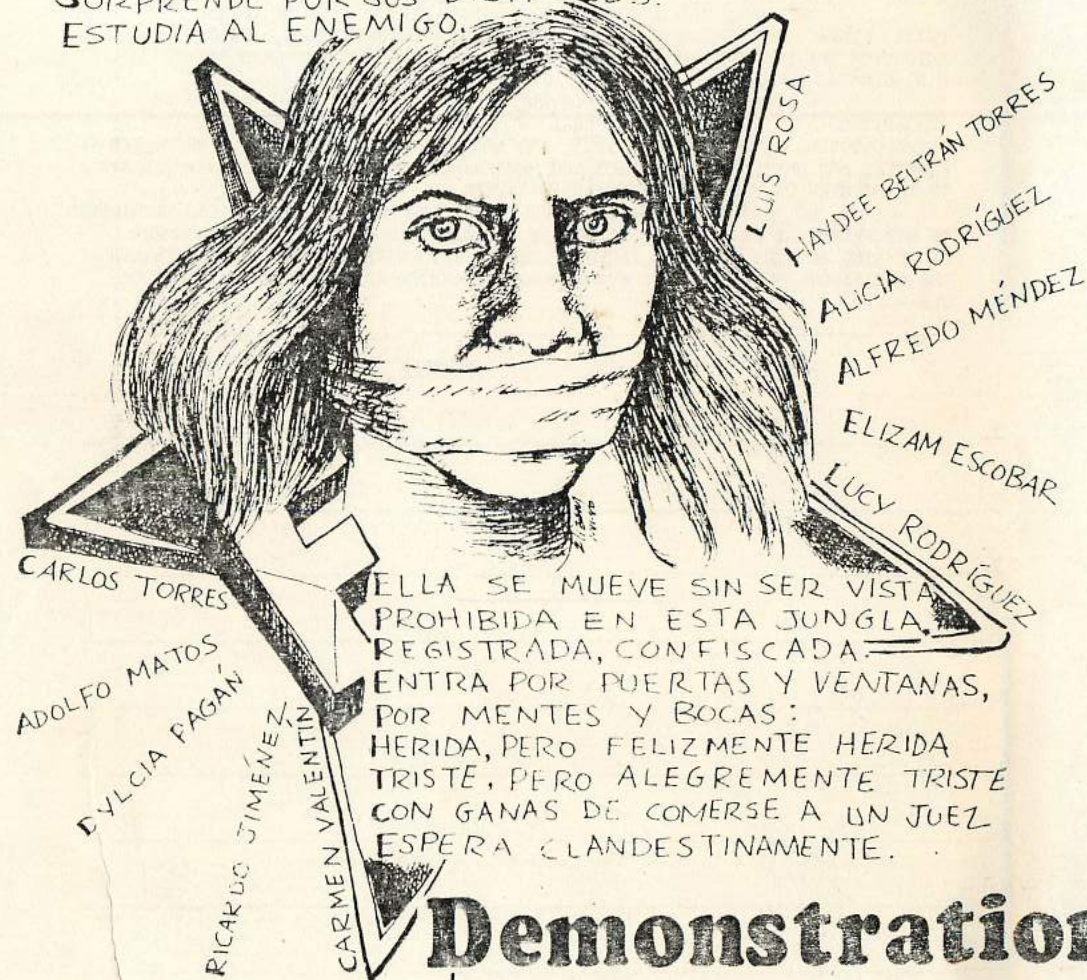


LA VERDAD ANDA POR AHÍ
HERIDA, AMORDAZADA
CON MUCHOS CARGOS, SIN DEFENSA.
RECOGE ARMAS Y LÁGRIMAS.
ASALTA DE VEZ EN CUANDO.
SORPRENDE POR SUS DISFRACES.
ESTUDIA AL ENEMIGO.



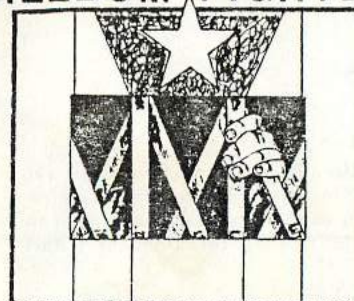
ELLA SE MUEVE SIN SER VISTA
PROHIBIDA EN ESTA JUNGLA.
REGISTRADA, CONFISCADA.
ENTRA POR PUERTAS Y VENTANAS,
POR MENTES Y BOCAS:
HERIDA, PERO FELIZMENTE HERIDA
TRISTE, PERO ALEGREMENTE TRISTE
CON GANAS DE COMERSE A UN JUEZ
ESPERA CLANDESTINAMENTE.

Demonstration

JULY 7, 1980 9:00 am
JULY 21 1980

26th & CALIFORNIA

THEY ARE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS



NOT TERRORISTS

CHICAGO PUBLICATION

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

UPDATE

2520 N. Lincoln, Chicago, Illinois 60614
P.O. Box 301

National Heroine , Lolita Lebron on National Tour in support of the Eleven Freedom fighters



On Wednesday, May 22, 1980, the Puerto Rican community of Chicago gave a warm welcome to the national heroine of Puerto Rico, Lolita Lebrón. More than 500 people were present to honor the greatest revolutionary of this epoch.

Puerto Rican and Chicano/Mexicano students from Northeastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois dedicated folkloric dances to her, and also the children of the Children's Center of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center honored her by presenting a drama about Vieques. One of the most moving moments was when young Antonio Valentin, son of the patriot and prisoner of war Carmen Valentin, dedicated their play to Lolita.

Speakers were companera Josefina Rodriguez, representing the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (M.L.N.), Myrna Salgado of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, and Mistress of Ceremonies Carmen Santana Rodriguez.

The militant audience gave a long standing ovation when the patriot Lolita Lebrón was introduced.

In her speech Lolita made detailed analysis of the economy, culture, the electoral process and the Navy in Vieques.

In her discourse, Lolita described her emotional encounter with the Puerto Rican freedom fighters now imprisoned. Some of her thoughts are cited in the following:

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Since their capture and illegal detention in U.S. jails, the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war have received many letters of support and solidarity from individuals as well as different organizations. The following is a message of solidarity and support sent to the Eleven and authorized for print. The other piece of correspondence is a poem written by two students from the Rafael Cancel Miranda High School.

"Dear Compañeros y Compañeras:

I would like to take this time and opportunity to express my deepest and most profound acknowledgement and recognition to each and everyone of you, for your heroic stands against the real and greatest terrorist in the history of humankind 'the Yanki Imperialist' whom we all have known and seen throughout history for oppressing and exploiting the oppressed classes and nation through their organized apparatus of violence, the State which has created terror in the World. It has been seen through their means of using the mass media calling the patriots 'terrorists'. As we all know, they do this with the intentions to defame and belittle the heroism and patriotism with which you all have chosen to fight the genocide of your people and total destruction of your nation.

We have learned that the U.S. who have been calling themselves the 'Defender of Human Rights' and freedom in the world is the Greatest violator of these rights. I want to strongly express my proudness and full unconditional support for your representation of a revolutionary process in the struggle for national liberation which will be triumphant, and being representatives of the Puerto Rican consciousness in arms within the United States. Through your actions it has brought much nationwide support and determination in this struggle for independence and socialism for Puerto Rico.

No bars of the Yanki Imperialist can cease the struggle even for a moment but only has brought forth a massive support to continue the struggle.

So I take this time to extend a strong revolutionary embrace and salute you: Carlos Alberto Torres, Elizam Escobar, Adolfo Matos, Freddie Mendez, Dylcia Pagan, Aida Luz Rodriguez, Carmen Valentin, Alicia Rodriguez, Luis Rosa, Maria Haydee Torres, y mi querido companero, Ricardo Dick Jimenez.

With unconditional support,
Tita

VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!
FREEDOM FOR THE ELEVEN!
ESTA LUCHA VA LLEGAR A LA GUERRA POPULAR!"

