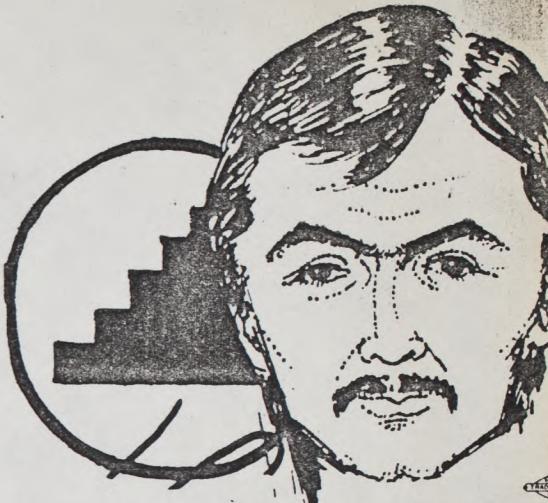


FREE JESS LOPEZ!



DOUBLE STANDARD JUSTICE FOR JESS LOPEZ

Is Goldwater, Steiger, Rosen-
swieg, or Gov. Castro in jail?
No, because they are the so-
called pillars of the community.
We know for a fact that Gold-
water has been named by asso-
ciates as part of organized
crime. In the book "Green
Velvet Jungle" there were con-
nections made long before the
IRE came into the picture.

It looks like the County
Attorney has already found
Jess Lopez guilty.

Jess Lopez is facing 20 years
behind bars because he believes
in social justice for the poor
and the exploited of this state.
Goldwater, Rosenswieg and Castro
are not even prosecuted because
they have the money and the
power and are part of the power
structure of this state. The
IRE report brought out a lot
of facts, but nothing has been
done because of their influence
in the political power of Ari-
zona. To top it off, they have
their own newspaper, The
Republic, which monopolizes
Arizona. Jess Lopez does not
have this influence - so he is
facing 20 years behind bars
for a crime he did not commit.
We demand

JUSTICE FOR JESS LOPEZ!

PINCHI AGUITE! QUE SI. . .

Pinchi aguite! Que si, man, ya encerraron al Jess Lopez. Te acuerdas del vato? Ahi en la pinta lo van a quebrar. . .

Y habla la gente de Jess Lopez, algunos con pensamientos malos, mas hablan de lo bueno.

Debemos reconocer que, de todo lo que se platica o se va a discutir, el Jess Lopez es el activista Chicano mas fuerte que tuvo Glendale y esta encerrado. Preguntamos Porque?

En el dia 29 de Junio, Jess fue detenido y acusado de poner una bomba incendiera en el colegio de la comunidad de Glendale. Un juzgado todo anglo-saxon lo hallo culpable y en el dia 23 de noviembre fue sentenciado a 5 a 8 anos en prision.

El Jess es culpable; culpable de querer a su Raza, la gente mayor, la gente joven, los ninos de las Sonoritas del mundo. Es culpable de ponerse preocupado que haga tanta injusticia para nuestra gente en el sistema de este pais. En varios modos y acciones peleaba contra la opprecion y por los derechos humanos de nosotros y los de los Pintos. El jugo un parte mayor que se traiera un "lawsuit" en contra la Arizona State Prison cual es una de las mas primitivas en los Estados Unidos.

Es preso el Jess, preso politico. Dejemos con decir, le dio bastante guerra a los polecias de aqui. Siempre les tiraba en sus caras que la gente del barrio tenia el derecho, tenia el poder, querian decidir su destino, correr sus vidas en paz,

con fe en el futuro y amor para un hermano y el otro.

Hombre de visiones bonitas, siempre mirando adelante como te trajieron a caller? Con la ayuda de "amigos," a cuales Jess no les miraba lo debil. El estado no tenia ninguna evidencia material en contra de Jess, pero los testimonios falsos de tres que se llamaban "amigos" fueron bastante viciosas para el juzgado. Les tomaron sus mentiras como la verdad. Jess esta encerrado y los tres sin conciencia, no fueron procesados. No valian la pena.

"Lo encerramos," tenia pensado la polecia, "y se acabo." No pensaron de la gente cuales queremos a Jess y creemos en su ser y en el trabajo que se puso hacer. Lucharemos siempre y miramos el dia de su libertad. De el dicho que "En la pinta lo van a quebrar. . ." pues esto de seguro sabemos, que con cada dia que llega en Paz, Fe y esperanza mas fuerte se esta poniendo el.

VIVA JESS LOPEZ!

VIVA LA RAZA!

Fondos son necesarios para cubrir gastos legales y de publicidad. Necesitamos voluntarios para hacer mas conocido el caso de Jess. Para mas informacion, llamen a Juan Perez en el numero 253-4663 despues de las cuatro de la tarde.

UNITED BARRIO UNION!

GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301

Of rights, truth and justice

The State's prosecution of a man who has done nothing but good for his community is a bad idea--bad for the taxpayer's money being spent on a trial, bad for those he is helping, bad for all of us.

Jess Lopez made a lot of waves over the past seven years--seeking the rights for his people that are guaranteed to all of us by the U.S. Constitution. He has angered many people who would rather see the injustices continue, quietly.

Through his efforts, changes have been made--a park has been built, homes have been protected from destruction by industry, people have found jobs and overcrowding will be reduced at Florence Prison.

Because he has worked successfully to

change the system, using its rules--even to the point of running for election to Glendale City Council, those who know him feel the charges brought against him by the state are absurd. They know that instead, these charges come from those who would like to see him put out of the way.

The state has no evidence that Jess Lopez started the fire at Glendale Community College. Lacking such evidence, they held him for trial on the testimony of a felon, a convicted dope pusher, who was first arrested for the crime and then released in exchange for his betrayal of a man who had befriended him. What truth would a man tell who faced a third sentence, who had been in a mental institution four times, once for violence?

The state had to go on this man's word--they had nothing else. Several months after the fire, they sought to search the car Jess Lopez was driving, but were unable to find a judge who would issue a search warrant.

We are left to speculate whether a red-faced FBI and Glendale Police Department then may have sought to cover its embarrassment over not having a real suspect by going to court to have Jess put away.

This is the real ugliness in this case.

Public officials have called Jess Lopez a "Common radical." But common radicals have always been at the forefront in securing human rights--they also have always betrayed and persecuted.

The state's tactics are obvious--but should they be allowed to win?

P E T I T I O N

Jess Lopez, a productive community leader long active in prison reform, has been sentenced to 5-8 years at Arizona State Prison. Ironically, it was Jess' activities which brought about a court decision that incarceration at Arizona State Prison constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

We feel that Jess is in grave danger at Arizona State Prison because he could be a target for reprisals by those he confronted on prison reform. The warden might be compelled to take his personal vengeance on Jess as a backlash for federal intervention which Jess initiated and which resulted in nationwide publicity.

We fear for Jess' safety. We demand that he be transferred to another correctional institution pending his appeal, which we are confident will result in his release from confinement.

NAME

1.

2.

3.

4.

ADDRESS

PHONE

FREE JESS LÓPEZ!

The only way out of a prison,
is with the help of someone on
the outside to open the door.



Who is Jess Lopez?

Jess Lopez is a Chicano activist from Glendale, Arizona. He was a leader of protests and activities against the inhumane conditions at the Arizona State Prison. A man deeply involved in issues that concerned the people of his community.

The Frame-up

On June 29, 1977 Jess Lopez was arrested and falsely accused of a firebombing at Glendale Community College. An all-white jury found Jess guilty of the charge and he was sentenced to 5-8 years. The State presented no material evidence against Jess, but based its case on the testimony of those who admittedly did the firebombing. In exchange for their false testimony against Jess, these individuals were not prosecuted. Jess Lopez was framed-up, framed-up because of his political activities and ideas.

Defend Jess Lopez!

Jess is presently imprisoned at Fort Grant. His appeal brief will be submitted on July 3rd, 1978. We ask all those concerned for justice to join the struggle to free Jess Lopez. It is a struggle for all those who fight for human rights and fight against oppression.

What can you do?

Funds are needed to cover legal and publicity expenses. Volunteers are needed to help make Jess' case known.

For more information contact Juana Lopez from the Human Rights Defense League at 271-0330.

Checks payable to:

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE LEAGUE
1405 S. 12th PLACE
PHX. ARIZ.
95034

LIBRÉN A JESS LÓPEZ

¿Quien es Jess Lopez?

Jess Lopez es un activista Chicano de Glendale, Arizona. Era un líder de protestas y actividades en contra de las condiciones inhumanas en la prisión del estado de Arizona. Un hombre muy envuelto con los problemas que pertenecían a la gente de su comunidad.

¡Fue Entramado!

