

Prison Action News
PO Box 832
Watertown, MA 02472



PAN

VOLUME 8.2

AUGUST 2015

Prison Action News is a newsletter for prisoners worldwide to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. All submissions must be **RECEIVED by January 1st or July 1st** and be in compliance with the guidelines below. Please note that we retain the right as editors to alter submissions for grammatical and content-related issues. Prison Action News is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement. We believe that the writing in Prison Action News is as important as poetry or political essays, but is often less represented.

History:

The idea for Prison Action News came out of the 2007 Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Network gathering. We wanted to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. As people on the outside, we can facilitate this dialog of prison resistance, and help our comrades stay informed about the inspiring actions others are taking. We accept submissions from prisoners and prison groups worldwide, and bilingual writing. With your help this newsletter will be a success- if you know of resistance taking place that is not represented here, please send us a submission, and spread the word!

Please send ALL SUBMISSIONS, SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS and ADDRESS CHANGES to:

Prison Action News PO Box 832 Watertown, MA 02472
prisonactionnews@riseup.net

Guidelines

1. A submission must not exceed 500 words.
2. We will not accept submissions with racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language.
3. An update may be a report on resistance activities of individual prisoners or prison groups (this can include, but is not limited to, radical book groups, hunger strike, general strike, letter writing campaigns, etc.).
4. A report should not be a political essay or a report on prison conditions, rather, the response and resistance to these conditions.
5. PAN accepts entries of artwork and illustrations.
6. One submission per group, per prison, per newsletter.
7. We will not report on gang activity.
8. We accept bilingual entries (when one language is English), as well as Spanish entries! *Aceptamos la escritura en español.*
9. Entries may be submitted for publication by prison groups and organizations, or individuals, and may be submitted for publication with the name and contact information of the writer, or anonymously, to protect their identity.

PLEASE MAIL US YOUR ART FOR FUTURE ISSUES!!!

"All is for all! If the man and the woman bear their fair share of work, they have a right to their fair share of all that is produced by all, and that share is enough to secure them well-being. No more of such vague formulas as "The Right to work," or "To each the whole result of his labour." What we proclaim is "The Right to Well-Being: Well-Being for All." Peter Kropotkin - The Conquest of Bread (1907)

Cover Artwork by Muwsa Green

There has been a calculated war on prisoners' immune systems that has gotten more vociferous with every decade. The immune system is weakened and attacked by processed food and drink additives, toxic chemicals, chemical farming, vaccinations, electromagnetic and microwave technology and frequencies, pharmaceutical drugs, the stress of modern life, and long-term sentences in solitary confinement. Thymus Gland is a form of stress that weakens our immune system and activates our cancer cells, causing sickness also. Wherefore, the Department of Corrections turns a blind eye into a conscious mind, and I am sharing this information to others. Please write to: Cornerstone Legal Group LLC, D. Wesley Cornish, Esq, 1510 Cecil B. Moore Ave Suite 301, Philadelphia, PA 19121 if prisoners at Fayette would like to be part of a class action lawsuit against Fayette. Also write to: Food Safety and Inspection Service 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington DC 20250; Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton rd., Atlanta, GA 30333.

Peace

Editor's note: The Abolitionist Law Center is also working on this case. Contact them at: PO Box 8654, Pittsburgh, PA 15221



Calif (pg. 27) this is an 8th amendment deliberate indifference case. It also falls under “Americans with Disabilities Act.” 42 USC § 12132 Brock v. Wright (315 F.3d. 158 2nd Circ 2003) is a good case to start with.

Always remember that you must exhaust all administrative remedies before any civil suit can be filed. The P.L.R.A. Is strictly enforced throughout the US District Courts. Make copies of everything.

I get released in 27 months. I’ve got many issues that I’ll be working on at the state and federal levels across the country. Things can and will change.

We get the prisons cleaned up, the rate of people spending unnecessarily long sentences locked up is going to drop. That in turn means less people coming back! Those in Texas can write Concerned Christians for Inmates PO Box 161094 San Antonio TX 78201. Ask for resources.

Let’s do this right! Stop using violence!! It gets nothing but gets you more time.

Stay strong!!

Robert E. Upton 803710

Clements Unit

9601 Spur 591

Amarillo, TX 79107

Water Crisis at SCI Fayette - April 2015

I, Muwsa Green, am a prisoner at SCI Fayette, PO Box 9999, LaBelle, PA 15450, and I am writing this letter from a cell about the health crisis here at Fayette. Prisoners such as myself are exposed to toxic coal waste, have inability to escape from these harmful conditions of confinement. What is clear is that the prison was built on top of a former coal mine, and it is directly adjacent to MCCs Matt Canestrale Contracting Inc. coal ash dump. See Pennsylvania map atlas: <http://www.minemaps.psu.edu> (last visited July 30, 2014). Between January 2010 and December 2013 seventeen prisoners died while at SCI Fayette [PA DOC Inmate Death Register (2010-2014)]. Eleven of these deaths (64.7%) were due to cancer, six reported to (HRC) Human Rights Coalition stating they were diagnosed with cancer. Ron Hostovich CFMM stated in Muwsa Green grievance #424532 dated 8/22/12: “Here at Fayette water supply is safe to drink.” However, I ask the question: where did these cancer sicknesses come from since your water is safe? He gave me no answer. I’ll answer for Ron Hostovich. Prisoners cannot catch cancer from unprotected sex. Cancer cells are in all human beings’ bodies already. The spreading of cancer to other parts of the body (metastasis) is caused by ‘malignant’ cells escaping from their origin. Therefore, this is not the case at all. The spread of cancer is triggered by the real cause of cancer, the Candida fungus, escaping from the original source. What allows cancer to manifest is a weakened immune system. When the immune system is working efficiently, it deals with the problem before it gets out of hand. In this case, it keeps happening as cancer numbers worldwide have soared and soared.

Prisson Action News Volume 9 Issue 1, February 2016, will be a special issue, featuring only writings by women, trans* people, and gender-nonconforming folks. These are voices that we wish we saw more in every issue of PAN, and in order to raise them up, we are dedicating the next issue entirely to their stories of resistance. If submitting to the issue, please identify yourself in a note to PAN as one of the above identities. Any articles submitted that are not clearly written by people identifying as the above will be held until the following issue.

Please note, Prison Action News CAN accept donations of stamps or envelopes, but can NOT accept checks or money orders, as we do not have a bank account.

Correction from PAN 8.1:

In Brandon Drewry’s article from Cushing ME: Case number should be Fed. District Court in Bangor, ME. No. 1:14 – CV – 00392 – GZS – Brandon B. Drewry v. Correct Care Solutions, et al.

In honor of Black August, we remember the BLACK AUGUST MARTYRS

- We remember the execution of Troy Davis on September 20, 2011, in Jackson, Georgia.
- 18 year old Michael Brown, August 9, 2014, by Ferguson, Missouri Police.
- Ezell Ford, killed by Los Angeles Police in his Florence neighborhood August 13, 2014.
- Eric Garner, killed in a chokehold by Police on Staten Island July, 2014.
- Omar Abrego, father of (2), killed August 2, 2014, by Los Angeles Police. He died a result of a severe beating at a traffic stop using batons.
- John Crawford, III, killed by cops in a Dayton, Ohio Walmart August 5, 2014 while shopping.
- Renisha McBride, 19, killed November 2, 2013, by a white Dearborn, Michigan homeowner when she asked for assistance after a car accident.
- Panther Lil Bobby Hutton, killed by Oakland Police April 6, 1968, shortly before his 18th birthday.
- Freddie Carlos Gray, Jr., killed by Baltimore Policeman, tased and then shot in the back as he attempted to run away at a traffic stop April 12, 2015.
- Malcolm Latif Shabazz, was beaten to death in Mexico City, Mexico, May 9, 2013, by two club waiters over a dispute for entertainment plus a bar tab, during a tour there to demand more rights for Mexican construction workers relocated in U.S.
- We also remember many more people of color who were killed at the hands of the police in the U.S.A.

(A Message of Black August Remembrance from the New Afrikan Black Panther Party)

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Disclaimer:

Disclaimer: The content of the PAN newsletter is intended solely for information and education. Descriptions and claims appearing in PAN have not been independently verified and should be considered unsubstantiated. Moreover, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the perspective of any individual involved in its content or production. Likewise, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of any recipient or of any individual or group mentioned in PAN. This newsletter in no way encourages or supports any illegal behavior. PAN only intends to provide a printed forum for conversation and news. We regret if any PAN entry or passage is misconstrued as a violation of state and/or federal regulations.

Resource list:

A Book you want
PO Box 16141
Rumford, RI 02916
They offer many services for the incarcerated including a pro-bono lawyer list for your state.
Include a S.A.S.E.

Love and light,

Anthony Nastatos
JTVCC 362099
1181 Paddock Rd.
Smyrna, DE 19977

San Francisco Bay View
National Black Newspaper
4917 Third St.,
San Francisco, CA 94124
415-671-0789
Covers the issues concerning everybody that we often never hear about.

Amarillo TX - May 2015

Hello everyone! You can't resort to violence to get things accomplished. By doing so, they win! These problems have been going on for a long time. Therefore, you've got to go through a process to break things down. It's not going to happen overnight.

Before I get too far, I've got medical news! Gilerd Sciences Company has released a new drug for Hepatitis C patients. It's called Sovaldi! It's supposed to cure Hepatitis C within weeks or months of taking the pill once a week for up to 12 weeks. Now, whether or not the systems want to pay the \$1000 a pill is anybody's guess. Total cost is approx. \$84,000.00. If you've got Hepatitis C you need to get family to check into it. Contact state reps to see if they can get a lower cost for bulk purchase.

Now, PAN 8.1 was filled with problems that everybody continues to struggle with. We've got to keep pushing forward in order for things to change.

New Boston has to get family to keep calling and writing state reps. As with anything else, lots and lots of outside influence can get things moving in the right directions. These state reps are elected officials. They start getting phone calls about problems, they'll do something if told they won't be getting votes if changes aren't made. Everybody needs to remember we're in an election cycle. A lot of senators are up for reelection. Family and friends need to tell these politicians that they can be replaced.

Warren, ME: you need to research "color of law" cases for the 1st circuit. You've got a serious deliberate indifference case, that can be won. 8th amendment violations are rampant throughout the prison systems. Read Estelle V. Gamble (429 US 97 (1976)).

Texas Courts (pg. 19), see above! 8th Amendment cases are tough! Now's the time to get your family involved. This has judicial misconduct all over it. You need to contact state commission on judicial conduct: 300 W 15th St. Suite 415, Austin TX 78751 (512)-463-5533.

On April 8, 2015, I reached out to Deputy Commissioner Thomas Dickhout and asked him to move Herbert Earl to the end-of-life unit at the DOC's hospital where his pain could be properly managed. On April 16, 2015 MCI Shirley Warden, Kelly Ryan, wrote me stating in part, "I thank you for your concern. As you are aware, inmate Earl is receiving 24 hour medical care." On Friday April 17, 2015, 24 hours later, Herbert Earl died in that bed in the Skilled Nursing Facility, doubled over in pain, and Rome Burned as Nero Fiddled...

We need compassionate medical release vehicle here in Massachusetts. Please help us bring that to fruition by supporting our efforts.

Timothy J. Muise
PO Bo 1218
Shirley, MA 01464

Smyrna, DE - March 2015

Dear Prison Action News,
As I was reading Volume 8.1 of PAN Feb 2015 I came across a graphic on page 35 that reads "Don't keep calm – more black men are in prison today than there were enslaved in 1850." I'd like to take this truth another step.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." - US Constitution.

Slavery was never abolished. In reality, there are more slaves today of every color than there ever were, period.

We must stop helping the prison industrial complex. We must stop working for them. Are our souls worth pennies an hour? No! We must not fold to their will. We must stop kneeling to them. We must stop signing our lives away. We must stop signing pleas.

We must gain the lust for battle. We must follow our blood back to the proud warriors we are. We must go to trial. We must be willing to suffer without. We must taste the sweetness of victory.

