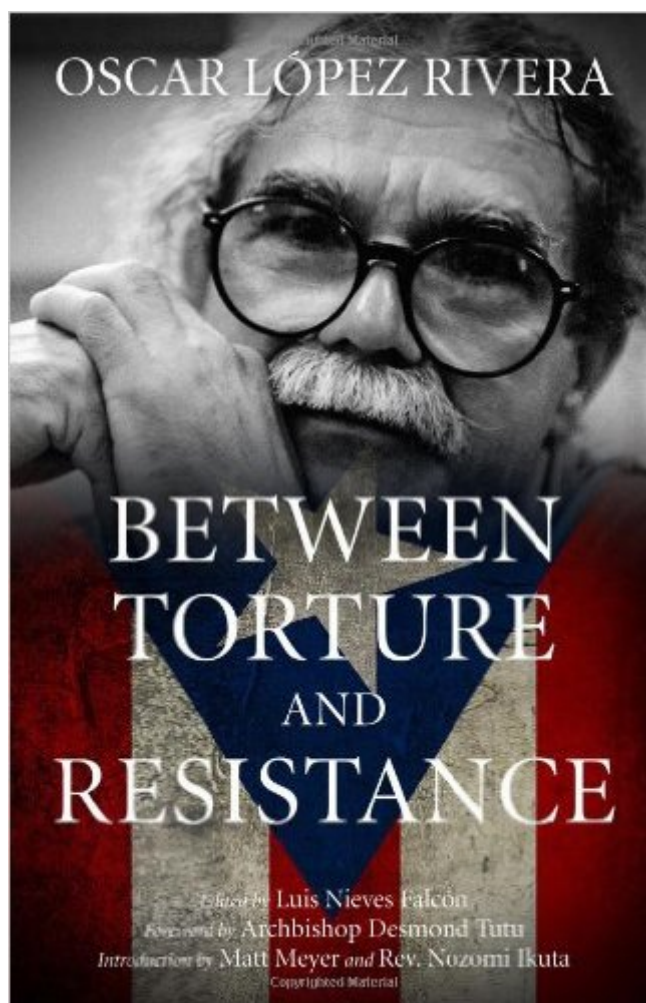


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# Oscar LÃ³pez Rivera: Between Torture And Resistance



## Synopsis

The life story of Puerto Rican freedom fighter and leader Oscar López 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 Falcón. 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

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## Customer Reviews

It's was with duality of great pleasure and sadness that I read this great book. It demonstrate 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's also 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.

My words may not reach Don Oscar Lopez Rivera today via this media but he knows that he is not alone. How difficult it must be for an oppressor to sleep knowing that he has become as much a prisoner as that one which he has condemned. Here in the USA much is written about the manner in which other countries treat their citizens and prisoners yet nothing is seen or read about in the main stream media concerning this atrocity being perpetrated against a colony and the patriot sons and daughters. Look not into other countries to cure their ills if what you bring to them is an incurable cancer. May the day of independence come to your nation before your departure Oscar.

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 "¡f! ndependentistas".

Important stories about what our vaunted "American democracy" does to people are often repressed Oscar's story is of one who has not taken repression lying down. So the system crushed him individually, he and his comrades. And his story has been hidden from public view - available to anyone who goes looking, but not picked up and reported by the mainstream media. Oscar's story reminds us to be always vigilant and skeptical. What is the motivation behind the proposal for statehood in February 2014, after more than 100 years of being a colony? To short circuit a repressed desire of the people to form their own country? If we rely on the mainstream press, we'll never know that answer.

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 LÃpez Riveraas 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.

Excellent! I enjoyed reading the story of a man (decorated Vietnam veteran)incarcerated for 32 and has never been charged with a crime.

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.

I bought this book as a Christmas gift for my dad who loves reading about historical events related to his native birthplace of Puerto Rico and its people. He absolutely loved it!

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