



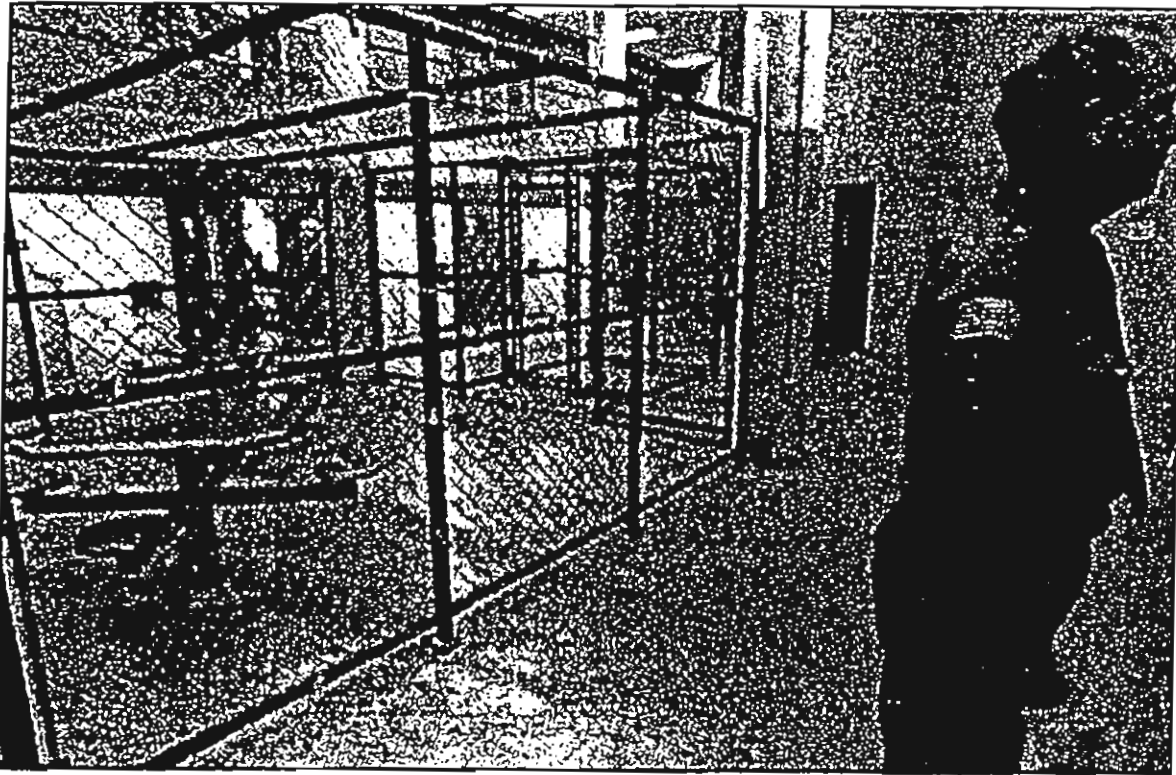
SOCIAL CONTROL & THE POLITICS OF PRISONS !

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CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

Inmates in solitary confinement refuse to use the "cages" for recreation or meals.



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STUDY AND REPORT

1. The first part of the study is a general survey of the subject.

2. The second part is a detailed study of the subject.

3. The third part is a study of the subject in relation to the subject.

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(WITHIN THE GRIP OF MCU)

Upon entering a politico-judicial nightmare and subjected to a noted extraordinary "100 MILLION DOLLARS" cash bail in 1985, i knew that my legal battles would be long and hectic once being extradited from Philadelphia, Pa. to New Jersey to defend myself against a racist onslaught of injustice. But over a decade later (10 1/2 yrs.), after episodes of adjudicated intrigue, being shipped from one prison to another, prevailing and now able to see daylight (release) in the near future, one would surmise that i could at least find some lasting peace of mind? however, that's not the case, since one of the dramatic experience in my life continue to exist; which is that of my confinement in one of amerikkka's most repressive control units (New Jersey State Prison's Management Control Unit) for the last five years under fabricated allegation by prison officials. To wit: "This individual has been identified as an active member... and a potential future leader in a radical revolutionary group."

