

# 12 Puerto Rican rebels agree to clemency deal

Two other jailed nationalists expected to reject deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve of 14 jailed Puerto Rican nationalists agreed yesterday to a politically sensitive clemency deal offered by President Clinton but posed by his wife, prospective New York Senate candidate Lary Rodham Clinton.

The Puerto Ricans, jailed on weapons and sedition convictions, are members of pro-independence guerrilla groups that tried out a wave of bombings in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s.

The nearly month-old offer is conditioned on statements from each independence activist that they will not engage in violence if released. The activists had until today to take or leave the deal.

Two imprisoned activists are expected to reject the clemency offer, the White House said. Two others, who are not in jail, have another week to respond. If they agree to the White House terms, their fines will be reduced.

"The president expects all

those who accept the conditional clemency grant to abide fully but its terms, including refraining from the use of advocacy of the use of violence for any purpose and obeying all the statutory conditions of parole," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said in a statement.

**"I think it's enough. It's already a lot. And it's time for him to come home to me."**

— Deadina Ortiz  
Mother of jailed nationalist

At a news conference in San Juan, activist leader Luis Nieves Falcon confirmed that 11 members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation and one leader of the Macheteros separatist

group had accepted the three-week-old offer even though it required them to formally renounce violence and agree not to associate with felons.

"The conditions are terrible," Deadina Ortiz, mother of New York City art teacher Elizam Escobar, who has been in jail in Oklahoma for 19 years, said. "Clinton's crazy. How can somebody say, for example, that two sisters can't see each other just because of their beliefs. However, I think it's enough. It's already a lot. And it's time for him to come home to me."

The Armed Forces of National Liberation, known by its Spanish initials FALN, carried out more than 100 bombings in the United States between 1974 and 1983. The bombings killed six and wounded dozens. The imprisoned nationalists were not convicted in any of the bombings but were found guilty of seditious conspiracy and possession of weapons and explosives.

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