

Prison Action News
PO Box 832
Watertown, MA 02472



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PAN

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Prison Action News is a newsletter collaboratively published by prisoner support groups 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)

Bridgeton, NJ- Darrell Hann (pg. 10): A physician who contracts with the state to provide mental care to prison inmates, even if employed by a private entity, acts under color or state law for purposes of 42 USC § 1983 (Ancata v. Prison Health Svcs Inc.). Physician "acted under color or state law" when providing medical svc's to prisoner because relationship with state was cooperative, and conduct "fairly attributable to the state." (West v. Atkins 108 Sct. 2250). There is a two year statute of limitations, so the harassment case has to be filed within that time frame.

Wexford Health Battle (pg. 12): It sounds like anybody connected to the prison system has something to hide. There should not be any type of editing to remove any type of comment regardless of who they're about. "Prison officials may not censor inmate correspondence simply to eliminate unflattering or unwelcome opinions or factually inaccurate statements," (Procunier v. Martinez). It's a violation of the 1st Amendment. Once state remedies are exhausted, a § 1983 needs to be filed. Get the "Prisoners' Rights Handbook" for PA. It has everything needed to file a lawsuit. And contact: Lewisburg Prison Project PO Box 128 Lewisburg, PA 17837 (570) 523-1104. They are a civil rights organization.

Menard (pg. 28): You need to start a letter-writing campaign to US Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division – Special Litigation Section. 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington DC 20530. Have family members contact DOJ also. Keep calling till they do something. Assault on an inmate is a direct violation of the 8th Amendment. It's called cruel and unusual punishment and it has to stop!

Keene (pg. 35): "Price-gouging" is right. The problem is more prisoners don't care. They'll still go down to the commissary and max out their spend every time store is called. Soups here in Texas just went up to 27 cents and guys are still buying them by the case. Tuna was 85 cents, it's over a dollar now. Why do you think a lot of prison systems are cutting their food budgets? To get the inmate population to spend more money in the commissary. The more we buy, the less they have to serve in the chow hall. Everybody in every state that Keefe has a contract with needs to refrain from any type of commissary purchase for 90 days. Then when they start asking questions, everybody has got to complain about the outrageous prices. They'll have to do something or go broke when nothing's bought except for hygiene and stationery. That's the only way anything is going to get done.

Well comrades, that's all for now. We can win, but it's going to take a lot of hard work. Nothing in life is easy! There's always going to be challenges. Whether it's in here or in society once we get out, we can't let anything discourage or distract us.

Stay strong!
Robert Upton 803710
Dalhart Unit
11950 FM 998
Dalhart, TX 79022

To Improve Human Rights in PA State Prison Systems, Hunger Strikes, the Last Resort December 2014

A few notes on “PA Dining Hall Protest June 2014 Coal Township, SCI.” It was a groundbreaking event for inmates standing up for themselves: Right-timing is or was critical in that one half of the prison was participating without the other. Not to be discouraged, when joined by 300 prisoners refusing food at the beginning. Although the officials can misdirect a “food boycott,” by calling it more of a “cursory disturbance.” A hunger strike is just one step to the next. Then meaningful efforts can be had by negotiations in advantage of numbers by prisoners and not watered-down without the leverage of DC-13.1.1 “to enforce a point” to “influence the changes!” Let us not miss sight of respects to hunger strikes by 30,000 prisoners in California DOC and at Guantanamo Bay or that purpose then becomes contra-positive mobilization, meaning it moves us backwards not forward. A resistance planning committee would be crucial “to clearly explain the goal(s) to be reached and the steps to be taken.” It is important to detail research as to “DOC policy DC-13.1.1 Management/Admin. Of Health Care” was overlooked. In that policy any absence of food after three days stipulates medical papers to be filled out daily, blood pressures, vital signs, etc. must be applied to any strikers. Meaning a lot of overtime pay and deducting from the DOC balance sheet budget costs begin to clog the prison. Never give up on the exploited and oppressed prisoners. It’s a fuse that continues to burn! Article on Coal Township SCI printed in Volume 7.2, August 2014 by Prison Action News (PAN).

Dalhart, TX

August 2014

Dear comrades,
The only way we are going to change is if everybody goes on writing campaigns. Write family, friends, state reps, Dept of Justice – Civil Rights office, etc. The more people that know what’s going on, the more help there will be. I’ve been doing legal research, studies, and case work for 13 of my 17 years in prison. My area of research covers criminal justice, juvenile justice, civil rights (titles IX & 42 USC § 1983), and family law. Everything that I’ve learned is going to be used to push for changes in laws and policy that govern the above topics.

Now to the newsletter. One of the major problems with the Texas Grievance (pg. 5) is that everybody won’t get together and write them. The grievance will work if used properly. Regarding abuse/mistreatment (p. 8): Someone needs to contact State Reps and get them involved in this. Because Mr. Balance is in a wheelchair, he is supposed to be in a facility that can accommodate his needs. Contact the V.A. Administration and get them involved. Missouri can’t keep their police from shooting unarmed teens much less the Governor taking care of the prison problems.

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Disclaimer:

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NEW PRISON GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

OnePhree Family

September 2014

Dear Comrades,

I greet you with PEACE, because Positive Education Always Corrects Errors. And to all those who aid in the mental and physical struggle to right a wrong, stand for justice, for those unfairly treated at home, in a prison and abroad. It is our mission to expose and reveal every atrocious encounter imposed on the men and women locked away from their friends and family.

This group I speak of is called the OnePhree Family. I'm proud to say that many family members at home, in prison, and abroad have been non-stop fighting for freedom, justice, and equality, regardless of threats of personal injury for coming together to fight FEAR (False Education Appearing Real)!

My name is Born Onephree. I started this foundation two years ago, after learning about how my brothers in the Nation (5%) were being punished mentally and physically for their way of life, along with others. No man or woman has the right to induce pain and suffering to another person for their beliefs, being different, or because they're in prison. Yet this has happened and continues to go on uninterrupted by those that watch the acts take place.

My family and I have been beaten, starved, put out of events, placed in the SHU, etc. All this because we do not sit back and watch injustice being imposed on anyone! We speak for those who have no voice or anyone who cannot defend their own person mentally and physically. The OnePhree family stands with any non-violent group of men and women willing to make a change! Though many of us are purposely placed far away from each other, the family continues to grow.

Too many inhumane events have been imposed on our brothers and sisters, leaving the OnePhree family no choice but to speak out and reveal these wicked snakes masquerading as medical personnel, counselors, and psychiatrists to all our comrades and allies. But most of all the greatest threat to prisoners here at Smithfield and abroad, the Notorious Goon Squad: the internal group of men and women employed to destroy the minds and bodies of prisoners by any means they see fit, from placing a prisoner in a shower handcuffed and naked to stand for hours at a time, to turning off their water supply (i.e. shutting down their toilet system for days). They strap them into this device designed to cause physical impairment to one's whole body. This toy they so frequently play with is called The Chair. Some have been placed in this chair for over six hours, not once being allowed to stand or use the bathroom.

Charleston, MO
11 Tishrei, 5775

October, 2014

I just got out of the Hole. I received a conduct violation for threats, when I didn't threaten anyone. It is getting really old being punished for telling the truth and helping others. But in time a lot of people will realize that nobody is above the law. They will not realize that until they are sitting in a Federal Detention Center and begging the Federal Prosecutor for a deal.

Everyone in the Criminal Justice System has to stop abusing us, harassing us, beating us up and killing us. Please don't use violence. That is not the answer. Put them in prison so they find out the hard way what we go through and what our families go through.

I am now a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Missouri, 573-634-7727, helpline: 800-374-2138. Cynthia R. Keele, Executive Director, told me "Please continue speaking out. Your voice is needed. I wish you every success with your non-profit organization start-up."

I am asking everyone to ask all their family, friends and religious leaders on the street to support Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants. They are a national grassroots effort by families of prisoners, former prisoners, and other concerned citizens to reduce crime through criminal justice reform at:

Charlie and Pauline Sullivan
International Cure
PO Box 2310
Washington, DC 20013
202-789-2126 / www.internationalcure.org / www.curenational.org

A great resource to Jewish Prisoners is:

Jewish Prisoners' Assistance Foundation
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213
718-735-2000 / www.chabad.org

They publish *The Scroll*, free weekly newsletter for Jewish Prisoners.

Shalom – Rabbi

Robert (Rabbi) Taback 506777
Southeast Correctional Center 3D-203
300 East Pedro Simmons Dr.
Charleston, MO

We are all in the trenches as a unit (the Prison Class – P.Class). Therefore, this request for unity to fight (peacefully) as a unit extends across racial, organizational, political, gang affiliates, and gender lines to oppose the injustices afoot in our prison system(s). I am incarcerated in Texas J.V. Allred Concentration camp of modern day slavery and I sympathize and support the warriors fighting the good fight throughout the USA. August 4 2014 I was on transit for medical purposes and received my first issue of PAN. I must confess that I was impressed by the contents.

