

PUERTO RICO: DE PIE Y EN GUERRA

Protect and Defend The Armed Clandestine Movement!

"A Nuestro Pueblo"

— reprinted from *El Nuevo Día*

Following is a translation of a statement by the Puerto Rican Socialist League (LSP) published in *El Nuevo Día*, San Juan, November 24, 1979, and signed by almost 100 organizations and more than 200 individuals: every major independence organization in Puerto Rico; all the Puerto Rican armed clandestine organizations in both Puerto Rico and the US; Puerto Rican and solidarity organizations in the United States; and all the Puerto Rican prisoners of war.

Comrade **Angel Rodriguez Cristobal** was assassinated Sunday, November 11 in the Federal Penitentiary in Tallahassee, Florida. **Rodriguez Cristobal** was a member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, a farmer, a husband and father of two children. **Angel** was forced to appear before the U.S. Federal Court in San Juan last September 26, charged with having trespassed on land that the Navy occupies with its arms in Vieques. He indicated his opposition to this foreign tribunal with such strength that he moved even the journalists present. He was sentenced to a maximum of six months in jail and a \$500.00 fine. Three days later came the added punishment of exile to the imperialist penitentiary where he was murdered.

The government of the U.S. is responsible for the assassination of **Angel Rodriguez Cristobal**—patriot, revolutionary, defender of Vieques and leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist League. The direct instruments of the murder are the Navy that perpetrated the arrest, Federal Judge Juan Torruella, who sent him to the place of his execution, and the yanki intelligence operatives who killed him.

The struggle of the people of Vieques to oust the U.S. Navy is the struggle of all Puerto Rico for its survival as a nation. North American imperialism is aware of this. It looks with fear at the growing rejection of its military presence. It watches how our people come to awareness of justice on the side of the people of Vieques and how the formation of new sup-



credit: Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de Vieques

For the last two years Vieques fishermen have confronted US and NATO naval forces with their small fishing boats.

port committees is growing in the different towns of the island.

The assassination of **Angel** is another action in the wave of terrorism which the government is unleashing against the people of Vieques, its defenders and all the people of Puerto Rico. It leaves clearly uncovered the true face of the politics of human rights of the U.S. government when it comes to defending its interests. This assassination is another affirmation of the repressive politics that have held sway in Puerto Rico for decades and has recently increased.

The people of Vieques know well the terrorism practiced by the military, from the expropriation of their lands to the outrage on their women. The people in general, among the different sectors and classes, has suffered the excesses of an intervening power that stops for nothing: young men sent to die in foreign wars; workers persecuted, arrested and killed for defending their rights; workers' organizations destroyed; independentists persecuted and assassinated.

The memory returns of the victims of the massacres of Rio Piedras and Ponce; the murders of Elias Beauchamp and Hiram Rosado at police headquarters in San Juan; the disappearance of the body of Angel Esteban Anton-giorgi, the interminable list of accusations fabricated against independence organizations and militants; the murder of Julito Roldan in the Tombs prison in New York; the murder of the student Antonia Martinez; the bomb exploded in Mayagüez by one of the terrorist groups organized by the CIA and FBI that took the lives of Angel Charbonier and Eddie Ramos; the assassination of Santiago Mari Pesquera; the kidnapping, torture and murder of Juan Rafael Caballero; and the entrapment at Monte Maravilla where imperialism killed Arnaldo Dario Rosado and Carlos Soto Arrivi.

The arrest of the Vieques 21, the trial, the jail sentences and now the murder of **Angel Rodriguez Cristobal** are part of the repressive politic of the U.S.



credit: Claridad (San Juan, Puerto Rico)

Angel Rodriguez Cristobal (left), pictured here with Puerto Rican POW Ismael Guadalupe at their arrest on Vieques May 19.

government. The people are aware of it but they are not intimidated. The people will resist the repression and deepen the struggle. They will not step back today.

On the contrary, before their eyes are presented the tasks they have ahead. The struggle to oust the Navy from Vieques will be fortified by the warmth of the memory of **Angel Rodriguez Cristobal**.

