Support 4struglemag

Each issue, we send more than 200 copies to prisoners across North America, at no cost to them. Your support is needed to continue this project. Please help subsidize these costs by subscribing to the magazine and/or offering a one-time donation. Please check out the ‘subscribe and donate’ link on our website: www.4struglemag.org

Your support is much appreciated.
love 4SM
Welcome to 4strugglemag

You have just come to a dynamic and unique publication, where Truth (real and raw) speaks to power. This magazine focuses the insights and experiences of U.S. political prisoners on major issues of the day. While a lot of the writing is by political prisoners, other activists, allies, revolutionaries and insightful outside voices are included. We publish 3 issues a year and all back issues remain posted on the website (4strugglemag.org).

4strugglemag is an independent non-sectarian revolutionary voice. We are unapologetically anti-imperialist and solidly in support of progressive National Liberation, especially the struggles of New African/Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican and Native American Nations presently controlled by U.S. imperialism. Reflecting the work and principles of political prisoners held by the United States, 4strugglemag advocates for Justice, Equality, Freedom, Socialism, Protection of our Mother Earth, Human Rights and Peace.

www.4strugglemag.org is primarily an e-magazine, but hard copies are available (free to prisoners, $6 an issue for people outside -- yearly $15 subscriptions are available). We encourage readers to respond, critique and carry on discussions in the magazine. We value and encourage feedback and discussion. The address of each political prisoner is posted with their article so people can directly communicate with them (few political prisoners have access to the internet). Some federal prisoners now have an email system for prisoners. But you have to be on a pre-approved email contact list before you can send or receive email from the prisoner. Therefore, you must first write to the prisoner and get all the information on how to get on his/her approved email list. We like dialog, but we are not going to print racist or pro-imperialist messages, so you government agents and klansmen don’t bother wasting your time.

Each issue of 4strugglemag focuses on at least 3 main topics. Additional unrelated poems, graphics, essays, announcements and more are included. Unsolicited writings and graphics are accepted and welcomed. We won’t guarantee printing, but we’d like to see your work. This and other correspondence should be sent via regular mail to the following address: (remember it costs 75 cents to send a letter to Canada from the U.S.).

4strugglemag
P.O. Box 97048
RPO Roncesvalles Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6R 3B3 Canada

or via email to:
jaanlaaman@gmail.com
Jaan Laaman, editor
anti-imperialist political prisoner

Call for contributors

4strugglemag is looking for quality writing that contributes to critical, revolutionary thought and reflection. In particular, we are interested in the following:

Feature articles: We’re looking for in depth, analytical articles that critically examine a particular issue, historical occurrence, political idea, or current event. We are looking for well-researched articles that broaden and challenge revolutionary thought. If you are in need of research help, don’t hesitate to ask. We may be able to supply some of the resources needed in order to write a well-informed piece. We can also help with the editing and/or writing process. Let us know if you have any ideas.

Book reviews: Is there a book you’d like to review for 4strugglemag? Let us know. If you don’t have the book, we can arrange to get it to you.

Letters: We love to hear from you. Please let us know if we have permission to print your letter in the next issue.

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Toronto, Ontario
M6R 3B3 Canada


10. “America’s Guantánamo Bay” by Royal Jones, Sr. (available on supportdanet/cmu)

Weblinks - Prisoners at the CMU

4strugglemag is looking for quality writing that contributes to critical, revolutionary thought and reflection. In particular, we are interested in the following:

Supportive Organizations
Civil Liberties Defense Center – www.cldc.org
Center for Constitutional Rights – www.ccrjustice.org
National Lawyers Guild – www.nlg.org
Nuclear Resister - www.serve.com/nukeresister/

Demand Change! *You can contact your elected officials and demand they shut the CMU down*

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

General Attorney Eric Holder
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Also, www.senate.gov and www.house.gov (type in your address to get your rep's contact)

Ask other Organizations for their support! *You can contact human rights groups and urge hem to address the CMU and join legal efforts to close it. Please be polite.*

1. ACLU National Prisoner Project - 202-393-4930 www.aclu.org/prisons


3. Amnesty International - www.amnestyusa.org

4. Stop MAX coalition - www.atic.org/stopmax

The following organizations signed a letter opposing the "limited communication for terrorist inmates" policy the BoP tried to pass a few years back. Contact them and let them know that plan was indeed put forth in the form of the CMU and urge them to address it:


2. Comité Pro Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico - pressurelisp.com

3. DC Prisoners’ Legal Services Project – www.washlaw.org/projects/prisoners_rights/default.htm

4. FIA Institutional Legal Services - (352) 375-2494

5. Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project - (847) 328 1543


7. Office of Public Defender-Maryland - www.opd.state.md.us

8. The Multiracial Activist - www.multiracial.com

9. National Boricua HR Network - boricuahumanrights.org

10. NW Constitutional Rights - (503) 295-6400


15. Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York - www.plsn.org

16. Uptown People’s Law Center - (773) 769-1411

*You can contact the media and request they investigate and expose the CMUs. Letters to the Editors and op-eds are good ways of doing this. Some outlets:

Mainstream Media
LA Times – www.latimes.com
Seattle Times – seattletimes.nwsource.com
San Francisco Chronicle – www.sfgate.com
The Oregonian – www.oregonlive.com/oregonian
Indianapolis Star – www.indystar.com
The New Yorker – www.newyorker.com
Newsweek – www.newsweek.com
CNN – www.cnn.com
BBC – www.bbc.co.uk
MSNBC – www.msnbc.com
Chicago Tribune – www.chicagotribune.com
USA Today – www.usatoday.com
Houston Chronicle – www.chron.com
Boston Globe – www.boston.com/bostonglobe
Village Voice – www.villagevoice.com
Hufford Couch – www.huffordcouch.com

Independent/Alternative Media
Pacifica Radio - www.pacifica.org
Counterpunch - www.counterpunch.org
Mother Jones - www.motherjones.com
Uwe Reader – www.ute.com
Z Magazine - www.zmag.org/zmag

Upping the Anti – uppington anti.org
The Independent – www.independent.org

Your local pirate radio station – (US list) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_radio_in_North_America
Partial_list_of_pirate_radio_stations_in_the_United_States

51
35. Although it is called 'USP Marion'; the USP closed in 2005 and the prison consists of a camp and a medium (the CMU being inside the medium).

36. Lippin testimony to Congressional Subcommittee.


38. This occurred despite President Obama’s decision to release through FOIA at a higher pace than his predecessor.


40. The two I refer to are not out of the ‘average’ in size either - one 5 ft 11, the other 5 ft 6 and both slim.

41. 28 CFR 540.18 Special Mail

42. Program Statement #1480.05.9/21/00, USA News Media Contacts.

43. from ‘Notice to Inmate of Transfer to CMU’

44. personal observation


46. from ‘Notice to Inmate of Transfer to CMU’

47. “US ‘is not and will never be at war with Islam,’ Obama says” by Richard Wolf, USA Today, 4/7/09.

Appendix A: Marion CMU Demographic

Number of prisoners = 25
Organized by: national/cultural origin
Middle Eastern-10
African-American-7
White-5
Latino-2
Native American-1
Asian American-0

Appendix B: Mail Violation Examples

In October 2008, I received a mail violation for the Jericho Movement’s Freedom Times – a newspaper by and about the political prisoner support organization. At various levels, it was informed me it was rejected either due to its ‘divisive’ nature or because it contained articles about other inmates. The BoP’s faulty logic was that reading these articles would contribute to the ‘detriment of security, safety & good order of the institution.” (original mail violation, October 2008.)

The divisiveness argument is an interesting one given that I receive (and the unit receives) what may easily be defined as ‘divisive’ articles in the op-ed/editorial pages of the NY Times, USA Today and Chicago Tribune. There are point-counter-point lam-basting of Congress and the President and extreme conservative religious perspectives represented in these screeds (e.g. against abortion, casting queer people as sinners etc). But for some reason, the BoP allows these publications in and deems them relevant to a safe and acceptable dialogue.

My assumption about the articles in the Freedom Times (I still haven’t yet seen it) is that Jericho is critical of the BoP and the prison industrial complex that exists in this country (Currently housing 2.3 million people in prisons/jails and 5 million on probation/parole, leading to the sick statistic that 1 in 31 US adults are under criminal supervision. See the Pew Center’s website & reports for more info: http://www.pewcorrections.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=31336). Also, the Jericho Movement argues forcefully yet legally that there are political prisoners in US prisons and demands their amnesty (I was granted PP status by Jericho in 2007). In denying me this newspaper, they are actually cutting me off from a base of support. In the past 8 months, I have received other articles and newspapers that contain articles by/about other prisoners but they take place in the context of safe/acceptable mainstream publications, not newspapers that criticize the BoP; prisons and that argue for the release of political prisoners.

Another example. On 4/15/09, I received a mail violation for the publication Rolling Thunder by the Crimethinc Ex-Worker’s Collective. It was denied based on “violence” depicted on roughly 11 pages. It’s ironic that I can receive any number of corporate newspapers detailing the riots at the April 2009 NATO protests in Strasbourg, France, the G20 protest in London and police overreac-
tions and violence at last summer’s DNC and RNC mobilizations. The reason is the mainstream publications are “objective,” while Crimethinc’s publication “encourages or promotes violence”. CrimethInc is being held to an extreme level of scrutiny based on their obvious radical beliefs and unflinching support of myself and other ecological and animal rights prisoners.

The overall effect of these mail violations is a furthering of the alienation processes that the CMU engenders. On some level, I am quite clueless about what is happening in our movement(s) and on the streets, and have to rely way too much on mainstream and shallow sources of news (a point made by Rob Thaxton, ironically, in a past copy of Rolling Thunder).

RESOURCES *YOU can educate yourself on the CMU*

Articles / Media


4. “Guantanamo at Home – terrorist suspects are held in US prisons on dubious evidence under inhumane conditions” by Jeanne Theoharis. The Nation, 4/20/09.


And thanks, again, to Kevin ‘Rashid’ Johnson, for being our resident artist.

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Issue # 13 - Introduction

Welcome to issue 13 of 4strugglemag. This is our 5th year of publishing this voice of U.S. political prisoners. We are getting more feedback, information and insight from readers – keep it up and join in the ongoing discussions.

I’m pleased to be back, actively involved in this issue, after my drawn out transfer last winter from the Mass state prison system to the federal BOP system. While I was in transit, the outside comrades did a good job putting out issue 12.

This issue, 13, has a lot of really important information and good words for you. We begin with a section on prison repression and resistance. Dan McGowan’s article on CMUs is must reading about a new type of control unit. Also in that section, check Bellicose Kemet’s piece on why repression of prisoners too often give up the struggle when they get released. We are initiating an ongoing discussion on this question and my response is the opening of this dialog.

Since this issue is coming out in mid-summer 09, the second section is on Black August, its meaning and significance. Section three is great reading. We are printing legendary Black revolutionary and long time political prisoner Sundiata Acoli’s entire updated short book - “History ni”

An Update from Jaan Laaman

As I stated in the issue intro, I am now back in the federal BOP system, after finishing a Mass state sentence. Last winter I began an on and after 53 year federal sentence and I am now in a u.s. penitentiary in the middle of the Sonoran desert in Arizona, far from any place, kind of like being in a hot Siberia. There have been many changes in the BOP in the 9 years I have been out of this system, and mostly all for the better I’d say, including in this pen, which is pretty strange. The struggle goes on though, no matter what prison we are in.

Recently I began doing radio commentaries again, from here in Tucson. Some internet and air wave stations carry them, and they are also available at a blog site: www.free-jaan.com. Any stations or sites interested in using them regularly can have each new commentary (one or two a month) emailed to them as soon as they are produced. Just contact me or the blog site.

Unlike Walpole, the Mass state prison I was in last year, here in the feds I can’t receive any mail from other prisoners, so prisoners should direct all their letters to the 4SM P.O. box, not to me. Many fed prisons, this penitentiary included, now allow prisoners to have email. It is great to have a little 21st century communication, but it is a restricted system. You have to be pre-approved before you can send or receive an email from a prisoner. This means you have to send a letter to the prisoner and get all the information about how to get on his/her approved email contact list.

The email address for 4SM in my name is still operational, but I do not directly get these messages, it is not my prison email address. If you want direct email contact with me, write to me.

VENCEREMOS!
Jaan Laaman
(10372-016)
a.s. penitentiary
P.O. Box 24550
Tucson, AZ 85734

"Little Guantanamo" : Exposing the CMU cont...

I read two passages below while writing this article. They fit well here:

“After climbing a great hill, one only finds more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest . . But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.” – Nelson Mandela

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.” – Pastor Martin Niemoller

Acknowledgements 
I read once, perhaps in 9th grade English, that “no man [sic] is an island”. If anything I have learned that over the last four years! Eternal gratitude and love to my wife, partner and best friend Jenny, for everything. My family, friends and community have been there for me unflaggingly – especially the NYC crew. Special thanks to Josh Raisler Cohn, Matt Strugar and Lauren Reagan for their endless legal advocacy, analysis of the CMU and friendship. Of course, thank you to all the CMU prisoners for feedback and the laughs.

