

ANGOLA 3

IN THE WAKE OF KATRINA AND RITA

DEAR FRIENDS

There have been many developments in the struggle to free the Angola 3 this past year. The Angola 3 – Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox, and Robert King Wilkerson aka Robert King – continue to resist and inspire. Herman and Albert are heading into their 34th year of solitary confinement at Angola Prison. Robert, whose freedom was won in 2001, is continuing the struggle from the outside. We hope this update helps you learn more and spread the word about their important case.

In so many ways, when Hurricane Katrina hit the world changed. Herman and Albert and the other prisoners in Angola were safe from the storm, but the greater part of their support network, family, and friends in the New Orleans area were uprooted, possibly permanently.

After all these years of struggle, the Angola 3 have lawyers and favorable court rulings, but without functioning courts in Louisiana, we lost several months of legal progress! We had anticipated that our civil rights action, charging cruel and unusual punishment and lack of due process, would have been in court in October. Now, we're hoping for a January deadline for depositions. Discovery in the case continues as we wait for a new court date.

Albert's post-conviction appeal has just been filed in the state Supreme Court and, if denied, he is preparing to file a habeas corpus petition in the federal court in Baton Rouge. The state Court of Appeal ordered a new hearing on Herman's post-conviction appeal, but the state doesn't want this hearing to occur and they have



photo: Elizabeth Jeffers

asked the state Supreme Court to review the ruling. This would probably be resolved by now, but the Supreme Court remained closed until Nov. 28 due to Katrina and they are just now beginning to consider cases again.

Due to the government's racist reaction to the hurricane crisis, many innocent people just trying to survive the storm were arrested and incarcerated – many with no charges filed against them. Angola has some 3,000 additional prisoners because of evacuations, even some women prisoners, many being held in tents. Angola was built to hold 5,000. Now there are over 8,000 prisoners held there. The relocation of 8,300 prisoners into an assorted 43 institutions, the missing paperwork, and the high numbers of new prisoners have resulted in mass confusion. In the coming year, we must keep the pressure on the state and make it known the

world is watching.

Angola 3 supporters have made great contributions to the struggle in the past year. Please read through the updates on the following pages and visit our updated website to learn more and get involved. The deeply corrupt judicial system in Louisiana conspires to keep them caged, but their supporters and comrades are organizing to change the world outside, educate others, and free Herman and Albert from inside the belly of the beast.

Thank you for your support in the past. Your continued generosity is needed now more than ever. Please see the back and consider making a financial contribution to free the Angola 3.

NATIONAL COALITION TO FREE THE ANGOLA 3

ANGOLA 3

UPDATES

COMMON GROUND RELIEF - KING'S CANDY - AND MORE

FREE THE ANGOLA 3 FOUNDER EXPOSES CRIMINAL RESPONSE TO KATRINA - LAUNCHES COMMON GROUND RELIEF

Some of our biggest news comes from National Coalition to Free the Angola 3 founder **Malik Rahim**. Malik co-founded **Common Ground Relief**



Malik Rahim - photo: Scott Braley

with Angola 3 supporter **Scott Crow** from Texas to provide emergency support to communities affected by Katrina and Rita. By early November, Common Ground had provided over 65 tons of food, water, cleaning supplies, diapers, health and hygiene goods, and other necessities to more than 15,000 people. They formed an active free medical clinic that treats 50-80 people daily. Additionally Common Ground provided emergency home repair, mold abatement, legal support, housing advocacy, and communications and information services. You can stay updated on developments with Common Ground Relief by visiting their website.

www.commongroundrelief.org

STATEMENT FROM HERMAN WALLACE ON COMMON GROUND RELIEF

"We are not surprised that Malik Rahim is being hailed as one of the heroes of Hurricane Katrina. In 1997, Malik rediscovered information on our case and made it his mission to bring attention to the plight that Albert, King, myself and so many other Louisiana prisoners have endured in being unfairly convicted and sentenced. The Angola Three went from obscurity to international recognition thanks to Malik's efforts.