The reality of MCU (a 23 1/2 hr. lock up, with a mere bi-daily 2 hr. outdoor exercise period; weather permitting?) is racially designed to break the mind, body, spirit, and commitment of mostly progressive Blk/Afrikan men of various political and philosophical persuasions, now in the custody of very sadistic racists and house negroes. In turn, and though most captives have remained steadfast, i've witnessed the less committed change their sworn political affiliation and/or Afrikan names back to western (european) standards in attempts to evade placement in MCU. i've also observed some captives travel closer to the edge of insanity, lose touch with reality, attempt suicide, become backbiters, chronic complainers, compulsive disrupters, etc. upon spending years in MCU. In addition, but in less extreme cases, i've witnessed a few captives become apathetic, while others became self-centered, opportunist, egoistic, or a bit zealous in the search for mind altering drugs or other vices. So the bottom line is; not many are left totally unaffected, in one way or another by long term lock down. Even i have become far less tolerant of the aforementioned elements/people.

Therefore, and in spite of newly created regulations to be installed governing MCU placement and stays in New Jersey (See: Harry Pack, et al., vs. Howard Beyer, et al., civil Action No. 91-3709 AET final judgment) the repressive control units throughout amerikkka must be dismantled.

In conclusion; the laws of physics dictate that everything has its opposites. So if there is remotely a positive side of my presence within the grip of MCU, it must be my increased ability to endure hardship, exercise hidden talent, build ongoing discipline, study in depth, grow under pressure, meet soldiers of merit, and turn this nightmare into an unfolding plan awaiting my return to the bigger struggle of my people.

(IN THE SPIRIT OF PAN-AFRIKANISM)

SUNDIATA LUMUMBA

CN-861 #213628

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON
MANAGEMENT CONTROL UNIT
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTROL UNITS - OUT OF CONTROL

By Hatari wa'Haki

Though the only control unit i ever been in is the one here in New Jersey, the management control unit, i think it's safe to assume that generally, it's no different here than any other control unit in amerikkka. I'm sure that We share the same pain, the same misery, the same suffering, and the same injustices that's inflicted upon control unit prisoners throughout the country; male and female. Therefore, whether you're subjected to a control unit in Lexington, Whether you're subjected to a control unit in Florence, whether you're subjected to a control unit in New York or anywhere else in the country, either on a state (or) federal level, there's very little difference because they all can be traced to one source - the government!

Here in New Jersey, the administration operates under a criterion which gives them broad latitude in determining MCU placements. As a result, you're not placed in MCU for anything you've done, or is accused of doing, but for what you might do, or is capable of doing! In fact, under this criterion, prisoners can be placed in MCU simply for enjoying a certain degree of respect, or for being held in high esteem by their fellow prisoners, because the administration will declare that you have too much influence over the youthful population, and is capable of possibly moving them in directions that the government don't want them to go. The last thing the government want is for prisoners who's eyes are open, to be opening the eyes of those who's eyes were closed - they want them to remain blind so that they can't see what time it is, and what they're doing to Us with their program of genocide. So this is why the administration fights so hard to keep prisoners with politics on the control unit here, and this is why the simple task of enlightening prisoners on subjects such as history, culture and politics is enough to get you thrown in control unit for years.

On a more personal note, on 2-4-86, i, along with 9 other prisoners was rounded up and brought to the management control unit after a prison agent, Edward Robinson, created a clearly unrealistic escape scenario whereas guards was alleged to be killed and/or held hostage, attempted to recruit certain high profiled prisoners that he knew the administration would be interested in because most of Us was on the hot sheet. When his plan was rejected by the prisoners he presented it to, he still went to the investigators and told them the stage was set, and whatever else they wanted to hear. In return, he was almost "immediately" released from the control unit, and given the rewards that was part of the deal.

all of the allegations We were accused of were serious; they were disciplinary infractions as well as indictable offense. Usually, what the administration would do when prisoners violate certain rules is give you disciplinary charges and send you before the prison disciplinary committee to have the charges adjudicated. But, in Our case, this didn't happen, because, had they chosen this process, We would have only been exposed to a year maximum for each charge, and that simply isn't long enough for the administration who don't ever want some of Us in population.

Prior to Us being placed in MCU, as well as after, different groups of White and Latino prisoners were charged with elaborate escape attempts whereas physical evidence such as, in one case, a "cross-bow", allegedly to be used to shoot the tower guard. In all instances, the accused prisoners went thru the normal disciplinary process, and received one year ad. seg. None of them were referred to MCU! The dynamics you have to consider when analyzing the contrasting handling of these cases is not just racial, though that played a part as well, but the main reason they got the kid glove treatment, and Ours was more harsh, is because We were "politico treatment", and still is, because even though 8 of the prisoners that came over with Our crew have been released at some point from the control unit, all but one have been returned to MCU due to the "active MCU list" - a list that all MCU prisoners remain on even after they're released from the control unit, and whenever there's any kind of disturbance in the prison, whether you're involved or not, the prisoners on the active MCU list are the first ones they come for! The only prisoners that are not presently in MCU as a result of the active MCU list, are the ones that has since been shipped out-of-state, from MCU!

