

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
January 17, 1978

TO ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Roger Rudenstein has been assigned to direct the party's work in the Héctor Marroquín defense campaign. He will work out of the SWP National Office, and can be reached by phone at that number (212-242-5530) or at the USLA National Office (212-254-6062). Written reports should be sent to the SWP National Office.

Betsy Farley, the YSA national organizational secretary, is heading up this work for the YSA nationally.

The attached report by Betsy Farley, which was approved by the YSA National Executive Committee, is scheduled for publication in the next issue of the Party Organizer. However, because it will be several weeks before this issue arrives in the branches, this report should be summarized for the branches, and comrades directly involved in organizing the defense work should get a chance to read it as soon as possible.

Enclosed are several pieces of literature that have been helpful in publicizing the Marroquín case, gaining new endorsers and raising funds. A new brochure will be out in a few days. Branches will be receiving an initial bundle of this up-dated version of the first brochure.

Comradely,



Larry Seigle  
for the Secretariat

## Tasks in the Marroquín Defense

By Betsy Farley, January 11, 1978

The 1977-78 national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance launched a new stage in the defense of Héctor Marroquín. The convention voted to join with the SWP in going on a mobilization footing to take the case of Héctor Marroquín to students and working people across the country, and win public opinion to the side of his right to political asylum in the United States.

Marroquín's fight for asylum is a life-and-death matter. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, backed up by the Carter administration, would have preferred simply to return Marroquín to Mexico as an "excludable alien," with the full knowledge that he would face imprisonment and torture, and very likely death at the hands of the Mexican authorities. The U.S. government would like to protect the image of their partners south of the border as a government that respects human and democratic rights.

Because of the quick response of our movement in winning public support for Marroquín's request for political asylum, an initial victory was won. Marroquín won the right to a deportation hearing, which will provide him with a forum to present his case for asylum. But this is just the beginning of the fight.

The date of the deportation hearing, initially set for January 17, has now been postponed. Although we do not yet know the new date, we do know we have no time to lose in building support for the Marroquín defense.

The purpose of this report is to outline the tasks of the YSA and the SWP in the defense of our comrade, Héctor Marroquín, in the coming months.

### Our Political Approach to the Marroquín Defense

We view this attack on Héctor Marroquín as an attack on the entire YSA and SWP, and our right to exist. The Mexican government's accusations that Héctor is a terrorist are the same charges that the FBI, CIA, and other government agencies use as an excuse to harass and spy on the YSA and SWP, and try to disrupt our organizations.

The aim of both the Mexican and U.S. governments is to discredit the ideas of those who oppose their policies, and if possible, eliminate them from the political scene altogether. The charges of terrorism, as well as providing a pretext for imprisonment, torture, and assassination, are aimed at isolating dissidents and socialists from the mass movement. Our job is to expose the frame-up nature of these charges, and at the same time bring to light the true illegal methods of the Mexican and U.S. governments of dealing with dissent.

At the same time, we must explain why the Mexican and U.S. governments are out to get Marroquín. We can show that it was his

activities as a leader of the student movement in Mexico that are behind that government's frame-up charges against him. And his activities as a trade-union and antideportation activist and a member of the YSA and SWP are the source of the U.S. government's efforts to deport Marroquín back to Mexico.

The Marroquín case also points to the broader question of the right to political asylum for thousands of refugees from brutal dictatorships that are allies of the U.S. government, such as Chile, Haiti, and Iran. Through the Marroquín defense we can expose the hypocrisy of the Carter administration's pretensions as a defender of "human rights." A victory for Marroquín will set a precedent for granting asylum to thousands of others like him throughout the world.

In addition, Marroquín's case is linked to the Carter administration's drive to step up the deportations of millions of undocumented immigrant workers every year. The support that we can mobilize for the Marroquín defense will be at the same time an indictment of the U.S. government's immigration policy and an aid to the antideportation movement.

Finally, the efforts of the YSA and SWP in this case will show the entire student, trade-union, Black, Chicano, and women's movements how we defend our members from government attacks and frame-ups. This defense will be an important lesson in how we combine the legal and political fight for our rights. And it will be a model of how to conduct a broad, nonsectarian defense campaign.

