



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

## The Problem with Puerto Rico is its Status Colonial

RUBEN DIAZ November 5, 2015

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

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### The Problem with Puerto Rico is its Status Colonial

You should know that my beautiful Island of Puerto Rico, where I was born and grew up, is going through a very difficult financial crisis with a historic deficit of \$72 billion dollars.

You should also know that this week, on Thursday November 5th, there will be a huge March in Puerto Rico demanding for the United States of America's Government headed by President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to help solve Puerto Rico's problem.

Almost every elected official from New York, including Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Jr., State Assemblymen Marcos Crespo and Luis Sepulveda, and many, many others - Black, Hispanic and White legislators - who have traveled to Puerto Rico to join Puerto Rico's Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla in this March.

It is important for you to know that there are some who say that because Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, that the problems of Puerto Rico will only be solved one out of

two ways: (1) The Federal Government issues financial help – which they have refused to do; OR (2) Puerto Rico declares itself bankrupt.

The problem with the second point is that because Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, it is not allowed to declare bankruptcy and receive bankruptcy protection as 50 states and their municipalities are all allowed to do.

**As you can see, this puts Puerto Rico in a huge predicament: the Federal Government refuses to help financially, and the Federal Government refuses to allow Puerto Rico to declare bankruptcy. What else is there for Puerto Rico to do?**

You should already know that as a colony, the Federal Government can dictate and impose all United States Federal Laws on the island and the people who live in Puerto Rico, and all are obliged to comply with those laws.

The United States Federal Government can take the Puerto Rican youth – men and women – and send them to fight in wars and shed their blood for the United States of America. The United States Federal Government can take the best piece of land in Puerto Rico. The biggest US defense satellite - to protect the United States of America, is located in the town of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. And Puerto Rico is a very strategic place for the defense of the United States.

I, for one, believe that the problems of Puerto Rico will not be solved by the November 5th March, regardless of the well intentions and good will of the organizers and the participants which we Puerto Ricans will be forever indebted. But the March will only put a bandage, if anything, on this big problem facing Puerto Rico.

I appreciate and feel in debt to all of the elected officials who will travel to Puerto Rico and defend my beloved island. As a veteran who loves this United States of America to death, I believe that the only way to solve the fiscal problems of Puerto Rico, and many others, will

be for Puerto Rico to become the 51st State of the United States. This way, the problem will be solved forever.

If Puerto Rico becomes a State, it will have the opportunity to elect 7 Members to the US House of Representatives and 2 United States Senators who will have the opportunity to represent them and fight for the State of Puerto Rico, as every other Member of Congress does the United States does for their State.

You should know that the NY elected officials who travel to Puerto Rico will join Puerto Rico's Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla and more than 50,000 people who are expected during this day, but I am afraid that they will have to keep traveling back and forth to Puerto Rico and to keep marching as long as Puerto Rico continues to be a colony of the United States of America. This is because as long as Puerto Rico remains a colony, Puerto Ricans will continue to be denied all of the benefits and opportunities that everyone in the other States have.

While those 50 other states of the nation have their representatives to fight for them, Puerto Rico is at their mercy because it doesn't have anyone with a vote on the Floor of Congress.

So, ladies and gentlemen, therefore the problem of Puerto Rico will not be solved with this Youth March because the problem with Puerto Rico is its status of colony.

I am Senator Reverend Rubén Díaz and this is what you should know.