



# Las Calles Y La Torcida

Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (CMPP)

Español/English July-Sept. 2010

## POR DENTRO Y FUERA DE LA CÁRCELES, LA LIBERACIÓN ES UNA LUCHA

Fundada en 1993 por Unión del Barrio, el principal objetivo del Proyecto de Presos Chicano-Mexicano (CMPP) ha sido elevar la conciencia de la Raza "dentro y fuera de la cárcel" y exponer al mundo que el sistema penitenciario no sólo sirve para oprimir a los mexicanos y de otros pueblos pobres/colonizados, sino que también hace miles de millones de dólares de los sufrimientos y la brutalidad que afrontan nuestros pueblos en estos campos de concentración. Por lo tanto, nuestro objetivo es poner fin al sistema económico-social conocido como "capitalismo-colonialismo", que dio a luz y mantiene los campos de concentración, y se aprovecha del encarcelamiento de miles de nuestra gente.

### A DERRIBAR LOS MUROS DE OPRESIÓN Y COLONIZACIÓN.

El CMPP entiende que para alcanzar este objetivo, requiere la elevación de la conciencia política y la unificación de nuestro pueblo en una organización con la capacidad para ganar nuestra liberación. Durante casi veinte años, el CMPP ha trabajado incansablemente para hacer realidad este objetivo. El CMPP ha organizado cientos de eventos y acciones. De las conferencias anuales –a protestas y manifestaciones y a la difusión de la literatura que promueve la educación y la unidad entre Raza haciendo tiempo en los campos de concentraciones (también conocido como prisiones) de los Estados Unidos –el CMPP lucha para construir un movimiento que va a derribar los muros de la opresión y la colonización. Como parte de este trabajo, el 19 de junio de 2010, la CMPP organizó su conferencia anual/retiro de los Prisioneros de la Raza y el Colonialismo. Bajo el lema de "Por dentro y por fuera de las cárceles: la liberación es una lucha", la conferencia se llevó a cabo en el Centro Cultural de La Raza en San Diego, Califaztlán.

Cerca de un centenar de activistas y personas de la comunidad, jóvenes y viejos, hombres y mujeres, asistieron a la conferencia. Muchos fueron inspirados por las pancartas pidiendo la liberación Raza y los símbolos de nuestra cultura Mexicano/indígena que fueron colgados en las paredes del Centro Cultural de La Raza. Los asistentes también tuvieron en contacto con varias organizaciones que habían establecido mesas con revistas, libros, folletos, botones y afiches políticos, exigiendo la liberación de la Raza y el fin del sistema penitenciario racista/anti-pobre/trabajadora.

La conferencia fue apoyada por la Coalición Pro Derechos de La Raza (San Diego), Asociación de Medios de Comunicación de La Raza (RPMA), MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) de La Universidad Estatal/SD, Asociación de Educadores de Raza (ARE), Partido Socialista del Pueblo Africano (APSP), Comité de Derechos de la Raza (Oxnard, CA), Mexicanos Unidos En Defensa del Pueblo (MUDP), IDEAS (SD City College), Boinas Cafés de Aztlán, Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FMLN-Los Angeles), Frente Popular Revolucionario (Tijuana), Partido Nacional de La Raza Unida, y City College MEChA

. El apoyo a la conferencia de tantas organizaciones es testimonio de la importancia del trabajo del CMPP de informar a nuestra comunidad y unir a los activistas en la la lucha para poner fin a las instituciones que defienden el colonialismo y la explotación capitalista de las masas de nuestra comunidad.

### LA CONFERENCIA CONSISTIÓ DE PRESENTACIONES, DISCUSIONES Y UN SHOW DE ARTE DE PINTOS

La conferencia fue dividida en cuatro secciones: (a) Los oradores principales: (b) Mesas redondas, (c) Show de Arte de Pintos (coordinado por Cathy Espitia), y (d) Cena para recaudar fondos (coordinado por Isabel Peña).

La conferencia fue facilitada por Mónica Bernal y Cristal Rodríguez (miembros del CMPP), y se inició con la ceremonia indígena de Danza Azteca- Calpulli Mexica. Continuo con una breve introducción realizada por Ernesto Bustillos, uno de los fundadores de la CMPP. Las presentaciones principales fueron pronunciados por Benjamín Olguín (Profesor de la Universidad de Texas, San Antonio) y Diop Olugbala (Partido Socialista del Pueblo Africano, Filadelfia). Un reconocimiento especial fue entregado a Irene Mena, que ha cometido 40 años de su vida a la lucha por la liberación de la Raza y por más de cinco años ha sido miembro de la CMPP. Por otra parte, Enrique Ochoa / Frente Popular Revolucionario (Tijuana), pronunció un mensaje de solidaridad a la lucha en torno a conectar los prisioneros de ambos lados de la división ("frontera") impuesta por EE.UU. a nuestro país (México).

