

THEY ARE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS



NOT TERRORISTS

CHICAGO PUBLICATION

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

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P.O. BOX 301
2520 NORTH LINCOLN AVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60614

UPDATE

INFORME/UPDATE has learned from excellent sources close to the repressive forces of the state, that the U.S. government through its repressive apparatus (U.S. Attorney, Grand Jury, F.B.I.) is fabricating sedition charges against the eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war. This unprecedented and unpopular action which violates their so-called right to a speedy trial, will take place after the election. The reason is obvious when one considers that Carter's election rests on his ability to carry states in which the Latino vote is crucial - New York, Texas, California, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and New Jersey. In order to avoid the mass outrage which such action will bring before the election, Carter has ordered the Justice Department to play it cool.

The charge of sedition for these Puerto Rican patriots, whose only crime is wanting to see their homeland free from the exploitation and oppression which it suffers under U.S. domination, is a new development in the judicial terrorism the U.S. is waging against the Puerto Rican revolutionary movement. The cold-blooded massacre at Cerro Maravilla, the assassination of the patriot Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, the death-squadron type killing of two young independentists, the growing harrassment and incarceration of Puerto Ricans by the Grand Jury, including the jailing of Carlos Pantojas and Carlos Noya, are a few examples of this growing terrorism.

Another chapter in the black pages of U.S. oppression of the Puerto Rican people will be added by this charge of sedition. Nevertheless, we must look at this move by the U.S. government as an acknowledged

gement of its failure in pursuing the strategy of criminal charges against the eleven patriots.

The U.S. government has responded in this way due to the following facts:

- the fact that a delegation composed of the most advanced anti-imperialist forces in North America (representatives of the Black, Chicano/Mejicano and Quebecois national liberation movements, along with representatives of the revolutionary forces of Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada) raised the issue of the eleven before the United Nations Committee on Decolonization;
- the fact that in the internal debate of the Committee itself it became an important issue, particularly when the Cuban Ambassador stated:

"This year, in addition to the repression and persecution of organizations and individuals in struggle for self-determination and independence, there is also the incarceration of eleven young Puerto Rican patriots, accused of violating the laws of the United States. Demonstrating the dignity that ennobles them, they unanimously reject the power of the yanki courts to judge them, declaring themselves prisoners of war, because the struggle against foreign repression and colonial domination cannot be described as a crime. Someday, the international community will recognize that all who are struggling today for independence deserve that status"

COMMUNIQUE TO THE PEOPLE

Today, Tuesday August 26, 1980, we, the eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, wish to make a public call for the purpose of stressing various points of vital importance to the Puerto Rican Liberation Movement.

We call for the creation of a Pro-Independence Revolutionary Block as a first step towards the creation of the Puerto Rican National Liberation Front.

We address ourselves to all patriotic and pro-independence sectors affiliated - and non affiliated, committed and willing to unite around certain fundamental points in regards to the unity of the independence revolutionary movement.

We believe that the definition of this Block has to be socialist in content and anti-imperialist in character: repudiation of colonial elections; the expulsion of U.S. navy from Vieques to be seen within the contexts and perspective of ridding all Puerto Rico of imperialism; support for the armed struggle and all revolutionary clandestine organizations who are the embryo for the formation of a peoples army to bring about peoples war; rejection of compulsory military registration to the armed forces of U.S.A.: support of all political prisoners and Puerto Rican prisoners of war; implementation of a solid and unified anti-annexionist campaign.

We hope that these ideas will serve as an incentive and catalyst for the creation of such a Block. We understand that in the final analysis it will be those integrating the Block who will realize the work and develop a strategic program based on clear points of unity.

For the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the unity of its forces in order to achieve independence and to expel our enemy U.S. imperialism from our home land is of vital importance as it was for our Nationlist heroes- Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Irvin Flores, Rafael Cancel Miranda in their call to unity, as it was for our heroric revolutionary clandestine organizations: Organizacion De Voluntarios Para La Revolucion Puertorriqueno; Ejercito Popular Boriqua, Fuerzas Armadas De Resistencia Popular, Fuerzas Armadas De Liberacion Nacional Puertorriquena, in their acceptance of this call to unity given September 23, 1979 in Lares Puerto Rico, and as it is for us, the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

This call for unity is a historical necessity and historical responsibility in order to achieve final victory for our nation- Puerto Rico.

We call upon all Puerto Rican People to contribute with their ideas and creativity to the creation of a vehicle of unity which will bring about, and make possible the realization of the aspiration of our people in our homeland and in exile.

For Independence and Socialism
Long Live The Puerto Rican Revolution
Freedom For Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Puerto Rican Prisoners of War



PUERTO RICANS AT WAR

*"The heroism of one single woman and the heroism of one single man
can shake the foundations and crumble the most powerful empire"*

Pedro Albizu Campos

Not only is it important and true that heroism can cause the downfall of an empire, but it is also true that heroism is the most powerful force to penetrate the souls of a sincere People in their heroic potential.

The effects of death as a result of the struggle against the enemy, or the moral resistance before the enemy are felt directly in the hearts of the people. A single noble gesture is never lost. Sooner or later it is brought to light as though it were humanity's first heroic gesture.

The escape of William Guillermo Morales, the sacrifice of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, and now the example of the diminutive Puerto Rican heroine, Maria Haydee Torres in her "trial" and sentence have been such examples in recent times. It's a "trial" worthy of the pen of Dostoyeski, and of being incorporated in juridical history as an example of how a trial should not be conducted. Her accusers did not even see her. What these people claim to have seen, is a woman whose description does not in any way correspond with reality.

Maria Haydee Torres, a diminutive Puerto Rican of some ninety pounds, with dark penetrating eyes, according to the description of a Puerto Rican artist, is a symbol of the highest virtues of the Puerto Rican woman. Just as her diminutive nation is a point in the immensity of the world, her small body is also like a rock upon which her soul has taken stand to remind the entire world that Puerto Ricans are determined to give all for their independence.



When the United States invaded Puerto Rico in 1898, it brought war to its shores. From that very moment an unequal war began against the invader whose only wish is our extermination.

This war continues until its logical conclusion: our independence. There will always be women and men who, irrespective of their stature, like the Pitirre (tiny national bird of P.R.) against the Guaraguao (Eagle), will fight against the enemy until victory. There will always be willing Puerto Ricans until this purpose is accomplished.

Maria Haydee Torres, demonstrating her intelligence, conviction, consciousness, and valor, represents all the men and women in struggle. Ida Luz, Alicia, Dylcia, Carmen, and the six comrades, are our standard and a reminder of who Puerto Ricans are: men and women who have taken up arms and the banners of our revolutionaries who either openly or in clandestinity, as deemed necessary, will continue struggling until our independence is won.

Such is the strength we have, from our fortress in the sea to the enemy shores to where we are driven. The terror that this force entails for the imperialists is so great that it incites them to a plot of extermination against us, but at the same time paralyzes them, because they know that wherever one of us falls, another will take his place.

The enemy trembles before our heroes. The world will unite with us. The destructive monster of humanity has no friends.

Each day our cause grows more and more in the consciousness of those that see in our struggle for independence a just struggle of a People - the Puerto Ricans - who rise to impede genocide.

Honor to Haydee, Ida Luz, Alicia, Carmen, Dylcia, Carlos Alberto, Elizam, Luis, Adolfo, Freddie, and Dickie. We, the conscious Puerto Ricans are at our post. Count on us.

