

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

December 16, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, the coalition of the 40 most prominent Hispanic organizations in the country, has approved a resolution to urge you to exercise executive clemency and commute Oscar López Rivera's sentence to release him from custody.

López Rivera, who is now 74, has been in federal prison for over 35 years, 12 in solitary confinement, although he has never been accused or convicted of harming anyone. In fact, Lopez Rivera has for many years disavowed violence as a means of seeking political change. For years prior to his conviction and after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, López Rivera was a committed community organizer in Chicago, building coalitions to improve the lives of Latinos in the city. His sentences for seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to escape are patently disproportionate and at his age his incarceration serves no criminological or public safety purpose.

López Rivera's release enjoys broad and growing support, both in Puerto Rico and throughout the diaspora. The governor, governor-elect of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner, among hundreds of others have written you requesting his release. Elected officials, the faith community, religious leaders, labor unions, environmentalists, human rights groups, activists, the Puerto Rico Bar Association, community organizations, every Puerto Rican member of Congress (Velazquez, Guitierrez, Serrano, Pierliusi) and Senator Bernie Sanders have called for his release. Nobel laureates Desmond Tutu, Rigoberta Menchu, Mairead Maguire have supported this call for freedom too. Now, well over 100,000 people from across the country have signed the White House petition for his release.

We sincerely hope, that in the few days remaining of your administration, you will grant our request for clemency for López Rivera. After over three decades in prison, it is time to allow López Rivera to return to his family.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Cuban American National Council
Farmworker Justice
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Latino Justice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Council of La Raza
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Puerto Rican Coalition
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
U.S.- Mexico Foundation