

Free the Cuban Five!

16 years of unjust imprisonment in the United States



GERARDO HERNÁNDEZ, RAMÓN LABAÑINO, ANTONIO GUERRERO, FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ, and RENÉ GONZÁLEZ, are five Cubans who were arrested by the FBI in Miami, Florida on Sept. 12, 1998. They were falsely charged with conspiracy to commit espionage on the U.S. gov-ernment and were convicted on June 8, 2001, after a seven-month trial. The Cuban Five never committed espionage nor did they plan to. Instead, their mission was monitoring and preventing the actions of terrorist groups in Miami, which have carried out attacks on Cuba for years. The Cuban Five worked to save lives. On Sept. 11, 2001, the people of the United States experienced the devastating blow of terrorism when almost 3,000 people died in the World Trade Center attack. What most Americans don't know is that the Cuban people have suffered terrorism for decades. For more than 50 years, hundreds of terrorist attacks have been launched against Cuba from Miami by Cuban-exile paramilitary groups. Through bombings, assassinations and other attacks, they have left 3,478 Cubans dead and 2,099 seriously injured. In August 1997, Fabio di Celmo, an Italian with permanent residency in Montreal was killed by a bomb placed in a Havana hotel. By exposing the terrorists' plots, the Cuban Five saved the lives of many people. It is clear that their pros-ecution by the government was politically motivated.

BACKGROUND HISTORY

In 1959, after the U.S.-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista was overthrown, Batista's repressive police and army torturers took refuge in Miami. Miami quickly became a base of C.I.A. operations against the Cuban Revolution. The C.I.A. recruited and trained 4,000 Cuban right-wing exiles to carry out sabotage and terrorism. Cuba's numerous appeals to Washington to cooperate in stopping the terrorists were ignored. The Cuban Five were trying to do what U.S. law authorities have refused to do, prevent terrorist attacks. After their arrest, the Cuban Five were subjected to extremely prejudicial news coverage in Miami; they were held in solitary confinement for 17 months before trial; the judge denied their requests to move the trial out of Miami. They were found guilty and condemned to sentences ranging from 15 years to double life. A federal appeals court overturned their convictions in 2005, but the Bush administration appealed and the convictions were reinstated.

NEW EVIDENCE: WASHINGTON SECRETLY PAID MIAMI JOURNALISTS

What the Cuban Five and their attorneys did not know during trial was that the U.S. government was covertly paying Miami journalists. These reporters covered the case of the Five before and during their trial, as well as during the jury's deliberations. The press irreparably prejudiced the Five with its inflammatory reporting. The presence of Miami "reporters" on the U.S. payroll—through Radio and TV Martí—who posed as "independent" press, goes to the heart of the Five's unjust conviction. They were victims of a political prosecution and covert government propaganda operation as well. The Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF) filed a lawsuit against the State Department in the District of Columbia's federal court, based on the Freedom of Information Act, given that the Department refused to hand over material in its possession on secret payments by the government to Miami-based journalists and in Sept. 2013, a U.S. federal court instructed the State Department to hand over material related to the payment of journalists who acted to the detriment of the Five.

FREEDOM CAMPAIGN FOR THE CUBAN FIVE

René González and Fernando González were released after completing an unjust sentence of over 13 and 17 years respectively. They both returned to Cuba to a hero's welcome. There is a national and worldwide campaign for the Cuban Five's freedom and it **NEEDS YOU** to spread the word and inform as many people as possible about this case, because only a "**JURY OF MILLIONS**" will bring freedom for **ALL** the anti-terrorist Cuban Five.

For more information, please visit:

www.torontoforumoncuba.com □ <http://cubanosjgg.blogspot.ca/> □ www.freethefive.org □ www.thecuban5.org