

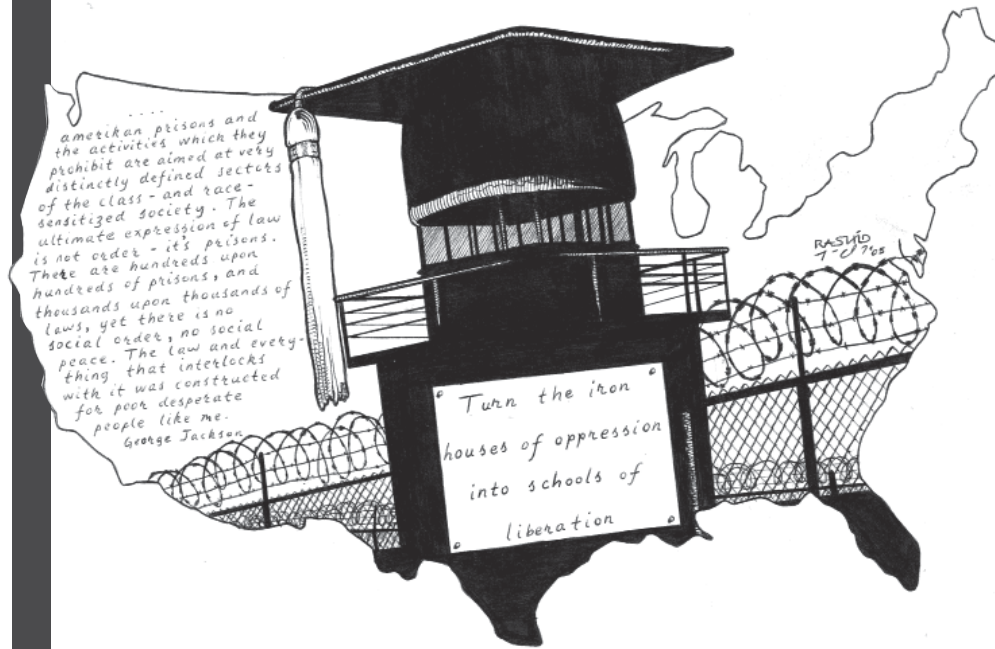
the
**INCARCERATED
 IWW WORKER**
*a project of the incarcerated workers organizing
 committee of the industrial workers of the world*

**Promoting Proletarian
 Consciousness as
 Prisoner Rehabilitation**

Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Since our inception, the NABPP-PC has emphasized the leading role of the proletariat in any genuine revolutionary struggle. In our founding article, "the NABPP-PC: Our Line," we explained this position and contrasted the revolutionary character of the proletariat with the counter-revolutionary character of the lumpen (or "broken") proletariat. That discussion bears quoting at length:

"Many people when presented with the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist idea that only the proletariat can lead in making all-the-way revolutionary class struggle question why it is, and why some other class (without changing its class perspective) cannot lead such a struggle. One reason is because the proletariat is the only class that has no real stake in preserving the class relations of the capitalist system, but has everything to gain in taking control over the social wealth it has itself created by its labor and the tools it uses to create it. Another reason is that the proletariat (in contrast to the lumpen), has the conditioning in patient work, social unity and cooperation necessary to wage the protracted class struggle required to abolish all exploitation



Letter: May 10th Strike Repressed in Nebraska

Chadrick Fitzgerald

Greetings my friends. My name is Chadrick Fitzgerald, IWW membership number X385061. As I write these words, I am sitting in a cell on the SMU gallery in Tecumseh Corrections Facility under investigation for the uprising that took place on 5-10-15. The Nebraska DOC has been run poorly for some time, we have had a number of changes in directors and that's about it. The number of problems are too long to list but somewhere at the top of that list sits overcrowding, lack of programming, and the mistreatment of the inmates.

To give you an idea of how out of control it has become, prison guards themselves have sued the state of Nebraska and won because they were being abused by coworkers via racial slurs at work. The ACLU has threatened to sue over the amount of overcrowding and current living conditions. The inmate population has tried many times to get programming that would help us upon release and time and again, nothing.

There are a few jobs that pay more than \$24.00/month (\$1.21/day) and they are restricted to less than 200 +/- inmates of

continued on page 10

continued on page 10

Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee Statement of Purpose

July 31, 2014

1. To further the revolutionary goals of incarcerated people and the IWW through mutual organizing of a worldwide union for emancipation from the prison system.
2. To build class solidarity amongst members of the working class by connecting the struggle of people in prison, jails, and immigrant and juvenile detention centers to workers struggles locally and worldwide.
3. To strategically and tactically support prisoners locally and worldwide, incorporating an analysis of white supremacy, patriarchy, prison culture, and capitalism.
4. To actively struggle to end the criminalization, exploitation, and enslavement of working class people, which disproportionately targets people of color, immigrants, people with low income, LGBTQ people, young people, dissidents, and those with mental illness.
5. To amplify the voices of working class people in prison, especially those engaging in collective action or who put their own lives at risk to improve the conditions of all.

Call for editors: We are growing! This is great news, but in addition to membership and contributions to the newsletter, we need more editors in various locations to help the newsletter grow. If you'd like to edit articles from your fellow incarcerated workers, please let us know!

Additional help: Though membership is free, if you have any stamps or pre-stamped envelopes to help us distribute more mail to fellow workers behind bars it will greatly help the union.

JOIN THE IWW

The Incarcerated Worker is a publication of the Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World. Join the rank-and-file union that's organizing prisoners internationally! Send name, ID #, and address to:



IWW IWOC
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141-4304

CONTRIBUTE TO THE IW

The Incarcerated Worker features writings of prisoners, welcoming contributions of writing and art particularly from a revolutionary labor perspective, all subject to editing for space and for content. Contributions should be sent to:

Kent Books to Prisoners
CSI Box X
KSU Student Center
Kent, OH 44242

Editorial Policy

Collectively, we may not know exactly what we're looking for, but we'll know it when we see it. And we may not know what we're *not* looking for, but we'll definitely get plenty of it.

We have to decide: Do we want to produce quality that will inspire and move people and contribute to a goal, or do we want to be a forum for terrible material no one else will print?

I opt for the first. So, I suggest our editorial policy should be fluid and evolving and organic, case by case, issue to issue. In other words, no real policy at all.

—Editor FW Sean Swain

Due to limited printing capacity, content should be kept shorter than 5 pages.

Send your self-addressed stamped envelopes with requests for back issues, so we can save on postage.

Remember to share and spread things around so we can all grow!

However, this fluid policy is subject to change at the democratic will of incarcerated workers like YOU! Fellow workers in Missouri prisons suggested a rotation of contributing authors. Authors shall be set in rotation each issue, so each gets a turn to share their voice.

The more articles you send the more we can put in rotation. The articles should teach and motivate each other. The paper's goal is solidarity through communal knowledge; each one teach one!

—Outside Editor, Mike L.

Kent Books to Prisoners
provides prisoners with
books and other reading
material on request.

