

IN MASSACHUSETTS

413-586-4407

PO BOX 4690

SPRINGFIELD, MA 01011

THE SEDITION

COMMITTEE

OHIO 7 ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

212-969-0448

PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA

NEW YORK, NY 10025

JULY 1989 SCHEDULE

SAT. JULY 22nd

Northampton

Center for the Arts

8:00pm to 12:00pm

BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

ARTWORK OF U. S. POLITICAL PRISONERS

AN EVENING OF BLUES, JAZZ, FOOD AND ART - ALL ARE WELCOME

**** DONATIONS EXCEPTED AT THE DOOR ****

BERKSHIRE FORUM

Weekend Workshop

August 4th to 6th

U. S. POLITICAL PRISONERS: AN URGENT PROBLEM

A WEEKEND OF DISCUSSION LED BY: LINDA BACKIEL, FRANCES CROWE,

NELSON RAMIREZ, MAGGIE SMITH, AND ROGER WAREHAM

FOR MORE INFO CALL 518-773-5497

JULY

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AUGUST

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UPCOMING COURT DAYS

WHERE: Federal Courthouse, 1500 Main Street,
Springfield, MA - 5th floor

WHEN: 9:30 - 1:00, 2:00 - 4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the courtroom!

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER AND EXIT AT WILL!

No Photo I. D. necessary. Call 586-4407 to
arrange a ride or someone to go with you.

TRIAL UPDATE:

JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED: The judge has determined that three and a half years for a prosecution is enough. He has ordered the government to conclude its prosecution by Dec. 1, 1989. In the last week of court, the government prosecutors represented that they could be finished by October unless the defense engages in "unnecessarily long, cross - examination of witnesses." To underscore their contempt for defense cross - examination of witnesses prosecutors filed a motion to have the trial transcript from the previous testimony of a witness in the Brooklyn trial, read into the record in Springfield. They made this request when the scheduled witness (a police officer) was involved in an accident which would have resulted in his Springfield testimony being delayed. Since he would be able to testify eventually, and citing the right to cross - examine witnesses, the defense opposed the government's motion. However, the judge ruled for the government. Evidence was brought to bear against the defendants without a live witness ever raising his hand.

JUDGE RULES RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA IS "IRRELEVANT": The judge has sustained all government objections to defense questioning of witnesses when "racist" is utilized to describe the South African government and its policies. The Ivy League educated judge says the racism of the South African government is "irrelevant" to the issues of this trial. The defendants are charged with the bombing offices of the South African government and corporations doing business in South Africa.

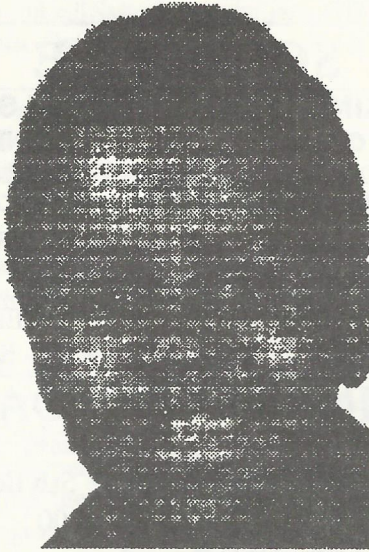
CUTTING OFF THE RING: The judge has issued orders that

the defense can not pursue certain political lines of questioning in its cross - examination of witnesses. It would seem strange for a sedition trial, but true. Ray has been ordered to cease his cross - examination immediately and to sit down when pursuing lines of questioning about the political content of material seized by the FBI, conditions in South Africa, U.S. sponsored war in Central America, etc. Ironically, the judge's face turns red when he feels his orders are being violated. In one situation, the defense learned that a witness, employed by the South African government had travelled to S.A. on business and pleasure. When asked about conditions and repression she may have witnessed there, the cross - examination was terminated by the judge.

