

Frederick H. Gerlach, Ph. D.

3248 S. New York Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207-3040 (USA)

Tel: +1 414 273 6610
Fax: +1 414 273 7048

Email FHGerlach@AOL.com

June 20, 2002

Mr. Michael S. D'Amato
Judiciary & Legislative Committee
Common Council
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. D'Amato:

I understand that the Council is considering a resolution of support for the lifting of travel restrictions to Cuba and normalizing relations and that at least one member sought State Department input to assure that federal policy is taken into consideration. I have been invited by the Milwaukee Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba to assist in this regard. The Coalition's website, www.cubawifriends.org, not only provides a wealth of information on the subject, but also includes a link to the State Department Cuba office webpage.

As a retiree of the State Department, I believe there is very little chance that a responsible official could be persuaded to come to Milwaukee for a meeting with the Council on this matter. However, if you wish to try, the person to contact would be:

Mr. James J. Carragher
Director, Office of Cuban Affairs
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520
Tel (202) 647-9273
E-mail cubanaffairs@state.gov

An alternative might be to invite the Executive Director of the UWM Institute of World Affairs, Dr. William Vocke (Tel 414- 227-3229), for an overview presentation of the issues involved in the U.S.-Cuba relationship. Under its charter, the Institute is required to provide a balanced, non-partisan view of all issues it focuses on.

I will be available until June 27 in case you wish to contact me. I personally strongly favor the lifting of travel restrictions and of the trade embargo that have long been in effect for Cuba. In my view, the end of the Cold War has completely changed the situation and there is no further justification for the current U.S. policy on Cuba.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick H. Gerlach
Foreign Service Officer (Retired)

BIO-WEAPONS ALLEGATIONS REFUTED

U.S. Allegations of Bio-Weapons Production by Cuba Refuted by Center for International Policy

U.S. Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, John Bolton made a number of grossly misleading and unsubstantiated allegations concerning Cuba's attitudes toward terrorism and its supposed manufacture of biological weapons at the Heritage Foundation on May 6.

These are quoted below with the Center for International Policy's point-by-point comments on each.

—“The United States believes that Cuba has at least a limited offensive biological warfare research and development effort.”

Bolton prefaces this very serious allegation by stating that, “Cuba leads in the production of pharmaceuticals and vaccines that are sold worldwide. Analysts and Cuban defectors have long cast suspicion on the activities conducted in these biomedical facilities.”

Bolton does not provide any evidence or even say who the analysts and defectors may be. His comments, however, seem to reflect those made by one analyst and one defector whose uncorroborated and admittedly speculative theories are continuously recycled among hard-line exiles.

The analyst is former Soviet Colonel Ken Alibek, who in his 1999 book, *Biohazard*,

writes that his former chief, Maj. Gen. Yuri Kalinin, told him he thought Cuba had an active bacteriological arms program. Alibek's allegations concerning Cuba—comprising 3 pages in his 291-page book—were based on his former boss's own speculation. “It was his opinion,” Alibek has said, acknowledging that his former boss, in fact, “saw no weapons production [in Cuba].”

In 1999, commenting on the Alibek book, the State Department said, “We have no evidence that Cuba is stockpiling or has mass-produced any BW [biological warfare] agents.”

Robert Zilliniskas, a senior scientist at the Center for Non-proliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, backed that up, saying, “there's been no evidence they're doing anything.”[1]

U.S. officials interviewed by The Miami Herald following publication of the Alibek book stated that there is “no proof.” The Herald quoted one U.S. official, having just “checked with appropriate agencies” about the book, who said, “With all the intelligence we get from defectors and other means, there's never been evidence.”

Another U.S. official said, “We get lots of reports from defectors and others, but when we go to check them out it's always second and third-hand, and the stuff doesn't check out.”[2]

It is indeed strange that after all these indi-

cations from U.S. officials that there is no evidence that Cuba is developing a biological warfare capability, Bolton now says we have reason to believe it is. In November of 2001, Bolton announced U.S. concerns over six nations believed to be interested in bioweapons productions. Iraq, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria were all on that list. Cuba was not.

