

OSCAR LÓPEZ RIVERA

Between Torture and Resistance

Oscar López Rivera • Edited by Luis Nieves Falcón
Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Introduction by Matt Meyer

The story of Puerto Rican leader Oscar López Rivera is one of courage, valor, and sacrifice. A decorated Viet Nam veteran and well-respected community activist, López Rivera now holds the distinction of being one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. Behind bars since 1981, López Rivera was convicted of the thought-crime of “seditious conspiracy,” and never accused of causing anyone harm or of taking a life. This book is a unique introduction to his story and struggle, based on letters between him and the renowned lawyer, sociologist, educator, and activist Luis Nieves Falcón.

In photographs, reproductions of his paintings, and graphic content, Oscar’s life is made strikingly accessible—so all can understand why this man has been deemed dangerous to the U.S. government. His ongoing fight for freedom, for his people and for himself (his release date is 2027, when he will be 84 years old), is detailed in chapters which share the life of a Latino child growing up in the small towns of Puerto Rico and the big cities of the U.S. It tells of his emergence as a community activist, of his life underground, and of his years in prison. Most importantly, it points the way forward.

With a vivid assessment of the ongoing colonial relationship between the U.S. and Puerto Rico, it provides tools for working for López Rivera’s release—an essential ingredient if U.S.-Latin American relations, both domestically and internationally, have any chance of improvement. *Between Torture and Resistance* tells a sad tale of human rights abuses in the U.S. which are largely unreported. But it is also a story of hope—that there is beauty and strength in resistance.

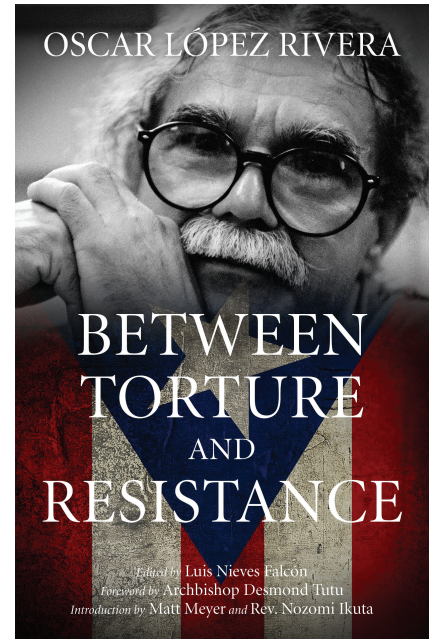
ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Oscar López Rivera was born in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico on January 6, 1943. Over López Rivera’s long years behind bars, he has become a talented and prolific artist whose drawings and paintings form part of an itinerant exhibit, Not Enough Space, along with fellow independentista Carlos Alberto Torres. He has also authored a chapter, “A Century of Colonialism: One Hundred Years of Puerto Rican Resistance,” in Joy James’s *Warfare in the American Homeland*.

Dr. Luis Nieves Falcón, renowned lawyer, psychologist, and sociologist, is professor emeritus of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). His recent books include *Un siglo de represión política en Puerto Rico: 1898–1998 [A Century of Political Repression in Puerto Rico: 1898–1998]*, and *La Luz Desde La Ventana: Conversaciones con Filiberto Ojeda Ríos [The Light from the Window: Conversations with Filiberto Ojeda Ríos]*.

Desmond Mpilo Tutu is Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Church of South Africa. The recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, Archbishop Tutu has long spoken out for human rights for all, and for the release of all political prisoners.

Matt Meyer is author and editor of six books, including four titles on contemporary Africa, and PM Press’s *Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners*. He is a New York City-based educator and activist, and a founder of the anti-imperialist collective Resistance in Brooklyn.



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