

Olga Salanueva's family has been tragically divided since 2000. For all these years she has been seeking a visa to enter U.S. territory for the sole purpose of visiting her husband of over 25 years, Rene Gonzalez, who is presently serving a 15 year sentence at the U.S. Penitentiary in Mariana, Florida, since September 12, 1998.

The couple has two daughters born of the marriage: Irma, born in 1984, and Ivette, born 1998 in the U.S. The family resided together in the U.S. until 2000, when their youngest daughter was an infant, and they have not seen each other as a family unit since that time.

Rene Gonzalez' conviction was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on September 2, 2008 and the petition for *certiorari* was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 15, 2009. Upon finishing his 15 year sentence, Mr. Gonzalez will be required to complete 3 more years of supervised release.

On September 16, 2000, two years after her husband was arrested and was awaiting trial, Olga, who was a lawful permanent resident, was taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and was ordered removed from the U.S. in November of 2000. Although she had ample legal grounds to appeal this decision, she didn't because her two young daughters, one whom was an infant, had been left without a parent while she was detained.

These tragic events have caused serious psychological damage to Ivette, who was just a baby when her family was torn apart.

This couple has not seen each other since 2000, which is why Olga is now seeking humanitarian parole as the only way she has to achieve her purpose to visit her husband.

In an effort to reunite her family even for a visit, Olga unsuccessfully attempted 9 times to apply for visa. Every time her visa was denied. The U.S. Government alleged she is a threat to the national security of that country.

On her last attempt on July 16, 2008, Olga was advised that she was *permanently* inadmissible to the United States.

Olga has never been charged or convicted of any crime in the U.S. nor anywhere else in the world. Needless to say her family visit will in no way implicate the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

Adriana Pérez has not seen her husband, Gerardo Hernández, for more than 11 years. They have been married since 1988.

During all these years she has been trying once and again to get an authorization by the U.S. Government to visit him, who is serving a sentence of two life terms plus 15 years in California, U.S. She has submitted multiple requests for visas -10 in total- and all these applications have been denied for a wide range of reasons that have little to do with the facts involving Adriana's request.

The U.S. Government alleges she is a threat to the national security of that country.

The single time she was granted a visa, in 2002, she was denied entry to the United States after arriving in Houston, Texas, and returned to Cuba without seeing her husband.

The United States Immigration authorities arbitrarily held Adriana for 11 hours at the airport and revoked her visa without offering any explanation to justify the decision to deny her entry into the United States.

Adriana's last two visa applications were denied on January 23, 2009 and July 14, 2009, pursuant to Section 306 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act of 2002, which permits the denial of non-immigrant visas to nationals of countries considered terrorists by U.S. government unless the Secretary of State judges that they do not pose a risk to the national security of the United States.

This is a humanitarian question. She asks only that she be allowed to visit her husband and be able to communicate with him face to face.

Adriana has never lived in or visited the United States and has never been charged or convicted of any crime in the U.S. nor anywhere else in the world. Needless to say her visit will in no way implicate the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

Numerous clergy and religious organizations have come forward to offer their support and assistance, including accompanying Olga and Adriana in visiting their husbands to ensure that their visit would in no way pose any threat to the U.S.

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The World Council of Churches; The World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Cuban Council of Churches have all expressed such strong support for Olga and Adriana that they have volunteered to accompany them in their visits. The Archbishop of Athens and Primate of the Orthodox Church of Greece, conveys their support of Olga and Adriana's plea for visas to visit their husbands.

Organizations around the world have pledged their compelling support to Olga's mission to visit her husband, citing to international law which supports a favorable exercise of discretion.

Amnesty International has issued numerous letters, public statements and reports, calling for Olga and Adriana to be issued a travel document to visit their husbands. In a letter addressed to U.S authorities on January 11, 2006 Amnesty International said:

"We are concerned that the long-term, permanent denial of visits from their immediate families has caused substantial hardship to René Gonzáles and Gerardo Hernández beyond the penalties imposed. The denial of visits has also reportedly had a detrimental impact on family members. We believe that, in the absence of a clear and immediate threat posed by such visits, this measure is unnecessarily punitive and contrary both to standards for the humane treatment of prisoners and to states' obligation to protect family life."

Parliamentarians all over the world have also been claiming for visas to Olga and Adriana to visit their husbands. 187 members of the European Parliament signed a written declaration in 2007 (0089/2006) calling on the U.S. Government to grant the necessary visas to both wives. Other MEPs have issued letters in 2007, 2008 and 2009 with the same claim for what they call a clear humanitarian question.

Members of the U.K. House of Commons, of the German Bundestag, of Congress of the United States, House of Representatives and other Parliaments of the world have also written in support of Olga and Adriana's request to visit their husbands.

The Mayors of these 13 cities in California (Albany, Berkeley, Canyon Lake, Fairfax, Huntington Park, Maywood, Pasadena, Port Hueneme, Richmond,

Salinas, Santa Cruz, Sebastopol and Winters) support the request for Olga and Adriana to be allowed to visit their husbands, stating: "The two women should be able to visit their husbands on humanitarian grounds. People in California and in the United States, as well as around the world, are aware of their situation. Their case is under appeal, and there is no justifiable reason to deny these families the right to visitation."

The leaders of three of the most notorious trade unions in the United States: the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the United Steel Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, have addressed letters to the U.S. Government asking to grant visas to Olga and Adriana.

On March 8, 2009, the International Commission for the Right of Family visits issued a letter to the U.S. Attorney General, urging that Olga Salanueva be issued humanitarian parole in order to visit her husband. This letter was signed on by 108 prominent members of the international community, including Danielle Miterrand and Nobel Peace Prize recipients Rigoberta Manchu and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, as well as other celebrities, government officials, academics, and human rights activists.