

# QUE ONDEE SOLA

DOUBLE ISSUE

1980

## LA MUJER PUERTORRIQUENA



# Esterilizacion

A traves de todos los Estados Unidos de Norte America, y en muchos otros lugares del mundo, estamos luchando por mejorar las condiciones en que vivimos. A veces luchamos solos y a veces colectivamente, por trabajos que nos merecemos, a salarios de subsistencia plena, en condiciones seguras, por alimentos de calidad y a bajo costo, por educacion razonable, por centros de cuidado de ninos, por servicios medicos y vivienda adecuada, por cuidado materno, por ropa adecuada etc., y para afirmar nuestras identidades culturales y etnicas. Estamos luchando por nuestros derechos — eliminar el discrimen de acuerdo a riqueza personal, color, sexo, religion y nacionalidad. Luchamos por el control para determinar el caracter de nuestra sociedad.

El Comit  Contra el Abuso de la Esterilizacion (CESA) se creo hace dos anos cuando realizamos que uno de los metodos que el gobierno y las empresas privadas combaten nuestras luchas es el negarnos la oportunidad a planear cuando y cuantos ninos vamos a tener. En un sin numero de formas la clase dominante de los E.U. nos niega el derecho a escoger el mejor y mas accesible metodo contraceptivo.

El abuso de la esterilizacion ocurre cuando una persona:

- es esterilizada sin el debido conocimiento sobre los riesgos, beneficios o alternativas a la operacion;
- es esterilizada sin conocimiento de que la operacion es permanente;
- es esterilizada sin su debido consentimiento;
- es esterilizada sin haberselo dado la oportunidad a tomar la decision cuidadosamente, con la oportunidad de conocer los hechos sociales y entender las implicaciones;
- es esterilizada despues de haber sido amenazada con la negacion de otros servicios medicos o la terminacion de pagos de bienestar publico (welfare);
- es esterilizada porque no tiene facilidades de abortos disponibles, o porque otros metodos contraceptivos son muy costosos;
- escoge el ser esterilizada pero es desalentada o se le proh be de alguna manera el someterse a la operacion.

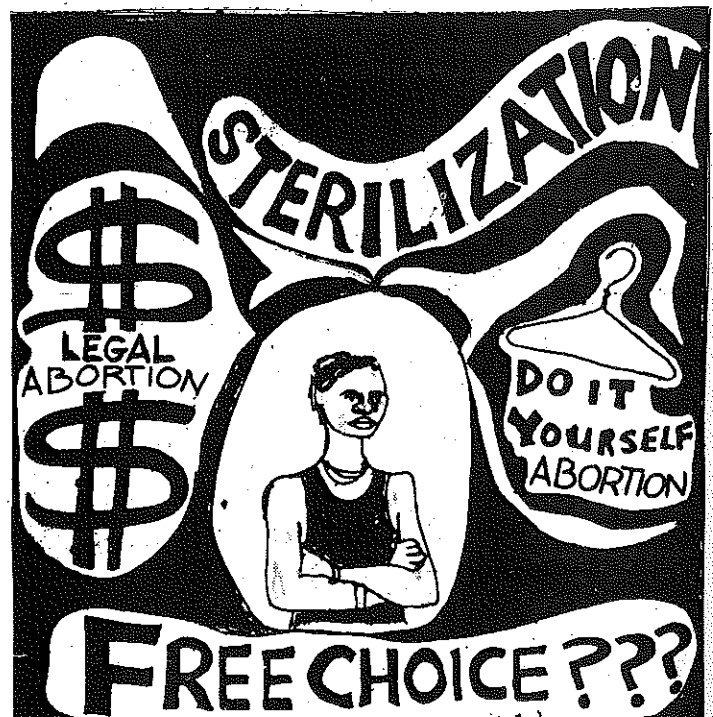
El abuso de la esterilizacion surge como parte de una campana por reducir la poblacion mundial. Muchos grupos poderosos — el gobierno de U.E., grandes corporaciones, el establecimiento medico, entre otros — han emprendido una campana de convencer al pueblo de que los recursos naturales estan limitados y no son lo suficiente para proveer por las necesidades basicas de todo el mundo; ahora que la tasa de natalidad es tan alta.

Nos dicen que existe una "explosion poblacional." Son estos grupos los que tambien han creado un miedo tremendo sobre la habilidad y capacidad de la raza humana a sobrevivir; insisten en que ellos tienen el derecho a limitar, por fuerza si fuera necesario; su capacidad de reproduccion. De acuerdo a estadisticas de el Departamento de Salud, Educacion y Bienestar Publico (HEW) alrededor de 100,000 a 150,000 personas de bajo ingreso fueron esterilizadas bajo programas federales durante los ultimos anos. En Puerto Rico, 35% de las mujeres de edad reproductiva han sido esterilizadas bajo programas auspiciados y en colaboracion con el gobierno colonial y mayormente financiados por (HEW). En E.U. 20% de las mujeres negras, indias y chicanas estan siendo esterilizadas. Cerca de 1.3 millones de mujeres son esterilizadas cada ano — tres veces mas que tres anos atras.

Pero la llamada "explosion poblacional" es un mito — un mito sumamente peligroso. Los hechos historicos nos demuestran que a traves de todos los tiempos las sociedades existen organizadas de tal manera que la gente produce y tiene acceso a lo que necesitan, y entonces la tasa de natalidad baja. El problema no es "demasiada gente", el problema es que se nos niega el derecho a determinar lo que vamos a producir con los recursos disponibles, y como hacerlo para que cada persona tenga una participacion, equitativa.

De hecho, si miramos a quienes han sido

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(Continued from page 2) **ESTERILIZACION**

esterilizadas(os) podemos ver que son los mismos grupos de gente que han sido victimas de discriminación durante los 200 años de historia política y desarrollo de los Estados Unidos. Las clases industriales y el gobierno de los E.U., expandiendo su poder y control, sistemáticamente han negado los derechos de ciertos grupos. Entre algunos ejemplos podemos incluir; el robo de la tierra de los indios, la importación de esclavos africanos, la eliminación en las mujeres de sus derechos democráticos, a la eventual anexación de tierras mejicanas y de otras gentes, y la conquista económica de América Latina y otros continentes a través de este siglo. Puerto Rico, donde los programas de control poblacional han sido más exitosos que en ninguna otra parte, continúa siendo una colonia de Estados Unidos.

Ahora que la gente de otros países están luchando en guerras de liberación nacional para ganar control sobre sus tierras, la clase dominante está usando la esterilización de sectores seleccionados de la población para mantener su control racista y sexista sobre nuestras vidas. La necesidad que tienen los capitalistas de controlar todos los recursos para sus propios propósitos quiere decir que ellos también determinan la tasa de natalidad, no nosotros los que producimos las riquezas, o criamos nuestros hijos.

El Comité Contra el Abuso de la Esterilización cree que el abuso de la esterilización es un crimen en contra de la gente. La esterilidad forzada no es de ninguna manera un sustituto para buenos trabajos, suficiente alimentos, educación adecuada, cuidado de niños, servicios médicos, cuidado maternal-infante, vivienda, vestido o integridad cultural. Nosotros apoyamos el derecho individual de cada persona a escoger el método contraceptivo que el o ella prefiera. Pero cuando la sociedad no provee las necesidades básicas para la vida de cada persona, tal libertad a escoger no existe.

