

The Protestation Of Dr. J. W. Lim

PROTEST MADE FIRMLY BY DR. J.W. LIM, CHINESE SUBJECT, AGAINST SEVERAL FACTS RECORDED IN THE CASE RELATED TO THE MASSACRE OF CHINESE IN TORREÓN, COAHUILA, ON THE FIFTEENTH OF MAY OF THE CURRENT YEAR, PRESIDED OVER BY JUDGE MR. MACRINO J. MARTÍNEZ AND HIS CLERK JULIO AVINO.

I

In said proceedings, there appears a statement signed by me, which I am said to have made on May 17th of this year, in which it is stated that I said that I was in charge of the affairs of the Chinese Empire in Torreón. I also stated in that statement that several Mexicans, whom I would present or whose names I would mention, told me that some Chinese had fired at the Maderista forces on the thirteenth and fourteenth of the aforementioned month of May, and that General Lojero had given them weapons to fight against said forces.

Regarding these facts, I declare that it is not true that I made any statement before Judge Macrino J. Martínez on May 17th, nor are the facts stated in said statement true. On that date and the following dates, I was busy securing guarantees from Don Emilio Madero, Chief of the Zone, for the Chinese colony, and protecting my compatriots who were still alive after the massacre that took place there by such forces from further abuses by the Maderistas. It is therefore inaccurate for me to say that I knew for certain, through the Mexicans, that my compatriots had fired on the Maderista soldiers. Nor is it true that I told the Judge that I was Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Empire in Torreón, since I have never held that high position. Regarding General Lojero, I also did not state that I knew he had provided weapons to my compatriots, because on the contrary, from the many inquiries I made that I was able to ascertain the truth, it turned out not to be true, since having questioned several residents of Torreón, of different nationalities and of first-class rank, there was not a single one who said that General Lojero had provided weapons to the Chinese, much less that they had resisted or fired on the insurgent soldiers. I also state that after the twentieth of May, I was summoned by Judge Macrino J. Martínez to the Hotel Salvador in Torreón, where he asked me if I knew that the Chinese had fired on the Maderista soldiers (the only question). I replied that I knew nothing, but that the people of Torreón said so, making me sign a document without me reading it. Now a statement appears in that form, stating entirely false facts.

II

In the same proceedings, a statement appears made by Dr. J. Salomé Garza, Aldape, on the same date, May 17th, in which the Doctor asserts that on the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth of that month, which was the Battle of Torreón, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE WOUNDED CHINESE were brought to his Sanatorium.

This fact is completely inaccurate, since on Saturday the 13th I was at the Sanatorium of the aforementioned Doctor Garza Aldape, as a member of the RED CROSS, and at around four in the afternoon of that day, the employees of that institution brought FOUR SOLDIERS AND TWO WOUNDED MEXICANS (the only ones). That same day at around six-thirty in the afternoon, the aforementioned Doctor Garza Aldape and I went to Acuña Street and Matamoros Avenue to rescue two more wounded people, a drunk and a carpenter. On Sunday the 14th, all the wounded were transferred from the Garza Aldape Sanatorium to the Doctor José María Rodríguez Sanatorium. That is why on Monday the 15th, when I returned to the Garza Aldape Sanatorium at 6:00 a.m., I found it closed. That is why it is not true that ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE wounded Chinese were taken to said sanatorium, as stated in the aforementioned statement.

III

In the same case, dated May 18th of this year, a statement appears, made by the insurgent leader, Don Sabino Flores, in which he states that at the beginning of the capture of Torreón, on May 13th and 14th, the Chinese from the orchards on the eastern side offered armed resistance against the Maderista forces.

Regarding this statement by Flores, I declare that it is completely false, since from the seventeenth of the same month of May I was with the aforementioned Sabino Flores, by order of Don Emilio Madero, visiting the properties of the Chinese and looking for those who were still alive. And on this account, Flores himself told me that he was happy with the Chinese from the orchards, since at the beginning of the fight, they had behaved very well with him and his soldiers, and that he had no reason to complain against them, since they provided him with everything he asked for, such as food, water, corn, etc., and I was therefore greatly surprised by the statement made by Flores before Judge Macrino, which shows his bad faith. He also told me that if it had not been for the soldiers who came from Gómez Palacio, he and his people would have continued in good harmony with the Chinese. I hereby certify that Don Sabino Flores is a true honorable man and gentleman.¹

IV

On the same date, May 18th, a statement from Marcial Adame, Benito Mercado, and José Vicuña appears in the case, in which they state that the Chinese fired on them in the orchards of Oriente, at the beginning of the attack on Torreón on May 13th and 14th.