Malik has brought the same energy and vision to his groundbreaking work with the Common Ground collective. His vision has expanded to meet the magnitude of response required to deal with the crisis at hand. A lifetime of service beginning with the Black Panther Party and continuing with programs for ex-offenders and housing advocacy are the strong background that Malik draws on in his current efforts. Joined by a remarkable array of young, skilled professionals and activists, together they are creating a national model for cooperative community needs-based service programs and collective action.

The Angola Three are proud to be affiliated with Malik and Common Ground and join in their call for legal assistance in assessing the cases of numerous

individuals arrested and imprisoned after the hurricane, many of whom have not yet been charged and sit in limbo while the state continues to keep its court system closed..."

Read the entire statement at: www.prisonactivist.org/angola

ANGOLA 3 SUPPORTER, WORLD RENOWNED ARTIST, COMPLETES REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUTE

The artist Rigo 23 has completed a magnificent art installation at San Jose State University in California memorializing Tommy Smith and John Carlos, the two athletes who



photo: from San Jose State University Web Site

gave the black power salute at the

ANGOLA 3

UPDATES

1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Rigo's statues of Smith and Carlos have drawn enormous amounts of press and are the finest example of public art, engaging everyone that comes in contact with them. Robert King worked alongside Rigo for a month, installing the statues. Both Rigo and Robert had the opportunity to meet Smith and Carlos in person. If you make it to California you'll want to visit this revolutionary work. Visit the website below to learn more.

<http://link.toolbot.com/sjsu.edu/13385>

MILLIONS LEARN ABOUT ANGOLA 3 ON NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO KING'S CANDY FEATURED

...a taste of freedom...
KING'S CANDY
...FREELINES...
In 1962, I learned to make candy from a fellow prisoner named "Cap Pistol." Over the years, using a stove made from cans and tissue, I perfected the recipe. Now that I'm free, I can make life a little "sweeter" for you!
benefits the Angola 3 defense fund
contains: 3.5 oz.
ingredients: evaporated milk, whole milk, pecans, butter, sugar, vanilla, salt, baking soda
ANGOLA 3
www.kingsfreelines.com

photo: Laura Folger

Robert King appears to have been freed twice! Once on February 8, 2001, when he was released from Angola after 29 years in solitary confinement and a second time, after he was rescued from his flooded New Orleans home after a week in the attic following Hurricane Katrina, by Scott Crow and Brandon Darby. Like thousands of others, Robert lost his home and most of his belongings when the levees broke. However, it seems he's gained the beginnings of a healthy business and quite a bit of

acclaim after he was featured on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" program on November 4th, 2005. A special interview with the Kitchen Sisters about Robert's "Freelines" has attracted huge amounts of attention. The Kitchen Sisters have a listener base of 25 million people and lots of those listeners were captivated by Robert's tale! He's currently staying with supporters in Austin, Texas, making candy and looking for a location where he can base his candy operation.

<http://link.toolbot.com/npr.org/13379>
www.kingsfreelines.com

ANGOLA 3 PLAY PREMIERE - INTERNATIONAL ART & EDUCATION "THE HOUSE THAT HERMAN BUILT"

Boston-based Angola 3 supporter **Linda Carmichael** has written a play entitled "Life's Morsel," about the Angola 3. The play premiered at a theater festival this past summer to enthusiastic response. Now Linda is taking the play on the road to Edinburgh, Scotland's Fringe Festival. The play has received very positive reviews and, though we haven't had a chance to see it, the script is compelling and we know it's going places!

