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January 29, 2010

Ms. Navanetham Pillay,
High Commissioner of Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

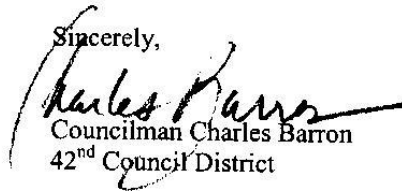
Dear Ms. Pillay:

Since 1998, Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, and Rene Gonzalez, known as the Cuban 5, have been unjustly imprisoned in the United States for trying to prevent terrorist attacks against Cuba. Throughout their incarceration the Cuban 5 have been victims of multiple human rights violations. One of the most unjust and inhuman of these violations has been the systematic denial of visitation from their relatives; a basic right of all prisoners.

The U.S. government has imposed a number of obstacles and unjustifiable delays in granting visas to their families. Hence, some of the Cuban 5 have only received an annual visit from family. In the cases of Gerardo Hernandez and Rene Gonzalez, the situation is far more critical, as their wives, Adriana Perez and Olga Salanueva, have not been allowed to visit them in prison so far. The U.S. government asserts that these women are a risk to national security. The U.S. government has no proof or rationale that their presence will negatively impact national security.

In order to bring to an end to this flagrant violation of human rights, I ask that you intercede in this matter and request that the U.S. government grant visas to the families of the Cuban 5 and allow them to see their relatives on a regular basis.

Sincerely,


Councilman Charles Barron
42ND Council District