



December 28th, 2012

The Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2
E-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

Taking into consideration Canada's excellent relations with the US government, the fact that Canada is one of Cuba's main trading partners and that over a million Canadians travel to Cuba annually and that they deserve to be safe from acts of terrorism, we firmly believe that it's incumbent upon your government to take action and join Leaders and Parliamentarians from many countries in asking the U.S. government to immediately and unconditionally release Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino (aka Luis Medina) and Fernando González (aka Ruben Campa) (currently being held in U.S. federal prisons) and René González (who was released for time served, but is not allowed to return home to Cuba for three more years), also referred to as the Cuban Five.

Hundreds representing Labour Unions, social movements, religious and native leaders, academics, intellectuals and lawyers from Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Cuba, literally voices of millions of people came together to convoke the Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly in Toronto, Ontario from September 21st to 23rd, 2012 for justice and against the imprisonment of the "Cuban Five". Charged with conspiracy to spying, these five men were unjustly tried and convicted, received horrendous long sentences and have already been in U.S. prisons since Sept. 12th, 1998. Especially cruel is the denial of granting visiting visas by the U.S. government to Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández who is serving two life sentences plus fifteen years, thereby taking away their right to have a family.

The scourge of terrorism suffered by Cuba since 1959, that resulted in the deaths of 3478 people and left thousands more permanently maimed, led to the necessity of having the Cuban Five in the United States monitor the schemes of terrorist organizations, mainly in South Florida, in order to forewarn Cuba and save lives.

A Canadian resident of Montreal, Fabio di Celmo, was killed in 1997 while vacationing in Cuba resulting from a bombing campaign that was orchestrated by Luis Posada Carriles, the leader of one of these terrorist groups, who is walking the streets of Miami freely today. With over one million tourists from Canada expected in Cuba this year, the Canadian government has a responsibility to take a firm stand on the issue of terrorist activity so that other Canadian residents visiting Cuba will not be injured or, worse, lose their lives. Posada Carriles is also the self-confessed mastermind of the bombing in mid-air of a Cubana de Aviación airliner that killed 73 people in 1976.

These terrorist attacks were not only carried out in Cuba, but also in the United States and in Canada. On Canadian soil, bombs have been set resulting in persons injured and killed:

- **1966** - A bazooka attack took place against the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa; bombs exploded at the Cuban trade offices in Ottawa;
- **1967** - An explosive device was detonated at the Cuba Pavilion at Expo in Montreal; a bomb exploded at the warehouses of Fraser Brothers, a Canadian firm trading with Cuba; Cuban trade offices were bombed in Montreal;

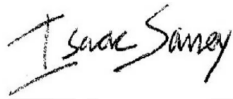
- **1968** - The Canada Tourism office on Fifth Avenue in New York City and offices of a Canadian airline in Miami were attacked;
- **1971** - A bomb exploded in the Cuban trade offices in Montreal;
- **1972** - A bomb was set off in the Cuban trade offices in Montreal killing Cuban consular diplomat, Sergio Pérez Castillo, wounding seven people and causing substantial damage;
- **1974** - A bomb exploded in the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa;
- **1976** - An explosive device was lobbed at the Cuban Consulate in Montreal;
- **1980** - A bomb was set off at the Cuban Consulate in Montreal.

These are only some examples of the types of atrocities that the Cuban Five were working to avert and prevent.

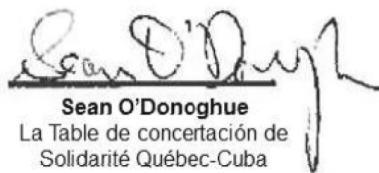
The Tribunal and Assembly concluded with a final decision taken by all its participants, that we formally request your esteemed office to intercede with the United States President to free these five innocent men.

The participants of the Peoples' Tribunal and Assembly (Sept. 21-23, 2012, Toronto, ON, Canada), are convinced that as the Prime Minister of Canada, you have a moral obligation to take a principled stand on this issue and demand the immediate freedom for the Cuban Five whose only "crime" was fighting against terrorism.

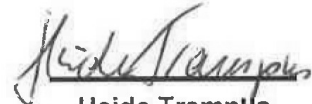
Sincerely,



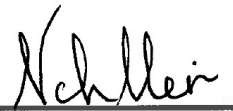
Isaac Saney
Canadian Network on Cuba



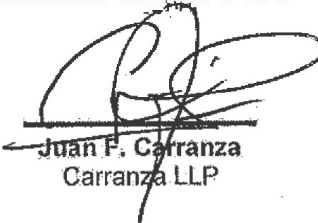
Sean O'Donoghue
La Table de concertación de
Solidarité Québec-Cuba



Heide Trampus
Worker to Worker, Canada-Cuba
Labour Solidarity Network




Nchamah Miller
Consejo Internacional de Mujeres
Latino Americanas y Caribeñas en
Canadá (LATIN@S)



Juan F. Carranza
Carranza LLP



Elizabeth Hill
Canadian Network on Cuba



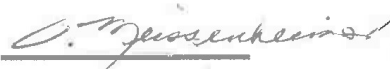
Sabrina Johnson
Toronto Forum on Cuba



Lisa Makarchuk
International Festival of Poetry of
Resistance (IFPOR)



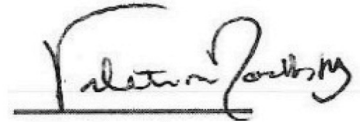
Miguel Figueroa
Communist Party of Canada



Linda Meissenheimer



Frank Trampus
Worker to Worker, Canada-Cuba
Labour Solidarity Network



Valentina Morasky



Steve O'Brien
Canadian-Cuban Friendship
Association – Toronto

cc. All Members of Parliament