Without our help, without our souls, the prison system could not afford the chains that shackle us. They could not spare the time to crucify us. They could not form the bricks that bottle us.

Go to trial. Refuse to work for them. Go to the law library. File every motion you can. Flood the system with paperwork. Deprive the system of its resources. Don't fight your fellow inmate, unite with them. Gather all resources you have and spread them.

NEW PRISON GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

The New Underground Railroad Movement June 2015

The New Underground Railroad Movement is a grassroots inside-outside organization that recognizes that the institutionalization of mass incarceration is the greatest civil rights and social issue we are faced with today. The New Underground Railroad Movement is dedicated to shutting down the "prison industrial complex" through tactical, organizational and grassroots work strikes, boycotts and class conscious empowerment.

The New Underground Railroad Movement was born out of the premise that the prisoner must be involved in his own liberation. If the prisoner is not involved in the transformation process of his oppressive reality, if he is not involved in the praxis of developing an inquiry of his own humanity – in order to first recognize his chains, then break free of them – then the prisoner is submerged deeper in the reality of his oppression by failing to be recognized for his role as an active participant in his freedom.

The prisoner must be his own example in the struggle for his liberation. And any individual, group or organization whose work involves abolition of any part or effect of the prison industrial complex cannot deal with the prisoner, in ideology or practice, as mere subjects waiting to be saved or answered for, but must work in solidarity with prisoners, understanding that it is only in dealing with the day to day realities that prisoners face, articulated from the prisoner's praxis of experiences, that the true and sustaining solutions are to be found and sought for.

All work done on behalf of prisoners must start with the prisoners' needs, and the ascertaining of the prisoners' needs must start with a dialogue that grants the prisoner the opportunity to deal critically and creatively with his reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of his chains. A person learns to swim in the water, not in a library. As well, the prisoner will not become free by reading about what organizations are initiating on his behalf; he or she must get in the water!

As a prisoner class, we need a seat at the table. The New Underground Railroad Movement seeks to establish a chapter in every prison and county jail in America and invites prisoners as well as the groups and organizations who work on behalf of prisoners' rights and freedom to join us in organizing and carrying out the praxis of our liberation and the abolishment of the prison industrial complex.

Goals and objectives

– To promote the development and organization of our common praxis as a prisoner-worker class with the understanding that the prisoner cannot be truly rehabilitated unless he is allowed to create his world through his labor, not be exploited by it.

– To promote and develop the understanding that as a prisoner class, it is our labor that carries out the cause and effect of not only the inordinate sentences we are given in the unjust courts of America, but the perpetration of laws and policies that keeps us in prison and bargains on our return to prison via high recidivism.

- To promote and develop the understanding that the “criminal justice system” is a commercial instrument and is concerned about capital investments gained by warehousing prisoners for profit and working with individuals and organizations to wake up the masses and seek solutions where we are no longer exploited by this system.
- To promote and develop the understanding that we could have a real impact if we organize around our labor contribution. The prison industrial complex cannot afford to lose our labor and the economic support given by citizens who buy prison-made products or do business with companies allied to the prison industrial complex. Cut off the economics in order to change the policies!
- To promote and develop the understanding by all prisoners that we have to start being honest with ourselves about our conditions and the fact that we aren’t doing anything about it. Giving money to a lawyer is a pipedream. Being a mental slave to ignorance, which causes one to be dependent upon a lawyer or a judge to administer justice for a constitutional violation, is hype.
- To promote and develop the understanding that it is counterproductive to rehabilitative efforts to continue to label prisoners according to their crime 10, 15, 20 years later; and that there should be some up to date process to measure a prisoner’s rehabilitation or lack thereof.
- To promote and develop a Prisoners Bill of Rights wherein education, re-entry preparedness and rehabilitation are the priority – not free labor. These systems can’t function without our labor. When we take our labor back, only then will prisoners get back to the correction and rehabilitation that we deserve.

The New Underground Railroad Movement: How you can help

Groups: If you are an organization, group or social movement working on behalf of prisoners’ rights in any way, you can help by developing a dialogue with prisoners organizing in your area to set up a curriculum around the work you are already doing, developing an inside-outside Think Tank and Board of Execution to come up with strategies and material to develop awareness on the inside and outside. You can also set up a page advertising prisoners’ grassroots movements from the inside and a “Donate button” or how-you-can-help link from your website.

Prisoners: If you are doing time in a prison or county jail, then your role is pivotal! Your feet are already planted in the grass of this grassroots movement. We need you to understand your value in terms of social change organizing.

You must develop the courage to see, speak and hear the truth; creativity to chart the needed but often unseen course; and compassion for ourselves and our companions along the way. You must organize around your labor value and class consciousness – utilizing the value of our labor to the system as a collective bargaining chip via work and labor strikes to demand a restructuring of the prison system. “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for!”

Individuals: As was done with the slaves, American prisoners are projected to the public as objects of suspicion, fear, ridicule and hate. This is done to psychologically reinforce racial bribes, stereotypes and biases that create barriers to the recognition of prisoners’ humanity. The first step for many of you will be to re-evaluate your perspective on crime and punishment and your superstitious beliefs in

missed our chance for this legislative session, but we have another two years to infect the system with F.T.S. cells and revive Ethical Resistance in the Prison population.

But how will we motivate them? In the words of Huey P. Newton:

“The spirit of revolution will continue to grow within the prisons. I look forward to the time when all inmates will offer great resistance by refusing to work as I did. Such a simple move would bring the machinery of the penal system to a halt.”

United In Struggle – United we Fight The System

~The Rue~

Massachusetts Death Penalty: Still in Full Force April 2015

Herbert Earl had been in prison for 40 consecutive years when he became stricken with stage four terminal cancer. Mr. Earl was serving a “parole eligible” life sentence for very serious crimes and the Mass. Parole Board had long ago determined him “not suitable for parole.” Those Playing God type of decisions are a story for another time. The story here is that Herbert Earl was sentenced to death just as sure as when Mass. had an electric chair prior to 1971. The death penalty here in the Commonwealth is still in full force.

After the stage four diagnosis Mr. Earl was “banished” for “being sick” to the skilled Nursing Facility here at the state prison in Shirley. What this means is that he would never again see his prison friends, would never again be allowed to go to Church in the prison Chapel, and it means that he would be hidden away from view of others where prison officials could do as they may with him; and they sure did.

Herbert’s cancer was very aggressive and painful. At first the prison afforded him adequate pain management, but as the disease progressed, Mr. Earl became victim to unbearable pain and the prison told him that he had reached his limit in pain management services. The end result was that Herbert Earl grimaced in pain each and every day for several months. He desperately reached out to prison officials and their response proved as sadistic as I knew it would be; they said they would “write a letter for him.” Unbelievable!

During the week of Divine Mercy I was fortunate enough to get a Catholic Priest to come to the prison and hear confessions. He also volunteered, with the Catholic Chaplain here, to go and celebrate the Holy Mass up in the “Skilled Nursing Facility” and I was blessed to be able to go along. This is when I saw Herbert Earl, who I used to see each week at Church, but had not seen in close to a year as he was locked away in the hospital. When Herbie saw me, he did his best, in his low dying voice, to call me to his bedside. He told me he needed to go to the “end of life” unit at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital as his current pain was unbearable and the prison would do nothing. He showed me the “letter” one of the Deputy Wardens had written for him and he said, “I don’t trust her, Timmy, can you reach out for me?” A request from a dying man which could not be ignored.

COMMENTARY AND CALLS TO ACTION

F.T.S. - Robertson Unit – Ethical Resistance July 2015

It should be self-evident that we all have an indisputable, unalienable, inalienable, indefeasible, divine right to liberty. It is something etched so deeply into our psyche that when deprived of it our souls forever ache for it. Yet, despite this, I am sincerely saddened by the level of pacifism among the general prison population. If we are to ever successfully deconstruct the Prison Industrial Complex we must reverse this disenfranchisement.

Look around the dayroom. Why are there so many loyalists? Why isn't there more resistance? The answer is two-fold. The first element is best explained by a quote by Meng Tzu:

“When one by force subdues man, they do not submit to him in heart. They submit because their strength is not adequate to resist.”

That strength is not necessarily physical – it comes from realizing the following (the second element) – that we deserve to be treated with dignity and respect!! Somehow the state has convinced us that we are less-than-human and unworthy of our unalienable human rights.

Unalienable means: “incapable of being alienated, surrendered, or transferred.” In other words, for as long as we are human, these rights can never be taken away from us. The Founding Fathers realized this and they wrote in the US Declaration: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Unfortunately, the state has systematically demoralized us and by doing so it has killed our ethical resistance to being deprived of our liberty. Injustice has become the accepted norm in prison. It's part of the so-called package.

But the truth of the matter is that we are not in prison because we are “criminals,” we are in prison because we had neither money, experience, nor the right friends to help us. History will look back on prisons as concentration camps for the poor, colored, and unfortunate. Prison is not justice- it is social control. It is class warfare. It is wrong- and we must wake up and realize this.

In “Civil Disobedience,” Henry David Thoreau wrote:

“Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than evil.”

I say it is our ethical duty to transgress them. Every year in Texas, the rumor is that the legislature will bring back the revolving door and that our “good time” will mean something. Every year we are disappointed. This is an unjust system and it is ignorant to think that the laws will change by simply hoping they will. The legislature will never change the law until we give them the motivation to do so. We have

the justice system, determining what psychic adjustments or hallucinations you have made to accept a system more devastating than apartheid.

Contact the New Underground Railroad Movement Director-Coordinator Mr. Anthony Robinson Jr. at P-67144, TCCF MC-67, 415 US Hwy 49 North, Tutwiler, MS 38963.



Artwork by Muwsa Green

PRISON GROUPS UPDATES

ABC Illinois Prison Chapter - April 2015

Strength, solidarity, and resistance. The ABC Illinois prison chapter is looking for submissions to start a journal, focused on organizing and resistance methods within the prison system, such as outlines for letter writing campaigns, hunger strike methods, study group outlines, etc. The idea behind the journal is to be a tactical manual and forum to galvanize support for resistance movement.

Because our only goals are to promote resistance and mutual aid, each issue will adorn a different title to help counter censorship and repression. Free world resources that may help in the resistance are greatly appreciated with a brief description or flyer from the organization. Also a brief letter of comment as to how that particular resource could help in the struggle. Zines/pamphlets and articles are also appreciated as long as they follow the plight of the journal.

The ABC Illinois prison chapter is always in search of support from prisoners as well as free world organizations in the anarchist/activist community. So if anyone feels they could be of help whether directly or indirectly, please contact me at:

Timothy Smith M29880
PO Box 112
Joliet, IL 60434

Prisoners contact me at:
Timothy Smith
9338 S. Lowe Ave
Chicago, IL 60620

F.T.S. - Connally Unit - April 2015

Attention FTS members and all TDCJ prisoners intent on fighting against the oppressors. Forever holding in your spirits the dream of freedom. For all intents and purposes I will try to keep this short and sweet. First let me start by saying that as one of the founding fathers that helped birth the ideas that grew into what is now known as FTS, I am not without pride in seeing how much FTS has grown. I can still remember when the ideas of three young liberal-minded men of a Texas justice system without undo oppression was all we had to begin building the face of a revolution. Now I come to you as a father who has long neglected to give counsel to his sons. To give advice in hopes that you might heed my simple words of wisdom and use them to achieve the goals you and I have shared from the beginning. The following is an address to a website: <http://petitions.moveon.org>. On said site friends and family can sign petitions that will change the laws which are keeping many of us locked up. One of these laws is the infamous 25% for agg offenders to come up for parole retroactive. When passed then many of us will come up for parole that day. Another is a mandatory short way release for first time offenders. And perhaps the best is to do away with the parole board all together. It goes without say-

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee June 2015



To all politicized, activist, and socially conscious prisoners,

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is now offering prisoners free membership. The IWW – a revolutionary industrial union – was founded in 1905 by a group of anarchists and communists, and at one time boasted a membership of over 100,000.

According to the IWOC Directory and Reference Guide: “Members of the IWW have created the Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee...which functions as a liaison for prisoners to organize each other, unionize, and build strong bridges between prisoners on the inside and fellow workers on the outside... Neither the setup nor the slavery inside of prisoners can be combated without the conscious participation of prisoners and the working class on the outside through mutual aid, solidarity, and the building of working class relationships that transcend prison walls and the politics of mass incarceration. The IWOC has been actively reaching out to prisoners while at the same time prisoners have been reaching out to the IWW for representation and assistance in building a prisoners’ union. The IWOC has taken up the cause and is helping prisoners in every facility organize and build a union branch for themselves, which will form a powerful IWW Industrial Union.

“To achieve this cage slave/wage slave alliance, the IWOC is accepting IWW membership applications from prisoners who agree with the IWW Constitution and believe that to truly change prison conditions, prisoners must be organized and working towards such goals with the help and support of the working class on the outside. Prisoners will be full-fledged members on the IWW with their own local prison branch to maintain and develop and will have the same rights and responsibilities of members on the outside.”

When the IWW receives your membership request they will welcome you into the IWW database, assign you a membership number, mail you a letter of confirmation and place your “red card” into the IWW documents file unless you request it to be mailed to a third-party. The IWW will then send you IWW-related literature, such as One Big Union; Preamble, Constitution and General Bylaws of the IWW; IWOC Organizing Structure Plan; and the IWOC Directory and Reference Guide.

Requesting membership can be as simple as writing the IWW a letter stating that you are interested in free membership, and that you are a worker.

You don’t have to be an actual prisoner-worker to qualify for membership. If you are serious about creating drastic changes in our living conditions, helping to abolish the Prison Industrial Complex, and taking full control of your (our) destiny, send your membership request to:

Let’s organize across state lines!

IWW
Attn: HybachiLemar
PO Box 180195
Chicago, IL 60618

Written by:
Uhuru B. Rowe #1131545
Buckingham Correctional center
PO Box 430
Dillwyn, VA 23936

So it's clear that hierarchs at every level of government have lost their minds. It doesn't take a weatherman to know which way the wind blows. I have to find a way to protect myself from my captors since the federal courts suck as much as prison officials do. So, out of necessity, I came up with a plan:

Friends are now creating a website that will feature fascist fuckweasels and their crimes against prisoners. Each person featured will have a message board. For those unfamiliar, message boards allow visitors to the site to anonymously post comments like "this guard is a real asshole," or "someone should DO something about this guy," or "I know this scumbag and he lives at 123 Main Street in Shitville..."

Once a fuckweasel is posted there, the posting never comes down. So those who torture prisoners will have to live in fear, wondering if their victims of torture will have them posted online and wondering if their enemies in the free world will post their information and wonder whether their victims or sympathizers of their victims will use that information to take action.

Too bad this kind of extreme measure is necessary to protect myself from fascists. Too bad it's impossible to use a grievance process to resolve harassment, or contact the legislative oversight committee to resolve it, or rely on courts to follow their established laws and hold fuckweasels accountable. Too bad it came down to this, but it did.

When the site is up and rolling, I'll send an update so prisoners everywhere can submit postings on state terrorists at every prison. Perhaps anonymous postings will reveal home addresses. Perhaps people of good will out there will take action. Matches are free. Gasoline is cheap. Brave new motherfuckin' world.

Sean Swain
Southern Ohio Correctional Facility
PO Box 45699
Lucasville, OH 45699
seanswain.org

ing the masses this will mean freedom for when these laws are passed. I say when these laws are passed and not if because together we're going to make this happen. How, you might wonder. Why simply the very same way FTS was built by spreading the word. With that said I now challenge you FTS members and TDCJ offenders to spread the word of this website and these petitions to every family member, friend, and loved one you can reach.

And tell them of the urgency to get on this site and sign these petitions. But don't stop there. Have them go on facebook, instagram, twitter, and every other social media site they frequent and spread the word about these petitions. Then spread the word to every one of your fellow prisoners to do the same. And in doing so the sleeping giant that is democracy will be awakened in the hearts and minds of Texans both inside and outside these walls. And that giant once fully awakened will strike at the heart of the oppression and injustice that is TDCJ and the Texas justice system. Only remember when this challenge is met and these laws are passed to continue the fight outside these walls. For those still trapped here in the belly of the beast. For we must always keep in mind that we fight for the freedom from oppression for all prisoners, not just our own.

Signed, just another man

Fighting To Survive

Remember Black August and the people's martyrs – New Afrikan Black Panther Party – Prison Chapter - June 2015

May the peace of unity and panther love be with you all!
My Sisters and Brothers and all New Afrikan Panther Party Comrades, we are coming up on our 11th anniversary of Black August, and it is at this time we remember our murdered comrade Hasan Shakur, our Minister of Human Rights who was taken from us on August 31, 2006, by our enemies that run the State of Texas. However, we will move on in Hasan Shakur's name with Panther Love to create People's Power and Revolution!

"To all who have dreamed – to all who have struggled – to all who have succeeded – to all who have failed – to all who have loved and won – to all who have loved and lost – to all who have dared to be different – to those who are not afraid to speak their mind – to the voiceless – to all the Kamaus, Shakas and Rudds – to all those that believed and achieved – to all that have been forced into silence – to all that are not afraid of adversity – to all the newborns awaiting breath."

As it is stated in the Hasan Shakur Enrollment Handbook, NABPP/PC – This is dedicated to you! – Hasan Shakur

Our Black August 2015 readings are books on the political struggles of the original Black Panther Party, so we can learn from past mistakes and successes. Also try to study the 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene and Joost Effens.

Fasting will start on August 7th all day. And then after the 7th, you are only to eat two times a day until August 21st, when you are not to eat at all. The next day, eat only one meal. After the 22nd, you go back to eating two meals a day until the 31st, when you eat nothing again. The three fast days are to honor our Black Panther comrades, George Jackson, Jonathan Jackson and Hasan Shakur – May they rest in Peace!

During the month of Black August, the elders, political prisoners and veterans of the struggle should make a special effort to teach the younger comrades and youth about Panther Love and our rich history of struggle against slavery and oppression. Besides fasting, comrades should work out and do physical exercise to shape up your bodies and study to sharpen their minds as well as spend some time in meditation to put mind body and spirit in sync.

Prepare yourselves for the struggles to come. Reread the Party documents, the 10-Point Program, the Rules of Discipline and so on. Reread the teaching about Black August in Right On! #4 (If you can locate a copy).

As the NABPP/PC Minister of Justice, I take observance of Black August very seriously. Many people have been killed or placed into prison in our struggle. Let us not be slack in honoring them. Let us rise together to break our chains of injustice and slavery!

We will not have any peace until there is justice!

I thank you all for the contributions you have made to the struggle. Restoring our Black Panther Party is a great task that will take time and a lot of hard work and sacrifice. We have made a good start.

I am here to serve you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Peace and Unity with one Love always.

Bobby M. Dixon

CDCR # C-41652, (A-2, 109 Low)

Minister of Justice, NABPP/PC/ANC

480 Alta Road,

San Diego, CA. 92179-0001

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Activists block road outside transgender detention center - May 2015

<http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/2015/05/28/lgbtqshutdown/>

Santa Ana, CA – Five LGBTQ and Immigrant rights leaders have taken over intersection of Flower and Civic Center, near the detention center in Santa Ana that holds transgender detainees, in a protest risking arrest to demand an immediate end to detention and deportation, starting with releasing undocumented transgender women.

After being questioned directly about the topic, Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton echoed the #Not1More LGBTQ Deportation campaign's demand to end the detention of transgender immigrants, saying, "I do not think we should put children and vulnerable people into detention facilities because I think they are at risk. Their physical and mental health are at risk."

Protest organizers today are saying 'If Clinton can promise it, President Obama can do it now.'

Fascist Fuckweasels Suck - May 2015

In March, I lost a fight for an injunction in federal court. While my challenge to the prison's state terror campaign and 12 Monkey frameup was pending, they again clamped down on my communications, blocking me from use of the video visit feature on the JPay kiosk. All other prisoners on my security level are permitted video visits. I'm not.

Also, I haven't even so much as been accused of misconduct. So, absent even an accusation of misconduct, prison fuckweasels clearly blocked my video to keep me off of Youtube.

In a hearing in federal court, my attorney asked for an injunction, making them treat me like all other prisoners. They claimed that I revealed a prison warden's license plate number online (not true) and that I threatened to burn down the Ohio Statehouse (also untrue)...not that it matters since a license plate number doesn't involve an expectation of privacy and my speech related to the Statehouse was part of my campaign for Ohio Governor (an election I did NOT concede).

The federal judge ignored all existing law and determined I am a "unique security threat" for conduct I have not been accused of, and upheld a LIFETIME BAN on video visits. No shit.

Ms Ferreira said the escape was orchestrated by the boyfriend of one of the women who tricked the wardens. Bruno Amorim - who was one of the 28 that escaped - was serving time for attempted murder, robbery and firearms possession.

A photo of one of the prison guards - lying face down without trousers on - was reportedly leaked by the police officers who found him. It has since been shared thousands of times on social media networks. The police chief said the three prison officers had been arrested and will be charged with 'facilitating a jailbreak' and 'culpable embezzlement' due of the theft of firearms.

Portage, WI - June 2015

The fight goes on. My body is bloody but yet I'm not giving up as small victories are slowly coming. Remember when life boxes you into a corner, box back and never give up. Animal rights activist Manuel Salas is back.

In January 2015 I have given the DOC more time than I normally would to answer my request to have the DOC take milk off the vegan diet. I want on protest, hunger strike for more than one reason. About two weeks in the warden sent our unit manager a letter that was hand delivered to me letting me know within 30 days milk will be taken off the vegan and halal diet and would add flavor drink mix and cereal that was fortified. Also within this hunger strike it got our medical unit to look into and start back doing rounds in the seg unit. A two for one.

Papers were submitted due to calorie cutting and staff witnessed and admitted it was going on to get away with giving us less food. Staff put a calorie number on the menu higher than on the package. This is why staff changed up some of the food after papers were sent in. Inmates need to start requesting the packages the food comes in as I do and write up any non-matching calories because 5 and 10 add up to 100 very fast. It's slow and a lot of work but it's our health. We need to think about it as I have and not my first time bringing this up. Food is a right and I have helped slow down the violations. I need others to help stop it Even if you're not in WI, check your menu because you may find the same violations.

We all have elderly in prison with us and around us. Help them as I do. Do not take advantage of them. I would love to ask as a way of support to have a national day of support for Mumia Abu-Jamal as he fights to save his life and to remember all our brothers and sisters before us. This day shall be October 20. Thank you for your support. Help the young grow and not be drawn into helping the injustice to go on.

The voice of justice does not stop with this writing, it lives on within my and your actions to bring justice. Be safe and fight another day.

In solidarity,
Animal Rights Activist
Manuel C Salas 504212
CCI
PO Box 900
Portage, WI 53901-0900

United Panther Movement, Red Fist Alliance June 2015

The Colorado Department of Corrections has moved me to its most isolated correctional facility, to neutralize me and disrupt my activism. Here there are double bunk cells and I have chosen as a cellmate a Native American social prisoner with whom I share a philosophical outlook, who is in prison on a marijuana-related offense. He is an alternative artist instructor and has contributed his artwork to my individual/personal prison abolition activism. He is also at this facility as a retaliatory move by this prison administration. We are not so much as in the trenches here, as we are more walking a philosophical line. We are getting some heat from this, from both prison staff and their inmate stooges. Our focus is on how we ourselves might be able to expand this work we are doing and we are looking for contributions to this work. This is my blog: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/1491>. I am allowed prisoner to prisoner correspondence and this is my current mailing address:

Robert Thrower #47717
AVCF/Unit 1-A-2-6
12750 Highway 96
Ordway, CO 81034



THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

\$675,000 settlement reached in class action suit filed by female inmates against Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe - April 2015

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/04/675000_settlement_reached_in_c.html
by Stephanie Barry

SPRINGFIELD - More than 170 former inmates of the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center have reached a preliminary settlement in a class action lawsuit against the Hampden County Sheriff's Department over strip search procedures at the Chicopee jail.

