Él siempre insistió en que nuestro caso, como otros a los que se entregó, es esencialmente político, y nos alertó de que la lucha sería larga y ardua. Sus experiencias con "el sistema" así se lo indicaban. Por nuestra parte, más allá de la relación profesional, lo vimos siempre como a un compañero en la batalla por la justicia.

Se va en un momento muy importante, pero nos deja trazado el camino. En más de una oportunidad me expresó su admiración y respeto por otros abogados de nuestro equipo legal, y pienso que se marchó confiado en que el trabajo quedaría en buenas manos.

Como otras personas que durante años nos acompañaron en la lucha para hacer prevalecer la verdad y la razón, no podrá ver el día en el que triunfe la justicia. Pero ese día llegará, y a él, como a los demás, habremos de rendirle merecido tributo en nuestra patria.

En nombre de Los Cinco, de nuestros familiares, y en el de millones de cubanos y hermanos del mundo que confiaron en él y lo admiraron, lleguen las más sentidas condolencias a sus familiares y amigos.

Leonard Weinglass, ¡Presente!

*Gerardo Hernández Nordelo
Prisión Federal de Victorville. California.
23 de marzo, 2011*



Antonio: An Irreparable Loss

Dear friends:

Last night our attorney and beloved friend Leonard Weinglass died. The notice reached me this morning through various messages of friends and families.

This is one of those occasions where there are no words to express the profound sorrow that one feels for the loss of such a beloved comrade in the struggle. Nothing could prepare us for this moment. Just as Len

himself showed me many times, my thoughts were always of hope, a hope that he would overcome such a sudden illness.

Today I am remembering many shared moments with him.

One of those, that day of my re-sentencing in the Miami court, where Weinglass hoped that it would just be a matter of a process and that I would receive the least sentence possible, for which he had worked without rest. We all know what finally happened. But there was a very critical moment when the judge scolded the prosecutor about the things that she had argued eight years before, to urge a life sentence that was imposed on me in 2001. I was at Len's side and I could see his disturbed reaction and surprise, and he looked at me and said, "What's is this?" And I told him: "Don't worry, tell her all

you want to say, I confide completely in you.” And Len found the precise words, because his heart harbored only the strength of justice and the purity of truth.

We are in the midst of what is considered our last legal recourse, the habeas corpus. With an iron will during those difficult days Len wrote in his bed a memorandum that strengthens our irrefutable arguments. It is difficult to think that now he will now no longer be physically with us, but Len will always be accompanying us. His work and example will serve every step of the way as a guide and stimulus for all the lawyers who will continue defending us honorably and for all the friends who make up the unstoppable solidarity that will bring us home.

Thinking of Weinglass makes me think of Marti:

“Death is not real when one’s life’s work is done well.”

“Even in death, certain men radiate the light of an aurora.”

Five embraces.

!Venceremos!

Tony

FCI Florence

March 24, 2011

Antonio: Una Irreparable Perdida

Queridos amigos:

Ayer en la noche falleció nuestro abogado y querido Weinglass. La noticia me llegó esta mañana amigo Leonard a través de varios mensajes de amigos y mis familiares.

Es una de esas ocasiones en que no hay palabras para expresar el profundo dolor que se siente por la pérdida de un ser tan entrañable, compañero de lucha.

Nada podía hacer que nos preparáramos para este momento. Tal como el propio Len me enseñó muchas veces, siempre mi pensamiento fue de una esperanza, una esperanza en que vencería tan repentina enfermedad.

Hoy he evocado muchos momentos compartidos con él.

Uno de ellos, aquel día de mi resentencia en la Corte de Miami, donde Weinglass esperaba que todo fuera una cuestión de trámite y que yo lograra la menor sentencia posible, por la cual había trabajado sin descanso. Todos conocemos al final que sucedió. Pero hubo un momento muy crítico, cuando la Jueza increpó a la fiscal sobre las cosas que ella había argumentado para pedirme 8 años antes la sentencia de vida que se me impuso en el 2001. Yo que estaba al lado de Len pude ver su reacción de molestia y asombro, y me miro exclamandome: Que es esto? Y yo le dije: No se preocupe, dígame todo lo que quiera, yo confío plenamente en Usted. Y Len encontró las palabras precisas, porque en su corazón solo se albergaba la fuerza de la justicia y la pureza de la verdad.

Estamos en medio de lo que se considera es nuestro último recurso legal, el habeas corpus. Con una voluntad de acero Len escribí en estos duros días en cama un memorándum que fortalece nuestros irrefutables argumentos. Es difícil pensar que ya no estará físicamente entre nosotros, pero Len nos estará acompañando por siempre. Su trabajo y su ejemplo servirán en todo momento de guía y estímulo para todos los abogados que nos seguirán defendiendo dignamente y para todos los amigos que conforman la indetenible solidaridad que nos llevara de regreso a casa.

Pensar en Weinglass me conduce a Martí.

"La muerte no es verdad cuando se ha cumplido bien la obra de la vida..."

