

residence since 1990. Besides his position as an editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, Calero works as a staff writer for the *Militant*, a New York-based socialist newsweekly covering labor and political news. As a reporter he has traveled widely, both in this country and in Latin America.

This attempt by the INS to deport Calero from the United States is an attack on his rights as a permanent resident, on his right to work as a journalist, and on the rights of everyone.

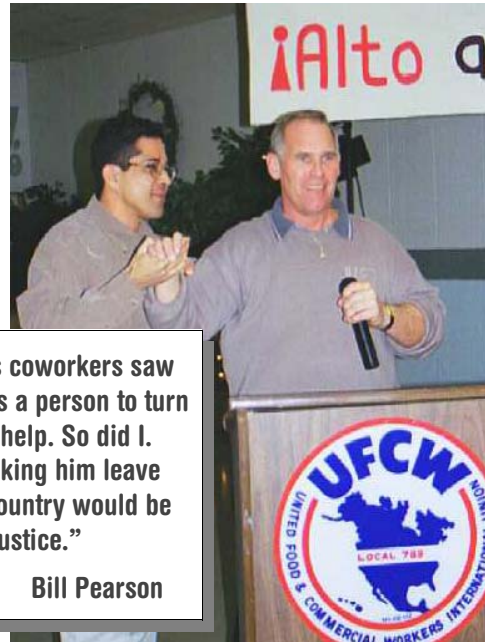
Supporters of freedom of the press, of the rights of immigrants, of the trade unions, and of civil liberties have launched a public campaign to stop his removal from the country and win the restoration of his rights. Your help is needed.

Join the fight!

December 3: INS detention

The INS seized Calero on December 3 at Houston Intercontinental Airport. Calero was on a one-week assignment for *Perspectiva Mundial* to report on an international conference in Havana on the Free Trade Area of the Americas attended by trade unionists and other delegates from Latin America, the United States, and Canada. He then spent several days covering an international student conference in Mexico, sponsored by the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, and the largest annual Latin American bookfair, both held simultaneously in Guadalajara.

In Houston, Calero was detained, his reporter's laptop and camera were taken from him, and he was transferred to an immigration jail run by a private company, the Corrections Corporation of America.



“His coworkers saw him as a person to turn to for help. So did I. “Making him leave this country would be an injustice.”

Bill Pearson

Róger Calero (left) and Bill Pearson, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789 in South St. Paul, Minnesota. Quote is from Pearson's letter urging the INS to drop exclusion proceedings against Calero.

Charges against Calero

The INS is seeking to deport Calero to his native Nicaragua, based on a 1988 conviction, when he was a high school student in Los Angeles, on a charge of selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. Faced with the prospect of jail, Calero copped a plea and received a suspended 60-day sentence with three years probation.

Permanent resident for 12 years

When Calero applied for permanent residency in 1989 he specifically included information about his conviction, which immigration officials waived in order to grant him a green card giving him the right to live and work in the United States. In 2000 the INS renewed his card, no

questions asked.

For the past 12 years Calero has lived and worked in the U.S. as a permanent resident. INS officials are trying to erase these facts, expel Calero from the country, and strike a blow against the rights of everyone.

Today, Calero, who is married to a U.S. citizen, lives in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to beginning his job as associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and staff writer for the *Militant*, Calero worked as a meat packer in Des Moines, Iowa, and then in South St. Paul, Minnesota, where he participated in a ground-breaking union-organizing drive at Dakota Premium Foods.

December 13: Calero wins release from jail, INS sets March 25 hearing to 'remove' him

When Calero was thrown in detention, the fight to protest INS moves against him mounted rapidly. Messages demanding the government stop its effort to deport him were sent from Bill Pearson, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789, where Calero worked in the union organizing drive; the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants; Bruce Nestor, president of the National Lawyers Guild; Jeremy Dear, General Secretary, National Union of Journalists in Britain; and hundreds more.

The fight was publicized by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; *El Día*, the Spanish-language daily paper in Houston where Calero was jailed; Free Speech Radio News on the Pacifica network; the National Network on Cuba; and many others.

Faced with this support, the INS paroled Calero out on December 13. Their goal was to slow down the defense campaign on his behalf. One week later, they set a March 25 hearing to exclude him from the country.



Calero (center) checking newly printed pages of the *Militant* newsweekly.

Action is needed now! You can help!

Calero is fighting today for an immediate halt to government exclusion proceedings against him. He has retained Claudia Slovinsky, a prominent immigration attorney, and is appealing for public support to press the INS to restore his rights.

■ Send a letter of protest to Hipolito Acosta, District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 126 Northpoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060; fax: 281-774-5989; tel: 281-774-4610. Send copies to the Róger Calero Defense Committee, c/o PRDF, Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007.

■ Sign and distribute petitions demanding the INS drop its effort to deport Róger Calero.

■ Make a financial contribution to help cover rapidly mounting legal and other expenses. Checks can be written out to the Political Rights Defense Fund. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Róger Calero Defense Committee

c/o PRDF, Box 761, Church St. Station
New York, NY 10007 ■ 212-563-0585
calerodefense@yahoo.com

Chairpeople: José Oliva, director, Interfaith Workers' Rights Center, Chicago, IL; Martha Olivera, co-coordinator, Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty, Houston, TX; Bill Pearson, president, United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 789, South St. Paul, MN; Pamela Vossenas, national grievance officer, National Writers Union, New York, NY

Treasurer: Eugene Katz, professor, State University of New York at Stony Brook, NY

Coordinator: John Studer, executive director, Political Rights Defense Fund

Stop exclusion proceedings against Róger Calero!



Róger Calero, associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*

On December 3, Róger Calero, the associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language news magazine published in New York, was returning home to the United States from a reporting assignment in Havana, Cuba, and Guadalajara, Mexico. At Houston Intercontinental Airport, Calero was seized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), told he was denied entry to the United States, and carted off to an INS jail. He now faces exclusion from this country.

Calero has lived in the United States for the past 17 years and has held permanent



Clip & mail to the Róger Calero Defense Committee
c/o PRDF, Box 761, Church St. Station, NY, NY 10007

- I support the fight to stop the deportation of Róger Calero. List me as an endorser of the Róger Calero Defense Committee.
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$_____. Please make checks out to the Political Rights Defense Fund. Contributions are tax deductible.
- Please send me literature to distribute and help win new support for Calero's fight for justice.
- I want to invite a speaker from the Róger Calero defense campaign to speak before my union organization campus group church house.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Union/Org. _____