I applaud the publishers for providing an outlet to allow P.Class to speak their minds. However I'm disappointed with the quality of submissions offered by my class of people (P.Class). Brothers and sisters I am not insensitive to your pains. I've been in the belly of the beast 15 years, I know your pain because I have both seen it and experienced it firsthand and I would never downplay what has happened and what is happening to you, to me, to us. But what I am reading mostly in my first issue of PAN is complaints.

I see that we have identified and diagnosed the problems, but what are the proven remedies to treat these problems? I can't give you all my opinion of what's more likely the cure for what ails the P.Class of states other than Texas unless those states operate like Texas. I must commend brother Anthony Washington of Texas' Connally Unit concentration camp of modern day slavery on his bold and ballsy submission May of 2014. Brother Washington you are absolutely correct on everything except the hunger strike and violence. Why go hungry when they don't give a damn whether "we" live or die? Why resort to violence when "we" can't physically win? Brother Washington you are a "brain" (like myself) and I prove this by 1. your taking time out to write to PAN and 2. the contents of your plan of action to cure what ails us here in Texas. For you all that are unaware, Texas is dependent on the P.Class for functional and operational purposes. Without the P.Class just for a 6 to 9 month duration would bring TDCJ-CIO to its knees. They already have issues of being short of staff. A movement such as Brother Washington put forth in his first paragraph would dramatically inflame that matter due to the class of employees hired to feed, carry out laundry duties, and cleaning duties alone would make many up and quit.

If a movement as Brother Washington has described was implemented Texas-wide, the Texas prison system would crumble within a year, forcing a total overhaul of prison functional and operational policy or force a compromising with P.Class.

In the belly of the beast, giving it indigestion:

F. Deone Gooden 1013573 Allred
2101 FM 369 North
Iowa Park TX 76367

Prisoners here are being treated like lab rats. Medical personnel on many occasions have administered incorrect medication. However, they logged in their books something different. These events were not mistakes, they were deliberate intentional acts of savageness.

Many people have asked me why did I form the OnePhree family a.k.a. T.O.F.? What was our mission, why were we fighting for someone else's freedom, justice, and equality which in fact caused personal attacks to be placed on the OnePhree family? I respond the same way every time these questions are presented, and any member of the family responds the same. The OnePhree family is a group of men and women locked up and physically free, cognizant of the interrelatedness of all county and state, federal as well as privately-operated institutions. We cannot sit idly by in our cells or "self-made" prisons and not be concerned about what is happening to our brothers and sisters locked up. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable system of misery, mentally and physically. Whatever is done to one of us, is done in a sense to all of us.

Maybe we've become too optimistic. Is a group of men and women sick and tired of being the doormat for anyone to stomp on bound together to speak out and for the unjust acts and inhumane treatment afflicted upon prisoners too much to ask for? No, I think not! So we continue to build inside and outside of these walls at home, in prison, and abroad and lend a hand to the helpless, educate the illiterate, and feed the hungry all the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding they need to survive, become mentally free, and return to their house and family (those who have the chance). However for all the lions and lionesses serving life sentences, the OnePhree family is their family for life. Therefore, they will never be forgotten.

I welcome all letters of concern, rebuttal, education as well as events to become involved in. The OnePhree family stays ready so that we never have to get ready! Good, better, best, never ever rest, until our good is better and our better is best!

Peace – from the OnePhree family at home, in prison, and abroad to you and all those who aid in the struggle.

Commitment name and number:	Arthur Blackwell FQ7439
	SCI Smithfield Prison
	PO Box 999 1120 Pike St.
	Huntingdon, PA 16652

Righteous name:	Iam' Born King
	OnePhfree

PRISON GROUPS UPDATES

F.T.S. - Entrenched Resistance January 2015

Based on Anarchistic principles, the F.T.S. Collective has developed a structure which makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the authorities to either infiltrate or eradicate. Traditional structures are hierarchical. This makes them very vulnerable because it is easy to follow the chain of command and cut off the head of the snake. Under this orthodox structure, the body cannot properly function without its head.

The F.T.S. Collective is inoculated from this threat by implementing the "Cell Structure." This structure is abstract in the same degree that guerilla warfare is when confronting traditional and direct forms of resistance. A guerilla is defined as "a person who engages in irregular warfare especially as a member of an independent unit carrying out harassment and sabotage." History has shown that no conventional army has ever outright defeated a guerilla movement. The same concept defines the F.T.S. Collective cell structure. This empowers entrenched resistance. Here is how it works:

The "End Mass Incarceration" Movement (EMI) is like the human body. This "body" has different organs that perform different functions in systematically deconstructing the Prison Industrial Complex. These organs (collectives/chapters/'Nations'/Organizations, etc.) form the body. In this regard we are the EMI Movement. One of these essential organs is the F.T.S. Collective. It is a collective of prisoners dedicated to resisting behind enemy lines.

This organ/collective is broken down into chapters at different prisons and jails. Within a chapter there are numerous "cells" acting in mutual harmony but autonomously. Each individual in the chapter creates a "circle of trust." In my circle I assign each person a Trust level/number: 1. Brothers (those in direct action and organization together); 2. Comrades (fellow active cell members and prisoner activists); 3. Soldiers; 4. Favorable Associates; 5. Black list (snitches and loyalists).

You are the cell and each person within your circle is also a cell with their own circle. As a rule of security, I keep who is in my circle confidential, even from those within the circle itself. This rule of security is so that in the event that the authorities break someone in my circle it may expose me but not endanger others in the circle. Because they have their own autonomous circles/cells they can continue our cause and campaigns.

But how do cells communicate and organize with each other in a United Front, if they don't know who is within the circle? There are two ways. The first is by encouraging them to subscribe and support the various publications such as PAN or

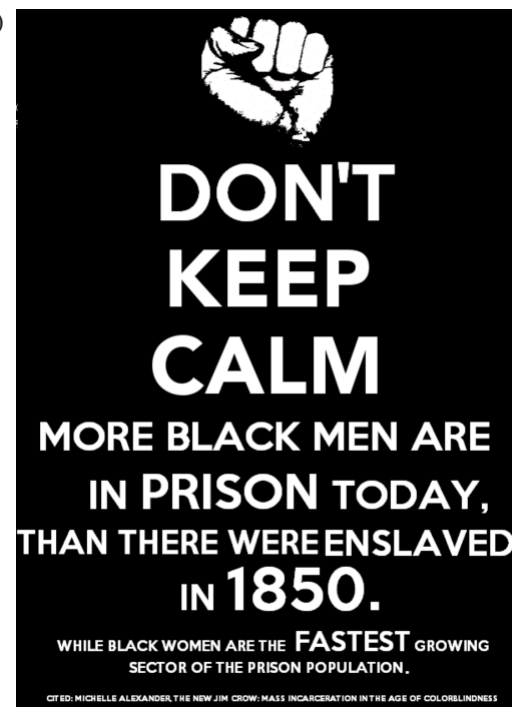
We can bear witness to how private monopoly corporations like Keefe, JPay, Global Tel Link, GEO Group, ACA, etc. had a vested interest in and benefited from the passage of VCCLA and VOITIS.

Because we of the prisoner-class are imprisoned pursuant to the political agenda stated above, we are ALL political prisoners. Therefore, in response, we must become political, and stop being willing pawns in a system that has brought nothing but death, destruction, and despair to the New Afrikan (Black), Brown, and poor white communities.

Don't order a so-called gift package from Keefe's subsidiary, Access Secure Pak. Buy only essential items from the private prison commissary, such as hygiene products, stationery, stamps, and survival foods like Ramen soups and peanut butter. If you file a complaint against Keefe with the Consumer Protection Division at PO Box 899, Jefferson City MO 65102 they will issue you a case number where you can compile evidence and related documents in regards to Keefe's price-gouging tactics. File complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at 600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC 20580. Send them copies of commissary price lists and your commissary receipts. Every complaint we file and every collective step we take will "cause a ripple in the ocean of oppression" to quote my comrade B. Nimrod.

Power to the prisoners who don't fear justice!

Uhuru B. Rowe #1131545
(formerly known as Brian L. Rowe)
Buckingham Correctional Center
PO Box 430
Dillwyn, VA 23936



COMMENTARY AND CALLS TO ACTION

Boycott Keefe 2015

December 2014

This statement is intended to keep the Keefe boycott fresh on the agenda for 2015. In the wake of organized strikes in prisons all over the country in 2013 and 2014; the recent national multiracial protests surrounding the police killings of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, and the grand jury's decision not to indict their murderers – Officers Daniel Pantaleo and Darren Wilson; and the October Month of Resistance against mass incarceration, police terror, repression, and the criminalization of a generation, the conditions under which the prisoner-class is being subjected to is ripe for resistance.

Keefe Commissary Network Sales (Keefe) is a private mega-conglomerate corporation that has taken over commissary operations inside numerous prisons and jails across America. There is no question that Keefe is price-gouging prisoners. Nor is there a question that the goods/products Keefe sells to prisoners are of a poor and defective quality. The question is what actions can we take that can lead to qualitative changes in our environment?