La conferencia de los paneles y los debates se centraron en tres áreas clave de importancia a la cuestión de los presos Raza y Colonialismo:

(1) "El Complejo Industrial de Prisiones: El Papel del Capitalismo, El Colonialismo y El Encarcelamiento de La Raza:" Este panel denunció los beneficios que los capitalista-colonialistas sacan de Mexicanos, Áfricanos, y otras comunidades oprimidas y pobres encerrados en los Estados Unidos (América ocupada). En en este panel presento Dylan Rodríguez (Profesor y activista de derechos, UC Riverside, CA) y Pablo Aceves (uno de los principales miembros de Unión del Barrio).

(2) "Mujer y La Juventud y El Encarcelamiento Colonial": Este panel discutió por lo qué tantos Mexicano/as-Raza se están enviando a la cárcel, cómo afecta esto a nuestra comunidad, y lo que hay que hacer para poner fin a esta situación. Expuso cómo el envío de nuestros jóvenes y las mujeres a campos de concentración no es más que una campaña de genocidio dirigido a los mexicanos y otros pueblos indígenas. Hablando en este panel fueron Francisco Romero (Profesor, Comité por los Derechos Raza, Oxnard, CA), Cathy Espitia (coordinadora del CMPP), Estela Ayala (Partido de La Raza Unida, San Fernando, CA), y Teresa Zaragoza (Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc, Norwalk/Los Angeles).

(3) "Plantando Las Semillas de la Unidad /La Violencia Entre Los Pueblos Colonizados En Las Cárceles y Las Calles:." El propósito de este taller fue dar a conocer qué hay "detrás" de toda la violencia racial en las prisiones y cómo nos afecta a todos, ya sea en las calles o en las prisiones. Hablando en este panel fueron Dennis Childs (Profesor, Estudios Afroamericanos/Literatura-UCSD, y activista de derechos), Diop Olugbala (miembro de Partido Socialista del Pueblo Africano), Philadelphia, PA.), y César González (Boinas Cafés de Aztlán, San Diego). De este panel, una resolución sobre como La Raza y los africanos deben trabajar hacia la unidad se desarrollo. La resolución dice: "Tenemos que organizar una campaña para construir la unidad entre los africanos y los mexicanos y otros pueblos colonizados, tanto dentro como fuera de las cárceles, para exponer la estrategia de dividir y conquistar presentemente implementada por el Estado racista-colonial, y que se forme un frente unido en contra de nuestros verdadera opresores (los que actualmente oprime a nuestros padres, madres, y hijos)".

### LOS CRIMINALES SON LOS RICOS Y CAPITALISTA BELICISTAS

Desde su creación, el CMPP ha defendido la posición de que Europeos/colonos blancos y sus colaboradores los neo coloniales (vendidos de todos los tipos y colores) no tienen ningún derecho legal o moral para detener y encarcelar a los mexicanos y otros indígenas personas. De hecho, se argumenta que se trata de los colonos blancos racistas (como los que hoy en Arizona), junto con el sistema capitalista que ellos defienden, que debe ser detenido y encerrado por sus crímenes en contra la humanidad cometidos aquí en el panza la bestia y por todo el mundo (guerras contra el pueblo de Irak, Afganistán, etc.). **Venceremos!**

[Nota del Editor: también ayudaron en la organización y el éxito de la conferencia los compas Judy de Los Santos, Liz Ochoa, David Rodríguez, Tobias Hernández, Jacqueline Figueroa - y el personal del Centro Cultural de la Raza.]



Benjamin Olguin (Keynote Speaker)



CMPP Conference June 19, 2010

Founded in 1993 by Unión del Barrio, the Chicano Mexicano Prison Project's (CMPP) main goal has been to raise the consciousness of Raza "in and out of prison" and expose to the world that the prison system not only serves to oppress Mexicanos and other working/poor and colonized people, but that it also makes billions of dollars out of the suffering and brutality faced by our people in these concentration camps. Hence our goal is to put an end to the social-economic system known as "capitalism-colonialism", which gave birth to and maintains the concentration camps, and profits from the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of our people.