Kent Books to Prisoners
CSI Box X
KSU Student Center
Kent, OH 44242

Prison Books Collective
provides a catalog of political
pamphlets, and any of the
pamphlets contained within,
free to prisoners. Prisoners in
MS, AL, and NC are eligible
to request and receive books.
<http://www.prisonbooks.info>

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PO Box 625
Carrboro, NC 27510

*Kent Books to Prisoners and
Prison Books Collective are
not affiliated with the IWW.*

Editor & Fellow Worker Sean Swain's status

In early February, our editor and FW Sean Swain had his video visits with his comrades and supporters cut off unexpectedly. The administration at Ohio State Penitentiary said that these privileges were being denied to prisoners of Sean's security level, but this was obviously targeting Sean since the Ohio Department of Corrections had put him on communication embargo several times before this. He went on hunger strike, medical strike, and was transferred to the Southern Ohio Correctional facility a.k.a. Lucasville; a notorious prison that is home of the longest prisoner mutiny in the U.S. The following is an edited version of Sean's conflict, which was posted on his website seanswain.org.

Hunger strike declared Monday February 2, and without his blood pressure medication since Monday February 9.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Front Page:

**Promoting Proletarian Consciousness as
Prisoner Rehabilitation - Kevin "Rashid"
Johnson**

**Letter: May 10th Strike Repressed in
Nebraska - Chadwick Fitzgerald**

Artwork by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Page 2:

Artwork by Anon (c/o Shyheim ElMumin))

Page 3:

Editor & Fellow Worker Sean Swain's Status

Page 4:

**Timeline: Prison Uprisings Since Last Issue
Hunger Strike at Ohio State Penitentiary**

Page 6:

**America's Lap Dog: Britain Slavishly Copies
American Penal Policy - John Bowden
"Missouri Public Pretenders," A.K.A.
Missouri Public Defenders - Justin Johnson**

Artwork by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Page 7:

**What They Don't Want - De'Andre' Je'Rod
Cothran**

Page 8:

**Prisons: Factories of Hate
The Keeper vs. The Kept - King A**

Page 9:

Artwork by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Page 14:

Artwork by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

Page 15:

**Why Should Free World Workers Care
About Prisoners?
Remembering Phil Afrika**

Artwork from onamove.com

Back Page:

**Why Should Prisoners Join The Industrial
Workers Of The World?**

Artwork by Grafica Nera

February 19th transferred to Lucasville along with the rest of the prisoners of his security level. The administration wanted to transfer the whole level of prisoners to disguise the fact that this was retaliation to Sean's strike, and to pit the prisoners against Sean. However, these efforts by the administration backfired because it actually built more solidarity and respect for FW Sean.

On May 5, all of my outgoing communications were cut off. (This happened immediately after Swain sent edited articles and contributions for this issue of The IW.)

About 13 May, Sergeant Terry served me a conduct report written by Assistant Chief Inspector Paul Shoemaker, a.k.a., Paulie SuperGenius). The conduct report accused me of threats, based on the conditional, "...IF they torture us, we burn down their cars and houses..." But, conditionals are protected speech. Sgt Terry gave me 30 days phone and JP4 (JPay hand-held device) restriction.

On 13 May, other prisoners begin sending

emails out for me and recording radio segments in my absence.

After 13 May, Blastblog.noblogs.org went online. Judge Pearson's home address got posted there.

29 May, two other prisoners who sent out emails for me, Mahone and Stephens, have their JP4 devices confiscated. This signals an effort not just to maintain a punishment for what they assert is volatile speech, but clearly an effort to silence me completely—something they deny they are doing.

That same day, I learn that 2 CDs are being withheld from me for reasons not permitted in their own rules.

3 June, Ms Davis, the Unit Management Administrator, who generally runs the prison, comes to my cell. She later calls me to her office related to the CDs and assures me emphatically that SOCF is not going to participate in frame-up nonsense. No UMA has ever been this nice to me.

continued on page 4

TIMELINE

Prison Uprisings Since Last Issue:

February

20: 2000 Prisoners Take Over Deport Center In Tx

The Willacy County Correctional Center in Raymondville, TX also known as “Ritmo”, erupted in a revolt of 2,000 incarcerated migrant workers. The incarcerated workers sabotaged the privately-owned facility owned and operated by Management & Training Corp., a private company based in Utah. It’s one of 13 privately run so-called Criminal Alien Requirement prisons. This marks the third uprising in recent years at a privately run immigration prison. In 2012, one guard was killed, 20 people were injured, when prisoners rose up at the Adams County Correctional Facility

Sean Swain continued

4 June, the warden calls me to an office to discuss my early recommendation to level 3 and makes the point to ask me what level 3 prison I would like to go to. He assures me that SOCF is not going to be involved in central office’s nonsense. No warden has ever been this nice to me.

5 June, Mahone, Stephens and I are called to sergeant’s office. Investigator is present.

Hunger Strike at Ohio State Penitentiary

Shortly after the mass transfer of prisoners along with FW Sean Swain, new restrictions were set in place at the Ohio State Penitentiary. Religious and educational programs were cut, and the recreational yard was completely banned. The administration said that the restrictions were set in place as a response to an assault on some correctional officers by an inmate named Cornelius Harris, who had been dismissed of former assault on officer charges in the past as he

in Mississippi. That prison was operated by CCA—that’s the Corrections Corporation of America. In 2008, immigrant prisoners at a facility in Reeves County, Texas, staged an uprising after the death of a prisoner named Jesus Manuel Galindo. That prison was owned by the GEO Group.

26: Revolt in SC

Riot broke out in Lee Correctional Facility in Lee County, S.C. after 2 hostages were taken and demands were issued to police over cell phones. Photos of the riot were also leaked to the media via cell phones. The riot ended in a lockdown that lasted 24-hours.

27: FAM Strikes But Is Repressed By SWAT

Two days before fellow incarcerated workers in the Free Alabama Movement were going to start a non-violent work strike. The St. Clair facility had a riot-gear clad SWAT team raid the prison, as requested by Warden Daven-

port. As Mentioned in the last issue of Incarcerated Worker, the Free Alabama movement has been organizing resistance against the exploitation and inhumanity of the prison system; including a mass-strike that made the private prison corporation, GEO corp. lose almost one million in profit.

March

4: Riots break out in juvenile facility in NV

Rite of Passage-Silver State Academy, a private-owned juvenile facility near Yerington, NV erupted in a revolt of juvenile inmates. The facility holds mostly Paiute Tribe youth and has been criticized for being under-staffed; youth outnumbered staff 3 to 1. There was a mass transfer of youth and an increase of staff after the riot ended.

8: Greek Ruling Party Offices Occupied in Solidarity with Striking Prisoners

Investigator assures me that this institution is not taking part in the reindeer games. Conduct report related to the JP4 devices is dismissed. Mahone and Stephens get their devices back. No investigator has ever been this cordial with me before.

Later, 5 June, the case manager gave me the initial paperwork related to my security review and status drop.

Just my assessment, but I think we have managed to reach a critical threshold. Not only is the institution here telling central office to fuck off, not only are they not getting involved, but it appears that there is an effort to flush me to lower security.



the strike he and the other Lucasville Uprising political prisoners engaged in to win contact visits with family and friends. The following is a brief timeline of the strike.

March 16 – Hunger strike begins with over 40 inmates at Ohio State Penitentiary in response to limited religious and educational freedoms, ban of recreational yard, and grotesque food servings. FW Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan is one of the leading

Anarchists occupy the party headquarters of the ruling popular leftist party, Syriza, in Athens. The occupation was in solidarity with hunger striking political prisoners of the militant radical group Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire. The IWW of Greece issued a statement of solidarity and call to action in support of the prisoners.

9: Inmates Stage Food Protest at Maximum-Security Nevada Prison

Two day long hunger strike was waged by 26 inmates in a Nevada supermax as a protest to the terrible food and lack of nutrition.

