

## 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**  
**604.518.7361**  
**freethe5vancouver@gmail.com**  
**Twitter: @Freethe5\_Van**  
**www.freethe5vancouver.ca**

Have you seen our new websites?

<http://poetry4cuban5.wordpress.com>

<http://vancouver100cuban5protests.com>

\*\*\*\*\* In Vancouver, Canada: \*\*\*\*\*  
**OUR NEXT ACTION!**

**108th Monthly Protest Picket Action**

# FREE ALL THE



# CUBAN 5 NOW!

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**3pm - Bike Ride meets @ Vancouver Art Gallery**

(Robson St. @ Hornby St.)

**4pm - Picket @ U.S. Consulate** (Pender St. @ Thurlow St.)

@FreeThe5\_Van

Free the Cuban 5  
Committee - Vancouver



**www.freethe5vancouver.ca**

**FREE ALL THE 5 CUBAN HEROES NOW!**

# THE CUBAN 5

October 2014



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

**WWW.FREETHE5VANCOUVER.CA**

## EXTRADITE LUIS POSADA CARRILES TO VENEZUELA!

### FREE ALL THE CUBAN 5 NOW!

*Statement by the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver on the occasion of the Acquittal of Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in April 2011. Since this statement was released, justice still has not been served and this statement still holds true today.*



April 10, 2011

On April 8th, 2011 following a 13 week trial, a jury in El Paso, Texas acquitted self-admitted terrorist Luis Posada Carriles of all charges he was facing after only three hours of deliberation.

Carriles, who was being tried for committing perjury during his entry onto U.S. Soil, is responsible for the 1976 bombing of a Cuban Airliner which killed all 73 innocent passengers on board. Other acts of terrorism perpetrated by Carriles include a string of hotel bombings in Cuba in the mid 90's which killed Italian-Canadian tourist Fabio di Celmo and injured many more.

However this terrorist was not on trial for the murder of these people. Carriles was on trial for lying to U.S. authorities upon entering the country when questioned about his terrorist crimes.

Much evidence of Carriles' terrorist crimes was presented during the trial including a recorded interview with a New York Times writer in which he admits to murder. But the U.S. government and legal system again, as it has many times in the past, came to the aid of the monster which it created.

Luis Posada Carriles, a former CIA agent, has been acting on behalf of the U.S. governments' interests against Cuban people dating back to his involvement in the failed invasion of Cuba by U.S. backed mercenaries at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961.

Since then, Carriles has enjoyed impunity in his acts of terrorism against Cuba and other Latin American countries always receiving support from the U.S. government. The latest trial in the Carriles affair is no exception and again shows the

double-standard of the U.S. government as it claims to fight a war on terror while supporting terrorists that work in the interest of the U.S. elite.

Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles will live out the extent of his life freely in Miami enjoying the many privileges afforded to those who help the U.S. government in their dirty war against the Cuban people.

In the mid 80's Carriles was awaiting trial in Venezuela where he was being charged for his role in the bombing of the Cuban airliner. With U.S. help Carriles was able to escape from Venezuela. Venezuela has filed an extradition request in order to proceed with the trial for Posada's involvement in the airplane bombing to no avail, while the U.S. created excuses to avoid sending him there where he will certainly receive the justice he deserves.

The Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver urges all peace-loving people to demand that the U.S. government immediately extradite Carriles to Venezuela to face charges for his terrorist crimes.

Furthermore the Committee demands that the U.S. government immediately free Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González known as the Cuban 5, from U.S. prisons.

The Cuban 5 have served almost 13 years in prison for investigating and reporting on acts of terrorists like Posada while the real criminals walk free in the U.S.

**EXTRADITE POSADA TO VENEZUELA NOW!**

**FREE THE CUBAN 5 FROM U.S. JAILS NOW!**

## Final Declaration of the 10th International Colloquium for the Release of the Five Heroes & against Terrorism

*The Free the Cuban 5 - Vancouver was among the participants of the 10th Colloquium, with Tamara Hansen (coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba) and Mario Mendoza who were able to share Vancouver's experiences and work for the Cuban 5.*

Havana, September 11th-12th, 2014

The 10th International Colloquium for the Release of the Five Heroes and against Terrorism, which concludes today in Havana, with the presence of 285 delegates representing the Movement of Solidarity with Cuba in 45 countries, takes place in an important context; Fernando and René, Heroes of the Republic of Cuba have returned to their Homeland, after serving until the last minute their unfair sentences. They, along with their brothers who are still incarcerated in U.S. prisons: Antonio Ramón and Gerardo are symbols of resistance in the fight for peace and against terrorism.

After 16 years of an unfair incarceration, the U.S. government continues to

defy its own and international law, violating the Human Rights of the three comrades that remain in jail and their families.

