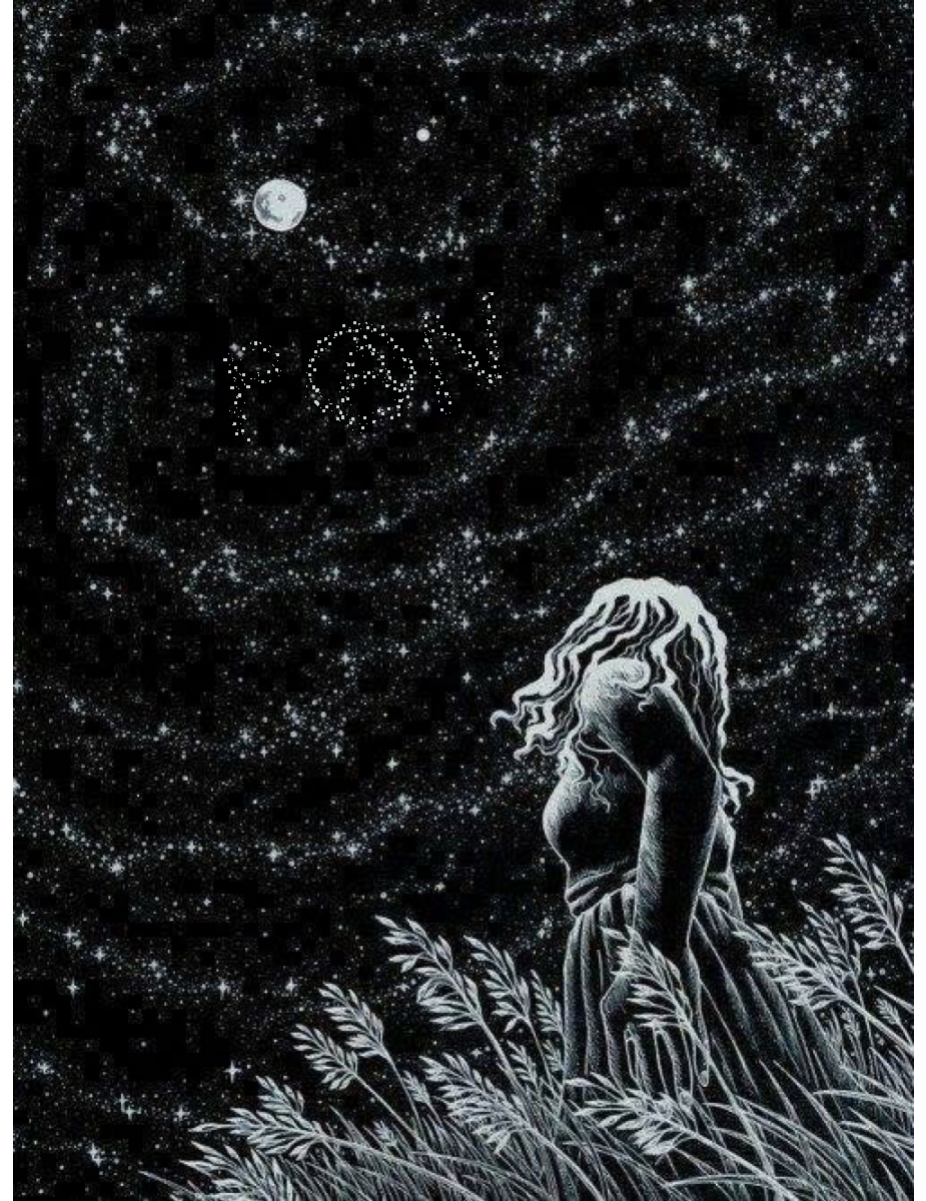
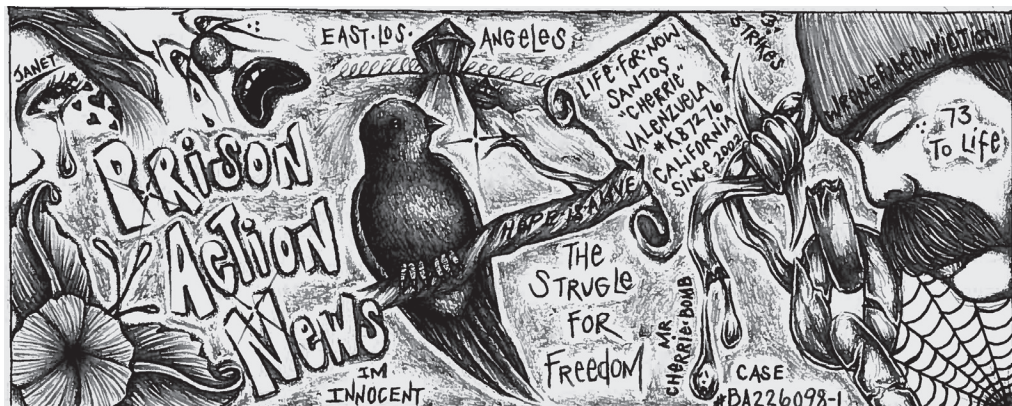


**Prison Action News
PO Box 832
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Prison Action News was founded in 2007 by the Anarchist Black Cross Network (ABCN) as a way for prisoners worldwide to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. It has been edited, published, and distributed by a decentralized volunteer collective that has included groups and individuals in Asheville NC, Austin TX, Bloomington IN, Boston MA, Chicago IL, Cleveland OH, Columbus OH, Middle GA, Oakland CA, Pittsburgh PA, and Worcester MA.

After 11 years, and 22 issues, PAN is ceasing publication, until further notice. We thank all our subscribers for their enthusiastic support over the last decade. This newsletter would not have been possible without all of your tireless resistance and reporting on these actions.

Abolish all prisons! Tear down the walls!

~PAN Collective

Artwork (above): Santos "Cherrie" Valenzuela, Delano, CA

"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)

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Disclaimer:

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PRISON GROUPS UPDATES

New Afrikan Black Panther Party - Prison Chapter - June 2018

From behind the enemy lines of California State Prison system, from within the “belly of the beast” that is the Amerikan injustice system, I greet you all and call for your full attention to the annual commemoration of Black August and invite all prisoners and families throughout Amerika to join us in honoring our beloved martyrs with fasting, studying, and sharing respect and unity with panther love and knowledge in the spirit of the fallen comrades. We shed tears for our fallen comrades and for the masses brutally victimized by the racist, fascist, murdering police. It is very clear that all prisoners’ lives matter. We have a right to cry over our dead, for every life is precious beyond measure. The loss of each who have been killed by the oppressor in this land of exile and enslavement is intolerable. We concentrate this month on those who have been taken from us but who will never be forgotten, for the love of freedom that they dedicated their lives to.

Our grief is real, and so is our determination to continue the struggle until all are free and the oppression of our people is no more. Our grief and our pain makes us more human and stronger because it is based upon love. Our love and determination help the people who struggle on and bring us closer to liberation. We must stand up as one, a united people determined to win our liberation this century.

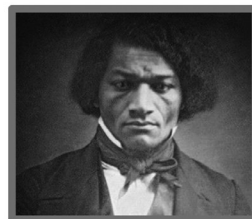
Black August is a month of great significance for Africans throughout the diaspora, but particularly here in the U.S. where it originated. “August,” as Mumia Abu-Jamal noted “is a month of meaning, of repression and radical resistance, of injustice and divine justice, of repression and righteous rebellion, of individual and collective efforts to free the slaves and break the chains that bind us.” The concept of Black August grew out of the need to expose to the masses the glorious and heroic deeds of those African women and men who recognized the need to fight against the injustice heaped upon people of color on a daily basis in Amerika.

To clear our minds, I propose that we eat but one meal a day throughout the month of August and fast completely on August 7, 2018, in honor of Jonathan Jackson, and on August 12, 2018 Hugo “Yogi Bear” Pinell, and August 21, 2018 in honor of George Jackson, and again on August 31, 2018 in honor of Hasan Shakur, the original minister of human rights of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party Prison Chapter (NABPP-PC) who was executed by the state of Texas for a crime he did not commit. On August 31, 2018 we also remember Stephon Clark, and all the youths that were killed by the police within the last five years. Also remember Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Sandra Bland, Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Rekia Boyd, Sean Bell, Oscar Grant, Gus Rugley, Alan Blueford, Trayvon Martin, and all the many young people who have been murdered by the cops and gang violence.

