Oscar López Rivera

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“during today’s workshop session we’ll be working on the topic of political prisoners,” participants have contributed Beatles cds, seedless grapes, a vietnam war commemorative cap, old diary entries from early adolescence, newspaper clippings, prescription pills, m&ms for inspiration, one lady brought up the color orange in relation to the color of my coffee cup & John Lennon & m&ms, I tried to not think of Morgan Freeman & South Africa & soccer & how in Spanish you’re supposed to call soccer futbol (it’s really rugby), then I jotted down the lyrics of Blackbird, stared at my shoes, I have a Puma sock and a Nike sock on, I look up & the woman finished off all the orange m&ms, she’s acting “coy,” so I write “koi” & draw a fish next to my Blackbird lyrics, it’s a neat trick to make a note of everything in front of everybody in the workshop so as to appear inspired and productive, I figure political prisoners know a lot of neat tricks for fooling themselves into feeling inspired and productive in their matching socks, "singing in the dead of night" I don’t know why but whenever I think of people in prison I can never make out their faces in the dark.