



Haiti - supporting Oscar

Oscar López Rivera is Free!

Free them all!

Messages of Solidarity



Philippines - supporting Oscar

Cover photographs

Grassroots activists gathered around the monument to the heroes of *Vertières*, the decisive battle in Haiti's War of Independence against France. This solidarity demonstration for Oscar was in Haiti in 2016 when people from 46 countries demanded his freedom. The top middle sign reads: "We join the people of Puerto Rico in demanding freedom for Oscar." Bottom middle: "Jointly with the following leaders including the many thousands of activists and the people of Puerto Rico, we demand the immediate liberation of Oscar." Right: "The struggle for a people's self-determination is not a crime. That is why we the people in Northern Haiti are in solidarity with Oscar."

Peace Consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) holding signs in solidarity with Oscar Lopez Rivera in January 2017.

On the Move!

Just a short note to give our sincere joy of victory to Oscar López and all those who stuck by him in dedication, commitment, and loyalty, until he was released. Many of us have taken a so-called different path to get to where we want to be, but I believe I can say for sure that we are fighting, looking, working for one common goal – Justice, Freedom, and Equality.

This work is not yet done until all political prisoners are released, so stay strong, stay loyal, we can't afford to be any other way!

A black president was elected.
United States made amends with Japan.
United States, lifted the Cuban Embargo.
Gay marriage legalized across the nation.
United States made an arms deal with Iran.
United States political prisoners are still in prison.
Free all political prisoners!

Long Live John Africa Revolution! –

Debbie Sims Africa (in prison since 1978)
006307
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238

Long Live John Africa Forever!

On the Move, Oscar –

This is Janine Africa of the Move 9! We know you must be feeling good right about now! Examples like your case is why Move tell people to stay strong, never give up and never give in to this system. As John Africa teaches, when you're right, you are not wrong and no matter how hopeless things may yet seem, the power of righteousness will never betray you. I hope your victory will be an inspiration to all in this fight for freedom!

On The Move,

Janine Africa (in prison since 1978)
006309
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238



Janet, Janine & Debbie Africa

*The MOVE Organization
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April 13, 2017

Brother Oscar and Community,

I am very happy for you. I was very satisfied when I saw the news two months ago.

Great men like yourself and Pedro Albizu Campos who truly paid dearly for the liberation of your land, Puerto Rico, are great national heroes of the Puerto Rican people. When I say National hero I mean only the island – not north Turtle Island (or the US).

To all gente of the great nation of Puerto Rico, stand up strong and resist this empire and thief. Take back what is truly yours my comrades. Take Puerto Rico! May the younger generations now complete the work for change. In power and in solidarity and love!

Dios te bendiga Oscar mi hermano

Oso Blanco (in prison since 1999)

Byron Shane of Chubbuck, Cherokee Nation – sovereign citizen
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During 35 years of totally unjust and cold, dark prison time, Oscar never lost his ability to smile warmly. Now I'm sure that he is beaming brightly under the brilliant Puerto Rican sun.

My congratulations go out to Oscar, a wonderful example of principle and humanity, to the Puerto Rican nation, and to the stellar campaign that freed him.

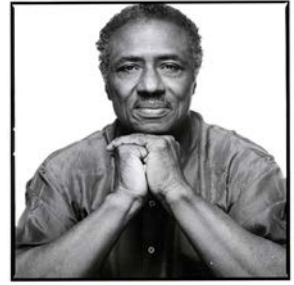


Libertad, Free all Political Prisoners,

David Gilbert (in prison since 1981)
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Wende CF
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Dear Oscar,

I celebrate your return among the living! After your long and circuitous journey, bounced from one prison to another, separated from family and community, you have now bumped up against the shores of home like a gentle wave in from the sea.



You get to walk the earth, free and without shackles—that has to be exhilarating: Seeing the natural world without walls obstructing your view; people casually walking about, strolling arm-in-arm, sitting in the park, children at play, cars honking, street traffic moving. The smell of something delicious cooking.

I am happy you made it out; all too often most of us seldom do, or we die soon after we get out due to poor health, or when spending endless decades inside—some simply die because death seems more acceptable than continued wasting away in a prison cell.

It has been a long slog for you, as it continues to be for those of us who remain behind prison bars, and especially for us PPs, because we're targeted and treated differently than social prisoners.

It's clear that Don Pedro, Lolita, Don Rafa and many known and unknown Puerto Rican patriots have long been staunch advocates for Puerto Rico's independence from u.s. hegemony. From the outset, Puerto Rico and its people were regarded as a valuable asset to u.s. financial and military interests and were expected to accept this new reality without argument.

On the mainland, after centuries of racial subjugation, we descendants of former Afrikan slaves are embroiled in a similar narrative. The violence, humiliation and suffering inflicted on us and our forebears who gave no cause for offense are beyond words to describe, except that we, like you, are people of color. Racism and greed beyond measure are the only plausible explanation. We can never forget our suffering or how much they took from us.

Since the architecture of repression was unaffected by the Abolition of slavery, it quietly transitioned indoors behind prison walls in the form of "mass-incarceration." Since our civil-rights pleas during the 1960s fell on deaf ears, some of us invoked the right of community self-defense, were imprisoned for it and are still here because of it. How do you compensate and repair a people who have had centuries of agonizing physical and psychological damage imposed on them?

Social change never happens without a demand. To be free and made whole again, people of color in the u.s. and Puerto Rico have to rid themselves of outside domination and control, from manipulation by the white racist power structure—that finds its own self-identity in that domination and control.

The Puerto Rican independence movement and the ongoing Black struggle stand united on common ground against a common foe, and we look to the future with unshakeable resolve to achieve our goals. This, my dear brother Oscar, as you well know, is what we share with others to help them develop a broader understanding of why we struggle.

Welcome home!

Herman Bell (in prison since 1973)
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“For Oscar” – Freedom

When I think about the release of Oscar López Rivera, I am reminded of Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel, and the destruction of Vieques. I think about Filiberto Ojeda Rios and El Grito de Lares, and indeed my thoughts lingered on the Young Lords Party – soldiering on with determination. All of whom epitomized the brilliance and revolutionary zeal of Albizu Campos, the champion for the independence of Puerto Rico.

It is this rich history of struggle that we honor and build revolutionary solidarity in the continuous of the fight to end U.S. colonial dominance of Puerto Rico. I am elated to read about college students protesting the austerity program of Promesa; the U.S. continuing raping of the resources and wealth of the Island of the sweet sound of coquis with the rhythm of Afrikan drums – the youth is the future and that future’s promise is based on the building of the independence movement.

That is the task, to bring the brilliant minds of Puerto Rico together and forge a mass and popular monument for independence. In the spirit of Albizu Campos, we applaud the success of the struggle to free Oscar López Rivera. And in international solidarity, we will continue to fight for the liberation and freedom of all U.S. political prisoners, just as we continue to support and fight for the independence of Puerto Rico.

Viva Puerto Rico Libre, Viva Oscar López Rivera,
Revolutionary Love & Unity

Jalil A. Muntaqim (in prison since 1971)
Anthony Bottom 77A4283
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I applaud the release of our Puerto Rican brother and freedom fighter Oscar López Rivera.

In addition to being held captive by the yanqui empire for more than 30 years, for most of his life he's refused to succumb to the colonial oppression and exploitation imposed on Puerto Rico by the US. He is a living example of courage, principles and integrity in his commitment to the struggle for dignity and freedom.

A LUTA CONTINUA!

In Solidarity!
One Love!

Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald (in prison since 1969)
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<https://freechip.wordpress.com/>

Addameer Prisoner Support & Human Rights Association

salutes and stands in solidarity with Oscar López Rivera, the Puerto Rican people, the popular movements, lawyers and committees that worked tirelessly in the struggle to free an imprisoned struggler against colonialism Oscar Rivera. Addameer urges continued action to free all political prisoners in U.S. jails, just as we call for the freedom of imprisoned Palestinians held by the Israeli occupation.

Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers have launched a mass hunger strike starting 17 April 2017. The call for hunger strike came amidst resentment of Israeli's cruel policies towards political prisoners. The issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees held in Israeli prisons and detention centers transcends one of individual human rights; it is also one of collective rights of an entire people – the Palestinian people, who continue to be deprived of the right to self-determination and sovereignty – basic fundamentals of international law.

Addameer Prisoner Support & Human Rights Association urges all people to organize events in solidarity with the struggle of hunger-striking prisoners and detainees. 2017 marks 100 years of the Balfour declaration; 70 years of Palestinian Catastrophe (al-Nakba); 50 years of brutal military occupation. This is also the year to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its actions and to demand the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners!

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Philippine members of SELDA—people whose spouses and/or children are politically imprisoned. Many of those shown are also former political prisoners. They are holding signs in solidarity with Oscar Lopez Rivera, taken January 6, 2017.

“We support the campaign to Free Oscar López Rivera. He must be released now! We, the Peace Consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, support the struggle of all political prisoners. Just as we call for the urgent release and granting of unconditional general amnesty to all Filipino political prisoners!”

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Oscar López is a hero of Borinquen, for his steadfast dedication to the freedom of all Puertorriqueños! He sacrificed years of his life for the liberation of his people, like Lolita Lebron, and used the fires of his love for la Gente to warm him during the cruel winters in America. May his freedom come quickly, and may he be soon reunited with his beloved homeland.