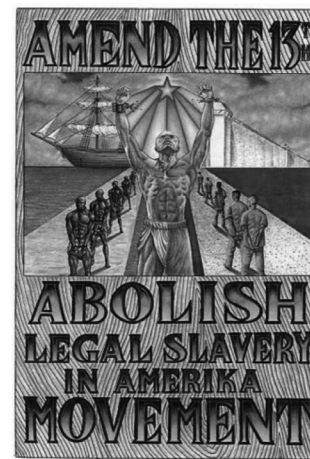
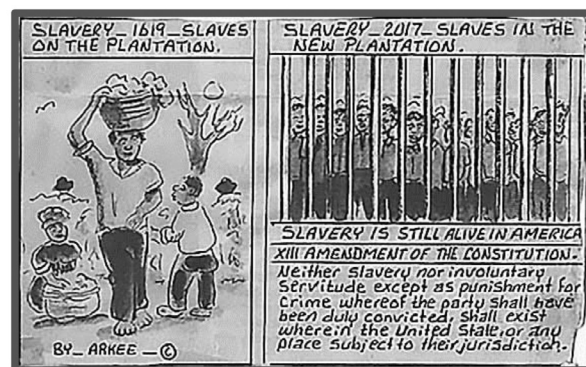


*“Those who profess to favor freedom
and yet deprecate agitation,
Are men who want crops without
Plowing the ground;
They want rain without thunder
and lightning.
They want the ocean without the
awful roar of its many waters.
This struggle may be a moral one,
And it may be a physical one,
Or it may be both moral and physical,
But it must be a struggle.
Power concedes nothing without a
Demand.
It never did and it never will.
Find out just what any people will
Submit to
And you have found out the exact
Amount of injustice
And wrong which will be imposed
Upon them, and
These will continue till they are
Resisted
With either words or blows,
or with both.
The limits of tyrants are prescribed by
the endurance of those whom they
oppress.”*

- Frederick Douglass



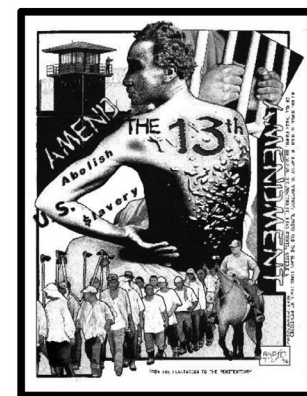
Frederick Douglass is shown as a young man in this rare photo. His quote titled “Freedom” here is from a speech known as “If There is No Struggle, There is No Progress,” delivered when he was 39. It was reformatted as a poem by the NCTT.



We have the record of kings and gentlemen ad nauseum and in stupid detail; but of the common run of human beings, and particularly of the half or wholly submerged working group, the world has saved all too little of authentic record and tried to forget or ignore even the little saved.

W. E. B. DU BOIS¹

To The Illuminated Just Hand



This Black August we will honor our martyrs and political prisoners Bro. William (Horse) DeLoach, Bro. Robert (Diablo) Brodus, and many more.

During this month of fasting, the veterans of the struggle and elders should make a special effort to reach out to and teach the youth our history and the lessons of our people's struggle. We should strengthen our commitment to practicing panther love and throw away old grudges and resentments. We draw those around us close and build the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood between us.

If you know your enemy and know yourself, then the battle will be won. We must overstand the truth and hold our friends close, as there are few who can be trusted.

Besides fasting, comrades should work out their minds and reach out to the youth in the 21st century. Some books I recommend are:

- *Read Like Your Life Depended on It* by Art Lewin
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *We are Our Own Liberation* by Jalil Muntaqim
- *Eyes on the Prize, 1954-1990*. Editors, Clayborne Carson, David J Garrow, Gerald Gill, Vincent Harding, Darlene Clark Hine.
- *Marshall Law: the Life and Times of a Baltimore Black Panther* by Marshall "Eddie" Conway and Dominique Stevenson
- *Race in the 21st Century* by Darlene Clark Hine

All power to the people with panther love with unity of respect forever.

From comrade,

Bobby Marion Dixon
Minister of Justice of NABPP-PC

DIRECT ACTION/NON-COMPLIANCE

Statement regarding the ongoing Nationwide Prison Strike - August 2018

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/strike-statement-press-august-28-2018>
Issued August 28, 2018 (week two of the strike) by the Prison Strike Media Team

This is a growing movement and the Nationwide Prison Strike of 2018 is an unparalleled success for prisoner organizing in the modern era. However, it is important that in recognizing that success that we not lose sight of the demands that prisoners have laid out. Each of them is crucial. As the continued prisoner-on-prisoner violence within prisons over the past week suggests, the people who run the US prison system have not yet made the necessary changes to stop the violence they produce behind the walls. These are changes which are necessary to ensure that prisoners are safe, that they have hopes and dreams for the future, that they can build towards redemption, rather than being condemned to a slow death inside a concrete box.

Right now we know that thousands of prisoners are risking torturous repression to bring this agenda forward, and we do not take their sacrifice lightly and neither should you. Prisoners are facing repression right now as we speak and it is our duty on the outside to do whatever we can to shield them from that violence of the state.

We have had incidents where media have had the opportunity to interview imprisoned prison strike leadership and have refused to print their words because the prisoner refused to give out his government name out of an understanding of the very real dangers of reprisal. Opportunities to interview prisoners connected to the organization of this protest from the inside are precious and we will not squander them again on institutions who don't understand and value what is at risk for prisoners in this moment.

To reiterate and raise up the voices of the prisoners' themselves, below again are the demands:

"These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons:

- Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
- An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
- The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
- The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No

human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.

- An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.

- An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.

- No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.

- State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.

- Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.

- The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called “ex-felons” must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

As the first week of the prison strike comes to a close, we are seeing the strike spread across the US as the imprisoned organizers predicted. Within prisons, what we see and are able to report on the outside is always only the tip of the iceberg. For every documented form of protest that we are able to share with you, we know there are many others that aren’t even on our radar yet.

Here is a list of the states and prisons that have reported strike activity to Jailhouse Lawyers Speak or the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee as of August 28, 2018:

Washington - Representatives of over 200 immigrant detainees at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington declared a hunger strike on day one of the national prison strike. Amid fears of retaliation, 70 across three blocks participated. As of this time, seven continue to refuse food into a second week.

Georgia - Prisoners in Georgia State Prison “Reidsville” have reported a strike according to Jailhouse Lawyers Speak.

South Carolina - Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is reporting that prisoners in the following facilities are on strike: Broad River Correctional Institution, Lee Correctional Institution, McCormick Correctional Institution, Turbeville Correctional Institute, Kershaw Correctional Institution, and Lieber Correctional Institution. The actions in these facilities include widespread workstrikes, with only a few prisoners reporting to their jobs, and commissary boycotts.

North Carolina - Prisoners at Hyde Correctional Institution in Swanquarter, NC demonstrated in solidarity with the strike. There have been unconfirmed reports of strikes at other institutions across the state.

California - at New Folsom Prison a hunger strike started by Heriberto Garcia on August 21 has grown...

Ohio - At least two prisoners at Toledo Correctional Institution began a hunger strike on August 21. David Easley and James Ward were moved into isolation for participating and authorities have cut off their means of communication to outside contacts.

Indiana - prisoners in the segregation unit at Wabash Valley Correctional Institution initiated a hunger strike on Monday August 27 demanding adequate food and an end to cold temperatures in the unit.

New Mexico - On August 9, prisoners at Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs, NM organized a work stoppage against conditions at the prison, operated by private corporation GEO Group. Tensions at the prison reached a tipping point prior to the date of the strike and prisoners could not wait before initiating their protest. All facilities in New Mexico were placed on lockdown status on the morning of August 20. This statewide lockdown has since been lifted except for Lea County C.F..

Florida - Jailhouse Lawyers Speak asserts that five Florida facilities are seeing strike activity: Charlotte CI reports 40 refusing work, and 100 boycotting commissary. Prisoners at Dade Correctional say 30-40 on strike, Franklin Correctional report 30-60, Holmes Correctional reports 70, Appalachee Correctional report an unknown number.

Nova Scotia, Canada - at Burnside County Jail in Halifax prisoners went on strike and issued a protest statement in solidarity with the strike and naming local demands. They went through a lockdown and extensive negotiations with authorities, those who refused to cooperate with humiliating body scans were punished by being locked in a dry cell (no water or working toilets) for three days.

Texas IWOC was forwarded a message dated 8/23 from inside administrative segregation, (solitary) of Stiles Unit, Beaumont TX confirming that 2 prisoners are on hunger strike in solidarity with the national action: “I feel great. But very hungry! And not because I don’t have food but because of our 48 hours solidarity with our brothers and sisters. It’s the only way we can show support from inside of Seg. Let everyone know we got their backs.”

IWOC has confirmed that Robert Uvalle is on hunger strike in solitary at Michael Unit, Anderson County, TX in solidarity with the nationwide strike. Robert has been in solitary for most of his 25 years inside.

Prison authorities have begun responding to the strike in media interviews denying that anything unusual is occurring in their facilities. Inside organizers predicted this would happen and urge continued skepticism and investigation. Organizers with Jailhouse Lawyers Speak struggle to rebut these claims because of the need to protect themselves from targeted reprisals.

Before the strike started, prisoner leaders in Ohio, Florida and Texas were targeted and isolated. The state’s attempts to pre-empt or deter strike action in some facilities included humiliating and demoralizing rituals.

In previous years, prisoners who openly spoke to media suffered greatly for it. For example, Melvin Ray, Dhahi Khalid and Kinetik Justice of the Free Alabama Movement were transferred to isolation in 2014 after publicly announcing a work stoppage. Then in 2016, while still in isolation from that incident, they continued to openly advocate the September 9 national strike. Kinetik Justice was sent to notoriously dangerous Kilby and Limestone prisons where he believed authorities intended to kill him, but continued to protest and draw attention, protecting himself from further harm.

The efforts by authorities to disrupt communication between prisoner organizers and outside support also interfere with and impede communication between prisons by inside organizers. Before the strike started Jailhouse Lawyers Speak heard commitments to the strike and its demands from prisoners in 17 states. Prison authorities may prove successful in concealing or even deterring participation in some of those states, but they cannot refute the righteousness of the 10 prisoner demands.

Outside supporters have and will continue to advocate for the demands with vibrant protests across the United States. Hundreds of rallies, protests, informational events, and other actions have been recorded. Phone zaps to support striking prisoners have seen wide participation. The impact of the strike on policy and public dialog about mass incarceration in the United States will be deep and sustained.

