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D E S D E   L A S   R E J A S

Statements by the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War  
In the Concentration Camp of Cook County

Declaraciones de los Once Prisioneros de Guerra Puertorri-  
queños en el Campo de Concentración de Cook County

Given this 28th day of  
April, 1980

Dado este 28 de abril  
de 1980

Declaraciones por // Statements By:

Carmen Valentin  
-Elizam Escobar  
Lucy Rodriguez  
Dylcia Pagan  
Alfredo Mendez

Alicia Rodriguez  
Luis Rosa  
-Adolfo Matos  
Ricardo Dick Jimenez  
-Carlos Alberto Torres

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 sections 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 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.

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 a man, a lesson 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 colonialized people of the world, such as the Puerto Rican national 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!

NO TO STATEHOOD!\*

LONG LIVE THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

LONG LIVE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S FEDAII GUERRILLA!

Carmen Valentin  
a/k/a Antonia Martinez)

Compañeros & Compañeras

Viva la Revolución Puertorriqueña!

Se nos encarceló y se nos enjuicia. Así, pues, denunciarnos este juicio como uno falso e ilegal. Esta corte, ni ninguna corte del imperialismo norteamericano, tiene la altura moral para juzgarlos. No les reconocemos jurisdicción sobre nosotros, porque estas cortes representan la ilegalidad que usa este gobierno para mantener nuestra patria en el colonialismo, por más de 80 años en pleno siglo XX. Estas cortes representan la ilegalidad de la ocupación militar de las fuerzas armadas de EEUU de nuestro país Puerto Rico. Esta corte representa los intereses de nuestro enemigo. Nosotros somos combatientes por la libertad e independencia de nuestra patria. Formamos parte del movimiento revolucionario puertorriqueño, que ha escogido la lucha armada como forma legítima de conseguir lo que es nuestro derecho inalienable ...la libertaion de Puerto Rico.

Ellos pretenden juzgarnos y culparnos de crímenes comunes. Se nos acusa de uso ilegal de armas, mientras éste gobierno mantiene en nuestro propio territorio nacional, el más grande arsenal de armas en la costa del Atlántico, pertenecientes a la marina de guerra yanqui en el complejo naval llamado Roosevelt Roads, donde el 13% de nuestro territorio está ocupado por las fuerzas armadas de este país; donde, hasta tienen bases nucleares; haciendo de nuestro país un objetivo militar importante para ellos en caso de guerra; donde mantienen más fuerzas represivas como el CIA, FBI, policía política, agentes encubiertos, chotas, el ejército, la guardia nacional, etc. por habitantes, que ningún otro país en el mundo. Nosotros los acusamos a ellos de uso ilegal de armas para mantener a todo un pueblo, una nación, bajo su dominio. Nosotros respondemos fuego con fuego. Violencia reaccionaria con violencia revolucionaria.

A otros compañeros se les acusa de robo de vehículos, y de robo a mano armada, mientras ellos nos han robado nuestro territorio nacional, nos han robado nuestros recursos naturales, nos han robado el producto de nuestro trabajo, nos han robado nuestras playas, nos han robado nuestros derechos más elementales y nos quieren hasta robar nuestra personalidad como pueblo. Nosotros los acusamos de ser los pillos más grandes que registra la historia de la humanidad. Nosotros respondemos liberando lo que nos han robado. Nosotros no robamos, nosotros exigimos por medio de la lucha revolucionaria armada lo que nos pertenece.

A otra camarada se le acusa de asesinato. Ellos que han asesinado nuestra libertad; que han asesinado a cientos de combatientes independentistas; que han usado nuestra juventud como carne de cañón para sus guerras imperialistas; que han asesinado a una parte de nuestra juventud en el vicio de heroína; que han asesinado hasta una parte de nuestra población que no ha tenido ni la oportunidad de nacer, por medio de la esterilización de nuestras mujeres. Ellos han asesinado nuestra paz y tranquilidad con una paz falsa. Nosotros los acusamos de planear y de llevar a cabo el asesinato colectivo de los puertorriqueños, de genocidio de todo un pueblo. Nosotros no somos asesinos. Nosotros respetamos la vida humana. Nosotros a quien no respetamos es a los asesinos de nuestro pueblo. Respondemos con toda la ira y el odio revolucionario.

