

**ON DECEMBER 10, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
LET'S RAISE OUR VOICES FOR THE CUBAN FIVE HEROES**

[SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE \(click HERE\)](#)

and

[CONTACT THE WHITE HOUSE DEMANDING THEIR FREEDOM \(click HERE\)](#)

We would like to, once again, bring to your attention the injustice inflicted upon five young Cuban men -Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labañino, Gerardo Hernández, René González and Fernando González- incarcerated in U.S. prisons since Sept. 12th, 1998. Their "crime": monitoring and infiltrating U.S.-based terrorist organizations that have caused the deaths of 3,478 people and permanent injuries to thousands more on the island of Cuba, where some one million people from across Canada go annually to enjoy a safe and secure holiday.

One of the self-confessed and convicted terrorists is Luis Posada Carriles who masterminded the blowing up of a Cubana airliner in 1976 which killed all 73 people aboard. He also paid mercenaries and masterminded the bombing of hotels and restaurants in Havana in the summer of 1997 which resulted in the death of Fabio Di Celmo, a permanent resident of Montreal , while he walks freely in the streets of Miami , Florida . In an outrageous gesture, the University of Miami recently honoured Orlando Bosch -Posada's cohort- for his "services to the community" which brought about the indignation of imminent intellectuals and academia (please see the attachments).

For the past 12 years, the five Cuban heroes (in fact "heroes of humanity", in the words of Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. Attorney General) have found themselves unjustly imprisoned. The Cuban nation has been writing glorious pages in the history of humanity by dispatching thousands upon thousands of her sons and daughters to faraway lands, in order to provide health care and education to those in need and, in particular, to earthquake-, hurricane- and now cholera-ravaged Haiti. In addition, the first young student from Toronto is studying medicine in Cuba free of charge and Cuban educators are assisting their native brothers and sisters in learning how to read and write in their native languages!

And for the past 12 years, tens of thousands of ordinary people from around the world; parliamentarians from all continents including 56 from Canada; trade unionists from Africa to Asia to North America including the Canadian Labour Congress; to artists/actors; 10 Nobel Prize winners and... have joined the fight for justice and human rights of the Cuban Five.

So, it is incumbent upon all of us who favour a culture of peace and justice, to raise our voices against the injustice imposed on the Cuban Five and on the Cuban nation, thus allowing them to mobilize their human resources for saving lives when humanity calls, rather than having to focus on defending themselves against U.S.-based terrorism.

THIS IS WHY WE RAISE OUR VOICES TO DEMAND:

- The immediate freedom for the Cuban Five, two of whom have not been granted visitation rights with their wives for twelve years.
- The immediate extradition of Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela, where he hatched the plot to bomb the Cubana airliner and many other terrorist acts, so that he can face justice there and/or his immediate arrest and trial in the United States for his terrorist crimes.

Now ... we have a choice: IF WE DO NOT DEMAND FREEDOM FOR THE CUBAN FIVE AND THE EXTRADITION OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES TO VENEZUELA TO FACE JUSTICE, WE ARE IN FACT CHOOSING TO SUPPORT INJUSTICE AND THE HARBORING OF TERRORISTS.

WE MUST ACT NOW!

For more information please check:

www.freethefive.org or www.antiterroristas.cu

Sincerely yours,

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Toronto Forum on Cuba is a member of the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War and of the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network

Attachments:

[December 10, International Day of Human Rights: "5 DAYS FOR THE 5"](#)

[Amnesty International Seeks Review of Case of the "Cuban Five"](#)

[Read the Amnesty Report](#)

[U.S. Intellectuals and Academia speak out](#)

[Artists and Actors for the Cuban Five](#)



**days
for the**

**December 10, International
Day of Human Rights**



LETS RAISE OUR VOICES FOR THE HEROES

5 DAYS FOR THE 5

**On December 10, International Day of Human Rights, let's raise our voices
for the heroes**

Delegates from Latin America and Europe who were present at the VI International Colloquium for the Freedom of the 5 Heroes and Against Terrorism, in Holguin, proposed to put in place an immediate plan of action for December 10, International Day of Human Rights.