Endnotes
1. As an introduction, for those unfamiliar with my case. I am serving an 84-month sentence in federal prison for arson & conspiracy for my role in 2 arsons claimed by the Earth Lib-eration Front (ELF) in 2001. I left the group in 2001, was indicted 12/7/05, pleaded to a non-cooperative plea agree-ment in 2006 & reported to prison in 7/07. I received a ‘federal crime of terrorism’ enhancement, 3 years of probation and 1.9 million USD in restitution. I am set for release on 6/20/13.
2. On the way to the CMU, I received a grand jury subpoena from Wisconsin. I refused to answer questions at the grand jury, was held in civil contempt for 8 days and, before my appeal made it to court, was released due to an indictment having been issued. That case has since been resolved with 3 plea agreements. More info can be found at http://www. elf.org
5. We are ‘prisoners’. ‘Inmate’ is the authorities’ word for us.
6. Eggen article.
7. Much of the early information on the CMUs was due to the writings of Dr. Rafi Dhahir and the two articles cited in the ‘Resources’ section by Eggen/Van Bergen.
9. Based on observations of men who were at FCI Terre Haute.
10. Institutional Supplement # MAR-5321-07A, November 13, 2008, CMU.
12. Lappin testimony before Congressional Subcommittee.
13. These movements include environmental, animal rights, taxes on corporations, separatists, Muslim charities etc.
14. In my case, I ask ‘deter from what’? At the time of my ar-rest, I was in acupuncture school, long divorced from ELF and focused on prisoner support, environmental justice and combating domestic violence.
18. ibid.
20. December 18, 2008 & March 10, 2009 letters from attorneys Matthew Strugar and Lauren Rengan to FOIA/Privacy Act Section of BOP Office of General Counsel
24. The ‘18 months of clear conduct’ is standard at all federal prisons yet no one here expects to receive a transfer on that date for reasons I will examine.
25. Code of Federal Regulation, 2 CFR 541 and Subpart D- Control Units
26. ibid.
29. ibid.
31. Van Bergen article.
32. Title 5 USC 551.
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44. In my case, I ask ‘deter from what’? At the time of my ar-rest, I was in acupuncture school, long divorced from ELF and focused on prisoner support, environmental justice and combating domestic violence.
47. Unpublished paper by Josh Raisler Cohn.
48. ibid.
49. ‘http://www.shac7.com for background on that case
50. December 18, 2008 & March 10, 2009 letters from attorneys Matthew Strugar and Lauren Rengan to FOIA/Privacy Act Section of BOP Office of General Counsel
53. ‘Notice to Inmate to Transfer to Communication Manage-ment Unit’ dated 9/3/08 signed by Lisa J. W. Hollingsworth and J.S. Wilson.
54. The ‘18 months of clear conduct’ is standard at all federal prisons yet no one here expects to receive a transfer on that date for reasons I will examine.
55. Code of Federal Regulation, 2 CFR 541 and Subpart D- Control Units
56. ibid.
59. ibid.
61. Van Bergen article.
62. Title 5 USC 551.
65. Institutional Supplement US Marion CMU.
Dictatorship: Autocratic (unlimited authority with unlimited rule) rule over the people by a dictator/single person or small clique of persons via despotism (absolute and unlimited) and often tyrannical and brutal power exercised by unquestionable orders imposed authoritatively. Exploitation: To use mealy or unjustly for one's own advantage; unfairly or cynically using another person or group for profit or advantage. Fascism: More appropriately called "corporatism" because it is a merger of state and corporate power. This is the extreme response of capitalism to economic crises. It is a repressive form of government that has three (3) different faces: one, out of power; two, in power but not secure; and three, in power and securely so. This type of government takes on police state characteristics wherein the political regime forcibly suppresses and enforces the severe economic and social regimentation of the masses in order to maintain the status quo of oligarchic plutocracy. Tell-tale characteristics of such a setup include: centralization of monopoly financial capital under the guise of privatization, where even your so-called "public" utilities and other institutions (water, oil, electric companies, jails and prisons, roads and highways, welfare offices, and media/airwaves etc.) are brought under the cartel control of large corporations belonging to the ruling class; government intervention and controls that keep the business cartels from failing financially (e.g. bailouts of airlines, banks), insurance industries with tax dollars; and government subsidies directed to chosen businesses, etc.; interlocks wherein the corporate masters either instruct government officials on what course of action to take, or they use government posts to aid their business interests; andVNpentration of land, resources, labor and institutions with military bases for the control and monitoring of insurgencies and defending of imperialist economic interests. Oligarchy: Government by the few over the many, where a small group exercises control for corrupt and selfish purposes. Plutocracy: Government by a controlling class of the wealthy. Protest: When I say that this or that doesn’t suit me and brings me harm which I intend to stop by any means necessary. Resistance/rebellion/revolt: When I ensure that what doesn’t suit me no longer occurs. Vertical integration: A form of business organization in which a single company/firm owns and controls the entire process of production from the procurement and unearthing of the raw materials to the manufacture and sale of the finished product; integrating and controlling economic activity from basic production to the point-of-sale. Welfare: Though many are brainwashed (see that definition above) into thinking that this is a bad thing and something to be ashamed of needing, it is simply aid for those in need; the state of doing well in respect to happiness and well-being, and the improvement of this state for disadvantaged social groups. It is a necessity created by the unjust and unfair economic system of capitalism. It is a civil and human right, although it is severely underfunded by the government politicians who practice to deceive. Politics of two arms: the connection between military buildup and imperialist economic domination of Third World communities, joining an economics of appropriation of land, resources, labor and institutions with military bases for the control and monitoring of insurgencies and defending of imperialist economic interests. Letters

Dear 4strugglemag, Revolutionary Greetings:

I am a Texas prisoner doing a 20 year and 12 year bid and I write you this letter to thank you for your mags you send me. As a result it has opened my mind and eyes to what is really going on and what actions need to be taken to cease the corruption and oppressive/repressive acts and omissions of our state and government officials and leaders. I also know that knowledge is power so we must diligently, without ceasing, educate to liberate the lost and blind people, in truth, love and justice. Now I am only 30 years old and have only been locked up about 6 years but I have revolutionized my mind and heart now that I have seen the light more clearly. So now I advocate for Truth, Justice, and Peace. Freedom. Socialism. Protection of Our mother Earth, Human Rights and Peace against U.S. imperialism. Also as a born again Christian, I know it’s my duty to spread the message of Jesus like Jesus did, as well as taught, and told his disciples and Church to do. Now I am not a scholar but I do have vision and knowledge that I strive to make better via reading, listening and researching so I ask for tips/advice for books to read and things to do to enhance my vision and knowledge as a revolutionary minded souljah so that I can be a vessel, leader, teacher and asset to my community and the struggle of the People.

I leave you as I came and pray my letter gives inspiration, wisdom, knowledge, understanding and the courage and passion to fight the good fight, to dare to struggle – dare to win. Shalom.

No Justice, no peace! Strength and Solidarity Oliver E. Lister II 1279183 CY Unit 899 FM 632 Knessy TX USA 78819

Greetings brothers and sisters!

I am writing this letter to encourage everyone there and abroad to keep on keeping on! I recently was fortunate enough to get a glance at the #12 issue and hope I can offer you some input on issues, with your continued ability to print and offer us who are not fortunate with finances at the moment.

I have been incarcerated in Texas since July 91 and am serving a 25 year sentence. Throughout my time here I have been exposed to various ideologies, beliefs and organizations. I am looking forward to being released soon, though in Texas you never know what to expect. I hope that you can give me more information about ways I can help to enhance 4strugglemag. Please keep feeding the flocks of Black men/minorities with snippets of history, news of today and direction for the future. I am loving the movement, and refuse to allow stagnation and regression keep my peers lost in this horrible nightmare.

Unjust imprisonment without true warriors fighting for true freedom

Thanks for all you are doing; keep up the good work.

Sincerely, a brother

(Keith H. Daniels)

From political prisoners in Colombia, passed along from Project Accompaniment and Solidarity with Colombia (www.pasc.ca)

San Juan de Girón (Colombia)

Colombia, a country increasingly to the right, has generated in a nightmare a dangerous monster with clear ‘neo-fascist’ tendencies whose morbid plan is supported by the narco-paramilitary Alvaro Uribe Velez and his cabinet of criminals in power. Meanwhile, the entire design of this fascist phenomenon has been mentored and financed by the imperial north. Since Colombia is one of the last Latin-American countries that doesn’t joke around about fulfilling its duties as a North-American colony, it could provide a springboard from which future invasions of the southern continent would be made possible but for the wave of emancipating leadership being led by various nations like Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Argentina, etc… Those countries have broken away from U.S. hegemony and are building their futures in an autonomous and sovereign manner devoid of the recipes and Interferences of the neoliberals.

But Colombia, sadly, remains trapped in the clutches of a list of criminals anchored in power. These, through the most harmful and fraudulent means of corruption, mafia and violence of all kinds, try to silence the voice of opposition that echoes mostly throughout social and popular sectors. With gunpoint and prison, they attempt to bar us from the political stage of our country.

There remains no doubt that the assault of urbism is conducted in large part through the mediocrity and that it is gaining ground in various sectors where the population is subjected to manipulative tactics in civic-military programs like: “families in action.” “network of cooperators”,

Marland Henry Gibson 952537 B. East – 311- SHU P.O. Box 111 Carlisle Indiana 47838 USA

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mechanisms, concerts, false nationalism, etc…

Meanwhile the regime’s attack is brutally felt in prisons where the INPEC (National Penitentiary and Prison Insitute) is starting to play a cardinal role in ‘democratic security’, actively participating in anti-insurgency programs and other means of social control. Some of these programs are camouflaged in legal disputes like with the hackneyed ‘justice and peace law’ (JPL) that claims it applies through persuasion and force to the political parties of Colombia. Through all the aforementioned tenets of its petty plan the Uribe regime aspires to dismantle the solidarity and social organization of us political detainees and prisoners of war because we have become, from our places of confinement, a tribunal of denunciation and opinions at the national and international levels that undermine the news fabricated in the media which denies the existence of an internal conflict and thereby of the ownership of our country. The regime has tried to occult this conflict throughout the ages.

On account of the servile elites that are guided by uribism, Colombia has become a forsaken island amidst other countries that are building, by means of solidarity and autonomous efforts free from foreign influence, the great motherland of Latin America with integrative programs like: ALBA (Alternativa Latinoamericana for Latin America and the Caribbean), TeleSUR (The New Television Station of the South), UNASUR (program for the integration and development of Latin America led by Brazil and not liable to interference by the Pentagon), plans for the search and exploitation of hydrocarbon co-ordinated by: PDVSA, PETROBRAS amongst others). These independent developments of South American nations contrast with the total dependence of Colombia on the United States.

We propose from jail to continue unveiling this fascist regime through denunciation and the providing of autonomous development and military defense of Latin America led by Brazil and not liable to interference by the Pentagon), TeleSUR (The New Television Station of the South), UNASUR (program for the integration and development of Latin America led by Brazil and not liable to interference by the Pentagon), plans for the search and exploitation of hydrocarbon co-ordinated by: PDVSA, PETROBRAS amongst others). These independent developments of South American nations contrast with the total dependence of Colombia on the United States.

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Coup in Honduras

On June 28, Honduran police arrested President Manuel Zelaya from his bed and exiled him at gunpoint to Costa Rica, halting his controversial push to redraw the constitution (which the president says benefits the country's elites) but spurring fresh concerns about democratic rule across Latin America. Zelaya and his supporters were arrested and turned loose the police, the Revolutionary Guard, and the religious militia, the Basij. Days of street battles followed, in which at least 17 people were killed, including a young woman, Neda Agha-Soltan, whose death was captured on video and became a worldwide rallying point. Hundreds of opponents were jailed, and the protest leaders were arrested. The election was certified by the country’s Guardian Council and praised by Mr. Ahmadinejad as the “freest” in the world.

Free Trade Massacre in Peru

In early June, Peruvian police in the northern Amazon region attacked a group of Indigenous people who since April had been peacefully protesting the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Amazon River. The protest resulted in at least 30 deaths, including 14 police officers, who were killed by the same group of Indigenous people that participated in the coup, and authorized the coup with tacit complicity and refusal to withdrawals and military support to the Honduran forces.

Election Protests in Iran

Iran has had quasi-democracy since the ouster of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in the Islamic Revolution of 1979. On June 12, voters went to the polls to choose a new president. Less than two hours after the last of some 40 million paper ballots was cast, the authorities announced that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won the election. Hundreds of protesters took to the streets to demonstrate against the election results. Protests poured into the streets for the largest demonstration since the fall of the Shah. But the country’s supreme ruler, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, harshly denounced the demonstrations and turned loose the police, the Revolutionary Guard, and the religious militia, the Basij. Days of street battles followed, in which at least 17 people were killed, including a young woman, Neda Agha-Soltan, whose death was captured on video and became a worldwide rallying point. Hundreds of opponents were jailed, and the protest leaders were arrested. The election was certified by the country’s Guardian Council and praised by Mr. Ahmadinejad as the “freest” in the world.

Akwasasne: “No Guns!” - Mohawks vow to resist armed border guards

Canadian Borders Services Agency (CBSA) were due to be armed at the Port of Cornwall crossing on June 1, a policy universally opposed and condemned by the Akwesasne Mohawk Community. Guards are due to post their posts just before midnight, out of fear of reprisals from the community. Protesters have maintained a presence at the site on Cornwall Island in Ontario since then, and vehicle traffic onto the Seaway International Bridge has been shut down by police on both sides of the border. The Mohawk territory of Akwesasne straddles the jurisdictions of Ontario, Quebec and New York State, and is a major international border crossing between Canada and the United States. CBSA guards began arming in 2007, and there are currently more than 800 armed CBSA guards across Canada. The entire CBSA aims to be armed, in stages, by 2016. “The Canadian Border Services Agency [is] a foreign oppressive force who occupies our sovereign community and territory. They are unwelcome, unwanted and now carrying firearms.”

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proof that the units are not strictly Muslim (an interesting point is that some of the Muslim men here have cases unrelated to terrorism). Does the inclusion of six people who are non-Muslim really negate the claim of segregation through space? If it is a deterrent, why does the BoP determine who comes to the CMU? The BoP claims there are 211 international terrorists (1000 domestic terrorists) in their system (12). Yet, the CMUs are no more than 60 men at the present time. Where are the rest of these people? How does the BoP determine who of those 1200 are sent to a CMU and who to normal prisons? These are questions that need to be asked— in court and in the media.

Many of the men here (both Muslim and non) are considered political prisoners in their respective movements and have been engaged in social justice, religious organizations, charities and humanitarian efforts (13). Another conception of the CMU is that it is a location designed to isolate us from our movements and to act as a deterrent for others from those movements (as ‘step outside the line and you too will end up there’) (14). The intended effect of long-term housing of this kind is a profound sense of dislocation and alienation. With your mail, email, phones, and visits monitored and no human touch allowed at the facility (when it did not, it was sued) (17). The judge ruled that the plaintiffs were illegally designated based on their religion, that the BoP utilize the administrative remedy process (which I have done to no avail) and request a transfer after 18 months of being in general population over 15 years! How can someone be OK in general population for that long and then one day be seen as a communication threat?

So, I have hypothesized about the goals of the CMU. Let me discuss the many problems and injustices associated with the existence of the CMUs.

Due process

More appropriately, a lack thereof. A term I never thought much about before my imprisonment, due process is:

...the conduct of legal proceedings according to established rules and principles for the protection and enforcement of private rights, including notice and the right to be heard before a tribunal with the power to decide the case.” (21)

I was moved from FCI Sandstone, against my will and at a moment with no hearing and thus no chance to contest the reason for my transfer. A FOIA request recently received states I was redesignated May 6th, my transfer was signed May 12th with the reason given as “program participation” (22). Since I got here, I have not had a hearing to contest the claims made in the “Notice to Inmate of Transfer to CMU” (23) some of which were woefully inaccurate. Instead, I was told I could utilize the administrative remedy process (which I have done to no avail) and request a transfer after 18 months of “clean conduct” (24).

One Way to Remember

On September, Saturday, 12, 2009 at 10 a.m., the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross will host a 5k run/walk/bike through the trails of the Whitter Narrows Regional Park in El Monte, Ca. This run/walk/bike/jog is described to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF Warchest program. The Warchest program was created in November 1994 to provide monetary support to political prisoners (PPs) and prisoners of war (POWs) in North America. Funds for the Warchest are divided and distributed through monthly stipends to PP/POWs who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to cover the basic necessities of everyday living: health care, religious observance, clothing, electricity, rent, telephones, shoes, clothes, as well as assisting their families with what little they can.

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. Please join us this year and help us accelerate our goal of raising $2,000 for the ABCF Warchest, El Centro Cultural de Mexico, Free Chip Fitzpatrick Committee and several other local programs. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. We encourage people to participate in helping us raise funds for the Warchest, which can be done in the following ways:

Be a runner: We are accepting people or groups who are running a 5k, 10k, or half-marathon who wish to simply donate money to the cause. Remember the money received is going to help imprisoned comrades who need your help. The person who collects the most amount of funds will be given a prize for their involvement and dedication to helping our fallen comrades.

Sponsor a runner: This can be done through a flat donation to the runner of your choice. We ask from those who wish to not run to actively support those who are running in hopes of collecting as much for our comrades as possible.

Sponsor Running Down the Walls: Any amount helps. Contact the Los Angeles ABCF group if you wish to simply donate money to the cause.

Donate to the Warchest: Send funds directly to the Los Angeles ABCF (PO Box 11223, Whittier, Ca 90603) or to the Philadelphia ABCF (PO Box 42129, Philadelphia, PA 19101) Make checks or money orders out only to Tim Fasnacht. Get involved in the planning of Running Down the Walls. We always need help with organizing the event and we encourage people to contact us if they would like to get involved. You can do this by contacting the LA Anarchist Black Cross, www.abcf.net/la, la@abcf.net

Registeration fees: $12 preregistration; $15, the day of the run. (Make checks out to Tim Fasnacht)

For more information contact the Los Angeles Branch Group of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation

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Statement on the SF 8 Plea Agreement

JALIL A. MUNTAQIM
July 6, 2009

First, I would like to thank all my friends and support- ers for their tenacious and tireless work in support of the S.F.8, especially the San Francisco Support Committee, Committee in Defense of Human Rights, Asian-Americans Committee for the S.F. 8, Freedom Archives, and many others. I wish to thank the excellent legal team whose un- wavering commitment to the task was inspiring. I espe- cially wish to thank with profound appreciation my attorneys Daro Inouye, a 30-year veteran of the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office, whose trial experiences and skills are incomparable; and Mark Goldrosen, a remarkable, selfless trial technician and writer whose understanding of both State and Federal law brought the court (and some of the attorneys) to task.

Eddie Hatcher, Indian activist, dies in prison

FROM THE NEWS & OBSERVER, May 1 2009

Eddie Hatcher, an American Indian activist, who was convicted of murder and attracted worldwide atten- tion when he and an accomplice took hostages at The Robesonian newspaper, died of natural causes in pris- on. He was 51.

Hatcher died Friday morning in Central Prison, accord- ing to a news release from the Department of Correc- tion.

Hatcher brought national attention to charges of corrup- tion in Robeson when Hatchets and a friend stormed the offices of the local newspaper brandishing sawed-off shotguns and claiming to have a bomb. They claimed the doors and held up to 14 people hostage for 10 hours, with Hatcher in near hysteric’s claiming his life was in danger because of what he knew of local law enforc- ement’s involvement in cocaine trafficking. Taking over the newspaper building, he said, was the only way to draw attention to the corruption and save his own life.

He surrendered without injuring anyone when then- Gov. James G. Martin agreed to have a task force in- vestigate the claims. Hatcher was acquitted on federal hostage-taking charges but was later found guilty of state charges related to the weapons charges. He served five years of a 18-year sentence.

In the last six years, 22 members of the Robeson County sheriffs’ office, including the Sheriff, have been taken into court to face corruption charges, including allegations of drug dealing.

The irony is that all prisoners who violate prison rules are subject to a series of disciplinary hearings in which they could offer their defense. For legal units such as Florence A.D.X (Note: the control unit program), there exists a codified set of rules and hearings for transfer to these lo- cations (25). The BoP has deliberately ignored this process and transferred us to this special, brand-new CMU without due process. My notice of transfer was given to me 12 days after I arrived!

Similar to the ludicrous disregard for due process (and the U.S. Constitution), there is no “step down” process for the CMU. Unlike the ones that exist at Florence A.D.X, control units or even the gantry units, the CMU has no stages, no requisite amount of time we are to spend here before being sent back to our original prison (26).

Because these preceding programs are specifically for pris- on misbehavior, there is a logical and orderly way to finish the program and eventually transfer. For us, the BoP has set up a program designed to make us all the more prisoners, so it is not our fault, which we cannot ever change, how can we reasonably leave the unit? In its “Admissions and Orientation” guide for Marion’s CMU, here is what they say:

“Every new commitment to the CMU will be evaluated by his unit team regarding his suitability for incarceration in this institution. If, for some reason, the inmate is deemed not acceptable for confinement in this unit, he will be pro- cessed as expected to continue his commitment to ministerial life.”

[I am still roughly 10 months from my 18-month period in which I must wait before requesting a transfer. Consider- ing the fact that all my remedies have been denied, I am not hopeful about this.]

CMU as Secret

In addition to the due process and transfer issues, there is the secretive and illegal manner that the CMU was cre- ated. As an anecdote, the inmates of the CMU are told that the program and eventually transfer. For us, the BoP has set up a program designed to make us all the more prisoners, so it is not our fault, which we cannot ever change, how can we reasonably leave the unit? In its “Admissions and Orientation” guide for Marion’s CMU, here is what they say:

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Because of this, and the general refusal of the BoP to hand over relevant documents through FOIA, it is impossible to determine the specific reasons why one is sent here — and thus their transferring inmate to the CMU.

Letters here are stamped “USP Marion,” not CMU, and the unit is called “I Unit” by staff. (An interesting anec- dote: one of the BoP defenders on the CMU said that they were sent here to “serve out their sentences.”)

When I first arrived, the BoP informed me that letters on the CMU were stamped “USP Marion,” not CMU, and the unit was called “I Unit” by staff. “An interesting anecdote: one of the BoP defenders on the CMU said that they were sent here to “serve out their sentences.”

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Media queries are met with silence or vague informa- tion. Requests by the media to interview me by coming to Marion have been denied — due to “it being detrimental to the safety, security and good order of the institution” (37). There still is no Program Statement on the CMU — a legal requirement, outlining the specific rules of the CMU and how inmates are to live there. Because of this, and the general refusal of the BoP to hand over relevant documents through FOIA, it is impossible to determine the specific reasons why one is sent here — and thus their transferring inmate to the CMU. Because of this, and the general refusal of the BoP to hand over relevant documents through FOIA, it is impossible to determine the specific reasons why one is sent here — and thus their transferring inmate to the CMU.

Communication Management (The promotion of isolation and alienation)

The most painful aspect of this unit, to me, is how the CMU restricts my contact with the world beyond these walls. It is difficult for those who have been released to understand what a lifeline contact with our family and friends is to us. It is our link to the world — and our future (for those of us who are fortunate enough to have release dates). Prison authorities and architects are well aware that those who have strong family ties and good communication with their loved ones are well behaved and have significantly lower rates of recidivism. The BoP, in theory, recog- nizes this by claiming they try to situate us within 500 miles of our homes. Mostly, this is a cruel farce for many prisoners — I have not been within 1000 miles of my fam- ily in 2 years.
The second charge faced by Mr. Bell, conspiracy to kill po-
licemen, will be (was) dismissed. Mr. Bell and his support-
ers see this resolution as a resounding victory. Mr. Bell was fac-
ing life without the possibility of parole in a maximum
security prison in California if convicted. The government,
through an informant, originally alleged that Mr. Bell was the
shooter of Sgt Young. However, it is difficult to believe
that the Attorney General of California, who prosecuted
this case, would have allowed Mr. Bell to plead to a lesser
charge with a sentence of only informal probation if there
were credible evidence he had shot Sgt. Young.

Bell and his co-defendants have always maintained that,
because of the torture used by the New Orleans Police De-
partment to gain alleged confessions and the lack of new
evidence, these charges should never have been brought.

Charges dropped - Jalil pleads no contest – Cisco’s case continues

Finally, after years of unified resistance by the brothers and
the building of massive support, California State prosecu-
tors were forced to admit that they have insufficient evi-
dence against the San Francisco 8.

All charges were dismissed today against Ray Bradextern, Richard
Brown, Hank Jones, and Harold Taylor. The courtroom at 850
Bryant Street was packed with SF8 supporters after a rally of hundreds and a huge
“Free SF 8” banner was displayed on the hillside of Bernal Heights to be
seen from all over the city. This is finally the disposition of a case that
should never have been brought in the first place,” announced attorney
Charles Boudon who intends to file a motion to dismiss the charges against
his client.
Health GAP Founder Alan Berkman, MD, Dies
From alanberkman.com

Alan Berkman, MD, a renowned HIV/AIDS doctor and founder of Health GAP (Global Access Project), died of cancer on June 5.

Berkman was a longtime advocate for social justice in health care, sneaking behind government barricades to provide medical care to Native American freedom fighters at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and treating prisoners injured during the Attica Uprising in New York. When he was arrested for removing a bullet from an activist’s leg, Berkman refused to testify before a federal grand jury and spent years in prison.

While incarcerated, Berkman advocated for improved medical treatment for his fellow inmates; after his release, he continued to speak out about poor conditions in federal correctional facilities. He then went on to become medical director of Highbridge Woodycrest Center in the Bronx, New York, one of the first skilled nursing facilities for people living with HIV. He later joined the faculty of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in New York City, where he dedicated himself to improving treatment access for HIV-positive people around the globe. With that goal in mind, he helped found Health GAP in 1999.

In a statement, Health GAP steering committee member and AIDS activist Jaan Laaman described Berkman’s life as “so well lived, firmly rooted in a genuine commitment to social justice that led him beyond concern to action, which he sustained for his entire life. His death is such a loss, but he has truly given all of us so much—his time, his passion, his friendship and advice, his ideas, his investment in making the expansion of treatment access possible.”

On May 21, Berkman was honored with Health GAP’s 2009 Global Health Justice Award along with David Hoos. In the future, this award will be renamed the Dr. Alan Berkman Global Health Justice Award in honor of this great leader, organizer and AIDS warrior.

Dr. Alan Berkman

Our comrades, you were a healer, a soldier, an activist, a thinker, a doer. You were a genuine and good human being, a father and a husband, a friend and more.

Many will miss you, many will remember you, and this certainly includes many many current and former political prisoners.

With respect and love we will remember you comrades.

Jaan Laaman

Just two weeks ago, Health GAP honored Dr. Alan Berkman with the 2009 Global Health Justice Award along with Dr. David Hoos. In the future, this award will be renamed the Dr. Alan Berkman Global Health Justice Award in honor of this great leader, organizer and AIDS warrior.

Alan Berkman, MD, Dies
From alanberkman.com

Alan Berkman, MD, a renowned HIV/AIDS doctor and founder of Health GAP (Global Access Project), died of cancer on June 5.

Berkman was a longtime advocate for social justice in health care, sneaking behind government barricades to provide medical care to Native American freedom fighters at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and treating prisoners injured during the Attica Uprising in New York. When he was arrested for removing a bullet from an activist’s leg, Berkman refused to testify before a federal grand jury and spent years in prison.

While incarcerated, Berkman advocated for improved medical treatment for his fellow inmates; after his release, he continued to speak out about poor conditions in federal correctional facilities. He then went on to become medical director of Highbridge Woodycrest Center in the Bronx, New York, one of the first skilled nursing facilities for people living with HIV. He later joined the faculty of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in New York City, where he dedicated himself to improving treatment access for HIV-positive people around the globe. With that goal in mind, he helped found Health GAP in 1999.

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looks for any reason to disqualify our legal mail as pro-
tected and advisable this way. In doing so, they violate the sanctity of the attorney-client confidentiality principle.

Most of my violations have been petty— a package has more than twenty pieces of paper or a friend kindly en-
closed stamps. A few inmates though amount to censor-
ship and a limiting of political expression and dialogue. See Appendix B for a detailed discussion of these instances.

D) Media Contact: Although requests have been made to interview people in the CMU, none have been granted to date. This is a violation of the spirit of the BoP’s own media policy (42). There is an imperative on the Bureau’s part to control and ultimately suppress information on the CMU from making it to a mass audience.

Daily life at the CMU

Neither one of the two CMUs were built for long-term habitation. The Marion CMU was the site of the Secure Housing Unit (SHU), the USP that closed here in 2005. Terre Haute’s CMU is in “D-wing” — the site of the former federal death row.

The CMU was seemingly converted to its current use with the addition of televisions, steel tables, and new wir-
ing and yet it is not suitable for long-term use due to its “open cell” design (i.e. with bars). With twenty-five pris-
oners, our movements are restricted to two housing ranges (hallways about one hundred by twelve feet); a recreation range where we also eat (consisting of seven cells with a computer, typewriter, barbed shop, religious library, social library, art room and recreational equipment); and a small room next to the Attica Uprising in New York. When he was arrested for removing a bullet from an activist’s leg, Berkman refused to testify before a federal grand jury and spent years in prison.

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lease, he continued to speak out about poor conditions in federal correctional facilities. He then went on to become medical director of Highbridge Woodycrest Center in the Bronx, New York, one of the first skilled nursing facilities for people living with HIV. He later joined the faculty of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in New York City, where he dedicated himself to improving treatment access for HIV-positive people around the globe. With that goal in mind, he helped found Health GAP in 1999.

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Details about the public memorial to be scheduled soon will be posted at www.healthgap.org and www.berkmanfund.org. Donations should be made, in lieu of flowers, to the Alan Berkman Fund c/o Health GAP (please write Alan Berkman Fund in the memo line) and mail to 429 West 127th Street, 2nd Floor or donate on line at www.healthgap.org/donate.htm (again, please write Alan Berkman Fund in the memo section).
My short time in prison prior to coming to the CMUs consisted of two months at MDC Brooklyn and eight months at FCI Sandstone. I had never gotten in trouble and spent my days as a clerk in psychology, working toward a Master's degree, reading, writing and exercising. My goal was to get closer to home and my loved ones. In April 2008, I filed a complaint of official negligence due to my mother's illness and her inability to travel to Minnesota to visit me. I had my team meeting, and my security points were lowered. Weeks later, I was moved to the CMU.

The irony is that I was moved to the CMU to have my communication managed, but what changed in that one year to justify this move? If I was a danger, then why did the BoP house me in a community prison? The same applies to many of the men here— some have been in general population for twenty years and then suddenly a need to manage their communication is conjured up. During my pre-CMU time, I had used 3500 phone minutes and sent hundreds of letters. If there was a problem with my communication, shouldn’t the BoP have raised this with me? My notice stating their rationale for placing me here attributed it to me “being a member and leader in the ELF and ALF” and “communicating in code” (43). But if this is true, then shouldn’t I have been sent to the CMU as soon as I self-reported to prison in July 2007? I had my team meeting, and my security points were lowered. While lawsuits have been filed in both Illinois and Indiana federal courts, what is needed urgently is for these units to be dragged out into the open. I am asking for your help and advocacy in striking this injustice and the mindset that allows a CMU to exist. Please peruse the resource section at the back of the magazine. I hope I gave you a clearer idea of what’s going on here. Thank you for all your support and love — your letters are a bright candle in a sea of darkness.

Forward!

Where to from here, then? Does the new President and his Attorney General take issue with segregation? Will Obama view the CMU, as he did with Guantanamo Bay, as a horrible legacy of his predecessor and close it? Many people are hopeful for an outcome like that. On April 7th, 2009, Mr. Obama, while in Turkey, said, “The United States will not make war on Islam,” and that he wanted to “extend the hand of friendship to the Muslim world” (47). While that sounds wonderful, what does that look like in concrete terms? Will he actually act on his words and close the CMU? Or will he marry the policy of Bush and condone a secret illegal set of political units for Muslims and activists? What of the men here? Will he transfer us back to normal prisons and review the outrageous prosecutions of many of the CMU detainees? If it can be done with (former Sen)ator Ted Steven’s case, it can be done here. Upon release, FBI intimidation of potential employers shuts off all employment possibilities in the computer profession and stepped-up COINTELPRO harassment, surveillance, and psychological operations drove him underground.

In 1969 he and 13 others were arrested in the Panther 21 conviction was a case held in jail without bail and on trial for two years before being acquitted, along with all other defendants, by a jury deliberating less than two hours. In 1969 he and 13 others were arrested in the Panther 21 conviction was a case held in jail without bail and on trial for two years before being acquitted, along with all other defendants, by a jury deliberating less than two hours. In May 1973, while driving the New Jersey Turnpike, he and his comrades were ambushed by N.J. state troopers. One of the prisoners, Zayd Shakur, was killed, another, Assata Shakur, was wounded and captured. One state trooper was killed and another wounded, and Sundiata was captured days later. After a highly sensationalized and prejudicial trial he was convicted of the death of the state trooper and was sentenced to Trenton State Prison (TSP) for life plus 30 years consecutive. Upon entering TSP he was subjected to all employment possibilities in the computer profession and stepped-up COINTELPRO harassment, surveillance, and psychological operations drove him underground.

In September 1979, the International Jurist interviewed Sundiata and subsequently wrote a political prisoner profile article. The Parole Board’s stated reason for the 20-year hit was Sundiata’s membership in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army prior to his arrest, the receipt of hundreds of “Free Sundiata” form letters that characterized him as a New Afrikan Prisoner of War, and the feeling that the punitive aspects of his sentence had not been satisfied and that rehabilitation was not sufficiently achieved. The real reason for the 20-year hit was to attempt to force Sundiata to renounce his political beliefs and to proclaim to the world that he was willing to struggle for the liberation of his people. Write Sundiata Acoli: Sundiata Acoli #39794-066 USP Otisville P.O. Box 1000 Otisville, NY 10963-1000 sundiataacoli.org

### Political Prisoner Profile: Sundiata Acoli

Sundiata Acoli (born in 1939, as Clark Edward Squire), a New Afrikan political prisoner of war, mathematician, and computer analyst, was born January 14, 1937, in De- catur, Texas, and raised in Vernon, Texas. He graduated from Prairie View A&M College of Texas in 1956 with a B.S. in mathematics and for the next 13 years worked for various computer-oriented firms, mostly in the New York area. During the summer of 1964 he did voter registration work in Mississippi. In 1968 he joined the Harlem Black Panther Party and did community work around issues of schools, housing, jobs, child care, drugs, and police brutality.

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riots, 28 in all, although most were whipped out of the news media while across the country, prison officials instituted a nation wide federal prisons lock down. The disparity in crack/powder cocaine sentencing laws remains to date; the only change made was the removal of the C-SPAN TV channel from all federal prisons’ TVs.

Only two prison elements grew faster than the African prison population. One was the number of jobs for prison guards, the other is the slave labor industries. A California guard with a high school diploma makes $44,000 after 7 years which is more than the state pays its PhD public university Associate Professors and is $10,000 more than its average public school teacher’s salary. The national average unemployment for Blacks is 38 prison employees, usually Black or others of color, hire another prison guard, usually White, since most prisons are built in depressed, rural, areas to give the appearance to provide jobs to poor, unemployed White populations.

After decades of the U.S. loudly accusing China of using prison labor in their export products, the U.S., prison products to the public. It set off a stampede by Wall Street and private corporations – Smith Barney, INM, AT&T, TWA, Texas Instruments, Dell Computers, Honda, Lexus, Spalding, Eddie Bauer, Brill Manufacturing Co., and many others – to shamelessly invest in and up slave labor factories in prisons and to exploit every facet of the prison slave labor industry for super profits while callously discrediting civilian workers for prison slave laborers.

From 1980 to 1994, prisoners increased 221 percent, prison industries jumped an astonishing 358 percent, and prison sales skyrocketed from $392 million to $1.31 billion. By the year 2000, a prison socialist observed that 30 percent of prisoners (or 500,000) will be industry workers producing $8.9 billion in goods and services, (or 500,000) will be industry workers producing $8.9 billion in goods and services.

Although crime has been decreasing for 5 straight years, and that prison population has mushroomed over the last decade to an astonishing 1.75 million souls – the majority of whom are Black – the prison population has been growing faster than the U.S. population. The actual surveillance population has mushroomed since 1993 when Blacks ascended to 55 percent. Other prisoners of color made up 18 percent and Whites shrunk to 27 percent when Blacks ascended to 55 percent. Other prisoners of color made up 18 percent and Whites shrunk to 27 percent when Blacks ascended to 55 percent. Other prisoners of color made up 18 percent and Whites shrunk to 27 percent when Blacks ascended to 55 percent. Other prisoners of color made up 18 percent and Whites shrunk to 27 percent when Blacks ascended to 55 percent.

I began to move through the ’90s the New African liberation struggle behind the walls finds itself coalescing around campaigns to free political prisoners and prisoners of war, helping to build a national PPP/POW organization, strengthening its links on the domestic front, and building solidarity in the international arena. Although the established media concentrates on the sensationalism of ghetto crack epidemics, street crime, drive-by shootings, and gang violence, there has been a long quiet period of consciousness-raising in the New African colonies by the committed independence force for Black liberation. “I was there when the colonies began, the consciousness of the colonies is just beginning to manifest itself through seemingly random sparks and the rise of innovative cultural trends, i.e., year 2000, “me-tal” music, culturally designed hair styles, dissemination of political/cultural video cassettes, reviving of insurmountable periods, and the resurrection of forgotten heroes; all of which presage an oppressed people getting ready to push forward again.

The New African liberation struggle behind the walls now follows the laws of its own development, paid for in its own blood, intrinsically linked to the struggle of its own people, and rooted deep in the ebb and flow of its own history. To know that history is already to know its future development and direction.

My sincere appreciations to Zakkyah Rashada, Nancy Williman, Fred McCarr, and Walu Shakur, for providing prison source data used in this writing. Any incorrect interpretations of the data are strictly my own. Also my warm gratitude to Mtumwa Iimani for her development and direction.

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The Communications Management Unit (CMU) was established to house inmates who, due to their current offense of conviction, offense conduct, or other verified information, require increased monitoring of communications between the inmate and persons in the community in order to protect the safety, security and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and to protect the public,” the bureau said in written response to questions from The Times. “The Communications Management Unit (CMU) really shows the need for better procedures before people are thrown in there and kept in there indefinitely.”

Among the inmates at Marion is environmental activist Daniel McGowan, who was convicted in 2007 of burning a family-owned tree farm in Oregon and was sentenced to 16 years in prison. McGowan remains in contact with other activists and published a blog. Lauren Regan, executive director of the Civil Liberties Defense Center and lead attorney in McGowan’s case, notes that none of McGowan’s co-defendants ended up in the CMU.

“What’s different about Daniel?” she said. “What’s different about Daniel?” she said. “The only difference is the outreach that he was doing and the voice that he had behind bars.”