The plaintiffs settled for \$675,000 with \$500,000 going to attorney's fees and expenses. Of the balance, \$20,000 will go to lead plaintiff Debra Baggett, four additional plaintiffs who were deposed in the case will receive \$2,000 each and the rest of the class members will receive around \$850 apiece, according to the settlement.

Lawyers and two of the plaintiffs, including Baggett, appeared in U.S. District Court on Thursday for a hearing during which attorneys from both sides asked Judge Michael A. Ponsor to approve the preliminary settlement.

Class members objected to male corrections officers holding cameras to photograph strip searches, although they had been instructed to film the process without looking, according to lawyers for Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr.

The plaintiffs argued the strip search video process was nonetheless degrading and unnecessary and violated their constitutional rights.

"This is a good day but I know there are better days on the horizon," Baggett said after the court hearing. "These ladies are coming out of prison traumatized and belittled."

Afterward, Theresa Finnegan, an attorney for Ashe, said the case has never been about male staff leering at women during strip searches, in the jail's estimation. "There was never any credible evidence that any male broke policy and training and observed any portion of a strip search," Finnegan said. "This included thousands of pages of paperwork, several depositions, interviews with prior inmates and staff. There were no written grievances that it happened by any inmate."

Finnegan also said that the jail began revamping its policies around strip searches by shuffling staff in 2010, and that no male staffed had manned cameras in that context since 2013.

The plaintiffs were represented by Howard Friedman and David Milton of Boston. Baggett called them "Neiman Marcus attorneys that ended up accepting a WalMart price." The lawsuit was filed in 2011.

(C) No punishment for what outside organizations one belongs to or corresponds with.

(D) No punishment for tattoos or cultural identity practices/beliefs.

(E) No punishment for communicating with other prisoners if not breaking the law.

(F) No punishment for what individuals of the same race/nation/organizational affiliation do unless you as an individual were involved in violating a rule or law; i.e. no group punishment!!

(G) No punishment for affiliation with a gang, security threat group, cultural group, or other organization. In other words, a complete end to Gang Validation System that punishes people (currently puts people in prolonged solitary confinement/Tier Program for an indeterminate amount of time without being given due process) based on their affiliation and/or ideology without having broken any rules or laws.

GSP-2164 GA Hwy 147
Reidsville, GA 30499

Mass breakout from Brazilian jail after female inmates in fantasy police costumes seduce prison wardens - February 2015

By Matt Roper

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2943635/Mass-breakout-Brazilian-jail-female-inmates-fantasy-police-costumes-seduce-prison-wardens.html#ixzz3cnrxbVcv>

Twenty-eight inmates escaped from a Brazilian jail after three women in sexy police costumes 'seduced' the prison wardens. Police found three wardens naked and handcuffed inside the morning after the mass breakout at Nova Mutum public jail near Cuiaba. Investigators say the women drugged the guards with spiked whisky after convincing them to take part in an orgy.

They arrived at around 3am on Thursday morning and asked if they could come inside to 'chat and drink', police say. The prison guards obliged and were soon persuaded to leave their posts, before heading to the sleeping quarters with the scantily clad women. After drugging and handcuffing the wardens, they took their keys and unlocked all the prison's cells according to police chief Angelina de Andrades Ferreira. She told a news conference: "The plan was to seduce them. They served them cheap whisky with some substance to knock them out, then unlocked the central gate which accesses the internal cells."

"Whoever wanted to escape left by the front door. From the moment they drank the whisky the agents don't remember a thing. 'One was found dizzy, trying to wake up. Another slept for the whole afternoon and couldn't even be questioned.'

Dozens of prisoners walked straight out the main door carrying guns and ammunition they took from the prison caches. The inmates took three 12-calibre rifles, shotguns, two 38-calibre revolvers and munition, she said.

Police later discovered a bag of lingerie and skimpy leather police uniforms which they believe the temptresses wore to distract the wardens.

– It was determined that inmates sentenced to life imprisonment who have served 10 years in prison, and their degree of disability exceeds an 80%, may be granted release to serve the remainder of their sentence under house arrest (with an electronic bracelet). So, the convicted 17N member Savvas Xiros may be granted the possibility to be placed under house arrest, as his degree of disability has reached a 98%.”

Hunger Striking Prisoner Releases List of Demands - April 2015

<http://atlanta.indymedia.org/local/hunger-striking-prisoner-releases-list-demands>
Statement From Hunger Striker

As to date Georgia’s prisoners are being arbitrarily and unlawfully denied their First, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution. Prisoners are being forced to live in conditions that are atypical and cause significant hardships! Prisoners are being subjected to treatment that has been deemed torture by the United Nations. Prisoners are being subjected to mental, physical, and emotional torture on a daily basis by being forced into GA’s prolonged solitary confinement/disciplinary administrative segregation (Tier Program) without having any disciplinary sanctions to justify such a punishment placement.

Therefore I am forced to challenge aforesaid violations through the non-violent means of hunger strike!

(1) I demand an end to the torture of all prisoners unlawfully placed on GA’s Dept. of Corrections prolonged solitary confinement/Tier Program.

(A) No prisoner should be held in a Special Management Unit for longer than 30 days. Rehouse all prisoners currently in all tier programs throughout GA’s Dept. of Corrections to mainline facilities.

(B) Interaction with other prisoners every day.

(C) Time spent outdoors with space and basic equipment for exercise every day.

(D) Healthy food items with full food portion sizes and clean water every day.

(E) Proper clothing, footwear, and climate/temperature control.

(F) A complete end to the use of and threat of violence by staff against prisoners who have not made any physical threat to staff.

(G) Access to phone calls and contact visits with family at least once a week.

(H) Timely and proper health care.

(I) Access to engage in productive activities including correspondence courses and vocational and remedial education courses.

(J) A meaningful way to grieve any abuses or denial of the stated basic rights.

(K) Weekly access to the satellite law library for opportunity to adequately litigate.

(2) Freedom of association.

(A) No punishment based on what books one reads or has in their possession.

(B) No punishment for jail house lawyering for oneself or for others, for filing grievances or for any challenges to conditions of confinement through legal means.

A corrupt prison policy and practice January 2015

I write this notice while being the subject of a conspiracy being set in play by Warden John Soto, Chief Deputy Warden (CDW), G. Biaggini, Associate Warden (AW), T. Sebra, Facility Captain (FC), D.J. Williams, and Correctional Officers C. Solorzano, M. Ojinaga, and D. Gaines who each personally dislike me for the effective and responsible use of the inmate appeal process here at LAC. These so-named prison officials purposely use authority and position while under color of law with the sole intention of causing me hurt, pain, and suffering as a retribution for engaging in a protected conduct.

Between about June 2006 and April 2009, here at LAC in grievances LAC-D-06-04699; LAC-D-07-01336; LAC-D-07-01388; LAC-D-08-01200; LAC-D-08-00954; LAC-D-08-01322; and LAC-D-08-01650, myself and other LAC prisoners have filed grievances against c/o’s C. Solorzano and D. Gaines regarding issues of clear mistreatment, malicious damage or destruction of prisoner property, and retaliatory acts imposed for use of the LAC inmate appeal process. Despite such efforts, however, these c/o’s have been always found by LAC managers and supervisors NOT to have violated policy while allowed to continue to target LAC prisoners who file inmate appeals here at LAC, with wanton retaliatory acts based on a corrupt prison policy and practice which ratify retaliation.

To date current, between about May 2014 and January 2015 I have filed grievances LAC-D-14-02490; LAC-D-14-04241; LAC-D-14-03422; and LAC-D-14-04086 relative to incidents involving physical abuse, deliberate discourteous treatment, nefarious antagonism, and racial hate practices imposed by c/o’s C. Solorzano and M. Ojinaga as a reprisal.

On January 20, 2015, while in route to my quarters following my 10:45am therapy group, c/o C. Solorzano was posted at the D-Facility security gate, and when I passed him he threatened to “write me up” with antagonism. When I returned to the MHB to attend my 12:30 therapy group, c/o C. Solorzano ordered me to wait outside while allowing other prisoners into the MHB for group. C/O’s D. Gaines and Stiffler were also posting acting in concert with c/o C. Solorzano. Unexpectedly, c/o S. Simmon came through the security gate so I went for aid from c/o S. Simmon in order to feel safe, c/o D. Gaines then came from behind applying a clutch hold at my wrist, bending it backwards while applying handcuffs. C/O D. Gaines then began forcefully pushing me on escort to the D-Facility watch office where c/o D. Gaines barked “this what you get for filing 602’s.” Once inside the watch office I was forced in front of Sgt. Gonzalez who sat in his chair as I stood facing the door with c/o D. Gaines behind me. Sgt. Gonzalez then told me that c/o C. Solorzano told him that “I threatened to kill him” for being a “rat” and that “this ain’t over between us.” Sgt. Gonzalez told me that c/o C. Solorzano fears for his life from me then had me locked inside a holding cage. Sgt. Gonzalez then came and told me that he was investigating for FC D.J. Williams who “wanted” me in ad-seg because I “file paperwork.”

On January 25, 2015, c/o S. Simmon came to admonish me that c/o's C. Sorzano and D. Gaines are "waiting to get their hands on your property" because they want to "roll you up to D5 on an assault charge." C/O S. Simmon went on to mention the "politics" at play within the institution and how he, c/o M. Chavez, and any other official here at LAC suffer relentless ridicule and antagonism from co-workers and supervisors who detest them and those c/o's who establish and maintain professional standards of courtesy towards me. It is acknowledged and admitted by these c/o's that I am a target by infamous and corrupt officials as a direct result of my protected conduct activity, and that retaliation I have described and suffered is rooted into the prison operations here at LAC. I should also mention that both c/o M. Chavez and S. Simmon requested me not to disclose them as a source of information outlined above and I am sorry to have revealed them so blatantly, but the truth should not be tainted by concealment, just like I should not be openly vexed and annoyed by a gang like group of officials who willfully use peace officer authority to bully, intimidate, maliciously harass, and conspire against the rights of prisoners who engage in a protected conduct.

Warden J. Soto, CDW G. Biaggini, AW T. Sebra, and FC D.J. Williams turn willfully blind with conscience avoidance, then cover up and protect the dishonest and corrupt subordinate which is a prison practice that is the cause of the violations described above.

Justice would be a federal investigation!

John Williams V-34-099
D-1-145
PO Box 4670
Lancaster, CA 93539

Freedom for Justice - June 2015

I am a black female prisoner, incarcerated at the Dr. Lane Murray Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). I wrote a submission for PAN Vol 8.1 regarding my letter-writing campaign, due to the torturous victimizations I have and continue to suffer. As a result of my submission to PAN, a concerned person(s) prompted the United States Marshal's Service to open a criminal investigation, to pursue felony and capital charges against any and all prison guards found to be part of the conspiracy to subject me to a campaign of abuse and ultimately, murder me. A white racist prison guard, James Tomme, singled me out to be the target of a war of aggression, war crimes, committed by ex-military and/or service-related TDCJ prison guards. War criminals who rely heavily on black TDCJ prison guards who have a slave mentality to torture me however a white ranking TDCJ prison guard(s) orders. I was singled out to be the target of war of aggression for no reason other than that I was born black. And TDCJ prison guards are notorious for their racist hatred and slave mentality. TDCJ prison guards on the Dr. Lane Murray unit

Estimated over 200 immigrant detainees launch hunger strike at detention center - June 2015

By Timothy Clemons

<http://www.kvoa.com/story/29312813/estimated-over-200-immigrant-detainees-launch-hunger-strike-at-detention-center>

ELOY, AZ- Over 200 detainees at the Eloy Detention Center sat down in the recreation yard and declared their strike Saturday morning. They say reason for the strike being abuse and neglect. The detainees say they have a list of demands that need to be met for the strike to end, including:

- The independent investigation into two recent deaths that had mysterious circumstances and problems of guards using excessive force.
- The conditions of their detainment be improved which would include both medical and mental health care.
- They must have access to legal resources and court hearings if requested.
- The exploitation of the detainees' work be ended.
- There should be no more criminalization, detention, and deportation.
- The families, former detainees, and concerned citizens have also taken to rallying outside the detention center in support of those who are striking inside.