(Taken from Urayoan, the official organ of the Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Popular F.A.R.P., 3rd year, No. 3, May-June 1980)

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These facts, coupled with the hard and arduous day-to-day work in our community, have exposed the farcical nature of the U.S. ploy to charge the eleven with criminal cases. The successful national and international campaign carried out by the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, the Civic and Religious Committee to Defend the Rights of Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, and the National Family Committee of the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, has prompted the U.S. government to admit, in an unprecedented way, that the case of the eleven is not criminal but political. Even in the state charges, with all their talk of this being a criminal case, the State's Attorney developed a very political case in which he said: the Puerto Rican revolutionary movement has declared war on us, we have to declare war on it.

Sedition, as defined by Webster's Third New International Dictionary, is "conduct consisting of speaking, writing, or acting against an established government or seeking to overthrow it by unlawful means; resistance to lawful authority; conduct leading to treason but without an overt act".

Such language seriously raises the spectre of the Espionage Act of the First World War, and sedition cases of the Second World War around the Smith Act, and the whole of the McCarthy Era. A synoptic historical review suffices.

In early common law the scope of sedition was very wide; it even allowed for anyone to be persecuted for a remark insulting to the king. In the United States, sedition charges have always been undertaken principally during periods of great crisis: particularly in war situations. The first sedition laws were incorporated into the Sedition Act of 1798, which was quite unpopular; and similar statutes were not enacted until the 20th Century. During World War I, two sedition acts were passed: the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918 which punished anyone who dare to write and speak against the U.S. war effort. They were so vaguely worded and broadly interpreted that well over 2,000 people were prosecuted, mostly radicals and the anti-imperialist press. A similar occurrence took place during World War II with the passage of the Smith Act in 1940, and in Puerto Rico with the adoption of Law 53 (Ley de la Mordaza) which principally focused on persecution of those advocating the violent overthrow of the government. The Smith Act in the U.S. was the prelude to the infamous McCarthy Era, which led to the persecution of thousands of people who objected in one degree or another with government policy; it was aimed particularly at the Communist Party, U.S.A. In Puerto Rico, Law 53 was the prelude to the persecution and incarceration of the Nationalists and other radical independentists, and consequently to the retardation of the independence cause.

The present attempt of the U.S. government is a desperate act to silence the voice of the Puerto Rican revolutionary movement. It is obvious to the U.S. government that they can bargain and even compromise with those who say that Puerto Rico's independence can be achieved through the ballot box; they can never intimidate nor deal with the silent army of guerrillas who are felt everywhere and yet are nowhere to be found.

Secure, after the elections, the U.S. government may attempt to throw away the keys of the eleven; may even attempt to give them the death penalty; they may attempt to do the same with their supporters - as the indications show; but they will never succeed.

First and foremost, the masses of our people will stay away from the farcical elections on November 4. They understand that elections are only used to perpetuate this system of oppression and exploitation. They will surely not support the hangmen of our patriots. It is obvious that the U.S. and its colonial cohorts with their judicial terrorism will not go far. For as Albizu said in the 1930s, "you can kill Albizu, you can kill ten thousand Nationalists, and one million Puerto Ricans will rise". For the eleven are Puerto Rico's national conscience in arms and no people who achieved their nationhood has yet been destroyed; that's the history of Ireland, Quebec, Viet-Nam and Palestine.

The strategy of the enemy is sedition: the response of our masses will be empty ballot boxes, and the reverberation of the Albizuist slogan "to take away our homeland, first you must take our lives".

Words: for HAYDEE

*there is little
words can do,
they will not melt
the thickness of
iron bars.
civilized men have
built them strong
with the power
of hate.*

*words will not
let the sky fly in
to drown the grey
of the cell away*

*words will not even
remind you of poetry
they have made sure
of that.*

*but, outside
their walls...*

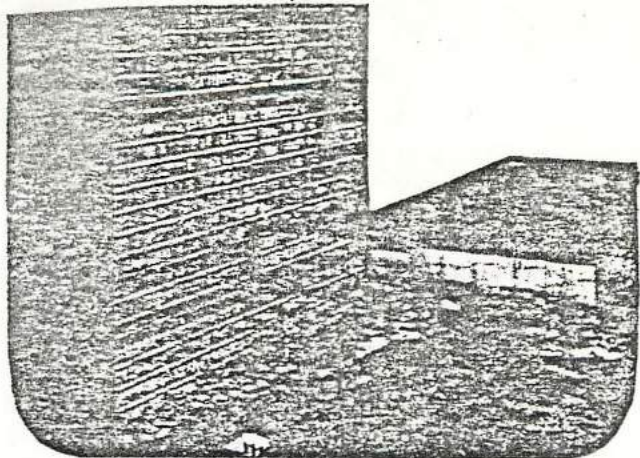
*HAYDEE, You are the poetry
they will never read
you are all the poetry*



*that lives inside the
clearness of free eyes
in all eyes that understand
peace
love.*

by G.P.

UPDATE ON THE U.N.



The forces of U.S. imperialism paid the highest compliment they could to the Puerto Rican National movement when they arranged for the public galleries to be emptied for the speech of the outstanding Puerto Rican revolutionary, Don Juan Antonio Corretjer, of the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena at the U.N.

The speech of comrade Corretjer was the high point of a vital weekend of meetings rallies, and public displays of revolutionary emotion at the U.N. Decolonization Committee hearings on Puerto Rico. This event united some of the proudest representatives of the revolutionary movement against colonialism, representatives of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, the National Liberation Movement (MLN), the Quebec CSN, the Information Committee on Quebec Political Prisoners, the National Revolutionary Coordinate (CRN-Mexico), MLN-Chicano/Mexicano Commission, The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence, The Republic of New Afrika, The Canadian Party of Labour, and others joined forces to Petition the U.N. to affirm Puerto Rico's colonial status, and for recognition that the Eleven captured freedom fighters be awarded Prisoner-of-War status. This reaffirmation at the U.N. will long be remembered as a shot fired in the Puerto Rican Revolution and as a galvanizing moment in the world struggle against U.S. imperialism. The event which served as a catalyst in the organization of the petition was the illegal arrest of Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters by U.S. authorities. The Eleven combatants were arrested, tried and sentenced to brutally long terms

The Eleven have steadfastly and courageously maintained that they are Prisoners - of - War, captured Freedom Fighters who are part of the armed clandestine movement for the independence of Puerto Rico. Under the U.N. provisions, the struggle for National Liberation is legitimate, and as such, captured Freedom fighters are to be accorded P.O.W. status and tried by international tribunals, not by imperial courts.

U.N. Resolution 33/24, December 8, 1978 states "The General Assembly...reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination and foreign occupation by all means available, particularly armed struggle."

Therefore, it has been necessary to gain the U.N.'s affirmation of the colonial status of Puerto Rico. On Sunday, August 17, the petitioning groups held a rally in New York City. This rally opened to a mostly latin audience with an inspiring speech by Don Juan Antonio Corretjer, wherein he reaffirmed that only through armed struggle will Puerto Rico be liberated. He remarked that Puerto Rico was in a far more advanced stage of armed struggle than the U.S. realized. His speech was followed by Oscar Collazo, (one of the four nationalist recently released from U.S. Prisons, after serving over a quarter of a century) who pledged unconditional support for the Eleven. Representatives of the Republic of New Africa, Information Committee on Quebec Political Prisoners, and the Leader of 200,000 workers of the CSN (Montreal) also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of Puerto Rico. On the morning of August 18, a press conference was held in which revolutionary representatives from Mexico, Canada, Quebec, Puerto Rico and the Chicano/Mexicano Movements were present.

Representatives of the press included Reuters, Prensa Latina, Tass, Associated Press, Newsweek, and others.

