

Under Lock & Key



FALL 2025, No. 91

PUBLICATION OF THE MAOIST INTERNATIONALIST MINISTRY OF PRISONS

Oct 7: Signs of Growing Opposition to Palestinian Genocide in U.S. Prisons

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

On the 2-year anniversary of the Al-Aqsa flood out of Gaza, we are reporting 307 U.S. prisoners, in 27 different prisons across the country, have made the anti-genocide pledge thanks to organizing by comrades of United Struggle from Within (USW). Meanwhile, over 33,000 people around the world have now signed the anti-genocide pledge online. This is only a small fraction of the millions of people who have expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people in the last 2 years in various forms; including millions in Italy alone where major ports and transit were shut down this week, and hundreds of people from 44 countries sitting in Israeli detention as we write this after being kidnapped from almost 50 boats that were part of the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters headed for Gaza.

The results of the USW campaign in 2025 demonstrate the strength of the Palestinian resistance and the quality of the USW comrades who have maintained on the revolutionary path. Despite being at a time when there is undoubtedly less prison-based

organizing, more extreme drug use, and our mailing list is substantially smaller, comrades gathered about 5 times as many signatures (in a similar time period) as compared to a 2014 petition against genocide written and circulated by USW. The latter was on the heels of the unprecedented California hunger strikes that Palestinian political prisoners had issued solidarity statements with. We commend the USW comrades for their on-the-ground organizing to gather these 307 signatures, yet the ultimate credit must go to the rise of the Palestinian resistance and the global waves it has had on the relative success of this campaign a decade later.

The Latest Reports

Our comrade in High Desert State Prison in Nevada, who we mentioned in the last report, (see "Palestine Shows the Way..." in ULK 90) came through with 4 signatures, including eir 3 co-plaintiffs in a suit against the state of Nevada for denial of access to the courts via indefinite lockdowns. They sent the message "Supporting Liberation for Palestine!"

While we have yet to receive any reports from inside on this year's 9/9 Day of Peace and Solidarity (see our articles on 9/9 on page 3 of this issue), at least 10 comrades in SCI-Huntingdon in Pennsylvania came together in the spirit of 9/9 around the pledge:

"Here inside SCI Huntingdon's Restricted Housing Unit (RHU) 10 of the men signed this petition together. Most of us being STG group individuals. We marked membership by letters referring to: Blood, Crip, Peckerwood, Crazy White Boy and Dead Man Incorporated. These men myself included put differences aside when we spoke on our pod about this genocide happening in Gaza. Which showed each of us there's bigger issues at hand that could use us unifying together to combat. I didn't realize how much of an impact this would make amongst the men back in solitary from all different walks of life. We also had a man sign who's a believer in Hinduism and another who's a Muslim. This petition brought about a discussion back here in solitary amongst men whom are usually at each others throats day in and day out. I've passed around the latest issue of ULK 90. I'm sure you'll be hearing from them soon."

A comrade in Graham Correctional Center in Illinois gathered 7 signatures, reporting:

"Enclosed is a pledge for supporting Gaza and the Palestinian people. I got it in the mail a month after you sent it. I could only get a few signatures, mainly because people were afraid to put their names on something the administration will see. Prison, despite the oppression and capricious conditions, is not exactly a revolutionary environment I've learned. People here haven't

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Anti-ICE Demos in SF

by a ULK field correspondent
August 2025

5 August 2025 (Tuesday 10:30AM) - A nest of rebellion has settled in San Francisco. Every Tuesday, demonstrators donning keffiyehs, COVID masks, and balaclavas are posted up here on San Francisco's immi-

One mask-less demonstrator, who is reading a book on the history of Palestine, is told that the demonstration needs someone to hold the table down. The mask-less reader obliged and helped handing out water bottles, burritos, and snacks alongside handing out the reading materials.

ways is keeping ICE out of the courthouse. That helps obviously not only the immigrants not be detained but it also has this huge deterrent. It [the presence of ICE inside the courtrooms] puts stress on lawyers and judges. When ICE is arresting they can't get the proceedings to go forward. They create an atmosphere of fear. There is an element to community defense as well as immigrant defense. Because this is the low hanging fruit, 'oh this person is getting their case dismissed, I'm just going to snatch this person here,' so by getting them to avoid the low hanging fruit, we are forcing them to take the slow route with the bureaucracy."

Throughout July, these demonstrators have been intervening on the expedited removal of migrants by pigs of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with a premeditated motive, has been purposely dismissing asylum cases and deployed ICE thugs to abduct migrants on the spot at the courts in the middle of their asylum process. This policy of expedited removal has been the standard tactic used in the border outskirts of the U.S.A. and has now been moving into the interior of the empire under the fascist Trump regime.

Timeline

05 June 2025 — ICE abducts 15 people at their headquarters at 630 Sansome Street, including a toddler.

08 June 2025 — More than 150 people are arrested by San Francisco Police Department including six youth in a mass rally near ICE headquarters.

10 June 2025 — 200 protesters show up after a video of ICE abducting two migrants into a mini van using the tactic of expedited removal on the same day. The immigration court on 100 Montgomery Street shuts down.

24 June 2025 — 30 protesters show up to the San Francisco ICE Headquarters at 630 Sansome Street in order to intervene the abduction of two migrants. The HQ is shutdown.

08 July 2025 — 20 protesters clash with ICE pigs on the immigration court. ICE thugs drive a SUV through the crowd and brandish rifles upon them. A video of this incident goes viral on standard and social media.(8)

15 July 2025 — 60 protesters
Continued on page 8...



gration court at 100 Montgomery Street. A table of flyers, information zines, food, and water sits in front of an eatery. Notable texts include: Notes From Elder Organizers About Building Robust State-targeted Community Organizations which sums up "notes taken on several talks given by organizing elders"; Defend Community Stop the Abductions Crush ICE, a zine which describes the tactics of ICE in San Francisco for the past months and "tips on reporting ICE agents in your neighborhood"; Voting VS Direct Action, a zine criticizing elections/reformism and explaining the philosophy of direct action; and Blocking Up which explains the history of the Black Bloc tactic as starting from West Germany and the "Dos and Don'ts" of what to do in a protest.

Another demonstrator stands facing the road with a sign that reads "Honk if you hate ICE." One civilian driver stopping at the road holds down their vehicle's horn in a sustained note that echoes for minutes. Demonstrators bang on the walls in rhythm transforming the car's horn into an instrument of song. As the canon concludes, a grito is heard echoing throughout the street.

"Things are calm so far"

One demonstrator, when asked "what are we trying to do today?" laid out the mission:

"First goal is having enough numbers so we are a deterrent to ICE. WE know that if there is only 5 people here they can just drive by. Having numbers is a deterrent to having them come over here. The primary goal today, like al-

Book Bans: Only Crony Vendors Allowed

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

Last year's Prison Banned Books Week campaign focused on the explosion of digital mail/tablet systems in Amerikan prisons. This year we are looking at some of the restricted vendor lists that are blocking most of the small publishers that cater to the imprisoned population. What these two trends have in common is they both serve crony capitalism, by forcing prisoners to spend more money to get the reading

materials they want and be forced to purchase them through 1 or a few companies with connections to, and often giving kickbacks to the state agencies that create the laws forcing prisoners to buy from them. And they tell us capitalism is freedom.

Kansas DOC Bans Free Lit

This is an update to our report this summer about Kansas DOC banning all magazine subscriptions (see our online article "All Magazines Banned in Kansas" for more). We now have a copy of the

IMP# 12-127D effective 15 July 2025, which lays out a complicated string of events that must occur for a prisoner to buy a book now. If by any miracle someone is able to jump through these hoops, they can choose from books from only THREE approved vendors:

1. Book-a-million
2. Books N Things Warehouse Inc.
3. Christian Bookstore a/k/a christianbooks.com

We have confirmed that prisoners held by Kansas DOC who

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ULK 91



What is Under Lock & Key?

Under Lock & Key (ULK) is the voice of the anti-imperialist movement within prisons in the United States. It serves as a forum to develop and promote agitational campaigns led by MIM(Prisons) and United Struggle from Within (USW). It is a free newsletter for prisoners in the United States, edited and published by MIM(Prisons). It is mostly written and illustrated by USW and United Front for Peace in Prisons comrades behind bars.

Fighting the injustice system is just one part of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it is important that comrades do not lose sight of the connections to the larger battle. We welcome support and collaboration from those who are focused only on prison issues, but we also challenge them to see the importance of carrying out their work as part of a larger anti-imperialist strategy.

Our current battles in the United States are legally permitted. We encourage prisoners to join these battles while explicitly discouraging them from engaging in any violence or illegal acts. MIM(Prisons) and its publications explicitly oppose the use of armed struggle at this time in the imperialist countries (including the United States).

What is United Struggle from Within?

United Struggle from Within (USW) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for former and current U.S. prisoners. USW is explicitly anti-imperialist in leading campaigns on behalf of U.S. prisoners in alliance with national liberation struggles in the United States and around the world. USW won't champion struggles which are not in the interests of the international proletariat. It will also not choose one nation's struggles over other oppressed nations' struggles. USW should work independently, but under the guidance of MIM(Prisons), to build public opinion and independent institutions of the oppressed in order to obtain state power independent of imperialism. Members don't have to agree with MIM(Prisons)'s six cardinal points, but they can't consciously disagree with any of them. See page 12 for campaign info.

What is Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support?

Launched in 2020, Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support (AIPS) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for those on the outside who want to support anti-imperialist prisoner organizing. Specifically, AIPS members and chapters will provide support for existing MIM(Prisons)/USW projects and help develop and support local campaigns to meet the needs of organizers inside.

What is MIM(Prisons)?

The Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons, or MIM(Prisons), is a cell of revolutionaries serving the oppressed masses inside U.S. prisons. We uphold the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and work from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat.

Imperialism is the number one enemy of the majority of the world's people; we cannot achieve our goal of ending all oppression without overthrowing imperialism. History has shown that the imperialists will wage war before they will allow an end to oppression.

As revolutionary internationalists, we support the self-determination of all nations and peoples. We support nations which choose to delink from the imperialist economy, including the right of the internal semi-colonies to secede from the United States. Today, the U.S. prison system is a major part of the imperialist state used to prevent the self-determination of oppressed nations. It is for this reason that we see prisoners in this country as being at the forefront of any anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement.

While our organization focuses on prisoner support, we believe that there

is a dire need for Maoists to do organizing and educational work in many areas in the United States. We hope people are inspired by our example around prisons and apply it to their own work to create more Maoist cells and broaden the Maoist movement behind enemy lines.

MIM(Prisons) expresses general unity with all other groups and outbreaks against imperialism; mass movements against oppression have as many forms as forms of power. In this spirit, we insist on telling the uncompromised truth and discussing and criticizing the strategy and tactics of any given action. MIM(Prisons) encourages everyone, communist or not, to be involved in the struggle against imperialism. MIM(Prisons) distinguishes itself from other groups on the six points below. We consider other organizations actively upholding these points to be fraternal.