There have been many questions about whether the prison strike can be successful. To the first question, the success of the prison strike will not be determined in a simple easily digestible news bite, but by the recognition by enough people with enough power to force society to view prisoners as human beings, and view the concerns of incarcerated humans as legitimate human rights concerns. The strike has clearly already achieved greater success than the 2016 strike, as it has reached publications and milestones that were never reached in 2016. Prisoner demands have permeated the mainstream conversation and they are taking their rightful place at the table in all conversations on how to begin to undo the atrocity that is mass incarceration in America. Organizations are signing on in solidarity faster than organizers can update the endorsement list and by the time we hit the one week mark there are over 300 organizations, and groups officially in solidarity with the prison strike.

The full realization of prisoners demands requires broad changes to the prison system and US society. The prisoners' bold action must be followed up on the outside with policy changes and continuous conversations about living conditions and human rights abuse in the prisons.

NY - January 2018

Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers: On January 1, 2018, us prisoners in New York State had our package privileges changed. Two weeks later, thanks to our protests and the actions of our families, friends and advocates beyond the wall, our governor, Andrew Cuomo, terminated the new package policy.

For decades us prisoners in New York State have been allowed to receive packages of food, clothing, toiletries, etc. from home. Either by mail or when visited. And by mail from any vendor who was not specifically disapproved. The new package policy was to disallow all packages from home. While six [6] specific companies were selected as the only vendors where we can get ordered items by mail.

The selected companies had all items overpriced, revealing exactly what had occurred: a corporate takeover. Capitalism at work. Corporations had obtained another monopoly. Our government in cahoots.

We resisted with hunger strikes and work stoppages. While our families, friends and advocates bombarded our state politicians with phone calls, postcards and letters. We won! The new package policy was instantly terminated by the governor.

Unfortunately, I suspect the governor's decision to end the new package policy is simply a political ploy. It's election year in New York. New York is about fifty percent minorities. Our prison system is made up of over seventy-five percent Black and Latino. Our families and friends vote too. Running for reelection I think the governor did not like all the bad publicity. After election day, however, I think the new package policy will be put into effect. Stay tuned...

In solidarity!

Immigrants in ICE Detention Have Joined the Nationwide Prison Strike - August 2018

by Esther Wang

<https://theslot.jezebel.com/immigrants-in-ice-detention-have-joined-the-nationwide-1828577551>

On Tuesday, incarcerated people around the country launched a 19-day strike, protesting the dire conditions of their incarceration and releasing a list of demands calling for an end to forced labor, which they describe as “prison slavery.” Now, immigrants being detained in at least one facility in Washington state have joined them.

In a handwritten letter posted to the Facebook page of the group NWDC Resistance, which has been in touch with the detainees at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, detainees announced their intention to go on strike, writing: “We are taking part in a hunger strike nationwide demanding change and closure of these detention centers.”

Explaining that they “are acting with solidarity for all those people who are being detained wrongfully,” including families who continue to remain separated in the wake of the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” policy at the U.S.-Mexico border, the letter writers also demand to be paid the minimum wage, stating that they are being “coerced into worker programs” and used as “slave labor” by the privately run detention center.

Maru Mora, a spokesperson for the group NWDC Resistance, told Newsweek that at least 60 are on hunger strike. More had planned to join, but many dropped out partly due to fears of retaliation, Mora said. According to Mora, staff at the facility have retaliated against detainees who have gone on hunger strike in the past, from segregating protesters to threatening to force-feed hunger strikes. “We have documented it again and again every time a hunger strike happens,” Mora said. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has denied that detainees are on strike at the facility.

The nationwide prison strike was announced by members of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group in South Carolina made up of incarcerated people who organizes for prisoners’ rights. As The Nation reported, the group “released a list of 10 demands that included improving the conditions of prisons immediately, rescinding the Prison Litigation Reform Act, restoring the voting rights of all confined citizens, an immediate end to racist gang-enhancement laws, ending death by incarceration, and rehabilitation services for all prisoners, including violent offenders.”

JLS announced the strike in response to a deadly riot on April 15 at the Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina that left seven prisoners dead.

In an interview published earlier this month, an unnamed JLS representative connected the detention of undocumented immigrants to the larger criminal justice system:

“As far as the connection with ICE and why we’re in solidarity, the biggest reason is because we understand those cages. And not only that, but it’s all the same system. And this is something that JLS has been promoting from day one. The entire system itself—the judicial system, the injustice system—it is a big ball of corruption, a big ball of crap [laughs]. Just being straightforward.

...But we definitely feel for those humans that are in those cages, in those ICE detention cages. Before I was transferred over to [state prison] from [federal prison], I was actually caged up with a few of the guys who were being transported over to the federal [prison] from the ICE [facilities] and you could always see the dread in these men’s eyes, when they were being transferred over, and not only that, sometimes you can see the sadness, sometimes you can see—as I was explaining to some of the other comrades when we were talking about it—sometimes you can even see that some of these guys feel like they would even be facing death, when they go back home. So you can’t help but see that this is something that we should all be up-in-arms about, particularly when you know what’s going on.

But much more than anything, these are human rights violations, these facilities. And once more, I can’t overemphasize that they’re all the same. It’s all on the same chain, there’s no difference there. Outside of the fact that there are a few obvious differences, but the fundamental essence and nature of ICE, it’s no different from where I’m at now. It’s all slavery.”

A page from the cage - Spring 2018

A page from the cage, in the cruel confines of the Lucasville dungeons, behind enemy lines the war wages forth, on the frontlines in the battles against this despicable state and its injustice!

‘Twisted Tex,’ on behalf of the Ohio Comrades, must report on thee ongoing crusades from the cage in 23-hour Solitary Confinement. For once it is the state scoundrels whom blood stains the dungeon’s walls, and flows freely upon the filthy floors.

On February 20th, 2018, in the Dungeons of the Infamous Lucasville Prison, in Housing Unit J-3, a Scoundrel’s Blood flows free!

After months of this cage and the incitement and rage, a captive finally beckons the call.

The injuries sustained, were heard on the range and the prisoners yelled out in a roar. As the signal was made for a coming brigade the sticks of vengeance were pulled. The crys and the shout, churn the minds of the felt, as the captives endure such pains. A war that it was, rendered by a captive in blood, surely seeks to destroy.

This torture they do, the select and the few provokes a man to engage.

After the months and the years, and the restless of tears, a beast finally responds.

To the depths of this hell, where us prisoners dwell, the flames of insanity burn.
A cage of this doom, blossoms and blooms a nasty shade of gray.
Too many times, a prisoner loses his mind and look at the end result.
A scoundrel there lay, as he begs and he prays in a puddle of his own demise.
Thunderous sounds, rumble the grounds, as finally one of them bleeds.
A year of abuse plus the fear of rebuke ends in a frightful applause.
To the captives at bay and prisoners en-caged this one goes out to you.
A victory for one is a victory for all no matter who beckons the call.
The torture shall end, I promise my friend, or more of these calls shall be made.

~ The End ~

I write this from the Lucasville Dungeons, Cages of Solitary Torture. We, the Lucasville Captives continue to endure the vicious wrath of a cage's contraption. Its every day infectious inflictions and the venomous daily dose...when will society's elite finally realize that we shall never come to tolerate this wicked keep.

PLEASE HELP END THE SOLITARY TORTURE !

~ Ohio Prisoners United ~

'Twisted Tex'

The Twisted Litigator

Prisoners In Bristol County launch hunger strike in solidarity with ICE detainees - July 2018

by Maggie Penman

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2018/07/25/prisoners-in-bristol-county-launch-hunger-strike-in-solidarity-with-ice-detainees>

Inmates at the Bristol County [MA] House of Corrections in North Dartmouth began a hunger strike Tuesday evening in solidarity with ICE detainees, says Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson.

Hodgson says 71 inmates refused dinner Tuesday night, and another 35 inmates joined them in refusing breakfast Wednesday morning.

ICE detainees in Bristol County were on a hunger strike last week in protest of a lack of medical care, "inedible" food, and other alleged abuses. The sheriff says, news coverage of those strikes led inmates in the general population to refuse meals this week to show their support.

"It's been a consistent problem my clients were faced with, as far as lack of medical treatment," says immigration attorney Val Ribeiro. She currently represents three ICE detainees held in Bristol County, though over the years she has represented many others.

"We kind of have to move mountains to get [Bristol County] to acknowledge it, number one, and to provide them with the proper medication and treatment if necessary," Ribeiro says. Hodgson denies that there are issues with food or medical care for ICE detainees, saying that all inmates receive the same meals and care.

"We have a nurse in that facility everyday, almost the entire day," Hodgson says. "We have doctors if somebody needs a doctor."

Hodgson blames progressive groups for inciting the protest to advance their political agendas, saying that doing so could have unintended consequences.

"They are exposing my officers, my staff, and the inmates that we have care and custody of to either being seriously hurt or killed as a result of their stirring up these inmates inside our facilities," Hodgson says.

"This is a very dangerous situation," he says of the hunger strike. "When you impact the environment inside a prison, you could set off a riot in a matter of a minute."

The strike continued to grow Wednesday evening when inmates in two other housing units refused the prepared dinner, according to a spokesperson for the sheriff's office. He noted however that the inmates still have access to food from canteens.

"Everyone is eating," Jonathan Darling, the public information officer for the Sheriff's office said. "No one is going hungry."

Advocates dispute that claim, saying that food from the canteens costs money, and many of the inmates don't have it.

