

**May 26th,  
2009**

**Campaign for  
Labor Rights  
ACTION  
ALERT**

**IN THIS ALERT YOU WILL FIND...**

- \* TAKE ACTION: Puerto Rican Government Plans to Dismiss Tens of Thousands of Workers!
- \* TAKE ACTION TODAY in support of Puerto Rican Independence Activists and Against US Occupation of Puerto Rico
- \* **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THIS IMPORTANT PETITION AGAINST THE US-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT!!**

**TAKE ACTION: Puerto Rican Government Plans to Dismiss Tens of Thousands of Workers**

From our friends at LabourStart:

The Puerto Rican government plans to dismiss 30,000-45,000 public sector employees and suspend public sector collective bargaining rights. Public Services International (PSI) is opposing plans by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Fortuño, to dismiss tens of thousands of public sector workers as part of a drastic plan to reduce Puerto Rico's huge budget deficit. The dismissals will begin on July 1, the start of the new fiscal year. Legislation adopted in March also suspends all public sector collective agreements as well as agreements in employee manuals, contracts, circulars, etc. referring to payment plans, grade classification schemes, training and development. Whilst PSI recognises the need for bold measures to solve Puerto Rico's economic crisis, particularly in the context of the global financial and economic crisis, PSI insists that workers should not be made to pay the price for a crisis they did not create. PSI and its affiliates in Puerto Rico believe that the fiscal austerity measures adopted by the Fortuño Government can only lead to higher unemployment, further contraction of the economy, greater fiscal shortfall

and debt, and increased migration. At a time when the population of Puerto Rico will be relying more than ever on the efficient delivery of public services, PSI believes that the government should be seeking to strengthen the mechanisms through which those services are provided as well as the quality of those services, rather than dismantling these vital services. PSI is asking for letters to be sent to the Governor of Puerto Rico in strong protest at these anti-union and anti-public sector measures.

[\*\*CLICK HERE to take action against the dismissal of Puerto Rican public service workers.\*\*](#)

**TAKE ACTION TODAY in Support of Puerto Rican Independence Activists and Against US Occupation of Puerto Rico**

The Alliance for Global Justice and the Campaign for Labor Rights, as a US based organization, believes that justice, liberty, and real democracy will never be fully realized in our nation until we stop occupying other nations. We are sensitive to the danger of regarding Puerto Rico as a "possession" in even the most subtle ways. For instance, in sending out this alert and asking people to protest to the Puerto Rican government about these dismissals--even though we think that is the correct thing to do--we want to be sure that we contradict the idea that we, of the US, have any kind of legitimate authority over Puerto Rico.

Really, the only way for us US citizens to do that is for us also to take a stand against this occupation and colonial relationship.

**It turns out that this very day, May 26th, New Yorkers have a chance to show solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence Activists who were arrested in an act of civil resistance at the US Congress. Also contained below is information about how to contribute financially to support these activists, and also where to find out more about their upcoming hearing in Washington, DC.**

Here's the email we received about this matter:

SUPPORT THE DECOLONIZATION OF PUERTO RICO AND THE SIX PRO-INDEPENDENCE PROTESTERS

"Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States for 111 years: a disgraceful colonial condition in the 21st century. It is time to resolve this crime against our people." This is the demand of the six pro-independence protesters who interrupted the U.S. Congress and who hope their actions will produce more acts of civil disobedience regarding the colonial status of the island.

The protesters, who have been summoned to court on May 26, are the artists Luis Enrique Romero, María "Chabela" Rodríguez y José Rivera (Tony Mapeyé), mechanic designer Luis Suárez, nurse Eugenia Pérez-Martijo, and retired laborer Ramón Díaz.

The six interrupted a U.S. Congress session by singing "Oubao Moin" and carrying Puerto Rican flags and signs that read "111 years of colonization is a disgrace." The protesters could face sentences of up to six months in jail and fines.

The struggle for Puerto Rican independence is the result of many battles that have not ceased. In 1954, five Puerto Rican conducted a shooting attack against member of the U.S. Congress to demand the independence of the island. The 1954 attackers have served more than 25 years in U.S. federal prisons. To date, thousands of pro-independence activists have been persecuted and incarcerated by the U.S. government for their actions. Now is time to decolonize Puerto Rico and put an end to the lies and deceit used by the U.S. government for the past 111 years.

Freedom for Puerto Rico and its political prisoners.

## **NYC PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF THE 6 PRO-INDEPENDENCE ACTIVISTS**

**Where: 26 Federal Plaza, Manhattan**

**When: May 26 at 5:30 pm**

**Directions: 4, 6, R, W to City Hall**

**Support by making a monetary contribution for the activists at any Banco Popular and make a deposit to bank account #760060177 to María I. Rodríguez and specify that it is for a Banco Popular (BPPR) account in Puerto Rico.**

## **GO TO WASHINGTON DC AND SUPPORT**

**Solidarity groups will go to Washington DC on the day of the hearing. For more information contact**

**[decolonizeprnow@gmail.com](mailto:decolonizeprnow@gmail.com)**

**iFree Puerto Rico! iFreedom for our political prisoners!**

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*This Alert was prepared by the Campaign for Labor Rights.*

*We can be reached by phone at 202-544-9355 or 520-243-0381. You can also email [james@afgj.org](mailto:james@afgj.org) for more information.*

*Visit our website at: <http://www.clrlabor.org/wordpress/>*