

10-1-1997

## Que Ondee Sola- October 1997

Que Ondee Sola Staff

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### Recommended Citation

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# Que Ondee Sola

October 1997·Volume 25, No. 8

## Will the Center for Inner-City Studies be Destroyed? Death Knell for Mexican-Caribbean Studies If Northeastern closes CICS

Rumors are flying around the community and the city that the Northeastern administration is trying to change the content and character of the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS). The Center for Inner-City Studies is one of the most important examples of an academic program that is deeply rooted in the life of the city. While most ethnic studies (i.e., Latino or Afro-American studies programs) have been totally uprooted and disconnected from the communities whose very struggles created them, CICS has remained a beacon of hope and served as an example of how the academy and the community maintain linkage. Any changes

and/or alterations to the present CICS is unacceptable to the Latino Students. For the Latino students,

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the CICS has been the only university instrumentality willing to house, to sustain and to maintain

and advocate for the Mexican-Caribbean Minor. It is a shameful disgrace that a university that prides itself on a commitment to an urban mission (read multicultural and diverse communities) can only pay lip service to such an important program as the Mexican-Caribbean Studies Program. CICS, despite its limited resources, despite the many attacks, has remained steadfast in its support of the minor. A blow to the CICS is a blow to the Latino students.

The Latino students are formally requesting a meeting with President Dr. Salme Steinberg to clarify this matter and urges our community to close ranks with the CICS.

## Editor's Note

In this edition, of Que Ondee Sola, we have included a series of articles that we hope will shed light on issues affecting the students on campus as well as the broader community.

The interview with Student Senate President Adeeb seeks to clarify the negative campaign which the Independent has undertaken against him. Adeeb presents his side of this story, something the Independent has not done. We hope to put an end to this unnecessary polemic.

Last month's Que Ondee Sola focused on the art work of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Elizam Escobar. A short article by Luis Raúl González gives us his impressions of this marvelous exhibition entitled "La Metamorfosis de Albizu" presently on display at the Pedro Albizu Campos Museum of Puerto Rican History and Culture.

The staff of Que Ondee Sola has decided to start a new series comparing and contrasting the U.S invasion of Puerto Rico of 1898, with U. S. colonialism today. Many of the themes continue to surface. The more things change, when a historical problem is not resolved, the more they remain the same. In this Que Ondee Sola, we highlight the question of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners then and now. We will focus future issues on language, culture, education, political status, economics, migration, etc.

The photo section of events in Puerto Rico and in Chicago's Puerto Rican community, particularly emphasis is given to the work stoppage in Puerto Rico on October 1, 1997 in which over 150,000 people participated.

Finally we are including a solidarity message delivered by José E. López, part-time instructor at the Center for Inner-City Studies Department on October 16, 1997. This message was given before nearly 15,000 people who gathered to celebrate the Holy Day of Atonement called by the Nation of Islam.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Please write to us and let us know.

## Also, over the

next 9 months we will be informing the reader about events that occurred in 1898, the year of the ever-so-popular invasion of the island of Puerto Rico by the United States. We will also be giving you more recent information about the outcome of the invasion. 1998 will mark 100 years of colonial rule in Puerto Rico. Our purpose is to enlighten you about the changes that have occurred in the lives of the Puerto Rican people due to the invasion. We will also give you information on how things haven't changed and how they continue to be the same. We are hoping that 1998 will bring an awakening for the Puerto Rican people and people throughout the world will realize that Puerto Rico must be free and that independence must be given to the island. For over 500 years, Puerto Ricans have been property of a World Power, first Spain and now the US. The question is: When will things change?

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# Interview with Adeeb Asad

*For the last several months, Student Senate President Adeeb Asad has been under attack. This attack, which takes the form of allegations published in several issues of the Independent, including the June 24, July 15 and most recently, their September 9th issues. The articles allege that Mr. Asad illegally voted in a Senate election process and supposedly took advantage of his position by taking food from an activity sponsored by the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB). The following interview took place in his office on October 6.*

What do you think about the allegations published in the September 9th issue of the Independent?

