

P.O.W. UPDATE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR
(CHICAGO CHAPTER) VOL. 1 NUM. 1 DONATION

THE FOUR ARE FREE!



Lolita Lebrón



Oscar Collazo



Irvin Flores



Rafael Cancel Miranda

VIEQUES: EXAMPLE OF VALOR



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PUERTO RICAN NATIONALIST PRISONERS OF WAR ARE FREE

CHICAGO - "Rafaelito, Irvin, Oscar, Lolita!, how are you, you all look so strong" were the words of the Four when they met here for the first time since their sentencing over 25 years ago. The four Puerto Rican ex-prisoners of war and heroes of the Puerto Rican revolution arrived here on Monday, September 10, 1979, after being released from their respective prisons. They were accompanied here, and later on to Puerto Rico via New York by members of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

"Free Puerto Rico, Free Nydia and Pablo, Long live the Four" were the chants that greeted the four warriors by over 3,000 people in the Puerto Rican community. After holding a press conference, the Four were on their way to the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (of which the Rafael Cancel Miranda High School is a part), where a dinner was held in their honor. Present were members of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN), First Congregational Church, the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, the Black, Iranian and Palestinian movements, and others who contributed to the struggles that led to their release.

They then proceeded to a march through the Puerto Rican community and a rally held at the First Congregational Church. At the rally, the Four reconfirmed their commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico, pledged their support to the armed clandestine movement, and denounced reformist and electoral politics. Also, they made special mention and urged people to work towards Nydia and Pablo's excarceration and the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners that they left behind, specifically the case of Assata Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, and Leonard Peltier of the Black and Native American movements. They thanked the people for their consistent support and stated that due to the reception they received here, they felt that they were already in their homeland.

Before returning to Puerto Rico the Four went to New York, where they were greeted by over 4,000 people. Their itinerary included two press conferences, one sponsored by the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations, which Lolita and Oscar attended. Rafael and Irvin participated in the conference sponsored by the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, which was held in CUANDO (an independent community center), located in the lower east side of Manhattan. After which they walked through the Puerto Rican community accompanied by over 400 people who were present at the press conference. Later that evening they greeted the Puerto Rican community at a rally held at St. Paul Catholic Church. The Four were honored at a dinner again sponsored by the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican POWs, which was held at the Museo del Barrio. The first to speak was Lolita, who said "bring me William Morales' son, I want to salute him". She received his son while the audience commenced a round of applause that lasted several minutes. (William Morales is a

Puerto Rican revolutionary hero, who several months ago escaped from Bellevue Hospital prison ward, after being sentenced to 89 years for allegedly being a member of the FALN). The next day they were on their way to Puerto Rico where they were received by over 200,000 people.

The release of these four freedom fighters is significant indeed. It has taught us that one can maintain a steadfast political position and be victorious. It is clear to us that there were several factors that led to the release of the four (and none were due to Carter's generosity). It was a combination of the International support, the work of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War (which by the way was the first and most consistent committee), the work of the Puerto Rico Committee and lastly and most importantly, the heroic, consistent and sacrificial work and actions of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN).



The following is the complete text of the political-military position of the LIGA SOCIALISTA PUERTORRIQUEÑA in regards to the repressive actions taken against the independentistas during the protest held in support of the Vieques struggle on May 19, 1979. It was presented by Angel Rodriguez-Cristobal, by means of his lawyers, to the Federal Court that was hearing his case. The LIGA SOCIALISTA PUERTORRIQUEÑA translated it into spanish from the english version, which by the way is mandatory in the foreign Federal Court System in Puerto Rico.

The Central Committee of the LIGA SOCIALISTA PUERTORRIQUEÑA, decided to reprint this document due to its importance and due to the interest displayed by the valient comrade Rodriguez-Cristobal. This compañero was rapidly torn from our country in an official act of kidnapping, and was taken to a prison in Tallahassee, Florida, in the United States, adding to his already punitive sentence that of exile.

ADDITIONAL MOTION AND ARGUMENT TO
DISMISS FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

Come now the defendant and hereby move for the dismissal of the charges filed against him and the case dismissed on the ground that this Court lacks jurisdiction over the defendant for the following reasons:

NULLITY OF THE TREATY OF PARIS

Puerto Rico is a Spanish-American nation under United States military intervention since 1898. This military intervention is practiced in violation of the natural right of all nations to independence. In its struggle for independence our nation is in its natural right to face the United States military with force. Puerto Rico's right to revolution stems from this source.

