

STATEMENT OF SHELLEY MILLER TO THE GRAND JURY--FEBRUARY 2, 1983

I am refusing to testify before this grand jury because it is an attack, fundamentally, on the right of the Puerto Rican nation to fight to win its liberation, to defeat U.S. colonialism by whatever means it takes. I was called before this grand jury because I fully support the Puerto Rican Independence Struggle. I will never collaborate whether the penalty be civil or criminal contempt.

As a member of May 19th Communist Organization, I have chosen to express this commitment and support for the Puerto Rican Independence Struggle through building the New Movement in Solidarity with the Puerto Rican and Mexican Revolutions. As a member of the New Movement, we build, among North Americans and in the heart of the empire that colonizes Puerto Rico, solidarity with the struggle of the Puerto Rican people to totally free their homeland from U.S. colonialism and build a new society.

I, as a member of the New Movement, am resisting this grand jury because we reject the legitimacy of this investigation just as we reject the legitimacy of the U.S. to oppress whole nations and to feed off what it steals from around the world. For any progressive person, living in the belly of the beast, respecting the right of self-determination is a bottom-line issue. Non-collaboration upholds that right. We, in the New Movement, have taken this position because as an anti-imperialist organization we understand that the U.S. is the enemy of any person who wants to live in a just and socialist society.

The stand we take today comes from a profound sense, as a solidarity organization with the Puerto Rican independence movement, of what the tasks of solidarity are. My non-collaboration as a North American is part of setting a standard and a precedent for what is demanded of all North Americans as the U.S. escalates its terror over the Puerto Rican nation.

Today the U.S. is implementing the 2020 plan--an official U.S. government plan designed to exploit Puerto Rico to its fullest advantage. (The name 2020 plan comes from the date of its intended completion--the year 2020). It means 17 military bases, 11 industrial parks, stripmining the entire central mountain region, forced depopulation and sterilization, ruination of the fresh water supply, destruction of the land. It means literal genocide of the Puerto Rican nation. The response of the Puerto Rican people to the 2020 plan has been swift and massive. In the central mountain region, people have formed mass organizations to save the land and to fight the attack. The content of the communique released by the FALN after the bombings on New Years Eve made clear that the Puerto Rican nation will fight the 2020 plan everywhere.

The attack on me as a member of the New Movement which has a deep political commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico is part of a strategy

by the U.S. government to destroy solidarity at its earliest stages. The U.S. government has publicly stated that the Puerto Rican independence movement is its most dangerous threat currently. Because of this the U.S. government has been targetting organizations both in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. which are leading in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. This very same grand jury is proceeding to imprison 4 leaders and one supporter of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional for refusing to collaborate with this grand jury. The New Movement is an intrinsic part of the strategy of the independence movement to win. Organizing active and uncompromising support from North Americans is being met by attempts to thwart that support, to intimidate North American people, to try to establish that North Americans are a weak link of resistance who will collaborate. The New Movement will never collaborate. The New Movement represents the insipient anti-imperialist movement that is being built committed to liberation for Puerto Rico and to the defeat of the 2020 plan.

Independence will be a profound defeat for the U.S. and will push forward its ultimate destruction. The terror that the government characterizes to us in fact resides in the U.S. government itself.

Independence and Socialism for Puerto Rico.
Defeat U.S. Imperialism.