*Cathy Espitia (CMPP) and Teresa Zaragoza (Danza Cuauhtémoc)*

### TEAR DOWN THE WALLS OF OPPRESSION AND COLONIZATION

The CMPP understands that to reach this goal, necessitates the raising of the political consciousness and unification of our people into an organization with the capacity to win our liberation. For almost twenty years, the CMPP has worked tirelessly to the realization of this goal. The CMPP has organized literally hundreds of events and actions. From yearly conferences to protests and demonstrations, to the dissemination of literature that promotes education and unity among Raza doing time in the concentrations (aka prisons) of the United States, the CMPP fought to build a movement that will tear down the walls of oppression and colonization.

It was part of this ongoing work that on June 19, 2010, the CMPP organized its annual conference/retreat on Raza Prisoners and Colonialism. Held under the theme of "Inside and Outside Prisons: Liberation Is A Struggle", the conference took place at the Centro Cultural de La Raza in San Diego, Califaztlán.

Close to one hundred activists and community people, young and old, women and men, attended the conference. Many were inspired by the banners calling for Raza liberation and symbols of our Chicano/Indigenous culture that were hanged on the walls of the Centro Cultural de La Raza. Those attending also came into contact with several organizations that had set-up tables with newsletters, books, pamphlets, political buttons and posters, demanding Raza liberation and an end to the racist and anti-poor/working class prison system.

The conference was endorsed by the Raza Rights Coalition (RRC-San Diego), Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA), MEChA SD City College, Association of Raza Educators (ARE), African People's Socialist Party (APSP), Committee On Raza Rights (Oxnard, CA), Mexicanos Unidos En Defensa del Pueblo (MUDP), IDEAS (SD City College), Brown Berets de Aztlán, Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FMLN-Los Angeles), Frente Popular Revolucionario (Tijuana), La Raza Unida Party, and SDSU MEChA. The conference endorsement of so many organizations

## INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PRISONS: LIBERATION IS A STRUGGLE

is testament to the CMPP's work to inform our community and unite activists around the struggle to end the institutions that uphold colonialism and capitalist exploitation of the masses of our community.

### THE CONFERENCE CONSISTED OF SPEAKERS, DISCUSSIONS, SOLUTIONS, AND PINTO ART SHOW

The conference itself was divided into four sections: (a) Keynote speakers; (b) Panel discussions; (c) Pinto art show (coordinated by Cathy Espitia); and (d) Fund-raiser social and dinner (coordinated by Isabel Peña).

The conference was facilitated by Monica Bernal and Cristal Rodriguez (CMPP members), and began with Indigenous Ceremony by Danza Azteca Calpulli Mexico and a brief introduction by Ernesto Bustillos,

one of the founders of the CMPP. The keynote presentations were given by Benjamin Olguin (Professor University of Texas, San Antonio) and Diop Olugbala (African People's Socialist Party, Philadelphia). A special recognition was given to Irene Mena, who has committed 40 years of her life to the struggle for the liberation of La Raza and for more than five years has been a member of the CMPP. Also, Enrique Ochoa/Frente Popular Revolucionario (Tijuana), delivered a message of solidarity connecting the struggle around prisoners on both sides of the U.S. imposed division ("border") of our nation (Mexico).

The conference panels and discussions focused on three key areas of importance to the question of Raza Prisoners and Colonialism:

- (1) *The Prison Industrial Complex: The role of capitalism, colonialism, and the mass incarceration of Raza:* This panel exposed the profits that the capitalist-colonialists make out of Mexican, African, and other oppressed and poor communities locked up throughout the United States (Occupied America) of Raza. Speaking at this panel were Dylan Rodriguez (Professor, Prison Rights Activist, UC Riverside, CA) and Pablo Aceves (a leading member of Unión del Barrio)
- (2) *Women and Youth and Colonial Incarceration:* This panel discussed why so many Chicano/as-Raza are being sent to prison, how this impacts our community, and what needs to be done to end this situation. It exposed how the sending of our youth and women to concentration camps –is nothing but a genocidal campaign directed at Mexicanos and other indigenous peoples. Speaking on this panel were Francisco Romero (Teacher, Committee On Raza Rights, Oxnard, CA), Cathy Espitia (coordinator of the CMPP), Estela Ayala (La Raza Unida Party, San Fernando, CA), and Teresa Zaragoza (Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc, Norwalk/Los Angeles).