Benkahla was studying in Medina, Saudi Arabia, in 2003 when Saudi agents picked him up and shipped him back to the United States to face trial in Virginia on charges of promoting terrorist activities. He was acquitted in 2004. Federal prosecutors soon called him back before a grand jury, where he lied under oath about e-mail and phone contact with suspected jihadists during travels to Pakistan and possibly Afghanistan. Among the evidence federal prosecutors had were e-mails in which Benkahla talked of “studying in Afghan,” and traveling...
Managing challenging behaviour

BY JOHN BOWDEN, JMP GLENCHIL
Reprinted from Inside Time - www.insidetime.org
John Bowden, long time prison resister and anti-authoritarian, works closely with our friends at Bristol ABC in England. Check them out at bristolabc.wordpress.com.

MCBS extends the current control unit regime whereby the Prison Service ‘manages’ prisoners perceived to be particularly challenging to manage whilst in custody’. In their determination to blame and stigmatise a minority of those made by Congresspersons in favor of correct-unity is a race issue.

Mr. Chairman, we have been before this body this even-ity pointing out the disparity, pointing out the inequal-ity of crack users. It is not just the injustice of the system, it is the injustice of nury location and manage them within a small and highly supervised unit’ whilst responding to ‘the changing nature of the population, with increasing management challenges surrounding gang affiliation and extremism.’

In their determination to blame and stigmatise a minority of ‘persistently difficult and challenging prisoners’ for the crime, the inflated media focus on the criminal behaviour of those who are shown to have engaged in minor incursions into the illegal drug market. The criminal justice system is unable to deal with the increasing number of cases involving drug fraud.

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looked in the media coverage of his case was McVeigh's Oklahoma City Federal Building causing 168 deaths. Upon his conviction for terrorism, McVeigh disclosed his revulsion at being told that he and nine other Special Political Prisoners (SPPs) were to be ordered to help the CIA, "fly drugs into the U.S. to fund covert operations" and "work hand in hand with civilian police agencies" as "government pain assassins."

Disillusioned and embittered with the U.S. government, McVeigh soon afterwards left military service, gravitated deeper into the right wing militia service, surfaced four years upon his arrest in the Oklahoma City bombing case. The mid 90s found White anarchists Neil Batelli and Mithas Bolton collaborating with Black POWs Ojoe Lutalo, Sekou Odinga, and Sundiata Acoli which resulted in the transformation of their local New Jersey Anarchist Black Cross into an ABC Federation (ABCF) which now serves as a role model for organizations to address the growing number of prisoners considered suitable for transfer to control units. But as the ABCF pointed out, "The so-called "War on Drugs" sent Blacks and other people of color to prison in droves while allowing white offenders to go free. The so-called "War on Drugs" sent Blacks and other people of color to prison in droves while allowing white offenders to go free. 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I have been taught to hate myself, I won't defend myself. Which is dominant. That is all a part of white supremacy. If teaching those people to hate themselves and to love that, if you develop all kinds of negative images about forcing them to disrespect themselves. If you mistreat this brings to mind something I read by Ms. Frances Cress family and community, are in the pits of powerlessness. Their minds had been strictly on “getting dusk” (on getting too many more who ended up either killed or recaptured. Their politics intact.” Her question really challenged who’s made the successful transition to the outside, keep- on all fronts, and the masses are called after they hit the streets. She also asked if I knew “anyone ing their policies intact.” I must also point out that I’m looking through a confined scope. I’m approaching my 14th year of imprisonment, all of which I’ve done in Wisconsin’s maximum dungeons, except for the 27 months I spent in the state’s supermax. For the most part, I’ve been around captives who are do- ing ridiculously extensive numbers, and the small minority who’ve decided to awaken haven’t really had the oppor- tunity to test out their consciousness beyond these walls. There are short-timers who are sometimes shipped to max- in most others. New York City prisons became so overcrowded they became warehouses for people living under oppression. The gradual process of revolution begins with an awareness of the need for change within our thinking and within our conditions.

For the oppressed, the top priority must always be freedom for all: the unct freedom to grow into our own, realize our highest potential and stretch our humanity to its furthest extremes. The presidential election of a black man seems to have left some thinking that the millennium has dawned in this country. I confess that I was moved by his win and all the hoopla that followed. But as I watched the jubi- lee, a disturbing curiosity surfaced in my consciousness. Suddenly I began to wonder how many of us were really teary-eyed and happy, and how many of us had already accepted us as a people. The thought sobered me. One thing that trumps race amongst most racists is their financial security. It was more financial welfare. I doubt that Barack’s victory is a testa- tion to this country’s embrace of black folks. It was more financial security. It

The Update is a publication produced by the Anarchist Black Cross
Federation. It is one of the few publications specifically designed for new anarchists about and from political prisoners and prisoners of war in North America.

The ABCF Update, Issue 52, Spring 2009 is now out!

The present issue has updates on Maliki Latine Transfers, Jaan Laaman Transfers, Byron Sahne Chubbuck Transfer, Eddie Hatcher Passes, Rob Robideau Passes, Texas Two Convicted, Robert Seth Hayes, Chicago ABC Moves, and Abel Paz Passes. With articles on Anarchists and the Good Time Bill, Sara Jane Olson Freed, James Kluge Freed, Anarchist Dies in Explosion in Chile, Peter Gelder- loos Acquitted in Spain, Reflections on the Left by Joaquín Chilengu-eos, RNC 8: Two Down, Two to Go, Ricardo Palmaer, Open Letter to All Progressives by Jalli Munlagjin, Letter From Sekou Kambu, Communication Management Units (CMU).

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THE DECADE OF THE ’80s
In June 1980 Ali Hassan was released after 16 years in the New Jersey state prisons. Two months later, live New World of Islam (NWI) members were arrested after a North Brunswick, New Jersey, bank robbery in a car with stolen plates. Thelma Mumia Abu-Jamal of Philadelphia was convicted of murder and in 1981 was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a policeman. He was denied parole in 2010 after 31 years in prison and remains on death row.

The ’80s brought another round of BLA freedom fighters behind walls of the infamous MOVE in ’80. Sekou Odinga, Kwasi Balagoon, Chui Ferguson-Ej, Jamal Ojore, and others were arrested after a series of confrontations and arrests. The New Afrikan Independence Movement and POWs but the New Afrikan Independence Movement too, all of which added to the further development of the New Afrikan Nation.

The década also brought behind the walls Mumia Abu-Jamal, the widely respected Philadelphia radio announcer, Black Nation. All defendants were convicted and sentenced to 3 1/2 to 7 years following a conviction for conspiring to commit prison breakouts and armed robberies.

The ‘80s brought the Reagan era’s rollback of progressive enterprises in the furtherance of creating an independent Black Nation. All defendants were convicted and sentenced to 3 1/2 to 7 years following a conviction for conspiring to commit prison breakouts and armed robberies.

That year Ramona Africa joined other MOVE comrades already behind the walls. Her only crime was that she adopted orthodox Islam in lieu of revolutionary nationalism. She had convicted George Jackson, only to return one day sounding like some character out of a thugged-out urban novel. Trying to get through the windows of normalcy by which they had been seduced, the landing proved futile because they often become too self-conscious about it. Sometimes they even grow hostile in their defense of falling back in league with the broken men. In this case, I move forward and let the dead bury their own. Once igniting the fuse to be an excuse, the rearing response begins to wound them in the shot-out. Adam escaped unscathed but surrendered weeks later in the presence of the media, his family, and friends.

The policeman was killed. Mumia now sits on death row in the near future.

The following year, November 19, 1986, a 20-year-old Bronx, New York, youth, Larry Davis, now Adam Abdul Hakeem, would make a dramatic escape during a shoot-out with police who had come to assassinate him for absconding with their drug supply. After numerous charges, trials, and acquittals in which he exposed the existence of a New-York police-controlled drug ring that coalesced Black and Puerto Rican youths. Some of the police-supplied drugs, he was sent behind the walls on weapon possession convictions. Since incarceration, numerous beatings by guards have paralyzed him from the waist down and confined him to a wheelchair.

On July 16, 1987, Abdul Haqq Muhammad, Arthur Majeed Barnes, and Robert “RT.” Taylor, all members of the Black Men’s Movement Against Crack, were pulled over by state troopers in upstate New York, arrested, and subsequently sent to prison on a variety of weapon possession convictions.

Norman Ferguson at 68 years voluntarily returned to the U.S. only to develop the New African liberation struggle behind the walls.

The decade also brought behind the walls Mumia Abu Jamal, the widely respected Philadelphia radio announcer, Black Nation. All defendants were convicted and sentenced to 3 1/2 to 7 years following a conviction for conspiring to commit prison breakouts and armed robberies.

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Among the defendants were Wade Ashanti Chimurenga, Michael Tarif Warren, and others who are released and later recaptured. Some brothers and sisters do go home with genuine intentions to stay out and down stay for the cause, but then run into unexpected obstacles. I understand the difficulties are real out in the world, particularly for someone fresh out of the joint with meager resources. It’s no cakewalk; it’s a rat race. Any of us could end up back behind these walls for any number of reasons, including ones that aren’t totally our fault. I believe this needs to become a bigger aspect of our analysis. The best sources are the brothers and sisters who have gone through, or are going through, this fire.

I invite everyone who can offer insight on this subject and also advice on how to better prepare for and avoid those pitfalls. Topics of discussion:

1. What were some of the unexpected challenges that you, or someone that you know, have faced during the transition period and beyond?

2. What played the most important role in your/set back the development of the New African Nation narrative?

3. What haven’t you/they considered or better prepared for that you/he/she should have?

4. What are some things that could be set in place to better aid others who want to get out and get involved?

All of our voices are needed in this discussion. Any fruitful ideas, suggested reading material and methods are welcomed. This is an opportunity to explore this issue further and to come together to develop some ideas or possible solutions that’ll better equip us to do what’s needed to better prepare ourselves (and others) for all that awaits us once the prison gates open.

I’ll close in the fervent spirit of peace and with the words of James Cone and Malcolm X, respectively:

“Freedom is not a gift but is a risk that must be taken. No one can tell us what liberation is and how we ought to struggle for it, as if liberation can be found in words. Liberation is a process to be learned and understood only in an oppressed community struggling for freedom.”

“If you are not ready to die for it, put the word ‘freedom’ out of your vocabulary.”

In Struggle and solidarity, Bellissco ‘No Saint’ Kement Roderick Bangston

We are an historical people How can we not make history Repeatedly The slave narratives told by the griots echo from antiquity up into the 21st century The invisibles given a visual enclosure inana land mags Our story is biblical gruesome beautiful The ballott or the bullet crucible That ultimatum’s still crucial Mutual dreams deferred but never died

Another one finally realized By Roderick Bangston

In 2009 on election night I heard ‘em cry “Yes We Can!” And my afro felt justified A legion of Black Martys Rose up Stirred up the still waters creepin’ thru my depths to testify to the meaning of their deaths I admonished me that it’s still struggle left from Barack Obama be proud but expect mo’ drama Beware of the snake charmers tighten a armor grow smarter ray harder reach farther for enlightenment whenever it gets darker come hell or high water!
As a long time political prisoner (PP) and a life-long revolutionary, we invite letters in upcoming issues. ex-prisoners, outside activists and organizations, we invite all to take up this task and what are their needs and possibilities call for and allow. All that said, it is true that many prisoners who become activists and revolutionaries behind the walls, fall off from revolutionary activities and consciousness when they get out, and some, to criminal and even anti-social behavior. This is not a recent phenomenon; it is a problem that has been more and less around since modern revolutionary struggles developed back in the 1960s.

Bellicose Kemet's article is an insightful and timely representation of this problem and his call for some discussion is very important. 4sm welcomes and endorses Bellicose's call for a discussion. Prisoners, political prisoners, ex-prisoners, outside activists and organizations, we invite and encourage you to all take up this task and allow. 4sm will continue an ongoing dialogue by printing responses and letters in upcoming issues.

As a long time political prisoner (PP) and a life-long revolutionary, let me begin this dialogue with some observations and ideas. PP's in the classic definition - those in prison for their political beliefs or political actions in support of their beliefs, have the experience of being politically conscious and active before being captured, then functioning as a PP inside, and many have had the experience of getting back out and continuing their revolutionary work on the streets.

Political awareness and conscious- ness begins and grows inside each individual. It's on you, on each of us as individuals, to develop as a freedom fighter, no matter where you are, in prison, in the streets, outside on parole, living and working in the community or living and working clandestinely. I have also seen solid conscious brothers survive years of repression in prisons, including long seg time and even assaults by guards, and none of this weakened their under- standing or resolve to fight for a more just, free and equal revolutionary future. Yet when some of these men were finally released they weakened, and you could say, gave up, at least for that period, and fell back into anti-social or destructive behavior. Like Bellicose said, they wound up in prison or dead.

So how do good strong conscious brothers (and sisters, but I'm speaking mainly from my experience), who can and do put up with even vicious cop attacks behind the walls, get lost and weakened, sucked back into drugs and anti-social crime outside? Two general factors stand out. First, how solid and tight a network of activists or preferably a revolutionary organization will the released prisoner be going out to? Second, how realistically prepared is the released pris- oner for the realities he or she is going to face outside?

