

Free The Cuban 5

Protest their 8 years of unjust imprisonment by the U.S.



The Cuban Five have been sentenced to four life terms and 75 years in United States prisons, falsely charged with espionage conspiracy. Their real "crime"? They were peacefully defending Cuba from U.S.-backed terrorist groups based in Miami. Learn more about the Five at www.freethefive.org

Q: Can you be imprisoned in the U.S. for opposing terrorism?

A: Yes, if you oppose terrorism in Miami.

A history of U.S.-based, anti-Cuban terrorism

Five Cuban men — Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino, collectively known as the “Cuban Five” — have spent the last eight years in prison in the United States. Their “crime”? Attempting to prevent acts of terrorism from being committed by right-wing, anti-Cuban groups based in Miami.

Those groups, led by notorious terrorists Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, have carried out hundreds of acts of terrorism over the years, working hand-in-hand with the U.S. government and the CIA. These include the 1976 murder of 73 people in the mid-air bombing of a Cubana airliner, the assassination of former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier and US activist Ronnie Moffit in a massive car bombing on the streets of Washington, D.C. in 1976, and the 1997 murder of an Italian tourist during a series of hotel bombings in Havana.

These crimes continue. As recently as 2000, four men led by Posada were captured and convicted in Panama while engaged in an attempt to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Cuba acts to defend itself

It was against this backdrop that Cuba sent the Five to Miami to infiltrate and peacefully monitor the workings of the terrorist network. At great risk to their lives, they succeeded in collecting evidence of ongoing plots, and informed Cuban and U.S. authorities of what they had learned.

Please add your voice to the campaign to obtain justice for five brave fighters against terrorism, who have already spent too many years of their lives in prison, victims of the U.S. government.

The U.S. “justice” system

The result? Instead of arresting the terrorists, on September 12, 1998 *the FBI arrested the Five* — the very people who were working to *prevent* terrorism. Outrageous charges were filed against the Five, including conspiracy to commit espionage.

After the judge refused to allow a change of venue, the trial took place in Miami in the face of the intense anti-Cuba sentiment. The jury was intimidated, witnesses were bullied by the prosecution, and defense lawyers were denied access to evidence on the spurious grounds that the information was classified. The five were convicted and collectively sentenced to four life terms and 75 years in prison.

In prison, the outrageous treatment of the five has continued. Separated into five different prisons to break them psychologically and to make their defense more difficult, repeatedly held in solitary confinement despite being model prisoners, illegally deprived of visits from their wives and families for years at a time, the Five and their families have been victims of massive violations of their human rights.

In May, 2005, the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions declared the convictions of the Five to be “arbitrary and in violation of international law.” Then on Aug. 9, 2005, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Five's convictions and ordered a new trial, but exactly one year later, after the U.S. government appealed that ruling, the full court reversed it. As the Five begin their ninth year in prison, new appeals briefs have just been filed.

National Committee to Free the Cuban Five

www.freethefive.org • SF 415 821 6545 • DC 202 544 3389 • NYC 212 694 8720