

Friday, August 10, 2007

The Cuban Five's August 20 appellate hearing.

Photo from website of U.S. District Court (W.D. Mi.). Often the material I post to our blog and website involves information and websites that I wish to have handy for myself or to review in further depth later on. In that regard, I wish to learn more about the situation with the efforts to free Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row, Leonard Peltier from prison, and the Cuban Five from prison. All three sets of prisoners have a large number of supporters, many of whom I see them as political prisoners. Most National Lawyers Guild members probably support their causes. My friend and mentor Jun Yasuda has been actively supporting the first two. I know about their cases in the descending order in which I have listed them, and want to know more, certainly beyond what their supporters say. Meanwhile, for those interested, appellate argument in the Cuban Five case will be held on Monday, August 20, 2007, at the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, with a reception with an interesting assortment of highlighted invitees the night before. The pro-Cuban Five website asserts that the Cuban Five conducted surveillance on private parties hostile to Cuba, and not on any United States government agencies or employees. That is an assertion that I will try to learn more about, as well more about the criminal charges and convicted counts. In the Cuban Five appeal, defendant Antonio Guerrero is defended by Leonard Weinglass (see also here), who has been defending a wide assortment of leftists and anti-government clients dating back to the Chicago Seven trial. I look forward to seeing him advocate one day. The appellate docket in the Cuban Five case is here. Here is the very lengthy 2006 appellate opinion that ruled on the denial of a change of venue and left most or the rest of the appellate issues for later decision. Leonard Weinglass's supplemental brief is here. As always, I welcome your comments on this and all Underdog blogposts. Jon Katz. ADDENDUM: Many hours will be needed to get an independent understanding and opinion of this Cuban Five case, both at the present lengthy appellate level, as well as from the trial level. The 180-page trial docket is here. A final superseding indictment applying to only some of the defendants is here. Here is the verdict sheet finding co-defendant Gerardo Hernandez guilty of all counts submitted to the jury.

Posted by Jon Katz in Criminal Defense at 00:00