



# UNITE and Free the Miami Five Campaign calls for your support

Unite and the Free Miami Five Campaign – with the support of ICTU and SIPTU – are holding a candle-lit vigil outside the American Embassy at 5.30pm on 12 October 2009 to bring attention to the re-sentencing hearing scheduled for the Miami Five in a Florida courtroom on the following day.

Fernando González



Ramón Labañíno



Antonio Guerrero



René González



Gerardo Hernández



Last year, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals of Atlanta ruled that the sentences given to Ramon, Antonio and Fernando were imposed incorrectly and allowed their appeal against their sentences. This vigil is designed to bring attention to the hearing and let the Miami court know that the eyes of the world are on their deliberations.

Since 1959, 3,500 Cubans have died as a result of terrorist attacks directed at them from groups based within the exiled community of Miami. The Cuban Government has repeatedly asked for cooperation from the US Govt in reigning-in these groups but none is ever forthcoming. During the mid 90's, after a spate of hotel bombings designed to destroy their fledgling tourist industry, the Cuban Government took matters into their own hands and sent 5 men into Miami to closely investigate these groups and gather information. These men are trade unionists and are known as the Miami Five. They were successful and sent the information back to Cuba who in turn compiled an incriminating dossier of evidence on terrorism which they gave to the FBI.

Two weeks later, on September 12 1998, instead of arresting the terrorists, the five men were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit espionage against the US. From the time of their arrest to their trial, they were held in solitary confinement and, despite defence requests for a change of venue, they were tried in Miami with the very terrorists they were infiltrating acting as witnesses for the prosecution. They were collectively sentenced to two life sentences plus 75 years.

Last June, their lawyers filed 12 global 'friend of the court' briefs to the US Supreme Court, including an Irish brief signed by former President Mary Robinson and 47 Irish TD's. The US Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal. With the final legal avenue closed to them, it is now left to the court of public opinion to get justice for these men.

This vigil is part of a global struggle amongst the Trade Union movement and Human Rights organisations to bring justice to the Miami 5 and to mark the beginning of their 12th year in prison for crimes they did not commit.

**Join us at the American Embassy at 5.30 to 7.30pm  
as we expand the campaign to win freedom for the Five.**

Further information from:

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