Looking more closely at both of these factors, let's take the revolutionary prisoner's preparation first. How realistic is the person's idea and plan for activism outside? How solid is his/her plan for family responsibilities (children especially) and relations- ships? Family ties and particularly responsibility for our children is so important. Most released prisoners will have some issues and difficulties with their children and family, and this will take time, emotional energy and maturity think- ing to give your children the love and support they need, and to get balanced and right with your family overall. Un- derstanding these types of things lie ahead when you are released, this is important.

Very few ex-prisoners have any real money or much out- side money support. This means being realistic about the time it takes to get yourself set up outside and not giving women it has meant the control unit In the federal peniten- tiary at Anderson, West Virginia, or Lexington, Kentucky. Effect of Captured Freedom Fighters on Prisons

In 1988 political prisoners Silvia Baraldini, Alejandrina Torres, and Susan Rosenberg won a D.C. District Court lawsuit brought by attorney Adajo Aleyetoro, Jan Susler, and others. The legal victory temporarily halted the prac- tice of sending prisoners to control units strictly because of their political status. The ruling was reversed by the D.C. Appellate Court a year later. Those political prisoners not sent to Marion, Alderman, or Lexington control units are sent to other control units modeled after Marion/Lexington but extending on the Marion benchmark. This state practice normal- ly means 23-hour-a-day lockdown in long-term units located in remote hinterlands far from family, friends, and any possible support. The Prison Slavery Resolutions in 4sm calls for communications, visits, and outside contacts, combined with constant harassment, provocation, and brutality by prison guards.

The influx of so many captured freedom fighters (i.e., pris- oners of war - POWs) with varying degrees of guerrilla experience added a valuable dimension to the New African liberation struggle behind the walls. In the first place it ac- celerated the prison struggles already in process, particu- larly the attack on control units. One attack was spearhead- ed by Michael Deutsch and Jeffrey Hausner of the Legal Aid Office, Chicago, which challenged Marion's H/un boxcar cells. Another was spearheaded by Assata Shaku and the Michigan Center for Constitutional Rights which challenged her out-of-state placement in the Alderson, West Virginia, control unit.

Second, it stimulated a thoroughgoing investigation and exposure of COINTELPRO's hand in waging low inten- sity wars. In the cases of the New Africa Movement in the U.S. This was spearheaded by Jeronimo ji- Jaga with Stuart Harson's law office in the West and by Dhoru- ba bin Wadad with attorneys Acito, Biddle, and Jonathan Lubell in the East. These COINTELPRO investi- gations resulted in the overturn of Bin Wadad's conviction and in Maral's release. Wadad had been imprisoned 19 years for a crime he did not commit.

Third, it broadened the scope of the prison movement to the international arena by producing the initial presenta- tion of the U.S. political prisoners and conscientious war POW issue before the UN's Human Rights Commission. This approach originated with Jalil Muntaqim, and was spearheaded by attorney Kathryn Brown Smith of the West Coast and by Sandra Acito and attorney Lennox Hinds of the National Conference of Black lawyers on the East Coast. This petition sought relief from human rights violations in U.S. prisons and subsequently asserted a col- onized people's right to fight against alien domination and racist regimes as codified in the Geneva Convention.

Fourth, it intensified, clarified, and broke new ground on political issues and debates of particular concern to the New African community, i.e., the “National Question” spearheaded by Atiba Shanna in the Midwest. All these struggles, plus those already in process, were carried out with the combination in one Rosenberg won a D.C. District Court lawsuit brought by attorney Adajo Aleyetoro, Jan Susler, and others. The legal victory temporarily halted the prac- tice of sending prisoners to control units strictly because of their political status. The ruling was reversed by the D.C. Appellate Court a year later. Those political prisoners not sent to Marion, Alderman, or Lexington control units are sent to other control units modeled after Marion/Lexington but extending on the Marion benchmark. This state practice normal- ly means 23-hour-a-day lockdown in long-term units located in remote hinterlands far from family, friends, and any possible support. The Prison Slavery Resolutions in 4sm calls for communications, visits, and outside contacts, combined with constant harassment, provocation, and brutality by prison guards.

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war across the U.S. through highly mobile strike teams. The government’s intensification for the BLA during the early 1970s resulted in the capture of Geronimo ji Jaga in Dallas, Debrah Ben-Wadad and Jamal Joseph in New York, Sha Sha Brown and Blood McCreary in St. Louis, Niah Washington and Jalil Muntaqim in Los Angeles, Herman Bell in New Orleans and George Torres in New York, Russel Haroun Shouts in Philadelphia, Change Monges, Mark Holder, and Kamaiu Hilton in New York, Asassa Shaker and Kamali in New Jersey, Ashanti Alston, Tarik, and Walid in New Haven, Safiya Bukhari and Masai Gaussian in Virginia, and others. Left dead during the government’s search and destroy missions were Sandra Pratte (wife of Geronimo ji Jaga, assassinated while visibly pregnant), Mark Essex, Woodie Changa Green, Twymun Kakuyan Obglahla Meyers, Frank “Heavy” Fields, Anthony Kimu White, Zayd Shaker, Melvin Rama Kerney, Alford Aubrey Taylor, Berry Bhatia, and John Thomas, among others. Red Adams, left paralyzed from the neck down by police bullets, would die from the effects of his injuries.

Joan Little was transferred to the Marion Federal Penitentiary, Illinois. For her refusal to become a political victim, for winning out over the real issues involved, and justify immediate placement in Political or not, each arrest was met with highly sensationalized prejudicial publicity that continued unabated. The second factor, the nature and strength of the outside group the released revolutionary prisoner is going out to need to be aware that readiness to society from long prison years has its difficulties. This is ready to absorb the person, be a base of political and relationships and activity. The new reality, anti-war and environmental struggles and more. All these are possible avenues and areas where the released prisoner could and should be connecting to and working and building with. After a period of involvement with such people and groups, you might realize that more is necessary and the idea of forming a new and more specific organization in your neighborhood or city might be what is called for. Really, the possibilities for revolutionary activity, organizing and struggle are limitless.

Outside revolutionary and activist organizations should give more thought and effort to working with conscious prisoners and connecting with them when they get released. There are 2.5 million people behind bars in the u.s. today and many hundreds of thousands are released every year. Some of these men and women hit the streets with revolutionary consciousness and some experience dealing with the rawest aspect of u.s. imperialist reality, organizing and struggle are limitless. Whether you get thrown in a collective, or get released to the streets. Activists and revolutionaries in formations outside should recognize and support the struggles and work needs of released prisoners. I am saying there are “Malcolm X’s”, “Assata Shakur’s” and “George Jackson’s” in the ranks of America’s prison population today, and some of these released comrades could be valuable members of your work and group.

Prisoners who have become revolutionaries need to keep in touch with people outside as widely as possible. This might be your comrades, or at the least fraternal collectives or at the least fraternal collectives of Black Nationalist prisoners. Released brothers who are part of the local revolutionary chapter in the city they were paroled or maxed out to. The Young Lords Party, the Brown Berets organization and some other more local groupings like the Patriots and Rising Up Angry in Chicago, Cold Steel in Buffalo, the Prisoners Union in California, provided a similar transition for released revolutionaries - Latino and white. Also the South Asian Movement - AIM, was absorbing Native men and women as they were released.

This was a period when activism and revolutionary consciousness was widespread, including behind the walls in most prisons across the country. The present period has its own pluses and negatives. While most of the organizations named above are no longer around, political activism and revolutionary groups and activity is reality in at least most of the major cities and areas of this country. Within prisons, especially newer penitentiaries, the level of control and manipulation of prisoners, as well as old fashioned repression, is greater than decades ago. But repression continues to breed resistance, and revolutionary consciousness like that of the individuals and often on a collective level behind the walls.

Prisoners need to be more aware of groups like the ABC (Anarchist Black Cross) which have chapters in cities across the u.s., and who do a lot of work supporting prisoners and prison struggle.

The long existing socialist parties and their publications: Workers World, Workers Vanguard, Freedom Socialist, “R,” and others, all have branches in many u.s. cities. These can be an important source of information for released revolutionary prisoners to connect to and build with.

On the local level, every city has community and city wide formations working with youth, gangs, against police brutality, anti-war and environmental struggles and more. All these are possible avenues and areas where the released prisoner could and should be connecting to and working and building with. After a period of involvement with such people and groups, you might realize that more is necessary and the idea of forming a new and more specific organization in your neighborhood or city might be what is called for. Really, the possibilities for revolutionary activity, organizing and struggle are limitless.
Resistence: The Origin Of Black August

BY THE MALCOLM X GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT
and posted on www.assassatahakur.org

Black August originated in the California penal system to honor fallen Freedom Fighters, Jonathan Jackson, George Jackson, William Christopher, James McClain and Khadri Gauled. Jonathan Jackson was gunned down outside the Marin County California courthouse on August 7, 1970 as he attempted to liberate three imprisoned Black Liberation Fighters: James McClain, William Christmas and Ruchell Magee. Ruchell Magee is the sole survivor of that armed liberation attempt. George Jackson and William Christopher of Angela Davis and has been locked down for 38 years, most of it in solitary confinement. George Jackson was assassinated by prison officials charged six Black and Latino prisoners with the death of those guards. These six brothers became known as the San Quentin Six.

Khadri Gauled was a prominent leader of the Black Gue- rilla Family (BGF) who became a sacrifice. Khadri, like many of the unnamed freedom fighters, particularly its historical and ideological foundations. Those who are a major in the early 1980s and are usually identified by their leadership and support role. The MOVE family was bombarded by the Philadelphia police on August 8, 1978. Further, August is a time of birth. Dr. Mutulu Shakur (political prisoner & prisoner of war), Pan-Africanist Black Nationalist Leader Marcus Garvey, Ma- roon Russell Shoatz (political prisoner) and Chicago BPP Chairman Fred Hampton were born in August. August is also a time of death, W.E.B. Dubois died in Ghana on August 27, 1963.

The tradition of fasting during Black August teaches self-discipline. A conscious fast is in effect from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm to allow prisoners to feel the pain and suffering of those prisoners who are not allowed to eat. Those who do not support the prisoners’ canteen. The use of drugs and al- coholic beverages was prohibited and the brothers held daily exercises in the presence of “Black August”. August is placed on sacrifice, fortitude and discipline. Black August is a time to embrace the principles of unity, self-sacrifice, political education, physical training and resistance.

In the late 1970s the observance and practice of Black Au- gust left the prison yard and began being practiced by Black/African revolutionaries throughout the world. Movement for a New African Independence Movement (NAIM) began practicing and spreading Black August during this period. The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM) inherited knowledge and practice of Black August from its parent organization, the New Afri- can People’s Organization (NAPO). MXGM through the California prisons. Those disaffiliated centered around Pea- body at Old Folson prison who took parts from the BL and the BGF constitutions are created a new United Blood Nation (UBN) Constitution to unify all Bloods in prison. Since then, Bloods have chosen which constitution they would under.

Blood member under either the BL or UBN Constitution held to a higher standard than other members; they hold positions of leadership or their writing was for the revolu- tionary organization. Those Bloods not under a constitution are the foot soldiers. The BL and UBN organization spread throughout the California prison system, and are strictly prison organizations. Once a Blood leaves prison he re- turns to his old neighborhood set. From South Central, the Bloods spread to Pasadena, Gardenia, San Diego, Sacra- mento, Bakersfield, and throughout the state and its prison system.

California Bay Area Gangs

San Francisco’s Bay Area gangs or “clicks” can be traced back to the early 1960s and are usually identified by their neighborhoods or communities. Most of those functioning today came from splinter groups of the BPP after it broke up.

In Oakland, the 69th Street Mob, founded by Felix Mitch- ell in the early 1970s, still exists despite the government’s best efforts to derail it. In East Oakland the Rotting 20s and the 700 Club, along with the Acorn Gang in West Oakland, are the powerhouse clicks on the streets.

In San Francisco, there is Sunnydale and Hunters Point, the Westside Blood gang which is divided into several clicks – Oakland, Harbor Road, West point, etc. East Palo Alto is the home of the Professional Low Riders (PLR) who are up across the country as prisoners protested widespread imprisonment and inhumane conditions. Most had been settled peacefully with little or no loss of human life after face-to-face negotiation between prisoners and state and prison officials. At Attica, 99 people, 29 prisoners and 10 guards in retaking Attica and shocked the world by the naked barbarity of the U.S. prison system. Yet the government took no action but continued the develop- ment of the New African liberation struggle behind the walls, and a symbol of the highest development of prisoner solidarity to date.

New World Clashes With the Nation of Islam

In 1973 the simmering struggle for control of Newark’s NOI Temple No. 25 erupted into the open. Warren Mar- cello, a New World member, assassinated NOI Temple No. 25 Minister Shabazz. In retaliation several NWI members were attacked and killed within the confines of the New Jersey prison system, and before the year was out, the body of Marcello and a companion were found beheaded in New Jersey. The death of Minister Shabazz was a black tragedy, while the evidence of the conspirators in the death of Shabazz was found innocent.