Our torturous, prolonged confinement is the result of “tough on crime” political rhetoric and “truth-in-sentencing” laws enacted in the early to mid-90's which made federal grants available to any state willing to abolish parole and mandate its prisoners to serve at least 85% of the sentence imposed.

One such law is the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (VCCA), which was sponsored by then-Texas US Representative Jack Brooks and signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. This Act included a provision called Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing incentive grants (VOITIS) which provided funds to state and local correctional systems to expand their capacity to incarcerate violent offenders and to impose longer and more determinate sentences.

According to the Office of Justice Programs within the US Dept. of Justice, between 1996-1998 28 states received over \$680 million in truth-in-sentencing incentive grants in exchange for abolishing parole and implementing this so-called 85% law. Virginia received a total of \$11,201,786 during this period. According to the General Accounting Office, 15 out of 28 states indicated that these grants were either a main or partial factor in their enactment of truth-in-sentencing legislation, including Virginia. In reality, these states traded human lives in exchange for capital (money) to expand the Prison Industrial Complex.

ULK which we utilize as a means of communication. Secondly, we rely on the concept of Three Degrees of Separation. For example, if I'm promoting a petition I pass the info on to those in my circle and ask them to pass it on to everyone in their circle and so forth. Sometimes you may find a lot of overlap in the circles. This is actually a good thing because it ensures free flow of communications in times of increased oppression. At times it may appear a little chaotic but it is efficient for entrenched resistance behind razorwire.

We must also keep in mind that each individual cell has specific characteristics which are essential to the larger movement. For example, they may be a “heart” cell, a “brain” cell, or a “muscle” cell. Each of these cells are symbiotic – they mutually rely on each other to function as a whole.

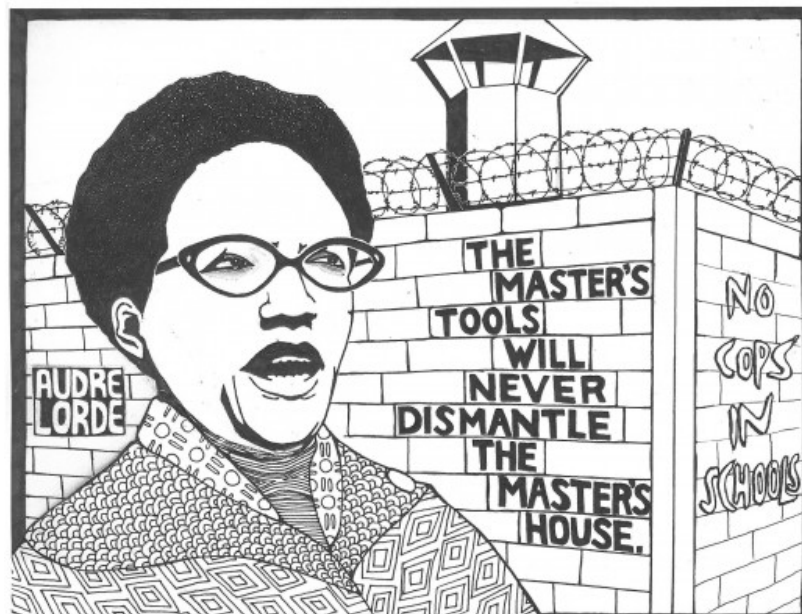
It's also important to note that this is not intended to replace existing social networks or orga“nations,” but are in addition to them. They may even form part of your circle. The influential members of the prison community should utilize their status to educate, prepare and mobilize their social networks and orga“nations” towards the ultimate cause of Ending Mass Incarceration and deconstructing the Prison Industrial Complex.

To achieve this we must create a United Front of Entrenched Resistance. Start building your cell and circle of trust today.

Revolution begins from within.

United in Struggle – United we Fight The System

~The Rue~



The Imitation of Pandora's Box

December 2014

Being physically boxed into our prison society, we more or less know what to expect on a day to day basis. Here on the Robertson Unit, our "box" has imitated Pandora's. What we have experienced is the influential result of news networks interviewing inmates on prison faculty behavior. Recently we had a "water crisis," meaning we were prevented from showering, and our sinks and fountains were cut off. We could not take showers or drink water that wasn't contaminated for days; we even got locked down the first few days! Of course over time TDCJ brought in water trucks, but we couldn't bathe for 2-3 weeks properly. It got so ridiculous that an [I.O.C.] was placed on the wall in every section stating "To prevent being contaminated, BOIL YOUR WATER before drinking it." BOIL! Like we have the means to do that (legally)... So KTAB, a local news station, found this extremely stimulating. (Pandora!) One of KTAB's reporters came to the Robertson Unit and interviewed the Warden and one inmate. Now, normally Warden-sponsored inmates are their puppets, meaning they say what they're told to. But low and behold, on TV the Warden stated to the reporter, "They get water every hour on the hour and regular bathroom breaks, and we've brought in portable equipment so they can shower." Now the inmate says this, "We went thirsty for hours; even whole days at a time. When they did bring water at last there was a one cup limit per person. We never showered until the water was fixed and how many wardens do you know that will bring in enough porta-potties for 3000 plus inmates?" (Pandora!) This inmate was later shipped to another unit, without a case, but not on a hardship transfer either. Pandora!!! Our boxed society has experienced something mysterious, this particular set of events has shown that the mistreatment we are used to is sometimes over-extreme and stirring to the free world society. Individuals with important family members can rock TDC through the news networks! Justice does not have to remain isolated and continual, it can be reported to the folks outside the ACC and prison hierarchical grasp. Our "pandora" or "anomaly" has been KTAB, a news station, who on their own accord made their interest in our suffering known. Knowledge is not power. The "ability" to act on knowledge is power. So gain knowledge of your own unique circumstances and Fight The System! F.T.S! In the struggle,

Ark
Robertson FTS Chapter, Texas

NYC solidarity demo with prisoners in struggle in Greece

July 2014

<http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/2014/07/04/nyc-solidarity-demo-with-prisoners-in-struggle-in-greece/>

On July 3rd, 2014, we gathered in front of the Greek consulate in New York City to express our solidarity with the vibrant and dynamic struggle that has erupted throughout the Greek prison system. A hunger strike that began on June 18th quickly spread to every Greek prison facility; uniting over 4000 rebellious prisoners in resistance against the future implementation of a new set of repressive penal measures that have been designed to undermine the growing social antagonism both inside and outside of the prison walls.

We unfurled banners to block the entrance of the consulate; shouted slogans; and distributed counter-information to passersby. Within a local and international context, we understand solidarity to be an active bond that breaks through borders and boundaries presenting the possibility of connecting the various struggles in the prisons in California, Indiana, Texas, and Washington with those that have been continuously developing and strengthening in Greece.

No Hostage Left Behind in the Hands of the State!
Destroy Every Prison, Visible and Invisible!
War Against the War of the State!

F.T.S. Notice: Join the Prison Justice League November 2014

This notice is to all Texas Prisoners to join the Prison Justice League (PJL). The Prison Justice League is facilitated by the Texas Civil Rights Project and works to improve conditions in Texas prisons through litigation, advocacy, and by empowering its members. Their work addresses the needs of prisoners in Texas, challenges institutions of punishment, and holds them accountable for their actions, and serves as a voice for prisoners and the community most affected by the criminal justice system here in Texas. It is a member-based organization made up of prisoners from state-run prisons across Texas. I would like to encourage you to join, especially if you are a F.T.S. member. Join by writing:

Prison Justice League
c/o Texas Civil Rights Project
1405 Montopolis Dr.
Austin, TX 78741

All correspondence sent to this address are considered "Legal Mail" as per BP 03.91 which means you can send them sealed correspondence. This way you can write what you need to without the prison authorities opening and reading it. The PJL overall goals for the 85th Legislative Session in Texas will be #1. Conditions such as the extreme heat, abusive staff and the failing grievance system. They will also work to establish the much needed TDCJ Oversight Committee. 2. Wrongful Convictions. PJL says that conservative estimates indicate that 4% of prisoners are actually innocent – approximately 6,200 in Texas. PJL also supports establishing a Sentencing Commission that would be responsible for reviewing sentencing policies and aligning punishments with crimes in a manner that promotes fairness and equity in the system. 3. Medical Care – PJL will support efforts to reduce the prison population and allocate more money to provide constitutional healthcare to all prisoners. This is similar to what has recently been happening in California prisons. Finally 4. Parole. In order for prison conditions – including providing adequate medical care – to be improved, the prison population must be decreased. Ensuring proper parole release in line with established guidelines will reduce the prison population without compromising public safety. PJL will also support efforts to streamline the parole process, removing vague parole denials, and allow potential parolees to view their file to correct inaccuracies.

PJL currently has a petition that FTS members are circulating which demands Texas take all steps to end brutal heat conditions in Texas prisons. Their goal is to collect 50,000 signatures to share with the Texas Legislature during the 2015 session.