1. Communism is our goal. Communism is a society where no group has power over any other group.

2. Dictatorship of the proletariat is necessary. In a dictatorship of the proletariat the formerly exploited majority dictates to the minority (who promoted exploitation) how society is to be run. In the case of imperialist nations, a Joint Dictatorship of the Proletariat of the Oppressed Nations (JDPON) must play this role where there is no internal proletariat or significant mass base that favors communism.

3. We promote a united front with all who oppose imperialism. The road to the JDPON over the imperialist nations involves uniting all who can be united against imperialism. We cannot fight imperialism and fight others who are engaged in life-and-death conflicts with imperialism at the same time. Even imperialist nation classes can be allies in the united front under certain conditions.

4. A parasitic class dominates the first World countries. As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM Thought has expanded through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new sector of the petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy; they are not a vehicle for Maoism. Those who work in the economic interests of the First World labor aristocracy form the mass base for imperialism's tightening death-grip on the Third World.

5. New bourgeoisies will form under socialism. Mao led the charge to expose the bourgeoisie that developed within the communist party in the Soviet Union and the campaign to bombard the headquarters in his own country of China. Those experiences demonstrated the necessity of continuous revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. The class struggle does not end until the state has been abolished and communism is reached.

6. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China was the furthest advancement toward communism in history. We uphold the Soviet Union until the death of Stalin in 1953, followed by the People's Republic of China through 1976, as the best examples of modern socialism in practice. The arrest of the "Gang of Four" in China and the rise of Khrushchev in the Soviet Union marked the restoration of capitalism in those countries. Other experiments in developing socialism in the 20th century failed to surpass the Soviet model (i.e. Albania), or worse, stayed within the capitalist mode of production, generally due to a failure to break with the Theory of Productive Forces.

On Prisons & Prisoners

MIM(Prisons) seeks to build public opinion against America's criminal injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers – the imperialists – roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft. It only insists that these crimes be committed in the inter-

est of the bourgeoisie.

ALL U.S. citizens are criminals – accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals.

MIM(Prisons) does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners – whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

Free Political Books for Prisoners

Our Free Political Books for Prisoners Program is a Serve the People (STP) program founded on the model of the Black Panther Party's Breakfast for Schoolchildren and other STP programs, and on the basis of Mao's emphasis that communists should serve the people in everything we do. The purpose of the Free Books for Prisoners program is to help prisoners turn their time under lock and key into a time to develop their politics and build with us toward the beginnings of a more just and productive society. We collect and send out political, legal and historical books primarily (we also have some dictionaries and other reference items that are useful for writers and jailhouse lawyers). The materials we distribute are selected to help people study the conditions under which they are living and to turn their knowledge into political organizing.

We know that many of our subscribers lack financial resources, and this should not be a barrier to education. Because our purpose is to organize, we expect that comrades will exchange work for the books we send. You should write articles for ULK, create revolutionary art, form study groups with other comrades and work through the study group to educate and organize, share our literature and expand our mailing list, lead campaigns against local examples of oppression, or come up with other ways to contribute to the struggle. If you can afford to send donations, and if your facility rules allow, sending us stamps is the best way to donate. We can always use them to get you more books or to help other comrades who cannot afford to pay for their books.

We can send you a list of specific titles that we currently have available, but it is better to request general topic areas or include substitutions because our stock is constantly changing. The literature list also lists prices for the books we send in if you want to purchase them, but again, lack of funds will not keep you from getting literature, but lack of political work will. We ask you to help us build MIM(Prisons) and United Struggle from Within through your own work in exchange for the books. If you would like to receive books from MIM(Prisons)'s Free Books for Prisoners program, please let us know the subject areas you are interested in, and the work you are doing in exchange.

Fight Censorship

Under Lock & Key, MIM Theory, study materials, letters, and even books like dictionaries have been censored by the state. If your MIM(Prisons) correspondence is censored, the first thing you need to know is that you are not alone in struggling to get your mail and reading materials. You will need to be prepared to do the work yourself (making copies of rejection notices, filing grievances, sending copies of these documents to us), but we can send instructions on how to do this. In some cases, we can support your appeals with letters of our own.

These are some basic steps we recommend to everyone in prison:

1. Find out now what the prison rules say about your right to receive mail and reading materials. You should read this policy carefully and get a copy for your file if possible. You can also send us copies of the rules to post on our website as a resource for the public.

2. Find out what the prison's implementation of these policies is like. Many times the policy looks reasonable on paper, but the prison staff behaves totally out of line. Ask around.

3. To keep our correspondence going, write to us every 6 months. If you're writing us regularly and are not getting any mail from us, there's a problem with your mail delivery. Do not assume we are ignoring you.

4. If your correspondence with us is censored, it is very important that you keep copies of all the paperwork, (rejection notices, grievances, etc.) and send us copies of these as well. Often this is the only way we find out that our mail has been censored. Once we know of the censorship, we can work with you to fight it.

Spread ULK

Let others read the literature we send you. Talk to potential comrades about our politics and work, and have them write in to get put on our mailing list. Our subscribers (you) play a vital role in the growth of our mailing list. Remember, a subscription is free to U.S. prisoners!

Administrative Details

Your subscription will be active for 6 months after each time you write to us. If we do not hear from you for 6 months, you will be automatically removed from the mailing list. We recommend writing to us regularly so you don't lose track of when to update your subscription. For people outside of prison, all issues of ULK, plus additional reports from within U.S. prisons, are available on the website www.prisoncensorship.info. If you would like to become a ULK distributor, get in touch.

