

Puerto Rican activists reiterate call for independence at UN Decolonization Committee



New York, June 25 (RHC)-- The demand for an independent Puerto Rico was reiterated at the United Nations Monday as many petitioners from the island came for a hearing as part of a special committee of the international body.

Jocelyn Velasquez, one of the leaders of the resistance movement said the only solution to Puerto Rico's problems is independence. "Every year we go to the UN Decolonization Committee to raise this problem, but there is no progress," said Velasquez who is a member of the Socialist Front of Puerto Rico.

They are against the U.S. Fiscal Control Board. In 2016, the administration of then U.S. President Barack Obama imposed a Fiscal Control Board on the island whose power, he called, is above any other institution in the region. According to Velasquez, the board plunders the resources of Puerto Rico and leaves the population vulnerable.

Lourdes Garcia, an activist from the collective A Call to Action in Puerto Rico said people on the island are facing tremendous hardships. Two years after the powerful hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island, many people in Puerto Rico live in houses with improvised roofs made of awnings, due to the total

indifference of the authorities, she said.

After the hurricane, hardships grew so much that many Puerto Ricans were forced to flee the island which led many U.S. corporations to invest there, leading to exploiting resources and destroying the environment.

Additionally, the closure of health centers is increasingly alarming while electricity and water supply services are interrupted continuously.

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