



Norberto Gonzalez Claudio

PUERTO RICAN SUSPECT ISOLATED IN JAIL FOR SAFETY!

By MICHAEL MELIA Associated Press (NOTE THE SOURCE)

A 66-year-old Puerto Rican nationalist who complained to supporters about his treatment by "imperialist abusers" as he awaits trial in a 1983 robbery was held apart from other inmates for several weeks because of safety concerns, the U.S. Marshals Service said Friday.

Norberto Gonzalez Claudio, who was captured in May in Puerto Rico, was allowed out of his individual cell at the discretion of his jailers at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Rhode Island until officials completed a routine assessment of potential risks to him and other detainees, said Joseph Faughnan, the U.S. marshal for Connecticut.

"They don't know who he is, what his connections are," said Faughnan, who added that Gonzalez can now mingle more freely with other inmates. "We're responsible if somebody kills you."

Gonzalez is accused of aiding the 1983 robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo armored car depot in West Hartford that was orchestrated by Los Macheteros, a group that claimed responsibility for robberies, murders and bombings in the 1970s and 80s in the name of Puerto Rican independence. The FBI says he still had an active role in the militant group when he was found living alone under a false name in the central hills of the U.S. Caribbean territory after more than a quarter century on the lam.

He pleaded not guilty to federal charges including bank robbery, conspiracy and transportation of stolen money at his May 20 arraignment in U.S. District court in Hartford.

In a jailhouse letter, Gonzalez said he was confined to his cell around the clock. When his family visited on Father's Day, he said, he could only talk to them over a telephone.

"It clearly shows the insensitivity and indifference of these invaders and imperialist abusers," Gonzalez wrote.

He added: "I am strong and full of fight even under these conditions."

The letter was released by a committee in Puerto Rico dedicated to supporting Gonzalez and his older brother, Avelino, who pleaded guilty last year to his role in the heist after more than two decades as a fugitive. Avelino Gonzalez Claudio is serving a seven-year sentence at a federal prison in Ashland, Kentucky.

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ADENTRO EL COQUI



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Linda Alonso Lebron, a committee spokeswoman, said Norberto Gonzalez's son learned about the change in his father's jail status earlier this week. She said supporters are still upset by claims from the inmate that jailers have confiscated his pens, food, clothing and a blanket and that Gonzalez, who does not speak English, does not have enough access to translators. She said the committee made up of the inmate's family, lawyers and representatives of other groups will meet next week to decide how to proceed with their advocacy of the Gonzalez brothers.

"They are freedom fighters for the independence of Puerto Rico," said Alonso, who is the niece of Lolita Lebron, an independence activist who spent 25 years in prison for participating in a gun attack on the U.S. Congress in 1954 and died last summer.

The 1983 heist was the biggest cash robbery in U.S. history at the time. It was allegedly carried out by Victor Manuel Gerena, a Wells Fargo driver recruited by Los Macheteros, and authorities say other members of the group including Norberto Gonzalez helped to smuggle the money out of the United States.

Prosecutors have said Los Macheteros, whose name is translated as "Machete Wielders" or "Cane Cutters," are suspected of using the money to finance bombings and attacks in their push for independence for the tropical island.

¡NOS VEMOS PRONTO!

**Letter from prison by Norberto González
Claudio**

A Fathers' Day Visit:

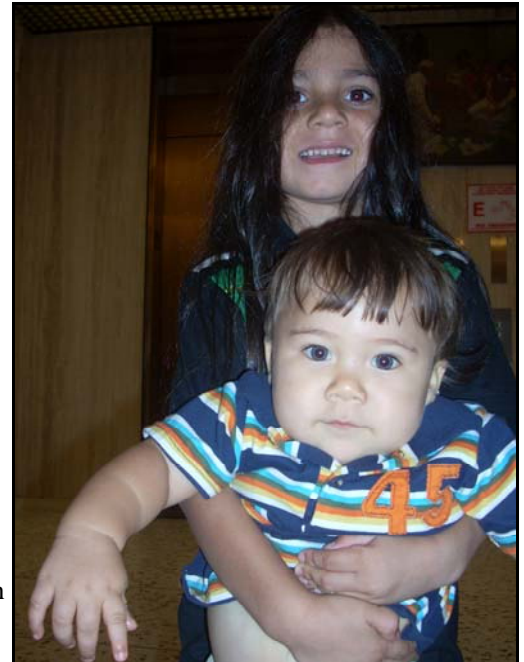
"And grandfather, why can't I be there with you?"

