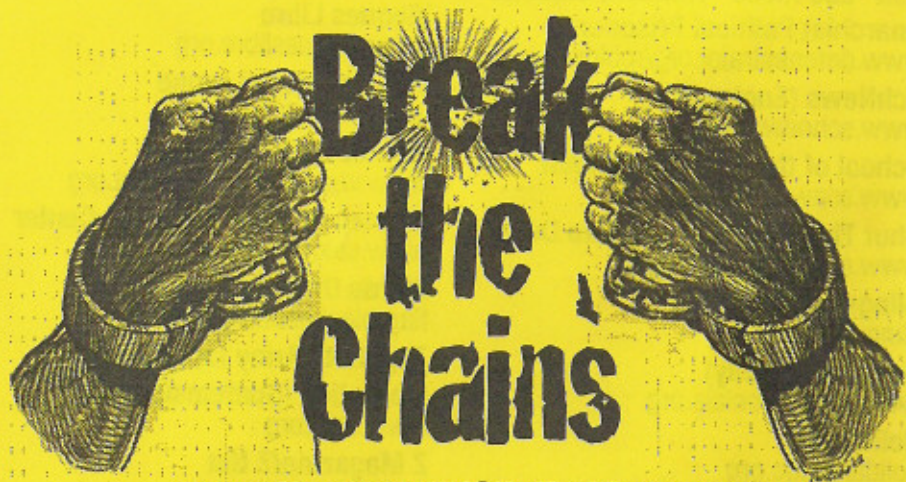


*"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation... that people are already dying you could have saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your life in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your life for the people... Take care of yourself and hold on."*

—GEORGE JACKSON



PO BOX 11331, EUGENE, OR 97440  
BREAKTHECHAINS02@YAHOO.COM  
WWW.BREAKTHECHAINS.NET

An illustration of two clenched fists, one at the top and one at the bottom, holding a chain. The chain is positioned vertically, passing through the center of the text. The text "Break the Chains Conference Manual" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "Break" and "Chains" being significantly larger than the other words. A starburst effect is behind the word "Break".

# Break the Chains Conference Manual

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

AUGUST 8-10, 2003





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## ***Break The Conference – from Slingshot***

The *Break the Chains* conference will be held Aug. 8-10 at Univ. of Oregon in Eugene. It is dedicated to fighting repression, supporting prisoners, and eliminating prisons altogether. By providing anti-prison education, building on existing prisoner support efforts, learning from veteran prison activists, and initiating new campaigns against the prison industrial complex, this conference is intended to initiate a new era of heightened prisoner support and anti-prison activism.

Perhaps no other single issue so convincingly illustrates the struggle for total liberation, as does the prison industrial complex. Resisting prisons is resisting state repression and blatant social control; it is resisting the most terrifying examples of racism, sexism, and homophobia, the criminalization of the poor and capitalist exploitation of labor. For this reason, the *Break the Chains* conference hopes to exemplify the need for continued and heightened prisoner support with our ultimate goal being prison abolition. Prison abolition is a political vision that seeks to eliminate the need for prisons and acknowledges the devastating effect that prisons have on poor and marginalized communities.

Wide ranges of folks have agreed to attend and share their knowledge, including many former prisoners. Organizations attending include Free Mumia Coalition, Prison Legal News, and Out of Control Lesbian Committee to Support Women in Prison. There will be people working with prisoners that are HIV/AIDS infected and Black Panther and American Indian Movement elders, as well as a participant in the Attica rebellion of the '70s.

Any movement that does not support its political internees is a movement destined to fail. When power is challenged, it inevitably turns to violent repression and imprisonment to maintain itself. In order to avoid defeat, movements must become organized and capable of combating the repression of the state apparatus, and they must be able to support their comrades and allies in the event that they are arrested or imprisoned. Few would commit themselves to a movement that would leave them behind prison walls, or a movement that is incapable of sustaining itself in the face of state intimidation. Contact info at P.O. Box 11331, Eugene Oregon 97440 or [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net).

**Prison Sucks**  
[www.prisonsucks.com](http://www.prisonsucks.com)

**Prisoner Life**  
[www.prisonerlife.com](http://www.prisonerlife.com)

**Raise The Fist**  
[www.raisethefist.com](http://www.raisethefist.com)

**Red & Anarchist Network**  
[www.redanarchist.net](http://www.redanarchist.net)

**Red Pepper (England)**  
[www.redpepper.org.uk](http://www.redpepper.org.uk)

**Red Wire (Canada)**  
[www.redwiremag.com](http://www.redwiremag.com)

**Re-Pressed Distribution (England)**  
[www.re-pressed.org.uk](http://www.re-pressed.org.uk)

**Resist, Inc.**  
[resistinc.org](http://resistinc.org)

**Resource Center of the Americas**  
[www.americas.org](http://www.americas.org)

**Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan**  
[www.rawa.org](http://www.rawa.org)

**Revolutionary Left Movement (Chile)**  
[members.tripod.com/~chilemir](http://members.tripod.com/~chilemir)

**Rob "Los Ricos" Thaxton: Chicano Anarchist Political Prisoner**  
[www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos](http://www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos)

**SchNews (England)**  
[www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk)

**School of the Americas Watch**  
[www.soaw.org/new](http://www.soaw.org/new)

**Shut This Airport Nightmare Down**  
[www.nothirdairport.org](http://www.nothirdairport.org)

**Slingshot Magazine**  
[slingshot.tao.ca](http://slingshot.tao.ca)

**Social War (Italy)**  
[www.guerrasociale.org](http://www.guerrasociale.org)

**Solidarity**  
[solidarity.igc.org](http://solidarity.igc.org)

**Solidarity: Anarchist Site for Counter-Information & Action (Greece)**  
[www.geocities.com/anar\\_gr](http://www.geocities.com/anar_gr)

**Spirit Of Freedom: Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network (England-Poland-US)**

[www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk)

**Splitting The Sky (Canada)**  
[www.splittingthesky.com](http://www.splittingthesky.com)

**Stolen Lives Project**  
[www.stolenlives.org](http://www.stolenlives.org)

**Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty**  
[www.shacamerica.net](http://www.shacamerica.net)

**Stop Prison Rape**  
[www.spr.org](http://www.spr.org)

**Struggle**  
[www.struggle.ws](http://www.struggle.ws)

**Survival International (England)**  
[www.survival-international.org](http://www.survival-international.org)

**Third World Network**  
[www.twinside.org.sg](http://www.twinside.org.sg)

**Turning Point Project**  
[www.turnpoint.org](http://www.turnpoint.org)

**Union del Barrio**  
[www.uniondelbarrio.org](http://www.uniondelbarrio.org)

**Video Activist Network**  
[www.videoactivism.org](http://www.videoactivism.org)

**Vieques Libre**  
[www.viequeslibre.org](http://www.viequeslibre.org)

**War Resisters League**  
[www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org)

**Western Prison Project**  
[www.westernprisonproject.org](http://www.westernprisonproject.org)

**Women of Color Resource Center**  
[www.coloredgirls.org](http://www.coloredgirls.org)

**Words Of War (Spain)**  
[flag.blackened.net/pdg](http://flag.blackened.net/pdg)

**Zapatista Army for National Liberation (Guatemala-Mexico)**  
[www.ezln.org](http://www.ezln.org)

**Z Magazine/Z Net**  
[www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)



**Jay's Left & Progressive Internet Resources Directory**

[www.neravt.com/left](http://www.neravt.com/left)

**Jericho Movement**

[www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com)

**Jews Against The Occupation**

[www.jewsagainsttheoccupation.org](http://www.jewsagainsttheoccupation.org)

**Jim Page**

[www.jimpage.net](http://www.jimpage.net)

**Justice Denied**

[www.justicedenied.org](http://www.justicedenied.org)

**Kersplebedeb Distribution (Canada)**

[www.kersplebedeb.com](http://www.kersplebedeb.com)

**Killing King Abacus**

[www.geocities.com/kk\\_abacus](http://www.geocities.com/kk_abacus)

**La Resistencia**

[www.laresistencia.org](http://www.laresistencia.org)

**Left Turn**

[www.leftturn.org](http://www.leftturn.org)

**Legal Services for Prisoners with Children**

[www.prisonerswithchildren.org](http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org)

**Liberation Army of the Free Papua**

**Movement (West Papua)**

[www.eco-action.org](http://www.eco-action.org)

**Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin**

[www.lorenzoblog.net](http://www.lorenzoblog.net)

**McSpotlight**

[www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org)

**Midnight Special Law Collective**

[www.midnightspecial.net](http://www.midnightspecial.net)

**Mind Freedom**

[www.mindfreedom.org](http://www.mindfreedom.org)

**Minority Rights Group International**

[www.minorityrights.org](http://www.minorityrights.org)

**Monthly Review**

[www.monthlyreview.org](http://www.monthlyreview.org)

**Narco News Bulletin**

[www.narconews.com](http://www.narconews.com)

**National Coalition of Anti-Deportation**

**Campaigns (England)**

[www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk)

**National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**

[www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org)

**National Committee to Free the Cuban Five**

[www.freethethefive.org](http://www.freethethefive.org)

**November Coalition**

[www.november.org](http://www.november.org)

**October 22nd Coalition**

[www.october22.org](http://www.october22.org)

**Ontario Coalition Against Poverty**

[www.ocap.ca](http://www.ocap.ca)

**Ozgurluk Press Agency (Turkey)**

[www.ozgurluk.org](http://www.ozgurluk.org)

**Palestine Chronicle**

[www.palestinechronicle.com](http://www.palestinechronicle.com)

**Palestine Solidarity Campaign (England)**

[www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org)

**Participatory Economics**

[www.parecon.org](http://www.parecon.org)

**Pentagon Lies**

[www.pentagonlies.com](http://www.pentagonlies.com)

**Philippine Revolution Web Central**

[www.philippinerevolution.org](http://www.philippinerevolution.org)

**Phoenix Anarchist Coalition**

[www.phoenixanarchist.org](http://www.phoenixanarchist.org)

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine**

[www.pflp-palestine.org](http://www.pflp-palestine.org)

**Portland Anti-Capitalist Action**

[www.pdxaca.org](http://www.pdxaca.org)

**Prairie Fire Organizing Committee**

[www.prairie-fire.org](http://www.prairie-fire.org)

**Primitivism**

[www.primitivism.com](http://www.primitivism.com)

**Prison Activist Resource Center**

[www.prisonactivist.org/](http://www.prisonactivist.org/)

**Prison Art Project**

[www.prisonart.org](http://www.prisonart.org)

**Prison Legal News**

[www.prisonlegalnews.org](http://www.prisonlegalnews.org)

**Prison Moratorium Project**

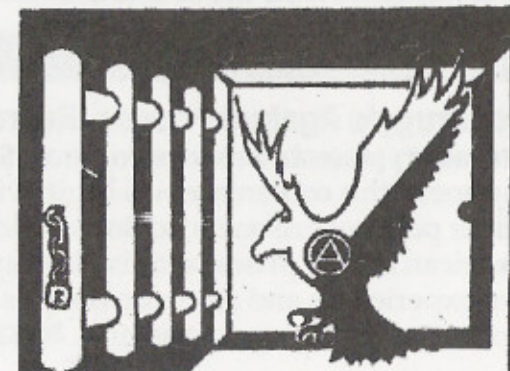
[www.nomoreprisons.org](http://www.nomoreprisons.org)

# Welcome to the Break the Chains Conference

OUR COLLECTIVE AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS CONFERENCE for approximately one year. It was decided at the founding conference of the Anarchist Black Cross Network (ABCN) in Austin, Texas, in July of 2002, that the second ABCN gathering would be held by the Break the Chains collective in our hometown of Eugene, Oregon. The Break the Chains Conference has expanded from this initial need for an Anarchist Black Cross Network gathering. While ABCN organizing continues, we also believe that the struggle against prisons demands different activities and approaches. We have tried to create a conference that reflects this diversity.

Since the beginning of the planning for this conference, veteran prison activists have counseled us that this event should not merely be a chance for like-minded individuals to get together and have a good time; that if we're serious about our struggle, this conference should reflect a deeper desire for fundamental social change. There's so much work to be done, and it's essential that we find ways to be more effective, innovative, and inclusive in our approach. Let's make this conference a place of intensive debate and discussion, while giving room to the voice of those in prison. Please, take the time to read the statements from prisoners towards the back of this manual. It is our hope that their sense of urgency and emotion will inspire action.