Por lo tanto, te invitamos a que te unas a nosotros(as), como miembro(a), auspiciador(ra), amigo(a), de CESA en uno de los proyectos que trabajamos en el presente

- A educar y publicar los "issues" que surgen alrededor del abuso de la esterilización, enfatizando el propósito que sirven los programas de control poblacional, y denunciar la implementación de el racismo, sexismo y la opresión de la clase trabajadora dentro del sistema de servicios de salud.
- A demandar que todas las familias y mujeres de edad reproductiva tengan libre acceso a todos los métodos contraceptivos y a abortos dentro de un sistema de salud amplio y de alta

calidad. Esto requiere una reorganización completa del cuidado de salud y la dirección del sistema de Seguro de Salud Nacional (National Health Insurance). Terminar el Cuidado de Salud Para Ganancias!

- Apoyar la radicación y la ejecución de pautas sobre la esterilización de mujeres en cualquier parte de los Estados Unidos. Las pautas para los hospitales de la ciudad de Nueva York, aseguran que las mujeres den consentimiento de proceder con la operación solamente después de haber sido informadas y aconsejadas, no son obligadas a esterilizarse y tienen derecho a un periodo de espera de al menos 30 días antes de que se ejecute la operación. Todo esto crea un precedente que debemos defender y extender.
- A iniciar acción legal en contra de esos que abusan de los derechos de los pacientes por cualquier medio. El abuso de la Esterilización es un Crimen en Contra de el Pueblo!

**UNETE A LA LUCHA EN CONTRA DE EL ABUSO DE LA ESTERILIZACION**

CESA: Comité Contra el Abuso de la Esterilización

P.O. Box A 244 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003



# CULTURALWEEK

The Latin-American Cultural week held March 24th through the 28th, 1980 by the Chicano Student Union and the Union for Puerto Rican Students was a great success.

From the opening activity through the Friday night finale the students and invited guest performers presented colorful cultural dances, songs and in-depth presentations from several countries of Latin-America.

The week's inaugural activity was held on Monday the 24th at noon in the Heritage Room with speeches from the Chairpersons of the sponsoring organizations describing the arduous task of progressive Latinos/as and Latin-America.

The main speaker of the inaugural activity was Mr. Jose Lopez, who made a historical analysis of the Latino experience and the cultural conflicts which we encounter here in the United States.

It may be this writer's biased opinion, but the highlight of the afternoon was the performance of Miss Marta Rodriguez a guitarist and excellent singer of Puerto Rican Protest music. Miss Rodriguez kept the crowd spellbound with her profound lyrics, beautifully clear voice and guitar playing. She repeated her performance at the finale held Friday night March 28th in the Auditorium.

For those of us/you that did not see any of our activities, we offer our condolences... here is what you missed:

- \*Cultural dances from Mexico and Puerto Rico performed by students of the Chicano Student Union and the Union for Puerto Rican Students.

- \*Informative slideshows on Vieques, Puerto Rico and Nicaragua.

- \*An excellent movie on Puerto Rican History

- \*Excellent performances by the Roberto Clemente High School Steel Drum Band and Tuna (chorus)

- \*Colorful cultural dances from Brazil performed by El Ballet Folklorica cofresi.

- \*Lecturers on Santo Domingo and Chile

- \*A lecture by Myrna Salgado about Puerto Rican Women

- \*Student singers and musicians

- \*Plus lots more; even a short performance by a parttime Musican Full-time instructor here at U.N.I (no pun intended)

The Friday night reception and dance was held in the Unicorn after the finale in the Auditorium; entertainment was provided by the Salsa Orquesta Tipica Leal. There was cultural food and lots of fun had by all.



# SAVE P-1!

The latin students on campus are greatly concerned about the future of el Centro Albizu-Zapata.

Since its creation (portable one ) Centro Albizu Zapata has been a meeting center for both the (CSU) and the (UPRS) The center houses murals and records left by past students who had struggled for services students have today.

Many of these services we have today have been stripped of student input and do not serve the latin community as they were initially proposed to.

Since 1975, the administration has been determined to close Centro Albizu Zapata, according to Mr Daniel Kielson, Vice President of Student affairs.

The Center is to be removed because of poor conditions, and they have out lived their proposed years of usage.

The administration has made plans to transfer the financial aid office to the mezzanine above the admission office. The space left by the financial aid office are to be filled by the counselors of Projecto Palante along with the counselors of Project Success, since their portables will come down also.

This will be an inconvenience to both blacks and latin students who need counseling services.

In 1975 the administration ordered PI closed.

Students response against that decesion was strong and after a series fo meetings PI was reopened. The students say they will not let the administration knock down their mobile.

This attitude by the administration to take away PI coincides with their lack of interest of the latin student issues on this campus. Three months ago the CSU and UPRS Ad-Hoc committee met with the provost to list the unmet needs of the University and still haven't been notified as to what direction they plan to take to rectify the issues.

Q.O.S.





# Sterilization Abuse of Women

## The Facts

### IS THERE A POPULATION EXPLOSION?

**MYTH:** Overpopulation causes poverty.

**FACT:** In 1949, after more than a century of foreign domination, China was one of the poorest countries in the world. The population was over 400 million and people were starving.

Today, China's population has doubled to 800 million and starvation, unemployment and many epidemic diseases which have their roots in poverty, malnutrition, and social neglect have been wiped out. Obviously, population was not China's problem, but the control and distribution of wealth.

The Chinese people threw out foreign profiteers and seized control of their own economy. They plan their economy and distribute the wealth they produce to serve the needs of the people of China.

The solution to poverty does not lie in population control, but in enough food available, full employment, quality health care, day care and education.

**MYTH:** Population, left unchecked will outstrip food production and use up resource reserves.

**FACT:** According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the "food problem" is one of surpluses. Surpluses and not scarcity have led to problems in the commodity market.

The economic system which dominates the world's commodity market is based on profit. When a commodity (in this case, food) is overproduced and does not bring the desired price, the product is stockpiled and an artificial shortage is created. This forces the price to rise and ultimately forces people to starve.

Since the mid 1950's food production has been growing 1 1/4 times as fast as population—and this with only 1/10 of the world's total land area under cultivation.

### WHAT IS STERILIZATION?

Surgical sterilization can take several forms. For women, sterilization is the tying, obstructing or removing of the Fallopian tubes (tubal sterilization). Hysterectomy, removal of the uterus (womb), is also being used to sterilize.

There are many people who are not aware of what is being done to the women of minority groups in this country and in other capitalists countries. We have decided to add information based on fact in this MAY issue of Que Ondee Sola concerning sterilization of women without their full knowledge and awareness of the methods used. This information was received from the Committee to End Sterilization abuse (CESA). For those who are interested in receiving more information can write to:

CESA: Committee to End Sterilization Abuse  
P.O. Box A 244 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003

### WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS?

Sterilization is not a problem-free method of birth control—it is the termination of the ability to reproduce. It is not any safer than the continued use of oral contraceptives, and it is considerably more dangerous than the IUD or diaphragm. Sterilization is considered to be a major operation which requires the use of an anesthetic.

The mortality rate for tubal sterilization is 25 per 100,000 women. Side effects after this operation include: bleeding, uterine perforation, accidental burning or bowel trauma (between 1 to 2% of cases); abdominal pain or pain during menstruation (20 to 30%); an increase in menstrual bleeding (10 to 40%).

The complication rate for a hysterectomy is 10 to 20 times higher than for tubal sterilization, with between 300 to 500 deaths per 100,000 operations. Recovery from a hysterectomy usually requires at least 6 weeks.