The Black Liberation Army

CONTELPRO's destruction of the BPP forced many members underground and gave rise to the Black Libera- tion Army (BLA) - a New African guerrilla organization. The BLA continued the struggle by waging urban guerrilla
Black August: A Celebration of Freedom Fighters

BY DOC HOLIDAY ET AL.

Black August originated in the California penal system in the 1970s. Many significant events in the New African Nation’s struggle for justice and liberation have occurred in August. The commemoration of Black August particularly hails the advances and sacrifices of Black Freedom Fighters.

Following are several pages of authentic information on Black August: A Celebration of Freedom Fighters and the triumphs of George Jackson and his efforts to liberate Black prisoners.

History of Black August Concept and Program

The month of August gained special significance and importance in the Black Liberation Movement beginning with a courageous attempt by Jonathan Jackson to demand the freedom of political prisoners/prisoners of war which the Soledad Brothers’ case were the center of attention.

On August 7, 1970 Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas, James McClain, and Ruchell Magee were gunned down at the Soledad Brother case were the center of attention. His body was仓位 of the Marin County Courthouse, George L. Jackson was a highly respected and purposely influential leader in the Revolutionary Prison Movement.

The SLA Constitution patterned after the constitution of the BGP: a Panther influenced group already established in the California prison system at the time. The Black Constitution contained the so-called SLA code of conduct, a jailhouse rule book which was required for each new recruit. To speed up recruitment, the so-called "First Bloods" made recruiting the cornerstone of their campaign in the breakouts that thereafter began tricking young prisoners into reading into it. Once read, the new recruit could only reject membership at the risk of serious bodily harm.

The press-ganging of young recruits at Chino set off ripples of dissatisfaction and breakaways among Bloods in other prisons. The same conditions, as in society, a decadent Capitalist system that breeds off racism and oppression.

On August 1, 1978 brother Jeffery “Khator” Guadelen, a Black Freedom Fighter and Prisoner of War, captured within the walls of San Quentin was a victim of a blatant assassination or capitalist state. Khator was a political prisoner who was a long time in prison. Though there is a doubt it is included in the status of these sisters and brothers and moving toward a better understanding of the nature and relationship of prison to oppressed and colonized people.

It should be clearly understood that Black August is a reflection and a celebration of the history of those heroic partisans and leaders that realistically made it possible for us to survive and advance to our present level of liberation struggle. People such as: Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, W.E. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Rosa Parks, M.L. King, Malcolm X, and numerous others in our modern era.

It must be further clarified that when we speak of “Culture Development,” we are not advocating Cultural Nationalism and/or merely talking about adopting African names, jewellery, dashikis, etc. Our primary interest lies not only in the development from, but the creation of “culture” itself. We must forcefully bring to the forefront the essence of the character of “CONTINUOUS” struggle with the recognition that it is a Post-Emancipation struggle. People are developing the necessary lifetyles to guarantee its success.

August 28, 1816: Firstborn African captives were brought to England’s North American colony of Jamestown, Virginia.

August 16, 1768: Charlestown, South Carolina rebellious African slaves (known as maroons) engaged British military to wipe them out. These maroons developed their own political structure and maintained their freedom for a period of time which was a haven for fugitive slaves.

August 30, 1800: Day set for launching Gabrrier Prossers slave rebellion. On this day over 1000 armed slaves gathered to engage in a revolt. It was a successful slave rebellion.

August 21, 1831: Slave revolt launched under the leadership of Nat Turner which lasted four days and resulted in fifty-one slave fighters being captured and the lives of many being subjected to revolutionary People’s justice.
**August 29, 1841:** Street skirmish took place in Cincinnatia between African and Euro-American, wherein for five days Africans waged valiant struggle in defense of their women, children and property against brutal racist terror campaigns.

**August 1854:** Delegates from eleven states met in Cleveland at the National Emigration Convention of the Colored People, to advance the position that an independent land base (nation) be set up for the absorption of captive Africans in the four corners of the earth gathered in New York for the International Convention of the Negro People and Independence for African people.

**August 1856:** North Carolina, a statewide conference of fifty African delegates met to demand that Americans in Virginia be granted legal title to land occupied during the Civil War. Numerous off-pitch battles ensued during this same month as terrorist mobs moved to evict Africans from the land and were met with resistance.

**August 1863:** 190,000 Africans (250,000 people all told) took part in the March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King to petition for the extension of the rights and privileges, then mandated by the U.S. Constitution. August 1864—Africans launched comparatively large-scale urban slave revolt in the following cities: Jersey City NY, Paterson NJ, Kearnsburg PA, Chicago and Philadelphia PA. These slave revolts were for the most part sparked by either police brutality or disrespect shown toward African womanhood.

**August 17, 1866:** Urban slave revolt took place in Northern Philadelphia.

**August 7-18, 1866:** Large-scale urban revolt was launched in Lansing, Michigan.

**August 28, 1866:** Waukegan, Illinois, urban slave revolt launched in response to police brutality.

**July 30-August 2, 1967:** Urban slave revolt launched in Milwaukee.

**August 19-24, 1967:** Comparatively large-scale urban slave revolt was launched in New Haven, Connecticut.

**August 7, 1970:** Jonathan Jackson killed in Annapolis as police lead charge to outline their 1968 urban revolt.

**Black August Program**

Most standard history books tend to either play down or ignore African resistance as a factor in the destruction of the slave economy. On the other hand, when one understands New Africans are still an oppressed nation, the reason for such deception becomes clear. Black August contends that not only was such resistance a factor in the destruction of the slave economy, but New African resistance to slavery continues to inspire New African resistance to national oppression. Herbert Aptheker (the author of “American Negro Slave Revolts”) recounts the resistance to slavery continues to inspire New African nationalities. Older history books tend to either play down or ignore African resistance to slavery as a factor in the destruction of the slave economy. On the other hand, when one understands New Africans are still an oppressed nation, the reason for such deception becomes clear. Black August contends that not only was such resistance a factor in the destruction of the slave economy, but New African resistance to slavery continues to inspire New African resistance to national oppression. Herbert Aptheker (the author of “American Negro Slave Revolts”) recounts the resistance to national oppression.

**Origin of Crip**

There existed street organizations in South Central Los Angeles, before the rise of the Black Panther Party. These groups were not as cohesive in essence, were made up of young Radio activists, many of which the Panthers would recruit their most stalwart members. Alprentice “Bunchy” Carter, who chartered the first L.A. Chapter of the Party was the leader of perhaps the most violent street organizations of that time – The Slaves. James Carr, former cell mate of Comrade George Jackson, and author of BAD, was a member of the Panthers. There were the Gladiators, the Businessmen, the Avenges, Blood Alley, and the Rebel Rousers to name but a few.

After the 1965 rebellion in Watts, there came an unsteady truce of sorts that caused the street organizations to focus on a larger, more deadly enemy. – The Los Angeles Police Department. By and large, the Party usurped the youthful rage and light begins to get in… as the hour of the wolf passes and light begins to get in… we can see, we children of the light we are the sun of the stars, we can see we truly are every… living… thing, we children on this beautiful blue marble swirling around the sun light feeding our vision, our understanding, our compassion, our growth… and our love at this auspicious and challenging time may we be part of the turning may the light wrap its loving arms around us maybe we begin once again, albeit with a long hard road ahead as the smoke clears in these hope-filled rooms
The Gangster Disciples were founded in the 1960s in Chicago, with its philosophy originating among former members of the street gang known as the Lost, a group that took its name from the biblical expression "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The Lost, however, disbanded around 1963 in the wake of economic hard times and political persecution. The remaining Kansas City disciples, along with outlaws from the Lost, joined forces to form what was known as the Black Muslims. Street gang members often participated in the African National Congress and worked with, and in some cases were arrested by, the police. It was during this period that the Black Muslim gang became a key player in the Black Power movement and a symbol of the struggle for Black liberation.

The Black Muslims were eventually reformed by the Nation of Islam, a religious and political movement founded by Elijah Muhammad, who advocated for the self-determination of African Americans through economic, social, and political means. The movement's principles included the belief in the excellence of African life, the importance of educating the masses, and the necessity of resistance to oppression. The Nation of Islam's approach to political action was often characterized by nonviolent拒绝、抵抗和无产阶级斗争。这种斗争从早期的非暴力抗议，如1950年代的“火车站斗争”和“公交车站斗争”，发展到后来的武装斗争，包括1960年代的美国黑人权力运动和1970年代的黑人民族解放战争。

The Black Muslims' influence on the Black Power movement was significant. They provided inspiration for other Black liberation movements and helped to establish the foundation for the later militant Black Power organizations. The Black Muslims' philosophy of self-reliance, self-determination, and resistance to oppression resonated with many Americans, especially African Americans, who were disillusioned with the civil rights movement and its emphasis on nonviolence. The Black Muslims' embrace of violence and their willingness to use it as a tool for political change set them apart from the more mainstream civil rights organizations. However, the Black Muslims' violent tactics also set them on a collision course with the law and ultimately led to the movement's disbanding in the late 1960s.

The Black Muslims' legacy lives on in the work of other Black liberation movements, including the Black Panthers and the Black Liberation Army, which were founded in the late 1960s. These organizations continued to fight for racial justice and self-determination, often through armed struggle. The Black Muslims' influence on these movements cannot be overlooked, as they provided a model for political action and resistance that continues to inspire activists and scholars today.

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Black August

BY MARYLIN BUCK

Would you hang on a cliff’s edge sword-sharp, slashing fingers while jackboot screws stomp heels on peeled-flesh bones and laugh “let go! die, damn you, die!”
could you hang on
20 years, 30 years?

20 years, 30 years and more these Black brothers buried in US concentration camps they hang on Black light shining in torture chambers Rachell, Yogi, Sundarra, Sekou, Warren, Chip, Seth, Herman, Jalil, and more and more they resist: Black August


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The NWI’s belief in the supreme authority of Fard Savior was rejected by NOI Minister Shabazz, and thereafter an uneasy peace prevailed between the followers of Shabazz, who remained control of Newark’s NOI Temple No. 25, and the followers the NWI who sought to gain control of it.

Meanwhile, Ali Hassan published a book title Uncle Yah and ran the NWI from his prison cell. Along with the more established and influential NOI, the influence of the NWI spread throughout the New Jersey state prison system and the metropolitan Jersey ghettos. The NWI began setting up food co-ops, barbershops, houses to teach Islam, and printing presses; and purchased land in South Carolina, all in furtherance of creating an independent Black Nation.

James Meredith was shot on June 6, 1966, while on his march against fear in Mississippi. A Civil rights group decided to complete the march. One night during the march’s rally, SNCC organizer, Willie Hicks (“Makassa”) raised the cry of Black Power. Stokely Carmichael, SNCC Chairman repeated the slogan the next night at a mass rally and the Black Power Movement began to sweep the country. THE BLACK LIBERATION ERA

Black Panthers Usher in The Black Liberation Movement

Midstride the ’60s on February 21, 1965, Malcolm assasinated, but his star continued to rise and his seeds fell on fertile soil. The following year, October 1966, in Oakland, California, Huey P. Newton and a handful of armed youths founded the Black Panther Party for Self Defense on principles that Malcolm had preached – and the Black Liberation Movement (BLM) was born.

The Panthers established numerous programs to serve the Oakland ghetto – free breakfasts for children, free health care, free day-care, and free political education classes. The program that became their orientation was their campaign to “stop police murder and brutality of Blacks.” Huey, a community college pre-law student, discovered that it was legal for citizens to openly carry arms in California. With that assurance the Black Panther Party began armed car patrols of the police cruisers that patrolled Oakland’s Black colony. When a cruiser stopped to make an arrest, the Panther car stopped. They fanned out around the scene, arms at the ready, and observed, tape recorded, and recommended a lawyer to the arrest victim. It took long for the police to retaliate. They confronted Huey late one night near his home. Gunfire erupted, leaving Huey critically wounded, a policeman dead and another wounded. The Panthers and the Oakland/Bay community responded with a cappella campaign to save Huey from the gas chamber. The California Senate began a hearing to rescind the law permitting citizens to openly carry arms within city limits. The party (BPP) called a special demonstration during the hearing at the Sacramento Capitol to protest the Senate’s action, which gained national publicity. That publicity, together with the Panthers’ philosophy of revolutionary nationalism, self-defense, and the “Free Huey” campaign, catalyzed the BPP to nationwide prominence.

But without cost. On August 25, 1967, J. Edgar Hoover issued his infamous Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) memorandum which directed the FBI and local police officials) to disrupt specified Black organizations and neutralize their leaders so as to prevent “the rise of a Black messiah.”

Attacks Increase on Revolutionaries

The Panthers rolled eastward, establishing offices in each major northern ghetto. As they went, they set up revolutionary programs in each community that were geared to provide community control of schools, tenant control of slum housing, free breakfast for school children, free and MURDER of Black people.

We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.

We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.

We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace. As our major political objective, a United Nations supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the Black colony in which only Black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of Black people as to their national security.

The Panthers established numerous programs to serve the Oakland ghetto – free breakfasts for children, free health care, free day-care, and free political education classes. The program that became their orientation was their campaign to “stop police murder and brutality of Blacks.”