Help PJL help FTS by joining. Fight To Survive (FTS)
United in Struggle
Comrad R. Anders
Huntsville FTS Chapter, Texas

THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

New Boston, TX

October 2014

I have trouble finding the words to express how excited and surprised I was to read P.A.N. Before this, I did time in Oklahoma. The differences between the two systems is shockingly drastic. For years I have been stunned by the "slave mentality" of Texas prisons. This mentality is not limited to the staff and Administration. I noticed that most convicts (inmates) in Texas seem to be trapped in a time capsule that is 50 years behind. This system is a true example of Willie Lynch and Jim Crow at its best.

I was rail-roaded at Neal unit in Amarillo. S.T.G. Sgt. Ramirez could not find any evidence against me so he wrote me up for "Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity." This is a 10.0 rule violation "A Felony as defined by the laws of the State of Texas (A.F.A.D.B.T.L.O.T.S.O.T.). He used this as a loophole to say that I "conspired."

I wrote Step 1, Step 2, O.I.6. as well as Natalie Isaac (Head of Counsel Sub. Program in Huntsville). My family wrote letters and called everyone from Wardens to Dept. heads in Huntsville, all to no avail. I am attacking the way T.D.C.J. allows officers (who are not trained or qualified to interpret Texas Criminal Law) decide that I committed a felony. The bottom line is that if they can accuse me of a felony (A.D.B.T.L.O.T.S.O.T.) and they can find me guilty and punish me for a felony, (A.D.B.T.L.O.T.S.O.T.), then they should be required to support and carry the exact same burden of proof (A.D.B.T.L.O.T.S.O.T.) that is required in a court of law.

I was dropped from S4 to L3, custody level from G2 to G5, and believed to have gone softly into the night.

I arrived at Telford Unit to see T.D.C.J. at its worst. Rats as big as cats! Soured beans, spoiled meat, no rec., no showers daily, incoming and outgoing mail held for six days at a time (or longer), no cleaning supplies, and medical emergencies being ignored. I was so overwhelmed by the number of issues that needed to be addressed; I didn't know where to start. So I wrote a list and started at the top: Step 1's and Step 2's. All to no avail. So I drew up a petition and letter to the Unit Wardens, Majors, and Captains. In this petition I listed our grievances that are being ignored. Then I told them that it has been allowed by them and us to go on for too long. I closed the petition by saying "We (as a collective whole) are making this petition our last attempt at a resolution within the rules. We (as a collective whole) are prepared to strive for resolution obtained by other means if this attempt is ignored."

A Major and Cpt. came the very next day and started pulling us out (cell to cell) in order to “talk.” I have now smelled fear and tasted the blood of the oppressor. As of 10-1-14 I am a founding member of “F.T.S. Telford Unit” thanks to P.A.N. I now have the scoop on writing to Austin’s Senate Criminal Justice Committee and House Corrections Committee. I selected two members from each committee and mailed a letter and copies of all Step 1’s and Step 2’s. This was followed up by phone calls from “F.T.S.” friends and family.

I was just told that 45 convicts from this wing (G5) are being shipped off the Unit. Guess who was #1 on the list!!!

Texas prisoners are fed up but no one knows what to do. A vanguard is needed to lead the way. F.T.S. and P.A.N. is the way, the truth, and the light.

In the struggle,
C-Mac
a.k.a.
Naim Ali

Tucson, AZ

December 2014

Dear Prison Action News,

My name is William Ishmael Clark and I’m a federal prisoner at the United States Penitentiary in Tucson, Arizona. There are serious issues going on here that the staff are doing and getting away with. Staff are violating the law and nothing is being done about it. I have written to the United States Attorney General’s Office, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Marshal’s office, Director Charles Samuels over at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and even to the Warden here. The Warden (Louis Winn Jr.) told me flat-out that he doesn’t care what his staff does, that my complaints won’t do any good because he is the person that gets it. I’ve been assaulted by staff here and now I’m in the SHU over this as the staff stated that I attempted to assault him and I’m in a wheelchair as I cannot walk without my cane or wheelchair. This prison is in need of being cleaned up from the corruption of the administration and of the Correctional Officers. Our lives are placed in jeopardy because of these staff here.

William Ishmael Clark #11798-055
United States Penitentiary- Tucson
PO Box 24550
Tucson, AZ 85734

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Ferguson Protesters In Boston Stop Outside Jail, Chant ‘Black Lives Matter’ November 25, 2014

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/25/ferguson-boston_n_6222966.html
Written by Amanda Terkel

Bostonians turned out Tuesday night to show solidarity with protesters nationwide, upset over the decision not to indict Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson for killing unarmed African-American teenager Michael Brown. But the protest in Boston had a twist: Marchers stopped at a local jail to stand with the inmates there.

According to the Boston Globe, approximately 1,400 people marched to the South Bay House of Correction. Protesters were reportedly chanting, “We see you,” and “Black lives matter.”

The South Bay facility houses adult male and female inmates convicted of crimes with a sentence of 2.5 years or less.

African-American men are six times more likely to be incarcerated than white men, according to The Sentencing Project. If current trends continue, one out of every three black men in the U.S. will go to prison. ProPublica recently found that “young black men [were] 21 times as likely as their white peers to be killed by police” between 2010 and 2012.

Photos at the South Bay institution show men leaning on bars in windows, watching the crowd below. One inmate wrote “Mike Brown” on the window, according to a protestor’s tweet.

Support the 22 Demands of Coal Township Prisoners Protesting for Dignity and Human Rights August 2014

<http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=af161ec31abb2cddac84b1f12&id=70d9211e65&e=28061e2c11>

Prisoners at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Coal Township are renewing their protest against food cutbacks and other unjust conditions. On August 18, 19 & 20 prisoners will stage a peaceful protest against the Dining Hall.

In June 2014, more than 1,300 prisoners at SCI Coal Township staged a historic week-long boycott of the dining hall in protest of cuts to their food portions. Following the protest, prisoners submitted a list of 22 demands to prison officials that would improve conditions at the prisons. If you have not yet signed the petition in support of these demands, you can do so at <http://bit.ly/22demands>.

During the week of August 18-22, Executive Secretary Shirley Moore-Smeal and other top officials of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) will pay a visit to SCI Coal Township. A “special meal” is scheduled for them, and it will also be served to the general prisoner population. Prisoners are clear: no money should be wasted on a fancy meal for Central Office “big wigs!”

According to one participant in the protests, prisoners at SCI Coal Township “are not interested in this one-day pay-off” and “won’t be silenced by some fried chicken and steak! The ‘big wigs’ from Central Office should eat the same meager food portions and bland diet prisoners are subjected to for the other 364 days of the year when a special entourage/delegation from Central Office doesn’t visit the prison.”

Prisoners demand all special meals be eliminated from the Staff Dining Hall and General Population Dining Hall when delegations from Central Office visit DOC institutions!

Warren, ME

October 2014

Last week I spent several hours drafting a letter – this letter, to P.A.N. after reading briefly the discussion in an inmate’s letter in a 2014 issue a prisoner here at MSP loaned me overnight a month ago or so. In this letter the prisoner complained about how his prison and/or their canteen purveyor were take-take-taking: bottom feeding off prisoners by price gouging, etc. I could write extensively, or concisely, about this matter of the myriad ways in which the US prison industrial complex is inordinately and overwhelmingly greedy and morally sick.

I’m sending this letter to you because I have no money, no family, need sincere legal help, and I’m not, barring a huge miracle, going to get it from Mainers.

I have a very serious nosebleed condition: “Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia” (HHT), a.k.a. “Olser-Weber-Rendu” and a serious dry-skin condition that has evolved, or as the case be, devolved, into Staphylococcus Aureus. Now I have approximately 18-20 “staph” sores that have oozed pus and blood onto my clothing, and into my eye socket.

Regarding the outrageous indifference of the MSP provider: Correct Care Solutions, I have filed a 42 U.S.C § 1983 Civil Suit. I’m no jailhouse lawyer – do not know what I’m doing in the courts. The case is filed in the Fed. District Court in Bangor, ME. No. 1:14 – CV – 00392 – 6ZS – Brandon B. Drewry v. Correct Care Solutions, et al.

Only those who care about social reform, prison reform, human decency, will respond to my pleas, or a lawyer who takes the time to view facts that should easily elicit a six-figure settlement or more.

The State of Maine will try to shut my legitimate claim out, via a motion for the summary judgement because of a b.s. technical error, or some other means.

Brandon Boone Drewry

Bridgeton, NJ

November 2014

This is an updated letter that I took a medical trip to have an eye doctor examine my eyes to find the problem. But the doctor could not possibly fix the situation. It was stated “that my left eye is blurry and my right eye is minus five to minus ten.” I was then told by the doctor that I was “born with cardiac eyes.” This was another excuse to not receive any laser light surgery and eye treatment!