Psychological complications after sterilization operations are common. According to a 1973 study, one fourth of the women who have been sterilized regret their decision, and in certain instances, a regret rate of 32% has been documented.

### IS STERILIZATION 100% EFFECTIVE?

As can be seen from the chart below, hysterectomy is 100% effective. However, more women become pregnant after tubal sterilizations than those who use the pill.

Pregnancies can result after tubal sterilization operations because of surgical failure and recanalization (the tubes grow back together).

### IS STERILIZATION REVERSIBLE?

Sterilization is NOT reversible.

Misconceptions about the reversibility of tubal sterilizations stem from the fact that there is an operation which attempts to reconnect the tubes. However, this operation fails approximately 75% of the time.

In those 25% of the cases where the tubes are successfully reconnected, there is *very little* chance that pregnancy can be achieved.

	Hyster- ectomy	Tubal Steril- ization	Pill	IUD
Pregnancy Rate per million women	0	10,000	5,000	30,000
Deaths per million women	3,000-5,000	250	31	9
Serious Complications per million women	150,000	15,000	600	400

These figures were taken from the *Health Research Group Study on Surgical Sterilization*, Oct. 1973.

Continued on page 6

# Sterilization Abuse of Women

## The Facts ... Continued from page 5

### WHAT IS STERILIZATION ABUSE?

Population control is official U.S. government policy, not only for inside the U.S. but for countries under its control all over the world. The health services are instruments of social policy, and it is in the health services where the evidence of sterilization abuse is rampant.

Teaching hospitals are pushing sterilizations, especially hysterectomies, to train residents. Almost every major teaching hospital in the U.S. has doubled the number of elective tubal sterilizations since 1971.

In 1973 a resident of Los Angeles County hospital told the new interns, "I want you to ask every one of the girls if they want their tubes tied, regardless of how old they are. Remember everyone you get to get her tubes tied means two tubes for some resident or intern ...". Another resident, this time at Boston City Hospital, has been quoted, "... We like to do a hysterectomy, it's more of a challenge ... you know a well-trained chimpanzee can do a tubal ligation ... and it's good experience for the junior resident ... good training."

Deceptive labels are being given various sterilization procedures in order to make them more readily accepted. Names like "bandaid surgery" and "a stitch" are misleading and tend to make sterilization easier to "sell".

There is ample evidence that people are not being informed of the most basic fact about surgical sterilization—its irreversibility. In 1973, a report by the Health Research Group charged that of the 2 million people sterilized each year, *several hundred thousand* are not informed of either the irreversibility, the risks or the alternative methods of family planning.

Sterilizations are also being solicited and performed concurrently with abortions. A consent form for sterilization is often thrust in front of a woman in labor or who is about to undergo a cesarean section. According to a Nader group report, the surgery is performed "as soon as the infant is born so she [the mother] won't have time to change her mind."

Three young Mexican women have filed suit against University of Southern California Medical Center officials. All three women say that permission for the sterilization operations was sought while they were in pain and under heavy sedation during caesarian child-birth. One woman, Melvina Hernandez, was not even aware she had given her permission for the operation at all. She wore an IUD unnecessarily for two years until learning that she had been sterilized.

### STERILIZATION ON THE RISE

Since 1970 there has been a three-fold increase in the incidence of female sterilization in the United States. Approximately one million female sterilizations are performed each year.

### WHO IS BEING STERILIZED?

The overwhelming majority of people who are victims of sterilization abuse in the U.S. are Native American, Black, Mexican, and Puerto Rican women.

There was a 180% rise in the number of sterilizations performed between 1972-1973 in New York City municipal hospitals which service predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

A 1970 National Fertility Study by the Office of Population Research of Princeton University found that 43% of the women sterilized in federally financed family planning programs were Black, while Black women represent only one third of the patient population. Twenty percent of married Black women in the United States have been sterilized. One third as many white women have been sterilized.

The acting director of OB/GYN at a municipal hospital in New York City reporting that it is common practice to use elective hysterectomies to train residents, states: "At least 10% of gynecological surgery in New York City is done on this basis, and 99% of this is done on Black and Puerto Rican women."

Representatives of the Mohawk Nation are charging that the U.S. Public Health Service has been conducting numerous sterilizations on young Indian mothers without informing them of the exact nature of the surgeries. The Indian Health Service Hospital in Claremont, Oklahoma surgically sterilized 132 Indian women in 1973. One hundred of these operations were non-therapeutic. In other words, the sole purpose of the surgery was to render the women incapable of having children.

There is a definite trend towards sterilizing younger women. In 1973 the median age of women sterilized in federally financed family planning programs was 28. Less than half of these women were over 30, and four of every 100 were under 25 years.

A study at a large hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota recently revealed that 19.7% of the women sterilized in 1968-1969 were under 25. In 1971 this percentage had risen to 29.7%.

On Oct. 11, 1973 the *Washington Star News* reported that "Among a dozen women sterilized at Baltimore City Hospital ... seven were teenagers ... all but one were under 30."

### WHO FUNDS STERILIZATION?

The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) supplies most of the funds for sterilization in the U.S. HEW has been funding sterilizations for poor women since 1966.

HEW also funds child care facilities, Head Start, and community health programs. But between 1969-1974 funds for these services were cut while the family planning budget increased from \$51 million to over \$250 million.

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# COMMENTARY

## ELEVEN ARRESTED FALN SUSPECTS DEMAND STATUS OF P.O.W.'S

NEW YORK (LNS)- It's been more than five years since the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN), an armed underground organization fighting for Puerto Rican independence, announced its existence with bomb blast outside five New York City banks. But until this April law enforcement authorities had recorded only one arrest and conviction related to FALN activities. And that one convicted FALN suspect escaped last May. Then, on April 5, police in the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois scored a "breakthrough."

Following up on a tip about "suspicious" activity by a group of joggers, they arrested five men and six women as suspected FALN members. Among them were Carlos Torres and Maria Haydee Torres, the only two people previously indentified as possible leaders of the underground organization.

The first appearance of the 11 before a Cook County Circuit Court on April 7 offered ample evidence of the importance attached to the arrests, as bail was set at \$2 million each. But events at the arraignment proceedings also offered ample evidence of the difficulties authorities face in prosecuting the cases.

The 11 had to be forcibly carried into the court, chanting independence slogans that could also be heard from outside, where a band of demonstrators shouted "Drive the Yankees to the sea, Puerto Rico will be free." The relatively minor charges filed against 10 of the suspects reflected the scanty evidence the police and FBI have actually managed to accumulate. And the discrepancy between the charges (weapons possession and possession of stolen property) and the astronomical bail (\$2 million each) only served to underline the stance adopted by the 11 suspects - that they are being charged for political crimes and demand status as prisoners of war in the fight for the independence of Puerto Rico.

"If this were a normal case, their bond would probably be \$2,000 or less," Micheal Deutseh of the Chicago People's Law Office told LNS. "But because of the political nature of the case they're asking for \$2 million.

Basically, they are accused of criminal offenses, but when it comes down to it they're accused of belonging to the FALN. So they're saying, if that's what we're charged with we should be treated as POW's.



## SUCESOS DE LA SEMANA CULTURAL LATINOAMERICANO

El dia 24 de Mayo de 1980 por primera vez se celebro la semana latinoamericana en la Universidad de Northeastern. Los representantes de la Union puertorriquena y la Union Chicano/Mejicano, companero Santana y el companero Romero dieron la bienvenida a todos los estudiantes que participaron, ya sea como participante del acto o espectadores.