For those who are interested in doing support work, please pass this petition around to your friends, relatives, co-workers, organization - when completed, you can mail it National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War - P.O. Box 301 - 2520 North Lincoln, Chicago, Illinois 60614

PETITION

WHEREAS, PUERTO RICO IS RECOGNIZED TO BE A COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER RESOLUTION 1514-XV OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE REPORT OF THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE FOR AUGUST, 1978 APPROVED BY THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WHEREAS, THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON AUGUST 12, 1949, AND PASSED RESOLUTIONS AND PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO IT, NUMBERS 2621, 2852, and 3103 DATED OCTOBER, 1970; DECEMBER 1971; AND DECEMBER 1973 RESPECTIVELY RECOGNIZE FIGHTERS FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND MEMBERS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS PRISONERS OF WAR WHEN CAPTURED IN BATTLE.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST THAT THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR PRESENTLY BEING TRIED ILLEGALLY AS CRIMINALS BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BE TREATED ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GENEVA CONVENTION AND THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS AND RESOLUTIONS, ACCEPTED AS LAW BY THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

NAME

ADDRESS

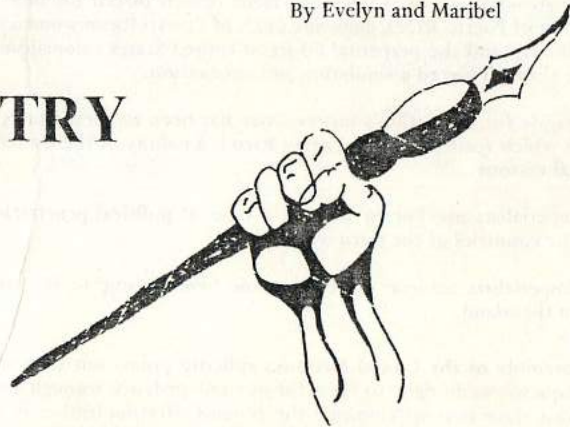
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

From the Rafael Cancel Miranda High School Students to our Brave Warriors:

You all are the Hydra to the revolution
to the salvation of our nation
against exploitation and oppression
You have planted the seed that will grow
into a tree and they will see that we'll be free
from the enemy
You give recognition to our nation
our existence will not die but grow
in their very eyes
We as a people
You as the heroes - we're still not free
but they'll surely see, when we hit the
enemy with the strike of anger
like the sound of thunder
for we don't live in fright
for we live for our rights
Our existence will not die
but yet then it will survive

By Evelyn and Maribel

POETRY



Anyone wishing to write to the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war may do so by addressing their correspondence to: Cook County Jail
2600 South California
Chicago, IL 60608

in care of: CARLOS ALBERTO TORRES No. 8010869
LUIS ROSA No. 8010871
ALFREDO MENDEZ No. 8010872
ADOLFO MATOS No. 8010873
ELIZAM ESCOBAR No. 8010874
RICARDO JIMENEZ No. 8010870
CARMEN VALENTIN No. F 8001035
DYLICIA PAGAN No. F 8001033
ALICIA RODRIGUEZ No. F 8001036
IDA LUZ RODRIGUEZ No. F 8001037

The address for freedom fighter Maria Haydee Torres is: Metropolitan Correctional Center
No. 88462 150 Park Road
New York, New York

UPDATE

April 4, 1980: Eleven suspected FALN members arrested in Evanston, Ill. for possession of weapons and auto theft. FBI identifies Carlos Alberto Torres, Marie Haydee Torres and Ida Luz Rodriguez, the others are unable to be identified at this point.

April 5, 1980: Fugitive warrants are filed against all 11 to prevent them from being released on bond. 100 supporters rally outside Evanston jail demanding the release of the 11. FBI identifies Dylcia Pagan, Elizam Escobar, Fred Mendez but the others still remain unidentified.

April 7, 1980: 11 FALN suspects pushed, carried, and dragged into Evanston court room for their arraignment. All 11 take position of Prisoners of War and refuse to acknowledge the court's proceedings. FBI identifies Luis Rosa. Local police and FBI lodging a witch-hunt, harassing people with photographs and taking pictures of people hoping to link them in some way to the arrested suspects. Judge Kelly sets next hearing date for April 15, 1980, all 11 are transported from Evanston Police Station to Chicago's Cook County Jail, where they are to be held in lieu of \$2 million bond each.

April 8, 1980: FBI further investigates all weapons, clothing, identification and other bits of paper found on the suspects, FBI suspects link between the 11 arrested and a robbery in Milwaukee because of one of the vans apprehended in the arrest.

April 9, 1980: FBI raid house in Milwaukee from an address taken from one of the 11 arrested. Cartons of leaflets, disguises, a rifle and a shotgun were removed. FBI report that neighbors identified a photo of Oscar Lopez Rivera as one of several people who stayed in the recently raided house,

Dick Jiminez and Carmen Valentine identified by FBI.

April 10, 1980: Adolfo Matos, another freedom fighter identified by Evanston Police. Government sources state they will use the power of a special 18-month grand jury, convened in Chicago, to pry open the secrets of the FALN, which has eluded the FBI for nearly six years, especially because William Morales and Lopez Rivera remain at large.

The Comité Unitario Contra La Represión de Puerto Rico pledges total and unconditional support for the POWs.

April 11, 1980: San Juan, Puerto Rico. Four clandestine organizations, the Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Popular (FARP), the Macheteros (Ejército Popular Boricua), Organización de Voluntarios de la Revolución Puertorriqueña (OVRP), and the Fuerzas Armada de Liberación Nacional (FALN) issued a joint communique which stated that the Puerto Rican revolutionary movement was not going to be detained with the arrest of the 11. They also called for support of the 11 as prisoners of war and demanded that they be transferred to military camps to await an international hearing to determine their fate. The communique was read over the radio and parts published in several of Puerto Rico's newspapers.

Continued.....

Continued.....

April 12, 1980: Milwaukee, Wisconsin. About 30 people gathered at the Latin American Union for Civil Rights in this city to hear Juan Antonio Corretjer, Secretary-General of the Puerto Rican Socialist League and to demonstrate their support for the 11 Puerto Rican POWs. Juan Antonio, interviewed on Milwaukee Channel 2, focused on the question of the POWs' arrest in Evanston, April 4. James Ingram, special agent in charge of Chicago's FBI, stated in a program on CBS, "Issues and Answers", "What surprised and shocked me the most was the widespread support the FALN enjoyed in the Puerto Rican communities within the U.S."

April 13, 1980: Nearly 400 people attended a forum in Chicago on the present tasks of the Puerto Rican independence movement led by Juan Antonio Corretjer. The crowd enthusiastically endorsed Corretjer's call for support for the 11 Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

April 15, 1980: 200 supporters rally outside and inside Chicago's Cook County Criminal Court during the 11's arraignment. Marie Haydee Torres is extradited to New York City after her arraignment. She is facing federal bombing charges stemming from the 1977 dynamiting of the Mobil Oil Corporation Building that killed one person. The other ten freedom fighters were arraigned on the following charges: Mary Rodriguez, armed robbery, armed violence and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Carmen Valentine, unlawful use of weapons. Dylcia Pagan, unlawful use of weapons. Ida Rodriguez, unlawful use of weapons. Carlos Alberto Torres, who was on the FBI's most-wanted list, unlawful use of weapons and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Freddie Mendez, unlawful use of weapons. Adolfo Matos, unlawful use of weapons. Eliziam Escobar, unlawful use of weapons. Dickie Jimenez, unlawful use of weapons and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Luis Rosa, armed robbery, armed violence and possession of a motor vehicle. FBI raid a New Jersey apartment alleged to have been rented out to Carlos Alberto Torres, where 100 names of business and industrial figures were discovered. Also discovered in the raid were diagrams of the sewer system in Madison Square Garden, where the Democratic National Convention is to be held this summer. Maria Rodriguez is identified by FBI. Judge Fitzgerald sets April 28 for continued legal hearing on the 10 men and women in Chicago.

