

LEXINGTON CONTROL UNIT OPENS — SHUT IT DOWN!

On October 25, Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres and North-american anti-imperialist political prisoner Susan Rosenberg were the first women transferred to the new Control Unit within the federal prison at Lexington, Kentucky. They have been told that the unit is designed for women where there is an "external threat" that they will be helped to escape, and that they are housed there because of their political associations. The Lexington Control Unit is the first political prison in the U.S., just like Robben Island in Azania/South Africa, Stammheim in West Germany, H-Block in Northern Ireland -- even though the U.S. government denies that there are any political prisoners in its jails!

One goal of the unit, like that of Marion Penitentiary in Illinois for men, is to isolate political prisoners from other prisoners, from their communities and from their movements. Another is to use isolation and psychological warfare to destroy their will to resist and their political identities. Everything about Alejandrina and Susan's lives is in the control of the prison authorities -- except their political commitment, beliefs and character:

- they are completely isolated from all the other prisoners.
- they can only get social visits from their immediate family, and all visitors -- including lawyers -- have to be photographed before they can enter the unit.
- they are strip-searched every time they leave their cells.
- they are under constant surveillance by video cameras and guards.
- their correspondence is limited to 15 people who have to be investigated by the prison before Susan or Alejandrina can send or get mail.
- they have no personal belongings -- all of their clothing, including their underwear and shoes, is prison-issue, and they can only read books from the prison library.
- they can't participate in any of the educational or recreational activities available to the other women prisoners at Lexington.

Carol Manning of the Ohio 7 is already designated to go to Lexington when her Boston trial next year is through. Judy Clark, who has finished one year of a two-year sentence in disciplinary segregation at Bedford Hills prison in New York will likely be sent to Lexington as well. Many women political prisoners -- especially those who are part of the revolutionary clandestine movements -- will be sent to the Control Unit -- until we SHUT IT DOWN!

ALEJANDRINA TORRES AND SUSAN ROSENBERG

Alejandrina Torres was born in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico in 1939. Her family was forced to move to New York City to support themselves. Alejandrina moved to Chicago where she met and married Reverend Jose Alebrto Torres, who also shares her deep commitment to social justice. In 1973, Alejandrina, along with other community activists and leaders, founded the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago, which is dedicated to teaching the richness of Puerto Rican culture and history. Alejandrina was

arrested on June 29, 1983 along with Edwin Cortes, Jose Alberto Rodriguez Jose Luis Rodriguez and charged with seditious conspiracy -- conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government. She, Edwin and Jose Alberto took the position of Prisoners of War, combatants for the independence of their nation over whom the oppressor's courts have no jurisdiction. The Four argued that seditious conspiracy is an "impossible crime" for Puerto Rican people, because the U.S. government is not their government but rather the colonizer of their nation of Puerto Rico. Alejandrina, Edwin and Jose Alberto were convicted and sentenced to 35 years in prison; Jose Luis, who took the position that he was a political prisoner, an independentista but not a combatant, recieved five years probation. Before and during her trial, Alejandrina was jailed at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago where she and her comrades were isolated and harassed. She was beaten, and strip-searched forcibly in the presence of male guards.

Susan Rosenberg is an anti-imperialist political prisoner who was born in New York City in 1955. While still in high school, she worked with and was greatly influenced by members of the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords Party (a revolutionary Puerto Rican community organization). Susan worked for years in solidarity with the Puerto Rican independence movement, the New Afrikan (Black) independence movement and other national liberation struggles. She is a Doctor of Acupuncture who studied with New Afrikan acupuncturists at BAAANA (Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America), a revolutionary helath centerin Harlem, N.Y. dedicated to fighting the drug plague and poor health care in the community through acupuncture and Chinese medicine. The example of women from these national liberation movements and others greatly inspired her and taught her that women will only win control over our own lives when imperialism is totally destroyed and human rights are won for all people. All of these experiences contributed to Susan's decision to go underground to build the revolutionary anti-imperialist clandestine movement. She was captured on November 29, 1984 with Tim Blunk in New Jersey, and convicted of possession of weapons, explosives and false identification. She and Tim were sentenced to 58 years in prison -- while bombers of abortion clinics are receiving ten years in prison at the most!

The Lexington Control Unit must be shut down! In the words of Alejandrina Torres:

"The purpose of the government's counterinsurgency strategy is to destroy the growth and support of our struggles for national liberation and social justice and to deter dissent and civil disobedience. . . We will continue because in order to achieve justice and peace for our people and other oppressed peoples, we must dare to struggle, dare to win!"

What you can do

1. Write letters of protest to Warden R.L. Matthews, P.O. Box 2000, Lexington, KY 40512 and Norman Carlson, Director, Bureau of Prisons, 320 1st St. N.W., Washington, D.C.
2. Write to Susan and Alejandrina. They are resisting the prison's special rules and so will not turn over names for correspondence. They will not receive your letter -- it will be read by the prison and returned to you -- but the prison will know that they have support. Susan Rosenberg, #03684-050, Alejandrina Torres, # 92052-024, Lexington HSU, P.O. Box 200, Lexington, KY 40512.
3. Get in contact with the Committee to Fight Repression with your ideas, contributions and energy to make this campaign a success.