

Havana, October 19, 2004

An Urgent Petition to the People of Cuba and the International Community

I am Elsa Morejon Hernandez, a Cuban citizen and a Christian, and I am urgently asking that you help us save my husband's life since he has only ingested sugar and water since the **14th of the month** in protest of the abuses to which he and 2 fellow prisoners are being subjected.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FACTS:

For the past 19 months, the Cuban government has kept my husband, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, incommunicado and exiled in his own country while subjecting him to treatment that is plagued with cruel and degrading violations. During these months, he has had to live in windowless dungeons and has had to sleep on the floor since it is not until 10:00 p.m. that he is handed a filthy mat. There is no water or electricity. He is denied access to his personal belongings. He is also prohibited from reading or writing to family and friends. He has not been allowed pastoral care visits. He has not been allowed to go out in the sunlight nor to receive food that his family takes to prison for him. Therefore, he has no alternative but to ingest two meals that are adequate for pigs, but not for human consumption which has resulted in his losing 70 pounds, the total deterioration of his teeth, severe digestive problems, both acquired in prison. He is not allowed any visitors including contact with his mother, wife or children. Since the Kilo 8 prison, in the province of Pinar del Rio where he is being held, is designed for the total isolation of prisoners, therefore, it has neither mail nor telephone facilities and has a population of extremely dangerous inmates.

On September 30th, his mother, Hilda Gonzalez, who is 70 years old and has serious health problems, delivered a letter to the Consejo de Estado (Council of State) which was addressed to the Cuban head of state, Fidel Castro Ruz, Esquire, explaining all of the mistreatment to which her son is being subjected and at the same time asking that he intercede for her to be allowed to communicate with her son. According to his mother, she also delivered a copy of the letter to Mr. Felipe Perez Roque, at the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Defense Department) and to Mr. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada at the Asamblea del Poder Popular (the National Assembly) and as of now, has not received a reply.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez is being held prisoner unjustly, having been sentenced on April 7, 2003, at a summary and political trial for the following crimes: opposition to the death penalty; the desire for a better future for all Cubans; a Cuba where there is rule of law and complete democracy. His crime is neither to violate Cuba's sovereignty nor to endanger its territory as the Cuban government claims. On October 31, 2002, he had completed three years of imprisonment for the same reasons. In a prison that was 768 km. from City of Havana where he and his family reside. He was later arrested on December 6th of that same year and held prisoner. In other words, he spent only 36 days with his family which means he will have completed five years of imprisonment by December 6, 2004.

THEREFORE,

We, the family and friends of Dr. Biscet, place responsibility on the Cuban government for deliberately putting at risk his health and life since it has in its possession a medical record that establishes his history of hypertension and hypercholesterolemia; for not having shown adequate concern and follow up to the judicial violations that occurred in the above mentioned prison. We also demand that: 1. Both, the physical and psychological mistreatment, to which he and his family are being subjected cease immediately 2. They give us authorization for immediate telephone contact 3. We would be allowed to visit him 4. They transfer him to the City of Havana where he and his family reside 5. We would be permitted to take him food that the penitentiary is unable to provide and that is scientifically considered necessary due to his pathologies. We know that ethics, law and morality are above politics, and, therefore, thank the Cuban people and the international community for their solidarity. We would like to make you aware that our petition may be signed by anyone who so wishes to do until our just demands are met.

Sincerely,



Elsa Morejon Hernandez, RN, wife of Dr. Elias Biscet Gonzalez, president of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and prisoner of conscience. Telephone number 99-1774

CC: International Press Accredited in Cuba