

**National Lawyers Guild International Committee
Presentation to the United Nations Decolonization Committee
Hearings on Puerto Rico
June 21, 2010**

The National Lawyers Guild was founded in 1937 as an alternative to the American Bar Association, which did not admit people of color. The National Lawyers Guild is the oldest and largest public interest/human rights bar organization in the United States. With headquarters in New York, it has chapters in every state. From its founding, the National Lawyers Guild has maintained an internationalist perspective, and international work has been a critical focus for the Guild. Its International Committee has organized delegations to many countries throughout the world, and Guild members are involved in international organizations, such as the International Association for Democratic Lawyers and the American Association of Jurists. Presently, active subcommittees exist for Cuba, the Middle East, Korea, and the United Nations. Guild members, including myself, have a long history of defending activists in the Puerto Rican independence movement.

I. Status

A. U.S. Congress

Both houses of the United States Congress recently considered legislation proposed by Puerto Rico's non-voting resident commissioner, allegedly addressing the colonial status of Puerto Rico. While its proponent publicly asserted that the bill was not an invitation to Puerto Rico to become the 51st state of the union, the bill was widely seen as one promoting that very

result.¹ The bill, which earned lobbyists millions of dollars,² called for allowing plebiscites in Puerto Rico, the results of which would not be binding on U.S. Congress.³ The island's main daily newspaper— known for its conservative position on the status question— in an editorial denounced the “arrogant” behavior of the members of the House and Senate, and called the process “an insensitive charade,” and “another exercise in futility that continues to lacerate the self-esteem and collective spirit of the Puerto Rican people as a result of its political controversy.”⁴

The congressional process does not begin to approach compliance with the resolutions of this august Committee, which call upon the government of the U.S. to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

B. White House

There is no ministry or any formal office of the U.S. government charged with responsibility for administering the colony. However, in 2000, a President's Task Force on Puerto

1 Letter to the editor, “D.C. and Puerto Rico have more in common than not,” *Washington Post*, May 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/23/AR2010052303778.html>; José A. Delgado, “El 2499 no es una invitación a la estidadad: En una carta en The Washington Post, Pierluisi reafirma que las consultas no vinculan al Congreso con sus resultados,” *El Nuevo Día*, May 24, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/el2499noesunainvitacionalaestidadad-710247.html>; “Intenso cabildeo mediático en EU a favor y en contra del proyecto de status: La campaña mediática sobre la aprobación del proyecto H.R. 2499 mantiene una agresiva presencia en los medios estadounidenses,” *CyberNews Puerto Rico*, April 28, 2010, <http://www.telemundopr.com/intensocabildeomediaticoeneuafavoryencontradelproyectodestatus-43379.html>.

2 See, e.g., Inter News Service, “PRFAA ha gastado \$2.8 millones en cabilderos, denuncia Vega Ramos,” *Primera Hora*, May 23, 2010, [http://www.primerahora.com/prfaahagastado\\$2.8millonesencabilderosdenunciavegaramos-389089.html](http://www.primerahora.com/prfaahagastado$2.8millonesencabilderosdenunciavegaramos-389089.html).

3 H.R. 2499, http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2499eh.txt.pdf.

4 Editorial, “Otra charada congressional,” *El Nuevo Día*, May 24, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/columna-otracharadacongresional-709984.html>.

Rico was created,⁵ which this year held two poorly attended sessions to listen to testimony from witnesses recommended by the electoral parties.⁶ Task Force representatives, who asserted their report would be “neutral” on the status question,⁷ were perceived as either lacking interest or ignorant, even by prominent supporters of statehood.⁸ A report is due in October, though expectations are generally low.⁹

II. Colonial administration continues to threaten the future of the nation

Many of the specters of disaster augured in our last report to this Committee have

5 As we have pointed out in previous presentations to this Committee, the Bush administration, in its reports from the U.S. President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status, virtually acknowledges that Puerto Rico remains a juridical colony, and is evidence of the need for the General Assembly to consider the case of Puerto Rico. The reports reveal that, regardless of what the U.S. said in its 1953 report to the United Nations in order to remove Puerto Rico from the list of non-self-governing territories, Puerto Rico remains a non-self-governing territory, subject to U.S. Congress’ plenary authority under the Territory Clause. [Report by the President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status, December 2007, at pp. 5-6, <http://www.justice.gov/opa/documents/2007-report-by-the-president-task-force-on-puerto-rico-status.pdf>; Report by the President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status, December 2005, at pp. 5-6.] Under this power, the report says, Congress could even cede Puerto Rico to another nation. [Report by the President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status, December 2005, at p. 6, http://charma.uprm.edu/~angel/Puerto_Rico/report_e_status.pdf].