—“Cuba has provided dual-use biotechnology to other rogue states.”

The supposed cooperation in BW with rogue states probably refers to the statements of Cuban defector José de la Fuente, the former director of the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) in Havana.

He alleged in a Nature Biotechnology commentary that Cuba has sold to Iran biotechnologies associated with treating heart attacks, viral diseases and with the development of vaccines. In 1999, a U.S. official interviewed by the Miami Herald commented on the Cuban biomedical industry's capability to produce bioweapons: “Stuff that sophisticated always has dual use [medical and military], no way around it....But none of what we know adds up to Cuba having offensive biological warfare capabilities.”[3]

De la Fuente stated that his concern was not that Cuba sold the technology but whether Iran would use the technologies to care for its population or to attempt to develop biological weapons. De la Fuente has also ac-

Continued on p. 4

What We Do

www.cubawifriends.org

BUILDING BRIDGES



Our bi-monthly newsletter brings news and analysis of recent developments as well as information about upcoming events in Milwaukee.



RELIEF FUND FOR HURRICANE MICHELLE VICTIMS

The devastation of Hurricane Michelle is still being felt in many parts of the island. To help in their rebuilding efforts, the Milwaukee Coalition is co-sponsoring a Benefit Concert on May 24th. [See p. 5 for more details.](#)



PASTORS FOR PEACE

This yearly event brings together people from all parts of the U.S. to accompany shipments of medical and educational equipment and supplies along with the delivery of school buses to Cuba. [See article on page 12.](#)



Show solidarity with unjustly imprisoned Cubans serving time, one here in Wisconsin, on controversial espionage charges. Letter writing and visitation campaigns are getting underway. [See articles on pp. 6,7.](#)

MILWAUKEE-NUEVITAS

SISTER-CITY ASSOCIATION

Building our relationship with the port city of Nuevitas has brought many new friendships and a growing understanding of this small town on the north coast of Cuba. Next meeting, May 28th., 6:30 p.m. at United Community Center, 9th. and Washington. [See p. 8,9](#)

EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIONAL

FORUMS

Learn more about Cuba at forums held by the Milwaukee Coalition at their meetings which are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) on 25th. & Wisconsin Ave. (639 N. 25th. St.) [See Calendar of Coming Events, p.2.](#)

Ron Noble, an American, was "absolutely satisfied" with the anti-terror briefings he received in January 2002 meetings with Cuban police and Ministry of Interior officials.[8]

Finally, Cuba has asked the United States to sign a bilateral agreement providing for joint efforts against terrorism and narco-trafficking. The United States has declined to cooperate.[9] Mr. Bolton of course does not mention this.

—"Castro continues to view terror as a legitimate tactic to further revolutionary objectives."

This is patently untrue. Castro has over and over again denounced terror as a legitimate tactic, as referenced in the September 11th and September 22nd statements above.

Bolton quotes a speech of Castro's at Tehran University in which he said that, "Iran and Cuba, in cooperation with each other can bring America to its knees. The U.S. regime is very weak, and we are witnessing this weakness from close up." Castro's words were irritating to be sure. Clearly, however, Castro was not actually proposing that Iran and Cuba together defeat the United States in a literal sense — as of course they could not. Rather, he was suggesting that U.S. hegemony, to which both Cuba and Iran see themselves as victims, would be overcome and the so-called strength of the Iranian and Cuban systems would prevail.

Bolton does not tell us that Castro went on to praise Iranians for deposing "the strongest gendarme of the region not with guns, but with your thoughts." [10] This is hardly an endorsement of terrorism.

—The 1998 Pentagon report "underplayed the threat Cuba posed to the United States."

