

# The Cuban Five

Wrongly accused. Unjustly convicted.  
14 years in U.S. prisons.



## Men who prevented terrorism do not belong in prison.

### Col. Lawrence Wilkerson | Chief of Staff for Secretary of State Colin Powell, 2002-2005

"The Cuban Five's mission was to gain information on hardline Cubans in Florida who in the past have conducted attacks against Cuba; and to ascertain if U.S. logistic and training support for such attacks continued. That the U.S. Government was involved in prejudicing their trial through payments to journalists is deplorable."

### Jimmy Carter | President of the United States, 1977-1981, Statement made on March 30, 2011

"I believe that the detention of the Cuban Five makes no sense, there have been doubts expressed in U.S. courts and by human rights organizations around the world. They have now been in prison 12 years and I hope that in the near future they will be freed to return to their homes."

### Miguel D'Escoto | President of the United Nations General Assembly, 2008-2011

"The Cuban Five were in the United States because they infiltrated, not government agencies, but the terrorists who work out of Miami, to stop their attacks. Miami has been one of the biggest terrorist havens in the world. The government's pretext of a global war against terrorism is not credible when the most distinguished of anti-terrorism heroes are punished. President Obama has the power, without needing to go to any court, to immediately correct this."

### Ramsey Clark | U.S. Attorney General, 1967-1969

"The Cuban Five came here to try to protect their country. They were acting non-violently. They were trying to prevent violence originating in the United States from harming people in Cuba. The Cuban Five have to be free. They stand for freedom. They stand for peace."

### Amnesty International | October 2010 Report

"[H]aving reviewed the case extensively over a number of years, the organization believes that there are serious doubts about the fairness and impartiality of their trial which have not been resolved on appeal. ... Amnesty International is supporting calls for a review of the case by the U.S. executive authorities through the clemency process or other appropriate means."

### Alice Walker | Pulitzer Prize, *The Color Purple*

"There is no reason in the world why the Cuban Five, who were trying to protect their country, should be shut away in prisons. The American people have a deep sentiment for justice. When the people learn of the Cuban Five's lifesaving mission, they too will demand their freedom."

### 10 Nobel Prize recipients | Statement of November 2011

*Günter Grass, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, José Ramos-Horta, Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer, Rigoberta Menchú, José Saramago, Zhores Alferov, Darío Fo, Máiread Corrigan Maguire*

"Every person has the right to a just trial and fair treatment. The situation of the Cuban Five who were arrested and tried in Miami proves the lack of equanimity and justice in the United States of America."

### UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions | Five-judge opinion issued on May 27, 2005

"... the climate of bias and prejudice against the accused in Miami persisted and helped to present the accused as guilty from the beginning."

# Free the Cuban Five Now!

## Who are the Cuban Five?

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, known as the Cuban Five, were arrested on Sept. 12, 1998 by the FBI, convicted in a Miami court in 2001 and sentenced to terms ranging from 15 years to double life. They were falsely charged and wrongly convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and related charges.

The Cuban Five never conspired to commit espionage. They were on a mission to monitor and report on violent groups in Miami that are well known by the U.S. government to be responsible for terrorist attacks against the Cuban people.

On September 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. Most Americans are not aware that the Cuban people have also suffered terrorism.

For more than 50 years, hundreds of terrorist attacks have been launched against Cuba by extreme right-wing groups based in Miami, whose aim is the violent overthrow of the Cuban

government. Their campaign of bombings, assassinations and other attacks has left 3,478 Cubans dead and 2,099 seriously injured.

The Cuban Five were peacefully trying to do what U.S. law enforcement authorities have refused to: prevent terrorism.

On August 9, 2005, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled to overturn their convictions, but the Bush administration successfully moved to overturn the decision. (*The full history is available at [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org)*)

On Oct. 7, 2011, René González, one of the Cuban Five, was released after serving 13 years of an utterly unjust sentence. In a punitive move, the U.S. government is requiring him to remain in Florida for three years of probation.

Two wives of the Five, Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández, and Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, have been denied U.S. visas to enter the U.S. to visit their husbands.

## New evidence: Washington secretly paid Miami journalists

The Cuban Five were tried in Miami, a city dominated by Cuban-American exiles and politicians who have perpetrated or supported violent attacks against the people of Cuba. Despite a virulent atmosphere in Miami against the Five and their repeated requests to change the trial venue, the judge refused to move the trial out of Miami.

What the Cuban Five and their attorneys did not know during the trial was that the U.S. government covertly paid Miami journalists who — at the same time as the government conducted its prosecution — saturated the Miami media with reports that were highly inflammatory and prejudicial to the Five.

The presence of Miami journalists on the U.S. government payroll — through Radio and TV Martí — who pretended to report as "independent" press, goes to the heart of the unjust conviction of the Five. They were not only the victims of a politically-motivated prosecution, but a covert government-funded propaganda operation as well.

Through Freedom of Information Act petitions, the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, working with the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, has uncovered substantial information about the U.S. government's secret collaboration with the media. The U.S. government is continuing to withhold documents about its secret payments to the Miami journalists.



## National Committee to Free the Cuban Five

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