



**National Association
of Hispanic Journalists**

Dec. 12, 2002

Hipolito Acosta
District Director
INS
126 Northpoint Drive
Houston, TX 77060

Dear Mr. Acosta:

As president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, I was alarmed to learn that journalist Roger Calero was arrested Dec. 3 at Houston's international airport after returning from a reporting assignment in Cuba and Mexico. We were informed that Mr. Calero was detained due to a marijuana conviction that happened in the late 1980s while he was in high school.

It is our understanding that the INS granted him a green card 12 years ago and was fully aware of his drug conviction. Since then, Mr. Calero has been a productive member of society and a permanent resident of the United States. He is married to a U.S. citizen and has lived in this country for 17 years. Mr. Calero is currently the associate editor of *Perspective Mundial*, a Spanish-language news magazine based in New York.

We are concerned that his recent arrest and his pending deportation to his native Nicaragua is part of a growing attempt by the federal government to strip away press freedoms since Sept. 11. We call on the INS to reconsider its actions and to inform us why it is considering deporting Mr. Calero.

Sincerely,

Juan Gonzalez
NAHJ President

JUAN GONZALEZ
President
Columnist
New York Daily News

ART RASCON
Vice-President, Broadcast
News Anchor/Reporter
KTRK-TV

JONATHAN HIGUERA
Vice President, Print
Business Writer
Arizona Daily Star

JAVIER ALDAPE
Financial Officer
Publisher, La Estrella
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ANNE L. VASQUEZ
Secretary
Race & Demographics Editor
San Jose Mercury News

MICHELE SALCEDO
General At-Large Officer
Assistant News Editor
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

LIZA GROSS
Spanish Language
At-Large Officer
Executive Managing Editor
El Nuevo Dia

ROSA RAMIREZ
Student At-Large Representative
George Washington University

IVÁN ROMÁN
Region 1 Director
San Juan Bureau Chief
The Orlando Sentinel

ROSE MARIE ARCE
Region 2 Director
Producer
CNN

GINA I. ACOSTA
Region 3 Director
Assistant Editor, Editorial
The Washington Post

RAFAEL OLMEDA
Region 4 Director
Reporter
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

NORA E. LOPEZ
Region 5 Director
Criminal Justice Editor
San Antonio Express-News

ROSA MARIA SANTANA
Region 6 Director
Reporter
The Plain Dealer

O. RICARDO PIMENTEL
Region 7 Director
Editorial Columnist
Arizona Republic

VERONICA VILLAFANE
Region 8 Director
Anchor/Reporter
San Jose Mercury News

CECILIA ALVEAR
Ex-Officio
Producer
NBC News

ANNA M. LOPEZ
Executive Director