

## **Information on incarceration conditions and health of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, prisoner of conscience in Cuba**

Dr. Biscet is still in prison in cell 1232, located on the second floor of the south wing of building # 1, in the Combinado del Este, a maximum security prison located on the outskirts of Ciudad de La Habana.

### Health Status

During the regularly scheduled visit on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were able to speak for two hours and the following conditions were observed:

Chronic oral sepsis with partial loss of teeth. This is a chronic condition that he has had for the past eight years of incarceration. He advised that during the past three months he has not presented acute infection of the gums nor painful bouts. He claims that he feels good and is continuing treatment for hypertension. He has gained ten pounds, has difficulties reading and needs a vision exam for eyeglasses. During the last few days, he presented gastrointestinal trouble supposedly related to his history of a gastroduodenal ulcer and chronic gastritis. He is still refusing medical attention from the military doctors in the prison. He is doing well psychologically and spiritually.

### Incarceration conditions

Dr. Biscet is being held under rigorous, severe, phase two incarceration conditions. Family visits are scheduled every two months for duration of two hours and conyugal visits are scheduled every three months for duration of three hours. Authorized telephone calls are limited to one hundred minutes per month but are not taking place regularly since the person assigned to connect the phone does not perform this duty consistently. Dr. Biscet reports that he is taken out for sun exposure twice a week but has not been allowed on the field to walk in the outdoors during the past month. A prisoner who was released gave him a used pupil's desk to sit in and a used locker to store his personal belongings. The artificial lighting in the cell has improved.

My husband was sentenced to 25 years in prison during the "Causa de los 75" (Persecution of the 75) in April 2003. He was arrested on the street by the political police on December 6, 2002, and held prisoner temporarily for 4 months prior to the trial. Before that, on October 31, 2002, he had been released from having served a three year sentence in a prison in the province of Holguin located 768 kilometers from City of Havana where he resided. Therefore, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, he will have completed 8 years of imprisonment.

"I do not want you to be sad. Remember that I chose to live imprisoned to demonstrate the injustices of the regime. Also, remember that both, friends and adversaries, proposed that I leave the country. I preferred to be in captivity in order to seek justice so that no one else in my land has to suffer due to speaking out. I am not complaining about what is happening nor could happen. I feel fulfilled and happy in carrying out this act of love, of *agape* love. I am the voice of the innocent children rejected by their parents and annihilated by society. I am opposed to hatred, individual vengeance and a culture of death. What we need is life to live it with dignity." Oscar Elias Biscet, (excerpts from a letter that he sent to me from prison.)

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez, medical doctor, internal medicine specialist, who is a pro human life activist and President of the Non Governmental Organization, Lawton Foundation for Human

Rights since 1997. His only crimes have been to oppose abortion, the death penalty, and to proclaim and defend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights using non violent means while exercising the right to free speech and assembly to meet for a humanitarian objective. Since 1999, Amnesty International declared him to be a prisoner of conscience.

In advance, I would like to thank the international community, pro human rights non governmental organizations, civic and religious institutions and individuals who day in and day out work towards the liberation of my husband and the rest of the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba. I would like to see the **permanent campaign for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Cuba** continue.

Sincerely,



Elsa Morejon Hernandez, RN

Wife of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez

Prisoner of conscience and President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights

Email: [elsamorejon@yahoo.com](mailto:elsamorejon@yahoo.com) (personal)

Email: [lawtonfoundation@lawtonfoundation.com](mailto:lawtonfoundation@lawtonfoundation.com)

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