So I wrote several more letters to these attorneys who did not even bother to respond and show no respectful answer to any one of my letters. This lead me to file a 28 U.S.C. 1915 (e)(1) for representation. Although Southwoods State Prison, all DOC locations, and the State of New Jersey knew the situation, they did not bother to take care of the problem. This is a “failure to treat.” I will be on permanent disability because of this personal injury.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Darrell Hann #592792
SouthWoods State Prison
215 S. Burlington Rd.
Bridgeton, NJ 08301

Venus, TX

September 2014

As a fellow anarchist I like your organization and am pleased by how others are doing something to let society hear our voices. I have been incarcerated for the last 15 years and have tried to write several organizations only to be denied correspondence. Recently a comrade of ours handed me newsletter #7.2. After reading this newsletter I was encouraged and felt the need to write. I have been following a form of the anarchist movement since 1997 at the age of 17. I have since this time had a strong opposition to our government and its agencies. There was a time when I exercised extreme methods towards these agencies. But now I have come to realize that the voice of the people can cause more change than one person with a destructive mindset. I have taken my time being incarcerated to educate myself on the foundation of this nation and have found that our current government has grossly perverted its natural intentions. I have also since found that there are now differing categories of anarchist. I am not sure exactly which one I would fall under. What I do know is that I firmly believe that under the Declaration of Independence we, as a people and a

The teens broke out of their dorm buildings late Wednesday, according to The Tennessean, by kicking out through aluminum panels under windows. This same method led to the Monday night escape of 32 teens held at the facility. As of early Thursday, six of those escapees were still at large.

Five or six teens were first reported on a roof of one of the dorm buildings just after 11 p.m., according to WTVF. Others eventually followed, with over 20 being reported outside the facilities at around 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

After accessing the yard that surrounds the housing dorms, the 24 teens used make-shift tools - including wooden sticks and pipes, according to reports - to try to open other parts of buildings on campus. Some sprayed fire extinguishers into the air, and at least one detainee toppled a Woodland Hills guard in the yard.

Two staff members at the detention center suffered minor injuries, Department of Children’s Services spokesman Rob Johnson said. The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services notified officials at the Department of Corrections and the state Highway Patrol, who arrived at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center after 3:00 a.m. in riot gear and to help quash the breakout attempt. A police helicopter was also used to spotlight action taking place on the center’s yard. Metro police were also on the scene.

The 24 teens were eventually handcuffed and taken into custody. Ten so-called “ring-leaders” in the Wednesday night riot were taken to a detention center in Rutherford County, Tennessee, while others remained at Woodland Hills.

Some of the teens were involved in the Monday breakout, though no teens breached the perimeter fence on Wednesday.

Department of Children’s Services Commissioner Jim Henry said the facility will be repaired and fortified promptly. He added that the department is reviewing policies at state’s three youth development centers that restrict the department’s ability to put areas of the facilities on lockdown in case of disturbances. The single dorm rooms at the center are locked and can only be opened by those with a key, while occupants of the room can always push open the door.

Woodland Hills has a history of violence and sexual assault, according to The Guardian. In 2010, the US Department of Justice ranked the center as 13th in the nation among juvenile facilities with reports of sexual abuse by staff members. Recent incidents of violence include one guard headlocked and repeatedly punched by a detainee, and another staffer beat by four young men before other staff members could help.

Most of the 14- to 19-year-olds held at Woodland Hills have committed at least three felonies. Officials say Woodland Hills has been understaffed. Fifteen guards were on duty late Wednesday. They are not allowed to carry weapons.

Please keep in mind these are medical issues that should be treated with discretion.

Although I concentrate on these three people who are on a hunger strike, they have expressed that they are striking for all people with a disease or injury needing better care, chronic or not, at CSP-Corcoran.

Four thousand prisoners on hunger strike for Kobanê October 2014

<http://en.firatajans.com/news/news/4-thousand-prisoners-on-hunger-strike-for-kobane.htm>

Around four thousand PKK (Kurdistan Worker's Party) and PAJK (Kurdistan Women's Liberation Party) prisoners in 92 Turkish jails have started hunger strike in protest against the AKP government's collaboration with the ISIS in face of the ongoing attacks of ISIS gangs on the Kurdish town of Kobanê in West Kurdistan, Rojava.

The indefinite and irreversible hunger strike launched by PAJK inmates in Gebze on 9 October has been joined by thousands of others in 92 jails as of 15 October.

Issuing a statement at the weekend on behalf of the prisoners, Deniz Kaya had said that; "As PAJK and PKK prisoners, we declare our solidarity with the YPG and YPJ fighters, and announce we are launching a hunger strike to condemn the AKP-ISIS collaboration, the AKP police's hostile attitude to our people's uprising, and will continue this action as long as the threat of genocide hangs over Kobanê, as long as the AKP-ISIS collaboration continues and until the AKP government opens an aid corridor to Rojava. If our demands are not met, we will radicalise our action."

Kaya also called on the Kurdish people to step up their solidarity with the heroic resistance in Kobanê and to expose the AKP-ISIS collaboration.

Riot erupts in Nashville juvenile jail after prison break September 2014

<http://rt.com/usa/185044-nashville-juvenile-prison-riot/>

Two dozen teens broke out of a common area at a Nashville juvenile detention center late Wednesday, wandering around the yard inside the facility's fencing with wooden sticks and fire extinguishers. On Monday, 32 teens escaped the same facility.

society, have a right to change or abolish our current government. I believe because we are a society that we should have a form of institution that is led for the people and by the people. Every person has a voice and I feel every voice should be heard. With our current situations and present incarcerations, we are given an opportunity to find out how these methods could be implemented. Sometimes it causes us to go to extreme measures when it shouldn't, but eventually we succeed.

During my incarceration I was a party in a lawsuit that was filed due to religious discrimination. It was during this battle that I became enlightened to how politics will do everything to dissuade us from saying what we have a right to say. Eventually, we won our lawsuit, but at what cost? Those of us that were in this suit had undergone mental, physical, and psychological abuse from the TDOC here in Texas. Even five years after winning this suit, I still experience occasions where things could have gone in a different direction. Had we given into the TDOC we would all probably have already made parole. But because of our struggle some, if not all of us, had to complete our entire sentence. I am now 14 months from completing my sentence and I am happy that I did not give up this fight. Now I have knowledge I can use in my fight against the perverse dictates of our currently established government.

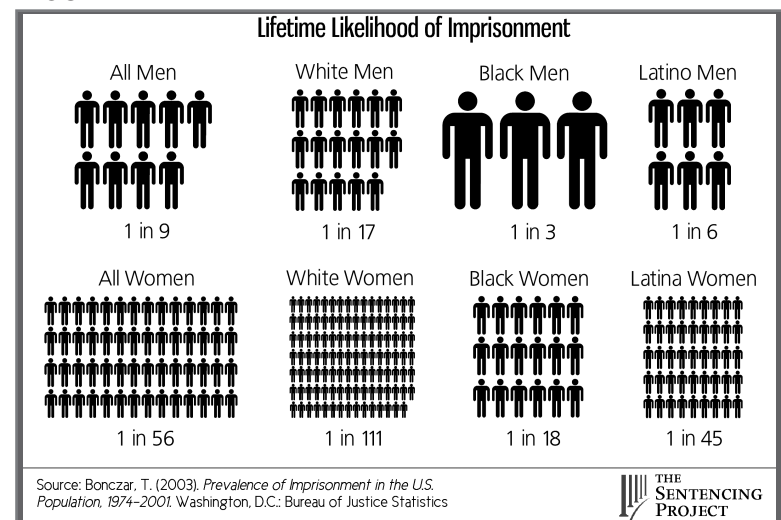
For those of the Wiccan community looking for help in their struggles to becoming established, you can find information to help in this case: Thomas MacAlister v. Brad Livingston et al.

I can only hope that the dedication of each person will continue and strive to create a way for every voice to be heard. In dedication, determination, discipline! Keep up the fight and win in our struggle!

Sincerely,

H.M.D.W.

Texas DOC



From the State Correctional Institution Fayette, prisoner #HV5362 Muwsa Green suffers from an ongoing Stress Assessment Test: the constant clanging that bombards prisoners' brains so many times a day until their nervous system becomes knotted. The existing resound tends to raise from the dead and reinforce the same sensation, the same bleak feeling that originally introduced the individual into the prison environment.

It is no condition of coincidence. The system is designed with conscious intent. In behavioral psychology this condition is called learned helplessness, a derivative of Skinnerian Operant Conditioning (commonly called learning techniques).

On August 22, 2013 I, Muwsa Green, filed a Civil Action on SCI Fayette facilities. Muysa Green v. DeBra A. Hawkin Berry et al. which is now in the U.S. Western District court of Pennsylvania. The D.O.C. Policy in part held: "Additionally, inmate participants in ceremonial meals must be free of Class I misconducts" (refer to department policy DC-ADM 801 inmate discipline for a period of six months).