This conference has been made possible by a tremendous amount of organizing; yearlong fundraising efforts by our collective, friends and supporters, including but not limited to: hosting lectures with former political prisoners and prison activists, garage sales, music events, film showings, begging for donations, and everything in between. Many special thanks to all the conference participants, in particular those who traveled from afar to help and those who traveled on their own funds, thanks to our childcare providers (PDX Anti-Capitalist Action in particular), the Survival Center, and our cooks. In addition, super special thanks to Anthony Rayson, Puck, Clayton, Murray Zuckerman, the Blackberry Collective, Agitation Press Printing Guild, Tiger and Robin Irish, and most of all to Marshall and Randy. No thanks to the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation.





# Conference Schedule



## On-Campus Events

(All on-campus events will be held at the Education Building on 16th & Alder)

**Saturday, August 9th**

**9:00am - 10:20am**

### **The Struggle Against Prisons, Repression, and Social Control**

**Introductory presentations from Bo Brown, Splitting the Sky, and Stormy Ogden**

Day one of this conference will begin with opening presentations from former political prisoners Bo Brown and Splitting the Sky, and veteran American Indian prison activist Stormy Ogden. They will share their own experiences and views on the prison industrial complex and the necessity of bringing it to an end. **ROOM 176**

**10:30am-11:50am**

### **Jericho Movement & the Struggle to Free Political Prisoners/ POWs in North America**

**Safiya Bukhari, Jericho Movement**

The issue of whether or not political prisoners and prisoners of war exist inside the borders of the United States of America is one that the government of the United States has successfully been able to refute. They have been able to deny the existence of political prisoners and prisoners of war because we have not taken the battle to them and forced them to address this issue. Over the last thirty years the numbers of political prisoners and prisoners of war languishing within the prisons of the United States of America has grown to enormous and geometric proportions as the struggles for liberation has intensified. While we have consistently contended that we are involved in a liberation struggle, our approach to winning the freedom of our political prisoners and prisoners of war has not supported our claim. It has also enabled the government of the United States, through its varied police agencies,

**Committee to Free Lori Berenson**

[www.freelori.org](http://www.freelori.org)

**Common Dreams**

[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

**The Commoner**

[www.commoner.org.uk](http://www.commoner.org.uk)

**Counterpunch**

[www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)

**Critical Resistance**

[www.criticalresistance.org](http://www.criticalresistance.org)

**Cultural Survival**

[www.cs.org](http://www.cs.org)

**Derrick Jensen**

[www.derrickjensen.org](http://www.derrickjensen.org)

**Dual Power**

[www.dualpower.net](http://www.dualpower.net)

**Earth First! Journal**

[www.earthfirstjournal.org](http://www.earthfirstjournal.org)

**Earth Liberation Front**

[www.earthliberationfront.com](http://www.earthliberationfront.com)

**Ecotopia (Spain)**

[www.sindominio.net/ecotopia](http://www.sindominio.net/ecotopia)

**Eddie Hatcher: Native American**

**Political Prisoner**

[www.eddiehatcher.org](http://www.eddiehatcher.org)

**Electronic Intifada**

[www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)

**Electronic Iraq**

[electroniciraq.net](http://electroniciraq.net)

**End Game Research Services**

[www.endgame.org](http://www.endgame.org)

**Eugene Cop Watch**

[www.eugeneopwatch.org](http://www.eugeneopwatch.org)

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums**

[www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org)

**Federation of Revolutionary Anarchist**

**Collectives**

[www.frac.ws](http://www.frac.ws)

**First of October Anti-Fascist**

**Resistance Groups (Spain)**

[www.antorcha.org](http://www.antorcha.org)

**Flag!**

[flag.blackened.net](http://flag.blackened.net)

**Flor Y Canto Centro**

[www.florycanto.org](http://www.florycanto.org)

**Free Ahmad Nelson**

[www.ahmadnelson.com](http://www.ahmadnelson.com)

**Free Battered Women**

[freebatteredwomen.org](http://freebatteredwomen.org)

**Freedom Archives**

[www.freedomarchives.org](http://www.freedomarchives.org)

**Free "Free" Now**

[www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org)

**Green Anarchy Magazine**

[www.greenanarchy.org](http://www.greenanarchy.org)

**Green Left Weekly (Australia)**

[www.greenleft.org.au](http://www.greenleft.org.au)

**Guerrilla Funk Recordings**

[www.guerrillafunk.com](http://www.guerrillafunk.com)

**Guerrilla News Network**

[www.guerrillanews.com](http://www.guerrillanews.com)

**G7 Welcoming Committee (Canada)**

[www.g7welcomingcommittee.com](http://www.g7welcomingcommittee.com)

**Humanity On Hold**

[www.humanityonhold.com/intifada.html](http://www.humanityonhold.com/intifada.html)

**Huntingdon Sucks**

[www.huntingdonsucks.com](http://www.huntingdonsucks.com)

**Independent Media Center**

[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)

**Institute for Social Ecology**

[www.social-ecology.org](http://www.social-ecology.org)

**Insurgent Desire (England)**

[www.insurgentdesire.org.uk](http://www.insurgentdesire.org.uk)

**Insurrectionary Anarchists of the**

**Coast Salish Territories (Canada)**

[www.geocities.com/insurrectionary\\_anarchists](http://www.geocities.com/insurrectionary_anarchists)

**Internationa! Friends & Family of**

**Mumia Abu-Jamal**

[www.mumia.org](http://www.mumia.org)

**International Leonard Peltier**

**Defense Committee**

[www.freepeltier.org](http://www.freepeltier.org)

**Irish Republican Socialist Party**

**(Ireland-USA)**

[www.irsm.org](http://www.irsm.org)



# Links in Solidarity

## **Against Patriarchy**

[www.againstpatriarchy.org](http://www.againstpatriarchy.org)

## **A-Infos Multilingual Anarchist News**

[www.ainfos.ca/en](http://www.ainfos.ca/en)

## **AK Press Distribution**

[www.akpress.org](http://www.akpress.org)

## **Al-Awda: Palestine Right To Return Coalition**

[al-awda.org](http://al-awda.org)

## **Alternative Press Review**

[www.altpr.org](http://www.altpr.org)

## **Alvaro Luna Hernandez Defense Committee**

[www.freealvaro.org](http://www.freealvaro.org)

## **Anarchist Black Cross Federation**

[www.abcf.net](http://www.abcf.net)

## **Anarchist Black Cross Network**

[www.anarchistblackcross.org](http://www.anarchistblackcross.org)

## **Anarchist Federation (England)**

[flag.blackened.net/af](http://flag.blackened.net/af)

## **Anarchist Info Shop**

[www.infoshop.org](http://www.infoshop.org)

## **Anarchist People Of Color**

[www.illegalvoices.org](http://www.illegalvoices.org)

## **Anarchist Support (Ireland)**

[anarchistps.tripod.com](http://anarchistps.tripod.com)

## **Anarchist Youth Network (England)**

[www.enrager.net/ayn/](http://www.enrager.net/ayn/)

## **Anarchy: A Journal of Desire Armed**

[www.anarchymag.org](http://www.anarchymag.org)

## **Anti-Racist Action**

[www.antiracistaction.us](http://www.antiracistaction.us)

## **Arissa: Building A Revolutionary**

**Movement in the USA**

[www.arissa.org](http://www.arissa.org)

## **Arm The Spirit: For Revolutionary**

**Resistance (Canada)**

[burn.ucsd.edu/~ats](http://burn.ucsd.edu/~ats)

## **Autonopedia Publishing**

**& Info Exchange**

[www.autonopedia.org](http://www.autonopedia.org)

## **Aztlan Underground**

[www.aztlanunderground.com](http://www.aztlanunderground.com)

## **Basque Information Center (Holland)**

[www.baskinfo.org](http://www.baskinfo.org)

## **Bite Back**

[www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info)

## **Black Cross Health Collective**

[www.blackcrosscollective.org](http://www.blackcrosscollective.org)

## **Black Fire**

[www.blackfire.net](http://www.blackfire.net)

## **Books Not Bars**

[www.booksnotbars.org](http://www.booksnotbars.org)

## **California Prison Focus**

[www.prisons.org](http://www.prisons.org)

## **Cascadia Forest Alliance**

[www.cascadiaforestalliance.org](http://www.cascadiaforestalliance.org)

## **Cascadia Alive!**

[www.cascadiaalive.org](http://www.cascadiaalive.org)

## **Cascadia Media Collective**

[www.cascadiamedia.org](http://www.cascadiamedia.org)

## **Center for Research on Globalization**

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca)

## **Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors**

[www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)

## **Clamor Magazine**

[www.clamormagazine.org](http://www.clamormagazine.org)

## **Class Struggle Online**

[www.anarchosyndicalism.org](http://www.anarchosyndicalism.org)

## **Coalition Against Civilization**

[www.coalitionagainstcivilization.org](http://www.coalitionagainstcivilization.org)

## **Coalition of Immokalee Workers**

[www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org)

## **Color Lines: Race, Culture, Action**

[www.colorlines.com](http://www.colorlines.com)

## **Columbia Report**

[www.colombiareport.org](http://www.colombiareport.org)

## **Committee for the Release**

**of Farouk Abdel-Muhti**

[www.freefarouk.org](http://www.freefarouk.org)

to criminalize these political prisoners and prisoners of war, try them in their courts, and sentence them to mammoth sentences. It is the mission of The Jericho Movement to raise this issue to the height where the United States will no longer be able to deny the existence of our political prisoners and by so doing, change the playing field. **ROOM 176**

## **A History Of The Anarchist Black Cross**

### **Matt Hart, Anarchist Black Cross Federation**

This workshop is an overview of the Anarchist Black Cross [ABC] movement from 1905 to the present day. We will examine the organization's trends, events, and four major waves. We will also explore how ABC has played a significant role in historical events and revolutionary movements in the twentieth century. **ROOM 155**

## **The Eddie Hatcher Story**

### **Former Political Prisoner Bo Brown**

### **Chrystos, Native American activist/author**

Some of you may have seen the film *Take-Over*, the story of Native American political prisoner Eddie Hatcher, which has been shown by the Break The Chains collective on many occasions in the past year. During this session of the conference, longtime supporters of Eddie will talk about him and other prisoners of injustice in North Carolina. **ROOM 151**

## **Women in Prison/Free Battered Women Now!**

### **Janice Jordan, California Coalition for Women in Prison**

### **Lora Wetzel, Women Embracing Freedom Together**

Janice & other members of the CCWP will discuss the medical neglect and sexual abuse of women in prison; and the racial and economic disparity in sentencing and incarceration. They will also discuss the role of the California Department of Corrections in California State politics and how it affects the electoral process.

Lora Wetzel will discuss the Women Embracing Freedom Together, a highly effective grassroots effort led by women former inmates [and their supporters] to help women leaving prison, and to build real alternatives to imprisonment. **ROOM 152**

**Noon-1:00pm: Lunch**



## Friends of the Survivors

### German Nieto-Maquehue, Amigos de los Sobrevivientes

Torture is the deliberate mental and physical damage inflicted by a government upon individuals in an effort to intimidate and control their populations. It is one of the most profound human rights abuses. Practiced by governments in at least 140 countries, the problem has reached epidemic proportions, making it the single most effective weapon against dissent. It is estimated that about 500,000 survivors of torture now living in the United States. Amigos de los Sobrevivientes holistic program is tailored to meet the individual needs of the survivors, seeking to restore their health, dignity, and personal autonomy. Amigos takes part in the local, national, and international campaigns against torture and political violence, educating the public about this crime against humanity. We are a coalition of professional and community volunteers who believe that human rights abuses affects all of us so it is up to us to resolve the problem. This presentation will focus on how torture is used to control people, by who, and why, and what Amigos does. **ROOM 152**

### Connecting the Dots: From COINTELPRO to the Patriot Act

#### Safiya Bukhari, Jericho Movement

#### Claude Marks, Freedom Archives

The Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, and others who were very active in the 1960s and 70s, including in prisons, were terrorized by the state for their politics, organizing and struggles to liberate their communities. The presenters will discuss the importance of the history and consistency of government repression and those who remain imprisoned for their political commitments. **ROOM 151**

### The Prisonification of Indigenous Women

#### Stormy Ogden, Indigenous activist/author

Native people are being locked up at alarming numbers on their ancestral homelands and from this population it is the women that are the fastest growing segment. It can be argued that the imprisonment of native people is yet another toll of the American colonial power to control Indian lands and the ongoing attempt to deny Indian sovereignty...For the American Indian the state and federal prisons can be seen as yet another part of the violent colonial mechanism. These facilities commit human right abuse on the prisoners and exploit them for government and private profit. **ROOM 176**

you to join and to share this duty with us. We have started a petition which you can find among our documents and a letter campaign for the prisoners, which is a the start.