Your address: Please send us as detailed an address as possible, including your full legal name, prison and unit name, prison ID #, street address and P.O. Box, city, state, and 9-digit zip code. Please check with the mailroom to make sure you have the correct information.

Releases: Let us know if you are looking at a (possible) release date in the next two years. We recently beefed up our release support, and it includes a lot of set-up while you're still locked up. Also let us know your expected address post-release if you have one. Even if it is only the address of a relative who you think will be in the same place for a while, this could be the difference between losing contact and staying in touch and politically active after you are released.

Your personal papers: Do not send us legal papers that pertain to your case unless you have checked with us first. In general, we cannot do anything with your legal papers as we do not have the resources to get involved in individuals' cases. We also cannot return them to you. Rather than focus on only your case, we strongly encourage comrades to write articles about the political implications of their situation, and work on cases that will positively impact the ability for prisoners to organize against imperialism and capitalism.

Please do not send us your only copies of artwork, articles or other writings unless you are certain that you will not need them in the future. Comrades have requested that we make copies of their work and send these copies back. Doing this takes up time and money that would otherwise go to filling book requests, fighting censorship and answering letters.

Other Resources

PARC provides a free resource guide for prisoners. Tell them you heard about them from MIM(Prisons): Prison Activist Resource Center PO Box 70447 Oakland, CA 94612

Inside Books Project sends free books and a resource guide to prisoners in Texas. Inside Books Project, 3106 E. 14 1/2 Street Austin, Texas 78702 insidebooksproject@gmail.com

United front for Peace in Prisons - Statement of Principles

The basis of any real unity comes from an agreement on certain key ideas. This statement does not grant authority to any party over any other party. We are mutually accountable to each other to uphold these points in order to remain active participants in this united front.

PEACE: We organize to end the needless conflicts and violence within the U.S. prison environment. The oppressors use divide and conquer strategies so that we fight each other instead of them. We will stand together and defend ourselves from oppression.

UNITY: WE strive to unite with those facing the same struggles as us for our common interests. To maintain unity we have to keep an open line of networking and communication, and ensure we address any situation with true facts. This is needed because of how the pigs utilize tactics such as rumors, snitches and fake communications to divide and keep division among the oppressed. The pigs see the end of their control within our unity.

GROWTH: WE recognize the importance of education and freedom to grow in order to build real unity. We support members within our organization who leave and embrace other political organizations and concepts that are within the anti-imperialist struggle. Everyone should get in where they fit in. Similarly, we recognize the right of comrades to leave our organization if we fail to live up to the principles and purpose of the United Front for Peace in Prisons.

INTERNATIONALISM: WE struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people. While we are often referred to as "minorities" in this country, and we often find those who are in the same boat as us opposing us, our confidence in achieving our mission comes from our unity with all oppressed nations who represent the vast majority globally. We cannot liberate ourselves when participating in the oppression of other nations.

INDEPENDENCE: WE build our own institutions and programs independent of the United States government and all its branches, right down to the local police, because this system does not serve us. By developing independent power through these institutions we do not need to compromise our goals.

How to join the United Front?

• Study and uphold the five principles above.

• Send your organization's name and a statement of unity to MIM(Prisons). Your statement can explain what the united front principles mean to your organization, how they relate to your work, why they are important, etc.

• Develop peace and unity between factions where you are at on the basis of opposing oppression of all prisoners and oppressed people in general. Campaign around the September 9 Day of Peace and Solidarity.

• Send reports on your progress to Under Lock & Key. Did you develop a peace treaty or protocol that is working? Send it in for others to study. Is your unity based on actions? Send us reports on the organizing you are doing.

• Keep educating your members. The more educated your members are, the more unity you can develop, and the stronger your organization can become. Unity comes from the inside out. By uniting internally, we can better unite with others as well. Contact MIM(Prisons) if you need additional materials to educate your members in history, politics and economics.

Greetings to 2025 Day of Peace and Solidarity Event

by MIM(Prisons)
September 2025

The September 9th Day of Peace and Solidarity was initiated in 2012 by a prison-based organization working within the United Front for Peace in Prisons (UFPP). The date is to commemorate the Attica rebellion of 1971 (ask about our September 9th Organizing Pack for a collection of our writings on Attica and its legacy). And the purpose of the day was for prisoners to come together across divisions for a common interest, to fast, take off work, study and/or otherwise come together as one in the spirit of the UFPP five principles (see previous page).

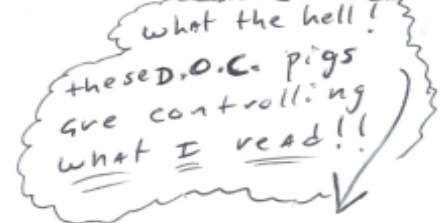
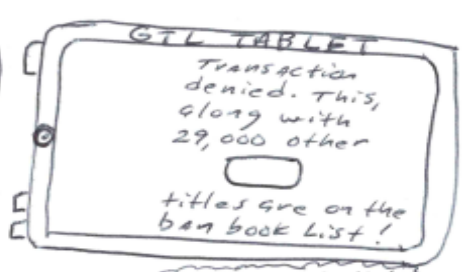
For over a year we've been having united front-building meetings on the outside — not to quell hostilities between the masses, but to broaden our movement of revolutionary and Maoist-led forces across Occupied Turtle Island. Today, we begin transforming those discussions into action. And like the UFPP organizers in prison over the years, we will be fasting, abstaining from various vices, taking the day off work, studying and most importantly putting in work to build the united front in general and to connect to the prison movement inside.