Bolton concludes that Defense analyst Ana Belén Montes, who pleaded guilty on March 19 to charges of spying for Cuba, is the major reason why the Pentagon report found Cuba no longer a threat. This is an absurd allegation and is insulting to the dozens of analysts in the Defense Intelligence Agency and throughout the Defense Department who participated in the preparation of the report. It is inconceivable that Ana Belén Montes's view prevailed over those of the dozens of loyal and competent analysts who helped produce the report.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HURICANE MICHELLE VICTIMS IN CUBA



ENJOY TRADITIONAL CUBAN AND LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC WITH:
ANA RUTH BERMUDEZ (CUBA) ON THE CELLO
ANA LOURDES DE LA CUESTA (CUBA) ON THE FLUTE
CARMEN DANIELLE PARDO KOLESCH (VENEZUELA) ON THE VIOLA
DINORAH MÁRQUEZ (MÉXICO) ON THE VIOLIN AND VIOLA

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH., 7:30 P.M.

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE
1342 N. ASTOR ST.

[CORNER OF ASTOR AND OGDEN, OFF-STREET PARKING AVAILABLE]



Last November, Cuba experienced the worst hurricane in 50 years. Two-thirds of the concert proceeds will be sent directly for hurricane relief through the non-profit Cuban American Alliance Education Fund (CAAEEF, www.cubamer.org), with the remainder to cover out-of-pocket expenses for local educational and humanitarian work, including exchanges with our compañeros in Cuba. Admission will be by donation (minimum suggested: \$7 & \$5 for students & low income). Contact the Milwaukee Coalition for advance tickets. Make checks payable to: CAAEEF.

CONCERT CO-SPONSORED BY THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE, (414) 273-5257, AND THE MILWAUKEE COALITION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA, 606 W. WISCONSIN AVE., SUITE 1706, MILWAUKEE, WI 53203, (414) 273-1040, www.cubawifriends.org

But, if conducting intelligence operations against the United States were cause for placing a country on the terrorist list, then Israel would long since have been on it—along with a lot of other states. Convicted several years ago, the spy Jonathan Pollard severely compromised U.S. national security, as he gave up NSA code-breaking techniques, the identities of nearly a hundred U.S. agents in the Middle East, top-secret military and diplomatic codes and Mideast war-fighting plans. After years of denial, Israel finally admitted in 1999 that Pollard was a spy for Israeli intelligence. Unfortunately, such intelligence operations are all too common a part of international relations, even among "friendly" nations. The Montes case is no exception and offers no justification whatever for keeping Cuba on the terrorist list.

—Cuba is "harboring terrorists from Colombia and Spain, and fugitives from the United States."

This is the State Department's tired old canard for keeping Cuba on the list of terrorist nations in the first place. In fact, to be harboring someone, that person must be sought or pursued by someone else. But the Basques living in Cuba are not sought by the Spanish government.

On the contrary, many of them came there years ago as the result of an agreement with the government of Felipe González which asked Cuba to take them. Others have come subsequently and the present Spanish government does not consider the earlier agreement any longer to be operative. But the present government has not asked for the extradition of any of the Basques living in Cuba. It apparently is content to have them remain there. And we note that the President of the autonomous Basque Republic just this month paid a state visit to Cuba, which he would not have done if he considered Cuba to be harboring Basque terrorists. In fact, Spain thanked Cuba for denying asylum to two ETA members in late 2000.[11] The presence of the Basques in Cuba, therefore, is obviously no cause for keeping Cuba on the list.

As for the Colombians, the Colombian government has expressed gratitude for the helpful role Cuba has played facilitating talks with the ELN guerrillas. Just last month, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Colombia, General Fernando Tapias, told the House Committee on International Relations that, "there is no information... that Cuba is in any way linked to terrorist activities in

Continued on p.10

RENÉ GONZÁLEZ'S DAUGHTER, IRMA, TELLS HER STORY



Irma González Salanueva with her little sister Ivette and their father René González

My name is Irma González Salanueva. I'm seventeen years old and the daughter of a happy marriage of a pilot and an engineer who joined their lives like many other young Cubans filled with dreams which they hoped to fulfill in a society like ours.

Nevertheless, in 1990 my father was separated from our home, where he had been so necessary, in order to occupy a leadership position where men like him are essential, willing to make the highest human sacrifice and who, in the silence of anonymous heroes, watch over the dreams of all Cubans who constitute here the most humane endeavor of these times.

