

### The Rush for a Slice of Paradise in Puerto Rico

Many Puerto Ricans say they can no longer afford to stay in their homes with outside investors buying up properties and driving up prices.

### Puerto Ricans Set Up Encampments to Protest Environmental Destruction

By Carlos E. Guillen Polanco JAN 6, 2022 6:29 PM



A man blows into a conch shell during a protest at a beach in Rincon, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, January 5, 2022. (Carlos E. Guillen Polanco/Latino Rebels)

SAN JUAN — Fed up with the slow government response, Puerto Ricans in beach towns along the western coast have set up encampments to demand action be taken to stop illegal construction from further destroying the environment.

### Teen's death in Puerto Rico blamed on lack of proper medical facilities since hurricane

"They have forgotten about us," said the cousin of a teen who died in the smaller island of Vieques, which has lacked a hospital since Hurricane Maria.

### Military Munitions Disposal is Polluting Puerto Rico, Despite Safer Alternatives

CLOSE BASES, ENVIRONMENT, NORTH AMERICA



From Citizens For Safe Water Around Badger, April 22, 2019

## Additional Resources

Read:

"The War Against All Puerto Ricans" by Nelson Denis

Additional information here:



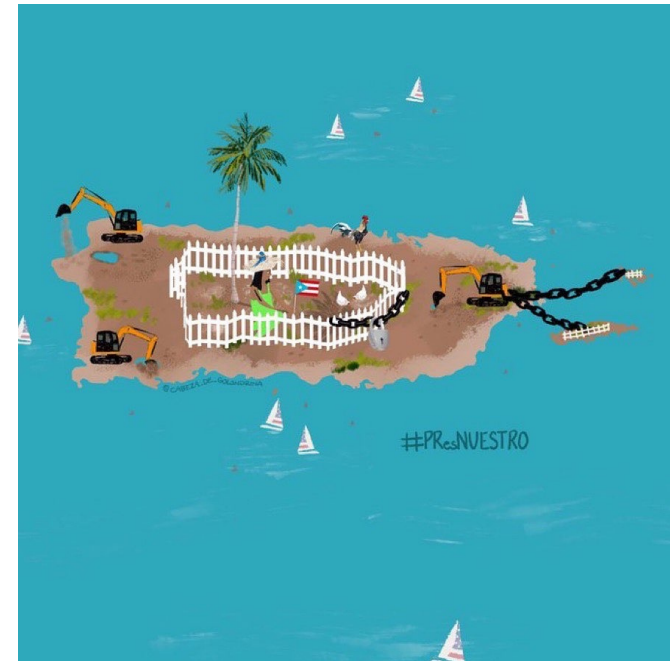
Watch Video:

[tinyurl.com/areboricuasbeingpushedout](https://tinyurl.com/areboricuasbeingpushedout)



# Why we say:

# "Gringo Go Home!"



## Voices from the oldest colony in the world.



**Borikén**, or Puerto Rico (meaning rich port in Spanish), has been a colony of the US since 1898.

Tourism has a **parasitic effect** on the archipelago. While natives struggle to afford the **basic necessities of life, endure natural disasters, and political violence**; tourists come to Borikén by the thousands to enjoy 'paradise', bringing COVID-19 and ignoring what Boricuas have to face.

'**Gringo Go Home**' expresses the anger we hold following the centuries-long indignity and dehumanization from remaining a **colony**.



## A Brief History

- The Independence Movement: It fought for freedom from Spain and later the US to make Borikén a sovereign nation.
- The crackdown: In the 20th century, whole **towns were bombed** and independence supporters were killed, imprisoned, and tortured by the US.
- Gag Law: For 10 years, it was **illegal to own/display a Puerto Rican flag, sing our national anthem, and show support for independence in any way**.
- Women sterilized: From the 1930-70's, **1/3 of Boricua women were sterilized** without consent during a genocidal campaign named La Operación.
- Vieques & Culebra: These islands were invaded by the US Navy and used as **warfare test subjects** for 50+ years. The Navy has left a legacy of contamination and undetonated bombs, yet to be cleaned up. Vieques has some of the highest illness rates in the Caribbean, yet there is **no hospital** to provide healthcare.

## Currently Happening

- Act 60: This tax law allows foreigners to open businesses in PR without paying capital gains tax, leading to **severe gentrification and the displacement** of native Boricuas.
- LUMA: Owned by a Canadian/US corporation, it's responsible for privatizing Puerto Rico's power grid, increasing electricity bills, laying off hundreds of electrical workers, and neglecting infrastructural repairs, causing **frequent power outages**.
- The Financial Oversight and Management Board: Called 'La Junta', is a US-imposed financial oversight board which controls the entire economy of Puerto Rico. La Junta has **cut funds to many social programs** like public education (closing over 600 schools), hospitals, pensions, and more.
- Ecocide: **Our land is being destroyed** by real estate and development projects, illegally seizing beaches (which belong to the public, under Puerto Rican law), polluting the soil and water, and destroying crucial wildlife habitats.