Hunger strike officially ended - April 2015

by apergia

<http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2015/04/20/greek-prisons-the-8-anarchists-from-dak-terminated-their-hunger-strike/>

Greece - The remaining comrades from the DAK (Network of imprisoned fighters) have ended their hunger strike, judging that most of their significant demands have been met. Via contrainfo-

“- The legal framework that determines the operation of type C prisons was repealed. (However, article 187 regarding criminal organizations and article 187A regarding terrorist organizations still stand.)

- The aggravating feature relating to acts committed with concealed/altered physical characteristics was abolished for cases of arrests in demonstrations. However, the anti-hoodie law still applies to cases of (armed) robberies. According to the hunger strike termination statement of the participants in DAK, the minimum sentence for robbery with concealed/altered physical characteristics was dropped from 10 to 5 years, leaving the matter to the discretion of the judge.

“- It was determined that an independent expert witness may be present from the early stage of collection of genetic material/samples. However, the prosecutorial provision of forcible taking of DNA samples still stands.

A crowdfunding page launched by Orta's family has raised more than \$25,000 and counting — allowing worried relatives to post the \$16,250 bail to get him out. The donations will also support his legal fees. But posting bail means more than just freedom. It will put an end to a sort of hunger strike.

Orta, 23, refuses to eat prison food over fears that New York Corrections Department officers will taint it with rat poison—a complaint echoed by 19 other inmates who filed a lawsuit last month claiming they were sickened by blue-green pellets found in their Rikers meatloaf.

The amateur videographer has stated he's being targeted by law enforcement after his July 2014 footage of a policeman putting Garner in a deadly chokehold went viral, becoming a high-profile example of controversial police tactics. The Garner death, and a subsequent grand jury decision not to indict the officer involved, became a flashpoint for New York City and set off massive protests in December of last year. Orta claims that officers have been stalking and arresting him in retaliation for the video ever since it became public.

One of Orta's attorneys, Will Aronin, confirmed his client is forgoing Rikers grub. "Ramsey is afraid because of that [inmate poison claims] and other issues," Aronin told the Daily Beast. "We're thrilled to circumvent this by getting him home."

For the last few weeks, Orta has survived on chips and cookies from the jail's vending machines, [Orta's aunt, Lisa Mercado] said. Without the money to post bail, his family feared for the worst—until activists circulated Mercado's GoFundMe campaign and wrote about his plight earlier this week.

At least five New York supporters have also offered Orta jobs doing office work, Mercado told The Daily Beast. "I am extremely happy and feel blessed," Mercado said, adding, "People just want to help him, where they stay by his side at all times and make sure he stays safe."

He will remain in jail for at least another week as his aunt waits up to seven business days for GoFundMe to transfer donation money, according to Orta's lawyer, Aronin. "We're overwhelmed and thrilled by the support we've gotten from the community," Aronin said. "We will do everything in our legal power to defend Ramsey."

In the meantime, Aronin and his partner, Ken Perry, say they'll request a change of venue for Orta's future trials to be moved from Staten Island to another location. "Minds are already made up," said Perry, adding that city tabloids puffed up Orta's rap sheet and called him a career criminal. "The only way for a fair trial here is to go into a different borough."

are trying desperately to lie and connive their way out of a prison cell and a death chamber that is waiting for them. They are desperate and even more maliciously dangerous. Beginning May 15, 2015 a white racist prison guard, Captain William Sullivan, along with a white racist prison guard, Sergeant Clint Cockrell, along with a black slave mentality prison guard, Sergeant Lasonia Gilmore, conspired with food service prison staff to serve and direct female prisoners to serve me food products contaminated with bodily fluids. I no longer take meals in the Dr. Lane Murray Unit food service. Threats have been made to contaminate my commissary purchased food products with nerve gas and bodily fluids and bodily waste – biochemical warfare. I will be forced to a hunger strike. Also, I have been repeatedly burned with laser technology all over my body, with emphasis on my vagina and buttocks. I have been threatened with bleach poisoning, and to be repeatedly hit in my face by the fist of Sgt. Clint Cockrell if I do not "stop writing letters outside of TCDJ telling people what is going on." My life is in great danger. My health has been compromised. I need a safe environment, as soon as possible. At this time I am in desperate need of two things to prevent TDCJ prison guards from murdering me. First, I need pressure put on the United States Marshals' to administer me a polygraph examination so that I will be relocated to the United States Marshals' Service for my protection. The address is: United States Marshals Service, 800 Franklin Ave, Room 200, Waco, TX 76701; Second I need a compassionate soul to pay a total of \$5000 to the following attorney: Arch C. McColl III, Attorney at law, 14801 Quorum Drive, Suite 500, Dallas TX 75254. His phone number is 972-410-7111. Mr. McColl is a post-conviction attorney who will overturn my criminal conviction in a timely manner. It is a freedom fund for Melody Simpson.

I truly appreciate all who have supported my plight for justice. I am indeed sorry that I have been unable to respond due to TDCJ prison guards stealing any and all of my incoming mail and outgoing mail that they possibly can. A record is being kept and I will reply at my first available opportunity when delivery is certain. Together we can make a difference in the way we are treated by prison guards and by the people who allow them to treat us unjustly which often amounts to torture. And torture has no place in American prisons. I was sentenced to prison to serve a prison term not to be raped and tortured, and not to be victimized beyond measure. TDCJ prison guards do not get a free pass. White racist prison guards do not get a free pass. I am a black woman and I am going to get justice. #BlackLivesMatter. #BlackWomensLivesMatter

Much love...
In solidarity,
Melody Simpson
c/o
Superior Enterprises
661 Hazel St.
Akron, OH 44305

Bridgeton, NJ - January 2015

I am writing an up to date letter due to a response to the Special Investigation Division, due to their report upon an incident of sexual harassment is now a grey space! I recently sent letters out to the state of New Jersey attorneys concerning inmate Hann's medical condition and eye problem. These lawyers did not respond nor show any interest in giving any reason or respectful answer on why these people would not represent inmate Hann's lawsuit!

This is stating the facts and opinions dealing with a detached right eye retina, suffering from headaches, black dots in my vision. Now Southwoods State Prison keeps sending inmate Hann out on medical trips to see a state eye doctor for an eye examination.

But the results had not changed. I still have minus five to minus ten right eye vision and slowly losing my left eyesight. I am not receiving any eye treatment and the delay could cause inmate Hann permanent blindness! This is a failure to treat!

Even though this medical staff cannot address a problem and soon that will leave inmate Hann permanently disabled, from a personal injury.

Thank you,
Sincerely yours,

Darrell Hann #592792
Southwoods State Prison
215 S. Burlington Rd.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Soledad, CA - April 2015

My name is Tommy Roy Keeton and I'm a prison inmate here in a prison called SVSP, but not too much longer. I was at a prison called Lancaster which is located in Lancaster, CA, which is where all of this happened before I just decided to shut down completely mentally where I was finally transferred to a psychiatric facility here at SVSP. When I was at Lancaster State Prison I was known to file numerous administrative 602 appeals whenever I saw something wrong. And I also helped other inmates with their legal concerns. Before this happened I was disciplinary free for over 10 years. Also, another reason that all of this could have happened is because of the fact that at the time I had filed a complaint against the Warden of Lancaster State Prison and other medical officials and I had requested to have an investigation procedure conducted on the appeals office at CSP-Lancaster. But a specific officer staff member at Lancaster State Prison started retali-

More than 80 women had initially signed a petition to take part in the strike, but many dropped out after at least two women were placed into isolation with their children in the detention center's clinic, according to the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, an advocacy and legal services group working with in Texas. Johana De Leon, a legal assistant with the group said other mothers were warned they could lose custody of their children as a result of participating in the strike.

Since July, more than 2,500 immigrants, mostly women and children, have been detained at family detention centers.

The Karnes detention camp is one of three facilities set up to house mothers and children in the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is boosting its efforts to house mothers and children who have arrived in the country illegally. Advocates say it's inappropriate to house women and children who have legitimate asylum claims. But the government says it's important to send a message back to their home countries that those who cross the border illegally will be captured held and returned.

ICE officials said family residential centers are an effective and humane way to maintain family unity as families go through immigration proceedings.

In a phone interview with a reporter, Galeano said no one outside the facility encouraged the mothers from participating in the strike. She said she'd been held for five months, but that some women in the facility had been there with their children for 10 months.

She shares a small room with three other mothers and their children. She said the detention center has had a dramatic impact on her 2-year-old son, whose moods have taken emotional swings. She said he's become depressed and has lost weight because he's not eating. She said the food is not culturally appropriate.

"The children don't eat," she said. "The conditions here are not right. They're not good for children."

Eric Garner Videographer Goes On Prison Hunger Strike - April 2015

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/04/08/eric-garner-videographer-goes-on-prison-hunger-strike.html>

UPDATE: A day after the Daily Beast reported Orta would get out of Rikers, Staten Island's district attorney is demanding a "bail source" hearing—preventing his release and prolonging his jail stay for another weekend.

Orta's family raised more than \$40,000 on a crowd-funding site to pay for bail and legal fees. The hearing, called by district attorney Dan Donovan, is to ensure the funds were legitimately acquired, Orta's attorneys say.

He filmed Eric Garner's death by police and has been arrested twice since. Now Ramsey Orta will be released from a two-month stint at Rikers Island thanks to an outpouring of donations.

of Cells of Fire, essentially facing each other two different worlds: on the one world power, order, regularity, laws, judges, prisons and on the other, the world of revolt, street, fire, freedom, anarchy ...

NOTHING LESS THAN ALL
HUNGER STRIKE FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF AFFILIATED MEMBERS OF SYNOMOSIAS CELLS OF FIRE
VICTORY IN RACE ALL HUNGER STRIKE
LONG LIVE ANARCHY

Conspiracy of Cells of Fire - FAI / IRF,
Core Prison
Greek Prison
03/27/2015

PS Power and complicity to all the imprisoned anarchists across the globe and in particular, Alfredo Cospito and Nicola Gai, detained in Italian prisons.

Detained mothers launch hunger strike March 2015

By Franco Ordoñez

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2015/03/31/261612/detained-mothers-launch-hunger.html>

About 40 mothers being held at an immigration detention camp in Karnes, Texas, have launched a hunger strike to protest the detainment of their children as the families await immigration and asylum hearings, according to detainees and advocates working on their behalf.

Kenia Galeano, a 26-year-old mother from Honduras, said in a phone interview that the mothers will not eat, work or send their children to school at the detention center until each of the detainees is released. She said the mothers came to the United States seeking shelter, but are being treated as prisoners. "We're many mothers, not just me," she said. "We want freedom for our children. It's not right to continue to detain us."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said they were unaware of any residents who actually agreed to participate in a hunger strike. They said ICE is closely monitoring the situation for any potential health and safety issues. ICE is also investigating claims from residents at the Karnes facility who allege a member of a non-profit group encouraged residents to stop eating at the facility to protest their detention.

"U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) fully respects the rights of all people to voice their opinion without interference, and all detainees, including those in family residential facilities such as Karnes, are permitted to do so," Nina Pruneda, an ICE spokeswoman, said in a statement.

ating against me because of my ongoing activism and pursuit by writing me up for infractions that I never even committed where in a three month period I received four disciplinary reports which were fabricated by the same officer. And the same Lieutenant who was conducting the investigation on the appeals office was the individual who heard all of my 115 disciplinary reports where I was wrongfully found guilty of said charges. I feel this was only planned by these two officer staff members because of the fact that I had an upcoming parole board suitability hearing coming up a couple months afterwards. On five different occasions I tried filing an administrative 602 on the four disciplinary reports which were only shot down from being processed. And when I finally appeared before the board members I was denied of getting paroled and given a seven-year denial which I know was only because of the four disciplinary reports. I have written to the Internal Affairs and the Inspector General about this. Both were unable to help me with my problem. I even wrote to the Warden J. Soto about this who only ignored all of my cries for help. So hopefully someone out there will read this article who has probably had the same thing happen to them or who has the experience in order to deal with it can help me out with this. Anyway, I thank all of the comrades for staying strong out there and I thank PAN for their support.