El día 29 de Junio, 1977, Jess Lopez fue detenido y acusado falsamente de poner una bomba incendiaria en el colegio de la comunidad de Glendale. Un juez todo anglo hallo a Jess culpable del cargo y lo sentenció a 5-8 años. El estado no presento ninguna evidencia material contra Jess, pero basó su caso en el testimonio de unos que admitieron poner la bomba encendida. En cambio por su testimonio falso contra Jess, estos individuos no fueron procesados. Jess Lopez fue entrampado por sus actividades políticas y sus ideas.

¡Defiendan a Jess Lopez!

Jess Lopez está encarcelado en Fort Grant. Su apelado será submitido a corte el día 3 de julio, 1978.

Ridemos que todos los que estén preocupados por justicia se unan en el esfuerzo de todos los que pelean por derechos humanos y pelean contra la opresión.

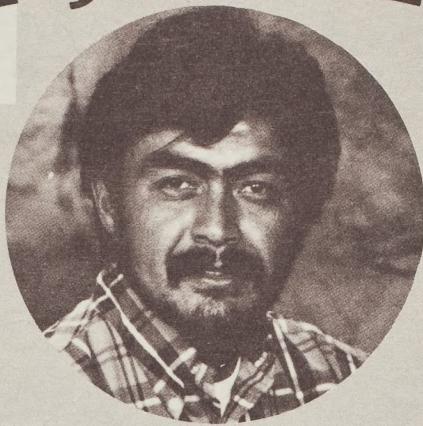
¿Qué puede hacer usted?

Bonos son necesarios para cubrir gastos legales y de publicidad. Necesitamos voluntarios para hacer conocido el caso de Jess.

Por más información llamen a Juana de La Lega Para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos a 271-0330.

LA LEGA PARA LA DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
1405 S. 12th PLACE
PHX. ARIZ.
85034

FREE JESS LOPEZ



JAIL THE HANNIGANS

RALLY

SATURDAY • JANUARY 28th • 4:00 P.M.

EL RIO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1390 WEST SPEEDWAY • TUCSON, ARIZONA

SPEAKERS • ENTERTAINMENT • REFRESHMENTS

SPEAKERS:

Bert Corona

Jose Angel Gutierrez

Tino Valles

Tony Bustamante

Frank Barraza

Ramon Arroyos

ENTERTAINMENT:

Teatro Libertad

Xicanindio

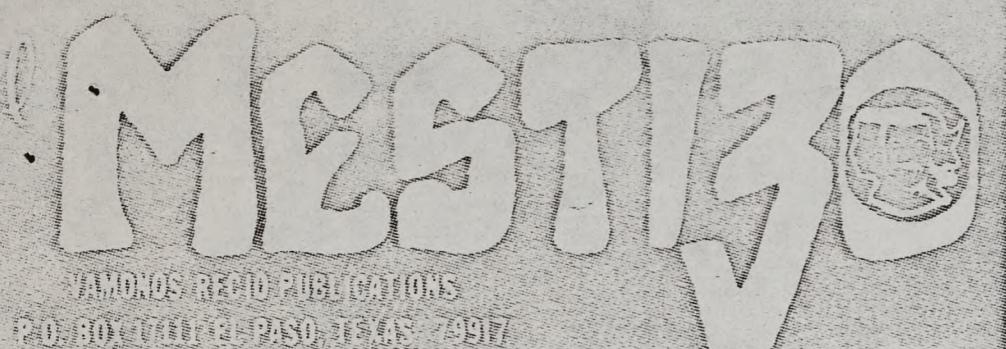
PHOENIX CAR CARAVAN

Meet 12:00 noon, 48th St. and Broadway
For information phone: 271-0330 or 276-5720

FOR INTERVIEWS RELATED TO THIS STRUGGLE

WATCH ESTE ERES TU
10:30 A.M. Sunday, January 22 on Channel 5

sponsored by: National Ad Hoc Coalition On The Hannigan Case and Human Rights Defense League



Volume 4 No. 5 Oct. 1977



CSD

Jess Lopez Railroaded To Prison

Although the court has not yet ruled on his appeal, Arizona Chicano activist Jess Lopez has been sent to prison in Florence where he is to serve a minimum of eight years on a frame-up conviction of arson and conspiracy.

Jess is currently at the psychological center where prisoners are "prepared for prison life." His defense committee is attempting to get a federal injunction against such railroading.

The railroading of Jess by the state began several months ago when he was arrested for supposedly firebombing administration offices of Glendale Community College, where he worked. The arrest was a culmination of a six month investigation of which Jess was never informed. An investigation by local police and federal authorities had proceeded even though someone else had already confessed. This is an indication that the government was only looking for a way to somehow link Jess to the crime.

Jess Lopez' appeal for a new trial was heard by the presiding judge at his trial on December 7. The appeal is based on the fact that the prosecution failed to present evidence from the defense. This

evidence indicated that the witness who had told police he saw Jess Lopez throw the bomb had first said it was Gerardo Rivera, a convicted drug pusher. Rivera was a main witness against Lopez.

Other evidence withheld was testimony about keys being exchanged between Rivera and Reynaldo Campos, security guard at the community college. Evidence showed that the bombing had to be done by someone who had access to the building. The prosecutor's only comment was "this evidence doesn't make Lopez any less guilty."

The trial of Lopez was itself filled with irregularities and maneuvers by the state. "They wanted Jess," said one of his supporters, "one way or another they wanted to get him. Rivera had a conviction list as long as his arm. They made a deal with him, either testify against Jess or get life." Lopez was convicted but Rivera is now free.

In addition to such "witnesses" the government brought in Ralph Cooper, agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco. Cooper showed films of himself making bombs and exploding them. Prosecuting Attorney Warren Smoot



"For truth I'm willing to give my life."

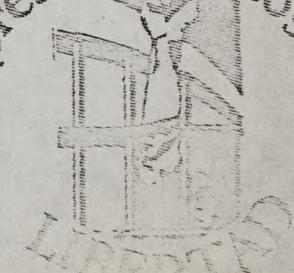
"Tengo mucha fe en mi Raza."

If Jess goes to Florence, it is certainty that he will be one of the "mysteriously" killed due to his activism in relation to the prison. Judge, however, said on Dec. 7 that danger to Jess at the prison "cannot legally be considered as grounds" sending Jess elsewhere.

Jess Lopez has been a fighter for his people since 1971 in the Phoenix area. His imprisonment is a great blow to the Chicano people as a whole. We must support the struggle for his release. Please send donations or let us know of supports to:

Juanita Lopez
c/o United Barrio Union
6605 North 58th Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301

Presos políticos



UNITED BARRI^O UNION

GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

c/o Rita Lopez
Human Rights
Defense League
6605 N. 58th Ave.
Glendale, Az
271-0330

The Human Rights Defense League a non-violent, non-profit organization is conducting a fast for three days in front of the Department of Justice 230 N. 1st Ave. Phx, to demand a federal investigation in the case State of Arizona VS Jess Lopez.

The fast is to bring light to discrimination and violation of Due Process of Law; which is guaranteed by the United States Constitution regardless of Race, color or creed, stated Rita Lopez spokeswoman for the Defense League.

Miss Lopez also stated that the counts of the State of Arizona have a double standard in applying the laws. One set of standards for the rich and another for the poor and working class.

Miss Lopez claims Jess Lopez a Chicano activist in the Glendale area is being framed on charges of arson, conspiracy, placing an explosive in a public institution. The courts of the State of Arizona denied an all white jury the transcripts of witness testimonies that the jury requested during deliberation in order to deliver a verdict.

Miss Lopez also stated that the request of the U.S. Dept. of Justice to stop all court proceedings until a federal investigation can be conducted in this matter.

These gross mis-application of justice can no longer be tolerated by the Chicano Community and the working class people of the State of Arizona, said Miss Lopez.

For more information of this case call:

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE LEAGUE
Rita Lopez- 271-0330

Convicted arsonist asks for trial claiming jury was "intimidated"

A Chicano activist convicted of arson will ask a new trial Friday, claiming the jury that found him guilty was intimidated by the presence of armed police officers.

Jesse Lopez, founder of the United Barrio Union, will seek the new trial at a hearing before Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Sandra O'Connor. He was convicted of firebombing an office at Glendale Community College.

Calvin Lee, the attorney who represented Lopez at his trial earlier this month, said Wednesday that using police officers to escort jurors during their deliberations created an "atmosphere of guilt."

"It gave the impression that there was danger and that my client was guilty," he said.

