

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 THE 5 CUBAN HEROES NOW!

Spring 2013

THE CUBAN 5

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

WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Expresses Support for the case of the Cuban Five

Mar. 1, 2013

Reprinted from: Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations - www.cubaminrex.cu

UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA, March 1, 2013 - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Navenethem Pillay, received, yesterday, Olga Salanueva, spouse of René González, and Adriana Pérez, spouse of Gerardo Hernández.

During the meeting, Adriana and Olga explained to the High Commissioner the necessity that this organization intercedes in a direct manner on behalf of the case of

the Cuban Five for a definitive solution, while they requested their support in order to be granted visas to entry the United States to visit their husbands.

Olga stressed that the supervised freedom regime endured by René constitutes a legal absurdity that does not comply with any purpose and unnecessarily prohibits his return to his Homeland and reunite his relatives. Adriana requested a humanitarian gesture that requires the political willingness and ethics of the United States Government.

Mrs. Pillay acknowledged the visa denial as a violation to the human rights and expressed this cannot constitute an additional punishment.

UN Commissioner expressed her support to this fight and her intention to do whatever is possible to find a solution to the case.

March 1, 2013

Cuban Permanent Mission in Geneva

Spring 2013 / Issue #1 In this issue:

- UN High Commissioner Expresses Support for the Cuban 5 (Pg.1)
- Women March for the Cuban 5 (Pg.2)
- Cuban 5 Condolences to Hugo Chávez (Pg.2)
- Report back from March 5 Picket to free the Cuban 5 in Vancouver (Pg.3)
- Report back from April 5 Picket to free the Cuban 5 in Vancouver (Pg.3)



Adriana Pérez speaks in Vancouver
Wife of Gerardo Hernández
one of the Cuban 5 held in U.S. jails



also featuring
His Excellency
Mr. Julio Garmendía Peña
Cuban Ambassador to Canada

MONDAY APRIL 15
6:00pm
"Stanley Park Ballroom"
Westin Bayshore Hotel
1601 Bayshore Drive
Downtown Vancouver, Canada

Organized by:



Sponsored by:

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba
Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver
Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association - Vancouver

FREE THE 5 CUBAN HEROES



90TH FREE THE CUBAN 5 COMMITTEE VANCOUVER
PROTEST ACTION

FREE THE CUBAN 5 NOW!

- RELEASE ANTONIO, FERNANDO, RAMON & GERARDO FROM U.S. PRISONS NOW!
- LET RENÉ GONZÁLEZ RETURN TO CUBA NOW!
- GRANT VISAS TO OLGA SALANUEVA & ADRIANA PEREZ NOW!



SUNDAY
MAY 5TH 2013
VANCOUVER, CANADA
 • 2:30PM **VIGIL**
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
 • 3:30PM **MARCH**
TO U.S. CONSULATE
 • 4PM **PICKETING**
U.S. CONSULATE
1075 WEST PENDER ST.
 • 7:30PM **FORUM**

WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA

Cuban Women March for the Cuban 5

Tuesday March 5, 2013
Taken from: Prensa Latina
www.plenglish.com

Ciego de Ávila, Cuba, Mar 5 (Prensa Latina) Women in this city staged a march today to support the five anti-terrorist Cuban fighters unfairly held in US prisons since 1998.

As part of the International Campaign Five for the Cuban Five, housewives, workers, students and fighters demonstrated to demand the return home of Gerardo Hernandez, Rene Gonzalez, Ramon Labanino, Fernando Gonzalez and Antonio Guerrero.

The Cuban Five, as these heroes are known worldwide, were detained and given harsh prison sentences for monitoring Miami-based violent groups acting against Cuba.

Four of them still remain in US jails while Rene Gonzalez left prison in 2011 after serving his sentence and was given an additional three-year supervised release punishment.

Organized by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the Federation of Cuban Women, the demonstrators also repudiated terrorist actions committed against several nations worldwide.

Participants read poems, letters and texts sent by The Cuban Five to people living in this province, and a simultaneous chess match called Checkmate for The Cuban Five.

The 5 Cuban Heroes Tribute to Comandante Hugo Chavez

A Tribute to Hugo Chávez by Antonio Guerrero Rodriguez

March 6, 2013

Dear Friends:

Every night people watch their television programs of pure garbage, they speak out, they smile and are hypnotized with the images.

Seated in front of this other screen, after returning from my work, I read the news.

I cannot find the words to express my consternation and deep pain.

"Death is not real when one has done well with life's work," declared Martí.

For someone who gave his whole life to the most pure, tenacious and beautiful work for his people and our America, death will never be a reality.

Our Comandante Hugo Chavez is the light of an aurora, which we revolutionaries will always keep lighted and which will guide us always.

Long live the Bolivarian Revolution! Long live Hugo Chavez! Venceremos!

Antonio Guerrero Rodriguez



Comandante Hugo Chávez embracing Irma González & Tony Guerrero, daughter and son of Cuban 5 heroes René González and Antonio Guerrero respectively.