### Organizing Our Movement

To carry out this campaign successfully, SWP branches and YSA chapters will have to place the Marroquín defense at the top of their list of priorities. We will want to make the Marroquín defense a part of everything we do.

Both SWP branches and YSA chapters will be assigning fractions to work on the defense campaign. In cities where there is both a unit of the SWP and a chapter of the YSA, these should be joint YSA and party fractions. Close collaboration between the two organizations will be crucial to organizing a successful defense effort.

The primary job of the Marroquín defense fractions will be to organize our entire movement to build this defense. Every single comrade should be involved in this effort. Trade-union, women's liberation, and antiracist fraction meetings should include a point on their agendas to discuss getting the activists they work with to endorse the Marroquín defense. Militant Forums and SWP election campaigns will be a key way we can publicize the Marroquín defense.

The Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, and the Young Socialist will all be carrying regular coverage of the Marroquín defense. Sales of our press is the best way we can get out new developments of this case on a regular basis. Sales can also be coupled with getting

signers on the petition for asylum.

YSA chapters should be organized to integrate Marroquín defense work into everything they do on the campuses and in the high schools. Anti-Bakke activists should be asked to join in the defense effort. Campus NOW chapters and other women's liberation groups we work with should be asked to endorse and help build the defense. Student government resolutions demanding asylum for Marroquín should be solicited. Articles and editorials should be solicited from the campus press. And YSA chapters will be going on a special campaign to sell the February Young Socialist, which will be a special Marroquín defense issue. Many chapters are increasing their sales goals for the month.

To get all this work off the ground, chapters and branches will want to include a special point in Tasks and Perspectives reports outlining our movement's tasks in the Marroquín defense. Each area will want to make sure to discuss out thoroughly what this will mean for all party and YSA activities. The New York City local, for example, has already decided to organize a special Marroquín defense blitz week for January 23-29. During this week every comrade in the local will be mobilized to collect endorsements, signatures on petitions, raise funds, and carry out other activities of the Marroquín defense.

To broaden out support for the defense beyond the YSA and SWP, we will want to set up local Marroquín Defense Committees, with prominent individuals as officers. Houston, for example, has already established a Marroquín Defense Committee, with Gertrude Barnstone, president of the Women's Equity Action League, as treasurer.

The job of the local committees is not necessarily to hold regular weekly meetings, but to organize to win support for the defense, to get out publicity, and to raise funds. Committees should open up bank accounts in the name of the Marroquín Defense Committee. Activists from other movements should be involved in the Marroquín defense. Special attention can be paid to involving those who attended meetings for Hugo Blanco around the country, as well as those we work with in local antideportation committees or coalitions.

Until recently, the Marroquín defense has been spearheaded by USLA. But to organize the broadest possible defense, an independent committee is necessary. Although defense of Héctor Marroquín remains USLA's major national campaign, endorsers and contributors to the Marroquín defense need not support USLA, nor any of its other campaigns.

### Endorsement Drive

Winning support and publicity for Marroquín's request for political asylum is the number one priority in this defense campaign. Already many prominent individuals and organizations have signed the Appeal for Asylum. But so far we have only scratched the surface of the potential support for the Marroquín defense.

Each area needs to discuss out all the possible signers of the Appeal for Asylum and organize to approach them. We will want to pay particular attention to leaders of the Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and feminist movements, civil libertarians, professors, elected officials, and trade-union leaders and activists.

Support from the trade-union movement will be one of the most important aspects of this defense campaign. We need to approach local union figures and even entire union locals and get them to pass resolutions supporting Marroquín's appeal for asylum. We will want to stress Marroquín's role as an activist in the organizing drive that won union recognition for Teamsters Local 939 at the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Houston where he worked.

Another important area is campus support. The committee is now preparing a special campus appeal for asylum, highlighting Marroquín's activities as a student leader. We want to make the point that by supporting Marroquín's fight, the student movement is defending academic freedom and the right of all students to organize politically.