(3) *Planting The Seeds Of Unity: Violence Among Colonized People In Prisons And The Streets:* The purpose of this workshop was to bring to light what is behind all the racial violence in prisons and how it affects all of us, whether in the streets or prisons. Speaking

on this panel were Dennis Childs (Professor, African American Studies/Literature-UCSD, Prison Rights Activist), Diop Olugbala (Leading Member of African People's Socialist Party, Philadelphia, PA.), and Cesar Gonzalez (Brown Berets de Aztlán, San Diego). Out of this panel, a resolution for Raza and Africans to work in unity was developed. It read, "We must organize a campaign to build unity amongst Africans and Mexicans and other colonized peoples, both inside and outside of prisons, to expose the divide and conquer strategy implemented by the state, and to ultimately form a united front against our real oppressors".

### REAL CRIMINALS ARE THE RICH CAPITALIST AND WARMONGERS

Since its establishment the CMPP has upheld the position that European/White settlers and their neo-colonial collaborators (vendidos of all types and colors) have no legal or moral right to arrest and imprison Mexicanos and other indigenous people. In fact, we argue that it is the racist white settlers (such as the ones in Arizona today), along with the capitalist system which they uphold, who should be arrested and locked up for their on-going crimes against humanity, committed here within the belly beast and around the world (wars against the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, etc). **Venceremos!**

[Eidtor's Note: also helping in the organizing and success of the conference were compas Judy de Los Santos, Liz Ochoa, David Rodriguez, Tobias Hernandez, Jacqueline Figueroa -- and the staff of the Centro Cultural de La Raza.]

### WHAT DOES THE CMPP WANT?

**We want to raise the political consciousness of pinto/as. We want to expose the racist criminal justice/prison system. We want to put an end to the oppressive capitalist-colonialist system. And, we want to fight for the human rights of all prisoners.**

CMPP: Queremos elevar el conocimiento político y social de los pinto/as. Queremos exponer el sistema de prisiones racista e injusto. Queremos combatir contra el sistema capitalista-colonialista opresivo. Y queremos luchar por los derechos humanos de todos los presos. **VENCEREMOS!**

### MENSAJE PARA LOS QUE SE ENCUENTRAN EL LA TORCIDA:

- El Proyecto de Presos Mexicanos (CMPP) es una organización no financiada. Nuestro meta es la liberación de todo mexicano y todos los pueblos oprimidos.
- Debido a recursos limitados, no ofrecemos servicio legales o hacemos referencias.
- Pueden ayudarnos a lograr nuestro meta –convenciendo sus amigos y familiares que apoyen las organizaciones que estan luchando por la liberación y un cambio revolucionario.
- Les pedimos a los presos que nos manden arte o cartas que expresan la unidad y el respeto de la cultura mexicana.
- Todos pueden ayudar a garantizar que los presos mexicanos-raza reciban nuestro boletín, con la donación de estampillas [cualquier cantidad de estampillas que puedan]

*CMPP Membership: Cathy Espitia (Coordinador), Adelina Lopez (Secretary), Monica Bernal (Treasurer), Irene Mena (Historian), Ernesto Bustillos (editor Las Calles), Tobias Hernandez, Jacqueline Figueroa, Cristal Rodriguez, Isabell Peña, David Rodriguez*

**COMPALBIZU CAMPOS (PARTE II)**

En 1935, la "policía colonial", bajo el mando de el colonialista-racista, el coronel Francis Riggs, asesino a cuatro patriotas nacionalistas Puertorriqueños. El incidente se conoció como "la masacre de Río Piedras". Al año siguiente, en 1936, un grupo de nacionalistas comprometidos a la "justicia revolucionaria", ajusticiaron con pena de muerte al cerdo-colonialista Riggs.

En un intento para sofocar la lucha por la liberación, las autoridades coloniales de EE.UU. ordenaron el arresto de Albizu Campos y varios otros nacionalistas por "conspiración sediciosa" contra el Gobierno de los EE.UU. Un veredicto de culpabilidad por un jurado compuesto principalmente de pobladores coloniales gringos, condenó a Compa Albizu Campos y otros líderes nacionalistas a la penitenciaría federal de Atlanta, Georgia en EE.UU. Fue durante su apelación, en 1937, que una marcha masiva en favor de la independencia se llevó a cabo en ciudad de Ponce. La policía abrió fuego sobre la marcha, matando a veintiún manifestantes y espectadores (todos desarmados), e hirió a otras 200 personas, muchos de ellos miembros del Partido Nacionalista de Albizu, acontecimiento conocido en la historia como el "Masacre de Ponce".