April 17-20, 1980: The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War launched a three-fold campaign; 1) at the local level, intensification of work on the community level through leafleting, house to house visits and informal discussions, 2) at the national level, publication of a national newsletter, national demonstrations, etc... 3) at the international level, taking the case to the United Nations, sponsoring rallies of support for the 11 and other Puerto Rican POWs, in various countries, particularly in Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico, and initiating and international petition drive in support of the 11 POWs.

April 28, 1980: San Juan, Puerto Rico-At an activity in commemoration of International Worker's Day sponsored by the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena (LSP), the national coordinator of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN), Jose Lopez, exhorts the militant audience of more than 100 to build support for the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war. Messages from the Eleven are read and received with prolonged applause.

May 1, 1980: San Juan, Puerto Rico-Jose Lopez, Jaime Delgado, Consuelo Lee Corretjer and Hiram Lozada hold a press conference to explain the conditions faced by the Eleven.

May 3, 1980: Toronto, Canada-More than 400 people attend an activity for May 1st. sponsored by the Canadian Party of Labor, where companero Julio Rosado, Northeast Regional Coordinator of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN), companero Julio Rosado spoke about the Eleven, and about their position in declaring themselves Prisoners of War.

Continued on Page 15

PRISONER OF WAR: ALICIA RODRIGUEZ (a/k/a/ Mariana Bracetti)

My position stands firm. I am a Puerto Rican prisoner of war, captured while struggling for the liberation of Puerto Rico.

It is a historical fact that in 1898 my country was militarily intervened by the U.S. armed forces. Since that time, our nation has been in a continuous state of war against the United States. A war which has been characterized by the defiant voice and actions of my people valiantly resisting imperialist oppression, repression and exploitation. Also, in this war for independence, our people have been confronted with brutal reactionary violence. For example, the enemy's tactics have included imprisonment of freedom fighters (of which we are a clear example), and torture and death of those who dare challenge the imperialist aggressor (as in the case of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal).

I must interject at this time that our actions were not dictated by whims, but by a clear understanding of the colonial situation in Puerto Rico. Therefore, the conditions of my people (both in Puerto Rico and in the United States) have forced us to move against subsistence wages, extremely high inflation, mass unemployment (which forced the migration of almost half of the population of Puerto Rico), genocide (40% of Puerto Rican women of child bearing age have been sterilized), and the perpetual effort of United States colonialism to destroy our language and culture through forced assimilation and annexation.

My right to struggle for my nation's independence has been unquestionably recognized by the United Nations which reaffirmed that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States. It is so for two fundamental reasons:

1. the U.S. imperialists use Puerto Rico as a base of political penetration and military aggression against the countries of the third world, and
2. the U.S. imperialists achieve great economic benefits due to the colonial-capitalist system that rules on the island.

The General Assembly of the United Nations explicitly points out that we as a colonized people have the unquestionable right to fight for our independence through armed and violent means, and they also state that to continue the process of colonization is a crime. It also reaffirms that I as a captured anti-colonial freedom fighter should be treated as a prisoner of war. I demand to be tried before a jury of my peers from oppressed nations. If these measures are not taken then I demand my unconditional release.

I want to make it clear that I am here against my will. This is an illegal proceeding where my human rights are being violated. This court has no jurisdiction over or my fellow comrades. I repeat, I am a Prisoner of War captured in the enemy camp. How can I expect to receive a just trial in the country which exploits and repeatedly masquerades its inhumane colonial control over the Puerto Rican nation. It is the imperialists who are hiding behind the court system and who treat us as criminals. They are negating our right to be tried at an International Court. These repressive acts against me and my comrades will not slow down or halt our goal towards liberation, instead it will further the process.

As I have said before, I waive my right to counsel, and I choose to speak on my behalf. As a Prisoner of War, I have the right to legal advisors. I have asked Michael Deutsch, Mara Siegel and all the other attorneys from the West Town Legal Clinic and the People's Law Office to be my legal counsels. I do not, at any moment, recognize the right of any public defender to speak for me.

At this time I demand to be taken back to my holding place.

VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA! - FUERA LA MARINA DE VIEQUES!

QUE VIVA LA LUCHA ARMADA CLANDESTINA!

The United States Government has viciously refused to acknowledge the political nature of our acts. Instead, it treats us as if we were criminals. But this does not matter, I remain loyal to my claim of prisoner of war, regardless of the numerous attempts of this government to isolate us from our people. Their sinister maneuvers will not break the spirit of unity of those imprisoned.

Clearly, there are historical factors which legitimize my position of Prisoner of War. For example, in 1898, Puerto Rico was militarily intervened by the United States' armed forces, thus opening the way for the establishment and development of colonialism. Since that time, the Puerto Rican nation has been fighting a continuous war to end colonialism in our homeland. Obviously, U.S. colonialism has brought nothing but pain and inhuman conditions to our people. This is evident in the fact that today our nation suffers from a 40% unemployment rate in the cities, and an unemployment rate as high as 95% in the rural areas.

In addition, one half of all Puerto Rican families have been forced to migrate to this country, and while living here, about 33% of our people are forced to exist below the poverty level. And this is not all! Over 35% of Puerto Rican women of child bearing age have been sterilized in accordance with the U.S. policy of genocide against Puerto Rican people. We are also confronted by the deadly crisis of unchecked industrial pollution which is threatening our national environment.

Another very clear example of what exactly is colonialism can be witnessed in the case of Vieques, Puerto Rico. There the United States Navy has total disregard for human life and the delicate balance of nature. This is graphically depicted by the Navy's use of Vieques as a target practice for bombing maneuvers.

Since Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, international law has reaffirmed our right to use any means necessary to fight for and win our national independence. This international body has also recognized our right as anti-colonial freedom fighter to be treated as prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

It is public knowledge that this right was savagely denied to Angel Rodriguez Cristobal who was captured while fighting alongside the people of Vieques, to expel the U.S. Navy, and who was a Prisoner of War assassinated by the CIA while imprisoned in Tallahassee, Florida. Because of the colonial status of Puerto Rico, I reaffirm my belief that this is an illegal proceeding and this court has no jurisdiction over me. This court is part and parcel of the colonial apparatus that serves to maintain colonialism in Puerto Rico. I am here against my will, and I demand to be taken to and held in a military camp, until such time when I can be taken before an international court, or to a neutral country to be tried before a jury of my peers. Or else, I demand my unconditional release.

Again I reiterate that I am speaking on my own behalf. As a Prisoner of War I have the right to legal advisors, and I ask that Michael Deutsch, Mara Siegel and all the other attorneys from the West Town Legal Clinic and the People's Law Office be my legal advisors. This signifies that at no time do I recognize the authority of any public defender to speak for me.

At this time I demand to be taken back to my holding place.

QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!

QUE VIVA LA LUCHA ARMADA CLANDESTINA!

NO A LA ANEXION!

DECLARATIONS OF THE 11

PRISONER OF WAR: MARIA HAYDEE BELTRAN TORRES

My beloved compatriots;

Here I am before you today, brought here to this court without my consent. At present both I and my companeros find ourselves imprisoned in the jails of our enemies. As Puerto Rican Prisoners of War we demand that they take us to a military camp, or to a neutral country, there to await the resolution for the case of Puerto Rico and ours after we are heard by an international tribunal. International Law gives us these rights.

But, as you can well see, this country rejects international law. Each day that we are kept in prison, and Puerto Rico is kept imprisoned by United States colonialism, they violate international law. Apparently, the U.S. believes itself superior to the international community.