YSA chapters will be able to take on this campus appeal as a special project, aiming for endorsements from hundreds of student leaders and organizations in the universities and high schools. We also want to approach prominent professors, department heads, and campus workers unions to sign the appeal. Getting presidents of universities to sign will be an important part of this effort. The initial list of national endorsers of Marroquín's asylum request should be helpful in showing the broad support for this case.

We will also aim for the endorsement of the National Student Association, and national student unions in other countries.

In addition to the prominent endorsers we must win, we want to broadly circulate the petition for political asylum. This will be done from campus literature tables, while selling the Militant and the Young Socialist, at political gatherings, union meetings, NOW meetings, and in high school and college classrooms. Every person who signs the petition should be asked to help out in the defense effort.

### Raising Funds

Hand in hand with the massive endorser drive will be a huge fund-raising effort. Thousands of dollars are needed to cover the various defense costs--including legal expenses, staff, literature, publicity, travel, and office expenses. Any projects organized to build the Marroquín defense on a local level will cost money too.

Every area will need to integrate fund raising into everything they do. Each endorser should be asked to contribute; organizations should be asked to donate money; and collections should be taken at all activities for the defense. Professors in particular should be asked to make contributions, as well as to endorse the case.

Lists of potential contributors should be drawn up on a local level. Phone calls and personal visits can be made to raise money for the defense.

Areas will also want to discuss any special fund-raising activities that can be organized. The Berkeley Marroquín Defense Committee, for example, recently sponsored a benefit at a Latino cultural center with well-known speakers and entertainment that raised \$178. New York City organized a reception for Marroquín, raising \$103.

Honoraria will be another important source of funds. Although the INS has not yet granted permission for Marroquín to travel and speak about his case, we should begin now approaching campus speakers committees, student governments, and departments about bringing Marroquín to campus. Our attorneys have filed a request for permission to travel to ninety-four cities between the dates of January 15 and April 4. If permission is refused, we will appeal the decision. At the same time as legal challenges are being made to the travel restrictions, it is important to start the process of lining up speaking engagements for Marroquín right away.

### Public Events

We do not want to wait until Marroquín gets permission to tour to begin planning public defense activities. San Diego, for example, already held a picket line at the local INS office demanding asylum for Marroquín to help publicize the defense campaign. We will want to picket Leonel Castillo wherever he goes, demanding that the travel restrictions be lifted and that he decide in favor of asylum for Marroquín.

Many SWP branches are organizing forums on the Marroquín case. Marroquín Defense Committees can also sponsor public events. Houston, for example, plans to hold a broad public meeting on January 20, with speakers that include Gertrude Barnstone, Rev. Ray Martin, José Angel Gutiérrez, and other prominent local individuals. New York is planning a major public meeting for the Marroquín defense in March on "The Right to Political Asylum."

### Literature

The main piece of literature for the defense is the brochure "Torture, Death, or the Right to Asylum?" An updated version has been published and will be sent to every branch and YSA chapter. These brochures should be widely distributed at trade-union and other political meetings, from campus literature tables, and along with sales of our press. Areas can order more when they run out, or reprint the brochure locally to save costs.

Additional literature includes the petitions for asylum, the Appeal for Asylum, and the endorser card. These can also be ordered or reproduced locally. Once they are signed, all petitions, appeals, and endorser cards should be sent to the Marroquín Defense Committee national office in New York, 853 Broadway, Room 414, New

York, N.Y. 10003.

One piece of literature with a special value is the letter from Rodolfo Echeverría, a leader of the Mexican Communist Party, endorsing Marroquín's right to asylum. This letter will be particularly useful in approaching members and sympathizers of the Communist Party USA about the defense. We will want to pay special attention to local leaders and chapters of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, asking them to support and help build the Marroquín defense.

The key to organizing this defense successfully will be for every unit of our movement to take on the Marroquín defense as a campaign. Our movement will be on a mobilization footing, for as long as it takes, until we win this fight.