!SEDITION! PAST AND PRESENT: As long as there has been resistance there have been sedition and other political offense trial. In many historical trial such as those of the Puerto Rican Independentistas in the 30's and 50's, IWW (radical labor organizers) trials in late teens and 20's, the communist party, anti - war activists, etc., the government has introduced evidence (including published materials) that alleged to demonstrate the political thinking and intent of those on trial. In the Ohio - 7 trial, the government has taken a different tact and brought into evidence only a small amount of political material seized from the defendants, (only so much as will help secure convictions). They in turn have opposed every attempt by the defense to introduce a variety of political material (with the judge's blessing). The defense has made it clear that it is precisely our politics that must be relied on to defend against an inherently political prosecution. The government's and judge's strategy fits well into the use of RICO and other laws to criminalize political dissent and resistance.

LEVI HART MURDERED BY BOSTON KILLER COP:

In 1980 a 14 year old Black child, Levi Hart, was shot to death at point blank range by police officer Richard Bourque. It happens every day in Amerikkka. Armed with a search warrant, fbi seized several news clippings and notebooks from defendants' homes that showed "motive and intent". Among these items was extensive documentation of Levi Hart's murder. Witnesses have also testified that defendants in this case had discussed the death of Levi Hart and the necessity to document such murders as part of a plan to bring those accountable to justice. When the defense attempted to introduce some of these items (including a photograph of the killer cop celebrating with champagne after being exonerated by a grand jury) the judge ruled the material irrelevant and excluded it.



HYPNOSIS OR HOCUS POCUS: The government brought on the first of several witnesses that they have subjected to hypnosis in an attempt to identify some of the defendants. In this case, the witness had been hypnotized, shown photographs, and asked to pick out anyone he thought was the person he saw enter a bank to make an illegal withdrawal. Included in the photographs were pictures of Ray, Richard, Tom and Jaan. However, the witness picked a photo of someone unrelated to this trial.

IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WOODS: Mr. Ben Key testified that in November, 1983 someone relieved him of 800 pounds of dynamite from his Sullivan, N. H. storage facility. He seemed angered by this but testified it didn't put a big dent in his business activities since he usually stores up to a million pounds of explosives at the site (part of the 14 million pounds a year produced by Independent Explosives Company of Scranton, PA). Mr. Key also testified (reluctantly) that he was investigated by the fbi in 1970 when it was determined that he sold dynamite to someone illegally and the dynamite subsequently turned up in a Greenwich Village townhouse explosion. The fbi has alleged that this explosion and dynamite were connected to the Weather Underground. The defense maintained that Mr. Key was beholden to the fbi since he was allowed to stay in business, but the jury precluded this line of inquiry.

SECURITY AT ITS PEAK: A NYC police officer surprised everyone in court by pulling out a knife while on the witness stand. While spectators and defense lawyers have to walk through metal detectors and remove their shoes and belts, empty their pocket books, etc., Mr. New York City police officer was allowed to avoid these security measures. The judge has ordered an investigation.

DONA CONSUELO LEE CORRETJER PRESENTE!

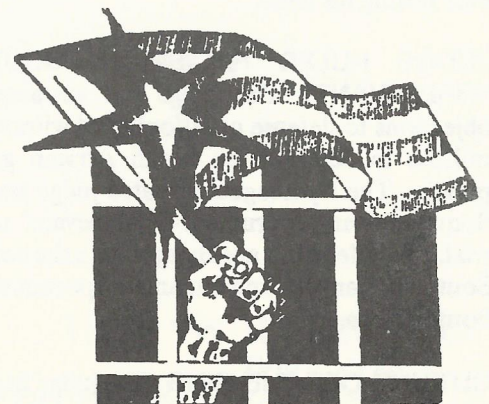
On July 28th, the world lost a valiant fighter for Puerto Rican Independence with the death of companera Dona Consuelo Lee Corretjer. Dona Consuelo first became politically active in the 30's when much of the leadership of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party was imprisoned. Later she met and married one of the foremost leaders of the Independence movement, Don Juan Antonio Corretjer. Together they participated in the founding of La Liga Socialista Puertorriquena which actively supported armed struggle to gain independence. Both were staunch supporters of political prisoners and Puerto Rican prisoners of war (Don Juan died in 1985). Her life combined political work with art and culture and she was active in developing publications of revolutionary politics and culture. Sent to prison on sedition charges in 1969 she vowed, "Either they will carry me out dead or I will leave as a free woman; and I left free." Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who continue the fight for justice and freedom.

