



League of United Latin American Citizens

A Resolution In Support of the Release of Oscar Lopez Rivera

WHEREAS, Oscar López Rivera, a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army for meritorious achievement in Vietnam returned to the Puerto Rican community of Chicago to become a successful community organizer and help improve conditions in education, housing, and employment for Puerto Ricans and Latinos, and

WHEREAS, in May 1981, he was arrested and convicted along with other men and women of seditious conspiracy and related offenses, yet he nor any of his co-defendants was convicted of harming or killing anyone, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, as a result of an international campaign for their release, President Clinton commuted the sentences of most of these men and women. The President offered to commute his sentence after he served another 10 years in prison. In solidarity with those not included in the commutation, he declined, and

WHEREAS, those not included in the commutation have since been released on parole, and all of his co-defendants are living, productive, law-abiding lives. He is the only one of his co-defendants still behind bars, and

WHEREAS, at 72 years old, he is the longest held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico. He has served more time in prison than South African leader Nelson Mandela, and

WHEREAS, support for his release includes elected officials of the U.S. Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and elected officials from New York, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois; civic and religious leaders throughout the U.S., Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, presidents of Latin American nations and international figures from Haiti, Mexico and Australia among others; as well as Puerto Rican and Latino communities throughout the United States; with AFL-CIO, SEIU, AFSCME, and LCLAA all passing similar resolutions in their respective conventions, and

WHEREAS, there is a consensus in Puerto Rico supporting his release that crosses party affiliations and status preferences, and that includes every sector of society, including former governors Rafael Hernández Colón, Sila María Calderón, Pedro Rosselló, Anibal Acevedo Vilá, and current governor Alejandro García Padilla; Resident Commissioner to U.S. Congress Pedro Pierluisi; Mayor of San Juan Carmen Yulín Cruz; the Puerto Rico Senate and House of Representatives; the labor unions and churches; artists, athletes, musicians, teachers (the Teachers Federation), doctors (the College of Physicians and Surgeons) and lawyers (the Bar Association).

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization annually adopts resolutions, as recently as 2014, calling on the President of the United States to release Oscar López Rivera;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the 2015 LULAC Convention calls on the President of the United States to exercise his Constitutional power of pardon, and to grant the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar López Rivera.

Voted and approved at the 2015 National LULAC Convention - July 11, 2015.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President