



Testimony of MARÍA MARGARITA MORALES FERNÁNDEZ,

Daughter of victim of terrorist attack.

Given at the International Commission of Inquiry into the case of the Cuban Five on Friday the 7th of March 2014, 09:40 to 11:00, Session 1: Terrorist Attacks against Cuba.

Thank you very much, again, for inviting us to this Commission. I hope that the emotion caused by the words of Betina [ed. - previous testimony], including how they could affect me, will not interfere with the importance of the testimony of the families of the more than 5,500 victims of terrorism directed against Cuba.

I want to thank you, because our testimony here allows us to claim justice for our dead relatives, for our wounded relatives, and also justice for the Cuban Five.

The '70s were unfortunately productive years for the terrorist groups operating against the Cuban government and the Cuban people, which are inextricably linked. In '76, on October 6th 1976, an airplane from Cubana de Aviación exploded in mid-air. In that plane were 73 people, 57 of them were Cubans. In that crime, in that cruel terrorist attack, my father died, Luis Alfredo Morales Viego, technical director of the Cuban youth fencing team.

Who were the people on that plane? There were two crews of Cubana de Aviación, civilians, no military, and the Cuban youth fencing team. They returned from a Central American competition, the Central American Youth Championship in Venezuela. The Cuban youth team had won all the medals. The average age of the members of the team did not exceed 27 years, including the coaches. Most of the young people who died there were between 17 and 20 years. There was for example this woman, Nancy Uranga... Nancy Uranga was pregnant when she died in the attack. There was, for example, Infante... He was my teacher when I studied fencing. I was a child, about 14 years at that time. There were all the others, who had won all the medals. There was my dad...

When my mom told me the news that my father had died in an attack on the plane, I did not understand what she was talking about. For a child, it is very difficult to understand what an act of terrorism is. Perhaps some of you have met in your countries victims of terrorism, so you may know what this means, and about the emotional and physical damage affecting people who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

But this was not enough. That is, it was not enough to kill these people during the flight. I cannot imagine how these people locked up in the airplane died. It was not enough... We have had to endure for more than 35 years, since '76, almost 38 years by now... we have had to constantly hear the names of Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch. Today the expert witness proved them guilty, but not only the technical guilt of these murderers has been demonstrated. They recognized it publicly. It hurt a lot when in the '90s Luis Posada Carriles in a public interview he gave acknowledged that yes, he had placed the explosive device, and that it was necessary to put these bombs.

But it was also horrifying to hear Orlando Bosch when he said that those who were on the plane were "five black girls"... They did not matter, another life did not matter.

Gentlemen, for us, for the families of the victims of terrorism, to fight for the freedom of the Cuban Five means honoring the memory of the more than 5,500 victims of terrorism. It means that while the US government does not do justice to the real murderers, since Luis Posada Carriles wanders freely on the streets of Miami and receives public recognition, it imprisons the true fighters for justice. It means to honor and show all these victims that what the Cuban Revolution has accomplished has not been in vain.

We will continue fighting for justice, we will continue showing the suffering inflicted on the Cuban people by terrorist acts, and we will never stop.

Thank you very much.