

# A3 Annual Update

INTERNATIONAL COALITION TO FREE THE ANGOLA 3

*"I can see the North Star for the first time in 36 Years..."* —Albert Woodfox & Herman Wallace

## Freedom In Sight

In March 2008—after 35 years, 11 months and 7 days alone in 6x9 foot cells—a visit from the U.S. House Judiciary Chair Congressman John Conyers, State Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Cedric Richmond, and renown Innocence Project founder Barry Scheck prompted prison officials to move Herman and Albert from solitary to a maximum security dormitory.

They still faced severe restrictions compared to other inmates; but for the first time in nearly 4 decades, they could see the sky during newly extended stints outdoors, and embrace friends, family and each other as a series of legal victories brought them closer than ever before to freedom.

In late 2006, a reversal of Herman's conviction was recommended by a State Judicial Commissioner. His case is now on appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Citing evidence of inadequate representation, prosecutorial misconduct, suppression of exculpatory evidence, and racial discrimination, two Federal Judges have now overturned Albert's conviction, and one has ordered his release on bail pending the State's appeal of the decision to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although now innocent in the eyes of the law, not surprisingly the State Attorney General's office stubbornly insists Albert is

a dangerous killer and refuses to act in the interest of justice.

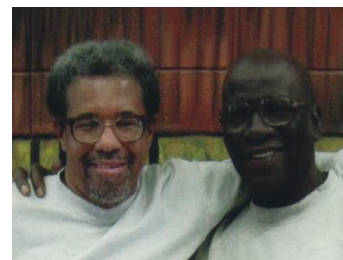
Immediately after the State lost its final attempt to have Albert's bail denied—only 8 months after being released from solitary—Herman and Albert were again separated and thrown into solitary dungeons "pending investigation" of a yet unnamed alleged rule violation. This move was transparently retaliatory and cruel. They are back in even smaller solitary cages 23 hours a day with no yard time, non-legal phone calls, or contact visits. Both men are in poor health and clearly showing the effects of the longest term solitary confinement ever recorded.

Unfortunately it seems prison

officials, much like the Attorney General's office, are digging in their heels.

Despite official efforts to fight it, the legal tide is indisputably turning in favor of the A3. Though we expect the State to do everything within their power to prevent it, Albert & Herman can finally clearly see the North Star of freedom, shining brightly on the horizon.

Justice will soon prevail, we are sure of it.



Albert & Herman, Aug 2008

*"The thing I noticed most about being with Herman is the laughing, the talking, the bumping up against one another, being able to "check" one another; we've been denied this for so long. And every once in a while he'll put his arm around me or I'll put my arm around him. It's those kind of things that make you human. And we're truly enjoying that."*  
—Albert Woodfox

## Cruel And Unusual Punishment

Nearly a decade ago Herman, Albert and Robert joined together to file a civil lawsuit against the State alleging that their conditions of confinement violated 8th Amendment constitutional protections, and that their due process rights had been systematically ignored.

Pressure from this lawsuit was an important factor in securing their temporary 8 month release from solitary, and will be instrumental in ensuring that extended solitary confinement like that suffered by the Angola 3 is exposed for the cruel and unusual punishment that it is.

This case is expected to go to trial in 2009.

*"My soul cries from all that I witnessed and endured. It does more than cry, it mourns continuously."*  
—Robert King

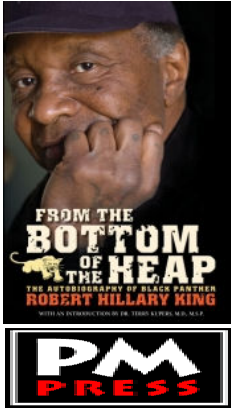
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INTERNATIONAL COALITION TO FREE THE ANGOLA 3

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[www.Angola3.org](http://www.Angola3.org) ~ [www.A3grassroots.org](http://www.A3grassroots.org)

## Robert's Autobiography



WWW.PMPRESS.ORG

*"The case of the Angola Three...has the potential of laying bare, exposing the shortcomings, in the entire U.S. system."*

—Kgalema Mothlante,  
President of South Africa

Angola 3 member Robert King celebrated the publication of his autobiography this fall.

Robert has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the case since his release in 2001. In addition to touring with his book, Robert still spends plenty of time in the kitchen whipping up his special brand of praline confectionary liberation known as "freelines."

Please support Robert's efforts on behalf of himself and his comrades by ordering a copy of his book and some pralines for the holiday!

WWW.KINGSFREELINES.COM

## WARDEN BURL CAIN'S DEPOSITION

Taken October 22, 2008

**Q.** Okay. What is it about Albert Woodfox that gives you such concern?

**A.** *The thing about him is that he wants to demonstrate. He wants to organize. He wants to be defiant.*

**Q.** Okay. Well, I mean, it's a hunger strike -- is that --

**A.** *A hunger strike is really, really bad, because you could see he admitted that he was organizing a peaceful demonstration. There is no such thing as a peaceful demonstration in prison.*

**Q.** Well, let me ask you this, lets just for the sake of argument assume, if you can, that he is not guilty of the murder of Brent Miller.

**A.** *Okay. I would still keep him in [solitary]. I still know he has a propensity for violence. I still know that he is still trying to practice Black Pantherism, and I still would not want him walking around my prison because he would organize the young new inmates. I would have me all kind of problems, more than I could stand, and I would have the blacks chasing after them. I would have chaos and conflict, and I believe that. He has to stay in a cell while he's at Angola.*

**Q.** Okay. And do you know whether his political views have changed since that time?

**A.** *That is what is scary to me....it seems as though Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace is locked in time with that Black Panther revolutionary actions they were doing way back when, and that they're still hooked up to that. And that's still their motive and that's still their goal. And from that, there's been no rehabilitation. And even when Robert King Wilkerson came with Congressman Conyers to Angola, he handed me out pralines. They gave me a little pack of pralines, Congressman Conyers did, and on that pack of pralines was a Black Panther.*

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## A3 Team on the Airwaves and Around the World

In 1998 a small group banded together to work on the case of the Angola 3. Since then a remarkable array of talented, creative and passionate supporters have joined us, each one bringing something unique to the effort. From twenty we've now grown to several thousand, all

over the world. This year we've secured in-depth news stories in dozens of publications—NPR, NBC Nightly News, LA Times, and the Guardian to name just a few. Over 25,000 people have signed Color of Change's A3 petitions calling for justice. We even presented the case to the

UN Committee to Eliminate All Forms of Racial Discrimination. You could learn about the A3 at conferences like CR-10, Essence, State of the Black World, SNMA, and STOP-MAX, while Mos Def headlined a Black August benefit in honor of the A3 at Tipitina's. A 40 ft

A3 mosaic was unveiled in England and the UK A3 team hosted a steady series of A3 themed events in 2008. Artist Jackie Sumell's *The House That Herman Built* exhibit continued to travel the globe from Ohio to the Royal Gallery of Art in London, ending up in Herman, Albert, and Robert's home town of New Orleans.

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*Enclosed Is My Tax-Deductible Gift to Help Free the Angola 3*

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