I think that the allegations are distorted. On June 9th, I did go to a program the NPB had sponsored. It was a program for community children. I sat in the program for 15 to 20 minutes, then went over to the reception table, where there were already some students having refreshments. I had some cookies and punch, then left. Later, some NPB members told me that I wasn't supposed to get any food, but by then it was too late. The allegation that I piled food on my plate twice is an exaggeration of what actually

happened. If it was wrong, I apologize. I did not mean to offend anyone or take food from children.

*In the same Independent article there is a quote from Erick Sosa, who was not present at the NPB activity, commenting on your behavior. Why do you think the Independent did this?*

Primarily because the Independent did not have sufficient witnesses to print this article. Erick Sosa just took the opportunity to speak against me. He was my opponent in the April student elections. Maybe he has something against me or thought he was doing the right thing by speaking on behalf of the NPB.

In his quote, Erick Sosa says, "I'm sure he (Adeeb Asad) realizes what he did was 'illegal' and writer Jeanette Roucant says that your actions are an "impeachable" offense. Why do both use such strong words for what seems to be a minor incident, taking food from an NPB reception?"

I think the Independent has waged an undeclared war against Student Government. Their goal is to personally attack Adeeb Asad by assassinating my character and reputation. To

suggest that I should be impeached for taking some cookies and punch is preposterous. I think it's absurd and indicative of the fact that it is personal and possibly racial. What this does is create an atmosphere of distrust for me and for the Student Government as a whole.

*Is it true you did an interview with the Independent before the September 9th issue was published?*

yes, I did a one hour interview with the Independent, actually it was a week before the issue came out. Thomas J. Foley of the Independent asked me if I would do an interview with them. I was hesitant to do it because I did not like the way Student Government was being insulted by the press. Even so, I decide to do the interview with my vice-president present, to give my position on the allegations. During the interview, the Independent asked me about all the allegations and what were my positions on each. At that time, I felt, the interview was very productive. I also told the Independent that I was not interested in a conflictive relationship with any organization including the Independent. I want to have a professional relationship that allows us to work together to deal with the real issues of students. A week later, the September 9th issue came out talking about me. I thought the Independent was going to publish the interview that I did with them. Instead, they published this tabloid type article, basically making it look as if I was admitting

those allegations, which is not what I did. Also in the September 9th issue, the Independent published the entire interview of President Steinberg and her State of the University Address. It is deliberately unbalanced journalism, and it is clear that their goal is to destroy Student Government and me. The Independent did not give me a fair opportunity to say my side of the story.

*Do you think that these attempts at character assassination have anything to do with your involvement in the Black Student Movement?*

I was the founder and President of the Black Student Movement back in 1993. I am no longer the President, but I still support the organization. I don't have any evidence that these allegations are directed at me because I was once the President. So I cannot say that it is.

*Back to the Independent's September 9th issue, Senator Jack Arbuthnot is the individual responsible for bringing these allegations to the Independent. At any point before this article was published, did Senator Arbuthnot talk to you about them?*

Senator Arbuthnot has never talked to me on a personal level, outside of talking to me at meetings. He has not come to talk to me about the allegations nor has he asked me any questions about things I've done. I have tried to make myself available to senators and he has had many opportunities to contact me as well. What he has done is take all

of the allegations to the Independent instead of talking directly to me.

It seems he is using the press to vent his frustration and continue this vendetta against me. Recently, he made some noise about constitutional vagueness in the September 23rd issue. He states in the article that he believes the constitution is vague about whether the president counts for quorum. We've used this constitution for years and it is clear that the president counts for quorums. I think it's a case of a Senator making noise but not willing to do something about it. If he wants to change something, then he should submit legislation or come talk to me about it. Jack Arbuthnot is also a member of the Independent and of the Senate. Talking about impropriety, I believe it is a misuse of his power to use the press to vent his frustration and personal vendetta with me.

