

THERE ARE WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE usa!!!

what is a political prisoner?

Right now in this country there are almost 200 political prisoners and prisoners of war (POWs are people who are members of oppressed nations who understand that their country is at war with the u.s.) Over 25% of them are women and three are out Lesbians.

Womyn are in prison for the following political acts:

- providing sanctuary for Central American refugees
- anti-nuclear and anti-military activity
- self defense against sexual abuse
- fighting for Black liberation
- defending land and treaty rights of Native People
- fighting for independence of Puerto Rico from the u.s.
- defending the rights of Lesbians and gay men

In one sense most prisoners are political because their imprisonment is directly related to oppressive conditions within our society. Prisons reflect the ultimate madness of the masters of unreason and the 'untied states government' is the supreme master monster. As the u.s economic system collapses, the government increasingly criminalizes poverty while it spends billions on law enforcement and more prisons. Within this context we choose to focus on Lesbian and women political prisoners and POW's ... "Who would dare to struggle if their movement did not protect and defend those who are captured?". (Insurgent/1989)

The nazis and the klan are fighting to maintain the straight while male supremacy system and we do not consider them to be political prisoners if and when they go to jail.

who is out of control?

Out of Control (OOC) is presently a San Francisco group of Lesbians who came together in January, 1987 to shut down the Control Unit for Women in Lexington, Kentucky; and publicize the existence of women political prisoners in the u.s. We focus on grass roots work, but have also been active nationally and internationally during the last two years.

The Lexington Control Unit was shut down in August, 1988 after two years of struggle. "The movement to close HSU led by the National Campaign and its member organizations was responsible for (this) victory. By its organizing, demonstrating, petitioning and letter writing they had created the public awareness and support that made the suit possible." (Silvia Baraldini). A law suit was brought against the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the ACLU on behalf of three women imprisoned there. The Judge ruled only on First Amendment questions that were specific to political prisoners. He said that the BOP could not put anyone in a special unit based on their political beliefs and associations. That decision has been appealed by the government ... it seems that they don't believe in freedom of speech.

Special control units designed to isolate and break the spirits of political prisoners and POWs play an integral part in the u.s. justice system. Recently we've seen 'state of the art' psychological torture/mind control integrated into most prisons in this country. It is now considered business as usual. Control units are part of a deliberate strategy of the FBI, CIA, and the BOP to terrorize people who resist u.s. aggression - people inside and outside the prison system. Lexington Control Unit was used to experiment specifically with women.

With the closing of Lexington, OOC is expanding its work to support all women political prisoners and POWs in u.s. prisons.

The BOP is vowing to continue its 'mission' of torture at Marianna, a new bigger maximum security women's prison in an isolated part of Florida. There are four Puerto Rican women POWs at Pleasanton federal prison in California whose paper work indicates they are awaiting transfer to Marianna. In addition all the political women from Lexington are being held in a different form of isolation at Metropolitan Correctional Centers [MCC] in New York City and San Diego. These short term facilities are not designed for people doing long term prison sentences. In Washington D.C. there are four women [two are out Lesbians] and two men awaiting trial for anti-imperialist activities. The 'Resistance Conspiracy Case' defendants are being treated in ways not seen in u.s. courts since the days of Black Panther trials. They are being brought in shackles to a courtroom with a bullet-proof plexiglass wall separating them from spectators.

OOC asks you to support us in supporting political prisoners and POWs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- * contact OOC for more info, videos, home meetings at Box 30, 3543 18th St, S.F. Ca 94110 647-6695
- * contact the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican POWs at Box 12, 3543 18th St, S.F. Ca 94110
- * send donations
- * continue to resist/be informed

"If political prisoners can be treated as less than human--
as outside the bounds of human decency--how will other
sectors of the political community be treated when their
voices become too loud???"
RESISTANCE CON-
SPIRACY DEFENDANTS

WIZARD OF ID.