6 José A. Delgado, “Relegados los políticos: El comité interagencial de la Casa Blanca dará prioridad a la economía y a escuchar las voces del pueblo,” *El Nuevo Día*, March 2, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/relegadoslospoliticos-679614.html>; José A. Delgado, “Borrón y cuenta nueva: Casa Blanca reexaminará todo lo relacionado con el status,” *El Nuevo Día*, March 4, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/borronycuentanueva-680462.html>.

7 Ponencia del secretario de Justicia Tom Perrelli, copresidente del grupo de trabajo del presidente sobre el estatus de Puerto Rico, *Primera Hora*, March 3, 2010, http://www.primerahora.com/diario/noticia/politica/noticias/ponencia_del_secretario_de_justicia_tom_perrelli_copresidente_del_grupo_de_trabajo_del_presidente_sobre_el_estatus_de_puerto_rico/371354; Yennifer Álvarez Jaimes, “‘Task Force’ de Casa Blanca asegura informe ‘neutral,’” *Vocero*, March 3, 2010, http://www.vocero.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1115:task-force-de-casa-blanca-asegura-informe-neutral&catid=50:news; Associate Attorney General Remarks On Puerto Rico Task Force, PR Newswire, May 25, 2010, <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/remarks-as-prepared-for-delivery-by-associate-attorney-general-tom-perrelli-at-the-puerto-rico-task-force-public-hearing-94844924.html>.

8 Frances Rosario, “‘Viven en los cuernos de Valencia’: Gran malestar de políticos,” *El Nuevo Día*, March 4, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/vivenenloscuernosdevalencia-680622.html>.

9 José A. Delgado, “Pierluisi no espera grandes cosas de la Casa Blanca: Piensa que seguirán la política de ‘neutralidad’ en el tema del status,” *El Nuevo Día*, May 26, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/pierluisinoesperagrandescosadelacasablanca-711843.html>.

unfortunately come to pass— evidence that the continuing colonial relationship is in dire need of a just solution. The pro-statehood administration on the island has laid off some 20,000 government employees, applying "Law No. 7," which gave them emergency powers to effect fiscal measures;¹⁰ packed the Puerto Rico Supreme Court with loyal pro-statehood party members;¹¹ attempted to do away with the Puerto Rico Bar Association, the oldest professional organization in Puerto Rico;¹² threatened to privatize the government assets that remain in the public domain, including the vast system of higher education;¹³ slashed the budget of every cultural institution which preserves and promulgates the dynamic culture of the Puerto Rican people;¹⁴ moved against a squatter community of Dominican immigrants¹⁵ and against a longstanding, well-organized community of descendants of displaced workers,¹⁶ all the while

0 ⁰Juan A. Ocasio Rivera, "Explosions of Unrest Mark Puerto Rico's Economic Crisis," *NACLA*, November 18, 2009, <https://nacla.org/node/6254>.

1 ¹Editorial, "Dardos marcados al Tribunal Supremo," *El Nuevo Día*, March 14, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/columna/685444/>; Efrén Rivera Ramos, "La UPR y el Tribunal Supremo," *El Nuevo Día*, March 17, 2010, reproduced at <http://poderyambiente.blogspot.com/2010/03/columna-la-upr-y-el-tribunal-supremo.html>.

2 ²Editorial, "El Colegio debe ser preservado," *El Nuevo Día*, March 2, 2009, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/columna/539625/>. Addressing legislation which would gut the Bar Association by converting it from a mandatory organization to a voluntary organization, in great part in order to wrest control from independentista leadership, the editorial begins: "The legislative majority's assault on an institution whose voice and action have been clearly and potently raised for the past 169 years in defense of the voiceless, is suffering a dangerous precedent that warrants the Country's deepest rejection." (translated from the original Spanish).