"When somebody is on a hunger strike, they're not buying two dollar ramen noodles from the commissary," Laura Wagner of the Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network told me. "They don't have any money."

Punished for Distributing clean water, MA prisoner enters hunger strike - March 2018

<https://www.democracynow.org/2018/3/30/headlines/>

In Massachusetts, an outspoken prisoner at the state's largest prison has gone on hunger strike, after he was placed in solitary confinement for attempting to distribute clean water to other prisoners. Wayland Coleman was placed in solitary at the MCI-Norfolk prison after guards discovered 15 cases of bottled water in his cell. Coleman had collected the water from the prison canteen after a group called the Deeper Than Water Coalition raised funds to distribute it to prisoners, who are otherwise forced to drink foul-tasting, tea-colored water full of sediment from the prison's aging plumbing. Coleman's supporters say he's stopped eating food in protest of his treatment, as he enters his 10th day in a solitary confinement cell.

<https://itsgoingdown.org/report-on-juneteenth-strike-actions-on-the-inside-and-out/>

News from Juneteenth is beginning to come in from Florida prisoners. We have gotten word from prisoners at Martin C.I. that approximately 50 people there were down to participate in non cooperation for Juneteenth when a lockdown, declared by the facility's administration in response to a solidarity protest outside the prison on June 17th, caused the facility to cease usual operations.

Solidarity protests outside also occurred at the RMC prison in Lake Butler (next to a proposed phosphate mine and an existing landfill) and the Palm Beach County Jail, which was also exposed this week for holding juvenile pre-trial detainees in solitary confinement, contrary to the state's laws which requires juvenile inmates receive an education comparable to children who are not jailed.

-Prison staff called the police on activists, barred two women from returning to see their incarcerated loved ones, and placed one of their sons in confinement.

-Officials at Martin Correctional Institution put him there because his mother, Geraldine Harriel, showed up at the prison to protest its living conditions. Prison staff also had trespass warnings issued to the protesters, including Harriel. She's now barred from returning to see her son. The Department of Corrections is considering terminating her visitation.

Although Juneteenth activities were focused on State prisons, as of June 21, USP Coleman 1 has been locked down for over 3 weeks. Leonard Peltier, who is caged there, asks friends to write a polite letter to Warden Roy Cheatham 846 NE 54 Terrace Wildwood, FL 34785 checking on Leonard 89637-133, who has not been feeling well.



Gainesville, Florida Solidarity Action. Photos from *IGD*



by Dara Lind

<https://www.vox.com/2018/8/2/17641208/immigrant-strike-detention-families-separation>

Reunited families are “desperate” to be freed — even if it means deportation. Fathers being held in an immigration detention facility after reunification with their children engaged in a protest Thursday out of frustration and despair over being “restrained from our freedom as human beings,” as one father put it.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, the protest was minor: a brief sit-in. But according to the Texas advocacy and legal services group RAICES, which announced the protest, what's going on is much more serious: a hunger strike.

Here's what we know:

- On Wednesday, RAICES announced that 500 fathers intended to begin a hunger strike that day. The fathers involved in the strike planned to sit down in three public “patio” areas within the Karnes Residential Facility, one of the family detention centers in Texas in which reunited families are being held, and refuse food. Their children had also agreed to a modified strike in which they refuse to participate in activities.
- RAICES did not confirm whether the strike had actually started Wednesday.
- On Thursday, RAICES posted the following tweet:
 “This morning at one of the largest detention centers in Texas, 50 dads are sitting on the soccer field to protest the conditions and consistent mistreatment from the government: “We are not animals.” #KarnesStrike #DadsDemandsJustice”
- On Thursday evening, ICE officials put out a statement that denied that any hunger strike was going on at Karnes. The statement said: “Despite reports to the contrary, there has been no mass protest or hunger strike by residents housed at Karnes County Residential Center. On Aug. 2, a small group of fathers and their children (fewer than 50 total) staged a brief sit-in and expressed their concerns about their immigration cases. The on-site ICE supervisor thoroughly explained the process; the residents appreciated the information and dispersed. In addition, there were no unusual absences from school at Karnes.”
- In response, RAICES put out a statement insisting that the fathers had in fact launched a hunger strike Thursday, and accusing ICE of “diminishing & dismissing their request.”

Both sides appear to agree that the number of fathers involved in the protest is closer to 50 than the 500 that RAICES originally reported. But whether there’s a hunger strike or not is a much trickier question to answer. ICE didn’t say anything about whether fathers were refusing meals, and there have been questions in the past about when ICE officially acknowledges someone refusing meals to be on hunger strike.

What is clear either way is that at least some of the parents being held in detention after being reunited with their families felt stuck in limbo, without an idea what’s going to happen next to them — even as that question is being litigated in federal courts on the West Coast and East Coast — and that their frustration with being detained is reaching a level of desperation.

Reunited families are in a holding pattern waiting to see what comes next — and increasingly desperate.

According to RAICES, the parents are striking to urge the government to “expedite” their cases. But in recordings and transcripts distributed by RAICES on Wednesday, the fathers appear simply to be frustrated by being stuck in a detention facility with no idea what’s going to happen to them next. “We don’t know anything,” one Guatemalan father, Olivio, said. “We are incarcerated in here and there’s not much we can do, so now we are all planning to gather in the patio and wait to see what happens.”

In fact, some fathers’ statements make it clear that they’d rather be deported than kept in limbo at Karnes. “We are desperate,” a father named Jorge said. “They should just do what they need to do, whether it is to deport us or allow us to be free to work with visas.”

Many of the fathers have likely already signed forms agreeing to their de-

portation; about 1,000 children over 5 had been reunited with parents who already had final deportation orders. (That’s the majority of the 1,500 or so who were reunited with parents as of a court-imposed deadline last week.) But they can’t actually be deported yet.

Federal Judge Dana Sabraw in the Southern District of California is expected to rule imminently on the question of whether to keep the government from deporting any reunited families for seven days, to give lawyers a chance to make sure that no parent was coerced into choosing to be deported without their child if they’d prefer to keep the family together (or coerced into choosing to withdraw their child’s case, as four parents told a lawyer over the weekend ICE had pressured them to do).

In the meantime, the government has reportedly agreed to pause any deportations until Friday so a federal judge in DC can decide whether to make a similar ruling and whether to combine the DC case with the California one.

The request not to deport parents is coming from immigration advocates, who are worried about guaranteeing due process for parents and children alike. Indeed, RAICES is concerned that some of the parents currently striking in Karnes might have agreed to deportation because they believed it would help them see their children sooner, and that they might choose differently now that they have been reunited and have the chance to speak to a lawyer about their case.

But the result, for the families, is a holding pattern. The government isn’t deporting them, but it isn’t releasing them either. And it’s not giving them access to asylum officers or telling them what’s going on.

Like family separation, family detention is traumatic

The parents in the Karnes strike aren’t protesting to improve specific conditions of their detention. They’re protesting being detained at all. One father who spoke anonymously on the RAICES recording said: “My son cries every day, he doesn’t want to eat, he’s very worried, and he’s only 6 years old. What worries me is that we are restrained from our freedom as human beings.”

Children and parents alike are clearly still processing the trauma of having been separated for months. But even beyond that, they are deeply distressed by their continued confinement.

The facility at Karnes is one of a few ICE facilities that are designed for families, in compliance with the standards the government is held to as part of the Flores court settlement. (These standards both set limits on the amount of time children can be placed in immigration detention and require them to be held in “licensed programs” while they are detained.)

It’s one of the facilities that ICE official Matthew Albence described to a Senate committee Tuesday as “more like a summer camp.”

The Trump administration and many Republicans in Congress have been pushing to expand the use of family detention (and relax the standards for facilities) in order to keep parents and children in custody without separating them. The idea that facilities like Karnes are friendlier to family life than the alternative is crucial to this argument.

The fathers and sons in Karnes right now appear to disagree. In desperation, they engaged in some sort of protest — the nature of which might take a few days to become clear — because they just want their saga to end.

THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

Ocala FL - June 2018

I am an indigent state prisoner, wrongfully convicted and locked in solitary confinement as revenge for my grievances. Since 2010 I have received 95 false/retaliatory disciplinary reports, taken to confinement 22 times, lost years of gain time and kept locked in a room about half this period- blatant retaliation. The employees pretend it is discipline to justify their wrongdoing. Over the years I have submitted thousands of grievances, talked to administrators, met with several useless IGs, called the prison tipline, filed formal complaints with various agencies, contacted organizations, written letters and filed petitions in state/federal/appellate courts with no significant changes. I published books online to expose the corruption in the criminal justice system at http://www.prisonsfoundation.org/Nonfiction_Books.html. My book **Prison Life** was cited in the Journal of Law and Social Deviance December 2016. I have mass emails sent out with personal messages from me and links to my books to educate the public on the waste of over incarceration (from jt-max125@aol.com). In 2017 I was deliberately assigned violent roommates to batter me by the management at FWRC. The last one sent me to the emergency room and I have permanent scars on my face from this attack. I have now been sent to dosed management on the pretense that I am "endangering the inmate population" and need behavior modification which is long-term solitary confinement torture that does not improve anyone's behavior. The lunatic who battered me was sent to general population after putting more than one inmate in the hospital. Many of my grievances are not responded to and what answers I get are full of lies to cover up the abuse. I have not seen an IG on Ocala prison issues since 2015. No one comes to even pretend to investigate the rampant human rights violations I report. I have been sanctioned in several courts to prevent me from pursuing relief for my wrongful conviction and the FDOC persecution I have endured for years. The statewide abuse has been high profile for for years with few improvements, even with extreme exposure by the media. Florida is known for its public corruption. The FDOC IG was replaced after newspapers reported that he lied to hide the murders of inmates by the state workers paid to take care of us. There have been 7 DOC secretaries in the past decade. There was a record number of inmate deaths in 2014 and here at LGI an inmate died of blunt force trauma after being battered by the employees. In 2016 the rate of solitary confinement at FDOC was three times the national average. The rate of incar-

