



Alicia Rodriguez

There are many ways you can help and become involved in supporting our sisters in prison. Please contact OOC at 3543 18th St., Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110 or email outoftime@igc.apc.org



OOC members at Lesbian/Gay Pride Day



OOC members demonstrating in S.F.



Border by Ya-Ka-Ama Organization

outofcontrol

Lesbian Committee To Support Women Political Prisoners





Left to right: Alejandrina Torres, Carmen Valentin and Dylcia Pagan

In January 1987 we began to work to shut down the Federal Bureau of Prisons' High Security Unit (HSU) for women political prisoners in Lexington, Kentucky. We also wanted to get the word out about women political prisoners and Prisoners of War (POWs) in the U.S. We named ourselves *Out of Control - Committee to Shut Down the Lexington Control Unit (OOC)*. Though we were part of a national campaign, much of our work was local. After two years of intense struggle the Lexington Control Unit was shut down. The horrible sensory deprivation of that underground tomb/control unit did not break the spirits of Alejandrina Torres, Puerto Rican Independentista, or U.S. anti-imperialist Susan Rosenberg and Italian national Silvia Baraldini. These women are serving equivalent to life

sentences. Disproportionate (much higher than maximum) sentencing is usual for U.S. political prisoners and POWs.

Out of Control added Lesbian to its name and continues its work in support of women political prisoners and POWs. Since June 1989 we've been co-distributing our newsletter, *OUT OF TIME* with *ULTRA VIOLET*, the newsletter of our sister organization LAGAI (Lesbians and Gay Insurrection). *OUT OF TIME* provides an avenue for news from inside the prison and a link to a network of prison-related resources. Many of the women political prisoners and POWs are activists inside, engaging in AIDS related work and other efforts.

We raise money for a commissary fund for women political prisoners and POWs, also a joint effort with LAGAI. Everything, including sanitary supplies, toothpaste and hand lotion costs more inside.



Norma Jean Croy

Out of Control plays a major role in the campaigns of individual political prisoners.

- Norma Jean Croy, a Shasta Indian, remains in prison after 17 years. Her co-defendant brother, Hooty Croy, was acquitted of more severe charges based on a defense of cultural genocide.

- Linda Evans is serving 35 years for illegal possession and purchase of four hand guns with fake identification, five for harboring a fugitive and five years for conspiracy to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the U.S. government.



Linda Evans

- Silvia Baraldini is a heroine in her native Italy but the U.S. won't allow her to return to Italy. She is serving a sentence of 40 years for "conspiracy" charges involving Puerto Rican independence and Black Liberation.

In addition we play a supportive role in the campaigns of many political prisoners, including Mumia Abul Jamal, Leonard Peltier and Geronimo Pratt. In October 1992, several of us helped to organize the International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressor Nations in the U.S.A. More recently the scope of our work has expanded to issues involving prisoners with AIDS, convicted battered women, and working against horrendous U.S. prison conditions in general.

Like many grassroots groups, we set up tables with our literature and petitions, speak at events, hold cultural events and garage sale benefits. We focus on bringing the issue of political prisoners to the lesbian/gay communities and bringing the issue of lesbian liberation to other organizations.



Left to right: Marilyn Buck, Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, and Silvia Baraldini