March Against Jail

FOR

RENE CAMPOS

Thursday

February 11, 1999

4:30 p.m.

City County Building on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.*

*HELD OUTSIDE, PLEASE DRESS WARMLY

WE MUST REMEMBER

11 years ago Rene Marcos Campos was a 23 y/o Chicano Student who died with a T-shirt stuffed 2/3 down his throat while in the custody of Dane County Sheriffs. Rene was held in solitary confinement, he was denied medical attention, and the jailers were lost in what to do with his body when his brother came to pick him up.

His brother was finally told, told that his brother had died in jail, but due to some suicide they fabricated! Shockingly, an independent autopsy, done at the request of the family, revealed parallel bruising on top of the head, consistent with jail bars, circular trauma around the orifice of the mouth, suggesting a club or night-stick used to ram something down his throat, and repeated bruising throughout his body.

To the community, Rene's death meant a great loss. Angered, we went before the Madison Police and Fire Commission to demand an investigation. As it turned out, we got an inquest instead, and the process of covering it up his death, began. The District Attorney functioned more to pat police on the back than finding out the truth. So Much for Justice in America.

We call on you today to let you know that youth need more Education and Jobs, Not More Jails and Wars.

The Friends of Rene Campos and Sponsored by MEChA 263-4830



VIGIL

FOR

RENE CAMPOS

Thursday

February 12, 1998

4:30 p.m.

City County Building on
Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.*

*HELD OUTSIDE, PLEASE DRESS WARMLY

WE MUST REMEMBER

so this tragedy stops being repeated.

Ten years ago Rene Campos, a UW Madison student, was killed in the 7th floor isolation unit of the Dane County Detention Center. The report stated that he had commited suicide by swallowing his t-shirt. To date, this manner of suicide has **never** been documented. Jobs and education not jails and wars.

Sponsored by MEChA 263-4830

M.E.CH.A. MOVIMIENTO ESTUDIANTIL CHICANO DE AZTLAN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

710 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
(608) 263-4830

RENE CAMPOS MEMORIAL:

February 11th marks the sixth year since we lost our brother Rene Campos under the hands of institutionalized racism. Rene Marcos Campos was from the barrio of San Antonio, Texas. He came to Madison in the hopes of improving himself, he attended the University, studied at MATC and joined the Wisconsin National Guard. He marched with anti-apartheid protestors in 1985 and 1986 protesting the State of Wisconsin's investment in South Africa's racist policies. He knew firsthand from the barrio how people are kept down- he had experienced racial bigotry against Chicanos before. But his story ended tragically when his life was taken away in the Dane County jail.

Few will ever believe that Rene purposely shoved two-thirds of a T-Shirt down his throat to commit suicide as the county says he did. The community was shocked. Rene Campos was not the only young man to die in the Dane County jail, others have died there as well, but none were ever lost in the jail for hours while jailers panicked over what to do, unable to tell his brother where Rene was being held. For any number of reasons Rene should not have been in the jail, it was clearly a choice made by insensitive and incompetent law enforcement officials and mental health workers.

County officials added insult to injury, when they had a conflict of interest since they investigated their own malfeasance. The formal inquest shocked the community into realizing the problems our youth face when going through the criminal justice system. A system plagued by its failure to provide justice to our people.

The correctional system today is in question, it has failed our youth and community. It too often warehouses them with no possible way of escape, no treatment and few alternatives to incarceration.Building new jails and prisons seems to be the only focus nationally and locally, even as our nation leads the world in total prison population, and the overwhelming number are people of color like Rene. Between 1983 and 1992 violent crime has increased 3.5%, yet prison population has doubled. The money now being used to hire new police, build jails and boot camps should go to provide skilled training for the unemployed, drug or mental health programs, and finding ways in keeping our youth out of jails.

It is our hope that people remember Rene Campos as a man who fought injustice. We also remind the city that if such an incident happens again our community will close your doors down one way or another. Please join the Friends of Rene Campos at the City County Building, Martin Luther King Drive on Friday, February 11, 1994, at 5:30 pm.

Citizen Advocates for Police Accountability
c/o Eva Jackson
717 Chapman Street
Madison, WI 53711

August 10, 1994

Daniel Gaytan, Friends of Rene Campos
Santiago Rosas, Alderperson
Ricardo Gonzalez, Alderperson
Dora Silva, Director CentroHispano
MEChA

Dear Friends,

Many of you have advocated for re-opening the investigation of the shooting of Alipio Peña-Avila or have expressed other concerns regarding accountability to the community of the Madison Police Department. We would like to bring you up to date on the work of this committee which was organized following the community forum at Centro Hispano.