When this happened I was only six years old and too young to understand everything. I only knew that soon I wouldn't see him again, staying with my mom.

However, my life continued like that of any other girl, no one pointed me out, no rights were taken away. I continued being a

pioneer, integrated into the activities of my school and my neighborhood.

I grew up longing to have my father at my side and to be like the rest of my friends. But I didn't lack the guidance of my mother who assumed the role of both parents until our reunion which took place six years later.

At that time I was twelve, already an adolescent and I noticed that my father had never lost any of the values that I remembered and admired in him.

In the U.S. I got along with the young people but I could also notice the differences between us. There it is extremely important to dress with the latest styles, wear the most expensive tennis shoes or drive the latest car.

It's not necessary to study very much to get good grades because the teaching isn't very demanding. They have in their hands many information tools but live uninformed and alienated. It is more important to know the latest gossip than the fact that millions of children are dying of hunger.

For that reason, I looked forward to vacation time to return to my homeland, ride a "camello" (buses used in Havana) with my friends or for everyone to go bike riding to the beach with big smiles but always with an interesting topic to discuss.

I was surprised to find out that in the short time I was there my friends made me aware of many things that in almost four years in the U.S. I hadn't learned.

In 1998, when my family had grown some more, one morning I felt for the first time how my rights and those of my four-month old sister were violated when our sleep was interrupted by armed men who told me without hesitation to put my hands

up, not to touch anything and to leave the house. My mother was already awake and they woke up my little sister. And my father, I didn't see him again for a long time.

That's when the agony started. The press pursued us, the isolation due to the fear many of our friends had of talking to us and as a result we had to go to live in the apartment of one of our few remaining friends. My little sister had to go to the house of my great-grandmother so that my mother could continue working and provide for us, but we almost never saw each other because she worked at night and I went to school during the day. On the weekends, we went to visit my little sister in Sarasota, a four-hour trip from our home.

At the same time, we were worried about my father being in a jail cell for no reason and not being able to see his daughters. He was only able to see the first footsteps of Ivette through a window on the 12th floor of a federal prison. We stood on the sidewalk and he with his orange uniform made hand signals to let us know he was looking at us.

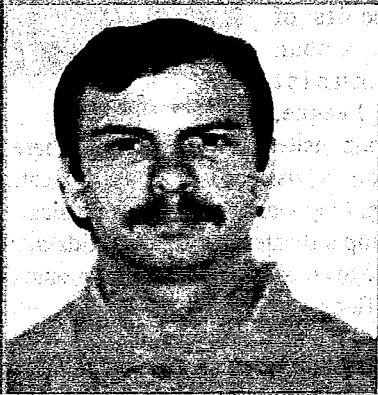
He remained in solitary confinement for 17 months. I remember that the first visit my sister and I could have with him took place in a small room in the jail where my father was seated in a chair, handcuffed and surrounded by FBI agents.

During all this time, my mother had to take on the responsibility of supporting her two daughters and relinquish having her baby close to her, whom she was only able to see on weekends.

In those moments I again saw the differences, in this society no one was interested in our fate.

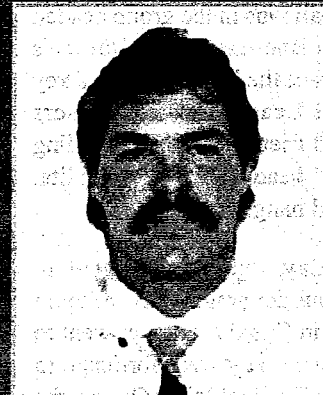
Continued on p. 11

FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ LLORT



(For FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ)
Write to: Rubén Campa
#58733-004
F.C.I. Oxford
P.O. Box 1000
Oxford WI 53952-0505