El acto cultural se abrio en el Heritage Room donde la companera Marta Rodriguez nos levanto el espiritu de lucha que siempre se siente en su musica del pueblo, musica de protesta que solo ella sabe interpretar. Seguido de este acto pasamos al Unicorn donde presentamos un slide show de Vieques y un bailable tipico puertorriqueno. El Martes se celebro el carnaval latinoamericano en el centro Albizu Zapata con bailables y comidas tipicas.

Luego pasamos al Unicorn donde presentamos una pelicula de Puerto Rico. El Miercoles continuamos en el auditorium con bailables Mejicanos y Puertorriquenos y vistas positivas de Nicaragua. El Jueves presentamos un slide show de la arquitectura de Mejico en el Alumni Hall. Tambien presentamos la Steel Band y la Tuna de la escuela Roberto Clemente y poesias declamadas por estudiantes.

El Viernes finalizamos el acto cultural en el auditorium donde la companera Myrna Salgado nos hablo de la mujer borinquena a traves de la historia.

Tambien tuvimos dos oradores, uno de Santo Domingo y el otro de Chile. Finalizamos la semana cultural con la noche Latinoamericana donde presentamos bailables Mejicanos y Puertorriquenos, Bolivianos, boleros puertorriquenos interpretados por estudiantes, tríos y cantantes mejicanos y sudamericanos. Pasando despues al unicorn tvimos toda clase de comida tipica, ademas la orquesta Tipica leal y sus cantantes nos deleitaron con su musica hasta las doce de la noche. Es de importancia mencionar que al empezar el acto cultural, el professor Jose Lopez nos hablo de la importancia de muestra cultura porque sin ella la semana latinoamericana no se podria haber realizado por el simple hecho de que la cultura es nuestra vida y nuestra vida es politica. Por ejemplo: El mantener nuestro idioma como pueblos dentro de las entranas del capitalismo, representa una lucha que diario tenemos que defender asi como nuestra presencia de latinoamericano en esta universidad. Una lucha constante pese a que la universidad como institucion siempre estara funcionando con el proposito que fue hecha, el de seleccionar y hacer triunfar solo los estudiantes dociles que se agregan al sistema capitalista. Es por seo que al representar nuestra cultura dentro de esta institucion es solamente por medio de la lucha constante.

# EDITORIAL

UNI—It is sad that at every occasion when the Puerto Rican struggle for independence reaches the media in Chicago, lackeys are called upon to ease and justify the worried minds of the status quo and annexationists.

When the capture of the eleven suspected FALN members reached the forefront of the media, Dr. Samuel Betances was called upon, by the television media of Chicago to denounce the ideology of the Patriotic Independence Movement. Something that he knows little about.

We do not state this in the context of Dr. Betances' academic achievements, but in the context of his personal achievements. Mr. Betances has not given anything to the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, but in fact has made a lavish living from teaching out dated rhetoric.

After having done a historical investigation of Mr. Betances political position we find ourselves in the position to criticize him.

When the (UPRS) Union for Puerto Rican Students struggled to open a position for Mr. Betances within the Sociology department, he stated he was a true independentista, which is common among all intellectuals. Because of his loyalty to his fatherland he was well respected among many of his professional peers in the Independentist sectors. Taking this into account one would think that Dr. Betances would be well on his way to being a man who would contribute to the independence movement, and the Puerto Rican Community in Chicago.

However all this is far from the truth, for a very short time after, Betances was forced to take a position on Puerto Rico's strategy toward independence.

It was disclosed that Mr. Betances was all along working with the repressive agency of the United States Government.

Mr. Betances clearly knows that the purpose of the government is to perpetuate the status quo's control over Puerto Rico. Mr. Betances cannot negate the fact that the Puerto Rican movement is a target of these agencies, who want to infiltrate and destroy the Puerto Rican Independence movement. Mr. Betances is an example of a social democrat being used to split the Independence movement so it can follow bourgeois legalities, therefore making it easy to neutralize.

Mr. Betances has lost all creditability with the progressive students on campus. He has not come out to support the students struggle involving Professor Lopez, or Chicano history, or any other student struggle. Mr. Betances interests do not lie with the students, in fact his interest have made him stagnant, while the growth of the independence movement has reached new heights. He does not live in the Puerto Rican community, he makes an excess of \$30,000 a year at UNI alone, and yet makes no contributions to the Puerto Rican struggle.

As an individual, Mr. Betances doesn't speak for the progressive sectors of the independence movement there are better qualified groups on this campus. Mr. Betances, we put this quote to you, made by a true patriot Don Pedro Albizu Campos "La Patria es valor y sacrificio", Translate that to your non-Spanish speaking students, What sacrifices have you made for the fatherland, Mr. Betances?

Sweating in front of a camera and stating that you don't support the armed struggle, but yet state you know why they do it, is an example of your hypocrisy. When you state on a radio program that statehood is the popular opinion in Puerto Rico, we must say that you may either shut your mouth or pay the consequences of a growing trend toward independence.

There are eleven Puerto Ricans willing to give their lives for the independence of Puerto Rico. United Nations resolution affirms the inherent right of Colonial Peoples to struggle by all means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspirations for freedom and independence. While you, Mr. Betances, continue to reap grist through lip service from the movement, just like an opportunist!

Jibaro Si! Yanki No!

Q.O.S.

## QUE ONDEE SOLA

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## THE CHRONOLOGY OF PUERTO RICAN HISTORY A CHRONOLOGY OF STRUGGLE.

From Imperial Spain to Imperial United States, the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence has been led by armed struggle.

Even before the revolutionary uprising of 1868, known as the Grito de Lares, various conspiracies against Spain had taken place. The Grito de Lares, however, not only sprang from the liberation movement of Puerto Rico but was linked to Cubas' struggle for independence.

In 1897, the national liberation movement forced Spain to grant the Charter of Autonomy making Puerto Rico a sovereign nation. Besides other articles guaranteeing Puerto Ricans control over their territory, both politically and economically, the charter of Autonomy stated that Spain could neither cede nor sell Puerto Rico, without the consent of the Puerto Rican people. (Article 2, Supplementary Articles).

A year later, under the cover of the Cuban-Spanish war, United States troops invaded and occupied Puerto Rico. After smashing Spain, who were on the verge of defeat by the Cubans, the United States dictated the Treaty of Paris.

The Puerto Rican nation which did not participate in the signing of the Treaty of Paris, were subjected to a humiliating military occupation which lasted until 1900. There after, a series of organic laws were imposed by the U.S. Congress to mold Puerto Rico and its nationals, for the purposes of reaping profits. They manipulated Puerto Rican popular opinion by controlling their politics, economics, media, educational system, and all other institutions within their infrastructure and their superstructure.

It was evident to all patriots who struggled to attain freedom from Spain that a new power, the United States, had set its goal on staying in Puerto Rico.

The independent patriotic sentiment which the United States set out to destroy by controlling Puerto Rico's basic institutions, continues to this day, a war against the outside invader.

Since the Guanica landing by the U.S. army in 1898, latent and open genocide has been practiced on the Puerto Rican nation and its culture. The effect of the U.S. invasion of Puerto Rico has been the sterilization of 40% of the female and 20% of the male population. This incidence of sterilization is the highest in the world. The U.S. armed forces control 13% of Puerto Rico's fertile land to train repressive forces for the CIA, FBI and political police from other countries.

A high unemployment rate under which Puerto Ricans have suffered under U.S. hegemony has forced 40% of the Puerto Rican people to emigrate from their native land.

