



Breaking the Silence | Peoples' Tribunal & Assembly | Justice for the Five
Toronto City Hall, September 21st — 23rd, 2012

freethe5peopletribunal.org

Programme

Breaking the Silence – September 21st, 2012

Peoples' Tribunal – September 22nd, 2012

Peoples' Assembly – September 23rd, 2012

Greetings to participants:

Together our organizations, La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba, Canadian Network on Cuba, and Worker to Worker Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network represent thousands of democratic, progressive-minded people across from Canada and Quebec who have worked together to support justice for the Cuban Five who were arrested on September 12, 1998.

We are delighted to welcome you to this Tribunal & Assembly for Justice for the Five.

Over these three days we will hear testimonials from victims, from lawyers, from activists who are sharing their experiences in the hope of breaking the silence of the major media to this gross injustice to René González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, and Fernando González.

We will add our ideas, energies and commitment to help bring about their immediate release.

We express our appreciation to the Planning Committee that has met regularly since February and worked so diligently to make this event possible. We thank everyone for taking time from busy schedules to travel here and participate as witnesses and Magistrates of Conscience. We thank you, the listeners and supporters, for adding your voices to this just cause for Cuba and the Five Cuban heroes.

Signed on September 13th, 2012

La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba
Canadian Network on Cuba
Worker to Worker Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network

What is the Peoples' Tribunal?

It is an international opinion tribunal independent from state authorities. The Tribunal may use international human rights laws and precedents in common law.

What is the purpose of the Peoples' Tribunal?

To challenge the mainstream media's blackout so that they get involved in covering a story of what is very disturbing in the processes of the U.S. justice system. The media have a choice: either they cover an issue or they are complacent and tacitly ignore an injustice. It took a strong media to expose Watergate – the case of the Cuban Five is just as compelling– why the silence? Who gains from the silence?

Let's Break the Silence!

That is why the outcry of thousands of concerned citizens over the past 15 years comes to a head, here in Toronto, at the Peoples' Tribunal. Be part of it!

Who comprises the Peoples' Tribunal?

A panel of Magistrates of Conscience presides over the Tribunal. The Magistrates come from a wide cross section of highly respected members of the international community who bring their expertise to bear in hearing the case and rendering a final opinion.

How will the Peoples' Tribunal be run?

During the proceedings lawyers from Canada, Cuba and the US will provide details of the areas where there was the greatest miscarriage of justice in the courts of south Florida. The Peoples' Tribunal will hear impact statements from victims' families and analyses by experts from Europe, Canada, the U.S. and Cuba. The families of the Cuban Five will bear testimony to their hardships concerning the barriers to prisoner rights and denial of visits imposed on them.

What is the final outcome of the Peoples' Tribunal?

At the end of the proceedings the Magistrates of Conscience will render their decision which will be published at the end of the session.

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Case Summary

Fourteen years ago, the Cuban Five – René González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labañino and Fernando González – were arrested, later charged and convicted in Miami for "conspiracy to commit espionage" against the U.S. on behalf of the Cuban government. Ever since those convictions, the five Cubans have been held in separate U.S. prisons, often in solitary confinement.

This Peoples' Tribunal will hear testimony that:

- (1) The Cuban Five were on a mission to monitor and report on violent groups based in southern Florida which, for many years, were responsible for terrorist acts against the Cuban people;
- (2) These activities were known to the U. S. government.

Legal representatives, expert witnesses and family members will appear before the Peoples' Tribunal to show that the Cuban Five were peacefully trying to do what U.S. law enforcement authorities refused to do - prevent terrorism against Cuba.

This Peoples' Tribunal will examine how this injustice against the Cuban Five occurred and why, as a result, their case has aroused an unprecedented outcry from around the world. The Tribunal will hear testimony about the silence of the media and, thus, the stifling of this outcry. It will hear the demand to overturn these convictions and the demand that the Cuban Five be granted immediate release.

Breaking the Silence

Friday, September 21st, 2012

11:00 am – 5:00 pm - Media Event - Metro Hall – Room 303

Press conference and interviews with special guests and participants from the Peoples' Tribunal & Assembly

6:30 pm to 10:00 pm - Steelworkers Hall – 25 Cecil Street

6:30 pm to 7:00 pm – Registration

Inauguration

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions of Special Guests

By Heide Trampus

•

Greetings from Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba

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Tribute and Moment of Silence

in Memory of Roberto Gonzalez and Leonard Weinglass

Presented by Richard Klugh, Gloria La Riva, Adriana Perez, Elizabeth Palmeiro

Introductory Remarks and Reading of Greetings from the Cuban Five

Adriana Perez and Elizabeth Palmeiro

•

Presentation of Special Awards

•

Address by Guest Speakers:

Tony Woodley, Unite – UK
Cindy Sheehan, Peace Activist - U.S.A.
Julian Rivas, Journalist - Venezuela
Father Hernán Astudillo – Canada