On that day, from 9AM to 5PM (Eastern Time), and for 5 consecutive days LETS CALL, OR SEND FAXES, OR SEND E-MAILS, OR TELEGRAMS to the WHITE HOUSE to demand President Obama Free the 5 Cuban Patriots imprisoned in the United States for defending their homeland.

The significance of this day is that on December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and established that day as the International Day on Human Rights.

In a report issued on October 13, 2010, Amnesty International asked the US government to review the case of the Cuban 5 and to mitigate any injustice through the process of clemency or any other appropriate means, in case that new legal appeals do not provide a timely remedy.

President Obama has more than enough proof of the innocence of the Cuban 5, he knows that they never were a threat to US National Security, that they carried no guns and that their only objective was to monitor terrorist organizations based in Miami to avoid the death of more innocent people.

On the International Day of Human Rights, and making use of the rights conferred by the US Constitution, we are asking President Obama as a lawyer, as a father, as a son, as a husband, as a decent justice loving person, and as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, to END THIS COLOSSAL INJUSTICE AND TO FREE THE 5 NOW!!!

DIFFERENT WAYS TO REACH THE WHITE HOUSE

By phone: 202-456-1111

If calling from outside the United States, dial first the International Area Code + 1 (US country code) followed by 202-456-1111

By Fax: 202-456-2461

If fax is sent from outside the United States, dial first the International Area Code + 1 (US country code) followed by 202-456-2461

To send an electronic message write to:
[HTTP://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/CONTACT](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

To send a telegram

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

THIS COLLECTIVE ACTION WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF PEOPLE FROM THE U.S., AND ALL OVER THE WORLD, CALL, OR SEND FAX, E-MAILS OR TELEGRAMS, FROM DECEMBER 10 TO DECEMBER 14. IF YOU CANNOT REACH ANYBODY BY PHONE, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE.

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!!!

International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5

[Amnesty International Press Release](#)

Oct. 13, 2010
Reprinted from Amnesty International

(Washington, D.C.) In a report released today, Amnesty International outlines its concerns with the fairness of the trial of five men convicted in 2001 of acting as

intelligence agents for Cuba, among other charges. The five men are serving terms ranging from 15 years to life in US federal prisons.

In a letter sent to United States Attorney General Eric Holder on October 4, Amnesty International noted doubts about the fairness and impartiality of the trial which have not been resolved on appeal. The human rights organization has not taken a position on whether the five men are guilty or innocent of the charges against them.

The five -- Cuban nationals Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino, and US nationals Antonio Guerrero and René González -- were tried in Miami and convicted on various counts, including acting and conspiring to act as unregistered agents of the Republic of Cuba, fraud and misuse of identity documents and, in the case of three of the accused, conspiracy to transmit national defence information. Gerardo Hernández was further convicted of conspiracy to murder, based on his alleged role in the 1996 shoot-down by Cuba of two planes operated by a US anti-Castro organization, Brothers to the Rescue, in which four people died.

Amnesty International's report said holding the trial in Miami, given the pervasive hostility to the Cuban government in that area, along with media and other events before and during the trial were factors that made it impossible to ensure a wholly impartial jury.

Other concerns included questions about the strength of the evidence to support the conspiracy to murder conviction in the case of Gerardo Hernández, and whether the circumstances of the pre-trial detention of the five men, in which they had limited access to their attorneys and to documents, may have undermined their right to defence.

Amnesty International has called on the government to review the case and mitigate any injustice through the clemency process or other appropriate means, should further legal appeals prove ineffective.

Amnesty International has also reiterated its concern about the repeated denials by the US government of temporary visas to allow the Cuban wives of two of the prisoners, René González and Gerardo Hernández, to visit their husbands. The organization is concerned that such a blanket or permanent bar on visits with their wives constitutes additional punishment and is contrary to international standards for the humane treatment of prisoners and states' obligation to protect family life. Amnesty International continues to urge the government to grant the wives temporary visas on humanitarian grounds.

