

Cuba Ready to Work with Washington to Resolve Alan Gross Case



Havana, April 9 (RHC) -- Cuba reiterated its willingness to seek, together with the United States, a solution to the case of American Alan Gross, imprisoned in Havana since 2009 for violating state security laws of the Caribbean country, says a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX).

This solution must be "acceptable to both parties, and address the humanitarian concerns related to the remaining three individuals of the Cuban Five group, unjustly imprisoned in the United States for over 15 years," says the document.

Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero and Ramón Labañino are imprisoned in the northern nation since 1998. The quintet is completed by René González and Fernando González, who are already back in Cuba after fulfilling their sentences.

The statement signed by the Director General for the United States of the Cuban Foreign Affairs Ministry, Josefina Vidal, said the Cuban government is very concerned about a recent U.S. government statement that said Alan Gross, the jailed American USAID contractor, had begun a hunger strike last week.

Vidal notes that Gross has received a decent and dignified treatment since his arrest, and is being held in a hospital, not due to medical requirements, but because his stay there guarantees his well-being and access to high quality health care services.

Gross is in good physical condition and shows stable health parameters; chronic diseases associated with his own age, and for which he receives proper medical assistance, are under control, she said.

She adds that he receives regular visits by his wife and lawyer with whom he maintains systematic telephone and electronic communications. He also enjoys access to monthly contacts with U.S. consular officials and diplomats, as well as religious figures.

Gross was arrested, prosecuted and punished for his participation in a subversive program funded by government of the United States for the establishment of an illegal communications system, using non-commercial technology.

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