I was repeatedly denied to practice my Jewish religious faith when receiving a kosher bag for three years inside the RHU/SMU. I also demonstrate a sincerely held religious belief. But the prison officials' interests were not reasonably related to penological interests. The constitution states there must be a separation between state and church when there is no penological interest as to a threat to the prison security. The DOC has no authority to apply its policy and deny a person the right to practice his or her religion.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Cynthia Reed Eddy agreed to my complaint, "to participate in a religious ceremonial faith must not be a privilege under the DC ADM 819 because the First Amendment protects the plaintiff's right to follow the practice of his Jewish religion." The defendant's motion to dismiss was denied in part. This article is to be continued after the summary judgment phase.

Corcoran SHU Prisoners Start Hunger Strike for Decent Healthcare; Support Needed Now September 2014

<http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/corcoran-shu-prisoners-start-hunger-strike-for-decent-healthcare-support-needed-now/>

On Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, three men locked inside unit 4B-1L of the Secure Housing Unit (SHU) of California State Prison-Corcoran started a hunger strike: Heshima Denham (J-38283), followed on Sept. 27 by Michael Zaharibu Dorrough (D-83611), and Kambui Robinson (C-82830) will join them the following day for a few days or as long as he can considering his poor health.

Why? The medical care at Corcoran SHU is so bad that life-threatening situations have occurred on too many occasions to the people in the SHU and possibly also elsewhere at CSP-Corcoran that they have had to resort to a hunger strike, the ultimate nonviolent protest, in order to make this point known to the warden, the medical receiver appointed by the court to oversee California's notoriously bad prison healthcare, and the administration of the California Department of Corrections (CDCR).

Several factors made the three decide to protest the lack of healthcare now: Kambui has diabetes that is very badly regulated with a HBA1C of 9.3 – far too high for diabetics, especially with those already suffering loss of eyesight and neuropathy – and Zaharibu has dangerous, untreated, extremely high cholesterol, making him very vulnerable to stroke, and he has untreated gall stones and a CPAP machine without an extension cord to work effectively.

Custody staff interfering with medical staff is causing dangerous situations.

Ideally we want Michael (Zaharibu) Dorrough and Kambui Robinson moved to Vacaville or New Folsom medical facilities. Kambui's situation is most critical:

He needs more control over his insulin-dependent diabetes – better regulation, prevention of more complications, and a special diet for diabetics, with sufficient carbohydrates, low fat, whole grains, access to glucose and daily exercise outside his cell. He also needs a diagnostic scan to determine nerve damage in his brain.

For Michael Dorrough (D-83611): normal access to the CPAP machine, treatment for high cholesterol levels and treatment for gallstones.

Finally, for Heshima Denham (J-38283), we need an MRI-scan to make a diagnosis of the pain in his right side and treatment for whatever is causing it. Heshima was recently also diagnosed with PTSD.

And thus, patience wears thin. On October 10th my patience caved. I am now on High Security Maximum Control for stabbing Mr. Robert Mitchell numerous times. I've been charged by the SBI for Attempted Murder, and even though I only had 7 years left, I'm not depressed. I don't regret my actions. If following procedure and handling the situation lawfully doesn't work, what else are we to do?

Thomas M. Accardi #0861582
Polk Correctional Institution, HCON
PO Box 2500
Butner, NC 27509

Athens: Statement from Anarchist Nikos Romanos November 2014

<http://rotehilfesch.noblogs.org/post/2014/12/12/athens-statement-from-anarchist-nikos-romanos/>

Following 31 days of a tough and tenacious struggle, I end my hunger strike, having scored an important victory. The amendment voted in Parliament with me its single recipient, had important differences to the initial proclamation of the Minister of Justice, eventually meeting my demands – even if this involves me “wearing an electronic bracelet.”

The only thing certain is that this victory was an outcome of the political pressure applied for it by the people in struggle and Combative Anarchy are indisputably the great moral, political and practical victors. The multiform revolutionary struggle and us, as political prisoners, resurface from this struggle stronger than before.

I raise my fist, sending the warmest regards and my unlimited love to all those comrades who stood by my side.

BY ALL MEANS!
SOLIDARITY TO POLITICAL PRISONERS
LONG LIVE ANARCHY

PS: I would like to also thank the hospital doctors who refused to bow to the pressure by the attorney regarding my forced feeding, and who supported me to the possible extent.
Nikos Romanos

Recent denial of my correspondence to you dated September 26th 2014 October 2014

Dear Comrades,

I am writing to you in regards to my correspondence I tried to send you September 26th, 2014 and which was denied by the Unit mailroom here at the Clements Unit. I have appealed the denial to the Director's Review Committee, PO Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342-0099.

I am president of a certain organization which protests against government corruption, as well as violations of prisoners rights, to health care, access the courts, and incoming and outgoing mail.

Prisoners who are housed in 12-Building Administrative Segregation never see a medical doctor for any reason, unless we are half dead. The only medical people we see are nurses and a Nurse Practitioner who serves as our doctor and who has a hatred towards all prisoners. Her main prescription for prisoners' illnesses are: “Drink more water.”

She recently got mad at me because I refused to come out of my cell to see her. I had submitted a “sick-call request” to see her because I was having sinus problems. However, it took three weeks for her to get around to seeing me and by that time my sinus problems had healed up and I told the escorting officer that I no longer needed to see her. When he informed her of what I said, she got mad and took me off all my medications, including my blood pressure medication and my medication for my peptic ulcers.

About two weeks later I had to be rushed to the infirmary because I passed out from high blood pressure. However, the nurses at the infirmary informed me that even though my blood pressure was 185 over 117 they could not give me anything because Ms. Judith Thomas, the Nurse Practitioner, took me off all my meds. Three days later I was rushed to the infirmary again due to high blood pressure. I was again told the same thing by the nurses and was sent back to my cell.

I filed a Step One grievance on Ms. Thomas, NP. She called me out and put me back on my high blood pressure meds and only half of my peptic ulcer meds and when I asked her about the rest of my medications, including my peptic ulcer meds, she stated that I had received all the meds I was going to get from her.

I was later told to pack my property and that I was being moved to 12-C-03 cell, which is a section for inmates who throw something or spit on the officers, which I have never done, and I was currently an SAT-4 (State Approved Trusty) which is the highest status you can reach in Administrative Segregation, and had not had a

disciplinary write-up in over two years. However, my new neighbors told me that the inmate White, who was in 3-cell, had threatened the officers and Sergeant that if they did not move him that he was going to throw urine on any officer that came by his cell. He then papered his cell door up so the officers could not see in. Sergeant Noel told him to take the paper down off the door and he would move him. He was then moved to my cell and I was moved to his cell.

I filed a Step One Grievance on the matter listing both of my next door neighbors as witnesses. The response on the Step One came back stating: "Your complaint has been investigated and reviewed. You were moved due to behavioral problems, and at the recommendation of the physiologist to create the best atmosphere and dynamic for you to successfully complete the treatment program. No further action warranted" and it was signed by Assistant Warden J. Beach. He states that I was moved because of behavioral problems! Whose behavioral problems? Since I was a State Approved Trusty and with no write-ups in over two years... He further states that the grievance has been investigated, however, neither of my witnesses was interviewed or talked to.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter. If there is anyone out there who would like to help us get the word out about health care and our mail being denied for no reason, you can contact me at the below address.

In solidarity and respect to all!

Wendell A. Lee #399488

Clements Unit

9501 SPUR 591

Amarillo, TX 79107-9606



DIRECT ACTION/NON-COMPLIANCE

Butner, NC

December 2014

Greetings in solidarity!
I just recently read Volume 7.2 of PAN from August 2014 and the article about the Pelican Bay Short Corridor Human Rights Movement interested me because their situation sounds an awful lot like ours here in North Carolina.

Let me begin here:

Because of numerous incidents involving gang violence in North Carolina prisons, and specifically at Lonesboro Correctional, a controlled movement program was introduced and has been on a trial period since January 2014. They've labeled this a "Progressive Housing Unit" and it affects validated gang members, associate members, and any-and-everybody that they can railroad. Many residents were validated falsely because of tattoos, pictures, who they hang around or do business with, basically for close to anything. The program implemented was supposed to provide residents a chance to progress through numerous classes and programs designed to better those attending and help them return to society with better people skills. Their key word here is "supposed" to.

What the PHU really is is a way to treat validated residents in regular population as if they are on a control status lock-up. Residents are on 23-and-one lockdown, denied personal hygiene off canteen, denied the right to buy or wear New Balance tennis shoes, denied schooling, programs, jobs, and even religious services. In the beginning many residents reacted violently, assaulting guards on a nearly daily basis, while many others resorted to grievances, letters to administration and heads of DOC, the governor, etc. Families called these same people and complained regularly. Class action lawsuits were filed...and yet, nothing changes.

Mid-year, Raleigh sent a hand-picked investigative team, headed by Mr. Fountain, to Lonesboro to investigate the PHU and its residents. They spoke to many residents and asked a lot of questions; in the end, numerous changes were presented to the heads of DOC. The PHU's current practices were deemed unconstitutional. Mr. Fountain asked us to stop the violence, hunger strikes, etc. and give them 30 days to implement some changes.