*You said Senator Arbuthnot has a personal vendetta against you. Why do you believe this?*

I don't know why he has a personal vendetta against me. It's possible that it's racial or that he has a problem with me and other members of the Senate know this. I am willing, though, to meet with him and resolve these matters. I am also interested in moving the Student Government forward because it is not the place for personal vendettas and agendas. It is the place where real student issues should be dealt with.

*Is there anything you would like the Independent to know about how you feel toward the articles, the interview and their treatment of student Government in general?*

As I told the Independent before in having an antagonistic relationship with them. They have the power of the press and freedom to write what they want to write. But at the same time they have the responsibility to present stories with a balanced perspective. I am upset they did not publish the interview because I wasn't given an opportunity to tell my side of the story. The image that the September 9th article projected is that I am some type of criminal. I do not deserve this. I've worked hard to develop an impeccable character in this University. I will not have it tarnished by the Independent. I think this is tabloid quality journalism and challenge them to deal with the important issues. It has no place in the student's new publication nor at the university at all. This undeclared war against Student Government must end here and now.

*Would you do another interview with the Independent?*

Only if I were convinced that I would be given a chance to air my side of the story. I don't trust the Independent. I don't feel that they should have published the September 9th article on me. Their priorities are out of whack.

# In Memory of Our Heroine

Eduardo Arocho and Enrique Salgado, Jr.

*Among the many revolutionary heroes/heroines in the history of Puerto Rico, one stands out as a giant. Blanca Canales was a 5'2" woman who became one of Puerto Rico's bravest and most dedicated patriots.*



*Blanca Canales arrested after the Grito de Jayuya, October 30, 1950*



**Blanca affirmed that the "deeds that occurred [in Jayuya in 1950] was the apotheosis of heroism because they were simply improvised."**

Blanca Canales Torresola was born on February 19, 1906, in Barrio Coabey (Coabey in the Taino language means "the valley of the Gods") in Jayuya. Blanca came from a very patriotic family in Puerto Rico. Among them her half-brother Nemesio Canales, who is one of Puerto Rico most prolific writers. Her cousin, Griselio Torresola, died while attacking Blair House along with Oscar Collazo, the temporary residency of the President in Washington, D.C., on November 1, 1950, and Elio Torresola participated in the Grito de Jayuya on October 30, 1950.

In the 1930's she attended the University of Puerto Rico and went on to become a social worker. At that time she also learned about the Nationalist Party, under the leadership of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos. She began to visit him and eventually joined the Nationalist Party, to whose cause she would dedicate the rest of her life .

Following Albizu's return home in 1947 after 10 years of imprisonment in the U.S., Blanca became one of his closest advisors and dearest friends. On October 30, 1950 she led the Jayuya Nationalists to take control of the local police station and government buildings. Once the town was under control Blanca stood on the roof of the Federal Post office, raised the Puerto Rican flag, and proclaimed the Second Republic of Puerto Rico.

