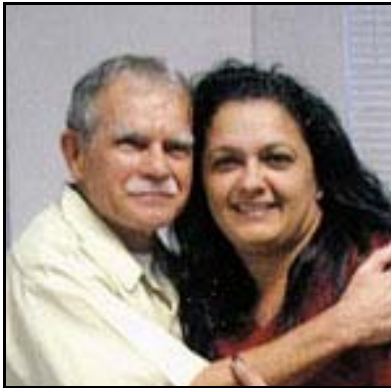




PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONER OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA DENIED PAROLE!



*Oscar Lopez Rivera and his
daughter Catalina!*

Today the U.S. Parole Commission issued its decision in the case of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, stating “Deny parole. Continue to a 15-year reconsideration hearing in January 2026 or continue to expiration, whichever comes first.”

In a decision which ignored the express will of the Puerto Rican people and those who believe in justice and human rights, counting tens of thousands of voices supporting his immediate release, the Commission ignored the evidence establishing that Oscar met all the criteria for parole, and also ignored its own rules in the process. Among these many ignored voices are members of legislatures including the United States Congress; the state legislatures of New York, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania; the city councils and county boards of many locales in the U.S. and Puerto Rico; the mayors of many towns in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including the Association of Mayors of Puerto Rico; bar associations including the Puerto Rico Bar Association, the National Lawyers Guild and the American Association of Jurists; clergy and religious organizations, including the Ecumenical Coalition representing every religious denomination in Puerto Rico; human rights advocates, academics, students, artists, community organizations, and workers.

Oscar, his family, his attorney, National Boricua Human Rights Network in the U.S. and the Comité Pro Derechos Humanos in Puerto Rico want to express our deepest gratitude for the vast support for his release.

Oscar and his attorney Jan Susler will meet next week to discuss the decision. Meanwhile, the National Boricua Human Rights Network in the U.S. and the Comité Pro Derechos Humanos in Puerto Rico will continue the campaign to express to the Parole Commission the depth and breadth of support for Oscar's immediate release.

We advise that people write to Oscar:

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



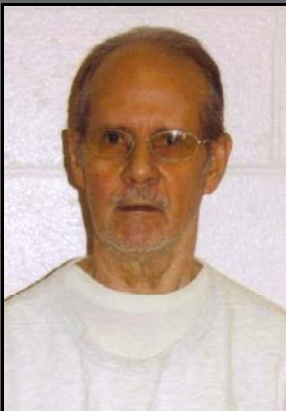
ADENTRO EL COQUI



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AVELINO GONZALEZ CLAUDIO HAS BEEN MOVED TO KENTUCKY



Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Avelino González Claudio has once again been relocated to another Federal Correctional Facility. Avelino is now in the State of Kentucky. He is being provided more adequate health care than in recent times. He is also finally in the general population and able to exercise on a more regular basis. Please keep him in your hearts and minds.

We ask that people write Avelino a letter; he has been a lot of stress and our letters provide the support he needs right now.

Send a letter or postcard to:

Avelino González Claudio
#09873-000
FCI Ashland
PO Box 6001
Ashland, KY 41105

OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO LA CAPILLA

Editor's Note: We are publishing the below message from Oscar López Rivera to the congregation of La Capilla del Barrio. The message was originally supposed to be published as part of La Capilla's celebration of Oscar's birthday, which took place Sunday, January 9, 2011. Oscar emailed the message 4 days before the celebration, but it did not arrive until almost 2 weeks after the celebration.

Saludos cariñosos a todos(as). Deseo para todos(as) un Nuevo Año feliz, de paz, amor y muchos logros. Después de más de 29 años preso a veces creo que muchas de las experiencias que he vivido han sido sueños o pesadillas por su propia naturaleza. Creo que el reto principal que al llegar a la penitenciaría tuve que enfrentar fue como aclimatarme a un medio ambiente tóxico y hostil y poder definir lo que tenía que hacer diariamente para aprovechar al máximo el tiempo. Sabía que el tiempo no lo podía desperdiciar ni permitir que los carceleros se apoderaran del. Porque era irrevocable, y por ende, lo más valioso. Poco a poco aprendí a navegar en un medio ambiente que podía deshumanizarme y convertirme en un zombie institucionalizado. Todos los días, desde que despertaba hasta que me acostaba, tenía una agenda de tareas que pretendía cumplir y así aprovechaba mi tiempo. Siempre había algo nuevo para aprender y para nutrir el cerebro. Leía, escribía, tomaba clases, hacía ejercicios, socializaba con presos con los que compartía afinidades, y mantenía contacto a través del teléfono con seres queridos afuera.

