



“I Want to See My Daddy”

Six-year-old Ivette, a U.S. citizen, has not seen her father, René González, for over four years.

John Ashcroft: Let the wives and children of the Cuban Five enter the U.S. for family visits

Five Men Wrongly Convicted

Who are the Cuban Five? Gerardo Hernández, René González, Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero, were railroaded and convicted in Miami federal court in 2001, on false charges of espionage conspiracy and related crimes. The real reason they are in prison? They were defending their country, Cuba, from U.S.-backed terrorist groups that operate out of Miami with impunity. The Cuban Five’s case is currently on appeal, and their legal team includes the noted attorney Leonard Weinglass. More than 200 committees around the world are working for their freedom.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government is prohibiting wives of two of the Cuban Five entry into the United States to visit their husbands.

Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, and Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández, are law-abiding and productive citizens of Cuba who seek entry solely for family visits.

Two Wives Denied Visits

A Child Deprived of Her Dad

Six-year-old Ivette González hasn’t seen her dad René for four years. She is a U.S.-born citizen, but because her mother Olga is denied entry, **Ivette** is also unable to visit him. In 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, “It is reasonable to ensure that a visiting child is accompanied and supervised by those adults charged with protecting and serving the child’s best interests.”

"Olga and I are law-abiding and productive citizens of our own country. How could we possibly be a problem for the United States, where our husbands are imprisoned?"

Adriana Pérez

"Our love grows every day."

Adriana Pérez

Adriana Pérez is a chemical engineer. She works as chief of production in a food production/technology plant in Havana, with a master's degree in the same field.

She and her husband, Gerardo Hernández, have been married 16 years, since July 15, 1988.

Five times the U.S. government has denied Adriana Pérez an entry visa to see Gerardo, arbitrarily deciding that she must be permanently barred from seeing her husband.

Thus, Gerardo Hernández, who was unjustly sentenced to two life terms, and Adriana, who hasn't seen him for over six years, are doubly condemned.

Adriana was subjected to cruel and unjustified treatment when she attempted to visit Gerardo on July 25, 2002.

On that day she flew to Houston airport, having been granted a U.S. visa.

On her arrival, she was detained by the FBI for 11 hours, isolated, deprived of her passport, photographed, fingerprinted, and illegally interrogated before being deported back to Cuba — without visiting Gerardo. The FBI offered absolutely no explanation to support its decision.

In April 2003, the U.S. government denied her a visa, invoking Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. This provision suspends the entry of any foreign national if the president considers the



Adriana Pérez and Gerardo Hernández

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entry to be contrary to the United States national security interests.

In October 2003 and April 2004, the U.S. again denied Adriana, under Section 212(a)(3)(A). It denies entry to those presumed to be agents intent on "espionage or sabotage ... or any activity a purpose of which is the opposition to, or the control or overthrow of, the Government of the United States by force, violence, or other unlawful means."

The accusations of espionage are baseless and outrageous. Adriana and Olga have never acted against the USA nor harmed any national security interests.

Adriana's name does not appear in any of the charges leveled against Gerardo, nor any of his four compatriots. If they had any such evidence, the authorities would have arrested her in Houston.

Adriana speaks of their separation. "We have been apart six years, denied the right to have a family, and to share our private thoughts with a visit.

"The most important thing for us is family. We are very close to our families, and we cherish our many friendships."

Adriana's mother Abis, her father Alfredo and brother Armando, "support Gerardo and me very much."

"All I ask, for those persons who have influence in the United States, is to realize that we just ask for the right to visit our husbands. The U.S. authorities have the power to impose restrictions on us to enter the country, which we would not object to in the least. I have every right to see my husband."

For refusing to plead guilty, his family is punished



Olga Salanueva and little Ivette

Olga Salanueva Arango and Ivette González Salanueva

With a degree in business administration, Olga Salanueva has worked since 1978 in accounting and human resources.

Olga and René have a 20-year-old daughter, Irma, who is enrolled in university in Havana. Ivette, their 6-year-old daughter, is a U.S.-born citizen and was four months old when her father was arrested. She cannot see him because her mother is barred entry to the U.S.

Olga Salanueva and René González have been married 21 years. He was unjustly convicted and sentenced to 15 years in December 2001. René is currently in Edgefield prison, S.C.

Olga has not seen him since August 16, 2000, when she was arrested and later deported by the INS. She, René and their children were living in Miami at the time of his September 12, 1998 arrest.

For two years after René's arrest, no charges or claims were ever brought against Olga. That is, until her husband's trial date drew near.

