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ABC F

# UPDATE



QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ABCF

Spring 2009 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement."* - O. Lutalo Issue #52

The Last of the Symbionese Liberation Army Freed



# What is the Anarchist Black Cross Federation?

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) began shortly after the 1905 Russian Revolution. It formed after breaking from the Political Red Cross, due to the group's refusal to support Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners. The new group, naming itself the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC), began to provide aid to those Political Prisoners who were refused support by the PRC.

In the early decades, the organization had chapters throughout Europe and North America. These chapters worked together to provide assistance to prisoners only in Russia. Soon other groups, such as the Latvian Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other Eastern European countries. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *solidarity*, these groups worked tirelessly to

provide support to those who were suffering because of their political beliefs.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920s and until 1958, the organization worked under various other names but provided the same level of support as the other groups working as Anarchist Black Cross.

After 1936, the ABC expanded its aid to places such as Greece, Italy and Spain.

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970s only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

In the 80s, however, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. For years, the ABC's name was kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and supporting a wide variety of prison issues.

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.

Various groups have since merged in numerous networks throughout the globe working on various prison issues. The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has continued its mission to focus on the aid and support of Political Prisoners. We take the position that PP/POWs demand our top priority. We strive to continue with the same dedication and solidarity to our fallen comrades as those before us have shown.

## Introduction:

"Crucially important to maintaining the anarchist integrity of this organization is the fact that Branch Groups and Support Groups are freely autonomous to take on whatever initiatives they can to further the Unity of Purpose of the ABCF. So long as these initiatives do not contradict any preexisting agreements (Tactical Unity) that have been made by the ABCF, it is not necessary for all groups to approve of and/or agree with programs, projects or work of other ABCF collectives." [from the ABCF Constitution and Structure]

The following definitions are used to describe the below terms whenever they appear in the ABCF Update or any other ABCF literature.

**Political Prisoner (PP):** A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self determination or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. [Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of PP/POWs in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

**Prisoner of War (POW):** Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August, 1949 (General Assembly resolution 3103)

## WARCHEST & SUBSISTENCE FUND PINBACKS



Get your Warchest & Subsistence Fund pinbacks today by donating to either fund. All donations help imprisoned comrades who otherwise receive little or no financial aid. With a donation, we will send you a pinback to say thank you..



**All funds should be sent to Philly ABCF**  
Check and Money Order to Tim Fasnacht.

## The ABCF is:

### Prisoner Committee

#### BILL DUNNE

#10916-086  
Box 2068  
Inez, KY 41224

#### SEKOU KAMBUI

(W. TURK) #113058 /  
Box 56  
SCC (B1-21)  
Elmore, AL 36025

#### OJORE LUTALO

#59860 / Box 861  
Trenton, NJ 08625

#### JAAN LAAMAN

#W41414  
BOX 100  
South Walpole, MA  
02071

#### MALIKI LATINE

#81-A-4469  
Box 51  
Comstock, NY 12821

### Federation Chapters

#### ALBUQUERQUE ABC

PO Box 27662  
Albuquerque, NM 87125

#### PHILLY ABC

PO Box 42129  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

#### ARCATA ABC

PO Box 380  
Arcata, CA 95518

#### TORONTO ABC

PO Box 97048  
RPO Roncescalles Ave  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6R 3B3 Canada

#### JAX ABC

PO Box 350392  
Jacksonville, FL 32235

#### LOS ANGELES ABC

PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA 90603

#### MONTREAL ABC

new Address shortly

#### NYC ABC

PO Box 110034  
Brooklyn, NY 11211



**Maliki Latine Transferred**

Maliki Latine was transferred in January from Great Meadows to Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone, NY. This transfer took place after the ABCF initiated a campaign to pressure the NY DOC to provide proper meals consistent with Latine's dietary needs. His food situation, while not ideal, was better than what he was receiving at the Great Meadows facility. While in Upstate he was held in the SHU. Then in March Latine was moved again, this time to Clinton Correctional Facility. His current address is:

**Maliki Shakur Latine #81A4469**  
P.O. Box 2001  
Dannemora, New York 12929  
Clinton Correctional Facility

**Jaam Laaman Transferred**

In February Jaam Laaman was transferred from the Massachusetts prison system back into the federal prison system. Laaman is currently at USP Tucson but it is not known if this will be his long-term assigned location. He current address is:

**Jaam K. Laaman (10372-016)**  
P.O. Box 24550  
Tucson, AZ 85734  
USP Tucson

**Chubbuck Transferred**

Byron Shane Chubbuck (Oso Blanco) has been transferred again. Chubbuck, known by the media and the FBI as the 'Robin the Hood', is serving 80 years in prison for bank expropriation and escape from prison. Funds from the bank expropriations were to be sent to aid the struggle in Chiapas. He can be contacted at:

**Byron Shane Chubbuck (07909-051)**  
P.O. Box 1000  
Talladega, AL 35160

**Eddie Hatcher Passes**

Eddie Hatcher, a Native American activist and former political prisoner passed away on May 1st, in Central Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In 1988, Hatcher took over office of The Robesonian, a local newspaper, in order to call attention to police corruption in the county. After the standoff, he was sentenced to 18 years in prison for the incident but was released after serving five years after becoming seriously ill due to an AIDS related illness.

Hatcher was arrested again after he was accused of the 1999 murder of Brian McMillian. He was serving a life sentence when he passed away. He was 51.

**Bob Robideau Passes**

On 2/16, Bob Robideau, passed away in Barcelona, Spain. Robideau has been a long time activist for the American Indian Movement (AIM) and supporter of Leonard Peltier. Robideau, along with Darrell Butler were acquitted in the deaths of two FBI agents in 1976 on the grounds of self-defense. The charges arose from a shootout with the FBI on Pine Ridge reservation in June 1975. Later, Leonard Peltier was found guilty and sentenced to two life sentences for this. Our sympathies go to his former wife, Paulette from NYC Jericho.

**Sentencing of the Texas Two**

Two activists, David McKay and Bradley Crowder, known as 'The Texas Two' have been convicted for their involvement in planned actions during the RNC protests. The two were arrested in last September after a raid of a residence in St. Paul, where police discovered eight Molotov cocktails.

The case has created significant attention since it was discovered that longtime activist, Brandon Darby, had been working with the government, who had been investigating the group, known as the Austin Affinity Group, since February 2008. Darby's cooperation led to the arrest of the two activists, who have claimed that Darby had been the mastermind of the plan.

With evidence provided by Darby, the two activists saw the walls closing around them. Crowder pleaded guilty in January sentenced to 2 years on bomb charges with three years supervised released after his prison term. McKay pleaded guilty in March after his first trial ended in a hung jury. When it became clear that prosecutor's were going to call his codefendant, Crowder, to testify at his second trial and would contradict McKay's version of events, McKay made a deal with prosecu-

tors. He was sentenced to 48 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

From the beginning, there has been an apprehension regarding support for this case due to unsubstantiated rumors of cooperation from both defendants. While it is known that both parties have freely talked about their own actions, there is no proof that they have mentioned other parties. However, during the first trial, McKay's father stopped several anarchists, requesting that they do not enter the courtroom. He stated that their strategy was one of disassociation from the activist and anarchist community. Until evidence of cooperation or non-cooperation is revealed, the ABCF has chosen to abstain from adding these two on our list.

**Seth Hayes Needs Funds**

Robert Seth Hayes needs help for raising funds for legal assistance with a parole appeal. NYC Jericho is collecting money on behalf of Hayes and his new attorney. Please send a check or money order to IFCO/NYC Jericho. Please indicate on the memo/message line that the check is for Seth.

The address for NYC Jericho is:

**NYC Jericho**  
PO Box 1272  
NY, NY 10013

**Chicago ABC Moves**

Due to the move of the core ABC collective, Chicago ABC is dissolving and relocating to central Georgia.

All services for prisoners will still be available, just from a new home and a new chapter.

**Central Georgia ABC**  
Po Box 610  
Roberta, GA 31078

**Spanish Anarchist, Abel Paz, Dies (1921 - 2009)**

Abel Paz, the author of Durruti, the People Armed, died in hospital in Barcelona the night of April 13. Abel Paz is the pen name of Diego Camacho, a Spanish anarchist, former combatant and historian.

He was born on August 12, 1921 in Almería. In 1935, after moving to Barcelona, he started work in the textile industry and joined the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT). In July 1936, with the start of the Spanish Civil War and Spanish revolution he joined the anarchist Durruti Column. As well as fighting on the Aragon front, he fought in the Barcelona May Events of 1937.

After the fall of Catalonia in January 1939, he went into exile in France, where he was interned. During the 1940s he fought both in the French resistance to Hitler and the Spanish Anarchist resistance to Franco

He is the author of numerous works on anarchist history, the most important being his biography of Buenaventura Durruti, which has appeared in several editions, and numerous languages.



