

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
March 10, 1978

TO ALL SECTIONS AND SYMPATHIZING ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Dear Comrades,

This is to bring to your attention the defense campaign being waged to save the life of Héctor Marroquín, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance who faces deportation to Mexico. The SWP and the YSA, together with many independent supporters of Marroquín's case, are trying to win public support for his right to political asylum in the United States.

This is important because, if he is deported to Mexico, his life would be in great danger. Marroquín was a student leader in Mexico during the late sixties and early seventies, where he helped organize massive marches to demand university autonomy and democratic rights. He fled Mexico in 1974 after the Mexican police framed him up on charges of murder, assault, and "subversion." Of three others accused at the same time, two were killed by police and right-wingers. The third was arrested, tortured, and is being held incommunicado. If deported to Mexico, Marroquín would be jailed, tortured, and possibly killed.

Attached are some materials that describe the facts of the case as well as the breadth of support to date.

Marroquín's fight for political asylum is a difficult one: the U.S. government rarely grants asylum to refugees fleeing regimes like the one in Mexico which the Carter administration is friendly with. Only a broad-scale campaign, international in scope, can save Héctor Marroquín's life.

In the past, international protests have been important in winning freedom for political prisoners. The international campaign waged in defense of comrade Hugo Blanco played a role in stopping the Peruvian government from murdering him, and, later, from imprisoning him for life.

We are asking for similar help for comrade Héctor Marroquín. Enclosed is a copy of an "International Appeal to Save the Life of Héctor Marroquín." We would appreciate it if you could obtain the signatures of prominent individuals and groups, including labor union officials and members of parliament, well-known intellectuals, student, feminist, and antiracist leaders, etc.

Mail the signed appeals to: Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, 853 Broadway, Room 414, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Also, ask everyone who signs to send messages of protest to the head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Leonel

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Castillo (send copies to the defense committee). The Immigration and Naturalization Service is the U.S. government agency in charge of making the decision on Marroquín's request for asylum. Mail messages of protest to: Leonel Castillo, Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Buttons, pamphlets, and other materials to help publicize the case are available from the Marroquín Defense Committee in New York City (order form enclosed). All are in English except the pamphlet, which is available in English or Spanish.

Finally, it would be helpful if you ran an article on the Marroquín case in your newspaper, along with the International Appeal and a request for your readers to circulate it and get signatures.

Comradely,



Roger Rudenstein
Socialist Workers Party
National Office



Betsy Farley
Young Socialist Alliance
National Office