Most of that migration to the U.S. occurred during the decade of 1950's, during this period of industrialization (Operation Bootstrap later Fomento) forced 45,00 people a year to leave Puerto Rico. Today, close to 40% of the population are unemployed, many workers fall under minimum wage, bringing the use of food stamps in Puerto Rico to 70%.

Destruction of agriculture as the result of the U.S. food monopolies and the U.S. policy to export all goods into Puerto Rico, has made Borinquen dependent on U.S. food stuffs. Puerto Rico's economy never did develop to meet the needs of the Puerto Rican people. As a colony its economy was deformed and controlled by an outside invader, such as in a master-slave relationship.

Eighty percent of Puerto Rico's industrial assets are U.S. owned. The value of U.S. owned industrial assets in Puerto Rico is \$32 billion while 1 billion flows into Puerto Rico each year. The U.S. federal aid of 4 billion a year is a microcosm of what Puerto Rico means to the U.S. economy, military and strategically as a world power.

The Puerto Rican nation has not stood still in light of the U.S. penetration of their island. Since the U.S. prides itself as one of the more progressive nations of the world, in the cause of liberty and justice, the Puerto Rican nation took a diplomatic road toward retaining its independence, was met with ethnocentrism and racism. When U.S. policies were made to incorporate Puerto Rico into an economic and strategic Pontoon which is evident in both the Foraker 1900, and Jones Act 1917, Puerto Ricans rose and fought with vengeance to liberate their country. Again to destroy independentist sentiments, the U.S. colonial regime adopted Public Law 600 1952 giving Puerto Rico commonwealth status. (In reality Puerto Ricans colonial status remained unchanged.)

Today Puerto Rico is split into two camps, the statehood camp, which is not recognized as a legitimate alternative to colonialism by the United Nations Decolonization committee, and the independentist camp, some of which are reformist, while others progressive. But it is without a doubt that the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence will be led by armed struggle. Like the uprising in Lares, the struggle against the invasion, the Ponce Massacre, the Grito de Jayuya, the attack on congress and the Freedom Fighters today, Puerto Rico will continue the war against U.S. Imperialism to attain its independence.

1914 Puerto Rican House of Delegates vote unanimously to oppose U.S. citizenship for Puerto Ricans.

1917 Jose de Diego leads fight against Jones Act, Champion for independence during first two decades of U.S. rule.

1922 Puerto Rican Nationalist Party is formed to lead the fight for Puerto Rico's independence.

1924 Dona Ana Foque de Duprey- founder of association of womens voters in Puerto Rico unites organization behind Nationalist Party.

1930 Pedro Albizu Campos becomes president of Nationalist Party.

1932 Manuel Suarez Diaz becomes first of many Nationalists murdered by U.S. colonialism, for protesting the use of the Puerto Rican flag as the symbol of the colony.

1934 Albizu Campos leads a sugar workers strike as part of a strike wave against colonial government and U.S. enterprises.

1936 Two Nationalists, Elias Beauchamp and Hiram Rosado kill U.S. counterinsurgency Specialist Col. Riggs and are executed the same day. U.S. launches wave of terror against Nationalist.

1937 Ponce Massacre- 21 Puerto Ricans killed 200 injured in independence rally.

1947 Albizu Campos returns to Puerto Rico after 10 yrs. in U.S. penitentiary in Atlanta Georgia.

1948 In response to University of Puerto Rico strike of 1948, Puerto Rican legislature, with strong pressure from U.S. congress approve Law 53 "The law of muzzle" making it a crime punishable by 10 years imprisonment, to print, publish, circulate, sell or distribute publicly any literature that advocates the overthrow of the colonial government by force and violence.

1950 Oct. 30, Puerto Rico Explodes, Jayuya rebellion, declaration of third republic, 6 days of insurrection raged until U.S. attacks with National Guard and airplane strafing of independence strong holds.

1950 Nov. 1, As part of the rebellion, nationalists Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola attack commander in chief Harry Truman, to bring the armed struggle for independence to enemy headquarters. Griselio and a guard are killed, and Oscar is sentenced to death, later commuted to life.

1952 On the anniversary of the U.S. invasion, the U.S. creates the so-called Commonwealth system, know in spanish as the Estado Libre Asociado (Free Associated State).

1954 Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores Rodriguez, Andres Figueroa Cordero and Rafael Cancel Miranda attack U.S. Congress.

1956 Foundation of the Federacion Universitaria Pro-Independientista (FUPI).

1964 Sixto Alvelo, a young Puerto Rican worker, refused to fight in Viet Nam (Compulsory military service in Puerto Rico is illegal, because the colonial status of Puerto Rico is illegal).

1965 Albizu Campos dies. During last years in prison Albizu was tortured by his jailers, he suffered 3 strokes, was paralyzed and deprived of his capacity to speak. (exposed to radio activity).

1969 (YLO) Young Lords Party was formed on July 26, 1969. In October they issued a 13 point program, fighting for the Liberation of all oppressed people.

1970 Antonia Martinez killed during anti-draft, anti-R.O.T.C. struggle in Puerto Rico. Police chief and an R.O.T.C. cadet are later killed in fighting.

1974 Emergence of FALN in the United States.

1979-May 21, William Morales, accused of membership in FALN after being wounded in a bomb explosion escapes from custody into clandestinity.

1979- Sept 10, Four Puerto Rican Nationalist win unconditional release after a quarter-century in prison.

1979- Sept 23, First Joint communique of the Puerto Rican Clandestine Organizations speaks to theme of revolutionary unity and the struggle to liberate Vieques and to stop annexation and the U.S. primaries.

1979- Nov. 11, Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, leader of the Liga Socialista Puertorriquena, (Puerto Rican Socialist League), found hanged in U.S. Federal prison cell in Florida. Thousands of Puerto Ricans gather at funeral to denounce this assassination by U.S.

1979- Dec. 3, Two Navy radar personnel killed, 11 wounded by arm clandestine forces at Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico, in response to killing of Angel Rodriguez Cristobal and to further the struggle to oust U.S. Navy from Vieques.

Dec. 1979- Two people enter the grounds of Roosevelt Roads Naval Base and fire shots. They escape without consequence. No organization takes responsibility for the attack.

Feb. 1980 - Republican party primaries are held in Puerto Rico. Demonstrations and protests over Vieques continue throughout January and February, interrupting U.S. Navy maneuvers. One Coast Guardsman is injured by rocks thrown with slingshots by Vieques fishermen.

March, 1980 - Joint communique, FALN with the clandestine Dominican group M-14, supports the take over of Dominican Embassy in Colombia.

March 12 - FARP (EPB- Los Macheteros) attack three instructors for the U.S. army at the university of Puerto Rico. The comandos attack the army car at a freeway ramp on Avenida Domence.

March 15 - On the eve of the Democratic Party Primaries in Puerto Rico, the FALN conducts armed takeovers of Carter campaign headquarters in downtown Chicago, and of Bush Republican headquarters in Manhattan, New York. They spray painted slogans denouncing statehood.

March 29, 1980 - Two more Vieques resisters are sentenced to prison terms. The same day the latest in a series of bomb threats against the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base are made by the Macheteros.

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# Sterilization Abuse

## The Sterilization Plan

A hitherto "secret" report from an economic policy group empowered by the Governor of Puerto Rico has recently surfaced in the United States. One can see immediately why the report, dated November, 1973, has been kept from the public: it talks openly and directly about alternatives available for reducing the ranks of the Puerto Rican working class.

