

5-1-1977

Que Ondee Sola- May 1977

Que Ondee Sola Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/qos>

Recommended Citation

Staff, Que Ondee Sola, "Que Ondee Sola- May 1977" (1977). *Que Ondee Sola*. 38.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/qos/38>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Archives at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Que Ondee Sola by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact neiudc@neiu.edu.

Committee To Defend JOSE LOPEZ Newsletter

May 1977

Legal Battles Continue

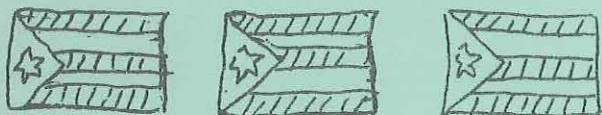
Since November, 1976, when Jose Lopez and others were subpoenaed before the Grand Jury, defense lawyers have made several attempts to quash the subpoenas. During the first hearings, Lawyers argued that there was no specific connection between those subpoenaed and the purpose of the investigation. Subsequent hearings were held to determine whether Hispanic people were underrepresented on grand juries. A court clerk testified that official records of Spanish surnames were used as the basis for selecting Latinos for grand jury duty. The official record, compiled from telephone books in Mexico City however, were found to contain such names as Martin, Miller, Fox and Berman. In these hearings, Jose testified about the systematic exclusion of Puerto Rican and Mexican people from grand jury panels. Further hearings are expected to present evidence of illegal wiretapping by the FBI.

Jose stands firm in his refusal to cooperate with the grand jury process. If the subpoena is not quashed by the court and he is granted immunity from prosecution, Jose faces a 14 month jail term (the duration of the Grand Jury's life) for the "crime" of refusing to cooperate with a political inquisition. In New York, two women have already been jailed for their non-cooperation with a similar Federal grand jury which is investigating the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. (Turn to page 4)



Grand Jury Program Planned

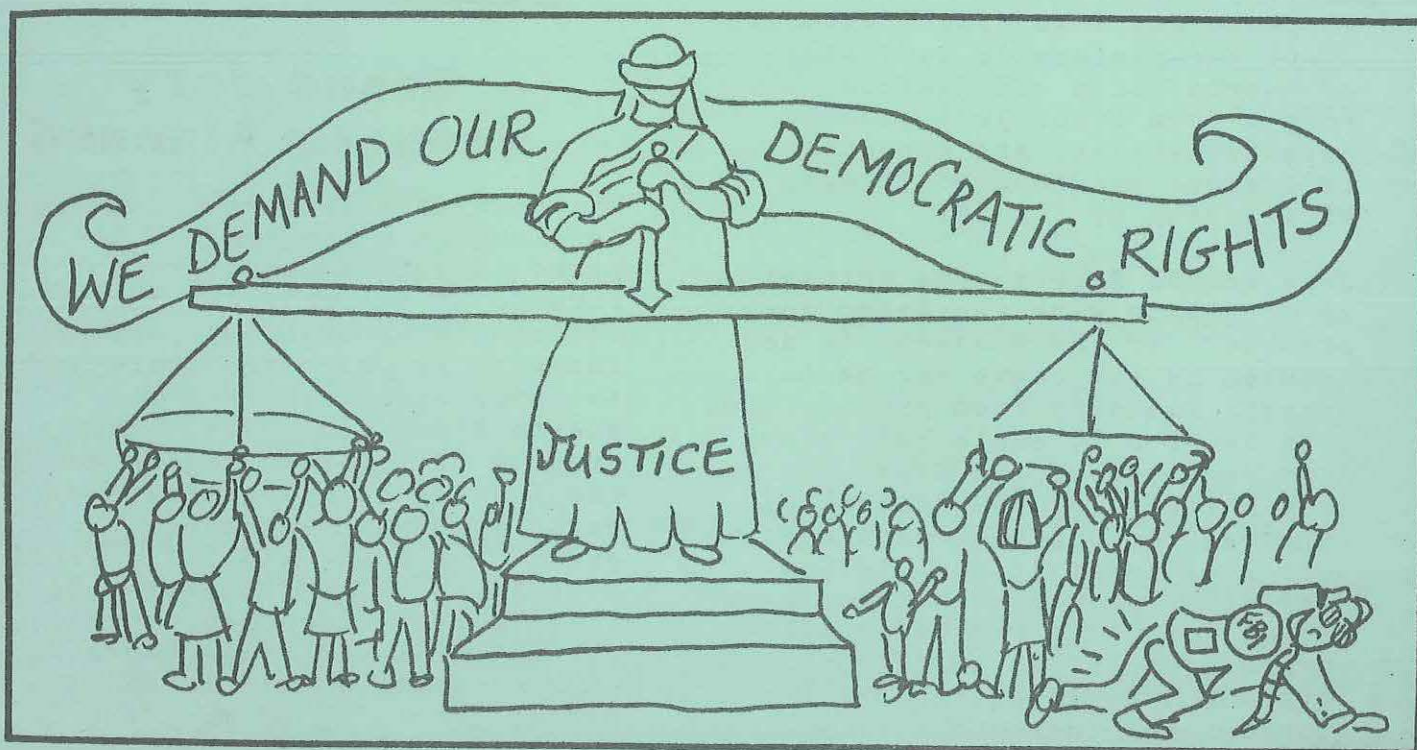
The Committee to Defend Jose Lopez is planning a program on the grand jury to be held in May. The purpose of the program is to discuss the Jose Lopez case and the ways in which the grand jury is being used to harass the Puerto Rican community. The program will inform people about the history and development of grand juries, examine how the grand jury works and its relationship to the FBI. Speakers and skits will be included. Anyone who is interested in organizing this program should attend the planning meeting on May 18th in CLS 0006 at 1pm. (Turn to page 4)

