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NETWORK CUBA GERMANY

Open letter of the board to US-President OBAMA on Fathers' Day for the Freedom of the CUBAN 5

BERLIN/Germany, June 17, 2012

Dear President Obama,

Today is Father's Day in your country as well as in the Republic of Cuba, your neighbour.

Father's Day is a celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. All families celebrate this special day with their loved-ones.

But in Cuba there are the families of the CUBAN 5 who are still waiting for the overdue release of their fathers, husbands, sons and brothers. Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are the brave five Cuban men who are not at home with their families, because they are imprisoned in the U.S., they are away from their families for almost 14 years now for the sole reason that they have tried to save their country Cuba from criminal and terrorist attacks from your country, the U.S., specifically from extremist organizations in Florida. We would like to remind you of the concerns on the CUBAN 5 having been raised by organisations like *Amnesty International* and the *UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*.

We are aware that for more than 50 years the Cuba policy of the U.S. governments is dominated by conservative exile-Cubans and rightwing extremists. And from the very beginning of your Presidency the rightwing exile-Cuban organisations mainly from Florida blocked any step from you vis-à-vis Cuba, which you had promised during your election campaign.

Dear Mr. President Obama, several years ago you wrote in the Preface to your fine book "*Dreams from My Father*" the following:

***"I know that the hardening of lines, the embrace
of fundamentalism and tribe, dooms us all."***

This basic wisdom should not be forgotten. It should be practiced vis-à-vis Cuba!

We, as well as most people in Germany and the world are condemning that your administration continues a more than 53 years old scandalous imperialist politics against the sovereign Republic of Cuba. It is not tolerable that your government and its agencies are still trying to subvert Cuba, and are still orchestrating media campaigns and PR-attacks.

We herewith strongly urge you to free the Cuban Five immediately.

Yes, you can!

Sincerely

Harri Gruenberg & the Board