ceration in Florida is 23% above the national average with one out of 104 people in jail/prison. Florida incarcerates its citizens and subjects them to correctional control more than nearly any other state in the country. The harsh laws are outdated, waste taxpayer dollars, and do not improve public safety. The FDOC is the largest state agency with a \$2.3 billion budget, twice what is spent on higher education. In 2017 sentence disparity was front page news with my county the most biased in Florida at sentencing. Twice I have been battered by jail staff who falsified reports to accuse me of wrongdoing to justify their abuse of me while handcuffed and locked in a cell with no witnesses. Both times I was charged with a felony and encouraged to enter a plea while I was held in jail with no bond. My own lawyers sabotaged my post conviction motions, denied me the right to appeal and kept the most beneficial information from me to help the state attorney keep me wrongfully convicted. I have spent over 12 years of my life in Florida jails/prisons being abused by personnel who have free reign to break the law to cause me harm with no consequences. My correspondence to the FBI, FDLE, Governor, POTUS (2), Department of Justice, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Florida legislature, U.S. Congress, Attorney General, Florida State Police, local police, local state attorney, criminal justice committee is largely ignored. The Florida bar, commission on ethics and judicial qualification Commission condone the misconduct of all officials involved. Now I am locked in a room with no law library access and my papers stolen from me that I sent to get copied and typed. The law librarian refuses to give me addresses, notary, writing paper, rulers, envelopes, case law, etc to prevent me from handling my legal cases. I met with an ACLU lawyer last year to investigate what has been done to me but she can offer no individual help. I have a \$5,000 lien on my account for postage, copies and filing fees to seek relief. It costs two to three times the cost of GP to keep me in solitary confinement. This causes irreparable psychological damage and will make it less likely that I can function normally when released (if I survive). I have no normal human contact and must be chained and handcuffed when I leave my cell. I cannot receive a visit, use the phone, go to Chapel meetings or research in the law library. I do not even earn my gain time on the status. I get offered only three showers a week. To go outside for recreation a few hours a week I would have to take off all my clothes, bend over and squat/cough just to walk outside handcuffed and be locked in a cage a few hours. I suffer horribly from the isolation. We are regularly tortured with chemical agents by the staff while being denied basic necessities. There is an online movement to reduce the prison population by 50% in the next decade at [www.change.org \(#cut50\)](http://www.change.org/#cut50). I am interested in educational opportunities for prisoners with no phone or internet access, connecting with other activists, partnering with legal aid groups, receiving newsletters from advocacy groups and getting on any prayer lists available. I can receive stamps, envelopes, paper, blank greeting cards, books and newspapers, magazines subscriptions through US mail. I would appreciate any support I can get. I am growing old in prison for no logical reason and this is a waste of my life and resources. All the crooked judges, lawyers and Correctional staff have immunity. None of the rules are in my favor. There is no regulation of the facility and no real checks and balances. No one has any accountability and only I am punished when I report the criminal acts of the officials. They come to work drunk or high, have sex with the inmates

The Assassination of Fred Hampton



How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther

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and bring in illegal drugs and Contraband to sell. We are human beings treated worse than animals at taxpayer expense, warehoused to provide jobs for the sadistic socio-paths that gravitate to these positions because they enjoy harming people and this is the only environment where this would be tolerated. Please contact the DOJ on my behalf at 301-583-7350 ID #3913990 and request for Steven Rosenbaum to initiate an investigation and intervene on my behalf before it is too late. I do not want to be the next fatality in this corrupt system. This is the world's largest prison for women.

Shannon Copeland W25201
Lovell Correctional Institution
11120 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala FL 34482

Boscobel, WI- May 2018

Much respect to Juivonne Littlejohn, Keith Warren, and Uhuru Rowe, who seek solidarity with those outside of their culture/orientation. We must deeply respect each other, not seek conversion for this to persist.

I'm white, hetero, but have litigated suits for black and bi prisoners, resisted guards who mistreated gay prisoners. Some white prisoners didn't like me for not being racist enough, and some black prisoners hated me and those I helped because I'm "racist." They fail to see that the division enables prisoncrats to oppress us all.

Us enlightened ones must support each other, because it can be lonely, as it is for me here, where Capitalist gang members fear/hate me: the universal solidarity I practice threatens the selfish, hateful beliefs that guide their slow/quick lives/deaths and justify their infliction of slow/quick deaths of "others."

All those guys, maddened from seg, reinforce the others' toxic, divisive beliefs, so we fight each other, not the oppressors of us all. It provides prisoncrats with a potent propaganda weapon to scare citizens into supporting harsh law enforcement, makes us hypocrites for complaining about prisoncrats' crimes against humanity.

I have blood, dirt on my hands, yet struggle to do better, help prisoners of all types sue the DOC and obtain education, see the power and hope that solidarity offers - the only reason that society operates in the calloused way it does because people play along with it!

Likeminded activists, follow me at <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/540>

Write me at

Nate A. Lindell #303724
WSPF PO Box 9900
Boscobel, WI 53805-0901

Carson City, NV - February 2018

My name is Amber Meadows. I am an NDOC transwoman and I want to elaborate in full the extreme prejudice as well as the corruption that the NDOC has and my concerns. For one, I have tried for so long to get on H.T.C. (hormone treatment care) for transitioning into a woman and I have been neglected as well as shunned and mistreated, abused, and put in detrimental situations to be a victim of rape and/or abuse as well as police brutality. Ely State Prison had me destroyed and broken at one point from the excessive amount of psychotropic medications that I was basically a violent/depressive wreck and they used my mental health and unstable condition (derived from excessive psychmeds) to get away with starving me, CERT officers beating me and mental health staff ordering cell extractions on me and CERT officers beating me within an inch of my life and to the point where I was nearly unconscious, and then 5 points trapping me to a bed on my tummy, in super tight restraints that stopped blood flow and numbed my body and they had left me strapped to a bed cold and butt naked for so long that I peed on myself. They instilled fear in me by threatening to strap me down if I didn't follow orders. And to the point where Ely State Prison officers would say that I was suicidal so they would come cell extract me and beat me and say things like "you weird faggot" "You're a man!" "Cocksucker! Dicksucker!" etc. and they'd starve me for 2 or 3 days at a time all because they hated me because I'm transgender. I'm tired of it so I became a trans prisoner activist and I'm filing grievances, hoping to get my case in court ASAP. If anyone can help me with legal advice please help me. The NDOC is getting away with too much. I am the strong woman I am today because Daisy picked me up and healed me when I was broken. All transwomen stay strong. I love you all.

We are all beautiful, we are all strong. Don't let the system's evil break your spirits, girls.

Amber Meadows
J. Mendoza #1079266
NNCC
PO Box 7000
Carson City, NV 89702

Boise, ID - May 2018

From Daisy Meadows (Miss) I want to inform everybody that I am filing another transgender based lawsuit against the Idaho DOC very similar to that which I filed against the Nevada DOC *Trost v. Cox et al.* 3--14-CU-00611-MMDWGC U.S. Dist. Court as I was transferred to Idaho by the NDOC a year ago. I am also willing to help anybody within the transgender community with preparing their lawsuits, as I know how difficult and challenging this can be. I am planning to help advocate and continue to fight for the trans communities any way that I can and for the rights of women across the country.

I am currently helping a transsexual woman Amber J Mendoza who holds a very special place in my heart with her lawsuit against the Nevada NDOC who has been fighting for and being denied her request for hormones, "GRS," and other treatment needs based on more freezeframe and blanket policies, that have already been proven by the DOJ to be unconstitutional.

I am not a lawyer, I simply care about all women, their health and safety, and seeing to it that they, we, all get the medical treatment we need as well as treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, we all as women deserve. I am fighting for progress, change and equality.

I am driven and passionate about bringing change and fighting for those struggling to find their voice. Too beat down and traumatized to stand up or fight for themselves, you are not weak, none of you are weak, I've been there. I promise I will help anyone I can, I will go out of my way to do what I can for you and I want nothing in return but your happiness and justice.

We all struggle everyday with the same issues. I can relate to all of you because I am living it, also dealing with the intolerable prison systems, the oppression and hate, gender-based discrimination, conversion therapy techniques, inadequate medical treatment, prison conditions, made to conform to make rules policies and standards.

We often feel alone and abandoned, hopeless and lost. Well please don't give up on your hope. We are all strong, beautiful, courageous, empowering women. We all have so much to live for, so much to fight for, believe in yourself. There are people out there who love and care about you. I am one of those people. Don't allow hate to fill your heart, be happy, be proud and love each other, try to forgive and let go of your transgressions.

I am here willing wanting and waiting to help you. I will help support, advocate, or fight for you any way that I can, all you have to do is write. I am not allowed prisoner to prisoner correspondence so please 3-way letters that are being sent if you are incarcerated. Keep your head up things are going to get better.