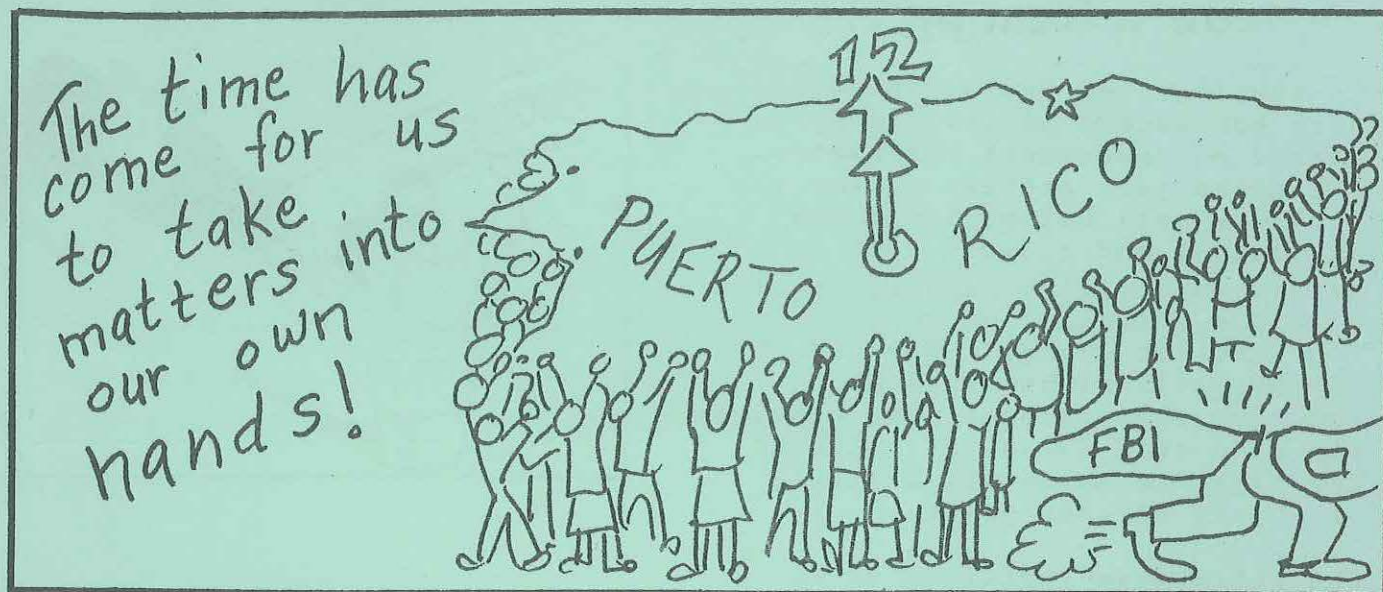


Faculty Benefit for Jose Lopez

On March 11th faculty at Northeastern held a benefit to provide moral and financial support for Jose Lopez. Jose, who faces prison because of his refusal to appear before a Federal grand jury, was visably moved at the warmth and generosity of his colleagues. Over one hundred Northeastern faculty and their friends contributed to his defense fund and/or attended the buffet dinner.

