



December 14, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Barack Obama

A Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly for Justice for the Cuban Five took place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, September 21-23, 2012. Coming together in the Toronto City Hall Council Chamber were everyday citizens, community representatives and many organizations including major unions, all together representing four countries. In addition, greetings of support were received from Italy, Germany, Norway, England and the United States.

After due consideration of the evidence presented including impact statements of victims, the Magistrates of Conscience, who were representatives and participants from the United Kingdom, Cuba, United States, Quebec and the rest of Canada and included Native participants, arrived at the following conclusions:

- The United States government must expedite the immediate release of the Cuban Five; Ramón Labañino AKA Luis Medina, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando González AKA Rubén Campa and allow their immediate return to their homeland including René Gonzalez, who has served his full sentence, but is held to serve parole and is confined to Florida since October 7, 2012.

This conclusion is based on facts presented at the Tribunal regarding unprecedented and arbitrary actions that were taken by the court in Miami during the trial of the Five; and

- Payments were made by the U.S. government to certain journalists to whip up hysteria against the Five men before and during their trial; and
- The Prosecution produced no evidence the Five had engaged in any actions damaging to the United States: no person was injured, nor was any property damaged. No secret documents were sought nor obtained by any of the Five that would in any way encroach on the security of the United States and this according to testimony by high-ranking U.S. military personnel who were witnesses at their trial; and

- With no evidence to support the charge against Gerardo Hernández of conspiracy to commit murder, the Prosecutor himself requested that the judge withdraw that particular charge against Hernández. Despite this, Gerardo Hernández was convicted of the charge. Furthermore, the charges laid against the others were conspiracy charges which do not require a high standard of proof; and
- Evidence that may exonerate Gerardo Hernández of any responsibility regarding the downing of two planes is being withheld from the Courts by the U.S. government; and
- As admitted by the Appeals Court, the sentences imposed on these peaceful men were egregiously long, and the Court decided to vacate the sentences of three of the five Cubans. At resentencing, those sentences were subsequently replaced only with somewhat reduced sentences that remained way out of line with the one charge the men had admitted to, namely not to have registered as agents of a foreign power; and
- These five men were responding to the tragedies wreaked upon their people resulting in death, severe injuries and maiming, stemming from terrorist activities by certain extremist groups in southern Florida. The information obtained by the Five about intended terrorist acts saved scores of lives not only in Cuba, but also in other countries including Canada and the United States.

Voicing the concern of millions across the world and the hundreds who attended the Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly representing many people from Canada including Quebec, the United States, Cuba and the United Kingdom, we ask you to use your presidential authority and let the five Cuban men return home now and thus put an end to this injustice and to a sorry chapter in the relationship between the two countries.

Respectfully

On behalf of all participants gathered at the Free the Cuban Five - Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly

Heide Trampus
Event Coordinator

September 21-23, 2012
Toronto, ON, Canada

c.c. Attorney General, Eric Holder
Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton
Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper

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