We, the Puerto Rican people, have taken steps to end these violations. We have decided we have had enough of human oppression. We have put an end to the abuse and betrayals which has imprisoned our country for 82 years. There are laws, yes; those which demand of the United States that it cease to violate the rights of Puerto Ricans to be a nation, free and independent. The United Nations has affirmed and reaffirmed the Puerto Rican reality - that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, and that a colonized people who live the reality of being a colony, has both the obligation and the right to struggle against that illegality and human injustice.

We, the Puerto Rican people, see that laws do exist which clearly say that we Puerto Ricans have the duty and the right to be free. But these laws are not kept. They are daily violated by this country.

Therefore, we the Puerto Rican people, have to make a choice: Either we fight against the violence perpetuated against our people, through armed struggle; or we sit back and accept that the U.S. should continue to violate our rights as human beings.

The Puerto Rican people have decided already that the only way to fight this violence against our people is through the nozzle of a gun.

It is we, the Puerto Rican people who have to fight. Because we have had to live for the past 82 years under the tyranny this country has imposed on us. The total control of our lives which this country has over our lives; social, economic and political, must be snatched from their hands.

As a result of the yankee invasion, we Puerto Ricans see that 95% of our country people are unemployed, and 45% of those are industrial workers. Aside from having over 70% of our people dependent on food stamps doled out by the yankee government (a good way to keeping our necks inside a noose) our people can have little economic hopes. While our people suffer, we see that 60% of our land is in the hands of North American corporations, with the single purpose of devouring our natural resources. To this we must add the 80% of the entire production of Puerto Rico is controlled by North American capital. Another 13% of our land is in the hands of the U.S. Armed Forces. Thus we can understand the forced migration of our people to this country; forced by the conditions created by their exploitation and continuous presence in Puerto Rico.

Today we find ourselves in these prisons of the enemy and they call us criminals. But I say: Who are the real criminals? The ones who perpetuate these injustices against a people, or those who fight to end injustices?

I say that, with all we have heard about this country, which calls itself the defender of human rights and freedom in the world, the United States has forgotten that here in its own house it is the greatest violator for these rights.

PRISONER OF WAR: RICARDO D. JIMENEZ

Hola Mis Compañeros y Compañeras:

I send you all my warmest revolutionary embraces and love. I am Prisoner of war, Ricardo D. Jimenez.

On July 25, 1898, Puerto Rico was militarily invaded by the United States. Ever since, Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States. To provide the framework for a developed and dependent colony, "organic Laws" such as the Foraker Act and the Jones Act were imposed on us, stripping us of our sovereignty and imposing U.S. citizenship (and if anyone dared deny it, they became aliens in their own country).

Since then Puerto Rico has been at war with the U.S. This is exemplified by the many struggles throughout our history such as the anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist movement led by the great Don Pedro Albizu Campos, The attack on Blair House, to denounce the colonial status of Puerto Rico, and the heroic acts of four nationalists, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores and Andres Figueroa Cordero, to show the world that Puerto Rico is a colony, although the U.S. tries to hide it. And today we have the Armed Clandestine struggle.

American colonization of Puerto Rico for the last 81 years has been oppressed internationally. This fact is recognized by first the United Nations General Assembly's declaration that colonialism is a crime. This position was further strengthened when in September, 1978 the United Nations' Decolonization Committee reaffirmed the fact that Puerto Rico has the right to seek its independence through whatever means necessary, including armed struggle. This leads us to the fact as stated in International Law, that any captured freedom fighter is entitled to Prisoner of War status and is to be treated as such under the Geneva Convention, Chapter and Resolution of the General Assembly for Prisoners of War.

In light of this, we do not recognize the existence, legality or jurisdiction of this or any court. You have no power over us. This court has no right to try or treat us as common criminals. We are Freedom Fighters. We demand to be tried before an international court as Prisoners of War and to be held in a neutral country until our independence is won.

All this should be very familiar to the U.S. To refresh their memories they were once a colony of Britain. U.S. forefathers, in the mid 1770's took up arms against the nation that colonized them. When the U.S. forefathers were captured by the enemy, were they called criminals, terrorists, lunatics, and fanatics? NO! They were freedom fighters. They were people who gave their lives for liberty. In the words of Judge Knapp, "I guess we would have hung George Washington if he hadn't won the War!

How contradictory for the U.S. to have a colony in their possession for the last 81 years. They were "liberators", but we are terrorists! Ha! I defy this system! How funny that these laws change in their (U.S.) favor and interests.

PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!
U.S. MARINES OUT OF VIEQUES!
ESTA LUCHA VA A LLEGAR A LA GUERRA POPULAR!
NO A LA ESTADIDAD!

Continued....

The U.S. has turned Puerto Rico in a military and industrial complex, reaping billions of dollars of profit from the sweat of Puerto Rican workers and the exploitation of the Puerto Rican total Society. The policy of genocide is seen thru the sterilization of 35% of Puerto Rican women, the attempt to eliminate existing Puerto Rican cultural institutions, language and physically and ideologically destroying the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. As seen by "colonial governor" Barcelo's attempt to close down the Puerto Rican Cultural Institute and his policy of murdering Arnaldo Rosado, Carlos Soto, Soler Mari Bras, Labor Leader Rafael Caballero, and the latest FBI murder of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal who was jailed because he opposed the Navy use and bombings of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, half of Puerto Rico's population has been forced to migrate to U.S. ghettos and slums. The majority face institutional racism, trigger happy police, as in the case of a young Puerto Rican who was gunned down in Brooklyn, New York, shot 24 times. Puerto Rican youths are subjected to drug addiction, gang violence, and are forced out of insensitive schools. We constitute the highest dropout rate in the U.S. school system.

Our workers are the last hired, first fired. They are the lowest paid. Our communities are constantly burned down as in the case in South Bronx, New Jersey and Chicago's West Town communities to make room for the "affluent". This is colonialism. This is genocide.

We the Eleven, as well as thousands of others, have chosen to battle against this until the end. We assert our right as colonized people to wage a struggle against the colonizer, U.S. Imperialism, by any means necessary.

LONG LIVE PEOPLES WAR!

NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES!

FREE PUERTO RICO NOW!

PUERTO RICO WILL BE FREE THRU PEOPLES WAR!

Saludo, abrazo, y un beso revolucionario a nuestro pueblo. We are here today addressing ourselves to our people, the oppressed, and those struggling to end this system of exploitation of man by man. We are not here voluntarily, we are Prisoners of War who were captured in our struggle to free Puerto Rico from Colonialism. As such we do not recognize the jurisdiction of any U.S. Court over us. We base this on the following principles, International Laws, and United Nations resolutions.

1. The Decolonization Committee, pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 2621, October 12, 1970, developed a program of action for the full implementation of the declaration of granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. Specifically, the program and solution declared that further continuation of colonialism in all forms and manifestations is a crime, constituting a violation of the charter of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the principles of International Law. It reaffirmed the inherent right of Colonial Peoples to struggle by all means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspirations for freedom and independence.

2. Further, General Assembly Resolution 2621 (6A) specifically provided that all Freedom Fighters under detention shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 1949, United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 75, 1950.

3. September 12, 1978 the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations reaffirmed without dissent, that the Puerto Rican people have the inalienable right to self-determination and independence, finding that a colonial relationship existed between the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The United Nations' body condemned the persecutions, harassment and repressive measures to which the organizations of persons struggling for independence have been continuously subjected. This unequivocal international recognition of the colonial status of Puerto Rico conclusively confers the right to fight colonialism by any means necessary upon the Puerto Rican people and entails P.O.W. status for captured freedom fighters.

It is within these rights and others that we demand to be turned over to a neutral international body. Since the U.S. military invasion of Puerto Rico, there has existed a continuous war between the two nations. With the resistance by the secret guerrilla groups of the 1890's to the Nationalist Party resistance of the 1930's and 40's to the Jayuya Revolt of the 1950's. The attack on Blair House in 1950, the March 1, 1954 attack on U.S. Congress, the clandestine actions of the MIRA and CAL of the 60's, the expulsion of the ROTC from the University of Puerto Rico, to the emergence of the new road towards People's War. As seen thru the actions of the Peoples revolutionary groups of the 70's and 80's such as the FARP, Comandos Obreros, OVRP, Macheteros, CRP in Puerto Rico, and the FALN here in the U.S.