30: Karnes County Residential Center Hunger Strike Begins

78 Female migrant-worker detainees at Karnes County Residential Center started a hunger and labor strike. The Texas detention center is run by private-prison corporation, GEO corp. and has been a major site of corruption; i.e. rape allegations, contaminated drinking water, and

much more. One of the strikers stated in the strike proclamation, “ “[D]uring this [time], no mother will work in the detention center, nor will we send our children to school, not will we use any services here, until we are heard and approved: we want our FREEDOM.”

April

16: Reidsville GA Prisoners go on Hunger Strike over Conditions

At least 4 prisoners have gone on hunger strike in Reidsville Prison, Georgia. The prisoners are attempting to end a tier-based punishment system. This strike was also an effort to revive the statewide Georgia prisoner strike that flared international media attention in 2010.

17: Prison Abolitionists in Durham, NC stage weekly demonstrations to end 22hr in cell “Lockback,”

Weekly demonstrations by prisoner solidarity activists in Durham, NC end the 24-48 “lockback” routine

of the jail. The inmates lockdown time was reduced to 20hrs and the activists continue to pressure other demands like religious freedom and an end to bail.

29: Private Prison Protestors Converge at GEO Group’s Shareholder Meeting

Over 100 protestors demonstrate outside a GEO corp. shareholders meeting in Boca Raton, FL. Various groups were represented, and the demo was in solidarity with the striking migrant women; a strike which GEO group denied.

May

11: Inmates win settlement after claiming they were forced to sit naked in jail cells

Two young men were awarded \$15,000 each as a settlement for abuse in Alexander County jail, North Carolina. The young men were forced to sit naked in their jail cells for days at a time, allegedly as punishment for tattooing.



spokespeople during the strike. He was interviewed by numerous media groups and human rights organizations which gave the strike coverage all over the nation.

March 25 - OSP hunger strike reaches 2nd week. Administration refuses to budge on the demands of the strike. Outside supporters continue to put pressure on the prison administration via letter-writing and calling campaigns in support of the strikers’ demands.

April 14 - Warden starts to negotiate with the strikers around April 14th. To parallel the negotiations with the warden, activists start a solidarity rally for the hunger strikers outside of Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ODRC) office in the capital of Ohio, Columbus. FW Hasan states “Alice Staughton and I met with Warden Forshey last Friday and we are scheduled to meet with him again tomorrow. Depending on what he say about range rec, there is a good possibility this strike can end tomorrow or soon. We have al-

ready been informed that 5B group programming, among other things, will be reinstated. If the meeting is not productive, then we are prepared to continue with our hunger strike. Come what may, and let the wind blow wherever! Since the IV treatment Joseph Nagle seems to be doing all right. David Worley has high blood pressure and his blood level is still; thus, the medical staff is monitoring him very, very closely. Keith DeWitt is also being monitored by the medical staff. Everyone has lots a lot of weight--between 20 and 30 pounds. Some days are better than others, but we are continuing because we fully believe in the righteousness of our struggle. We are fighting the injustices imposed upon us. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently stated: ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ In closing, know that I’m well and determined to see this struggle through.”

April 24 - After negotiations, the majority of hunger strikers stop their strike. Several oth-

er prisoners stay on strike until some of their fellow strikers are treated in the medical unit. FW Hasan declared the strike to be a cease-fire, since some of the demands were met and other strikers need medical care. However, he says that a strike will resume in the future until all the demands of the strikers are met. Religious and educational restrictions were lifted, allowing incarcerated workers to congregate for religious services together and spiritual/educational aids can meet them in person instead of through a food-slot on a metal cell door. Food improvements were implemented, such as the ban on the infamous “nutra-loaf”, a whole meal crushed into a loaf served to inmates as a punishment. Aramark, the private-prison food contactor responsible for the food (including the loaf) still remains the main state contactor for prisoner food. Finally, one of the main demands that the warden refused to budge on was access to the recreation yard, due to risk of correctional officers’ safety.



America's Lap Dog: Britain Slavishly Copies American Penal Policy

John Bowden

A recent government announcement that it is considering U.S.-style prison sentences—like a hundred years for the most serious offences—is, on one level, a straightforward attempt to undermine a recent European Court of Human Rights Ruling, one that declared that life-sentenced prisoners should be given some hope that their sentences will be reviewed before they die. And, on another level, this is evidence that the Americanisation of the British criminal justice system continues to increase and deepen.

Apart from the probable introduction of prison sentences that are, in effect, a slow

form of capital punishment, an American penology has characterised the treatment of British prisoners for quite some time in the form of the “treatment model,” with its psychology-based programmes and courses. These programmes and courses are designed and inspired by Canadian and U.S. ideologies regarding “offending behavior,” which is attributed not so much to social and environmental causes, but more the individual pathology of the “offender.” So, the fact that the prison population is drawn disproportionately from the poorest and most-disadvantaged group in society is of absolutely no significance and, instead, a

crude behaviourist notion prevails; providing that prisoners can be re-socialised into behaving in a “normal” way, then “offending behaviour” can be exorcised from their thinking—before they are released back into the same desperate economic and social circumstances. Predictably, the “treatment model” with its programmes and courses has had absolutely no appreciable effect on recidivism rates.

As in American prisons, prison-hired psychologists in Britain have carved out a veritable industry for themselves in the pris-

continued on page 13



This artwork has been edited to assure that it complies with prison rules for distribution in your facility.

“Missouri Public Pretenders,” A.K.A. Missouri Public Defenders

Justin Johnson

I, as one of many indigent defendants accused of crimes, am forced to proceed with state-issued attorneys (public defenders) who do not fully pay attention to the ins and outs of their clients’ cases. They are piled up with so many cases and often neglect the attention, time, and effort needed to properly prepare for trial. Yes, they have passed the Missouri Bar Exam and have been allowed to practice law in Missouri, but they perform way below the customary skill and diligence that a reasonable, competent lawyer would exercise under similar circumstances. As a result, thousand of defendants are denied their constitutional rights guaranteed by the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

Convictions in Missouri seem to come from 75% neglect from the public defender and 25% actual facts and evidence. I am a prime example: I went to trial with

a public defender on a first degree murder charge. I ended up having a bench trial, which eliminated the presence of twelve jurors, leaving the judge alone to hear the facts and evidence. During the midst of my trial, the judge took it upon himself to leave the courtroom during a recess and was seen talking to the victim's family in the hallway without my public defender or the prosecutor present.

Since my public defender knew that this was not the normal practice—especially with the judge being the only “juror” in my case and he had no business talking to anyone outside of court, off the record—the public defender was supposed to call for a mistrial, but failed to do so.

The judge made a mistake and admitted to making that mistake on the record. Any competent attorney would have called for a mistrial immediately. This is just one of thousands of examples that can be given regarding public defenders' below-norm skills and performance during the handling of indigent cases.

Regardless of whether we are indigent or not, we deserve and should be provided the same level of representation that private counsel would give.

After having my life taken away from me by the judicial system for my public defender not being a true and sound legal aid, I question their true value of human life—because they are constantly throwing young and old, men's and women's lives away.

It is a right to have a sound client-counsel relationship, and if that level of communication and trust is not present, a client is not going to open up to counsel about facts regarding the case even if doing so may benefit the client in the long run. The public defenders do not make clients feel comfortable; they make the clients feel the public defenders are only there for pay checks and do not have the clients' best interests at heart. It does not make it any better that they only do the bare minimum required and they do not exercise their intellects to their capacities regarding certain mistakes.