Our whole people should mobilize to repudiate the murder of **Angel**, in solidarity with the comrades awaiting trial in Federal Court and demand the repatriation of **Ramon Antonio Alicea, Diego Ledee Bazan, Pedro Baiges Chapel, Ismael Guadalupe, Nydia Cuevas and Pablo Marcano**.

In the face of Angel's death, let us confront the tasks of the moment!



Statement from the Liga Socialista Puertorriqueña

Our comrade Angel Rodriguez Cristobal was assassinated yesterday, November 11, in the federal penitentiary at Tallahassee, Florida. Rodriguez Cristobal was a member of the Central Committee and of the Political Bureau of the Puerto Rican Socialist League. Rodriguez Cristobal appeared before the federal court of the United States in San Juan last September 26 to respond to charges of hav-

ing penetrated on lands that the yanki Navy occupies with its arms in Vieques. He put forward his impugning of this foreign court with such gallantry that it moved even the journalists present. He was condemned to six months in prison and a \$500 fine. Immediately jailed, three days later he was expatriated to the imperialist penitentiary, where he was assassinated yesterday.

Attorney Michael Deutsch of Chicago, comrade Carlos Noya and I visited with our comrade on Saturday, November 10; he had completed nineteen days in solitary confinement and returned the day before to the barracks that he shared with more than sixty other compañeros. We spent Saturday with the comrade from 10:00 in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. He had lost color and weight because of his seclusion in solitary confinement, but he maintained the serenity, happiness and aplomb with which he confronted the imperialist tribunal.

The government of the United States is responsible for the assassination of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, patriot, revolutionary, defender of Vieques and leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist League. Angel Rodriguez Cristobal enters into the pantheon of the immortals. Like Buena Ventura Quiñones in the 19th Century, his death defines a situation in the history of Puerto Rico. He is the first Puerto Rican to pay with his life as a prisoner of war in defense of Vieques. Together with his coffin we lower our flags, and renew our pledges of independence or death.

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Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist League
Juan Antonio Corretjer, Secretary General
November 12, 1979



Statement from the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional

The Movimiento de Liberación Nacional (MLN) and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War denounce the cowardly assassination of the Patriot Angel Rodriguez-Cristobal, member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, by the United States government. According to officials at the Federal Prison in Tallahassee, Florida, Angel Rodriguez-Cristobal was found hung on Sunday, November 11, 1979, at 12:06 am. Angel was a Prisoner of War, serving a six-month sentence for supporting the just struggle that is being waged by the People of Vieques, to rid their beloved island of the military presence of the US Navy.

It is the obligation of every Puerto Rican, and all freedom lovers, to condemn the systematic campaign

In the interview with the written press and radio and TV that followed the delivery of this document, I accused the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of having carried out the operation that cost the life of comrade Angel Rodriguez Cristobal. I sustained there and I sustain now that the CIA assassinated Angel Rodriguez Cristobal for being a prominent member of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, the only organization that has backed the revolutionary politico-military clandestine activity of the clandestine apparatus in Puerto Rico and the US. They have wanted to provoke, to make a provocation of the clandestine organizations, especially the FALN, Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional in the US, to provoke a reaction that would facilitate their penetration or the capture of some of their members. It is a provocation directed at the FALN with the precedent of Fraunces Tavern and the Anglers Club in hopes that the precipitation of a punitive action could occasion and provide them the conditions to destroy the FALN in the United States and the clandestine movement in Puerto Rico. They won't get away with it.

of repression and terror that the United States has unleashed to destroy the Puerto Rican nationality, and create from our beloved Puerto Rico, a state of the union.

This campaign, which focuses principally on the revolutionary independentista movement, was initiated with the assassination of the labor leader, Juan Rafael Caballero, followed by the Cerro Maravilla Massacre; and continues today with the death of the hero Angel Rodriguez-Cristobal.

How many more of our brothers will we permit the enemy to assassinate? It is time to denounce the criminality and human rights violations on the part of the United States government.

— Movimiento de Liberación Nacional