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Que Ondee Sola- October 1975- Special Issue

Que Ondee Sola Staff

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QUE ONDEE SOLA



SPECIAL ISSUE

October, 1975



OSCAR COLLAZO

ANDRES FIGUEROA CORDERO

IRVING FLORES

RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA

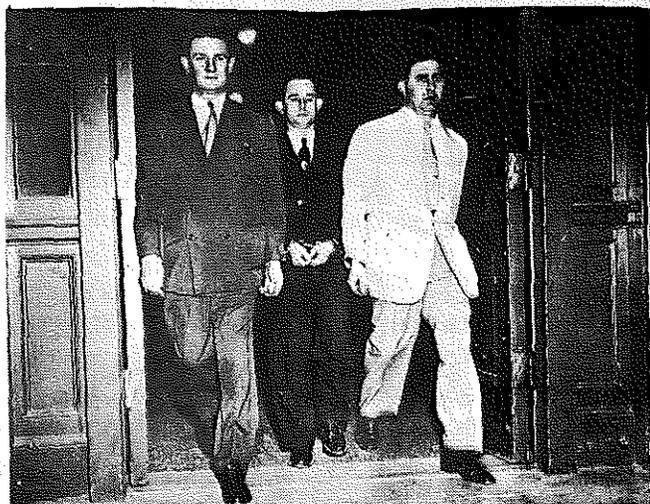


Lolita Lebron

UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM, NOW!

October 30, 1950, marks one of the most glorious days in the history of Puerto Rico. Under the leadership of Don Pedro Albizu Campos, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico rose in arms against the Yankee imperialism. With their lives and their weapons, the patriots reaffirmed Puerto Rico's inalienable right to be free, sovereign, and independent. In the town of Jayuya - which was taken by the liberating forces - the Second Republic of Puerto Rico was proclaimed. But the Yankee imperialists mobilized their puppet troops on the Island - the infamous National Guard - and under its military directive, one of the most repressive periods ever suffered by the Puerto Rican people was initiated. Whole towns were bombed by the U.S. Air Force planes; the homes of the Nationalists and other independentists were riddled with bullets, and illegal searches were conducted at gun point. Hundreds were arrested. The home of Don Pedro Albizu Campos was attacked by the puppet police troops, the National Guard, and the F.B.I. After hours of heroic resistance which kept the repressive forces at bay, Don Pedro and his comrades were taken prisoners.

The Jayuya Revolution is, therefore, the living testimony of a people that rises in arms to kick the invaders out of its territory.



Oscar Collazo leaves the courtroom in Washington, where he was condemned to death April 6, 1951. The sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. (Wide World Photos)

THE ATTACK ON BLAIR HOUSE

3 days later, on November 1, a Puerto Rican commando composed of Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo attacked Blair House, temporary residence of the president of the United States, Harry S. Truman. It was Truman who, months before, through his secretary of defense, had ordered the colonial government in Puerto Rico to totally eliminate the Nationalists, including Don Pedro Albizu Campos. This plan was discovered by the Nationalist Party, and the whole thing climaxed in the October 30th Revolution. Oscar and Griselio, residents of New York, learning of the Revolution in Puerto Rico, tried to travel to the Island to participate in it. But, for unknown reasons, they were unable to get tickets in the airlines that traveled to Puerto Rico. From their desire to participate in the Revolution, and the frustration of not being able to get to the Island, the plan to attack the Blair House was born. In the imperialists' own land, these two heroes, arms in hand, reiterated Puerto Rico's right to be independent. Griselio Torresola was killed in the action, and Oscar Collazo was seriously wounded. Sentenced to death, Oscar saw his sentence commuted to life in prison, thanks to the massive solidarity given to him, and the cause

"To die, but to die killing the enemy, the inexorable law of combat, fulfilled at the level of mortal efficacy and patriotic creativity."

Morir, pero morir matando al enemigo, ley inexorable del combate, cumplida a nivel de eficacia mortal y creación patriótica:
GRISELIO TORRESOLA



Oscar Collazo 1974

which he represented, both in the United States and on the international level. One of the hardest working persons in the Oscar Collazo Defense Committee, established in New York in 1951, was a young Nationalist - Lolita Lebron. Oscar Collazo, a living example of devout and unshakable patriotism, is still in jail, which makes him the longest held political prisoner in the Western Hemisphere, and possibly in the world.

