



FREEDOM NOW

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Freedom Now and Lawton Foundation for Human Rights Salute Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet; Seek Release of Imprisoned Cuban Human Rights Activist

Washington, D.C. – Freedom Now and the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights today joined with supporters of human rights and democracy across the nation and around the world in applauding the decision by President Bush to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, a noted advocate for human rights and democratic freedoms in his native Cuba.

Unfortunately, Dr. Biscet will not be able to attend next Monday's White House ceremony, as he is currently serving a 25-year prison sentence in Cuba for allegedly committing crimes against the sovereignty and integrity of Cuban territory. Dr. Biscet will be represented by his son and daughter, who live in the United States, and the Vice President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights.

Dr. Biscet, a medical professional, is the founder and President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and a leading organizer of the "Friends of Human Rights" group, both of which engage solely in non-violent activities. He was arrested in December 2002 and has been subjected to inhumane treatment during his imprisonment. His cause has been taken up by various bodies of the United Nations, which have called for his release. For more information on Dr. Biscet, please visit: <http://www.freedom-now.org/Oscar.php> and www.lawtonfoundation.com.

In 2005, Dr. Biscet retained the services of Freedom Now, an advocacy organization with the mission to free prisoners of conscience through focused legal, political and public relations advocacy efforts. Freedom Now continues to work to secure Dr. Biscet's release from prison and has received significant assistance in this representation from the law firms Hogan & Hartson LLP and DLA Piper US LLP.

Dr. Angel Garrido, Vice President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, said "The Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and all freedom loving Cubans are grateful to the President and the People of the United States for honoring Dr. Biscet. In honoring Dr. Biscet, we honor all Cuban political prisoners."

Jeremy Zucker, Chairman of Freedom Now's Board of Directors, welcomed the announcement of the award. "Dr. Biscet has dedicated his life to the promotion of human rights and democracy," Zucker said. "We look forward to the day when he can enjoy his Medal of Freedom as a free man."

All affiliations listed for identification purposes only

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Founder and President
Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet
Prisoner of Conscience