# Why Anarchists, Freedom Fighters, and Supporters of Political Prisoners Should Support the Good Time Bill

Why Anarchists, Freedom Fighters, and Supporters of Political Prisoners Should Support the Good Time Bill

Those of us who believe absolutely in the power of peoples' organizing for empowerment and self-determination---those of us who believe in direct action, democracy, and revolutionary struggle, we cannot support endeavors to reform state institutions with a clear heart. We know that, by themselves, reforms ultimately serve the ruling class by creating an illusion of progress or compassion so that the apparatus of state repression and poverty can continue its work. Prisons are no exception. Nor are the campaigns to free our political prisoners and to build on the legacies of the revolutionary movements they represent.

This said, anarchists and other revolutionaries must use any and all of the tools at our disposal. We cannot rely on the state to fight our battles or save our world, but we can and must be realistic about our options and utilize opportunities.

A congressman has introduced a bill that would allow federal prisoners a chance to earn credits toward a more substantial early release. It's H.R. 1457, the Federal Work Incentive Act of 2009. It's nicknamed, the Good Time Bill. Unless this bill passes, this chance will not exist.

From Their perspective:

The US government is a financial disas-

ter, federal prisons are an overcrowded colossal drain of money with no end in sight. Why not let some of them out earlier?

From Our perspective:

As we continue to organize and struggle for revolutionary aims, we must admit that, at this moment, we don't have many sure-fire ways to free our political prisoners any earlier. They sit in prison for daring to dream and act on revolutionary ideals. We owe it to them to use any tool we can get our hands on to get them home. The Good Time Bill could potentially affect many of the Earth Liberation Front prisoners, Animal Liberation Front prisoners, and Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty prisoners. It could potentially affect anti-war political prisoner Helen Woodson, indigenous/pro-zapatista political prisoner Oso Blanco (Byron Chubbuck), and possibly even the Cuban Five Political Prisoners. While we continue to do everything we can to support and hope for some victories in court, the state continues to attack our movements. If any of the recent arrests, from the Green Scare to the Republican National Convention resistance, end in conviction, the Good Time Bill will benefit those targeted activists. (more on political prisoners and prisoners of war at [abcf.net](http://abcf.net))

Of course, the Green Scare and political prisoners are only a tiny minority of the prisoners and families who could benefit.

Thousands of non-violent, low-level drug offenders are caged in the federal system with no hope for early release. Many communities and families have lost someone to the system. While the Black Liberation Prisoners of War would not be directly affected by this bill, if we can work toward passing the Good Time Bill as we continue to build toward revolution, we will make a small contribution in keeping with the Black Panther Party legacy of Survival Programs pending revolution. It could serve to reunite families torn apart by the so-called "war on drugs" or "war on terrorism" or any other rhetorical excuse for increased policing and prison-building at the expense of peoples' freedom, autonomy, and survival. While we continue to organize toward the abolition of the state, including an end to police and prisons, surely we can take advantage of a progressive-leaning administration in an economic crisis by helping to give struggling families and communities a break.

So this is calling on all anarchists, activists, and revolutionaries, to keep organizing for revolution and to also support the Good Time Bill. Information below. Extend this or your own call to your own communities.

In Solidarity for Freedom,  
Anarchist Black Cross Federation  
[www.abcf.net](http://www.abcf.net)  
[nycabc@ariseup.net](mailto:nycabc@ariseup.net)

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## Support the Good Time Bill!

On March 12th, 2009, Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced H.R. 1457, to restore the former system of good time allowances toward service of Federal prison terms, and for other purposes, otherwise known as The Good Time Bill. He introduced a similar bill towards the end of the 2008 session. This bill would reduce the sentences of people in federal prisons by increasing the "good time" credit they could receive and save US tax-payers more than 2 billion dollars per year. The reduction would apply to all federal prisoners except the ones serving life sentences.

### Join the Yahoo group

To learn more, share information, help with the campaign. Send an email to:  
[goodtimebill-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:goodtimebill-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Email, Write or Call Your Own Congressional Representative!  
<http://goodtimebill.info/takeaction.html>

### Become an advocate for the Good Time bill!

Talking Points on Why America Needs the Good Time Bill (H.R. 1457)

- It costs tax-payers over \$40,000 per year to keep each federal prisoner behind bars.

- Total cost to US taxpayers for federal incarceration is over 7.64 billion annually.

- The Federal Bureau of Prisons is over 40% overcrowded and many facilities are operating at 100% capacity with no plan for relief.

- Nearly three-fourths (72.1%) of federal prisoners are serving time for a non-violent offense and have no history of violence.

- It will cost the federal government over \$700,000 to incarcerate a person over 50 years of age for the rest of his or her life.

- Especially given the strain on the federal budget as well as the hardship faced by many American tax-payers during this economic recession, we cannot afford to incarcerate so many ageing people in the federal system.

- African American drug offenders have a 20% greater chance of being sentenced to prison than white drug offenders, and Hispanics a 40% greater chance. (One in fifteen African American men are incarcerated and one in thirty-six Hispanic men are incarcerated.)

- In the last 30 years, the United States prison population has quadrupled. 1 in every 99 American adults is now behind bars.

- People in federal prison deserve a second chance to make positive contributions to society.

# Sara Jane Olson is Freed from Prison

Sara Jane Olson was released from CCWF-Chowchilla shortly after midnight on March 17. Olson, a former member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, served nearly seven years in jail for attempting to kill two Los Angeles police officers with pipe bombs in 1975. Ms. Olson had also served a concurrent six-year sentence for second-degree murder in the 1975 accidental shooting death of a customer in a bank robbery.

Sara, formerly known as Kathy Soliah, was arrested in 1999 after living 25-years underground. During that time, she became a soccer mom, living in Minnesota under the name of 'Sara Jane Olson.' She was arrested after the FBI received a tip from a viewer of 'America's Most Wanted.'

Sara was brought to Los Angeles to stand trial for the attempted bombing of two police cars. During this time, Sara met up with members of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation – Los Angeles, even participating in Running Down the Walls.

On October 31, 2001, Olson took a plea bargain pleading guilty to two counts of possessing explosives with intent to murder. She told reporters that she took the plea because of the climate after 9/11. She later recanted her plea and decided to go to



trial. Two months later she was sentenced to two consecutive 10-years-to-life terms.

Just as Olson was being sentenced, first-degree murder charges were filed against her and four other former SLA members. This charge was connected to a bank robbery that went south, where an innocent bystander was killed. Sara pled guilty and was sentenced to a six-year term.

In March 2008, Olson was mistakenly released for five days but was rearrested. She had to serve one more year before being released.

As Olson's released date approached, concerns as where she would serve her probation began to emerge. Authorities from Minnesota and California began to openly express their desire to see Olson serve her probation in California.

Minnesota State legislatures introduced a resolution seeking to require Olson to serve her parole in California. The Minnesota governor and police unions openly expressed their opposition to Olson coming back home. Even the Los Angeles Police Protective League weighed in stating the California governor should have "used his discretion in this matter to ensure Olson stay under the watch of California authorities as she finished out her sentence."

Despite the opposition, both the California and Minnesota Department of Corrections approved her transfer to Minnesota. But she will still be under California authority and subject to conditions of parole in both states. She will be on parole for one year.

# James Kilgore is Also Free from Prison

James Kilgore, the last captured and imprisoned member of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), was released on May 10th of this year. The SLA was a California-based guerrilla group active in the '70s, most notably know for the kidnapping of Patricia Hearst.

James William Kilgore was paroled from High Desert State Prison in north-eastern California after serving a six-year sentence for the accidental death of Myrna Opsahl during an April 1975 bank robbery.

Kilgore was met by his wife after parole agents picked him up at the prison in Susanville (Lassen County) and processed him there.

That allowed the couple to travel directly to their home in Illinois, rather than have Kilgore wait to check in Monday with a parole agent in Sacramento before leaving the state. Kilgore's wife moved to Illinois after he was arrested in 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa, after nearly three decades on the run.

Kilgore, 61, eluded arrest longer than any of his fellow SLA fugitives.

His cover unraveled after the 1999 arrest of his former girlfriend Sara Jane

Olson, who had built a new life as a doctor's wife in St. Paul, Minn. Olson, formerly known as Kathleen Soliah, was paroled from a California prison in March and returned to her Midwestern home.