"Hasta muertos, dan ciertos hombres luz de aurora".

Cinco abrazos.
¡Venceremos!

*Tony
FCI Florence
24 de marzo de 2011*



Fernando: The victory will be the best homage that we can pay to Weinglass

We will remember him with gratitude and will fight until victory, which will be also the best homage that we can pay to Leonard I. Weinglass.

A great friend of the Cuban Five and one of their best defenders has left us. He contributed with his intelligence, his wisdom and his sensibility, his energies and professionalism to the cause of our freedom.

He combined his broad experience as jurist with his political comprehension of the context of our case. His long experience with persons accused for political reasons was a significant contribution to the work of the legal team that defends us.



*Fernando González Llorca
March 27, 2011*

Fernando: La victoria será el mejor homenaje a Weinglass

Un gran amigo de los Cinco y uno de sus mejores defensores nos ha dejado. Aportó su inteligencia, su sabiduría y su sensibilidad, sus energías y su profesionalismo a la causa de nuestra liberación.

A su amplia experiencia como jurista unía su comprensión política del contexto de nuestro caso. Su larga experiencia vinculado a personas acusadas por razones políticas fue un aporte significativo al trabajo del equipo de abogados que nos defiende.

Lo recordaremos con gratitud y lucharemos hasta la victoria que será también el mejor homenaje a Leonard I. Weinglass que podamos hacer.

*Fernando González Llorca
27 de Marzo, 2011*

René: With profound admiration



Friends and loved ones of Leonard Weinglass:

The contingency of a “lock down” – part of this *via crucis* to which he dedicated his being in body and soul till the end – prevented me from learning in due time of the irreplaceable loss of our indispensable Lenny.

In a society where selfishness is a virtue, Leonard Weinglass bred the extraordinary merit of consecrating his life to giving much of himself expecting little in exchange, and guided solely by a privileged vocation towards justice he dedicated his life to cultivating the truth as the only means by which to achieve it within the barren terrain that was his

battle field: the decadent North American judicial system. He did so with passion, wholeheartedly, altruistically, with intelligence, honesty and exemplary braveness.

For the Five, we who have had the privilege of being the focal point of his final efforts, being in contact with this man as large as he was humble was as simple as opening the door to an older brother, that by the right of nature has become one of us.

One day it will be as natural for any North American to knock on Cuba’s door. When this occurs the bravery of those who did so before when courage, altruism, higher principles, intellectual clarity and humanistic vision will be remembered.

At the pinnacle, our brother, Leonard Weinglass will be among them.

With profound admiration,

René González Sehwerert.
March 28, 2011

Rene González: Con profunda admiración

Amigos y afectos de Leonard Weinglass:

La eventualidad de un “lock down” -parte de este *via crucis* al que a poner fin dedicó sus últimas energías- me impidió conocer en su momento de la irreparable pérdida de nuestro imprescindible Lenny.

En una sociedad en que el egoísmo es virtud, Leonard Weinglass cultivó el extraordinario mérito de consagrarse a dar de sí mucho a cambio de muy poco, y guiado sólo por una privilegiada vocación de justicia dedicó su vida a cultivar la verdad como única medida de conseguirla en el estéril terreno que le tocó: el decadente sistema de justicia norteamericano. Lo hizo con pasión, entrega, altura, honestidad, inteligencia y valentía ejemplares.

Para los Cinco, que tuvimos el privilegio de ser el foco de sus últimos esfuerzos, entrar en contacto con este hombre tan grande como humilde fue tan simple como abrir la puerta a un hermano mayor, que por derecho natural se convirtió en uno más de nosotros.

Algún día será así de natural, para cualquier norteamericano, tocar a las puertas de Cuba. Cuando eso suceda se recordará el valor de los que lo hicieron cuando se requería de coraje, altruismo, elevados principios, claridad intelectual y

visión humanista.

Entre ellos, en destacado lugar, figurará nuestro hermano Leonard Weinglass.

Con profunda admiración.

René González Schwerert.

28 de marzo de 2011.



**These are the faces that
represent Cuban Heroism**

**Estos son los rostros que
representan el heroísmo
Cubano**



SEPTEMBER 12TH 2011

*This date will mark 13 years of the unjust imprisonment
of the CUBAN 5*

*We ask for everybody's help in informing the general public about
their case because, while the defense team files the last possible
legal recourse remaining, we have to stay on the alert and ready to
mobilize.*

*Esta fecha marcará 13 años de injusto encarcelamiento de
los Cinco*

Pedimos la ayuda de todos para informar al público acerca de su caso porque,
mientras que los últimos recursos legales que quedan son aplicados, tenemos
que mantenernos en alerta y listos para movilizarnos.



Special Thanks - Muchas Gracias

*To all the performers who donated their time and talents, to all those who
volunteered and to all of you for celebrating with us.*

*A todos los artistas y voluntarios que donaron su talento y su tiempo y a todos
Uds. por celebrar con nosotros.*



TORONTO FORUM ON CUBA



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