

COUNCILWOMAN MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO STIRS UP TENSION BETWEEN POLS BY SUPPORTING PUERTO RICAN RADICAL!

by Erin Einhorn, *New York Daily News* (December 22, 2010)

A City Councilman Wednesday accused a colleague of pandering to a terrorist in a blistering email that evoked 9/11.

The flare-up started when Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-East Harlem) asked colleagues to support the upcoming parole hearing of Puerto Rican radical Oscar Lopez Rivera, a leader of the violent FALN.

Many of Rivera's fans consider him a political prisoner by supporters.

"Mr. Lopez was arrested in 1981 and is serving a sentence of 70 years for seditious conspiracy, for his commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico," Mark-Viverito wrote in an email to Council members Tuesday night. Lopez Rivera's 29 years in prison is enough, Mark-Viverito wrote, adding: "He was not accused of causing harm or taking a life."



City Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito and Queens republican Dan Halloran.

Queens Republican Dan Halloran went ballistic.

He said his "jaw hit the ground" when he read the note.

"I couldn't believe that somebody could seriously say that FALN was a non-violent organization," he said, noting its ties to a series of bombings in New York and Chicago.

He dashed off a skewering response that he copied to every member of the 51-person Council.

"This terrorist, like all terrorists, should rot in jail forever," he wrote. "It is only a shame the death penalty was not imposed to prevent him from becoming a threat in the future."

He added: "I guess the 9-11 bombers could make the same argument. They were merely responding to the 'evils' of the U.S. Will you be asking for them to be pardoned too?"

Mark-Viverito denounced Halloran's email as "overblown, inappropriate and offensive."

Continued on page 2...



ADENTRO EL COQUI



Councilwoman Melissa Mark Viverito stirs up tension...page 1-2
Mayor's Association requesting liberation of Oscar Lopez Rivera...page 2
Avelino Gonzalez needs our support...page 3
The Puerto Rican Freedom Album
Prisoner Addresses and Commissary...page 4



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Continued from page 1

She's working on her own "reply to all" response, she said.

"He's twisting the facts, she said. "He should not be judging me personally for a position that I believe strongly in." Mark-Viverito said "six or seven" members have agreed to sign on to her parole petition.

-cause of his alleged involvement with the National Liberation Armed Forces (FALN for its Spanish acronym), a Nationalist group linked to several bombings and five deaths during the 1970's.

López Rivera, born in San Sebastián, is a Vietnam era veteran and received a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service. Prior to his conviction López Rivera was a respected community activist and Puerto Rican independence leader in the city of Chicago.

Santiago's involvement in the campaign for the release of López Rivera came last summer, when he met the prisoner's brother José during a visit to Chicago.

"The Puerto Rican community there had dedicated their main festivities to Comerío and I was invited to the event. There I met José, who told me about his brother and the difficulties he faces in prison. It was hard for me not to feel sympathy for his sibling," Santiago said.

"This Puerto Rican brother has spent 29 of his 67 years in a prison just for his beliefs. That is cruel and extreme punishment. It is time for him to come back home," he added.

The petition will be sent to the president of the federal Parole Board, Isaac Fulwood. The petition reiterates another sent in November by U.S. Congress members Luis Gutiérrez (Ill), Nydia Velázquez (NY) and José Serrano (NY) all born in Puerto Rico.

MAYORS ASSOCIATION REQUESTING LIBERATION OF OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA

December 20, 2010
by Juan A. Hernandez
jhernandez@prdailynews.net

Mayors from across the island signed a petition Sunday for the release from prison of pro-independence activist Oscar López Rivera.