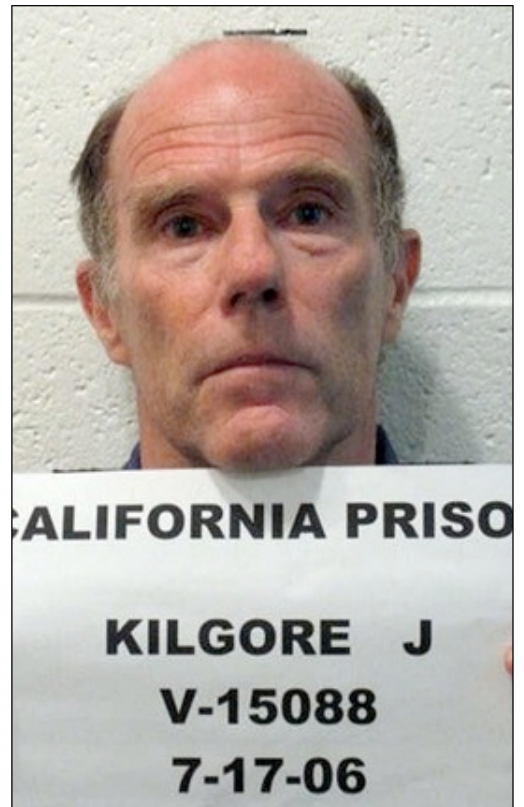
Kilgore, a native of Portland, Ore., joined the SLA after graduating from UC Santa Barbara in 1969. He escaped a 1974 shootout with Los Angeles police in which six of the SLA's original members died.

He disappeared on Sept. 18, 1975, as the FBI arrested Hearst and other SLA members in San Francisco.

He resurfaced as a University of Cape Town Professor Charles William Pape. He was so bold as to write a South Africa high school textbook titled "Making History" under that alias.

There he married an American woman and fathered two sons. His wife, Teresa Barnes, is now an associate professor of gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Kilgore served his state sentence after finishing a 54-month federal prison term for using a deceased person's birth certificate to obtain a passport in Seattle and for possessing a pipe bomb in his San Francisco-area apartment in 1975.



# Anarchist Killed by Explosion In Chile

It has been reported that a fellow anarchist Mauricio Morales Duarte died in an explosion on May 22 at 1:30 a.m. According to the press, Mauricio was transporting an explosive device in downtown Santiago when it exploded unexpectedly. It is believed that he was intending to target the School of Prison Guards.

Mauricio, 27 years of age, has been described as a dedicated and militant anarchist. His last few minutes were captured by security cameras of a business located nearby. He was seen with another person circling on bikes near the School of Prison guards. The explosives, made of a fire extinguisher filled with gunpowder, was carried in a back-

pack when went off, killing Mauricio instantly.

In addition to the homemade bomb, a .38 caliber revolver was also found on the deceased. According to the reports, before the explosion, a telephone call was made to the School of the Prison Guards altered of a possible attack.

Over the last three years, there have been countless non-lethal and low intensity attacks in the capital of Chile.

Police are currently searching for a second person present at the scene of Mauricio's death. They are also raiding various anarchist squats across Santiago.



# US Anarchist, Gelderloos, Acquitted in Spain

A U.S. anarchist arrested in Spain after a squatters' rights protest has won acquittal on all charges there but faces possible deportation.

Peter Gelderloos, 26, who grew up in Vienna, Va., was arrested in Barcelona in April 2007 and charged with public disorder and illegal demonstration. He could have received up to six years in prison, an unusually stiff penalty for a public disorder charge.

Authorities alleged that Gelderloos was an organizer of a squatters' rights protest in a public plaza that created a panic among tourists because it ended with the explosion of an enormous firecracker. Police said he and other protesters shouted "We have a bomb!" before the firecracker was lit.

Gelderloos countered that he was a mere bystander. He said it was ridiculous to think that he had organized a protest in Barcelona given that he spoke no Spanish and had only been in the country for a few weeks.

Gelderloos argued that he was singled out for his political views. As an anarchist who often dresses with political T-shirts



and some slogans scribbled on his shoes, police assumed he was suspicious, Gelderloos said.

Ultimately, Gelderloos prevailed in Spanish court he was acquitted on all charges last month, a verdict that came nearly two years after his arrest.

Now, after being forced to stay in Spain, Gelderloos is fighting a deportation bid by that country's government. Following a hearing last week, a decision isn't expected for several weeks.

For much of the past two years, Gelderloos has essentially been required to live in Spain while he awaited trial, although he was able to secure permission

for a one-month trip back to the United States last year.

The Spanish government cited Gelderloos' arrest in court papers seeking deportation. Now that Gelderloos has been acquitted, he argues that deportation proceedings should be halted.

"I'm fighting deportation because I think borders are an insult and a stupidity," Gelderloos said in an e-mail interview. "I don't recognize the legitimacy of any government to tell me I can't set foot in an entire region of our planet. A deportation would keep me banned from all of Europe, including many people I care about, for seven years."

He also said he wasn't allowed to work while living in Spain.

Gelderloos is best known in the anarchist community for his 2005 book, "How Nonviolence Protects the State."

Leonardo Marcos, a press officer with the Spanish embassy in Washington, said that deportation proceedings are unrelated to criminal prosecutions, but declined to discuss specifically why authorities want to deport Gelderloos.

# A Reflection on "the Left" and my Arrest

by Joaquin Cienfuegos

I wanted to write this piece to update people on my arrest for the felony "Unlawful Possession of an Assault Rifle" case and to share with people my position on the entire matter. I wanted to send this out sooner but people would like to use this position paper against me, but I feel like the reflection is necessary regardless. I also want to take some time to reflect on other things that I've been thinking about regarding the movement as a whole.

I am currently completing 200 hours of

community service and one year summary probation (if I complete my community service within one year, otherwise I will do two years summary probation). Part of the deal they gave me was that they to were kept my legally purchased semi-automatic Bushmaster rifle, and destroy it. They also dropped my felony charge to a misdemeanor: possession of a loaded weapon. I took this deal due to the fact that there was a chance if I lost this case I would do 19 months to 3 years in a state penitentiary.

Even though my position has always been that we need to organize where we are at, from the street block to the cell block, I have too many responsibilities in my community, including my priority at this point which is my family responsibilities. Therefore I rather not risk being captured by the state and go behind enemy lines in their prisons. I took this deal and I am continuing to organize with the Revolutionary Autonomous Communities and Cop Watch Los Angeles - Guerrilla Chapter.

I should also start by thanking everyone who supported me in this legal battle, those who helped bail me out, and those who helped raise the money to pay the folks back that lent us money to bail me out. We were able to raise 2,000 dollars, thanks to individual donations from people, events at universities (like Cal State Northridge and Cal State Humboldt). We also thought that we would have to raise most of the money at the 1st Annual Los Angeles Anarchist Bookfair, but thankfully the funds were raised before then. The money raised at the bookfair went to the Southern California Library, the Bookfair Collective (for next year's bookfair), Anarchist People Of Color in L.A., and to start a defense fund. Currently I'm still paying off my lawyer, and hoping we can continue to build on a defense strategy and fund, because we understand this is the nature of the state, and until we get rid of it, those with institutional power will continue to repress the movement. The majority of the support I received came from anarchists internationally, and that I am grateful for. Thank you for the world of support comrades. People of color in the U.S. as well gave a great deal of love, during the time of my arrest and legal battle.

I think that my arrest raised a lot of important questions, and it seemed like the dividing line for some activists was the fact that I had a gun. The question was why did I have a loaded semi-automatic weapon on me. A lot of liberals did not support me because of this reason, but personally my life is more precious than the support of liberals and gun-control leftists. The facts were that the police stopped me because they profiled me, it is legal to carry a weapon in the trunk of your vehicle, I just happened to have it loaded. This is probably the only thing I would have changed, I would have kept the ammunition separate from the rifle. The police searched my car illegally, and try to put a felony charge on me (by saying that this rifle is illegal in California, even though it was legally purchased at a Outdoors' store). They couldn't pin this on me so they dropped it to a misdemeanor, "possession of a loaded weapon." During the investigation they brought a weapons expert who had only looked at pictures and claimed it was an assault rifle and they tried to find out if I had links to any gangs in Los Angeles.

This really made me reflect on many things. I don't think it matters if you say you're a leftist, progressive, or whatever, if you intend to side with the state and do the job of the police. When there are people who are coming under attack, not just me, but all the other political prisoners who have done years and decades, and you have these activists siding with the state on whether they might have done something wrong. First of all, this is a settler-colonial-

ist system, and doesn't have the authority to try us because this system is not legitimate in my opinion. When in Los Angeles last year the law enforcement agencies killed over 40 people, we have to begin to realize that they have waged war on indigenous, people of color/colonized people, and this genocidal war has been going on for 500 years really. So when the police have the right to murder any of us and get away with it, how is it wrong for anyone to carry a registered weapon? So it doesn't matter if anyone is from the left or from the right, what matters is who gets in the way of the oppressed when fighting for a better world, and in the way of the people taking their lives and communities back. There are many people who are doing the work of the police, snitching, informing, and straight just being busters by siding with the enemies of the people, who rather commit acts of violence against the people than defend them. That is what is now called horizontal violence, and this is something we have to deal with as well.