Together with the other documents we send a petition which was started several months ago and a document regarding the letter campaign that we are trying to realize. It needs a lot of work to realize and organize this project.

From December 19-20 (the days of the prison massacre in Turkey) our second symposium will be held in Florence, and all of you are invited to discuss further activities and strategies.

Finally, we wish you a successful conference and send once again our warmest greetings to all participant of this conference.

### INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM AGAINST ISOLATION

isolation@post.com

## Message From the Barrio Defense Committee

COMPANEROS, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE due to lack of resources. However, we would like to make a proposal to the Conference that there be a campaign to abolish the Security Housing Units in California where we have been working to abolish them. Further, we believe that all control units within the borders of the US must be abolished.

There also must be a resolution that states specifically that any and all control units are cruel and unusual punishment under the category of committing torture against human beings. Please also state specifically that the Security Housing Units are torture units and that all those that are in the SHUs must be released immediately.

We would like to make this proposal on behalf of the Barrio Defense Committee.

Tierra y Libertad! Quetzacoelocia.

BARRIO DEFENSE COMMITTEE

barriodefens@earthlink.net



### SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS



# International Platform Against Isolation

## Our Message to the Break the Chains Conference

[BTC Note: We apologize for the poor translation of this text.]

DEAR COMRADES AND FRIENDS,

We would like to greet you by heart and express our sadness for being unable to join this conference. As we have mentioned in our statements, the political prisoners are "OURSELVES BEHIND THE WALL". But we could express the ties of the struggle between in-and-outside also with the words "We are not all, the prisoners are being missed".

Our recent aim is to unite our forces outside and through practical support to give the prisoners the possibility to start a communication between them, from one country to another and even from one continent to another.

It is our aim to establish a central place for coordination, which could change from time to time, and to forward letters of prisoners to others, by translating them to the right language. We already sent out our letters to prisoners in order to inform them about this project.

Our actual engagement, as our name is showing, is first of all the fight against isolation. High security and isolation prisons are already widespread in European countries and the USA for a long time, and were later imported to the neo-colonial countries where the people's struggles against their imperialist exploiters increased.

The aim of isolation is to destroy human beings by destroying their minds. This kind of torture, called "WHITE TORTURE," is the highest level of political repression towards the prisoners. It doesn't only attack the body of the individual but also mere thoughts.

You might have heard of the death fast resistance in Turkish jails, which is lasting for over 1000 days, despite of all kinds of repression. It is really impossible not to mention these prisoners, who are, after 107 losses of life still ready to risk their lives in order to stand upright against the politics of isolation. This struggle which has reached its highest stage is part of the international struggle against tyranny and for the right of resistance.

Let us give our special greetings to our Palestinian brothers and sisters in jail, the Peruvian political prisoners, to Mumia and Leonard Peltier and to the Cuban Five who are being kept in the isolation cells of the USA, the Iranian political prisoners who fight against tyranny and for a independent country, to the numerous Basque and Irish prisoners and all those who are imprisoned for their thoughts in all continents of the world.

Our fight for justice against the attack on our right of resistance is only possible united and by doing practical steps towards these aims. We want to intensify and enlarge our common struggle in this field and invite all of

## Transgender and Gender Variant People in Prison

Sailor Holiday, California Prison Focus

This workshop will be an opportunity for folks working for prisoner's rights to gain information specific to the gender variant populations and a space for transgender and gender variant people to share their wisdom. The outcomes of this workshop will be based upon the participant's initial knowledge of these issues. **ROOM 155**

2:30pm - 3:50pm

## On the Necessity of Solidarity

Anthony Rayson, Chicago Anarchist Black Cross

After a relatively brief series of remarks, Anthony will open it up for a discussion. How should we focus our considerable talent, insight and determination to maximize our influence. How should our projects be directed and how can our anarchist consciousness be propelled? This workshop is a brainstorming session. The value of ABC is the explosively important potential of setting the fuse. Amerikan prisoners hold the key to analyzing this reality so everyone can understand it. Anarchists have the opportunity to wed theory to practice, truth to real life situations. How better is it to connect with communities in struggle? Anthony will also touch on the more cogent points presented by the deepest thinkers in the gulags, who he specifically asked for their input for this conference. The detailed material will be readily available in zines. The thrust of this workshop, is to enjoy the company of other active thinkers and doers, learn a hell of a lot, explain the ideas presented, and (hopefully) plant a vibrant seed of the idea that we must take this struggle to another level as serious anarchist prison abolitionists and thrill the world with heart and soul. **ROOM 151**

## An Introduction to the Freedom Archives

Claude Marks, Freedom Archives

This presentation will focus on the Freedom Archives project, a political, cultural oral history project in San Francisco. The Freedom Archives has released several recent documentary CDs and videos combining restored historical audio and contemporary interviews. The videos focus on political prisoners Jalil Muntaqim, David Gilbert and Nuh Washington and a recent CD, Prisons on Fire, focuses on George Jackson and the Attica Rebellion. The presenter will discuss the work of the Freedom Archives before showing the film *Voice of Liberation*, a new 20 minute documentary about Black Liberation Army prisoner Jalil Muntaqim. **ROOM 152**



## **From Attica to Gustafsen Lake**

**Dacajeweah/Splitting the Sky, Mohawk Revolutionary/Author**

In this talk/workshop, Attica survivor Splitting the Sky will discuss the actual circumstances surrounding the rebellion at Attica State prison in 1971, the massacre of 43 prisoners and hostages committed by New York State fascist police force. Splitting the Sky was the only man convicted for the alleged murder of a prison guard at Attica and was almost sentenced to die in New York's electric chair.... He will also discuss recent armed standoffs against the state by Native activists, including the reoccupation of Mohawk territories in upstate New York, the armed occupation at Gustafson Lake British Columbia Canada, to knocking out one of the biggest war producing smelter plants in the world (Alcan Aluminum) to put a halt on imperial/colonial genocidal aggression. **ROOM 176**

## **The Marini Trial: Italian State Repression Against Anarchists and the Anarchists' Response**

**Wolff Landstreicher, Venomous Butterfly Publications**

This workshop is intended to be both informative and to involve a theoretical analysis of these events. Starting in the mid-90's Italian prosecutor Antonio Marini has been making a concerted effort to prosecute anarchists for "subversive association" and "armed gang." Of course, it is a frame-up. The methodology of the state here is one that can be expected to be used increasingly (particularly with tools like the USAPatriot act) by all states. By going into the situation Italian comrades are facing, I will examine this strategy. I will also go into the question of a specifically anarchist revolutionary method of facing such a situation. **ROOM 155**

**4:00pm-6:00pm**

## **Support Prisoners. Make your own tattoo gun. And what they won't tell you about Hepatitis C**

**Leslie & Stacey Bull**

Come hear from prisoner family members Leslie and Stacey Bull whose seventeen year old twin sons were sentenced to eleven years in adult prison for a crime where no one was physically harmed or killed..... Discussion to include our experience of the prison system, the reality of corporate, privatized prisons in our family's lives, and prisoner family pride.... We will share poetry, writings, and art out of

neo-slavery, of police brutality, shootings & murder of the weak & innocent, of dehumanization & war.

Our enemies know who is who, and they *never* forgive or forget, and we as freedom fighters must forever keep going & *never* forget who our enemies are or what our mission & objectives are. We are freedom fighters & believe in armed struggle as the final solution to free humanity & we have faith in the people, that's our spirituality. The powers-that-be have been patiently waiting for a longtime for a pretext to expand their fascist policies, domestically & abroad, and to attack & suppress all politically enlightened people of the Left. Stirring the human spirit, rebelling at this dark hour, avenging those who have been crushed beneath the burden of barbarism & bourgeois tyranny... these must be the overwhelming duties of every freedom loving person everywhere in Amerikkka — today, tomorrow, *always*. At our disposal we have a 1000 weapons more powerful than those used by the state, weapons which we place the chemistry & the intelligence of the individual at our disposal, we merely have to forearm ourselves with the subtlest of circumspection, and a whole gamut of precaution & to be distrustful even of our own mothers before & after we set to our work.

The poor & oppressed people throughout the world who are presently under Amerikkkan & British attack must be supported & made to feel that they are not alone. We must align ourselves with them not only spiritually, but materially as well. This is the task before us if we are to ever defeat capitalism & imperialism. At the same time a new effort must be forged to link together the struggle outside with that which is ongoing inside these prison walls. We cannot forget those Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War (PP/POW) who have made sacrifices & thus remain committed to the revolutionary struggle. We must not forget that these comrades-soldiers have for some thirty years or more (like, for instance, Ruchell Cinque Magee, Hugo "Yogi" Pinell, Tayari "Ronald Payne" Yuhuru, the Angola 2, the New York 3, etc.) been buried alive in these Amerikkkan dungeons without the outside support of which they are deserving of.

If there is to be a future for our children, for all the world's children, even for those not yet born, we must then learn from the past that we have to take the initiative in the present to unite, organize, & mobilize the people around structural programs and institutions designed to address their basic needs. Showing through our abilities & efforts that we can be the products produced to enrich & stabilize a nation of millions. These programs & institutions must be visible, shown to be viable, inspiring, and helpful.

People everywhere now realize that to bring the downtrodden masses vis-a-vis their humanity, their dignity, and their courage, it is imperative to unite & organize them around common goals & interests, the real catalyst which hurl men & women into the thick of struggle. Let us fight with pride & courage to achieve those principles which is a right given to *all* people — Freedom, Justice, Independence, Democracy, and Peace!



it's when we assert ourselves en masse, when we wield the weapon of solidarity, that we can really see the state tremble in its jackboots.

The prisoner support movement has been using the weapon of solidarity for many years to chip away at the foundations of the prison-industrial-complex, engaging in the twin joys of community and struggle. The prison authority of nearly every single state quake with fear and hatred at the mention of the anarchist prisoner support movement — and this only serves to show how strong we have become, and how much stronger we become every year! How much we grow.

All of you attending this conference understand the strength of solidarity. You all know that the struggle for freedom in which we are all engaged begins within the hearts of each of us and that the struggle cannot end until the walls of every prison have been reduced to mere dust and rubble; until sunlight falls full on the faces of unchained prisoners. Our struggle will not be finished until every soul in prison walks free. I wish I could be with you all today, working out new tactics and strategizing to achieve our common goal. But, unfortunately, the state still has its talons on me — for the moment. Instead, I thank you all for having the courage to take up the fight, and for having the strength, in solidarity, to see our struggle through to the end. Thank you.

Thomas Tripp #12032560  
TRCI, 82911 Beach Access Rd.  
Umatilla, OR 97882

For more info on Thomas, visit [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net)

### **A Statement of Fact & A Call for Direct Action in Solidarity with Our Brothers And Sisters of the Break The Chains Conference, by the Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War of the Repressive Delaware Prison System.**

OUR JOB IS TO PUT FORWARD A FUNDAMENTAL CRITIQUE OF STATE-SPONSORED terrorism, state-sponsored execution/murder, capitalist exploitation, economic deprivation, political manipulation, institutionalized racism & legalized oppression as they function inside & outside of these prisons, and a vision of creating a sustainable & liberated environment/society in their place. With Amerikkka's war on what he describes as terrorism, one in which we view as an expansion of his capitalistic domination & imperialist interest in nature, as well as the subsequent attack on fundamental civil, constitutional, and human rights of its citizens, this no doubt leaves us with the un-dubious task of making the people conscious of its historic task: bringing an end to this system of greed, of corruption, of prison proliferation, of neocolonialism,

Washington State's Young Offenders Program (or YOP — kids in adult prison), and Walla Walla State Penitentiary, instructions on how to make your own prison style tattoo gun for next to nothing, and safety issues around Hepatitis C. Also: we will have the names and addresses of prisoners who have been given "programs" of 2 to 6 years in the hole and who desperately need letters and support. If you like, bring materials to make a tattoo gun (a limited amount of supplies will also be available at the workshop): working motor from an old CD player, phone answering machine, etc, batteries of the size the CD player (or whatever) originally ran off, a new guitar string, some old-style BIC ball point pens (29-cent variety), any small gauge wire out of broken appliances, sand paper, permanent non toxic ink such as India ink, and oranges to practice on. **ROOM 155**

### **Prisons, Colonialism, & Industrial Civilization**

**Derrick Jensen, author/activist**

**Jesus Sepulveda, author/activist**

Derrick Jensen will talk about his experiences teaching at Pelican Bay State Prison in northern California, and will talk as well about the necessary relationship between prisons and industrial civilization.

