

Czech Republic Embassy
Washington, DC

February 27, 2008

Greetings

Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek
Ambassador Petr Kolar
First Secretary and Press Secretary Daniel Novy
Czech Republic Diplomatic Corps
Czech Republic Dignitaries
International Human Rights groups
Former President Vaclav Havel
Ladies and Gentlemen
My beloved Cuban People

I'm Rigoberto Rodriguez, medical doctor, psychiatrist and member of the Lawton Foundation. I met Dr. Biscet in Havana, Cuba in 1999. I visited Cuba on a mission attempting to investigate the psychiatric abuses of Cuban political prisoners on the Island. Dr. Biscet, risking his own personal safety helped me locate victims of psychiatric abuses whom I was then able to interview. This meeting with Dr. Biscet inclined me to become interested in his work promoting freedom and democracy in Cuba. As you know Dr. Biscet founded The Lawton Foundation in 1997 and is currently serving a 25 year prison sentence.

On behalf of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, it is my distinguished honor to accept the honorary plaque of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. Dr. Biscet is humbled in accepting this award and expresses his gratitude to everyone present here today and to all concerned for his well being. We are grateful to the government of the Czech Republic for their support of democracy and freedom in Cuba and, for your efforts to show solidarity with the Cuban Political Prisoners.

I would like to give a special thank you to Prime Minister Topolánek, Ambassador Kolar and first secretary Daniel Novy for taking a special interest in Dr. Biscet's case.

In accepting this award Doctor Biscet understands his responsibility and commitment for the liberation of all Cuban Political Prisoners. Dr. Biscet strives to defend human rights through non violent disobedience and promotes the universal declaration of human rights. His vision for freedom and democracy in Cuba parallels that of other democratic nations. His declaration of democratic principles call for the unconditional freedom for the people of Cuba under a multi-party system of government democratically elected, where the rights of all people are respected and where free Cubans can work together to rebuild the nation in a free-market economy.

His dream is to live in a democracy in Cuba.

Dr. Biscet demands the unconditional release and immediate amnesty for all Cuban political prisoners, without the threat of deportation or exile.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Biscet calls upon all of you men and women of good will, the international press, human rights organizations and dignitaries of all democratic nations to demand the liberation of all Cuban Political Prisoners and support the Cuban People in their struggle to be free.

We thank you for showing your solidarity denouncing the imprisonment of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, a Christian physician and non violent human rights defender.
Dr. Biscet will be set free.
God bless and thank you.

Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez for the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights