

STATEMENT OF THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

February 2, 1991

We address ourselves to the Puerto Rican community here in the United States and to the Puerto Rican nation.

Our position remains clear: Puerto Rico is a nation intervened, militarily conquered and colonized by the United States. In as much as the representatives of the world community in the organizations of the United Nations have condemned colonialism, and recognize the right of all people to self-determination by any means possible; and further, by accepting our claim that our nation, Puerto Rico is a colony, we assert that the United States government has no jurisdiction over us. As colonizers, the U.S. does not have the moral or legal right to charge and imprison us under U.S. civil laws.

We are Prisoners of War captured by the enemy. Our actions have always been and continue to be in the nature of fighting a war of independence, a war of national liberation. Those actions and our goals for independence are not only supported by the International Community, but are a right; a decision, that only we, as Puerto Ricans, have the authority to make.

The U.S. interventionist government has absolutely no right: no say whatsoever in regards to Puerto Rico, ourselves, or any Puerto Rican Prisoner of War. The U.S. interventionist government has only one choice in Puerto Rico, and that is to GET OUT! It is our right to regain and secure our national sovereignty. Nothing will stand in the way of achieving our goal...

... NOT THE SLANDERING U.S. PRESS, TOOL OF PROPAGANDA

... NOR THEIR COURTS RIDICULOUS CIVIL CHARGES

The judicial system chooses to classify us as "common criminals", but they have contradicted themselves in their application of their law. Since 1898, with the invasion of Puerto Rico by the U.S., there has existed a state of war between the invaded nation and the invader. The "Seditious Conspiracy" charges against an armed Puerto Rican revolutionary organization reaffirms

exactly what the U.S. has been trying to hide: the existence of a war in the present, for the national liberation of Puerto Rico. This is evident in the fact that the imperialist court system has been forced to change its strategy from "criminal" charges to political charges as manifested in the charge of "Seditious Conspiracy". It is also manifested in the fact that, for the third time in this century, this particular charge has been levied at the Puerto Rican revolutionary independence movement; in 1936 against Don Pedro Albizu Campos, Juan Antonio Corrotejer, and other Nationalist leaders, in 1954 against Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores, Andres Figueroa Cordero, and thirteen other leaders and members of the Nationalist movement, and now in 1981 against ourselves- the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

This "Seditious Conspiracy" charge is one of the imperialists' tactics and is used as a repressive measure against the Puerto Rican independence movement. It is also used to repress the revolutionary movement here in this country, a country which is heading towards a fascist government.

... NOR THEIR REPRESSION

... NOR THEIR ATTEMPT AT ISOLATING US FROM OUR COMMUNITY

... NOR THEIR TACTICS OF SEPARATING THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EACH OTHER; KEEPING US FROM MEETING AND SPEAKING TOGETHER

For the past four days we have been held within the confines of the federal court house building; unlike all other detained persons awaiting trial. Our holding pens are being monitored by video cameras. This equipment, in turn, is manned by male guards who infringe on the privacy of the four women held here. In addition, we are all monitored when showering by guards who are posted inside these rooms. We are not allowed to meet together, as is our right as mandated by the protocol for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. We are being kept in unwarranted segregational conditions to such an extreme that



STATEMENT OF THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (PG.4)

FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM.....

LONG LIVE THE PUERTO RICAN ARMED CLANDESTINE STRUGGLE!

U.S. NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES!

FREEDOM FOR PABLO MARCANO, NYDIA ESTER CUEVAS, CARLOS NOYA, AND ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS!

FREEDOM FOR THE ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR!