



**The Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5**  
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**Suzanne Daley**  
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**New York Times**  
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To Suzanne Daley:

On September 12th, 1998, Fernando Gonzalez Llort, Ramon Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodriguez, Rene Gonzalez Sehweret, and Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo, known throughout the world as the Cuban 5, were arrested and then charged by the U.S. government with a series of offenses, the most serious being conspiracy, the favored charge of prosecutors when they have no evidence that a crime occurred.

In actuality, the Cuban 5 infiltrated Cuban-American right-wing terrorist organizations based in Miami to monitor their actions. The Cuban 5 infiltrated these organizations to protect the national sovereignty of their homeland Cuba and to safeguard the American populous from terrorist actions within the United States. The information they gathered was shared by Cuba with U.S. officials.

With a trial based in Miami, it was impossible for the Cuban 5 to receive a fair trial. The proceedings were threatened by Cuban American right wing terrorist organizations, leading defense counsel to make motions for a change of venue, which were denied. The judge, prosecution and U.S. government officials suppressed defense evidence and made sure that key witnesses for the defense would not testify. It was found that the information that the Cuban 5 had amassed was not government classified, but public information that did not threaten national security. Yet in June 2001, they were found guilty of espionage and threatening national security.

For the past 8 years an international movement of support, comprised of Nobel Laureates and leading human rights activists, has developed to demand the release of these five innocent men. In fact the Working Group on Arbitration Detentions of the U.N. Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution in which they concluded that the Cuban 5's incarceration was arbitrary and recommended the U.S. government rectify the situation. On August 9th, 2005, a three-judge panel of the 11th circuit court of appeals overturned their convictions and called for a retrial. Unfortunately, a year later on August 9th, 2006, the full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia, with two judges dissenting, rejected the decision made by the three-judge panel.

For the past eight years, the issue of the Cuban 5 has been ignored by the U.S. media; with the exception of articles written by the *Washington Post* (May 2006), *L.A. Times* (August 2006), and *The Daily News* (September 2006). The period of time between September 12-Oct.6th has been designated by the support network as a time to raise awareness about the Cuban 5 and their case. An article in The New York Times would help educate thousands of people about these innocent men.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that a reporter of the New York Times contact a representative of The **Popular Education Project to the Free the Cuban 5**, a New York based initiative in support of the Cuban 5, at 718-601-4751 and conduct an interview; the Project will also provide additional contacts for interviews. The Cuban 5 is far too important of an issue for the New York Times to ignore.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_