

June 29, 2017

It is about sending two parents to prison

A statement by Ramón Rigal

During the last two years, our family: my two children, my wife, and I, have undergone psychological pressure and a war with the authorities including those from the department of education, those called teachers, and education leaders, police, prosecutors, social workers, and others linked to our case.

On this occasion, it is not about losing employment or being dismissed from a university degree, or about a good job position. It is about sending two parents to prison—mother and father—and removing our children and sending them to a place to receive an education imposed by the government and violating, first and foremost divine laws, that is, trampling upon beliefs, violating natural laws such as the rights of parents over their children, a right that is registered in many international laws and treaties to which Cuba belongs. This has brought trauma to my family, from causing fear in the children to family instability. Only God's grace and power has given us strength to bear this pressure.

Long discussions with teachers, the school principal, education entities, the school principal threatening my family to imprison us and send the children to a children's home, in front of the children, police summons from the department of minors, being held in a police unit for a night and full day, they applied a precautionary measure, where my wife and I had to appear, as if we were two criminals, to sign, each Friday until the trial. In addition, they created a bad image of me in my neighborhood with their investigations with double meaning, their end being to demoralize. Then a fraudulent trial, with witnesses who were school teachers who were lying before the court, an angry prosecutor as if a murderer were on trial and requesting the heaviest sentence for my supposed offence, a disrespectful and partial judge who dismissed my arguments and wrongly silenced us.

We have appealed and are at this moment waiting for the results of this appeal. We have been summoned for an oral hearing of our case on July 5 at 1 p.m. It is more pressure.

It was so strange to see the brutal injustice before our noses and be unable to do anything or say anything in a country that flaunts its achievements, its justice, and brags unreasonably about the **achievements of the revolution**. Where is that transparent justice that they so demand? Where is that phrase registered in the **concept of the revolution? That means never to lie. It means respect.**

May God continue to help us to defend this cause.