


IN HONOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN P.O.W.'S  
**AN EVENING IN SOLIDARITY  
WITH PUERTO RICAN  
INDEPENDENCE**

**ALEXIS MASSOL**

ON TOUR FROM PUERTO RICO-  
SPEAKING ON THE 2020 PLAN  
AND THE MILITARIZATION  
OF PUERTO RICO

**SAT. APRIL 13 7:30**  
**WOMEN'S BLDG. \$3**  
**3543-18th St. S.F. CHILDCARE**

Dedicated to the memory of Juan Antonio Corretjer, the first Puerto Rican P.O.W. in the 117 years of the struggle for independence.

Sponsored by the National Committee to Free All Puerto Rican P.O.W.'s, the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional   
and the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence, 3543 18th St. #17, S.F. 94110, 561-9055.



FIREWORKS

April 4, 1980...Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters were arrested by police in Evanston, Illinois. Almost immediately federal authorities boasted they had "broken the back" of the FALN, the armed clandestine group fighting inside the U.S. for Puerto Rican independence. This prediction was wrong -- the FALN has carried out many powerful actions since the 11 were arrested. What's more, in jail these women and men caused a whole new set of problems for U.S. authorities. They focussed international attention on the Puerto Rican struggle by declaring themselves Prisoners of War -- captured combatants in the war to free their colonized homeland.

Why have these and other courageous Puerto Rican women and men chosen to struggle for their nation's independence, despite the great risks involved?

The answer lies in understanding that most Puerto Ricans, including these captured freedom fighters, grow up under the harsh poverty, forced relocation and racism caused by U.S. colonialism. Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking Latin American nation that has been militarily occupied and under the absolute control of the U.S. since 1898. The Puerto Rican colonial economy produces vast profits for U.S. corporations while 40% of the Puerto Rican people are unemployed. The island is a major military garrison for projecting U.S. power throughout the Caribbean and Central America.

The Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, along with many other Puerto Ricans, refuse to subject their children to another generation of colonialism. Their struggle for independence is just, and is the only solution to the illegal 86-year U.S. stranglehold on Puerto Rico.

For Puerto Ricans, time is running out. They now face the 2020 Plan, the insidious final phase of U.S. colonialism on the island. By the year 2020, the U.S. plans to dig huge open pit mines in the center of the island to extract strategic metals. They plan to build 11 giant industrial parks around Puerto Rico's coastline to handle expansion of the highly polluting pharmaceutical and petro-chemical industries. They plan to reduce the population from 4 million to 1.5 million, using forced migration and the continued mass sterilization of women (already 40% of women are sterilized). The 2020 Plan will virtually destroy Puerto Rico as a habitable nation. It is a plan for genocide.

The U.S. will never voluntarily give up the 2020 Plan. It will never agree to stop using Puerto Rico as a base for war against the other peoples of the region. For this reason, the people of Puerto Rico, like the peoples of Vietnam, Nicaragua and El Salvador, will have to fight a war to force the U.S. out of their country.

Right now, in Puerto Rico, the independence movement is making significant headway. Last year, 50,000 people demonstrated in San Juan for independence and an end to U.S. militarization of the island. The armed clandestine movement has demonstrated an ability to strike blows against the U.S. presence. One group, the Macheteros, has carried out many sophisticated actions, such as the destruction in 1981 of 9 U.S. warplanes, valued at \$45 million, that were destined for El Salvador.

There are now 15 prisoners of war and 10 political prisoners who have been jailed for participating in the Puerto Rican struggle. They are loved and respected by many Puerto Ricans and deserve our support. We must protest the inhuman psychological and physical torture the POWs have been subjected to in U.S. prisons. Most importantly, we can support them by taking up their struggle against U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico and demanding independence for Puerto Rico.

We are honored to have as our featured speaker Alexis Massol, an engineer from Puerto Rico who is a leading activist in the struggle to stop the 2020 Plan.

FREE ALL PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR!

STOP THE 2020 PLAN!

VIVE PUERTO RICO LIBRE!