The *Citizen Advocates for Police Accountability* is positioned to move forward with attempts to resolve the outstanding issues in the death of Alipio Peña-Avila. We have drafted our concerns with the police investigation and are in the process of working with legal counsel to develop a case. Our intention is to file a complaint with the Police and Fire Commission. Our intent is to also carry forward other issues with regard to police policies, procedures, and standards; media treatment of the case; and mechanisms for complaint resolution and independent investigation of police misconduct.

You are invited to participate in our regular meetings, usually held at 5:30 every Wednesday. We meet in the Multicultural Center's meeting room or in another room in the Memorial Union. Check "Today in the Union" for the exact room location.

In the near future we will call you to arrange for a contact person to keep communication lines open on a regular basis. Any support or counsel you can provide would be would be greatly appreciated.

We hope that you will alert us if you receive information important to the goals of our group. Also, it would be helpful if you would direct any inquiries you receive regarding to above issues to me at the number provide below.

In Solidarity,

Eva Jackson

Eva Jackson
Communications Facilitator
238-0748

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The Friends of Rene Campos and Sponsored by MEChA 263-4830

People of the State of Wisconsin,

On this day a 26 y/o Chicano, A Friend of Ours died while in the hands of police custody, his name was Rene Campos. Ten years ago he died up there--in these "Public Safety Buildings." A secondary autopsy performed at the request of the family revealed parallel-spaced bruising on the top of his head consistent with jail bars, bludgeoned circular trauma around the orifice of his inner-mouth consistent with a police night stick used to ram something down his throat. And for what? To shut him up!? All he needed was his medication, 2.5mg of Haldol which for two years Dane County Mental Health knew would help him during Wisconsin's cold lightless winter days. What a damn waste!

Yeah, but the police found a better cure for him, a cure that is used by this society today to rid itself of its unwanted and undesirables, which believe me are poor and coloreds. As people of color, together with our White brothers and sisters, we must no longer shut the door of reality and work together, we must see that Poverty, Racism and Jails are linked to us in a very disproportionate way. WE MUST GO INTO ACTION and say No to the United State's ideological war on drugs, poverty, crime, or even sex, ..., cause the wars really on US. OPPOSE JAILS and WARS and PROMOTE EDUCATION and PEACE instead, for our people and the future of our children to come.

The inquest, the process of inquiry which investigated Rene's death, was a sham. It was orchestrated by the same people who created this atrocity. In fact, in the end of this process, they "Patted themselves in the BACK." And why not? They have years of experience doing this to us, and us allowing it. Years of experience denying that a problem exists between society and police. People--we are in denial if we don't see that a problem exists. And that is NO lie, our communities fear the police, the courts and the jails they put us in, more than ever before, and if you believe otherwise then you are as twisted as they are.

Police can no longer be our Police if they only see people of color with an eye of notoriety, leaving white-collar crime unchecked. Courts can no longer be our Courts if all they see is our youths filling-up their jails. And Leaders can no longer be our Leaders if their policies lead only to their own political gain.

The PIGS are running amuck in our society, and it is open season in our barrios, reservations and ghetto communities, cause societies value system is warped, built on the notion that the best place for our youth is warehoused in jails. Youths that we desperately need in schools, learning a trade, being a lawyer, a doctor, a farmer, whatever, but rotting in jail cause some politician uses the gimmick of GETTING TOUGH ON CRIME to get elected, is a major cop-out to our society.

The day has come to put this whole jail-building, big

money making machine to question, cause the real gangs are not out in our streets, that's chump change, the real gangs are up there==>, with Toxic Tommy, running it all. Or a president running around garnering support from other white gangs to go and blow the hell out of darkies in Iraq. Wake-up from the dream the time has come for a real political strategy to emerge from our communities.

RENE CAMPOS MEMORIAL

A 23 YR OLD CHICANO STUDENT MISHANDLED AND BRUTALIZED BY MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FOUND DEAD WITH HIS T-SHIRT DOWN HIS THROAT IN THE DANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S JAIL

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12TH, 1991
5 P.M.
AT THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING
M.L. KING DRIVE

EDUCATION AND JOBS

NOT

JAILS AND WARS

SPONSORED BY: MOVIMIENTO ESTUDIANTIL CHICANO DE AZTLAN (M.E.CH.A.), MADISON DRAFT RESISTANCE, COMITE AZTLAN