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning grassroots activist organization with more than 2.8 million supporters, activists and volunteers in more than 150 countries campaigning for human rights worldwide. The organization

investigates and exposes abuses, educates and mobilizes the public, and works to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

[Read the Amnesty report](#)

[U.S. Intellectuals and Academia speak out](#)

[Terrorist honored at the University of Miami, academics express outrage to Shalala](#)

Oct. 27, 2010

Reprinted from Progreso Weekly

Honorable Donna E. Shalala, President
University of Miami

Dear President Shalala,

We, U.S. academics and University of Miami alumni, are writing to you to convey our outrage at an event held on October 12th of 2010 at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (ICAAS) of the University of Miami. This event included an homage to convicted terrorist Orlando Bosch.

Orlando Bosch

Orlando Bosch has been arrested, tried and convicted for innumerable terrorist acts in Venezuela, the United States and other countries. In 1968, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for firing a bazooka against a Polish ship anchored in Miami. He served 10 years in jail in Venezuela for bombing a Cuban airplane and killing 73 people on board on October 6 of 1976. U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh referred to him as an "unrepentant terrorist", while Acting Associate Attorney General Joe D. Whitley considered him a "threat to National Security", both under George H. W. Bush administration (Exclusion Proceeding for Orlando Bosch Avila; see attached documentation).

CIA and FBI recently declassified documents (accessible online) offer solid proof for the Attorneys' points. For example, a 1979 document reported Bosch's view on the plane bombing when he said: "At times you cannot avoid hurting innocent people" [Appendix to Hearings]. An October 14, 1976 FBI cable reports Luis Posada Carriles (Bosch's partner in crime) saying that "Orlando knew all the details" of the soon-to-be hit plane (Intelligence Information Cable).

We urge you to launch an inquiry into the homage paid to this man, to which the University of Miami lent its name and its banner, thereby becoming a sponsor. The University of Miami, as an institution of higher learning, has an educational mission and a social responsibility. Certainly, promoting a terrorist as a community role model goes against everything that academia stands for.

Note: The signatories of this letter are from academia and do not necessarily share similar opinions on the political system in Cuba, the United States policy of embargo or other U.S.-Cuba related issues. However, they all agree on the fact that terrorism should be condemned, regardless the ideologies or politics that motivate it.

María Isabel Alfonso, PhD. Assistant Professor of Spanish. St. Joseph's College, New York. (University of Miami Alumnus).

Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor, Retired. MIT.

Luis Duno-Gottberg, PhD. Associate Professor of Caribbean and Film Studies, Duncan College Master, Texas.

John Walton Cotman, PhD. Associate Professor of Political Science. Howard University, Washington.

David Carlson, PhD. Assistant Professor of Latin American History. The University of Texas-Pan American, Texas.

Rick Miller, PhD. Associate Professor of Art. St. Joseph's College, New York

Lisa Glidden, PhD. Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, Latin American Studies. SUNY College at Oswego, New York

Iraida H. Lopez, Ph.D. Professor of Spanish. Ramapo College of New Jersey, New Jersey

Arturo Lopez-Levy, Lecturer. PhD Candidate. Josef Korbel School of International Studies. University of Denver, Colorado.

Kenneth E. Bauzon, Ph.D. Professor of Political Science. St. Joseph's College, New York

Emilio Bejel, Distinguished Professor of Latin American Studies. University of California at Davis, California

Miren Uriarte, PhD. Professor of Human Services. University of Massachusetts Boston

David L. Strug, PhD. Professor of Social Work. Yeshiva University, New York

Dionisio Márquez Arreaza, Professor. Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela (University of Miami Alumnus)

Judith A. Weiss. Research Professor and Professor Emerita. Mount Allison University, Canada

Liliam Dominguez, PhD Candidate. Barry University, Florida. (University of Miami Alumnus).

