

## **NBHRN & CENTRO SIN FRONTERAS WELCOME CUBA CARAVAN TO PASEO BORICUA**



*Rev. Luis Barrios, of the Pastors for  
Peace Caravan.*

A crowd of 50 enthusiastic well-wishers and supporters greeted Father Luis Barrios and the 22nd Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba last Sunday, July 10 at the Adalberto United Methodist Church. Pastor and activist Emma Lozano began the event with a service and powerful service linking the Cuba Caravan to the struggle to free the Cuban Five, to immigration reform and finally to the campaign to free Oscar López Rivera. Peggy Valdés, the MC and representative from the Chicago Cuba Coalition, then introduced Father Luis Barrios, a former pastor of St. Anne's Church in NYC and professor at John Jay College, spoke eloquently on the need to challenge US policy on Cuba. Peggy then introduced Ricardo Jiménez, former political prisoner and co-coordinator of the National Boricua Human Rights Network.

Ricardo traced the evolution of Puerto Rican political prisoner from the turn of the century to the present, concluding with the present situation of Oscar López Rivera and making a powerful call for solidarity with the campaign to free Oscar, as well as the Cuba caravan and the Cuban Five. Last to speak was Chastity, a young African-American woman that spoke on the program in Cuba that offers free medical school for young people of color in the US, as well as Latin America. Having Successfully finished the program, she is now interning at Alivio Medical Center. A follow up meeting for interested youth is planned for the fall. Centro Sin Fronteras, the Chicago Cuba Coalition and the National Boricua Human Rights Network organized the event.

You can listen to Ricardo's message by going to:  
[www.boricuahumanrights.org](http://www.boricuahumanrights.org)



# CATASTROPHY EXERCISES IN PUERTO RICO

By Jesús Dávila

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, August 2nd (NCM) – With a tropical storm passing through hundreds of kilometers south of Puerto Rico as a coincidental framework, the United States practiced the management of a catastrophe with dozens of thousands of casualties in a simulation that was taken advantage of to announce the designation of a military commander in emergency situations.

The simulation exercise, in which the defense Department and Homeland Security participated with civilian Puerto Rican agencies, was used to deal with the impact of the rains and wind gusts related to tropical storm Emily, which left thousands without electricity and water services in spite of never having touched land.

"We are thinking of the worst case scenarios" stated Governor Fortuno in a press conference and explained that "having thousands of deaths" was "broadly discussed" in the command simulation with the objective of having ready responses to practical situations such as the necessity of morgues to receive so many corpses. In spite of the official statement that the simulation was for a category four hurricane, a catastrophic scenario was included for ten times the magnitude of hurricane Katrina which devastated New Orleans and other regions of the southern U.S.

The virtual scenario, compatible to the legendary eruption of the Krakatoa volcano in 1883 with 36,000 deaths at the end of the XIX century, has no reference in the history of catastrophes that have occurred in this island nation. The records of even the State Agency for Emergency Management state that San Ciriaco hurricane in 1899 left 3,339 fatalities and has been the "the biggest human tragedy Puerto Rico has suffered that we know of."

But this was the "dual commander", Coronel Victor Perez, who last month completed his specialized training at Paterson Air Base in Colorado, headquarters of the U.S. Northern Command which was established following the terrorist attacks in 2001. In fact, Governor Fortuno, as part of a special committee of governors, this past March took part in signing the agreement with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, to establish the system of "dual commanders" in all states and colonies of the U.S. at the Pentagon. The agreement will allow previously designated commanders in all regions, who are knowledgeable of terrain and can assume immediately their functions as military commander both of local as well as those forces sent by the Pentagon in case of emergency, be they due to natural disasters or attacks. This was the third simulation exercise carried out in this nation of almost four million in its territory and colony of the U.S., located in the north eastern Antilles in a strategic place equidistant from Guantanamo and Caracas.

