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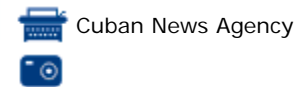
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CUBA FIVE



Canadians Rally Outside US Embassy to Demand Release of the Cuban Five

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct 7 (acn) Regardless of the heavy rain, over 30 people gathered in front of the US consulate in Vancouver on Monday to demand the release of the five Cuban antiterrorists imprisoned in the US since 1998.



A report posted at the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver's website, says the picket action marked the end of a successful international period of action to free the five Cuban men. The campaign began on September 12, the day Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labañino, Fernando Gonzalez and Rene Gonzalez, known as The Cuban Five, were arrested 10 years ago.



Committee Coordinator Noah Fine introduced the picket condemning Posada's bombing of the Cubana plane and the murder of 73 innocent people on board on the 32nd anniversary of that terrorist act, says the report. Noah also read a letter recently written by Gerardo Hernandez in commemoration of 10 years of their unjust and criminal imprisonment.

Protesters then took to a picket line in front of the U.S. consulate with loud chants of "10 Years Too Long! Free the Cuban 5 Now!" while the cameras of the international news agency Press TV filmed the action and interviewed participants.

The rally gathered to hear from activists about the US government policy of terrorism towards the Cuban people and how the Bush administration does not allow visitation rights to two of the wives of the Five.

Tamara Hansen, Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) Co-Chair and the coordinator of the Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) spoke closing the picket line. She explained the situation in Cuba in the aftermath of 2 hurricanes which devastated the country and referred to initiatives across Canada to raise money for Cuba's hurricane relief. Many participants at the picket reached into their pocket to donate to the cause, reads the report.

"October 6th brought to a close this International Period of Action, however the fight in Vancouver and around the world to free the 5 Cuban Heroes will continue until they are all free!" the report concludes.