

August 22, 2016

Office of the Pardon Attorney  
Mr. Robert A. Zauzmer  
145 N Street N.E.  
Room 5E.508  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Executive Clemency for Oscar López Rivera

Dear Mr. Zauzmer:

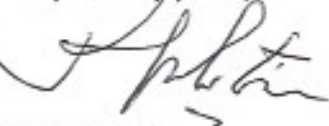
I'm writing in support of clemency for Oscar López Rivera, the longest-held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico. As you are likely aware, Oscar was convicted of seditious conspiracy in 1981, and he was sentenced to serve seventy years in prison. Oscar is a seventy-three-year-old man who has served more than three decades in prison, an already excessive and unduly severe amount of time under the circumstances.

As a proud Puerto Rican with a passion for protecting and respecting human rights, the plight of Oscar López Rivera is very personal to me. This is a matter of social justice, humanity, and compassion. It is inconceivable that a world which rejects political imprisonment, and decades ago came together to achieve the long and hard-fought defeat of apartheid and freedom for Nelson Mandela, is the same world that still holds Oscar López Rivera as prisoner after more than thirty-five years. It is inconceivable that the great nation which leads worldwide efforts promoting democracy and the protection of human rights, denies the freedom of Oscar López Rivera.

I am convinced that Oscar deserves to be back home in Puerto Rico reunited with his loved ones. He deserves to experience again the soothing sounds of the Caribbean Sea and the splendor that extends through the countryside of his beloved Puerto Rico. I urge you not to delay recommending to President Obama that he exercise his constitutional power to release Oscar. Oscar López Rivera does not deserve to die in a federal prison, alienated from humanity.

I have joined the thousands of voices, including the Free Oscar López Rivera Coalition, which, in the name of justice, call for his release. I respectfully request that you demonstrate your ability to achieve greater justice and democracy in the United States and throughout the world by advising President Obama to grant executive clemency to Oscar López Rivera.

Respectfully yours,



Ricky Martin

cc: President Barack Obama