Tonight (8 September 2025), we all meet to kick off the next 24 hours. We will be hearing from comrades who have been building infrastructure and new

organization structures within the Maoist-led united front. And we will be beginning our fasts (in various forms) for the next 24 to 72 hours.

After planning this first group event for many months, it comes at a time when so much is happening around the world. As we voluntarily abstain from food, the masses in Sudan are facing the worst famine in over a decade, since the famine in nearby Somalia in 2011. And everyday we get new death tolls from starvation in Gaza. Two of the worst war-zones, though only a couple of the regions being torn apart by imperialist interests warring against the oppressed.

As we voluntarily abstain from food, T. Hoxha of Palestine Action faces dire conditions in their hunger strike in a British prison. Meanwhile, Casey Goonan has also entered a solidarity hunger strike in Santa Rita Jail in the Bay Area of California. T. Hoxha's final demand is to have their prison library job restored, which had been taken away from them for fear that they might organize other prisoners (T has since got this demand met). This use of punishment to isolate prisoners with positive messages for other prisoners is at the heart of the conditions that created the need for a United Front for Peace in Prisons in 2012 in the first place. At that time, most



U.S. prisoners we were in touch with were identifying internet violence among prisoners as the principal contradiction that was preventing positive organizing from happening. Today, that principal contradiction has shifted to drug trade run by prison staff that funds prison gangs used to manage the population and keep the majority in a stupor of K2 or other intoxicants. As a result, we've seen organizing around September 9th slow in recent years, and we've ramped up our efforts to build a Revolutionary 12 Step program.

It was the rise of resistance on the outside, the increase in organization on the outside, and even the imprisonment of comrades from the outside movement that fostered the first prison movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, building on decades of brutal oppression and struggle. So today, we remind our comrades and

ourselves of the importance of building the movement on the outside, wherever we are, if we want to see a new prison movement emerge. Just as the Al-Aqsa flood has inspired the actions of people like T. Hoxha and Casey Goonan that led them to prison; it is all connected. And resistance is contagious.

There is so much more that could be said about the shifting conditions in the United States today. But what we will say here is that the broadening of our organizing is certainly needed. And not just organizing in gen-

eral, but organizing with a correct political line at its helm, and studied and experienced organizing strategies and tactics in place. While we are far from where we'd like to be. We are thankful to all who are joining us here today to lay the groundwork that we are preparing. These next small steps are steps in the direction of building the movement that is needed today.

9 September 2025 Focuses on the Streets

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

This is a quick report back on our 9/9 organizing on the outside this year. We kicked it off with a solidarity meeting, which we addressed in the article above. As mentioned, the meeting's focus was on outside organizing, not prisoner organizing. Despite continuing to fulfill requests for our September 9th Organizing Pack to comrades inside, we did not receive any reports of actions for the Day of Peace & Solidarity from within prisons.

As planned, the September 8th meeting consisted of:

1. Statements and pledges by all attendees on how they will be spending 9/9 and what it means to them
2. A progress report on new tools for improving connections between comrades in the Maoist-led united front across OTI to pool knowledge and resources
3. Discussion of two papers outlining the launch of a new organization aligned with MIM Thought and

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had been receiving *Under Lock & Key* for years did not receive *ULK* 90 after the new policy went into place. Yet the KDOC did not notify MIM Distributors of the censorship nor return any *ULK*s to us as legally required. KDOC also has not responded to our appeal for the censorship of *ULK* 89 for allegedly being correspondence with someone under 18 years of age.

In addition, KDOC censors anything over 1 oz, including bible study courses, per KAR 44-12-601. Since *ULK* and most of the books we distribute are not available via the 3 approved dis-

part of the new generation of the MIM

Since 9/8, progress has continued to move forward on the latter 2 projects, which aim to play key roles in pushing our movement to more advanced levels in the months and years to come.

On 9/9 comrades across the country committed to various forms of fasting, study, outreach and other political work. Below is a report from one of the organizing events that was held that day.

In an east coast city, members of Anti Imperialist Prisoner Support, supporters and family of prisoners gathered to view and discuss the documentary *Attica* (1974) by Cinda Firestone. Attendees were surprised by the progressive politics of this documentary and its faithfulness in covering the events of the uprising from the perspective of the oppressed masses in U.S. dungeons. We chose to skip the middle third of the docu-

mentary as it focused intensely on the murder and torture prisoners endured during and after the siege.

After the viewing we discussed the continued legacy of Attica today, conditions in prison remaining unchanged despite diversified staff and policy reforms, the ongoing rebellions in U.S. prisons, and the work comrades on the outside can do to support the prison movement. We discussed excerpts of MIM's writing on Attica, especially the criticism that the abandonment of the Attica rebellion by observers and the communist movement, which they argued was caused by "widespread opportunism in the American left." (1) We also talked about the possibilities for supporting prison uprisings following in the tradition of Attica if wide numbers of allies could be mobilized.

Through this event, supporters gained familiarity with the United Front for Peace in Pris-

is wrong." - a Kansas prisoner, September 2025

After receiving this letter, MIM Distributors received notice that our mail to Kansas was being censored for the following reasons:

1. Was not ordered by resident per procedures established in IMPP 12-127D.
2. Does not include an invoice, receipt, or packing slip verifying the purchase was made by the resident.
3. Not an approved vendor per IMPP 12-127D.
4. Item was not purchased through established procedures and cannot be copied due to copyright law.

In other words, free literature to prisoners is now banned in Kansas. If KDOC can't take a cut of your inmate banking account then you don't get to read.

ons, the Anti-Genocide Pledge (see page 1 for more on this pledge), and anti-censorship campaigns which AIPS helps to run, as well as our fasting from the 8th to the 9th. We connected with new activists and grew our base of volunteers in our locale and have since made progress in our goals of increasing *ULK* distribution, recruiting activists to take our introductory study course and begin corresponding with prisoners.

By the time this issue of *ULK* goes to press we will have held another meeting with comrades in the united front to launch phase 1 of an online platform for Maoist development. We will

Virginia has joined Kansas in banning vendors like Amazon:

"Recently Virginia DOC has changed the rules and we are no longer allowed to use Amazon for literature or receive any hardcover books at all. GTL is also taking over the tablet system which is really only the evil 'Viapath' entity which is going to completely change the dynamic of everything." - a Virginia prisoner, 1 September 2025

County Jails

County jails are always a bit harder to hold accountable. Smaller agencies tend to be less likely to train their staff in consistent policies or to make these



also be doing much outreach as well as building with allied organizations around the Prison Banned Books Week campaign, including kicking off the week with a public event in the Bay Area. ■

Notes:
1. MIM(Prisons) September 9th Organizing Pack

policies publicly available. Meanwhile prisoners are typically held in jails for short periods so it is harder to find people on the inside to wage ongoing struggles against censorship there.

Some of the county jails we've come across recently that don't allow newspapers as a blanket policy are:

- York County Jail in Pennsylvania (where comrades are fighting this rule)
- Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority - Abingdon Facility in Virginia

Meanwhile, Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility in San Diego County, California has limited prisoners to only received

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U.S. Imperialism's Gunboat Diplomacy in Latin America

by MIM(Prisons)
September 2025

On 2 September 2025, the U.S. Navy conducted a lethal airstrike on a boat in international waters heading from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago, killing 11 people. Later on the day of the strike, Trump went onto eir persynal social media platform Truth Social and claimed without evidence that the boat was part of a smuggling operation by members of the Tren de Aragua organization (see "Deportations Target Those Protesting..." in ULK 89 for more of our reporting on this ongoing narrative with TDA).

"Earlier this morning, on my Orders, U.S. Military Forces conducted a kinetic strike against positively identified Tren de Aragua Narcoterrorists in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility," Trump said. "The strike occurred while the terrorists were at sea in international waters transporting illegal narcotics, heading to the United States. The strike resulted in 11 terrorists killed in action."

The day after, on 3 September 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed from Mexico City that similar strikes will happen again:

"Maybe it's happening right now, I don't know, but the point is the president of the United States is going to wage war on narco terrorist organizations."

Since the initial attack on 2 September, the U.S. has launched two more lethal strikes against Venezuelan boats, one on 15 September and the other on 19 September. Both attacks killed 3 people and bring the total death toll from these attacks to 17. Notably, the Dominican Republic government aided the U.S. imperialists in the latest attack on the 19th and said that "[t]his is the first time in history that the United States and the Dominican Republic carry out a joint operation against narco terrorism in the Caribbean." (As we go to press the U.S. has killed 6 more on 14 October.)

Saber Rattling Against Venezuela

On the day of the strike, the U.S. imperialists have continued the increase of their military presence in the Caribbean as the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted saber rattling exercises in southern Boricua. This training exercise has been a part of the U.S. Southern Command's (SOUTHCOM) new mission in the Southern Caribbean "aimed at addressing threats to US national security from specially designated narco-terrorist organizations in the region." Up until 15 August 2025, Trump fascism has deployed the following military

forces near the coasts of Venezuela:

- Two Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)
- 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit
- A nuclear powered attack submarine
- A PB Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft
- Several destroyers
- A guided missile cruiser

Mayo" Zambada, one of the founding members of CDS, was arrested alongside Joaquin Guzman Lopez - a son of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and one of the leaders of the "Los Chapitos" faction of the CDS. Zambada, who was lured by Lopez, got on an airplane believing ey was going to

Classes Struggle National Bourgeoisie Condemn U.S. imperialism:

- Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on 8 August 2025 "There will be no invasion of Mexico." "We were informed that this executive order was coming

Fascism is Imperialism

An important point that is overlooked in the question of fascism is its imperialist nature. Much discourse surrounding fascism is in relation to it being a form of governance: there's fascism, communism, socialism, and democracy according to bourgeois ideology. Bourgeois ideology, understandably so, focuses on the "authoritarian" nature of fascist states. When we actually study the three major fascist developments in history (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan), imperialism was never unresent. Japan's expansion of Asia, Italy's invasion of Ethiopia, and the Nazi German horde's looting of neighboring European countries are prime examples of the imperialist nature of fascism. Meanwhile, U.S. imperialism has propped up fascists to power in countries exploited by imperialism where they have little popular support. Today Vice President J.D. Vance mocks the dead and taunts fishers in the Caribbean Sea with threats of bombing attacks. The United States has had a long history of gunboat diplomacy as a tactic, and the fact that this "old" strategy is making a comeback against its modern enemies show the "open terrorism" of the Trump regime. ■

(citations available on web or by request)



The Venezuelan government has mobilized 328,000 civilians in addition to its 150,000 military members. Created in 2005 by the late Hugo Chavez, the Bolivarian Militia of Venezuela is an organization of armed workers and peasants which has been formally established in 2010 as part of the country's military force.

"This week, I will activate a special plan with more than 4.5 million militiamen to ensure coverage of the entire national territory — militias that are prepared, activated and armed," said Maduro.

