



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

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June 18, 2010

His Excellency General Raul Castro  
President of the Council of State and  
President of the Council of Ministers  
Palace of the Revolution  
Havana, Cuba

Pedro Núñez Mosquera  
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations  
315 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Your Excellency:

We are writing once again on behalf of the 129,000 members of the American College of Physicians (ACP) to express our deep concern about the safety and wellbeing of Cuban physicians who have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms far from their homes and families: Oscar Elías Biscet González, Marcelo Cano Rodríguez, José Luis García Paneque, Luis Milán Fernández, Ricardo Silva Gual, and Alfredo M. Pulido Lopez. We have learned that requests from these physicians for consultation with independent medical professionals regarding multiple health concerns have been denied. Our previous requests for the release of these physicians have never been acknowledged.

As members of the nation's largest medical specialty society, we are dedicated to promoting health and human rights. Moral and ethical obligations as stated in our *Ethics Manual, Fifth Edition* include advocating for social justice and human rights. As physicians, we again appeal to you on humanitarian grounds for the immediate release of our colleagues so that they may receive the medical and psychiatric care they require.

In addition, we ask the Cuban government to guarantee that the conditions of their detention conform to basic international standards as defined under the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of all Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment. These documents elaborate the basic standards needed to protect the rights of detainees, including the provision that sick prisoners receive adequate medical treatment.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We await your response to this matter.

Respectfully,

J. Fred Ralston, Jr., MD, FACP  
President