The U.S. Policy towards Puerto Rico since 1898 has been one of genocide, rape, and exploitation of masses of Puerto Rican people. Over 13% of Puerto Rico's most farmable land is occupied by the U.S. armed forces. Vieques, a small Puerto Rican island, is used by the U.S. Navy as target practice. The Navy bombs the island daily; these bombings have resulted in the deaths and maiming of many Puerto Rican adults and children.

Puerto Rico's basic aspects of political, economic and social life in such areas as communication, radio, telephone and cable, postal system, currency, travel, citizenship, foreign relations, legal system, tariff; in short, all aspects of Puerto Rican society are controlled by the U.S.

Continued.....

I will assert here today, April 28, 1980, in front of my community and in front of the enemy of my people that there is a war of national liberation for the independence of Puerto Rico being waged continuously by broad sectors of the Puerto Rican people since our country was first militarily conquered by the armies of the United States in 1898.

Our nationality has been intervened since 1898 by the imperialistic government of the United States, therefore, we the Puerto Rican people, must give our life to the defensive war to which we have a right.

Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States for two fundamental reasons:

- (1) Because it can be used by North American Imperialism as a base of political penetration and military aggression against the countries of the third world; and
- (2) Because of the high economic benefits that U.S. monopolies take out due to the colonial capitalist system that rules on the island.

The Decolonization Committee of the United Nations ruled that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is a crime, constituting a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. This reaffirmed the inherent right of colonial peoples to struggle by all means at their disposal against colonial powers. It also specifically provided that all freedom fighters under detention shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention.

Our nation was officially recognized to be a colony of the United States by the United Nations as of September 12, 1978. This official recognition has granted us full recognition as Prisoners of War. It is based on this that I denounce this proceeding to be illegal. I do not recognize the jurisdiction of this court and was brought here against my will. I will not accept a public defender, if appointed on my behalf. I am more than capable to speak on my own behalf, for what it is worth in this illegal court. I demand to be taken to a military camp, until it is possible for our case to be heard by an international court before a jury of our peers.

We will never negotiate our principles in the courts of our enemy which are based on deceit, as are all other laws and principles of this the land of the ENSLAVED. We are well aware that the great problem of people's lives are only resolved by force, and that victory can only be guaranteed by the armed force of the masses, and it can only depend on INSURRECTION - not on this or that "legal and peaceful" institution.

From the time of invasion, these deceitful aggressors told the Puerto Rican people that they had not come to make war but for our own protection, "and to bestow upon our people the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of their government". It has been this intolerable situation which they brought us that has driven the conscious Puerto Rican people to take actions that would expose the political masquerade that the imperialists have been trying to impose on us. It is, therefore, our duty as colonized people to show the world the true facts - that Puerto Rico is still a colony.

As the great patriot Irvin Flores said: "It is bad enough when someone oppresses, exploits, enslaves you, but when they say your people are satisfied with this - that is adding insult to injury".

It is a well known fact that since our invasion many Puerto Rican patriots have fought the invading forces and have been sacrificed. The liberty of our nation must be paid for at its just price and it is written with heroism and sacrifice of the purest and most noble of our nationality.

Continued.....

Continued.....

One of the noblest victims of your vicious justice system was the great patriot, Don Pedro Albizu Campos, who was gradually murdered in your prisons. He taught us well with his heroic life and it is inevitable to use his words today to warn your government, the enemy of our people: "That independence is not made with applause. It is made with deeds. We have the support of the world in our favor, which sees in the enslavement of a people, of man, a lesion so deep that it concerns the entire world. Puerto Rico is a slave because the United States detains our sovereignty and because there are Puerto Ricans who permit it. But already there are Puerto Ricans who do not permit it and neither the fleet nor the cannons of any empire are strong enough to detain a people in their determination to be free"

Your press, your justice system, your repressive forces, your government has branded us as terrorists. But the word terrorist no longer means to the Puerto Rican nation what it used to. Instead of arousing fear or censure, terrorism is a call to action. To be called a terrorist by our enemy is an honor to any citizen, for this means that he is fighting with a gun in his hand, against the monstrosity of the present government, and the suffering it causes. On the road to Lares, history has absolved us.

It is well known that the terror and violence of the world has not been established and perpetuated by the captive, exploited, oppressed and colonized people of the world, such as the Puerto Rican nation and other people of the world, striving for freedom and progress, but rather it is the great political powers of the world, oppressors and exploiters of the masses of human beings, that have through the centuries of time created, supported, mastered and maintained the system, philosophy and practice of political terror and violence. Great examples of terrorism are: U.S.A., Israel, Chile, Egypt, Brazil, El Salvador, South Africa. The strategy and tactics of the status quo of the political system of the world against small nations is not changing fast enough, therefore, it is necessary for all conscious people to follow the directive of Don Pedro Albizu Campos who said, "Para que los grandes oigan a los chicos es necesario que los chicos los hagan oír con un tiro en los oídos".

These are not empty words. It is very proper to recall today the punitive and unparalleled action of Sabana Seca. This must still be ringing in their ears and will serve as a warning in the future. If your repressive forces injure us, kill us, as our comrade Angel Rodriguez Cristobal was murdered in one of your concentration camps in Tallahassee, Florida, our armed nation will retaliate and make your country pay double.

The genocide of the Afro-American people, of the Chicano-Mexicano people, of the Palestinian people, the genocide of the Puerto Rican nation will not remain without revolutionary justice!

I end today with comrade Fred Hampton's words: "You can kill the Revolutionary, but you cannot kill the Revolution".

INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM FOR PUERTO RICO!

MARINA OUT OF VIEQUES!

LONG LIVE THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

LONG LIVE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S FEDAI GUERRILLA!

NO TO STATEHOOD!

Continued on Page 17

Continued from Page 8

"WHERE TYRANNY IS LAW, REVOLUTION IS ORDER"

Don Pedro Albizu Campos

"It is the Inalienable Right of Colonial People to Struggle by all Means
at their Disposal Against Colonial Powers which Suppress their
Aspirations for Freedom and Independence".

The United Nations Declaration of the Granting
of Independence to Colonial Countries.

I assert that there exists a war of liberation between Puerto Rico and the United States since U.S. military forces invaded my homeland in 1898. Since this time, Puerto Rico has been under colonial rule by U.S. imperialism-this fact has been recognized by numerous nations of the World, as well as International Law.

U.S. Colonial rule has attempted to destroy the Puerto Rican nation. 60% of Puerto Rico's land has fallen into the hands of U.S. corporations; 13% of the arable has been converted into military bases; 80% of all production is in the hands of American capital. The profits of production are reaped not by the Puerto Rican people but by U.S. capitalists who continue to exploit the workers on a daily basis. 40% of Puerto Rico's women are sterilized against their will. Continued attempts have been made to destroy our history, language and customs in order to assimilate us into "good and docile Americans." Since World War II the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, has been kept in a state of war. Bombings and military maneuvers are the rule of the day. Innocent children and hundreds of families have been killed or forced to leave Vieques, Puerto Rico. The livelihood of the fishermen of Vieques has been destroyed due to the contamination of water caused by constant military operations.

Today the present colonial governor, a puppet of U.S. imperialism, thinks he can divide the Puerto Rican people and convert us into the 51st State. I guarantee you today, that the armed clandestine forces and the Puerto Rican people will not allow this to happen to our nation, Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rican people are a nation of warriors. We have fought armed attacks against colonial rule since the Spanish conquest and continue to do so. This armed movement is the expression of a determined nation who seeks its independence from colonial domination . . . it is our inalienable right.

