

opened and political prisoners are being freed; where human rights and democratic struggles are taking on a new resurgence.

It is precisely in this period that the Puerto Rican people are redoubling their efforts, with the support of the world's free nations, to win the release of their imprisoned patriots.

Because the US' attempt at imposing a solution to Puerto Rico's colonial status—the "plebiscite"—has failed miserably and been recognized as a dismal effort at white washing its continued colonial domination of the tiny Caribbean island.

Ironically, the US seeks to portray itself as the guardian of human rights in the world—supporting the independence of the Baltic Republics and calling for the release of political prisoners around the world—when it denies holding any political prisoners and Puerto Rico's right to self-determination.

AN END TO COLONIALISM

The UN General Assembly has declared the year 2000 *the decade in which to end colonialism*. Accordingly, the following principles of international law apply in Puerto Rico's case:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which the United States is a signatory, begins with the statement that "colonialism is a crime" because it deprives people of cultural, economic/political and social self-determination.
- Since 1972, the UN Decolonization Committee has declared Puerto Rico a US colony and urged that the US transfer all powers to the Puerto Rican people to achieve self-determination.
- The Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Protocols I & II were created to protect anti-colonial combatants.

Puerto Ricans who struggle for independence fall under the jurisdiction of these international provisions and the protection they offer.

According to the widely accepted tenets of international law used in settling colonial disputes, all political prisoners and prisoners of war must be released as part of the decolonization process and persecution stopped against the independence movement.

By any universally accepted definition, Puerto Ricans who have struggled against colonialism using different tactics and methods, including but not limited to, armed struggle, are political prisoners.

AMNESTY / UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE NOW!

19 Puerto Rican men and women are presently serving sentences ranging from 15 to 90 years, scattered in prisons throughout the US, far from friends, families and supporters, for affirming Puerto Rico's right to independence. The entire independence movement, from the labor, student, women's and religious groups to the electoral and armed organizations, have united demanding freedom for the imprisoned patriots.

The United States government has systematically imposed severe prison conditions designed to break the prisoners spirit, drawing condemnation by human rights organizations such as Amnesty International.* These conditions include inhumane seclusion in control units, 23 hour lockdown, no visits, curtailment of correspondence and telephone privileges, sexual harassment of female prisoners through cavity searches by male guards and harassment of family, friends and legal advisers.

**Can't Jail the Spirit* is a compilation of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War biographical statements and a detailed account of the violations of their human rights. Order from E. Younis, c/o 59 E. Van Buren, #1400, Chicago, IL 60605. (\$14.00 + \$2.00 shipping)

FREEDOM FOR THE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS!

How You Can Help:

- Respond with a letter, phone call, collect signatures on a petition drive, or come to a demonstration;
- Arrange a video or slide presentation and speaking engagement about the POWs/PPs for your friends or organization;
- Subscribe to **Libertad!**, the official organ of the National Committee;
- Join the National Committee and work on the international campaign to free the POWs and PPs;
- Write to the imprisoned patriots (addresses on the inside)

For more information:

**National Committee to Free
Puerto Rican Prisoners of War
and Political Prisoners**

3543 18th St., Box 12
San Francisco, CA 94110

TOWARDS A 1992 WITHOUT



PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR OR POLITICAL PRISONERS!

WHY FREEDOM FOR PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS?

*Because Puerto Rico is a colony
of the United States*

Puerto Rico has been militarily intervened and occupied by the United States since July 25, 1898. On that day, the US invaded Puerto Rico with 16,000 soldiers under the command of General Nelson A. Miles (of Wounded Knee infamy) at the port city of Guánica.

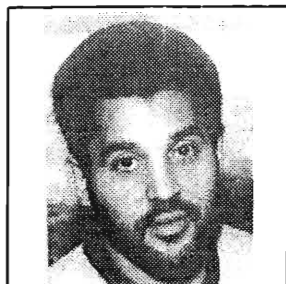
For the past 94 years, Puerto Rico has served the economic and political interests of the US. In 1901, the Supreme Court declared that Puerto Rico "belongs to, but is not part of the US." (*DeLima vs. Bidwell*)

Puerto Ricans do not enjoy the same rights and privileges as US citizens because Puerto Rico is a territorial possession. Because of this, the Puerto Rican people do not control Puerto Rico; the US Congress makes the decisions that affect the lives of over 6 million Puerto Ricans.

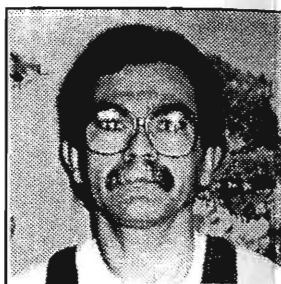
WHY 1992?

Because 1992 represents a historical moment for oppressed nationalities in the US—Native Americans, Africans in America, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans—a moment where, amidst great political upheaval in the world, nations from the former Eastern Bloc to South Africa and indigenous peoples' from the Pacific Basin to Latin America are redefining their relationship to the industrialized, colonial powers. A moment where prison doors in every corner of the globe—from right to left-wing régime—are being

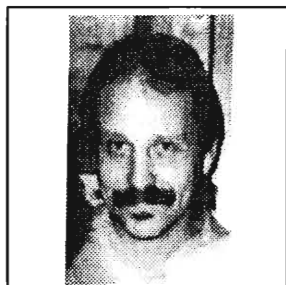
WRITE TO PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS & PRISONERS OF WAR



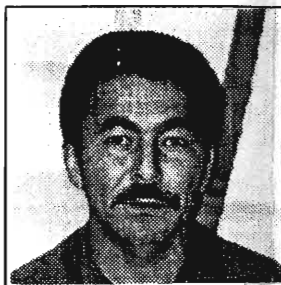
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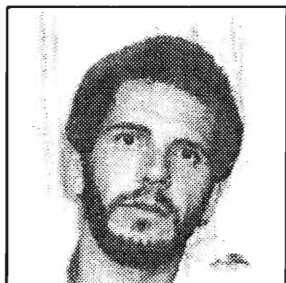
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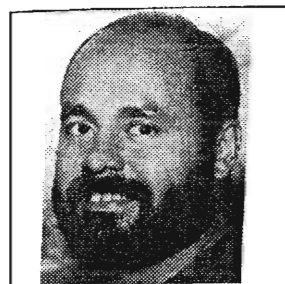
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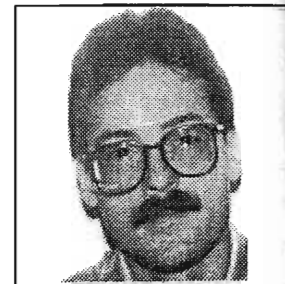
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