

Join the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver!

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".



Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver
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FREE ALL THE 5 CUBAN HEROES NOW!

THE CUBAN 5

Fall 2013



Newsletter of the
Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver, Canada

WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

René González: Let Cuba be covered with Yellow Ribbons on September 12th

Reprinted from: www.cubadebate.cu

Dear compatriots:

First of all I apologize for interrupting your deals at this time. I know what this space means for the Cuban family and I promise I'll be brief, but it is necessary that this speech reaches the widest possible audience.

As is known, the next September 12th will mark 15 years of our arrests. Every year is a day both nationally and internationally to demand that we get justice, but we want the activities to be held this year between September 5 and October 6 to be unique, and you will play the main role.

Fifteen years in the life of a human being is a long time. Children grow up, become men and women, teens, relatives die and are no longer with us, and part of the Cuban population was born in the last fifteen years.

I fulfilled my sentence in full, but we have to prevent that from happening with my four brothers for all that would mean, and it's hard to say, we have to remember that for Gerardo implies that if the

plans of the U.S. government are met, he would die in prison.

During these years we have had starring the love of the Cuban people. That affection has manifested itself in every possible



Continued on p. 2

MARKING 15 YEARS OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT

FREE ALL THE CUBAN 5 NOW!

THE CUBAN FIVE GAVE INFO THEY COLLECTED ABOUT TERRORISTS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

HEROES

SEPTEMBER 12 4 PM

SEPTEMBER 12 7 PM

94TH MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION AT THE U.S. CONSULATE (1075 W. PENDER)

CULTURAL/POLITICAL NIGHT FOR THE 5 JOE'S CAFE - 1150 COMMERCIAL DR. (IN LARGE NORTH HALL)

Organized by: Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver
Endorsed by: Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCS)

WHY THE YELLOW RIBBON? FIND OUT HERE: WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

95TH MONTHLY PROTEST ACTION

FREE ALL THE CUBAN 5 NOW!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

12PM - 2PM @ VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
ROBSON ST. @ HOWE ST., DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

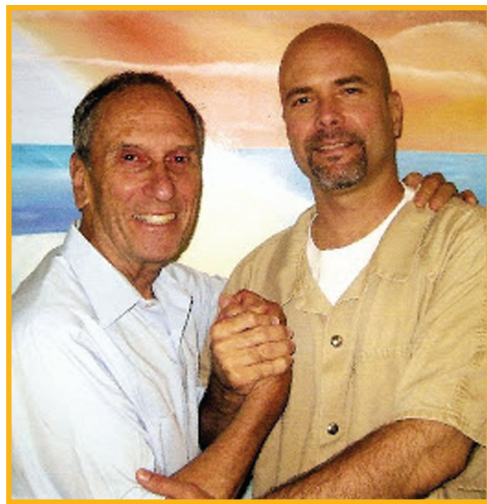
2PM - 3PM @ U.S CONSULATE
1075 W. PENDER ST. @ THURLOW ST.

WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

Saul Landau, presente! Social Justice Fighter, Revolutionary Filmmaker and Friend dies

It is with heavy hearts that we receive the news that the world has lost this steadfast fighter for humanity, Saul Landau. On Monday September 9th, Saul Landau died after long battle with cancer, surrounded by his family.

While geography and equally busy schedules have mostly kept us physically apart, activists in the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver have had a special place in our hearts for Saul Landau. After years of knowing Saul's documentary films and work, we were first introduced to him by the former Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Teresita Vicente, at the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2011. Since then we have regarded Saul Landau as a friend, co-fighter and teacher.



At a time like this one reflects on the first meetings and memories that establish the bonds between people. For activists in Vancouver, we had the honour of spending time with Saul and learning from him when he came to present at the Vancouver International Film Festival for Peace in 2011. We will always remember the Master Class he gave at the festival – sharing his life, experiences, and knowledge of revolutionary filmmaking in a way that captured everyone's full attention. We also remember him rolling up his sleeves and joining in to help serve food at the festival, during the busiest lunch hour rush between films, even after the Master Class!

We appreciated all the other opportunities we had to talk with Saul further about life and politics, either on the phone or in person. It was a real pleasure to again spend time with Saul in Washington DC during the first 5 Days for the Cuban 5 in 2012. Saul's initiative and leadership in the fight for our 5 Heroes' freedom from US dungeons has brought the case to places it had never been able to go – especially within the US itself. Saul Landau even somehow managed to get the Miami mafia themselves on tape admitting to their own crimes!

