



National Boricua Human Rights Network (NBHRN) 2739-41 W. Division Street, Chicago IL 60622
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Chicago's Puerto Rican Community Celebrates El Grito de Lares & Remembers Filiberto Ojeda Rios 100 Bullets and 20 hours

On September 23, 2007, the National Boricua Human Rights Network and the Batey Urbano celebrated the 139th anniversary of El Grito de Lares, as well as commemorated the 2nd anniversary of the murder of Filiberto Ojeda Rios. Two years ago at Lares, Puerto Rico, while Puerto Ricans celebrated their declaration as a nation against Spanish colonialism, the FBI descended onto the home of Filiberto Ojeda Rios in Hormigüeros, Puerto Rico and assassinated him. At 4:30 am, in a military-style operation, over 200 agents surrounded the home of Ojeda Rios, who was 72 years old. The agents, heavily armed, fired over 100 shots into his home. Filiberto was shot once under his clavicle and was left to bleed to death for more than 20 hours. During the autopsy, it was determined that his wound was not fatal and he would have lived if he had received immediate medical attention.



The *Grito de Lares*, or Lares uprising, occurred on September 23, 1868 in the town of Lares. The uprising was planned by a group led by Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances and Segundo Ruiz Belvis, founders of the *Comité Revolucionario de Puerto Rico* (Revolutionary Committee of Puerto Rico) from their exile in the Dominican Republic. The *Grito de Lares* was a response by the pro-independence movement to the exploitation of Puerto Ricans by Spain and its colonial system. Participants in the insurrection represented all sectors of Puerto Rican society, including landowners, merchants, professionals, peasants, and slaves

The night included invited guests Julio Chávez, Mayor of the city of Torres, State of Lara in Venezuela, who spoke on the act of solidarity the Venezuelan government committed by placing a bust of Filiberto on "La Avenida de los Ilustres" (Avenue of the Illustrious), Jan Susler of the People's Law Office, who gave the latest legal update of the investigation into the assassination of Filiberto, and the PRCC Executive Director José E. López, who wove the evenings presentations together by discussing the historical context of el Grito de Lares and why it is relevant today. Poetry was then performed by the Batey poets – Michael Reyes, Janeida Rivera and Judy Diaz – and by a newcomer

to our community, Yomaira Lugo Vélez.

The event progressed with a silent procession to the Batey. First, the group stopped at La Casita to raise the Puerto Rican flag and sang "La Borinquena". The event ended with guests participating in an art installation by pasting cut-outs of 100 bullet shots on the window of the Batey to represent the 100 bullets that were shot into the home of Filiberto Ojeda Rios and lit twenty red candles – which represented the 20 hours he was left to bleed to death by the FBI. Over 100 people participated in the event, including over 30 students from Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School & the Family Learning Center.

La Red online:

www.boricuahumanrights.org

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- Messages for El Grito del Lares by Oscar López Rivera and Carlos Alberto Torres
- Expanded article/pictures on the NBHRN East Coast tour by Saul, Emma and Rev. Coleman

NBHRN Organizes Solidarity East Coast Events NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SUPPORT ELVIRA AND SAUL ARELLANO

When most 8-year olds are anxiously awaiting the first day of school, Saulito Arellano was preparing to meet with and speak to Latino and Black elected officials, including members of the New York City Council, the State Assembly and various other local and municipal officials.

The meeting and press conference, organized by District 8 Councilwoman Melissa Mark Viverito, long-time advocate for immigrants rights, highlighted and denounced the arrest and deportation of Elvira Arellano. Many Latino and Black elected officials and advocacy organiza-



Philadelphia NBHRN Coordinator Luis Sanabria at press conference with Rev. Walter Coleman, Saulito Arellano and Emma Lozano during East Coast Tour. Photo by David Cruz.

tions were present to lend their support. Later that evening, a rally took place at the Fort Washington Heights Presbyterian Church where over 200 people proclaimed their solidarity with Saul and Elvira.

Rallies also took place in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland and Washington, uniting around three demands: Stop the raids, Stop the Deportations and Stop the Separation of Families.

The East Coast tour culminated with a successful Day of Education and Prayer in Washington, DC called by Pueblo Sin Fronteras. Over 200 people attended the press conference at which a representative from Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez' office and many immigrant advocacy organizations spoke movingly of their support for Saul and Elvira and redoubling their efforts to push Congress to take up the issue of immigration reform. The National Boricua Human Rights Network organized the Midwest and East Coast rallies and press conferences which were hosted by various local organizations.



Painting donated by Oscar López Rivera SOLIDARITY WITH SF8

Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Oscar López Rivera has contributed to the campaign to the SF8 Campaign by creating a painting of Hugo Chávez and Fidel Castro (above) for auction. Eight former Black Panthers were arrested January 23, 2006 in California, New York and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. Similar charges were thrown out after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions when some of these same men were arrested in New Orleans in 1973. The campaign hopes to auction the painting along with any other works of art created by other political prisoners to meet legal and campaign costs.

WRITE TO THE PATRIOTS

Carlos Alberto Torres, #88976-024

BD: September 19, 1952
 FCI Oxford, PO Box 1000,
 Oxford, WI 53952

Oscar López Rivera, #87651-024

BD: January 6, 1943
 USP Terre Haute, PO Box 12015,
 Terre Haute, IN 47801