Jesús will discuss his experience with the resistance to the Pinochet regime in Chile, and the lessons that can be learned from that experience. He will also discuss his latest book, *The Garden of Peculiarities*, which will be published this year in the US. Jesús writings analyze the affects of colonialism, industrialism, and capitalism on our minds, bodies, and the natural environment. **ROOM 176**

**Sunday, August 10th**

**9:00am - 10:20am**

### **Immigrant Justice Now**

**Tommy Escarcega, All of Us or None**

**Mary Martinez Wenzel, Network for Immigrant Justice**

This presentation will focus on the domestic war against immigrants, as evidenced through special registrations, detention without due process, and the loss of civil liberties for non-citizens. **ROOM 152**

### **Grass Roots Organizing & the Drug War**

**Chuck and Nora, November Coalition**

During this presentation, veteran prison activists will discuss: 1) the political nature of drug war prisoners, 2) the racist nature of drug laws and the impact of mass incarceration on families, 3) a discussion



of the effects of mandatory sentencing and what might replace it, 4) a condemnation of snitch culture, and 5) what people directly affected are doing in their communities to change their circumstances. **ROOM 155**

### **On the Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence**

**Craig Rosebraugh, Arissa**

Within Westernized countries, particularly the United States, there has been a near universal acceptance of the notion that nonviolent action has been the foundation on which the success of social and political justice movements has been built. Yet, contrary to popular beliefs held by many in the United States, political violence has played a crucial role in advancing historical justice struggles. This lecture will examine the historical role that both nonviolence and political violence has played in social and political movements both within the United States and internationally. **ROOM 151**

### **Our Day Shall Come: Irish Resistance & Irish Political Prisoners**

**Peter Urban, Irish Republican Socialist Party**

For the past three decades, prisoners of war from the Irish National Liberation Army and the various Irish Republican Armies have remained at the essential core of the struggle in Ireland for national liberation and socialism. From internment to the blanket men, from the hunger strikes to the assassination of Billy Wright, the prisoners have served to mobilize Irish women and men into action, served as the conscience of the movement, have inspired and at times forged the very image of the Irish national liberation struggle. The infamous H-Blocks are now empty, but in the bowels of Maghaberry Prison history seems to be repeating itself as conditions degenerate towards a possible hunger strike and in the south of Ireland, INLA prisoner Dessie O Hare is serving his 26th year of incarceration, despite a general amnesty which was to have taken effect in 1998. This presentation by IRSP International Department Co-Secretary Peter Urban looks at Teach na Failte ("Welcome Home") an organization begun by Irish socialists to ease the transition of long-term prisoners back to their families, their communities, the maze of social services and the frustration of seeking employment. He will also discuss Teach na Failte's other function, to provide a continuation of the sense of community that Irish political prisoners forged in the jails of their homeland and a vehicle to enable their transition to a life of political activism on the outside. Any organization assisting prisoners in the process of release will find ideas for their own efforts in the model of Teach na Failte. **ROOM 176**

## **Thomas Tripp**

### **Statement of Solidarity with Break The Chains Conference**

*[Thomas Tripp is an anarchist social prisoner. Originally serving time for an assault resulting from a fight, Thomas was given an extended sentence in 2002 for his role in a prison rebellion at Two Rivers Correctional Institute in Umatilla, Oregon. The rebellion was aimed at winning better conditions for prisoners. He and his co-defendants, American Indian prisoners Teewahne Sahme and David "Looks Away" Scalera, have come to be known as the "Children of the River" for their role in this rebellion and their struggle on the inside.]*

**AROUND THE WORLD, REPRESSION INCREASES DAILY, NOT MERELY REPRESSION** against anarchists, but against ideas, against the natural world, against freedom in all of its forms. Our comrades — both anarchists and those who don't yet know themselves to be anarchistic, but only see themselves as lovers of freedom — are gunned down in the streets, beaten down in alleyways and on forest floors, run down by bulldozers while defending children. Evil goats in the state house, even while battling in the streets.

More and more often, however, the prison cell is becoming the most concrete expression of state repression. The state believes that all forms of dissent can be silenced with a prison wall, that the simplest way to deal with the disillusionment and rage that is sweeping the globe is to criminalize everyone: the poor, blacks, whites, Natives, protestors, peacekeepers, militants: the state seems to believe that if you are not wielding the truncheon you should, at the very least, be receiving the blows.

Day by day the walls go up, the razor wire is strung, the towers are "manned." Prisons spread like sores across the face of the land, popping up to the tune of deranged economist's screaming "economic recovery!" One by one the lives of all of us — from comrades in the struggle to those just struggling to get by — are touched, and sometimes shattered, by the current reign of terror embarked upon by the state.

I don't need to quote the numbers to you — I'm sure most of you know the statistics by heart. Many of you have done time yourselves and know first hand how prison attempts to leech away from you all that is good; how every function of the prison system is designed — not to curtail "crime," nor to rehabilitate, whatever that means — but only to perpetuate the existence of the prison system itself.

Eugene Debs once said, in effect, that without solidarity, nothing can be accomplished, but that with solidarity, there is nothing that we cannot achieve. In the battle for freedom which we wage against the state, solidarity is our truest, most powerful weapon. Our individual and collective acts of guerrilla warfare (on every level from cultural guerrilla warfare to actual fighting in the streets) are essential and must continue and increase. However,



At the present time, there is a letter campaign ongoing, attempting to persuade the commissioner to change his mind, to restore prisoner-owned typing equipment to the allowed property list, which may or may not be successful in the future. The commissioner is replying to the request letters with deception and half-truth in stating the courts will all take handwritten documents from prisoners while the federal appellate court mandates typed documents complete with font and spacing requirements, so all courts will not accept handwritten documents as put forth by the commissioner in his responsive letters. Tennessee prisoners was permitted possession of personal typewriters and word processors for approximately twenty years before these items was removed from the allowed property list, and created no space management or security problem which have also been utilized as justification for their removal from the property list. If you wish to write a letter to help, requesting typing equipment be restored to the inmate property list in this state, please address these letters to:

Quenton I. White, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Correction  
320 6th Avenue North  
4th Floor, Rachel Jackson Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0465

I thank you for listening to what I have to say! I love you all for being who you are and making your contributions toward changing the world! I especially thank any of you who join the letter-writing campaign! I hope a lot is accomplished at the Break the Chains Conference and we can all network and join together to become a solid, unified force to be reckoned with by the system! We only want the earth! They will never get us all! We have a world to win and will! I love you all!

In anarchist struggle and solidarity –

Harold H. Thompson #93992  
Northwest Correctional Complex  
960 State Route 212  
Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079

For more info on Harold, visit  
[freespace.virgin.net/simon.russell/index.htm](http://freespace.virgin.net/simon.russell/index.htm)



## Oregon's Measure 11, AKA "one strike & you're out"

**Brigitte Sarabie, Western Prison project**

Measure 11 is Oregon's "one strike & you're out" law, and is responsible for the largest prison building boom in Oregon's history. Nearly half of Oregon's 12,000 prisoners are incarcerated on M11 related charges. What is Measure 11 and who is being caught up in the M11 dragnet? What strategies have been tried for changing/repealing M11 and what are the prospects for future change? If you're interested in finding out more about what this law does, who it affects, and what you can do about it, come to this workshop. **ROOM 176**

## Chemical Prison:

### The Merger of the Psychiatric and Prison Industries

**David Oaks, David James, Support Coalition**

When corporations say "there should be treatment not prison," it can sound too good to be true. Unfortunately, it is. When corporations start talking about "treatment" be sure to pop the hood, grab a flashlight and look around. Are they talking about real help, housing, food, community building, fun, social life, jobs and job training, and social justice? Nope. "Treatment" tends to mean one thing, today, and that's psychiatric drugs. People have a right to choice and many choose psychiatric drugs. But lots of people are being pressured, pushed, coerced and outright forced to "stay on their meds," including through use of court orders and daily at home drug deliveries called "dose drops." Find out about the latest in human rights violations from the richest corporations in the history of the world: psychiatric pharmaceuticals. **ROOM 151**

## Invisibility of Women Prisoner's Resistance

**Vikki Law, Re-Sisters**

Male prisoners seldom know about female prisoners while the broader public, if they think about prison issues at all, tends to think about men. In addition, even in radical prison activist communities women are invisibilized. Why the cloak of silence around incarcerated women, their issues and their acts of resistance? This workshop seeks to answer this question, while discussing how to bring women's resistance to the forefront. **ROOM 155**



## **Basque Political Prisoners**

**Paulette d'Auteuil, Jericho Movement**

This workshop will focus on the Basque struggle, and the formation of ETA and the consequences of the decision to split the arm struggle from the party development of building a Basque society. The presenter will look at reports on political prisoners, the question of torture, and the attempts of the Spanish and French State to destroy their struggle to label all Basque working for self-determination as "terrorists."

**ROOM 151**

**Noon-1:00pm: Lunch**

**1:00pm-2:20pm**

## **Reform or Revolt?**

**Brigitte Sarabie**

Is it possible for abolitionists and reformers to work together? What are the differences between the two perspectives? How do we know if reform is helping or hurting the struggle against the Prison Industrial Complex? This will be a group discussion with an introduction and facilitation by Brigitte Sarabi from Western Prison Project, an organization that works closely with both abolitionist and traditional reform organizations. **ROOM 176**

## **Men Against Sexism**

**Ed Mead, Prison Art Project**

The workshop on Men Against Sexism will consist of an introduction of those present, including questions folks have about sexism in prison. Ed will tell the story of how Men Against Sexism was created, talk some with attendees about sexism in the movement today, both inside and out, and introduce a fun and non-threatening anti-sexist exercise for participants. **ROOM 155**

## **Prison Abolitionism in Practice:**

### **Anarchist Perspectives on Criminology**

**Daniel Burton Rose, prison abolitionist activist/author**

The anarchist position on crime is pretty simple: it's forced on people by circumstances or a capitalist corruption of the spirit. But the problem of dealing with discord — from disruptive behavior to sexual assault and even murder — in our own oppositional communities is complex.

and ill treatment because of "who" we are! A world of equals is our goal, where every voice is heard and every voice counts equally! We can, and will, settle for no less! We only want the earth!

Now the times are dangerous for us with the civil liberty crushing government power under the guise of the PATRIOT Act and the travesty of an Act enhancing the sweeping powers of the PATRIOT Act which followed, which threaten us all! Now is the time for action, to educate about who we are and what we are about, a time for carefully-planned and executed direct action in furtherance of our political goals, a time to carefully choose which fronts of struggle to invest our time and limited resources on as our movement grows to present to those opposing us a united front instead of a splintered, fragmented struggle easily crushed by our enemies! Now is a time to reach across any perceived barriers between people, grasp our brothers' and sisters' hands and move together as one to achieve our common goals in the end. Each action we plan in furtherance of anarchism must be creatively planned and carried out, learning from our mistakes, evolving and growing as the enemy learns from mistakes, strategizes and plans counter-moves to defeat us, to make us appear marginalized, weak and few in numbers while fearing us, fearing our movement capturing the imaginations and being accepted by the populous! We only want the earth, our birthright stolen from the people while they slept and, worse still, surrendered by trusting those elected to represent our interest, they who serve only capitalism!

Our movement has many fronts where we struggle against the enemy. I have been imprisoned since 1979 in the Tennessee state gulag system and work inside prison confines as a jailhouse lawyer/legal aide and helper attempting to obtain some semblance of justice for those predominantly from the working class in a corrupt, morally-bankrupt legal system. Each victory is cherished, fighting The Man in his own arena, on his preferred playing field, in his court system where he desires nothing more than to squeeze every ounce of blood and misery out of us and store us in a human warehouse until death if possible. I am serving life plus eighty-two years, am 61 years old and in ill health, but the fire of anarchism, of rebellion, burns as bright in my heart as it ever did and I will struggle for anarchism until I take my last breath! I am presently engaged in a struggle to have the most basic tool used by a prisoner to present legal work to the courts reinstated to the approved inmate property list for Tennessee prisoners. Typewriters and word processors were removed, as a vindictive act to retard and make nearly impossible prisoner-generated legal documents to the courts, by the previous commissioner of Tennessee Department of Correction and being upheld by the present commissioner.



to the theft and importation of Afrikan Peoples. Therefore, if colonization produces imperialism, then decolonization naturally would yield the fruit of freedom.

