



- A call to conscience
  - A call to action
  - A call for creative resistance

**250 Years: No Kings! No Colonies!**

**July 4, 2026**

Dear Friend:

According to the official website of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission: *“On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey towards this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.”*

We ask: Will this celebration of 250 years narrate and commemorate the true history of the U.S.? Will it acknowledge and atone for U.S. colonialism and imperialism, including the 128-year colonization of Puerto Rico? Or will it silence this history, even as this country embarks on a new era of Manifest Destiny, evidenced in the recent military actions in the Caribbean and Latin America?

Harkening to the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the United States’ imperial project is alive and well. We are deeply concerned about the future of the hemisphere and, in particular, our beloved Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans are at a crossroads. Will we demand our liberation, or will we submit ourselves to a fascist and anti-democratic empire in decline?

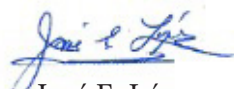
We cannot determine our future. We have no participatory, transparent process of decolonization, particularly as the U.S. imposed the PROMESA Oversight Board—“La Junta”—continues its decade-long rule of the archipelago. It is no coincidence that colonial oversight boards, following the model of Puerto Rico, are now being proposed to further the U.S. neocolonial goals in Palestine/Gaza, Venezuela, and Greenland—with Trump as the colonial overlord.

Today, Puerto Rico is the oldest colony in the world, and the only Spanish-speaking country in the Western Hemisphere that is not sovereign. Puerto Ricans’ long-denied right to self-determination—the freedom to choose how we define the status of Puerto Rico—and its future is what we seek to call for on July 4th, 2026.

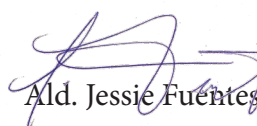
On behalf of The National Boricua Human Rights Network (NBHRN), we want to invite you to an envisioning meeting on February 28th at 10 am, to discuss the July 4, 2026 event to be held in Humboldt Park, Chicago—Barrio Boriken—El Jolgorio Boricua: 250 Años Sin Rey y Sin Colonias. This will not be just another political rally or march but a creative cultural and political demonstration in defense of Puerto Rico’s right to self-determination, self-actualization, and self-reliance. And, during which, we celebrate our solidarity across the hemisphere to confront war in the Americas.

Please indicate your availability by contacting Glenda Guzman at [glendag@prcc-chgo.org](mailto:glendag@prcc-chgo.org).

Sincerely,



José E. López



Ald. Jessie Fuentes



Michelle Morales



Michael Rodríguez Muñiz



Juanita García



Luis Alejandro Molina