Her deportation from the United States was a veiled U.S. government maneuver: When her husband refused to plead guilty before trial, as "offered" by the FBI, René received a letter from the federal agents two weeks later, suggesting that the permanent resident status of his family could be revoked at any time.

In an act of intimidation, on August 16, 2000, Olga was handcuffed and driven to the Immigration and Naturalization Services to appear before a judge in a

deportation hearing.

On the way there, Olga says, "They drove me to the Miami Detention Center where René had been held since two years before. They took me so he could see that I was in their custody, that he had one more chance to declare himself guilty, and then I could remain in the United States.

"It was obvious pressure on him and a threat to both of us. René said no, he was not guilty and would not plead so."

As punishment, Olga was held for three months in INS jail, and deported from the United States back to Cuba, on November 22, 2002.

For Olga to appeal her deportation order, it would require staying many months in jail until a final INS determination. Fearing for their children's safety while she and René were imprisoned, she had only one option — give up her right to appeal and be deported.

Now, only permission by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft can gain her entry.

Olga was deported under the trumped-up accusation that she was engaged in espionage on the United States. Yet, René himself was never charged with espionage or espionage conspiracy.

"It has been four long years since we last saw each other.

"No family can function that way. It is only right that we as a family be together, even if only to

visit each other in jail."

Olga hasn't seen René since August 16, 2000, when she was arrested by the INS. Two weeks earlier, the FBI made an offer to René he couldn't refuse: Plead guilty and your family can remain in the U.S. René did refuse, and Olga was brought in handcuffs to the INS. After three months in detention, she was deported.



Olga Salanueva, oldest daughter Irmita, and René González

Stop the Delay, Grant the Families' Visits

Elisabeth Palmeiro (far right, with her husband Ramón Labañino, their two little daughters, and Ramón's oldest daughter Ailí) has **waited five months** to be granted a new entry visa. Since Ramón's imprisonment, Washington has granted the family permission to visit Ramón **only four times in six years**. He is sentenced to life in Beaumont federal prison, Texas.

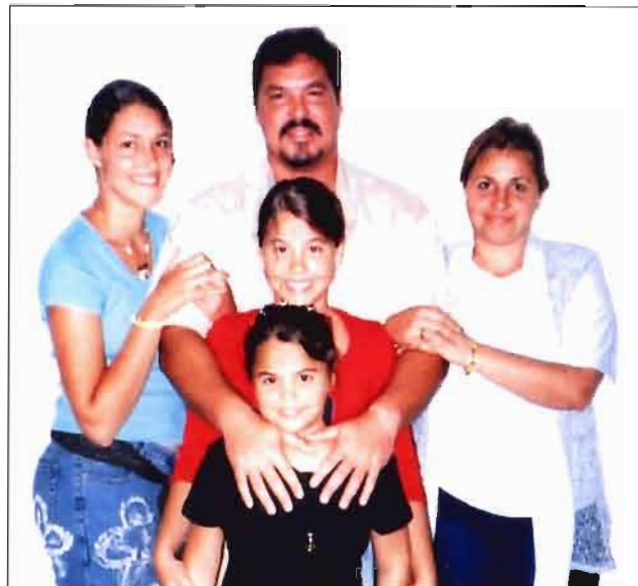
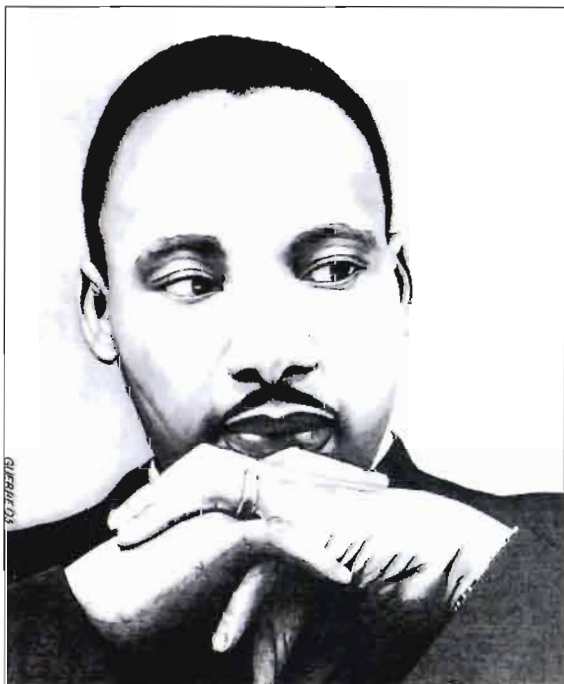
"The children are extremely anxious to see their father. They are growing up quickly without sharing enough time together. All summer long they waited to see him, and now school has started. I can't tell you how sad they were not to visit him."