The U.N. hearings occurred on August 18 and 19. Except for the maneuvering during comrade Corretjer's speech the gallery was packed with cheering supporters all the time. Among those who made presentations before the Decolonization Committee were Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, National Lawyers Guild, The Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and others. Don Juan Antonio Corretjer gave his presentation on the 19th of August; the crowd that had attended the United Nations to hear his presentation was disappointed when they were told that the gallery was full. To everyone's surprise it was

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later learned that this was not true. After his presentation, comrade Corretjer appeared before the crowd of supporters who greeted him with tumultuous applause and revolutionary chants.

Although some of the revolutionary representatives were not permitted to make oral presentations, written reports were submitted. Despite the misfortunes that occurred, this historic occasion provided an opportunity for concrete expression of warmth and unity between the revolutionary movements of Puerto Rico, Canada, Quebec, Mexico, Black and Chicano/Mexicano.

The words of Don Juan Antonio Corretjer are still reverberating ominously in the ears of every Yankee imperialist. Don Juan promised to the U.N. that if Puerto Rico was to be annexed, Puerto Ricans would conduct actions in the U.S. which would exceed those conducted by the Algerians in France. Such actions would have greater historic import than the shot fired at Sarajevo, opening World War I.

The United Nations Committee on Decolonization voted in favor (12 in favor, 11 abstentions, 1 absent) on the case of Puerto Rico.

During August 18-22 activities in solidarity were held at national and international levels.

The Petition of recognition of Prisoner of War status of the eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War was not presented at this time.

Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that all of the independence movement representatives that spoke before the U.N. Committee made reference to the Eleven Puerto Rican combatants being illegally held in Yanki Prisons. Also worth mentioning is the fact that the Decolonization Committee in its internal dialogue made mention of the Eleven Puerto Rican freedom fighters and the seriousness their case represented. An example of this was the presentation of the Cuban ambassador when he said:

"This year we can add to the persecution and repression of organizations and persons who struggle for self-determination and independence, the imprisonment of the Eleven young Puerto Rican patriots in Chicago, accused of violating the United States Laws. Demonstrating the dignity that be-knights them, they unanimously reject the competency of the Yanki courts to try them, declaring themselves to be Prisoners of War, because to struggle against foreign repression and colonial domination cannot be described as a crime. Someday, the International Community will realize that all those who today struggle for independence deserve that status."

As Don Pedro Albizu Campos said:
"The land is undergoing its glorious transfiguration."

Onward Boricua!

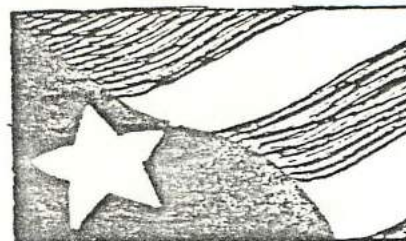
CIVIC - RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE BRIEFS

Newsbriefs of the Civic and Religious Committee in Support of the Rights of the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

August 15th - The Committee sponsored a Peoples Tribunal on the case of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, in which more than 100 persons participated. The tribunal took place at the DePaul University, where various members of the Puerto Rican community testified, including Alberto Rodriguez, of the Committee for Community Orientation who spoke on the repression which confronts our working people—an unforgettable example of this being the case of Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio. Joan Nicklin, Co-ordinator of the Committee, the Reverend Jose Alberto Torres, and Gilberto Justiano of the 1st Congregational Church also spoke. A message from the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War was read. The tribunal will soon publish its conclusions.

August 18th - The Reverend Michael Yasutake, representing the Civic Committee presented a resolution on the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War before the American Federation of Teachers convention.

October 9th - The Committee met with the General Manager of NBC - Channel 5 concerning a news report on the Eleven and their supporters. The news report was done under the direction of the F.B.I., whose intent is to isolate and contain the support enjoyed by the Prisoners of War in our Community.





HUNDREDS WELCOME JUAN ANTONIO CORRETJER

Juan Antonio Corretjer, Secretary General of the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena, received a cordial welcome from the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, during his visit to Chicago on September 29th, where he led a forum on the Colonial Elections in Puerto Rico ("Retraimiento").

The Committee expressed appreciation to Don Juan Antonio Corretjer for his unconditional support for the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, and his commitment to bring forth the message of these valiant combatants to forums everywhere.

Don Juan Antonio Corretjer stopped over in Chicago after having completed a speaking tour throughout Canada and Quebec in support of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

Don Juan received enthusiastic applause during his speech, especially when he referred to the low level of the political debate in Puerto Rico.

He commented that to think that there could be a high level of political discussion between the colonial parties would be to day dream. He then asked "what are the P.S.P. and the P.I.P. doing in the letrine? (referring to the absurdity of the elections).

The truth is that they have no sense of smell, since success in politics depends on being able to see beyond ones nose those who are at the bottom of the letrine and are not demanding gas masks, who indeed are up to their eyelids in the scum, what capacity can they have left to see beyond the immediate?"

Comrade Juan Antonio Corretjer encouraged the audience to continue the vertical struggle for independence and socialism with the concept of "retraimiento" (non-participation with any colonial process)

More than 300 people attended the event, which also featured folkloric dances and music by the students from Northeastern Illinois University, and the Rafael Cançel Miranda High School. Tony Ortiz, the father of the valiant Prisoner of War, Ricardo (Dickie) Jimenez sang some original compositions in the traditional "decima" style. A message from the Eleven Prisoners of War, written by the heroic comrade, Carmen Valentin was also read.

CENTRO L.U.I.S. OPENS IN DENVER

The L.U.I.S. Community Center was dedicated on Friday, October 3, 1980.

More than a hundred people from the immediate community attended this event. The Center was named after the Chicano/Mexicano activist Luis Jr. Martinez and as dedicated to the memory of all the companeros of the Chicano/Mexicano movement, specifically the Boulder Twelve, Ricky Romero and Carlos Zapata.

The event was very successful with representatives of the different areas of occupied Mexico namely Texas and California. Also present was comrade Ernesto Chacon of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a delegation from Chicago.

Speakers included comrade Ricardo Romero of the Chicano Commission of the M.L.N., Marcos Martinez from the Colorado Committee Against Repression, Guillermo Suarez from the California Committee Against Repression, Daniel Solis of the Texas Committee Against Repression. Jose Lopez, National Coordinator of the M.L.N. also spoke and presented a poster of the Eleven Puerto Rican prisoners of war to the Center.

Beloved Comrades,

From aztec lands occupied by the same enemy of our nation equally invaded, I extend to you the strongest revolutionary embrace and reiterate our unconditional solidarity and full support to your position of Prisoners of War.

Your determination and courage are seeds, germinated in the teachings of El Maestro: "The homeland is courage and sacrifice."

The empire recognize in you their inevitable disaster, and in you our people regain their dignity and prove their strength to overcome slavery.

I am honored to have compatriots of such calibre and stature as you - not few have sacrificed all for the love of our people and the desire for liberty and justice! The empire stumbles against a People who refuse to die, and tembles at the thought of how that struggle will culminate.