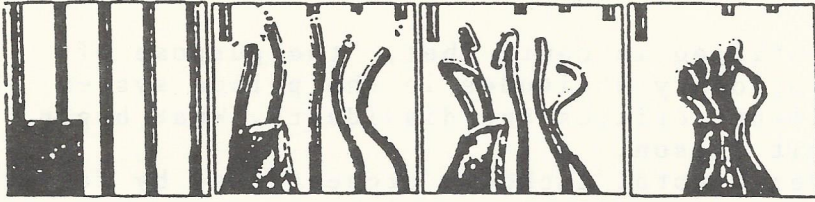


de LIBERACIÓN NACIONAL PUERTORRIQUENA

INO MAS COLONIA! NO MORE COLONIALISM! On June 17th in San Juan, Puerto Rico 75,000 people marched in the largest and most militant pro-independence activity in many years. The activity focused on protesting the colonial status of Puerto Rico and denounced the latest U. S. maneuvers to have a so-called "plebiscite" in Puerto Rico to determine what type of relationship Puerto Rico is to have with the U. S.. The entire "plebiscite" scheme is being dictated by the U. S.. the march was a combined effort by all the independence forces on the island.

POUND OF FLESH: In June, four independentistas were sentenced to maximum prison terms by a U. S. district court judge. Antonio Comacho Negrón got fifteen years; Juan Segarra Palmer, sixty-five years; Roberto Maldonado Rivera, five years, and Norman Ramirez Talvera, five years. All were convicted before a Connecticut jury (whose identities remained anonymous) and a racist judge. In the words of Antonio Comacho Negrón, "We have seen here the spider webs of lies, dishonesty and cheating that the North American system has had to resort to, to cover up its actions. The only crime which has been proved against me in this court, is that I am one who struggles for the independence of my country, and this I admit."





Hell In A Very Small Place

My first impression upon arrival at Marion in 1986 was the immediate threat of violence. As I stepped down from a U.S. marshal van adorned in waist chain, 2 pairs of handcuffs and leg irons, a guard quickly grabbed me by the chain links of the handcuffs and 8 other guards immediately drew their 3 foot riot sticks. Each stick had a steel ball on the end of it designed to inflict serious internal injury when thrust between a prisoners ribs. A guard from a nearby tower had a rifle trained on me as ribbons of what is miles of razor wire glistened in the August sun.

The guard never let go of my restraints as we did a cumbersome march through the ghost-like corridors. The heels of the guards steel toed boots echoed loudly. I passed the unused messhall and chapel. Marion is clean beyond description because no one uses the facilities. Prisoners are locked in their cells 23 hours a day.

While being processed I was introduced to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) fixation with the use of restraints at Marion. To take off my shirt the handcuffs were removed and the leg irons stayed on. While removing my pants, the leg irons were removed and the handcuffs kept on. Guards stood close to me fingering their riot sticks which were secured to their hands with leather thongs.

Guards never come in contact with a prisoner unless that prisoner is first placed in restraints. The usual method for this is to have him back up to the trap in his cell door and place his arms behind his back and through the trap. You do not move in Marion without restraints and a riot stick toting escort. This is what is referred to as controlled movement.

The ultimate control is to keep prisoners locked in their cells 23 hours a day- called solitary confinement. When that doesn't satisfy the guards they sometimes chain prisoners to the bed. The bed is a concrete block with a thin mattress on it. The chain is passed through metal rings that have been inserted for this purpose in the concrete.

Prisoners are not permitted to socialize with each other. There are no social activities, no religious services, no work, no meaningful educational programs and no contact visits. As long as you are in Marion you will never touch your mother, father, brothers, sisters, wife or your children. It is forbidden to touch.

