

Who is the Free the Cuban Five Committee-Vancouver?

Since July 26th 2003, the Free the Cuban Five Committee – Vancouver has been active in Western Canada building momentum and awareness around the case of these five Cuban political prisoners held in U.S. jails.

From campuses to suburbs, and everywhere in between, we are committed to working with all organizations and individuals calling for the freedom of these five heroes. Our campaign includes forums, petition drives, vigils, and a monthly picket action in front of the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver initiated in 2005. Through this consistent work, we have collected over 5000 signatures demanding their immediate release. We have also been joined in this effort by 56 Canadian parliamentarians who signed a letter to the U.S. government demanding freedom for the Cuban Five.

We work as part of over 300 solidarity groups in every continent worldwide. We are committed to continue organizing around their case, and will demand justice for the Cuban Five until they are all free! Please join us in our bi-weekly meetings, educational events, and in the ongoing petition and picket drives.



★ Contact the Five...



Antonio

Please write greetings of solidarity to Antonio at:

Antonio Guerrero
58741-004
U.S.P. Florence
P.O. Box 7000
Florence CO 81226 USA



Fernando

Please write greetings of solidarity to Fernando at:

Ruben Campa
#58733-004
F.C.I. Oxford
P.O. Box 1000
Oxford WI 53952-0505 USA



Gerardo

Please write greetings of solidarity to Gerardo at:

Gerardo Hernández
#58739-004
U.S.P. Victorville
P.O. Box 5500
Adelanto CA 92301 USA



Ramón

Please write greetings of solidarity to Ramon at:

Luis Medina
#58734-004
U.S.P. McCreary
PO Box 3000
Pine Knot, KY 42635 USA



René

Please write greetings of solidarity to Rene at:

René González
#58738-004
F.C.I. Marianna
P.O. Box 7007
Marianna FL 32447-7007 USA

Defend the Cuban Five! Get Involved!

Call or Email for Meeting Times and Locations:

604★719★6947

cubanS_van@yahoo.com

www.vancubasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html



★ **Free the Cuban Five** ★
Committee-Vancouver

Who are the Cuban Five?

They are five Cuban men who are imprisoned in the U.S. simply for defending their country, Cuba, from terrorist attacks. These five heroes never harmed anyone, yet they are in prison while the government of the U.S. is protecting and supporting the anti-Cuba extremists whom the Cuban Five tried to stop.

The Five Cubans are Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González. The five were convicted in a U.S. federal court on June 8th 2001 in a politically charged case. The U.S. government claimed that they were engaged in espionage on U.S. military bases and threatened "national security". However, in the 14,000 pages of court transcript, no proof of espionage was ever produced – a fact openly admitted by the prosecution.

The five Cubans were strictly involved in monitoring the actions of right wing terrorist groups in Miami, responsible for the deaths of over 3,500 Cuban people. For over 45 years, right-wing anti-Cuban groups such as Omega 7, Brigada 2506 and Comandos F4 based in Miami have engaged in countless terrorist attacks against Cuba. These organizations were established with the financing, training, and backing of the CIA after the Cuban people ousted the hated U.S.-backed Dictator Fulgencio Batista from Cuba in 1959. The sole aim of these groups is to breed terror and violence against the government and the people of Cuba.

The government of the U.S. has failed to act to stop known criminals who have caused death and destruction against the Cuban people. For this reason Cuba found it necessary, for self defense, to send these five men to stop further attacks. For their role in preventing 170 acts of terror against the people of Cuba, the Five were given sentences ranging from 15 years to two life sentences. Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando and René are innocent and must be set free. Their actions required a great deal of sacrifice and personal risk - they are heroes, not criminals.

On August 9th, 2005 after over 5 motions made by the lawyers of the Five to hold a re-trial outside of the notoriously anti-Cuban city of Miami, FL, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals made a unanimous 73 page ruling in their favour! The 3 judge panel acknowledged a "perfect storm" of bias had been present throughout the case. They sighted the ongoing and widespread hostility within Miami against the Cuban government, and ruled for a re-trial with a change of venue. This was a huge victory for the Cuban 5 in exposing the illegitimacy of the case against them.

