

January 26, 2009

The Honorable Judge Reggie B. Walton
United States District Judge for the District of Columbia
C/O Kathleen Voelker, Esquire
1776 K Street N.W. Ste 800
Washington, DC 20006

Honorable Judge Walton:

Writing this letter is one of the saddest days of my life. I can only compare it to when I at the young age of 15 had to flee into exile 47 years ago with my mother and four younger siblings, leaving my father behind in Cuba. He was able to join us a few months later.

I went to school and worked very hard doing what ever job there was for a young 15 year old to do. I had a news paper route, that my 2 younger brothers helped delivering the Sunday papers Also to be able to have free school lunch for me and my younger siblings, I used to wash the school cafeteria dishes, (back in the 60's they were not disposable like today) and clean the school auditorium floors. Then I worked after school at my parent's grocery store, Mi Refugio- meaning My Refuge. After graduating from high school I joined the US Army.

After proudly and honorably serving in the US Army from 1966 thru 1972. I married my wife in 1968, and went to college. We had three children. Our oldest daughter Susana Maria, a family physician, Margarita Ines, a school teacher and our youngest son Felipe Eduardo an attorney.

Felipe Eduardo has always been a very hard working man all of his life. He has helped me in many projects from building our house to converting a tour bus into a motor home. Our relationship has always been and always will be very close.

Your honor, I know that Felipe Eduardo had a lapse in judgment while working at the Center for a Free Cuba, but I also can tell you that my son is very hard working man, and has suffered enough punishment already for the mistake he made. Not only has he paid all of the money back to the Center, he even paid the interest and has issued public and private apologies. I know he has learned a big lesson from all of this and will reemerge with the same strength, dedication and vitality that runs in his blood line. My father always did whatever is necessary for his family. I have tried to pass that lesson along to my son. He learned it well. Felipe Eduardo is an honorable man and despite his error, I am proud of him and love him.

I beg you to be as lenient as possible when sentencing my son Felipe Eduardo. Not only for him, but for his wife, son, and all of us who love him dearly.

Respectfully yours,



FELIPE H. SIXTO