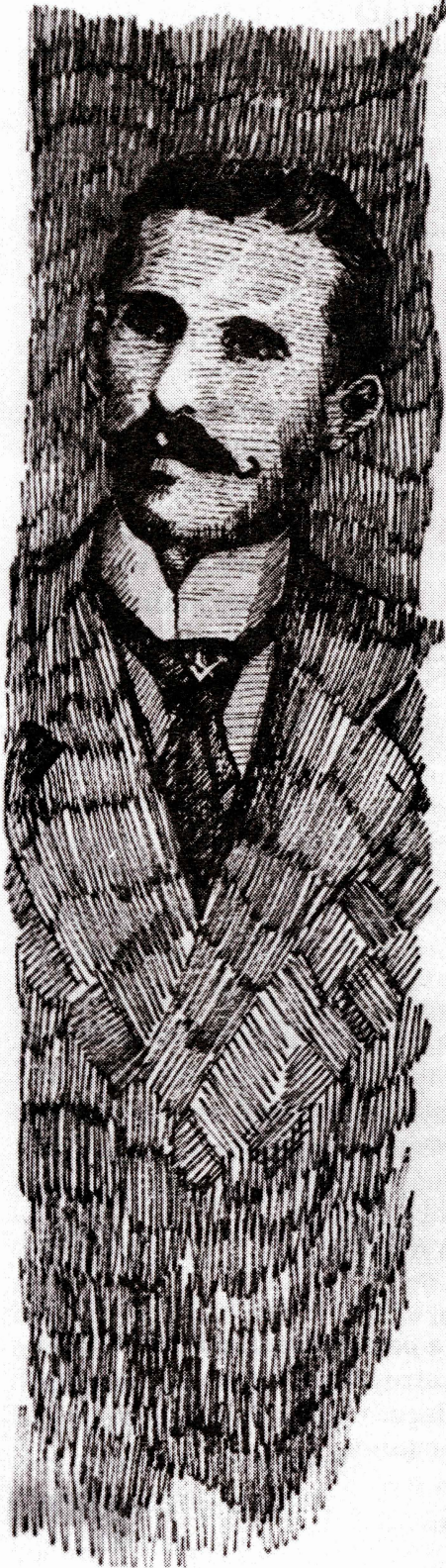


Blanca Canales spent eighteen years in prison at the Woman's Federal Prison in Virginia for her participation in the Grito de Jayuya. She was released from prison in 1967.

Blanca Canales died on July 25, 1996 in her home in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the age of 90. She will always be remembered as an outstanding example of valor and sacrifice for Puerto Rico.

## UN PERIODISTA VALIENTE

POR FERNANDO PICO



El derecho al voto, el derecho a unionarse y el derecho a la libre expresión son parte de nuestro modo de vida. Sin embargo, estas libertades se obtuvieron después de muchos esfuerzos. No deben darse por sentadas.

En 1895 un periodista puertorriqueño fue enviado a una cárcel en Valladolid por hacer críticas contra España en su periodico La Bomba, publicado en Ponce. En las celdas húmedas y frías de la prisión se enfermó de tuberculosis. Su nombre era Evaristo Izcoa Díaz. Era sobrino-nieto de aquel famoso Pepe Díaz, sargento mayor de Toa Alta, que murió en 1797 defendiendo a Puerto Rico de los ingleses.

Indultado por el gobierno español, Izcoa regresó a Puerto Rico. En septiembre de 1898, después de la Guerra Hispanoamericana, volvió a publicar La Bomba en Ponce. En el primer número escribió: *"Aquí esto otra vez, en mi puesto de honor. La tiranía española no pudo doblegarme ni romperme. Fui a la cárcel; me ligaron la mano con esposas; me ataron con gruesas cuerdas; me aseguraron los pies dentro del cepo; sentí los brutales ultrajes de la gente sin cultura; atravesé con la planta desnuda, bajo un sol de fuego, las polvorientas carreteras de Galicia y de Castilla. Llegué al presidio, me raparon; me uniformaron, me encadenaron; me suprimieron, en fin, de la sociedad, fui un número, una máquina, una cosa; y a pesar de todo, estoy de pie; hombre, ciudadano, patriota, con un nombre, un anhelo, una bandera, abroquelado con el escudo de la dignidad."*

Pero en octubre de 1898 el General Henry, que tenía la zona sur a su cargo, le prohibió continuar publicando La Bomba. Izcoa había criticado el vandalismo de varios soldados norteamericanos en Playa de Ponce.

Cuando Henry regresó a Estados Unidos, Izcoa fundó otro periodico con el nombre El Combate. Entonces fue el gobernador Davis quien le envió una advertencia de que no escribiera nada contra Estados Unidos.

En agosto de 1899 Izcoa publicó un artículo censurando a alguien que proponía que se introdujese el castigo corporal de los niños en las escuelas. El proponente lo acusó de libelo y fue condenado nuevamente a un año y medio de cárcel. Se suspendió la publicación de El Combate.