## PARTIDO COMUNISTA MEXICANO

### COMITE CENTRAL

durango 338 colonia roma méxico 7 d. f. ☎ 286 00 33

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Rodolfo Echeverría Martínez, member of the Mexican Communist Party and of its Central Committee, want to make it clear that in Mexico, my country, democratic rights do not exist, and that persons who have opposed the state have disappeared when the police arrested them, without the arrest being followed by a trial as required by the laws that govern this country. The history of arbitrary acts carried out against the people and their fighters is a long one.

In the case of a person like Héctor Marroquín, who has been accused without proof of being part of a guerrilla group, if he were to be returned to Mexico, his life would be in danger, both because of the way police treat those who have been arrested and because of conditions in jail. Political prisoners in Mexico have always been victims of harassment and brutality by Mexican authorities, and on several occasions, some political prisoners have been assassinated, such as Pablo Alvarado Barrera, Pedro Morón Chiclayo and others.

I was a political prisoner for two years, eleven months, and thirteen days--from January 1969 to December 1971--and during that time I and other political prisoners were victims of bad treatment in which our lives were endangered.

That is why if Héctor Marroquín was to return to Mexico, his life would be in danger.

R E S P E C T F U L L Y

Mexico, D.F., December 15, 1977

RODOLFO ECHEVERRIA





## PARTIDO COMUNISTA MEXICANO

### COMITE CENTRAL

durango 338 colonia roma méxico 7 d. f. ☎ 286 00 33

A QUIEN CORRESPONDA:

Yo Rodolfo Echeverría Martínez, miembro del Partido Comunista Mexicano y de su Comité Central, hago constar que en México, mi país, no existen las libertades democráticas, que para personas que se han enfrentado al Estado han desaparecido cuando la policía los ha detenido ~~sin~~ que se les siga un juicio como lo establece la ley que rige el país. Es larga la historia de las arbitrariedades cometidas contra el pueblo y sus luchadores.

En caso de que una persona como Héctor -- Marroquín a quien se le acusa de haber formado parte de un grupo guerrillero, sin habérselo comprobado, en caso de ser regresado a México su vida corre peligro, tanto por el trato que dá la policía a los detenidos, como su estancia en la -- cárcel. Los presos políticos en México siempre han sido --- víctimas de vejaciones y brutalidades por parte de las autoridades mexicanas, en varias ocasiones han sido asesinados - algunos presos políticos como Pablo Alvarado Barrera, Pedro Morón Chiclayo y otros.

Yo fui preso político durante dos años, -- once meses, trece días de enero de 1969 a diciembre de 1971, en el que junto con otros presos políticos fuimos víctimas - de malos tratos en el que corrió peligro nuestra vida.

De ahí que si se regresa a México a Héctor Marroquín la vida de él corre peligro.

A T E N T A M E N T E

México, D.F., 15 de Dic. 1977.

RODOLFO ECHEVERRIA

OFFICERS:

Chairwoman  
Dore Ashton  
Art Critic  
Cooper Union

Executive Secretary  
Michael Kelly

Executive Board

Julian Beck  
Living Theatre

Bert Corona  
Antideportation leader

Warren Dean  
New York University

Ralph Della Cava  
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Dave Dellinger

Richard Eagen  
Stanford

Richard Falk  
Princeton

Rev. David Garcia  
St. Marks-on-the-Bowery

Catarino (Richard)  
Garza  
Bilingual educator

Timothy Harding  
Cal State L.A.

Judith Malina  
Living Theatre

George Preston  
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Annette T. Rubenstein  
Writer

Muriel Rukeyser  
Poet  
Vice-President, P.E.N.  
American Center

Dr. Benjamin Spock

Stanley Stein  
Princeton

Prof. George Wald  
Nobel Laureate

Prof. Maurice Zeitlin  
UCLA

Dear Friend,

Let us take a few minutes of your time to bring the case of Héctor Marroquín to your attention. We believe that his case goes to the heart of the human rights issue in this country and the world. At stake is the right to political asylum in the United States and the means to achieve it.

