

## Let Cuba Live remembers the return of the Cuban Five

“I repeat, I repeat and emphasize that they will return.” That was President Fidel Castro closing an extraordinary session of Cuba’s National Assembly on December 30, 2001. The Assembly had just awarded the title of Hero of the Cuban Republic to Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González.

They did return. December 17, 2015, marks the one-year anniversary of when the last three of them returned. The Cuban Five, prisoners of the U.S. state, were in their homeland and with their families once more. Their heads were high. In defending their country, and at great cost, they’d maintained both their own principles and their dedication to the ideals and practice of their small but large-hearted nation.

Nor had that nation fallen short. Every effort, expense, and stratagem had been dedicated to securing their freedom. And we of Let Cuba Live salute the worldwide solidarity movement that came together and agitated on behalf of five prisoners who had become teachers to us all.

Great partying and celebration ensued on the island following their return. Since then the Five have traveled the world giving back the solidarity they’d received.

And since then, we fear, our own nation, their former jailer, still stops at nothing -- terror, meanness, and chaos -- to work its way in the world, and at home. So the example of persons who never slackened in pursuing what really is our common cause is not forgotten, and won’t be.