

October 25, 2012

*Hon. Barack Hussein Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500*

Dear Mr. President:

The people of Puerto Rico, our brothers and sisters living in the United States and the inhabitants of Vieques and Culebra are appealing, through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Puerto Rico, to your multiple times expressed concern for the poor and suffering, for the care of the health for all, for justice, equality and hope for all people, at all time.

As is well known around the World, our pristine Islands of Vieques and Culebra, were during more than half a Century utilized by the armed forces of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to practice air to land, water to land and land to land live bombing and also, as dumping grounds for military materials. Scientific epidemiological studies realized by Dr. Carmen Ortiz Roqué et al, and also by other distinguished scientists, have demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt, that the population of those thin paradisiac islands have been the innocent victims of high exposure to extremely dangerous contaminants, particularly and conspicuously Mercury, but also lead, cadmium, chromium, cooper, iron, manganese, phenol, selenium, silver, sulfates, zinc, as well as industrial oils and grease. As a direct consequence of such contamination of their environment, its population has shown unacceptable higher incidence and prevalence of cancer, hypertension, diabetes,

cirrhosis and epilepsy. It has also been prominently demonstrated that our young mothers and those to be born human beings, are in great danger of developing severe neurological deficiencies as consequences of such exposure.

In consideration of the above dramatic situation, we are requesting a presidential executive order for the decontamination and cleansing of Vieques and Culebra habitats, together with the allocation of funds to provide an optimum health care to their population, will also be the best substantiation of your many times expressed concern for the wellbeing of all the Latino people living in the United States, people that had faith in you and that is undoubtedly, at this historic moment, an integral part of the destiny of the United States. Mr. President, many of our man and woman rendered their lives on military duty serving the United States armed forces, they sacrifice and memory minimally deserves that their descendants enjoy their lives in an environment and atmosphere that permits the optimal development of their minds and bodies. The cleansing and decontamination of the Vieques and Culebra habitats will create jobs, will improve the quality of life, will prevent diseases and will contribute to the wellbeing of deserving tens of thousands of human beings. We only hope for your sympathetic, generous and prompt response to this, our humanitarian request”

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eduardo Ibarra".

*Eduardo Ibarra, M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Puerto Rico College of Physicians and Surgeons*