Después de cumplir 10 años en prisión, en 1947, Pedro Albizu regreso a Puerto Rico. Pronto fue encarcelado de nuevo después de las rebeliones nacionalistas en favor de la liberación que se llevaron a cabo en varias ciudades y pueblos de Puerto Rico en 1950. El 1º de noviembre de 1950, los nacionalistas Oscar Collazo y Griselio Torresola atacaron la Casa Blair en Washington, D.C. donde el presidente Harry S. Truman se había alojado. Como resultado de estos actos de rebelión contra el colonialismo y la opresión, Compa Albizu fue arrestado en su casa después de un breve tiroteo con la policía. En represalia, las autoridades coloniales arrestaron a más de 3,000 simpatizantes de independencia, y Albizu Campos fue sentenciado a 80 años de prisión.

Perdonado en 1953 por el gobernador colonial, Luis Muñoz Marín, su libertad fue revocada al año siguiente (1954) después del ataque histórico sobre la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, cuando cuatro nacionalistas puertorriqueños, encabezados por la compañera Lolita Lebrón, abrieron fuego desde la galería del edificio del Capitolio en Washington, DC

Mientras estaba en prisión, Compa Albizu en repetidas ocasiones fue objeto de experimentos de radiación. Durante este tiempo, los EE.UU. estaba experimentando con la radiación en la prisión de la Princesa, ubicado en la ciudad de San Juan. Fue uno de los presos que se le experimentó sin su consentimiento o aviso. Ataques de radiación a veces lo dejaban inconsciente. Entre 1951 y 1953, sufrió de seis a ocho ataques de radiación, dejando su piel hinchada y agrietada. Compa Albizu tenía que proteger su cabeza y cuerpo con toallas mojadas a causa del calor intenso causado por la radiación. Las quejas de

los seguidores y su médico de que compa Albizu poco a poco lo estaban asesinando, fueron recibidos por las reclamaciones del gobierno de EE.UU. que Albizu estaba loco; esto fue un intento de desacreditar su rol como líder nacional del movimiento independentista de Puerto Rico.

El 15 de noviembre de 1964, Albizu fue liberado por el entonces gobernador colonial Muñoz Marín. Unos meses después, el 21 de abril de 1965, Compa Albizu murió. Ese día, La Raza perdido uno de sus mejores hijos y luchadores por la libertad de todos los tiempos. Más de 75,000 puertorriqueños llevaron los restos de su cuerpo al Cementerio de Viejo San Juan y eventos donde a través de toda América Latina celebraron en honor su vida y contribuciones por la liberación de todos los pueblos oprimidos.

Por el acto de ser un revolucionario y luchar por la dignidad de su patria y su pueblo, Compa Albizu fue torturado y pasó la mayor parte de su vida adulta en prisiones federales de EE.UU. Las acciones militantes y políticas de Albizu, sirvieron para mejorar las condiciones de los campesinos y los trabajadores, igual que la preservación y promoción del nacionalismo Puertorriqueño y sus símbolos nacionales.

La adopción formal de la bandera de Puerto Rico y la observancia de "El Grito de Lares" (declaración de independencia, 23 de septiembre de 1868), son actos gracias al labor de Compa Albizu, quien como líder del Partido Nacionalista Puertorriqueño, mantuvo viva la independencia nacional de Puerto Rico.

Igual como nosotros, Unión del Barrio, Compa Albizu no aceptó el derecho de los Estados Unidos de ocupar y gobernar Puerto Rico. Compa Albizu apoyo las luchas de liberación de toda la Raza y todos los pueblos oprimidos del mundo. Hoy en día hay parques, calles y escuelas, que llevan su nombre. Como activistas de la Raza y revolucionarios, miramos su vida como un ejemplo e inspiración para continuar la lucha por la independencia y la liberación total de México-Aztlán, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Guatemala, y de toda América y el mundo.

