

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2011

His Excellency Thorbjørn Jagland
Chairman
Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens Gate 51
0255 Oslo
Norway

Dear Chairman Jagland and Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee:

We, the undersigned members of the United States Congress, respectfully nominate Dr. Óscar Elías Biscet González for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Biscet is a Cuban human rights activist and political prisoner. He is distinguished by his extraordinary vision, courage, leadership, and dedication to non-violence in pursuing human rights for all of the people of Cuba, in stark contrast to the depredations of the Cuban authoritarian regime. Since the 1980s, Dr. Biscet has been active in the defense of human rights, conducting and disseminating studies of rights violations, and organizing peaceful demonstrations, educational efforts, civic projects, and non-governmental organizations.

In 1997, Dr. Biscet founded a new organization in Havana – the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights – with the mission of defending inalienable human rights. The Foundation proposed to the Cuban people a fundamental reform of their political, social, and economic life, to bring their circumstances into accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since that time, Dr. Biscet has pursued his defense of human rights at great risk to himself, and he has paid an extraordinarily high price. In a matter of 18 months, he was arbitrarily detained 26 times. After being arrested and beaten dozens of times by Cuban officials, Dr. Biscet served a three-year prison sentence (from 1999 to 2002) for organizing peaceful political protests. After his October 2002 release, he continued his human rights work, meeting with other dissidents in private homes to promote the “Club for Friends of Human Rights,” a new civic group in which Cubans could meet in small groups to educate themselves about their human rights and nonviolent methods for pursuing them. As a result of his continued advocacy during his thirty-six days of freedom, Cuban secret police seized him on December 6, 2002, and subjected him to months of maltreatment. In April of 2003, the Cuban regime imposed a 25 year prison sentence on Dr. Biscet for spurious “crimes” against state security.

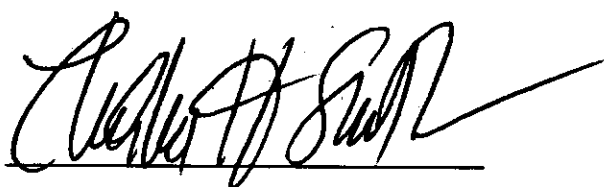
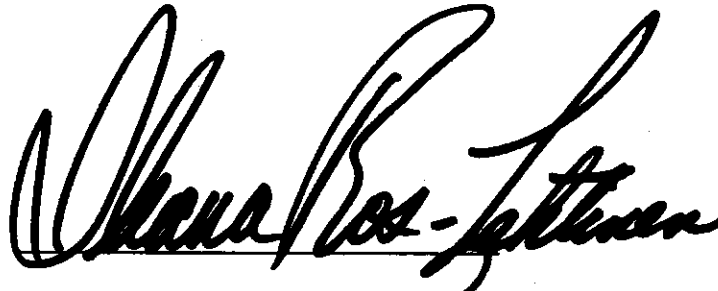

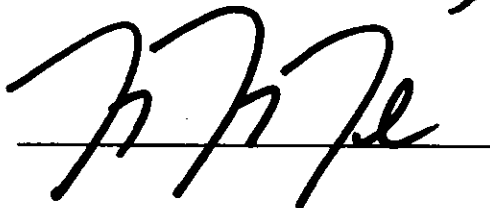



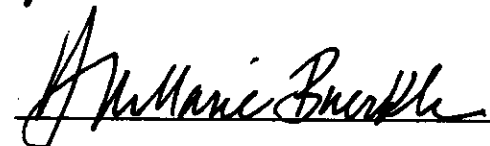
For the last eight years, Dr. Biscet has been held in wretched, life-threatening conditions. He has been confined for many months at a time in a small, windowless cell barely larger than his own body, with no natural light, no plumbing, no reading materials,

and no contact with other inmates. He also has been housed for months in a cell deliberately overcrowded with dozens of inmates, many of them violent and abusive criminals. He has suffered severe weight loss and other illnesses, and has now spent more than a decade in prison, separated from his family. Yet even in prison, Dr. Biscet inspires his fellow prisoners, protests their mistreatment, and sends out messages of encouragement and hope to his fellow Cubans. While other Cuban political prisoners have recently been forced to leave Cuba in exchange for their freedom, Dr. Biscet has made clear that he will not accept release conditioned upon leaving his country, which is tantamount to a forced exile from the Cuban people he has pledged to serve. In his personal sacrifice, Dr. Biscet is a heroic witness to the immutable dignity of the human person.

It is hard to imagine a person who better deserves – or would benefit more from – recognition by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Dr. Biscet has spent his professional life promoting the fundamental values articulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a tenacious commitment to principled nonviolence. Honoring Dr. Biscet would not only vindicate his work and personal sacrifice, but also would send a powerful signal of global solidarity with the Cuban people, who aspire to the protection of their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Cuba today is at a crossroads. Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. Óscar Elías Biscet González – a Cuban human rights defender unalterably dedicated to nonviolent social change – will point the way ahead, toward a constructive future for all of the people of Cuba.

Sincerely,

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Frank R. Way

Lay/Seay

Jim Chabot

James T. Colette

Paul R

J. P. R

Connie Mack

Di Jada

Jeff Fatenberg

Mr. S. S. S. S.

See my job

T. McAllen

Chip Seay

Robert Coy

Ann B. B. B.

J. R. G. G.

Don P. P.

**Members of Congress
Nominating Dr. Óscar Biscet for Nobel Peace Prize**

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa,
Global Health and Human Rights

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Affairs

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress
Vice-Chairman, Subcommittee on
Financial Services

Dan Burton
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe
and Eurasia

Trent Franks
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on the
Constitution

Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress
Chairman, Committee on House
Administration

Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Veterans'
Health

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Science

Kay Granger
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on State
and Foreign Operations

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Middle
East and South Asia

Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Aviation

David Rivera
Member of Congress

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health

Connie Mack
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight, and Government Spending

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture Dep't Oversight, and Credit

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress
Vice-Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Financial Services)

Sue Wilkins Myrick
Member of Congress
Vice-Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress

Cliff Stearns
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Energy and Commerce)

Michael C. Burgess
Member of Congress
Vice-Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation (Energy and Commerce)

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Readiness

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation (Foreign Affairs)