Nos acusan de terroristas. Están tan enojados que se pueden reconocer ellos mismos. No reconocen sus manos manchadas de sangre inocente. No recuerdan que han creado el terror. Han olvidado que detrás de toda la abundancia y la opulencia imperialista está el terror causado a millones de seres humanos alrededor de este planeta. Se han olvidado de Vietnam. Se han olvidado de sus criaturas: de Batista, de Trujillo, de los Somoza, de Pinochet, y del ex-Shah de Iran. Se quieren olvidar que son los terroristas más grandes de la historia moderna, por quien Hitler desde su tumba se siente celoso. Nosotros no somos terroristas. Queremos una verdadera paz. Ellos hablan de paz mientras hacen la guerra. Nosotros respondemos con la lucha revolucionaria para acabar con la guerra. Causan el terror al capitalismo, aquellos que lo combaten. Nosotros representamos la conciencia puertorriqueña en armas en los Estados Unidos.

Estas cortes son una hipocresía, un carnaval, un circo de inescrupulosos. Es la soberbia ronki vestida de "justicia". La nación que se pinte así mismo como "The Land of the Free and Home of the Brave" que cuadro más falso, que gran mentira, que ultraje a la verdad! No puede ser libre aquel que le niega la libertad a otro. Nosotros proclamamos aquí que somos mil veces más libres, aún dentro de sus cárceles, que toda esta porquería humana. Como nuestro padre de la patria puertorriqueña, Ramón Emeterio Betances dijera: "Querer ser libre es empezar a serlo."

Exijimos ser llevados ante una corte internacional, nosotros sabemos que este país le pasa por encima a sus propios tratados y acuerdos. No nos hacemos de ilusiones ni somos ingenuos, pero sabemos que el clamor de nuestra gente es el único verdadero vehículo que pueda mover la opinión mundial para que se vea el caso nuestro, y el caso del destino de nuestro pueblo. Confiamos en los verdaderos defensores de la libertad de los pueblos. Puerto Rico está en el mapa, ya no pueden ocultarnos más. Nuestra lucha es justa.

Nuestra juventud está al frente. Nuestra lucha no es solamente por una independencia de trapo, sino por una verdadera republica libre de todo vestigio colonial o neo-colonial, de toda explotación del hombre por el hombre, de toda opresión racial. La nuestra es por la conquista de la libertad y la construcción de una nueva sociedad, la sociedad socialista revolucionaria.

Nuestra causa es más fuerte que el enemigo. El futuro está con nosotros y la verdad está de nuestra parte.

Saludos revolucionarios a todos los compañeros combatientes en el movimiento clandestino.

**VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!**

Elizam Escobar

abril, 1980

\* 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 each other and 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 the 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 for 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 fighters 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!

#5 Lucy Rodriguez

"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 fisherman 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 unalienable 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 protocol for treatment of prisoners of war. This is an illegal proceeding. I do not recognize any jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Any attempts 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

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 National 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 principals 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 General Convention relative to the Treatment of P.O.W. of August 1949 United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 75 1950.

3. September 12, 1973 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, harrassment and repressive measure to which the organization and 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 POW 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 1930s and 40s, 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 & CAL of the 60s, the expulsion of the ROTC from the University of Puerto Rico, to the emergence of the new road towards Peoples War. As seen thru the actions of the Peoples revolutionary groups of the 70s and 80s such as the FARP, Comandos Obreros, OVRP, Macheteros, CRP, in Puerto Rico and the FALN here in the U.S.

The U.S. Policy toward 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 death 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.

