

"I watch C-SPAN because..."

When I kissed my family goodbye fourteen years ago, I was pursuing the most precious reality in my life: FREEDOM!

I was already paying the highest price I ever dreamed, leaving them behind; my dearest mother got sicker and died, breaking apart forty-four years of happiness and love shared with my father and us.

My nieces, just starting grammar school, have had many birthdays, have graduated, three have gotten married, have given birth, have grown from innocence to adulthood. I have missed all of that.

My sister, my brother and his wife, my best friends ever, have cried for my absence and distance as much as I have cried for them. Our telephone conversations start and end with "we love you" and "when are you coming back?"

Thirteen Christmases that my father, now 89, has been waiting for me.

Many of my countrypersons have been killed, have disappeared, have been imprisoned, have been tortured, only for an ideological disagreement with the government, or just victims of state terror.

Many have fled the country to near or far away countries, but the majority is still there subjected to hunger, abuse, repression and separation from the families.

Difficult to believe that the once called "the Switzerland of America" is today among the many countries cursed by an opprobious military regime.

To absorb a different culture, language, habits, has brought me many long days and nights of loneliness, despair and fear.

My freedom is today my dilemma. Obscured by guilt, for leaving my family to live the hardest, shameful nightmare that nobody could ever anticipate Uruguay would turn into it.

I recently found a friend. Available day and night, it provides me with a variety of important subjects and, most extraordinary of all, with a great diversity of opinions to entertain, to educate, to participate, to agree or disagree.

C-SPAN brings me hope that men and women in this country will finally realize the importance of their dialogue without censorship, to reach out for us that silently cry for justice.

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