Someone in need,

Mr. Tommy Roy Keeton
CDCR No. EY0265
Housing: C5-B-N5
Department of State Hospital (DSH)
Salinas Valley State Prison
PO Box 1020
31625 Highway 101
Soledad, CA 93960-1020

Amarillo, TX - May 2015

Dear PAN,
I am writing in regards to my lawsuit against TDCJ at the Clements Unit, for violations of me practicing my Jewish religious faith and kosher meals. I am a Vice President of a civil rights organization here in Texas that helps with filing 1983 forms for Texas inmates. If any Texas inmates are having their civil rights violated, feel free to write my office at:

c/o David Kelly
C.F.P.O.
113 E. 17
Baxter Springs, KS 66713

Richmond, TX - May 2015

Dear PAN,

My name is Demetrius Orlando Malone. I'm an inmate at the Jester 4 Unit (Mental Health Unit) here in Richmond Texas. The reason I'm writing to you is because I find I'm not receiving the treatment I need here. I have stated this to the doctors and therapists here. The people here don't care. They think it's all a game. I suffer from major depression. I've attempted suicide in the past. Most recently was April 14, 2015. I had to be sent out to the hospital. I've been placed on life support twice. This didn't just start here in prison, this is something I have been dealing with since I was 12 years old. For the last 10 years I've been in and out of the hospital for suicide attempts. The UJMB and UDCJ staff don't give a damn about what happens to us inmates. A few months ago an inmate killed himself and nothing happened. I had a nurse tell me they don't care if I kill myself. I wrote a grievance about the matter. I wrote Senator John Whitmore and Brad Livingston. I'm not receiving any kind of treatment that I feel I should be getting. I've asked for another therapist and doctor. I've written the Clinical Director (Dr. Farley) and Dr. Khawaja. They have refused to see me. This is supposed to be a mental health unit to help mental illness, but U.T.M.B. (University of Texas Medical Branch) does nothing at all to help. The warden knows what's been going on also. They have received complaints from inmates. Lately I've been having a lot of problems with my therapist, Mr. Salazar. I've filed numerous complaints against him. On 5-8-15 I filed a sexual abuse, harassment complaint against him. He came to my cell door and stated if I wanted to get off psych cell and be able to come out of my cell I would show him my penis. So I filed a complaint. I wrote the Ombudsman's office and the Inspector General Investigations Department. I've tried talking to the warden. I filed the complaint on 5-8-15. It was completed on 5-21-15, only 8 working days. Nothing was done. Mr. Salazar has continued to come to my cell door. I feel very uncomfortable around him. On 5-21-15 UTMB and Warden Comstock had a meeting with Mr. Salazar. Then on 5-22-15 I was told I was being discharged. They are trying to protect Mr. Salazar. Then last week I was told by the STE Seg that nothing will happen to Mr. Salazar. I can continue to write whoever I want. I found out at visits that my family haven't been receiving my mail about the complaints I've filed.

The reason I was placed on the behavior management plan was because I wrote a letter to my family explaining to them how I felt mental-wise and the type of treatment I was receiving. I haven't engaged in any aggressive behavior to be placed on this behavior management plan. It's all retaliation. Once you're placed on this plan all of your property is taken for a period of time. None of this is right at all. I have had an organization called "Inmate Assistance League" here in Texas contact Huntsville Texas about the matter. But nothing has happened. That was last year. I would appreciate any help you can give at this time because things are at their limit. The mental health system here in Texas is not good at all.

Between Two Worlds - International call for action of the Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire on hunger strike until death - March 2015

<https://athens.indymedia.org/post/1541990/>

At the time of writing these words, we are in the 25th day of a hunger strike for the release of the mother of Christos and Gerasimos Tsakalos and the second friend. The custody of the two companions of our relatives was vengeance from the judiciary against us in retaliation for the escape we had prepared, with the blowing of the prison.

These attacks against relatives and friends of anarchist prisoners seek to form an impassable trench of isolation around us. What fails in making arrests, court rulings and the bars of the prison, comes to succeed the emotional blackmail and the blocking of our loved ones in the cells of democracy. The blackmail is clear: either we make a truce, or our relatives remaining prison. We will not sign any repentance paper nor capitulate with power. We remain unabashed anarchists.

We know that many partners around the world, connecting our complicity anarchic act, feel numb towards the choice of hunger strike. We understand some concerns in relation to the average hunger strike, as in the past we have shared with us. Besides, in several cases we have experienced over our vindictiveness of power, we chose to do otherwise than the hunger strike. To put it simply: war, we answer with war. Because our choice is always the attack. But now we do not talk about ourselves. Now hostages in prison are our relatives. So we chose the hunger strike, to expose publicly the ugliness and morbidity of power. We are already on the 25th day of the strike and we know that freedom is conquered by force of our own acts and not spared from their laws. We demand our relatives' immediate release from the cells of democracy.

We know that the hunger strike is a slow death. It is, however, our own death. It is the death of a society that remains dormant and quiet in front of the fascism of power. We have, therefore, the responsibility to expose it more ... So, the hunger strike taking place, not a passive, but an attack cry made from inside the solidarity actions. It is a cry of attack, which meets with thousands of voices marches, with hundreds of hands vandalizing with solidarity slogans, hang banners, set fire to banks, government vehicles, partisan offices, courts, with dozens of occupations buildings, radio stations, government offices in Greece, Italy, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Czech Republic, Spain, England, Turkey and battling territories of Kurdistan. So the hunger strike, when connected with aggression, it is not calling for pity, but a call to action. Therefore, we call, today, the hunger strike taking place, becoming a challenge for the world of anarchy, the Black International of the anarchists of the Act, for the cores of FAI-IRF, for their comrades, for all those who choose to attack the classroom, in the privacy and the laws of this world and its culture. From today through attacks around the world, we put the dilemma: either to anarchy or power. Amid the hunger strike for the release of relatives of the comrades of the Conspiracy

DIRECT ACTION/NON-COMPLIANCE

Authorities securing perimeter of federal prison February 2015

http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=1167236#.VXonp6Zl_yR

Approximately 2,000 federal inmates were involved in a demonstration at a prison facility in Willacy County, TX. Multiple agencies, including federal and state authorities, were called to secure the perimeter of the Willacy County Correctional Center, a privately owned prison contracted through the federal government.

Inmates refused to participate in regular work duties or attend breakfast early Friday morning, according to Issa Arnita, the communications director for the operators of the facility. The prison facility primarily holds immigration detainees, and some may be waiting to be deported, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

A corrections officers took breakfast to housing units as inmates began voicing their frustrations about medical services, the director said. Some inmates broke out of the housing area and made their way into the recreational yard prompting a lockdown of the prison. Some inmates were seen shaking the fence.

Tear gas was used in an attempt to break up the disturbance, the prison spokesperson said in a news release.

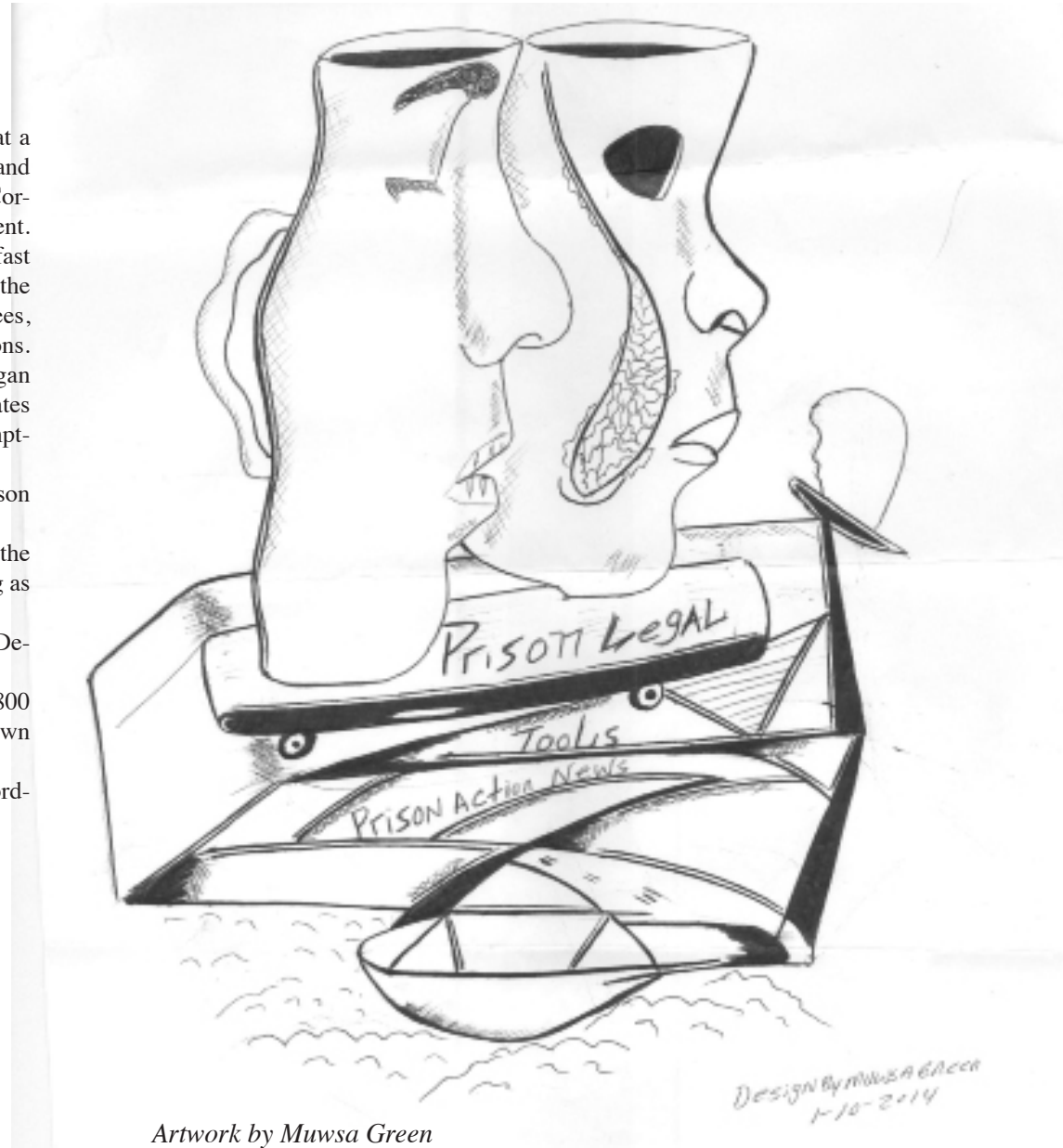
Officers at the prison and local sheriff's deputies are working to get the inmates back into the facility. Officials are not concerned about inmates escaping as two security fences surround the building.

Small fires broke out in three of the units, and the Raymondville Fire Department is on scene for precautionary measures.

The federal prison is located across from the Sheriff's Office on the 1800 block of Industrial Drive in Raymondville. The prison facility has been on lockdown since Friday morning.

Two officers and an inmates received treatment on minor injuries, according to the prison's spokesperson.

Sincerely,
Demetrius O. Malone
TDC #1347236
Jester 4 Unit
4 Jester Rd.
Richmond, TX 77406



Artwork by Muwsa Green

Somerset, PA - Mayo/May 2015

Hola amigos de Prison Action News,
Soy siempre en guerra en contra de la administración carcelaria de PA por la sencilla razón que violan el derecho de preso. Por mis derechos violados, tanto constitucional como humanos. Soy Cubano y mi partido es comunista socialista.

El día 3-13-15 me enviaron una notificación del (IPRC) de la prisión donde me encuentro que el Prison Action News vol. 8.1 había sido negado para yo recibirlo.