In 1898 Spain and the United States engaged in war. It was the first war of the new era of imperialism and, as a consequence, Puerto Rico was illegally ceded by Spain to the United States illegally accepted its requested cession. It was an illegal international transaction since at the time of its development, Puerto Rico was an autonomous nation.

related to Spain through the royal nexus only. This relationship between the metropolis and the emerging nation was similar to, yet more advanced in terms of autonomy, than the Statute of Westminster accorded between the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada. As Puerto Rico was not res in commercio, the Treaty of Paris, which reestablished peace between the contending powers, negotiated without the intervention of delegates of the Autonomous Government of Puerto Rico, is null and void as far as Puerto Rico is concerned.

Puerto Rico's political status established through this illegitimate contract is a treaty status. Through its mandate our nation was robbed of its sovereignty and passed over as a fidecommisum to the Congress of the United States. This is of course, pharisaical language and immoral maneuvering to give the military intervention a hypocritical appearance of legitimacy.

In reality, Puerto Rico is as of today, a base of maneuvers for the armed forces of the United States. In the organization of this base, the military has expropriated in its behalf the direct control of important parts of our national territory. The most important part of this complex is Roosevelt Roads, on the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, facing the sister island of Vieques, and of which Vieques itself is part.

ILLEGAL TAKING OF THE LAND IN VIEQUES AND
ITS USE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF PUERTO RICO'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

In Vieques the United States' attempt to destroy the territorial integrity of Puerto Rico has reached the extreme of

genocide. Genocide is not Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone. Genocide is the deliberate destruction of a civil society by the means of the instruments of states. The government of the United States, in the use of the naked armed force of the Navy, has destroyed the economic basis of Vieques and expropriated the legal private owners of the landed property, forcing more than half of its population to leave its island home; herded those that cling desperately to their natural heritage into a large corral; destroyed their fishing possibilities; has begun the destruction of its ecology. By the terrific harrassment of thier bombardments they maintain the population on the verge of a collective nervous breakdown. The tyrants engaged in a gigantic exercise of social dislocation. That is genocide.

The imperialist agression against our nation in Vieques is a rehearsal for what they intend to do to Puerto Rico as a whole. The American dream for Puerto Rico is a Puerto Rican nightmare of chaos and sestruction. The politicians prattle about statehood and commonwealth is the coverup for the annexation of Puerto Rico, the transfer of the external colony as an internal colony within the federal state, with our country transformed in a terreplein, an industrial-military complex, its ecological balance destroyed through the exploitation of our underground and submarine mineral and oil wealth, forcing the population to leave as has happened alreade in Vieques. whild the remaining population be used as peons and servants of all kinds. Plans are already made and known to convert

Puerto Rico into a complex of twelve "commercial parks" by the year 2020 and little known statements have been published insinuating the relocation of the Puerto Rican masses in the empty space of the American Southwest and Midwest.

To justify this attempt at the desintegration of our national territory, the Pantagon claims the military defense of the United States will be rendered useless if they relinquish Vieques. But the non-defensive, aggressive character of the naval establishment in Vieques is reflected in thier own vocabualry, as Puerto Rico is presented as the maritime caribbean frontier of the United States; the criminal frivolity of their international adventurism is self-denounced. It is a term of mormal military arrogance which ignores all reality; geographical, historical, social, cultural, political allocatin us in the United States as an integral part of its own geopgraph transferring their domain to the shores of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico in general, Roosevelt Roads in particular and Vieques within the Roosevelt Roads complex is a platform for aggression it is blackmail against the independence and freedom of all our sister nations, Spanish, English and French speaking, from Venezuela and Colombia to Cuba.

DEFENDANT'S ACTIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY
ILLEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES

On May the 19th, 1979 defendant entered Camp Garcia in Vieques to protest against the Navy establaishment, their landi exercises and their target practice. He was there as a Puerto Rican, as an independentista and a socialist. He backed the protest of all the other Puerto Ricans in and out of Camp Garci

on the Island of Vieques.

He went to Camp Garcia to do all he could to deteriorate the position of the Navy. The uniformed criminals of the Navy immobilized and arrested him. Every time a member of the armed forces of the United States shows himself in Puerto Rico he must be made aware he is in occupied territory and will be treated as an enemy. In Vieques, the 19th of May, 1979, he did his duty and he reminded some of the them that they are in occupied territory. His deeds were legal in the eyes of Puerto Rican legality. Our country is ours and nobody else's. No power on earth can legitimately prohibit a Puerto Rican to "trespass" on a land that is ours. He was captured by force.

