

12 YEARS OF INJUSTICE – WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE CUBAN FIVE

Dear President Obama

We again appeal to you today, Mr. President, as we did in the past to your predecessor President Bush, on behalf of the **Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association** and all peace and justice loving Namibian people for the immediate and unconditional release of the 5 Cuban patriots, who have been unjustly incarcerated in U.S prisons for fighting against terrorism directed at the Cuban people.

We also demand the immediate granting of humanitarian visas to **Adriana Perez** and **Olga Salvanueva** and multiple entry visas to the family members of the **CUBAN FIVE** so that they can visit their husbands, sons and fathers.

On 12 September 1998 five Cuban men, now famously known as the **CUBAN FIVE** were arrested by FBI agents for



Namibians staged a peaceful march in Windhoek on Thursday demanding the release of the Cuban Five. They handed over a petition to the US Embassy in Windhoek. Photo by Levi Upula.

observing, monitoring and reporting on the terrorist activities aimed at the independent and sovereign state of Cuba. Their only "crime" was to report on the plans of a terrorist network, based in Miami

Florida, which for over 40 years has coordinated terrorist attacks on Cuba. The single aim of the **Cuban Five** was to save innocent lives in Cuba and in the United States. Anti-Cuban terrorism has caused

the death of almost 3500 Cubans over the years.

Fernando Gonzalez, Rene Gonzalez, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernandez and Ramon Labanino were falsely

charged with several offences, the most serious of which were conspiracy to commit espionage, and in the case of Gerardo Hernandez, conspiracy to commit murder in connection with two planes that were shot down after illegally entering Cuban airspace. The five were placed in solitary confinement for 17 months. They were cut off from their families and were not permitted to communicate with each other.

The trial of the **Cuban Five** took place in the politically-charged and witch-hunting atmosphere of Miami. Jurors were intimidated, anti-Cuban demonstrations took place in front of the courthouse, witnesses were bullied and the defense lawyers were denied access to necessary documents. Defense attorneys' requests to move the trial to another city were denied five times by the judge, although it is obvious that a fair trial was impossible in Miami, a city well known for its hostile attitude towards Cuba. During the seven-month trial, the prosecution failed to present evidence of the involvement of the accused in espionage or murder. Nevertheless, in a blow to justice, the Cuban Five were convicted on 8 June 2001 and were given the following sentences of imprisonment:

Fernando Gonzalez, 19 years; Rene Gonzalez, 15 years; Antonio Guerrero, life term plus 10 years; Gerardo Hernandez, two life terms plus 15 years; life term plus 18 years.

The **CUBAN FIVE** celebrated a short lived victory in the United State Court of Appeals, in which the Court overturned the convictions of the Cuban Five and ordered a new trial outside Miami. The struggle to obtain their release suffered several legal setbacks. The Court of Appeals in Atlanta confirmed the convictions of the **Five**. In the case of **Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzales and Ramon Labanino** the court set the sentences aside and referred their cases again to the Miami District Court for re-sentencing. The Court did not interfere with the sentences of **Gerardo Hernandez and Rene Gonzalez**. The Five took their case right up to the United States Supreme Court. The United States Supreme Court on **15 June 2009** refused without any giving any reasons to review the case of the Cuban Five. This was despite very strong arguments presented by legal counsel on behalf of the **FIVE** and despite submissions of amicus curiae briefs by ten Nobel laureates.

On **October 13, 2009** the re-sentencing hearing of **Antonio Guerrero** took place. The same judge that in December

2001 condemned him to a life sentence, plus 10 years, was constrained to admit that no evidence existed, that implicated Antonio in the offence of gathering or transmitting secret information. Despite this the judge imposed a sentence of **21 years and 10 months imprisonment plus 5 years of supervised release**.

The re-sentencing hearings for **Fernando Gonzalez** and **Ramon Labanino** took place on December 8, 2009. The original sentence of **Fernando Gonzalez** of **19 years** was changed to **17 years and 9 months imprisonment**, while **Ramon Labanino's** sentence of **life plus 18 years** was reduced to **30 years imprisonment**.

Mr. President we condemn in the strongest terms the conditions of the incarceration of the **CUBAN FIVE** which have been cruel, unusual and in violation of many rights and privileges that by law must be granted to prisoners. Of the eight years each has already served in prison, much of the jail time has been in solitary confinement. Two of the five have never been permitted visits from their wives, while one has a young child whom he has never met. We remember fondly the visit of 3 of the family members of the **Cuban Five** to Namibia and the moving account of the pain and suffering the separation from their loved ones has inflicted upon them. We were moved by their resolve to continue the struggle for the release of all the **Five**. We say today to them:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN YOUR FIGHT FOR JUSTICE! WE STAND WITH YOU TODAY, AS YOU DID DURING OUR DARKEST HOURS OF APARTHEID AND OPPRESSION!

Mr. President Ten Nobel laureates, hundreds of parliamentarians around the world, numerous legal and human rights associations have condemned the incarceration of the **CUBAN FIVE** as unjust and unfair and have demanded their immediate release. The National Assembly of Namibia on 9 July 2008 unanimously adopted a motion calling for the **immediate and unconditional release of the Cuban Five**.

We join their call today and demand today the unconditional release of the **FIVE Cuban heroes**. Mr. President **STOP THE INJUSTICE NOW!**

We, call with all peace loving people of the world, for justice for the Cuban 5 and their immediate release from prison!

Namibia Cuba Friendship Association

Namibia Committee to Free the Cuban Five

VACANCY

NHE, an equal opportunity employer "provides and finances affordable, quality and adequate housing thereby contributing to Namibia's socio-economic development and creating a stable, progressive human habitat", has the following vacancies:

MANAGER: FINANCE (D4)

Reporting directly to the Senior Manager: Finance, HR & Administration, the incumbent will assume overall responsibility for all company financial planning, coordination, controls and reporting.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

The incumbent will be responsible for the following:

- Company financial planning, coordination, controls and reporting
- Submission of monthly Management Accounts and Annual Financial Statements
- Overall planning, coordination and implementation of corporate budget
- Oversee all cash management functions
- Future financial planning and forecasts
- Management of department and staff

REQUIREMENTS

Interested individuals should meet the following minimum requirements:

- B. Comm. Degree majoring in Accounting (Post grad qualification plus completed Audit Articles will be an advantage)
- 5 years of Financial Accounting experience of which 3 years must have been in a Management position
- Computerized Accounting experience
- Knowledge of Accounting packages and excel and or spreadsheet.
- Namibian citizenship

In return, the Corporation offers a negotiable salary befitting a position of this nature, as well as motor vehicle allowance, pension fund, relocation costs, subsidized medical aid, housing allowance, personal accident insurance cover, entertainment allowance and generous leave benefits.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

A letter of application, detailed CV and certified proof of your qualifications should be hand delivered to the under mentioned address:

The Manager: Human Capital & OD
NHE, Head Office,
7 General Murtala Muhammed Avenue, Eros

or may be posted to:

The Manager: Human Capital & OD
P O Box 20192, Windhoek

Closing Deadline: on or before the 17th of September 2010

NB: Only short listed candidates will be contacted and no personal documents will be returned.

