



# FREEDOM TO MILAGRO SALA



# NO MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS



# WHO IS MILAGRO SALA?

**Milagro Sala is a social activist, neighborhood organizer, activist in the areas most needy and excluded of Jujuy, leader of Neighborhood Organization "Tupac Amaru".**

In her early days as political activist, Milagro was a member of the *Asociación de Trabajadores del Estado* (ATE - State Workers' Association). In the 1990s Milagro founded the Neighborhood Organization "Tupac Amaru" -an indigenous movement to vindicate the historic person of Cacique Tupac Amaru, leader of the major anti-colonial rebellion of the Americas in the 18th Century.

The territorial development of Neighborhood Organization "Tupac Amaru" reaches out 17 provinces of Argentina, gathering over 70 thousand members and providing work to 4,500 people.

The organization has built Schools and Health Centers. Moreover, with different programs -that during Nestor and Cristina Kirchner's Administrations helped create jobs- housing was built (full neighborhoods), as well as different production workshops (whereby 30 thousand monthly aprons were produced).

Milagro Sala was elected Provincial Deputy for Jujuy starting on December 10th, 2013 -position she held until November 2015 and then resigned when she was elected Deputy to Parlasur for the political party *Frente para la Victoria* in 2015.



On January 16th, 2016 following her participation to set up a camp site organized by "Tupac Amaru" opposite the Governor House of Jujuy to claim and protest because the government unilaterally decided to discontinued the works performed by cooperative associations, resulting in loss of jobs, Milagro was detained by order the newly-elected Governor of the Province, Gerardo Morales, and was unlawfully deprived of her freedom.

Thus, Milagro became the first political prisoner of Mauricio Macri's Administration.

To make it more unfair, by decree, governor Morales decided to render the legal standing of the Tupac Amaru Work Cooperative Associations null and void, and to stop the engagements that would create more jobs for 5,000 households who are currently resorting to the extreme of "bartering" to survive. ■



**MILAGRO SALA, social and political leader, elected deputy to Parlasur, continues in prison and unlawfully deprived of her freedom.**



# MILAGRO SALA AND TUPAC AMARU ORGANIZATION

Milagro Sala is detained because she proved that if money for public works is allocated to Work Cooperative Associations, they create more housing, more community neighborhood works and more jobs; while if allocated to private companies, profits are only to enrich a few. ■



Tupac Amaru Organization Neighborhood with houses and swimming pools for dwellers.



Textile Workshops from Tupac Amaru Organization.

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# CTA [TRADE UNION OF WORKERS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC] ACTIONS FOR MILAGRO SALA'S FREEDOM

**January 16**

Detention of Milagro Sala. CTA resolves to claim for her immediate release.



**January 18**

Mobilization to Plaza de Mayo along with social organizations.



**January 20**

Southern Cone Trade Unions Coordinator repudiates Milagro Sala detention and requests her release.



**January 23**

Provincial solidarity actions with Milagro Sala: roads blocked at Puente Pueyrredón, Autopista del Oeste, in La Matanza, in Route 3 and Pekín Avenue, access to Ezeiza - Cañuelas highway, La Plata - Buenos Aires highway, and roundabout of Alpargatas; press conference in San Nicolás.

**January 24**

National CTA Leaders travel to Jujuy to request Milagro Sala's release and appear at "Tupac Amaru" camp in Plaz Belgrano.



**January 27**

CTA mobilization to Plaza de Mayo and start of camp site to claim for her freedom.

**January 27**

European Deputies request Milagro Sala's freedom.







#### February 1

Round of discussions at camp site in Plaza de Mayo.

#### February 4

Open letter for Milagro's release: signed by global personalities.

#### February 10

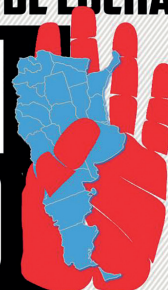
Internacional de la Educación para América Latina [International Education Agency for Latin America] document in request of Milagro Sala's freedom.

#### February 24

Day of nationwide protest.

### EL 24 DE FEBRERO JORNADA NACIONAL DE LUCHA

# PAREN LA MANO



- > Paritarias libres > No a los despidos
- > No a la criminalización de la protesta social
- > Libertad a Milagro Sala



#### March 10

Delegation of Deputies, social, human rights and CTA referents visit Milagro Sala in prison.