A cell consists of a concrete block bed, sink, toilet and there are concrete slabs protruding from the walls on which you are to place what few personal possessions you are permitted. All meals are eaten in the cell. In a tribute to modern penology, Marion is the only federal prison that has a TV in each cell. It is placed there to stave off insanity among prisoners who are forced into a life of idleness and alienation as they struggle to keep their humanity from slipping through their fingers.

Each cell block has 4 tiers but half of a block is totally separated from the other half. There is no contact between them. Each cell block then is totally separated from all other cell blocks. There is no contact between them. This is referred to as total separation.

There is a saying, "If I die I will go to heaven because I've spent my time in hell - Marion penitentiary." As would be expected in hell there are no procedural safeguards determining who is sent to Marion or how long they will remain there. I met prisoners who had been there 10 years with no relief in sight. The BOP has made it policy to keep sending political prisoners to Marion. Some have been sent directly from court, never having been in federal prison before. They are sent to Marion based solely on their political associations and beliefs. In 1986 I was one of the political prisoners that was put in that

category.

One of the wardens at Marion has testified in court that, "the purpose of Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and society at large." It is used to silence critics and dissidents. What began as one control unit became a control unit prison.

It was in 1983 that Marion came under a total lockdown orchestrated by fascist and racist thugs of the Bureau of Prisons. Over 100 riot equipped guards went on a rampage through the prison, systematically beating handcuffed and defenseless prisoners. Five years later the lockdown continues - a nightmare based on violence, controlled movement and total isolation designed to break the physical being and mental and spiritual integrity of the Marion prisoners. It is an attack the prisoners must confront on a daily basis. An attack that can be as blatant as forced rectal searches - which the prisoners have likened to rape. Or as subtle as slow poisoning from the PCB contaminated water supply that the prisoners must drink from.

With in the larger context of what is happening in this country, the situation at Marion is shocking but should come as no surprise. The United States has the largest prison system in the world and it is rapidly expanding. It is the most racist prison system in the world with Black people being imprisoned at a higher rate than the percentage of Black people imprisoned in fascist South Africa. It is a prison system that hurts the poor and working people as it is those of us from this class and position in society that fill the prison cells.

Amnesty International, U.S. Congressional hearings, a class action suit by the Marion prisoners and the Committee to End Marion Lockdown have all condemned conditions at Marion but thus far the U.S. government has refused to recognize that prisoners have human rights.

The Marion prisoners have not given up hope and neither must we. Many people came together to organize the successful campaign to close Lexington Control Unit for Women. The campaign was a tribute to the power and commitment of people organized in defense of human rights.

Father Daniel Berrigan has said, "One must be careful in the name of heroic resisters of Marion not to mystify the issue. Humans created Marion, humans must render it less lethal, or better still, must dismantle it. A mitigation of it's horrors, of injustice and the degradation of souls, must be sought by legal and illegal means. Humans oppose humans, in a contest to the death; seizing on public apathy, certain minds are determined to make the defenseless the victims, and of victims (if required), corpses. This must be resisted; the guilty brought to bar."

if Lexington can be closed, so can Marion. if you would like to get involved, help in some way or receive more information, contact:

Committee to End Marion Lockdown
343 S. Dearborn, Ste 1607
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 663-5046

-or-

The Sedition Committee

Raymond Luc Levasseur
November, 1988

IN MASSACHUSETTS

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A Red Star for Angel *

Had I but a small clod of earth from the
 paths tread by the evils of Lares and Juyaya,
 Or the wisp of the martyred breaths
 of Pachin abandoned,
 Or the crystal of a single teardrop squeezed
 from Mariana in her maternal ordeals in captivity,
 Or a bead from Lolita's rosary
 polished by her prayers for the homeland,
 Or the ray of sunlight that announced another
 day to Oscar in his cell on death row,
 Or a hunger spasm from the
 solitary confinement of Juan Antonio,
 Or the pain turning to sores
 on Don Pedro's extremities,
 Or the martyred flesh and holocaust
 of William Guillermo,
 Or a single drop of blood
 from Bolivar Margues' accusing finger
 Or the anonymous wails of a defiant heart
 that travel on the airwaves we breathe,
 I would make Angel, joining them together
 an enormous, triumphant red star.
 Red as the burning blood of your
 open and tortured brow.
 A red Puerto Rican Star.
 Independentist, Socialist.
 Made to conform with your
 valiant, decisive words.

