

Aznar Shows Interest for Human Rights in Cuba

The president of **FAES** welcomed Elsa Morejón, wife of Cuban dissident Oscar Elías Biscet, who has been incarcerated since 1999 and is better known as the Cuban Nelson Mandela.

Madrid 03-05-08 --- Today, Wednesday March 5, in Madrid, the president of **FAES**, José María Aznar, interviewed Elsa Morejón, wife of the Cuban dissident, Oscar Elías Biscet González, who has been incarcerated in Havana since 1999. Aznar has shown an interest in Biscet's situation and at the same time has demonstrated total support to his wife and to the Cubans who continue suffering the repression of the political regime of the Island. Morejón has requested from Aznar and the Spanish people, "solidarity to achieve the immediate unconditional release from prison" of Biscet and all Cuban political prisoners.

Oscar Elías Biscet, a medical doctor, had shown in private his concerns for the right to life and human rights, but he decided to express them publicly for the first time when Pope John Paul II visited Cuba. During the papal mass that was celebrated January 25, 1998, he held up a sign that read *freedom for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience*. With the same objective, he created the Lawton Foundation to defend life, organizing several peaceful demonstrations against the death penalty and abortion.

His activities in favor of right to life, individual liberty and human rights for all Cubans caused him to be arrested by the members of the DSE, Departamento de la Seguridad del Estado (Department of State Security.) After several arrests and summary trials, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the crimes of "disorderly conduct", "disregard for patriotic symbols," and "inciting delinquency." Biscet was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom of the United States. On November 2007, his children received it on his behalf. Morejón has received backing from many important international organizations such as Amnesty International and the Internacional Demócrata de Centro, among others.