The US Constitution mandates slavery. It is wrapped in the garb of the 13th Amendment. Chattel slavery no longer being digestible to the public, a new form had to be put into play to maintain the Empire of US. Prison slavery fit such a need as it is tucked carefully away from view of society at large. Out of sight — out of mind.

The prison abolition movement would be making a mistake to ignore history, the continued colonization and the Peoples colonized. After all, the prison system is much greater than that of the concrete and steel walls dotting the land like a cancer. It is the very Empire that enslaves us all — inside and out.

This gathering is a step in the right direction. It is a chance to form a lasting bond, and to step on the path of our liberations together and walk toward freedom.

## Harold Thompson

### Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

*[Harold Thompson is an anarchist prisoner serving multiple life sentences in Tennessee, after a series of farcical trials.]*

I SEND WARMEST OF ANARCHIST GREETINGS TO ALL ATTENDING THE BREAK the Chains Conference, from the belly of the beast of capitalism, this rural gulag fiefdom ruled over by prisoncrats! I stand 100% in solidarity with those of you wishing to build a strong Anarchist movement in the United States which will be a force for the monsters of the earth to reckon with in the future. History will write the account of whether we succeed or fail in our effort to sweep the monsters of the earth into the dustbin of history before they destroy the world in their exploitive quest for profit above all else, conquest before the lives and good of the people in the name of empire, and before they grasp ironclad power which cannot be broken and will crush us after murdering our dreams of a better world, our yearning for better lives where life itself is valued above all else and our hopes for fulfilling lives for future generations, where the worth of each person is measured by their contribution to the whole of humanity, their communities and to each other, where all the "isms" (discrimination, sexism, classism etc.) are nightmares from the past and we can live free of oppression, exploitation

We exist in capitalism and against it, in a polluted reality with a pure vision. Through a discussion of real examples and activist communities around the country this workshop aims to clarify how we'll govern ourselves in the absence of state and corporate action. **ROOM 152**

### Green With A Vengeance: The Story of Oregon Eco-Defense Political Prisoner Jeff "Free" Luers Friends of "Free"

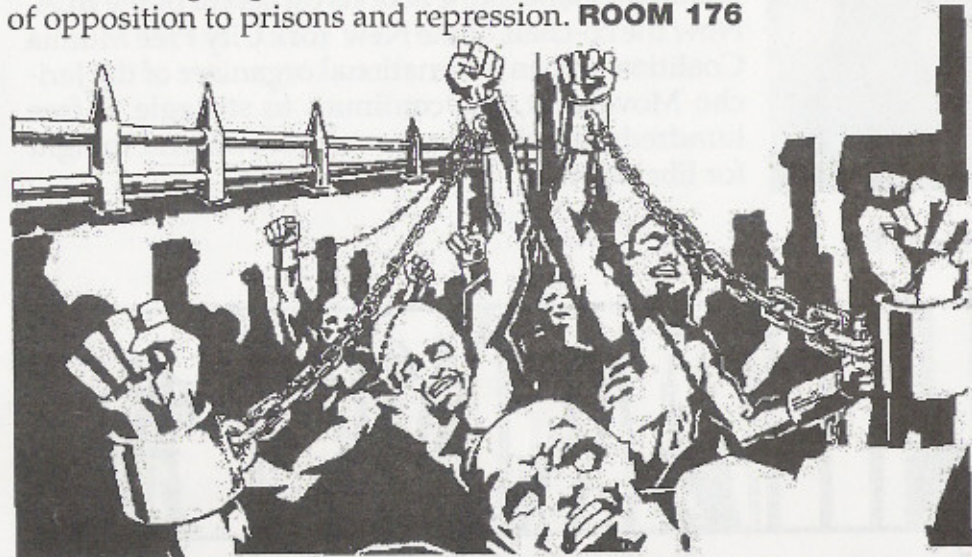
Jeff Luers is a 25 year old political prisoner serving a 22+ year sentence in Oregon State Prison. What was his so-called crime? Setting fire to three Sports Utility Vehicles to protest the destruction of the environment. It is widely viewed that Jeff, AKA "Free," is being harshly punished, not because of the severity of his crime, but rather because the state is determined to crush anarchist and radical environmentalist opposition to corporate exploitation in the Pacific Northwest. This session will include a showing of the Australian documentary film *Green with a Vengeance*, about Free's case, followed by presentations from long-time supporters of Free. **ROOM 155**

2:30pm-3:50pm

### Onward!

#### A closing discussion with panelists Brigitte Sarabi, Safiya Bukhari, and Paulette dAuteuil

Veteran prison activists will share their thoughts on where we're at, where we're going, and how we can build a more effective movement of opposition to prisons and repression. **ROOM 176**





# Off-Campus Events

Each of these events will cost \$5-\$10 sliding scale, but no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. All proceeds go to prisoner-support. For more info, contact Break The Chains collective at 541-520-5401 or breakthechains02@yahoo.com.

**Friday, August 8, 8:30pm**

**Opening night of the Break The Chains Conference  
At the United Lutheran Church, 22nd & Washington**

**Lectures by:**



## Ward Churchill

Native American author, activist, and all around ass-kicker. Ward is a former chairperson of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, veteran American Indian Movement [AIM] activist, and author, co-author or editor of over a dozen books about Native American struggles for liberation, movement strategy, the politics of imprisonment, COINTELPRO & state repression.



## Safiya Bukhari

Safiya is a former Black Panther and Black Liberation Army member who spent close to nine years in prison for clandestine actions on behalf of the BLA. Now the co-chair of the New York City Free Mumia Coalition and an international organizer of the Jericho Movement, she continues to struggle to free hundreds of political prisoners of war and to fight for liberation.

More TBA.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

people around the globe while dehumanizing both groups; and for an end to poverty and social inclusion of the world's outsiders. Those of us from those old decades of revolt in the mid-20th Century are still struggling. Take it from me. One of my favorite poems from those times still offers words of hope in the present; "To Be of Use," by Marge Piercy. This is the second verse:

*"I want to be with people who submerge in the task,  
Who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along.  
Who are not parlor generals or field deserters  
But move, in a common rhythm, when the food must come in  
Or the fire be put out."*

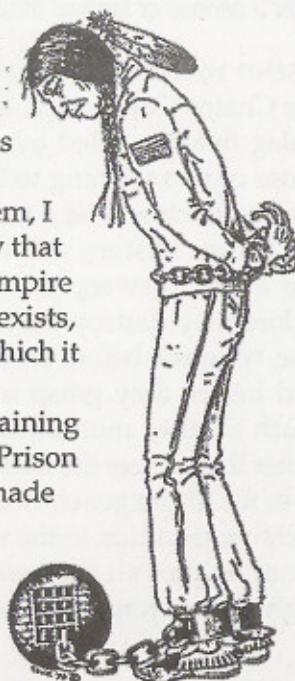
## John Two-Names (Andy Riendeau) Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

*[John Two Names is a Native American prisoner being held hostage by the state of Alabama. He was incarcerated for charges stemming from the burning down of two white schools and a string of burglaries. He asserts his innocence, and believes his incarceration is in retaliation for his political activism for his People.]*

MY NAME IS JOHN TWO-NAMES. I AM AN INDIGENOUS HOSTAGE OF THE Occupational Forces gathered here upon this land. I was asked to share my comments regarding the direction the prisoner support movement should be moving, as well as this event. For me, this is an honor, and I thank those whom have asked for this opportunity.

Regarding the current slave manufacturing system, I must keep in mind that the prison system is merely that which reflects the overall will of the system and Empire which it serves. It is the will of the Empire that it exists, and to try to abolish it without tearing down that which it serves is futile.

Colonization, the process of building and maintaining empires, is directly related to the building of the Prison Industrial Complex. Historically, empires of every shade have been built upon the backs of the colonized, the slaves of the Empire - the US being no exception. This is evidenced from the campaign of genocide launched upon the First Nations of Great Turtle Island,



SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS FROM PRISONERS



# Statement from Sara Jane Olson AKA Kathleen Soliah, Political Prisoner

WAR IS PEACE. FREEDOM IS SLAVERY. WE'RE WELL PAST 1984 AND TIMES are scary. With the advent of Bush II's takeover of Washington, DC, we've seen the invasion and occupation of two previously-destroyed countries — Afghanistan and Iraq; Patriot Acts I and the looming II; federal court-sanctioned secret mass arrests and deportations based on racial/ethnic profiling; the FCC ruling that further consolidates our already centralized corporative media that have earned the appellation, "Pravda," and across-the-board tax cuts for our wealthy folks at the expense of the rest of us. *New York Times* columnist and economist professor, Paul Krugman, describes a future in which those wealthy Americans will all live in walled, gated communities guarded and patrolled by a specialized urban police force. The US will look like a European medieval society, the majority of the population existing outside the elitist walls in a neo-max headroom environment, scrambling and grubbing for crumbs.

But there is reason to hope and common people demonstrate that day after day with resistance to the apocalyptic vision of a future we abhor. No matter what we do to construct a path to an alternate future, whether by acts that specifically say "no" or through projects that offer, by example, another way in our present we build, in small measures, for the moment of historical leap to a better world.

Bush and his neo-cons, many from the former Reagan and Bush I administrations, wrestle for the "soul" of the nation. These people have been fighting their revolution for decades to overcome ideas and social expansion that begun in the 1960s and to forever save the country from marijuana-smoking '60s types. Well, the '60s types fought too: for voting and civil rights for the disenfranchised — a continuing struggle that, today, finds the use of felony convictions to perpetuate old Jim Crow patterns; and end, once and for all, to wars of imperialism that kill poor Americans and



**Sara Jane Olson**  
(AKA Kathleen Soliah), is a former member of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), serving 20 years for her involvement in several actions carried out by the SLA.

In June 1999, after twenty-four years on the run, Sara Jane Olson was arrested in St. Paul, Minnesota. Two years later, Olson pled guilty to a plot to bomb two LAPD patrol cars on August 21, 1975.

In early 2003, Olson, along with William Harris, Emily Montague (Harris), and Michael Bortin were sentenced for the 1975 murder of Myrna Opsahl, who was shot and killed when the SLA was robbing a California bank.

#### Write to:

Sara J. Olson W-94197  
506-26-02 Low  
CCWF - PO Box 1508  
Chowchilla, CA 93610-1508

Saturday, August 9th, 8pm

## Here We Stand

At the Core Star Cultural Center, on 2nd & Lawrence

### Presentations by:

#### Chrystos

Chrystos is a self-educated writer as well as an artist who designs the covers of her own books. Her work as a Native land and treaty rights activist has been widely recognized and the political aspect is an essential part of her writing — even though she refuses to be taken as a "voice" of Native women or as a "spiritual leader." She is also working toward freedom for imprisoned Indian activists Leonard Peltier. The other dominant aspect of her work is lesbianism, which is outspoken and personalized in her "love-and-lust" poems.

#### Leslie Bull

Leslie is an activist, writer, speaker, photographer, poet, and performer living in Portland, Oregon. Sharing her experiences as a white girl, street hooker, homeless junkie, prisoner family, survivor, and now graduate student in fine arts at Antioch University, Leslie calls herself a compulsive truth teller in her writing. She frequently speaks out about police brutality, having two sons in adult prison system, academia, being queer, being poor, making families, writing for survival, and living through art. Leslie recently performed her emotionally riveting spoken word on a 26-city nationwide tour with the sex worker's art show, and then traveled to New York to make a film with Penny Arcade titled, "on being a junkie ho in sex worker world." Author of four chapbooks published by Emi Koyama's Confluere publications.

### Followed by a musical performance with:

#### Jim Page

Jim has been on the scene for more than twenty years and his reputation continues to grow. He has shared the stage with the likes of Bonnie Raitt, John Trudell, Joan Baez, Michelle Shocked, Mickey Hart, John Hammond, and countless others. His songs have been performed by Christy Moore, Michael Hedges, The Doobie Brothers, Joanne Rand, and Casey Neill. Jim has also performed opening sets for some unexpected people, most notably indigenous activists, Winona Laduke, and the late Nilak Butler. Often cited for his biting political pieces he is in constant demand by the social movements of the day.

OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS



## Enemies of the State

Sunday, August 10, 8:30 pm, at the WOW Hall, on 8th & Lincoln

### Lectures by:

#### Laura Whitehorn

Laura Whitehorn is a revolutionary anti-imperialist who spent over fourteen years in federal prison, charged with a series of property bombings (in which no one was injured) that protested police brutality and U.S. foreign policy. Released in August, 1999, she currently lives in New York City and works toward the release of political prisoners incarcerated in the United States. A lesbian, Whitehorn has worked since her release as an associate editor at *POZ*, a national magazine for those affected by HIV; she is currently planning a correspondence course on HIV and Hepatitis C for prisoners. Her writing appears in *States of Confinement* and numerous anthologies on activism and prison issues. Laura has gained popularity with the release of the film *Out: The Making of A Revolutionary*, a documentary about her life and her contributions to the struggle for radical social change in the United States.

#### Ed Mead

Former political prisoner of the George Jackson Brigades, the co-founder of Prison Legal News, organizer of Men Against Sexism (a group that militantly opposed sexism, racism, homophobia and rape) inside the walls of the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, and the founder of the Prison Art Project. Ed spent 18 years behind bars as a result of his participation in the GJB-related activities.

#### Followed by a musical performance with: Azuquita

The very talented musicians of Eugene's Azuquita will perform Cuban dance music.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

of US political prisoners strengthens the overall movement towards actualizing a revolutionary future.

Therefore, I personally endorse this conference as the founding initiator of the Jericho Amnesty Movement.

Remember: *We Are Our Own Liberators!*

Jalil Abdul Muntaqim

#77A4283

PO Box 618

Auburn Correctional Facility

Auburn, NY 13024

For more info on Jalil, visit [www.abcf.net](http://www.abcf.net)



## WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS

Selected prison writings by Jalil Muntaqim

This is the long awaited book of prison writings by former Black Panther Party/ Black Liberation Army member Jalil Muntaqim, one of the world's longest held political prisoners. Imprisoned since 1971, as a result of the American government's campaign to crush domestic opposition, this collection spans his 31 years of prison writings and outlines his major theoretical contributions to the Black Liberation and New Afrikan Independence Movements.

**PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY** by sending \$15 US, checks made out to "Abraham Guillen Press" and mail to:

Abraham Guillen Press

C.P. 48164, Montreal, QC, H2V 4S8 Canada

Members of Anarchist Black Cross chapters are encouraged to check-in with conference organizers to let them know about their attendance, so that they may be acquainted with other ABC folks and find out about ABC-oriented activities.

**NOTE FOR ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS MEMBERS**



SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS FROM PRISONERS

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## Jalil Abdul Muntaqim

### Statement of Support for the Break The Chains Conference

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONFERENCE UNDERSTAND the issue of the existence of US political prisoners' is an issue of recognizing resistance in this country. There has been, and will continue to be resistance to capitalist-imperialism, white supremacy, and domestic colonialism. Although there are many varied aspects of struggle being waged on different fronts, the bottom line is that racism and capitalist-imperialism is the foundation of all of our troubles. Therefore, while progressive and revolutionary forces are battling against US imperialism outside the borders of the US, it is imperative that progressives and revolutionaries redouble their determination to do battle inside US borders.

Over the years, as an example, Critical Resistance has been organizing conferences educating people about the prison industrial complex. However, I have not learned of Critical Resistance identifying and striking against a particular entity representing the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). I believe it is important to give a face, an identity to the existence of the PIC, and then challenge its existence and manner of doing business. It is important to identify targets that represent the interests of repressive government and challenge them, expose them, uncover their methods of operation in ways that they cannot deny. For instance, the Battle of Seattle is a prime example of how progressives and revolutionaries must challenge the system. There can be no real or honest solidarity with those fighting & dieing in other parts of the world against US imperialism, while in the belly of the beast, the extent of a protest is a march and a rally. Any struggle that is confined to the parameters of your enemy to protest, is not revolutionary, but only a show of dissent within the US democratic process. It is letting off steam in a pressure cooker, when you should be trying to blow a way the pot. For as long as protests continue to be confined to the dictates of what the government allows, then your protests will continue to be controlled by the government. Your dissent becomes government-sanctioned access. In this way, the government preserves the illusion of inclusion in the democratic process.

The existing US political prisoners have stories to tell, stories of commitment, determination, and courage, that cannot and should not be ignored. They possess lessons from trial & error that should be recorded and understood to permit our struggle to take that giant leap in revolution. Supporting US political prisoners is crucial to maintaining consistency in our political practice, ensuring continuity in our determination, from one generation to the next. Furthermore, the struggle to free US political prisoners encourages activists to know they will not be abandoned in the course of the struggle. Supporting

# Conference Speakers

## Chuck Armsbury

Chuck earned a bachelor's degree in 1965 and, as a graduate student at the University of Oregon in the late 1960s, taught sociology, joined the civil rights movement, and served time in federal and state prisons. Released from prison in 1978, Chuck returned to his childhood home of Spokane, Washington. He taught college courses, became a plumber, and in his spare time volunteered with social justice groups in the region. In the summer of 1999, Chuck Armsbury found a copy of the November Coalition's paper *Razor Wire* in a local café, read it cover to cover, drove to the November Coalition home office and volunteered. The following day he was assigned his first *Razor Wire* article, began editing submissions and does so to this day. In 2000, the November Coalition was the recipient of the annual Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights award in honor of two Institute for Policy Studies colleagues who were murdered on September 21, 1976, by agents of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

## Leslie Bull

Leslie is an activist, writer, speaker, photographer, poet, and performer living in Portland, Oregon. Sharing her experiences as a white girl, street hooker, homeless junkie, prisoner family, survivor, and now graduate student in fine arts at Antioch University, Leslie calls herself a compulsive truth teller in her writing. She frequently speaks out about police brutality, having two sons in adult prison system, academia, being queer, being poor, making families, writing for survival, and living through art. Leslie recently performed her emotionally riveting spoken word on a 26-city nationwide tour with the sex worker's art show, and then traveled to New York to make a film with Penny Arcade titled, "on being a junkie ho in sex worker world." Author of four chapbooks published by Emi Koyama's Confluere publications.

## Rita "Bo" Brown

Former political prisoner of the George Jackson Brigades, founder of the Out of Control Lesbian Committee to Support Women in Prison, Prison Activist Resource Center community advisor, and regional representative of the Eddie Hatcher Defense Committee.



## Safiya Bukhari

Safiya is a former Black Panther and Black Liberation Army member who spent close to nine years in prison for clandestine actions on behalf of the BLA. Now the co-chair of the New York City Free Mumia Coalition and an international organizer of the Jericho Movement, she continues to struggle to free hundreds of political prisoners of war and to fight for liberation.

## Nora Callahan

Nora was raising two children and co-owner of an electrical contracting firm when her brother, Gary Callahan, was indicted for a drug conspiracy in 1989. His consequent 27-year prison sentence prompted her in 1997 to heed the request of prisoners at Oxford Federal Correctional Facility in Wisconsin, "Help us organize drug war prisoners and their loved ones to oppose this war." Raised within a family of war veterans and law enforcement officers, and after completing high school in southern California, Nora attended Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle, Washington and began raising a family. Nora has been noted for her grassroots leadership, sharing the 1998 Thomas Paine Award given by the Thomas Paine Society of Pasadena, California. At the 14th Annual International Conference of the Drug Policy Alliance in 2001, Nora was presented the Robert C. Randall Award for Achievement in the Field of Citizen Action, honoring those citizens fighting for drug law and policy reform.

## Chrystos

Chrystos is a self-educated writer as well as an artist who designs the covers of her own books. Her work as a Native land and treaty rights activist has been widely recognized and the political aspect is an essential part of her writing — even though she refuses to be taken as a "voice" of Native women or as a "spiritual leader." She is also working toward freedom for imprisoned Indian activists Leonard Peltier. The other dominant aspect of her work is lesbianism, which is outspoken and personalized in her "love-and-lust" poems.

## Ward Churchill

Native American author, activist, and all around ass-kicker. Ward is a former chairperson of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, veteran American Indian Movement [AIM] activist, and author, co-author or editor of more than a dozen books about Native American struggles for liberation, movement strategy, the politics of imprisonment, COINTELPRO & state repression.

## Brian McCarvill

### COMBAT Dispatch/Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

*[Brian is a radical social prisoner, who was recently involved in a lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Corrections, challenging their censorship and rejection of anarchist publications. The lawsuit was settled, but Brian was soon transferred to Two Rivers Correctional Institution as retaliation.]*

### Dispatch 108:

### Statement of Unity with Break the Chains and the August Anarchist Black Cross Conference

#### VOLUNTEERS,

I wish I were there with you. The camaraderie must be exhilarating, the hands-on personal interaction, the kaleidoscope of visual imagery, the realness of the revolutionary effort in practice. Do not experience your festival lightly please. You are the revolution in motion. Your revolutionary impetus is the foundation of our resolve as prisoners. Your revolutionary verve, your continued struggle, makes us prisoners of war. Without your ongoing efforts we are only casualties. We refuse to be casualties, therefore you must fight!

What is a prison but an authoritarian island? In actuality we are not prisoners, we are comrades in exile. We are expelled from capitalist empire, from the solace and vibrancy of our sisters and brothers. It is important that you support us as you have been doing. Without your support our exile would be devoid of all meaning, a simple descent into madness. We thank you deeply, from our hearts, for your support.

Revolution dictates that you must do more than simply support us. Do not be deterred by our thirst for interaction, mail, visits, fundraising and the like. Revolution requires that you expend the bulk of your efforts, not on us, but in battling capitalist empirical civilization from black, green, and red perspectives. There are no distinct dividing lines between black, green and red concepts — that is what they are — concepts. The ideology is revolution, life-giving celebratory revolution. Do not allow us to become casualties of war, ensure that we become prisoners of war instead. We, in exile, are limited to theory and debate. You are charged with the destiny of revolutionary action. Act. Live. Flourish. Revolt.

Love and COMBAT —

Brian McCarvill #11037967

Two Rivers Correctional Institution  
82911 Beach Access Road  
Umatilla, OR 97882



ts many forms must know that they have support. We must never leave anyone to face prison time alone. We must build a strong prison support network that can challenge the system on every level. Much of this can be learned from countries such as Ireland, Spain and England. When injustice is done there must be no silence. The system must be hounded every day and every night until all political prisoners, and all prisoners of war are free.

In the spirit of total resistance,

Jeffrey Luers

#13797671

DSP, 2605 State Street

Salem, OR 97310

For more info on "Free," visit [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org)



Political prisoner Critter (Craig Marshall) sent a statement to the conference. This statement is not going to be published by us for a variety of reasons. However, the statement will be available as a flyer at the conference, and on request from Break the Chains afterwards.

## Paulette d'Auteuil

Paulette is an internationalist who has worked for many years in solidarity with movements of Native American, African American and Puerto Rican people in North America as well as the Irish and Basques struggles abroad. She is am a former member of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, and Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, and presently a member of the national office of the Jericho Movement and a high school history teacher in the Bronx. She has done PP/POW work since the early '70s when her first comrade went down and understood that she would not let their walls stand between them and I am committed to building an international PP/POW network.

## Tommy Escarcega

Tommy is a Chicano lesbian and former prisoner. She is active with a variety of prison groups in California.

## Matt Hart

Matt is active in the Los Angeles Branch of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation [ABCF]. He is presently working on an Anarchist Black Cross [ABC] historical archive within the LA Branch and is writing a book about the history of the ABC movement. He has written several articles and pamphlets about the history of the organization and is working on republishing Boris Yelensky's "The Struggle for Equality" (a book previously written about the ABC movement published in 1958.) Matt and the rest of the LA-ABCF chapter is presently trying to find ways to build stronger unity within the political prisoner support community. They are presently working in coalition with Jericho Amnesty Movement in Los Angeles in hopes of creating a significant movement for the liberation of all political prisoners.

## John "Splitting the Sky" Hill

From a background of orphanages and boarding schools, Dacajeweah emerged as a principal leader of the Attica rebellion at the age of nineteen, and later became a major figure with the American Indian Movement. He was the founder of the League of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of the Western Hemisphere, has been involved in numerous armed standoffs with the Canadian and US authorities, and after decades of poverty, imprisonment, and repression, he continues to agitate for Native sovereignty and prisoners' rights.



## Sailor Holladay

Sailor is a 23-year-old poverty class social change agent. With a professional background in the domestic violence movement, Sailor is currently working for justice in the mental health system and volunteers with California Prison Focus' Transgender in Prison (TIP) Committee as well as being a student and a bouncer. Sailor is also a writer and an actor.

## Derrick Jensen

Derrick is the author of *A Language Older Than Words*, and more recently *The Culture of Make Believe*. He taught creative writing for three years at Pelican Bay State Prison.

