

Marilyn Buck: One of the longest held Political Prisoners in the world

Marilyn Buck has spent her adult life in prison. Does Marilyn pose a threat to anyone? NO! Then why is she still in prison? We can look to the last indictment she faced for a succinct answer: "Resisting the Policies and Practices of the United States Government." She is a white woman who has sacrificed her freedom in a life-long stand against white supremacy and imperialism.



Marilyn was born December 13, 1947 in Texas, her mother a nurse and her father an Episcopal minister. Marilyn began her anti-racist activism as a teen in the segregated state of Texas. As a college student, she organized against the war in Vietnam. In the 1970s she worked with a film distribution collective in San Francisco, Third World Newsreel, and was active in supporting the Black Liberation struggle. At the age of 26 she was convicted of purchasing two boxes of ammunition and sentenced to ten years for ammunition possession! This sentence was unprecedented and indicative of the harsh reaction that Marilyn Buck and other political prisoners have faced and continue to face for taking a stand.

POLITICAL CONVICTION

Marilyn after four years received a prison furlough but did not return. Subsequently she was captured along with New Afrikan independence advocates and later other anti imperialist militants. Marilyn was tried and convicted on a number of charges including: conspiracy for the escape of Assata Shakur from a New Jersey prison (Assata remains a leading voice for Black Liberation from her exile in Cuba); conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery in support

for the New Afrikan independence struggle; and as an anti-imperialist, for the bombing of the United States Capitol Building, a response to the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the bombing of Lebanon by U.S. warships.

MARILYN'S TOTAL SENTENCE IS 80 YEARS assuming the government does not contrive some other way to go after her, the earliest she can get out is 2011. She will be 64 years old. She is currently eligible for parole. There is no reason she should not be released except for the government's relentless intent to make an example of her.

SPEAKING OUT

Marilyn has continued to speak out against injustice, using the written word as a powerful instrument for connection to the outside world. She has written poetry and essays in an effort to resist the daily death to the spirit that prison is designed to be. She is an accomplished poet, winning the PEN Prison Writing Award for poetry in 2001. She has published a chapbook of poems, *Rescue the Word*, a poetry CD, *Wild Poppies*, with recordings of her own poems and contributions by other great poets. Marilyn participates regularly in writing workshops and has finished her degree Master's of Fine Arts in Poetics.

Despite the system's attempts to stifle her and the nearly one hundred other political prisoners who languish in U.S. prisons, Marilyn continues her activism. Joining with other political prisoners internationally she issued one of the early calls to save Mumia Abu-Jamal's life. She continues to engage the progressive movement about critical issues of state repression, censorship and conditions faced by incarcerated women,

as well as the necessity of building a movement for the release of political prisoners.

For those of us who know Marilyn personally, she is a steadfast friend and comrade. For those of us who know her by her example, her continuing commitment through the worst of circumstances is an inspiration. Marilyn's absence from our community is a terrible loss. We cherish her integrity and her incredible strength of spirit. It's time to bring Marilyn, and all U.S. held political prisoners home. We need her voice. Join us in celebrating her art and supporting her release.

When I think of Marilyn as a preacher's daughter, I think of her as someone who wrestled with the moral problems of our times, and who was not afraid to take principled positions around those issues. Marilyn had a choice. She could have remained silent, she could have reaped the benefits of white-skin privilege, but instead she chose the path of righteousness ... she has defended the have-nots, the powerless, and as a woman she has struggled for the liberation of all women... the only reason that she remains incarcerated is because of her political activism... She needs and deserves the support of all those who are committed to freedom and the abolition of pain and suffering on this earth. She deserves to be supported, she deserves to be respected and she deserves to be free.

—Assata Shakur, Havana, Cuba

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT MARILYN BUCK:

Support Amnesty and release of political prisoners

Speak out and act out against injustice.

For more on Marilyn, see her profile in *Can't Jail the Spirit: Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the United States* and on the web at prisonactivist.org/pops+pows/marilynbuck and at freedomarchives.org/wildpoppies.

You can write to Marilyn directly at this address:

Marilyn Buck
#00482-285
5701 8th St.,
Federal Correctional Institution
Camp Parks
Unit C,
Dublin, CA 94568.

Order her poetry book (\$5.00 per copy) plus \$5.00 shipping and handling, send a check made out to "LSPC/MJB" and mail to LSPC, 1540 Market #490, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Order the *Wild Poppies* poetry CD, Send check or money order for \$12 (\$13 in Canada) (includes shipping) to The Freedom Archives, 522 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 863-9977, info@freedomarchives.org.

Send donations to the Friends of Marilyn Buck Committee, checks made out to "LSPC/MJB" and mail to LSPC, 1540 Market Street #490, San Francisco, CA 94102.

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF MARILYN BUCK

c/o Legal Services for Prisoners w/ Children
1540 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

CONFESSIONS BEFORE THE ORCHESTRA

Photographs: hooded man wired
naked men in piles
torture nightmares in daylight

zombied people stalk
the earth crushed bones
restless and numb

where to flee
the torturer lives next door
wears guard gear
stand-ins for shades in civilian clothes

the prez spits on Geneva
I don't need you, bitch
don't hang on me, don't beg
I do what I want
call me Capt. America

tortured and maimed
buried in hidden cells, American jails
can't call anyone
tongues tripped
wired into confession
lies dried in red ink
manufactured consent
plucked out
like eyeballs
electrical persuasion, cattle prods
and dogs, raped
no sleep disorientation humiliation

*Tell me what I did ...
Whatever you say I did I did*

guilty
guilty
symphonic guilt composed by scholars
orchestrated by SOA "professors"
played by intelligence musicians on homebodies
and world bodies

Capt. America's death dirge

"tortures justice"

—Marilyn Buck
Political Prisoner, Federal Prison,
Dublin, California
March 2005