Then, when at the point where the client cannot even communicate due to lack of trust and no longer wants to work with the attorney and contacts the attorney's supervisor to get the attorney removed from the case, the client does not hear from the supervisor and the supervisor does not remove the attorney. If the client does receive a letter from the supervisor, it states, “I've checked the file and everything seems up to par.”

I have been a victim of this. Now, by the public defender knowing the client has issues with counsel because those issues were expressed to the supervisor in full detail, it becomes personal. The public defender does not go out of his or her way from that point, even if there is otherwise a strong chance of winning the case.

I am once again forced to proceed with another public defender to represent me on my post-conviction relief petition due to lack of funds to hire private counsel. I guess it is no money, no justice, fairness nor proper representation by the state-appointed public defender.

Here is another example of neglect by my post-conviction relief public defender: One of the most important stages of post-conviction relief is when the defendant has to file what they call a Form 40-29.15, pro se. “Pro se” meaning representing oneself. After a defendant sends this motion to the trial court, the court appoints another public defender to represent the defendant through this procedure. After being appointed, the public defender has certain amount of time to file a motion to amend the motion the defendant filed pro se. My public defender abandoned my motion and let the time expire for her to file the amended motion. This, in one of the most important post-conviction stages for granting relief.

After I sent a motion to the court to have the public defender removed from my case due to abandonment, the court appointed her to my case again. If she abandoned my motion the first time, not showing any interest in completing the motion, was she

continued on page 9

What They Don't Want

De'Andre' Je'Rod Cothran

You may have thought so, but do you know how much prison officials dread that you should bring their institution under public scrutiny, especially while taking them to court? The word is, “exposure.” A lot of prison officials are criminals and, in most cases, very sadistic individuals who have yet to be exposed. They often assume—and they assume right --that most prisoners do not know their rights, while some prisoners neglect to seek remedy beyond the prison's established in-house administrative grievance system (which is only in place to discourage prisoners with a long, drawn-out process to hinder progress to the courts).

Exposure inevitably leads to awareness. Now I must ask, how would you conduct your criminal affairs if you knew that a federal judge and a great deal of the public is carefully watching your every move? Of course the answer is that you must likely would not continue engaging in those ill antics. Problems we prisoners face must be worked out from two sides: the inside and the outside. But how do we get outside help if the outside is unaware of our conditions (especially in cases of prisoners being assaulted by guards)? Exposure brings about changes to problems that exist, as well as prevention to potential problems. Expose them to the courts; get the “Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook” and “Prisoner's Rights Handbook” as I have. Expose them to the public; get with an I.W.W. member near you-- they make this easy.

Now, with all that said, I need to expose you to the happenings where I am, by exposing these people as I am encouraging you to do. I am a prisoner (D.O.C. #1111360) here at South Central Corrections Center, 255 West Highway 32, Licking, MO 65542. Prison officials here and over this institution are out of control. From December 2013 until July 2014 (at this writing), this prison has by far become the most violent

continued on page 11

Prisons: Factories of Hate

Rightwing Tory Justice Minister Chris Grayling's declaration in late April that prisoners would now be made to "earn" basic privileges by "working harder" probably wasn't just the usual "populist" promise to stick the boot into one of the most powerless and demonised social groups. During times of economic austerity and potential social unrest, scapegoating marginalised and outcast groups like prisoners is always useful as a means of deflecting and re-focusing public anger away from true culprits of the country's economic ruination-- in this case, Grayling's pals in the city of London. Behind the rhetoric and guise of "getting tough" on prisoners is the actual purpose of the prison industrial complex to turn prisons into privatised forced-labour factories.

Prisoners are, it seems, to become like third-world workers, a source of extremely cheap and compliant labour for multi-national corporations, a practice which, of course, draws its inspiration from the U.S. where one of the largest prison populations in the world has increasingly replaced outside

The Keeper vs. The Kept

King A

Missouri D.O.C. has formulated a scheme or plan of an old adage ad-duced to a situational mindset between the keeper and the kept; an historical superfluous act made into law whereas when one learned how to read or write, one simply faced prison time or death. It was forbidden. Being the last state to abolish slavery, thanks to the likes of comrade Dred Scott, Missouri and its penal system are resorting back to their old ways via this modern day of slavery. The few so-called whites in prison are just casualties of this war, deemed superficial, as to the greater good of this psychology.

The Keeper, with too much time on their hands, have come up with a new rule for those of whom visits the dungeon while being in the bowels of these dismal crypts.

unionised labour as a source of profit. [ED. NOTE: *The U.S. has THE largest prison population in the world.*] Under the U.N. Charter of Human Rights, forced labour is, of course, unlawful-- but prisoners don't seem to count; during times of economic crisis and burgeoning prison population, there is a cold rationale in the capitalist intention to focus its rapacity on those behind bars.

It also harks back to the original purpose of the Victorian-inspired model of what was then a modern prison system: to instill conformity and a work ethic into the rebellious poor. After decades of the control and containment model, prisons are to be returned to their original function as places where errant poor are taught their true place as producers of profit for the rich.

Of course, the tabloids that cheer Grayling's "get tough" treatment of prisoners and the whip-up molo support for him omit mention or question as to why prisoners are being forced to do work that the tabloids' unemployed readers could be invited to

do on a legally-enforced minimum wage. And whilst large corporations constantly "rationalise" their operations by shedding labour and creating unemployment, some of these same companies use prison cheap labour to top-up profits, all with the willing assistance of Grayling and his rich and powerful colleagues in the Tory government.

Not only is prison slave-labour an absolute negation of the basic human rights of prisoners, to which Grayling has now prevented any legal challenge from within jails by stopping legal aid for prisoner litigation cases, but is also the removal of a means of employment for many of those outside prison who are influenced by the lies and witch-hunting of the tabloids and an increasingly rightwing political establishment.

Grayling should also ponder this: forcing a slave-labour regime as a condition for basic privileges on prisoners serving increasingly longer sentences might just be a catalyst for some extremely expensive prison repairs further down the line.



The rule, which serves no penological purpose, and is pure theoretical, states that while existing in "Ad-Seg," one cannot express oneself to a different prison through mail. To write those of whom, who have become an extended family, due to time, memories, moments and life lessons shared together, are thereby treated as this country's terrorists and are not allowed to utilize a First Amendment right in the expression of free speech, or motion to redress the grievance procedure of this great folly. Writing comrades from the belly of the beast has been ruled out, even though it violates federal law-- First, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments (freedom of speech, freedom to motion for redress, cruel and unusual punishment, equal protection of the law, and due process of law).

The American stamp as we know it is almost obsolete, and the lack of usage has caused the price to skyrocket. M.D.O.C. has conceded in a great many of law suits that they expect prisoners to experience Ad-Seg during some part of their prison stints, and therefore rebutt prisoners' arguments as to atypical hardships faced while being in the dungeon. Quiet as kept, how does one expect justice (just us) to be served when faced with a cdv, when a co-worker is placed in a situation where he has the choice to find a prisoner guilty of a violation; doing anything other than that would be going against the same personnel he/she has pledged to serve with.

Comrades are requested to look at the cause and effect to overstand a particular situation, to gain insight at the overall view of it—to comprehend its purpose.

