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*Organización No Gubernamental con estatuto consultivo ante el ECOSOC y  
representación permanente ante la ONU de Nueva York y Ginebra*

### **Statement in support of the release of Oscar López Rivera, Puerto Rican independence fighter**

The American Association of Jurists (AAJ) in its Assembly of National Chapters at the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, declares the following:

The AAJ endorses the annual Resolutions of the United Nations Decolonization Committee affirming that Resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960,<sup>1</sup> which embodies a people's inalienable right to self-determination, applies to the colonial case of Puerto Rico. The Decolonization Committee's annual Resolutions also recognize the humanitarian case of Oscar López Rivera, a 71 year old Puerto Rican fighter committed to the independence of Puerto Rico, serving lengthy imprisonment under inhumane conditions in the United States, and repeatedly request the President of the United States to release him.

The AAJ has on many previous occasions demanded that the United States government and President Obama use the means allowed by law to free Puerto Rican fighter Oscar López Rivera, including at its annual conferences and in its oral and written interventions at the Human Rights Council.

One of the longest held political prisoners in the Western Hemisphere, and the longest held in the history of the movement for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, López Rivera has served 33 years on a disproportionate sentence of 70 years for the offense of seditious conspiracy. The disproportionate sentence and the cruel conditions and mistreatment under which he has been held demonstrate that he is being punished not for his conduct, but for his beliefs, in crass violation of international law.

Thus, the Assembly of National Chapters of the AAJ reaffirms its previous statements and oral and written interventions at the Human Rights Council demanding that the United States government and President Obama use the means allowed by law to freed Puerto Rican fighter Oscar López Rivera.

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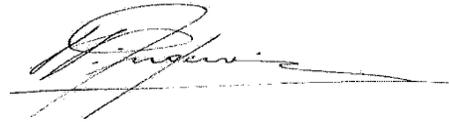
<sup>1</sup>It is important to invoke Declaration 2625 (XXV) of 1970 (Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (A/8082), adopted by the General Assembly on Oct. 24, 2970); and also the Proclamation of Teheran by the International Conference on Human Rights in Teheran, May 13, 1968, which reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes self-determination.

It is unconscionable that the United States continues to detain this political prisoner for so long and in defiance of the expressed will of the people of Puerto Rico, its diasporic communities, regional organizations, and others who respect human rights, including organizations, personalities and individuals at the international level.<sup>2</sup>

In Buenos Aires, Argentina on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.



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<sup>2</sup>Among the NGO's and international organisms that support his release are the Special Decolonization Committee of the United Nations, the Non Aligned Movement, the American Association of Jurists, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the Bar Association of Puerto Rico, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Union of Cuban Jurists, the Movement against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples (MRAP), the Ecumenical and Interreligious Coalition, The ALBA Summit, the World Council of the Socialist International, the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, and the Latin American Council of Churches. See AAJ's written intervention, submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Council in March of 2013, listing other Non Governmental Organizations which support his release. A/HRC/22/NGO/40; see also A/HRC/19/NGO/33.