En la cárcel la salud de Izcoa deterioró. Murió de tuberculosis el 17 de agosto de 1901, un año y varios meses después de haber salido libre. Tenía 36 años. Merece ser recordado por su defensa de la libertad de prensa.

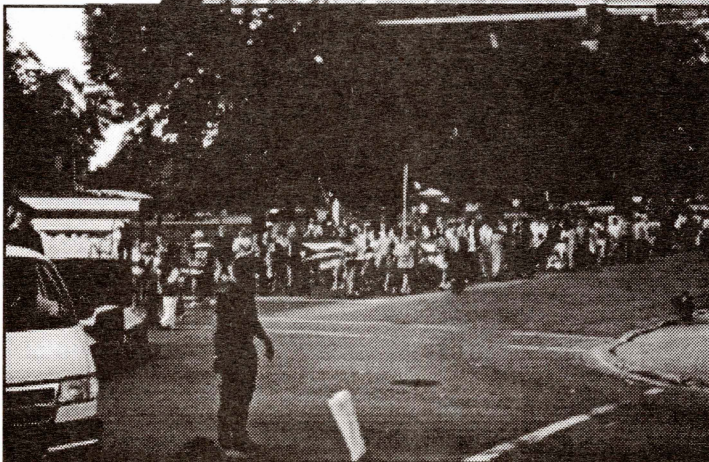
# ALBIZU'S STATUE STANDS STRONG

In 1992, a campaign was initiated to raise money to create a statue of the great Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos in the city of Chicago. This statue would be placed in Humboldt Park. In 1993, plans fell through and the Park District granted permission to place the statue in the heart of Chicago's Puerto Rican community. But in the summer of 1993, the



NATIONAL HEROINE LOLITA LEBRÓN DEDICATES STATUE AT THE CASITA DE DON PEDRO.

Hundreds accompany procession from Museum to Casita



Park District denied the placement of the statue in the park and for almost four years, the statue was temporarily placed in the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Museum of Puerto Rican History and Culture. Due to the hard work of the Museum and other Puerto Rican and Latino community organizations, the statue was permanently placed in a Casita dedicated to Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos September 6, 1997. This casita is located in the heart of the Puerto Rican community of Chicago – Humboldt Park.





150,000 participate in work stoppage on October 1, 1997 in Puerto Rico



Aerial view of the march to stop the sale of the Puerto Rican Telephone Company

**Que Ondée Sola** is published at Northeastern Illinois University. The opinions expressed in **Que Ondée Sola** do not necessarily reflect those of the administration.

Responsibility for its contents lie solely within the staff. We appreciate and encourage all suggestions.

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# Solidarity Speech at Day of Atonement

## José E. López

*Solidarity Message delivered on October 16, 1997 by José E. López, Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and a part-time instructor at Northeastern Illinois University's Center for Inner-City Studies*

*(Editor's note: October 16, was proclaimed by Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam as the Day of Atonement. It was also the 2nd Anniversary of the Million Man March.)*

Compañeras y compañeros, Brothers and Sisters:

I greet you in the name of the Puerto Rican community of Chicago. I greet you in the spirit of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos - the standard bearer, the embodiment, the symbol of the Puerto Rican people, yearning for freedom, justice and peace.

I greet you in the name of the Puerto Rican political prisoners in U.S. prisons charged with seditious conspiracy for their actions on behalf of Puerto Rico's right to be a free and independent nation.

I salute the Honorable Minister Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam, and all who have labored to celebrate the



2nd Anniversary of the Million Man March with this Day of Atonement.

A delegation from the Puerto Rican community has come here today to demonstrate our solidarity with you on this momentous occasion. Our presence here tonight, we hope, will be the beginnings of a dialogue among our communities that will become an everlasting bridge for our peoples.