Mirella Landriscina, PhD. Professor of Sociology. St. Joseph's College, New York

Douglas Friedman, PhD. Associate Professor of Political Science. College of Charleston, South Carolina

Samuel Farber. Samuel Farber. Professor Emeritus, Political Science. Brooklyn College of CUNY, New York

Dick Cluster, Associate Director. University Honors Program. University of Massachusetts at Boston

Fernando Coronil. Presidential Professor. Graduate Center. CUNY, NY.

Zoya Kocur, PhD Candidate. Middlesex University. London. NYU, New York, NY.

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Eduardo González, PhD. Professor. Director of the Spanish and Latin American Subdivision. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Trevor H Whitbread. M.A. Spanish Candidate. University of Oregon

Francisco A. Scarano, Ph.D. Professor of History. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin

Antonio Lauria-Perricelli, PhD. Adjunct Professor. Gallatin School, New York University, New York

Enrique Sacerio-Gari, PhD. Dorothy Nepper Marshall Professor of Hispanic and Hispanic-American Studies. Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania

Antonia Darder, PhD. Distinguished Professor of Education. University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Illinois.

Edwin Murillo, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Spanish. Penn State University-Berks, Pennsylvania (University of Miami Alumnus)

Beatriz Calvo Peña. PhD. Researcher. University Carlos III, Madrid. (University of Miami Alumni)

Julie Skurski, Ph.D. Distinguished Lecturer of Anthropology. CUNY Graduate Center. New York

Leslie S. Offutt, PhD. Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History. Vassar College, New York.

David J. Vázquez, PhD. Assistant Professor of English. University of Oregon, Oregon

Ricardo Pérez, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Anthropology. Eastern Connecticut State University, Connecticut

Documents in the order they were cited:

Exclusion of Proceeding for Orlando Bosch Avila. U.S. Department of Justice. Office of the Associate Attorney General Joe D. Whitley, 1989. FILE: A28 851 622. A11 861 810.

Appendix to Hearings Before the Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives, Ninety-fifth Congress. Second Session, Volume X: Anti-Castro activities and organizations. March 1979: (89-93)

Intelligence Information Cable. FBI. October 14th, 1976. National Security Archives. Cuba Project.

Photographs and videos of the event.

CIA and FBI Declassified Documents on Cuba: National Security Archive. Cuba Project

September 13, 2010

Danny Glover, Edward Asner, Susan Sarandon, Oliver Stone, Martin Sheen, Pete Seeger, Ry Cooder, Bonnie Raitt, Chrissie Hynde, Haskell Wexler, Graham Nash, Jackson Browne, and Others Send Letter to President Obama Requesting the Release of the Cuban 5 Political Prisoners Held in U.S. Prisons.

(LOS ANGELES – September 11, 2010) Actor and activist, Danny Glover and Edward Asner, co-chairs of “Actors and Artists United for the Freedom of the Cuban 5” made a call to their colleagues in the United States inviting them to add their name to a letter to President Obama encouraging him to issue an Executive Clemency order on behalf of the Cuban 5.

In the letter, the actors and artists stated: “We are dismayed that the Cuban 5, who have committed no crime against the United States nor posed any threat to this country's national security, have now been imprisoned for 12 years. The Five monitored the activities of violent groups of Cuban exiles in Miami, activities that had already resulted in the deaths of thousands of Cuban nationals. They sought simply to protect their country from further acts of terrorism.”

Other actors and artists who have added their names to the letter to President Obama include: James Cromwell, Mike Farrell, Bruria Finkel, Richard Foos, Elliott Gould, Greg Landau, Francisco Letelier, Esai Morales, Betty and Stanley K. Sheinbaum, and Andy Spahn.

Just recently, on August 8th, Glover, visited Gerardo Hernandez one of the Cuban 5 at United States Penitentiary Victorville. Gerardo had just been released from 13 days in “the hole” without being given any reason. Glover came out of that visit with a strong commitment to get other actors and artists to join the efforts to free the 5.