## Wolfi Landstreicher

Wolfie is an individual who, hating all forms of authority, domination and exploitation has chosen to face his life as an anarchist. He sees all the institutions that make up this civilization as enemies of his own and everyone else's self-determination. It is thus not as an activist or political militant that he opposes prisons, but as an individual in struggle with others who share his rage and his desire for free existence, and who recognize prison as part of the structure of domination. His ideas and those of others that he finds stimulating can be found in his zine *Willful Disobedience* and in the pamphlets available from Venomous Butterfly Publications.

## Vikki Law

Vikki is one of the founding members of Re-Sisters, a group which supports women prisoners in their struggle for change. She has been doing prisoner support work since 1995 and was one of the co-founders of Books Through Bars-NYC. She is also the author of "The Invisibility of Women Prisoner's Resistance," a groundbreaking work on women, resistance and voice. She is currently working diligently on the Tenacious project — a project encouraging the voices of women behind bars.

## Claude Marks

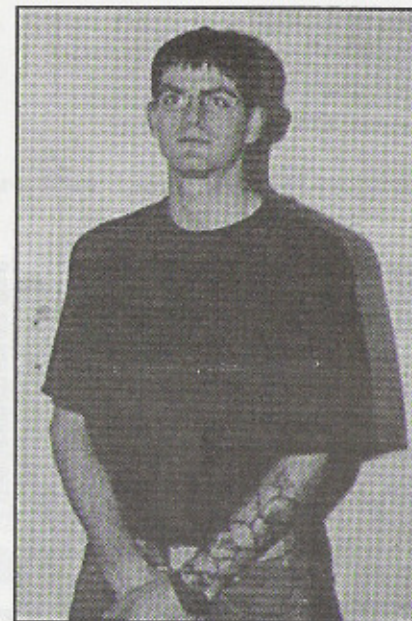
Claude is the Project Director of The Freedom Archives, a political, cultural oral history project in San Francisco. He is a former political prisoner who served time for a conspiracy to break two Puerto Rican and Black political prisoners out of Leavenworth. Claude taught ESL, literacy, writing and

## Jeffrey Luers (AKA "Free")

### Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

*[Free (Jeffrey Luers) is an environmental activist and political prisoner. In June 2001, he was handed an extremely heavy sentence of 22 1/2 years for his participation in the destruction of several Sports Utility Vehicles, in protest of the destruction of the environment. He is currently in "The Hole" at Oregon State Penitentiary for a letter that he wrote to the Earth First! Journal.]*

I'VE BEEN ASKED TO WRITE SOMETHING FOR this conference — and I find myself not knowing what to say. There are more than two million prisoners in the USA, and that number grows daily. Presently, hundreds and maybe thousands of Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent are illegally imprisoned, denied basic human rights and civil rights in the name of freedom. It is startlingly reminiscent of the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II. The war against terrorism will be much the same as the war on drugs. Thousands of people will be placed in prison — only under new rules you don't have to be charged with a crime to be held indefinitely. The USA is flexing its muscles, daring anyone to challenge its power. From without it threatens with overwhelming military power. From within it threatens with fascist laws designed as much to intimidate as punish. The "great land of freedom" has gone from a genocidal nation to a fascist superpower. This lesson was already learned once in history. If the German citizens who opposed Hitler would have challenged him early on, the Holocaust may have been avoided. In this dangerous age of nuclear threat, if we do not challenge this fascist system the world could face disaster. Change must come from within, and by any means necessary. I urge everyone in attendance to go back to their homes and start building community. Develop programs to feed children and educate them. Create independent news to educate adults. Reclaim space to grow food and build/create housing. It is only by building a broad movement supported by the people that change can occur. This broad base can then support our militants that take the fight to the front lines. They must have your support. There must be funds for attorneys ready to go before they are needed. People who risk their lives and freedom to challenge oppression in





# James "Rio" Johnson

## Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

[Rio has been active in anarchist projects since the early '80s. He's doing time for a drug-related homicide, and has fought hard throughout his stay.]

GREETINGS IN THE STRANGULATION OF OUR BOSSES AND MASTERS, AND MAY we all find love in the ruins of this infamous society of the spectacle.

Hello dear friends, comrades, saboteurs, autonomes and guerillas still at large. My name is James Rio Johnson, AKA "Ajax"; my friends call me variations of the above and the state has given me the offensive moniker of "inmate." Although I'm unfortunately in the clutches of the state's punishment industry dungeons, I'm not some inmate to be made an example of, nor do I subscribe to the Lord of the Flies on a pile of shit mentality of the convict. For the inmate serves his masters by jumping through his hoops like some beaten obedient caged dog, and the convict serves his state masters by enforcing backward criminal codes of racism, and creating petty gangland tyrannies that further oppress those on the inside, keeping everyone divided and thus more easily conquered by ODOC [Oregon Department of Corrections] totalitarian rule.

No, I'm neither convict nor inmate. I'm a prisoner, and an insurrectionist one at that. I'd like to tell you that we not only need your support and encouragement, we also highly appreciate it.

It's the love and support that we get from you that often delivers us from the edge of despair, before our palace torturers give us that final shove. To paraphrase a Situationist wit, "Despair ends where actions begin." Oh dear comrades, how some of our actions on the inside have been an inspiration, equal to those brave acts that landed some of our revolutionary friends in here in the first place.

**James Johnson**

#8952263

SRCI

777 Stanton Blvd.

Ontario, OR 97914

*We've all been pretty busy fighting the good fight by various means. Some of us are Anarchist Prisoners down on Social Crimes, others are Prisoners of War, while many are Political Prisoners whom have to taste the pain of prison because of politically-motivated activities of the Anti-Imperialist, Pro-Native Rights, Eco-Defense, Black Liberation fights, as well as other worthy causes. Whether we are Political Prisoners, Prisoners of War or prisoners getting down with the pigs, we are all Prisoners at War. Please continue to show us support while we fight on these front lines. Thank you.*

history inside. Under his direction, The Freedom Archives has developed a youth training curriculum and has released several recent documentary CDs and videos combining restored historical audio and contemporary interviews. The videos focus on Jalil Muntaqim, David Gilbert and Nuh Washington and a recent CD, *Prisons on Fire*, focuses on George Jackson and the Attica Rebellion. Claude remains a prison activist and uses media to educate, advocate for prison abolition and the freeing of all political prisoners.

## Ed Mead

Former political prisoner of the George Jackson Brigades, the co-founder of Prison Legal News, organizer of Men Against Sexism (a group that militantly opposed sexism, racism, homophobia and rape) inside the walls of the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, and the founder of the Prison Art Project. Ed spent 18 years behind bars as a result of his participation in the GJB-related activities.

## German Nieto-Maquehue

German is a survivor of state terrorism. He left his home country, Chile, in 1974 due to the violence imposed by the Pinochet regime. After traveling and living in several Latin American countries, he came to Eugene 20 years ago. In 1999 he became the director of Amigos de los Sobrevivientes [Friends of the Survivors]. Amigos de los Sobrevivientes is a non-profit, community-based organization serving survivors of torture and political violence from Latin America.

## David Oaks

David is director of Mind Freedom, which unites 100 grassroots groups for human rights in the mental health system. He's a psychiatric survivor who has been a human rights activist in this field for 26 years.

## Stormy Ogden

Stormy is California Indian woman, Kashaya Pomo and a recognized member of the Tule River Yokuts tribe. She's a former prisoner incarcerated for 5 years at the California Rehabilitation Center located in Norco. Since her release over 14 years ago she has worked within the Bay Area and Humboldt County, American Indian communities as an active community organizer and speaker. She has done work around the issues of Indian Child Welfare,



Protection of American Indian Religious and Spiritual Traditions, the Squaw name change project of California, and the rights for American Indian women within the federal and state prison system. She was one of many coauthors of *The American Indian within the White man's Prison: A Story of Genocide*. She's also in the process of writing articles on the Prison Industrial Complex and how it compares to the violent attempts of colonizing the Native people of these lands. The last few years she has been a presenter and keynote speaker for various conferences, which focus around these issues.

## Anthony Rayson

Anthony is an anarchist writer and organizer, who makes a priority of meaningful & effective prisoner support activism. He's co-founded such grassroots groups as STAND (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down), Southside Citizen's Coalition, and Chicago Anarchist Black Cross. He runs South Chicago ABC Distribution, crafts and distributes dozens of powerful publications and pamphlets — free to prisoners — often written by prisoners, to help educate, connect and empower people, inside and out, to raise issues and up the struggle.

## Daniel Burton-Rose

Dan is the co-editor of *Confronting Capitalism: Dispatches from a Global Movement* (October 03) and *The Ceiling of America: An Inside Look at the US Prison Industry* (Common Courage 1998). He researched *Private Warriors* (Verso 2000), an exposé on the activities of arms dealers and mercenaries during the Cold War. An award-winning journalist, he has written for the *Bay Guardian*, *Dollars and Sense*, *Middle East Report*, *Multinational Monitor*, *Vibe*, and *Z Magazine*, among other publications.

## Craig Rosebraugh

Craig was a former spokesperson for the Earth Liberation Front, a group categorized by the FBI as the number one domestic terrorism threat in the United States. He survived seven grand jury investigations, two raids by federal agents on his home and business, and a Congressional subpoena. A political activist since 1990, Craig left the ELF press office in 2001 to advocate the action against the Arissa in 2003, an movement in need for more strategic and directed US political system. He co-founded effort to build a revolutionary the USA.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

# SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS FROM PRISONERS

## Thomas Meyer-Falk

### Statement to the Break the Chains Conference

*[Thomas is a German anarchist Redskin (antiracist skinhead) imprisoned since 1996 for attempted expropriation of funds from a capitalist bank. He will be imprisoned until at least 2010 due to the political nature of his crimes — he was doing it to raise money for anti-fascist activities. Calling the judge a fascist pig in court also added seven months to his time.]*

GREETINGS TO ALL FRIENDS AND COMRADES OVER THERE —

We are living in an era which began some years ago — people on the inside and outside are living in chains! It is important to focus on the worldwide inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment of convicted people, but we should not forget that the people outside of the prisons have their own chains.

However, if the prisoners, the women and men who fought militantly and were imprisoned for their struggle, are forgotten, the whole left-wing movement will destroy itself. The Break the Chains Conference is a wonderful chance to bring forward the need for continued and heightened prisoner support.

I'm staying in a German prison. I have been kept in solitary for years because they feel that I could escape. But I ask you: is it not the human right of every convict to fight for their freedom? I do not believe in the strategy of cooperation with one's enemy, and I think that the inmates who "cooperate" have lost their human dignity! That is why it is necessary to help them regain their dignity; they must learn that they are part of the revolution, part of a new world — a world which stands for humanity, freedom and living in peace!

Thomas Meyer-Falk

c/o JVA-Z. 3117

Schoenbornstr. 32

D-76646 Bruchsal Germany

*Even if there is an ocean between us, my heart and thoughts are with you. Help us, the prisoners, and help yourself so that our children can live in a more peaceful world!*

SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS FROM PRISONERS

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## UNIVERSITY AREA

### Café Sina

853 E. 13<sup>th</sup>. #344-0300.

Mexican/American, breakfast/  
Lunch. \$-\$\$

### Caspian

863 E. 13<sup>th</sup>. #683-7800.

Decent Mediterranean vegetarian/  
meat/cafe. \$\$

### Espresso Roma

825 E. 13th St. #484-0878.

### Glenwood

1346 Alder St. #343-8303.

Vegetarian/meat, breakfast/lunch.  
\$\$

### Hana's Korean

1219 Alder St. #343-2932.

Quick, greasy, yummy, vegetar-  
ian/ meat. \$-\$\$

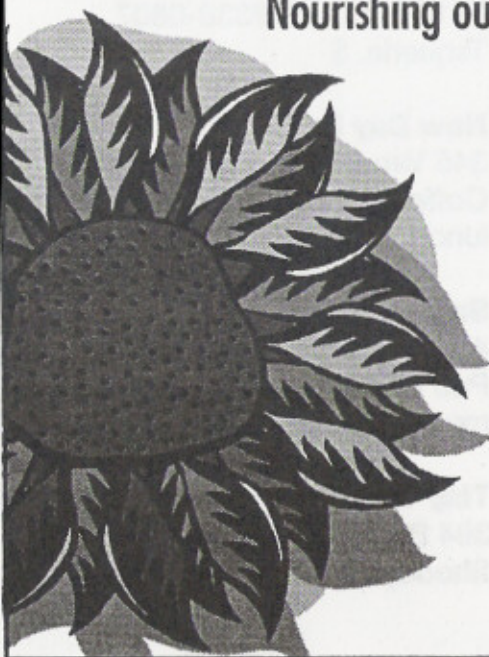
### 19th St. Café

Corner of 19th & Agate.

