

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
September 7, 1972

TO ALL BRANCHES AND LOCALS

Dear Comrades,

Argentine Defense Tour

As announced at the recent Socialist Activists and Educational Conference, USLA will organize a fall speaking tour for Elena Rodriguez, who is a representative of the movement in defense of political prisoners in Argentina. This presents a unique opportunity to mobilize greater support in the United States to defend the human rights of Argentine political prisoners.

A two-color printed leaflet and a poster to be used to build the tour are being designed by USLA. These will be available in reasonable quantities without charge, except for payment of postage.

It is very important for each area to involve as broad a coalition as possible of groups and individuals who might be sympathetic to USLA. In certain areas, such groups may take primary responsibility for building the tour.

In addition to campus meetings for honoraria, Elena Rodriguez will be available for fund-raising receptions, media interviews, talk shows, etc. She is fluent in English. The proposed title for her talk is: "Argentina Today: Political Repression and the Fight Against It."

Enclosed is a biography of the speaker and USLA's tentative tour schedule. USLA has attempted to arrange the tour dates so there will be no serious conflict with other tour schedules. However, in some places Elena's visit will immediately precede or follow another meeting for a candidate, etc. It is important to assign an experienced comrade to work on this tour at the very beginning. In addition, all areas must bear in mind that the expenses of the tour will be high. No quotas are listed on the schedule, but the tour will only be possible if each area can guarantee approximately \$150 per day in honoraria or estimated income for USLA.

Our handling of this tour will be an extremely effective way of demonstrating our commitment to international solidarity and therefore it is important to make it successful.

The enclosed USLA acceptance form should be returned to USLA immediately. A return self-addressed envelope is included for this purpose.

Comradely,

*Ed Shaw (B.S.)*

Ed Shaw  
National Office

## ELENA RODRIGUEZ

Elena Rodriguez studied humanities at the University of La Plata, Argentina. Like many students, she was prevented from completing her education because of the political repression instituted by military dictatorship in Argentina.

When the Ongania dictatorship seized power in 1966 and suppressed university autonomy, Rodriguez became a leader of the struggle against military intervention. La Plata was one of the strongest centers of student resistance and several student leaders as well as university professors were expelled from the universities or forced to recant. Some had to pay with prison sentences for the "crime" of protesting and resisting military intervention on the campus. One of these was Elena Rodriguez. The doors of the university closed to her as they did for all who dared to protest.

Later Rodriguez went to work in a meat-packing plant. The working conditions and pay in the meat-packing plant are among the worst in Argentina. Elena worked in a plant that had been in a permanent state of unrest. In that plant, she was active in her union, and it wasn't long before she again felt the blows of repression and was fired.

Elena Rodriguez is currently an active member of a defense committee in Argentina which solidarizes with the many political prisoners and fights to free them.