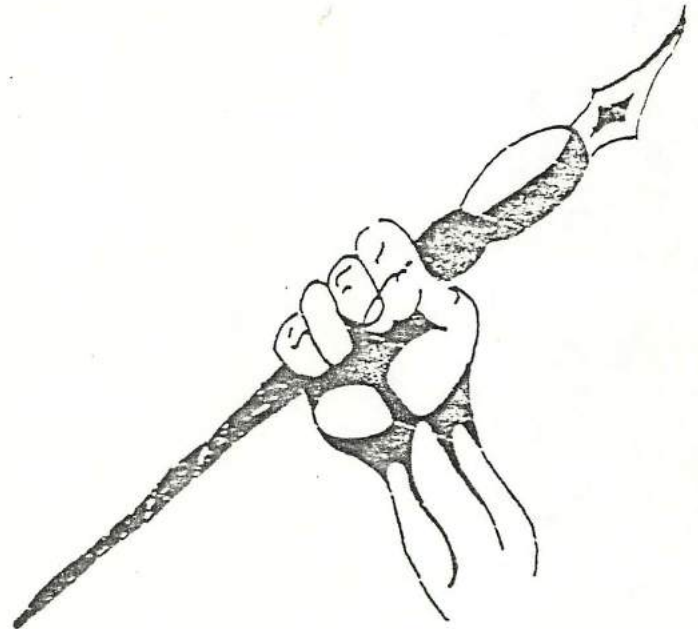
We will not rest until you are free and the homeland is sovereign. With this renewed commitment we celebrate your valuable contribution in the liberating process of our homeland. In every forum, demonstration, or meeting where our cry for liberation is raised, our voices will be the strongest and from behind bars we will continue to attack the enemy until victory. Never in history have walls and bars contained the irreversible desire for liberty and justice of oppressed Peoples.

Take good care of yourselves- your are of incalculable value to our struggle- and also a constant threat to the empire.

With all revolutionary fervor and much love,
for the redemption of our homeland.

Your Sister,
Nydia Ester Cuevas Rivera

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



My Beloved Comrades,

I extend a revolutionary salute and embrace from the most profound depths of my heart. Upon visiting my husband I did not know the surprise and happiness that awaited me. To be able to see you, get to know you, and know that there existed an indestructible collectivity, when on that April 4th there was born a new kind of man and woman, that could never be smashed, liquidated or molded in a fire. I felt the same way that day, that Dona Consuelo felt upon her visit. To enter into a yanki jail full of comrades and know that within their hearts there exists thorns that every day would penetrate and cause pain. When we saw you, Dona Consuelo and I felt that it was like being amongst good friends having a happy reunion. You mean everything to us; the courage and the strength to continue, the love and tenderness which we feel for our county. It is people like you that guide us and open our eyes; that educate, and show us the way. I felt proud of my husband being incarcerated with you. In what better company could he be, so loved and respected by the Puerto Rican people? Here, outside of those wretched bars that detain my sisters and brothers, we are working hard. We shall let the entire world know there are Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. Well comrades, receive an embrace and a kiss.

Helen

UNTIL FINAL VICTORY !!
THIS STRUGGLE WILL REACH A PEOPLE'S WAR AND WE WILL OPEN THEIR EARS WITH
BULLETS!!

FREE QUEBEC POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Taken from the Draft Programme of the General Amnesty Movement, Quebec

During the '60s (throughout Quebec) in response to the age-old problem of flagrant injustice and national oppression, a vast protest movement developed. The national movement in Quebec flowered and succeeded in mobilizing a combination of political and social forces aimed at putting an end to this situation of oppression.

The Front de Liberation du Quebec was one of these forces. As was the case with a number of other groups and organisations in Quebec, the F.L.Q. fought against the political, economic, cultural and linguistic discrimination that had become official following the Laurendeau-Dunton commission. The F.L.Q.ers were distinguished from the others by their conviction that only armed struggle could answer to the institutionalised violence of the Canadian state; their actions are well known. However, independently of the judgement that each of us may have in 1980, what should our attitude be in the face of the repression inflicted upon those fighters today.

The Canadian Constitution does not recognise the 'political crime' and therefore, the existence of political prisoners. What then are the facts?

When an individual carries out certain actions for political motives; when he states it in court; when the court recognises the same fact and accordingly hands down explicitly long prison sentences for the same reasons; and when in prison, the individual is considered a 'special case' by the authorities, can it still be claimed that there are no political prisoners in Canada?

Since 1963, every trial of an F.L.Q.er has been a political trial. One example is sufficient proof. In sentencing Pierre Paul Geoffroy, the former chief justice, Andre Fabien said . . . "I admit . . . that Pierre Paul Geoffroy is not, in the real sense of the words, a common law criminal . . . Geoffroy has a political ideal—it is his inalienable right—in which success can only be accomplished by terrorist acts. Therefore, he represents a serious danger for the society at the present moment."

Since 1963, F.L.Q.ers have served exemplary sentences, maximum sentences, and they have been almost unanimously refused freedom on bail while awaiting trial. Many times, the courts have unscrupulously bypassed the criminal code of Canada; for example, the trial in absentia of Paul Rose, the refusal of Habeus Corpus, and the refusal of the plea.

In prison, the F.L.Q.ers must undergo special conditions because of their special status.

"In your case, comments by the preventive security are required since your F.L.Q. allegiance puts you in the category of the special cases."

This letter from the Canadian Penitentiary Services was written on September 4, 1975 in answer to Rejean Tremblay's request to change institutions.

Among other things, this 'Special case' status means that F.L.Q.ers are kept in maximum security institutions up to 3 times the normal length. This is a unique situation in Canadian prisons. It also means that F.L.Q.ers are kept up to 12 months 'incommunicado' despite their good disciplinary record, it means that their freedom on parole is indefinitely suspended; it means also that they must undergo any number of cruelties such as nude searches, uncontrolled search of prison cells, frequent transfers from cell to cell, from block to block, from one maximum to another (destabilisation measures), seizure of legal documents and of personal notes and documents, removal and deprivation of books according to the political climate outside or according to the mood of the administrators, and difficulties in meeting with lawyers when the lawyers are not completely forbidden entry.

Those who finally reach conditional liberation are subjected to a series of special restrictions of a purely political character; prohibition from participating in public meetings, from joining legal or political parties or organisations; or in certain situations, the prohibition from giving interviews with journalists, or from publishing written statements that relate in any way to the charges or the events that led them to prison—which, in fact, refuses them the right to explain publicly the motives for their actions, the nature of their past and present political involvement, in other words to maintain for as long as possible the official version of the facts.

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They are refused the most elementary political rights that all citizens have and that all ex-prisoners have. Over and above all this must be added the regular police harassment, the searches, the intimidation, the provocations and even the threats. Family members of F.L.Q.ers are also victims of all kinds of intimidation.

Thousands of Quebecers have regularly supported the democratic organisations that have protested against these repressive and restrictive measures since 1963 and have demanded the liberation of the political prisoners in Quebec. There has been the "Comite Vallieres-Gagnon," "Le Mouvement pour la defense des prisonniers politiques au Quebec," "Le Comite pour la liberation de Pierre-Paul Geoffroy," and "Le Comite d'information sur les prisonniers politiques" and others.

Despite continued efforts over the last 15 years to reveal and stop the discrimination, the intolerance, and the injustices committed against the Quebec political prisoners, several of them are still rotting in prison in the most intolerable conditions and are systematically refused their most democratic rights (conditional liberation, for example). Not to be forgotten are those who are still forced to live in exile, in conditional and supervised freedom, or with an open legal record.

This deplorable situation can not be tolerated by anyone who hopes to live in a free and democratic society. In addition, all activities in any way associated to the F.L.Q.ers have stopped and there is no proof of any resurgence of the F.L.Q.

It is also particularly urgent and necessary, in the present political situation when the people of Quebec are called on for the first time in their history to decide on their collective future, that we demand and attain the immediate suppression of all injustices, of vengeful charges and measures imposed on the militants of the F.L.Q. who have personally risked everything in order to put an end to national and social injustices.

