



December 14, 2016

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employee's collective membership of 3.5 million, including more than 100,000 Puerto Rican members and those of Puerto Rican descent in the United States, we are asking you to consider the fate of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

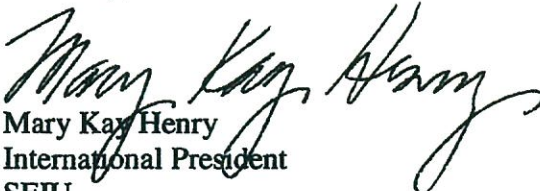
Even prior to the significant migration of people from Puerto Rico due to the current economic crisis on the island, people from Puerto Rico have been coming to the United States for decades, contributing immeasurably to communities throughout the country. Oscar Lopez Rivera was one of those. A decorated Vietnam War veteran, he returned to his neighborhood in Chicago to become a successful community organizer; helping to improve conditions in education, housing and employment for the Puerto Rican residents.

In 1981, he was arrested and convicted of seditious conspiracy and related offenses; neither he nor any of his co-defendants were convicted of harming or killing anyone. All of his co-defendants have since been released, yet Oscar Lopez Rivera has remained imprisoned for more than 34 years, many of those years in solitary confinement. Several former governors of Puerto Rico, the current governor, the current resident commissioner, and the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization have called for his release from incarceration.

Mr. President, whatever your stance on his guilt or innocence, we can safely conclude he has done his time. Oscar Lopez Rivera does not pose a threat; he deserves to be at home with his family to live out the rest of his years in peace.

We ask you to exercise your constitutional power of pardon and grant the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

Sincerely,


Mary Kay Henry
International President
SEIU


Lee Saunders
President
AFSCME

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