"President Obama should pardon Gerardo Hernandez and the other members of the Cuban 5. They were front line soldiers in the fight against terrorism. But instead of using the information they gathered to arrest people carrying out bombings of civilians, the FBI arrested these five men. The bombers such as Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch on the other hand, walk the streets of Miami and hold fund raising dinners there." Danny Glover, Co-Chair.

Ed Asner recently speaking in Los Angeles at the opening of an art exhibit of Antonio Guerrero, another member of the Cuban 5, said: “Railroading of people of color is an American industry. The Cuban Five are no exception.” Edward Asner, Co-Chair

The letter from US actors and artists will be sent to President Obama on September 12th, the twelve anniversary of the arrest of the Cuban 5 in 1998.

List of Actors and Artists who signed on to the letter to President Obama:

Edward Asner, legendary actor in long running TV series The Mary Tyler Moore Show, the star of Hugh Grant and voice of a curmudgeonly widower in the Academy Award winning animation film Up.

Jackson Browne, progressive singer songwriter and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame whose most recent recording includes a song against the US blockade of Cuba.

Ry Cooder, multi-Grammy Award winning guitarist and composer whose music raises social issues. His production of Buena Vista Social Club propelled a group of Cuban musicians to international fame in resurrecting their musical roots.

James Cromwell, film and TV actor, known for his role in the film Babe, LA Confidential and the HBO series Six Feet Under.

*Mike Farrell, Progressive activist and actor who is best known for his role in the long running television series M*A*S*H.*

Bruria Finkel, well known California artist, curator and community activist.

Richard Foos, founder of Rhino Records and supporter of social causes.

Danny Glover, beloved American actor and director best known for his riveting performance in The Color Purple and the Lethal Weapon series; strong supporter of humanitarian and progressive causes.

*Elliott Gould, well known American actor who has starred in dozens of films including M*A*S*H and Ocean's Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen.*

Chrissie Hynde, member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is best known for her music with the group The Pretenders.

Greg Landau, music, video producer and three time Grammy Award nominee.

Francisco Letelier, internationally known muralist, poet and installation artist whose father Orlando was assassinated in Washington, D.C. in 1976.

Esai Morales, is a popular movie and TV actor known best for his role in the biopic film La Bamba.

Graham Nash, British born singer song writer and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; his distinguished vocals are best known for his work with the multi-Grammy Award winning rock folk band Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Bonnie Raitt, multi-Grammy Award winner, member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, revered singer songwriter is an institution in American music along with a life of commitment to social change.

Susan Sarandon, best known for her landmark acting performances in the iconic film Thelma and Louise and Academy Award winning role as a nun in Dead Man Walking.

Pete Seeger, tireless American folk music legend and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is known for his decades of protest music in support of nuclear disarmament, environmental causes and civil rights.

Martin Sheen, well known social justice activist and actor who starred in Apocalypse Now and the TV drama The West Wing.

Betty Sheinbaum, well known sculptor, painter and philanthropist whose work spans four decades.

Stanley K. Sheinbaum, long time supporter of the arts and progressive causes.

Andy Spahn, served as the Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications for Dream Works SKG from 1994 to 2006, and he is now the President of Andy Spahn & Associate, Inc., an entertainment industry based consulting firm in Los Angeles

Oliver Stone, legendary and prolific filmmaker, Academy Award winning director of Platoon and Born on the Fourth of July and recent work includes South of the Border and Wall Street 2.

Haskell Wexler, one of the most influential cinematographers in movie history, recipient of two Oscars for Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and Bound for Glory. His prolific career includes producing over 40 documentary films dealing with the issues of peace, justice and human rights.

[READ LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA](#)

For more information on the Cuban 5, contact the Int'l Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5: www.thecuban5.org - [Danny Glover YouTube on the Cuban 5](#)