3 ³Manuel de J. González, "Una ley para privatizarlo todo," *Claridad*, May 21-27, 2009, <http://claridadpuertorico.com/content/view/403615/32/>.

4 ⁴Cynthia López Cabán, "Están estrangulando al ICP": Junta de Directores se reúne hoy para evaluar candidatos," *El Nuevo Día*, February 26, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/estanestrangulandoalicp-677842.html>; "Escuela de Artes Plásticas decreta paro de 24 horas," *Diálogo Digital*, September 29, 2009, <http://dialogodigital.com/es/entre-estudiantes/2009/09/escuela-artes-plasticas-decreta-paro-24-horas>.

5 ⁵Mike Melia, AP, "Puerto Rico accused of violating squatters' rights," *Washington Post*, April 28, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/28/AR2010042804648.html>.

6 ⁶Limarys Suárez Torres, "Circuito de Apelaciones falla contra el Fideicomiso del Caño Martín Peña: Avaló la incautación de terrenos por parte del Gobierno," *El Nuevo Día*, April 29, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/bostonfallacontraelfideicomisodelcano-695009.html>.

squandering exorbitant amounts of public money lobbying U.S. Congress in efforts to influence annexationist legislation.¹⁷ All this in the context of collapsing banks and the highest unemployment rate in years.¹⁸

In response to these crises, a delegation of our International Committee went to Puerto Rico to conduct an onsite investigation of the Puerto Rican government's policies aimed at individuals who promote and defend fundamental human rights,¹⁹ and emerged with a plan to coordinate with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the American Association of Jurists to denounce the retrograde laws, support the Puerto Rico Bar Association, and, *inter alia*, file amicus briefs in the cases involving Vieques and the Caspo Martín Peñsa squatter community.²⁰

Resistance to these violations of human rights has continued to grow on the island, with work and student stoppages and day-long general strikes which enjoyed wide participation by labor and every sector of society.²¹ Recently, university students are leading the fore, in a two

7 ⁷José A. Delgado, “Detrás del dólar boricua: El gobierno boricua es el rey del cabildeo en Washington D.C.,” *El Nuevo Día*, September 18, 2009, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/detrasdeldolarboricua-616568.html>.

8 ⁸Eric Dash, “F.D.I.C. Brokers the Sale of 3 Banks,” *New York Times*, April 30, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/01/business/01bank.html?scp=5&sq=puerto%20rico&st=cse>; Marian Díaz, “Vuelve a dispararse la tasa de desempleo: Subió a 16.2%, la más alta en 17 años para el mes de marzo,” *El Nuevo Día*, April 20, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/vuelveadispararselatasadedesempleo-688716.html>.

9 ⁹“National Lawyers Guild initiates campaign to raise awareness of the attack on the Puerto Rican Bar Association,” April 6, 2010, <http://www.nlginternational.org/news/article.php?nid=296>.

0 ⁰Inter News Service, “Abogados de EE.UU. consideran acto de “represalia” eliminación de colegiación en la Isla,” *Primera Hora*, March 29, 2010, http://www.primerahora.com/abogados_de_ee.uu._consideran_acto_de_represalia_eliminacion_de_colegiacion_en_la_isla-377542.html. (“‘The attack on the Bar Association is unprecedented. In the United States, 36 states have compulsory membership and there has never been an attempt to dismantle a single one,’ said Dr. Jeanne Mirer, chair of the International Committee of the NLG and president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. ‘I can’t imagine this happening in the states... if there was ever an attempt to eliminate a bar association for having taken political positions, it would result in total indignation by even the most right wing members of the association,’ commented Susan Scott, co-chair of the International Committee of the NLG.”).

