



For Immediate Release
July 21, 2004

Contact: Stuart Roy or Jonathan Grella
Phone: (202) 225-4000

DeLay: A Birthday Greeting for a Hero *Honors Cuban Dissident Dr. Oscar Biscet on his 43rd Birthday*

WASHINGTON – House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) inserted the following remarks into the Congressional Record today to honor Cuban dissident Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet on his 43rd birthday.

“Yesterday in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, somewhere in the dungeon bowels of Prison Kilo Ocho, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet – prisoner of conscience – turned 43 years old.

“Dr. Biscet is a hero of the kind that men and nations yearn for their entire lives.

“He is a human rights activist, a man of peace and justice, and therefore a sworn enemy of Fidel Castro and his terrorist regime in Havana.

“A student of Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Dr. Biscet has led nonviolent opposition to Castro and his murderous, kleptomaniac government for years, whether on the streets of Havana or in the foul cages that pass for prison cells in Castro’s Cuba.

“Despite years-long separation from his wife and family, untreated illnesses, and ongoing abuse by prison guards, Dr. Biscet remains in high spirits today.

“He is an inspiration to all who suffer for the cause of freedom, a threat to all who seek to undermine that cause, and a stinging indictment against free men the world over who would ignore the cries of injustice ringing out from an imprisoned island.

“But this House and this nation will not ignore, or forget, or bend in our determination to see human rights and human freedom restored to Cuba.

“Mr. Speaker, these brief remarks may be little noted by journalists today and historians tomorrow, but they merit the saying just the same. That somewhere in Cuba today, an honest man suffers so his countrymen – so that all men – might be free is a heroic thing, one the world owes it to him, itself, and our Creator to notice.

“I recognize Oscar Biscet today not because he needs us, but because we need him. And I honor Oscar Biscet today, as we all should, Mr. Speaker, because by the life of service he has chosen, he honors all of mankind.

“I wish him and his family health and strength for his 43rd birthday and send my hopes that this will be his last separated from his loved ones and suffering under the boot heel of evil.”

###