On 1 September 2025, the day before the strike on the alleged TDA shipment, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro claimed that ey would "constitutionally declare a republic in arms" if the U.S. pigs deployed in the region attacked the country, denouncing their presence as "the greatest threat that has been seen on our continent in the last 100 years."

Potential Shifts in the Political-Economy of Latin American Drug Trade

Away from the Venezuelan frontier, the drug trade in Mexico has seen significant battles as a top leader of the Sinaloa Cartel (also known as CDS) has pleaded guilty on racketeering charges. On 24 July 2024, Ismael "El

another destination, was immediately taken into custody by U.S. authorities. On 25 August 2025, Zambada pleaded guilty to being a principal leader of the Sinaloa cartel. Among this, significant admissions from Zambada included:

- Trafficking at least 1.5 million kilograms of cocaine between 1980 and 2024 - most of it going to the United States
- Becoming involved in drugs in 1969 when ey planted marijuana for the "first time"
- Acknowledging that CDS was a "large operation" under eir leadership

It is too early to tell what the arrest of Zambada and Lopez will signify, but it marks a shift in the strength of the old cartel model. When Ovidio Guzman, another one of El Chapo's sons, was captured in Culiacan, the CDS mobilized hundreds of soldiers armed with rocket launchers and automatic rifles and held the city down threatening destruction. The result was the release of Ovidio. Now, two of the four "Chapitos" alongside an original founder of the CDS has been captured with no signs of CDS shock troops threatening to take down the city. With a combination of Trump fascism's crackdown against migrant masses, infighting and capture of CDS infrastructure, and U.S. imperialism's recent airstrike on an alleged smuggling boat, the Latin American drug economy necessitates a shift in strategy.

and that it had nothing to do with the participation of any military personnel or any institution in our territory."

- Iran's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Ali Bahreini declared that the boat strike marked "A serious threat to international peace and security." He added that the U.S.'s actions violated international law. Moreover, he declared that the stationing of a U.S. nuclear submarine near Venezuela was a "grave blow to disarmament and non-proliferation."

Russian Imperialists' Condemn Their Rivals

- Maria Zakharova of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry denounced the strike at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia on 4 September. She accused the United States of placing "blatant pressure" on Venezuela, and added that "What the West has been doing toward states that want to pursue their own independent policies is absolutely inadmissible." (20)

A Caribbean Comprador Licks Boot

- Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar approved and commended the U.S. attack, saying that the "massacring of our people has been fed by evil cartel traffickers ... I feel no compassion for them, the U.S. Army should have them all violently eliminated."

Working Towards a New Generation of Anti-Imperialist Prisoners

By King of United Struggle from Within
October 2025

The ignorance of man has created a prison within which man is being exploited by the oppressor, they fight together, plan together and oppress together all in the name of winning a war they have waged upon the world to be the controllers and rulers of a world, that is supposed to be free. ALL a dream that so many have died for, one that never was and never will be a reality, as long as we refuse to unite in the name of resistance against ALL forms of oppression and negative energies of this world. Unity is our strength and the only way to overcome oppression and destruction of our people. They don't separate us when it comes to putting their foot on our necks. So why would we separate ourselves when it comes to fighting the war against oppression?

We set so many rules, codes and standards to discriminate against each other and to discredit each other, may it be slander or just envy, either way it amounts to ignorance.

I'm currently in one of the worst states to be incarcerated in because the men are so lost, defeated and separated that the world wouldn't believe that this state is the same state that Mumia and Maroon hail from. Their DNA has been washed from the veins of this generation and the one before this one. Because there is no form of resistance, the only thing the men in SCI Houtzdale and the Pennsylvania Institutional system stand up for together is the count. They are too busy with the many distractions that have become normal institutional life (i.e. Playstation, tablets, tv, sports and games), not the law library to get free. One young

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ON "OBJECTIVE" REPORTING

ULK relies on our comrades behind bars to report on conditions and events inside prisons. We track the history and reliability of our writers and, when possible, we double check facts in the articles. But there will always be some facts we cannot verify before printing. Our readers are encouraged to let us know if they have information that contradicts what they see in ULK. Yet, recognize that no matter how much the bourgeoisie tries to pretend, reporting is never completely objective or devoid of political content. MIM(Prisons) will always report from the perspective of the international proletariat and on the issues that best serve their interests.

The True Reason for the War on Drugs

by a New York prisoner
August 2025

At the end of the 1970s I was born only to find myself suddenly in a world in which things do evil, a world in which I was summoned into battle; a world in which it was a question of annihilation or triumph. I am part of a class of people whose lives are most defined by conditions of unfreedom and by ongoing struggles to extricate themselves from these conditions.

I no longer want to remain a child of domestically colonized people. A people who have been traumatized, abused, mis-educated, murdered, denigrated, and perpetually subjected to economic insecurities.

I've learned by reading history how in the 1960s and 1970s the United States government attacked the communities that I live in called the ghetto by flooding these areas with dope and crack cocaine. They duped us into slinging these drugs in our neighborhoods using us as pawns then unleashing the police upon us after declaring a war on those same drugs and the sales.

For the Latino and Black communities, drugs represent a deceiving allure for youth. Power, status, authority, advancement, the almighty dollar — the "American Dream." In reality, drugs are just another trap to maintain our communities in an oppressed state unable to progress.

For us drugs generally lead to a ruined life, prison, or death. The social cost of cocaine, heroin, morphine and opium addiction has the addicted Negroes and Latinos shuffling aimlessly with hollowed by zombie eyes of the opium addict or the speed induced frenzy of the cocaine addicts.