1 ¹Damien Cave, “Puerto Rico Unions Protest Job Cuts,” *New York Times*, October 16, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/16/us/16puerto.html?_r=1&emc=eta1&pagewanted=print; Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, “Puerto Rico: Reflections on the National Strike,” October 16, 2009,

month long non-confrontational strike, supported by parents, professors, university workers, unions, religious organizations, indeed by the whole of civil society.²² There was widespread concern for the safety and well-being of the student leaders, both during the strike and once the strike comes to an end,²³ as riot police have not only assaulted the students, their parents, legal observers²⁴ and journalists;²⁵<http://www.elnuevodia.com/ungraveerrordecalculodelaadministracion-705435.html>. but police have publicly stated their desire to commit violence,²⁶ and their police chief, a former FBI agent, has expressed his unwavering support for his troops.²⁷ Hopefully, the recent court-ordered negotiated settlement, in which the students emerged victorious,²⁸ will avert the anticipated police violence.

<http://globalvoicesonline.org/2009/10/16/puerto-rico-reflections-on-the-national-strike/print/>; Yarimar Bonilla and Rafael A. Boglio Martínez, "Puerto Rico in Crisis: Government Workers Battle Neoliberal Reform," *NACLA - North American Congress on Latin America*, January 2010, <https://nacla.org/node/6341>, https://nacla.org/files/A04301008_1.pdf (full article); Néstor Rosa-Marbrell, "Sindicalistas boricuas proclaman éxito de paro nacional," *Prensa Latina*, May 18, 2010, http://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=189380&Itemid=1; Vanesa Baerga, "Estudiantes de Artes Plásticas acampan indefinidamente hasta lograr acuerdos justos," *Claridad*, June 3, 2010, <http://claridadpuertorico.com/content.html?news=FA435D8C304856266F8B5C13D6D95ACE>.

2 ²Omayá Sosa-Pascual and Emma Graves Fitzsimmons, "Student Protests Tie Up Campuses in Puerto Rico," *New York Times*, May 20, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/21/us/21students.html?scp=2&sq=puerto%20rico&st=cse>; Amy Goodman, "Student Strike at University of Puerto Rico Enters 28th Day," *Democracy Now*, May 17, 2010, http://www.democracynow.org/2010/5/17/student_strike_at_university_of_puerto.

3 ³Inter News Service, "Cátedra UNESCO pide estar alerta ante posible regreso de "época de escarmientos" por huelga estudiantil," *Primera Hora*, June 4, 2010, <http://www.primerahora.com/catedraunescopideestalarertaanteposibleregresodeepocadeescarmientosporhuelgaestudiantil-391642.html>; Amnesty International Public Statement, "Puerto Rico: Amnesty International calls for police restraint as student strike continues," June 2, 2010 AI Index: AMR 47/001/2010.

4 ⁴Mady Pacheco, "Moretones, mentiras y esteroides," *El Nuevo Día*, June 15, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/columna-moretonesmentirasyesteroides-723611.html>.

5 ⁵Ricardo Cortés Chico, "Pateada a estudiante por un oficial de alto rango: Oficial niega el incidente, pero luego lo admite," *El Nuevo Día*, May 22, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/patadaparaponerelorden-709464.html>; Benjamín Torres Gotay, "Un grave error de cálculo de la administración: El Gobierno subestimó de mala manera la capacidad de los estudiantes," *El Nuevo Día*, May 16, 2010,

6 ⁶Officers' revelations on Facebook, including comments such as, "I finally clubbed somebody today, I hope things get crazy so I can empty out my rifle," quickly became unavailable on Facebook, once the public got wind of them. Bloggers' downloads rescued them for posterity. See, e.g., <http://postpomonuyorican.blogspot.com/>.

7 ⁷"Figueroa Sancha defends police actions in hotel clash," *Puerto Rico Daily Sun*, May 22, 2010, <http://www.prdailysun.com/news/Figueroa-Sancha-defends-police-actions-in-hotel-clash> (expressing doubts about the authenticity of the Facebook comments and stating, "You always misinterpret. Policemen avoided further violence. That is why I call them heroes."); Ricardo Cortés Chico, "Respaldo a su mano derecha: Figueroa Sancha asegura que van a investigar," *El Nuevo Día*, May 25, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/respaldoasumanoderecha-710735.html>.