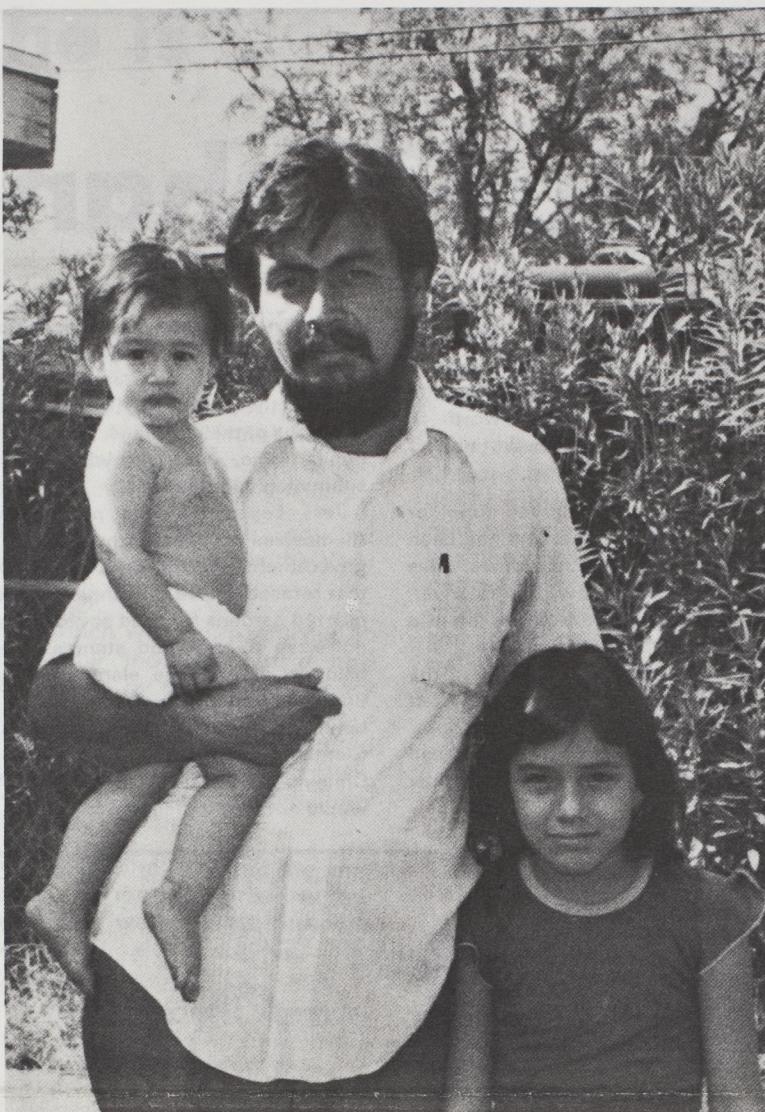
Lopez was found guilty of conspiring to deposit an explosive and arson in connection with the fire at the college last April that caused \$3,000 damage. Testimony at the trial indicated Lopez was disturbed because college officials had planned a new program that might receive funds otherwise scheduled to his group.

ed. He said that although they were in uniform, the officers wore weapons and handcuffs exposed on their belts.

The policemen were used to escort jurors from the jury room to the courtroom — where they received further instructions—and then back to the jury room.

They were called by court personnel who suspected that some of the defendant's friends who were in court might cause problems. One spectator at the trial had what was thought to be a large stick in his back pocket, but it turned out to be a flute.

Lopez was found guilty of conspiring to deposit an explosive and arson in connection with the fire at the college last April that caused \$3,000 damage. Testimony at the trial indicated Lopez was disturbed because college officials had planned a new program that might receive funds otherwise scheduled to his group.



Why are you paying to send this man to jail?

The State against

Remnants of the '60's

The issue is change

Something ugly is happening in Maricopa County when a man is tried for his beliefs, for his attempts to change conditions for humanity.

We thought the excesses of the '60's were over. We thought the government, in its jailing of Martin Luther King, Daniel Berrigan and Daniel Ellsworth had learned that jailing a man on charges of conspiracy for his political beliefs does not go down well with Americans' ideas of justice. Those trials were ineffectual, not just because those men's ideas were right, but also because Americans became disgusted with the tactics used by the state.

We see those same tactics used now against Jess Lopez--the same false charges of conspiracy, the same persecution for his beliefs,

the same "we'll get him" mentality is at work here.

A fire was started at Glendale Community College in April. It caused \$8,000 worth of damage. A follower of Lopez' was first picked up for questioning about the crime.

The follower had already served time for drug pushing, for check forgery and had been placed in a mental institution four times, once because of violence. And now, this follower, who in March had been fired from his job as a janitor at the college, faced prison again.

He told police he had been involved in the fire, and then in secret, made a deal to get himself off. The bargain was sealed at Lopez' preliminary hearing--the follower was freed and his testimony gave the state the man they were out to get.

The fire was not Jess Lopez' crime. His crime was instead, a refusal to go along with a system which perpetuates discrimination, rezones the poor from their homes, robs the Chicanos of their heritage, puts families on the public dole, and crowds prisoners into subhuman degradations.

Jess Lopez told the people to look to themselves and each other instead of to the government. He led boycotts of businesses that refused to hire Chicanos, cleared land and planted gardens for food so that people would not have to use food stamps, worked as a bilingual aide in the elementary schools so Spanish-speaking children would not fall behind, promoted Chicano cultural groups at Glendale Community College as well as Chicano studies so that Mexican-Americans would not forget their heritage.

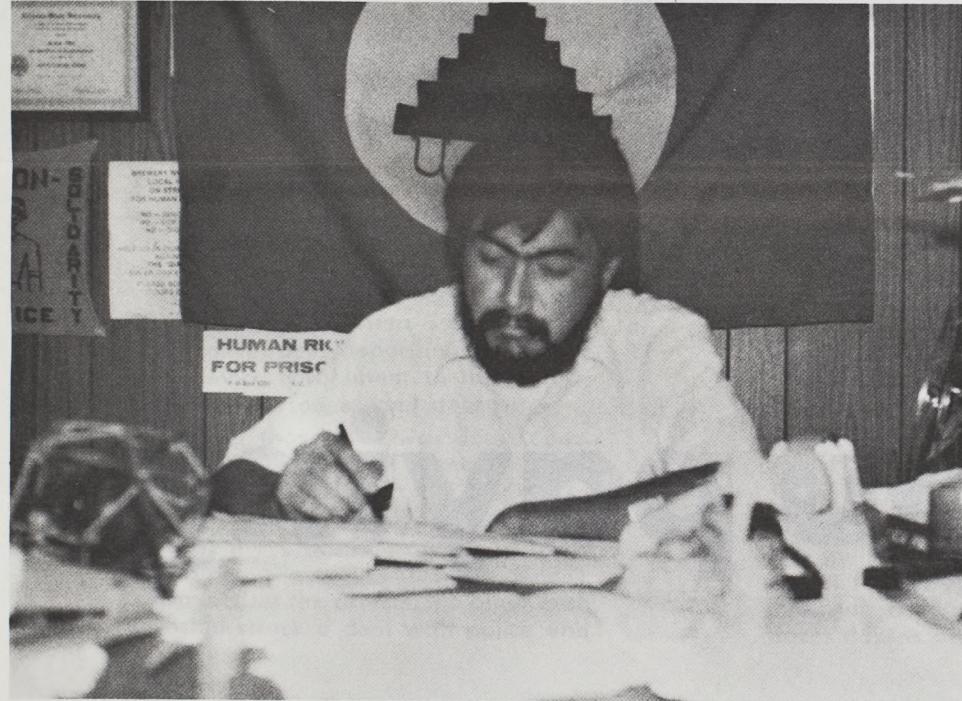
He sought grants for students so they could learn their way out of poverty. He led petition drives to end the rezoning of generations-old land to industrial use. His efforts for prisoners led to an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit which will end overcrowding at the Arizona prisons.

In short, he sought to change the system--he "made waves."

Public officials in his home city of Glendale have called him "Little more than a common radical."

But then leaders who push for the rights of humanity have always been called radical, and they also have found betrayal and persecution for their beliefs.

The tactics of the '60's were disgusting then, now their use is contemptible.



Jess founded the United Barrio Union, and devoted most of his efforts the past few years. The objectives of the organization that have always been 1) Protection of la familia, 2) Of land and 3) The culture of the Chicano in the barrio.

Of rights, truth and justice

The State's prosecution of a man who has done nothing but good for his community is a bad idea--bad for the taxpayer's money being spent on a trial, bad for those he is helping, bad for all of us.

Jess Lopez made a lot of waves over the past seven years--seeking the rights for his people that are guaranteed to all of us by the U.S. Constitution. He has angered many people who would rather see the injustices continue, quietly.

