



FREEDOM NOW



For Immediate Release
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Miami Dade College/ Juan C. Mendie

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE DR. ÓSCAR ELÍAS BISCET GONZÁLEZ RELEASED FROM PRISON IN CUBA

Will hold first official news conference after release via two-way web stream Monday, March 14, 2011, 10:30 a.m., from location in Havana where he will deliver remarks and take questions. The event will be broadcast live on YouTube and will be moderated by Juan C. Mendie, gathered at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus

Havana, Cuba / Washington, D.C. / Miami, FL – Óscar Elias Biscet González's release from prison in Cuba today is celebrated by the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom Now, joined by supporters of human rights and democracy around the world. Dr. Biscet, a medical professional and human rights and democratic freedoms in his native Cuba, had been arrested in late 2007 for exercising basic civil liberties, convicted on sham charges, and was serving a 25-year prison sentence. Biscet's release follows the July 2010 announcement by the Cuban Catholic Church that 53 unjustly-imprisoned Cuban political prisoners would be freed. On Monday, March 14, 2011, 10:30 a.m., Dr. Biscet will conduct his first official news conference since being released via a two-way web stream between Havana and Miami Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus where the Lawton Foundation, Freedom Now, his family, supporters, other community leaders, and the media will be gathered in the campus' James K. Batten Community Room (2106 Wolfson Campus) to deliver some remarks and take questions from the media.

Dr. Biscet, a medical professional, is the founder and President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and a leading organizer of the "Friends of Human Rights" group in Cuba. He was subjected to inhumane treatment during his imprisonment. His cause has been taken up by human rights advocates around the world, as numerous governments and the United Nations have called for his release. Dr. Biscet was awarded (in absentia) the Presidential Medal of Freedom by George W. Bush in 2007 and has received numerous other awards for his non-violent work for human rights and political freedom in Cuba.



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Jeremy Zucker, Chairman of the Board of Freedom Now, which has represented Dr. Biscet for many years, welcomed the release. "Dr. Biscet has dedicated his life to the promotion of democracy. It was wonderful to speak with him and hear the freedom resonating in his voice. We are pleased that Oscar has been released from prison, he never should have been imprisoned. We look forward to the day when everyone in Cuba is truly free."

MDC has many ties with Dr. Biscet. He is the recipient of an honorary degree from the college, a graduate of the college, and, last year, MDC was the site of the premiere of the play *Oscar's Cuba*.

The media is encouraged to attend the conference at Miami Dade College. It also can follow the stream on-line (details to follow).

WHAT: Live, two-way web conference between Dr. Oscar Elisa Biscet and his family, Lawton Foundation, Freedom now and his family who will be gathered at Miami Dade College in downtown Miami

WHEN: Monday, March 14, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Secure location in Havana – Dr. Biscet
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus – Lawton Foundation, For Human Rights
members of the media
300 NE Second Avenue
James K. Batten Community Room (2106)

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