

Information on Incarceration Conditions and Health of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet during the First Trimester of 2006

Dr. Biscet is still imprisoned in cell 1232 on the second floor of Building #1 in Combinado del Este, a maximum security prison, in the City of Havana.

Oral Health: Poor

Upper Dental Arcade

Incisors: Three normal and one with total crown fracture and with root present.

Canines: Two present and normal

Premolars: Two with total crown fracture, with roots present, one with total filling and one with a pin (prosthesis)

Molars: Four with total crown fracture and with roots present, one normal and one with total filling

Lower Dental Arcade:

Incisors: Four present and normal

Canines: Two and normal

Molars: One missing, three total filling, one with internal crown fracture, one normal

Non Transmissible chronic conditions

Stage 3 essential hypertension: Without control nor testing. Apparently compensated with Atenolol and Clortalidona

Hereditary cholesterolemia without control nor testing

Chronic gastritis. Without control nor testing. Often presents episodes of acid reflux.

Weight: Approximately 60 Km. Original weight 82 Km.

From March 8 to March 15, he took oral antibiotics due to an oral abscess and loss of a tooth. He had also had a common cold for ten days.

Prison Conditions

He is still imprisoned under extremely severe Phase I conditions with family visits every three months. Food items may be taken to him every three months.

This year's first family visit took place March 23rd. It lasted two hours and fifteen minutes. We noticed he was very thin but in good spirits. He stated that his cell is always humid and that it has artificial lighting. He is taken out in the sun sporadically. He sleeps on a piece of wood. At the end of 2004, he was given a thin piece of foam for a mattress. But it is no good anymore. This was the first time since he has been incarcerated that he was permitted to visit with his parents, brother, wife, and mother-in-law. Since the beginning of this year, he has not been allowed out of his cell to walk in the field which the prison has for that purpose. Mail and telephone calls to family in Cuba are continuing.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet was arrested and taken to jail on December 2002 only 36 days after his release from a three year prison sentence that he had served for organizing a peaceful march against the death penalty and in favor of freeing all political prisoners in Cuba. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison during the "Causa de los 75" (Persecution of the 75.) He has been incarcerated for over six years under difficult conditions and without medical care since he refuses it. His health is deteriorating. The prison conditions to which he is subjected is a lifestyle that is aggressive towards his medical conditions. Amnesty International has classified him as a prisoner of conscience since 1999. My husband is a peaceful man who supports and loves non violence. That is why we are asking the ONG (Non Governmental Organizations) of Human Rights, and all institutions, and people of good will to intercede with the Cuban government for his immediate and unconditional freedom.

Sincerely,

Elsa Morejon Hernandez, RN

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