I am a captured freedom fighter and member of the clandestine army in this war of liberation for independence and socialism for Puerto Rico.

I am a Prisoner of War and demand to be immediately taken to a military camp until such time that I can be tried in an international court or taken to a neutral country and tried before a jury of my peers, in accordance with the Geneva Convention and all its protocols for treatment of prisoners of war. This is an illegal proceeding. I do not recognize any jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Any attempt made by this Court to assign a public defender to speak on my behalf is illegal and against my international rights as a Prisoner of War.

El proceso clandestino armado sigue adelante, como garantia de la lucha protectora del independentismo y del socialismo para Puerto Rico.

COMBATIR! COMBATIR! COMBATIR! HASTA LA VICTORIA!

LONG LIVE THE ARMED CLANDESTINE MOVEMENT!

Dylcia Pagan Morales

Continued.....

May 26, 1980: San Francisco—In an activity organized by the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and the National Committee Against Repression in California, more than 500 people applauded the speeches of Lolita Lebron, Myrna Salgado, Jose Lopez, and Judith Mirkinson.

May 29, 1980: Pueblo and Denver, Colorado—Several activities took place, among them: a public meeting, a march by the Chicano/Mexicano community of Denver, etc., in support of the Eleven freedom fighters and in honor of the visit of Lolita Lebron in these cities.

May 31, 1980: Minneapolis, Minnesota—Around 100 people attended an activity in solidarity with the Eleven. The principal speaker at this activity was companero Steven Guerra.

June 2, 1980: El Paso, Texas—More than 100 people gave a warm welcome to the patriot Lolita Lebron.

June 3, 1980: Ciudad Juarez, Mexico—Hundreds of Mexicanos, organized by the Comité de Defensa Popular, carried out a public activity to welcome the heroic Lolita Lebron. The affection and revolutionary love of the Mexicano people for the Puerto Rican struggle was demonstrated in this activity in an unbelievable manner. The activity in this city was the final stop in the tour by Lolita Lebron.

June 7, 1980: "Desfile del Pueblo" (Peoples Parade), dedicated to Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio, Puerto Rican martyrs assassinated by Chicago Police, and to the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war, was held in the West Town community along Division Street. Nearly 500 people participated. The theme of the Peoples Parade was: "National Reaffirmation - Puerto Rican or Yankee". The floats, banners, and chants were representative of the Puerto Rican reality.

June 11, 1980: Puerto Rican Cultural Center pay homage to Puerto Rican poet, and member of the Liga Socialista Puertorriqueña (LSP), Consuelo Lee Corretjer. Mrs. Corretjer was accompanied by Ms. Brunilda Garcia, member of the Puerto Rican theatrical group "Cimarron".

June 16, 1980: Ten of the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war are once again forced to appear before different judges at Cook County Court Building. Once again their supporters are prohibited entrance to Judge Bailey's courtroom, and limiting the entrance to 15 in the other courtrooms. The freedom fighters were rescheduled to appear on July 7, 21, and 28th.

Chicago Coordinator of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War is jailed for contempt of court, given a \$10,000 fine and \$1,000 appeal bond.

Continued from Page 5

We, the Puerto Rican people, have to show the world the injustices of this country - we have to rise in arms and fight! Fight, fight, until victory!

I, Maria Haydee Torres, am a Puerto Rican prisoner of war. I am a product of this continuous struggle waged by my people. I am the conscience of my people in arms. And like a captured prisoner of war, neither this court, nor this country has any right to treat me like a criminal and subject me to those things for which they have brought me here. They say they want a sample of my hair, a sample of my writing, and to subject myself to a line-up. Neither my hair nor my soul shall they have. I am free, and neither these bars nor this miserable and shameful country can keep me imprisoned.

My fellow patriots, I ask you to continue to struggle daily. A free and struggling spirit cannot be broken. We need each other, and I feel happy and proud to know that our people continue to struggle daily. A free and struggling spirit cannot be broken. We need each other, and I feel happy and proud to know that our people continue to struggle. Because both I and my compañeros will not cease our struggle for an instant. This country does not know how to combat the revolutionary spirit of a people in arms.

UNTIL VICTORY, MY PEOPLE! IN STRUGGLE!

GRAND JURY: REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

Two words best describe the nearly half-millennium of the historical development of the Puerto Rican nationality: oppression and resistance.

As a result of the tremendous qualitative growth which the Puerto Rican independence movement has experienced, in Puerto Rico, as well as in the U.S., and of the increasing importance of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean, an ever mounting repression has been unleashed against it for most of the past 13 years. During the late 1960's and early 1970's the Puerto Rican liberation movement became a major target of the FBI's Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO).

The rapid development of the Puerto Rican independence movement in the U.S. saw the FBI resort to a tool which had already been proven successful: grand juries.

Since 1970, over 300 independentistas have been incarcerated in Puerto Rico, accused of involvement in armed actions against U.S. imperialism; in the U.S. three grand juries were summoned to investigate all levels of the Puerto Rican independence movement, and hundreds of FBI agents have been dispatched to Puerto Rican communities where in many cases they have created a state of siege. This mounting repression against the Puerto Rican movement clearly points to the fact that it poses one of the most significant threats to U.S. imperialist's plans, both from within and outside the borders of this country. On the other hand, the loss of Puerto Rico would represent a defeat of singular importance to U.S. imperialism abroad. Puerto Rico is one of the major keys to the maintenance of U.S. hegemony over the Caribbean region. Economically it is significant in terms of keeping control of the potential petroleum reservoir, which stretches from the Venezuelan coast northward to the shores of Puerto Rico; in terms of controlling the eventual output of mineral resources already uncovered on the island such as copper, nickel and iron.

The fact that incidence of armed struggle have been registered, in ever-increasing crescendo, in the countries of the Caribbean: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, and in Puerto Rico itself, strengthens the need for the U.S. to keep its strong presence on the island. An even greater danger to U.S. imperialism, in that region, is the possibility of coordinated military actions directed at it, by the armed liberation groups. The significance of this, lies in the fact that the North American ruling class has already decided that Latin America will be its last barrier against the ever-increasing socialist trend in the world.

On the other hand, the Puerto Ricans pose a threat to U.S. imperialism from within its borders. Due to their marginality from the so-called American dream, Puerto Ricans represent one of the most oppressed sectors in the United States today, and therefore, one of the most explosive. According to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission report, "Puerto Ricans: An Uncertain Future", Puerto Ricans are among the poorest of the poor i.e., the average family income of the Bronx's quarter of million Puerto Ricans is less than \$2,000 annually; the formal educational level of Puerto Ricans is lowest of any group in the U.S.; the housing conditions are among the most miserable; they are increasing targets of police brutality; and receive some of the most inadequate medical care.

In their struggles for democratic rights, Puerto Ricans have come to realize more and more that they have little at stake as far as the preservation of this system is concerned. Thus, the present decade has seen a more pronounced militancy on the part of Puerto Ricans. This radicalization has brought them into a closer communion with other oppressed Third World people in this country. The U.S. ruling class realizes the dangers inherent in the eventual alliance of oppressed peoples within its own borders; they understand, with clarity, that blows against its imperialist system can be dealt from within as well as from without.

The growing threat of oppressed peoples in this country, to the preservation of monopoly capital, and its foundation stones—racism at home, imperialism abroad—is outlined in the ruling class' Trilateral Commission reports (this Commission was convoked by the Council on Foreign Relations, at the initiative of David Rockefeller, in 1973, to plan a post-Vietnam "free world" where the U.S. would maintain its hegemony, but play a low profile role—representatives from Japan, Western Europe, and the U.S. composed it). One of the reports, "The Problems of Democracy", states that the major problems facing the capitalist countries is the question of governability. Its author, Samuel Huntington, maintains that this problem is most salient in the U.S. According to him, there are three factors in the U.S. that lend themselves, as catalysts, in destroying the fibers of the "orderly process of democracy". These include the media, the intellectuals, and groups that prior to the sixties were marginalized politically—Blacks, Chicano/Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans. Huntington points out that it is this latter factor which presents the gravest threat to governability.