Through his efforts, changes have been made--a park has been built, homes have been protected from destruction by industry, people have found jobs and overcrowding will be reduced at Florence Prison.

Because he has worked successfully to

change the system, using its rules--even to the point of running for election to Glendale City Council, those who know him feel the charges brought against him by the state are absurd. They know that instead, these charges come from those who would like to see him put out of the way.

The state has no evidence that Jess Lopez started the fire at Glendale Community College. Lacking such evidence, they held him for trial on the testimony of a felon, a convicted dope pusher, who was first arrested for the crime and then released in exchange for his betrayal of a man who had befriended him. What truth would a man tell who faced a third sentence, who had been in a mental institution four times, once for violence?

The state had to go on this man's word--they had nothing else. Several months after the fire, they sought to search the car Jess Lopez was driving, but were unable to find a judge who would issue a search warrant.

We are left to speculate whether a red-faced FBI and Glendale Police Department then may have sought to cover its embarrassment over not having a real suspect by going to court to have Jess put away.

This is the real ugliness in this case.

Public officials have called Jess Lopez a "Common radical." But common radicals have always been at the forefront in securing human rights--they also have always betrayed and persecuted.

The state's tactics are obvious--but should they be allowed to win?

yearly), county prosecutor (salary \$30,000 yearly), a bailiff, court reporters, transcriber, and Maricopa County Security Division employees to keep order during the trial.

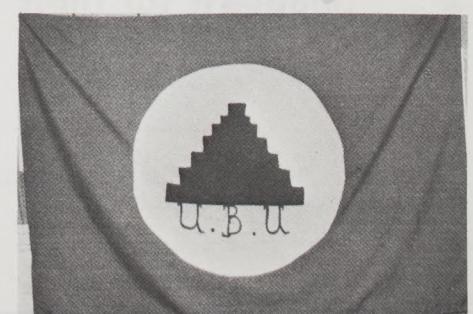
Also used will be researchers to gather background on related cases, statutes, and disputable points of law (at a minimum \$4.50 per hour) and the judge's secretary (\$650 monthly salary).

Also included in the costs of the case is the time spent by the Glendale Police Department in looking for evidence, making investigations, trying to get search warrants. Fire department costs are figured for extinguishing the blaze, investigative work on the scene and use of the Department of Public Safety laboratory.

These agencies will also bill the taxpayers for their time spent waiting and testifying at the trial itself as well as appearances at the preliminary hearing.

The FBI also spent time on the case at taxpayer costs.

The estimated \$25,000 for the trial is that for the Superior Court trial only. It does not include costs for the preliminary hearing in July or those incarceration costs at the Glendale and Maricopa County jails for detaining Jess Lopez.



Jess Lopez

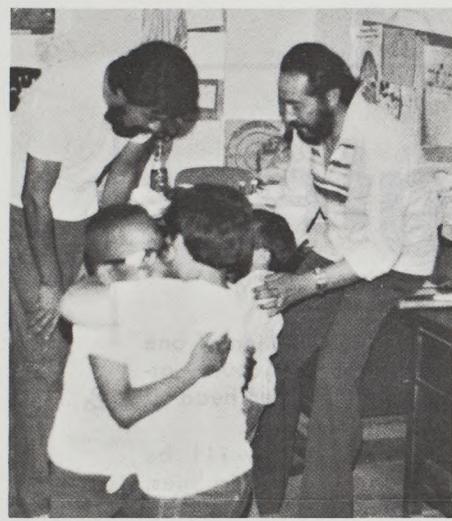
Who he is ...

in his words

I, Jess Lopez, was born in Phoenix and grew up in the barrio of Sonorita in Glendale, Arizona. Sonorita was the first Chicano community of Glendale. The people were workers in the fields.

Growing up in Sonorita was painful to me for I witnessed how the growers would abuse my mother, my sisters and myself. They used us for harsh labor and only for their benefit.

I have seen my people, who could no longer take the oppression, turn to drugs to ease the pain.



Jess also worked as a bilingual aide in the Glendale Elementary School System, helping perpetuate and instill a sense of pride in Chicanitos.

I have felt and seen the harassment of the police. I, myself, first experienced it at the age of nine when I was apprehended in a local store for first



Jess grew up in Sonorita, the first Chicano barrio of Glendale. To date, he has never left the barrio, but instead, has worked in every way possible to upgrade and protect the culture of a people who have found themselves steadily overcome by industry, taxes, and laws they do not want.

degree burglary. I was placed in a juvenile detention hall, El Ranchito. From that, I gained insight into being in a "correctional" institution.

I left my family in Sonorita at the age of 15, in search of a father I had never known. Two years of wandering ended with me in prison, charged with disturbing the peace. Again, the legal system claimed me as a victim. I could-

n't buy my way out by paying the fine, so I spent three months in the county jail and nine months in the Tracey Correctional Center in California.

When I was released in April, 1970, I returned to Arizona on an out-of-state release and came under the jurisdiction of the Arizona State Department of Corrections. I was on a four-year parole.

Shortly after that, I was inducted into the Army, serving during the Vietnam War as an aircraft mechanic.

After my hitch was up, I returned to Sonorita. I saw that the barrio had been demolished by the money-hungry industrialists. Where there once were trees, now there were high-powered transmission lines and transformers. Where our neighbors once lived, now stood a factory.

Because of the industry and the zoning changes, my mother's property taxes on her home were raised. Still, she continued to struggle, to survive.

All my childhood friends were now addicted to drugs or doing time in prison for drug-related crimes.

It was then I began to realize that something had to be done in order to preserve our land, our way of life that was slowly being destroyed by "progress."

Some of the people of the community and I began to meet at street corners and discuss ideas as to how we could bring about positive changes in the barrio. Our problem in making

labor she performed day-to-day.

In January, 1972, I ran on a non-partisan ticket for Glendale City Council. I ran my campaign on an anti-racist platform. The City of Glendale had never seen such a turn-out for an election in its history and I lost the election.

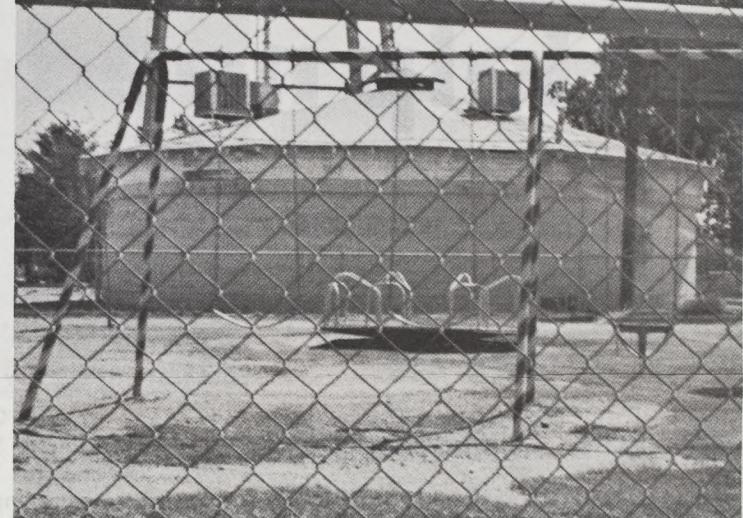
In 1973, I helped in the struggle to reorganize the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) group at Glendale Community College, which had become a stagnant social club. I became vice-president and instituted demands for more minority services on campus. We, through bringing the campus to the barrio, managed to acquire from the college board, a Chi-

labor she performed day-to-day.

These successes led to the formation of the United Barrio Union and La Cooperativa, to continue work both inside and outside of the barrio on conditions that affected us.

We initiated a non-violent struggle for rights of prisoners at the Arizona State Prison at Florence. We placed demands on our elected officials for these human rights. The struggle has culminated successfully through a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, in a court order to reduce the inmate population there by half and to institute other health and safety reforms.