As the report, entitled "Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training" would have it, Puerto Rico's key problem is, and has always been, unemployment.

The latest official figure given in the report is an unemployment rate of 12.3% in 1972 (although unofficial sources, such as the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, hold it as high as 30%); what concerns this particular subcommittee of colonial administrators is that, at the rate things are going, unemployment could reach 18.5% by 1985.

"The Governor of Puerto Rico recently selected the figure of 5% unemployment by 1985", the report underlines. There is clearly a major discrepancy between the two figures, which presents a tough problem to the subcommittee. How to solve it?

The members of the subcommittee — Teodoro Moscoso, Administrator of Fomento, Secretary of Labor Silva Recio, Secretary of Education Ramon Cruz, and the then President of the University of Puerto Rico Amador Cobas, have come up with two solutions. One way is to foster new jobs — the same solution which has been advocated throughout Puerto Rico's twenty-five years of industrial development, and which has yet to reduce the high unemployment rate. The other, which they go on to discuss immediately, is to "reduce the growth of the working sector" of the population.

Their line of attack is two-pronged, involving the massive sterilization of Puerto Rican working-class women, and a forced migration of Puerto Rican workers to the United States. It is the former aspect of this plan which concerns us here.

Under the heading of "organization and focusses of family planning", the November report estimates the female population of child-bearing age outside of San Juan to be 485,948. Agreeing with other studies on the astounding figure of 33% for the number of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age that have already been sterilized, the report goes on to say "in other words, of the 485,948 women of reproductive age living in Puerto Rico, excepting the area of San Juan, 160,363 are sterilized. This leaves a potential clientele of 325,585 women."

The women of San Juan are to be handled through a "model project" controlled by the School of Public Health of the University of Puerto Rico.

The plan then, involves the *entire population* of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age in its scope, and the primary method of birth control? What it has always been in Puerto Rico — sterilization.

### One-Third of Puerto Rican Women Sterilized

Figures from different studies give a general picture of the rate of sterilization of Puerto Rican women over the past four decades.

In 1947-48, Paul K. Hatt, in a study of 5,257 ever-married women 15 years old or over, found that 6.6 per cent had been sterilized. A figure more or less equal (6.9 per cent) was put forward in 1948 by Emilio Cofresi from studies of women who were clients of various programs of the Department of Health in Puerto Rico.

In an island-wide survey carried out by Hill, Stycos and Back in 1953-54, the prevalence of female sterilization of ever-married women 20 years old or over was estimated at 16.5 per cent.

In 1965 the Puerto Rican Department of Health carried out an island-wide study on the relationship between cancer of the uterus and female sterilization. Although the Department of Health says no link between cancer and sterilization was substantiated, it did discover that 34% of Puerto Rican women between the ages of 20-49 years were sterilized.

The number of women sterilized in the same age group rose to 35.3% in 1968 according to a study by the Puerto Rican demographer Dr. Jose Vasquez Calzada.

The incidence of sterilization in Puerto Rico is the highest in the world. India and Pakistan, for example, which have public sterilization programs, have an estimated sterilization of 5% and 3% respectively.

**WE CELEBRATE WOMEN'S STRUGGLES  
WE CELEBRATE PEOPLE'S VICTORIES.**

## Sterilization Abuse . . . Continued from page 11

## The Colonial Context

What is the context in which this massive sterilization was taking place? Since its invasion of Puerto Rico in 1898, the United States has maintained virtually complete control over the island's development. Until 1952, the Governor of Puerto Rico was appointed by the President of the United States, and had veto power over a local House of Representatives. Civil services, armed forces, police, mail, citizenship, trade agreements, schools, media, and economic programs were under U.S. supervision.

The establishment of the Commonwealth Government in 1952 in no way changed the fact of U.S. control, since Congress still maintained ultimate veto power over any law passed by the Puerto Rican Government, and any law passed by Congress automatically applied to Puerto Rico. What the Commonwealth Government did do was supervise the influx of U.S. corporations in a rapid industrialization program during the fifties, which transformed Puerto Rico from a sugar economy to one of the most highly industrialized countries in the world.

## Population Control — A U.S. Theory

In 1901 Governor of Puerto Rico William Hunt wrote in his report to the President of the United States: "Not only could it (the island) comfortably keep the one million inhabitants we have now, but five times that number."

By the thirties, however, J.M. Stycos reports in "Female Sterilization in Puerto Rico" that a good many doctors were already aware of the "problems of population." He cites the efforts of Dr. Jose Belavel, head of the Pre-Maternal Health program to interest many physicians in the "pressing need for sterilization and birth control".

During the thirties in the United States population control research was being carried on by the Rockefeller Foundation. Theories were circulating expressing the general idea that economic problems in underdeveloped countries were really problems of too many people; if only the population growth could be controlled, the standard of living would rise.

The population theories, as the newsletter of the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) entitled "Population Control in the Third World" indicates, had, and still have, strongly racist roots, based on the concept of the safeguarding the superior white civilization from the crude and inferior "underdeveloped" world which threatens to overwhelm the globe with its "population explosions."

For the United States, there was the particular problem of keeping the colonial population of Puerto Rico under control. By 1933 U.S. sugar companies had monopolized 314,000 acres. Thousands of impoverished farmers, forced from their lands, migrated to the cities or became agricultural laborers on sugar plantations where wages averaged 37¢ per day. This had its political consequence: cane workers began to organize militant unions, and nationalism was growing. What better way to obscure the real problem of U.S. control of the island than by blaming it on population growth? A quote from a Puerto Rican legislator during the time, (taken from Back, Hill and Stycos: "Population Control in Puerto Rico"), expresses this confusion:

"... those of us who have discussed maldistribution of Puerto Rican lands and its growing absentee ownership must realize that these problems are growing more and more serious through our existing surplus population and its constant growth, particularly in recent years. The inevitable consequence is increasing unemployment, growing poverty and mounting misery."

## The Sterilization Campaign

According to Harriet Presser in "The Role of Sterilization in Controlling Puerto Rican Fertility", sterilization was introduced into Puerto Rico in the 1930's, along with contraception methods. In 1934, 67 birth control clinics were opened with federal funds channeled through the Puerto Rican Emergency Relief Fund. The funds lasted only two years; then in 1936 the private Maternal and Childcare Health Association opened 23 clinics.

The Family Planning Association of Puerto Rico, another private organization, was established in 1954, two years after the Population Council was formed in the United States by John D. Rockefeller. During the next ten years, according to Presser, it subsidized sterilization in private facilities for 8,000 women. Between 1956 and 1966 it also subsidized sterilization of 3000 men. This organization still functions today, and has an important role to play in the future, according to the November, 1973 report. Presently it receives \$750,000 of its \$900,000.00 budget from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Thousands of sterilizations also took place in public hospitals. In 1949 the Commissioner of Health in Puerto Rico was quoted in *El Mundo* as saying he would favor the use of district hospitals

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once or twice a week to perform fifty sterilizations a day.

Many doctors were pro-sterilization rather than other forms of birth control. "Many physicians thought, and still think," says J.M. Stycos, that contraception methods are too difficult for lower class Puerto Ricans and regarded post-partum sterilization as the most feasible solution to the (population) problems".

An experience of one-pre-medical student in Puerto Rico in the 1950's, told to us by an informed source, indicates that this preference for sterilization was not only an obviously racist attitude, but a policy.

