

Midwest regional Hearing: CONTROL UNITS, PRISONS & POLITICAL PRISONERS

Saturday, April 20 • United Methodist Temple • 77 W. Washington • 9:00 am

Keynote Speaker:

Mark Mauer, Sentencing Project

Workshops:

Women in Prison • Death Penalty •
Control Units • Political Prisoners •
Prison Economics • The War on Drugs

Hearing

local and regional witnesses

Sliding scale \$3-\$10

(No one turned away for lack of funds)

Make checks payable to
8th Day Center for Justice

For more information:

312.641.5151

Join us for a full day of events in opposition to the imprisonment binge, control unit prisons, and the continuing incarceration of political prisoners. Hands-on workshops on key topics, informative and inspirational speakers, and vital testimony from diverse witnesses, promise to make the Midwest Regional Hearing a motivation for action as well as a practical education for all present. Held in coordination with similar events around the country, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons, this hearing is meant to be a springboard to direct action on prison issues. We urge you to attend on April 20, get involved, and lend your strength to this growing movement.

Childcare provided. Parking available. Group and educational rates provided for teachers and non-profits.

**Midwest Caravan
to Terre Haute and
Carlisle Valley**

Saturday, May 4

*Join our caravan to
Indiana's new control unit,
the Wabash Valley
Correctional Institution in
Carlisle and to the Terre
Haute Penitentiary, the fed-
eral death penalty prison in
Indiana and the site where
Puerto Rican POW Edwin
Cortés is imprisoned.*

*Cars and buses will vary
depending upon points of
departure. Contact the 8th
Day Center for Justice at
312.641.5151 for more infor-
mation.*

Sponsors: (list in formation)

National Committee to Free Puerto
Rican Prisoners of War and Political
Prisoners • Crossroads Support Net-
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Conscience Project • Aaron Patterson
Defense Committee • National Cam-
paign to Stop Control Unit Prisons

A CALL TO ACTION

In December, 1994, activists from across the United States, from a dozen states and two dozen cities, met in Philadelphia and founded the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons. A year later, at our second meeting, the Campaign issued a call to action for spring of 1996. We believe:

- *That control unit prisons are barbaric. No human being should be caged in a cell nearly 24 hours a day and denied all human contact for years on end. It is clear that the purpose of control units is to destroy prisoners both physically and psychologically, not to facilitate growth or improvement;*
- *That political prisoners and other dissidents are especially targeted for incarceration in control units, with the intent of dehumanizing and criminalizing them, as well as keeping them separate from other prisoners and from the movements of which they are a part;*
- *That control unit prisons are part of the insane imprisonment binge which portrays every problem as the fault of the individual rather than the result of a perverted social structure, one which proposes that most of these problems can be solved by putting people away in cages for longer and longer periods of time;*
- *That our society's imprisonment binge and the proliferation of control units are essential components of U.S. colonialism and racism. We believe that these components are not "errors" or misguided attempts to control crime. They exist not to control crime, but to attempt to control the democratic impulses of people of color within the borders of the U.S.*

Understanding these issues, we must organize and act, educate and agitate. With this in mind, the National Campaign is calling for coordinated activities all across the U.S. and Canada at the end of April and the beginning of May, 1996. The goal is to hold as many programs and demonstrations as possible at almost the same time. Areas already involved in the planning include Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Boulder, Gary, Newark, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. A variety of events are being scheduled, including hearings, demonstrations, seminars, delegations, educational pickets, dinners, concerts, and so forth.

In the Midwest, regional hearings are scheduled for Saturday, April 20, and a caravan to prisons in Terre Haute and Carlisle, Indiana is scheduled for May 4. These events are only the beginning, and it is not too late to get involved. Organizations and individuals in agreement with this call to action and interested in participating in the National Campaign should contact the 8th Day Center at 312.641.5151. We hope that many more will join this effort. We believe that if we raise our voices against these barbaric control unit prisons, against the racist imprisonment binge, against the incarceration of millions of young people, that together we will be heard. Together we can organize, through practical activity, a network of people that will challenge the dehumanizing U.S. society, and that will move toward the construction of a human society in its place. Please join us.