

FREE THE CUBAN 5 POLITICAL PRISONERS OF IMPERIALISM

Write to the Cuban 5 in the US to let them know that we have not forgotten them and show their imperialist gaolers that they are being watched by the rest of the world.



Fernando Gonzalez

19 years in prison
(address envelope to Ruben Campa, letter to Fernando)
#58733-004
FCI Terre Haute
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808



Gerardo Hernandez

Two life sentences
#58739-004
USP Victorville
PO Box 5500
Adelanto, CA 92301



Antonio Guerrero

Life sentence
#58741-004
USP Florence
PO Box 7000
Florence, CO 81226



Ramon Labanino

Life sentence
(address envelope to Luis Medina, letter to Ramon)
#58734-004
USP McCreary
PO Box 3000
Pine Knot, KY 42635



Rene Gonzalez

15 years in prison
#58738-004
FCI Marianna
PO Box 7007
Marianna, FL 32447-7007



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Rock around the Blockade works in solidarity with the socialist revolution in Cuba and is part of the international campaign to free the Cuban 5; five Cuban men who have been imprisoned in the US since 1998 for 'conspiracy' to spy, after a highly politicised trial in Miami. The Cuban 5 had infiltrated US-based terrorist groups to uncover plans and prevent terrorist attacks against their people. None of the charges against the Cubans involved violence, weapons or damage to property.

The five were arrested on 12 September 1998 after the Cuban government passed information to Washington that one extremist group, Brothers to the Rescue, was practising to attack Cuban territory using pipe bombs dropped from aeroplanes. The US government's response was to arrest the Cuban agents for spying. 3,478 Cubans have been killed and 2,099 permanently disabled by aggression, sabotage and terrorism since the Cuban Revolution in 1959. In 1976 a bomb exploded on a Cubana airliner, killing 73 civilians. The organisers of this bombing, Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, were trained and supported by the CIA. They are now free men in the United States, despite having boasted about their involvement. The US government does not want them to face trial because they would reveal the CIA's complicity in their crimes.

In 2005, a US court conceded that the Cuban 5 did not receive a fair trial in Miami – a stronghold for the rightwing Cuban exile community - and ordered a retrial in a new location. However, the Attorney General got the decision overturned, and in August 2006 the convictions were upheld. In 2008, a federal appeal court again upheld the convictions. In June 2009, the US Supreme Court refused to examine the case, despite receiving an unprecedented number of petitions from Nobel Prize winners, national and international personalities, jurists and human rights organisations requesting a review of the lower court rulings. The Obama Administration had urged the Supreme Court not to hear the case. In October 2009, there will be a retrial for three of the 5, heard by the same judge who originally found them guilty. The US government has repeatedly denied visas to the families of the 5 to prevent them visiting.

The cruel and unusual punishment of the Cuban 5 is part of a political war aiming to destroy the socialist Revolution in Cuba, which has withstood economic blockade and aggression from the US, because it fought to take back its economic and political sovereignty. Leonard Weinglass, the Cuban 5 lawyer, has emphasised that this is a political trial, and a political movement is needed to demand justice for these five heroes.

'If preventing the deaths of innocent human beings, defending our two countries from terrorism and preventing a senseless invasion of Cuba is the reason I am being sentenced then let that sentence be welcomed...we are political prisoners.'

Ramon Labanino, one of the Cuban 5

On 12 and 13 September 2009, RATB will mark the 11th anniversary of their incarceration and demanding their release. Contact your local RATB branch to join events in your area or for support with your own event:

**Tel: 020 7837 1688, email: office@ratb.org.uk
or write to BM RATB, London WC1N 3XX.
www.ratb.org.uk**

For more details about the Cuban Five see:
http://www.ratb.org.uk/Free_the_Five.HTML.

