

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND
CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION

May 5, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wolf Blitzer
The Situation Room
CNN America, Inc.
820 First Street NE
8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20002-4243

Dear Mr. Blitzer:

In connection with your conversation with Mr. Alan Gross, broadcasted on May 4, 2012 in "The Situation Room", I'm writing to request that my government's positions on the case be equally made known. These are:

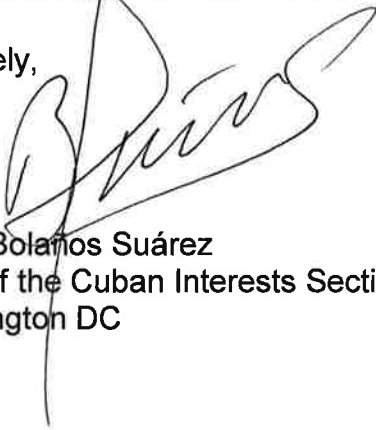
- The Cuban government has conveyed to the U.S. government its willingness to have a dialogue to find a humanitarian solution to the case of Mr. Gross on a reciprocal basis.
- Mr. Gross was not convicted for helping the Cuban Jewish community to connect to the Internet. All Cuban synagogues have access to the Internet; they had Internet before Mr. Gross came to Cuba.
- Mr. Gross violated Cuban laws by implementing a U.S. government program aimed at attempting against Cuba's constitutional order. The undercover activities of Mr. Gross in Cuba constitute crimes in many countries, including in United States.
- During his visits to Cuba, Mr. Gross never told the people he contacted that he was working for the U.S. government. He is not an activist who came to Cuba to assist the Cuban people; he is a professional paid for by the U.S. government.
- Mr. Alan Gross is in good physical conditions, he receives specialized medical care, balanced meals, regular consular access, visits by friends and political and religious personalities. He has had visits by his wife and he maintains systematic and stable communication with his family.
- The cases of René González, one of the Cuban Five, and Alan Gross are very different. René served his sentence to the last day, and he remains in the U.S. against his will, away from his family who lives in Cuba. The decision by a Florida federal judge to allow René to travel to Cuba is in line with the conditions imposed for his supervised release, which allow his travelling to Cuba, following authorization by the probation officer or the court. His wife Olga is not even allowed to visit him during his term of supervised release.

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- The Cuban government has facilitated all visits by family members, friends, religious figures and political personalities that have requested access to Mr. Gross. These conditions are very different from the cruel regime of solitary confinement that has been arbitrarily meted out against the Cuban Five: Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando and even René. They have strict restrictions against giving interviews to the U.S. press.
- The Five have been almost 14 years in U.S. prisons, for gathering information on terrorist groups conducting attacks against Cuba from the U.S. territory. Such information helped save lives of Cuban as well as American citizens. The Five were not in the possession of government secrets nor did they attempt against the U.S. security.
- Contacts by the Five with their families have faced obstacles and two of them, Gerardo and René, are not allowed to receive visits by their wives, Olga and Adriana. Gerardo's mother died while he was in prison, and the mothers and fathers of the other five are very old. Gerardo and his wife have not been able to conceive a child.

Sincerely,



Jorge Bolaños Suárez
Chief of the Cuban Interests Section
Washington DC