We must realize we have a common history, and therefore a common destiny. The entire history of the past 500 years or so has been a process of taking us out of history - to the point where we are constantly told we have no history. We have been lied to, we have been objectified - transformed from

subjects to objects. But somehow, dangerous memories lurk in our minds, memories of those who kept alive the flames of resistance and whose examples inspire us to struggle. One of the most interesting examples of the importance of this memory is found in the traditions of the Puerto Rican *santeros'* (wood carver) depictions of the three wise men -the three kings. Unlike any other people, in our tradition, the three kings are shown riding on horses (not on camels) but on a particular breed of horse - the Paso Fino -descendants of the Arabian horses brought to Puerto Rico. But, most importantly, Puerto Rican wood carvers always place Melchor in the middle, riding a white horse. Melchor

in our tradition is the Black King. Why is Melchor in the middle? Any time three people travel together it is the one in the middle who leads. Thus, it was the hands of our mulatto wood carver in search of his African roots, who place Melchor - the only Black King that he knew - in the middle. It was this creative being's search for his Black identity in the dangerous memories of his African heritage that allowed him to create this cultural icon. It was a similar search for his African roots - his Blackness - which drove the Puerto Rican Arturo Alfonso Schomburg to create the greatest collection of Africana - the Schomburg Collection in New York City - to help usher in the Harlem Renaissance.

It is a historical imperative that we search for common memories of resistance as well as to articulate new methods of struggle. Albizu Campos once said the U.S. wanted the cage but not the bird. The history of these United States - the only country in the world without a name - is one of exclusion. Every state that has been incorporated into the Union has done so through the efforts of the new settlers, not the original inhabitants - the original inhabitants have been driven and excluded from the decision making process. All that has value, for this country in terms of Native Americans, Blacks, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians, Aleuts and Inuits is these peoples labor and land.

That is the history of America. That is

why what the great Black writer DuBois wrote in the Souls of Black Folk in 1903, is still true at the end of this century, "the problem of the 20th Century is the problem of the color line." And, that is why this maxim still resonates, "The nation has not yet found peace from its sins." The sins of Colonialism and Racism are the historical problems of this country and atonement for America is the only answer, or as the Native American

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Chief Seattle said in 1855. "Tribe follows tribe, and nation follows nation, like the waves of the sea. It is the order of nature, and regret is useless. Your time of decay may be distant, but it will surely come, for even the white man whose God walked and talked with him as a friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all. We shall see."

As we enter the 21st Century, we see that in the words of Maya Angelou, "The goal of her promise has never

been mined." This land which claims to be the leader, which claims to be the leader of human rights and democracy - has not seriously looked at its seamy underside.

It's prisons and jails are filled to capacity with 1.5 million people - 65% to 70% who are Blacks, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Native Americans:

·It seeks to divide families by deporting parents who not-yet citizens, but whose children were born here.

·It keeps more than 100 political prisoners in its gulags.

·It keeps the people of the Virgin Islands, Samoa, Guam and Puerto Rico as classical colonies.

·I invite you, in the words of Maya Angelou, to "discover this country" in the coming year.

Discover this country:

·On March 28 in Washington DC for Jericho 98, a call to free Political Prisoners in U.S. prisons and;

· Again on July 25, 1998 in Washington DC to demand the freedom of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and the end of U.S colonial rule in Puerto Rico on the centennial of the U.S. invasion of our homeland;

Together we will make the 21st Century, the Century of Human Dignity.

