



# ¡EL COQUI LIBRE!

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## JORNADA DE LA LIBERTAD: BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE, LOVE, COMPASSION AND HOPE!

In the coming weeks, Puerto Ricans on the island and the Diaspora will commemorate the release of two generations of Puerto Rican freedom fighters. On September 10, 1979, after years of organizing and campaigning, the Puerto Rican Nationalist Five were released. Twenty years to that date, and as a result of a similar demand for freedom, 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners were freed after many years of incarceration.

In honor these of historic milestones, the National Boricua Human Rights Network will convene the “Jornada de la Libertad,” a cultural celebration of poetry, theater and dialogue. Beginning on August 27, Jornada events will take place in Detroit, Cleveland, Hartford, Leominster, Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Caguas and Ponce. Many of the former political prisoners will be in attendance and participate in the Jornada.

### Background

In 1898, the United States invaded the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico. Cloaked by the rhetoric of “democracy” and “freedom,” the U.S. established colonial rule over Puerto Rico and came to exercise full control over the economic, political and social destiny of its people. However, principled and unwavering opposition has, without pause, challenged U.S. colonialism of Puerto Rico. This September marks a moment to re-

-flect on and celebrate this history of anti-colonial resistance.

In 1954, a cadre of Puerto Rican nationalists, led by Lolita Lebrón, attacked the U.S. House of Representatives. This act was carried out, not to advocate violence, but to draw attention to the colonial status of their nation. Four years earlier, Puerto Rican nationalist Oscar Collazo would become imprisoned for struggling for Puerto Rico’s independence.

In the early 80’s, a group of 14 freedom fighters were convicted of seditious conspiracy and were given extremely long and disproportionate jail sentences. In all three cases, the United States government sought to make them examples by locking them away to be forgotten.

And yet, the Puerto Rican nation, resilient and hopeful, a nation fully born in all of its natural beauty, in full bloom like the flamboyant, fought for and successfully won their release. After many years of work, campaigning, and struggle, each of these freedom fighters returned to their home. In fact, never in U.S. history has a single movement gained the release of so many political prisoners. Upon their release, each of these individuals returned as mystics and continued to make important contributions, molding clay, painting, writing, loving, caring, sharing and resisting.

### Towards the Release of Our Remaining Political Prisoners

As humans we strive to give order to our world, choosing symbols and numbers as a way to mark our small ripple in this ocean of the universe. September 10 gives us the opportunity to celebrate, share and remember those who have given so much to Puerto Rico’s freedom.



We hope this Jornada will strengthen and invigorate the campaign to free the remaining political prisoners, Oscar López Rivera, who has served 28 years, Carlos Alberto Torres, who has served 29 years, and Avelino Gonzalez-Claudio, who was recently arrested after years of living clandestinely. At this historic moment, National Boricua Human Rights Network calls on churches, organizations and communities both within Puerto Rican community and those in solidarity with the Puerto Rican people to organize and host events from September 2009 to September 2010 so that we may be able to achieve, once again, the freedom of our beloved compañeros.

Check the National Boricua Human Rights Network Website:  
[www.boricuahumanrights.org](http://www.boricuahumanrights.org)

## Adentro El Coqui Libre...

JORNADA DE LA LIBERTAD: BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE, LOVE, COMPASSION AND HOPE!...page 1  
RICARDO ALARCON ON THE YOUNG LORDS AND THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!...page 2  
CASE OF FILIBERTO OJEDA’S DEATH REAPPEARS WITH FORCE...pages 3  
Prisoner Addresses and ProLibertad information...page 4



# RICARDO ALARCON ON THE YOUNG LORDS AND THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!



*Young Lords mural from the 1970s!*

Brothers and sisters,  
Hermanas y hermanos

I wish I could be there physically commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Young Lords. Being that impossible allow me to convey to all of you my thoughts which is the only way for me to be there joining you in this celebration with my heart and soul.

With the birth of the Young Lords the Sixties, that beautiful revolt of a new generation seeking a heaven of love, peace and solidarity on Earth, enter the Latino community in the United States. They were really young, some in their teens, but they showed the way to many others with passionate love for their homeland and their community, with their generous dedication to the struggle that took the lives of some who will live forever in our gratitude.

They are part of my personal history and I always owe a lot to the Lords. In those days I also was a young, the youngest Ambassador to the United Nations. Representing Cuba, almost completely isolated in those days, was a real challenge to me, my wife, my daughter and mother-in-law. We faced a lot of hostility, we felt harassed and discriminated in our daily lives in Manhattan. They – you know who they are – forced us to feel as Puerto Ricans. And we are thankful for that. We are proud to be boricuas from New York.