Lo más interesante era que por mucho que me mantenía ocupado el día nunca me daba para cumplir todas que deseaba cumplir. Y durante los 29 años y pico que llevo preso nunca lo he logrado. A veces he creído que lo he logrado y de momento aparece algo que no hice y tengo que dejarlo para el próximo día. El hecho que he podido mantenerme ocupado haciendo cosas que me gusta hacer o cosas que me piden que haga aunque no sean mis favoritas ha sido y sigue siendo lo más que me ha ayudado a lidiar y a sobrevivir las experiencias de todos esos años. Pero ese estilo de vida no es muy diferente al estilo que llevaba cuando estaba en el mundo de afuera. Y todos los días me acuesto dando gracias a la vida por haberme dado tanto y me despierto dando gracias por haber sido bendecido para seguir pa'lante tratando de aprovechar el tiempo al máximo. La vida es una bendición y es lucha toda. Fuertes abrazos a todos(as).



SECOND PHASE OF OSCAR'S CAMPAIGN

On Wednesday, January 5, after a remarkably biased and tainted parole hearing, U.S. Parole Commission hearing examiner Mark Tanner announced he would recommend that Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera be denied parole, and that he either be held in prison until his mandatory release date in 2023 or serve another 15 years before being reconsidered for parole, whichever comes first. Oscar was brought to the hearing handcuffed to a chain around his waist. His attorney Jan Susler's protestations were overruled, with prison staff asserting the warden had ordered the highly unusual measure. Eight Bureau of Prisons personnel constituted an exaggerated and intentionally intimidating presence. Over the vehement objection of Oscar's attorney, Tanner entertained live testimony from four people he characterized as "victims" — a wounded survivor and family members of people who died in the 1975 explosion in New York's Fraunces Tavern — even though Oscar was never accused or convicted of anything related to the explosion. Tanner provided Susler a 7

page letter from Chicago U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, a political diatribe opposing parole, listing acts unrelated to Oscar and unsupported conclusions about his role in the clandestine movement. Susler attempted to bring Tanner's attention to the matter at hand, reciting the criteria for release on parole and demonstrating how the evidence proved that Oscar meets the criteria:

1. That in the past 20 years of prison, he has not been accused of a violating a single prison rule;
2. That his release would not depreciate the seriousness of the offense or promote disrespect for the law; and that release would not jeopardize the public welfare.

The recommendation denying parole was the goal of the right wing, which in the few days prior to the parole hearing, created an environment of lies and innuendos in the media, reminiscent of the right wing reaction to the 1999 clemency. They barraged the Parole Commission with phone calls opposing parole. However, when Oscar's supporters called, the Commission stopped answering the phones.

The NBHRN is mounting a campaign to ask the Parole Commission to reject Tanner's recommendation and to order Oscar's release on parole. We will be asking people to collect signatures on a new letter to the Commission and mail/fax (301) 492-5307.

Sign on to the ProLibertad Petition as well, check out:

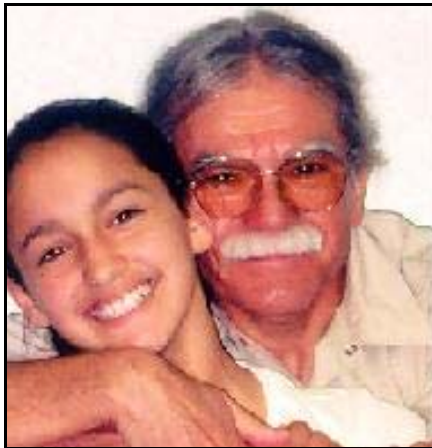
www.ProLibertadWeb.com



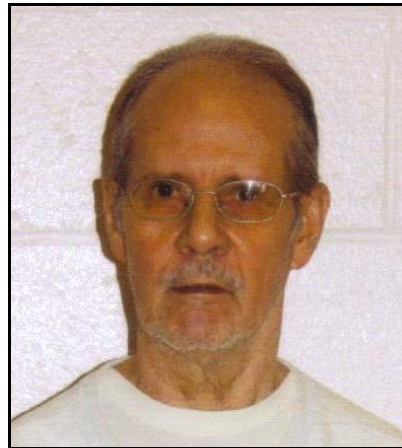
Former Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Ricardo Jimenez (center), Ben Ramos of ProLibertad (on the left), and Ismael Nuñez of ProLibertad (on the right) at the "Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners" workshop at the Left Forum at Pace University in March!



WRITE TO THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!!



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



Avelino González Claudio
#09873-000
FCI Bastrop
P.O. Box 1010
Bastrop, TX, 78602

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, at 718-601-4751, or our website www.ProLibertadweb.com**