As part of her training, the student was told that any pregnant women who came into the hospital for a delivery who had already had two or MORE CHILDREN MUST HAVE HER TUBES TIED AFTER GIVING BIRTH. This was standard procedure, checked afterwards by another doctor to make sure that it was carried out.

Generally, it seems that most sterilizations were carried out post partum. In 1949, using J.M. Stycos' work again, 17.8 per cent of all hospital deliveries were followed by sterilization. Stycos notes that these figures may underestimate the actual incidence of sterilization because it did not count the women who had home deliveries and then hospital sterilization; also, not all sterilizations may be recorded as such in the hospital records, he adds.

Private hospitals also had an exceptionally high incidence of sterilization in proportion to deliveries, says Presser. She cites one hospital that had to reduce its sterilizations to 25% of all deliveries because of outside pressure.

Presser indicates that most sterilizations have been post-partum, and that "enabling an increasing incidence has been the continued rise in hospital deliveries", which went from 10 per cent in 1940 to 37.8 per cent in 1950, 77.5 per cent in 1960 and 90 per cent in 1964, according to the Puerto Rican Department of Health.

Hospitals in Puerto Rico are substantially financed by the United States government. The entire medical apparatus in Puerto Rico was developed by the United States; training was carried on by U.S. doctors. Many of the doctors working in Puerto Rico and performing sterilizations have been and are today from the United States.

The United States carries on population control programs throughout the third world, most of which, according to NACLA, are financed by the Agency for International Development. Some AID programs, such as the "Family Planning Insurance" in Costa Rica actually offer money in return for sterilization.

Puerto Rico's colonial status gives the United States the ability to carry on effective population control programs in the world.

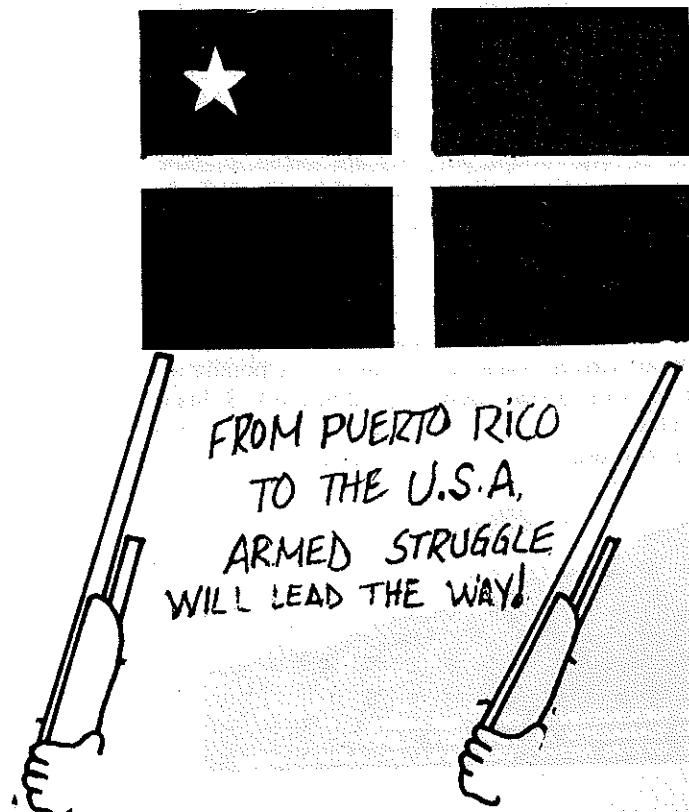
The increased sterilization of Puerto Ricans becomes more and more necessary as the U.S. industrial plans for the island — plans which profit U.S. corporations, and do not build a future for the inhabitants of Puerto Rico — develop. This becomes clearer as we continue to explore the ramifications of the report "Opportunities for Employment, Education & Training."

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April 4, 1980 - Eleven Puerto Rican Freedom Fighters are arrested in Evanston Illinois, charged with illegal possession of weapons, and accused of being members of the FALN. Police and media launch a campaign of attacks attributing various crimes and actions to them, and carrying out raids on apartments in Chicago, Wisconsin, New Jersey and New York. The Eleven take a stand as prisoners of war.

April 11 1980 - A joint communique is issued by FALN, FARP, OVRP, and EPB denouncing the arrests and reassuring the people that the struggle continues.

April 14 1980 - Grupo Estrella "arrests" a top official of the electrical works in Puerto Rico, in solidarity with the actions by workers there. That night a 24-hour blackout paralyzes Puerto Rico.



# Sterilization Abuse of Women The Facts *Continued*

**Continued from page 6**

Recently, HEW announced which "family planning services" would qualify for increased federal aid. The decision was that HEW would fund 90 percent of the cost of sterilization for the poor, but would only match state funds for abortion. This gives federal incentive to clinics and hospitals to promote sterilizations—the most irreversible method of birth control and the one most susceptible to abuse.

The Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, among others have poured millions into private agencies and research organizations in an effort to "curb population growth" around the world.

## STERILIZATION ABUSE—WORLDWIDE

United States corporations are multinational and so is U.S. population policy. Through the Agency for International Development (AID), the Peace Corps, and various private foundations and religious organizations, population control is carried out in countries all over the world.

For example: 40,000 women were sterilized in Colombia between 1963-65 by Rockefeller funded programs. These women were coaxed by gifts of lipstick or artificial pearls, by small payments of money, and by promises of free medical care. A million women were sterilized in Brazil between 1965-1971. In India, men are being given transistor radios if they agree to a vasectomy. In Bolivia, a U.S.-imposed population control program administered by the Peace Corps sterilized Quechua Indian women without their knowledge or consent.

The U.S. funds population control in foreign countries through the Agency for International Development. AID spends more money on population control—\$125 million in 1973—than it spends on programs like agricultural and rural development.

When the U.S. gives a country aid it doesn't really "give" anything away. "Strings" are attached so that the countries are forced to become more dependent on the U.S. and its corporations, and they are forced to implement the population policies dictated by the U.S. An important factor in determining how much foreign aid a country qualifies for is how much consideration that country gives to population control.

AID also contributes to a wide range of private clinics, foundations and organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which research and carry out population control in both foreign countries and in the U.S. Many of the directors of these private agencies have close ties with U.S. corporations and with the U.S. government.



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Sterilization operations are being "sold" by the health services which function as businesses selling commodities and which have no concern for the women they serve. Dehumanizing health care encourages sterilization abuse and is a violation of women's democratic rights.

In order for women to have free choice, demands for birth control, abortion, and sterilization must be made within the context of total health care and along with demands for other basic necessities of life—enough food available, quality health care, day care, education, and full employment.

Because of its irreversibility, sterilization effectively terminates a woman's control over her reproductive ability, an important body function. Her right to informed consent must be guarded as well as her right to be sterilized. Incomplete and false information, overt and covert coercion, preferential funding and hysterical propaganda about "overpopulation" are being used to obtain "consent" and even "demand" for sterilization. This is a flagrant violation of women's rights to control over their own bodies and their own lives.

## THE LEGAL RIGHT TO INFORMED CONSENT

In February of 1974 the Federal Government produced guidelines to be followed by all hospitals and other health care institutions which receive federal funds for sterilization operations. These guidelines require that a woman must give voluntary informed consent to sterilization operations. This requirement provides several patient rights.

The first is the freedom from pressure, coercion or intimidation by doctors or other health workers. There is an *absolute* and *unconditional* right to refuse to have the operation. This means that a threat that you may lose or be denied any other social services, housing or health care benefits because of your refusal to have a sterilization operation is illegal.

A second right is the right to change your mind after signing the consent form or to delay the operation for as long as you wish.