# Ojos juvenes en la historia

## *La metamorfosis de Albizu*

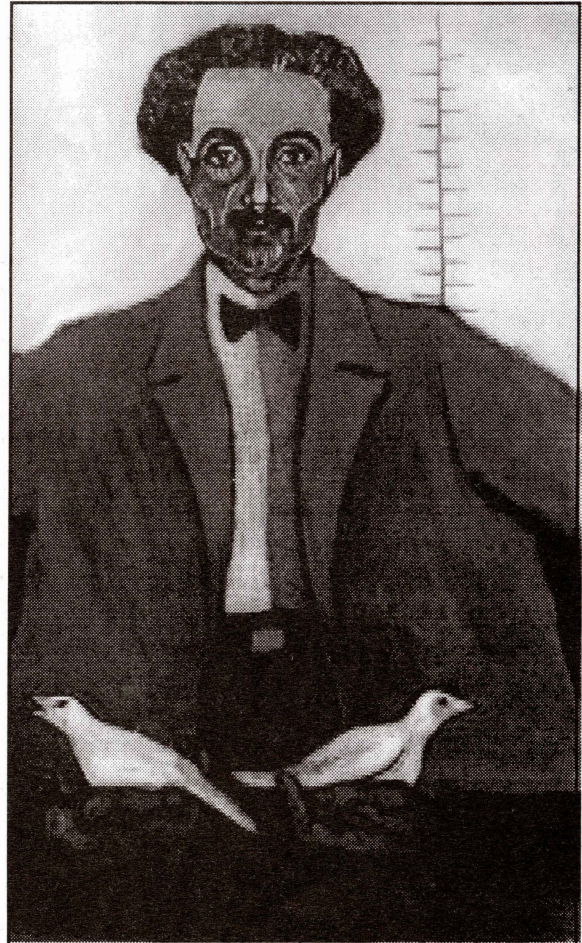
Como así lo expresa su título metamorfosis, o sea el cambio de una personalidad por otra, fue este el tema de la exposición cual fue expuesta en nuestro Museo de Arte y Cultura puertorriqueña, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos de la ciudad de Chicago. "Metamorphosis" creada por nuestro hermano patriota Elizam Escobar, quien se encuentra preso en una de las tantas cárceles federales de este Imperio Yankee. Preso y maltratado por el sistema Imperialista por simplemente hacer valer un derecho propio, que cualquiera ser humano capaz de pensar correctamente puede exigir: "La Libertad por la Patria"

Tuve la oportunidad de asistir a tan importante evento auspiciado por los hermosos patriotas residentes en esta ciudad. Evento que contó con un sin número de espectadores, que al igual que yo nos dimos cita a ese lugar para ser partícipes de aquellas maravillosas obras. Cuales fueron creadas por un hermano privado de su libertad física, pero no de su espíritu libertario, ni de sus agallas por desenmascarar al gobierno opresor. Escobar discípulo fiel de la doctrina del Maestro, quien siguió al pie de la letra aquellas emotivas palabras que Don Pedro

divulgaba en todos los lugares donde se presentaba: "La Patria es Valor y Sacrificio."

Aquellas obras lograron captar mi atención por el simple punto de ser el autor de aquellas interesantes obras logra reencarnar de una forma fascinante al Maestro Don Pedro Albizu Campos a través de las figuras de grandes defensores de la libertad de nuestra América Latina. (Presenta a Don Pedro como Che Guevara, Zapata y Bolívar entre otros). Pero más impresionante aún fue aquellas impactantes palabras expresadas por el animador de la exposición, Ramón López, donde dijo que: "Don Pedro, el maestro es universal y más aún espera la humanidad."

Culminando aquel impresionante evento con un emotivo aplauso no solo para Elizam Escobar, sino también



para aquella explosión de palabras que hicieron vibrar hasta el mínimo rincón de aquellas inmensas paredes del museo como truenos en las montañas. Haciendo esparcer la semilla de conciencia para seguir forjando en un futuro no muy lejano la Libertad de nuestra patria.

