

Steven Guerra

Alfredo Mendez, who grew up with Steven Guerra, knows Guerra to be a member of the FALN in Chicago.

In late 1976 or early 1977, the defendant Steven Guerra told Alfredo Mendez that he had been approached by two males who took him for a ride in their car and during the ride asked Guerra if he wanted to join the armed struggle. Mendez, being a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party at the time, told Guerra to refuse, since Mendez believed that these men probably were police or Central Intelligence Agency agents. Guerra apparently took Mendez' advice. Later, in October of 1979, Guerra recounted this story to Mendez and advised Mendez that one of the men who had made this approach to him had been Oscar Lopez, a convicted FALN member.

During 1979, Mendez became more and more involved in the work of the MLN and spent much time working on MLN projects at Borinquena College in Chicago. He also attended MLN meetings with groups of about twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) people, during which time discussions revolved around the need for armed struggle in order to liberate Puerto Rico. Those attending these meetings included Steven Guerra, Jose Lopez and, on occasion, Robert Caldero. The meetings, held at various apartments, led Mendez to grow closer to Lopez and Guerra as the months passed. One one occasion, Guerra impressed Mendez by

showing him a CRP communique shortly after that group had bombed something in Puerto Rico. Mendez also recalls seeing a FARP booklet in Jose Lopez' house on a visit there. The CRP and FARP are other Puerto Rican terrorist groups.

Mendez now believes that during late 1978 and early 1979, MLN members, particularly the defendant Guerra and Jose Lopez, were "feeling him out" for potential membership in the FALN By giving him tasks to do at the school and by watching the way in which he conducted himself, although he was unaware of this at the time. It was not until the early summer of 1979, possibly in July, that Mendez came to suspect that something more was involved. At the time, the MLN was sponsoring a meeting at Northwestern University, and Luis Rosado had come into Chicago from New York to address this session. Mendez went to Northwestern in the belief that the group might need someone to distribute leaflets or set up a sound system. On arriving, Jose Lopez and the defendant Guerra told him to go home because they wanted him to do them a favor. Later in the day, Guerra and Lopez brought Rosado to Mendez', house and handed him a sheet of paper on which were instructions for him to drive Rosado around town until 3:00 p.m. that date, at which time he was to bring him to the Greyhound bus station in downtown Chicago.

The note informed Mendez that he was to avoid being followed and indicated that no one must know what he was doing. The men then burned the note, after which they left, leaving Rosado at the Mendez residence. Mendez subsequently drove Rosado around the city during which time Rosado spoke out about the PSP (Puerto Rican Socialist Party) and noted how the group had been defeated in the Puerto Rican elections because their leadership had been afraid to support armed struggle in the independence movement. Mendez was given the distinct impression during the afternoon that Rosado was trying to feel him out as to his political beliefs, especially as regards the PSP. At 3:00 p.m., Mendez dropped Rosado off at the bus station and returned to his residence. He never saw Rosado again that day, and neither Lopez nor Guerra ever mentioned the incident again.

In late August, 1979, Steven Guerra asked Mendez if he wanted to become involved in the clandestine movement. Although the FALN was not mentioned by name, Mendez understood the FALN was the group to which Guerra referred. Guerra explained that the group was recruiting many people at that time and was doing a lot of testing. He indicated that money was not a problem for the group and specifically stated they had recently done a job on the East Coast that netted them one hundred thousand dollars

(\$100,000). He told Mendez that he had to have his response within a month.

Following this discussion, Mendez began thinking about the clandestine movement, especially in regard to how it could help poor people. Although he did not want to hurt anyone, Mendez began to think about the "Robin Hood" aspect of what Guerra had said, i.e., robbing the rich to help the poor. With this in mind, Mendez informed Guerra that he would accept his offer. Guerra said that he would convey the word and that someone else would talk to him in the future about the situation.

Shortly after the conversation with Guerra, Jose Lopez asked Mendez if the answer was "yes". When Mendez concurred, Lopez asked him if he was aware of the consequences. When Mendez again concurred, Lopez stated that someone would be contacting him. He told Mendez that from then on he was to limit his contact with him (Lopez). He also cautioned Mendez not to tell his wife about his decision.

During the latter half of 1979, Mendez spent a lot of time with the defendant Steven Guerra, and became deeply involved in the struggle. On one occasion when discussing with Guerra the financial difficulty of the struggle, Guerra told Mendez not to worry about money. Guerra then stated that money was not really the problem

it seemed to be, and that all funds did not come from fund raising, but rather that some of it comes from "This", gesturing with his thumb and index finger as if pointing a gun.

While lodged in Cook County Jail in 1980, Mendez was visited by Guerra. Guerra told Mendez that the FALN in Chicago had received one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from groups in Puerto Rico which had been used for purchase of weapons and renting of new safe houses. Guerra further indicated that several new people had been recruited into the FALN. During another conversation in 1979, Guerra hinted that the New York FALN had robbed an armored truck sometime in 1978.

Through Guerra and other sources, Mendez was told of a breakout that was planned for the FALN members when they were housed at the Dwight, Illinois prison facility. This plan was quite elaborate and included floor plans, maps and intelligence information regarding the number and location of guards. Mendez was told the only reason that the plan was not executed was because some of the females hesitated. As a back-up to the plan for an actual breakout, plans were also discussed to demand release of the FALN by hijacking a plane or kidnapping either a politician or a politically connected millionaire. Mendez stated that, while in prison, both Guerra and Alex Torres

continuously told him to be patient, that he would get out. On one occasion, Guerra handed him a slip of paper which bore the word "underground".

Guerra also talked to Mendez about plans having been made to break Haydee Torres out of prison, stating that there were Chicanos working on it. Guerra was also supposed to participate in the April 4, 1980 armored car robbery which led to Mendez' arrest. However, Guerra' was unable to participate due to his impending marriage, and Mendez was utilized as a replacement. Guerra also told Mendez that he (Guerra) helped "case" Bellevue Hospital prior to the escape of William Morales.

Andres Rosado

Alfredo Mendez has had only limited contact with the defendant Andres Rosado. However, Andres Rosado told Mendez that he supported the "armed struggle". Rosado also expressed his approval for the violent actions of the "Macheteros" a terrorist group based on the island of Puerto Rico.

Julio Rosado

Alfredo Mendez met the defendant Julio Rosado at least five times, one of which lasted for approximately one week. The defendant Steven Guerra led Mendez to believe that Rosado was a member of the FALN in various conversations including one in which Mendez referred to