

Gerardo Hernandez
Antonio Guerrero
Ramon Labanino
Fernando Gonzalez
Rene Gonzalez

FREE THE MIAMI FIVE

Irish National Campaign seeking Justice for the Miami Five

WHO ARE THE MIAMI FIVE?

Five Cubans who were trying to stop Miami based terrorist groups from carrying out violent actions against the people of Cuba. They were found guilty of charges ranging from murder to espionage by a court in Miami which relied on the evidence of convicted terrorists. All are innocent of the charges brought against them. Extensive intimidation of jurists by these same terrorists was a feature of the trial. They are currently appealing their convictions.

CAMPAIGN AIMS

The release and exoneration of the five victims of this obvious miscarriage of justice.

CAMPAIGN DEDICATION

The campaign is dedicated to the memory of the 3,478 Cubans killed and 2,099 maimed at the hands of US-based terrorists groups since 1959.

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1. Biographic details for the "Miami Five"

The Five Cuban men who are the subject of this campaign are regarded as either "dangerous international spies" or "heroes in the war against terrorism", depending on who is telling the story. They are:

Gerardo Hernandez is 40 years old, a graduate of International Politics he is married to Adriana; they have no children and, because of his incarceration, are unlikely ever to have any. Gerardo is an accomplished cartoonist whose work has appeared in the Cuban media and been the subject of exhibitions. He is serving double-life plus 15 years for crimes he did not commit.

Ramon Labanino is a 42 years old honours graduate in Economics; he is married to Elizabeth and has three daughters. He has received family visits in the past, usually 2 per year. He is serving a life sentence plus 18 years for crimes he didn't commit.

Antonio Guerrero is 46 years old and the father of two sons. He is a graduate of Civil Engineering, and a published poet. He was recently prevented from collecting stamps as part of his prison conditions. He is serving life plus 10 years for crimes he did not commit.

Rene Gonzalez is a pilot. He is 48 years old, married to Olga and has two young daughters. His youngest Ivette has only seen her father once since he was detained, a visit in which he was chained hand and foot and the 2-year old asked if he was now a dog because he was in chains. She has not seen him for four years because her mother has been denied a visa to enter the United States. He is serving 15 years for crimes he did not commit.

Fernando Gonzalez is 41 years old and an honours graduate in International Political Relations. Fernando successfully infiltrated the group run by what the US Immigration Service described as the 'most dangerous terrorist in the western hemisphere', a man called Orlando Bosch. Fernando is serving a sentence of 19 years for crimes he did not commit.

2. The History of Miami-based anti-Cuban Terrorism

The number of individual terrorist acts is overwhelming, far too much to even begin to describe here, suffice to say that included almost 3,500 Cubans have been killed and over 2,000 maimed in these attacks perpetrated by extreme right wing terrorist groups based in Miami. To put this into context, this is more than all the deaths on all sides of the "troubles" in Northern Ireland in the same period. Yet we in Ireland know nothing about it. That is one of the problems we, as a campaign, face.

Ever since President Eisenhower established the policy of "regime change" towards Cuba, official US funding has found its way channelled through non-government agencies into the hands of organisations based in Miami who have waged a terrorist war against Cuba. These groups include "Alpha 66" and "Brothers to the Rescue" whose members boast about their involvement in

terrorist acts against Cuba in the US media. Former members of the CIA have revealed that they were directly involved in arming and training anti-Cuban terrorists based in Miami who carried out attacks against civilian targets in Cuba.

One such incident was the first recorded bombing of a civilian airliner in 1976 in which 73 Cubans lost their lives. Orlando Bosch, "the godfather of anti-Castro terrorism", served the first 11 years of a much longer sentence in prison in Venezuela for this terrorist act. He is technically still on the run from Venezuela.

By 1991 Cuba was reliant on tourism for its foreign currency earnings. In a direct attempt to prevent economic recovery a campaign of bombings at tourist resorts was instigated by the Miami based terrorist groups. Several well-known hotels were damaged in bomb blasts, several people were injured and one Italian tourist was killed. A letter from his brother is included in your information pack.

In response to this the Cuban government sent these five agents to Miami to infiltrate the terrorist groups to see which of them were carrying out the bombings and allow them to take action to intercept the bombers. The Five were successful; they sent back information which was instrumental in preventing several attacks. The information they collected began to build into a substantial intelligence dossier on the workings of these terrorist groups. The Cuban government invited the FBI to Havana and handed over no less than 4,000 pages of documentary evidence on the activities of these groups, information the Cubans felt confident would lead to arrests and prosecutions. They are still waiting. In fact, the FBI arrested the Five Cubans instead.

3. The Charges brought against the Five

The were charged with:

- 1) Travelling on false passports,
- 2) Failing to register as foreign agents
- 3) Conspiracy to commit espionage
- 4) Conspiracy to commit crimes against the USA

It is clear that their purpose would have been rendered impossible if they had not disguised their identities and if they had notified the FBI of their plans in advance. They pleaded guilty to these offences. Considered misdemeanours, many people have simply been deported from the USA for such offences; very few are serving life in prison.

The conspiracy charges are a cynical attempt to associate the Five with crimes they had no involvement in whatever. It appears that a charge of "conspiracy" reverses the presumption of innocence and it becomes necessary for the defendant to prove that they did not conspire with others to plan the crime in question. This has led to convictions only on the ground of the presumed attitudes and views of the accused.

The defence called very senior US military and intelligence officials who testified that not a single page of secret information was transferred to Cuba by the Five and that no breach of National Security had occurred as a result of their activities, yet they were convicted. They were sentenced to the maximum term