

Model letter to Michael B Mukasey

Use the model text below to send a letter to Attorney General Michael B Mukasey seeking the release of the Miami 5.

You should send your letter to: Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001 USA or e-mail: AskDOJ@usdoj.gov

Dear Michael B Mukasey,

I am writing to you regarding the cases of the following five men who have been held for almost 10 years in US maximum security prisons.

- Gerardo Hernández
- René González
- Ramón Labañino
- Antonio Guerrero
- Fernando González

They were first arrested in 1998. They had infiltrated the extremist Cuban American groups in the south of Florida in order to obtain information about terrorist activities directed against Cuba. In doing so I believe that they were in fact protecting their fellow countrymen from terrorist attacks that had already killed and maimed people indiscriminately in Cuba.

They have been held incommunicado in isolated cells for long periods of time and two of them have been denied the right to receive family visits.

I am writing to raise my concern that these men have not received a fair trial and have been subjected to unfair and unjust treatment. I ask that you look again at their case.

On August 9, 2005, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta declared null and void the decision passed in Miami which had condemned these men.

Their prison sentences have already been declared illegal by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

On the question of the denial of visas for family visits by two of the wives Amnesty International have said

'In the absence of a clear and immediate threat posed by such visits, this measure is unnecessarily punitive and contrary both to standards for the humane treatment of prisoners and to states' obligation to protect family life'

People around the world are aware of this cruel and unjust situation. I implore you as a representative of the people of the United States to look once again at these cases. At the very least I hope that you will do all you can to ensure that the prisoners families are allowed full visiting rights and will be granted the necessary visas and permissions.

Yours sincerely,