This case has a special urgency. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has set a *January 17, 1978*, deportation hearing, which is the first stage in the legal procedure. We are making emergency preparations for the hearing—gathering documentation, arranging for witnesses to appear, etc. We believe that with your help, and the help of hundreds and thousands of people like you, we can strike a blow for justice for those people persecuted for their political beliefs.

Héctor Marroquín, 24 years old, was active in student protests for democratic rights and better conditions at the University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico. In 1972 he was a member of the Student Revolutionary Committee (CER), a study group that held political discussions. He left the group in August 1973 because he disagreed with the proguerrilla strategy that it adopted. In January 1974 he was accused of the murder of a librarian at the university.

After consulting an attorney, Héctor Marroquín decided that he could not receive a fair trial in a Mexican court, although all the charges against him were false. He believed he would be unjustly imprisoned, tortured, or possibly killed by the Mexican authorities. In fact, two of the four people accused with him have been killed by the police, and one has been detained and not seen or heard from since.

(Amnesty International, in a recent communication with the Mexican government, requested information on 192 persons believed to be held for politically motivated acts, and roughly 300 persons who have reportedly disappeared in police custody in recent years.)

Héctor Marroquín fled to this country in April 1974, and has lived here ever since. At the time of his arrest he worked at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Houston. He is married and has a son who was born in this country.

Because he fears for his life, Héctor Marroquín has decided to apply for political asylum here. However, the established channels for such an application are not clearly charted, despite the fact that the U.S. is a signer of the United Nations Protocol and Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. This document stipulates that no refugee shall be "expelled or returned in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his . . . political opinion."

But it has required, quite literally, an act of Congress or at least special dispensations from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to create political asylum for most of the people who enjoy it in this country today. The procedure is inevitably selective and discriminatory, favoring persons who support U.S. foreign policy. The rights of a person who must, without benefit of highly placed sponsors or special dispensation, argue his or her case on its own merits, have never been clearly defined.

It is for this reason that the USLA Justice Committee has decided to take on this important case. It is also why the case is expected to last a long while, at considerable legal expense. (Already the expenses total more than \$5,000.) But it will be worth it. Almost all the legal rights accorded to Héctor Marroquín during his day in court will set precedents for future cases. At the same time, saving his life will be a most worthy precedent in human rights.

Already the support and contributions of people like yourselves have made a difference. The INS first threatened to send Héctor Marroquín back to Mexico by

means of an "exclusion" procedure, which permits no plea for political asylum. After numerous protests, the hearing was changed to a regular deportation hearing on January 17. Should the initial decision of the INS be against Héctor Marroquín, further appeals to the federal court system will be possible. Another victory arrived when we were able to post a \$10,000 bond so that Héctor Marroquín could be at liberty pending his hearing.

Now the real work of the case begins. In addition to the legal and travel costs already incurred, the USLA Justice Committee is gathering testimony and other evidence to document the repression in Mexico. A representative of the committee has been in Mexico for this purpose, and we have asked Latin American scholars with expertise on Mexico to prepare affidavits. We also want to bring live witnesses—relatives and friends of repression victims, scholars, civil libertarians—to testify at the trial. This will all require funds—our initial budget stands at \$20,000.

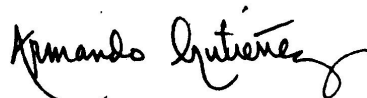
Won't you take some time to send in a contribution to the USLA Justice Committee—Marroquín Defense? Your consideration and aid will go a long way.

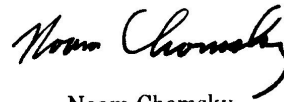
January 7, 1978

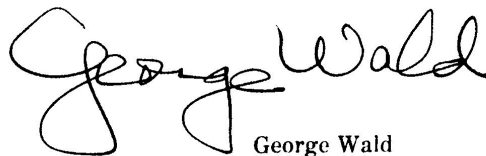
  
Muriel Rukeyser


  
Gloria Steinam

  
(Fr.) Philip Berrigan

  
Armando Gutiérrez

  
Noam Chomsky

  
George Wald

  
Kate Millett