Cerramos esta breve biografía de este gran guerrero con las palabras del Comandante Ernesto "Che" Guevara: "Albizu Campos es un símbolo de la todavía sin libertad América Latina. Años y años de prisión, casi insoportables injusticias en la cárcel, la tortura mental, la soledad, el aislamiento total de su pueblo y su familia, la insolencia del conquistador y de sus lacayos en la tierra de su nacimiento - nada pudo romper su compromiso a la libertad." (Discurso pronunciado a la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas el 11 de diciembre de 1964)

QUE VIVA MÉXICO Y PUERTO RICO LIBRE! ————— PAGE 3



**Albizu Campos: Raza Revolutionary**

(Part II) In 1935, the "colonial police, under the command of the colonialist-racist Col. Francis Riggs, killed four Puerto Rican patriots. The incident became known as the "Río Piedras massacre". In 1936 a squad of nationalists engaged in "revolutionary justice" and killed the pig-colonialist Col. Riggs. In an attempt to put down the liberation struggle, U.S colonial authorities ordered the arrest of Albizu Campos and several other Nationalists for "seditious conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. Government in Puerto Rico." A guilty verdict by a jury of mostly gringos sent Compa Albizu Campos and the other Nationalist leaders to the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta,

Georgia. It was during his appeal, in 1937, that a massive pro independence march was held in the Poncé. The police opened fire on the march, killing twenty-one unarmed marchers and bystanders, and wounded 200 others, many of them members of Albizu's Nationalist Party; this became known in history as the "Poncé Massacre".

After serving 10 years in prison, in 1947 Pedro Albizu Campos return to Puerto Rico. He was soon jailed again after nationalists pro-liberation revolts took place in various Puerto Rican cities and towns in 1950. On November 1, 1950, nationalists Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola attacked the Blair House in Washington, D.C. where president Harry S. Truman had been staying. As a result of these acts of rebellion against colonial rule and oppression, Compa Albizu was arrested at his home after a brief shootout with the police. In retaliation, the colonial authorities had more than 3,000 independence supporters arrested, and Albizu Campos was sentenced to 80 years in prison.

Compa Albizu was pardoned in 1953 by the colonial governor, Luis Muñoz Marín. But the pardon was revoked the following year (1954) after the historic nationalist attack on the United States House of Representatives, when four Puerto Rican Nationalists, led by Compañera Lolita Lebrón, opened fire from the gallery of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

While in prison, Compa Albizu repeatedly was the subject of human radiation experiments. During this time, the US was experimenting with radiation in the Princesa prison, located in the city of San Juan. He was one of the prisoners to be experimented upon, without consent or warning. Radiation attacks often left him unconscious. Between 1951 and 1953, he suffered six to eight radiation attacks. His skin severely swollen and cracking, Compa Albizu had to cover his head and body with wet towels because of the intense heat caused by the radiation. Complaints by supporters and his doctor that Albizu was slowly being murdered were met by claims from the

U.S. government that Albizu was insane in an attempt to discredit his role as a national leader of the Puerto Rican independence movement.

On November 15, 1964, Albizu was pardoned by then colonial governor Muñoz Marín. He died on April 21, 1965. On that day, La Raza had lost one of its best sons and freedom fighters of all time. More than 75,000 Puerto Ricans carried the remains of his body to the Old San Juan Cemetery and events were held through Latin America to honor his life and contributions towards the liberation of all oppressed people.

For the act of being a revolutionary and fighting for the dignity of his homeland and his people, Compa Albizu was tortured and spent the majority of his adult life in U.S. federal prisons. Albizu's political and militant actions served to improve the conditions for peasants and workers, and with preserving and promoting Puerto Rican nationalism and national symbols.

The formal adoption of the Puerto Rican flag and the continue observance of "El Grito de Lares" (declaration of independence, September 23, 1868), must be credited to the work of Compa Albizu, who as leader of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, kept national independence of Puerto Rico alive.

Just as we, Unión del Barrio, do today, Compa Albizu never accepted the United States' right to govern Puerto Rico. Compa Albizu supported the liberation struggles of all Raza and all oppressed people on planet earth. Today there are parks, streets and schools named after him. As Raza activists and revolutionaries, we look to his life as an example and inspiration to continue the struggle for independence and the liberation of Mexico, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and all of Latin America and the world.

We close this brief biography of this great Raza warrior with the words of Comandante Ernesto "Che" Guevara: "Albizu Campos is a symbol of the as yet unfree but indomitable Latin America. Years and years of prison, almost unbearable pressures in jail, mental torture, solitude, total isolation from his people and his family, the insolence of the conqueror and its lackeys in the land of his birth - nothing broke his will." (Speech given to the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 1964) QUE VIVA MÉXICO Y PUERTO RICO LIBRE!

**MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN LA TORCIDA:**

- The CMPP is a non-funded organization. Our goal is the liberation of Mexicans and all oppressed people.
- Due to limited resources, we do not offer legal service or referrals.
- Prisoners can help by convincing friends and relatives to support organizations who struggle for liberation and revolutionary change.
- We welcome art and letters from prisoners, as long they express unity and respect.
- You can help receive our newsletter by donating stamps to the CMPP.

# Cartas de La Pinta

August 21, 2010

CMPP:

Primeramente, I would like to extend mis mas sinceros saludos y respeto a todos ustedes. I hope when you receive this letter that you and all your families are doing good in health and high spirits. Pues one of my friends shared an issue of "Las Calles y La Torcida" with me and I must tip my hat to you guys. My highest accolades are extended to you guys for caring and for putting out this education for us to absorb.

Our true identity has been clouded for us and diluted in many different forms but our hearts are still solid and we are still a strong people with a rich culture. I appreciate what you guys are doing at CMPP. We must educate ourselves because we are in a system that was set-up to fail. But we will fight our struggle and overcome all barriers set upon our raza. Knowledge is power.

We got it in our blood to be great. So we must never forget who we are and where we came from. I'm originally out of Santa Paula, California and I have been in prison for 12 years now (since I was 16) for being a "criminal". A lot of my life has been wasted behind these walls. But it has made me a strong and wise man, and I won't stop until I beat this system. I congratulate you guys for all you are doing. Please put me on your mailing list. I am enclosing some stamps I am able to contribute. Thank you for your time y Que Viva La Raza!

Juan "Tlamatimi" Cardona / Tehachapi, CA

August 13, 2010

CMPP:

Q-Vole! Para toda mi Raza, and especially to all the staff of CMPP: Cathy Espitia, Irene Mena, Adelina Lopez, Monica Bernal, Ernesto Bustillos, Tobias Hernandez, Jacqueline Figueroa, Crista Rodriguez, Isabell Pena, and David Rodriguez -for your dedication, honor, solidarity in our struggle, and most importantly the willingness to stand up, fight and represent the cause, sacrificing your tiempo for all the gente torcido and on them mean streets. A big gracias!

I am a subscriber to *Las Calles y La Torcida* newsletter and have seen a couple of my letras printed. In a couple of my letras I was requesting the help and assistance for more literature and education not specifically of just the raza, pero anything pertaining to us brothers and sisters haciendo tiempo world wide standing strong in unity and daily fighting the mechanism of this racial and corrupted society. I was introduced to another news-

letter revolving around the problems and struggles of our raza called *La Verdad!* by Union del Barrio. Also, like many of the other raza writing letras asking for assistance and guidance to be a part of the struggle. I received newsletters and literature from a vato by the name of Patrick from Denver Anarchist Black Cross (DABC). He took the tiempo and reached out to me.

In solidarity and belief in what we stand for we must unite listos para Guerra and middle fingers to all who oppose! I understand that all of us confined soldiers are in positions of suffering from lack of educational material, funds and assistance. Pero sabes que, throw dedication and motivation carnalas y carnales we will and can achieve! Simon soy pinto and as all you other warriors out there who believe in the spirit of Villa and Zapata, it's time to open our ojos and stop being blinded by the lies, games and politics of those only initiating a deceiving greed. We are at war with society's devils!

For those of you who had an opportunity to read *Las Calles y La Torcida* (April - June 2010 newsletter), Mr. Rosalio Torres, expressed a real deep and true meaning to the heart of our sangre, especially where he says, "A unification of Mexicas is needed". I also want to comment on another letra from the pinta by Cesar Perez. Carnalito, I hit that Califas state pinta at only 18 tambien -you have a hermano right here fighting the struggle contigo.

Nitlatoa nahuatl. Orale pues mi Raza del Aztlan, keep your heartz pure, utilize that pluma and con unity, amor and solidarity!

Isaac Apodaca/Canon City, CO

July 29, 2010

CMPP:

Saludos Revolucionarios!!! I write this letter for two reasons. The first is to let you know that I have moved to another unit and would like the newsletter to be sent to my new address (see end of letter and envelope). The second reason I write is because in your April - June 2010 issue of *Las Calles y La Torcida* you had an article on our struggle against the racist and xenophobic laws of Arizona and the racist system in the U.S. as a whole.

Last night, July 28, 2010, I heard on the radio news that a judge in Arizona had entered an injunction against the state to stop them from enforcing the racist law that was to take effect on August 1, 2010, saying it was an unconstitutional law. Although this a small legal victory, it should

not be a cause for celebration because our people continue to be oppressed, discriminated and exploited by a capitalist system that thrives off our people's misery.

