

# *U.S. Scholar Urges Obama to Free the Cuban Five*

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Washington, January 4 (RHC)-- The director of the Institute for Policy Studies, with offices in Washington DC, John Cavanagh, sent President Barack Obama a letter urging him to rectify the mistake that has kept the Cuban antiterrorist fighters in U.S. jails.

In his letter, Cavanagh referred to what he called the morally correct decision by Obama last December 19, when he ordered the release of eight persons that had served 15 prison years for drug-related crimes.

The intellectual told Obama that with his gesture, he made justice for them, while he also issued an important statement related to the inequalities of the US justice system. He stressed that the president now has the opportunity to commute the sentences given to those four persons,” as he referred to Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labañino, Fernando Gonzalez and Antonio Guerrero.

Cavanagh said that by commuting the sentences to the Cubans, Obama would again address two important issues; on the one hand, an unfair punishment and on the other the opening of a door to a new chapter in US relations with Latin America, as a significant step towards reestablishing relations with a key neighbor.

Hernandez, Labañino, Gonzalez and Guerrero, along with Rene Gonzalez, who is already in Cuba after he served his prison sentence, were arrested in 1998 and submitted to a biased Miami trial which gave them extremely long and unfair sentences after they monitored Florida-based violent organizations that planned terrorist actions against Cuba.

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