

TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN '76"

"During these beatings we "galleried" prisoners were only able to screech "cowards and murderers" while our turn to be beaten came. One woman prisoner, who is still in prison, was so badly hurt that she remained stretched out on the floor for five days, incapable of moving or uttering a word. Our supplications did not succeed in getting her medical assistance. For months she urinated blood."

(From one of the denunciations recorded in the "Fifth Report on the Situation for Human Rights in Cuba", May 25, 1976, by the OAS Commission of Human Rights)

At this very moment, while responsible women from all over the hemisphere engage in efforts to improve the health, well-being, and respect accorded to sisters throughout the continent, hundreds of women political prisoners in Cuba are tortured physically and mentally, and denied any type of medical assistance. Some, like Sister Aida Rosa Perez, Lidia Perez Leon and Julia Gonzalez-Roquete, can never testify to the cruelty and neglect to which they were subjected. They died in the dark silences of their cells rather than capitulate in their beliefs. Others, however, can only endure a slow death-in-life as they perceive that their cries resound hollowly against a wall of domestic repression and international indifference.

We are duty-bound to speak for them, as for all human beings where rights and dignity are being violated with impunity. Ours are not glib accusations. Below are the names of some of the women known to be subjected to the most inhuman treatment. Some have been "tapiadas" or "walled-in", that is, kept nude in tiny cells with no light or running water and given scraps or food at varying intervals so that they will lose notion of time.

Zoila Aguila
Berta Aleman (walled-in)
Clara Alonso de Leon
Maria Magdalena Alvarez
Teresa Bastanzuri
Ana Bustamante
Caridad Cabrera
Esther Campos (walled-in)
Georgina Cid Crespo
Dolores Correoso
Dora Delgado Souлары
Nilda Diaz Batista

Maria Amalia Fernández del Cueto (walled-in)
Guillermina Garcia
Maria Garcia Rangel
Leopoldina Grau Alsina
Albertina O'Farrill
Miriam Ortega (walled-in)
Mercedes Peña
Nereida Polo Montes de Oca
America Quesada
Ana Lazara Hernandez (walled-in)
Araceli Rodriguez San Roman
Alejandrina Sanches Piloto

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Do not collude in these outrage, women of America, by participating in the conspiracy of silence that surrounds what occurs in Cuban prisons. We ask that you condemn such abuses, demand of the Cuban Government that it give account of the condition of these and other prisoners -which so far it has refused to do- free all those unjustly imprisoned, and cease and desist in all such practices injurious to the basic rights and dignity of human beings.

"AGRUPACION ABDALA"

"AGRUPACION EX-PRESAS Y EX-PRESOS
POLITICOS DE CUBA"

"COMITE DIVULGACION MALTRATOS PRESOS
POLITICOS EN CUBA"

"COMITE MUNDIAL PEDRO LUIS BOITEL"

"COMITE PRO-LIBERTAD PRESOS POLITICOS
DE CUBA"(Puerto Rico)

"COMITE PRO-LIBERTAD PRESOS POLITICOS
DE CUBA" (Venezuela)

" MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO"(Cuba) "OF HUMAN RIGHTS" (Washington, D.C.)

"PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO CUBANO"