It is not accidental, therefore, that the 1970's has seen the evolution of a highly sophisticated policy of internment aimed particularly at the leadership of those "ungovernable" segments of this society. The utilization of this policy emanates from the realization of the historical effectiveness of concentration camps. The U.S. judicial and prison systems are the most easily accessible instrument for this repression, since U.S. jails have traditionally had an overrepresentation of Third World people—i.e. more than half of today's quarter million inmates are Blacks, Chicano/Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans. Thus, as a result of the intensified repression exercised upon the struggles of Third World peoples, their leaders and activists have been captured and imprisoned. Jails have become more and more internment camps primarily used to destroy, contain, and suppress the liberation struggles of Blacks, Chicano/Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans.

But it seems that the imperialists do not learn lessons from their own history. In the fifties the U.S. sought to silence the independence voice in Puerto Rico by jailing thousands; a policy it pursued from 1950 to 1956. For twenty five years it held five Puerto Rican prisoners of war in its federal dungeons: Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores, and Andres Figueroa Cordero. For twenty five years rays of resistance radiated from behind the prison walls of Leavenworth, Marion, and Alderson—a resistance which has characterized the Puerto Rican independence movement from the bygone days of the Indian Cacique Urayoan, to the present days of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional. These rays came from an inner fire that made their lives a living and growing part of our struggle rather than a dying isolation that the imperialists sought to make of them. In them there was and is no renunciation, only a natural sublimation of everything to the struggle. This is why it is not difficult to understand the serenity with which Andres Figueroa Cordero valiantly confronted his death. He was and is a true symbol of the fact that revolution is a terribly serious affair; that it is a harsh, difficult, at times terrifying experience; that the real revolution is different from what so many people may imagine, though the word revolution is always on their lips. Andres and the Four have given us a clear example of what Ho Chi Minh meant when he said, "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom".

This is also true of the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war who are being held illegally in U.S. prisons. The Eleven as well as the Five are not only symbols of courage and sacrifice, they are the true leaders of Puerto Rico's national liberation struggle. They will never let their guard against U.S. imperialism down. Their words and deeds serve as inspiration for many who struggle within and without the U.S. imperialist monster.

The history of oppression and resistance of the Puerto Rican people, as manifested in the FBI/Grand Jury repression, offers a clear indication that the Puerto Ricans in the U.S. are demonstrating the true nature of proletarian internationalism. While there is growing support on the island, for the Eleven Prisoners of War and for the victims of FBI/Grand Jury repression, there is widespread support for the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN) in the Puerto Rican communities in the U.S.

Continued from Page 4

May 15, 1980: Ciudad Juarez, Mexico—Approximately 4,000 people demonstrated their support for the Eleven in an activity sponsored by the Comité de Defensa Popular (CDP), raising their fists in solidarity during the speech of companera Alejandrina Torres, who spoke in the name of the Eleven and of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

May 18, 1980: New York—The New York Committee of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War held an activity in support of the Eleven, where the National Heroine of Puerto Rico, Lolita Lebron, spoke and announced her national tour in support of the prisoners accused of membership in the heroic Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN).

May 19, 1980: San Juan, Puerto Rico—More than 100 people showed their support for the Eleven in a militant picket in front of the Federal Building, sponsored by the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena (LSP). A public address was made by the Secretary General of the LSP, Juan Antonio Corretjer. Among the demonstrators was the patriot Rafael Cancel Miranda.

New York—More than 300 people filled the Federal Courtroom in this city, where the freedom fighter Maria Haydee Beltran Torres spoke to the people present. This companera, in the words of Lolita Lebron, "brought the empire to its knees" for twenty minutes; as she expressed her position as a Prisoner of War, condemning yankee imperialism as the real terrorist. She ended her message by leading the public in "La Borinquena", which she could not finish because she was forcibly removed from the courtroom. After this expression of valor, a picket demonstration was held, addressed by Lolita Lebron.

Chicago—Approximately 400 persons demonstrated their support outside the Cook County Courthouse, because the supporters of the Eleven were not allowed to enter the courtrooms.

Denver—More than 80 people attended a forum to organize support for the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico—One thousand people mounted a picket in solidarity with the Eleven in front of the U.S. Consulate in this city. The Comité de Defensa Popular (CDP) sponsored the picket.

In fifteen cities in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Canada, different activities in support of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War were carried out.

May 20, 1980: Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Nearly 200 people attended an activity organized as part of the international tour of Lolita Lebron. Speakers included Ernesto Chacon, national director of the National Committee Against Repression, a representative of the Worker's World Party, a representative of the Black Liberation movement of this city, and companero Jose Lopez of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN).

May 21, 1980: Chicago, Illinois—National Heroine Lolita Lebron spoke to more than 500 people who came to honor her. In this activity she presented the themes she would develop in different cities on her tour: support for the Eleven, rejection of the electoral process, support for the struggle of Vieques, independence for Puerto Rico.

May 23, 1980: Los Angeles, California—Speakers in this city were companera Myrna Salgado of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, companero Guillermo Suarez of the National Committee Against Repression in California, and the patriot Lolita Lebron. All exhorted the audience to support the Eleven and their position as prisoners of war.

May 24, 1980: Portland, Oregon—Lolita Lebron and Myrna Salgado spoke to more than 300 people who met to honor Lolita and to show support for the Eleven.

Continued.....

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CALLS UPON THE CRIMINAL COURTS OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS; THE PRISON SYSTEM IN NEW YORK, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS AS PRISONERS OF WAR AND TO TREAT THEM AS SUCH, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND THE GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR OF AUGUST 12, 1949.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EXPRESS ITS SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT WITH THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THEIR PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CALLING FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

NATIONAL HEROINE LOLITA LEBRON ON NATIONAL TOUR IN SUPPORT OF THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Continued from Page 1

ABOUT THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

"I had the honor to be able to visit the Puerto Rican prisoners of war; and the incomparable experience of having met the magnificent guerrillera, the heroic guerrillera Maria Haydee Torres. We have Maria Haydee Beltran de Torres, and all of our comrades in prison rising to this stature. The patria calls to action - let us put aside our fear and support our beloved freedom fighters, and also Nydia Cuevas and Pablo Marciano."

ABOUT MARIA HAYDEE BELTRAN TORRES

"I had such a wonderful experience in meeting Maria Haydee Beltran de Torres - But, as you all know, I was there with my comrades in that same court and I went up those same stairs when we were judged by the North American empire. To climb the same stairs, to enter that court, to see the court full of liberators, to see outside a multitude of people shouting Viva to the Eleven Prisoners of War, and in action for the national independence of Puerto Rico. And I was there among those glorious people, my sisters, and I saw that tiny woman, very thin, very fine, very delicate, come in between those great brutes of men and take over the place, incapacitate the empire, incapacitate North American justice and take control of the court - that was the most marvelous."

I WENT AS A PUERTO RICAN

"I had the greatest honor in visiting them. And since I never remember what I did for my homeland, I did not go as a heroine, I went as a Puerto Rican - a Puerto Rican woman - to pay homage to some liberating women and to pay homage to some liberating men and I saw in them the seed of Betances, very strong. I felt so happy, although when I entered the prison I had thoughts about those years I spent between those walls that were with me day and night. When I saw the prisoners I wanted to cry, but when I saw their smiles I didn't cry! How could I cry before the greatest force in the world, which they are."

CIVIC COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

The following resolution will be submitted by the Civic Committee to Support the Rights of Puerto Rican Prisoners of War to the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1980.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO AND THE POSITION OF THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICANS ARRESTED IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS ON APRIL 4, 1980

The God of the Old and New Testaments acts in history to set humankind free. The people of the Judeo-Christian tradition have in their roots the acts of God which freed the Israelite people from slavery in Egypt, Black people from slavery and the pain of Jim Crow, and, in general, moves people to further a more comprehensive freedom. God is God who acts in history in the lives of the people and in the events of nations and people. God acts for freedom, that no people may set themselves as Lord over other people and thereby deny inherent human rights.