He maintains that this court has no jurisdiction to try him because:

The government of the United States is an intruder, an illegal trespasser of our land, and has no right over our people; as a part of the United States judiciary this court has no right to try him, because the United States has violated the natural right of Puerto Rico to independence;

The Treaty fo Paris is null and void in respect to Puerto Rico;

As a defender of the independence of Puerto Rico he was captured by the United States military within the terrain of one of its camps, in this case Camp Garcia, in the occupied territory of Vieques, and for such reason he should be tried as a prisoner of war not in this court but a military court.

He refuses to defend himself before this court, and because this court lacks jurisdiction prays for dismissal of the case.

this court lacks jurisdiction prays for dismissal of the case.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this ____ day of September, 1979.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE: on the U.S. Attorney this same day.

VIEQUES UPDATE

THE TRIALS CONTINUE, SUPPORT THE ACCUSED.....

Sept. 26. ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, member of the Central Committee of the LIGA SOCIALISTA PUERTORRIQUENA (L.S.P.) was sentenced to 6 months jail term and \$500.00 fine. Angel refused to defend himself and through his lawyers made a statement that astounded the court. In it he said that he had been captured by the military invaders of the territory of Vieques. He, furthermore, asserted that the federal courts in Puerto Rico had no jurisdiction over his person or nation and that if he was to be tried, it had to be by a military tribunal because he considers himself a PRISONER OF WAR. Immediately the court ordered his removal from Puerto Rico and his incarceration to the Federal Prison in Tallahassee, Florida. This move was made to isolate him from his supporters and family.

Oct. 2. ISMAEL GUADALUPE, Vice President of the Cruzada de Vieques was sentenced to 6 months in jail and \$500.00 fine. Ismael also said that the federal courts have no jurisdiction over his person.

Oct. 3. DIEGO LEDEE, a lawyer was sentenced to serve a 3 months jail term and a \$500.00 fine.

Contradictions of Andres'

Funeral

When a life is dedicated to the struggle for the liberation of a country, death is no obstacle for continuing to win battles against the enemy. That strength, not by itself but as part of a struggle, was what moved Andres Figueroa Cordero. That same strength overtook those who were present at his burial to make the masses of people vibrate with indignation at the death of this combatant. It was more than just a burial, it was a transfer of responsibilities. For some it was a confirmation of a compromise; for others, the first compromise with the struggle of Andres; the struggle for the liberation of our nation. It was like wanting to bring a sense of joy to Andres, who thought he had not given sons to his nation.

There was a cry of combat throughout the streets of the town where he was born; a militant and political manifestation. The unitary expression of people enraged at the provocation of seeing the flag of the tyrants and assassins of Andres, that does not feel any relief until they see it fall from the balcony of City Hall, trample it, drag it across the ground, burn it, and continue to trample it, symbolizing the anguish of revindication of a people for so many years of colonization.

The burial was a victorious act, another victory for Andres against yanqui imperialism, another victory among those obtained and those we will obtain through political struggle.

The vague and inappropriate speeches of Ruben Berrios, Juan Mari Bras, and the introduction by Nelson Canals, figured in this total score of indignation. After the agitation that occurred during the burning of the flag, at the moment of presenting the speakers, and apparently to prepare the way for the Mayor's speech (who never arrived), a presentation was made about the broadness of the struggle for the release of the Nationalist prisoners. It was presented as a struggle, not only of independentistas, but of all the Puerto Rican people. A call was made for all the speakers to continue along that line in their presentations.

It was really painful that the end of a victorious day with Andres had to begin in this manner. The call was to forget the principles which Andres lived and died, the principles and values which today keep his companeros in prison, principles which they will never abandon. If we allow this to happen and begin to give another content to the struggle to free the Nationalist prisoners, that day we would be the ones determining the vanity of the sacrifice of others. That day, we would be the ones striking a death blow to Andres, his strength and his struggle.

It was also a pity that the speeches of Ruben Berrios and Juan Mari Bras gave so much importance to university degrees, in order to try to give importance to the fact that companero Andres had no formal education. What they did demonstrate was the great importance that formal education has for them. It was as though they were saying, "although he did not have a diploma, he was still a great patriot".

Ruben Berrios' verbal contradiction occurred when he began his speech by saying that Andres was a man of action, and "we, of words", which was a truly hypocritical self-criticism because the only actions the P.I.P. is committed to are the Elections, actions which are in contrast to what Andres recognized as actions: armed actions.

In the panorama that pretended to darken the day and confuse the people, the voice of the people in arms rang out. The coampanero Don Juan Antonio Corretjer saluted through his presence, a message from the Nicaraguan combatants of the Sandinista Front, introducing a Sandinista combatant, a message from the political prisoners, the combatant of the F.A.L.N., William Morales, and finally organized a military salute of all the clandestine organizations that presented arms before the companero of battle, now and forever.