Now, we are in the process of de-



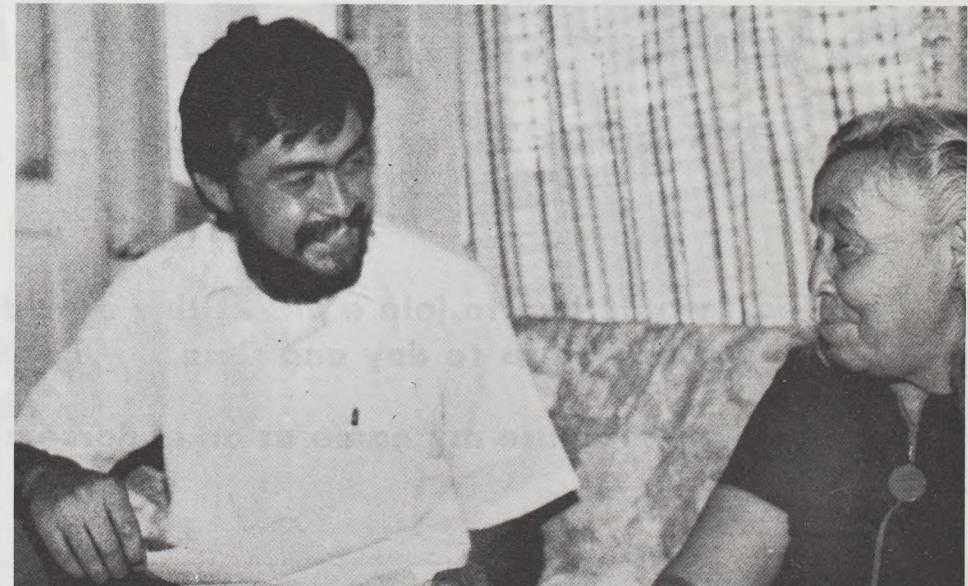
One of the many accomplishments of Jess' included the installation of a park in the barrio in Glendale in 1974. Although small, the park stands today as a symbol of persistence of a man who cares, and at the same time, as a symbol of a man who cares, and at the same time, as a symbol of the disregard the city has for the Chicano.

financial aids office.

I wanted to see more concrete changes. In 1974, I began to organize the families of Sonorita to acquire a badly needed park for our children. After many meetings, we approached the Glendale City Council with our collective requests and we were allotted our park, now called Plaza Sonorita.

manding jobs for all the people of the Barrios, including ex-offenders, both men and women.

I believe the struggle must continue until the final victory of the liberation of Nuestra Raza in the barrios is brought about — until we, ourselves, have full control of the productive forces in all of the barrios of America.



One of Jess' primary concerns was and continues to be the plight of the elderly Chicano. For years, Jess has worked with the elderly, helping them understand the warped political system affecting their lives. Jess established La Cooperativa in 1976, an incorporated organization that provided basic food to the poor in Glendale.

Que Viva la justicia para Jess Lopez

Help needed for struggle

At 12:27 a.m. April 26, firemen responded to a fire at Glendale Community College that caused an estimated \$8,000 damage to the office of Homero Lopez, director of research and development. At that time, police went on a lead that one man was seen running from the college after the explosion rocked the administration building.

Investigations continued and June 29, two Glendale men were charged with conspiracy, depositing an explosive device with intent to injure property and arson second degree.

One of those men was Jess Lopez, a longtime defender of human dignity, who has devoted years of his life to protection of the family, land and culture of the Chicano in the barrios of Glendale.

Days after the arrests, the other man arrested struck a deal with police and

he county attorneys. In a plea bargain settlement, the suspect agreed to testify against Lopez in exchange for five years probation on a second degree arson charge to which he pleaded guilty.

A week later in Glendale Precinct Justice Court, Jess Lopez was bound over to Superior Court on the original charges that carry a maximum of 19 years imprisonment. The only testimony the court heard was from the suspect. Despite that suspect's long history of convictions, and time spent in mental institutions, once involving a violent crime, the court accepted the testimony, and help Lopez answerable o still another "trial."

At his arraignment, Lopez pleaded not guilty to all three charges.

But time is running out on Jess. At his trial, continued to October, Lopez faces dozens of researchers being used

against him under the direction of one of the highest paid criminal county attorneys in the state — former head of the criminal county division.

In addition, Washington will be brought in to testify on technicalities, on windows, on bombs . . . all to send one man, Jess Lopez, to prison. To prison, because Jess had the courage to be a truly "active citizen." He had the courage to say to city officials, "You're wrong, you're exploiting us." To say with patience time and again, "you will not devour us with smog, nor exploit our people's strength with destructive employment.

Jess has one attorney to counter that "legal" elaborate structure sometime next month. Donations would help to offset the high price of his bail, set at \$22,000, and other court expenses, and letters of endorsement would be appreciated.

YES, you can count on me to give my support to human rights and Jess Lopez.

Here is my donation of:

\$1 \$5 \$10 \$25 \$

Yes, I would like to join a picket line outside the court house during Jess Lopez' trial, please contact me as to day and time.

Yes, you may use my name as an endorsement of support for Jess Lopez' fight for freedom.

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone Number _____

September 30, 1977

STATEMENT BY GUSTAVO GUTIERREZ, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE LEAGUE

In the trial starting today, Jess Lopez is facing 20 years behind bars. But we in the community know that Jess Lopez is completely innocent, and the state knows this too. The government has no real evidence against Jess. So why are they prosecuting him on these charges?

The reason they are trying to put Jess Lopez in prison is that they don't like his legal, peaceful, political activities and ideas. Jess Lopez is a founder and leader of the United Barrio Union. Jess has led many community struggles in the barrio of Sonorita in Glendale. Recently, Jess led the way in organizing support for the most basic human rights of prisoners in the state prison in Florence. It is for this type of work that the government wants to put Jess in prison himself. Yes, Jess is not really being prosecuted for what happened at Glendale Community College. That incident is just an excuse to frame-up Jess Lopez, because of his political work in defense of the Chicano community. This case is like the frame-ups of Angela Davis, Reies Tijerina, and others. We demand that the government drop all charges immediately.

If the state succeeds in framing up Jess Lopez and putting him in prison, it will be a blow to all those who believe in justice, and to the entire Chicano community. We call on all Chicanos and all working people to support Jess Lopez against these false charges, whether they agree with all his ideas or not. There will be a barbecue dinner and rally in support of Jess Lopez at South Mountain Park on Saturday, October 1, 1977, at 5:00 p.m. in Ramada 10.

The police have also harassed Santiago Serna, another member of the Human Rights Defense League. Santiago was assaulted without provocation in front of his daughter's house by plainclothes cops. We protest this police brutality and harassment and demand that it be stopped now.

For more information contact:

The Human Rights Defense League
6605 North 58th Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301
942-0422

\$50,000 DAMAGE AT COLLEGE

'Time For War' Bomb Described

The disgruntled leader of the United Barrio Union (UBU) said he wanted war — so he started one. On April 26 he placed a homemade bomb in the Glendale Community College administration building, testified UBU member Gerardo Rivera.

The explosion caused more than \$50,000 in damages.

Rivera told a Superior Court jury yesterday that defendant Jess Lopez, 28, was angered by a proposal to start an ex-offender program at the college. According to the witness, Lopez felt his Chicano group was to be slighted in its receipt of funds for program participation.

THE NIGHT that Rivera and Lopez discussed that proposed program, Lopez allegedly repeated, "It's time for war," and proceeded to construct a gasoline bomb in an empty beer bottle. Lopez took both the bomb and a simulator to the college the night of the explosion.

A man named Ron Solares, candidate for student body president, drove the

car that carried Lopez and Rivera to the college.

Solares, a scholarship student, was afraid to accompany the two, but agreed to drive them to the school.

Rivera admitted yesterday that he is an ex-convict and former mental patient who has had repeated problems with crime, drugs, suicide and mental breakdown.

The witness agreed to plead guilty to arson charges with a stipulated five year's probation if he testified against Lopez, who is accused of arson and depositing an explosive.

Rivera told jurors that he met Lopez

while the defendant was a "guest speaker" at the Arizona State Prison. Judge Sandra O'Connor refused to let Rivera say what Lopez spoke about, but the witness did testify he was serving a sentence for forgery at the time.

WHEN MEMBERS of the UBU met in Glendale the night before the bombing, all had been drinking beer, but Rivera said he heard Lopez respond to the ex-offender proposal by saying, "They just don't know who they're messing with."

When Rivera said he asked Lopez why the group didn't bomb an individual's house rather than the school, Lopez allegedly answered, "This (the school

bombing) would make the movement stronger."

Although Rivera appeared to show neither aversion nor regrets about helping to cause extensive damage to the school he is still attending, he told jurors he went along with the bombing "to help Jess."

Besides being enrolled as a student, Rivera said under cross examination by defense attorney Calvin Lee, he worked as a college janitor and had access to keys to buildings.

AFTER RIVERA saw and heard the explosion, Solares and Rivera drove near the administration building to pick up Lopez, the witness said. "I asked him how it went, and he said he couldn't get in (the building) but felt he got the job done."

Rivera, 28, is still a student at Glendale College, and testified he earns above average grades. His major is administration of justice.

The trial continues today before Judge O'Connor.

