

FREE OUR SISTERS in the RIKERS CONCENTRATION CAMP

The heroic rebellion of the prisoners at Attica was ended by a massacre ordered by Rockefeller and Nixon where 32 prisoners were murdered and hundreds wounded and tortured. Rockefeller, Nixon, Mancusi, Oswald and the other rulers of this country are guilty of pre-meditated mass murder of the prisoners demanding their human rights.

Our sisters at Alderson Concentration Camp in Alderson, West Virginia, held a sympathy demonstration and work strikes in support of their brothers in Attica. They were cruelly dispersed with tear gas. The Women's Bail Fund stands in solidarity with these heroic sisters and brothers.

The brutal and racist war waged on Third World and poor people in this country is continued in the prisons. This racism is shown in the fact that about 85% of the prisoners are Black and Puerto Rican. The real criminals — Rockefeller, Nixon, the Mellons, and the big corporations — who murder millions of people and rob and steal their labor for profit go free, while the oppressed are put in prison, tortured and murdered for struggling to survive in a racist capitalist society. Rockefeller and the other criminals never go to prison. Their families don't starve, go on welfare, or get bitten by rats. They get richer off our labor while we grow poorer.

Angela said, "I have often heard the rumor that as compared to men's prisons, women's institutions are humanely benign, the gravest problem being the tendency to "baby" the women captives. This is a myth which must be immediately smashed."

The inhuman conditions at the Riker's Island Correctional Facility for Women bear their out. We charge Rockefeller for committing these crimes: Preventive Detention: Bail is ransom. Bail means that sisters at Rikers are kept in jail only because they are not rich. It is designed to keep people who struggle against the system detained behind bars.

Lock-Up: Sisters are locked in their cells for 15 hours a day. Sisters are separated from each other by steel doors on each cell which can only be opened from an electrically controlled switchboard in every housing area. Even when they are out of their cells for brief periods, they are only allowed to communicate with the 30 sisters on their corridor.

Visits are restricted to relatives who are only allowed to come on weekday evenings for detained women and weekends for sentenced women. The location and visiting rules are designed to separate the sisters from their children, family and lawyers.

Forced Labor: Sisters are made to work for 3 to 10 cents an hour. They often receive only \$1.50 for a 35 hour week. This can't even buy essentials such as soap and toothpaste at the expensive commissary. Even money sent by parents and friends is often stolen by prison personnel.

Rotten Food: The meals consist of starches and no fresh milk or fresh fruit and vegetables. If there is meat it is usually pork or cat food. Sisters are hungry and are refused seconds while food is thrown out.

Medical Torture: Sisters are forced to kick cold turkey. Methadone detox is too little and too late. Medical needs are ignored completely or are inadequately met after delays of several days or weeks. Hundreds of women have been waiting for months for desperately needed eye glasses. Pregnant women do not get basic medical attention. And sisters who protest conditions are kept heavily sedated or put in psychiatric isolation cells.

Rats: Fat rats invade the cells through the toilets.

Brutality: A light shines in every cell 24 hours a day and many sisters have to go under their beds to sleep.

— Sisters are violated by forced vaginal searches. These searches often result in infection and disease.

— Sisters are put in the bin (isolation strip cells) for minor infractions such as passign notes to other sisters. Male guards are frequently called to beat up sisters.

— Sisters are subjected to excessive noise and pollution from airplanes at nearby LaGuardia airport.

— Unsafe vehicles transport sisters, brothers, families and workers around the concentration camps.

— The big new women's prison is already so overcrowded that there are two women in some cells designed for one.

Kidnapping: Children are taken away from their mothers and sent to children's shelters which are really concentration camps for children. Whether or not the mother ever sees her children again is dependent on the racist and classist city welfare agencies and courts.

Mental Torture: Sisters who speak Spanish find it impossible to get the few rights they might have otherwise because the staff does not speak the language. Books on Black history and culture, books written in Spanish, and political material are all forbidden.

Mail: Sisters sometimes have to wait 15 to 20 days to get letters from their parents and children. Some of the letters the sisters have written to the drug programs are thrown in the garbage by the staff.

The Women's Bail Fund

The Women's Bail Fund is a group of women struggling against the prison system which, under capitalism, serves the function of oppressing Third World people, the poor, and those who rebel against the system. We bail sisters out of the Riker's penal colony, provide some legal help, and speak to people about the function of the judicial system in racist, capitalist Amerika.

If you would like to make a contribution, please send checks to the
Women's Bail Fund
Box 637
Peter Cooper Station
New York, N.Y., 10003

We also have a packet of articles about the prison struggle which cost 70 cents.