The visit by some of my children, grandchildren and my wife should have been one of beautiful sharing, of beautiful family sharing. And it was that way, to some extent . . .

My girlfriend, wife, lover and comrade (my favorite young person) and more to my daughters and sons, arrived from the Puerto Rican Nation, to visit a husband, father and grandfather to an imperialist prison: Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility. And, do you know what happened? That already the grandfather, father, husband, comrade, Political Prisoner, has been condemned – without trial, without due legal process and without committing any infractions in that prison – in fact I arrived to go directly to solitary confinement – and treated like a complete "criminal" that has to be shut away and isolated for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in a solitary jail cell. In absolute solitude! In absolute solitude! But I am strong and combative even under these conditions. Long live love! Long live life! Long live the class and freedom struggle of our Puerto Rican working class!

In a solitary cell, in solitude and combative. We talked about Fathers' Day. Between 9:30 and 10:00 in the morning, the prison guards came to tell me that I had visitors – in fact, they congratulated me for being a father – they handcuffed me and we went to another cell where they removed my handcuffs and shackled my feet. I sit in a chair, pick up the telephone and in a small computer monitor my family appears. They have to take turns to be able to see me and for me to be able to see them and speak with them.

"And grandfather, why can't I be there with you?" This is the question that my small grandson asks me in his pure and childlike innocence. It is likely that this question reflects the dehumanizing and cruel nature that characterizes the current system in the United States. A visit that should have been one to raise the spirits of a prisoner – that hasn't been tried or condemned – can become another form of torture. And that's the way it is, yet another form of torture, cruelty and insensitivity. It is this type of behavior that one is referring to when you explain or say that the U.S. Empire is cruel, brutal, bloody and dehumanizing. It is clear that we do so without forgetting the invasions, deadly bombings against other nations and the looting and ransacking of these.



***Sebastian and Angel, Norberto's
grandchildren!***

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“And grandfather, why can’t I be there with you?” This points out clearly the insensibility and cruelty of these invaders and abusive imperialists.

When I informed my “counselor” Devonis that on the weekend my family would come to visit and asked if something could be done for me to be able to see my family more closely, the response – cutting and clear – was that nothing could be done.

That it how you live and die in the nation of supposed great democracy and civil and human rights of the first order. Or, who knows, if it’s second or third order . . . Democracy or the falsehood of democracy? Civil and human rights or the falsehood of civil and human rights?

A human being that is accused but not convicted is in solitary or as we say out there, in the hole. Without being convicted but being simply accused.

***YES, SIMPLY FOR BEING ACCUSED!
For being a POLITICAL PRISONER!
FOR BEING A POLITICAL PRISONER!***

***YES, SIMPLY FOR BEING ACCUSED!
For being a POLITICAL PRISONER!***

It’s astounding! THE EMPIRE’S STENCH! IT STINKS AND SEEKS TO MAKE US INSIGNIFICANT AND SMALL . . . IT BRUTALIZES AND TRIES TO DRIVE US MAD!

That is how you live and die in a dehumanizing empire at its hands and at all costs. An empire of terror, of lies and deceit. An empire whose days are already numbered to the benefit of all human beings and for the benefit of humanity and the good of the Planet Earth, OUR LARGER HOME!

May peace, love and wisdom always accompany us!
ALWAYS!

**Norberto González Claudio, 09864-000
Husband, father, grandfather, comrade to
many men and women workers and
POLITICAL PRISONER.**

WE WILL SEE ONE ANOTHER SOON!

***English Translation by Frank Velgara,
ProLibertad Freedom Campaign***



Who is Norberto González Claudio?