People should arm themselves legally, politically, and with an understanding that we are trying not to create a culture of the gun, but this is only one tactic in self-defense of our people and our community. Unfortunately, it is a necessary element in the survival of our communities and peoples at this point. I have to agree with Franz Fanon, "Violence, is a cleansing force. It frees the native from his inferiority complex and from his despair and inaction; it makes him fearless and restores his self-respect." Again, to me self-defense is a necessary tactic in safe guarding our communities and our people from the state. When a community is building anything that poses a real threat to the state and the system, they will try to destroy it. So the communes will need to set up people's militias and other mechanisms to protect itself from the fascists (learning from the Spanish Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and even just from our own experiences with the Counter Intelligence Program and the Patriot Act).

Also to speak to the fact that maybe we do pose a threat, not only to the state but to some organizations who are in bed with the state. This has become clear to me, on several occasions, which includes May Day 2007. Where some of those organizations came out and blamed Cop Watch L.A., the youth and anarchists, for the police repression, similar to the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago in 1886 (the first May Day, where eight anarchist organizers were blamed for police murder and repression). These organizations (mainstream non-profits and non-governmental organizations), play the role of house-slaves in the movement today. Their organizing is done in a way that is suitable for the state and poses no threat to the oppressive system as a whole. To keep their position and be in good with their masters, these organizations side with the state in isolating the more radical youth, anarchists, and "problem activists." To keep their status as a large non-profits with good funding, they work with the state in keeping tabs on these radical youth organizations. They speak of immigration reform that leaves out these same youth who are being targeted by the police, and work with the state as well as developers to further gentrify communities of color.

I personally saw how the system works from inside the Los Angeles County Jail, and it was enough time to realize that we have a lot of work to do internally. This is a bigger challenge to me, than convincing people on why I had a rifle inside the trunk of my car. As a revolutionary I do think I have to be more careful, but to paraphrase Ricardo Flores Magon, "We Revolutionary Anarchists have to be Outlaws," we have fight these injustices at all cause even and that means breaking the laws that are put in place to keep us in control and in check. Their oppressive institutions, which have no place in our communities, are also legitimate targets in my opinion.

This is a challenge on anyone who wants to create a better world.

Always in Struggle.

Autonomy, Land and Liberty.

All Power Through the People.

\*Recently I was stopped by the North East Division of the Los Angeles Police Department for not having a light on the plates of my car, they pulled me out and handcuffed me and asked me if I had any M-16's in the car. They then searched my car, and did not find any "drugs or weapons," but told me they could arrest me. They released me then but impounded my car, even though I had an abstract from court saying I can drive. It seems like they ran my plates and saw my previous arrest, so they profiled me based on that. They did search my backpack, and saw flyers for the organizations I am part of. This happened on Wednesday, April 08, 2009

# RNC 8: Two Down, Two to Go

*The RNC 8 are a group of activists who were part of the RNC Welcoming Committee, a group organizing the protests around the 2008 Republican National Convention. All were preemptively arrested prior to the RNC and were charged with Conspiracy to Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism under the Minnesota PATRIOT act in response to their political organizing. Later, additional charges were added: Conspiracy to Commit Riot in the Second Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage to Property in Furtherance of Terrorism, and Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage to Property.*

*Below is a press release issued by the RNC 8 defense group.*

In the surest sign yet of the power of post-RNC court solidarity, Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner has dropped two of four unfounded charges against the RNC 8. Caving to months and months of public pressure, Gaertner dropped one count of Conspiracy to Commit Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage to Property in Furtherance of Terrorism.

"We are heartened by the fact that our supporters have won this concession," said defendant Nathanael Secor. "It's taken a tremendous show of strength and solidarity over the past seven months."

Originally facing a single charge Conspiracy to Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism—Gaertner's office added three additional charges against the eight defendants in December of last year. Now, two of those charges have been dropped, clearly demonstrating that all the charges are a matter of political maneuvering, not a reasoned look at the evidence.

On March 28, supporters delivered to

Susan Gaertner's office a stack of over 3,000 petitions urging her to drop all four charges. Among other statements, a resolution from the 17,000-member Duluth Central Labor Body in support of the RNC 8 was also delivered. National media attention, including an appearance on MSNBC on Wednesday morning, has drawn significant attention to the case at the same time as Gaertner is accelerating her campaign for Governor—having just hired full-time staffers, opened an office on University Avenue, and planned appearances at several DFL events in the next month. Additionally, the broad-based RNC 8 Defense Committee has succeeded in calling widespread attention to the Minnesota PATRIOT Act, and played an instrumental role in applying the pressure that led to this reduction of charges.

## DEFEND THE RNC 8

In removing the controversial MN PATRIOT Act from the debate at this moment, Susan Gaertner obviously hopes to defray the costs of this unprecedented prosecution on her campaign for Governor, and to mitigate the overwhelmingly negative public opinion of Ramsey County's

repressive behavior during and since the RNC.

"Make no mistake," said defendant Luce Guillen-Givins, "This change to the complaint against us is a token gesture meant to placate our supporters and bolster a floundering political prosecution."

As defendant Eryn Trimmer pointed out, "This move only focuses attention more acutely on the outrageous nature of the two remaining charges, Conspiracy to Commit Riot and Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage to Property."

In the months leading up to the RNC, the defendants were involved in open, public organizing with a broad coalition of Twin Cities activists and community members. We continue to assert that the only "conspiracy" committed by the RNC 8 was to provide basic and necessary infrastructure for people who wished to engage in their fundamental right to dissent.

"We're relieved and gratified that the most sensational part of the charges has been dropped," said St. Paul peace and justice activist Betsy Raasch-Gilman, member of Friends of the RNC 8. She continued, "We hope that the conspiracy charges will also be dropped. If planning a protest can be called conspiracy, the right to free speech is in real danger."

Friends of the RNC 8 asks Susan Gaertner to continue in the direction of justice by dropping all the remaining charges, thereby saving enormous financial resources for the people of Minnesota in this time of rampant foreclosures, unemployment and economic turmoil. We also remind supporters that while we should rightly celebrate this small victory, the time for increased action to defend the RNC 8 is now. Political organizing is not conspiracy. Dissent is not a crime.

## A Call to Support Ricardo Palmera

The National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera is calling on people everywhere to stand for human rights and social justice in opposition to the cruel and unusual treatment of Ricardo Palmera, a negotiator for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), now a Colombian political prisoner of the U.S. empire. He is being held in the Florence Colorado Supermax Prison. Professor Palmera is being held in 23-hour solitary lock-down with no access to the outside world.

Members and supporters of the National Committee have attempted to write to Ricardo Palmera on more than one occasion, in English and in Spanish, inquiring as to his health and asking him about his

psychological well-being. These letters have been returned by the Federal Bureau of Prisons with the following notice: "Your correspondence to the above named inmate is being returned. This correspondence was not delivered to the inmate because he is not authorized to correspond with you."

The National Committee to Free Ricardo Palmera sees this as a gross violation of Professor Palmera's most basic human rights. It is a harsh and uncalled for punishment to deny someone such a simple thing as the exchange of letters with well-wishers and supporters.

Ricardo Palmera deserves to receive letters and anyone who writes him makes a declaration condemning the practice of denying him this right. As well, according

to the 'Returned Correspondence' letters we have received, Palmera is being notified that the letters are being returned. This means that he is told he is receiving mail whether he can see it or not. In the solitude of his incarceration we believe that this simple statement will give him hope and in itself expresses solidarity.

The National Committee is therefore calling on people of conscience here and around the world to write to Ricardo Palmera, at:

**Juvenal Ovidio Palmera Pineda**  
#27896-016  
USP Florence ADMAX  
PO Box 8500  
Florence, CO 81226





# Open Letter to All Progressives

by *Jalil A. Muntaqim*

It is obvious to the majority of U.S. political prisoners that the movement in support of them, for the exception of Jericho Amnesty Movement and individuals support committees, is impotent and nearly non-existent. There is no national determination or initiative that captures the imagination or represents opposition to the overwhelming bleak condition the majority of U.S. political prisoners suffers. This is especially true for those who were direct victims of COINTELPRO and have languished in prison 25-40 years.

In late 1976, I initiated the U.S. Prisoners National Campaign to Petition the United Nations; by 1977, the campaign organized a signature petition gathering 2500 signatures from prisoners across the country. In fact, the campaign had affiliated cadres in state and federal prisons in 25 U.S. states, with communications with prisoners in parts of Europe.