M.D.O.C. needs to be held accountable for their act of oppression. The corporal and blanket punishment used on an entire prison population is absurd, especially when they already have policy in place and rules that prohibit threats, exciting to riot, orga-

nize civil disobedience, and so on. It serves absolutely no purpose to prohibit a federal right that's guaranteed to even an alien in this country and, as such, the rule simply needs abolished... unless, of course, M.D.O.C. believes in spiritualism-- the belief that spirits

of the dead communicate in the living, and somehow can create mayhem on the so-called Keeper. What else can they be afraid of?



Public Defenders continued

going to do what really needed to be done the second time? Of course not. She was going to do the bare minimum, talk lawyer talk over my head, and act as if she did her best, clearing the case off of her caseload.

This goes on constantly, public defenders representing men and women ignorant of the laws, rules, and regulations, and the public defenders know that they are dependent on the attorneys' intellect; so the public defender fast-talks them, using their ignorance to the public defenders' advantage, just to seem as if they are doing their job.

Admittedly, not all of them act this way. Some truly care and take time to help clients and explain every step to the clients, and the majority of the good public defenders win their cases. I commend the ones who have their indigent clients' best interests at heart.

My whole case was neglected by my public defender, and as a result of that, I am fight-

ing to get my life back. I go through stressful times, times of feeling depressed and wanting to give up, times of being away from family and friends, times of feeling hopeless because I look at that paper that bears that "Life w/o" sentence with my name under it—all because the public defender failed to do her duty to her highest capacity.

A lot of guys I encounter take their public defenders' words for face value and once it is all said and done, challenging convictions and sentences, they give up and leave it at that because they put their trust in someone who is not on their side. Without any other options, they take public defenders as their only lifeline. Then they sit in prison for however the amount of time they are given, thinking they do not stand a chance of relief based on public defenders using phrases like, "I don't think the judge will do this or that." How would they truly know if they do not try?

But they only respond in that manner when they know we do not know any better.

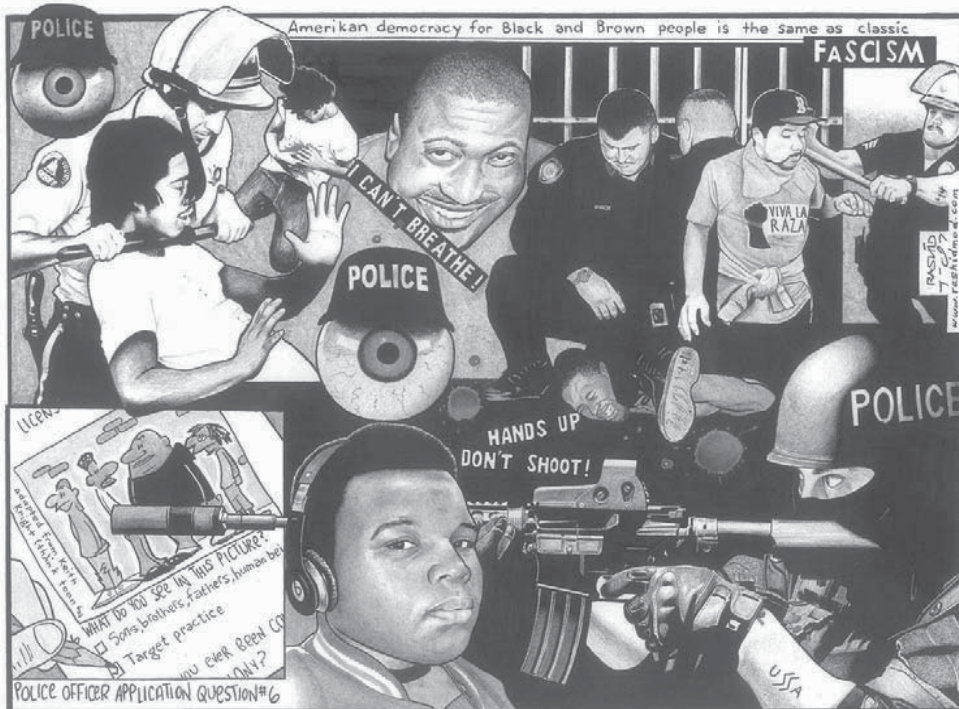
The whole public defender system needs to be revised and they need to monitor attorney performance; evenly spread the caseloads so the proper attention, effort, and action can be taken on indigent cases; hire more attorneys; and have a disciplinary system set up for attorneys who act below the norm. They could have rewards or contests that would include a bonus for the highest-performing attorneys. That may motivate them to do what they are paid to do-- diligently represent the indigent. This issue really needs to be addressed and if executed correctly, these solutions would reduce the number of indigent prisoners.

I am currently looking for a private, pro bono post-conviction attorney to represent me in the remaining stages of my 29.15 and later procedures, if necessary. If anyone has any information regarding a pro bono attorney or any other information which may help my cause of regaining my freedom, please feel free to contact me by mail at:

Justin Johnson #1124153
Southeast Correctional Center 1A 164
300 East Pedro Simmons Dr.
Charleston, MO 63834

Questions welcomed.

*To the public defenders:
Taking time to explain
can reduce the amount
of prison time and pain.*



Letter: Nebraska continued

the 1000 plus that live here. Those jobs include CSI woodshop and laundry and a few in the kitchen. So once again a group of inmates came together to make a list of things that need to be changed. This list was to be presented to staff at 2:30pm on 5-10-15. If talks were not opened, then work was to stop on 5-11-15.

At approximately 2:30pm, a group of about 65 inmates went to the main compound area when medical sick calls were called over the PA. When staff noticed the group, they were confronted. 17 staff members were trying to stop more from joining the growing group. As the list was given to the staff by an inmate, the staff became aggressive and pulled out large cans of mace and told the inmate who handed them the list to cuff up, at which time he asked why. Shortly thereafter, there was a melee with staff

spraying mace and inmates fighting back. Shots were fired from the gun tower and all became quiet as inmates and staff lay flat on the ground.

Staff regained control of the situation for a moment. They handcuffed a few and ID's the rest but before long, their verbal taunts became too much. The group stood as one and began marching around the compound. Inmates inside the housing units joined in at this time. Staff ran for cover locking everyone out of their housing units. The group of inmates marching on the compound tried to break into the gym to let out inmates that had been locked in. This is when they shot inmate Washington in his upper leg. As inmates attempted to give first aid, the tower rained down bullets. The only two hit were Washington and Camancho. Inmates then carried Washington to medical where they refused to

give him aid for some time before dragging him off by his arm to the medical sally port.

Once word got out, fires started burning. Hours later local and state law enforcement along with prison officers came in and regained the prison by force shooting inmates with less lethal rounds at point blank range. Some were already cuffed when they were shot. Inmates were taken to the education building until all were accounted for. Many inmates were left cuffed with hands behind their backs for 48+ hours.

At the time of this writing, that was 8 days ago. We have been receiving only (2) meals a day since with little or no way to make contact with our family or loved ones. What the future holds we do not know, but until there are no prisons left, we must fight.



Proletarian Consciousness continued

and oppression. Basically, it is our social practice that determines how we think and not how we think that determines our social practice.

“The proletariat has a strong sense of family commitment and unity and a sense of respect and commitment to the community. These values grow out of the routine of going to work each day in the social environment of the workplace to provide for the needs of one's family and not only maintaining employment but also engage in domestic labor in the home, rearing children, and taking part in the social life of the community. This requires and instills stability, discipline and responsibility as well as cooperation with one's peers.