Many times in the history of the world, governments have accorded amnesty to their political opponents. Can a democratic regime, or one that claims to be democratic, refuse such an amnesty?

CALL!

The fact that militants of the F.L.Q. from 1963 to 1972 are still forced to rot in prisons, to live in exile, in conditional liberation or with an open legal record because they rose up against the national oppression of the Quebec people, whatever we think of the means used, is a scandalous situation that must end immediately.

Therefore, the General Amnesty Movement (G.A.M.) calls on all citizens and democrats, all democratic, popular and workers' organisations, all workers within Quebec and around the world to join our ranks, to sign and to have others sign the petition for general amnesty for members of the Front de Liberation du Quebec from 1963 to 1972.

General Amnesty: a victory that has become an urgent necessity; in the name of Justice and of History.

The G.A.M.

Paul Rose

Born in the working class neighbourhood of Saint-Henri, Paul spent his childhood in Ville Jacques-Cartier (now known as Longueuil). At the age of 12, working as strawberry corer at 'Raymond confitures' Paul and his young comrades organised a strike that was eventually successful to win a higher rate per basket. During the winter he continued his studies at the secondary level while on weekends he did house work at the "Montreal Tourist Court." Following secondary school, Paul started at the College Ste-Marie. In order to pay his way through school, Paul worked as a longshoreman at the Montreal port in the summers. In the fall of 1966, while still at school, he started teaching Mathematics and French, and during the following two years he worked as a child care worker with inadapted children. In 1968, he passed his B.A. in Political Science.

In 1968, following a beating by the Police during the Saint-Jean Baptiste celebrations in Montreal, he met Jacques Lanctot in a police paddy wagon. Together during the summer, Paul and Jacques collected and prepared testimonies about the beatings that took place on June 24 of that year. The work was published in a book called 'Lundi de la Matraque'/'Monday of the Beating'. Out of one of these testimonies came the explosive document entitled 'Taire des hommes.' (A play on words: Taire des hommes, to silence men=Terre des hommes, Man and his world. It was the year following Expo 67.) Paul was very active in the movements to

(cont. on pg. 12)

DEDICATION OF RICARDO FALCON LAW OFFICE

The Ricardo Falcon West Town Community Law Office was officially dedicated in Chicago on September 20, 1980.

The law office is named after the courageous Chicano/Mexicano leader, Ricardo Falcon. Louita Lujan, of the Colorado Committee Against Repression, spoke of the exemplary life led by this great fighter who lost his life at the hands of a white facist North-american in New Mexico in 1972. Over 150 people attended the dedication.

The following is a publication of the special message from the comrade Juan Antonio Corretjer received during the dedication ceremony.

"The Liga Socialista Puertorriquena extends solidarity at the inauguration of the West Town Law Office under the invocation of the name Ricardo Falcon, we salute the right of the Chicano/Mexicano people towards its reunification with a revolutionary and socialist Mexico. We salute the Chicano/Mexicano Commission of the Movimiento De Liberacion Nacional (M.L.N.) and their revolutionary unity with us, your Puerto Rican brothers.

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION!

The Ricardo Falcon West Town Community Law Office is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to serve and assist our community in all legal matters. For more information, please call 278-6706.

**WEST TOWN
COMMUNITY
LAW OFFICE**

SERVICIOS EN ESPAÑOL

278-6706

VIGIL FOR THE ELEVEN

Hundreds of boricuas, Chicano-Mexicanos and Afro-americans participated in a march through the streets of Chicago in support of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War on Monday, August 25, 1980.

The Chicago chapter of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War sponsored the vigil, which began in front of the Angel Rodriguez Cristobal Bookstore, at 8:00 p.m. at the corner of Western and Potomac Avenues. Shouting slogans such as "The valiant F.A.L.N. your people are present," "This struggle will reach peoples war," "The F.A.L.N. alive and well, the F.B.I. can go to hell," and "This struggle will not be contained by bullets nor jail," the demonstrators marched through the heart of the Puerto Rican community of West Town for more than two hours. The march continued through the Afro-american community, where 300 people joined the demonstration and marched for more than a mile, while the police nervously directed traffic allowing the demonstrators to march in the streets. There has never been such an enthusiastic demonstration of solidarity on behalf of oppressed peoples, perhaps in the history of Chicago. It was a feat never before imagined. Upon reaching Cook County jail at 26th and California, residents from the Chicano/Mexicano community joined the crowd to exchange slogans with the heroic Prisoners of War and other inmates. The event was unforgettable. Revolutionary songs led by comrade Marta Rodriguez, were sung. The crowd continued to chant slogans long afterwards. The cultural act presented by dance groups from the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) of Northeastern IL. University and the Rafael Cancel Miranda High School took place directly in front of the jail. The vigil which lasted 14 hours commenced at the end of this cultural act.

The announcement of the sentencing of the companeros and companeras by one of the lawyers, along with the reading of the statement of the 11 patriots to the people, gave end to the vigil. The statement of the 11 called for the creation of an anti-imperialist revolutionary Block.

(cont. from pg 10)

occupy colleges and universities. In June, 1969, he participated in the organisation of the June 24 St-Jean Baptiste demonstration. During the summer he put all his savings into a project at Perce where the first People's youth hostel in Quebec was established, known as the "Maison du peheur." The objective was to make the Quebec tourist sites available to the people of Quebec and not only to the passing American tourists. In the fall of 1969, he participated in the campaigns against Bill 63, at Gaspé and at Québec City, as well as in the campaigns for the right to French schools in Saint Leonard and the Movement for a 'McGill français.' He worked on the French edition of the McGill Daily as well as at its distribution. He was involved in the large demonstrations against Bill 63 in Québec City, in St-Leonard, at McGill, for the 'Liberation du Taxi' at Dorval and with the strikers at Lord and Sons.

At the end of 1969 and early in 1970, there was a general offensive of all the reactionary forces to block the popular democratic channels. For example the by-law against demonstrations, the systematic destruction of local citizens' and workers' committees, the general harassment and destabilisation of popular organisations such as illegal searches and warrants to arrest the principal representatives of the organisations, the famous Brinks coup, etc.

Paul became a militant of the Front de Liberation du Quebec and participated in the events of October 1970 as a member of the Chenier cell. He was arrested on December 28. His trial started on January 25 and on March 14 he was sentenced to life in prison for the death of Pierre Laporte. The sentence was upheld by the Court of Appeal even though he had undergone his trial 'in absentia' in a police station that had been transformed to military base (Parthenais) and despite the fact that during Francis Simard's trial it became evident from the testimony of Richard Therrien (now a lawyer) Colette Therrien, and Francine Belisle during the proof by the crown, that Paul Rose was at the Queen Mary Street apartment the 16th and the 17th of October, the eve and the day of the death of Pierre Laporte.

For nine years Paul has been held in the Federal Penitentiaries in the most intolerable conditions which have included many administrative transfers from the Archambault maximum and the special unit super-maximum corrective cells of the Old pen St-Vincent de Paul; in all, 8 years of maximum and super-maximum, of which two years were spent in complete seclusion in the segregation Block 1, in a cell 4 feet wide without a window. All of this did not prevent him from participating actively in the strike in the old pen in 1976 or from participating in the Inmates' Committee at the Archambault Institute. Following the signing of petitions by more than 500 inmates at St-Vincent de Paul and at Archambault, Paul was taken out of Block 1 and transferred to Archambault in the middle of summer 1978, and then to the medium security institute of Cowansville in the fall of 1978.