RAMÓN LABAÑINO SALAZAR

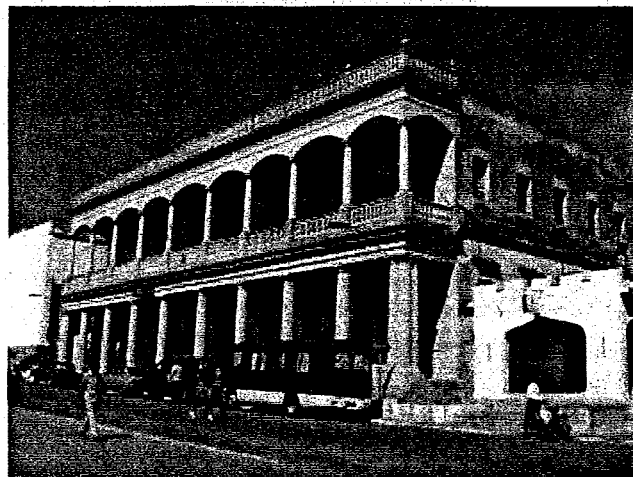


(For RAMÓN LABAÑINO)
Write to: Luis Medina
#58734-004
U.S.P. Beaumont
P.O. Box 26035
Beaumont TX 77720-6035

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.

Prison life is lonely and you can do something to make it a little bit easier. Letters. A simple letter expressing your support would do wonders for their spirits. Our solidarity with them during their time of imprisonment while at the same time working to overturn the unjust sentences which they received is the minimum we can do. So the next time you're sitting in front of the TV, take out a pen and some paper and get started. If you're at a loss for words, just start talking about your favorite subject—yourself. I'm sure they'd like to know more about you

an invitation to attend the Camagüey Ballet's production of "Giselle", which was exquisitely staged.



On Friday, the group visited Milwaukee's sister city of Nuevitás and was greeted by its mayor, Abel Romero. We walked to the Nuevitás Municipal Museum where Raúl Galván, on behalf of the sister city group, presented Museum staff with a collection of Sumner Matteson photographs donated by the Milwaukee Public Museum. Turn-of-the-century photographer, Matteson, took the photos, among them photos of Nuevitás, in Cuba in 1904.

The Nuevitás visit concluded with a trip to Victoria at Girón Elementary School, where the MATC contingent delivered a generous amount of school supplies and group members left the school's computers with



Top: Nuevitás's City Hall (*ayuntamiento*) faces the main square, or plaza, of the city. **Above Left:** MATC delegation displays photographs by Sumner Matteson donated by the Milwaukee Public Museum to the Museo de la Ciudad in Nuevitás. **Above:** Students from the *Victoria en Girón* School extend a warm greeting to their visitors from Milwaukee.

screensavers of images taken by the group as it arrived to an emotional welcome in the school's courtyard.

Then it was off to a rustic lunch at Los Pinos in Cayo Sabinal, across the bay from Nuevitás. The trip to the virgin key featured a lecture about the ecology, flora and fauna by Verardo Seijo Díaz, the key's biologist.


On Saturday, the group returned to Havana after a reception hosted by Francisco "Paquito" López, the local delegate of ICAP, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples.



On Sunday, a large contingent from the group took a local ferry across the Bay of Havana with Consuelo Alba, a director at Cuban Television and a friend of Alexandra Topping's. Others visited Rev. Dora Arce, the Cuban minister who had received the Lutheran Campus Ministry's Gamaliel Chair last fall, at her parish in Luyanó.

The trip sparked the creative fires of many in the group. In an effort to collaborate with their Camagüeyan counterparts, proposals are being prepared for MATC to partner in educational projects with the University, and to collect soccer supplies for the Nuevitás soccer program, one of the strongest in the province.

Note: The MATC contingent was one of three Milwaukee groups [Shorewood High School and the UWM Institute of World Affairs, the others] which were in Havana at the same time.



CUBA 2002

CUBA TRAVEL

FOR THE CUBA LOVER IN YOU

The Milwaukee-Nuevitás Sister-City Association invites you to travel to Cuba on a Department of Treasury Licensed humanitarian mission leaving on the weekend of June 21st.

