

## Appeal

to the Governments of the New European Democracies to work together for putting an end to the abuses of human rights in Cuba.

We, the undersigned,

*convinced* that democratic standards and values are long sought for by the Cuban people and should be established in Cuba.

*concerned* with the ongoing persecutions of dissidents in Cuba, with the increased number of arrests, especially after March 2003 and with the constant abuses of the human rights of prisoners of conscience, their families, relatives and supporters, guided by the European common position on Cuba

*express* our appreciation for the active stand of the Government of the Czech Republic in support of the promotion of democracy and respect for human rights in Cuba and

*appeal* to the Governments of the New European Democracies from the Visegrad and Vilnius groups who keep fresh memories of the suffering of their own people under totalitarian Communist rule

- to openly disapprove the constant abuses of human rights in Cuba and the persecutions against Cuban citizens for their beliefs and convictions;
- to demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoner in Cuba
- to join efforts to promote democratic standards and values in Cuba through all internationally accepted venues;
- to instruct their Embassies in Cuba to cooperate in giving help and support to organizations as well as persons and their families who work for the establishment of democratic values and practices and respect for human rights

**Václav Havel**

former President of the Czech republic

**Mart Laar**

former Prime Minister of Estonia

**Philip Dimitrov**

former Prime Minister of Bulgaria

**Pavol Hrušovský**

President of the Slovak Parliament