However, the U.S. government intervened directly to demand a further review of the case. Exactly one year later, on August 9th 2006, a new 12 judge panel reversed the decision and upheld the convictions. This was unprecedented in U.S. judicial history.

On August 20, 2007, the Cuban 5 and their lawyers brought a series of new appeals before a three judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The appeals were based on the improper conduct of the U.S. government during the entire legal process, and their lack of evidence to sustain the two main accusations of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to commit murder".

Nearly one year later, on June 4th 2008, the court released a decision upholding the convictions of all five men. The sentences of Ramón, Fernando and Antonio were returned to Judge Joan Lenard's Miami court for re-sentencing - the exact same venue and the exact same judge who brought down the original unjust sentences!



Furthermore, on July 19th, the U.S. government denied an entry visa to Olga Salanueva for the ninth time, this time of a permanent character, thus prohibiting her from traveling to the U.S. to visit her husband René. She and Adriana Perez O'Connor, wife of Gerardo Hernández, have been denied permission by the U.S. government to visit their husbands in prison for 8 and 10 years, respectively. All other family members of the Five, including their children, continue to face similar harassment and visa denials when trying to contact their families.

Free the Cuban 5 Now!

These five heroes, guilty only of defending their people from terrorism, will soon begin their 10th year in U.S. jails. However, they are now accompanied by a growing international movement which will not stop until they are all free. Parliamentarians, human rights organizations, and millions of people around the world have called for their freedom. Join with us all in demanding justice for the Cuban Five!

1959 Fidel Castro leads a force of 9,000 into the Cuban capital of Havana and overthrows U.S. backed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

March 4th, 1960 Terrorists blow up the steamship La Coubre in Havana's port. The explosion causes 101 deaths, over 200 injuries, and an unknown number of disappearances.

April 17, 1961 "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba by 1500 Cuban exiles armed and trained by U.S. government. After three days of fighting the Cuban army defeats the invading force.

February 1962 U.S. President Kennedy formalizes strict blockade on Cuba, including supplies such as food and medicine

1971 After a biological attack, half a million pigs are killed to prevent the spreading of swine fever. Miami based anti-Cuba terrorists take responsibility.

1982 U.S. government places Cuban government on its "state sponsor of terror" list, while acknowledged terrorist groups continue to operate openly in Miami.

October 6, 1976 A bomb is detonated on Cubana Aviacion Flight 455. The plane plunges into the sea killing of 73 people aboard, including the Cuban national fencing team.

1981 A Dengue fever epidemic spreads across Cuba, which infects 300,000 and kills 154. Cuban-exile terrorist group Omega-7 takes credit for carrying the germs onto the island.

October 21, 1996 A light plane owned by the U.S. State Department sprays the crop-killing bug "Thrip Palmi Karny" as it flies over the Giron international corridor.

August 11, 1997 The Miami press publishes a statement from the Cuban American National Foundation which pledges unconditional support to terrorist bomb attacks again Cuba. The chairman of the organization claims, "We do not think of these as terrorist actions," and goes on to say, "any action against Cuba is legitimate."

September 4, 1997 Several bombs explode in heavily populated tourists hotels in Havana. An explosion at the Copacabana Hotel kills young Montréal resident Fabio de Celmo.

May 2004 U.S. president George W. Bush implements tougher sanctions on Cuba, and authorizes 69 million dollars for the next 2 years for programs aimed at the overthrow of the Cuban government

June 2006 "Plan Bush": the U.S. releases a second report pledging \$80 million more to be used in further funding of mercenaries and propaganda against Cuba.

September 12, 2008 The Cuban Five will complete their 10th year in U.S. jails, while known terrorists such as Luis Posada Carriles walk freely in the streets of Miami.

October 2007 Bush proposes a "freedom fund" for Cuba, calling on other countries and international organizations to contribute funding for the overthrow of the Cuban government.

TIMELINE OF TERROR!

A SHORT OVERVIEW OF US-BACKED ATTACKS ON CUBA