Trip will be led by Raúl Galván of the Association, who just returned from Cuba on his 3rd trip in the last 24 months

DATES: June 21 to July 1st (June 20th to June 30th)

DESTINATIONS: Havana, Camagüey and Nuevitás

COST: \$1,500, double occupancy. Single supplement \$180. Includes all airfare, 3-star hotel, breakfasts, airport transports, and motor coach transfer to Camagüey and Nuevitás. \$50 non-refundable deposit required.

PROGRAMMING: Will be visiting schools, museums, medical centers, arts groups and meeting with National Assembly officials.

DONATIONS: Your donations of prescription & non-prescription drugs, school supplies and personal hygiene products will be appreciated.

If you're interested, please call Raúl at (414) 297-7548 or (414) 247-1441. There will be a maximum number of 16 slots available for the mission.



Irma's Story from p.7

Two years later, they tried to use our family in a blackmail scheme, hoping my father would betray his companions so that we could stay together in the U.S. After a blunt refusal by my father, my mother was imprisoned and isolated for three months in a prison in another city, where she wrote letters to my father that he never received and where my sister, who by now was two, could only see her through a window.

At that moment, the four people in our family were totally separated and facing an unknown future. I was in Cuba, my sister in Sarasota, my mother was in prison in Fort Lauderdale and my father in prison in Miami.

But neither no one nor nothing could make us betray our ideals, and my mother was deported to Cuba where they finally brought my sister.

Now, my father continues in prison, the same as his four idealistic companions, as he said so well in his argument (pre-sentencing) they continue to be in prison only for the crime of being dignified.

Our family is still divided, but we are with the other children and families and with the essential support of the those fighting for the return of our fathers. I know that it won't be easy now that three have been sentenced to life and my father and the other one have received long sentences.

Victory will be ours. This unjust imprisonment will be known worldwide and then the court of decency of all people will demand their freedom.

My father and his four companions will return to their homeland in order to construct along with this new generaton a hope-filled future.



SENATOR FEINGOLD PLEDGES TO SUPPORT THREE MILWAUKEE METHODISTS AND COMPLETE REPEAL OF U.S. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO CUBA

On May 12, Senator Russell Feingold heard from several members of Central United Methodist Church (CUMC), at one of his regular listening sessions open to all area residents with concerns related to our federal government.

Two of the three CUMC members who have been threatened by our government with fines of up to \$7,500 apiece for travelling to Cuba, spoke. They were commissioned by CUMC to participate in the 100th anniversary of its sister church in Havana Centro, La Trinidad (the Trinity), in January 1999, and have recently been pursued by OFAC, the office of the Treasury Department which is supposed to enforce the U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba.

Recently, the Bush administration has substantially increased OFAC's actions in attempting to punish US travel to Cuba. The threatened CUMC members, including a veteran of the Korean War, stated that they had a "right to travel" to Cuba and that they intended to exercise

that right both as free U.S. citizens and as people of faith. The others in the crowd not only listened attentively, but took the unusual step to applaud them.

Then Senator Feingold stated that he did not believe these travel restrictions were justified in any way, and that he greatly appreciated being informed of how this apparent crackdown by our own government was affecting his constituents concretely. He stated that he would support legislation to repeal the travel ban when it comes up in the Senate, and that he would have his office investigate and pursue these specific cases as appropriate.

Any group or person wishing to support these individuals, or in scheduling them to speak, are invited to contact CUMC, at 639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233, (414) 344-1600. Visit our website, www.cubawifriends.org for a petition to our senators, and a free service to send a fax to your senators and representative in congress.

TO WRITE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE MIAMI 5

MAGALI LLORT AND
ROSA AURORA FREIJANES
(MOTHER AND WIFE OF FERNANDO
GONZÁLEZ, RESPECTIVELY)
APARTADO POSTAL 6100
CÓDIGO POSTAL 10600
LA HABANA, 6, CUBA

ADRIANA PÉREZ
(WIFE OF GERARDO HERNÁNDEZ)
SAME AS ABOVE

OLGA SALANUEVA
(WIFE OF RENÉ GONZÁLEZ)
SAME AS ABOVE

MARGARET LOUISE BECKER
(COMPANION OF ANTONIO GUERRERO)
1504 SOUTH ST.
KEY WEST, FL 33040

Your Help Is Needed!!!!