Born in Vega Baja on May 27, 1945, the second youngest of 6 siblings: 2 women, Mercedes and María Magdalena, and 3 men, Avelino, Orlando and Wilfredo. He

lived in the neighborhood of Almirante Sur with his mother Cristina Claudio Narvárez and his father Antonio González Vega until he was 7 years old. The family then moved to the neighborhood of Rio Abajo to “the González farm” (his family), where he stayed until he married Elda Santiago Pérez in 1979. Together they had 3 children: Elda Cristina, Susana and Carlos, and they also raised Elda’s sons Pedro and Ramón as their own.

During his childhood, he played and ran around like every child does. His father called him Captain. He always had fond memories of his father, but his mother was someone very special for him. Her serenity, firmness, strength, wisdom, the strength of a working woman that his mother embodied have been his inheritance and his pride. With her he learned love, sensitivity, and simplicity, as well as to not give in to the powerful.

He joined the struggle for social justice and the independence of Puerto Rico in the decade of the 60’s while he was a university student. He was a member of the Federation of Pro Independence Students (FUPI), the Pro Independence Movement (MPI) and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). He got his political training in the Arecibo region. He was known in his town for selling the newspaper Claridad. He had a post on a corner of Betances Street in the center of his town, and put on activities of protest music in the plaza. He actively participated in the Vega Baja’s Garbage Collectors strike in 1970, in the student strikes of 1970 and 1971 at the University of Puerto Rico, and in the protests against the mines in Adjuntas, where he camped out for several months.

He was in clandestinity since 1985 for defending his people, his homeland, his nation, and fighting for socialism because he thinks it is the just economic model for all peoples.

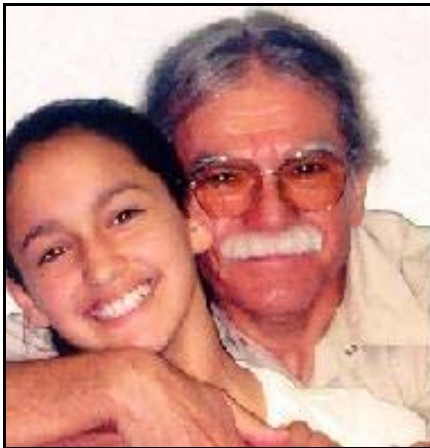
He is in solidarity with Latin American countries in their restorative struggles and with all countries that struggle for their freedom and for socialism. He fervently believes and struggles for patriotic unity. “We must unite on everything we can agree on. Our differences should be left for internal discussions within each organization,” he insists.

He is a poet. He writes of his family, life, the homeland, youth, and his eternal love: his wife, to whom, as if a premonition of his future, he dedicated since the very moment they got married Don Pablo Neruda’s The Letter on the Road.

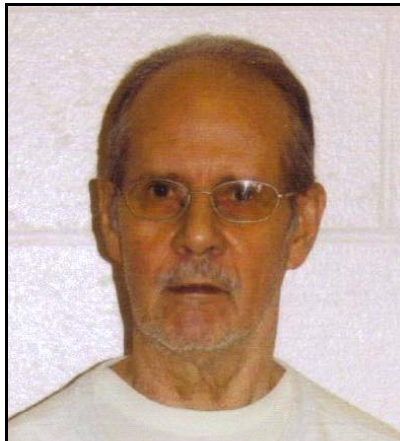
Now, he is captured by the repressive forces of the Northamerican government who seek to criminalize the struggle for the independence of our people and those who defend our Puerto Rican nation.



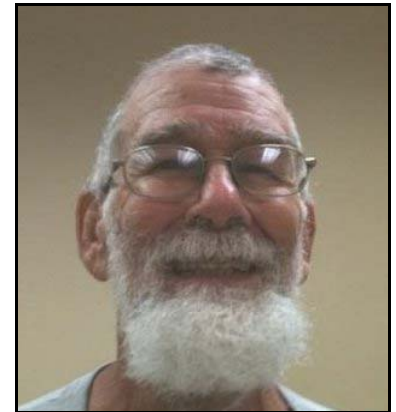
WRITE TO THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!!



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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**