New Orleans at Common Ground Relief as one of the first responders. You can read about her experience and impressions on her blog listed below. Jackie is currently in residence at Akademie Schloss Solitude in a castle outside of Stuttgart, Germany, along with 40 other artists. She was chosen as a fellow for an eight month residency from 450 applicants based on a project she began three years ago with Herman called "**The House that Herman Built.**" They are building a house together, with Jackie as the artist, interpreting through written correspondence and through visits to the prison Herman's imagination and vision of a house that he would like to live in after 34 years of solitary confinement. See the website below for more information on this powerful work.

www.crazyjackies.blogspot.com
www.akademie-solitude.de



photo: Jackie Summell

Another dedicated Angola 3 supporter, **Jackie Summell**, spent time in

ANGOLA 3

FACTS OF THE CASE

"I MAY BE FREE OF ANGOLA, BUT ANGOLA WILL NEVER BE FREE OF ME."-ROBERT KING WILKERSON

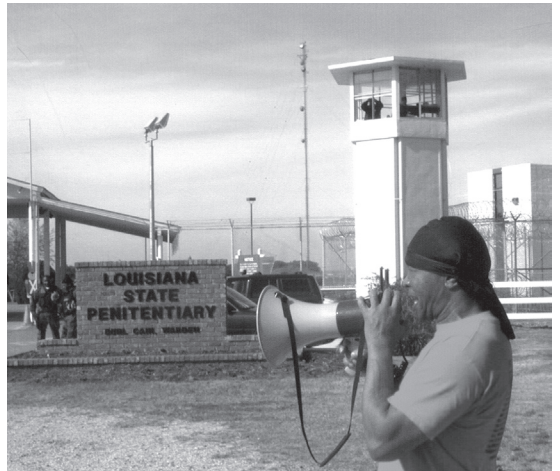
FREE THE ANGOLA 3 - FACTS OF THE CASE

Albert Woodfox and **Herman Wallace** have spent the past 33 years in solitary confinement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. They are serving sentences of life without parole as a result of wrongful convictions for the 1972 murder of a prison guard. Robert King, the third member of the Angola 3, proved his innocence and was released in 2001, after spending 29 years in solitary confinement.

Woodfox and Wallace were activist prisoners who risked their lives by standing up against racism, prison rape, and violence at Angola, Louisiana's slave plantation-turned-prison farm. In 1972, the prison was racially segregated (80 percent of the prisoners were – and still are – African-American), had an all-white staff, and was known for terrible brutality. Between 1972 and 1975, 40 Angola prisoners were stabbed to death and 350 more were seriously injured in an epidemic of violence.

Woodfox and Wallace, along with many other prisoners, responded to these conditions by organizing themselves, establishing political education programs among prisoners, and organizing civil disobedience such as work stoppages and dining hall strikes. Woodfox and Wallace founded a chapter of the Black Panther Party inside the prison.

When a prison guard was found stabbed to death in 1972, Woodfox and Wallace were immediately placed in solitary confinement and charged with the murder. The prison administration unleashed a reign of terror on the black prisoner population, including beatings, the forced shaving of Afro haircuts, and mass solitary confinement.



Robert King - photo: Elizabeth Jeffers

The state prosecuted Woodfox and Wallace by using the testimony of prison snitches, a notoriously unreliable form of evidence. At their separate trials, different snitches – telling different stories – testified against the two men. Since the trials, new evidence has emerged that these witnesses were coerced or bribed with pardons, early releases, and free cigarette rations.

Three of the state's witnesses have now admitted that they lied under oath and have recanted their testimony against Woodfox and Wallace. Others have come forward to identify the prisoner – now dead – who actually committed the murder. The courts in Louisiana have yet to rule on this evidence.

While they wait for the courts to grant them the justice for which they have waited 33 years, Woodfox and Wallace continue to spend at least 23 hours of every day alone in 6-by-9 foot cells. The un-air-conditioned concrete block cells are excruciatingly hot during the summer months. The ACLU has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging that these conditions are cruel and unusual punishment.

For more info., to contact the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3, or to get involved, visit www.angola3.org

Your donation to the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3 is urgently needed.