As a procedure to protect these rights the federal guidelines require a 3 day waiting period between the giving of informed consent and the actual operation. In addition, sterilization of any woman under 18 is illegal.

Another important part of informed consent is the right to be fully informed and to know about such things as:

- 1) The dangers and risks of the operation, which is major surgery, compared to other means of birth control;
- 2) That the operation is permanent, you can never again become pregnant; and,
- 3) That alternate means of birth control are available, what they are, and what their dangers and effectiveness are compared to sterilization.

Before signing a consent form a health worker is required to provide and explain all of this information. It's also very important to take home and read carefully the consent form before signing it.

## DEVELOPMENT OF STERILIZATION IN PUERTO RICO

A low-key birth control movement began in Puerto Rico in the 1930s. Between 1940-1950 many private clinics were operated solely to sterilize.

In 1949 the government began recommending sterilization and created a program of specialized clinics which sterilized 50 women each day. By 1950, 7,000 women had been sterilized.

In 1965 the Puerto Rican Department of Health carried out an island-wide study on the relationship between cancer of the uterus and female sterilization and discovered that 34% of Puerto Rican women between the ages of 20-49 years were sterilized.

The *New York Times*, on Nov. 4, 1974, reported that 19 free sterilization clinics opened up that year "operating a top capacity program of about 1,000 sterilizations per month."

### 35% OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN STERILIZED

Puerto Rico has the highest incidence of sterilizations in the world. A study done by Puerto Rican demographer Dr. Jose Vasquez Calzada in 1968 demonstrated that 35.3% of Puerto Rican women of childbearing age have been sterilized.

### 92% UNDER 35 YEARS

Studies by Columbia University demographer Harriet Presser show that Puerto Rican women are the youngest in the world to be sterilized. Almost two-thirds of the women are between the age of 20-49 years, with 92% under 35.

### OVER 80% FUNDED BY HEW

The key agency carrying out sterilizations in Puerto Rico is the Family Planning Association of Puerto Rico. It was established in 1954 and presently receives \$750,000 of its \$900,000 budget from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

### STERILIZATION ABUSE—ATTACK ON WORKERS

Unemployment in Puerto Rico is officially 22%, unofficially 30% (May, 1975). A 1973 Commonwealth Government document entitled, *Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training*, concludes that in order to reduce unemployment it is necessary to "reduce the growth of the working sector."

A study by the Population Studies Department of the University of Puerto Rico found that the highest rate of sterilization (43.8%) occurred among the \$4,000-\$5,000 per year income bracket.

The official emphasis on reducing unemployment does not stem from any real concern for the needs of the Puerto Rican people—if it did there would be an emphasis on providing jobs, not reducing the population.

Unemployment and poverty oppress and oppression breeds discontent. The struggle of the Puerto Rican people for national liberation and self-determination has a long history. Today it has grown into a widespread movement which is threatening U.S. hegemony. The right of Puerto Rico to independence from the U.S. has been recognized by the United Nations and by countries all over the world.

For the U.S., controlling the population of Puerto Rico is an attempt to divide the Puerto Rican nation and limit political unrest so that superprofits for U.S. corporations will not be threatened.

*Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training* maps out the strategy: one million more Puerto Ricans are to be forced to migrate to the U.S.; today's sterilization campaign is being aimed at all Puerto Rican women of child bearing age not yet sterilized.

## STERILIZATION ABUSE IS IMPERIALISM IN PRACTICE

Puerto Rico is a key example of how population policy is used by U.S. imperialism to maintain control over another country.

Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States since it was invaded in 1898. The U.S. government has absolute control over all aspects of Puerto Rican life, including the economy.

Since 1952, there has been a conscious effort to turn Puerto Rico into a haven for U.S. corporations seeking cheap labor, natural resources and 100% TAX FREE PROFITS!

In the last 10 years U.S.-owned oil refining and petrochemical industries have taken over one third of the island's economy. These industries are highly polluting and require a relatively small work force. Proposed future industrial development for Puerto Rico includes the construction of a 'superport' to accommodate huge oil tankers, and the strip-mining of copper. Ecologists predict that these developments would bring with them the virtual destruction of the island.

The intensive industrial development of Puerto Rico has been accompanied by U.S. population control policy. Forced migration resulted in the displacement of two million Puerto Ricans to the United States. And Puerto Rican women have been subjected to the most intensive sterilization campaign of any country in the world.

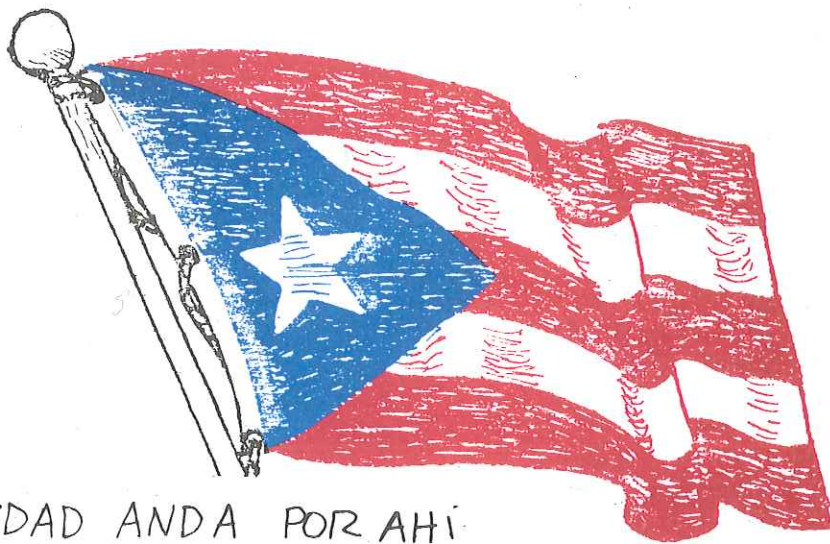
### U.S. IMPERIALISM—OUR COMMON ENEMY

As a colony, Puerto Rico experiences the same social and economic problems we face in the U.S., only magnified. It is often used as the testing ground for social and economic policy destined to be instituted within the United States and elsewhere in the world.

In 1974 the editors of the official publication of HEW's National Center for Family Planning Services, *Family Planning Digest*, wrote: "As U.S. professional attitudes change, it is possible that we may see sterilization become as important in family planning in the fifty states as it already is in Puerto Rico."

In giving our concrete support to the Puerto Rican people in their demand for independence, we are joining forces with them against U.S. imperialism—our common enemy.

# POETRY



LA VERDAD ANDA POR AHI  
HERIDA, AMORDAZADA  
CON MUCHOS CARGOS, SIN DEFENSA.  
RECOGE ARMAS Y LAGRIMAS.  
ASALTA DE VEZ EN CUANDO.  
SORPRENDE POR SUS DISFRACES.  
ESTUDIA AL ENEMIGO.



ELLA SE MUEVE SIN SER VISTA  
PROHIBIDA EN ESTA JUNGLA,  
REGISTRADA, CONFISCADA:  
ENTRA POR PUERTAS Y VENTANAS,  
POR MENTES Y BOCAS:  
HERIDA, PERO FELIZMENTE HERIDA  
TRISTE, PERO ALEGREMENTE TRISTE  
CON GANAS DE COMERSE A UN JUEZ  
ESPERA CLANDESTINAMENTE.

POR

ELIZABETH  
ESCOBAR

Por: Luisa Richardson  
Sol I. Rodriguez  
Maria Reyes