The Coalition Newsletter aims to keep you up to date on events in Cuba and the U.S. so you have a better idea of where and how to direct your letters, actions, comments, etc. There are certain expenses involved in bringing the newsletter to you and we hope you will be generous within your means in helping us cover these costs. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

Name _____ e-mail: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

■ Membership Information & Application ■

Milwaukee Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba

The Milwaukee Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba consists of both organizations and individuals who have come together based on the following points of unity and principles. We hope you will join us based on the following principles:

We support the normalization of relations with Cuba.

We oppose any policy of our government designed to increase the misery of the Cuban people in order to obtain political gain.

We oppose the ban on travel to Cuba; and the recently intensified U.S. economic embargo, which has restricted even food and medicine, and discouraged third countries that seek to trade with Cuba.

We support and encourage increased person-to-person contact between the U.S. and Cuba, such as through religious, union, professional, and cultural organizations. U.S. businesses should be allowed to trade with Cuba on the basis of mutual benefit.

We especially seek to overcome the artificial barriers dividing African-Americans in the U.S. from people in Cuba, where a vibrant Afro-Cuban culture continues to thrive.

We also seek to particularly involve and promote activities by area residents of Latin American and Caribbean origin, so they may freely relate to our brothers and sisters in Cuba and help relieve their suffering in the current period.

The coalition is non-partisan and non-sectarian. It is not affiliated with and does not support any political party or candidate.

We do not presume to tell the people of Cuba what political or economic system they should adopt; that is their decision, on behalf of a sovereign nation with the right of self-determination.

The coalition may share and forward information on related activities challenging the embargo that we, as a coalition, have not formally endorsed (such as study tours, and challenges to U.S. restrictions).

Meetings generally are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee, WI. www.CubaWiFriends.org

Date _____

To: Milwaukee Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba
606 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1706
Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 273-1040

Name (please print!) _____ Signature _____

Type of membership (please check one) Individual _____ Organizational _____

If organizational, list its name and your title _____

e-mail: _____ Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Enclosed is contribution of \$ _____ (\$15/yr suggested minimum)

We are very proud of our newsletter but it is expensive to produce. Please consider a donation to continue its production and distribution.



Welcome the 10th Anniversary Friendshipment to Cuba!

¡Bienvenidos a los Pastores de la Páz!

Support Milwaukee's "Methodist 3" & Freedom to Travel

Live Music, Potluck Dinner & Program *Cena y programa*

Hear how Cuba has begun providing free medical education for up to 500 U.S. students who promise to practice in under-served US communities. Show solidarity with the Cuban people and US citizens, such as the "Methodist 3" being threatened with large fines for visiting CUMC's sister church, La Trinidad, in Havana Between now and July 7th please bring donations to help overcome the 40-year-old U.S. economic blockade of Cuba: Medicines; sports, music & school supplies, bibles in Spanish; new clothes.

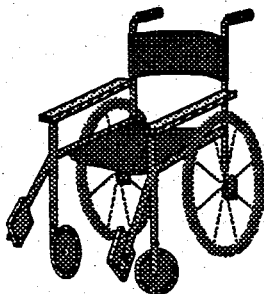
Necesitamos donaciones de medicinas, biblias en español, ropa nueva, y materiales médicos, educativos, y musicales. Se puede llevarlas al iglesia antes del evento.

Please bring a dish or a financial donation for the caravan made out to IFCO/Pastors for Peace. If you have materials to send, please bring them to CUMC before July 7th or call 344-1600 or 342-1599.

Sunday, July 7: potluck dinner, 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church

639 N. 25th St. (25th & Wisconsin Ave.)



For more information, contact
the Milwaukee Coalition to
Normalize Relations with Cuba-
(414) 273-1040 or 964-0350
www.CubaWIFriends.org
or visit P4P's website:
www.ifconews.org



IF THE POPE & JIMMY CARTER CAN GO TO CUBA, WHY CAN'T WE ALL?