\$\$

# Sundance Natural Foods

Nourishing our Community since 1971



Sundance Natural Foods

748 E. 24th Ave.

541-343-9142

## Brigette Sarabi

Brigette is the Director of the Western Prison Project, a regional organization working in seven western states to build a multi-racial movement for criminal justice reform leading to a decline of incarceration. She is the co-editor (with Peter Wagner) of the recently released *The Prison Index: Taking the Pulse of the Crime Control Industry*, and the co-author (with Ed Bender) of *The Prison Payoff: The Role of Politics & Private Prisons in the Incarceration Boom* (2001). She is also the mother of a former prisoner.



## Jesús Sepúlveda

Jesús Sepúlveda was born in Santiago, Chile in 1967. He is a member of the generation of 1987 — the so-called “barbarian” writers — who started publishing in the last years of the Pinochet regime. He is a former militant of the Chilean resistance and the author of five books of poetry and one of essays. His poems and critical articles have been published in anthologies and magazines in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, USA, and Spain. In Chile, he directed the magazine *Piel de leopardo* and in the US the bilingual magazine *Helicóptero* in collaboration with Paul Dresman. He holds a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and teaches at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where he has lived since 1995. The translation of the book *The Garden of Peculiarities* will be published this year in the US.

## Peter Urban

Co-founder and North American Coordinator of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Attending every Ard Fheis (national congress) of the IRSP since 1984, he was appointed the IRSP's International Department Co-Secretary in 2000, a position he still holds. In 2003, he will organize the FIRSCA, an organization for IRSP support groups throughout the world. Peter is an expert on Irish resistance movements and Irish political prisoners.

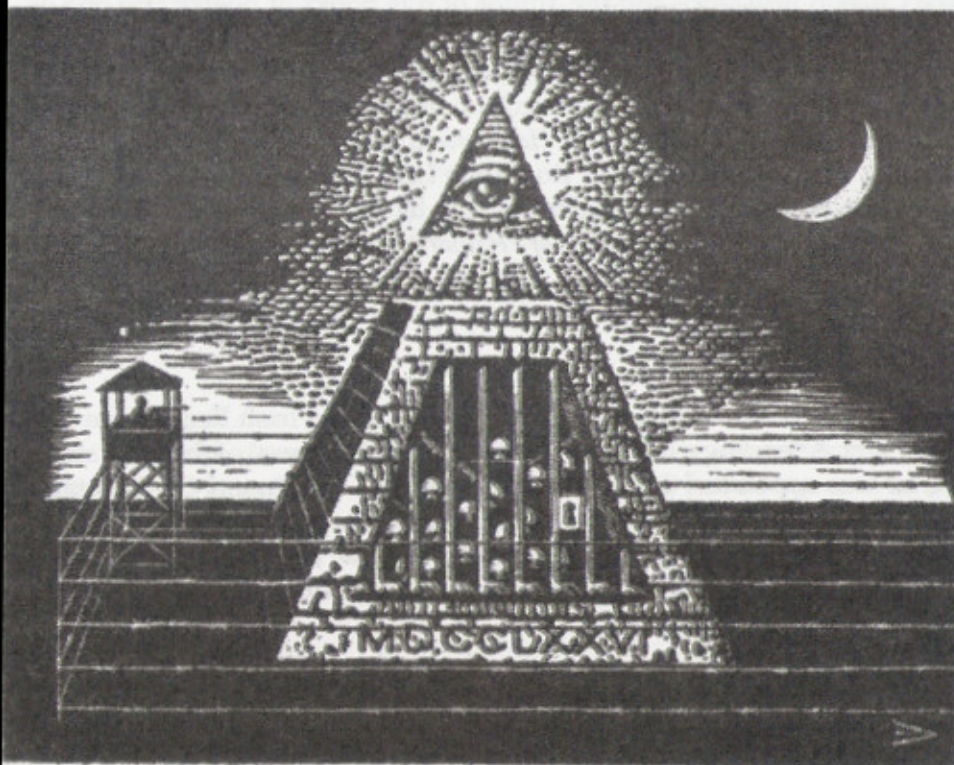


## Mary Martinez Wenzel

Mary is Mexican & Irish. She grew up in Eugene and started doing social justice work when she fourteen, with Youth for Justice. Since then she has worked in feminist women's health care and spent some time in Guadalajara, Mexico, teaching English. Currently she is at work at Community Alliance for Lane County as the coordinator of the Network for Immigrant Justice.

## Laura Whitehorn

Revolutionary anti-imperialist who spent 14 years in federal prison as a political prisoner. Her "offense" was to conspire to protest and change US government policies, domestic and international, with acts of armed struggle (the "resistance conspiracy" case). She currently works toward the release of all the remaining political prisoners in US prisons. A lesbian, she is an associate editor at POZ, a national magazine for those affected by HIV.



## Restaurants & Food

The conference organizers are not prepared to provide free food for conference attendees. Free coffee will be available during all conference sessions. Free breakfast & dinner will be made available for those individuals who are scheduled to lecture or lead workshops; other folks should be prepared to take care of themselves. The following is a list of some decent restaurants and stores in Eugene.

### DOWNTOWN EUGENE

#### Bagel Sphere

810 Willamette. #341-1335.  
\$-\$\$

#### Burrito Boy

30 W. 10<sup>th</sup>. #344-5856.  
Vegetarian/meat. Fast Mexican.

#### Cosmic Pizza

1432 Willamette St. #338-9333.  
Vegetarian pizza. Free delivery.  
\$\$-\$\$\$

#### High St. Cafe & Brewery

1243 High St. #345-4905. \$\$

#### Kiva

125 W 11<sup>th</sup> (across the street from the bus station). Health food store. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Lotus Garden

810 Charnelton St. #344-1928.  
Vegetarian Chinese. Excellent.  
\$\$-\$\$\$

#### Morning Glory Cafe/Out of the Fog

450 Willamette. #687-0709.  
Vegetarian/Juice/Coffee. \$\$-\$\$\$

### WHITEAKER NEIGHBORHOOD

#### Chao Praya

580 Adams St. #344-1706.  
Thai/vegetarian/meat. \$-\$\$

#### Keystone Cafe

395 W. 5th St. #342-2075.  
Vegetarian/meat. \$-\$\$

#### Las Brasas

541 Blair Blvd. #338-0807.  
Taqueria. \$

#### New Day Bakery

345 Van Buren. #345-1695.  
Coffee & pastries, breakfast & lunch. \$-\$\$

#### Sam Bond's Garage

407 Blair Blvd. #343-2635.  
Pub w/ micro brews, vegetarian, music. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Tiny Tavern

394 Blair Blvd. #343-2635.  
Shoddy bar/local hangout. \$



# Hotels & Housing

This is a short list of accommodations near the daytime events. The hotels are not necessarily recommendations as we have not stayed in all of them. Additional options may be available on the housing message board at [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net).

## Phoenix Inn

850 Franklin Blvd., near 11th and Alder (walking distance from university). #344-0001. \$90 and up: includes breakfast, pool and fitness center.

## Travelers Inn

540 E. Broadway, near Patterson (walking distance from university). #342-1105. \$50 and up.

## Timbers Motel

1010 Pearl St., near 10th downtown (a longer walk to university). #343-3345. \$50 and up.

## Manor Motel

599 East Broadway (walking distance from university). #345-2331. \$37 and up.

## Mi Casita Guest House (hostel)

1481 W 11<sup>th</sup> (a short bus ride to university area). #342-5344. \$20 and up.

## The Lorax

1648 Alder St., one block from university. Communal space to crash for around 25 people, please bring your own sleeping bag. Free to conference attendees. #683-0642 and ask for Esther.

## Break The Chains Conference

# Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I register? How much is the conference?

We would like people to register with conference organizers at the check-in desk, so that we may stay in touch to keep you updated about our activities, and so that we may ask for your feedback in the aftermath of the conference. But this is optional. All of the conference sessions that are held on campus are free of cost. We will be asking for donations at the off-campus conference events. We are in serious need of funds to pay off conference debts and to continue to do prisoner support work, so we need to charge a small payment for all off-campus, nighttime conference events. However, no one will be turned away for a lack of funds.

### 2. When does the conference start/end?

The conference will begin at 7:30 pm at the United Lutheran Church (on 22nd & Washington) on Friday, August 8th. The conference will end at approx. midnight at the WOW Hall (on 8th & Lincoln) on Sunday, August 10. For more details, see our conference schedule.

### 3. Where is the conference actually going to be held?

The conference will begin on the night of Friday, August 8th, at the United Lutheran Church (located at 22nd & Washington). The conference is going to be held at the Education Building (located at 16th & Alder), on the University of Oregon campus, from 9am to 6pm, on Saturday, August 9th, and Sunday, August 10th. The Saturday (August 9th) night keynote/performance event will be held at the Core Star Cultural Center, located at 2nd & Lawrence. The closing conference event (for the night of Sunday, August 10) will be held at the WOW Hall (located on the corner of 8th & Lincoln). City of Eugene maps are available from the Break The Chains collective free upon request. For more info on conference locations, call the Break The Chains collective at (area code 541) 520-5401, or email us at [breakthechains02@yahoo.com](mailto:breakthechains02@yahoo.com).



#### **4. Are the Conference venues safe & accessible for everyone?**

The Education Building and the rest of the conference venues are all handicapped accessible, and service animals are permitted. If you have any special needs or concerns, please contact us as soon as possible so we can plan to accommodate you. Transgender-friendly bathrooms will be available on campus throughout the duration of the Break the Chains Conference. Their location will be clearly posted. If you cannot locate them, or have any questions or concerns, please talk with Security team members or any other event organizer. Also, a private meeting room for women of color will be available during the campus events.

#### **5. What kind of food will be provided?**

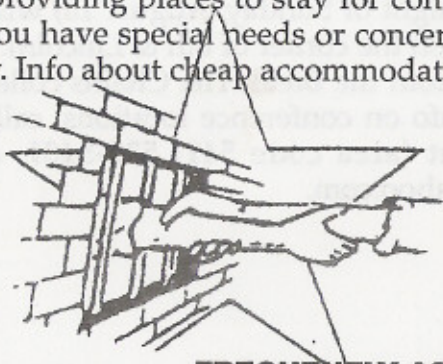
We are only prepared to provide breakfast & dinner for conference organizers, speakers, and performers. However, coffee and snacks will be provided free of cost during the entire course of the conference. This manual includes a directory of good restaurants in Eugene. The Education Building is also located near many restaurants and cafes.

#### **6. Is childcare available?**

Childcare will be available for all of the conference sessions. However, childcare will not be available during lunchtime. During the on-campus events, childcare will be held in room 136. At the off-campus events, childcare will be held in a safe room at the venues. If you are in need of childcare, please contact us ASAP so that we can have some idea of how many children we can expect. Call the Break The Chains collective at (area code 541) 520-5401, or email us at [breakthechains03@yahoo.com](mailto:breakthechains03@yahoo.com)

#### **7. How does housing work?**

We are unable to guarantee housing for everyone who needs it. We have focused on providing places to stay for conference organizers and speakers. If you have special needs or concerns about housing, please let us know. Info about cheap accommodations is included in this manual.



#### **8. What if I want to facilitate a workshop or discussion?**

Unfortunately, the deadline for workshop applications has passed. However, you may still want to contact us and let us know what you had in mind. We may be able to accommodate you in the event that another speaker/presenter has to cancel, we may be able to have you take part in an already planned workshop with other individuals, or we may be able to do an event with you in the future.

#### **9. What about the media?**

All media must pre-register with Break the Chains. No media will be permitted at the conference without a press pass issued by the Break The Chains Collective. To inquire about a press pass, please contact us at (541) 302-6246, alternately at 520-5401.



## **SECURITY**

The conference organizers and security team ask that attendees refrain from racist, sexist, homophobic, or other oppressive language and behavior while at conference events. We also request that attendees refrain from talking with corporate media or any law enforcement officers — these people are not welcome at the conference or any related events. Registered independent media will have clearly visible press passes. Talk to them at your own discretion. Also please bring any issues you have concerning media or law enforcement to a security team member, as well as any other issues, questions and so forth that arise throughout the weekend. Security team “point people” will be identifiable by their green arm bands. If you have any concerns regarding these guidelines, please talk with us. We must also make it clear that we reserve the right to ask anyone to leave the conference. Thank you.