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 drop-out 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 asserted our right as colonized people to wage a struggle against the colonializer, U.S. Imperialism, by any means necessary. \*

LONG LIVE PEOPLES WAR!

NAVY OUT OF VIEQUES !

FREE PUERTO RICO NOW!

PUERTO RICO WILL BE FREED THRU PEOPLES WAR!

Freddie Mendez  
a/k/a Soto Rosado #3

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 Nation 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 Nation 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 colonialization 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 me 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 toward 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.

ALICIA RODRIGUEZ,  
a/k/a MARIANNA BRACETTI

VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!

FUERA LA MARINA DE VIEQUES!

QUE VIVA LA LUCHA ARMADA CLANDESTINA!

STATEMENT TO OUR "PUEBLO EN LUCHA".

Compañeros y Compañeras, Our beloved people.

We send a strong revolutionary embrace and greetings from the "Eleven Prisoners of War" - Puertorriqueños. We address ourselves towards you because 1) we were not brought here of our free will, and we refuse to take part in this illegal proceeding; 2) we do not recognize the authority of this court nor its jurisdiction over our case; 3) because we take this opportunity to speak to our national liberation movement - "Our struggle is not in the courts but in the streets".

We are clear and firm on our principles. We are Prisoners of War, captured by the authorities of the country while agitating for independence and socialism for our nation Puerto Rico, which has been at war with the U.S. since it was militarily invaded in 1898.

Since the yankee invasion, the U.S. has attempted to destroy the Puerto Rican nation with a campaign of genocidal policies. These policies have resulted in the confiscation of most of the fertile soil, forcing unemployment to 40% in urban and 95% in rural areas, creating a dependent economy where 80% of the population is on food stamps and forcing half the population of Puerto Rico to migrate, providing the U.S. with cheap labor, and also the sterilizing of 37% of the Puerto Rican women.

In the U.S. Puerto Ricans are forced to live in the most miserable ghettos and are repressed daily by the institutionalized racism of this country. This repression has manifested itself in the FBI assassinations of independentistas Caballero and Soto and Rosado in Cerro Maravilla and in the daily bombardment of Vieques, where over 10,000 people dwell and depend on the fishing industries for income - while the U.S. Navy constantly bombs it for target practice.

It is also strongly manifested in the internment camps (prisons) of this country. Tallahassee Florida Federal Prison, where one of the leaders of the independence movement and our latest P.O.W. was assassinated by the FBI - Angel Rodriguez Cristobal.

THESE ARE DEFINITELY ACTS OF WAR AGAINST OUR NATION!

But these acts do not go unanswered. These acts are retaliated with arms from the liberation movements. Dating back before 1898, with the secret societies to the nationalist party in the 30s and 50s and resisted with the acts of Fraunces Tavern and Sabana Seca. These acts are answered by - LOS FACHETEROS, LOS VOLUNTARIOS, COMANDOS REVOLUCIONARIOS DEL PUEBLO, FUERZAS ARMADAS DE RESISTENCIA POPULAR EN PUERTO RICO and in the U.S. LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS DE LIBERACION NACIONAL - FALN. We are prisoners of war and representatives of the Puerto Rican consciousness in arms. Under the United Nations Decolonization Committee Resolution 2621, any person captured in the process of a national liberation struggle is a prisoner of war and must be transferred to a neutral country, held in a military P.O.W. camp and tried in an international tribunal. Puerto Rico is a direct colony of the United States and has the right to wage war for their national liberation with whatever means necessary - WE HAVE CHOSEN THE ARMS.

Today this government attempts to divide or destroy the independence movement of Puerto Rico in order to annex our nation through the statehood process. We have accepted this challenge and will meet it with ARMS and REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE.

Our incarceration will only nourish our struggle and educate future freedom fighters. LAS SEMILLAS DE LA LIBERTAD. We have sowed the seeds of liberation. We are prisoners of war.