8 ⁸Jesús Dávila, "Puerto Rico: Victoria estudiantil afecta credibilidad del gobierno," *NCM*, June 17, 2010, <http://www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2010/06/17/puerto-rico-victoria-estudiantil-afecta-credibilidad-del-gobierno/>;

III. Political prisoners

This year has been historically significant for Puerto Rico's political prisoners held in United States prisons. Carlos Alberto Torres marked 30 years of prison, for his struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, becoming the longest held political prisoner in the history of that nation. After a campaign including over 10,000 letters of support to the U.S. Parole Commission, he will be released on parole next month, in spite of persistent efforts by the Bureau of Prisons to sabotage his parole.²⁹

Oscar López Rivera this year marked 29 years in prison. López, 67 years old, and serving a sentence of 70 years, has a release date of 2023.³⁰ Avelino González Claudio, also 67 years old, was just sentenced to a prison term of seven years, in spite of his advanced Parkinson's Disease.³¹

The harshness of the conditions under which they are held may be exemplified by Mr. López' recent experience, when his older sister suffered a series of heart attacks and was near death in intensive care. Even though the family offered to pay for his travel as well as the

Damien Cave, "Students Gain After Strike in Puerto Rico," *New York Times*, June 17, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/18/us/18students.html>.

⁹ José A. Delgado, "Liberaran a preso político boricua: Carlos Alberto Torres saldrá en julio tras 30 años en prisión," *El Nuevo Día*, May 21, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/liberaranapresopoliticoboricua-709390.html>; Cándida Cotto, "Sigue hostigamiento contra Carlos Alberto y Avelino," *Claridad*, January 13, 2010, <http://claridadpuertorico.com/content.html?news=28FC2CD9304856266F4103385A5DD5CA>; José A. Delgado, "Momento crucial para preso político boricua: Junta federal decidirá el caso de Carlos A. Torres," *El Nuevo Día*, February 17, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/momentocrucialparapresopoliticoboricua-673046.html>.

⁰ Federal Bureau of Prisons, Inmate Locator, <http://www.bop.gov/iloc2/InmateFinderServlet?Transaction=IDSearch&needingMoreList=false&IDType=IRN&IDNumber=87651-024>.

¹ Alaine Griffin, "Machetero Gets 7 Years For 1983 Wells Fargo Robbery," *Hartford Courant*, May 26, 2010, <mailto:agriffin@courant.com> http://articles.courant.com/2010-05-26/news/hc-wells-fargo-heist-0527-20100526_1_support-leftist-insurgencias-los-macheteros-wells-fargo-robbery.

expenses for staff who would accompany him, prison officials rejected out of hand the request that he be permitted to visit her bedside, focusing on the extraordinary length of his sentence, the years remaining to be served, and the political nature of the charges. The denial was dated one week before the 29th anniversary of his arrest. Not only did the warden deny the furlough request, but he even refused to allow López to purchase telephone minutes in addition to the allotted 300 minutes per month, so that he could at least stay in touch with the family.

Coincidentally, these denials came at precisely the same time that the Cuban government — reviled by the United States for allegedly violating the human rights of those in its custody— followed up on its promise to move Cuban dissidents closer to their families,³² though their sentences are only a fraction of those being served by Oscar and his compatriot Carlos Alberto Torres in U.S. prisons.³³ Not surprisingly, the move did not satisfy the U.S. government, whose State Department spokesperson said, “We hope that the prisoners of conscience will be unconditionally set free and in the very near future.”³⁴ It seems that the U.S. is too busy meddling in the internal affairs of other sovereign nations, and insisting on the release of “prisoners of conscience,” to tend to the human rights of its own political prisoners and comply with the international law and this Committee’s resolutions applying it.

The political prisoners remain strong in spirit, their commitment to the independence of

2 ²Jeff Franks and Rosa Tania Valdes, “Cuban political prisoners moved closer to home,” *Reuters*, June 1 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6506RB20100602>.

3 ³Associated Press, “Inicia reubicación de reos políticos cubanos: La gestión de la Iglesia Católica con Raúl Castro comienza a rendir frutos,” *El Nuevo Día*, June 2, 2010, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/iniciareubicaciondereospoliticoscubanos-715024.html>.