Yo puse un grievance, el cual me respondieron que:

“La publicación contiene los escritos que abogan por la violencia, insurrección o guerra de guerrillas contra el gobierno o cualquiera de sus instalaciones o que crean un peligro dentro del contenido de la institución correccional; y los escritos que abogan, asistir, o que son evidencia de actividad criminal o mala conducta en instalaciones.”

Apele el grievance al superintendent, su respuesta fue la misma. Apele al Final Appeal Decision, y su respuesta fue la misma.

Yo necesito que ustedes me envíen copia del PAN Vol 8.1 [nota del editor: se envió], quiero entablar una demanda en contra del correccional del PA. Espero recibir su ayuda.

“Soy responsable de mis palabras y culpable de mis acciones, mi manera de pensar, acumula en mi mente, gran tempestad para soltarlas en mis expresiones para ser libre de mi cuerpo y alma, exigiendo mi derecho como ser humano.”

Hello friends from Prison Action News,

I am always at war against the PA prison administration for the simple reason of the violation of prisoners' rights; for my violated rights, as much constitutional rights as human rights. I am Cuban and of the Communist Socialist Party.

On March 13, 2015, the Incoming Publication Review Committee sent me a notice, in which I found that they had refused me to receive Prison Action News vol 8.1.

I submitted a grievance, to which they responded:

“The publication contains writings which advocate violence, insurrection or guerilla warfare against the government or any of its facilities or which create a danger within the content of the correctional facility; and writings that advocate, assist, or are evidence of criminal activity or facility misconduct.”

I appealed the grievance to the superintendent, his response was the same.

I appealed to the Final Appeal Decision, and its response was the same.

I need you to send me a copy of PAN Vol 8.1 [editor's note: this was sent], I want to file a demand against the corrections system of PA. I hope to receive your help.

“I am responsible for my words and to blame for my actions, my manner of thinking, accumulated in my mind, a great storm to loosen my expressions in order to be free of my body and soul, demanding my right as a human being.”

Yumil Perez #JG2234
1600 Walter Mill Rd.
Somerset, PA 15510

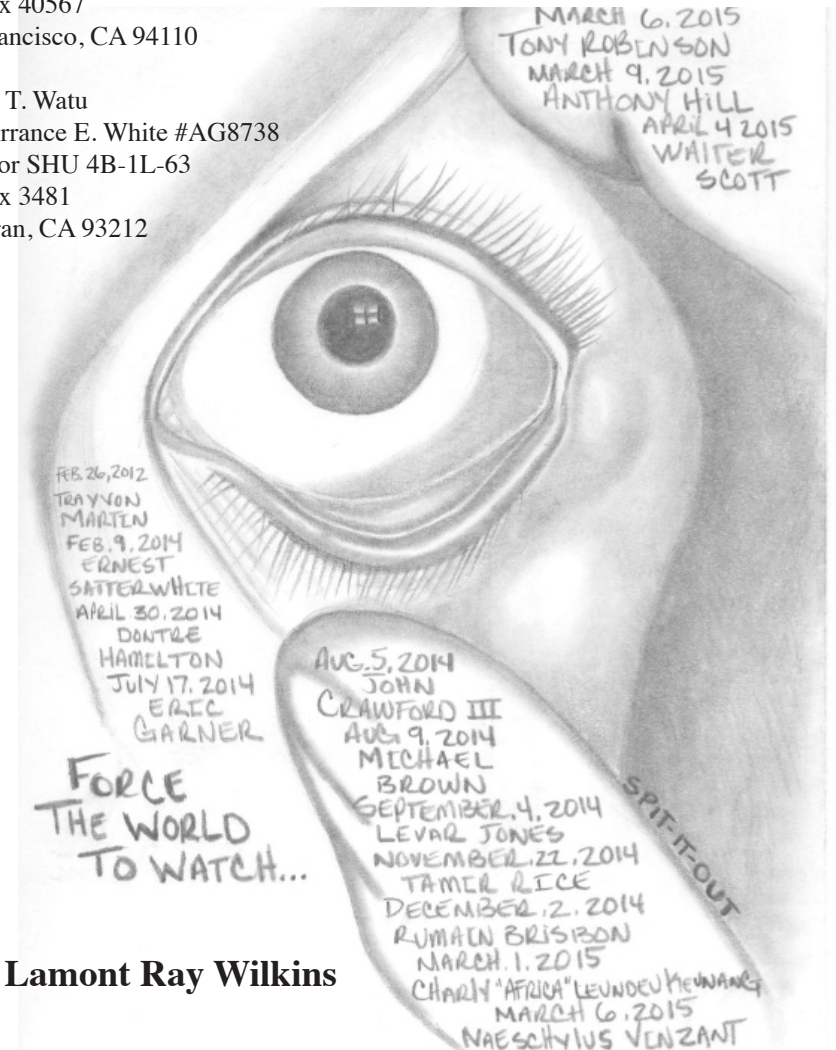
Page 20

other two SHU's that are still sending more to be housed from the general population yard, and we continue to resist, as they take our program from us in order to do this, and they use the excuses that they're short of staff. I, along with a few other New Afrikans, have been granted law library access so we can file our claims that this harassment with our mail stops, and that they stop taking our little items we gained through our hunger strikes. The struggle will continue until all oppressed are free.

If you need legal assistance contact:

Taeva Shefler
Attorney at Law
SBN 291637
PO Box 40567
San Francisco, CA 94110

Ajamu T. Watu
S/N Terrance E. White #AG8738
CSP Cor SHU 4B-1L-63
PO Box 3481
Corcoran, CA 93212



Art: Lamont Ray Wilkins

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However here on the Allred Unit, High Security, the law library access to court (ATC) personnel are failing to deliver legal research material requested or sign and return our I-60 request forms with appeals for ATC. Therefore circumventing responsibility for denying us ATC and research material. This is a malicious violation of our own fourteenth amendment US constitutional rights of equal protections and due process.

Numerous Step 1 and Step 2 grievances have been filed in regards to the failed delivery of requested legal research material all to no avail with a general response: investigation reveals no request was received from you, thus no legal research material was delivered. No further action is warranted. Without the offender I-60 request forms (Tangible Documentation), signed and returned to substantiate our claims of appeals for legal research material all actions of redress is severely emasculated.

This prevalent ploy has been widely criticized, known as the runner system, paging system or exact site system. It has been deemed an inadequate legal access system for both segregated and non-segregated prisoners by some courts. See *Connell v. Bradshaw* 840 F. Supp. 1382, 1389 (D. Or. 1993) (holding paging system alone does not provide adequate access to the courts); Also see *Griffins v. Coughlin*, 743 F. Supp. 2006, 2023 (N.D.N.Y, 1990) (finding book request system deprived protective custody prisoners of meaningful access to courts).

I am seeking to research and establish a foundation for which to base a writ of habeas corpus, however the failed delivery of any legal research material and the ability to circumvent all responsibility through this runner system has nullified any attempt to research and establish said foundation as well as emasculated all actions of redress.

Therefore, I am reaching out to all individuals having similar discrepancies with the inequities of inadequate runner systems. Any legal help, aid, advice, or books would be greatly appreciated. We must stand in unity and solidarity to resist the oppression, the systems which oppress us as a class. All for one, one for all.

Standing in solidarity,
James Slayton #1605633
Allred Unit HS
2101 FM 369N
Iowa Park, TX 76367

Corcoran, CA - May 2015

Comrades I greet you all in solidarity and stand beside you in this struggle to end long-term isolation. We prison activists are still being attacked by the fascist oppressors who continue to withhold our mail from our loved ones and family members. We have filed complaints to start a paper trail by way of the 602 process in order to obtain an injunction against the I.G.I. for these continuous acts. It seems due to some being released back into the general population via the state step down program, that the fascists are mad and take out this form of retaliation on us who are still behind enemy lines. They've transferred numerous inmates to the

Prison officials retaliation behind Civil Rights Lawsuit May 2015

To whom it may concern! Greetings comrades!
My name is Wendell A. Lee, TDCJ #399488, a Native American Political prisoner here in the Texas slave camp of illegal justice. My Native American name is "Two Wolves." I am T'salgi (Cherokee) of the Waya (Wolf) Clan.

I'm in Administrative Segregation and there are a few of us here that would like to start a chapter of Fight the System. Is there someone we need to check this out with? There are two of us that are paralegals and there's another Comrade who is in the process of taking the paralegal course.

On April 7, 2015, I filed Civil Rights pleadings in the United States District Court here in Amarillo, Texas, regarding my Rights to Freedom of Religion. This civil Rights Action is styled: *Lee V. Steplens*, #2-15CV-113-J. TDCJ is once again trying to make individuals prove they are Native American and giving a list of over one hundred questions they must answer. We are getting ready to take TDCJ back to federal court. No other religion has to prove anything. Why should Native Americans?

On April 10, 2015, I filed a Step One (I-127) Grievance with Assistant Warden Jim Beach regarding my Rights to Freedom of Religion and prison officials violating those rights. On April 20, 2015, around and about 8:30am the Unit Mailroom worker from the United Mailroom here at the Clements Unit came to my cell and notified me that I had some legal mail from Attorney Bryan Stevenson (a Civil Rights Attorney). After I showed the Mailroom worker my I.D. card he then told me that the letter had been opened outside of my presence by mistake. Officer Seth G. Klein (a white prison guard) was with him.

Approximately one hour later, Officer Seth G. Klein returned to my cell and told me to strip out for cell search. After he placed me in the one-man shower a white female guard named Kelly J. Sooter came on to the Section and with prison guard Klein went inside my cell and spent over an hour searching it (stealing personal property). Around and about 10:30am prison guard Sooter and prison guard Klein exited my cell. Prison Guard Sooter had a red chain-bag full of my civil rights law books, New Balance Tennis shoes, headphones, eight typewriter ribbons, eleven other books.

After I arrived back at my cell I noticed what all was missing and I asked prison guard Klein why they were taking my civil rights law books and my other personal property items. He replied: "Lee, I have never had any problems with you. But it's plain that someone higher up is pissed at you about something or other. I'm only doing what I'm told."

I then picked up all my property which was scattered all over my cell floor. I then got my Electric Typewriter out to file a Step One (I-127) Grievance with the Warden and that's when I noticed that the cover would longer snap onto the typewriter; and the Back-Board was broken off so it no longer fit straight but at

an angle. I asked prison guard Klein to let me speak to him or someone with rank about my property being stolen and my typewriter being damaged. He turned and walked away and no supervisor or anyone with any rank was ever called regarding my personal property being stolen by these goons acting under direct orders of Warden Barry L. Martin and Assistant Warden Jim Beach.

The prison officials named herein are retaliating against me because I have filed a Civil Rights Action lawsuit against them in Federal Court regarding my Rights to Freedom of Religion as well as have filed Step One and Step Two (I-127 and I-128) Grievances against them for their illegal and unconstitutional actions.

Prison Officials here at the Clements Unit have shut down my prison Trust Fund Account to stop me from buying typing ribbons herein further retaliating against me and hindering my legal work and my preparing legal pleadings in Civil Action Lee v. Steplens #2-15CV-113-J filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of the Texas Amarillo Division.

If there is anyone out there that can contact me and maybe help out by writing a letter or two to prison officials you can contact me at the below address.

Peace! Solidarity,
Wendell A. Lee #399488
Clements Unit
9601 Spur 591
Amarillo, TX 79107-9606

Prisoners Have Rights Too!!! - April 2015

Because of recent struggles against the unconstitutional oppression and repression of prisoners in the North Carolina prison system, which I related in the February 2015 issue of this newsletter, I have once again found myself, as have many others, in the cruel and unforgiving hands of the “just-us” system. So, both original charges now pending and the possible beginnings of a long and arduous battle of wits and will amongst the stuffy confines of a civil courtroom brewing amidst my mind, I realized that I could not proceed and have any chance of being victorious without first properly preparing myself. Proper Preparation Prevents Piss-Poor Performance. We must all remember this. If we don’t take the time out to properly prepare ourselves for the upcoming battles with this beast of modern slavery, victory will forever remain elusive.

