

**Message for the activity
Against Imperialism in Defense of Sovereignty
to be held on March 22, 2013 in Toronto, Canada**

For our peoples it is of great importance to fight for the freedom and for the life of all those whom the empire has imprisoned for fighting for the sovereignty of our peoples, since fighting for them means fighting for freedom and for our own lives.

There, in Venezuela, the people loudly declare that “We Are All Chávez” –which is certain- and over here, we could say the same about our prisoners. They are all of us. As long as they continue to remain incarcerated, a part of each of us is also held captive. Fighting for them is fighting for our people.

Throughout my imprisonment, I became a cell-mate of **Leonard Peltier**, of **Herman Bell** and of some of the other comrades of the **Black Liberation Army** and of the **Black Panthers**, (I was released in 1979 and they still continue to be prisoners) and I knew of the **Irish Republican Prisoners of War**. For me, we were all one since our cause was and remains the same: the sovereignty of our nations and respect for our peoples. The solidarity of people from outside strengthens and protects those inside.

We extend our solidarity to our **Five Cuban brothers**, unjustly imprisoned by U.S. imperialism, and to Puerto Ricans **Oscar Lopez Rivera**, who has already endured more than 32 years in prison for fighting for Puerto Rico’s independence, and **Norberto Gonzalez Claudio**, also imprisoned for fighting for the same cause. I send you a very strong embrace of solidarity and of appreciation from myself as well as on their behalf.

Rafaél Cancel Miranda

Puerto Rican former political prisoner