



FREEDOM NOW



For Immediate Release
March 11, 2011

Contact: Freedom Now / Jeremy Zucker, +1 (202) 468-4648
jeremy.zucker@hoganlovells.com
Lawton Foundation / Dr. Angel Garrido, +1 (305) 342-7101
lawtonfoundation@lawtonfoundation.com
Miami Dade College/ Juan C. Mendieta, (305) 323-0033
jmendiet@mdc.edu

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE DR. ÓSCAR ELÍAS BISCET GONZÁLEZ RELEASED FROM PRISON IN CUBA

*Will hold first official news conference after release via two-way web stream **Monday, March 14, at 10:30 a.m., from location in Havana where he will deliver remarks and take questions from the media gathered at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus***

Havana, Cuba / Washington, D.C. / Miami, FL – **Óscar Elías Biscet González's** release from prison in Cuba today is celebrated by the **Lawton Foundation for Human Rights** and **Freedom Now**, who are joined by supporters of human rights and democracy around the world. Dr. Biscet, a noted advocate for human rights and democratic freedoms in his native Cuba, had been arrested in late 2002 for merely exercising basic civil liberties, convicted on sham charges, and was serving a 25-year prison sentence. Dr. Biscet's release follows the July 2010 announcement by the Cuban Catholic Church that a number of unjustly-imprisoned Cuban political prisoners would be freed. On **Monday, March 14, 2011**, at 10:30 a.m., Dr. Biscet will conduct his first official news conference since being released via a two-way **web stream** between Havana and **Miami Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus** where his colleagues at the Lawton Foundation, Freedom Now, his family, supporters, other community leaders and members of the media will be gathered in the campus' James K. Batten Community Room (2106). He will deliver some remarks and take questions from the media.

Dr. Biscet, a medical professional, is the founder and President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and a leading organizer of the "Friends of Human Rights" group in Cuba. He was repeatedly subjected to inhumane treatment during his imprisonment. His cause has been taken up by supporters of human rights around the world, as numerous governments and the United Nations for years have called for his release. Dr. Biscet was awarded (in absentia) the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush in 2007 and has received numerous other awards for his non-violent advocacy for human rights and political freedom in Cuba.

Dr. Angel Garrido, Vice President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, said "The Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and all freedom loving Cubans and humanitarians everywhere are delighted that Dr. Biscet today is a free man, as he should be. We extend our gratitude to the Catholic Church and others who played a role in securing his release."

1750 K Street NW, Suite 350 • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.223.3733 • www.freedom-now.org

Our mission is to free prisoners of conscience through focused legal, political and public relations advocacy efforts.



FREEDOM NOW



Jeremy Zucker, Chairman of the Board of Freedom Now, which has represented Dr. Biscet for many years, welcomed the release. “Dr. Biscet has dedicated his life to the promotion of human rights and democracy. It was wonderful to speak with him and hear the freedom resonating in his voice. While we are pleased that Oscar has been released from prison, he never should have been imprisoned in the first place. We look forward to the day when everyone in Cuba is truly free.”

MDC has many ties with Dr. Biscet. He is the recipient of an honorary degree from the college, his son is a graduate of the college, and, last year, MDC was the site of the premiere of the riveting documentary *Oscar's Cuba*.

The media is encouraged to attend the conference at Miami Dade College. It also will be possible to follow the stream on-line (details to follow).

WHAT: Live, two-way web conference between Dr. Oscar Elisa Biscet and his colleagues at the Lawton Foundation, Freedom now and his family who will be gathered at Miami Dade College in downtown Miami

WHEN: Monday, March 14, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Secure location in Havana – Dr. Biscet
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus – Lawton Foundation, Freedom Now and members of the media
300 NE Second Avenue
James K. Batten Community Room (2106)

MDC Media contacts: Juan Mendieta, MDC director of communications, 305-237-7611, jmendiet@mdc.edu; Tere Estorino, 305-237-3949, testorin@mdc.edu; Sue Arrowsmith, 305-237-3710, sue.arrowsmith@mdc.edu; Alejandro Rios, 305-237-7482, arios1@mdc.edu or Tarnell Carroll, 305-237-3359, tarnell.carroll@mdc.edu.