



DECOLONIZATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO NOW!

Puerto Rico is mired in the most serious crisis in its 120-year history as a colony of the United States. Never before so many attacks have coincided that if this path imposed by imperialism continues unabated, it will negatively impact the future of PR as a distinct Boricua nation that can develop for the benefit of its people.

What is happening now in PR is the culmination of the process of destruction of a people that began the same day of the US invasion on July 25, 1898. Finally, the illusion of the "Free Associated State or Commonwealth" disappeared. That big lie that US devised in 1952 to not be accused of the crime of owning colonies. In 2016, the US Supreme Court confirmed that PR does not have its own sovereignty because its authority resides in the US Congress. That is, Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States!

It began with the destruction of the PR economy, the suppression of the knowledge of our history and our freedom heroes, the repression of the independence movement that dared to maintain its Puerto Rican identity and liberate its people, the imposition of a parasitic economic model that did not attempt to develop self-sufficiency, including food self-sufficiency so basic to survival. The imposition of a citizenship that facilitated the flow of cheap labor and a cannon fodder in their bloody wars. It continues with the current situation with the imposition of an illegitimate debt and a dictatorial Fiscal Control Board imposed by US Congress with members that represent the same ones who caused this debacle, as wolves taking care of sheep.

Then we arrived to the situation - to the enormous crisis - after the hurricanes Irma and Maria that have shown the world the power of nature which is also besieged by the policies of rich countries that prioritize capital over the most basic of needs, the health of the planet. But it has also demonstrated the criminal cruelty with which the US empire has responded to the great devastation of the hurricanes and its plans to restructure Puerto Rico for US' benefit.

Today, close to a year after the storm, it cannot be said that there is recovery at any level. On the contrary, much progress has been made in trying to impose the most terrible austerity policies, from the privatization of basic services such as electricity

and education, to the rise in the cost of living while eliminating benefits, pensions, and laying off workers. The current conditions where a people is immersed in solving their problems of housing, health and mere survival have been used to advance a satanic agenda that was already exposed in the 2015 Kruger Report, direct recipes of the International Monetary Fund: taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Nor can we ignore the genocidal actions of FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers, not only for their slowness in responding to the urgent needs, but also in their refusal to give the aid they are obliged to give to the people. We should also include insurance companies and all the vulture companies who have profited from the people while denying the service for which they were contracted.

The Puerto Rican people are now imprisoned by the neoliberal policy that suffocates them. On the one hand, the US does not provide the necessary assistance, and on the other hand it prohibits the entry of solidarity aid from other countries such as Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

One escape valve has been migration, especially to the US. More than 200,000 Puerto Ricans - in a country of 3.4 million - have flown to the US.

Meanwhile, in the midst of this tornado, the US imposes its sinister plan through its FCB and the Puerto Rican puppet government.

The US vision is a PR privatized to the core. Where the youth would have a mediocre education devoid of their Puerto Rican cultural and historical context, in order to serve the privatizing entities. A country owned by billionaires, with the sole purpose of increasing their income free of all restrictions that could bind them, free of taxes or any overseeing. A PR without Puerto Ricans, as the great independence leader, nationalist Don Pedro Albizu Campos warned when he said that the US wanted the cage without the birds.

The people of PR are organizing to repel these attacks. But it is essential that here in the US, we point out the culpability of the United States in having a country as a colony. Join the call to judge the US crimes perpetrated in PR in the People's International Tribunal on U.S. crimes against PR that will take place on October 27, 2018 in New York.

INDEPENDENCE WITH REPARATIONS FOR PUERTO RICO NOW!