As part of the operation, on Tuesday a plane sent by the Defense Department arrived with "satellite communications equipment". Meanwhile, over 500 Electrical Energy Authority brigades roamed the lightly trafficked roads and highways to take care of the disruptions in supplying energy caused by the real atmospheric phenomenon. At the end of the day, the AEE administration said that close to 18,000 subscribers were left without electricity at some point, but the Independ-

-ent Union of the Electric and Aqueduct Industry (UTIER) reported that the brigades they staffed throughout the whole country pointed out that at least 77,000 were affected.

Also, although many less, thousands were the cases of disruption of water services and at least one river ran over its banks.

The operation also served to detect failures, such as of the new radar of the U.S. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which stopped working and was repaired shortly after. The governor who on the eve had given the day to governmental workers who did not provide essential services or security, had his hands full tending at the same time to the simulation exercises and coordinating the real security tasks and administrating the states compassion towards the poor and needy.

Repeatedly he called on the population to take seriously the dangers of the storm and not to wait to the last hour to go voluntarily to the shelters those who lived in areas prone to flooding or at high risks of collapses, primarily due to unsafe construction on the side of mountains.

The atmospheric disturbance entered the Caribbean Sea at latitude 15,2 North a couple of days back and basically maintained a western trajectory until it became the tropical storm Emily hundreds of Kilometers south. On Tuesday evening it began to slowly set its projected path towards the northwest without representing a mayor threat to Puerto Rico.

The situation is very different to the neighbor island of Hispaniola, shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti. According to the Daily Listin, the Armed Forces Ministry and the National Police billeted its troops to address the emergency.

The press releases divulged that the Dominican authorities began the removal of the population of danger zones throughout the southern coast and the National Office of Meteorology (Onamet) reported strong swells along the Cape Engano zone.

In Haiti, the National Meteorological Center warned that the storm poses a great threat to the nation, already vulnerable because of the earthquake of January 2010 and efforts were being made to address the problem of the thousands of refugees that still live in camps.

The models of the Institute of Meteorology of Cuba (INSMET) forecast that after entering the Dominican Republic through the south, Emily could hit the capital of Haiti in the early morning hours of Thursday and later touch the eastern part of Cuba.

NCM-CHI-SJ-NY-08-03-11-17

For more articles on Puerto Rico go to:  
<http://Indymediapr.org>



# COMO MANANTIALES DEL CORAZON

miércoles, 27 de julio de 2011  
Rouslyn Navia Jordán

El calor sofocante del verano los recibió cuando pisaron suelo cubano. Recorrieron algunos territorios, entre ellos, la Ciénaga de Zapata.

Las gotas de sudor en sus rostros no hacen mella en la emoción y la alegría de los 37 integrantes del 42 contingente de la Brigada Venceremos de Solidaridad con Cuba, procedente de los Estados Unidos, que visitaron el lugar donde hace 50 años se librara la histórica batalla de Girón

Sin pensar en el descanso, luego del largo viaje desde la más occidental de nuestras provincias, se dirigieron al Museo para conocer la historia de primera mano.

Casi alcanzan a encontrar en el aire las reminiscencias de la pólvora y la muerte convocadas por el odio del Imperio contra la Isla, y se conmueven ante la inmensa lista de mártires que dieron su vida defendiendo el Socialismo.

En la noche : integrantes del CDR # 4 Vicente Ponce Carrasco del Consejo Popular Playa Girón, les ofrecieron una amena velada cultural y festiva .

Comparten con los vecinos de la Zona 7 como si de unos cubanos más se tratara. Mientras unos se atreven a marcar pasillitos de un sabroso mambo, otros prefieren admirar la rueda de casino presentada por los jóvenes. Entre bailes, canciones y hasta rancheras mexicanas la noche se escapa .

## JORNADA DE AFECTO

La tarde anuncia buen clima y está por tornarse mejor. Con la agitación infinita de las banderas y las sonrisas, los saludos lanzados desde las ventanillas y los gestos de alegría, entra a la *Villa Playa Girón* la caravana de guaguas de la brigada boricua.

