

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Panayiotis Demetriou, Ana Maria Gomes, Gérard Onesta and Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann

on the refusal by the American authorities to grant visas to the families of detainees

Lapse date: 29.3.2007

Written declaration on the refusal by the American authorities to grant visas to the families of detainees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to Opinion 19/2005 of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions, according to which the detention of the Cuban citizens Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René Gonzalez is arbitrary and in which the US Government is asked to take measures to change this situation,
- B. having regard to Amnesty International's letter of January 2006 urging the US Government to guarantee the fair treatment of The Five and not to submit them to excessive privations, such as the refusal of visas to close relatives, which makes it impossible for them to visit the detainees,
- C. having regard to the positions expressed on this affair by national parliaments, international organisations and well-known figures, including nine Nobel prize-winners,
- D. whereas the US is still refusing to issue visas for two of the prisoners' wives and delaying the granting of visas for other family members,
- 1. Calls on the US Government to take into consideration the humanitarian nature of these visits and its legal obligations and to grant the necessary visas to Olga Salanueva, Adriana Pérez and their family members as quickly as legally possible;
- 2. Calls on the Council and the Commission to appeal to the US Government to take the appropriate measures to resolve this situation;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.