The Phoenix Gazette
Metro News
Section B

Wednesday, October 5, 1977

Pages 1 to 12

ANALYSIS OF THE STRIKE: PRISON FIGHTERS

By Ron Ridenhour

Jess Lopez stood in the freshly-raked dust in front of Arizona State prison as the sun rose and warmed the frozen desert air last Monday morning, a silent, solitary and somewhat forlorn metaphor for the plight of 1,850 "main yard" inmates beginning the first hours of a long-scheduled sit-down strike designed to draw attention to the prisoners' 35 item list of grievances against the state prison's medieval conditions, practices, and administrators.

Lopez, a 17 month veteran of ASP's inmate life, had been in Florence waiting for the sun to rise and the strike to begin since 4 a.m. He was there, he said, to give the inmates support and to show them that people on "the outside" care.

Not many do.

The fire-engine red bullhorn Jezz Lopez brought sat silently atop his clipboard and its yellow pad all morning and then all afternoon. Lopez used the bullhorn a few times, shouting messages to the few trustees who wandered within range and then out again just ahead of the guards, like old ewes testing the outer limits of the shepherd's dogs' patience. The ten or so weatherbeaten posters with messages of protest and prisoner solidarity scrawled across their faces sat uncarried in a heap near the

bullhorn. There were no crowds to control. There were no bodies to back up Lopez' hoped-for show of public support.

Even the 20 or so ex-cons Jess Lopez extracted personal promises from to support the strike in person outside the prison's furthest barbed wire fences didn't show. Neither did any members of the more than 80 families of inmates Lopez contacted and who, he says, promised to come. Jess and his family were there. No one else came, at least not that morning.

"It's so hard for people to understand," Lopez said. "They just don't see how it connects to their lives. Even the families—they don't come."

Few people understand, Jess Lopez believes, the systematic brutality of the prison system or its ultimate social costs. Lopez shares a growing belief about American prisons: they are cram courses in hard core crime, teaching relatively innocent offenders—doing time for victimless crimes like simple possession of marijuana—a whole kit bag of hard core criminal skills. According to Lopez roughly 46 per cent of Arizona State Prison's inmate population falls into the victimless criminal category.

Conditions at Arizona State Prison, according to Lopez are close to, but not quite as brutal as those of the Soviet Gulag prison

Editor's Note. Reports of the strike at the Arizona State Prison in Florence have been so one-sided as to be embarrassing. With few exceptions the official line is consistently laid out as though it were fact. The fact that there is no contact with "the other side of the story" is rarely if ever alluded to. So all the news comes from "the top of the wall" none from behind it. The New Times has been committed to prison reporting for most of its five year history and in 1972, 1973 and 1974 Contributing Editor Mark Nykanen was awarded grants from the Washington-based Fund for Investigative Journalism to develop the story

result we have extensive contacts among both inmates and guards as to conditions in the prison. The following analysis makes use of those contacts as well as several trips to Florence by reporter Ridenhour. Some of the reports in the following story are "unconfirmed" in that we were unable to gain access to the prison to seek further verification as is any news organization's normal procedure. But the press has been denied access to the "inside" and as long as that condition exists the New Times feels that it is imperative to continue to present the side of the corrections controversy too often and too easily ignored.

system. (Lopez is in turn supported by numerous inmate communications with New Times, the Arizona Civil Liberties Union, state legislators and various other citizens on "the outside.") "You come out like an animal," Lopez told a press conference Thursday morning, "when you're being treated like an animal."

State Corrections Director John Moran and Arizona State Prison Warden Harold Cardwell will have absolutely no truck with such loose talk. Both men refuse to even discuss the substance of the 35 grievances the inmates list as the reasons behind their non-violent strike. Moran, instead, continues to hide behind the fiction that he has yet to be "formally" presented with the charges. To keep talk to a minimum Moran has clamped a tight lid of secrecy around the prison and even admonished the state legislature to keep its mouth shut.

Rather than deal with inmate charges that he runs a brutal, arbitrary, concentration-camp type regime at Florence, Warden Cardwell's response sounds almost as if the prisoners themselves wrote it to support their own allegations. "We've got to find out who started this thing before we can stop it," Cardwell told reporters outside the prison walls on Tuesday morning. Accompanying his call for suppression of the inmates rather than resolution of their grievances, Cardwell announced that his staff has been "interviewing" inmates "individually" and that the prison administration will deal only with "individuals" and not with "groups."

The whole problem, as far as Moran could phrase it for the Arizona State Senate Committee on Appropriations Tuesday morning, is that "two groups are in a power struggle with the administration to show us who is going to govern their lives."

Most inmates would likely agree with Moran's analysis—as far as it goes. The word "govern" is the key stumbling block, for it implies lawful conduct by the governors as well as the governed. It is precisely because an overwhelming majority of the

inmates are convinced that Cardwell and his guards believe themselves "above the touch of law" that a demand for the resignations of Moran, Cardwell and several of Cardwell's chief subordinates heads the list of inmate grievances.

The majority of the remaining grievances echo the same theme. They contain a demand for a federal investigation of brutality by Cardwell's guards, federal investigations and audits of inmate funds, athletic funds, mess hall finances and state funds spent on four new buildings at the prison. Inmates also charge prison officials with illegally confiscating their mail, arbitrary and harsh punishments for minor infractions, near total violations of the meanest rules of due process at hearings on the alleged infractions. Additionally, the demands called for investigations and repairs of the prison water and sewage systems, a formalized code of conduct for the guards to match that of the inmates and adequate medical care.

Moran and Cardwell have both steadfastly refused to discuss these issues, pretending that because the prisoners themselves have raised the questions they simply need not be dealt with. Other observers, however, have already spoken out, verifying at least some of the inmates' charges.

State Senator Lucy Davidson (Dem-Tucson), speaking at Democratic luncheon in Tucson the day the strike began, said medical conditions at the state prison reflect "horrendous, deplorable neglect." Senator Davidson also said that prisoners in some cellblocks often go as long as two weeks between baths and that repairs on toilets and showers often take as long.

New Times sources inside the prison also report that guards use high-powered water hoses on prisoners in their cells as a disciplinary measure. Another frequent means of either "discipline" or personal retribution by guards against inmates is the throwing of tear gas canisters into locked and occupied cells.

Prison:

continued from page 1

Sources also charge that the inmate demand for a federal investigation of the inmate's athletic and recreational fund revolves around Warden Cardwell's use of these monies to purchase "personal items of furnishings for his home."

Other sources among the prison staff charge that a large, well-organized network of prison guards are making whopping profits selling marijuana, heroin and other drugs to inmates. A one ounce bag of pot that normally sells for \$10 on the street, for instance, brings somewhere between \$100 and \$150 behind the wall at Florence.

One major inmate complaint is the lack of an effective grievance procedure. Warden Cardwell claimed in a letter dated August 6, 1975 to Alyce Beaty, Chairwoman of the Tucson-based Arizona Citizens Committee on Corrections, that "the Department of Corrections has established a very effective grievance procedure" that "has been found satisfactory by all concerned."

The inmates, however, tell a different story. According to New Times sources behind the wall, the grievance system Cardwell set up is "a great hoax." There are no formal guidelines by which the Grievance Review Committee (composed of prison personnel) operates. There are no stated penalties for findings against the staff for abuse of inmates. Inmates are seldom, if ever, present during the investigation. Inmates do not believe any penalties or reprimands are ever assessed against the guards for their abuse of prisoners. Retributions against inmates who file grievances against guards, according to inmates, are swift and unfettered.

On the other hand, the U.S. District Court in Phoenix recently upheld the prison staff-drafted Inmate Reference Manual which was supposed to provide guidelines for proper guard conduct. Captain Don Herdon was reportedly overheard telling fellow guards that the manual is one of the "best things that ever happened for the staff and against the inmates." The reason: it gave the Prison Disciplinary Committee a "blank check to do whatever it wanted to" to in-

mates. Judge Copple's ruling accepted a gaping loophole in the regulations. The manual leaves it up to the staff to decide whether or not implementing the rules would constitute a "threat to the security of the prison." This provision, according to the inmates, has become the smokescreen behind which the prison staff shields its regular and brutal abuse of the inmates.

Neither Cardwell nor Moran are strangers to such charges. Moran came to Arizona's prison system from Delaware, fleeing there two months after the Delaware State Senate demanded his resignation.

Cardwell's background is truly blood-thirsty. Prior to Cardwell's employment by Moran in 1973, ASP's present warden held the same position at the Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP) for five years. Cardwell's legacy at OSP was sufficiently brutal to garner examination by a United States Senate subcommittee investigation, the testimony to which filled over 200 pages in the subcommittee's final report.

One witness against Cardwell's OSP regime listed by name 58 prisoners who were either abused or murdered under Cardwell's tenure, 38 who attempted suicide or self-mutilation, 19 who suffered mental breakdowns and 16 who went without eating for as long as 38 days.