Paul has been eligible for daily leave on parole since December 1977. The federal Commission for conditional liberation, after several long delays, refused him leave because, according to the Commission, "Paul Rose must be observed in a medium security institution for a while because he has only recently begun to function in the regular programs." This argument reveals the complete cynicism of the Commission. It is known that Paul Rose has been held for 'administrative reasons' in maximum and super-maximum institutions even though he has not even the most minor report against him, and that he has been subjected to more than 15 administrative transfers which has had the effect each time of making his transfer to a medium security institute less accessible.

At the Cowansville medium, where he has been for more than 13 months, he is continually refused the right to run for the Inmates' Committee and his right to circulate freely has been limited to the strict minimum. In addition, the director of the penitentiary has refused to allow him even temporary outings with an escort until the Federal Commission has recommended a programme of temporary outings without escort. But the commission refuses to make such a recommendation until Paul has benefitted from temporary outings with an escort. In other words, they have him in a vicious circle. Until this day, after 9 years of prison, Paul has not even had one temporary outing.

Pierre-Paul Geoffroy

Pierre-Paul Geoffroy was a militant in the Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale (R.I.N.) in the Mauricie district (Trois Rivières) between 1964 and the dissolution of the R.I.N.

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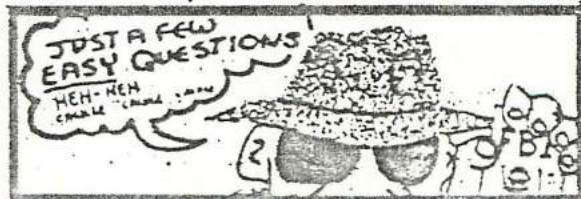
CARLOS NOYA MEMBER OF THE L.S.P., REFUSES TO COOPERATE WITH GRAND JURY

Carlos Noya, along with two other independentists, Carlos Rosario Pantojas, and Francisco Gonzalez, appeared before a Federal Grand Jury investigating the attack by the clandestine organizations in Sabana Seca on Thursday, October 9, 1980. The three refused to cooperate. Carlos denounced the grand jury, while distributing his written statement of noncollaboration. The Chairman of the Grand Jury, realizing that their efforts were in vain, and that the comrade would not cooperate, excused Carlos from the hearing.

The Grand Jury again incarcerated Carlos Rosario Pantojoas, the same day that Carlos Noya and Francisco Gonzalez were excused. We understand this as a move to continue their futile investigation and to unleash their repression. As Juan Antonio Corretjer, Secretary General of the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena stated: "Under the actual circumstances so near the colonial elections, with 800 Marines stationed in Juana Diaz, the subpoena of Noya constitutes an act of juridical - military terrorism against independentists in particular, and Puerto Rican people in general."

We denounce all grand juries as instruments of repression, and extend our congratulations to comrade Noya, and at the same time extend our support and solidarity to Carlos Rosario Pantojas.

As of this writing, we have learned from Don Juan Antonio Corretjer, that Carlos Noya has been given a subpoena deuces tecum to appear before the Grand Jury. Carlos is scheduled to appear on Wednesday October 22, and consequently will be incarcerated. Carlos you have our unconditional support.



WE ARE ALERT

We call to the attention of our struggling people the latest events of vital importance to our people in the United States, as well as in Puerto Rico.

First- we denounce the inhuman treatment and continued harassment of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War particularly the women comrades imprisoned at Dwight Correctional Center. We call upon our people to denounce this mistreatment by way of a telegram and letter campaign to the prisons and politicians who solicit our votes, while abusing our heroes. We specifically demand the immediate transfer of Prisoner of War, Dylcia Pagan, who is being forced to work in the prison kitchen although the authorities are aware of her spinal condition. Address telegrams to: Linda Geisen, Warden, Dwight Correctional Center. Box C, Dwight, IL 60420.

We also denounce the harassment to which the families, friends, and attorneys of Prisoners of War, Ricardo Jimenez and Adolfo Matos are being subjected. The comrades are completely isolated from each other and visitors cars are thoroughly searched by prison officials prior to allowing the visit.

Denounce this harassment by sending telegrams to: Mr. Di Robertis, Warden, Stateville Correctional Center. P.O. Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434.

Second, we call upon our people to keep their guard up, because the Carter plan to send tens of thousands of Cuban refugees to Puerto Rico has the intention of intensifying the process of destruction of our nationality.

While hundreds of thousands of Boricuas are forced to abandon their homeland due to unemployment, the Cubans many of them anti-Puerto Rican are welcomed. During the past few days in Puerto Rico, two independentists have been assassinated, two have disappeared and four have been imprisoned (two for refusing to testify before a Grand Jury investigating the Sabana Seca action). This situation clearly indicates the intentions on the part of the United States government, and the recent move of President Carter proves that this wave of repression will intensify since this move will provide a base for expansion of right-wing terrorism, who operating under the direction of the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. will attack and assassinate our people.

AWAKEN BORICUA, DEFEND WHAT IS YOURS

(cont. from pg. 12)

in 1968. Once he became won to the national struggle, Pierre-Paul became rapidly interested in the conditions of the working class in Quebec that was exploited by the local petty bourgeoisie, by the Canadian Bourgeoisie, and by American imperialism. The actions of the F.L.Q. in 1968 and 1969, at which time Pierre-Paul belonged, are ample proof. A small number of bombs against the symbols of Anglo-Saxon domination of Montreal, numerous actions against capitalist enterprises that left workers rotting on strike for months on end, and a super explosion at the Montreal Stock Exchange, the image of the alliance of the capitalist forces in the West end of Montreal.

Pierre-Paul was arrested in March 1969 by the anti-terrorist squad, and following a guilty plea on 129 charges (fabrication, conspiracy and setting of bombs, and theft of dynamite), he was sentenced by the judge Andre Fabien to the longest sentence of life imprisonment in the history of the Commonwealth. The extraordinary repression that the bourgeois justice used aimed to make Pierre-Paul an example. One year later, the F.L.Q. acted again, calling among other things for the liberation of all of the Quebec political prisoners. As was the case with his other F.L.Q. comrades, Pierre-Paul was put in isolation in the Special Corrective Unit under the pretext that there was a revolutionary plot to liberate them from the federal prisons by military means. The goal was to crush them physically and mentally by putting them in cells 23½ hours out of 24.

In 1971, he was transferred to the Archambault institute. His militant activity in the Inmates' Committee during the strike in the spring of 1976 led him to be detained in maximum security even though he was eligible for daily parole since 1973.

Since 1976, he is eligible for complete conditional parole; but, as with other F.L.Q.ers, he has been left waiting. He was refused a transfer to a medium security prison on the pretext that he did not mix enough with the other inmates and that he maintained ties with his F.L.Q. comrades. The facts prove the contrary. He was secretary to the Inmates' Committee of Archambault during the strike in 1976 when the administrators reproached the F.L.Q.ers for "having infiltrated the strike and having aroused the 400 inmates." This is the kind of contradiction that smothers the Canadian Penitentiary service.

Pierre-Paul requested a transfer last November to the provincial prison of Orsainville in order to continue his studies at Laval University in Quebec City. The Canadian Penitentiary Service refused this request straight away.

In addition, he had to face the commissioners in March 1980 without the slightest hope of a full liberation since a decision last year ruled that he could only request a daily liberation in 1980. Only in April 1981—according to this decision—will he be able to request full parole. What pretext can we expect then?

Jacques Lanctot

Jacques was born on November 5, 1945 in Montreal, the third child of ten. He grew up in the Rosemont area of Montreal. At the age of 17 he received a suspended sentence for having thrown a Molotov cocktail at a military manege on Craig Street in downtown Montreal.

