A chance to buy some modern Cuban art – and support the Miami Five

With the exception of Socialist Lawyer and information from the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, the British media has been silent on the case of the five Cubans who were imprisoned for monitoring terrorist acts against Cuba. For 12 years these five Cubans have been held by US in confined spaces with minimal opportunities for contact with the outside world.

To challenge this media silence, London and Glasgow will host a ground-breaking exhibition, showcasing the work of up to 30 of Cuba’s most established artists. The exhibition will move to Glasgow in May 2012. Produced in collaboration with the Visual Arts Council of Havana and co-ordinated by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Beyond the Frame will be a dynamic addition to the cultural calendar. It will be the most encompassing exhibition of Cuban art to be displayed in the UK to date. It will furthermore be a campaigning tool, intended to foster awareness and active support on the issue of the Miami 5. To this end, the exhibition will include works by two of the Miami 5 – Antonio Guerrero and Gerardo Hernandez. It is expected that members of the families of the Miami 5 and two of the artists exhibiting will be accompanying the exhibition.

Prestigious British artists who are supporting the event include John Byrne, Alasdair Gray and Richard Deacon. Further eminent patrons have been drawn from the worlds of Art, Medicine, Law, Literature and Theatre. By supporting the exhibition, these patrons are highlighting the significance of Cuba in today’s world and the necessity to campaign for the freedom of the Miami 5. Central to the event will be the sale of the art so that proceeds can go to their defence.

It is hoped that legal firms and individuals who work in law will be inspired to attend and support. Funding of the exhibition is a priority and can be done in the following ways: sponsorship by companies, organisations and individuals; and the purchasing of art works.

There will be access to a preview on 24th April 2012. For all those who are interested donations will be gratefully received at www.cubabeyondtheframe.com or via the Cuba Solidarity Campaign. If you are interested email dodie.beyondtheframe@gmail.com

• Jo Hillgrove

August

21 Four Kenyans win the right to sue the British Government for compensation over their alleged torture by colonial officials and soldiers during the Mau Mau insurgency in the 1950s. The UK Government had argued that it should not be answerable for abuses from that time and that the responsibility now lay with the current Kenyan Government.

impact. The film-maker Ken Loach gave his support for an umbrella organisation, but warned that there are no open doors in the mass media for socialist ideas. Mike Phipps of Iraq Occupation Focus gave the example of his newsletter, but spoke of a crisis of representation. Gordon Nardell argued for the need for an infrastructure for the Socialist Policy Network and gave as an example the Left Economic Advisory Panel.

Clare Solomon gave her views on how to get to the youth, using her 20 year old son as an example, through YouTube – and cited her own organisation, Counterfire. Dave Green of the Fire Brigades Union insisted on the need to win arguments for example with FBU members who had voted for the Coalition. Robin Handforth, a sixth form student, added a view from his own generation.

Overall, the mood of the meeting was positive and enthusiastic, and next steps are eagerly awaited.

• Bill Bowring

park in the Amazon. Rich in oil and other natural resources, the area is ripe for exploitation. However the Ecuadorian Government has sworn to protect the Yasuni park from such exploitation and mineral extraction as an example to the world of another way of approaching environmental policy beyond endless consumption. Dr Falconi also spoke of the strength of Ecuador’s democracy in fending off the attempted coup against Rafael Correa in September 2010.

In these turbulent economic times this lecture was a pertinent reminder that there is much that legislators in Europe and the US have to gain from ideas emanating from Latin America.

• Tim Potter

4 The Guardian reports that it has seen a top-secret document which reveals that MI5 and MI6 officers were encouraged to use information from prisoners being tortured overseas. The policy instructed senior intelligence officers to weigh the importance of the information being sought against the amount of pain a prisoner should suffer.

4 The Gibson Inquiry suffers a blow after lawyers and human rights group announce they will boycott its hearings. The move came after the Government said key sessions would be held in secret and that the cabinet secretary would have the power of veto over information available to the public.

12 The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) admits it may have inadvertently misled journalists into believing that Mark Duggan had fired at police. Duggan was killed by police in Tottenham on 4th August 2011 which sparked several nights of disturbances in London and other cities.