Miss Daisy Lynne Meadows a.k.a. Trost #124194 15B

ISCI

PO Box 14

Boise, ID 83707

Bonne Terre, MO - May 2018

I'm going to start off by telling you why the riot at Crossroads Correctional Center in Cameron, MO happened. First off those racist, vindictive staff members are so disrespectful it's not even funny. All of the staff are related some type of way, either by blood marriage, or high school buddies. So if you happen to cross paths with one of the staff members prepare for retaliation for the rest of your time there. It came to the point where it stopped being a racist ordeal and started being an inmate vs. staff war. See, I'm going to tell you all the things the newspaper left out like how the inmates during the riot got ahold of spray paint and sprayed the most important message ever: "Black, brown and white unite!" to show unity amongst the incarcerated. The new warden at Crossroads used corporal punishment against us Crossroads inmates more than a few times. One on one fights will get the whole housing unit put on lockdown. After a "riot," as she called it, happened, she threatened to lock the entire yard down if it happened again. Hence Corporal punishment. She left us on lockdown for 6 months! Then an actual riot did happen and lockdown lasted from June of 2017 til this riot in 2018. She shortened our outdoor recreation not by ½ but down a third of the time! She closed the barber shop so there's no barbers "due to investigation." She is so vindictive to where if you are on investigation and placed in ad-seg, after your investigation is over you need her signature of approval to be released from ad-seg ("administrative segregation or the hole") and she's not signing it for 90 plus days, even when you're found not guilty! She treats us as non-humans. She never responds to our concerns that staff there at that facility is a gang. And a dangerous one. They're mentally and physically abusive to the point of a concentration camp status. You know she, the warden, lied, saying Muslims and Morescience temple were in a war and cancelled their religious callouts. That's outrageous! And the staff makes their own rules up. So what choices are the inmates left? When peacefulness is not respected, you're left no choice but to use the same force that is brought upon us.

So now on to the actual riot. The inmates banded together: bloods, crips, Mexicans, and whites, men of all races and social status refused to leave both chow hall causing an uproar. The windows to the chow hall were broken, the food was slung everywhere and destroyed the coffee makers, and kitchen utensils. Inmates had actual knives! All of them still were never recovered. Then the property room and factory was also breached. The inmates stole two forklifts causing more damage, knocking down a wall and piles of shelves. Inmates who were on outcount their property was broken into and destroyed or stolen. Complete mayhem! One guy was brought to the hole in a fireman outfit. A real one! Every person brought to the hole had brand

Charleston, MO - June 2018

new clothes, shoes, khaki shorts and jackets from taking over the property of inmates and the factory. There was people's legal work and property strung everywhere!

That's where I come in. Innocent 24 year old MyKeal "Kelz" Rowland. I ask of the inmates, why destroy other inmates' property? What sense does that make? If you want to ride on the police, cool. Don't ride on me. You know I now have no property: no TV, CDs, CD player, no prayer rug, no shoes, no clothes, no pictures of my family, none of my legal work, I have absolutely nothing! I had a TV and CDs and CD player that were grandfathered in. That's no longer a thing. I had pictures of dead relatives and friends that I can never get back! That hurts. Because a lot of my homeboys participated in the riot, now I have to jump through hoops dealing with Missouri DOC to have a full refund down on my property because I was in the ad-seg unit and my property was stored in that property room. The staff was supposed to protect my property. So now the policy states that since some of my property was 2 to 3 years old that MDOC is only going to replace it at a third of the cost or to make it more clear they're going to give me a percentage of the refund. Well I can't buy a new TV with that, and nothing was wrong with my TV before. Missouri DOC has to replace over 150 inmates' property or we are filing civil suits. They can't beat us out of our property because of their mistakes and faulty security systems. So now myself and 150 other inmates are in an uphill battle to fight for what's right. I'm in the grievance procedure as we speak. Oh did I mention I'm no longer at the prison in Cameron, MO? I'm all the way in Bonne Terre, MO a.k.a. middle of nowhere due to a mass transfer that the riot caused to the 300 plus inmates were shipped to various prisons across the state. Did I also mention that the Crossroads inmates destroyed all of the tablets we were supposed to receive? I'm shakin' my dreads thinking about it as I speak. I want to ask all readers if you can't do a donation to help me get some of my property then can you push that pen for me and jump down on Crossroads Correctional Center or the Missouri Department of Corrections Director Anne Precythe? Thank you for your time.

Mr. MyKeal Rowland #1227589
E.R.D.C.C.
2727 Hwy K
Bonne Terre MO
63628

P.S. The riot occurred May 12th. The inmates held the kitchen for 8 hours.

I suspect that they had three of their "Uncle Toms" threaten me so they can put me in solitary confinement for administrative protective custody from 3-4-18 until 5-27-18. Now they have me on Administrative Protective Custody. They don't like me telling everyone about Prison Action News and encourage everyone to join the Industrial Workers of the World and the IWW Incarcerated Worker's Organizing Committee.

Please send a letter to let them know what you think about that at:

Brianna Peril-Chair
Industrial Workers of the World
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141
(816) 866-3808
greaterkciww@gmail.com
iwoc@riseup.net

I am now a member of the Free Minds Family. I receive their newsletter every two months that has information about a lot of issues and tells me about resources.

Free Minds uses books, creative writing, and peer support to awaken DC youth incarcerated as adults to their own potential. Through creative expression, job readiness training, and violence prevention outreach, these young poets achieve their education and career goals, and become powerful voices for change in the community. Contact them at:

Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop
2201 P St NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 758-0829

We the People Legal Primer is the best free legal primer that I think all prisoners should have a copy of. It has information on the Constitution of the United States, the History of Law, Basic Judicial Doctrines, the Structure of the Federal Judiciary, the Structure of the State Judiciaries, Federal Appellate, United States District Court Pro Se Handbook, Cleaning up a criminal record, and much more. For comments and requests contact:

Legal Primer
Prison Book Program
1306 Hancock St, Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169
info@prisonbookprogram.org

Another free publication I think all prisoners should have a copy of is the Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook- how to bring a federal lawsuit to challenge violations of your rights in prison. Published by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild - 5th edition, 2010. You should contact both organizations and ask them to also send you information about their organization at:

The Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway, 7th floor
New York, NY 10012

And

The National Lawyers Guild, National Office
132 Nassau St., Room 922
New York, NY 10038

It is also available on the internet at;

<http://jailhouselaw.org>

“When prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not close to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions. His yearning for self-respect does not end; nor his quest for self realization conclude. If anything, the need for identity and self-respect are more compelling in the dehumanizing prison environment”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

NEVER AGAIN!!!

Robert S. Taback 506777
Southeast Correctional Center
300 East Pedro Simmons Dr
Charleston, MO 63834

Zephyrhills, FL - May 2018

Hello from the dungeons and slave pens of Florida, where the system’s abuses and oppression batter the psyches of those imprisoned therein- with the intent of eliminating any sense of self-identity or expression - as we are considered as human cattle - our humanity and individuality - only impediments to what prison administrator whim and caprice dictate as to how the cattle should function. Any expression of integrity, self-discipline, identity as an individual is immediately met with brute force and myriad tribulations to eviscerate any sense of being beyond that determined as appropriate for a chattel of the state entity.

I am transgender, identified with gender dysphoria, whose disorders are being exacerbated by the lack of comprehensive treatment within Florida Department of Corrections.

The Department officials procrastinate and obstruct any comprehensive treatments while awaiting the court’s ruling the Civil Case of Keohane v. Jones that went to trial in federal courts last year and pending a ruling ever since.

The attorneys for Keohane obtained a preliminary injunction from the court for feminizing hormone therapy and some accommodation such as hair length- therefore it is probable that the ruling in the case when it is issued will favor Keohane. That being said, at this point there is no way of knowing how far that ruling will go in establishing the rights of transgender [people] with gender dysphoria to comprehensive treatment.

So the department dithers and procrastinates as they don’t want to do anything more than the court requires of them - and in the meantime they provide nothing in the way of comprehensive or meaningful treatment for the many other transgender [people] with gender dysphoria (such as myself) beyond merely palliative psychotherapy.

The lack of comprehensive treatment for our dysphoria exacerbates the disorders and increases the substantial risk of serious harm and injury by the toxic conditions and environment we are coerced and compelled to endure. The quantum of tribulations this imposes upon our psyches is excruciating in the extreme. Many of us experience the adverse effects that result in stays in mental health crisis stabilization units under SHOS suicide watch status, or in solitary under disciplinary confinement status for reactive behaviors directly caused by the exacerbation of their disorders by the lack of comprehensive treatment.

Yes, the struggle for human and individual rights persist despite all the system can do to suppress, oppose, and eliminate it.

I am currently assembling the materials required for a civil rights action to establish my right to comprehensive treatment and to be able to live in accord with my individual and gender identity as a woman within FDOC.

Thank you for your time and concern
Still I rise

Sincerely,

Ms. Kat Thomas
Steven Thomas as #026260
Zephyrhills C.J.
2739 Gall Blvd
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Lovelock, NV - May 2018

This is Tippy and here to give an update for you here at Lovelock Nevada. I got my screening order back from my case Tipton v. Guice 3:17-CV-00032 -RCJ-UPC. They accepted half of Count 1 failure to protect and leave to amend, which I did have help amending my complaint. Remember this happened at H.D.S.P. in Indian Springs, Nevada.

