

The Defendants Ricardo Romero and Steven
Guerra Advocate The Violent Overthrow
Of The United States Government

The FBI has received information from a person who was spoken to by a person actually present that, on April 14, 1983, after receiving permission to travel to speak at City College and Santa Clara College in San Francisco, the defendant Ricardo Romero was a guest speaker at a meeting of approximately seventy-five (75) persons. The purpose of the meeting was to commemorate the arrest of the eleven (11) FALN members arrested in Evanston and to honor all Puerto Rican terrorist groups, in particular, the FALN. Romero was introduced as the National Coordinator for the Mexican Commission of the MLN and as a grand jury resister.

Romero traced the history of non-collaboration with the grand jury to 1898 when an individual refused to testify before a grand jury which was investigating a secret group known as "The White Hats". Romero told the assemblage that the struggle against United States imperialism had begun in 1898, when forty-seven (47) Mexicans were indicted by the grand jury before which this individual had refused to testify. Because of the winter conditions in the Southwest during that year, a judge was not available to try the case until the Spring. Romero told the crowd that three witnesses who had testified

against the forty-seven (47) were executed before Spring, which drew sustained applause from his audience. At one point, Romero advocated "dismemberment" of the United States, a goal he shared with the Republic of New Afika and those who seek independence and socialism for Puerto Rico, which explains their common tactics. Romero expressed solidarity with Michelle Miller, who also refused to testify before the grand jury, calling her actions internationalism in action. Romero concluded his remarks explaining how the integrity of the organization could be achieved with this exhortation to the crowd:

Long live the FALN!

Long live the armed clandestine
movement!

Long live independence and
socialism for Puerto Rico!

At the conclusion of the defendant Romero's vitriolic speech, the defendant Steven Guerra described the path to independence for Puerto Rico advocated by those present in even more graphic terms. Guerra told the audience that Jose Lopez, founder of the MLN, had taught him many things. According to Guerra, Lopez, who was also a guest speaker, taught Guerra that:

The right of our country to its independence, was not to be discussed with words, but with bullets. For believing this, we came to be branded as terrorists.

In San Francisco, then, the defendants Romero and Guerra, after their conviction of criminal contempt, have explained their refusal to testify before the grand jury with a force and clarity which can not be matched by any argument advanced by the government.