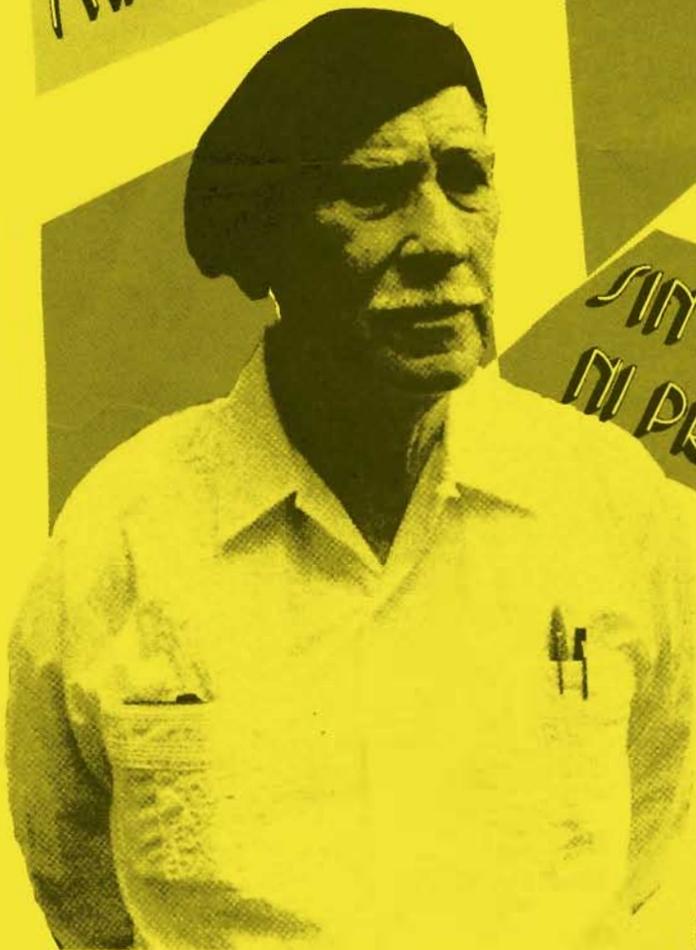


¡ HACIA UN GRITO DE LARES



Dedicado a Don Juan Antonio Corretjer

**SIN PRISIONEROS DE GUERRA
NI PRISIONEROS POLITICOS!**

"En los últimos años, frecuentemente me han preguntado si yo creo que voy a ver la independencia de mi patria. Sistemáticamente he contestado que yo, ya la he visto. Cualquiera que lucha con todo su ánimo por la independencia de Puerto Rico, vive la independencia, es libre, es soberano, es independiente, como todo nuestro pueblo lo será el día de la victoria."

— Juan Antonio Corretjer.
Discurso en Lares, P.R.,
23 de Septiembre, 1978.

**¡NO AL MILITARISMO!
U.S. OUT OF PUERTO RICO!**

José Luis Rodríguez

Prisionero Político Puertorriqueño
convicto de conspiración sediciosa
Puerto Rican Political Prisoner
convicted of seditious conspiracy

Néster Nazario

Presidente del Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño (PSP)
President of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party

Viernes 20 de Septiembre

Sept. 20, Friday 362 Capp, (Entre 18 & 19) SF

7:30 PM

María Cora

Acto Cultural
Cultural Performance

Donación: \$3-5
Donation:

Cuidado de niños
Childcare

Auspiciado: Movimiento de Liberación Nacional (MLN-PR) - Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño (PSP)
Sponsored by:

Endosadores: Comité Nacional Pro-Libertad de Los Prisioneros de Guerra Puertorriqueños - New Movement in Solidarity with
Endorsed by: Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism - Casa El Salvador Farabundo Martí - Casa El Salvador - Gas Newport
Guatemala News and Information Bureau - Brigada Venceremos - Freedom Socialist Party - Casa Puerto Rico

On September 23, 1868, Puerto Rican independentistas revolted against brutal Spanish colonial rule and declared the birth of the Puerto Rican republic in the town of Lares. Today, 117 years later, Puerto Ricans continue their fight for freedom. Their enemy is now the United States, which invaded and seized Puerto Rico as a colony in 1898. This year on September 20, as we observe the anniversary of "El Grito de Lares", we celebrate the courage and determination of today's generation of independentistas. We are honored to have with us Jose Luis Rodriguez, a young Puerto Rican from Chicago who exemplifies the spirit of Lares. On August 5, Jose Luis, along with Alejandrina Torres, Alberto Rodriguez and Edwin Cortes, was convicted of seditious conspiracy -- conspiring to oppose the authority of the US government in Puerto Rico by force. All four will be sentenced on October 4 to prison terms of up to 80 years.

For Puerto Ricans who oppose US colonialism, seditious conspiracy is an impossible crime. This is because the US government's authority over Puerto Rico is illegitimate. The true crime is colonialism, which has meant great suffering for the Puerto Rican people. Their homeland has been occupied by a foreign army. They've been forced into poverty to provide profits for US corporations. They face a genocidal population control policy that has resulted in the sterilizations of 40% of Puerto Rican women.

Jose Luis, Alejandrina, Alberto and Edwin, like most Puerto Ricans, learned about US colonialism first-hand. Their families were driven by economic hardship to emigrate to the US. They grew up in the barrios of Chicago and experienced white supremacy, racism and government/police repression. While still very young, the Four became community activists, organizing for better school and medical facilities and against police repression. They struggled to build a public pro-independence movement which identified US colonialism as the enemy of the Puerto Rican people. Eventually, Alejandrina, Alberto and Edwin made the decision to join the armed movement, which through groups like the FALN in the US and the Macheteros in Puerto Rico has become a major factor in the fight for Puerto Rican independence.

At the time of their arrests, Alejandrina, Alberto and Edwin declared themselves Prisoners of War -- captured combatants in their nation's 87 year war against US colonialism. As a public activist, Jose Luis asserted that he was a political prisoner. His arrest and conviction are evidence that US officials are trying to criminalize the very idea of Puerto Rican independence. They are stating that anyone who struggles for independence, even through legal means, may be charged with a criminal offense carrying a minimum 20 year sentence.

All four made it clear that they never expected to receive justice in the US courts. But though the US succeeded in convicting them, it did not succeed in other of its goals. Despite efforts to label the Four as "terrorists", the government failed to isolate the Four from their supporters across the country and in Puerto Rico. And it failed to frighten the independence movement into inaction. Throughout the weeks of the trial, Chicago-area Puerto Ricans and North Americans demonstrated and crowded the courtroom to show their support. The judge received thousands of letters demanding the Four be released. This outpouring of support exposed the government's "terrorist" lie. Like those in Central America, South Africa, and around the world who fight against US imperialism, Puerto Rican revolutionaries are freedom fighters, not "terrorists."

Those of us who know the Four or followed their trial are deeply moved by their willingness to sacrifice their lives for their nation's freedom, to carry their struggle through to the end from inside as well as outside prison. Although Jose Luis is only 24 years old, he has emerged as a leading spokesperson for the independence movement. This year he spoke at the United Nations, asserting Puerto Rico's right to fight against US colonialism by any means necessary. We in the Bay Area are fortunate to have Jose Luis visiting us. We hope you will join us to hear him speak on September 20th.

New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism
For more information: 561-9055