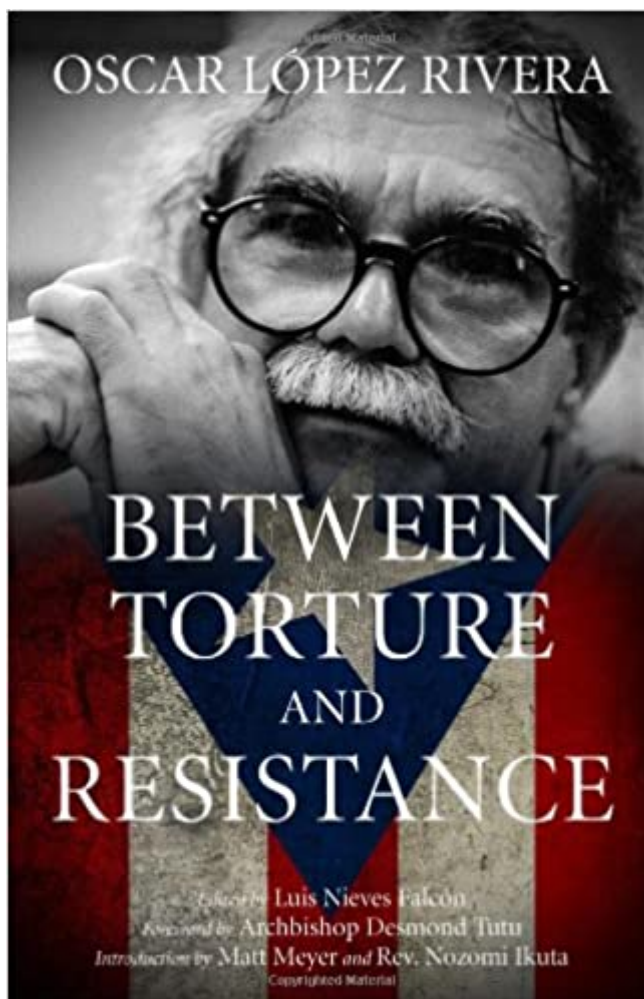


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# Oscar LÃ³pez Rivera: Between Torture And Resistance



## Synopsis

The life story of Puerto Rican freedom fighter and leader Oscar LÃpez Rivera, outlined in this book, is one of courage, valor, and sacrifice. In 1981, Oscar was convicted of seditious conspiracy and other crimes for which he is still imprisoned, making him the longest-held political prisoner in the world. This is the story of his fight for the political independence of Puerto Rico based on letters between him and the renowned lawyer, sociologist, educator, and activist Luis Nieves FalcÃn. Also included is Oscar's art, including photography and paintings created in his many years behind bars. Readers will explore his early life as a Latino child growing up in the small towns of Puerto Rico, following him as an adolescent as he and his family move to the big cities of the United States. After serving in Vietnam and earning a Bronze Star, Oscar returned home and worked to improve the quality of life for his people by becoming a community activist, which led to his underground life as a Puerto Rican Nationalist and his subsequent arrest. With a vivid assessment of the ongoing colonial relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico, the book helps to illustrate the sad tale of largely unreported human rights abuses for political prisoners in the United States, but it is also a story of hope and his ongoing struggle for freedom for his people and himself "a hope that there is beauty and strength in resistance.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: PM Press; 1 edition (February 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1604866853

ISBN-13: 978-1604866858

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #161,464 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin America #99 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Nationalism #117 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American

## Customer Reviews

"This new book examines the broader political significance of LÃpez Rivera's case, while providing an unflinching look at how imprisonment and draconian policies like solitary confinement

and no-contact visits affect prisoners and their loved ones." â Hans Bennett, Upside Down World  
Puerto Rico continues to be colonized, and Oscar Lopez Riveraâs continued imprisonment reminds us of this." â peopleofcolororganize

Oscar Lpez Rivera is a Puerto Rican Nationalist who was convicted and sentenced to 70 years in prison for seditious conspiracy, armed robbery, and other various offenses and now holds the distinction of being one of the longest-held political prisoners in the world. His projected release date is in 2027. Luis Nieves Falcn is a renowned lawyer, psychologist, and sociologist, as well as a professor emeritus of the University of Puerto Rico and a longtime advocate for Puerto Rican human rights. His recent books include *A Century of Political Repression in Puerto Rico: 1898â1998* and *The Light from the Window: Conversations with Filiberto Ojeda Rios*. He lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Church of South Africa and the recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. Archbishop Tutu has long spoken out for human rights for all, and for the release of all political prisoners. He currently chairs The Elders, a group committed to dealing with the worldâs most intractable challenges and whose members include Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, and Mary Robinson. Matt Meyer is the author and editor of six books, including *Guns and Gandhi in Africa* and *Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners*. He is an educator who has served as national chair for both the War Resisters League and the Peace and Justice Studies Association. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. Rev. Nozomi Ikuta is the pastor of Denison Avenue United Church of Christ.