Dona Consuelo Lee Corretjer

* **Angel Rodriques Cristobal** imprisoned for protesting u. s. military exercises at Viequez, Puerto Rico. Assassinated while in custody at the federal penitentiary in Tallahassee, Florida, November 11, 1979. **Lares** (1868) and **Jayuya** (1950) places where Puerto Ricans took to arms to fight for freedom. **Francisco "Pachin" Marin** Puerto Rican patriot and poet who went to Cuba where he died in 1857 in the Cuban War of Independence. **Mariana Bracetti** embroidered the flag of lares for the revolution and a militant fighter for Independence. Imprisoned where she gave birth to her child. **Lolita Lebron** imprisoned in the u. s. for twenty-five years for leading an armed attack against the u. s. congress to bring attention to the plight of Puerto Rico. **Oscar Collazo** Puerto Rican patriot condemned to death for attempted assassination of Truman in the wake of violent repression of Nationalists on the island. Released after twenty-eight years in u. s. prisons. **Juan Antonio Corretjer** sent to Atlanta prison with Albizu Campos and six other Nationalists. Spent long periods in the hole on bread and water. **Pedro Albizu Campos** revered leader of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico. His health was severely damaged by conditions and lack of proper medical treatment in Atlanta prison. He died shortly after his release. **William Guillermo Morales** Puerto Rican prisoner of war whose hands and face were severely injured in an explosion. Escaped from a u. s. prison and granted political asylum in Cuba. **Bolivar Marques** killed in Ponce massacre in Puerto Rico in 1937.

ACTIONS OF THE UNITED FREEDOM FRONT

The government charges that the United Freedom Front (UFF) constitutes a criminal and racketeering conspiracy.

The following chronology gives a brief description of the bombings carried out by the UFF between 1982 - 1984.

12/16/82 South African Airways - (owned by the South African government). Nassau County, New York. Response to the massacre of African children, women and men by South African troops in Maseru, Lesotho.

12/16/82 IMB - (Westchester County, NY) To expose the role of IBM in supplying technology and equipment to the police and military forces in South Africa.

5/11/83 U.S. Army Reserve Center - (L.I., NY)

5/11/83 U.S. Army Reserve Center - (Queens, NY) To protest the role of the U.S. government in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

8/21/83 U.S. Navy Recruiting Headquarters - (L.I., NY) - In solidarity with the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua. The communique quotes the FLMN: "Today, the suffering inflicted on our people is of another dimension - it is a real genocide." Action dedicated to the fighting spirit of Mtshali Shabaka Sun - diata and community artist Michael Stewart, murdered by NYC police.

12/14/83 Honeywell Corporation - (Queens, NY.) This action signals an expansion of our ongoing campaign against the U.S. military machine by also targeting, disrupting and destroying war profiteers and military contractors, who supply and maintain the U.S. imperialist armed forces. "Honeywell supplies computers to the fascist government of South Africa...makes component parts for cluster bombs...recently used against the Palestinian and Lebanese people."

1/12/84 Warning notices issued by the UFF. "it is not the intention of the to hurt innocent civilians and workers and it has been our procedure, when applicable, to give sufficient warning for evacuation of buildings and to use other methods to minimize the chance of personal injury."

1/29/84 Motorola Corporation - (Queens, NY) "Here in the belly of the beast we are in the crucial position of fighting for our own interests and survival while at the same time rendering real support to the freedom loving people from El Salvador to Nicaragua to South Africa and around the world."

3/19/84 IBM (Westchester County, NY) "IBM corporation is guilty of crimes against the people of South Africa through their collaboration with the fascist government...the computer is an integral part of the fascist South African governments policies of racist repression...There are no human rights in South Africa." Action dedicated to Simon Mogoerane, Thabo Motaung, and Jerry Mosoldi, ANC combatants executed by hanging in Pretoria, South Africa.