Finally! We gave them nearly 90 days...and yet, still nothing!

In September 2014, Administrator Robert Mitchell, who's been controlling the PHU the entire time, once again began implementing disciplinary procedures to PHU residents without any infractions presented. Residents are only allowed out of their cells for an hour-a-day, six people at a time. We're not allowed to visit the canteen any more and must get commissary through an order form as if on segregation. Only 10 items are allowed to be bought at a time...it continues.

against the former Ad. Seg. Property Officer at Connally Unit, Ms. Lydia Serna, and against the current Connally Unit Ad. Seg. Property Officer Ms. Shelley Grayson for the loss of my property. I had filed the charges with the Internal Affairs Division. I had also written letters to my district court judge, D.A., Sheriff, and District Clerk, so that they can make a recommendation on my behalf to have my sentence commuted, so that I can be released back into society to receive the proper mental health treatment and medication for my mental illness. I am on my own in dealing with these corrupt officers here in TDCJ because I have no outside support to help me. I am filing motion after motion with the courts to obtain my release and freedom. I am also constantly filing complaints with the DOJ against these inhumane conditions in TDCJ. Change doesn't happen overnight. I'm going to continue to do my part to change this corrupted system, by using my sword which is this pen and paper. These officers better not do anything that is against ACA Standards, because I will continue filing complaints until a change is made. I ask for support from the outside in helping me get these bogus disciplinary cases overturned, and get me reimbursed for my lost property. You can contact Rick Thaler, Director of the Correctional Institutions Division (936) 437-7200, and the Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice Oliver J. Bell (512) 475-3250, the Director of the Parole Division, Stuart Jenkins (512) 406-5401, Public Information Office John Hurt, Dir. (936) 437-6052. Also any communication will be greatly appreciated. It would be a blessing if people can keep me updated on other struggles around the world. To my fellow inmates incarcerated in TDCJ, read and study the following: Texas Constitution art. III 50 & 51, Tex. Gov't Codes 493.007, 508.081-086, 552.001-.353, 556.004, 572.051, 572.054, 2113.012, 2203.004, 2252.901, 493.001, 493.0051, 493.005, 494.002 (a), 499.004, 499.102 (a) (9), Texas Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion No. 372 (1997), AD.-07.11, AD-02.50, AD 04.35, ED-02.04, ED-02.02, ED-02.01, PD-80, PD-32, PD-26, PD-23, and PD-22. To all my fellow inmates everywhere else in the USA, read and study ACA Standard 4-4069, 4-4246, 4-4247, 4-4248. Read and study and keep filing grievances, complaints, and lawsuits. Keep as much heat on the prison system as possible, and stay united in doing so. Unity is power!

In struggle and in solidarity

Pharoah Umoja F/K/A
Anthony D. Washington #1458201
Hughes Unit
Bt.2 Box 4400
Gatesville, TX 76599

I'm representing:
New Afrikan Black Panther Party
New Afrikan Service Organization
Black Riders Liberation Party
Organization for Black Unity, Inc.

Portage, WI

December 2014

How do you get out of the belly of the beast? I have found only one way and that is to give the beast such a headache and stomachache that way he has but only one choice and that is to throw you up and out. Greetings once again from animal rights activist Manuel C. Salas.

Over the last 9 months I was able to force the DOC to start making more changes to the DOC vegan menu and to take milk off the menus for vegans. My request I sent in has now taken over 8 months and is still going. The DOC has no choice but to give me what I want and I know I showed them how not doing so they have opened themselves up to federal law violations. This was proven in letters sent to me and my friends and sister. A big victory is coming.

Another big move for vegan and environmentalists, me and another person are working on forcing the DOC to allow inmates to order hygiene and other health products from outside the DOC. The DOC is looking into allowing this for medical and religious violations. My complaints and request went in because inmates have a right to cruelty-free hygiene, i.e. not hurting animals or the environment and nature.

I was hurt a few months back due to this. I was standing up for another inmate and his word. I came to find out he was lying and got a few people looked at. Myself and one other activist I know fight hard to get and keep our rights. Inmates who say they are fighting with us keep the lies out of the work we do. The injustice is sad but when people and lies make it look like more is happening it weakens our fight. Build this revolution on facts and truth. I will fight with anyone but stop hurting the movement.

Another movement of support I'm trying to start is mail from one prisoner to another. I need all the help I can. Any inmate who can receive mail from other prisoners put this in PAN or find me directly. I have had lots of mail sent back to me due to the prisons not allowing inmate mail to come from another prison. Please help out with this.

For all letters to and from prisoners and from free world to prison, please put your name and address on the envelope and your letter for the first letter to make sure prisoners and mail sent to the outside get contact info. Thank you for all the support. I hope all are having a blessed new year. Keep up the fight. Never give in to the injustice.

The revolution lives on.
In solidarity,
Manuel C. Salas 504212
Columbia Correctional Inst.
PO Box 900
Portage, WI 53901-0900

Gatesville, TX

November 2014

I am a black female prisoner incarcerated at the Dr. Lane Murray Unit of the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Beginning in 2004, I was singled out for a prolonged and sustained pattern of abuse that is racially motivated. I was singled out by the white racist prison guard Sergeant James Tomme. For the past ten years, I have been sexually harassed by the TDCJ prison guards both directly and by the illegal use of spy technology. Chemical agents for use of force procedures have been repeatedly “sprayed” on food products designated for my consumption, as well as being placed in hygiene items. This criminal act by TDCJ prison guards is done to poison my body and subject me to the harmful effects of poisoning and ultimately murder me. I have been forced to starve and dehydrate numerous times in order to survive. I have been without several hygiene items for over a year now because the prison guards are poisoning my hygiene items and any commissary purchased food items they can find in my lockable storage box. False disciplinary reports have been written against me to place me in solitary confinement and in administrative segregation in order to poison me. My incoming mail has been stolen by TDCJ prison guards to prevent me from having any contact with the “outside” world, including my family, and to prevent me from having any financial assistance as well as continuing my education and spiritual growth. TDCJ prison guards use an unauthorized key to open the outgoing mail drop box for the sole purpose of stealing the letters that I send out of TDCJ especially legal and media mail in an attempt to cut me off from the outside world and to prevent me from exposing their criminal activity against me and how the male prison guards including ranking prison guards sexually harass and assault female prisoners. I have been badly burned via the illegal use of laser technology. I have had a R83 civil rights complaint stolen from the prison’s law library. I have written to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and it is a corrupt department as well. I have started a letter-writing campaign to expose these torturous heinous criminal acts. I am in the process of filing another civil rights complaint pro se. I have filed countless grievances and will write to as many media outlets as possible to make my voice heard and to seek justice. Beginning November 1, 2014 TDCJ ranking prison guards on the Dr. Lane Murray Unit have been repeatedly burning my buttocks, the back of my thighs, and my vagina via the illegal use of laser technology. I have the burns to prove it and I am being denied medical attention. I am also in the process of retaining legal counsel to overturn my current conviction because I will never be safe in TDCJ, as TDCJ prison guards have every intention of killing me. For additional information and/or to support my quest for justice, please contact me at:

Melody Simpson
c/o Superior Enterprises
1344 Pondview Ave.
Akron OH 44305

It takes an acrobat to even climb up in the guntower, let alone if you need to make a bathroom break during the middle of the night. One must exhaust the BOP Administrative Remedy system before filing a Bivens Action, and usually when one starts to grieve the issue of having three men to a cell, he or she gets transferred to another prison before a final decision is reached, making it necessary to start the process all over again to include the new place of confinement. I have been transferred to over five different FCI’s when I started exhausting my administrative remedies regarding triple celling until they finally transferred me to USP Leavenworth which has been downsized to a medium security but still contain two man cells. Thus, nipping my complaints in the bud.

We must continue to exhaust administrative remedies on this issue AND file suit in the Federal Courts, basing our argument on the size of the cells enumerated in the American Correctional Association (ACA) handbook. Federal prisonrats pay for accreditation to the ACA, and are in violation of the square footage, lack of storage lockers, and restroom facilities in three man cells. We must start to “FRONT” them off on this issue in the Federal Courts by filing in numerous districts, until one district sees things our way and orders change.

Continue the struggle!

