

Cuban Five Say Fidel is Their Force and Inspiration



Havana, August 14 (RHC)— Ramon Labañino, one of the Cuban anti-terrorists still held in U.S. prisons, sent Fidel Castro a happy birthday message on behalf of his four compatriots, all known as the Cuban Five.

Labañino -- along with Rene Gonzalez, Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez and Antonio Guerrero -- were given unfair and extremely long prison sentences by a Miami court in 2001 after they monitored Florida-based ultra-right organizations that planned terrorist actions against the Cuban people.

“On your 88th birthday, we want to express to you all our affection and admiration, on behalf of the Cuban Five, our relatives and the Cuban people,” reads the message. “You know well that you are our inspiration and our force in our difficult days and in our routine of this political imprisonment.”

And Labañino continued: “And it is our best wish to be able to embrace you and share the honor of listening to your advice so important for the revolutionaries of all times.” “Happy Birthday, Comandante.”

The Cuban Five were arrested in 1998 in the United States and after all these years, only Rene Gonzalez and Fernando Gonzalez have returned to Cuba after they fully met their prison sentences.

Ramon Labañino, Gerardo Hernandez and Antonio Guerrero are still being held in U.S. jails despite international demands for their release.

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