From the beginning of time civilizations and cultures strived to enjoy their ownness. That is, the right to be free from foreign domination, the right to address one's own destiny, and the right to become intertwined with one's own culture free of cultural domination from another. Even the God of the Old Testament promised that Israel would be set apart, in fact, set free from foreign domination to evolve and glorify God through Israel's acts of freedom. Jesus demonstrates the evil involved in foreign domination, for it was the court action and callousness of a foreign domination, that sentenced Jesus to death.

As Christians, we are mandated to call for freedom just as Jesus and the God of Old called for freedom. We must cry out against the injustices of exploitation that is currently afoot in Puerto Rico. We must stand in the name of God's grace and recognize how God's grace is a posture that leads to freedom from foreign domination and freedom for self-determination.

Particularly, this statement will address the question of the 11 Puerto Ricans recently arrested in Evanston, Illinois. Originally, the 11 were not charged with bombings. Up to now, 10 of the 11 gave not been charged with any violent attacks whatsoever. Yet these 11 patriotic Puerto Ricans recognize the violent acts which have been carried out by the United States against their thus far occupied country. These 11 freedom fighters recognize the economic oppression which their fellow countrymen suffer under. They recognize the stripping of dignity that is a result of occupation and colonialism. When one is occupied as Puerto Rico is now. In light of the current pain that exists in Puerto Rico, these 11 choose to view themselves as Prisoners of War. The U.S. of A. declared war on Puerto Rico when it invaded the country, illegally received Puerto Rico from Spain, stripped away the God given right of self-determination. To place emphasis in the violent acts of the U.S. these 11 choose to be recognized as Prisoners of War and have called upon the United Nations and now call upon you, a church body, to recognize them as Prisoners of War and call upon all offices concerned to recognize the same. These Prisoners of War are patriots in the war for freedom and not involved in the war of oppression, suppression, death, and abuse.

The people of Puerto Rico are responding to the violence of the colonial relationship raked against their country. The 11 freedom fighters, can only be understood as colonials resisting the violence of colonialism. They must therefore be defined as Prisoners of War. In regards to violence, the Bible contains no clear position, and it has been used by Christians throughout the centuries to defend everything from total pacifism to white's seizure of South Africa. The kind of violence condemned in the Scriptures is clear; the violent destruction of the poor by the rich, the slaves by Pharaoh, that is all systematic and institutionalized violence.

As Christians and Children of God we must call upon those that oppress and exploit humanity to throw off that nature, and by throwing off that nature they recognize their sin and discard that as well. As Christians we are called to affirm the humanity of people and condemn the denial of dignity which continues so strongly in Puerto Rico.

The name of our God is "Liberator" and our name is "the liberated." But our freedom is Christ, bought at the price of his own life, is not just for us, but so that the whole Earth might be blessed (and in thy seed shall all the nations of the Earth be blessed, Genesis 26:4). Our scripture and tradition have understood the Christ not just as one who works individually and passively, but also as one who is "trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored". We are freed as members of the people of God, first and foremost, not as American citizens. And as we are freed we are also called to participate in God's redeeming purpose, "to snap every yoke." The founders of the United States also pointed to this same freedom in God in breaking the colonial yoke of Britain, in such documents as the Declaration of Independence and in early founder's statement, often quoted: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God."

WHEREAS: Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States of America ever since 1898 when the U.S. military forces occupied its territory. The relationship between Puerto Rico and the U.S. is described by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1922 as "belonging to, but not part of, the U.S." Over 11 U.S. military bases cover 13% of the arable land in Puerto Rico; 80% of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques has been expropriated by the U.S. Navy as a training and bombing range. U.S. financial interests control Puerto Rico's economy: 80% of manufacturing, 60% of banking, and 90% of industrial exports. 81% of those employed in Puerto Rico work for U.S. concerns.

WHEREAS: The Puerto Rican people suffer immense hardships due to the colonization of their country:

- 40% are unemployed, in what was once a self-sufficient economy; one third of all Puerto Rican people have been dispossessed of their land and relocated;
- 40% of all Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age have been sterilized. (Puerto Rican women were made the objects for early research on birth control pills, before they were considered safe for U.S. women);
- public and private debt comes to \$13 billion, \$3,000 for every man, woman, and child.
- 75% of the people are on Food Stamps; and
- Puerto Rico has the highest suicide rate in the Western Hemisphere.

WHEREAS: The Decolonization Committee of the United Nations in 1973 reaffirmed "the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence" and "requested that the Government of the United States refrain from taking any measures which might impede the full and free exercise of that and other rights by the people concerned, and in particular to prevent any violation of those rights by bodies corporate under its jurisdiction" (Official records of General Assembly, 28th Session, Supplement N. 23 A/9023/ Rev. 1 Vol. 1, Chap. 1, para. 69).

WHEREAS: In 1976, the Decolonization Committee again reaffirmed the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence. (Official records of the General Assembly, 31st Session, Supp. 23 (A/31/23 Rev. 1), Vol. 1, Chap. 1, para. 1969) as did the Fifth Conference of Heads of State of the Non-Aligned Countries in Sri Lanka that same year, and the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, in Yugoslavia in 1978. (A/31/197. Annex I, para. 108 and 118).

WHEREAS: The Resolution of Sept. 12, 1978, reaffirming the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution 1514 (SV), and further affirming that "self determination by the people of Puerto Rico in a democratic process should be exercised through mechanisms freely selected by the Puerto Rican people in complete and full sovereignty,..." (A/AC 109 574).

WHEREAS: The Programme of Action of The Decolonization Committee (Resolution 2621 - XXV of Oct. 12, 1970) clearly reaffirms: "...the inherent right of colonial peoples to struggle by all necessary means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspiration for freedom and independence" and that "6 (a) All freedom fighters under detention shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949".

WHEREAS: The General Assembly of the U. N. Resolution 33/122 (Feb. 15, 1978) entitled "Protection of persons detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle against apartheid, racism and social discrimination, colonialism, aggression and foreign occupation and for self-determination, independence and social progress for their people", reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for liberation from colonial and foreign domination by all means available, and further demands: "...the release of all individuals detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle against colonialism, aggression and foreign occupation and for self-determination, independence and social progress for their people".

WHEREAS: The Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters arrested in Evanston, Illinois, on April 4, 1980, have stated in the U.S. courts that they are Prisoners of War, captured freedom fighters who are part of the clandestine movement for the independence of Puerto Rico and, therefore, to be treated as such according to international law;

WHEREAS: The Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters have also presented on May 16, 1980, a Petition to the United Nations; the United Nations Human Rights Commission; the Special Committee on Decolonization; and the Bureau of Coordination, Conference of Non-Aligned Countries for recognition of their status as Prisoners of War and all appropriate measures to secure their release from detention and imprisonment in U.S.;

WHEREAS: The Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters have been, in fact, treated as political prisoners by U.S. authorities since they were captured: bail has been set which completely incommensurate with the charges against them, being held for \$2 million each. Unlike the friends and relatives of other prisoners, their visitors must be photographed and submit to a security interview. They are denied the right to para-legal visits and group meetings; the men are confined to their individual cells on a twenty-three hour a day basis. Some being brought to court bound, gagged, and beaten in open court. They have been denied their right to public hearings; they have had difficulties in receiving medical attention and their legal consultants have been physically restrained, arrested, and physically threatened by one of the Cook County Circuit Court Judges.

WHEREAS: We do not condone international terrorism or violence; it must be made clear that the Eleven do not claim to be terrorist but rather a people who are struggling for independence and self-determination of their country, Puerto Rico.