Around the world, anyone who has been touched by Saul Landau's great life will remember him in many ways - as a revolutionary filmmaker, scholar, author, teacher,

Continued on p. 4

Saul Landau, presente!

Continued from p. 1

father, and we are sure more. As a trusted friend of revolutionary Cuba for over half a century, we have a lot to learn from the path he took. We know Ricardo Alarcon was not speaking lightly when he said Saul Landau is a “a real combatant with no other weapons than his talent and intellectual integrity.”

Saul Landau was not one for exaggeration, but with all honesty we can say that we will continue to use his work and example in the fight for a better world we all know is possible. While a long and difficult road lies ahead, we have Saul Landau’s example to help show us that we can keep fighting “in the belly of the beast” and beyond.

Saul Landau, Presente!

René introduces Yellow Ribbon Campaign for the Cuban 5

Continued from p. 1

way in the letters in the messages, in the drawings of children and that love is what we want this time to be the star of the day.

I have had occasion to feel it, to receive it , to feel it , to experience it on the streets of Cuba , in every way possible and in any location of the island and that is the love that we are asking to manifest on this occasion , where you can express it the way you want, with all the diversity that characterizes us as Cubans and the best way we each consider, in your classroom, in your workplace , in your neighborhood, in your community project , which can be able to show it.

For the day are some initiatives are to be announced, but we believe that the most important is that each of you will join these initiatives in their own way.

I have only a personal exhortation for the people, which requires telling a history. I want this September 12th in the country an earthquake occurs: beautiful earthquake, an earthquake of love, a message of the Cuban people to the American people through a symbol for the average American is a symbol of love, is a symbol of love and a symbol that they will come to understand in their language, and that symbol is a yellow ribbon.

I want the country September 12 is filled with yellow ribbons and a visitor or foreign correspondent who is on the island cannot ignore. That day Cuba Island appear to shake and put yellow ribbons on trees, on balconies, in people, whatever they can think of to use them, in pets, as you decide that these yellow ribbons fill the country and that cannot be ignored, cannot be left to report to the world that the Cuban people are waiting for four of his sons who are imprisoned in the United States.

Letter From René González to Free the Cuban 5 Committee- Vancouver



Dear friends,

For many years we have received support from all of you. There have been lots of letters to our prisons and the news of daily actions performed to obtain the release of the Five have been a source or strenght for us. It is impossible to thank you all for the effort and commitment you have given to our cause. Today you meet again after 90 months of dedication devoted to demand justice for us and our families.In this scenario comes the news that after so many years of pain and ignominy the separation from my loved ones is terminated. It's not yet a victory. I filled up to the to the last day of my unjust sentence and a year and a half more of unjustifiable separation from my country, my people and my family. But if I'm in my homeland today is undoubtedly thanks to the efforts of worldwide solidarity. Vancouver’s youth have been among the strongest supporters from the beginning of our campaign, where 10 years ago my

daughter Irmita and Elizabeth the wife of my brother Ramon shed tears when they stepped on your land and and witnessed your devotion to justice on our case.

Today more than ever it is time to fight more firmly, each day that passes is another day that my brothers have to suffer their unjust confinement. Today my family begins to try to compensate for what seemed an eternity away and from their pain, but we are not entirely happy. Since the beginning of our battle we have done everything to convey to the world and to the U.S. government, as they tried to brake us down, that instead of being five families we are all one. The day we are all together then my family and myself will celebrate and rest. But for now for us the struggle continues.

With a revolutionary embrace.

René González

May 5, 2013

"It's just a journey, Saul, the other isn't true" letter from Gerardo Hernández Nordelo to Saul Landau, upon news that he was dying



"It isn't true, Saul, don't repeat it. I know, other people are saying it too, but it isn't true. There is pain in Carmen's voice when she answers the telephone, but it can't be true.

You will tell me it's true, that old friends have called you and others have come from far away to see you, that your own body is shouting it at you, that the honors have already begun... It doesn't matter, I know it isn't true. How can it be true, with so many people who admire and love you? Every time we speak, Adriana [Gerardo's wife] asks me to call you again. (And if this doesn't mean much to you, that's because you don't know how she defends every one of our telephone minutes tooth and nail.) Everyone is asking her about you, everyone, but they know it's only a journey, that the other isn't true.



