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April 11, 1978

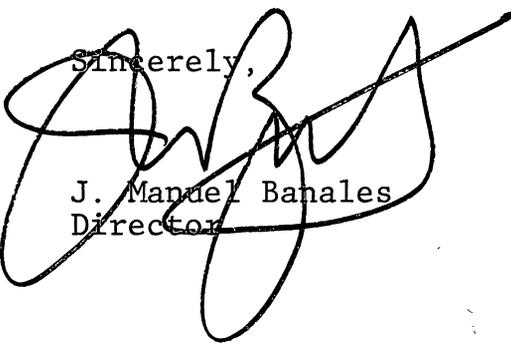
Dr. Hector Garcia  
G. I. FORUM  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Enclosed please find a Resolution duly adopted and approved by the Board of Directors for the Chicano Bar Association of South Texas, Inc. at its meeting on April 8, 1978 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

We would appreciate your support and endorsement of our action.

Sincerely,

  
J. Manuel Banales  
Director

JMB:otm  
Enc.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Joe Campos Torres, a human being, was mercilessly beaten and allowed to drown at the hands of Houston Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, the murderers of Jose Campos Torres, a human being, were tried in State Court and received a sentence of one year in jail probated for one year; and

WHEREAS, such a sentence caused such protest of the greatest magnitude that the Federal Government prosecuted the same Houston Police Officers under an indictment charging them with violating the civil rights of Joe Campos Torres, a human being; and

WHEREAS, a Federal jury did in fact convict the same Houston Police Officers under the indictment charging them with violating the civil rights of Joe Campos Torres, a human being; and

WHEREAS, Federal Judge Ross Sterling assessed punishment upon each of the Houston Police Officers convicted of violating the civil rights of Joe Campos Torres, a human being, to one year in jail for conspiracy and ten years in a Federal penitentiary for violating the civil rights of Joe Campos Torres, said ten years probated for a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, the said sentence amounts to nothing less than an utter disregard for equal justice under the law and shows Judge Sterling's insensitivity to basic human rights; and

WHEREAS, one Oscar Dovalina was convicted by a Texas jury upon a charge of attempting to kill a Houston police officer and was sentenced to fifty (50) years confinement in the Texas penitentiary, which conviction was recently affirmed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and which officer still lives; and

WHEREAS, such inequity confirms the fears of Chicanos that they do not receive equal treatment under the law and thereby breeds disrespect and distrust of the law; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental concept of equal justice requires that the rights of minority victims be vindicated and that those who would cause such deprivations must be deterred from such misconduct by heavy and hard punishment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the CHICANO BAR ASSOCIATION of South Texas, Inc. do hereby condemn the judgment of Federal Judge Ross Sterling in assessing such a meaningless sentence upon the murderers of Joe Campos Torres, a human being;

that said Judge Sterling set aside his order granting the Defendants probation and impose instead a minimum of ten years hard time in the penitentiary to each of the convicted Houston police officers; and

that should Judge Sterling refuse to do so, he be reprimanded and censured by the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council; and

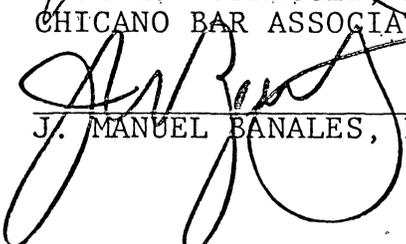
that Judge Sterling be further impeached and removed from office should he not resign immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the CHICANO BAR ASSOCIATION of South Texas, Inc. hereby demands that the civil rights of citizens be enforced to the full extent of the law and that those convicted of depriving the civil rights of citizens be punished severely.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the CHICANO BAR ASSOCIATION of South Texas, Inc. at its meeting on April 8, 1978 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

APPROVED AND SIGNED on this the 8th day of April, 1978.

  
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JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT  
CHICANO BAR ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.

  
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J. MANUEL BANALES, DIRECTOR