He finished his studies in Letters at the Classical College of St-Ignace. After a few years in the work force he went back to school. He has 14 years of schooling.

During his school years and after he held several different jobs before beginning as a teacher at the Girouard School in St-Hyacinthe where he taught French from 1966 until the fall of 1968. In December 1968 he voluntarily gave up his post as a teacher in order to continue his studies. He later became manager of the Vendome Cinema for 10 months until it was sold to a chain that replaced all of the employees by its own employees.

In 1968, during the St.-Jean Baptiste demonstrations, he was brutally beaten by Drapeau's police. Jacques met Paul Rose at this point. Together they collected testimony of people who were beaten on that June 24 and they published the testimony in a book entitled "Le lundi de la matraque" (Monday of the beating) in 'Parti Pris.'

In the same year he became a taxi driver and became active in the Taxi liberation movement that was fighting against Murray Hill Bus Company and the monopoly that this company had on transport to and from the airport. During that fight he met Marc Carboneau. Both of them were injured by bullets during the demonstration against Murray Hill at its warehouse on Guy Street in Montreal on October 7, 1969.

He was actively involved in many demonstrations such as the McGill francias, Murray Hill, Lapalme, Bill 63, and St.-Leonard, etc.

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In 1970, he participated in the October events as a member of the Liberation cell. In December he was exiled with his wife Suzanne and their son Boris to Cuba. He was quick to become useful and active in the Cuban society. He was a volunteer in the harvest of sugar cane, a fruit picker, a labourer in the construction of housing in Havana, an apprentice electrician in the construction of a hospital, and translator for the newspaper Granma.

In 1974 he went to Paris with his family that now included Olga, born in Cuba. While they were in France, Jacques and Suzanne had a third child, Agathe.

Jacques then followed an 8-month course as an accountant, following which he worked in the field for several years before working for L'ASSEDIC until he returned to Quebec in January, 1979. In November 1979, after 8 years exile, he was sentenced to 3 years in prison for his participation in the events of October 1970.

Francis Simard

Francis was born on June 2, 1947 to a family of 4 children in the region known as Abitibi. Until the age of 6 his family was at Baie-St-Paul, after which they moved to Ville Jacques-Cartier (Longueuil) so that his father could work as longshoteman in the Montreal port. When he finished secondary school, Francis went to the Montreal Technical School and then worked for a year as an apprentice-electrician for the CNR. During a trip to Europe, he worked for 6 months as a porter in a London hotel. Back in Quebec he worked as a child care worker at the Regional Centre Gerard-Filion. In the summer of 1969, he participated in the development of the 'Maison de pecheur' at Perce in the Gaspé area.

Francis began his political activity in 1966 with the R.I.N. and then with the P.Q. In 1970, he was secretary in the riding of Taillon. He was active in several different independence movements and progressive movements in Montreal such as the 'Mouvement pour l'integration scolaire' before becoming a member of the F.L.Q.

His political commitment to fight colonialism and exploitation led him to participate in revolutionary activity including the October activities in 1970. He was a member of the Chenier cell. He was found guilty of the murder of Pierre Laporte by the bourgeois and colonial courts and, following a mock trial that was clearly a political trial, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Francis has been eligible for daily parole since December 1977 but we maintain that he should be freed now. Francis figures among the 'Patriotes' who have contributed the most to advance the cause of independence and of socialism, the just cause towards which Quebec is irreversibly headed.

Robert Hudon

Robert Hudon was born in May 1944. He has spent more than 13 years in prison.

In 1963, at the age of 19, he was struck by the excessively repressive measures invoked by the coroner against the members of the F.L.Q. One of the founders of the F.L.Q. was his older brother Gabriel Hudon. He became active immediately and joined the 'Armée de Liberation du Quebec. (F.L.Q.).

He was arrested in May 1964 and sentenced to 8 years in prison. In December 1967, after 43 months of prison, he was freed on the principal condition that he stayed clear of his ex-F.L.Q. friends.

In May, 1970, along with his brother Gabriel, Rejean Tremblay and Andre Lessard, Robert was found guilty of armed robbery in St.-Calixte. Their goal was to finance F.L.Q. cells. He was the first to appear before the courts in this case. The trial took place between September 28 and October 8, 1970. James Cross was kidnapped on October 5, and Robert's name was on the list of political prisoners that were to be freed in return for James Cross. Robert was found guilty and the Judge Lamer sentenced him on October 28, 1970 to 20 years in prison, and \$5,000 fine or 3 years more.

Robert was secretly imprisoned at the Bordeaux prison and was prevented from appealing the decision. It was only in 1973 that his appeal was heard. The sentence was upheld except for the fine. Even though the other trials have taken place in the meantime, resulting in a sentence of only 10 years for Rejean Tremblay, the only person found guilty of armed robbery at St.-Calixte, the judges claim that there is no relation between the 20-year sentence and the October Crisis. Judge Lamer explained the severe sentence by saying, "I did not wish to punish Robert Hudon, I only wanted to protect society." Since that time, Robert has been in several different federal penitentiaries: St.-Vincent de Paul, Ste-Anne des Plaines, in maximum security and finally the medium security institute of Cowansville.

(cont. on pg. 17)

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Robert has been eligible for conditional release since 1974, but has been refused continually. He will appear again in October 1980. The explanation for these flagrant injustices is very easy. The police report to be presented during the request for release was written by the lieutenant detective, Claude Bourbonniere, one of the policemen named by the Keable Commission for having participated in the publication of false F.L.Q. communiques. He was involved in Robert's trial and in 1970 he was in the anti-terrorist squad of the Montreal police. In addition, the officer in charge of the 'Service des liberations conditionelles,' who was also responsible for writing a report, is an ex-policemen from the Surete du Quebec (Quebec Provincial Police) who was involved in Robert's and his brother Gabriel's arrest in 1963-64. And finally all these reports were to be made to the chief commissioner, Jean-Paul Gilbert, a policeman who was responsible for the formation and the training of Montreal's famous riot squad.

Ten years after, Robert still suffers from the same kind of repression. The latest finding that the commission used to refuse Robert his right to temporary release is the fact that he was found with explosives in his possession in 1963, 17 years ago, despite the fact that he has served a sentence for that charge.

JUDICIAL FARCE

In two separate trials that lasted to what amounted to less than two days each, all white Cook County juries found Alicia Rodriguez, Luis Rosa, Altredo Mendez, Ricardo Jimenez, Lucy Rodriguez Carmen Valentin, Elizam Escobar, Dylcia Pagan, Adolfo Matos and Carlos Alberto Torres, guilty of various charges ranging from armed robbery to illegal possession of weapons. All are accused of being members of the F.A.L.N. and all refuse to participate in the illegal trial.

The first trial which started on Tuesday July 8, was that of Luis Rosa and Alicia Rodriguez, charged with armed robbery, armed violence, conspiracy and possession of a stolen vehicle.

However from the very beginning, Assistant States Attorney Michael Ficaro made it clear that what was on trial was their roles as fighters for Puerto Rican independence. Ficaro stated his opening statement by pronouncing the full name of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional Puertorriquena (FALN) both in Spanish and in English. He told the all white jury that "all law abiding citizens are the enemy of the F.A.L.N."

For the next two days, what followed was a parade of F.B.I. agents, policemen and members of other repressive agencies. Each of their testimonies focused on the revolutionary roles of Luis and Alicia and the FALN. F.B.I. agent Thomas Deams presented a chronological history of FALN activities over the last six years, including the take over of the Carter Mondale campaign headquarters in Chicago.