The pages are filled with case histories of brutal beatings of inmates by Cardwell's guards, prisoners being sprayed down their throats or up their rectums with mace, prisoners sexually assaulted, starved, and denied medical care that resulted in death. Several Cardwell lieutenants from his reign at OSP followed him to Arizona State Prison. They also are on the inmate list of demanded resignations.

Under the conditions imposed by Warden Cardwell's reign, according to one inmate, a prisoner's "mind becomes his last place of refuge." Under Cardwell, however, the mind became a sanctuary under attack. Inmate sources say that Cardwell's arrival at ASP brought a wave of "behavior modification" programs. Sources are vague about the exact nature of Cardwell's "behavior modification" programs, but they are said to involve the use of drugs, assignment to special sections in several cellblocks, and "treatment" of prisoners similar to the brainwashing techniques used on American POWs during the Korean war.

Whatever their exact nature, Cardwell's "behavior mod" operations are feared throughout the prison. Guards dictate the meanest details of the inmates' daily lives, enforcing those rules and a "whole gamut" of "commands of harrassment, the disobeying of which results in confinement in behavior modification areas of the prison." There are "housing accommodations" in the prison's behavior modification programs for 268 men. Thirty-six of those are "isolation" cells, "holes." They are always full, the inmates say.

Seven of Cardwell's isolation cells are currently occupied, according to Jess Lopez, by inmates who had been working with him to organize the current strike. At their request, Lopez had regular access to

Prison officials refuse to even discuss the grievances behind the strike.

main yard inmates under a volunteer educational program from January through August, 1975. Cardwell barred Lopez from the prison in August as part of a drive to head off the current prisoner's strike—which was originally scheduled for late August.

Cardwell's drive began in June, Lopez said last week, when an inmate active in organizing the strike for August was put in isolation. The current strike came on the third try. The first two were pre-empted when pro-strike activists were slammed into isolation and grievance lists were twice confiscated during eleventh hour shakedown inspections. Several strike leaders, according to Lopez, are scheduled for transfer to prisons in New Mexico, New Jersey, and Colorado for intensive behavior modification programs involving attempts at chemically inducing a permanent change of mind.

Nancy Hicks, executive director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union, believes the prisoners grievances should at least be heard. Unlike the Arizona Republic, the American Civil Liberties Union and the United States Congress and the U.S. Supreme court all agree that even incarcerated, convicted felons have civil rights that must be guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. "We receive so many pleas for help from prisoners (at Floren-

ce)," Hicks said last week, "it is impossible to regard them all as frivolous."

Warden Cardwell apparently doesn't consider the prisoners' complaints frivolous either, although neither does it appear he is in any hurry to resolve them.

The strike is intended to be "totally non-violent," according to Lopez. Part of what the strikers are trying to do, Lopez said, is end the reign of brutality behind the wall. He did not know that Jessie Borjoquez, in whose cell two prison guards were murdered in 1973, was reportedly stabbed and seriously wounded on Saturday, January 3, just two days before the strike began. If the report is true, it is the second attempt on Borjoquez' life by other inmates since his involvement in the mystery shrouded 1973 double murder.

Lopez has been standing daily vigil in the dust outside the wire at Florence. "I hope they haven't hurt nobody yet," Lopez said last Thursday, January 8. But he is uneasy. He thinks some inmates may already have been shot by prison guards. Sometime shortly after noon on Tuesday, January 6, Lopez heard shots, "a couple," from behind the wall. Then it was silent for awhile. An ambulance came and disappeared behind "B gate," the main entrance to cellblock B where a large part of the disturbance is said to be located. It never came out, at least not by the front way.

Not long after the shots were heard and the ambulance disappeared an Arizona State Prison truck with a loudspeaker mounted on the cab pulled into the main prison gate. It sat there, all afternoon, its automatic megaphone blasting out routine radio calls, music and other noise apparently designed to mask whatever sounds were coming from behind the wall. Prison officials were unavailable for comment on the alleged incident.

Lopez and a few others are deeply concerned. "If they don't deal with the problems and stop the violence and brutality," he said last week, "sooner or later it's gonna overflow like Attica." It was ominous, if perhaps only coincidental, that on the day the strike began Warden Cardwell was also quoted in the news comparing the Arizona State Prison situation to Attica. The prisoners' demands are ridiculous, the warden said, just like those of the inmates at Attica were.

Chicano group says activist was framed in arson case

By FRANK TURCO

Glendale chicano organization charged Friday that activist Jesse Lopez was framed by the government in an arson fire in April at Glendale Community College.

Justino Gutierrez, a spokesman for the Human Rights Defense League and a member of the United Barrio Union, claimed Lopez was charged only because the government imposed his work with the chicano community.

"The reason they are trying to put him in prison is that they don't like legal, peaceful, political activities ideas," Gutierrez said at a press conference at the old county courthouse.



County Attorney Charles F. Hyder denied the claims, saying that his office only prosecutes cases when evidence indicates that the defendant is guilty.

"We don't care who the person is, they all are treated the same," he said.

Lopez was charged with arson in the fire that caused about \$3,000 damage to the college's administration office. Jury selection for his trial began Friday in Maricopa County Superior Court. Testimony is expected to begin Monday.

A co-defendant, Gerardo R. Rivera, pleaded guilty to arson earlier and is awaiting sentencing. He is expected to be a key prosecution witness.

Gutierrez said the government's

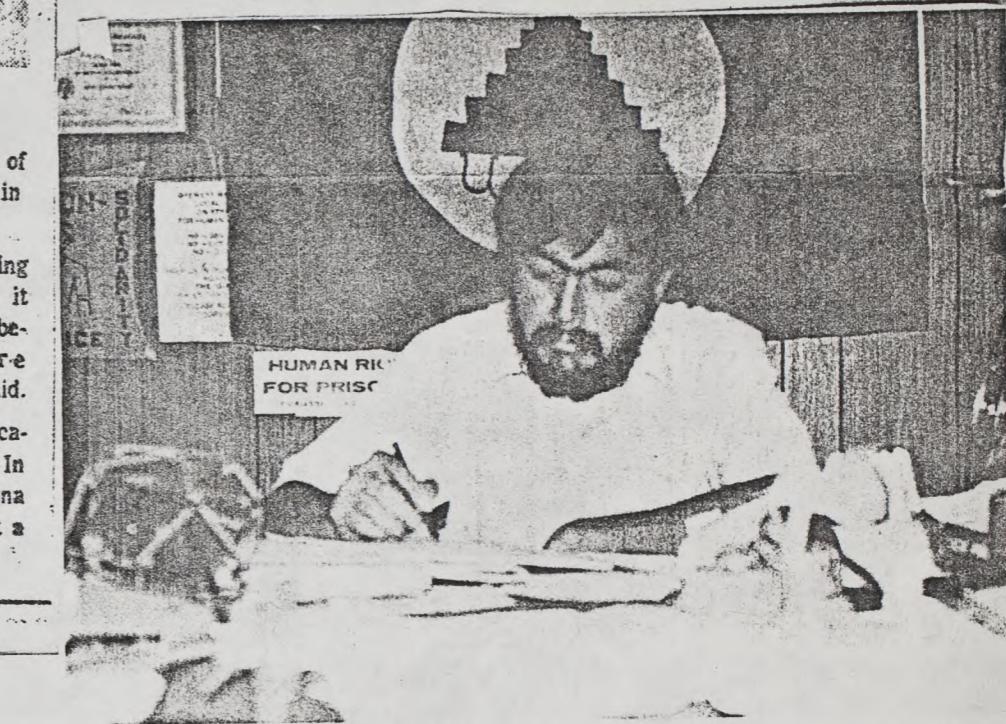
© The Arizona Republic Sat., Oct. 1, '77

Jesse Lopez

frame-up is similar to the case of black activist Angela Davis in California.

"If the state succeeds in framing Lopez and putting him in prison, it will be a blow to all those who believe in justice and to the entire chicano community," Gutierrez said.

Lopez has been active in the chicano community for several years. In 1976, he led a group to the Arizona State Prison in Florence to support a work stoppage by prison inmates.



Remnants of the '60's

The issue is change

Something ugly is happening in Maricopa County when a man is tried for his beliefs, for attempts to change conditions for humanity.

We thought the excesses of the '60's were over. We thought the government, in its jailing of Martin Luther King, Daniel Berrigan and Daniel Ellsworth had learned that jailing a man on charges of conspiracy for his political beliefs does not go down well with Americans' ideas of justice. Those trials were legal, not just because those men's ideas were right, but also because Americans became disgusted with the tactics used by the police.

We see those same tactics used now against Jess Lopez-the same false charges of conspiracy, the same persecution for his beliefs,

the same "we'll get him" mentality is at work here.