“The class conscious worker can be of two sorts: the militant and the revolutionary. The militant worker takes the sense of commitment beyond the family into the workplace and will stand up to the bosses for workers' rights, even to the extent of jeopardizing one's employment, freedom, and safety by participating in strikes and job

actions. The revolutionary worker takes the sense of commitment even farther and challenges the oppressive social order to change the social relations for all and put an end to class exploitation and oppression once and for all. The revolutionary is inspired by a great love for the people and sense of duty to the masses and to future generations.

“The revolutionary worker doesn't swagger or boast and has little sense of ego. He or she is serious-minded and self-disciplined. The revolutionary knows that like a strike, the revolutionary struggle must be a unified mass struggle, and that it will take quite some time to succeed. Each contribution is important, and the end result is to benefit the overall society. In contrast to the proletarians' practice and outlook, the lumpen schemes and preys upon others to acquire survival needs and personal wealth, which renders him or her indifferent to the effects visited upon others and society as a whole.

“The lumpen mentality mirrors—on a smaller scale and with less sophistication—that of the big gangster (the monopoly cap-

italists), and amounts to a ruthless drive for immediate self-gratification, power, control and “respect” (even though their lifestyle is anything but respectable), through deception, corruption, violence and intimidation of others. These tendencies are what lies behind certain lumpen aspiring to be perceived as “crazy” and unpredictably violent.

“Translated into the revolutionary movement, the lumpen tendency has some thinking that militant swaggering, posturing, and “talking shit,” is acceptable behavior for revolutionaries which is very wrong and demonstrates political immaturity and lack of a true proletarian outlook. Such posturing leads to actions of a reactionary, adventurist and provocateur nature, that invites enemy attack that the movement is unprepared to deal with and alienates the masses...

“Also because they are conditioned to seek immediate and short term benefits in their practice, the lumpen generally lack the resolve to pursue and stick with tasks that require hard work and patience...

Don't Want continued

in the entire Missouri Department of Corrections-- multiple stabbings, rapes, riots, cell burglaries, inmate and guard assaults --and when you say, "I fear for my life, I need protective custody," they punish you by making you do 90 days in administrative segregation (Ad-Seg) before even thinking about putting you into a "PC" unit or transferring you.

In Ad-Seg, you are forced to cell with another prisoner wearing nothing but a shirt and boxer shorts and socks, violating prisoners' religion while promoting rape and also sexual exploitation of prisoners by guards. You are further subjected to overly-strict phone restrictions, denial of meals (especially breakfast) by guards like Sergeant Tidwell, 24-hour light exposure, and denial of showers and recreation. Then there is the common abuse of the chemical agents known as O.C. gas, mace, and pepper spray. Prisoners

are even being maced while handcuffed to a bench.

One prisoner, Tray Draper, D.O.C. Number 1228238, was maced in the face and slammed on the floor, all while cuffed, for talking to another offender; guards were upset about two guards being stabbed that day.

I am currently suing under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, a civil rights complaint because a guard, Greg Dugger, decided it was okay to spray me twice with an MK-46, a fire extinguisher-like cannister of chemical agent, and again with a smaller riot-can, and to throw me into a suicide cell while drenched in mace from head and face on down, simply because I had gone eleven days without eating on a hunger strike, while I was also observing my Ramadan fast.

You can follow developments in this case to see what kind of justice is served (Civil

Action Case No. 14-3267-CV-S-MDH-P). I am currently without counsel, but I am hoping to have counsel appointed. I am seeking \$200,000 due to permanent injuries and the fact that the officer could have killed me; the warden and other officials with authority over this institution have verbally deemed the guard's actions against me to be "appropriate and warranted."

This is the type of exposure that we want and need to bring about (first) awareness, collectiveness, and (then) a solution, not limited to or excluding prison alternatives all together, to the problems faced by prisoners-- which also effect our families. And please believe me when I tell you that this kind of exposure is what they do not want at all.

Let's make it happen.



"The motives behind revolutionary violence are fundamentally different from the reactionary violence of the lumpen who model their violence after that of the big gangsters. Revolutionary violence is rooted in the collective resistance of the masses organized against the violence of the big gangster bourgeoisie system of oppression and exploitation..."

Without remolding their class outlook, the lumpen will pursue ultra-leftist militant acts of exhibitionism and spew forth, "Off the pig!" rhetoric and when this provokes repression from the Establishment they will flip-flop to right opportunism, turn rat and become enemy agents or run for cover. Lacking correct analysis, self-discipline and patience, they will vacillate left to right and they will confuse one stage of the struggle for another and try to skip the stages that require hard work and tenacity.

"These elements disdain to apply the mass line, ignore the Democratic Centralism of the Party, fear criticism and self-criticism

and lean towards individualism and "commandism," indulging in personal attacks and attempts at intimidation and coercion of other Party members and the masses through threats and force. Their unremolded lumpen ideology is a corrosive to building Party unity and maintaining discipline and it makes them easy prey for recruitment by the enemy. The lumpen are capable of "the most heroic deeds and the most exalted sacrifices, or of the basest banditry and dirtiest corruption."

"A large part of our work in the NABPP-PC is to properly educate and re-orient the lumpen through ideological and political training and bringing as many of them who are capable of "the most heroic deeds and the most exalted sacrifices" into the active work of the struggle as possible..."

Because lumpen values have been deeply ingrained in the New Afrikan and general urban and prison culture, advancing revolutionary proletarian ideology is essential to building our Party, organizing

our mass organizations, revolutionizing prisoners and the oppressed masses in general, and consolidating the struggle against capitalist imperialism.

As quoted above, we promote proletarianizing prisoners through ideologically and politically training them in the principles and practices of class struggle and in the science of Revolution (Historical and Dialectical Materialism). But, there's yet another approach (which can turn a negative into a positive), namely by genuinely transforming prisoners' economic statuses from that of slaves into wage earning proletarians.

This can be done within the prison setting.

Our Party has already taken a firm stand in promoting abolishing prisoners' slave status (including amending the 13th Amendment to strike the clause that legalizes convict slavery) and granting them the right to vote (which is the fundamental component of citizenship), and abolishing the racist death penalty, indefinite solitary confinement, physical and mental torture, and other

humyn rights abuses. But an additional step in organizing prisoners, advancing our revolutionary consciousness and ranks, and preparing us for a more stable and productive reentry in to society is to demand prisoners' right to work for minimum wage and to union representation.

As part of and in addition to advancing proletarian consciousness, paying prisoners a real wage for their labor could help them support their families and build up a nest egg for when they get out to get a place to live, a car, survival and therefore greatly reducing recidivism. They could pay off fines and restitutions before they get out and be more likely to sustain relationships on the outside as well as retain legal services.

This would counteract warehousing of prisoners and reducing us to slaves, and instead promote proletarian consciousness and aspirations as a means of rehabilitation, which would include the right to organize and to strike. This would not be a move to legitimize the Prison Industrial Complex and the use of convict labor for profit (which the imperialists are already doing). But turning the conditions that they have created against us to our benefit and that of revolutionary organizing.

As Karl Marx pointed out, productive work is essential to womyn and mankind's very existence, that independent of meeting financial needs, people need productive labor—enforces idleness, corrupts and deteriorates the humyn character and is itself a humyn rights violation.

The lumpen are distinguished from unemployed workers because they do not look for work and avoid it—it is in this sense that they are “broken.” If given a choice, they prefer to steal, deal, hustle or pimp, living as parasites and preying on others—even killing their fellow humyns.