\* We do not recognize these courts - they are illegal. \*

\* They have violated international laws. \*

We must take our struggles to the streets and bring death upon the imperialist monster.

HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE!

QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!

\* UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM FOR PABLO MERCANO Y NYDIA CUEVAS Y LOS ONCE PRISONERS DE GUERRA! \*

DEATH TO U.S. IMPERIALISM, STATEHOOD AND ANNEXATION!

LONG LIVE THE FUERZAS ARMADA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (FALN)  
FUERZAS ARMADAS DE RESISTENCIA POPULAR (FARP)  
LOS COMANDOS REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PUEBLO (CRP)  
LOS MACHETEROS - EJERCITO POPULAR BORICUA - (EPB)  
ORGANIZACION DE VOLUNTARIOS DE RESISTENCIA POPULAR (OVRP)

LONG LIVE THE ARMED STRUGGLE!

Luis Rosa P.O.W. #3  
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martes, 26 de marzo, 1980

ADOLFO MATOS  
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Cook County Jail  
2600 California Avenue  
Chicago, IL

Companeros y Companeras:

Mi presencia ante esta corte es contra mi voluntad. Soy Prisionero de Guerra Puertorriqueño. Como Prisionero de Guerra soy defensor de lo que nos corresponde - "Nuestra Patria" invadida militarmente por el imperio norteamericano en 1898, capturado en campo de batalla en la lucha de retaguardia contra el dominio de Puerto Rico. Tenemos el derecho a ser tratados de acuerdo a la Convencion de Ginebra, sobre el trato para los Prisioneros de Guerra. Nosotros demandamos que nos retengan en un campo militar, hasta que nos puedan transferir a un país neutral. Es un crimen la continuación del colonialismo en todas formas y manifestaciones. Constituye una violación al documento de las Naciones Unidas (Comité de Descolonización) en su declaración de darle la independencia a pueblos y países coloniales: y constituye una violación a la ley internacional.

Me niego en su totalidad, a ser representado por ningún abogado, en cuanto a que no doy el menor reconocimiento de jurisdicción a esta corte sobre Puerto Rico o los Puertorriqueños. Todos estos procedimientos son ilegales. Así como fueron ilegales el tratado de París, la presencia y relación de los Estados Unidos sobre Puerto Rico, basada militarmente para suprimir y rehusar reconocer el derecho de Puerto Rico a su soberanía, es también ilegal la ciudadanía norteamericana impuesta forzosamente a nosotros sin nuestro consentimiento. Puerto Rico nunca podrá ejercer su propio "status" político, mientras los yanquis mantengan el control económico social y político militar sobre nuestro suelo. Allí hay elecciones coloniales que es un instrumento para mantener el estado de cosas prevalecer, no para cambiarlas. Las elecciones de Puerto Rico son usadas simplemente para cambiar una administración a otra. No hay garantía de nada. El Congreso de los Estados Unidos tiene la última palabra. En realidad ellos son los que deciden, tomando en cuenta sus propios intereses y beneficios y no los nuestros.

Por eso nos parece ridiculo carnaval las primarias presidenciales en Puerto Rico. Estan dando los pasos hacia convertir a Puerto Rico en un estado. En la presente situacion internacional van a tratar de mantener la posesion de Puerto Rico. A ellos no les conviene perder a Puerto Rico ahora. El imperialismo yanqui esta claramente en decadencia. Ya no son el poder numero uno como se consideraban.

QUE VIVA LA REVOLUCION!

FUERA LA MARINA ESTADOUNIDENSE DE VIEQUES!

QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE Y SOCIALISTA!

LIBERTAD PARA PABLO MARCANO Y NYDIA ESTHER CUEVAS!

QUE VIVA LA LUCHA ARMADA.

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 any one 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 the four nationalists, Rafael Cancel Miaanda, 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 Nation General Assembly's declaration that colonialism is a crime. This position was further strengthened when in September, 1978 the United Nation Decolonization Committee reaffirmed the fact that Puerto Rico was and still is a United States colony. As such 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 other 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 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 ESTATIDAD!