Dear loved ones of Comandante Chávez:

The anticipated fear of losing this great Bolivarian has not tempered the grief we feel at his loss. We always carried the hope that with his indomitable spirit he would return to us to say firmly “for now”, and then, rising above the wounds of his body, the soldier would become whole in order to continue guiding an entire continent toward the just future that so many times has been taken away from us.

It hasn’t been possible. It would seem that the price of being so Bolivarian is that of being extinguished, not unlike the Liberator, or like the volcano that erupts with full force only to suddenly fall silent. But the mountain remains, that material which was once burning lava, and after the flames are quieted becomes a guiding light pointing out unequivocally towards that horizon we’ll reach one day, only to humble ourselves at its feet in perpetual homage, our chains broken and Jose Martí’s handful of free nations as our offering.

On the virile tears that accompany these words flows my commitment to the justice that our brother Hugo Chávez sought, a commitment that won’t give up as long as I live so as to honor him with my conduct. It is a commitment that I know multiplied by five no matter where hatred and vengeance might confine us within this cruel empire.

I have faith in the Venezuelan people, and that their tears will merge with those of all of those who mourn him today to give the world a lesson on patriotism. Hugo Chávez, our Comandante, is much alive today in the heart of every honorable children of Venezuela.

To his loved ones, to his comrades, to the people that he loved so much goes my embrace, the embrace of my family and that of the Five.

For now Comandante, but Until Victory Always.

René González Schwerert

Vancouver Cuban 5 Action Report Backs: 5th of each month for the Cuban 5!

March 5th, 2013

88th Vancouver Monthly Protest

On Tuesday March 5th, 2013 the

Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver gathered once again for the 88th monthly protest to free the 5 Cuban Heroes held in U.S. jails. This protest took place at a very difficult time however, as immediately preceding the protest the world found out some very painful news. That the president and leader of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, Hugo Chavez had passed away.

The protest, once gathered, paid homage to the great revolutionary and supporter of the Cuban 5. And with the spirit of Chavez and the pain of his physical loss, the protestors began there chanting more energetic than ever in front of the U.S. consulate demanding justice and freedom for the Cuban 5.

The first speaker of the program was David Whittlesey, an organizer with the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver and veteran of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. David gave a history of the Cuban struggle against terrorism from groups in the U.S., which led to the Cuban 5’s mission in Miami.

Nestor Otero, organizer with the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver spoke next, starting his talk with a loud energetic chant of “Free the Cuban 5 Now!” Nestor was resolute in his clear demand to Obama to “Free the 5”.

After an energizing round of picketing, protestors gathered in to hear from Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). Tamara spoke about the coming of International Womens day and the significance of that day for the case of the Cuban 5. She explained that the wives, mothers, daughters and families of the Cuban 5 are struggling everyday for the return of their loved ones.

Noah Fine, coordinator of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver, spoke to wrap up the monthly protest inviting people to join with the committee on the 5th of each month to protest until all 5 Cuban heroes are free in Cuba.

Gerardo Hernández: The pride of being Cuban

Mar. 15, 2013 - Printed from: www.freethefive.org

Hero of the Republic of Cuba Gerardo Hernandez appraises the inaugural session of the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly of People’s Power.

I still have not gotten over my excitement at the news of these days related to our country, and after reading the speech of Raul and knowing of Fidel’s presence in the Assembly. I do not know if “excitement” is the word that best defines it, because in reality I am feeling many things, including some sadness at not being able to be there on this historic and transcendental moment for our country. But amid mixed feelings the one that stands out above the others is pride. Pride of being Cuban and living in these times at the side of revolutionaries, on the side of those who have been faithful at all costs, of which we have resisted all gales without intimidation, without surrender, and without selling out.

The pride of seeing our people close ranks again with its historic leaders and those who are receiving the torch to clean the dust of years and the road traveled, and return all its splendor to this project of which many Cubans learned to dream. Pride in knowing that we are on the right track. And to know there is more to see how our enemies have been shocked, because those who have lived for half a century of lies and hatred against the Cuban Revolution today do not know what to do with their old and useless scripts.

Pride against all odds because the revolution has already served 54 years, one month and twenty days, and it moves forward. They have taken from the Five the privilege of experiencing this historic moment with our people. They have taken away almost everything from us. They even take away our clothes ... But a pride as great as this we live every day, and NO ONE can take that away.

A big hug to everyone.

Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

Gerardo Hernández

By Gustavo Aragón Esquivel

Huge is the admiration for our five brothers who, like burning lances, remain stuck in the heart of the empire, drawing blood from the abominable hatred.

They are our engine, our shield and the inexhaustible flow of energy that feeds all the humans who fight for a better world.

They form a single 5 point star shaped light that shines, with violent glow from the depths of the monstrous empire to the north.

5 souls of victory as our heroes glow from the bowels of the EMPIRE

A big hug to you and to all others who fight with you back in Vancouver, onward to victory.

Gustavo Aragón Esquivel is from Havana, Cuba. He is a worker, poet & blogger.