There's no doubt that control units are designed for the exact reason the former warden of Marion said they were; to suppress revolutionary tendencies and attitudes.

Freedom or Death!!

Hatari wa'Haki
CN-861 (MCU)
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

New Jersey State Prison
Management Control Unit

No clear understanding of the Management Control Unit (MCU) at New Jersey State Prison, Trenton can be obtained without an understanding of the control ideology that undergrids its existence. Opened in December of 1975, this prison within a prison was the iron fisted response to a growing social consciousness among prisoners, and an attempt to meet J Edgar Hoover's call for the suppression of revolutionary organizations nation-wide within the prison system. Thus, placement in MCU came to be governed by ideological orientation rather than the commission of any infraction against the rules. This method of selection continues to this very day.

The politicization of corrections is a hidden, yet important pillar in present day penal management philosophy. Largely influenced by reactionary political doctrine, prison officials scour their populations for persons who stick out as "political deviants." for this reason the difference between a model prisoner in general population and a prisoner committed to MCU lies not in rule transgressions, rehabilitative potential, or other objective performance criteria, but at which end of the political spectrum each is identified with. The ideologies of the Black community come under intensive attack in this environment, creating a broad class of individuals who are now prime candidates for placement in MCU, most notably those advocating Black Nationalism or other self help ideologies.

There is some legal difficulty in singling out people on the basis of their political beliefs, because after all this is suppose to be a society that values pluralism. In order to evade constitutional proscriptions and achieve the goal of isolating politically undesirable prisoners, persons placed in MCU are almost always charged with contemplating or conspiring to commit some disruptive act within the prison. This is the central dishonesty in the operation of the Management Control Unit at Trenton. The real reason why prisoners are placed in MCU is shrouded behind a litany of false allegations and manufactured evidence.

The goal of maintaining complete control over prisoners by eradicating all forms of contending thought is of such a primary concern to prison managers that they are willing to risk violating the law to achieve the isolation of those they disfavor. that race and ideology are significant determinants in who is placed in MCU is statistically irrefutable. Racial bias runs rampant through corrections in this country. In the context of Management Control Unit we are left with a contorted record that reveals men with an unremitting propensity for violence when, in fact, it is our race and our politics that have motivated prison officials to move against us with draconian malice.

It would seem that with such a high number of people confined to isolation for contemplating or conspiring to commit violence that this uncanny ability of prison officials to read people's minds and intervene at the precise moment when thought is to be translated into action would raise more than just a little suspicion. However, while some courts have found the placement of individuals in MCU on the basis of their beliefs to be constitutionally objectionable, none have been willing to question the "telepathy" of prison officials, choosing instead to brand such clairvoyance as "informed Judgment."

Once confined to MCU prisoners are subjected to a regimen of 23 hours per day spent in their cells. there are no academic programs, no vocational programs, nothing with which a person could occupy himself. Prisoners are, however, coerced into taking behavioral modification classes, even though they may not have exhibited any behavioral problems. In this respect the management Control Unit doubles as a kind of re-education camp where prisoners are expected to make substantive modifications in their "attitude towards authority," that is, become more ideologically correct in order to gain their release from MCU.

The sum total of it all is that once a prisoner engenders the hostility of his keepers along ideological lines he is subject to the most rigorous conditions of confinement, and that confinement may endure for 10 years or more. "Hell hath no fury like a [warden's] scorn."

By: Dharuba Cinque Kalahari

CONTROL UNIT SOCIETY

Prisons in themselves are deliberately designed to exclude those convicted and housed in them, from the rest of the world. A prisoner's world is a very small place, largely because it's an immobile world. Rarely does the universal world come to anyone, and if you cannot move within that world, the world will not see, hear or recognize you. Therefore, you barely exist.

Prison is about controlling the existence of those confined there. To a greater extent control units are about controlling the behavior of those confined in them. For prisoners in control units, their world is made even smaller than prisoners in general, because control units are prisons within prison. They are used exclusively to isolate select prisoners from the rest of the prison population, viz. political prisoners, prison organizers and activist.

