

December 13, 2002

To all supporters of the fight for freedom for Róger Calero

Bulletin: Róger Calero released on parole. Special public meeting for all defense supporters called for Sunday afternoon in New York City.

This afternoon at 5 p.m., Róger Calero, associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and staff writer for the *Militant* newsweekly, was released from the Houston Processing Center, the immigration jail in the Houston area, by Hipolito Acosta, INS District Director. His reporter's tools — his laptop computer, his digital camera, and his press pass — were returned to him while he was being released.

We are calling a special meeting for this Sunday afternoon in New York City to celebrate what we have accomplished and discuss how to keep the pressure on. We are inviting supporters from Washington, D.C., to Boston to join us. Details on time and place will be sent out tomorrow.

Calero's release represents an important victory in the fight to turn back the INS's attempt to exclude him from the United States. It follows a week of initial public protest, centering on letters and faxes to the District Director urging that Calero be released and that the case against him be dropped.

Letters to the INS have been sent by the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants; the Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti; Bruce D. Nestor, president of the National Lawyers Guild; Bill Pearson, president of local 789 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which organizes Dakota Premium Foods where Calero worked and participated in the organizing drive that won the union; Marleine Bastien, executive director of the Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami (The Haitian Women of Miami); Gregory Coleridge, Director, Economic Justice & Empowerment Program of the American Friends Service Committee, Northeast Ohio Office; Hollywood director Nick Castle, and many others.

Material on the case is being circulated through the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, and

dozens of other groups. Calero's fight has been featured in *El Dia*, the Spanish-language daily in Houston, KPFT, the Pacifica affiliate in Houston, Calero's publications the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and numerous independent media networks, from Texas to New Jersey. In Barcelona, Spain, the fact sheet on his case was translated to Catalan.

The fight continues to stop the exclusion proceedings

Winning Calero's release gives added momentum to the fight to end the exclusion proceedings by the INS. A hearing on the case is still scheduled before an immigration judge for next Tuesday, December 17. Supporters of freedom of the press, of immigrants' rights, of the labor movement, and of the defense of political rights should press forward with messages demanding that the attempt to bar Calero from this country, where he has been a legal resident for more than a dozen years, be dropped. Messages should be sent to Hipolito Acosta, District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 126 Northpoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060; fax 281-774-5989; with copies to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014; fax 212-924-6040. Funds to deepen the fight should be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007.

Let's step up the pressure, now!

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