To this I say: These statements are false in two senses, since, based on the confession made by the leader Ramírez, and the investigations conducted by attorney WILFLEY, it is clear that the Maderista forces that entered Torreón initially took over the properties of the Chinese in the orchards on the eastern side of Torreón as forts, demanding food and whatever else they

¹ This is a bit confusing because it appears that Dr. Lim is saying that Sabino Flores is both a man of “bad faith” and a “true honorable man”. It appears that what he is trying to express is that in his observation when Flores was his escort, that he was honorable in all that he witnessed. However, if he made such a statement as is attributed to him, then he acted in bad faith to be able to do so.

wanted from them, without the Chinese putting up any resistance, but on the contrary, they gladly served them whatever they wanted. This is why these statements by Adame, Mercado, and Vicuña are false in every sense. I hereby certify that, to prove this falsehood, when eleven Chinese who had been imprisoned in Gómez Palacio were released by order of Agustín Castro, they stated that on the morning of May 15th, many Maderistas gathered a large number of Chinese in the orchards, and while conducting them to Torreón, they killed many along the way, leaving only eleven, who were sent to Gómez Palacio as prisoners, along with me, by order of the leader Agustín Castro.

V

It appears in the oft-repeated case that I signed a report drawn up in Gómez Palacio with a Mr. Modesto Ramírez, and that in that report I stated that my Chinese compatriots had fired on the Maderista soldiers.

To this I state: I do not know Mr. Modesto Ramírez, nor did I sign any document with him in Gómez Palacio, since the only thing I authorized with my signature, which the leader, Juan Ramírez, made, was the release of the fifteen Chinese who had been taken prisoner from Torreón along with me on the memorable morning of May 15th; this is why what that document says, referring to my confession that the Chinese had fired on the insurgent forces, is clearly false.

VI

Finally, in the case mentioned at the beginning, there is a statement from a Mr. Espiridión Cantú, in which he asserts that from the interior of the Mexican Republic, some two or three hundred suspected Chinese had arrived in Torreón before it was taken by the insurgent forces, and that they had celebrated together, held banquets, and finally, that they had resisted the revolution with armed force.

To this I say: That Mr. Cantú's bad faith in making such a statement and the racial hatred that it reveals can hardly be believed, because while it is true that a few weeks before the capture of Torreón a caravan of Chinese arrived, they were coming from the port of Manzanillo heading for Chihuahua, and upon arriving in Torreón, they were unable to continue their journey due to a lack of trains (as is public and notorious, there were none those days), so some of them stayed at the Chinese Bank, others at the Hotel, and the rest at different points in the town, waiting for trains to arrive to continue their journey. This is why they had to endure the fray, many of whom were killed by the Maderista forces on the memorable fifteenth. The rest of that Chinese caravan, as soon as the road was clear for Chihuahua, left frightened by what they had witnessed regarding the murders of several of their traveling companions. For this reason, I vigorously protest against the statement made by the aforementioned Mr. Espiridión Cantú, and to prove the hatred this man bears toward the Chinese race, I note that he is engaged in the restaurant business—something very common among the Chinese colony, as it is the occupation most favored by the majority of them—and since this competes with Mr. Cantú's own business, it follows that his hatred of the Chinese race stems from this.

To further support this protest, I hereby declare: That the eleven Chinese whom the rebel leader Juan Ramírez released in Gómez Palacio, Durango, under my guarantee, told me themselves that, at the beginning of the attack on Torreón on the 13th and 14th days of May of this year, a group of Maderista soldiers first arrived at their orchards, located to the east of Torreón. They used their houses as a fortress from which to fight the federal forces, who were entrenched along the embankment of the Mexican International Railroad near the orchards, enclosing the Chinese inside, supposedly to protect them from the bullets. That same group of soldiers was given food prepared by the Chinese themselves—corn and everything else they requested. After this group came another, demanding weapons and money; they took the small amount of money the Chinese had, as well as their weapons, which consisted of a few pistols and machetes used in their farming work. Then a third group arrived, again demanding money and weapons, and when they did not find what they wanted, they stripped them of their clothing and other belongings, completely looting their houses and destroying their property, leaving them in a pitiful condition. Finally, on the memorable date of May 15th, a fourth group of insurgent soldiers arrived, who began gathering the Chinese from all the orchards and houses to execute them. Panic spread among all the assembled Chinese when the Maderistas began shooting them in the most cowardly manner, leaving alive only the eleven Chinese who were taken to Torreón in a deplorable state, and whom the rebel leader Agustín Castro sent with me to Gómez Palacio on that memorable date already mentioned, May 15th of this year.

Mexico, August 9, 1911.