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December 10, 2002

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

I am writing to ask that the Immigration and Naturalization Services stop the exclusion proceedings against Róger Calero. Our organization represents religious leaders and congregations throughout the Greater Metropolitan Chicago Area. As we understand it Róger Calero was detained on December 3, at Houston Intercontinental Airport by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, told he was denied entry to the United States, and taken to an INS jail. Our members are concerned with what would appear to be a targeted form of deportation against someone who stands up on behalf of others.

Mr. Calero has lived in the United States for the past 17 years and has held permanent residence since 1990. Besides his position as an editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, Calero has dedicated his life in the United States to help the less fortunate. As an Interfaith organization we must ask if this is how a nation repays someone who has devoted their life to achieving greater justice?

We implore in you Mr. Acosta, in the spirit of this season, to please release Mr. Calero from custody and allow him to return to his work as a journalist. We pray that you hear our plead, and that God accompany you in making this decision.

I leave you in peace,

Jose Oliva, Director
Interfaith Workers' Rights Center