In 1977, an attorney presented our petition and complaint to a special subcommittee of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This being the first time U.S. political prisoners had a petition submitted and recorded at a United Nations subcommittee pertaining to racism and the conditions of political prisoners in the U.S. penal system. (See: U.N. document E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/75). During the course of organizing the petition campaign, Comrade Sundiata Acoli, then in New Jersey, agreed to assist by organizing a march in support of the petition to the United Nations. The march and demonstration was held in front of the Harlem State Office Building. This campaign was responsible for the firing of then U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young from his post at the U.N. by President Jimmy Carter. When, in 1978, then, Ambassador Andrew Young was in Paris for a U.N. event, I suggested a reporter we had communications with ask Ambassador Andrew Young the



single question, "Are there political prisoners in the United States?" When Andrew Young answered, "...perhaps thousands...", rightwing political forces and the media in the United States had a field day rebuking and attacking him, eventually resulting in Jimmy Carter firing him from his U.N. post.

In the course of the heightened political focus on U.S. political prisoners, an initiative was made to secure a political prisoners exchange with prisoners held in Cuba. Contact and dialogue with Cuba's representatives at the United Nations was initiated and the Cuban government shared their interest in support of an exchange of prisoners. To ensure this possibility, in 1977, President Fidel Castro at the 'Peoples National Assembly' at Monaco publicly announced a willingness to accept U.S. Black political prisoners in a prisoner's exchange. Unfortunately, as a result of political wrangling and miscues here in the U.S., perhaps as a result of FBI interference, the exchange was never made – a lost opportunity! Nonetheless, because of this campaign in 1979, members of the International Jurist toured the U.S. visiting political prisoners and reported to a United Nations special committee that political prisoners in fact exist in the United States.

Fast forward to 1996 when I called for the Jericho March to the White House, that Baba Herman Ferguson and our beloved late Sista Safiya Bukhari organized, and in 1998, 6,000 activists from across the country, as far away as Hawaii, traveled to Washington, D.C. and participated in a march and rally in support of recognition of U.S. political prisoners. Since then, the Jericho Amnesty Movement has organized cadres and support groups across the country and overseas, continuing to broaden understanding of the existence of U.S. political prisoners. In 2008, Jericho Amnesty Movement had its tenth anniversary with a march and rally NYC organized by Ashanti Alston and Kazi Toure. Despite a decade of ebbs and flow, highs and lows throughout the progressive movement, Jericho remains the noted national representative of U.S. political prisoners.

Throughout the Jericho Amnesty Movement existence, it has consistently called for the reopening of COINTELPRO hearings. In the last 20 years, there have been several national forums on COINTELPRO; the International Tribunals in 1990 at Hunter College, and in 2000, reopening of COINTELPRO hearings was discussed by a panel conducted by then Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. In late 2007, the San

**Continued to page 11**

## Aunt Doe

By Jalil Muntaqim  
April 22, 2009

*Like an angry cat furiously pawing and unfurling a ball of gray yarn, the seams of her mind unwind.*

*In an unrelenting battle resembling the Sun battering holes in an overcast sky, intermittently warming pastures of names, places and things, her memory struggles to defy the deadly diminishing of its existence.*

*Blinding rain of dementia dims her thoughts as she stares into space, her mind screaming to remember but hearing only the echoing pit-ter-patter of deafening silence demanding an umbrella of medications to cast fading shadows that harks back to life's successes, the pain of lost opportunities, and pleasures of having loved and been loved.*

*Old age have captured the beauty of her youth and callously jostles her, as she stumbles absent signposts or directions, though a mental maze toward the terminal dark gallows of time.*

*And, yet, we remember and love the whole of her!*

*[Dedicated to my beloved Aunt Dorothy Phillips suffering Alzheimer]*

# Letter From Sekou Kambui

Greetings My Beloved Friends & Comrades in Struggle!

In accord with your request of me, I am sitting down to take this opportunity for providing you and our Sistahs and Brothas with a broader understanding of the circumstances by which I am currently held in captivity by the Slave-holding / Slave manufacturing State of AlabakKkma. As for those of you who may or may not be aware of it, I am referring to the over-standing plight of the renowned Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War, Sekou Cinque T.M. Kambui, whose illegal captivity has now extended over forty (40) years within an AlabakKkma prison Slave Kolony. Largely in retaliation for and because I have continued to assert myself as an active jailhouse lawyer and prisoners' human rights activist, I am still maintained in captivity at this writing, and my diligent efforts to over-stand my current and long-standing incarceration are ongoing. As such things go, the question—one never resolved to justify my initial imprisonment—of whether I was guilty or innocent is no longer relevant at this point in my incarceration, since I have now been imprisoned over forty (40) years. The majority of such years have been and continue to be not only in contradistinction to the laws governing guilt or innocence, but also AlabakKkma's mandatory paroling statutes—notwithstanding any interpretation given by the paroling authorities, or the kourts working in conspiracy with them to perpetuate genocide to the contrary—which indicate that I should have been released from my illegal captivity over thirty (30) years ago, but as you can observe through this writing, I have not been so released.

At my last parole hearing, none of my supporters were able to make it, nor any of my family members, and friends, or anyone associated with me, who might have held a desire to show their support and speak out in my behalf at open-board parole hearing that was recently held on February 24, 2009. This failing on their part was mainly because of the short thirty (30) days notice given in advance of the hearing. Secondly, my supporters and friends mostly live out of state, and needed to go through the necessary steps to adjust their life schedules to arrange to come to AlabakKkma to appear at the hearing in my behalf, to determine whether hiring another attorney to represent my interest before the parole board was feasible, or otherwise bring people to the hearing to demonstrate their concern and interest in seeing me released from my long-standing and illegally maintained imprisonment within the State of AlabakKkma.

The AlabakKkma Paroling authorities allow Victims' Rights groups in large num-

bers to appear in protest of {m}y release or others similarly situated, on parole, but deliberately enforce limits to how many supporters, family members, or friends who are interested in my/our release can participate in my/our parole hearing, incomparable to the amount of members from the local protest groups permitted at the parole hearing to speak out against my/our release. This is so even when the Victims' Rights group does not contain any of the so-called victims from the crimes charged to me, nor enjoy a constitutionally created or protected right to do so. This makes the decision so influenced by such organizations illegal, immoral, and in violation of state and federal law. Thus, such actions and in-actions on the part of the State of AlabakKkma continue to raise the question: "Will an Afrikan / New Afrikan man/woman, or poor person of whatever nationality, ethnicity ever receive justice within the Euro-Centrically controlled AlabakKkma Criminal Justice Slave System?"



Of course, as things are interpreted under AlabakKkma law, as in keeping with the traditional holding of the U.S. Supreme Kourt Justice Tanner in the Dred Scott Decision of 1857 "the so-called black man [still] has no rights in the State of AlabakKkma that the white controlled criminal justice system is bound to respect." I wonder why this is so. Has it anything to do with the 3/5's of a man concept? The Dred Scott decision or the AtabakKkma Constitution of 1901 wherein it was said that this Constitution, which discards any law favoring equal rights for the descendant of the Afrikan Slave vis-a-vis a white person, and/or the fact that said constitution was said to be designed to establish White Supremacy by Law? It goes without wonder as to the basis of why so many of the Afrikan/New Afrikan men, women or children are treated so blatantly in disregard of their human and constitutional rights in AlabakKkma, or their humanity so brutally disrespected.

What should an Afrikan / New Afrikan man do when he recognizes that he is being

so deliberately disrespected as a human being: that he or she is not being afforded protection from such a travesty at law? It is my thought that I should not allow this travesty at law to be allowed to continue with impunity; that I should not only speak out against being so abused and disrespected under the laws or by and through the agents of AlabakKkma, but that I should act out in whatever way is possible or necessary to bring attention to this situation. Therein lies the motivation for this letter of appeal to all my Brothas and Sistahs in the Afrikan Peoples'/New Afrikan protracted liberation movement. I am unable to achieve even piecemeal success without the understanding and loving support of my family and friends, my Brothas and Sistahs in struggle throughout the world, throughout the kountry. It is my plan to endeavor as best I can to rally the people behind my plight, and give them motivation for coming together to work with me, whether to raise funding to hire an attorney to assist me in litigation against the state of AlabakKkma, or stand with me in protest for its blatant disregard for my human rights, and deprivation of rights, privileges, and immunities secured to me under the Constitutions of AlabakKkma and the United States, including its mandatory paroling and pardoning statutes. Issuing protest, and calling for my release from my illegal detention and continued deprivation of human rights.

AlabakKkma's Prison Slave Colonies all across the State of AlabakKkma are overwhelmingly overcrowded, and the dehumanization of the Incarcerated Persons held throughout (the ADOC) continues. When will it end? When will the cruelties running rampant within the AlabakKkma Prison Slave System be brought to an end; the suffering and callous indifference to the dehumanizing effect incarceration has on the incarcerated person and their families, the economic exploitation accomplished by ever growing exceedingly high prices to be paid for personal items needed from the Intraprison canteen and snack-line, the telephones, and the visitation yard vending machines controlled by the ever present privatization apparatus that controls such things throughout the adoc? When will such exploitation be brought to an end? What of inhumane treatment such as occurs when incompetent and professionally dysfunctional medical staff make life impacting decisions arbitrarily resulting in the death of incarcerated persons, and such deaths are still allowed to happen with impunity; or where parole authorities continue to pad their books with illegally withheld parole releases so as to justify demanding more money from the tax-paying citizens through

its legislature, to finance their illegal, immoral, and racially discriminatory, genocidal enforcement of its mandatory statutory paroling and pardoning criteria, when in fact the mandatory parole and pardoning statutes would automatically relieve overcrowding conditions in a check and balance manner as they were designed to do. Does anyone care?

