

# Who is the Free the Cuban Five Committee-Vancouver?

Since July 26th, 2003, the Free the Cuban 5 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 5 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 constant 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 our monthly picket actions on the 5th of every month to coincide with activities which take place around the world known as “the 5th of the month for the Cuban 5”.



## - Contact the Five...



Antonio

Please write greetings of solidarity to Antonio at:

**Antonio Guerrero**

#58741-004

Quarters: APACHE A

FCI Marianna

P.O. Box 7007

Marianna, FL 32447-7007



Fernando

Please write greetings of solidarity to Fernando at:

**Rubén Campa**

#58733-004

F.C.I. Safford

P.O. Box 9000

Safford AZ, 85548



Gerardo

Please write greetings of solidarity to Gerardo at:

**Gerardo Hernández**

#58739-004

U.S.P. Victorville

P.O. Box 3900

Adelanto CA 92301 USA



Ramón

Please write greetings of solidarity to Ramon at:

**Luis Medina**

No. 58734-004

FCI Jesup

2680 301 South

Jesup, GA 31599



René

On October 7, 2011 René González completed his sentence and was released from US prison. However, he has since been unjustly denied the right to permanently return to his family in Cuba. The Federal Court of Miami has ordered that René remain in Florida for three years on parole. The movement to free the Cuban 5 is demanding that René be immediately returned to Cuba!

**Defend the Cuban Five! Get Involved!**

Call or Email for Meeting Times and Locations:

604-719-6947

freethe5vancouver@gmail.com

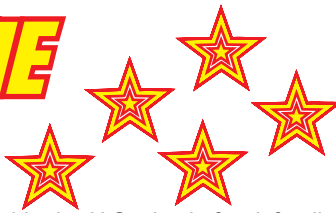
[www.freethe5vancouver.ca](http://www.freethe5vancouver.ca)



**-Free the Cuban Five-**

Committee-Vancouver

# WHO ARE THE CUBAN 5?



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. 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 terrorist right wing 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 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 sent 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 move the location of the trial, 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 5th 2008, the court released a decision upholding the convictions of all five men. The sentences of Ramón, Fernando, Antonio Guerrero were returned to Judge Joan Lenard's Miami court for re-sentencing, but this is to 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 Rene. She and Adriana Perez O'Connor, wife of Gerardo Hernandez, 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. These five heroes, guilty only of defending their people from terrorism, have entered their 14th year of unjust imprisonment. However, they are now accompanied by a growing international movement which will not stop until they are all free. Nobel Peace Prize winners, 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!

## ★ IMPORTANT UPDATE! ★

On Friday October 7th, 2011, the first of the 5 Cuban Heroes, René González was released from prison. Not because the U.S. government has changed its' cruel punishment against the Cuban 5 but simply because his prison term has expired. However this is merely the start of a new fight for justice for René. On September 16th, 2011, the Cuban 5's Miami court judge, Joan Lenard, upheld the courts decision that René would fulfill a 3 year probation period in Florida after being release from prison. This decision against the wishes of René, his family, supporters of the 5 around the world and the Cuban people, must be condemned.

**LET RENÉ GONZÁLEZ RETURN TO CUBA NOW!**

— **1959** Fidel Castro leads a force of 9,000 into the Cuban capital of Havana and overthrows the Batista dictatorship, which was being supported by the US at a cost of \$16 million in military aid per year.

— **March 4th 1960** Terrorists target the steamship La Coubre, and it blows up on the dockside in Havana. The explosion causes 101 deaths, over 200 injuries and an unknown number of disappearances.

— **April 17, 1961** Armed invasion of Cuba by US trained and armed Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs. After three days of fighting the Cuban army defeats the invading force.

— **October 1960** The US begins a 47-year plus blockade on Cuba. The blockade applies to a wide range of goods including both food and medicine.

— **1960-1965** Over 8 documented assassination attempts on Castro with CIA involvement.

— **October 6 1976** A bomb is detonated on Cubana de Aviacion Flight 455. The plane plunges into the sea killing all 73 people aboard.

— **1981** Dengue fever epidemic, which infects 300,000 and kills 154. Cuban-exile militant group OMEGA-7 takes credit for carrying the germs onto the island.

— **1971** After a biological attack half a million pigs are killed to prevent the spreading of swine fever. Miami based anti-Cuban terrorist take responsibility.

— **October 21, 1996** A light plane, owned by the U.S. State Department, sprays the pesticide Thrip Palmi Karyn as it flies over the Giron international corridor.

— **August 22, 1997:** A bomb explodes in the Sol Palmeras Hotel in Varadero.

— **August 11, 1997** The Miami press publish a statement from the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), which pledges unconditional support to the terrorist bomb attacks against civilian and tourist targets in Cuba. The chairman of this organization claims, "We do not think of these as terrorist actions," and went on to say, "any action against Cuba is legitimate."

— **September 4, 1997** Several bombs explode in the Triton, Chateau Miramar and Copacabana Hotels. The explosion in the latter kills Fabio Di Celmo, a young Italian tourist. On the same day, another bomb explodes at La Bodeguit del Medio restaurant.

— **September 12, 1998** In desperation, hoping to anticipate the timetables of these relentless, illegal attacks on the Cuban people by Cuban-American right-wing extremist groups, Cubans enter the U.S. on a fact-finding mission in order to monitor the movements of these terrorist groups.

— **May 2004** US president George W Bush implements tougher sanctions on Cuba authorizing 59 million new dollars over the next two years aimed at programs to overthrow the Cuban government.

— **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.

— **September 12, 2011** The Cuban Five completed their 13th year in U.S. jails, while known terrorists such as Luis Posada Carriles walk freely in the streets of Miami.

— **October 7, 2011** René González completes his sentence and is released from US prison but is unjustly denied to return to his family in Cuba. The Federal Court of Miami has ordered René to remain in Florida for three years on parole.

## TIMELINE OF TERROR! A SHORT OVERVIEW OF U.S. BACKED ATTACKS ON CUBA