



Linda Evans



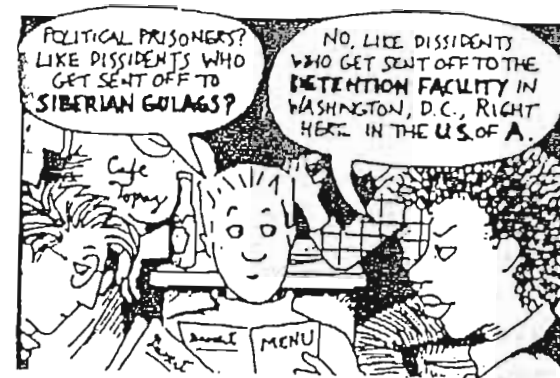
marilyn buck, laura whitehorn, susan rosenberg, silvia baraldini (left-rt)



alejandrina torres, carmen valentin

Lesbian Committee To Support Women Political Prisoners

Out of Control



In January, 1987, *Out Of Control - Committee to Shut Down the Lexington Control Unit* formed 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.

After two years of intense struggle engineered by a national campaign, the Lexington Control Unit was shut down. The sensory deprivation of that underground tomb did not break the spirits of Puerto Rican Independentista Alejandrina Torres or anti-imperialists Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini who were held there. These women are serving disproportionately long sentences which is typical for political prisoners.

In the late eighties we changed our name to reflect who we are - *Out Of Control - Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners*. Since June 1989 we've been producing our newsletter, *OUT OF TIME* which is distributed separately and with *ULTRA VIOLET*, the newsletter of 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, a joint effort with LAGAI. Everything, including sanitary supplies, toothpaste and hand lotion costs more inside.

Out of Control has and continues to play a significant role in the campaigns of individual political prisoners and for the human rights of prisoners in general. Some of those campaigns:

- Norma Jean Croy, a Shasta Indian, was released after 19 years.
- Linda Evans, a lesbian anti-imperialist, is serving 35 years for the purchase of four hand guns with false identification, five for harboring a fugitive and five years for conspiracy to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the U.S. government. She is currently seeking parole.
- Silvia Baraldini is a heroine in her native Italy but the U.S. won't allow her transfer to an Italian prison. She is serving a 43 year sentence for "conspiracy" charges involving the escape of Assata Shakur currently in exile in Cuba.

We also play a supportive role in the campaigns of other political prisoners, e.g., Mumia Abul Jamal, Leonard Peltier

and Geronimo Pratt who is now free after 26 years. 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. We are part of *Critical Resistance*, a national conference focusing on the prison industrial complex which will take place at U.C. Berkeley, September 24 - 27, 1998.

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 movements and communities.

If you want to get involved, want more information or want to get our newsletter, please contact:

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Donations would also be greatly appreciated. Make checks to *Out Of Control*.