It's often said that to get a greater understanding of society in general, you must look into its prisons. In saying that, it's important to know that control unit prisons are on the rise throughout America. When you parallel that with the following thoughts and observations of control unit advocates and observers, you'll get a better understanding of what the American society is becoming.

A statement made by Dr. Edgar Schein at a meeting of the U.S. wardens and social scientist back in 1962 was done with control units in mind.

He said: "I would like you to think of brain-washing, not in terms of politics, ethics and morals, but in terms of the deliberate changing of human behavior and attitudes by a group of men who have relatively complete control over the environment in which the captive populace lives."

Former Congressman, Ralph Metcalf (D. Ill.) made the following observation:

"The control unit treatment program is long-term punishment under the guise of what is in fact, psuedo-scientific experimentation."

And, a former warden at the United States Prison at Marion, Illinois, Ralph Aaron, once reportedly made the following statement about Marion's control unit, which was once considered as the prototype control unit for federal prisons throughout

America. He said:

"The purpose of the Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in the society at large."

The intent of control unit prisons is to destabilize the prisoner from family and society, as well as to destabilize them physically, socially, psychologically and individually among themselves. This has been my personal observation in having spent accumulatively 10 years in New Jersey's control unit. Despite this, I'm secure in saying I have not been broken as a consequent. But, I'm real enough to know that i am not immune to the realities of living in a control unit prison. Nonetheless, when you compare those realities with the similarities that loom in society, you may discover that our worlds are more alike than different..Those in society just have a little more room to move in.

In George Orwell's book "1984" he wrote that:

"Whoever controls the image and information of the past will determine what and how future generations will think; and, whoever controls the information and images of the present will also determine how those same people will view the past."

By 1994, Rupert Murdoch, the media mogul who controls large shares of print and electronic media, stated in effect that his reason for such acquisition is to control the idea of the 21st Century. Moreover, when held in contrast with a perspective that Hebert Aptheker brought forth in his book "American Negro Slave Revolts" we are more inclined to realize Rupert murdoch's assertion. Herbert Aptheker wrote that:

"A ruling class, often subjected to periods of panic arising from doubt of its ability to maintain its power, may be expected to develop very complex and thorough systems of control."

Having now made these observations it's easy to see that control unit prisons reflect on a small scale, the same level of control intended for the greater society. And, if people in general fail to resist the spread of control unit prisons, they may very well end up desensitizing themselves from resisting similar controls that are targeted for society.

If in fact, oppression makes wise people angry, ~~then~~ wise people should struggle against the use of control unit prisons, or foolishly welcome the oppression that will encompass your own world. The choice is yours. Oppression anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere.

DARE TO STRUGGLE!!!

Daud Obika Tulam, 55657
New Jersey State Prison
CN 861-MCU
Trenton, NJ 08625

"WE HOLD ON".

Existing in a vacuum of steel and stone
In a world of suspended animation
Listening to the steady dripping of the minutes
And the tiny splashes they make as they fall into the sea of time

We Hold On

Marching to the beat of a comatose drummer
eagerly anticipating the next stroke of his stick
So we can exhale in a caged meadow
where only innocuous aromas exist

We Hold On

Singled out for the color of our skin
political beliefs and ability to lead
Placed in a prison within a prison
labeled the uncontrollable breed

We Hold On

Borrowing a lesson from our ancestors
constantly fighting for survival's sake
Subsisting to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat

We Hold On .

By Kareem Stovall

control unit review ... mere formality

**received my classification notice
and here's what the fascists had to say:
tho' you appear to have made some progress
after review of your case, MCU is where you stay**

**we have gathered confidential information
from our reliable, phantom informant
so, get used to your present location - isolation
control units help the Revolutionary mind become dormant**

**we know you're either a leader or sympathizer
of a clandestine, terroristic, prison cartel
our proof? we just know that you are
and with that, for 23-hours a day your ass will be in a cell**

**information indicates you're bent on causing disruption
like injury & death; and of trying to escape
so, this is it, end of discussion
guards! guards! take this trouble maker away**

**wait! we know some will say your placement is racist
but this is absolutely untrue
you're here because you're a terrorist
just look around, we suppress white revolutionaries, too**

**you can take it like a man or cry like a baby
but it doesn't matter - your fate is sealed
so, convict, see you in ninety
by the way, you have seven days to appeal**

@1993 gene jones

@1996 Rev.

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