

Colorado People's Hearing:

the people speak out on
the racist imprisonment
binge, control units, and
political prisoners



Sponsored by the Denver American Friends Service Committee, the Golda Mier Center, the Metro American Indian Students for Empowerment (MAISE), the Metro Political Science Association, Metro Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), the Moyo Nguvu Cultural Arts Center, the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons, the National Political Science Honor Society, the Pikes Peak Peace and Justice Commission, and the Rocky Mountain Peace Center.

All events are free and open to the public. For directions and more information please see the other side of this flyer or call (303) 444-6981.

Friday, April 26 and
Saturday, April 27

Pre-Hearing

Keynote Speakers:

Friday, 7 pm • Turnhalle
Auditorium, Tivoli Center—
Auraria Campus

José López from the
National Committee to
Free Puerto Rican
Political Prisoners and
Prisoners of War and
Francisco (Kiko) Martinez,
longtime political activist
and lawyer supporting
political prisoners in the
Florence control-unit

People's Hearing:

Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm •
North Classroom Building,
Room 1539—Auraria Campus

Witnesses include:

Jalil Bottom, former black pan-
ther and current political prisoner
(taped testimony);
Rocky Rodriguez on the U.N.
Minimum Standards for the
Treatment of Prisoners;
Alberto Mares, former control-
unit prisoner; and many more.

What is a people's hearing?

Like the Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples' and Oppressed Nations held in San Francisco in 1992, the Colorado People's Hearing will call to question the U.S. government as well as the Bureau of Prisons (BoP) and the Department of Corrections for human rights abuses. This hearing, like the others happening simultaneously in places like Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco, is meant to be a springboard to direct action on prison issues.

In the fall of 1994 social justice organizations and prisoner support activists met to form the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons (NCSCUP). The groups that work with the campaign operate with the belief that:

- Control units are barbaric. No human being should be caged in a cell nearly 24 hours a day and denied all human contact for years on end. It is clear that control units are designed to destroy prisoners both physically and psychologically, not to facilitate growth or improvement.
- Political prisoners and other dissidents are especially targeted for incarceration in control units, with the intent of criminalizing and dehumanizing them, as well as keeping them separate from other prisoners and from the movements of which they are a part.
- That our society's imprisonment binge and the proliferation of control units are essential components of U.S. colonialism and racism. We believe that they are not "errors" or misguided attempts to control crime, but rather intentional tools of social control.

Consider that:

- Between 1969 and 1989 the U.S. cut its education budget by 25% and increased funding for the criminal (in)justice system by 400%.
- Black men are 6% of the United States population, but constitute over 44% of U.S. prisoners.
- Nationally, although 80% of those who use drugs are white, only 7% of those arrested for drugs are white.
- Colorado holds the Federal Administrative Maximum (or control unit) prison where many political prisoners, including Puerto Rican independence activists, leaders in the struggle for Black Liberation, and anti-imperialist activists are kept.
- Colorado also has a state run control unit prison which currently holds close to 500 men and 10 women in some of the most oppressive conditions.

The Auraria Campus

★ The North Classroom

● The Tivoli

Lunch will not be provided at the hearings, but there are plenty of affordable places on and around the Auraria campus. Please call if you have other needs like child care, etc.

Also at the Auraria campus:
The Art of Struggle, art by political prisoners and control unit prisoners.
The month of April in the Multicultural lounge of the Tivoli Student Union
Call 556-3220 for more information.

