

Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc.
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December 11, 2002

Hipolito Acosta
District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service
126 Northpoint Drive
Houston, TX 77060

Dear Mr. Acosta,

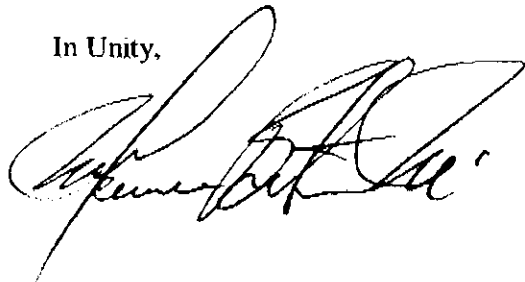
I am writing to protest the unjust detention of Mr. Róger Calero, who is being held without bond in your jurisdiction facing immediate deportation. Mr. Calero is a working journalist, the associate editor of the Spanish language news magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*. For twelve years Mr. Calero has exercised his rights as a permanent resident, first as a worker in the meat packing industry and later as a journalist and editor. He has traveled extensively performing his reporting assignments, including outside the US.

You are attempting to exclude him and deport him based on a 1988 high school conviction, for which he received a suspended sentence and a three year probation. This was waived by your agency at the time he was granted permanent residency. This arbitrary use of minor convictions of long ago as a basis for deportation is all too familiar and completely unjustified.

This jailing is not only an outrageous attack on the civil rights of Mr. Calero as a permanent resident, it further fits in with the abuse that I see heaped on honest, hardworking immigrant men and women every day, in my work as the Executive Director of Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc. (The Haitian Women of Miami).

Please, release Mr. Calero and stop the deportation hearings. Let him return to New Jersey, to his magazine, and to his work.

In Unity,



Marleine Bastien
Executive Director