

Carlos Alberto Montaner
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Judge Reggie B. Walton,
United States District Judge for the District of Columbia
C/O Kathleen E. Voelker, Attorney at Law
1776 K Street NW Suite 800.
Washington, DC 20006

Your Honor,

You will soon reach a sentence in the case of Felipe E. Sixto. My letter is to ask for clemency for a young man who has committed a grave error but who I know not to be an evil person or a habitual offender. Rather, I believe him to be someone deserving a second chance in life.


I have known Mr. Sixto for several years, since he started to work at the Center for a Free Cuba. I am a writer and a syndicated columnist, very much involved in Cuban affairs, and so I had the opportunity to have contact with him often, and I always took him for an intelligent and reasonable person, very committed to the principles of freedom. For me, as for all who know him, what took place was an unexpected and sad surprise.

Mr. Sixto, on account of this mistake, has hurt himself greatly, and his family has suffered tremendous damage, but Mr. Sixto has had the decency to publicly acknowledge the error of his ways asking for forgiveness in an exemplary gesture by publishing his moving apology in The Miami Herald, the newspaper that is read precisely by the community where he is well known.

I am convinced that Mr. Sixto has learned a painful lesson, and that he has decided to rebuild his life by strictly following the precepts of the law.

I trust, Honorable Judge, that the evidence of repentance that he has exhibited may afford him the benefit of your benevolence and generosity.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carlos Alberto Montaner', written in dark ink.

Carlos Alberto Montaner