•

Social

Closing of First Session of the Tribunal

10:50 am **Break**

11:00 am **Second Session – Arrests, Trial & Convictions of The Cuban Five**

Summation of Session - by Zilpha Ellis

11:05 am **Tribunal Calls Legal Counsel and Expert Witnesses**

Richard Klugh
Stephen Kimber
Gloria La Riva

Closing of the Second Session of the Tribunal

Announcements pertaining to the rally in the afternoon

Lunch

1:15 pm **Third Session – What has happened since the trial in Florida?**

Summation of Session - by Julio Fonseca

1:20 pm **Tribunal Calls Impact Testimony Witnesses**

Elizabeth Palmeiro
Adriana Pérez
José Pertierra
Alicia Jrapko

Closing of the Third Session of the Tribunal

2:30 pm **Tribunal Calls Legal Counsel for Summation of the Defence** by Richard Klugh

2:40 pm

Magistrates of Conscience Retire for Deliberations

During Deliberations – Showing of multimedia presentations with Danny Glover
Reading of statements and letters sent to the Tribunal in support of the Cuban Five

3:30 pm

Magistrates return from Deliberations

3:35 pm

**Tribunal Calls Magistrates of Conscience
to Render the Decisions of the Tribunal**

3:55 pm

**Tribunal Calls Lead Magistrate of Conscience
for Reading of the Final Overall Proclamation
by Juan Carranza**

4:00 pm

Closing of the Full Session of the Tribunal

Closing Ceremony by Dakota Elliott

4:30 pm

Rally across from the U.S. Consulate

Breaking the Silence

The Untold Story of the Cuban Five



Peoples' Assembly
Sunday, September 23rd, 2012

10:00 am – 4:30 pm – City Hall, Council Chamber

10:00 am **Welcome Remarks and Outline of Objectives**
 By Elizabeth Hill

Breaking the Wall of Silence and Demanding Justice for The Cuban Five

Developing a wide base participation, including individuals,
small groups and large organizations

10:10 am **Brief Reports of Past Actions for Justice & Freedom for The Cuban Five**

The Canadian Network on Cuba
La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba
International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, U.S.A.
National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, U.S.A.
Unite the Union, United Kingdom
Worker to Worker, Canada - Cuba Labour Solidarity Network
Unions of: Postal Workers, Steelworkers,
United Food & Commercial Workers, Public Employees

11:00 am **Final Statements from Adriana Perez and Elizabeth Palmeiro**

Special Award Presentation

12:00 noon **Reading of Letter**
 to
 President Obama,

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Prime Minister Harper

Approval from the Floor

12:15 pm **Address by Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba**

12:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30 pm **Reconvene for Workshops**

Small group strategizing and developing a
plan of future actions seeking justice and the release for the Cuban Five

2:45 pm **Break**

3:00 pm **Report Back and Summation of the Small Group Discussions**

3:30 pm **General Discussion on Ideas/Proposals**

Summary of Proposals for Follow up;
Presentation of a future continuation process and actions following the
Breaking the Silence, Justice for The Five, Peoples' Tribunal & Assembly

4:15 pm **Final Declaration**

4:30 pm **Adjournment**

Acknowledgements

Organized by:

Friends of the Cuban Five in coordination with solidarity groups,
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The Canadian Network on Cuba
La Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba
Worker to Worker Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network

Sponsored by:

Canadian Union of Postal Workers • Canadian Union of Public Employees
United Food and Commercial Workers • United Steelworkers Canada
Canadian Union of Public Employees - Local 4400 • Carranza LLP
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Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network
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Canadian Network on Cuba

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Bill and Nora Ryan – Ottawa

Endorsers

Association United Ukranian Canadians Toronto Branch
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Barrio Nuevo
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Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association of Kingston
Chicago Committee to free the Cuban Five
Common Frontiers
Communist League/Ligue communiste
Communist Party of Canada
CubaNews newsgroup
DISCUSSION Vancouver Co-Op Radio
Don Currie, Chair of Canada for Peace and Socialism and associate member of the Canadian Peace Congress
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Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver
International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, USA
International Festival of Poetry of Resistance
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Krittibas Literary Group of Toronto
La Asociación de Cubanos Juan Gualberto Gómez
Latin American Trade Unionist Coalition (LATUC)
Law Union of Ontario
Libby Davies, NDP-MP, Vancouver East
Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee
National Network on Cuba USA
NDP Socialist Caucus
Northstar Compass
House of Latin America (HOLA)
Socialist Action
Solidarity with Iran
The North Simcoe and Muskoka Labour Council
The Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (NUMGE)
The Young Communist League of Canada
Toronto and York Region Labour Council
Toronto Bolivia Solidarity
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Walter Lippmann, Editor

* As of September 16th, 2012