4 ⁴EFE. “U.S. Demands Cuba Release Political Prisoners,” *Latin American Herald Tribune*, June 4, 2010, <http://laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=358015&CategoryId=14510>; Associated Press, “US, human rights leader call for freedom for Cuban political prisoners,” *Fox News*, June 02, 2010, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2010/06/02/human-rights-leader-freedom-cuban-political-prisoners/>.

their nation undaunted, in spite of adversity.

IV. Vieques

Puerto Rican scientists successfully unmasked the junk science relied upon by U.S. government agencies which falsely put forth that the people of Vieques suffered no adverse consequences from the dangerous toxic aftermath of decades of occupation by the U.S. Navy.³⁵ However, the U.S. has still not taken responsibility for the clean-up, and Vieques remains on the Super Fund list.³⁶<http://www.elnuevodia.com/voces/689639/>; Abbie Boudreau and Scott Bronstein, CNN Special Investigations Unit, "Island residents sue U.S., saying military made them sick," *CNN*, February 1, 2010, <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/02/01/vieques.illness/index.html>; Tim Padgett, "Toxic Chemicals at Vieques: Is U.S. Accountable?" *Time*, September 16, 2009, <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1924101,00.html>.

Recently, the U.S. court in Puerto Rico dismissed the class action lawsuit filed on behalf of the people of Vieques, finding that the U.S. government was immune from suit.³⁷ An appeal is pending.

VII. Conclusion

The National Lawyers Guild International Committee, incorporating the requests sought by other presenters before this Honorable Committee, urges the adoption of a resolution calling for the General Assembly to consider the case of Puerto Rico; and calling on the government of the United States to:

- * immediately cease the criminalization and harassment of, and attacks on, the Puerto Rican Independence Movement;

- * immediately release Puerto Rican political prisoners: Carlos Alberto Torres, who has served more than 30 years in U.S. custody; Oscar López Rivera, who has served more than 29 years in U.S. custody, and Avelino González Claudio;

- * identify and hold criminally liable all those responsible for the assassination of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos (2005), Santiago Mari Pesquera (1976), Carlos Muñoz Varela (1979), and other militants of the Puerto Rican independence movement;

5 ⁵Federal Agency to Change its Early Conclusions on Environmental Assessment in Vieques: Geographic Location: --Vieques, Puerto Rico," November 13, 2009, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/news/displaynews.asp?PRid=2455>; Mireya Navarro, "Navy's Vieques Training May Be Tied to Health Risks," *New York Times*, November 14, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/14/science/earth/14vieques.html?_r=1&sq=vieques&st=cse&scp=1&pagewanted=print; José A. Delgado, "Vieques, en la botica de salud," *El Nuevo Día*, November 12, 2009, <http://www.elnuevodia.com/blog/637347/>.

6 ⁶U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 Superfund, Vieques Island/Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area, <http://www.epa.gov/region2/vieques/index.html>; Arturo Massol Deyá, "La tragicolonia de Vieques," *El Nuevo Día*, March 23, 2010,

7 ⁷José A. Delgado, "No' a los viequeses," *El Nuevo Día*, April 13, 2010, http://www.elnuevodia.com/bloguero-jose_a_delgado-4189.html.

* withdraw the FBI, the U.S. court, and all other U.S. police, repressive and military forces from Puerto Rico;

* withdraw from Vieques, formally return legal property of the land to the people of Vieques, cease detonating unexploded ordnance, completely clean up the pollution left by the U.S. Navy's 60 year occupation through the use of proven, environmentally friendly clean-up methods, and compensate the people of Vieques for the damage to their health done to them by the same;

* cease and desist from the application of the death penalty in Puerto Rico;

* ensure that striking students are not harmed or penalized for their courageous struggle to maintain the right to quality public higher education;

* formally commit to negotiate in good faith with the people of Puerto Rico a solution to the colonial condition; and recognize the proposals that emanate from a Constitutional Assembly, initiated by the people of Puerto Rico, such as that called for by the Puerto Rico Bar Association, as the true expression of the aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico, and respond to them accordingly.

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