



Toronto Meeting Highlights Case of the Cuban Five on International Human Rights Day

On the evening of December 10, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the Toronto Forum on Cuba held a successful meeting at the Beit Zatoun Cultural Centre, highlighting the case of the Cuban Five. Via video, Fernando Gonzalez, one of two of the five Cuban heroes who have been released, greeted the gathering and commented on aspects of the case and plans to further develop the effort to free the three heroes still in U.S. jails.



The veteran Puerto Rican independence leader, Rafael Cancel Miranda also greeted the meeting by video. He briefly reviewed the history of U.S. violation of the human and national rights of the Puerto Rican people.

Fourteen-year-old Husain Modjtchedi recited two militant poems expressing the struggle of the Palestinian and other peoples of the Middle East against imperialism and Zionism. Skigh Johnson presented a dance work on the theme of the struggle for human rights.



Zafar Bangash, human rights and peace activist, director of the Institute for Contemporary Islamic Thought was one of the speakers. He pointed out how the U.S. government and also its allies have been utterly exposed for the criminals they are by, among other things, the recent revelations on their use of torture. He called

upon the audience to continue standing up for truth and justice and carry on the struggle to transform the situation.

Cuban Consul Susana Malmierca reviewed the tremendous contribution of the Cuban Revolution to the human rights of the Cuban people and also to people around the world, most recently in relation to the struggle against Ebola in West Africa. She evoked the case of the Cuban Five who were jailed by the U.S. for defending Cuba against terrorism. "A jury of millions," she stated, is what is needed to gain the freedom of all the five heroes.

Prof. Keith Ellis, a prominent academic, who was recently awarded Cuba's Medal of Friendship, addressed the meeting about the struggle to free all of the Cuban Five. He drew attention to the recent book, "Retrato de Una Ausencia," that recounts the struggle of the Cuban Five and was written in close collaboration with these heroes and their families. Prof. Ellis is the translator for the English language edition that will shortly be published and contribute to the struggle for justice in this case.

The accomplished Cuban singer/musician, Ismael de la Torre, accompanied by Ernesto Espinoza, presented several songs to conclude the evening.



Prof. Keith Ellis; Cuban Consul Susana Malmierca; Zafar Bangash