PLEASE SUPPORT MILWAUKEE'S 'METHODIST THREE'

Three members of Milwaukee's Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) are facing large fines for traveling to Cuba. In 1994 CUMC established an on-going sister church relationship with a Methodist Church in Havana, Cuba, called La Trinidad (the Trinity). La Trinidad sent a formal invitation to CUMC for us to send members to join in celebrating its 100th anniversary in January, 1999. CUMC commissioned six of our members to go, and they traveled to Cuba. They had a very positive and moving experience in Havana. On their return to the US, via Toronto, the fact that they had visited Cuba was made known to US customs & immigration agents, who told them this was illegal, asked questions and copied some of their identification and other papers. Now, over three years later, three of the six are targets of a "crackdown" by our own government: \$7,500 fines have been "proposed" against each of the two African-American CUMC members who went to represent our church; \$5,000 has been assessed against one other member, a white woman. No fines have been asserted against the other three, based on identical conduct (this includes the two white men who were part of our group, and a white woman), and no explanation has been given for this discrepancy.

In 2000, during former President Clinton's last year in office, 188 persons were notified of fines for traveling to Cuba. President Bush then called for a crackdown on "excessive travel" to Cuba; during his first year, the number of fines jumped to 766, and is still increasing. Compare that to over 200,000 US nationals who visit Cuba annually, and the US Treasury Department estimate that some 60,000 did so last year in defiance of US restrictions. When Jimmy Carter was President, he lifted the US ban on travel to Cuba, but it was re-imposed under President Reagan. Our government now issues "licenses" to allow some people to travel there, generally to elites such as journalists and academics, but this is not available to many others. CUMC does not have such a "license," which may be issued when the US government chooses to approve proposed religious activity – a procedure which also troubles us.

Cuba is one of the safest places in the world for US tourists and officials to visit. For example, after the September 11 attacks in NY and on the Pentagon, most US embassies and missions were closed around the world, but the US mission stayed open for business in Havana. Although our government's 40-year economic blockade against Cuba contributes to the daily hardships of our friends and neighbors there, our members who visited Cuba a number of times in recent years have been warmly received by the Cuban people on all levels.

Our members do not believe any fine is justified, and they want to help defend the right of all of us in this country to travel as free people.

WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT:

1. Contact us for more information. Ask for a speaker for your congregation or organization.
2. Attend the July 7th event supporting Freedom to Travel & the Pastors for Peace Friendship caravan challenging the travel ban to Cuba: 6pm potluck, 7pm program, at CUMC, 639 N. 25th St.
3. Send the enclosed letter to the Treasury Dept., asking it to drop all actions against these US travelers. Consider contacting your Representative & Senators, to ask them to end these restrictions; to send a free fax letter to them, you can click on <http://www.aclu.org/action/cuba107.html>

For more info, contact: **Central United Methodist Church of Milwaukee**
639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 344-1600; Rev. Earl Kammerud, Pastor, efk0937@aol.com
Atty. Sandra Edhlund, sedhlund@aol.com, (414) 273-1040; also www.cubawifriends.org

Date: _____

By mail or FAX # 202-622-1657

R. Richard Newcomb, Director
Office of Foreign Assets Control
Civil Penalties Program
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Dollora R. Greene-Evans, FAC No. CU-180305
Theron E. Mills, FAC No. CU-179426
William Ferguson, Jr., FAC No. CU-180295

Dear Mr. Newcomb:

I respectfully urge you to drop all charges and claims against the members of Milwaukee's Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) based on their visiting Cuba to join and work with CUMC's sister church in Havana. I do not believe that threatening or prosecuting them is a reasonable use of taxpayer money, and such actions infringe upon the right of U.S. citizens to travel as free people. In addition, the enforcement actions by your office appear to be arbitrary and discriminatory.

Very truly yours,

Name

Address

(Optional) I am a member of _____
(as applicable, please list your congregation or organization if you wish)

cc: Central United Methodist Church
639 North 25th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233