

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2653/10
by Hannes Swoboda (S&D)
to the Commission

Subject: Visiting rights for the wives and families of the 'Cuban Five' imprisoned in the USA

Since 12 September 1998 the 'Cuban Five' (Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, René González and Fernando González) have been incarcerated in the USA on charges of alleged espionage on US territory. They were sentenced to varying prison terms, from 15 years to two life sentences. The espionage activities were not proven and the handling of the case has been strongly criticised in various quarters because of the questionable attitude shown towards human rights.

Up to now the US authorities have denied the wives and family members of the 'Cuban Five' the right to visit the prisoners. On 18 December 2009 Olga Salanueva, wife of the prisoner René González, was refused entry to US territory by the US Department of Homeland Security. She was therefore unable to visit her husband. The US Government gave no grounds for refusing entry to US territory and consequently denying Mrs Salanueva her visiting rights, which constitutes a further violation of the human rights of the 'Cuban Five' and of their family members' fundamental rights.

What measures is the Commission taking to induce the USA to observe the visiting rights of the 'Cuban Five' political prisoners?