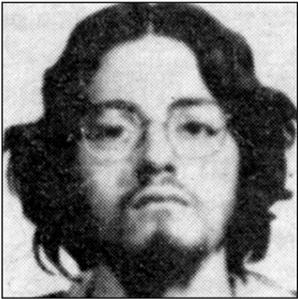


## CARLOS ALBERTO TORRES



Carlos Alberto Torres is a Prisoner of War, sentenced to 55 years in prison for his involvement in the liberation of occupied islands of Puerto Rico. Born in

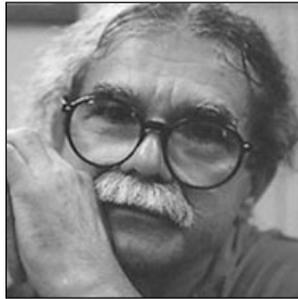
Puerto Rico, his parents raised him on the mainland, living in New York and Chicago. After being drafted to fight in Vietnam, Carlos returned home in '67 where he found the problems of drug addiction, unemployment, inadequate housing, health and education destroying the Puerto Rican community. He immediately went to work organizing to improve the quality of life for his people, helping to establish the Rafael Cancel Miranda Puerto Rican High School (now known as the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School) and participated in the Committee to Free the 5 Nationals.

In 1977, Carlos was forced to go underground and was listed as number one on the FBI's 'Ten Most Wanted' list after being charge with possession and storage of explosives.

In 1998, he was captured with ten other members of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional, an underground organization that fought for Puerto Rico's independence in the '70s and '80s. He was sentenced to 88 years on charges of seditious conspiracy, among other charges.

Although the Clinton Administration offered clemency to 12 Puerto Rican political prisoners in the fall of 1999, no leniency was granted to Carlos Torres, whom prosecutors described as a leader of the FALN. His release date is 2024.

## OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA



Oscar was born in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico in 1943 on January 6, 1943. When he was young, he moved to Chicago with his family. He was a

well-respected community activist and a prominent independence leader for many years prior to his arrest.

He was active in various community struggles, mainly in the area of health care, employment and police brutality. He also participated in the development of the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists.

In 1975, he was forced underground, along with other comrades. On May 29, 1981, Oscar Lopez Rivera was captured in Chicago after 5 years of being prosecuted by the FBI as one of the most feared fugitives from the US "justice".

Oscar was found guilty on five counts involving seditious conspiracy, armed robbery, weapons violations and interstate transportation of stolen property. He was sentenced to 55 years in prison.

In 1988, he was convicted of conspiracy to escape along with Jaime Delgado (a veteran independence leader), Dora Garcia, (a prominent community activist) and Kojo Bomani Sababu, a New Afrikan POW.

Oscar was one of 12 Puerto Rican political prisoners offered some form of leniency by the Clinton Administration in the Fall of 1999. He declined the reduction of his sentence because the leniency involved a parole, which Oscar felt was a like offering him "prison outside of prison." His release date is set for July 27, 2027.

## HAYDEE BELTRAN TORRES



Haydee Beltran was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico on June 27, 1955. As a youth she witnessed the mistreatment of the Puerto Rican people at the

hands of the colonial government, and determined to struggle for her nation's liberation.

She was arrested on April 4, 1980, as a suspected member of the Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN). Declaring her status as a "prisoner of war," she stated that the US court proceedings were "illegal" and that she had "committed no crime", and demanded that her case be tried before an international court. She was refused her request and instead given a trial in which she had no legal representation, and was subsequently charged with "seditious conspiracy" (or attempting to overthrow the US government), and sentenced to life in a US prison.

Haydee has since been the victim of physical abuse which led to serious injuries which prison medical personnel have either misdiagnosed or left untreated, and it is believed that she has also been injected with dangerous drugs. Haydee was not one of those offered clemency by the Clinton Administration. She chosen not to participate in the campaign to release the Puerto Rican political prisoners. She and her lawyers were pursuing a different strategy. Recently, she was place back on the political prisoner lists.

## The Puerto Rican Struggle

For over 500 years Puerto Rico has been a colony, first of Spain, and then of the US. International law denounces colonialism as a crime and recognizes the peoples' right to end colonialism by any means at their disposal.

Influenced by their leader, Pedro Albizu Campos, Puerto Rican nationalist have staged various rebellions throughout the first half of the 20th century, including an attacked the congress in 1954.

In the '60s a new revival of Puerto Rican nationalism developed with the emergence of the Young Lords. Soon groups emerged that advocated armed actions to free Puerto Rico from US colonial rule.

In 1980, 14 persons accused of being members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) were arrested. In 1985, FBI arrested 13 people they accused of being members of another armed anti-colonial group, Los Macheteros.

When captured they all declared themselves to be prisoners in a war to liberate Puerto Rico. The government did not recognize their status as POWs and convicted them to sentences ranging from 35 to 90 years.

In 1999, eleven of the Puerto Rican POWs were released after they given clemency by Clinton. Juan Segara-Palmer was given clemency but had to serve five more years. Another prison, Antonia Camacho Negrón was released in August 2004 but continued to be harass after his release.

In 2005, the leader of Los Macheteros, Avilino Gonzalez Claudio was assassinated in cold blood after federal agent raided his home.

In 2008, Avelino Gonzalez Claudio, another member of Los Macheteros, was arrested after 22 years of being underground.

The assassination and arrest of members of Los Macheteros is an extension of renewed interest by the U.S. government to smash the Puerto Rican movement for independence.

## Free the Puerto Rico POW's

Write to the Puerto Rican POW at:

**Oscar Lopez Rivera**

#87651-024

U.S. Penitentiary

P.O. Box 12015

Terre Haute, IN 47808

**Carlos Alberto Torres**

#88976-024

P.O. Box 15000

Pekin, IL 61555

**Haydee Beltran Torres**

#88462-024

SCI Tallahassee

501 Capitol

Circle NE

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Organizations Supporting the  
Puerto Rican Prisoners of War:

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation**

(ABCF)

P.O. Box 11223

Whittier, CA 90604

la@abcf.net

YOU CAN HELP BY GIVING POLIT-  
ICAL PRISONERS A VOICE AND  
VISIBILITY

THE TRUTH CAN SET THEM FREE!

## Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