I compare this "legal" victory to the one that "freed" the slaves here in America or even to the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate the school system in the case of Brown vs. Board of Education. Those legal victories were lip service to equality by the establishment because black people, as well as the brown people, continue to be enslaved and segregated in prisons and poorly funded ghettos schools throughout the U.S.

At the end of 2005, 60% of state and federal prisoners were African American or Latino. In New York State, blacks and Latinos account for 93 percent of prison sentences for drug offenses. These statistics show that slavery is still alive and well; it's a different form of slavery, but just as bad or even worse than the slavery that was "outlawed" by the Emancipation Proclamation.

In the same way we have to be careful not too get carried away with the legal victory won by the Arizona judge's injunction and let it blind us to the fact that racism, oppression and exploitation will continue until the capitalist/imperialist system is abolished. These legal victories can actually be counter-productive to our struggle because some of our people will pat themselves on the back and proclaim, "mission accomplished" as if the racism has been defeated.

I would also like to commend you for the article on Compa Albizu Campos and I am looking forward to reading part II. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to the struggle. Your newsletter is well received and much needed here in the Texas prison system. It plants a seed of social and political consciousness that will grow and grow in our people's minds until a sleeping giant awakens and joins the struggle wholeheartedly, and like Compa Albizu said, "I never believed in numbers. Independence will be achieved instead by the intensity of those that devote themselves totally to the nationalist ideal."

In Solidarity,  
Victor Aguirre/Ft. Stockton, TX

August 15, 2010

My name is Gerardo Aguinaga, I am currently serving time in New Mexico state prison in Santa Fe. I just discovered the CMPP through a friend of mine. I enjoy reading the articles from our beautiful Mexica people across this country. And it feels good to know there are Mexicanos who share the same philosophy as I do.

Unfortunately many of our own people do not share the same philosophy, or do not care. Especially, our politicians and most big time shots with lots of money. They are so consumed with their material life; they completely surrender to the European way of life. Of course most

of these people are also confused and they call themselves Hispanics, Latinos, or Spanish.

In reality our people are natives from North and South America and are not Hispanics, Latinos, or Spanish, because we did not cross the water from Europe to America. Our true heritage and identity is Native American. Whether you are Mexica, Mayan, Inca, Hopi, Navajo, and all other native people within our land Anahuac (now called America) -these are the people that we must be proud of and worship, instead of worshipping the gavacho way of life.

This goes back to our youth at the schools where they hardly learn about our heritage but they are taught about the so-called founding fathers of this country -all European Americans. The same founding Fathers who murdered our men and raped our women and took our land. Not knowing about our culture and forced to learn only about white people has created self-hatred among our own beautiful people.

I encourage all Chicanos/Mexicanos to learn our history and support our gente. Let's listen to our Mexican musica instead of giving ratings to other music. If we support and ride together as one people we will create pride and challenge the gringo society. Sincerely,  
Gerardo Aguinaga/Santa Fe, New Mexico

August 10, 2010

CMPP:

Saludos y respetos Amigos! Ojala que reciben esta carta con los espiritos en los mas altos y siempre en los manos de Dios. Yo aqui estoy bien todo gracias a Dios! I'm a 29-year-old Mexicano doing tiempo aqui en Tejas. Currently, I'm housed at the Ferguson Unit. Uno de mi homitos gave me y'all directa. I'm always asking about cultura and he told me this was a good place to write and ask for "Las Calles y La Torcida". Once I read one newsletter I knew I had to write you and ask to be put on the mailing list.

I like what you at CMPP are doing. If we as Mexicanos can be united and use our talents and minds together nothing can stop us. We are the ones that stop us. It's a shame to see all these talented, smart Mexicanos locked up fighting amongst ourselves. If we unite and fight against those that hold us down, our children will have a better future. We cannot do this by fighting with each other over barrios and calles. Let's unite and fight for our real tierra!!

Hopefully we teach our children to educate themselves to vote so we don't get anymore racially biased governors like Jan Brewer (AZ). Our children are our future, but we need to show them we are Mexicanos united. To work together, use our talents to better ourselves not to waste our talents by being in prison. Each of us can make a difference if we do it together.

Pos gracias por su tiempo. Keep up all the hard work y'all are doing at CMPP. Con esto mi despidio. Viva Los Mexicanos!!!  
Abel Mata/Midway, TX

**Chicano Mexicano Prison Project**  
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