The Cuban Five were declared guilty of charges that were never proved, suffered from being arbitrarily locked-up in punishment cells, the legal team's demands for a trial outside Miami, where there would be no anti-Cuban prejudice conditioning the jury's verdict, were not taken into account.

The last legal resource protecting the Cuban antiterrorists, the Habeas Corpus presented by the defense before the Judge, more than 4 years ago, remains unanswered, they don't seem to care about 5844 days of unfair imprisonment.

We have witnessed how the international claim for justice has been ignored, ten Nobel Prizewinners, governments, parliamentarians, religious, political and opinion leaders, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary

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Detention, International Amnesty, several human rights organizations, jurists, trade unionists and more than 6000 intellectuals and artists from all over the world, have claimed for Gerardo, Ramón and Antonio’s rights to be respected.

Former President Jimmy Carter said in April, 2011 “I believe that the detention of the Cuban Five makes no sense, there



has been doubts expressed in the U.S. courts and by human rights organizations around the world. They have now been in prison 12 years and I hope that in the near future they will be freed to return to their homes”

Too much time away from their families and loved ones! Too much time for those who should not have spent one single second in prison!

Too much suffering and darkness for those who defend the truth and the light of hope and justice!

The Colloquium has based on the experience of what has been done so far, endorsed in nine previous Colloquiums successfully held in Holguín province, and has favored the Exchange of experiences and the deep and objective debate about what’s yet to be done, which is included in the Action Plan attached to this Declaration.

It can be noticed the strength and maturity reached by the Solidarity Movement for the Liberation of the Cuban Five worldwide, shown in the quality of the actions and initiatives executed, as well as in their scope. The main challenge is still to reach the U.S. power structures with that energy and experience gained, key point to solve the situation of Gerardo, Ramón and Antonio.

Dear friends:

The battle for the liberation of Antonio, Ramón and Gerardo is the most urgent cause in Cuba now, along with the end of the genocide blockade. It is supported by all those who defend the inalienable

right to sovereignty and dignity of the peoples.

The U.S. government in an arbitrary and illegal way has used the case of the Five Heroes, discrediting once again its legal system, to maintain its political positions against the Cuban Revolution, and in particular the socialist system. By punishing the Five Patriots, not only they are trying to condemn Cuba, but also everyone who tries to defy the Imperial Power.

The values, principles, and integrity shown by the Cuban Heroes have become a dignity bastion for the just causes of other peoples, and therefore we ratify that the International Solidarity Movement for the Liberation of the Cuban Five will maintain its activism and actions until justice is done and they return home. We are certain that united we can achieve it.

We make a call to reinforce our fight to prevent that Gerardo spends the rest of his life in prison, that Ramón health continues affecting and that Anotnio fails to meet in time with his beloved mother, in the haste of time.

To return Gerardo, Ramón and Antonio to life and to their people would represent a positive gesture of respect to International Law regulations, to honest people in the world and it would put an end to the damage inflicted to the Cuban Five and their families. It’s President Obama who can avoid the perpetuity of this colossal injustice. If he fails to do so, he will receive international repudiation and the claim of the peoples for the prevalence of Truth and Justice.

We will never stop fighting!

Say No to State terrorism against Cuba!

16 years is too much time. Not even another single minute!

Immediate and unconditional freedom for Antonio, Gerardo and Ramón!



## Fernando González named Vice-President of ICAP

June 13, 2014

Dear Friends,

Compañero Fernando González LLort, one of the Five Heroes who spent more than 15 years in U.S. prison, and who returned after completing his unjust sentence, has been appointed Vice-President of ICAP (the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples).

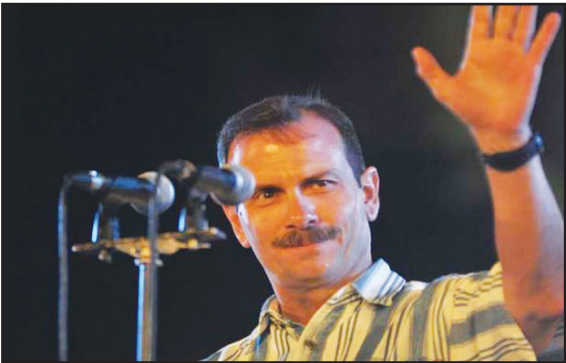
Fernando graduated in 1987 with a Gold Diploma with a degree in International Political Relations at the Higher Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1987 to 1989 he participated as an internationalist combatant in the war for the liberation of Angola and the fight against apartheid; he is known for his modesty, simplicity and serenity; his in-depth analysis and extensive knowledge of international affairs; his firmness and discipline; and his proven faithfulness.

This decision strengthens us all; we have to keep challenging creativity after nearly 16 years of their imprisonment and we know the main objective is still before us: getting Tony, Ramón and Gerardo out of those prisons.

