

June 6 phone call from Rodrigo to Judy

On Wednesday, May 31, the Consejo de Gobierno pardoned Flutarco Hernandez. The decision was in response to the volume of protests demanding his release. For three consecutive days, starting Monday, May 29, the CST had mobilized 500 persons in front of the main post office from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to demonstrate. Several demonstrators were seized but all were released due to the pressure of the crowds that were gathered.

On Tuesday at 6 p.m. the OST held a picket line of 200 persons outside the presidential palace during a torrential downpour.

In response to these mobilizations, the press office at the presidential palace announced that council of ministers was not going to deal with the Hernandez case at its Tuesday meeting, that the Wednesday meeting had been cancelled, and that the question was not on the agenda for the Thursday session.

However, mass pressure forced the council to call a special meeting ~~at~~ at which the pardon was granted. Flutarco was released Wednesday night in order to head off a scheduled march by the OST on Thursday.

Neither Pueblo Unido or either of the Stalinist parties participated in any way in the campaign. Thus all the credit for Flutarco's release went to the CST.

Upon his release, Flutarco Hernandez paid a fullpage ad in the mayor Costa Rican daily paper, La Nación. The ad consisted for a photograph of Flutarco, his father, mother, and Alejandra Calderon of the OST. The text said in part:

"I want to express ^(m) my special recognition to the Organización Socialista de los Trabajadores whose members from the very day of my arrest were unsparing in the front ranks of the fight for my release. Although in this case I think that Alejandra Calderon and the companeros of the CST were only carrying out their most elementary ~~revolutionary~~ duty as revolutionists. In any country where you find a revolutionist in jail for his ideas it is the most elementary duty of anyone who calls himself a revolutionist to defend the prisoner unconditionally...."

These events have caused a big stir on the left. For the FSLN to be defending the OST, the "known traitors" of the revolutionary cause....

In the final days before Flutarco's release the MRP offered the help of Pueblo Unido to Flutarco on the condition that he publicly attack the CST. Hernandez refused categorically to do this.

Following this successful fight, ~~the~~ Pueblo, an independent left newspaper, the one that launched the first public attacks against Rodrigo, published an article attacking the parties that did not defend PH and defending the OST. This is the first time that Pueblo, which has always been allied with these other forces on the left, has broken with them.

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~~This coming Thursday, June 8, the OST has planned a demonstration~~

Last Thursday, June 1, the OST ~~will~~ planned a demonstration for Friday, June 2, in front of the Peruvian embassy on the Blanco case, which was also very successful.

They have finished translating and checking Gus's answer to Moreno on Angola and want to know where to send the manuscript for printing. Natalie should call them today (June 7) to let them know.

Mariana sends her greetings to all.