Mumia Abu-Jamal (in prison since 1981)

#AM 8335

SCI Mahanoy

301 Morea Road

Frackville, PA 17932

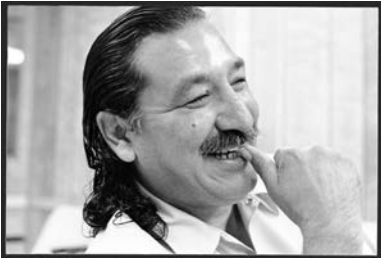
Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

<http://www.freemumia.com/>

Prison Radio

<http://www.prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia>



Greetings Brother Oscar,

I was very happy to hear of your release and your return to Puerto Rico and your people. I can see you painting when you want and spending time with your daughter and family. I wish you a good life with your people and know in my heart that you will never forget those of us still behind the walls.

With respect,

Doksha!
Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier (in prison since 1976)
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Celebra el ICAP regreso a Puerto Rico del independentista Oscar López Rivera

Los Trabajadores del Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) celebraron el regreso a su patria puertorriqueña del independentista Oscar López Rivera, quien completará en prisión domiciliaria su injusta condena de más de 35 años en cárceles estadounidenses por luchar por la libertad de su tierra.

El Héroe de la República de Cuba, Fernando González Lloret, vicepresidente del ICAP, afirmó que este acontecimiento es el preludio de la gran celebración que haremos el 17 de mayo, cuando se cumple la conmutación de la pena dictada en el caso de Oscar.

Fernando, uno de Los Cinco y quien compartió celda con Oscar durante cuatro años y medio, afirmó que esta victoria es de todos los revolucionarios y amantes de la justicia en el mundo, y aseguró que solamente fue posible por la resistencia del héroe y la unidad de quienes afanosamente batallaron por su excarcelación.

Reflexionó sobre la nueva experiencia de vida que estrá sintiendo el patriota puertorriqueño luego de estar más de 35 años en cárceles norteamericanas, y se pronunció porque, cuando esté libre de toda restricción, se cumpla el sueño de verlo entrar al ICAP y compartir con sus trabajadores.

En el acto fue leído un comunicado del Instituto que expresa en una de sus partes:

“Los cubanos y cubanas también comparten la alegría de que por fin Oscar ya esté en casa. Oscar, hombre íntegro y revolucionario quien mantuvo durante 35 años de encierro, tortura y represión una ejemplar resistencia, sin dejar de amar a su isla, su pueblo y su bandera, con sus firmes ideas de libertad y justicia social. ¡Gracias querido Oscar ¡ Tu ejemplo hace realidad los sueños de Hostos, Betances, Albizu Campos, Lolita Lebrón, Filiberto Ojeda, Juan Mari Brás y otros tantos héroes y heroínas que han dedicado su vida a la libertad de su tierra! El 17 de mayo celebraremos en gran tu definitiva libertad!”

<http://www.icap.cu/>
infoicap@icap.cu



3 of the Cuban 5 - René González, Gerardo Hernández & Antonio Guerrero

ICAP celebrates the return of independentista Oscar López Rivera to Puerto Rico

On Friday, workers from the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) celebrated the return of independentista Oscar López Rivera to his Puerto Rican homeland. He will complete his unjust sentence of more than 35 years in US prisons for struggling for his nation's liberty, under house arrest.

The Hero of the Republic of Cuba, Fernando González Llort, vice president of ICAP, affirmed that this event is a prelude to a huge celebration that will take place on May 17th, when Oscar completes the commutation of the sentence given in his case.

Fernando, one of The Cuban 5, who shared a cell with Oscar for four and a half years, affirmed that this victory belongs to all revolutionaries and lovers of justice and the world, and he assured that this was only possible due to Oscar's resistance and the unity among those who enthusiastically fought for his release.

He reflected on the new life experience that the Puerto Rican patriot must be feeling after more than 35 years inside north american prisons, and he said this because when he is free of all restrictions, the dream of seeing him enter ICAP and share with the workers will become a reality.

During the program a message was read from the Institute which stated the following:

"Cuban men and women also share the joy that Oscar is now at home at last. Oscar, an upright man and revolutionary, was tortured and repressed, but maintained exemplary resistance during 35 years of imprisonment, and never stopped loving his island, his people and his flag, with his solid ideas on freedom and social justice; Thank you, beloved Oscar! Your example makes reality of the dreams of Hostos, Betances, Albizu Campos, Lolita Lebrón, Filberto Ojeda, Juan Mari Brás and so many heroes and heroines that have dedicated their lives to freedom for their homeland! On May 17th we will grandly celebrate your definitive freedom!"



The Freedom Archives - www.freedomarchives.org