In solidarity,

Kenia Serrano Puig

President of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples



## Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver & Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba Joint Report on the 2014 Peoples’ Social Forum in Ottawa, Canada

On Thursday August 21, 2014 the Peoples’ Social Forum began at the University of Ottawa on unceded Anishinaabe territory in Ottawa, Canada. Under the banner “Build together, win together! The Future is Ours!” thousands of people gathered from across Canada for 4 days of workshops, assemblies, concerts, art exhibits and a march & rally. In fact over 500 workshops and assemblies took place during the forum, and out of those only one focused on the importance and example of the Cuban Revolution, which was the workshop organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). There were also two excellent events on the case of the Cuban 5 hosted by the Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver and Toronto Forum on Cuba respectively. There was a permanent Cuba solidarity table as part of the information fair which was very popular throughout the forum and shared jointly between Ottawa Cuba Connections, Cubacan Co-Op Ottawa, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba & Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver. FC5C-Van held the banner for the Cuban 5 high throughout the Unity March as over 2,000 people marched on Parliament Hill.

The first Cuba workshop was on Thursday with the title “Fight for the Cuban 5: Fight for Human Rights.” This workshop featured two strong speakers: Don

struggles different groups are working on across Canada. For example, using Cuba as a model in the fight against privatization of healthcare in Canada, in the battle for a more environmentally sustainable future, in the struggle for women’s rights, or campaigns for electoral reforms - with almost all social justice issues, connections can be made with the example of the Cuban revolution. It is up to us to keep bringing Cuba as that example and inspiration for how to build a better world. The talk was very well received and many people stayed at the end to buy 10 copies of Tamara’s book “5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution: The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership” or to talk about connecting their struggles to that of Cuba.

The third Cuba event was a film showing of a great speech given by the late Leonard Weinglass, prominent lawyer for the Cuban 5 and other historic political cases in the US. Toronto Forum on Cuba hosted the film showing, which is a comprehensive overview of the deep injustice committed against the Cuban 5. The lecture theater was full and the film was followed by a presentation by Morteza Gorgzadeh of Toronto Forum on Cuba, who also invited Alison Bodine, coordinator of FC5C-Van to explain the work happening in Vancouver and BC. Their talks and the video led to a lively



discussion and many people committing to get more involved in the campaign.

On Friday and Saturday night, Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver organizer and hip hop artist, Joose Justis, was invited to perform at two cultural events “Slam

the System” and “Rhymethink Rap Rebellion”.

The 2014 Peoples’ Social Forum was strongly supported and promoted by the labour movement in Canada, with many key figures, as well as rank and file members in attendance from the Canadian Labour Congress, Ontario Federation of Labour, United Steel Workers, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, among others. It was also a gathering of Indigenous nations and organizations

Foreman, Regional Organizer for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and Alison Bodine, a Coordinator of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver. The speakers outlined the case of the Cuban 5 and the campaign for their freedom across Canada. Don outlined the great work being done by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the history of the union in supporting important social justice causes, such as the fight to free Nelson Mandela. Don also spoke about the success of the monthly protests for the Cuban 5 outside the US Embassy in Ottawa (indeed yesterday September 5th was the 10th consecutive month this dedicated group has been out in front of the US Embassy in Ottawa for the Cuban 5). Alison spoke about the recent successes in the case and the work Rene Gonzalez and Fernando Gonzalez

have been doing since returning to Cuba and how to build a consistent and coordinated campaign for the freedom for the Cuban 5 in Canada and around the world. There was a good discussion of some of the accomplishments of the campaign and an inspiring intervention by Julio Garmendía Peña, the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, who was in attendance along with Miraly González González, the First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Canada. At the Cuban 5 workshop there were people in attendance representing BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and even the US!

The second Cuba workshop was on Friday, August 22 and entitled “5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution”. Tamara Hansen, coordinator of VCSC was the featured speaker and simultaneous French translation was done by Azza Rojbi, an executive member of FC5C-Vancouver. Over 50 people packed into the room to participate in the only workshop at the 2014 Peoples’ Social Forum with a focus on the Cuban Revolution. Tamara spoke about how to connect the accomplishments of the Cuban revolution to the local, national and international



fighting for their rights across Canada. Of course, many grassroots groups and political parties, as well as independent people were also in attendance.

Also, important to mention that during these four days of activities we distributed 3,000 leaflets for the Cuba events, along with FC5C-Vancouver newsletters, postcards, posters, and sold books, buttons and t-shirts.

Through the 2014 Peoples’ Social Forum Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba & Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver were proud to work with others from Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Ottawa Cuba Connections, Cubacan Co-Op Ottawa and Toronto Forum on Cuba in support of Cuba’s self-determination, the Cuban Revolution and to promote the campaign to free ALL our 5 Cuban Heroes. We believe we all did an important task of bringing the important example of Cuba, the struggle of the Cuban 5 Heroes and the work of the Cuba solidarity movement across the country at the Peoples’ Social Forum 2014!