Proletarianizing the lumpen is the highest and only legitimate form of “rehabilitation.” Prisoners have a right to be rehabilitated as opposed to the humyn rights violation of being merely warehoused (unless the “criminal justice” system admits its real

design and intentions to be that of creating and unleashing predators to prey upon the general society), and this means freedom to sell their labor power and to collectively bargain over the terms of sale.

Enforced slavery contradicts the “inalienable” rights, as declared in the US Declaration of Independence, of all people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Beyond the security consideration inherent in incarceration, the state cannot be allowed to kill, cannot be allowed to deny the right—the liberty—to be a proletarian or to pursue meaning and purpose in life.

If society accepts that one must do time as punishment for a crime, then it follows that the time must productively serve the needs of the society by promoting the genuine rehabilitation of the incarcerated individual so that s/he will function as productive members of the society upon release.

Enslavement does not teach one how to be free. Abuse does not promote good citizenship or emotional stability. A criminal justice system will still be needed under socialism—to deal with anti-social criminal behavior. But our model must be a “school of liberation.” The principles of a genuine correctional system must be articulated and struggled for as part of the overall revolutionary struggle. The question is how should these prisons be run and what rights should the prisoners have that are inalienable and will promote rehabilitation and good citizenship.

Revolution is a birthing process, the new society forming in the womb of the old one. Through struggle we create more favorable condition for greater struggle. Nothing comes instantly. Changing social and economic relations must proceed and develop from a lower to a higher level.

As revolutionaries we want to transform the prisons into “Schools of Liberation” to provide the revolution with trained cadre and fighters. But on a deeper level we want to revolutionize social relations under capitalism to better enable us to revolutionize social relations under socialism and in the

advance to a classless society.

Our goal is not to make acceptance of wage-slavery more palatable and thus prolong the inequality, exploitation and injustice of capitalist-imperialism.

Our goal is to serve and advance the interests of the world proletarian revolution to abolish the system of capitalist-imperialism.

Toward this end we should seek to proletarianize the prisoner population through revolutionary political education, promoting revolutionary culture and as much as possible drawing them into proletarian social relations to the means of production.

Can the system altogether oppose the demand for the right to work and to collective bargaining through union representation? They do want to exploit convict labor. A concession on this issue would force the state to expand work industries bringing more prisoners into the workforce and counter the present model of long-term segregation.

Free world unions could be won to support the prospect of 2.5 million new dues paying members and an equally large electoral voting bloc. It's also possible to win criminologists and people in the criminal justice system to support this program.

Organizations like the National Council on Crime and Delinquency are already actively advocating increasing prisoners' wages to free world levels. The policy statement of the NCCD's Board of Directors reads in part:

“The present condition of prison industries limits the value of [work programs]. The deficiencies vary from prison to prison... The pay for inmates employed in prison is too low to be regarded as wages. The average prison laborer receives from ten cents to 65 cents a day. Few institutions pay inmate workers for a day's work what the federal minimum wage law requires for an hour's work. The rate of pay...is only a token...a daily rebuke to the inmate, reminding him [or her] of society's power to exploit at will.

“This counterproductive prison labor system must be changed. An inmate receiving equitable payment for work performed will

be able to provide some support for his [or her] family, continue payments on social security...make some payment for room and board, and save money to assist himself [or herself] upon return to society.

“Therefore the National Council on Crime and Delinquency urges the introduction of federal and state legislation requiring that an inmate employed at productive work in a federal, state, or local institution shall be paid no less than the minimum wage operative nationally or in his [or her] state.”

Developing prison labor unions is also a practical goal, as such institutions presently exist with beneficial results in other countries.

“Prison labor unions are not an American invention. The first successful prisoner labor union was organized in Sweden. Since 1966, the union, which represents the vast majority of Swedish prisoners, has carried out a long series of successful negotiations with the government. Every effort has been made to make the prisoners’ wages the same as free wages. Prisoners pay rent for their cells and board for their food. They are encouraged to pay their debts in the free community, including restitution to the victims of the crimes. They pay taxes and generally have enough left at the end of the month to save around \$50.

“Additional benefits from unionization have been a good working relationship with Swedish industry, widely available vocational training, safer prison factories, eligibility for workmen’s compensation and, perhaps most important of all, the democratic in-

Lap Dog continued

on system by subscribing to the belief that inequality, disadvantage and poverty have nothing to do with the reason most people end up in prison and, instead, everything to do with individual pathology—in the form of inherent personality disorders—and an inability to distinguish right from wrong. And again, as in the U.S., prison psychologists in Britain have now become an integral part of the system of control and repression in prisons, legitimising it with a language

involvement of prisoners in forming their own destiny.

“The union is credited with diminishing violence in prisons, lowering recidivism and making prisons more open institutions in Swedish society.” —Paul Comeau, Labor Unions for Prison Inmates

Amerika’s liberal democratic revolution of 1776, of which the Civil War (1861-1865) was a continuation, remains an unfinished revolution. The most glaring examples of this are the U.S. prison system and the continuation of the status of “slave,” the racist death penalty (legalized lynching) and the institutionalized racism, sexism and humyn rights abuses that constitute “legally sanctioned torture.” Until the inalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is extended to all in Amerika—including those convicted of crimes—the Liberal Democratic Revolution remains unfinished. To bring this stage to its completion and move forward to socialism the proletariat must lead this struggle. Democracy leads to socialism and Democratic revolution leads to Socialist revolution.

The slave emancipates her/himself by becoming a proletarian and the proletarian emancipates her/himself by the abolition of classes. Recognizing that the bourgeoisie are no longer a progressive and revolutionizing force as they were in 1865 when they overthrew the chattel slave system, in fact they have become reactionary to the core and increasingly fascist and anti-democratic, the proletariat must lead in completing

and narrative of “treatment” and addressing prisoners’ “needs” and “risks.” So entrenched have psychologists now become in the prison system that, like their American counterparts, they often willingly assist in the use of the worst forms of repression against prisoners labeled the most “difficult” and “unmanageable.” American prison officials’ penchant for euphemisms to disguise the reality of its worst practices and forms of punishment—such as “special management units” where,

the democratic revolution and carry it forward to make socialist revolution to put an end to the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

We are not calling for an all new Democratic revolution, but there is unfinished business that clearly falls under liberal democracy, and resolving it moves us forward towards socialist revolution.

Towards this end, the New Afrikan Service Organization (NASO) should outline a comprehensive program for Transforming the Razor Wire Slave Plantations into Schools of Liberation. This program should include amending the 13th Amendment, abolishing the death penalty and life without parole, establishing voting rights for prisoners, job training and the right to work and union representation, education and cultural programs, religious freedom and self-help programs, freedom of correspondence between prisoners, an end to political censorship, etc. It should call for a national task force of humyn rights abuses and institutionalized racism and sexism to investigate the federal, state and local prisons and jails.

The program should be based upon the NABPP-PC’s 10 Point Program in its minimal form—ending the slave status for prisoners and establishing our status as proletarians, and from there moving forward to proletarian socialist revolution.

Dare to struggle—Dare to win!

All Power to the People!



in fact, prisoners are clinically isolated and psychologically brutalised—is a tendency that finds expression in British prisons now. “Close Supervision Units” and “Intensive Intervention Units,” overseen and managed by both jail administrators and psychologists, are also places where “difficult” prisoners are subjected to extreme punishment and a denial of basic human rights, often to the extent that many are driven to insanity.