So here at Lovelock Corr. Ctr in February I slipped and fell on their slippery floor. I wrote grievance on it and told them what happened and asked for compensation up to \$600. They denied my first level grievance, saying it was my fault because I shouldn't have been carrying the mop bucket when it has wheels on it and I slipped on the floor that had no slip grip on it. Well they lied because it was on camera that I slipped before the non slip grip floor. So now it's on the last grievance going to the director. They just want us to take everything to court to spend \$350 first.

Anybody have to help to get me get compensation for the fall please write to me and let me know. I would love to give a shout out to Tony Franklin in WCI. Shout out to Daisy Meadows and Justin Mendoza, I love both of you!

Sincerely,

Duane Tipton a.k.a Tippy
#69967
Lovelock Corr Cntr.
1200 Prison Rd
Lovelock NV 89419

Lubbock, TX- April 2018

I was the victim of brutal assaults committed by a TDCJ officer at the French Robertson Prison Unit in Abilene, Texas. On January 19, 2017 I was housed in general population level 5 at the French Robertson Prison Unit, 8 building - Jpod - 3section - 69cell. I was in my cell when an officer controlling the picket opened my cell door. When I noticed my cell door was open and that the officer working the floor (Gbolahan Salako) was passing out lunch trays, I came out of my cell to receive a lunch tray, in which I was entitled to. Once Officer Gbolahan Salako seen me walk towards him to receive a lunch tray, he aggressively began to swing TDCJ prison equipment, namely a metal bean chute tool, against me. The said officer then hit me multiple times with the prison equipment, using it as a deadly weapon. I did my best to use little to no force to take the officer to the ground, at the same time trying to recover from the brutal assault. While we were both on the ground, Officer Gbolahan Salako continued to strike me on the head with the metal bean chute tool. Thereafter, the ranking officials and other officials arrived to the location of the incident. I was then immediately put in handcuffs and layed on the floor. While in that position, Officer Gbolahan Salako punched me with a closed fist multiple times in the face, and fiercely kicked me in the face. The brutal assault caused me to lose consciousness.

I came out of my cell non-aggressively and without a weapon, with no intentions on attacking nor assaulting anyone. My cell door came open and I was entitled to come out to receive a lunch tray. I experienced cruel and unusual punishment, brutal and unjustified assault. At all times I was not violating any prison rule nor being disruptive in any way.

In October 2017 I filed a 1983 lawsuit complaint against Defendant Gbolahan Salako for use of excessive/unnecessary force, a prison guard on inmate brutality, which violates my eighth amendment right, cruel and unusual punishment. The defendant replied with admissions and denials of the factual allegations I filed against him. I then returned a reply of memorandum of law to support my claim and stated facts in a more particularized way, pursuant to Rule 7 of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Judge, Honorable E. Scott Frost, then asked both parties for our consent for him to proceed the case, both parties agreed. Thereafter I filed a motion for discovery in which to receive material from the Attorney General to assist me in case this case goes to trial. In discovery, I received sufficient evidence such as witness statements from multiple officers on the Robertson Unit, the Defendant's actual disciplinary report for using excessive force, and photos. In the interrogatories I submitted to the defendant, the Attorney General filed a protective order against it. The protective order motion was granted and my motion to compel discovery was denied. All the while this is happening, the Defendant asserted the defense of qualified immunity. After given an order from the court to file a detailed reply to the defendant's assertion of the defense of qualified immunity, I complied on time by filing a detailed reply along with an incorporated memorandum of law, and a separately filed declaration. The court will consider my assertion of documents, and it is possible this case may soon go to trial.

All the while, I've filed multiple motions to appointment of counsel, and every motion was denied. This here is to prove that the Defendant violated clearly established law by using excessive force when no excessive force, amounting to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, was necessary. I have solid grounds, if I didn't, this case would have been dismissed already.

Defendant/officer Gbolahan Salako's actions were brutal, reckless, knowingly and intentional. The said officer's actions constitutes to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, Texas Penal code 22.02 and use of excessive/unnecessary force Texas Penal Code 22.01.

The civil case is Whitaker v. Salako, number 1:17-CV-158, in the Northern District of Texas- Abilene Division.

I was the victim of continuous brutal assaults and excessive force, which resulted in me being brutally injured with three deep lacerations, all together, to my head and face. Due to my severe injuries and loss of consciousness, I was immediately taken to an outside medical facility, Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas. My visit number was 10393125, where I received 20 stitches all together, on my head and face.

Sadly, I was charged with assault and I am now facing 25 years to life for using little to no force to defend myself from the officer's attack and continuous brutal assaults.

I have a great chance at winning this lawsuit, I just genuinely need a civil rights lawyer to represent me. In reward, if I win this suit, I requested to have the assault charge dismissed/dropped, time-cut off my current sentence, and \$400,000 in monetary damages.

I am sincerely asking and seeking civil representation to assist me to win this lawsuit, and to bring this crucial, unjust incident out to the public. My situation is serious and unfair, it is only right that I receive justice. Please help me!

Thank you, sincerely,

Anthony Whitaker #1824873
TDCJ- Montford Unit
8602 Peach Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79404

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Entrances to Bristol County Jail blocked by demonstrators over ICE connection - August 2018

by Steve Ahlquist

<https://upriseri.com/news/immigration/2018-08-20-fang/>

On Monday afternoon multiple blockades were erected to obstruct the entrances of the Bristol County Jail and House of Correction. The facility also hosts a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility. At one entrance two 24 foot tripods were set up, that were then scaled and occupied by two demonstrators.

Banners were displayed, reading: "End Incarceration & Deportation STOP Family Separation AHORA!" and "ABOLISH I.C.E. NOW!"

After 20 minutes the police pulled down both tripod blockades, dropping the occupiers about 15 feet to the ground. I showed up minutes after the tripods were toppled.

At the other entrance two people locked their bodies to a concrete blockade, shutting off all vehicle access to the facility.

The action was organized by The FANG Collective, a community organizing and direct action group based out of Rhode Island.

"As an indigenous person of color it's my responsibility to continue to fight for the safety of my community members," said Sherrie, a FANG co-founder who was one of the protestors in a tripod. "This is just one prison in a long line of many that shouldn't exist."

In recent months, the Bristol County Jail and House of Correction has been a hotbed of controversy, sparking multiple protests. In 2006-2016 Bristol County accounted for a quarter of jail suicides in Massachusetts despite only making up 13 percent of the statewide jail population.

In response to deplorable conditions, including inedible food, nearly non-existent medical care, and abuse from facility employees, ICE detainees launched a hunger strike on July 18th. By the next week the general population at the prison was also staging a hunger strike in solidarity with the ICE detainees.

"The State has always existed and enforced itself through violence," said Eddie Zhou. "Resisting ICE is also resisting all the ways the State enacts violence on people it sees as less valuable."

In February 2017 the Bristol County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) signed a

287(g) agreement with ICE which gave BCSO personnel the authority to exercise immigration-related functions including interrogation and issuing of arrest warrants for those who an officer believes to be an “alien.”

“Families are being separated not just by ICE detainment centers, but by prisons too. It’s cruel and dehumanizing,” said a FANG member. Anne, another protestor in a tripod, added, “This will keep happening unless we continue to put pressure on these institutions.”

National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and Prisoners’ Legal Services (PLS) reach a settlement with the Department of Correction - March 2018

A groundbreaking proposed settlement means the Massachusetts Department of Correction will provide life-saving treatment to prisoners with Hepatitis C—treatment that has not been adequately provided.

A class action lawsuit, Fowler, et al. v. Turco, et al., filed in federal court in Boston by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (with lead attorneys Jonathan Shapiro and David Kelston) and Prisoners’ Legal Services of Massachusetts (with lead attorney Joel Thompson), claimed that the failure of the Department of Correction (DOC) to treat these prisoners violated their constitutional rights and permanently impaired their health, well-being and their lives.

After almost three years of litigation, the DOC has agreed to terms which, if approved by the court, will provide treatment to all prisoners with the most serious cases of the disease within 12 months of the preliminary approval by the court, and within 18 months for those inmates with less advanced stages of the disease. All new prisoners will be tested for the disease when they enter the system, and those with the disease will be treated in accordance with the seriousness of their condition.

Today lawyers for the NLG-Massachusetts Chapter, PLS of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office will present the agreement to the federal court for its approval. If approved, the class action settlement will result in Massachusetts prisoners being treated with new medications that cure this serious and sometimes life-threatening disease.

Hepatitis C is a serious infection of the liver. It spreads through contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. It can be symptom-free until it is found in testing, or until it develops into the most dangerous stages. Chronic Hepatitis C can lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis. There are drugs that reliably and successfully cure the deadly disease, but, prior to this lawsuit, virtually no prisoners were being provided these life-saving medications.

Since this case was filed in 2015, similar lawsuits have been filed on behalf of prisoners in states throughout the country seeking a cure to this deadly disease. This is believed to be the first comprehensive settlement of such lawsuits, and, if approved by the court, it may provide the impetus for similar settlements throughout the country.