The previous President, of the Bush Family Cabal, manipulated State governments all over the country, but especially in AlabakKkma where a republican government was under the control of his brother-in-law (the Gov. Bob Riley), literally manipulating or otherwise coercing them into denying release to and warehousing a large number of its poor and Afrikan American males within their AlabakKkma prison Slave Colonies, so as to not only further denigrate them as human beings, but insure poverty remains entrenched within their communities, and their families politically, economically, demographically displaced, and alienated or otherwise destroyed. Is this Presidential action/inaction something one could define as hypocritical; or contrary to the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights?

In the midst of such a climate, I have continued to fight to educate to liberate

incarcerated people. I have continued to propagate the truth and reveal the lies surrounding the unjust imprisonment of AlabakKkma's poor, especially its Afrikan American populace. I have continued to provide much needed jailhouse lawyer assistance to those unfortunate ones who have been and continue to be railroaded to AlabakKkma prisons and jails. As a consequence of the commitment to the prisoners' human rights' struggle I have maintained, I continue to be illegally detained within the AlabakKkma prison Slave System. I continue to be the victim of retaliatory decisions based on my jailhouse lawyer activities, and my political, human rights activism, rather than my intraprisson conduct such as would be a real and legally binding basis upon which to continuously withhold my release on parole.

It is for this reason that this appeal is being sent out to all of you! Although I rarely admit it, I must acknowledge to not only myself but to my supporters that I need the support and financial assistance of those of you who not only understand my predicament, but can provide some form of support and assistance to me in my efforts to raise funds for acquiring an attorney to assist me in my fight against the AlabakKkma parol-

ing and pardoning authorities, but also for the class action formed litigation I have drawn against the AlabakKkma parole and pardoning authorities for their failure to conform parole decisions to its mandatory paroling and pardoning statutes. I need the support and assistance of those of you who realize my potential for being a productive member of society, and a worthy candidate for a favorable decision granting my release to my family, friends, and the community I am to return to. I need your letters and community petitions to the Governor of AlabakKkma, the AlabakKkma paroling and pardoning authorities, letting them know that you are concerned about their continued failure to release me in accord with their mandatory paroling and pardoning statutes, and insist that justice for me would bring my long illegally delayed release to its end at last. Your letters to me, your questions, suggestions, or interest in making yourself more familiar with who I am and what I am about is welcome. You may write me at the following address:

**Sekou Cinque T.M. Kambui**  
#113058 C1-32A  
P.O. Box56 SCF  
Elmore, Al 36025-0056

## FREQUENTLY USED

# Acronyms/ Terms

**ABCF:** Anarchist Black Cross Federation - anti-authoritarian federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POWs.

**ABC-BG:** Branch Group - ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

**ABC-SG:** Support Group - ABCF group with fewer responsibilities than a BG.

**AIM:** American Indian Movement - above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

**Anarchism:** Free or libertarian socialism. Anarchists are opposed to government, the state, and capitalism. Therefore, simply speaking, anarchism is a no government form of socialism. Types of anarchists include: Anarcho-Communist, Anarcho-Syndicalist, Autonomist, Collectivist, Individualists, and Mutualists.

**BLA:** Black Liberation Army - revolutionary Black clandestine formation formed to defend the Black community and the BPP, inactive since the '80s.

**BPP:** Black Panther Party - above ground Black revolutionary group seeking Black political power, disbanded in the mid-'70s.

**FALN:** *english translation:* Armed Forces of National Liberation - revolutionary clandestine group fighting for Puerto Rican independence.

**FC:** Federation Council - decision-making body of the ABCF.

**MOVE:** Not an acronym, the name of an organization based in Philadelphia whose members are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

**PC:** Prisoner's Committee - rotating body of 5 PP/POWs on the ABCF's FC.

**PP/POWs:** Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War.

(See page 1.)

**Self-Defense:** The legal act of protecting one's life or the life of another with the idea/purpose of self-determination and independence. Armed self-defense is relative to the ABCF, specifically in the U.S., in that as the organization grows, so too grows the need to protect ourselves from the armed aggressor of the state, right wing, and other ideological opponents. (Firearms training as preparation for self-defense are legal activities within the confines of the U.S.)

**Self Determination:** The right by virtue of which all peoples are entitled freely to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence.

**SDS:** Students for a Democratic Society - left student group founded in the '60s.

**The Update:** This is a quarterly publication of the ABCF.

**WUO:** Weather Underground Organization - first the Weathermen, later known as the WUO, evolved out of the SDS as an underground formation of primarily white anti-imperialist revolutionaries from the student movement.

*(The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) produces the Revolutionary/Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Los Angeles ABC for \$1 and two 41 cents stamps.)*

# Communication Management Units (CMU)

Posted on <http://supportdaniel.org/cmu/>

Over the past two years, the United States Federal Bureau of Prisons has quietly opened at least two new prison units that severely restrict inmates' ability to communicate with the outside world. These units were opened either without the legally required public comment period or, there is good reason to believe, in spite of it. In April 2006, the Bureau proposed a strict new set of regulations for people involved with (not necessarily convicted in) investigations of "terrorism," and a public comment period followed. After a strong outcry from civil liberties advocates and other groups, the proposal appeared to be dropped. In December 2006, however, several men -- almost all of whom were Arab Muslims -- were moved from the prisons in which they had been residing to a new "Communication Management Unit" (CMU) housed at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, which looked remarkably like the unit that the Bureau had proposed.[1] There was no public comment period for the CMU.

In May of 2008, several men were moved without warning to what is believed to be the second CMU in the federal prison system -- this one located at the US Penitentiary in Marion, IL. Again, none of these men were given any notice that they would be moved, and it was not until they arrived at the CMU there that there was any public acknowledgment that the CMU

existed. The rules at the second CMU are the same as those at Terre Haute. One striking difference is that there are at least two non-Arab men in residence -- one of them being Daniel McGowan.

Once the news broke that the facilities had opened, CMU's came under immediate criticism for segregating inmates on the basis of religion and ethnicity and for punishing low-risk inmates by almost eliminating their ability to talk on the phone to loved ones, see them in person, or correspond to them through letters in a timely fashion. Inmates at the CMU's are allowed only one phone call per week, which is limited to 15 minutes, and which must be conducted in English. All mail that is sent or received is scrutinized and any mail written in languages other than English must be translated and transcribed before it is sent or received by an inmate. Visits take place behind glass and are limited to four hours each month. They must also be conducted in English. These restrictions are devastating to all of the inmates, who now have almost no contact with loved ones and very little ability to keep up with events in the outside world; the restrictions are particularly damaging to those whose first language is not English. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons continues to have very little to say publicly about the CMU's. The information we have is based on a few investigative articles about the CMU at Terre Haute

[1][2] and on what we have learned from the inmates themselves. We need to know more. We need to know what is happening inside federal institutions that hold over 200,000 inmates and which may or may not be following the regulations that govern them. Please encourage local media in your area to investigate especially if you live near a federal correctional institution. Write letters to the editor and talk to your friends.

[We have at least two political prisoners in CMUs. Daniel McGowan in Marion and Tsunomo Shirosaki in Terre Haute. Just like the Maximum Control Units and the Supermaxes, these inhumane and illegal units of "special confinement" are being used against our freedom fighters and threaten the freedom of all.--- ABCF]

1. Van Bergen, Jennifer. "Documents show new secretive US prison program isolating Muslim, Middle Eastern prisoners." *The Raw Story*. 16 February, 2007. [http://www.rawstory.com/news/2007/Documents\\_show\\_new\\_secretive\\_new\\_US\\_0216.html](http://www.rawstory.com/news/2007/Documents_show_new_secretive_new_US_0216.html)

2. Eggen, Dan. "Facility Holding Terrorism Inmates Limits Communication." *Washington Post*. 25 February, 2007. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/24/AR2007022401231.html>

## Continued from page 8

Francisco 8, issued a joint statement again calling for a national determination demanding the reopening of COINTELPRO hearings.[1]

In light of repressive laws subject to the Patriot Act and subsequent White House enactments, it is time for a national outcry raising and demanding the reopening of COINTELPRO hearings. Therefore, I am urging all progressive forces to establish a committee specifically for this purpose and begin the process of educating the general public why reopening COINTELPRO hearings is a necessary important first step to free imprisoned COINTELPRO victims, and the ultimate liberation of all U.S. political prisoners. It is imperative to raise this issue unto the national debate, especially now that the FBI and CIA are under scrutiny for forensic evidence violations, torture interrogations, and overreaching wiretapping and electronic surveillances of the public. It is essential to explain that such government misconduct is not new, the assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark is just one of many important past examples.