Lacking any real evidence the state went as far as to present as evidence, a calendar of Puerto Rican and Chicano/Mexicano historical dates, a calendar that is sold and distributed publicly by organizations and book stores. The state also relied heavily of Ficaro's statement to the jury, such as "the FALN has declared war on law abiding, God fearing citizens of this country," obviously attempting to terrorize the jury into an anti-terrorist hysteria.

The state focused primarily on the evidence which the F.B.I. claims to have found in an F.A.L.N. safehouse in Milwaukee. Agent after agent described in detail the house and the contents inside. A table was placed before the jury, which displayed various weapons supposedly belonging to the prisoners.

The mood was set, the parade of officials F.B.I. terrorist experts, the weapons clustered together on the table, and the undisguised suggestive comments of the Assistant States's Attorney Ficaro, convinced more than eager all white hanging juries that these ten prisoners are out to get all "law abiding, god fearing" people in america.

In the case of Luis Rosa and Alicia Rodriguez the jury deliberated for a record time of 54 minutes barely enough time to find their seats. For the other eight, the all white jury deliberated for 2 hours 50 minutes. The verdicts of guilty came as no surprise to anyone.

Throughout the two hearings the Chicago police and Cook County sheriffs forcibly kept community members from entering the courts building and refused to allow spectators into the trials.

Undaunted by the repressive tactics of the police, the community continuously came out to demonstrate their support for the Prisoners of War. The demonstrators had a clear and definite impact on exposing the political nature of the trial. Ficaro, when addressing the jury that they must send "a comunique to the FALN supporters demonstrating outside that their tactics will not be tolerated."

Throughout the trials the 10 patriots remained firm in their positions. Each refused to participate in the illegal trials and went before the judge only to reiterate their position of Prisoners of War. After the trials the 10 patriots released statements reaffirming their commitment to the National Liberation of Puerto Rico.

ACTIVIST CAPTURED

The heroic Chicano/Mexicano Francisco "Kiko" Martinez, was captured by the Border Police on September 19, 1980. "Kiko", as he is known by his supporters in Colorado, was born in Alamosa, Colorado and dedicated his profession as a lawyer to the struggle of the Chicano/Mexicano people. Kiko had been in clandestinity for the past seven years. After his arrest in Arizona, Kiko was transferred to Colorado where he faces a series of charges, including use of explosives.

The following is an article taken from La Cucaracha, a Colorado weekly Chicano newspaper.

Who is Francisco 'Kiko' Martinez, the man federal authorities say they have in custody in Denver awaiting arraignment on felony charges of mailing bombs to a Denver policewoman and a Denver school board member?

Before he was labeled a 'save-the-world zealot' by the Denver media in 1973, Kiko Martinez was publically known only to the many people he helped through his training as a lawyer and to others who knew of his work advocating Chicano rights.

Kiko was born in Alamosa, Colo., on Nov. 26, 1946. In 1971 he graduated from the law school at the University of Minnesota, and was later licensed to practice law in both Colorado and New Mexico.

His action while taking the Colorado bar exam demonstrated the strength of his convictions, as he refused to answer a question on the exam he felt to be insulting to Native Americans. The bar exam consisted of 10 questions, and eight must be answered correctly to pass. Despite his refusal to answer the question, Kiko still passed the difficult test.

His attorney's skills were put to immediate use as he defended many Chicanos against political charges in the courts of New Mexico and Colorado. Kiko worked briefly for Colorado Rural Legal Services, lending assistance to poor people in the rural areas near Alamosa.

"People in the community were rising up to defend themselves at all different levels, and Kiko went into court for people fighting the police, for farmworkers, for the families of murdered Chicanos," a friend said of Martinez. "He was singled out as a threat and the pressure was on to get him, because by breaking Kiko down, they thought they might break other people down."

Police An Issue

In 1973, as it is in 1980, the issue of police brutality sparked many acts of resistance among Chicanos. On the night of March 17, 1973, scores of Denver cops raided the Crusade for Justice in Denver, shooting wildly at people attending a party in the apartments next to the Crusade. The police raid began when Denver cop Carol Hogue saw someone jailwalk near the

Crusade. For this offense, a police assault on the Crusade began.

Luis Jr. Martinez died that night after he was shot by patrolman Stephen Snyder, who was later cleared of any charges for the killing and received a medal for shooting Martinez.

Resistance often took the form of bombs placed in police facilities, government offices, and other locations. Frequent bombings occurred during the early

1970's, and in 1973, Denver police said they had uncovered a plot to mail bombs to, among others, Policewoman Hogue.

At the same time, the grand jury was gaining widespread use as a method of intimidating Chicano activists. In October, 1973, a federal grand jury sitting in Denver issued a seven count indictment against Kiko Martinez, charging him with sending bombs in the mail.

With the indictments came a massive attack against Kiko especially in the Denver newspapers, which published banner headlines about a fanatic on the loose. The stage was set for a final confrontation between police and a radical Chicano the press had labeled a threat to society.

Kiko, sensing he could become the victim of a police attack, withdrew from Denver, preferring exile from his home state to giving himself up to a legal system he had fought for years.

Since 1973, police have grown in force and sophistication. In 1974, Kiko's brother Reyes, who also distinguished himself as a lawyer with ability and desire to fight for his people, died when the car he was in exploded in Boulder. Five other persons died, and one man was crippled, in two separate explosions within 72 hours in Boulder.

Strong beliefs are still held that the two bombings were the results of government attempts to bring Kiko into the open.

Rumors have abounded on Kiko's whereabouts for the last seven years. His infrequent communications with Colorado Chicanos substantiate the belief he is still laboring in behalf of his people.

Kiko Martinez Used Legal Skills to Defend Poor

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR
P.O. BOX 301
2520 N. Lincoln Ave.
CHGO. IL. 60614

Enclosed please find the current issue of INFORME/UPDATE, the official Chicago publication of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

INFORME/UPDATE contains the latest available information concerning the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, their positions, international solidarity, national newsbriefs, as well as information on upcoming events/etc.

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!!!!!!!!

By pledging a monthly contribution, you can help continue the work of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican P.O.W.s and in return for your generous contribution, you will receive INFORME/UPDATE and a copy of LIBERTAD (National Committee newspaper) at no extra cost.

All proceeds go towards the production and distribution costs of INFORME/UPDATE all labor is donated.



PLEASE ACT NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

YES, I would like to help sustain INFORME/UPDATE. Enclosed is my contribution of,
(PLEASE CHECK ONE) \$25.00 \$35.00 \$45.00 MORE

YES, I would like a regular suscription to INFORME/UPDATE. Enclosed is my contribution of \$20.00.

NO, I can-not suscribe or sustain INFORME/UPDATE at this time. Enclosed is my donation of (write in).

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, 2520 N. LINCOLN AVE. P.O. BOX 301 CHGO. ILL. 60614.

POLITICAL / CULTURAL ACT
IN
COMMEMORATION
OF
EL GRITO DE JAYUYA
AND
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE HEROIC
ANGEL RODRIGUEZ CRISTOBAL
AND IN
SOLIDARITY WITH
THE QUEBECOIS STRUGGLE

SPEAKERS..... Representative from the Committee
to Free Political Prisoners.

Jose Lopez, National Coordinator.
Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional
(MLN)

PLACE..... Humboldt Park Civic Association
LeMoyne and California

DATE..... Saturday, November 1, 1980

TIME..... 7:30 P.M. DONATION: \$1.50

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