Who are the Cuban Five?
The Cuban Five are five Cuban men who are in U.S. prison, serving four life sentences and 75 years collectively, after being wrongly convicted in U.S. federal court in Miami, on June 8, 2001. They are Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez and René Gonzalez.
The Five were falsely accused by the U.S. government of committing espionage conspiracy against the United States, and other related charges. But the Five pointed out vigorously in their defense that they were involved in monitoring the actions of Miami-based terrorist groups, in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country of Cuba. The Five's actions were never directed at the U.S. government. They never harmed anyone nor ever possessed nor used any weapons while in the United States.

The Cuban Five's mission was to stop terrorism
For more than 40 years, anti-Cuba terrorist organizations based in Miami have engaged in countless terrorist activities against Cuba, and against anyone who advocates a normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. More than 3,000 Cubans have died as a result of these terrorists' attacks. Terrorist Miami groups like Comandos F4 and Brothers to the Rescue operate with complete impunity from within the United States to attack Cuba—with the knowledge and support of the FBI and CIA. Therefore, Cuba made the careful and necessary decision to send the Five to Miami to monitor the terrorists. The Cuban Five infiltrated the terrorist organizations in Miami to inform Cuba of imminent attacks.

The aim of such a clandestine operation by the Cuban Five—at great personal risk—was to prevent criminal acts, and thus protect the lives of Cubans and other people. But instead of arresting the terrorists, the FBI arrested the Cuban Five ANTI-terrorists on September 12, 1998. The Five were illegally held in solitary confinement for 17 months in Miami jail. The trial began in November 2000. With the seven-month trial based in Miami, a virtual witchhunt atmosphere existed. Defense attorneys' motions for a change of venue were denied five times by the trial judge. The trial ended with a conviction. The Five were convicted June 8, 2001 and sentenced to four life terms and 75 years in December, 2001.
The Cuban Five were separated and sent to five prisons in different locations of the U.S. to make it more difficult for their lawyers to assist them, and to keep the Five as separate persons—not as the monolithic symbol they have become.

A victory in appeals, then a surprise reversal
On August 9, 2005, after seven years of unjust imprisonment, the Cuban Five won an unprecedented victory on appeal. A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the convictions of the Cuban Five and ordered a new trial outside of Miami. However, in an unexpected reversal on Oct. 31, the 11th Circuit Court vacated the three-judge panel's ruling and granted an "en banc" hearing before the full panel of 12 judges. Exactly one year after the victory that granted the Five a new trial, the panel voted 10 to 2 to deny the Five a new trial, and instead affirmed the trial court.

Nine remaining issues of appeal are before the three-judge panel (it is actually two judges now, one has retired); and as of December 2006, final supplemental documents were submitted by defense and prosecution.

Your support is more important than ever
This case is a political case and the Cuban Five are political prisoners. Their freedom will depend not only on the arduous work of the defense team but just as importantly on the public support that can be organized. Over 250 committees have been established in the United States and around the world, demanding immediate freedom for Gerardo, Ramon, Antonio, Fernando and Rene.

Important declarations have been made by hundreds of parliamentarians in Britain, Italy, and the European and Latin American Parliaments. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, with five judges, ruled that there were irregularities in the Five's trial and arrest, effectively denouncing them a fair trial and calling on the U.S. government to remedy this injustice.

The year 2007 will be critical for the struggle to win freedom for the Cuban Five. Contact the Namibian Committee to Free the Five and find out what you can do for these five men who dedicated their lives to save others.

Information Note
On the morning of August 3, Hero of the Republic of Cuba, Gerando Hernandez, telephoned his wife, Adriana Perez O'Connor and informed her that on the afternoon of August 2 had been moved from the punishment cell, where he had been since July 21 to the normal prison area where he is serving his unjust conviction.
The State Department on Monday afternoon, had informed the Cuban authorities of the transfer. Adriana, in a conversation, found him in good spirits and high morale.

On behalf of the Cuban people, we are grateful for the outpouring of support and solidarity shown by various organizations and people of goodwill who demanded an end to this cruel and inhuman treatment. We will continue the struggle until justice is done and the Five return to their homeland.