8/21/84 General Electric Corp./Aerospace strategic planning and aircraft division – (L.I., NY) "This action is in response to the vicious escalation of the air war in El Salvador." GE supplies the turbo-jet engine that powers the U.S. supplied A-37-B attack aircraft used to terrorize and kill Salvadoran civilians. GE also produces the machine guns ("muttering death") used on these aircraft.

9/26/84 Union Carbide Corp. – (Tarrytown, NY) Response to the beginning of widespread massacres of African people by South African troops. Action dedicated to 6 year old Thabo Sibeko, one of thousands put into an early grave by apartheid. On this date another bombing was carried out against the South African consulate in NYC by the Red Guerrilla Resistance.

GENERAL ELECTRIC PROTEST

In the end of May several Sediton Committee activists joined the Vermont "Stop the Slaughter Coalition" in a week of resistance actions against the war profiteer General Electric at their Jerico, Vt. facility. Far from "Bringing the good things to life" by producing light bulbs in Burlington, Vt. G.E. is manufacturing the "Vulcan Mini-Gun", which is one of the world's most lethal guns. The mini-gun operates on the same principle as the original gatling guns, with (3-7) rotating barrels and a station-ary firing assembly which prevents overheating, and allows a rate of fire of 6000-8000 rounds per minute.

Many people became aware of General Electric's role as a multi-national death merchant in 1984 after G.E.'s Strategic Planning and Aircraft Division in Huntington, Long Island got a taste of their own bitter medicine when they suffered a bomb attack by a unit of the United Freedom Front. In a communique issued after the attack the UFF documented the use of GE turbo-jet engines on A-37 "Dragonfly" attack aircraft, which are armed with GE gatling guns, as well as napalm, white phosphorus and cluster bombs. This was, however, no news to peasants from Vietnam to El Salvador, whose villages and bodies have been being destroyed by these GE implements for years. Today, in El Salvador, where popular forces control much of the countryside, the GE gatling guns continue to be a primary counterinsurgency weapon, due to their ability to make liberated villages under attack look "Like hay going through a threshing machine."

May's week long resistance actions targeted the firing range where the guns are tested before being shipped to the Salvadoran military. Activists infiltrated the heavily wooded military range in which GE's testing facility is located. By placing themselves in the primary impact area, activists forced GE to suspend its prerequisite testing. When necessary, activists retreated into the dense woods to evade capture, thereby frustrating GE with tactics similar to those of the popular liberation movements which GE's weapons are used to repress.

These actions broke much new ground. Rather than a symbolic one day protest, or even a whole weekend (which might be readily sacrificed by GE in order to defuse a militant situation), this resistance action successfully shut down testing for a full 8 days. And rather than focusing on the costly (in time, energy, money and organizational resources) act of getting arrested, this action focused on sustaining resistance by evading capture.

The week long resistance also employed an innovative form of organization. Although the "Stop the Slaughter Coalition" provided coordination, intelligence, logistical and technical support, they did not act in the role of an authoritarian central committee which dictates, defines and limits the actions. Rather, the action was affinity group based, with groups of activists from throughout New England each developing strategies and tactics for their actions. And as each affinity group withdrew, new groups arrived to continue the prolonged action. This form of organization provided both creativity and strength.

For 8 days in Vermont, activists proved that even a single affinity group could, on any given day, make a concrete contribution to the Salvadoran struggle by disrupting the flow of repressive weaponry which is the only basis for the continued existence of the fascist Salvadoran government. This being so, affinity groups should continue their resistance on every given day, as a long term strategy against GE's counterrevolutionary product, and as a contribution to both the Salvadoran struggle, and to the overall anti-imperialist struggle.

"The growing militarization of our society means that the military is everywhere – and vulnerable to our action....Resistance is not only an act of solidarity – it is the basis for our own revolutionary movement."

— *Armed Resistance Unit* — 4/26/83

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