

Letters of Love and Hope: The Story of the Cuban Five

Introduced by Alice Walker, with a preface by Cuban poet Nancy Morejon

The UN Commission on Human Rights condemned the US Government over the case of on Human Rights made public its resolution Opinion No. 19/2005 (United States of America) following its investigation into the case of the five Cubans imprisoned in the United States for the “crime of trying to prevent attacks against Cuba initiated by Miami-based terrorist groups.

In its declaration, adopted May 27, 2005, the Working Group concluded that the imprisonment and treatment of the Five was arbitrary and made recommendations to the U.S. government to rectify the situation. This is the first time that a special mechanism of the UN has issued an opinion on the case.

A book, *Letters of Love and Hope: The Case of the Cuban Five*, released in May 2005, includes excerpts from diaries, letters from and to children, wives and parents of the five Cubans imprisoned in the United States for “espionage,” providing a glimpse of how ordinary families strive to maintain connections in extraordinary circumstances, in a struggle for human dignity and hope, with echoes of the Elián González controversy and the Rosenberg case..

In her introduction, Alice Walker describes this is a story of “courage, great sacrifice and love. It is a story for the ages; especially for those of our people who have suffered under the implacable oppression of white American supremacy, a rule of color and power the rest of the world appears destined to experience.”

Well-known U.S. political prisoners, Angela Davis and Mumia Abu-Jamal have added their voices to the campaign to free the five Cubans, something which Davis considers “a duty for all the forces that stand against terrorism in any part of the world.” Leonard Weinglass, attorney for one of the detained Cubans, has repeatedly argued that the case represents a significant violation of both international law and the U.S. Constitution, a claim now apparently vindicated by the findings of the UN Commission on Human Rights Working Group.

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