

President Bush is asked to bring Castro to trial

Brothers to the Rescue preparing activities for February 24

Diario Las Américas, Thursday, 8 February, 2001, Page B-1

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As part of the activities that are being organized to commemorate the fifth anniversary on February 24 of the shoot-down of two of its planes and the murder of four of its members by MiGs from Castro's tyranny, Brothers to the Rescue (BTTR) has begun a process of collecting signatures to ask U.S. President George W. Bush for a criminal indictment against Fidel Castro. BTTR engaged in these efforts until the last moments of the Clinton administration without any result, and is now beginning with the Bush administration.

According to an announcement made this Wednesday by the president of BTTR, José Basulto, other activities will include a mass at Ermita de la Caridad on February 23rd, at 8 p.m., to remember the martyrs Armando Alejandro, Jr., Carlos Costa, Mario de la Peña and Pablo Morales and to thank God for the survivors; the publication on the internet of the evidence about the crime, obtained by Brothers to the Rescue (www.hermanos.org); a call to the Cuban exile pro-democracy organizations, encouraging them to participate in this and other initiatives, calling for truth and justice from those whose responsibility it is to provide it; and lastly, BTTR will fly over "Martyrs Point" in international airspace, where it will disburse leaflets in memory of the four martyrs, and in acknowledgment of their work for Cuba's freedom.

The petitions asking President Bush for a criminal indictment against the dictator Castro, are already circulating in commercial establishments and other public gathering places.

The signatures to be collected, with names, address and telephone, will contain the following text:

"February 24, 2001

Dear Mr. President:

On February 24, 1996, two civilian airplanes under the U.S. flag, belonging to Brothers to the Rescue (HAR), were ambushed and downed by missiles fired by Castro's MiGs, killing their crew: three U.S. citizens and one permanent resident of Florida.

This premeditated attack occurred in international airspace, twenty miles to the north of Cuba, while BTTR was performing a humanitarian search and rescue mission to save the lives of Cuban rafters seeking freedom.

The Clinton-Gore Administration refused to begin criminal proceedings against Castro and his accomplices, despite this crime having been investigated and well documented by U.S. authorities and by the United Nations (ICAO). A Federal Civil Court in Florida heard the case and ruled against the Cuban government. Castro himself has admitted his responsibility in authorizing the attack. Those who sign this petition respectfully request that you order the Justice Department to proceed in carrying out the Law ("The Rule of Law") so that a criminal indictment can be issued against Fidel Castro and his accomplices."