A journey to where? I don't really know. In this, as in baseball, it's very difficult to come to an agreement. It is a journey from which many do not return, but you will, you are one of the privileged. You will be here every time Danny [Glover] visits me, in Cuba when we Five are reunited. You will come back every time something is read from your books, or at screenings of your documentaries. How can you not be here when someone asks who filmed those images of Fidel pushing the jeep stuck in the mud of that road? Or the many others when you toured half of Cuba with him in '68? Do you believe you can be absent when someone sees Will the Real terrorist Please Stand Up, and finally understands the case of the Five? Don't even talk about that, compadre. You will always be here when the interview with Salvador Allende is seen, perhaps the only or the most important one to be made in English, and when someone discovers those still

unpublished images of Fidel, talking in his house with Harry Belafonte.

It is just a journey, Saul, the other isn't true. You will come when someone wants to know everything about the car bomb which killed Letelier and Moffitt right in the middle of Washington DC. When they want to understand about Chiapas, or about the maquiladoras. When they read your poems, or your always accurate articles. When they mention your Friendship Medal from Cuba, your Bernardo O'Higgins from Chile, your Emmy, and your many other prizes and

decorations. You will always come when I tell someone how I had the privilege of knowing you, of learning with you, of enjoying your sense of humor, and when they ask me to whom I owe my brotherhood

with Danny Glover. You will always be with your family, with your friends, with your students.

Of course it isn't true, Saul, I know it's just a journey. What I do not know is if then we will be able to communicate, and for that I don't want to wait until you leave to say to you, Thank you for everything, my brother, it was an honor to spend time with you. In the name of the Five, of our family members, and of so many good Cubans: Thank you!

I am not going to deny that we are sad, but at the same time happy to know that, in your case, when it is, it will only be a journey, because you were able to earn that privilege.

I am going to call you again very soon, but now you know, don't repeat the other to me, because it isn't true, Saul. It isn't true that you are going to die.

Gerardo Hernández Nordelo

Vancouver Cuban 5 Action 93rd Consecutive Monthly Picket Action to Free All the Cuban 5 Heroes!

“How can you truly be a bastion and army in the battle to free Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio and Fernando? First you have to objectively appreciate the situation, accurately evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the contenders, design an appropriate strategy, and above all struggle consistently until the victory.” Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, President of the National Assembly of People's Power, Cuba – June 17, 2013



Monday August 5 marked the 93rd consecutive monthly picket action organized by the Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver in front of the U.S. Consulate. With lively chanting and picketing, and speeches filled with words of love and solidarity, peace-loving people in Vancouver carried forward the words of Ricardo Alarcón and continued in the struggle to free all the 5 Cuban heroes. A chorus of “Free, free, free, free the Cuban 5!” and “Hey Obama! You will see, the Cuban 5 will be free!” could not be missed by anyone passing by.



In between rounds of picketing, people from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds spoke about the case of the Cuban 5. The first to speak was David Whittlesey, long-time social justice activist and organizer during the Civil Rights Movement in the U. S. David was followed by Janine Solanki, co-chair of Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO). Janine tied the case of the Cuban 5, political prisoners in U.S. jails for defending Cuba against terrorism, to that of whistle blower Private Manning. Just that week Bradley Manning been found guilty of 20 charges for releasing over 650,000 pages of documents exposing U.S. war crimes to Wikileaks, and he, like the Cuban 5, is now in prison for defending humanity.

The 93rd consecutive picket action also had a special guest from the United States, Amanda Bloom. Amanda is an Oakland, California based organizer with the International Committee to Free the Cuban 5 and long-time fighter for the freedom of political prisoners. She had been in Vancouver to participate with the Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and Cuban 5 contingent in the Vancouver Pride parade, and stayed to join the picket action. Amanda shared her experiences from organizing in the U.S. and reminded everyone that freedom for our 5 heroes is possible and necessary!

After more picketing and chanting, last to speak was Aaron Mercredi, an organizer with VCSC who had just returned from the 24th Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba. During the Pastors for Peace Caravan, participants met with the families of the Cuban 5. Aaron shared with everyone the energy and determination of the people of Cuba to struggle for the freedom of Gerardo, Antonio, Ramón and Fernando.

As the 93rd monthly picket action came to a close, Alison Bodine, picket MC and Co-coordinator of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee – Vancouver, reminded everyone that we are coming up of the 15th year of imprisonment for our 5 heroes. On September 12th, 2013 the Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver will be organizing the 94th monthly picket action and a forum and cultural evening. We invite peace-loving people in BC and Canada to get involved in building for the international day of action on this important day.



FREE ALL THE 5 CUBAN HEROES NOW!
RELEASE ANTONIO, FERNANDO, RAMÓN & GERARDO FROM U.S. PRISONS NOW!
GRANT A VISA TO ADRIANA PEREZ NOW!