

The Cuban Five: Legal Lynching

Criminal defense attorney and Yale Law School graduate Leonard I. Weinglass, will make a presentation titled *The Cuban Five: Legal Lynching* at the Deerfield Progressive Forum on February 9, 2008.

Formerly an Air Force Captain and Judge Advocate, he maintains a law office in New York City and is “Of Counsel” to the firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, also of New York City.

For over forty years, Washington has tolerated the network of radical right-wing Cubans in Miami. This network has caused the deaths of almost 3,500 Cubans in low-intensity warfare against the island, which is unknown to most Americans. These anti-Cuba groups have perpetrated dozens of bombings and assassinations.

After decades of protests to the US government, which did nothing, Cuba dispatched a group of men to Miami to observe, monitor and report the workings of this network for the purpose of protecting innocent lives in Cuba and the US. These men, now known as the Cuban 5, collected evidence of the activities of this radical network, which were then presented to the FBI.

The FBI subsequently rounded up the Cuban 5 in 1998 who eventually were charged with several counts of conspiracy. Following a seven-month trial in Miami, the five were sentenced to four life terms and 75 years collectively.

For the past four decades, Mr. Weinglass has been involved in some of the nation’s most notorious civil rights and civil liberties cases. Among his most famous cases were the Abbie Hoffman, Tom Hayden and Rennie Davis in the Chicago 8 Conspiracy trial; Jane Fonda in her suit against Richard Nixon; Barry Commoner in his battle to enter a presidential primary; African American Angela Davis; Bill and Emily Harris who were charged with kidnapping Patty Hearst; Amy Carter, daughter of Jimmy Carter, charged with seizure of a building at the University of Massachusetts; Mumia Abu Jamal, death row inmate; Kathy Boudin, former “weatherman” as well as the five Cubans charged with espionage in Miami. Submitted by Cyndee Pattison