I am also calling on those in academia, the progressive intelligentsia to also discuss how best to pose this concern to the Obama administration. It is high time for the broader progressive academic community to join in the overall struggle as it pertains to the existence of U.S. political prisoners. There are a new generation of scholars, many of whom only read/studied about the movements of the 1960's and 1970's, having been divorced from any empirical knowledge of revolutionary engagement or struggles for civil and human rights. Yet, some of these new scholars have written excellent books analyzing and explaining that era of struggle for civil and human rights, preserving those struggles in literature for future study. However, even for them comes a time to put theory into practice, to test their knowledge in doing the work left undone. The progressive academic community can be an important component in this determination, and I am personally asking them to join, to get in where they fit in. Specifically, for progressive academics to forge a national committee of academics to jointly propose the reopening of COINTELPRO hearings.

I am now making this call for action because too many of our imprisoned COINTELPRO victims in the last 25-40 years suffer illnesses that could prove terminal. Several have died in prison, and the reality is many more will if the progressive movements fail to take action. There is a new historical era on the horizon where dialogue and exchange between the U.S. and Cuba could result in the termination of a four decades old embargo. Here, today, there is a need for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, since there cannot be any healing without revealing, to sort out the war imposed on the Black Panther Party and other liberation forces by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, and various police agencies. Therefore, the time to seriously unite and rebuild a durable and sustainable freedom movement for U.S. political prisoners is NOW! Remember: WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS!!

[1] For detail information on these and other struggles on the issue of U.S. political prisoners read: "Let Freedom Ring - A Collection of Documents from the Movement to Free U.S. Political Prisoners", Edited by Matt Meyer.



# NYC ABCF Branch Group Report

It's been a long and busy winter and spring for NYC. Collective members visited Daniel McGowan and Ojore Lutalo. We also participated in coalition efforts including the newly founded Jericho International and a fundraising event for the Republican National Convention political prisoners. Our table of ABCF tri-folds has continued to be a regular presence in anarchist and activist events including the NYC Anarchist Bookfair.

We continue to build awareness of the Communication Management Units as well as the campaign to pass HR 1457, the Good Time Bill, which would allow some federal prisoners the possibility of an earlier release.

We organized a "call-in" campaign as an emergency response to the deteriorating health of Maliki Shakur Latine, who suffered medical neglect of his multiple food allergies at the hands of the Great Meadow Correctional Facility and NY Department of Corrections. We are glad to report that the calls seem to have led to his transfer to

Clinton where the situation is less dire as of his last letter. That said, the medical neglect of our comrade is ongoing, and we will continue to address it as a collective and federation as needed.

We recently held a matching-funds fundraising drive to help pay for Robert Seth Hayes' legal strategy to gain freedom through parole in tandem with fundraising by other ABCF chapters, NY Jericho and other organizations. From what we know at this time, he unfortunately still has substantial costs to cover.

In an effort to broaden awareness of PPs/POWs, the young people of the Afterschool Program at the 123 Community Space have started a correspondence with Russell 'Maroon' Shoats. We're also proud supporters of the new North Bedstuy Copwatch program.

We're now a proud branch group of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation and with our new member we are seven strong. Several of our members may leave New York in the next year, but this does not dis-

courage us as all of us are very likely to continue our prisoner support work wherever we find ourselves.

We're looking forward to hosting an ABCF meeting this summer, and holding our second annual Rolling Down the Walls bike ride for the ABCF Warchest in the fall. We also look forward to more letters and visits, and more Political Prisoner Letter-Writing Dinners, which we've hosted on alternating Tuesdays for over three years now. The home of the dinners, the 1-2-3 Community Space, of which we are a member organization, is currently fighting eviction. We're also addressing issues of intimate partner violence and promoting accountability in the activist community of NYC, as well as trying to support our comrades in the student movement, some of whom face legal charges as a result of their activism.

In Solidarity for Freedom,  
NYC ABCF

PS- Welcome, Albuquerque ABCF!

# Toronto ABC Branch Group Report

Toronto ABCF recently released Issue 12 of 4strugglemag, our zine project with anti-imperialist PP Jaan Laaman. The main theme of the issue is "Women in the Struggle," and it also includes pieces on the financial crisis and struggles from Athens to Gaza to San Salvador to Vancouver. We encourage individuals and groups on both sides of the prison walls to respond to these articles and keep the discussion going. Check it out online at

[www.4strugglemag.org](http://www.4strugglemag.org).

Support this project by purchasing a "solidarity subscription!" A mere \$30 covers a full year of issues for yourself and a prisoner. Paper copies of each issue are sent to over 200 prisoners, at no cost to them.

Toronto ABCF has been hosting semi-monthly letter-writing nights, inviting community members to join us for food and presentations on North American PPs.

We have also partnered with Addameer and the Right to Education Campaign to write letters to Palestinian administrative detainees. At the Palestinian event we played solidarity statements from Marilyn Buck, David Gilbert and Jaan Laaman.

Bryan and Sara tabled at the 10th annual Montreal Anarchist Bookfair, where we co-sponsored a talk with former PP Laura Whitehorn and her partner Susie Day.

# Albuquerque Application

My name is Justin and this is my application for membership into the ABC Federation as a Support Group Chapter.

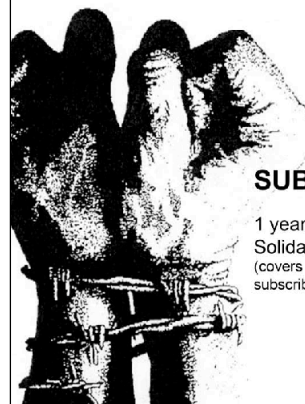
My interest in becoming an active member of the ABCF stems from the fact that POW's/PP's from this very country and abroad are being denied recognition of their true status on the political ladder. It's also born from the knowledge that all over the world, liberation movements are still struggling for self determination on many levels. Here in America, the situations in our streets, mountains and reservations is no different. The fight against imperialism in our house has been met much the same as in other parts of the world, albeit on more covert levels, especially when the imprisonment of our warriors is concerned.

I have worked extensively with Earth First! focusing on issues here in the Southwest. I also consider myself a personal friend and comrade of Rod Coronado and have been in letter writing contact with him throughout his two latest federal prison sentences (he was just released to a halfway house in MI). Other experience with prisoner issues comes from involvement with the Irish Freedom Committee, in both Chicago.

(Albuquerque ABC's application was approved at the FC meeting in January. On behalf of the entire ABC Federation, the editors of the Update would like to take a moment to welcome Albuquerque ABCF into the Federation)

## 4STRUGGLEMAG

Views, thoughts and analysis from the hearts and minds of North American Political Prisoners and Friends



### SUBSCRIPTIONS

1 year (3 issues): \$15  
Solidarity subscription: \$30  
(covers yourself and a prisoner subscriber)

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

[4strugglemag.org](http://4strugglemag.org)

subscribe now or read online

# Los Angeles Report

Beyond the basic maintenance of the website and ABCF flyers, the LA ABCF, along with Arcata ABCF, has been busy trying to show a presence for the Federation on the West Coast.

The Arcata and Los Angeles chapter shared a table at the San Francisco Anarchist Bookfair. This was the first time the ABCF had a table at the bookfair and we are happy to report it was rather successful. While there we met with old friends including former political prisoners Rita Bo Brown and Claude Marks.

On April 25th, the Los Angeles chapter participated in a birthday celebration for Mumia organized by the Jericho Coalition. The event included the new documentary, *In Prison My Whole Life* and also featured Hank Jones, one of the San Francisco 8. Jones talked about the current status of the SF8 case and the need to support Mumia. Lawrence from the Puerto Rican Alliance also spoke on the current status of Carlos Alberto Torres.

LA ABCF also increased with a new member, Mapache. In case we did not mention it in our last report, we also have another member, Jeff, who has joined our local chapter. We would like to take a moment to welcome both of them into the Federation.



We are beginning the initial stages for Running Down the Walls – slated for September 12th. We are asking all chapters, supporters, and our imprisoned comrades to please set this date aside. We are hoping to expand the amount of solidarity runs this year. Funds for this years run will go to the Warchest and the Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC) and their food program.

## The Anarchist Subsistence Program

The Anarchist Subsistence Program seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POWs who come from our own anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

As with the Warchest, this program is designed to aid PP/POWs who receive little financial aid.

However, it is unique because it exclusively assists those from the anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

Over the last few years there has been an increase of anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs. Most of these new prisoners have support committees who raise awareness and funds on their behalf. Long held anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs have had their support overshadowed by these new cases.