Companero Don Juan was the voice and figure of many clandestine combatants and did not avoid showing that in each armed action against yanqui imperialism, Andres was and is present in its forces and representatives.

The strength of struggle that in the introduction was asked to be forgotten, again reappeared, with it Andres and the confidence that this example, his seed, his struggle will germinate in our people until we achieve victory.

(Article from the publication Urayoan - Organ of the Armed Forces of Popular Resistance (FARP) Vol. 2 No. 8)

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FREE PABLO AND NYDIA!

Now that the four Nationalist prisoners of war, Lolita Lebron Irvin Flores, Oscar Collazo and Rafael Cancel Miranda are free, and in their homeland, we cannot lose sight of the fact that there are still two freedom fighters whose freedom we must still struggle for; Nydia Cueva and Pablo Marcano Garcia.

These brave companeros, who not only risked their personal freedom but also their lives in the seizure of the Chilean Consulate in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 3, 1978. The purpose of their action was to demand and end to the hypocritical 4th of July celebration in Puerto Rico, the freedom for the four Nationalist Prisoners of War, Independence for Puerto Rico, and in solidarity with the struggle of the Chilean people against the fascist Pinochet CIA backed Junta.

The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and the forces that came together and struggled for the release of the Nationalists have incorporated (since their incarceration) to direct their attention to the case of Nydia and Pablo. However, we must not lose the momentum gained by the release of the Four and work more actively on Nydia and Pablo's freedom. We must put into practice the slogan: "The Four are free; heighten the work; sharpen the struggle; free Pablo and Nydia now".

To make these words a reality, we must make a commitment in practice, must as Pablo and Nydia made a commitment in practice. Nydia and Pablo now face the same brutal and repressive treatment which characterized the decades of imprisonment of the four Nationalists.

The enemy has condemned Nydia and Pablo to many years in jail. They have tried to destroy their will to struggle by trying to isolate them from their homeland, and base of support sending Nydia to Pleasanton, California and Pablo, first to Danbury, Connecticut, and two days before a march in his support to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Like the Four, Nydia and Pablo's commitment is superior to the enemy's vindictiveness for they have made the slogan, "the harder the repression, the stronger the resistance", a reality.

If there is anything we have learned from the campaign to free the Nationalists, it is that we cannot wait 25 years to actively support the release of Nydia and Pablo as was done in the case of the Nationalists. We must act now! We must support and protect our freedom fighters and our right to struggle by any means necessary. In the words of Don Pedro Albizu Campos: "It is time for action, our nation has called for immediate struggle".

"You can imprison thousands of us, but you cannot hold us forever."

... WILLIAM GUILLERMO MORALES

LARES, CRADLE OF OUR ARMY

The Puerto Rican Socialist League (L.S.P.) cancelled its usual Lares activity on this occasion in homage to the Nationalist heroes who have recently returned. We, therefore unite today in the celebration of the joint activity, in conjunction with the various other organizations.

In Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores, and Rafael Cancel Miranda, we also honor Griselio Torresola and Andres Figueroa Cordero. We honor their utmost principled moral patriotism, their revolutionary perseverance, their intrepid presence in combat, and their disdain for danger and death. These virtues are proof of the high military potential in the struggle for independence and socialism in Puerto Rico.

Never before have the independence forces united in Lares with persons so representative of the Spirit of Lares, persons to which our Secretary General dedicated his speech last year. Never before in our history, has a Puerto Rican that was sentenced to death by a tribunal of the enemy, returned to Lares. Nor have a group of patriots been forced to endure for so many years, the torture of being both imprisoned and exiled.

That example gives them the highest category of exceptional contributors, the intensification of the subjective factor indispensable to the development of the actual revolutionary process.

For us Lares is the cradle of the Liberating Army that will triumph tomorrow.

We have recently been reminded, on more than one occasion, of a fundamental law of war; a new war of liberation will not succeed if the same strategy of a previous war is used; the strategy obligatorily must be different. For example: the strategy carried out by the Sandinista Front is different from the strategy of the Army of Defense for the National Sovereignty of Nicaragua that was founded and triumphed under the command of General Sandino.

The L.S.P. has put forth that it is incumbent upon all public revolutionary organizations to sustain and give impetus to the armed struggle in order for the triumph of socialism and independence. This mandates going beyond the theoretical, and obliges us to justify, propagandize and present the armed clandestine organizations that struggle for independence and socialism in Puerto Rico and the United States.

The F.A.L.N. who are organized and struggle in enemy territory took up the arms that these nationalist heroes which we honor today, were forced to replace.