En este nuevo “desembarco” llega Natalia, de apenas tres años de edad y posiblemente una de las brigadistas más jóvenes, aunque no la única. Cerca de ella, en sus cochecitos de bebés y escoltados por sus padres, pueden verse otros niños de la edad de la pequeña, todos con sus pulóveres rojos con el distintivo de la solidaridad.

Y acontece lo que muchos esperaban, las dos brigadas se encuentran y el debate amistoso se genera espontáneo. Palabras de primer orden: conocer, intercambio, solidaridad, derecho a la libertad.

En la noche, durante la gala realizada en la Villa Turística, que festeja sus 50 años de fundada, el Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos entrega un diploma de reconocimiento a la Brigada de Solidaridad Juan Rius Rivera por sus 20 años de labor ininterrumpida.

“Estamos en contra del bloqueo, el pueblo cubano tiene derecho a su independencia y autodeterminación. Venir a Cuba y contribuir un poco a la Revolución me fascina, en particular porque este país ha hecho tanto por el de mis padres”, comenta con energía Benjamín Ramos, un joven de Nueva York de ascendencia puertorriqueña que visita la Isla por cuarta vez junto a la *Venceremos*. En él se sintetiza el sentir de las dos brigadas, de ambas lleva un trozo en el corazón.

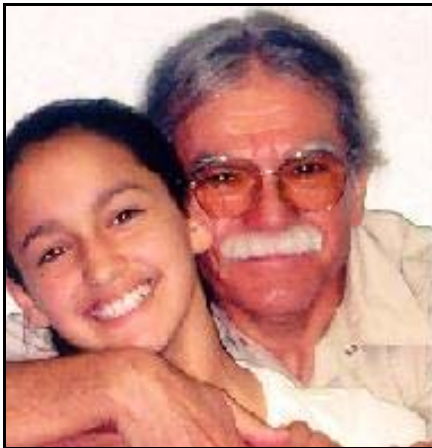
La mañana no amanece triste porque haya llegado la hora de partir. La despedida no será un adiós sino un hasta pronto, ya sabemos que muchos son repitentes en esto del desafío. Así son estos hombres y mujeres que se atreven a desdeñar bloqueos, restricciones y amenazas para acercarse a nuestro pueblo. La solidaridad sigue fluyendo, como manantiales del corazón, de los hijos de los pueblos que se saben uno solo más allá de las fronteras.



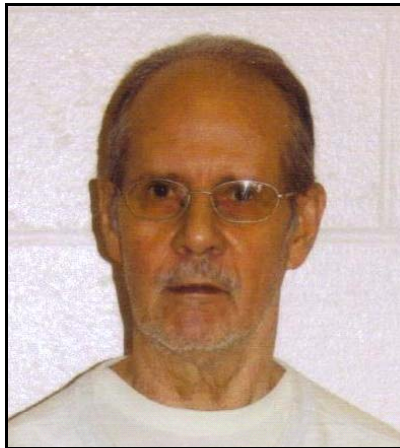
*Brigadista Boricua y su hija.*



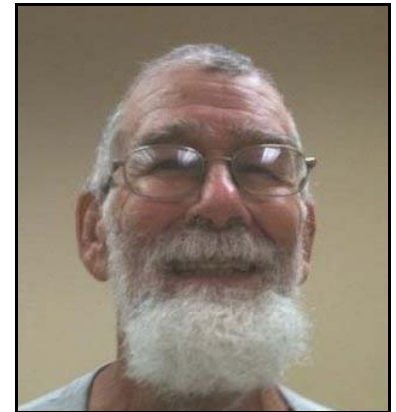
## WRITE TO THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!!



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



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



Norberto González Claudio  
#09864-000  
Unit G Room 15  
DWWDF  
950 High Street  
Central Fall, RI 02863

### 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 out 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), at 718-601-4751, or our website [www.ProLibertadweb.com](http://www.ProLibertadweb.com)