A fire was started at Glendale Community College in April. It caused \$8,000 worth of damage. A follower of Lopez was first picked up for questioning about the crime.

The follower had already served time for drug pushing, for check forgery and had been placed in a mental institution four times, once because of violence. And now, this follower, who in March had been fired from his job as a janitor at the college, faced prison again.

He told police he had been involved in the fire, and then in secret, made a deal to get himself off. The bargain was sealed at Lopez' preliminary hearing-the follower was freed and his testimony gave the state the man they were out to get.

The fire was not Jess Lopez' crime. His crime was instead, a refusal to go along with a system which perpetuates discrimination, rezones the poor from their homes, robs the Chicanos of their heritage, puts families on the public dole, and crowds prisoners into subhuman degradations.

Jess Lopez told the people to look to themselves and each other instead of to the government. He led boycotts of businesses that refused to hire Chicanos, cleared land and planted gardens for food so that people would not have to use food stamps, worked as a bilingual aide in the elementary schools so Spanish-speaking children would not fall behind, promoted Chicano cultural groups at Glendale Community College as well as Chicano studies so that Mexican-Americans would not forget their heritage.

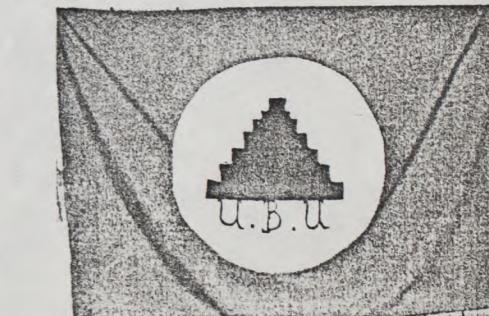
He sought grants for students so they could learn their way out of poverty. He led petition drives to end the rezoning of generations-old land to industrial use. His efforts for prisoners led to an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit which will end overcrowding at the Arizona prisons.

In short, he sought to change the system-he "made waves."

Public officials in his home city of Glendale have called him "Little more than a common radical."

But then leaders who push for the rights of humanity have always been called radical, and they also have found betrayal and persecution for their beliefs.

The tactics of the '60's were disgusting then, now their use is contemptible.



DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST JESS LOPEZ!

JESS LOPEZ is a Glendale Chicano activist, a leader of the United Barrio Union, and an outspoken opponent of inhumane conditions Chicanos, Blacks, and poor people face at Florence State Prison. Because Jess is committed to the needs of the Chicano community, he is being framed on charges of conspiracy and arson by the government. Lopez is innocent and deserves the support of all people concerned with justice.



JESSE LOPEZ

BARBECUE & RALLY

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK
ramada 10**

SATURDAY, OCT. 1 5:00

Music, Food, and Rally

Dinner \$2

Beverages extra

SPONSORED BY

Human Rights Defense League
Phoenix Call For Action
Phoenix Committee on Human Rights
in Latin America

PUBLICITY RELEASE

State of Arizona v. Jesse P. Lopez

Through his attorneys, Jess P. Lopez has filed a motion to be admitted to bail and to be released from custody during the pendency of his appeal in the Arizona Court of Appeals. This motion is based upon the legal issues raised in the Appellant's Brief filed along with the motion for release.

Lopez contends first that the state's failure to disclose to the defense a statement made by a potential witness inculpating a state's witness in the bombing violated the State's obligations under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). Second, Lopez argues that the trial court's failure to have substantial witness' testimony reread to the jury during jury deliberations, and after the jury's request, violated specific provisions of the American Bar Association standards relating to criminal trials and also specific provisions of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure. These two points, it is contended, establish "... reasonable grounds to believe that the conviction may be reversed on appeal," Rule 7.2(b), Az. Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The brief contends further that the state's trial testimony was substantially in conflict and inconsistent, leaving the defendant to be convicted solely on the basis of circumstantial and association evidence, all created or voiced by other co-participants in the incident.

UNITED BARRIO UNION!

6605 North 58th Avenue

GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301

934-3666



POLITICAL FRAME-UP: CHICANO ACTIVIST FOUND GUILTY

A blatantly racist all-white jury of seven women and one man returned a predictably guilty verdict against Jess Lopez, a leading Chicano activist from Glendale, Arizona. Lopez was framed on charges of conspiracy, arson and placing an explosive in a public building.

The verdict was predictable by the way the sham trial, which defense attorney Calvin Lee called a "travesty", was conducted. The defense filed a motion for a mistrial based on Judge Sandra O'Connor's denial of the jury's request for some important transcripts during their day and a half long deliberation, and on police intimidation of the jury as they were entering and leaving the court-room. The spectators were also needlessly harassed and searched.

Jess Lopez is completely innocent of the government charges of firebombing Glendale Community College. The state did not present a single shred of material evidence against the defendant. Their "case" rested on the testimony of people like Gerardo "Tino" Rivera, a convicted drug pusher who has been in mental institutions four times. Rivera admitted in his testimony that he actually did the firebombing, but falsely claimed that Jess Lopez told him to do it. In return for his frame-up testimony, Rivera was given five years probation. Another main state witness, Reynaldo Campos, was offered a job as a cop in return for his false testimony.

In addition to such "witnesses", the government brought in Ralph Cooper, an agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco. Cooper showed films of himself making bombs and exploding them. Prosecuting attorney Warren Smoot never explained how these films were supposed to prove anything against Jess Lopez or why the U.S. government, which dropped millions of bombs on Vietnam, felt that they had to prove again that they know how to make bombs.

The state chose to prosecute Jess Lopez because of his involvement in bringing to light the inhumane conditions that exist at the Arizona State Prison. This resulted in Federal District Court Judge Mueke's ruling that the State of Arizona was in violation of Federal guidelines regulating State Prisons. It is for protesting these inhumane prison conditions that the government wants to put Lopez himself in jail; he has not committed any illegal acts. In a word Jess Lopez is a political prisoner. Lopez faces a possible maximum sentence of 24 years in prison.

The Human Rights Defense League has been organizing support for Lopez. Many supporters picketed the courthouse twice during the week and a half long trial. A Defense League spokesperson said at a press conference after the trial, "The racist all-white jury is the exact opposite of a jury of peers which everyone is entitled to by the U.S. Constitution." This frame-up is a blow against all those of us who dare to struggle against injustice.

Jess Lopez told his supporters, "The truth has a way of coming out. Some of us may have to go to jail, but we will be victorious in the end."

The defense of political prisoners is the duty of all of us. Chicanos, Blacks, students, women and all workers should unite to defend those who risk everything for what they believe and are willing to pay the consequences, but the consequences are ours as well.

In a recent case in Boston, an arson ring which included prominent city officials and businessmen charged with crimes ranging from arson, fraud and conspiracy to manslaughter and murder were released on \$100.00 bail. This is in sharp contrast to Jess Lopez' bail of \$22,000.00, clearly showing the racist double standards used against Jess Lopez.

For more information contact the Human Rights Defense League

c/o United Barrio Union
6605 North 58th Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301

UNITED BARRIO UNION!

6605 North 58th Avenue
GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301



FREE JESUS LOPEZ!

Jesus Lopez is a Chicano activist and leader of the United Barrio Union. Jesus has been a leader of the fight for human rights, working closely with prisoners, ex-prisoners and families of prisoners.

The government is falsely accusing Jesus of setting a fire at Glendale Community College on April 25, 1977. Jesus is innocent. The charges are a complete frame-up. The government is framing Jesus because they are angered by his work in support of human rights and freedom for prisoners.

THE FACTS

There was a fire causing an estimated \$8,000 damage to the Administration building at Glendale Community College. Gerardo Rivera has admitted starting the fire; so why then is Jesus Lopez being charged with a crime he did not commit?

Jesus Lopez is being charged with second degree arson, conspiracy, and placing an explosive with the intent to injure property.

DEFEND JESUS LOPEZ

If we let Jesus Lopez be victimized like this by the government, then there will be more victimizations of those who are fighting for human rights. The whole Chicano Movement, the Black Movement, the Women's Movement, the Farmworker Movement, the Gay Movement and the entire Labor Movement should united to defend Jesus Lopez. An injury to one is an injury to all!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Funds are urgently needed to cover legal and publicity costs. the bond was set at \$22,000, an unjustly high amount. Funds are needed to help finance Jesus' fight to prove his innocence. The trial begins September 30, 1977, at 9:00 a.m., at the Old Courthouse, 125 West Washington, 2nd Floor. Everyone concerned about human rights should come to give spiritual and moral support to our brother Jesus Lopez.

For more information contact the Human Rights Defense League

c/o United Barrio Union
6605 North 58th Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301

939-3414