

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HECTOR MARROQUIN

We call upon the United States government to grant political asylum to Héctor Marroquín, who faces deportation from the United States to Mexico. Marroquín is a student leader who was forced to flee Mexico in 1974 after he was falsely accused of murder and "subversion" by the police.

Amnesty International has reported that the Mexican government carries out repression against political dissidents. According to Amnesty, there are "numerous cases of people disappearing after being arrested." Amnesty has also denounced "the use of torture by federal and state authorities" in Mexico. For Héctor Marroquín, deportation would mean jail, torture, and possibly death.

The United States is a signatory to the United Nations Protocol and Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. This states that no refugee should be "expelled or returned ...to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his...political opinion." Clearly Héctor Marroquín fits into this category.

Marroquín is a trade unionist, a fighter against racism, and a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in the United States. Although we do not necessarily agree with his political views, we believe he has the right to express them without fear of reprisal. A victory for Marroquín would be a victory for human rights the world over. Therefore, we raise our voices to demand political asylum for Héctor Marroquín.

(Organizations listed for identification purposes only, unless noted)

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