This program is designed to ensure that support for them remains consistent.

The two functions of this support campaign include a monthly financial assistance and forty 43¢ postage stamps per month. Supporters of the Anarchist Subsistence Program send whatever funds they can to Philadelphia ABC (who facilitates the program) who in turn distributes the funds among anarchist political prisoners who participate in the program. All U.S. supporters also take turns sending the

stamps directly to Philadelphia ABC.

Listed here are the monthly check documentation and rotation of groups sending stamps. If you want to support this important program and help us expand the number of Anarchist Subsistence Program campaigns we run, contact Philadelphia ABC. Make checks or money orders out only to: TIM FASNACHT. Funds should be sent in the last week of the month before the month the funds will be used (i.e., send March funds in the 3rd week of February).

|              | 2008 | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY   |
|--------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| NY ABCF      | 250  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| LA ABCF      | 245  | 0   | 0   | 100 | 0   | 0     |
| TOR ABCF     | 50   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| PHILLY ABCF  | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 31.52 |
| JAX ABCF     | 50   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| ARCATA ABCF  | 0    | 50  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| ALBQ ABCF    | 0    | 10  | 5   | 5   | 0   | 0     |
| RYAN, AK     | 10   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| RYAN, OREGON | 10   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| EZE, NJ      | 150  | 0   | 200 | 0   | 0   | 0     |
| APOC-PHILLY  | 0    | 0   | 0   | 21  | 0   | 0     |
| TOTAL        | 760  | 60  | 205 | 125 | 0   | 31.52 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

ONE TIME DONATION  MONTHLY SUPPORTER

**Monthly supporters, please check one of the following:**

I'll commit to 6 months  I'll commit to 1 year  Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send cash, checks or money orders made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:  
**Philly ABCF**  
**P.O. Box 42129**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19101**  
**timABCF@aol.com**  
**toll free (877) 673-2658**

# \$50,000 Raised Through the Warchest Program!

## SUPPORT THE ABCF WARCHEST

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to PP/POWs who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POWs requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the applications are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POWs called the Prisoner Committee, who make a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an emergency fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POWs in need of one-time or emergency assistance.

Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much-neglected comradely function. Since its inception, the ABCF has raised over \$54,000 with just this one program. All funds raised go directly to the political prisoners, for which the program is designed. Despite our success, our comrades are still in dire need of funds. Endorse this program by giving a monthly or one-time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. The prisoners' addresses are also printed so that endorsers may write and hold us accountable.



Send cash, checks or mos made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:

**Philly ABCF • P.O Box 42129 • Philadelphia, PA 19101 • timABCF@aol.com**

| FUNDS IN         | 2008        | JAN         | FEB        | MAR        | APR        | MAY        |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| LA ABCF/RDTW     | 1360        | 1100        | 0          | 300        | 0          | 0          |
| PHL ABCF         | 180         | 50          | 50         | 50         | 50         | 50         |
| EZE, NJ          | 150         | 0           | 200        | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| TORONTO RDTW     | 60          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| TORONTO ABCF     | 130         | 0           | 140        | 0          | 60         | 0          |
| JAX ABCF         | 50          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| NYC RDTW         | 286         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| NYC ABCF         | 376         | 60          | 75         | 74         | 0          | 0          |
| ALBQ ABCF        | 0           | 10          | 5          | 5          | 0          | 0          |
| RYAN/ALSKA       | 45          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| RYAN/OREGON      | 15          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| HOBART           | 10          | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| JUSTIN/CLEV      | 0           | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| WEST. MASS. RDTW | 143         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| ANON             | 25          | 25          | 0          | 30         | 20         | 40         |
| RDTW/ARIZONA     | 243         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| SHARON SHOATZ/NJ | 360         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| PROPAGANDI       | 115         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| CHRIS R/IN       | 0           | 24          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| JIM M/PHILLY     | 0           | 15          | 15         | 0          | 30         | 15         |
| RON/PHIL         | 0           | 0           | 0          | 0          | 5          | 0          |
| SHANE ANDREW     | 0           | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 50         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>3448</b> | <b>1284</b> | <b>485</b> | <b>460</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>155</b> |

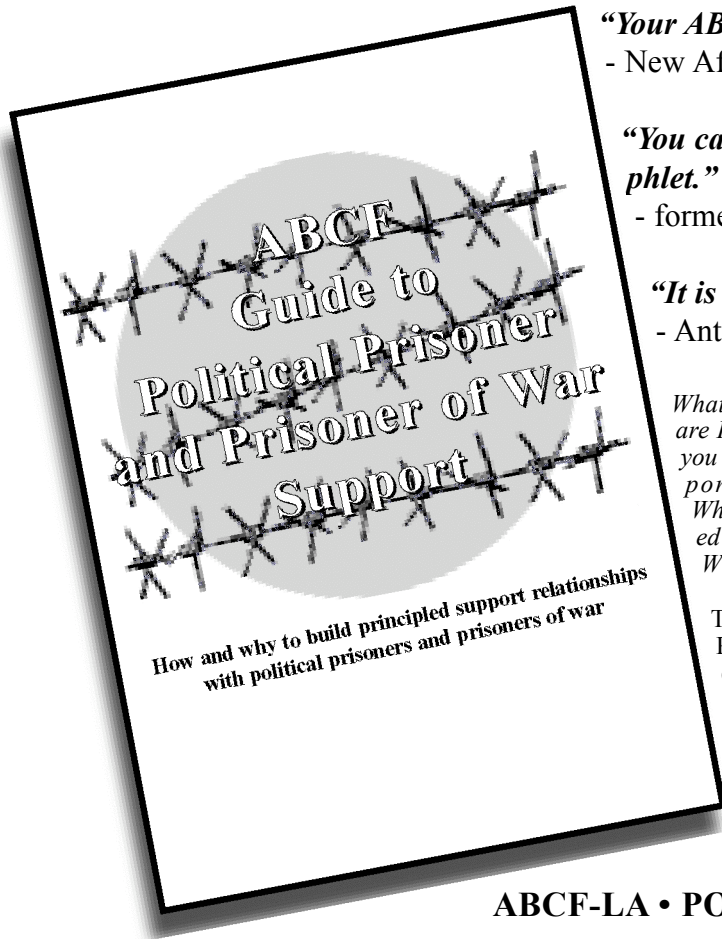
| FUNDS OUT         | 2008        | JAN        | MAR        | APR        | MAY        |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| SEKOU KAMBUI      | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| RUSSELL SHOATZ    | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| JOSEPH BOWEN      | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| HANIF BEY         | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| HERMAN BELL       | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| SEKOU ODINGA      | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| RUCHELL MAGEE     | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| ALVARO HERNANDEZ  | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| MALIKI LATINE     | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI | 360         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| OJORE LUTALO      | 100         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 30         |
| ROBERT SETH HAYES | 50          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| VERONZA BOWERS    | 0           | 50         | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>3750</b> | <b>350</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>300</b> |

| FUNDS IN     |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1994         | 351          |
| 1995         | 3860         |
| 1996         | 4143         |
| 1997         | 3544         |
| 1998         | 7643         |
| 1999         | 5814         |
| 2000         | 3514         |
| 2001         | 5290         |
| 2002         | 2873         |
| 2003         | 1785         |
| 2004 UNACC*  |              |
| 2005         | 4439         |
| 2006         | 3268         |
| 2007         | 4312         |
| 2008         | 3448         |
| 2009         | 2499         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>56783</b> |

| FUNDS OUT    |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1994         | 120          |
| 1995         | 2796         |
| 1996         | 4308         |
| 1997         | 4588         |
| 1998         | 6412         |
| 1999         | 5191         |
| 2000         | 4544         |
| 2001         | 4637         |
| 2002         | 4320         |
| 2003         | 1300         |
| 2004 UNACC*  |              |
| 2005         | 2620         |
| 2006         | 2880         |
| 2007         | 3471         |
| 2008         | 3750         |
| 2009         | 1250         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>52137</b> |

**FUNDS REMAINING: \$4198.50**

(\*Funds unaccounted for due to unreported funds from Jacksonville ABCF)



***“Your ABCF Guide to PP/POW Support is great, PERIOD!”***

- New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli

***“You can see many of our concerns addressed in this pamphlet.”***

- former Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentin

***“It is extremely well thought out and put together.”***

- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

*What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners? Who are Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do you mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support do Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POWs get in prison? What do I need to know if I want to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean by 'principled support'? How do I get involved?*

This is a practical guide compiled by Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves, based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of the above questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW includes definitions that were democratically agreed upon at an international tribunal, specific procedures for obtaining documentation on PP/POW's, information on visiting, phone contact, food/clothing packages, and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

**ABCF-LA • PO Box 11223 • Whittier, CA • 90603**

LA-ABCF  
Branch Group  
PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA 90603



***“This work is not done for glory, but because we believe in mutual aid.”***