THE ATTACK ON THE U.S. CONGRESS

Years later, on March 1, 1954, in the Chambers of the U.S. Congress, the bullets of independence blared out again. Puerto Rico is alive, and continues to struggle for its independence - this was the message that those bullets carried throughout the world. The Nationalist commando, composed of Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores and Andres Figueroa Cordero, was arrested after the heroic action. This action took place at a time when the U.S. government was trying to hide from the rest of the world the true colonial condition of Puerto Rico, thru the creation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Free Associated State).

The participants in the action, as well as Oscar Collazo, are still in the United States' jails. Lolita was given a sentence of 16 yrs and 8 months to 50 years in jail. Rafael,

Irving and Andres are serving a sentence of 25 to 75 years. Both in the case of Oscar as well as in the case of Lolita and her comrades, even before the judicial process, they were already tried by the media and public opinion in this country. They were all called mad people, fanatics, etc. However, for the Puerto Rican independentist forces, they are clear examples of dedication to the struggle for national liberation.

At the present time, Lolita is imprisoned in Alderson, West Virginia; Oscar, Andres and Irving in Leavenworth, Kansas and Rafael in the federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill.

A NATION AT WAR

We cannot lose sight of the fact that the Nationalist Revolt of 1950, as well as the attack on the Blair House, and the attack on the U.S. Congress, are a direct consequence of an imperialist act of war and aggression. We are referring to the Yankee invasion of Puerto Rico on July 25, 1898. Since that moment, when by the force of their weapons and invading troops they set foot on Puerto Rican soil, there exists a state of war between an intervened nation (Puerto Rico), and an intervening imperialist state (the United States of North America). The armed intervention of 1898 was followed by a complete economic and political control, cultural aggression, and

1974

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Rafael Cancel Miranda



Andres Figueroa Cordero



Lolita Lebron



Irving Flores

the imposition of the U.S. citizenship on the Puerto Rican people. Since then, the imperialists have dominated the economic, political and social development of the Island. Thus, Puerto Rico became the Yankee's most important colonial possession in Latin America.

In the 1930's, pressed by the liberating forces under the leadership of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, the Yankees mobilized all their repressive machinery to try to annihilate the Puerto Rican revolutionary forces. The Rio Piedras Massacre (1934), the imprisonment of Don Pedro Albizu Campos and other Nationalist leaders through fixed trials (1936), the Ponce Massacre (1937), are only a few instances of hundreds of acts of aggression committed by the invading forces on the Puerto Rican people during that period. These acts occurred within the historical context of an occupied and oppressed nation confronting the intervening and oppressive state. The fact that Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andrés Figueroa Cordero, and Irving Flores are today in the U.S. jails is a direct consequence of the acts of aggression mentioned above.

OUR TASK TODAY

As a result of all these repressive acts, a committee has been formed in New York: The Committee for the Freedom of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners. This committee fills an existing void, since at this time there is no organized force in the United States whose primary responsibility is to struggle for the unconditional release of these Puerto Rican political prisoners. The work of this committee is guided by three basic principles of unity:

1. The right of Puerto Rico--as well as the right of all nations--to be free and independent.
2. The unconditional release of the Puerto Rican nationalist political prisoners.

3. International solidarity with all political prisoners of struggling nations against all forms of oppression.

All individuals and organizations that accept these principles of unity, and are willing to honestly and consistently work for the unconditional freedom of these five defenders of Puerto Rico's right to independence are hereby invited to immediately join the work of this committee.

At the present time, our work is focusing on:

1. The formation of committees or local groups in New York, as well as in other cities and states, with the objective of making known to the people the case of the five Nationalist prisoners, and mobilize people to demand their unconditional release;
2. The preparation and distribution of educational materials about the Nationalists (pamphlets, flyers, posters, buttons, etc.);
3. The planning of a national action for Saturday, November 1, 1975, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the attack on Blair House.

The Committee for the Freedom of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners is willing to provide to any group that sincerely wants to participate in this campaign, films, pamphlets, and speakers to explain in more details the case of the Nationalist prisoners.

Last, but not least, we want to emphasize the committee's need for financial help in order for it to carry this campaign in an effective and ample way. We are, thus, asking from our comrades their financial support. All donations should be sent in the name of the committee to the address shown in this pamphlet.

We need your help and support. Join the committee in this effort today!

**COMITE PRO LIBERTAD DE LOS PRESOS NACIONALISTAS PUERTORRIQUENOS
COMMITTEE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE PUERTO RICAN NATIONALIST PRISONERS**

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