Luís Raúl González

# 12 years in solitary confinement

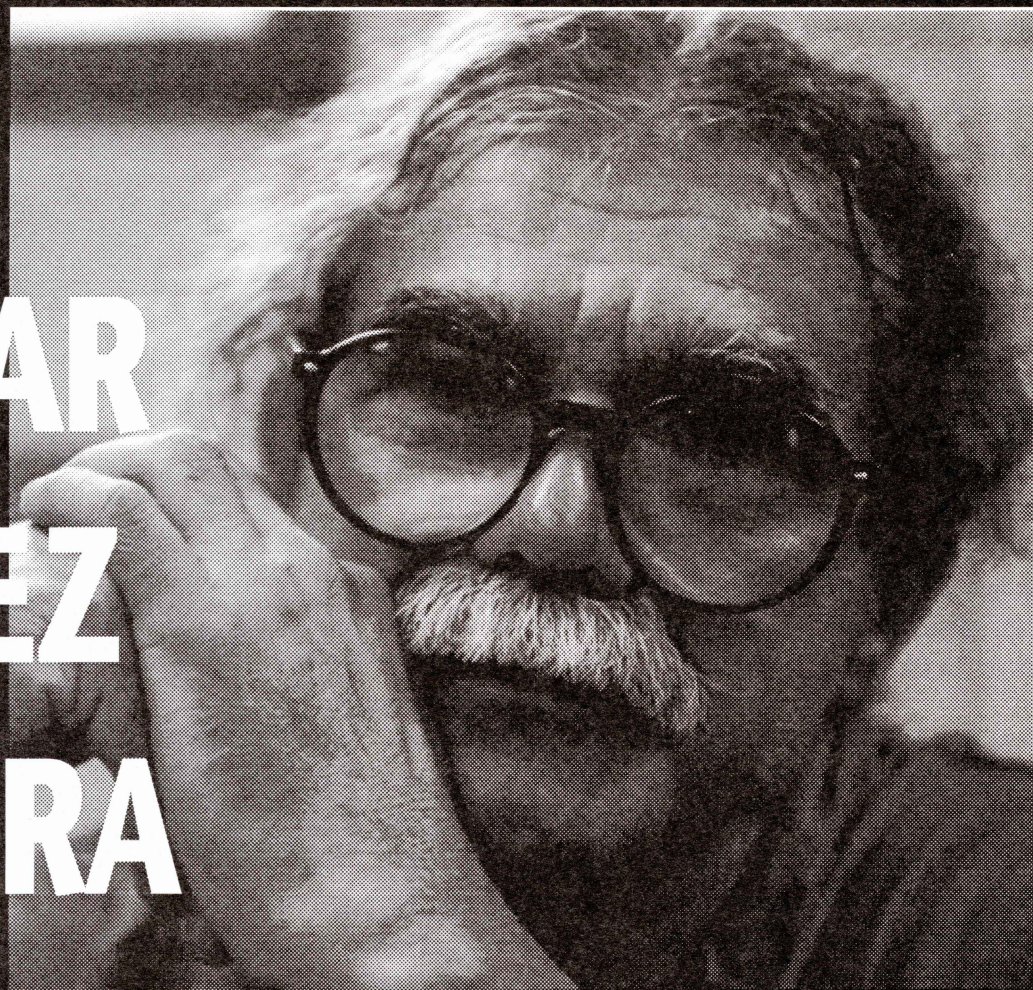
# STOP THE TORTURE

# OF

# OSCAR

# LOPEZ

# RIVERA



## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- WRITE, CALL OR FAX to Attorney General Janet Reno and demand his placement in the general population of USP Lewisburg or its equivalent.

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice, Suite 4400  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500-0001  
Phone Number (202) 514-2000  
Fax Number (202) 514-4371

### MAILING ADDRESS:

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
White House Phone Number (202) 456-1111  
White House Fax Number (202) 456-2883  
Email: [President@WhiteHouse.gov](mailto:President@WhiteHouse.gov)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

National Committee to Free Puerto Rican POWs  
and Political Prisoners  
2607 W. Division Street  
Chicago, IL 60622  
(773) 278-0885  
Email: [prpowpp@aol.com](mailto:prpowpp@aol.com)  
OR: QUE ONDEE SOLA @ x3805

- WRITE, CALL, FAX or EMAIL President Clinton and urge him to grant the pending petition for the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Lopez Rivera and the 14 other Puerto Rican women and men in prison for pro-independence acts and beliefs.

- Enlist your friends and colleagues to do the same.