The comfort and spaciousness of the affair provided a sharp contrast with the prospects of prison. Elsewhere in the country people have already been imprisoned because of their refusal to testify before other grand juries which are ostensibly investigating the bombings of major American corporation buildings. Jose, who has no information about the bombings, states that the authorities are using the bombings as an excuse to investigate other matters involving the Puerto Rican community. He is also extremely concerned about his inability to use his attorney during the hearings as well as the underrepresentation of Latinos sitting on the grand jury.





What Can Faculty Do?

The Grand Jury process promises to be a long one. Jose Lopez and the others called to testify can be held in contempt of the Grand Jury for their refusal to talk. This action could result in jail terms of up to 14 months. The support of the UNI faculty and others will be needed throughout the Grand Jury investigation. Faculty can consider several ways of expressing their continued support of Mr. Lopez:

WRITE LETTERS: Write letters asking that the present investigation be ended on grounds that it is designed to suppress political opinion and activity, and that it is a violation of "human rights." Please write to: 1) Thomas Sullivan, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of the State of Illinois-Appointee; 2) Griffin Bell, Attorney General of the United States; and, 3) President Jimmy Carter.

MONTHLY SUSTAINER PLEDGE: Faculty might consider an on-going donation of \$5 or \$10 per month for the duration of the Grand Jury to help defray legal, research and organizing costs.

COME TO COURT: Join the community by appearing in court and on the picket line. The legal system is susceptible to public pressure; help create that visible pressure.

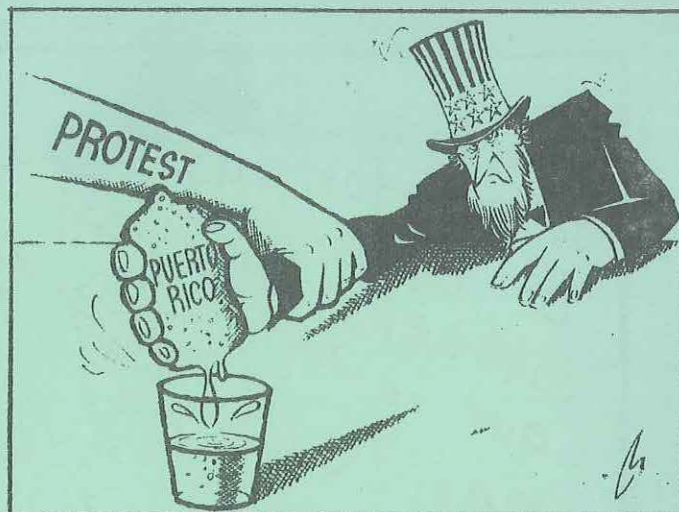
SUPPORT THE RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA HIGH SCHOOL: One goal of the Grand Jury investigation is to discredit and close down the Miranda High School, begun and staffed by Myrna and Jose Lopez and others. UNI faculty might have skills for teaching a course, giving a lecture, or helping in other ways. It is important that, even if Myrna and Jose and others are jailed, the Miranda High School remain open.

Please contact the Committee to Defend Jose Lopez, CLS 4-085 or call Mitch Vogel (8326) or Dave Tompkins (8360) if you'd like to continue to help.

Legal Battles (con't. from pg.1)

In the last few years, the grand jury has become an invidious method of government repression. The grand jury process allows the state to call before it anyone it wishes, and compels them to inform on activists and activities within a political or social movement for change. None of the normal civil rights need be accorded the witness. The sessions are conducted in secret, without the right to a lawyer, a trial, or a jury of ones peers.

The repressive functions of the grand jury process go beyond the jailing of a few political activists. It allows the state to conduct a propaganda campaign which associates movements for change with terrorist activities. More importantly, the threat of the grand jury serves as a "chilling effect" on those who have supported the Independence movement and continue to struggle for social justice in their communities.



Faculty Benefit (con't. from pg. 2)

The response of the UNI faculty to the plight of Jose was evidenced by the great interest and support given Jose by those attending. The members of the faculty present made it clear that the dangers of the unbridled use of the grand jury toward those involved in social change affects us all. Faculty responded not to the personal attack on a colleague but to the issues. By doing so, the UNI faculty proved that they are a concerned and involved group.

In addition to Jose, speakers included Michael Deutsch, Jose's lawyer, and Mara Siegel representing the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee. Entertainment was provided by the singers El Grupo Latino as well as the guests themselves. After the last guests left almost all the food was gone, the faculty was better educated about the Puerto Rican Independence movement and the misuse of the grand jury system, over \$600. was raised and the faculty seemed more united than ever.