Defending the Cuban Revolution was not easy there in those days. As it was not easy to demand the independence of Puerto Rico and the liberation of Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebrón, Andrés Figueroa Cordero, Irving Flores and Rafael Cancel Miranda, the five Puerto Rican nationalist heroes whose freedom we were able to win with our sustained efforts.

May I call upon you to rise in solidarity demanding the release of Oscar López Rivera, Carlos Alberto Torres and Avelino González Claudio, Puerto Rican patriots, who deserve to be free as Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llort and René González Schwerert, the Five Cubans being unjustly punished there for fighting US sponsored terrorism against Cuba. Let's build a strong and powerful movement for the freedom of the Cuban Five and the Puerto Rican patriots with the vigor and the passion that the Young Lords taught us.

Latin America and the Caribbean have entered a new epoch in their history in which Cuba is not alone any more. This is the result of many sacrifices of our peoples who fought generation after generation for freedom, independence and justice.

That epoch should bring for Puerto Rico the realization of its sacred right to self-determination and independence.

We will be always united. It was José Martí who anticipated the common destiny of the Antilles “the sister islands that will succumb together or together will be saved”.

Long live the Young Lords.  
¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!



# CASE OF FILIBERTO OJEDA'S DEATH REAPPEARS WITH FORCE

Jesús Dávila (Translation by Jan Susler)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, August 19, 2009 (NCM) – Agents of the United States altered the scene of the death of the Macheteros commander Filiberto Ojeda on September 24, 2005, in the presence of functionaries of the government of Puerto Rico, according to newly available statements from witnesses to the bloody event.

The revelations are not limited to the manner in which they removed objects from the home on the day after they killed the commander of the Boricua Popular Army–Macheteros, with the forensic investigators doing nothing to avoid it or include it in the final report. In addition, an expert witness said that the flow of blood indicated that the body was moved before taking photographs de rigueur prior to removing the body.

The new information emerges, however, in moments when the thorny topic has become a sort of taboo for various sectors of the country. The lack of interest is illustrated by the Bar Association— which at one point conducted its own investigation into the event— and which has maintained silence in the face of a request for a reaction to the verified fact that the Department of Justice altered the final investigation report to eliminate the part where its attorneys affirmed that it was a murder case.

But the new revelations, as well as the silences, indicate that the case of Ojeda's death is a very volatile matter, the evocation of which continues to inflame passions among many people in this island nation which has been a colony of the U.S. since 1898. These passions also emerge when the White House maintains contacts with the pro U.S. parties to review the political condition of Puerto Rico, and there are no indications that independentistas are included in the consults taking place in Washington.

All this contrasts with the Latin American scene, where the figure of Filiberto Ojeda continues to be a convening force, and as recently as this month served as one of the motives for the emergence of the first committee to support the independence of Puerto Rico by citizens of Nicaragua. This marks a

change, as normally such independentista committees outside of Puerto Rico are formed mainly by Puerto Ricans in the diaspora.

Currently, the only official investigation in progress into Ojeda's death is the one being conducted by the governmental Civil Rights Commission, but this entity has made no announcement to indicate whether it has had access to new witnesses. What little is known is that the CRC continues making efforts to bring to Puerto Rico an expert in ballistics, which would indicate that they are still trying to figure out the trajectory of the fatal bullet shot by the agent identified only as "Brian," of the commando group that assaulted Ojeda's house on September 23, 2005.

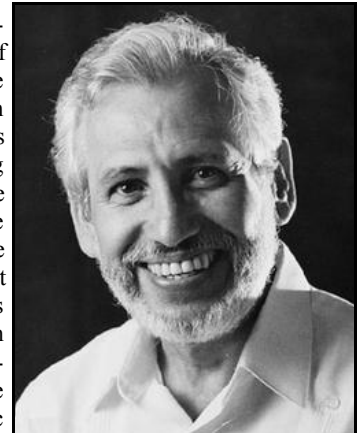
One of the key pieces for the prosecutors to be able to determine that it was an assassination was the decision that from the beginning of the operation, Brian was seeking the angle for the fatal shot, and that he fired the three shots into the front door of the house during the first shooting. Establishing with certainty the trajectory of the last shots could clarify many of the aspects which still remain unexplained.

The attack of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's HRT (Hostage Rescue Team) commando group aborted a process of dialogue which Ojeda had been having for several years through the Catholic church, in which he was exploring the possibility of a pacific procedure for the U.S. to concede independence to Puerto Rico. The Catholic prelate responsible for the dialogue made this known to the FBI.