Ricardo Dick Jimenez

Queridos Compañeros, Compañeras y todo Compatriota:

Mi voz y palabras son reflexión de mi alma que llama a mi pueblo a luchar por la libertad. Estoy, hoy, frente a ustedes, prisionero de guerra, pero prisionero de nadie. Soy un hombre libre, mi mente no la encadena nadie. Ni el ogro que es el imperio yanki, ni estos infelices que pretenden jugar su ridiculo juego de la legitimidad. Su hipocresía es sólo superada por su odio a todo justo.

Nuestro derecho, como nación intervenida, como pueblo colonizado bajo el ruido de los cañones del ejército norteamericano en el 1898, nos da la autoridad moral, todo el derecho humano a sacudirnos de estas garrapatas malditas yankis, que cada día nos chupan la sangre.

Se engordan en Puerto Rico explotando nuestros recursos humanos, nuestras riquezas naturales. Se engordan en las comunidades boricuas aquí en las entrañas del monstruo. Se engordan con las riquezas que nuestro pueblo trabajador produce.

Estos yankis, como toda garrapata que sigue chupando sangre, reventarán y si no revientan las fuerzas revolucionarias y el pueblo boricua lo hará. No descansaremos hasta que los expulsemos de nuestra tierra. Ese es nuestro propósito y en lugar de opresión, el pueblo puertorriqueño creará una sociedad justa, donde todo el pueblo pueda disfrutar de sus riquezas y su labor.

Las leyes internacionales, en parte, tratan sobre el derecho que nosotros tenemos a usar toda forma de lucha que sea necesaria para combatir a nuestro enemigo. Este enemigo que mantiene a nuestro país como nación esclava, como colonia. Nosotros los puertorriqueños tenemos el derecho a luchar a lanzar nuestra ofensiva armada. No porque el pueblo puertorriqueño sea un pueblo violento, sino porque es con armas que se combate las armas. En ningún momento en la historia de Borinquen, desde la invasión yanki, ni en ningún momento desde que llegamos los puertorriqueños a los EEUU a trabajar, ha desaparecido la constante amenaza de un cañón sobre nuestras cabezas. El número de policías, hoy, en la corte es buen ejemplo de lo que hablo.

En Vieques, Puerto Rico, la marina yanki persiste en sus bombardeos. Poco les importa a ellos que en esa pequeñita islita viven miles de puertorriqueños. Pero cuando hemos visto al gobierno yanki derramar sus lagrimas en uno de los velorios, cada vez que muere un viequense, o un puertorriqueño a manos de las bombas norteamericanas? "Uncle Sam" no se viste de luto cuando ellos matan a un boricua.

Y esos traidores pitiyankis, que sirven sólo para vender la patria, bajo el disfraz de la estadoidad y cuya unica motivación es entregarle nuestra patria a este país a cambio de un bolsillo hondo y no para el bienestar de nuestro pueblo. Pero através de las mentiras y los dólares yanqui logran confundir a un sector del pueblo boricia, convenciendolos de la falsedad conocida como la estadoidad. El tal estado 51 es un disparate, aún más es una traición.

Es nuestro mas profundo deseo de que todos ustedes, los familiares de los companeros en lucha, todos los que nos apoyan, a que continuen la lucha, que expandan sus compromisos, no solo a nosotros, sino a la lucha libertadora. Que sus esfuerzos sean máximos: que muestren su compromiso en la práctica, porque hay mucho que hacer.

Y aunque hoy nuestras manos estan encadenadas, no lo estarán asi siempre; y un día estas manos estaran libres, libres para levantar de nuevo el fusil, y ese fusil jamás lo soltaremos, hasta que nuestra patria sea libre, o hasta la muerte.

Carlos A. Torres,  
a/k/a POW #1