The situation is repeated with all four of the surviving mothers of the Cuban Five. **Mirta Rodríguez**, mother of **Antonio Guerrero** who is sentenced to life in Florence, Colorado, has **waited eleven months** for the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to grant her permission to see her son.

It took **12 months** before **Irma Schwerert**, the mother of **René González**, received her visa to visit her son in September 2004.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft has the authority to grant Olga Salanueva and Adriana Pérez permission to enter the United States, and to grant the families more frequent visits with their loved ones. **Please support the campaign for the families' visits.**

Art by Antonio Guerrero



Above: Ramón's family visiting him in Beaumont prison, Texas, last November, 2003. Ramón's wife Elisabeth, right, is still awaiting a new visa.

Below: Irma Schwerert, René González's mother; Irmida González, René's daughter; Magali Llort, Fernando González's mother; Mirta Rodríguez, Antonio Guerrero's mother; Carmen Nordelo, Gerardo Hernández's mother.



Mail coupon to: Free the Five Committee, 2489 Mission St., Rm. 24
San Francisco CA 94110 • 415-821-6545 • freethefive@actionsf.org
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- Send me an information packet on the campaign to gain visiting rights for the families of the Cuban Five.
- Enclosed is a donation of \$_____. (make check payable to: "Free the Five/IPCA" or make donation through our website.)
- Send me more information about the case of the Cuban Five.

U.S. WOMEN AND CUBA COLLABORATION PROJECT

CALL FOR ACTION ON REAL SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS

The **US Women and Cuba Collaboration**, in concert with women around the world working for peaceful solutions to international conflicts, calls for action on issues of real security, justice, and peaceful relations among sovereign governments. We believe that our world's genuine security, even in light of the new century's glut of war and terrorist acts, depends on our strategic use of collaborative tools of diplomacy and negotiations, as well as international law and other pressure, to bring just and peaceful resolutions among the nations and peoples of the world. We lament U.S. circumventions and disrespect for international law and U.N. protocols in its invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, situations that require all of us who are committed to global peace and justice to assert our leadership, drawing on our individual and collective experiences, values, and perspectives to develop policies that make transgressions against collaborative global interests unthinkable.

We also profoundly object to the U.S. government blockade of Cuba, a blockade that has been in place for over forty years. As members of a Collaboration working to end the blockade and to normalize relations between our two sovereign countries, we maintain that current U.S. foreign policy on Cuba violates the human rights of Cuba's citizens, especially women and children. Because of the blockade, countries that trade with Cuba pay appalling economic penalties in trade with the U.S., even for commerce with Cuba involving vitally needed food and medicine, and U.S. constitutional rights are violated by the severe travel restrictions placed on the travel of U.S. citizens to Cuba.

MEASURES THAT INSURE REAL SECURITY

Inspired and educated by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, ratified in September, 1995, we work in concert with women globally to strategize and achieve enduring security and peace for our families, for our nations, and for our world. "Look at the world through women's eyes" was the rallying call at the NGO forum at Huairou, and because of the UN's Fourth World Conference for Women at Beijing and Huairou, we are networked to continue peace work in inclusive ways across national borders, races, cultures, and classes. This is a powerful foundation for our collaborative work as activists for women's rights, racial justice, and peace in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. The Beijing Platform addresses issues of violence and armed conflict as two of its twelve strategic concerns, calling for the promotion of conflict resolution that is non-violent and for the elimination of human rights violations, in addition to equitable access to health, education, food, economic opportunities, and clean environment as foundations for the real security of sustainable human development.

IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE AND MILITARISM

Women and girls of every color, culture, religion, sexual orientation, and age are profoundly affected by daily acts of violence, terrorism, and torture. We know too well the blatant forms of global violence we endure: rape, domestic violence, sex trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, hate crimes, and sexual harassment, to name but a few. It is women and children who experience the brunt of local and global violence. We are also deeply injured by the more subtle, sinister forms of violence that degrade us, lower our expectations, and diminish our self-esteem, in our homes, our communities, and our workplaces.