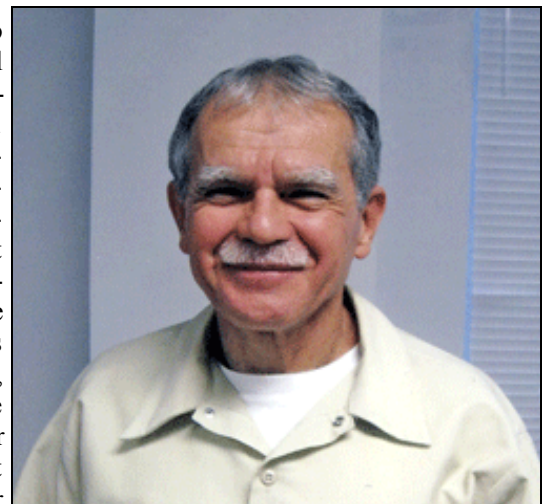
The petition, dubbed the "Comerio Statement", was signed by members of the Puerto Rico Mayors Association, who characterized López Rivera's incarceration as "ideological punishment."

"It is high time for this brother, whose only crime is his activism in favor of Puerto Rico's independence, to come back home to his family," Comerío mayor Josean Santiago said.

The petition states that López Rivera's 70-year sentence makes him a political prisoner whose conviction is due only for being associated to a political and military organization that promotes independence for Puerto Rico.

In 1980 López Rivera was convicted of seditious conspiracy by the U.S. government be-

"We have to put aside all political considerations. This is a matter of humanity? I'm confident that with the support of these Congress members, along with the support of our Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi there is a good chance for us to have Oscar back home with us soon," Santiago said.



***Puerto Rican Political Prisoner
Oscar Lopez Rivera.***

Congressman Gutiérrez, who is visiting the island during the holidays, anticipated he will present the petition to the new Congress next Jan. 4th.

"I'm convinced that conditions are favorable for Oscar's release thanks to the support of the Resident Commissioner and the Puerto Rican community," Gutiérrez said.

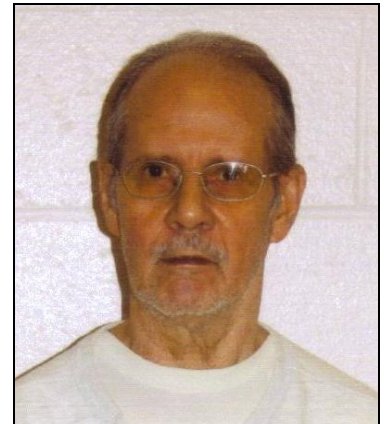


AVELINO NEEDS OUR SUPPORT!

El Comité Familiares y Amigos Avelino González Claudio and the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign are calling on all freedom loving allies and supporters to support the campaign to get Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Avelino Gonzalez Claudio released from solitary confinement and into General Population!

We need to send thousands of letters to Warden Claude Maye of FCI Bastrop in order for our demand to be met. Please send a letter and ask your closest friends to do likewise. Letter writing campaigns work when the pressure is massive!

Go to the ProLibertad website and download a letter and then forward the link to everyone you know!



*Avelino Gonzalez
Caludio*

**DOWNLOAD THE CAMPAIGN LETTER AT:
www.ProLibertadWeb.com**

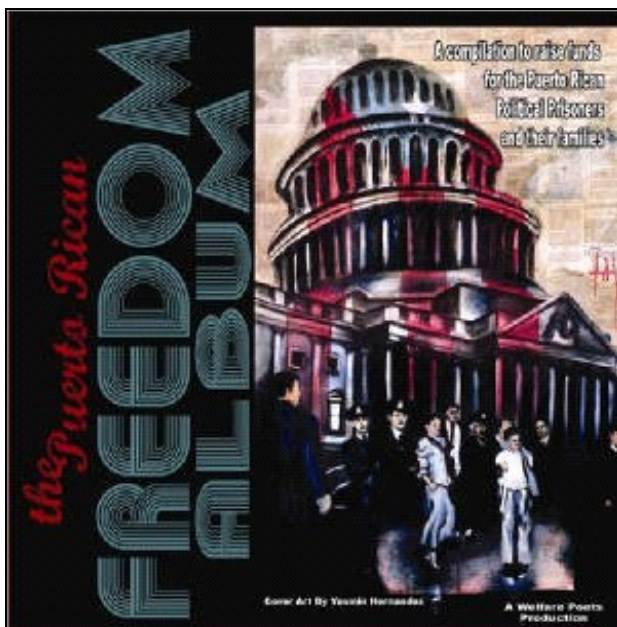
THE PUERTO RICAN FREEDOM ALBUM!

