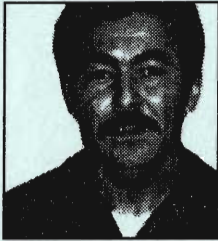


Did You Know That...



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- There are Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and POWs in U.S. prisons
- Most of them have been imprisoned for 15 years
- They have been subjected to psychological, sexual and physical torture

Throughout the world, governments are releasing political prisoners, often at the insistence of the US government. Yet, the United States denies that it holds Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war in its prisons.

Since July 25, 1898, when the US militarily invaded the island of Puerto Rico, there has been continuous resistance to US domination and colonial rule. Thousands of Puerto Ricans have died and have suffered imprisonment, torture and the effects of colonial violence.



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Today, the Puerto Rican people stand as symbols for those who resist. Throughout their history, the people of the Puerto Rican nation have fought against colonialism. The Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war are part and parcel of this continuing resistance. Sentenced to terms 19 times higher than the average sentence handed out in 1980, the year most were arrested, many have already served 15 years in prison. Some have been subjected to sexual, psycho-

logical and physical torture at the hands of their jailers. Oscar López-Rivera, imprisoned at Marion Control Unit Prison for seven years, was recently transferred to Florence Maximum Administrative Federal Penitentiary in Colorado. The transfer of Oscar López Rivera to this new prison, based on a model of near total sensory deprivation which has been condemned by international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, is a completely capricious deci-



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sion, since during his stay at Marion, Oscar had no disciplinary violations on his record.

Others, such as Alejandrina Torres, a member of the United Church of Christ and mother of two daughters, has been attacked and stripped and cavity-searched by male guards. She suffers from a congenital heart condition (mitral valve prolapse) and has also had her arm permanently damaged as a result of being attacked by prison guards.

Because the US is seen as the global guardian of human rights by the rest of the world, it should acknowledge the existence of political prisoners and begin the process of reconciliation by granting them a general amnesty.



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The National Committee is part of an ambitious international campaign to gain amnesty for the Puerto Rican prisoners. This campaign is broad-based and works with different sectors in order for the campaign to be successful.

Representatives of all strata of Puerto Rican society, from the Puerto Rican AFL-CIO to the Puerto Rican Manufacturers Association, from the Pro-Statehood Partido Nuevo Progresista to the Puerto Rican Independence Party, to several former governors of Puerto Rico, to the three Puerto Rican congressional representatives in the US—recently signed an ad in the New York Times on International Human Rights Day urging President Clinton to grant these men and women a general amnesty immediately.

The work to gain amnesty for the prisoners is immense — every effort made brings us one step closer to their freedom.

What You Can Do:

- pass resolutions in religious, academic, business, labor and civic organizations
- get as many letters as possible to Attorney General Reno and President Clinton on your organization's letterhead (with copies to the NC)
- send personal letters to President Clinton
- write to the prisoners
- set up information tables in parks, shopping malls, swimming pools, etc.
- organize a house meeting or video showing
- contact the National Committee for the latest information regarding the Campaign
- send us a donation—what you can afford—and encourage your friends to do the same

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