With that thought in the forefront of my mind, I understood that knowledge of both the law and how it works would be imperative to my success. So I set out to procure just that. I began by contacting North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, which is supposed to be our “constitutional right of meaningful access to the courts.” I was provided with information concerning the filing process of a civil suit and a copy of both the United States and North Carolina constitutions upon request, yet, I was informed that they are “no longer funded to evaluate individual inmates’ claims related to their conditions of confinement...and any other issue that relates

civil suit in State Court for the violation of my constitutional rights to equal protection of the law and due process since the Texas Constitution prohibits retroactive law.

I filed a well-written Complaint, ten pages long with an additional two pages of affidavit, mailed that off with the In Forma Pauperis Affidavit to the elected state district clerk, Janice Staples, who accepted my filing without protest, issued me a Case number 3-42362, in the 3rd Judicial District Court of Anderson County, TX. I sent the required number of copies for service of process and, I asked for service of process, which I’m entitled to under state law. Thereafter, the elected clerk refused to communicate with me on service or process. After 3 futile attempts to find out the status, I wrote to the judge, asked for resolution, but he refuses to reply. In this way they are able to protect their political cronies from any consequences from unconstitutional conduct and prevent me from entering the courtroom to litigate Constitutional claims. There is no rule of law here.

I recently found a collection of stories by the author, Louis L’Amour. Louis reminds me that Texans are not “Westerners.” Texans lack the moral sense of right and wrong usually attributed to “Westerners.” Texas is operating a dishonest scale in its courts, cheating those too poor to buy justice out of the rule of law. These dishonest public officials are no different than the corrupt magistrates of King George our Forefathers complained about in the Declaration of Independence. I haven’t met any honest judicial officials in Texas nor any honest law enforcement.

The Political Prisoner of Texas
Bill Sims, 511649
Powledge Unit
140 FM 3452
Palestine, TX 75803

Iowa Park, TX - December 2014

Salutations in solidarity. As an offender serving time in the Texas Department of Corrections Justice (TDC-J) Allred Unit, High Security Ad-Seg, I have observed the rights of multiple individuals being contravened systematically with repetitiveness. This systematic approach these individuals in official capacity employ to maliciously transgress on our US Constitutional Rights is emasculating all efforts to seek actions of redress.

Offenders in TDC-J must make all appeals to officials, pen-offender I-60 request forms. These forms are to be placed in the regular US Postal mail box, to be sorted and distributed to proper departments of appeal by qualified unit mailroom personnel.

For offenders that are classified and housed in High Security (expansion cell-block), Ad-seg on close custody, we are not afforded the liberties to have direct access to law library, hence we have to submit an offender I-60 request form to obtain legal research material. We are allowed to request and receive up to three items of legal research material per day, delivered on three alternating days per week (e.g. M-W-F) from the unit law library collection for use in our cells.

A modest proposal for the abolition of slavery in America in the 21st Century:

Whereas slavery in any form is expressly forbidden by the International Declaration of Human Rights and is moreover an abomination well-recognized throughout the ages as a crime against humanity.

And whereas the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution perpetuates this abominable institution as regards those convicted of a crime and has colored the American criminal justice system as an inhumane extension of the slave plantation, where the basic rights accorded to citizens are denied, including the right to vote, to be paid a fair wage for labor and to collectively bargain the terms of employment, as well as other basic civil and human rights.

And whereas the inalienable rights promised in the Declaration of Independence are yet denied to the American people and most grotesquely so to those convicted and reduced to the status of slaves.

We the undersigned do hereby call for the immediate amending of the 13th Amendment to strike the language perpetuating slavery.

Signed by Bilal Abdul Salaam on behalf of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party – Prison Chapter. Deputy Minister of Human Rights

Palestine, TX - June 2015

The saga continues: It's been a while since my last letter to relating The Struggle for Prisoners' Rights in Texas, and this is another exciting episode I'm sending your way as an update, although there are many stories to tell other than this one.

I am doing time under the sentencing and parole laws from 1987. In 1996 Texas changed the law to what is now known as 'the 50% law' and added the authority for the board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) to make case-by-case decisions to block parole, i.e. issue set-offs. This authority was added in 1996 because it didn't exist in the 1977 or 1987 laws. Also, the 1996 law had a "Savings Clause" that carried the old laws forward to protect those in prison prior to the effective date of the 1996 law. The new law was not allowed to be applied retroactively, and the Texas Constitution Art. I 16, 29 prohibit the Legislature from enacting any retroactive law.

I didn't come up for parole until 2003, seven years after the 1996 law went into effect, but the BPP began to apply the new law to me and issued an illegal 5 year set-off. I tried to resolve the issue, the BPP stonewalled me and pointed to a new law 608.149 of the Government Code and basically said 'we can do anything we want to do.' I was issued another 5 year set-off, tried to resolve it and got stonewalled like the first time. They refused to acknowledge that 508.149 didn't exist in 1988 at the time of my offense. When I recently was issued a 3 year set-off and tried again to resolve it, the BPP stonewalled me, refused to resolve the issue, so I decided to file a

to an inmate's prison life..." I was also told that "NCPLS does not make copies, perform legal research, or provide similar clerical or litigation support services, even for inmates who are pursuing lawsuits on their own," and that they only "offer legal representation to meritorious cases." So what do they do?

I also asked about information concerning criminal court and what kind of research materials may be available to me if I chose to represent myself. I was told that "an inmate is not entitled to access to a law library to represent himself where he has been offered the option of appointment of counsel." In another correspondence I was informed that they "will continue to review and evaluate inmates' claims relating to their convictions and sentences and to represent inmates with viable post-conviction claims." So now I know that I have a right to represent myself, but not to properly research my case. But if I'm convicted and have a legitimate and meritorious case, I may be helped.

I'm able to see how this is constructed to facilitate failure, but I alone am not in possession of the proper knowledge to challenge it. Only together can we battle this system, only together can we succeed. If you know anything that may be useful, or you wish to join us in this battle, your help will be welcomed with open minds.

Godspeed,

Thomas M. Accardi #0861583

Polk Correctional Institution, HCon

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Richmond, TX - February 2015

Greetings! My name is Roberto Luis Ramirez, I am currently serving a 15 year prison sentence at TDCJ Institutional division. I've been imprisoned over 14 years. I am 35 years old. I am Chicano, Apache, Navajo, Puerto Rican, Irish American, Hispanic Sephardic Jewish, Gypsy Spaniard. I am a practitioner adherent and member of Rastafarianism, Apache and Navajo Warrior, Shaman Medicine Man, New Ager, Anarchist, Libertarian, guru, yoga practitioner, 5 degree black belt in mixed martial arts master, environmentalist, civil and human rights activist, abolitionist, political dissident, prisoner of conscience, prisoner of war, political prisoner, socio-anarcho-political-militant, insurgent revolutionary, third grade special education dropout, self-made borderline intellectual, self-educated institutionalized con-artist, songwriter, poet, philosopher, student of mysteries and motivational speaker, among others.

I have been assigned to administrative segregation ad-seg solitary confinement 24/7 in a small windowless cell for 8 years. I've been having medical issues and I am a "medicine man" shaman but the prison refuses to allow shamans to do their rituals of the ghost dance and of the peace pipe ceremony. I am also a Rastafarian and they don't allow inmates to smoke weed or to play the music of Bob Marley and have the Rastafarian celebrations. My medical problems are due to bad nutrition and inhumane deplorable living conditions through all these years of false and cruel incarceration.

I've filed numerous grievances to no avail. I need to be examined by a specialist at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston Texas.

Anybody can contact me any time and I'll answer all letters.

Robert Luis Ramirez #1039748

4 Jester Unit

Richmond, TX 77406

Rights Groups Sue for Proper Treatment of Hepatitis C in State Prisons - June 2015

BOSTON, MA – Hundreds of prison inmates are in danger of losing their lives because the Department of Correction refuses to provide the medicine that will cure their potentially fatal disease. A class action lawsuit filed in federal court today by lawyers for the National Lawyers Guild and Prisoners Legal Services says it is Massachusetts' legal responsibility to provide adequate medical care to state prisoners. Urszula Masny-Latos, Executive Director of the Massachusetts chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said: "It is the responsibility of the state, which spends millions to incarcerate thousands of people, to provide adequate medical care for them. Without such care, many of them will develop serious complications of this disease, and some will die. These people were sentenced to incarceration, not to death." The lawsuit seeks to compel the Department of Correction (DOC) and its health care contractor, the Massachusetts Partnership for Correctional HealthCare, LLC (MPCH) to provide inmates in their custody with new, lifesaving medications for Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C, an infectious disease which causes progressive damage to the liver and ultimately liver failure, is widely prevalent in prisons and jails. New medications approved by the FDA in 2014 represent a dramatic improvement over their predecessors, curing nearly one hundred percent of patients, with far fewer side effects. The DOC and MPCH have stopped using the now-outdated medications, but have failed and refused to provide prisoners with the new treatment. "Hepatitis C afflicts over 1,500 of the Department of Correction's 10,000 prisoners," said Leslie Walker, Executive Director of Prisoners' Legal Services. "The Department used to treat up to 100 prisoners at a time with the best available medication. Today that number is two or three, even though the new regimens are superior in every way to the old medications. Such foot-dragging is unacceptable."

The price of these recently approved medications has been closely scrutinized in Massachusetts and nationally, with reports of prices exceeding \$90,000 for a full treatment regimen. Critics, including some lawmakers, have decried the high prices, while the pharmaceutical companies that produce the drugs have pointed to their value – requiring only weeks of treatment rather than lifelong treatment, as is common with other chronic diseases, and avoiding enormous future costs associated with treating liver failure and wider spread of the disease. "The new medications

are expensive, but cost is no excuse for the violation of the constitutional rights of prisoners," said attorney Jonathan Shapiro. "These medications are not a luxury; they are the standard of care for treating Hepatitis C. The defendants have a constitutional obligation to provide adequate medical treatment, and they are not meeting that obligation. They are hurting not only prisoners with Hepatitis C, but the public health as well. Wider treatment of Hepatitis C will stop the spread of this disease, not just in prison but in the community."

The suit, *Paszko v. O'Brien*, was filed in the United States District Court in Boston. The complaint alleges that the DOC and MPCH are violating the Eighth Amendment rights of state prisoners by denying essential Hepatitis C treatment, including the new medications. The complaint asks the court to order the defendants to immediately provide treatment for a proposed class of the more than 1,500 prisoners in DOC custody who have Hepatitis C.

El Dorado, KS - April 2015

Revolutionary greetings, comrades! My name is Bilal Abdul Salaam. I am the Deputy Minister of Human Rights for the New Afrikan Black Panther Party – Prison Chapter. Due to my political activism I am being targeted by these prison officials. Since October 2014 I have received at least sixteen mail censorships. They all claim the same thing: it poses a threat to safety, order and security of the facility and contains security threat group materials or activity. The material in question is letters from comrades that are also members of NABPP-PC and zines being sent to me from Comrade Twitch at the Central Texas ABC and Comrade Anthony Rayson at the South Chicago Zine Distro. I have filed a civil complaint with the US District Court here in Kansas on this issue but CSIII Maria Bos Continues to censor my mail. This issue needs to be brought to the public's attention because I would like a civil rights attorney to represent me in this case. And I would like to receive mail from like-minded revolutionaries. I write essays, articles, poems, and urban novels. I need help getting my books published. So if you are reading this and can render your aid and assistance in any of these matters please write to me. I aim to amend the 13th Amendment and abolish all prisons. I have a modest proposal that I'm attaching with this letter for all to read. I am also planning on suing the United States government for committing acts of genocide, mass incarceration, and violations of international law. This will be a class action and I need as many revolutionaries as possible to sign on with me. It would help if someone on the outside filed the case with their US District Court. Thank you for your time. Dare to struggle! Dare to win! All power to the people! By any means necessary! Panther love!

Bilal Abdul Salaam a.k.a. Ajamu Mulaki Abdul Watu

Charley Hughes #96576 (Bilal Abdul Salaam)

El Dorado Correctional Facility

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