The Puerto Rican Freedom Album is up online for album downloads and physical dual CD purchases.

The Freedom Album is a musical CD/compilation dedicated to the welfare of the Puerto Rican political prisoners and their families. The album features over 30 artists from Puerto Rico to the states, and is available for purchase at the website at www.prfreedomproject.org and the myspace at www.myspace.com/freeourpoliticalprisoners

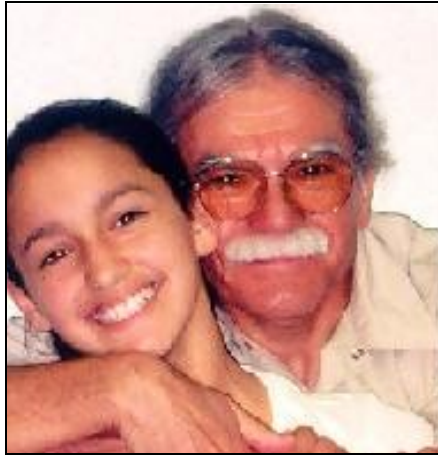
Artists appearing on the album:

The Welfare Poets with Alkebulan (Hip Hop - NYC), Roy Brown (Folk - Puerto Rico), Siete Nueve (Hip Hop - Puerto Rico), Aurora y Zon Del Barrio with Yomo Toro y Sammy Ayala (Bomba, Plena and Salsa - NYC), Division X (Hip Hop - NYC), Intifada (Hip Hop - Puerto Rico), Ilu Aye (Orisha/Afro-Caribbean tradition -NYC), X-Vandals (Hip Hop - NYC), Rebel Diaz with Divino of The D.E.Y. (Hip Hop Chicago/NYC), Alma Moyo (Bomba y Plena - NYC), Ricanstruction (Hardcore/Punk/Hip Hop - NYC), Quique Cruz (Hip Hop - California), Foundation Movement (Boston - Hip Hop), Lourdez Perez (Decima - Puerto Rico), Homeboy Sandman (Hip Hop - NYC), Babalu Machete (Hip Hop - Puerto Rico), Segunda Quimbamba (Bomba - NJ), El David (Hip Hop - NJ), Dr. Loco (Hip Hop NYC), Fernando Ferrer (Salsa/Acoustic), Maria-Isa (Hip Hop - Minnesota/ Twin Cities), Velcro y Ikol Santiago (Hip Hop - Puerto Rico), Ray Concepcion y Cafe Con Leche (Salsa - the Bronx), M-Team (Hip Hop - Pittsburgh/ Brooklyn), Bryan Vargas Y Ya Esta (Latin, Nu-Jazz and Afro-beat - NYC), La Bruja (Hip Hop/ Reggaeton NYC), MC Natra Y Lady M (Hip Hop - Vieques), Carlos Jimenez (Latin Jazz - NYC), F.A.L.L.E.N. A.N.G.E.L.Z. (Hip Hop - NY and Florida), Nino Blanco (Hip Hop - NYC) and Angel Rodriguez (Guaguanco - NYC).

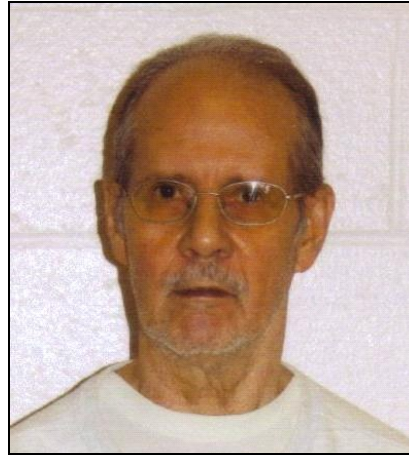




WRITE TO THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!!



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FCI Terre Haute
P.O. Box 33
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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**