#### March 14

CTA Women Committee makes report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights due to lack of procedural rights in the province of Jujuy and Argentine Republic in the case of unlawful deprivation of freedom of Parlasur Deputy Milagro Sala.



#### March 30

Meeting with European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee.

#### March 31

Meeting to set up Committee for Milagro Sala's Freedom at the Federal Chamber of Deputies.

#### April 4

Meeting of Committee for Milagro Sala's Freedom with United Nations Commissioner for South America.



# CHRONOLOGY OF AN ARBITRARY DETENTION



## December 10

- Gerardo Morales takes office as Governor of Jujuy, and appoints Mariano Gabriel Miranda as State Prosecutor.

## December 14

- Social organizations protest opposite the government house of Jujuy. The prosecutor reports Sala and other organizations due to instigation of violence.
- Mariano Gabriel Miranda request the declaration from unsworn answers to questions about the facts of the case of Milagro Sala who appears before the Justice System. The judge sets January 18 as the date for such declaration.
- Attorney General on Accusation, Sergio Lello Sánchez, appointed by the Governor, provides for the first resolution to have legal holiday prosecutor Liliana Fernández de Montiel to continue with the case even though her shift had finalized. Then, he instructs the prosecutor to take all the present and future cases against Milagro Sala. That is to say, a single person forum is created –an unprecedented fact in the Argentine justice system.

- A second case for extortion, fraud and unlawful association is filed. 8 people appear to make reports about 2015 facts. Even though this is not a matter of the legal holiday, Fernández Montiel takes their statements

until 10 pm and files a new case. The attorney general appears and requests to be the accuser.

## January 16

- Detention of Milagro Sala. Detention is ordered due to the camp site. She is detained on that same day.
- Second request for detention: judge issues order of detention for second case. On February 1, Sala is notified of accusation for extortion, fraud and unlawful association. A few hours later she is brought to make a statement without any time to learn about the evidence and charge details.

## January 29

- Judge of camp site case instructs Sala's release but she remains detained for second case.
- Procuvin (Procuraduría de Violencia Institucional - Institutional Violence Prosecuting Attorney's Office) states that the detention of Parlasur deputy is unlawful and illegal.
- *In the last week of March, as a result of criminal reports against prosecutor Montiel and against Lello Sánchez and, as an "award" for their actions in the cases against Milagro Sala, Montiel was promoted to the court of appeal (casación in Spanish) and is not officially making the investigations* ■





Camp site opposite Government House of Jujuy.



Milagro Sala and Tupac Amaru Organization.



Provincial solidarity actions with Milagro Sala.



Camp site to claim for her freedom.



Camp site to claim for her freedom.



Camp site to claim for her freedom.



Milagro Sala with Pope Francis.



Milagro Sala and Tupac Amaru Organization.

FREDOM TO MILAGRO SALA - JO-TO-TO POLITICAL PRISONERS

ETA  
Es la libertad



# MILAGRO SALA 3 MONTHS IN PRISON

# WHY HER DETENTION WAS ARBITRARY?



**April 16 marked Milagro Sala's 3 month detention. Ninety days ago, Parlasur deputy's detention only by order of detention without any legal resolution to provide for her preventive imprisonment.**

By mid January, the social leader was detained for exercising her right to protest in Plaza Belgrano, San Salvador Jujuy in the northeast of the country. State Prosecutor, Mariano Gabriel Miranda, reported about Sala and other leaders for instigation.

Miranda, appointed State Prosecutor by decree of Jujuy governor followed "strict instructions" to request the legal holiday to be exceptionally authorized, and to become accuser in the case versus Sala and to extend this accusation.

By then, a second case was filed against the social leader for extortion, unlawful association and fraud.

On January 16, Sala was detained for instigation, that is to say, for her camp site.

Until March 22, that is, for 55 days, the leader was only accused of one of three facts she is in prison for.

Amnesty International recalls that any citizen has the right to be subject to a process with all court impartiality and independence rights. Based on the principle of innocence, the justice system needs to prove any eventual liability of Milagro Sala for the facts under investigation in observance of the due process of law rules. This is an absolute right to be pursued in this and in all cases.

Today, the Tupac Amaru organization leader's case is being reviewed by the Inter American Human Rights Committee and the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. ■

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL** 

Buenos Aires, April 18, 2016