The American “treatment model” of prisons probably finds its most extreme expression in the U.K. prison system in the form of “Dangerous Personality Disorder Units” (DPDU) created and overseen by psychologists from the psychopath-spotter school of psychology that defines all “anti-social” behaviour on the part of the least powerful and least wealthy as symptomatic of psychopathology. In the totalitarian world of prison, either fighting the system or confronting the institutionalised abuse of power that prevails there is sufficient to be labeled a “psychopath” by psychologists who are anchored—mind, body and soul—to the prison system. In the case

of life-sentenced prisoners, such psychologists now have the power to decide if they are sufficiently risk-free to ever be released.

It is not just within the prison system that the American influence is apparent, it is also recognisable in the radically-changed role of probation officers and criminal justice system social workers, from what was traditionally “client-cantered” liberal occupations to an overtly “public protection” cantered extension of the police and prison system. Now a closer equivalent to the American parole officer, probation officers and criminal justice system social workers in

the U.K. now see their roles as policing parolees or “offenders” on supervision orders and returning them to jail for the slightest, technical breach of their license conditions.

The massive increase in the use of community supervision orders as a form of social control has created a veritable ghetto of marginalised people in poorer communities who exist constantly in the shadows of imprisonment and the omnipotent power of their supervising officers. This mirrors what has been taking place in some U.S. states as the global economic crisis has virtually eradicated legitimate employment in poor communities and replaced it with an alternative economy of illegal drugs, resulting in the almost-mass-criminalisation of young working-class men, especially those from poor African-American communities. In such deprived communities, prisons now replace factories where the new underclass are increasingly concentrated and forced to work as cheap labour for multinational private-security corporations that now own and operate a significant portion of the American prison system. This new prison industrial complex is laying roots in the U.K. too, and it is from the poorest industrialised communities that it draws its sources of cheap labour and human commodities.

This U.S. cultural influence on the criminal justice system is far greater in the U.K. than anywhere else in Europe, which accounts for the U.K. having the largest prison population and the longest prison sentences in Europe. It is also forever vulnerable to the American-style prison riot when despair and hopelessness overshadow prisoners’ lives completely and there is essentially nothing left to lose. As a model of either justice or retribution, the American criminal justice system is riddled with corruption and failure, and yet Britain slavishly attempts to imitate it—in its quest to achieve absolute social control at a time when the lives of the poor are being made increasingly unendurable, and society continues to fracture and polarise.

John Bowden is currently resident at HMP Shotts.



Why Should Free World Workers Care About Prisoners?

While the majority of prisoners committed crimes to end up in prison, we have to keep in mind that the extremely wealthy who control the “commanding heights” of the economy have created desperate situations that lead to crime. Poverty, crumbling schools, widespread unemployment and under-employment-- these are all conditions created by a maldistribution of wealth and power. Prisons, then, are a way to punish those without opportunities; prisons punish those effected while giving a free pass to the wealthy who are the cause of crime.

While the vast majority of prisoners commit crimes to end up in prison, we also have to keep in mind that government has criminalized just about every human activity. The U.S. has more criminal statutes than any other nation in history. As a consequence, selective enforcement of these laws in poor areas where police are most heavily concentrated serves political, economic, and demographic interests totally unrelated to crime or crime control. The more “radical” element who may pose a challenge to the wealthy and powerful is silenced and neutralized while more wealth and power is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

The prison industrial complex has created a kind of “third world colony” right here in the United States. Prison systems outsource prisoners for slave labor to major corporations for pennies per day. Prisoners perform data entry and work auto industry jobs that used to belong to free world workers. The workers left unemployed become the desperate criminals of tomorrow, getting locked up and getting their old union job back... in the prison factory... for pennies per day...

Those in prison today are your neighbors tomorrow. Freed prisoners won't live in gated communities with Fortune 500 executives; freed prisoners move in next door to you. As a practical question, do you want a fellow worker with community activism and labor organizing experience moving next door and using those skills to create a

functional life, or would you prefer a bitter, desperate, unemployable criminal with no prospects and little or nothing to lose?

The modern prison system is the government's “canary in the coal mine.” All of the strategies and tactics for surveillance, crowd control, and population pacification have been perfected on prisoner populations before being employed in the free world. Mass surveillance including centralized monitoring via security cameras and the collection of communications meta-data originate in prison; response tactics such as the use of tasers and pepper spray, “kettling” unruly mobs, and formations of phalanxes behind riot shields all arise from corrections applications. Even the use of torture was employed on prisoners before going mainstream. How authorities have pushed prisoners is soon how the authorities push the workers. So, the conditions that prisoners are allowed to suffer today become the conditions imposed on workers tomorrow.

Personal feelings about crime aside, the interests of workers and the working class are bound together with the interests of prisoners. In fact, those who truly would like to see crime diminish should work for prisoner-worker solidarity, empowering prisoners and expanding the labor market, widening opportunities and prosperity that pose as a real alternative to crime.



Phil Afrika

Rest in Power Brother Phil Afrika! 1956-2015

This issue of the *Incarcerated Worker* is dedicated to the memory of fallen political prisoner Phil Afrika. Phil Afrika was a member of the MOVE organization. MOVE was a naturalist Black Liberation organization founded by an ex-Black Panther John Afrika. The group lived in a commune in Philly that had been a target for police repression because of their political views. A stand-off against police landed 9 MOVE members in prison, including Phil Afrika in 1978. Then, in 1982 Philly police firebombed the MOVE commune burning a whole city block and killing 11 people, including 5 children. Ramona Afrika was one of the two survivors of the infamous bombing. She helped win a settlement from the city of Philly for the bombing, and continues to fight for the freedom of the remaining 7 MOVE prisoners. Ramona Africa, a spokeswoman for Move, said on its website that Mr. Africa was the second of the nine defendants to die in prison, and described his death as suspicious.



“This is another example of how the system hates Move and will do anything to stop Move,” she said, adding, “Phil was a father figure to many.”

Rest in Power brother Phil Afrika! 1956-2015.

Sources: Wikipedia and <http://onamove.com/phil-afrika-new-york-times-obituary/> (from official MOVE website)

Why Should Prisoners Join The IWW?

The majority of people in prison will get out and return to prison again. The prison system creates a class of people unable to successfully advocate for themselves, robbing them of necessary skills, catching them in a revolving door.

Prisons are used for economic purposes. Prisons are a way to lock up the unemployed and to create desperate people to work rotten jobs at low pay. This serves the interests of the rich and powerful and it harms the workers and the poor.

Prisons are used for political purposes. Prisons lock away the poor, those who are in favor of more “radical” solutions. Taking away votes and power from the poor communities, prisons ensure that politicians will be puppets of the war mongers and fear mongers.

Prisons are used for demographic purposes. Black men are the largest segment of the prison population. Black women are the fastest growing segment of the prison population. Prisons are used to maintain racial inequalities.

Children with at least one parent in prison are far more likely to go to prison also. Children of prisoners are the prison population of tomorrow. The cycle continues for generations.

You cannot change this situation through a grievance process that doesn't work... or through courts that are clearly against you... or through petitions to lawmakers who don't care about you because you don't vote... or through hungerstrikes against prison officials who want you to starve... or through letters to newspapers who have ignored this situation for decades...

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



We know what will happen if you DON'T join the Industrial Workers of the World. Let's see what happens when you DO.

Prisoner membership is FREE. Join the Industrial Workers of the World TODAY!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

