

"...it arises from the facts and circumstances in which the trial took place and from the nature of the charges and the harsh sentences handed down to the accused that the trial did not take place in the climate of objectivity and impartiality that is required in order to conform to the standards of a fair trial as defined in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the United States of America is a party".

In fact, supporters using the US freedom of information act have recently uncovered proof that the US government directly funded Miami-based journalists US\$millions to write and broadcast anti-Cuban propaganda in the period before and during the trial of the men. This further draws into question the objectivity of media coverage during the trial.

families are treated

The wives of two of the Miami Five – Adriana, wife of Gerardo Hernández, and Rene González wife Olga, are denied visas to enter the United States to visit their husbands, while the families of the other three are often frustrated by prison 'lockdowns' when they do visit and are unable to see their husbands.

- ▶ Adriana has attempted to obtain a visa to visit Gerardo Hernández on nine occasions. She has never been successful. In fact, she has not seen her husband for more than 11 years.
- ▶ The nearest Adriana came to visiting her husband was when she obtained a visa in 2002. At Houston, Texas international airport on July 25, 2002, she was detained, photographed, fingerprinted and interrogated by the FBI before being expelled from the country on the grounds of national security.
- ▶ Olga initially applied for visas to enable her and her daughter Ivette to visit René González. This visa was later revoked. René is in fact a US citizen, as is Ivette. Ivette has only ever seen her father once while he was behind bars and even then her mother was denied permission to accompany her. Olga has not seen René since the eve of his trial in November 2000.

So far as the families of the other three prisoners are concerned, it was reported in November 2004 by the US-based National Committee to Free the Cuban Five that mothers, wives and other relatives, have had to wait excessive periods of time to receive entry visas from the US government.

- ▶ Antonio Guerrero's elderly mother Mirta Rodríguez was last able to visit her son in November 2003.
- ▶ Rosa Aurora Freijanes has only been able to see her husband Fernando González once or twice a year since his imprisonment ten years ago.
- ▶ Elizabeth Palmeiro, wife of Ramón Labañino, and the children, Ailí, Lisbet and Laura, have been able to visit him only a few times due to the prison regime and delayed visas in twelve years.

Amnesty International appeal

On March 25 2009 Amnesty International made the following statement to support an appeal to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano for temporary visas for the two women to visit their husbands:

"The US authorities have denied successive visa applications from both women over the course of seven years. The reasons cited for the denials are based on claims that both women are threats to national security. Yet neither woman has faced charges in connection with such claims, nor has any credible evidence been produced to substantiate the allegation. Over the years, the grounds cited for denying temporary visas has varied, highlighting an inconsistency in the authorities' reasoning for prohibiting the women's visits to their husbands."

"Denying prisoners visits from their family in these circumstances is unnecessarily punitive and contrary to standards for humane treatment of prisoners and states' obligations to protect family life. The organisation has urged that these restrictions be reviewed, drawing the government's attention to international standards that stress the importance of the family and the right of all prisoners to maintain contact with their families and to receive visits."

"In the case of prisoners whose families live outside the USA, indefinite or even permanent denial of visits from the prisoner's immediate family is a severe deprivation to the individual."

Adriana Perez and Olga Salanueva women have stated that they would be happy to enter the US on temporary visa to visit their husbands with no publicity and accompanied by the World Council of Churches.

Their appeal for visitation rights has been supported not only by Amnesty International and international religious bodies, but also by British unions, the TUC, MPs, MEPs, and ten Nobel Laureates, US unions the SEIU, USW and Teamsters along the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the World Council of Churches. All of these organisations and many others call on US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to grant on humanitarian grounds, temporary visitation visas to these two Cuban women, so that they may visit their husbands, currently incarcerated in US prisons.

All legal avenues have been exhausted. Only humanitarian intervention from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton or the President himself can give visitation rights to the wives.

What you can do

Why not invite a campaign speaker to come and address your branch meeting. There are also campaign postcards to President Obama asking for his intervention. You can order bulk supplies from communications@cuba-solidarity.org.uk for more information about the Miami Five case look at www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk/miami5



The Miami Five