Solidarity,

Big John Perotti

Gatesville, TX November 2014

Greetings comrades! Since my last submission in May 2014, I have been transferred from the cruel and evil John B. Connally Unit to the racist Alfred Hughes Unit. Since the filing of my lawsuit, case no: 5:11-cv-00373, and my civil rights complain over 2 1/2 years, I have been retaliated against by the officers and Connally Unit administration. First, the officers negligently lost or misplaced my property, which includes: my three radios, two fans, three pairs of boots, three pairs of tennis shoes, two bowls, free world prescription eyeglasses, multi-outlet, \$130 worth of hygiene, and \$900 worth of food items bought from commissary. I have written numerous grievances about my property, but the administration refuses to replace or reimburse me for my lost property. The total amount that the cost of my property which also includes books, magazines, and pictures that were also missing from my property, is \$8000. I have also received numerous fabricated disciplinary cases to keep me in Ad Seg. and to keep me from making parole. The administration refuses to overturn these cases. Now I have filed 2254 writs to have these disciplinary cases overturned so that I can make parole. I also filed criminal theft charges

Three Peas in a POD-BOP Style November 2014

When I was in Ohio's only max and super max prison back in the 1970's most of the cells had only been singles, as that is all they were designed for. But due to the fact that the Prison Industrial Complex began their business of warehousing and enslaving men for the benefit of the government, they rapidly began overcrowding the prisons and started double celling at "Luke," (Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio).

Kelly Chapman, may God rest his soul, was a bankrobber and a convict who was a self taught jailhouse lawyer. He filed a class action suit seeking the Southern District of Ohio U.S. District Court to order the enjoining of state prisoncrats from double celling at Luke. The Federal Court agreed with Chapman and issued a Temporary Restraining Order, later converted to a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction enjoining Ohio prisoncrats from further double celling prisoners at Luke. The state appealed but the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision to enjoin against double celling.

Research of previous case law will show that back in the 50's several states started not only double celling prisoners, but triple celling them, until the federal courts intervened and enjoined them from doing so. But the tide of time caused the pendulum to swing toward the right again, and the United States Supreme Court granted certiorari in Chapman v. Rhodes to review the enjoining of double celling in Ohio. In a split decision the majority of the then Supreme Court reversed the injunction stating that because prisoners at Luke were only confined in their cells during count times, and lockdown at 10pm until 6am the following mornings, that the state could double cell prisoners as long as they were not confined in the cell together 24 x 7. The court justified their decision by saying that prisoners had jobs, schools, day rooms, and outside recreation available to them which allowed them to be out of the cell the majority of the day, and confining two prisoners in a cell at night, merely for sleeping purposes, was not subjecting them to cruel and unusual punishment. This began the reversal of prisoners' rights and the long reign of terror by the Prisoncrats and Government in creating a forced slave labor camp against the politically disenfranchised lower classes who could not afford to pay for their justice as the ruling class did.

Continuing along these lines, and as a result of the "War on Drugs" and the creation of the "conspiracy laws" used by the federal government to imprison anyone based on hearsay alone, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has now been placing three prisoners in a cell designed for one, or "Three Peas in a Pod" as I call it. Getting a federal judge to even read a civil petition against the federal government is almost impossible, let alone asking them for justice, so the BOP continues to place Three Peas in a Pod in their Federal Correctional Institutions, medium security prisons nationwide.

Texas courts allowing TDCJ officials to be "above" the law – Part 2 August 2014

Since writing the letter in February things continued. For the civil suit, the mandamus I filed for service of suit was immediately denied by the Eleventh Court of Appeals. Before I could file any motions to reconsider, Hagler dismissed the suit as frivolous. I filed motions for reconsideration. The assistant Attorney General, Jerry Bergman filed several Amicus Curiae advisories as "friend of the court," not officially representing the named defendants. Judge Brooks Hagler used those advisories as his sole evidence, ignoring my replies. In fact, in every case he signed his orders in 2-3 days of this advisory, refusing even the 10 days reply time.

For the Criminal charges, I contacted Jones County District Attorney Joe Edd Boaz several times, only to receive letters from him saying his office does not hear complaints from inmates and referred the case to special prosecutor Gina M. Debottis. Now not only has Special Prosecutor Alice Gregg refused to prosecute, so did Gina Debottis. Both refuse to even reply to letters.

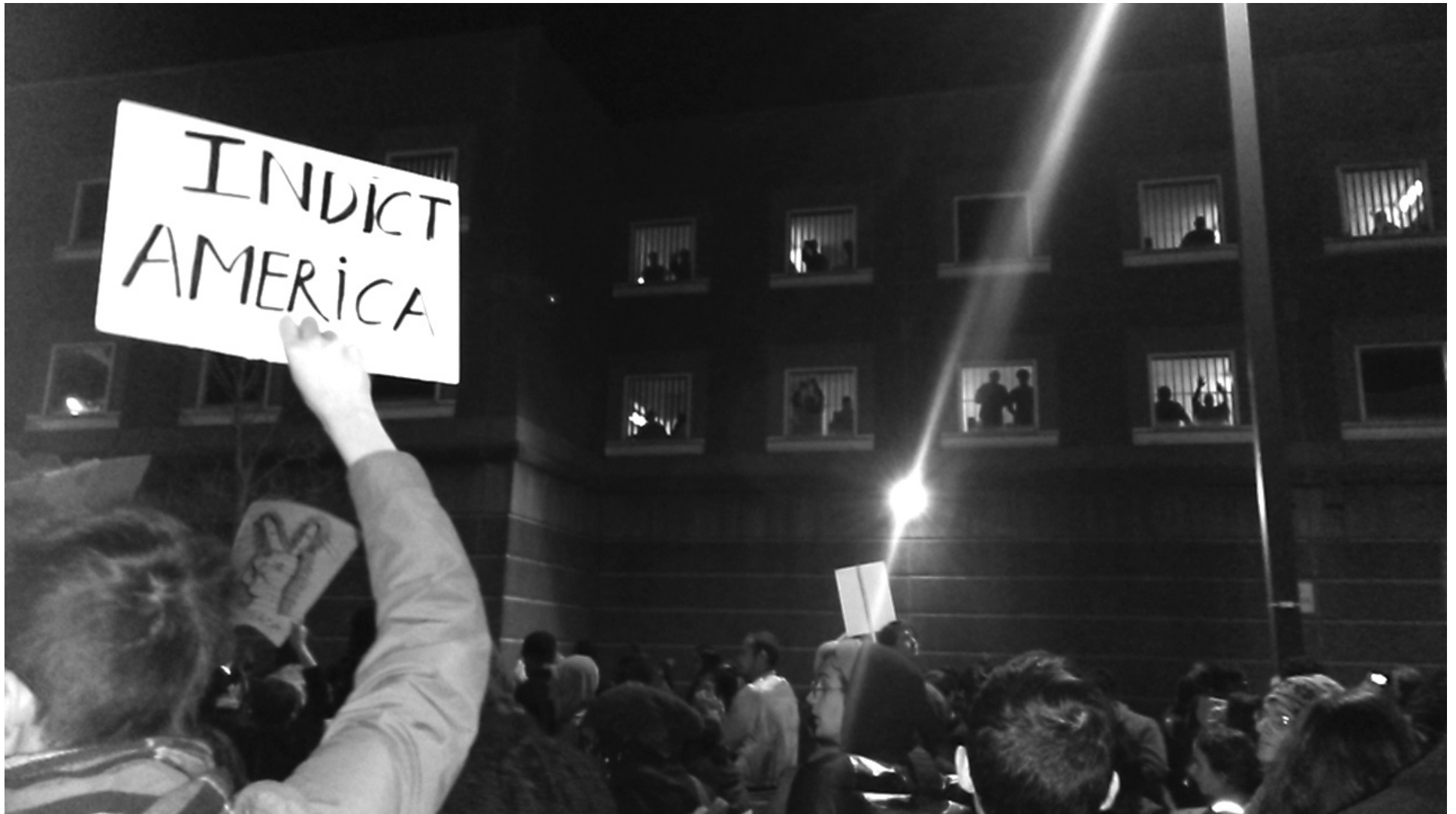
Now as it stands, due to two different special prosecutors refusing to present the case to the Grand Jury and Judge Brooks Hagler out of the 259th Judicial Court in Jones County refusing to allow the pro-se civil complaint, both the criminal and civil courts have placed TDCJ officials above the law, allowing them to physically assault inmates by choking them and slamming the back of their head against the wall for asking an officer to open a gate so I could take out the trash that was part of my assigned job duty.

After reading part one, Slapak claims that he was never terminated. This means either he is lying to cover it up or OIG lied to me. That would mean that TDCJ actually did nothing to him, allowing this abuse to take place.

I requested my job changed to get away from Slapak through Major Ronald Williams, who, after calling me a liar and verbally accosting me, refused. The new Assistant Warden did change my job assignment. Although immediately after, Slapak, who had worked the same building for an extremely long time, suddenly was being assigned to either my housing area and/or my new job assignment. This shows they openly refuse to keep him away from me and are forcing us together further escalating possible problems.

Both of the courts have made it clear they will not work with an indigent inmate representing himself and I have been unable to find any attorney willing to step up and help stop abuse such as this. This has forced me to have to stop this case since I lack the knowledge on how to proceed when the courts will not help solely because they put TDCJ above the law and I can't afford a lawyer to fight for me. This goes to show the state cares nothing about you unless you have money they can find some way to take from you. All help and ideas appreciated.

Sincerely, John McCollor



*Black Lives Matter Protest, South Bay
House of Correction, Boston MA*