Ojeda suffered a slow agony and bled to death, while the agents who surrounded his house refused to allow assistance. His body was found by Puerto Rican forensic experts who entered the house the next day, accompanied by FBI agents. At that time, photos were taken of Ojeda, face down with his head next to the living room door.

The new expert testimony reveals the detection of significant blood flow toward the

back, instead of toward the chest, which indicates that during his agony he could have been face up, and not how he was found when the FBI allowed the forensic photographer to enter.



*Filiberto Ojeda Rios!*

The second testimony is equally if not more serious. According to the source who had direct access to the statements, the witnesses said that when it was already assumed that the scene was sealed for forensic examination, members of the U.S. ERT (Evidence Recovery Team) began to remove objects from inside the house, right in front of the Puerto Rican investigators.

There were so many objects removed that, according to the source, it has become virtually impossible to determine where the shots landed inside the house.

The preservation of a crime scene is a basic, routine procedure of forensic investigation, and even more so if police agents are the object of the investigation of the case. In fact, the Puerto Rico Department of Justice took responsibility for assuring, in presenting its final report on the case, that it had been determined that the scene was not altered by U.S. agents.

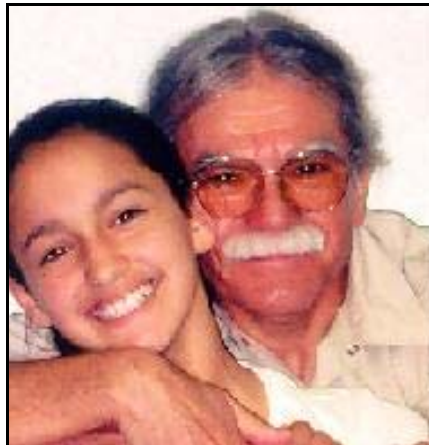
One of the most delicate aspects in the entire affair is determining exactly what was the Puerto Rico government's participation in the whole case, as in February of 2005, it delivered to the FBI the investigative file, which noted the exact coordinates of the place where Ojeda's house was located. During the assault, the Puerto Rican government used its police forces to set up a perimeter of protection for the FBI agents, and cut the electricity to the sector, among other logistical support.



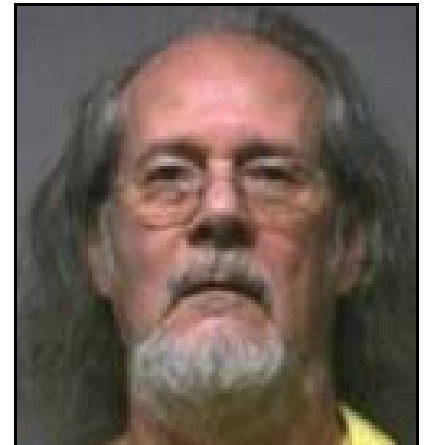
## WRITE TO THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!!



**Carlos Alberto Torres**  
#88976-024  
FCI Pekin  
P.O. Box 5000  
Pekin, IL 61555



**Oscar Lopez Rivera**  
#87651-024  
FCI Terre Haute  
P.O. Box 33  
Terre Haute, IN 47808



**Avelino González Claudio #357422**  
MacDougall-Walker  
Correctional Institution  
1153 East Street, South  
Suffield, CT 06080

### MAKE A DONATION TO PROLIBERTAD

ProLibertad can only do the work it does through the support of all of our allies. Make your tax deductible donation to IFCO/ProLibertad and then mail it to:

**IFCO/ProLibertad**  
**418 w145th St.**  
**New York, N.Y. 10031**

### SEND THE PRISONERS A DONATION

If you want to send a prisoner a commissary donation (money for their general use), then please send a money order (no personal checks) to:

**Federal Bureau of Prisons**  
**The Prisoner's Name AND Prison Number**  
**PO Box 474701**  
**Des Moines IA 50947-0001**

**Print the Prisoner's name and Prison number on the money order as well.**



## ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign has been working for the release of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners for over 10 years. With the release of 11 of the Political Prisoners in September 1999, we have re-dedicated our efforts to securing the freedom of the remaining Puerto Rican political prisoners. Through educational events, lobbying and public pressure work and activities it is our goal to secure the freedom of these patriots whose only "crime" has been the love of their home land, Puerto Rico. We support the release of All U.S. held Political Prisoners, oppose the U.S. colonial control of Puerto Rico, U.S. imperialism throughout the world, and the U.S. military presence in Vieques. CONTACT US AT: [ProLibertad@Hotmail.com](mailto:ProLibertad@Hotmail.com) or call the **ProLibertad Hotline at 718-601-4751**. Check out our website at: [www.ProLibertadweb.com](http://www.ProLibertadweb.com) for campaign updates.