Through all of this we have arrived at a clear understanding that men are not our enemy, even though they most often are the perpetrators of violence against girls and women. We know that the greed of transnational corporations, in their quest for globalization and profits around the globe, increases the legions of poverty-stricken people on our planet. The starvation, disease, and illiteracy of extreme poverty, as well as the rape of the earth by environmental outrages, including war, lead to a desperate hopelessness that can only be alleviated by policies aimed at peace with justice, equity, and equality. This means that global development must be primarily concerned with ending poverty.

Militarism ultimately destroys true democratic principles and processes, especially the freedom to dissent. Recent manifestations include the Patriot Act and the proposed Patriot Act II, and the development of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a new government office that already has a solid track record of making the lives of many citizens and immigrants in our country far less secure in their enjoyment of civil and human rights. Militarism diverts much-needed human and financial resources to the heavy expenses of war, and the result is that the US has the largest "defense" budget in the world, one used most recently in Iraq for purely offensive purposes. Hand-in-hand with patriarchy and racism, militarism causes all who are susceptible to its arguments to forsake compassion for our fellow human beings around the world.

Because women have experienced many destructive and powerful forms of violence, especially war and other forms of militarism, and because we know the transforming and healing powers of conflict resolution and peaceful alternatives to violence, we propose an action agenda focused on real security for all people:

WE THEREFORE CALL FOR:

1. **Education about and implementation of an international women's rights agenda** through Beijing + 10 actions and International Women's Day celebrations on March 8th.
2. **The normalization of relations with the Cuban government**, including the end of the forty-four year-old economic blockade that disproportionately penalizes women and children by withholding necessary goods and medicine; **the removal of Cuba from the U.S. list of "terrorist" nations; the release of the five Cuban political prisoners** held in the U.S. for preventing terrorism against their government as well as the U.S.; and an **end to the use of Guantanamo, Cuba, as a U.S. prison and as a U.S. holding** including a return of Guantanamo to the sovereign nation of Cuba.
3. **The right of people from the United States to travel freely to Cuba** supported by passage of congressional legislation, including the proposed **Bridges to the Cuban People Act** and the right for Cubans to receive visas from the U.S. State Department to visit the U.S. to speak directly for themselves.
4. **A dramatic increase in the leadership and public policy roles of progressive anti-racist women** of all races and classes, public forums for their voices for peace and justice, and corresponding support for organizations which defend women's and human rights globally and domestically. To provide specific support, we call upon the U.S. Administration **to restore full funding and rescind the "gag" order for international family planning programs** as integral to women's health services and reproductive rights.
5. **Adoption and full implementation of real security measures** that can set the basis for a peaceful and just world including the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action, 1949 UN Convention on Human Rights, 1980 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Declaration, and endorsement of the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org).
6. **Rescision of the "Patriot Act"** which has not only taken away civil liberties in the US, but also poses a profound threat to the Bill of Rights and our Constitution; **opposition to the Patriot Act II**; and the **dismantling of the Office of Homeland Security** in favor of genuine security campaigns waged to abolish domestic and global poverty.
7. **Support for independent media outlets and feminist, progressive points of view** such as Democracy Now! [www.democracynow.org], Women's e-news [www.womensenews.org], Reclaim the Media [www.reclaimthemedial.org] and Free Speech TV [www.freespeechtv.org] to increase reporting on women's rights and our ability to participate in decisions that impact our lives.
8. **An end to war and terrorism** and a significant increase in the U.S. budget for humanitarian foreign aid appropriations in general and for human needs in particular; full implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325, lead by WILPF's UN Office, which calls for gender sensitivity in all UN Missions including peacekeeping, for women to participate equally at all negotiating tables and for the protection of women and girls during armed conflict [www.peacewomen.org].

The **US Women and Cuba Collaboration**, directed by a Coordinating Committee based in Seattle, WA, is comprised of demographically and geographically diverse US women and a growing network of more than thirty organizations representing women's rights, racial and economic justice, labor, Cuba solidarity, artists and media makers. Its actions aim to empower diverse women in the US and other parts of the world so they might participate in, and develop, just and peaceful international relations, deepen global women's solidarity, and use a woman-to-woman citizen diplomacy model to craft methods to improve the lives of women in Cuba and the US. The ultimate goal of our strategic collaboration is to normalize relations between our sovereign nations and to build an inclusive and progressive global women's movement. The U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration Project organizes in solidarity with women throughout Cuba, primarily through the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), a grassroots NGO representing about 85% of Cuban women aged 14 years and older.

Our mission is to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial US-Cuba relations; our work is rooted in the concept of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and women's rights.

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