



COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

The Honorable KP George
County Judge

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March 9, 2022

Statement Regarding the Release of Fort Bend County Resident Gustavo Cardenas

Many of the families of the CITGO 6 that have been wrongfully detained in Venezuela are Fort Bend residents. I was honored to meet with them and advocate for their immediate release two years ago at the Fort Bend County Historic Courthouse.

Today, I am thankful that Gustavo Cardenas has returned home and is now on United States soil. It has been a long-overdue journey for Gustavo, his family, and his fellow imprisoned individuals, who were wrongfully detained in Venezuela.

On Feb. 11, 2020, I lead the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to unanimously pass a resolution in support of freeing the CITGO 6, four of which are residents of Fort Bend County. The resolution called on our Federal government and the Venezuelan government to do all they can to bring a peaceful ending to this situation.

I believe in human life and human dignity. Human lives should not be used as pawns. My prayer is that the Biden Administration and our State Department will continue pursuing acts of diplomacy and advocating for the unconditional release of Jorge Toledo, José Pereira, Tomeu Vadell, José Luis Zambrano, and Alirio Zambrano from prison in Venezuela.

We will continue to be in prayer for the safe return of these men and their families in the United States.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "KP George". The signature is fluid and cursive.

County Judge KP George