

Victor Toro Defense Committee

**Amnesty now
for the millions
of undocumented
immigrants!**



**Picket
12 PM - 1 PM
every Friday
@ 26 Federal
Plaza (N.E.
corner - Worth &
Lafayette)**

On July 6, 2007, Victor Toro was arrested by US Border Patrol, an agency of the US Department of Homeland Security, while on board an Amtrak train in Rochester, New York. He was later transferred to Cayuga County Jail in Auburn, New York. Bail was set at \$5,000.00 the same day of the arrest. Bail was posted on Monday, July 9, 2007 and Victor was released the same day.

Victor is a citizen and national of Chile who was jailed and tortured because of his opposition to the illegitimate Pinochet government (1973-1990), was given an exit only passport in 1976 and declared dead the next year by the dictator Pinochet. He entered the United States without proper documents in 1984 and has remained in the U.S. ever since. Victor's past Persecution is well documented and his political work has been the subject of books, including Alistair Horne's book Small Earthquake in Chile. In addition, Victor was listed, along with MIR's leader Miguel Enriquez and S.P. leader Carlos Altamirano, amongst others, as one of the thirteen (13) most wanted people by the U.S.-sponsored dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in 1973. His wife, Nieves Ayress, is a US citizen and his daughter, Rosita Toro, is a legal permanent resident of the U.S.

A Notice to Appear (NTA) dated July 6, 2007 has already been issued by the Department of Homeland Security charging Victor with violation of residing and entering in the U.S. without proper documents. A court date was set for September 12, 2007 in Buffalo, NY. The Victor Toro Defense Committee (VTDC) launched a letter campaign to change the venue and the legal team filed to change the venue from Buffalo, New York, to the Bronx, New York, where Victor lives. On September 10, the Buffalo, New York, court granted a change in venue. Victor's next hearing to appear before immigration Judge Paul Defonzo is set for January 18, 2008 at 9:00 am at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278.

Victor's legal defense team is considering political asylum under Section 208 of the Act, withholding of removal under Section 241(b)(3) of the Act, Relief under Art. III of the Convention Against Torture, as well as cancellation of removal under Section 240A of the Act.

Since his arrival in the United States, Victor and Nieves established the non-profit organization La Peña del Bronx which provides much needed assistance to the south Bronx community.

The Victor Toro Defense Committee is demanding from the Department of Homeland Security that Victor be granted Political Asylum.

For more information, to get involved with the Victor Toro Defense Committee, to send donations or to learn more about your rights:

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(make checks payable to "Las Peñitas Inc.")

**NY May 1 Coalition
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www.may1.info