In the 60s Marilyn participated in protests against racism and the Vietnam war. In 1967 she became part of Students for a Democratic Society. Marilyn became part of a radical filmmaking and propaganda collective, showing the films as an organizing aid at community meetings, high school groups, workers’ committees and in the streets. She also participated in international solidarity groups supporting the Vietnamese, Palestinians, and the Iranian struggle against the Shah. She worked in solidarity with Native Americas, Mexican and Black liberation struggles.

As a direct result of all of this activity, she became a target of COINTELPRO. In 1973, she was arrested and convicted of buying two boxes of bullets. Accused of being a member of the BLA, she sentenced to 10 years, the longest sentence ever given for such an offense at the time. In 1977 she was granted a furlough and never returned, joining the revolutionary clandestine movement. In 1985 she was captured and faced 4 separate court trials. She was charged with conspiracy to support and the arrest of political prisoners to only working around themselves. Just work. I think it is wasteful and short-sighted to relegate political prisoners/POWs and also to take on the U.S. prison system as an organizing aid at community meetings, high school groups, workers’ committees and in the streets. She used the prison as an organizing aid at community meetings, high school groups, workers’ committees and in the streets.

Marilyn Buck is an Anti-Imperialist political prisoner. She was imprisoned for her anti-imperialist actions carried out in support of national liberation, women’s liberation, social and economic justice.

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Marilyn Buck was an Anti-Imperialist political prisoner. She was imprisoned for her anti-imperialist actions carried out in support of national liberation, women’s liberation, social and economic justice.

“The state tries to isolate us, true; that makes it all the more important not to let it succeed in its proposition. We fight for political identity and association from here; it is important that political forces on the outside not lose sight of why the state wants to isolate and destroy us, and therefore fight to include us in political life — ideological struggle, etc. In many struggles many militants have been exiled yet they have still been considered part of their struggles, not merely objects. We, we here, could be considered internal exiles. Don’t lock us into roles as objects or symbols.”

Leonard Peltier Parole Hearing Set July 28, 2009

Leonard Peltier’s first full parole hearing was held in 1993, at which time his case was continued for a 15-year reconsideration. Mr. Peltier has recently applied for and been granted a parole hearing. The hearing is scheduled for July 28, 2009. All supporters are encouraged to step up their efforts in support of parole for Leonard Peltier.
An Updated History Of The New African Prison Struggle

BY SUNIDIA ACOLI

This article was first written at the request of the New Afrikan Peoples Organization (NAPo). It's original title was "The Rise and Development of the New African Liberation Struggle Behind The Walls." It was first published as "A Brief History of the New African Prison Struggle" and then updated several years later to its present form.

Although this work focuses almost exclusively on New Afrikan prisoners, it is by no means intended to discount the many long heroic prison struggle and sacrifices by all other nationalities – the Puerto Ricans, the Nahuas of Mexico, the Native Americans, the Vietnamese, and others. "Ralph Cancel Miranda, who led the work stoppage of the US Penitentiary (United States Penitentiary in Marlin, Illnois) in 1972 in response to the beating of a Mexican prisoner, has been one of my heroes and role models since I first became aware of him, long ago. The same can be said of Lolita Lebron whom Assata Shakur did time with the Alderson Women’s Penitentiary – and of numerous other prisoners of all different nationalities whom I’ve done time with and struggled together with during the long years of my imprisonment.

There are so many deserving prisoners of all nationalities that it would extend this article indefinitely to include all of them. I do not feel justified in including some if I didn’t include all. Nor do I feel presumptuous enough to write a prison history of other nationalities who are best suited to record their own history. My main intent is to chronicle the history of the New Afrikan prison struggle which for too long has been written at the request of the New Afrikan prisoners and Black prison organizations who did not take it upon themselves to read out of history those Black prisoners which for too long has been written by others who often served the purposes of the prison system rather than those of the prisoners. It is by no means intended to discount the many long heroic prison struggle and sacrifices by all other nationalities – the Puerto Ricans, the Nahuas of Mexico, the Native Americans, the Vietnamese, and others. "Ralph Cancel Miranda, who led the work stoppage of the US Penitentiary (United States Penitentiary in Marlin, Illnois) in 1972 in response to the beating of a Mexican prisoner, has been one of my heroes and role models since I first became aware of him, long ago. The same can be said of Lolita Lebron whom Assata Shakur did time with the Alderson Women’s Penitentiary – and of numerous other prisoners of all different nationalities whom I’ve done time with and struggled together with during the long years of my imprisonment.

The 16TH CENTURY THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR

The African prison struggle began on the shores of Afrika behind the walls of medieval castles that held captive caravans bound west into slavery. It continues today behind the walls of modern U.S. penitentiaries where all prisoners are held as legal slaves. The perception of international law, as is the present U.S. policy of executing minors and the mentally impaired.

The conception of prison ideology began to take form as far back as the reign of Louis XIV of France (1643-1715) when the Benedictine monk Mabilon wrote that: “…Penitents might be secluded in cells like those of Carthusian monks and allow them to make the sign of the cross three times a day.” In 1790, on April 5th, the Pennsylvania Quakers actualized this concept as the capstone of their 14-year struggle to reform the prison system. They founded the Prison Discipline Society. Henceforth, prisons would be locked away in their cells with a Bible and force them to do penitence in order to rehabilitate themselves. Thus was born the penitentiary.

The first prison physically designed to achieve total isolation of each prisoner was the Eastern State Penitentiary, better known as Cherry Hill, in Philadelphia, constructed in 1829 with cells laid out so that no prisoner ever saw another person but his guards. This “separate system” represented by Cherry Hill, was being raved by an alterna- tive, the “silent system,” which was designed specifically for exploiting mass convict labor. Under the latter system, prisoners were housed in separate cells four cells together, all day as an ideal source of cheap, reliable labor under rigorous enforcement of the rule that all convicts must maintain silence at all times. After a successful experiment, every Black prisoner was transplanted from the white system into the Black one. In 1825, when they initiated the “lock step” so that guards could maintain strict control as the prisons reborn back and forth between their cells and their industrial workshops.

By 1850, approximately 6,700 people were found in the nation’s newly emerging prison system. Almost none of the prisoners were Black. They were more valuable economically outside the prison system because there were other means of racial control. During this time most New Afrikan (Black) men, women, and children were already imprisoned for life on plantations. Consequently, the African struggle behind the walls was carried on outside the walls by all members, with conspiracies, revolts, insurrections, arson, sabotage, work slowdowns, poisoning of the slave master, self maiming, and the walls of medieval pens that held captive caravans bound west into slavery. It continues today behind the walls of modern U.S. penitentiaries where all prisoners are held as legal slaves. The perception of international law, as is the present U.S. policy of executing minors and the mentally impaired.

The New Afrikan liberation struggle behind the walls refers to the struggle of Black prisoners, “behind the walls” of U.S. penal institutions, to gain liberation for ourselves, our families, and our struggle. The New Afrikan Independence Movement spell “African” with a “k” as an indicator of or cultural identification with the African continent and the Afrikan linguists originally used “k” to indicate the “c” sound in the English language. We use the term “New Afrikan” instead of Black, to define ourselves as an Afrikan people transplanted to a new land and formed into a “new African nation” in North America. But our struggle behind the walls did not begin in America.

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nationality as members of the ancient Moors of Northern Africa. These new religions produced significant success rates in helping New African prisoners rehabilitate themselves by providing them with a new found sense of pride, dignity, piety, and industriousness. Yet these religions seemed strange and thus threatening to prison officials. "They were not religions, they were cults, and many early Muslims were viciously persecuted, beaten, and even killed for practicing their beliefs. The Muslims fought back fiercely.

Civil Rights Struggles in Prison

Like American society, the prisons were rigidly segregated. As a result, prisoners were conditioned by the prison to accept the existence of certain cell blocks or tiers, to eat in certain areas of the mess hall, and to sit in the back at the movies, TV room, and other recreational facilities.

Influenced by the anti-discrimination aspect of the Civil Rights Movement, a growing number of New Afrikans behind the walls began to contest their struggle against discrimination in prison. Audacious New African began violating longstanding segregation codes by sitting in the front seats at the movies, mess hall, or TV areas – and more than a few were drivers from the back. Others gave as good as they got. To perform the heaviest and dirtiest jobs – farm work, laundry work, dishwashing, garbage disposal – and were restricted to live in certain cell blocks or tiers, eat in certain areas of the mess hall, and sit in the back at the movies, TV room, and other recreational facilities.

During the fall of 1961, an off campus chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) formed at Ohio's Central State College, called Challenge. Challenge was a black student group that was formed in 1969 by a group of students who had been expelled from southern schools for sit-in demonstrations; students who had been expelled for their participation in the "equal rights" or "anti-discrimination" aspect of the Civil Rights Movement, would want to know the "why" of the prison and why they were there. Most people believe that the Civil War ended in 1865. However, the Civil War was not fully over with the Treaty of Appomattox. The Civil War ended at the end of the war in 1868 with the establishment of the Black Codes. These codes were designed to prevent former slaves from obtaining education, voting, or owning property. As a result, many former slaves were forced to work for low wages in the fields and factories. The Black Codes also prevented former slaves from joining the military or from participating in any other political activity. The Black Codes were eventually struck down by the United States Supreme Court in 1868, but the effects of the Black Codes continued to be felt for many years to come.

The Black Codes were not the only problems that former slaves faced. Many former slaves were forced to work for low wages in the fields and factories. The Black Codes also prevented former slaves from joining the military or from participating in any other political activity. The Black Codes were eventually struck down by the United States Supreme Court in 1868, but the effects of the Black Codes continued to be felt for many years to come.

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The New Afrikan soldiers fought during the war to preserve New Afrikan assertiveness. Their weapon was “King Her-U.S. was more prepared to contain the new and expected sentiments following World War 1 into one of the greatest New Afrikans in droves. Southern New Afrikans poured Plentiful jobs during the war, coupled with a severe shortage of labor and the emergence of independent Afrikan nations, and the Civil Rights Movement.

The Ghetto Population Explosion

Things began to change in the wake of World War 2. Four factors combined to make these changes. They were the ghetto explosion population, the drug influx, the emergence of independent African nations, and the Civil Rights Movement. The Ghetto Population Explosion

Plentiful jobs during the war, coupled with a severe shortage of labor and the emergence of independent African nations, and the Civil Rights Movement. The Ghetto Population Explosion

The drug influx

New African soldiers fought during the war to preserve European democracies. They returned home eager to join the fight to make segregated America a democracy too. But the U.S. had witnessed Marcus Garvey organize similar sentiments following World War 1 into one of the greatest Black movements in the western hemisphere. The time the U.S. was more prepared to contain the new and expected African assertiveness. Their weapon was “King Her-U.S. was more prepared to contain the new and expected African assertiveness. Their weapon was “King Her-U.S. was more prepared to contain the new and expected African assertiveness. Their weapon was “King Her-

The Emergence of Independent African Nations

Africans from Africa, having fought to save European Independence, returned to the African continent and began fighting for the Independence of their own colonized nations. Rather than fight western colonial wars, most European nations opted to grant “phased” independence to their African colonies. The U.S. now faced the prospect of thousands of African diplomats, their staff, and families, coming to the U.N. and wandering into a minefield of racial incidents, particularly on state visits to the rigidly segregated D.C. capital. That alone could push each newly emerging independent African nation into the socialist column. To counteract this possibility, the U.S. decided to adopt a different approach. As a result, the Supreme Court declared school segregation illegal. In its landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, which heralded the beginning of the end of official segregation in the United States, the Supreme Court declared school segregation illegal.

In its landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, which heralded the beginning of the end of official segregation in the United States, the Supreme Court declared school segregation illegal. It is in the context of the present world Struggle between freedom and tyranny that the problem of racial discrimination must be viewed… (for) discrimination against Minority groups in the United States has an Adverse effect upon our relations with Other countries. Racial discrimination Furnishes grist for the communist propaganda mills, and it raises doubts even among Friendly nations as to the integrity of the United States. To the democratic faith.

Malcolm X provides similar insight into the reasoning behind the U.S. decisions to desegregate. During his February 16, 1965, speech at Rochester, New York’s Corn Miller Methodist Church, he said: From 1954 to 1964 can be easily looked upon as the era of the emerging African state. And as the African state emerged… What effect did it have on the Black American. Malcolm X concluded: “Every move they made was a token move…. They came up with a Supreme Court desegregation decision that they haven’t put into practice yet. Not even in Rochester, much less in Mississippi. [Applause] Origin of the Civil Rights Movement

On December 1, 1955, Ms. Rosa Parks defined Montgomery, Alabama’s segregation laws by refusing to give her seat to a white man. Her subse- quent arrest and the ensuing mass movement of Montgomery New African community kicked off the Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King, a young college-educated Baptist minister, was chosen to coordinate and lead the movement. He had the support of that organization for the African continent… they began to take a stand. It made him become… just as the U.S. had to change its national policy of East-West détente, so had the old guard. His selection for leadership catapulted him to the forefront of the emerging African state. And as the African state emerged took a stand, it made him become… just as the U.S. had to change its national policy of East-West détente, so had the old guard. His selection for leadership catapulted him to the forefront of the emerging African state. And as the African state emerged

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