ANGOLA THREE CRIMINAL POST CONVICTION UPDATE

The First Circuit Court of appeals has ordered the district court to hold an evidentiary hearing on one aspect of Herman's prosecutorial misconduct claim.

The District Court had denied relief without granting Herman the right to prove his allegations of misconduct in his multi-faceted claim. The Court of Appeals ordered the court to hear evidence regarding the promises and inducements to Hezekiah Brown for his testimony at trial. Hezekiah was an old convict who testified that he saw Herman and Albert kill the guard. A few years ago, the state finally released documents showing that Hezekiah was promised rewards for his testimony and did in fact receive those rewards. He was promised a continuous supply of cigarettes and a pardon. This is the type of evidence that can severely impeach a witness and it was illegally withheld from Herman at his trial. The hearing date has not been set at this time. A favorable ruling will impact Albert's case as well.

For more information on this case visit, www.angola3.org or contact marina@napanet.net.

As soon as we know the hearing date we'll be organizing to make sure the court room is full.

ANGOLA 3 CIVIL SUIT UPDATE

The law firm of **Holland & Knight** have agreed to represent the Angola 3 in their lawsuit against the prison for holding them in solitary confinement for the past 33 years. The case has been inactive for the past few months due to the lack of resources to bring the case to trial. **George Kendall** and **Steve Hanlon** will assume the role as lead counsel and will work with **Nick Trenticosta** as local counsel. Mr. Kendall and Mr. Hanlon have a long history of civil rights litigation and head up the firm's Community Services Team. We anticipate a trial at the end of this year.

In another important development, the United States Supreme Court ruled last week that prison officials may not move an inmate into solitary confinement or lockdown without first providing the prisoner with a fair notice of why their classification might change and the ability to challenge the placement. This is a significant ruling because for many years the courts law did not recognize that a prisoner has a "liberty interest" in not being placed in severe living conditions. Now that the Court has recognized this right, all rights to due process and fundamental fairness must be provided. This ruling will greatly help win the Angola 3 case.

DAME ANITA RODDICK

The amazing **Dame Anita Roddick** continues to provide resources for the legal defense of the Angola 3 and she speaks about the case wherever she goes. We'd like to list all the incredible causes she is currently espousing, but they're too numerous! Her web site addresses torture, the environment, women's issues, and on and on. Kudos to a tireless crusader. We are honored to be among the causes she supports. www.anitaroddick.com

BRUCE ALLEN - CANADA

Labor organizer Bruce Allen from Toronto had a resolution passed by the St. Catherines and District Labor council sent to the 2005 Canadian Labor Congress Convention in Montreal.

ANSWER COALITION

The Angola Three express their deepest gratitude to Tahnee Stair for her technical help and the **ANSWER** Coalition for their continuing support. Visit the ANSWER website to find out about organizing and upcoming mass actions to demand: From Iraq to New Orleans, Fund People's Needs Not the War Machine www.answercoalition.org. Or call, (415) 821-6545.

Further gratitude to Patricia for graphic design. Thanks also to Kate who generously donates her time to update our web-site. We extend our deepest appreciation to the friends and supporters and their dedicated solidarity that helps our voices echo throughout the world. Together, we are confident, freedom will be won.

ANGOLA 3

Your financial contribution will provide commissary funds for Herman and Albert and go toward the legal defense fund. Clip and return the coupon below today.



photo: Elizabeth Jeffers

With your help THE ANGOLA THREE WILL BE FREE

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO HELP FREE THE ANGOLA 3

\$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 \$25 other

Make checks payable to Community Futures Collective/Angola 3 Reminder: Date your check by Dec. 31 for a 2005 tax deduction

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone number _____

To make a tax-deductible credit card donation:

Please charge \$ _____ Visa MC Amex Discover

Card # _____ Exp. ____ / ____

Signature _____

Mail to: Community Futures Collective/Angola 3, 221 Idora Ave. Vallejo, CA 94591