First of all this is a great book. I couldn't put it down. After many years living in P.R. you don't even sit down and think about why Puerto Ricans want to be a colony of the USA. Some people like to wave the flag but they aren't really patriotic. As a Vietnam veteran an instrument of the U.S. military machine that's when I became aware that although wearing the U.S. Army uniform, to them I was just another Puerto Rican. I wished I was as courageous as Oscar to take a stand for what is morally and lawfully right, the independence of Puerto Rico. Oscar, I can only imagine what you've been through, but I also know you are a very strong man with great convictions. You will go in history right next to our great patriots that sacrifice their life for the independence of our big/small island. Men cannot be free while they're subjected by an oppressive/imperialist power. Oscar don't worry. The Puerto Rican people are behind you. The push for your release is so big that I know deep in my heart that you'll be listening to "el coqui" sitting in the country side of San Sebastian right

next to your family, very, very soon. Thank you Oscar for your courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Puerto Ricans. I know deep in my heart that all Puerto Ricans are "Independetistas".

It was with a duality of great pleasure and sadness that I read this great book. It demonstrates the cruel treatment that Empires have given to the colonized people through the history of mankind. The cruelty of the U.S. Empire against its colonized people is not different than any other Empire; including the England Empire that once oppressed their land. This man is viewed in his home country as equal to George Washington when he fought against the English Empire. Oscar Lopez Rivera is a history of the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for their freedom. It is too a history of repression of the colonized people of Puerto Rico by the dominant Empire of the last 115 years since the invasion of the Island in 1898. Between Torture and resistance is not only the story of Oscar Lopez Rivera but the story of the Puerto Rican people. This is the story of all the men and women that loved their country; Pedro Albizu Campos, Jose de Diego, Ramon Emeterio Betances, Rius Rivera, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebron, Blanca Canales y Maria de las Mercedes Barbudo just to mention a few of the many patriots that dedicated their lives to the freedom of the country of Puerto Rico. These are Men and Women that gave their lives for freedom just like George Washington did in 1776.

Great book! Oscar Lopez Rivera is a truly honorable human being. He embodies the values and heroism of a true patriot. He is intelligent and insightful. Every Puerto Rican should read this book and know this story. It is also an inside look at the abusive prison system in the United States with an in depth portrait of what it is like to be in solitary confinement. Oscar was in solitary for approx. 12 years. I along with the majority of the Puerto Rican population celebrate his freedom!!!!

I am an older adult and a first generation Puerto Rican. I recently began to investigate my history and as a result discovered some facts that are disconcerting, but at the same time make me proud of who I am and the struggles of my antecedents both in Puerto Rico and here in El Barrio de Nueva York. I believe that in order to move forward it is important to know the truth about one's self and heritage and Mr. Rivera makes me proud to claim my heritage as a Puerto Rican.

Very interesting perspective of Puerto Rican history through the lens of an activist that lived through the events that formed a nation and dismantled another. Oscar Lopez Rivera as was influenced by events within the neighborhood he lived as well as world wide as political power and freedom seem

to find themselves at odds.

A testament to the human spirit. Oscar Lopez Rivera spent 35 years in prison for a belief. He was incarcerated for the same "crime" as Nelson Mandela...seditious conspiracy. Here in the US, Mandela was ultimately treated as a freedom fighter, and received deep and widespread support against the South African apartheid regime. Oscar however, was condemned to 35 years in prison...the longest-serving political prisoner in the entire world, as of 2016. Finally and belatedly, in 2017, Pres. Obama commuted his sentence. *BETWEEN TORTURE AND RESISTANCE* is Oscar's intimate, detailed autobiography of those many years in US federal prison. It also details his service in Vietnam, his struggles and triumphs as a community organizer in Chicago (two decades before Barack Obama), his devotion to his family, and his commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico. Oscar Lopez Rivera paid for this commitment...with 35 years in prison. This is his personal testament. *BETWEEN TORTURE AND RESISTANCE* is a stunning book, and a vital work of living history.

Great background on Oscar's life. Recommended read for anyone interested in Puerto Rico. Puts in perspective US government involvement on the island.

This book will make any humanitarian cry out for the unconditional release and freedom of Puerto Rican Political prisoner, Oscar Lopez Rivera.

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