



FRENTE INDEPENDENTISTA BORICUA

Frente Independentista Boricua (El Frente) calls on the Puerto Rican community in New York and the diaspora at large to celebrate on Sunday June 14, 2020 the Day of Puerto Rican National Affirmation.

New York, NY, June 9th 2020

In lieu of the Puerto Rican Day Parade in NY on **Sunday June 14, 2020**, El Frente is calling on the Puerto Rican community in the United States to celebrate the "Day of Puerto Rican National Affirmation." The Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade has been canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All day Sunday June 14th, we urge our community, both in New York and across the diaspora, to take out their Puerto Rican flags, display them on their balconies or fire escapes, in their cars, motorcycles or bicycles, or proudly wave it on the streets and parks all over the United States as they walk, protest or picnic. On this day, we will swarm NYC and wherever else there is a Puerto Rican community with our flag and express our collective national pride.

At 1:00 pm, we call on all Puerto Ricans, wherever they may be, to upload photos, videos and messages to their respective social media platforms, saying: **Yo Soy Boricua Pa'que tu lo Sepas** and using the hashtags **#YoSoyBoricua2020** and **#PuertoRicanDay2020**.

Puerto Ricans have a long history of national affirmation within exile communities, and a history of resistance that doesn't include corporate sponsorships, commercial advertisements, politicians or celebrities in floats who do not genuinely engage with the community.

Our history is one of struggle and resistance; a people forced into exile, mostly for economic reasons, who had to face the American reality of employer abuse, low wage jobs, abhorrent housing conditions, discrimination and harassment by repressive and racist police.

Within that context, the first Puerto Rican parade was held in New York in 1958 – a day to affirm our national identity while dealing with the realities of the American experience. The parade was also a response to the repeal of the 10-year Gag law in Puerto Rico – a law which made it a criminal offense to possess the Puerto Rican flag or speak of independence. By marching that first year and raising the Puerto Rican national flag in 1958, Boricuas in the diaspora made a firm declaration of our patriotic affirmation.

As we call on Puerto Ricans to celebrate on this day and understanding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we urge all to take necessary protective measures like social distancing and wearing masks to protect your health and others.

Despite the pandemic, we have both the right and responsibility to celebrate our nationality, since that is where our strength as a social collective resides, and celebrate our rich culture. We know that the greater pandemic is colonialism bestowed upon our motherland, and we look forward to the collapse of the imperialist model that keeps us oppressed. We also reiterate our disdain for racism and police brutality, something that Puerto Rican, Latino and black communities have suffered from for far too long.

The current conditions require us to act and fight as a united people to overcome, not only the coronavirus pandemic, but above all, what is associated with it such as loss of jobs, reductions in hours and wages, lack of access to the health and adequate housing in New York City and other places where the Puerto Rican diaspora resides.

Finally, by taking a retrospective approach and considering the legacy of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in 1958, we invoke the spirit of that first parade as we affirm our nationality 62 years later in the face of all ongoing adversity Puerto Ricans continue to face. On Sunday, June 14, we call for everyone to affirm their Puerto Ricanness – **Yo Soy Boricua, Pa'que tu lo Sepas!**

[#YoSoyBoricua2020](#) [#PuertoRicanDay2020](#)

Contacts:

Ana López (646) 229-5133 * Eric Ramos (917) 200-2637

El Frente Independentista Boricua is formed by los Comités de la Resistencia Boricua, El Grito, Friends of PR Initiative, Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño - Comité de NY, Partido Nacionalista - Junta de Nueva York y Nueva Jersey, PRTP-Macheteros, Patria y Cultura, Puerto Rico Me llama, Unión Patriótica de Florida Central y Virtual Boricua, entre otros.



"El Frente" * www.elfrentepu.org * frenteindependentistaboricua@gmail.com

