

March 14th 2004

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet
Centro Carcelario Kilo 8
Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Dear Doctor Biscet,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health in spite of the severe conditions of your imprisonment in the maximum security prison of Kilo 8. I have the honor as president of the Miami Dade College, the largest university of this country, to extend an invitation to you and your wife to participate in the next graduation ceremony of our institution. The event will take place on May 1st of this year at the James L. Knight Center of the city of Miami. We would be honored to have you with us in such an important day for our students and for our community in general.

It would be an honor for our College to be able to award you with a title honoris causa in recognition for your work in the defense of human rights, as well as your courageous persistence in the non-violent fight for democracy, justice, and liberty. Your spiritual strength and your commitment to the truth make you a good apostle of the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and Dalai Lama.

We understand very well that you are behind bars in political prison and that you're leaving the country depends completely on the government approval. We make this invitation in spite of the uncertainty that it foreshows. Due to the circumstances, we ask you to please let us know if there is some one who can accept this award for you in May.

We know that you and the other prisoners of conscience in Cuba are going through terrible times and that the whole world demands your unconditional freedom. Allow us to offer you this little honor that would bring so much pride to us as an academic institution, as well as a teaching center that lives and prospers in liberty.

I remain respectfully awaiting for your answer so that we can begin the appropriate arrangements for your visit.

Sincerely,

Eduardo J Padron
President