

FREE THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!

U.S. Intervention in Latin America: Cuba, Venezuela and Puerto Rico!



Join The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign as we discuss the U.S. government's recent intervention in Latin America. In particular, we will be looking at the increased repressive restrictions placed on Cuba, the U.S. sponsored coup attempts in Venezuela, and the on-going colonial crisis in Puerto Rico!

Discussion, Questions & Answers, and a Report from The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign on our Puerto Rican Political Prisoners!

Our Illustrious Panel:

- *Benjamin Ramos, ProLibertad/Moderator*
- *Rolando Vergara, First Secretary of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations.*
- *Benjamin Becker, ANSWER organizer*
- *Lourdes Garcia, Call to Action on Puerto Rico/ProLibertad*

Friday, June 14th, 2019 @ 7pm Reception / 7:30pm Program
The People's Forum 320 W. 37th St. (between 8th-9th Ave.)
Take the 1,2,3,7, A,C, E, M, N, Q, R

Donation: \$5-\$10 Sliding scale
(No one will be turned away due to lack of funds)



The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

For more information contact us at ProLibertad@Hotmail.com or 718-601-4751.
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Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners!

Who are Ana Belen Montes and Nina Droz Franco?



Ana Belen Montes was on February 28th, 1957 in Western Germany, where her military-officer father was based as an Army doctor. In 1979, when she was 22 years old, the University of Virginia granted her a bachelor's Degree in International Relations. Later on, she acquired a Master's Degree in this specialty. In 1985 she was hired by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), due to her capabilities, she was sent to the Air Force Base in Bolling, Washington, where she worked as a specialist in intelligence investigation.

In 1992 was promoted to the Pentagon as an analyst. Using a fake position, she was located for a while in the diplomatic representation in La Habana in order to study the Cuban military. In 1998 she was sent again by the DIA to the island to observe Pope John Paul II's visit to the island. Ana was known to be polite, modest and always smiling. While living alone in a simple apartment on the north side of Washington D.C., she climbed up the professional ladder until she became a top level analyst at the Pentagon, Senior Analyst.

She rapidly was granted access to almost everything known to the intelligence community related to Cuba. Due to her position, she belonged to a secret, "inter-agency working group on Cuba", gathering all most important analysts in federal agencies, such as the CIA, the White House itself and the State Department. Allegedly for 16 years, she shared the information at her disposal with Cuba. She felt the U.S. government's actions against Cuba were unethical and unfair.

On September 21st, 2001, she was arrested by FBI agents while in her office at the DIA headquarters in the Bolling Air Base in Washington DC. Some days later she was accused of "conspiracy to commit espionage" in favor of Cuba. She pleaded guilty for her actions.

On October 16th, 2002, she was sentenced to 25 years in prison with no parole. Eventually, she was transferred to the Federal Medical Center, Carswell, within the U.S.A Navy military Base in Fort Worth, Texas. This federal prison is for criminals with mental or physical illness; she is confined in the psychiatric area, although she is free from any illness of this kind. Her release date is scheduled for July 1st, 2023.



Nina Alejandra Droz Franco was arrested by the Puerto Rico Police as she sat on the street to block a line of riot cops during the disturbances that followed the mass march that took place on May 1st, 2017. Later that day, ATF took over the investigation. On May 2, she was transferred to federal custody and charged with damaging or attempting to damage by means of fire a building engaged in activity affecting interstate commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i). Specifically, she was accused of trying to set fire to the Banco Popular building in the "Golden Mile" area, which on May Day was the target of the rage of hundreds of protesters who smashed its glass windows and wrote on its walls.

Banco Popular and its owners, the Carrión family, have been denounced for their undue influence on local politics as well as their role in the Puerto Rican fiscal crisis. Today, one of the Carrión heirs, Jose Carrión III, is a member of La Junta, the unelected fiscal control board imposed on Puerto Rico by PROMESA.

After her arrest, the U.S. District Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Rosa Emilia Rodríguez Vélez, tried to portray Droz as a terrorist and even used the name of the role she played as an extra in the movie *Runner Runner*, "the girl who breathes fire", to sway the people against her. Later, Judge Delgado issued a gag order saying that Droz's attorney had tried to politicize the decision to process his client, a conduct which threatened to interfere with the possibility of a fair trial. Droz was denied bail mostly because of the prosecutor's argument that she is a repeat offender (due to a decade old criminal case in another jurisdiction), that she recently used violence in an incident with a man (who was harassing her) and that her parents cannot control her. As proof, the prosecution used a video found on her phone of her mother scolding her as well as a telephone conversation between Droz and her mother after she was in jail.

During her bail hearings, Droz's attorney denounced that she was not being provided with the medication she was prescribed for her chronic pain and anxiety, or with the appropriate bedding for herniated discs. Judge Delgado dismissed these claims saying that Droz was evaluated when she was jailed and that the determination to eliminate some medication was probably due to the fact that she was being over medicated. Although Droz initially pled not guilty, on July 12 she changed her plea after reaching an agreement with the prosecution which proposed a sentence of three years and one month in jail, while the defense suggested two years. On Tuesday, June 12th, 2018, Nina was sentenced to 37 months in prison and three years probation.