Outside: A Thousand Fires Against the Plantation - August 2018

<https://itsgoingdown.org/prisonstrike/>

Reports of solidarity with the #prisonstrike

- July 6th: Banner action in solidarity with Prison Strike in Milwaukee.
- July 24th: Light stencils action in Milwaukee.
- August 5th: Prison strike graffiti spotted in Florida.
- August 7th: Day of action in solidarity with Prison Strike in Milwaukee.
- August 11th: Banner drop in Oakland.
- August 12th: Banner drop in West Oakland, near mass transit line.
- August 16th: Banner drop in Minneapolis in solidarity with Stillwater prison rebels.
- August 16th: Prison strike graffiti in Philadelphia.
- August 19th: Rally in Richmond, Virginia against a group of neo-Confederates and in solidarity with the prison strike.
- August 20th: Silent Sam Confederate statue is brought down by crowd at UNC campus. People hold banners in solidarity with the prison strike.
- August 20th: Strike graffiti spotted in Lansing, Michigan.
- August 20th: Teach-in in Gainesville features call-in from political prisoner, Kevin “Rashid” Johnson.
- August 20th: Banner drop in Bloomington, IN in solidarity with the strike.
- August 21: Graffiti written in solidarity with the strike in Knoxville, TN.
- August 21: Graffiti written in solidarity in Libson, PT.
- August 21: Banner drop in New York.
- Multiple banner drops in Pittsburgh.
- DSA chapter in Iowa protests at prison showroom of prisoner made products calling on the prison to meet the prisoners demands.
- Seattle rally in solidarity with the prison strike.
- Banner dropped in solidarity with prison strike in Evansville, Indiana.
- Rally takes place at South Carolina capitol in Columbia. “We’re not interested in reforming the criminal punishment system, we’re interested in dismantling and abolishing it,” say family members who came to support the strike and present the prisoners demands.
- Thousands of calls are reported to have been made into Florida prisons.
- Disruption of Starbucks in Seattle for its profiting off prison labor.
- Prison strike graffiti in Oakland, CA and across the country. Banner drops in Philadelphia and beyond.
- Noise demonstration kicks off in Brooklyn, New York. March takes to streets, several arrests made by police. Other noise demos take place in Los Angeles, Corona, San Jose, Chicago, Minneapolis, and beyond. See full roundup here.
- August 22nd: New York rally in solidarity with Prison Strike at UNC circle.

- August 23rd: Graffiti in Portland, Oregon in solidarity with the prison strike.
- August 23rd: Banner drop in Boston in solidarity with prison strike.
- August 23rd: Rally in solidarity with prison strike in Boston.
- August 23rd: Rally in Lansing, Michigan in solidarity with the prison strike.
- August 23rd: Solidarity rally in New York with the prison strike.
- August 23rd: Disruption of panel in solidarity with prison strike in Jackson, Mississippi.
- August 24th: Call-in campaign is launched.
- August 24th: Another call-in campaign is called for in the Tacoma area, surrounding migrants at the Northwest Detention Facility.
- August 25th: 70 people march on prison in New Haven.
- August 25th: Prison strike solidarity rally at San Quentin.
- August 25th: Prison strike solidarity demo at Indiana State Prison.
- August 25th: Prison strike solidarity rally in South Carolina.
- August 25th: Noise demonstration in Richmond, Virginia.
- August 26th: Solidarity rally in Las Vegas.
- August 26th: WUNC radio releases audio interview with inmates at Hyde Correctional in North Carolina.
- August 27th: Solidarity rally outside of Hyde Correctional in eastern North Carolina.



Solidarity Action with Prison Strike.
Photo From <https://itsgoingdown.org/prisonstrike/>

COMMENTARY AND CALLS TO ACTION

The Campaign to Stop Corrupt Donations - January 2018

On 12/6/17 St. Brides Correctional Center located in Chesapeake, Virginia, conducted a charitable giving event that lasted between 12/6/17 and 12/10/17.

On that particular day of 12/6/17 the St. Brides Correctional Center administration called a meeting for the inmate representatives and staff to discuss terms and conditions and also to present the charity event within the prison. The St. Brides Correctional Center staff wanted each inmate representative to go to each inmate within the prison population and ask each prisoner if they wanted to donate to a charity of their choice that was enlisted in a booklet. These establishments are establishments that all contribute to the Prison Industrial Complex. So basically by the prisoner donating money to these establishments is stating that he actually is contributing to his own enslavement.

The St. Brides Correctional Center sugar coated this charity event by telling the inmate population that the living quarter with most donated money will receive a prize. "The dorm with the most participation will receive a prize." The prize was a cake each week and extra recreation and maybe one piece of chicken.

Each year St. Brides Correctional Center hosts a CVC Charitable Event (Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign). Each year St. Brides continues to ask prisoners to contribute to the razor fences, steel gates, and concrete walls that keep them enslaved. When the prison (St. Brides Correctional Center) files taxes and submits the donations it goes under St. Brides Correctional Center's name. The prisoner receives not recognition of the donation, only the prison.

When will we stop contributing to the establishments that support the Prison Industrial Complex?

When will we donate our money, support, and time towards the Prison Abolitionist organizations that work towards the destruction of the Prison Industrial Complex?

I would like to ask that each prisoner in the state of Virginia and worldwide to stop contributing to your enslavement by donating your money to establishments who mean you harm. Donate to the Anti Racist Action, etc.

Peace,

Hakim Nasif Trent #1114469
SBCC
701 Sanderson Rd
PO Box 16482
Chesapeake, VA 23328

The Myth of intersectionality to women of color - May 2018

Intersectionality, under the context of social justice, is a terminology that means, across social movements. Its meaning can best be summed through a parable.

A white environmentalist at an environmental conference is complaining, "Where are the Black people?" A fellow next to him asks, "Have you ever gone to a seminar on criminal justice?" The moral being, "How can you ask someone to support your cause when you are unwilling to support theirs?" The concept arose from frustration by social justice movements to their own impotency and asks, "Wouldn't we be better off if we joined forces?" However, women of color are constantly being presented with a Hobson's Choice of supporting race over gender, or gender over race.

Take the case of the judge recall movement in California. Santa Clara County Superior Court judge, Aaron M. Persky, gave a six month sentence for sexual assault to Stanford University student, Brock Turner. The sentence caused a backlash as it stunk of "White male privilege." But the recalling of the judge has both proponents and opponents. The most staunchest proponents are women. The most staunchest opponents are women too, but of color. The highest profiled woman of color opponent is former California Supreme Court Justice, Janice M. Brown. She vehemently argues that a successful recall will only hurt defendants of color.

This writer has long ago witnessed to the effects of harsher laws targeting the White male rapist. As Justice Brown argues, time and time again, these harsher laws put in jeopardy far more criminal defendants than the White male rapist that they are intended to target.

Despite having passed Propositions 36, 47, and 57, California still holds prisoners who have been imprisoned for over two decades for crack cocaine valued under \$10, driving without the owner's consent, or felony evading arrest, under the Three Strikes Law, a sentencing scheme that was repeatedly rejected by the California legislation, until the murder and rape of a White child by a White male.

When the White boyfriend of a White female graduate had been released on bail for her murder, Californians passed Proposition 9, also known as "Marsy's Law." Pre-Marsy, prisoners sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, had parole hearings after thirty years of confinement. Post-Marsy, that opportunity to go in front of the parole board was forever lost. Pre-Marsy, life with parole prisoners were eligible to go in front of the parole board every three years, once they had served out their determinate sentence. Post-Marsy they could be denied up to fifteen years, before they would be eligible for another parole hearing.

As a result of California's thirty-plus years of prison expansion, mandatory sentencing is no longer viewed as a smart and intelligent means to deal with crime. Justice Brown is arguing that the net effect of the recall is that judges will be chilled from exercising discretion. Since defendants of color are disproportionality in front of the judges, this chilling effect will disproportionately be harmful to them. People of color are sick and tired of being the collateral damage to the White male rapist. Isn't

it ironic, that women of color have to point out to their white female counterparts, that quite often, they are faced with Hobson's Choice of choosing race over gender.

Donald C-Note Hooker

NEVER GIVE UP! - Spring 2018

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."
- Abraham Lincoln

A famous quote from a man known in our history for his incumbency during the Civil War to end slavery. Although President Lincoln's union came out victorious in 1865, the United States still suffers from pockets of resistance one-hundred and fifty three years later. Texas, one of the eleven Confederate States during that era, still practices slavery on U.S. citizens confined in its state prisons. As one of only two states to still practice this large scale of servitude, Texas finds itself out of step with the rest of the country on the appropriate treatment of its people.

Inmates confined in the Texas prison system are provided with a "Time Sheet" showing all of the relevant information concerning their sentence, time completed, and parole date. On this sheet, inmates can also observe the "Good Time" and "Work Time" they have accumulated over the course of their incarceration. This "Good Time" and "Work Time" are TDCJ's way to compensate inmates for their good behavior and more importantly, their labor. To one observing this paperwork, this would appear to be a fair system; Stay out of trouble and work for the prison system and accumulate the time from these two categories with your completed flat time and make it home early. This certainly sounds good, but unfortunately this "Good Time" – "Work Time" system TDCJ has in place is nothing more than a paper trail. I read once where someone had said this system is equivalent to giving a starving child an empty bowl. The question should arise: Why does TDCJ give its prisoners time sheets reflecting "Good Time" and "Work Time" if it is not a tool to be used towards their early release? This system had to originate for a far higher purposeness than the nothingness it is being used for. The proof in this is demonstrated with each inmate's release as they are forced to sign away their accumulated "Good Time" and "Work Time" before they're released. Allow me to repeat that. Inmates are forced to sign away the time they have earned before the Texas prison system will release them.

Without legitimate compensation for labor it can only be deemed as slavery. There are only two ways to rectify this grave injustice our citizens confined in the Texas prison system are being forced to endure. Pay them for their labor, or compensate them with "Work Time" that is just as meaningful as their flat time.