It must become clear that chasing the American Dream a piece of the capitalist pie — isn't to our benefit. Our people are oppressed and gaining part of the pie does nothing to bring us closer to equality.

Us selling drugs is preferable to fighting the system's oppression. Whether we sell or do drugs we are removing ourselves from the necessary revolution and only contribute to the oppression visited upon our communities. Having to chase the American Dream through illicit methods or escaping our harrowing reality by using drugs is far more conducive to continuing a capitalistic state than providing viable means of community empowerment.

In a world where alcoholism, opioid, crack and cocaine addiction are rampant and the government is now undoing these laws, dismantling these structures, and legalizing cannabis and eventually other drugs we must keep the harms of the war on drugs in the front of our mind.

There was a letter to United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan with hundreds of signatures saying the war on drugs had failed and was causing more problems than the drugs themselves.

This is a questionable accusation when one takes into account that the war on drugs was not actually a war on drug use but the war on the sale of untaxed merchandise. When the government was no longer able to control the

profitability of narcotics sold that's when it became an intolerable issue that could only be addressed by waging war. So drug sale and possession was deemed illegal and penalized by imprisonment.

Though for almost all of human history, drugs were not illegal. There were no laws dictating their sale or consumption and no penalties attached to their possession. Drug prohibitions became a phenomenon and dangerous anomaly.

The world is now bearing witness to what could be considered the end of the war on drugs through legalization of its use. Though hypocritical in its conception the end of the illegality of narcotics is far from the end of drug related criminal offenses.

The crimes that result from drug use or seeking funding for purchase of narcotics. The committing of crimes while on drugs or for drugs is not guaranteed to lessen due to a sudden legalization of drug sales and possession. The desperation caused by addiction and its effects are still a lasting issue un-dealt with through this waged war. The addiction creates a craving that can only be satisfied by the narcotic itself and the need for satisfying this urge causes many to resort to crime as a means of obtaining the needed funds for purchase. The legalization may make gaining access to the drug easier it does nothing to effect cost or the effects that these drugs have on the addict. Though I partially agree that the war on drugs is a failure, to me that's because it was never waged to assist these communities with a problem, only to inculcate the judicial system into the lives of these people.

NY Coordinator of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support responds: Our comrade here has done a great job describing how the war on drugs was actually about national oppression, not about decreasing the use of drugs. Whether the "war on drugs" is coming to an end or not appears to be an open question still. In the United States marijuana is becoming legalized and taxed, but the other drugs mentioned such as cocaine, heroin and morphine appear just as criminalized today as they have ever been. In some European countries for example many "hard drugs" have become decriminalized, and addicts are provided treatment instead of being imprisoned for possession or use. Great strides have been made in countries addressing addiction with these policies.(1)

A few things warrant mention here: firstly, providing treatment (stable housing, counseling, and perhaps less harmful versions of drugs such as methadone in place of heroin) is an effective way to end addiction at a social scale in comparison to incarceration and punishment. Secondly, in imperialist countries the resources for this advanced treatment are available because of extraction of resources from the Third World, as is much of the advanced technological medical industry. Finally we can see that in societies without the national contradiction playing out domestically at any scale, especially in imperialist countries without internal semi-colonies, a different set of policies can be implemented because the state does not seek genocide and underdevelopment for wide segments of the popula-

tion. What these three things all point to is the necessity of complete change of the economic system to address drug addiction for the oppressed.(2)

The critical issue the comrade brings up here is: what would happen to capitalism if the lumpenproletariat of the oppressed nations, instead of being provided insecure, dangerous, and low-paying work, and being socially stupefied, by drugs, was deprived of this problem via being provided treatment? What if instead of being criminalized, treatment and environmental interventions were used to determine the causes of addiction? However, this will not happen as long as a system of national oppression persists in Occupied Turtle Island. That is why we must build independent institutions of the oppressed, like our own Revolutionary 12 Step Program. Through such Serve the People programs, the revolutionary elements of the oppressed nation lumpen can be unleashed against capitalism on a greater scale. ■

Notes:

1. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: setting the record straight
2. See Under Lock & Key No. 59: The Drug Issue for more explanation

Michigan LGBTQ Rights and Drug Politics

by a Michigan prisoner
May 2025

So I'm an LGBTQ person in Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and so far they have not taken anything from the trans individuals, but who knows what it will be like in the coming months. I get to stay where I'm at currently because I have stayed with being called male. I don't believe in any of the labels that are put on anyone. But here in MDOC if someone says they are any gender other than what they were born to then they put us in either level 5 or one man cells or a facility that only holds G.I.D. prisoners and we cannot work to make any type of money to buy what we need. So I stay with what is on my birth certificate for now. I don't care if the pigs know that I'm LGBTQ because I am very proud of who I am, period. But the pigs do treat me somewhat different than they do the "str8" prisoners, but for the most part they leave me alone because I know the law and have my family in my corner. Some LGBTQ do not have anyone at all, just because the so-called leader of the United States thinks that he can make up some dumba\$\$ Executive Order (see "Rollbacks of Transgender Rights..." in *ULK 89*) and try to have others enforce them when the world is changing and most other places have put protection laws in/on the books for LGBTQ persons.

On to a different topic. I totally understand what everyone is saying about K2 and K3. It has become so bad in MDOC that the EMTs stay close to the prisons just so they don't have far to go. Just this month (May 1-13) we have had 9 ODs and so far no deaths. But they have stopped all mail coming into the prison that is in a regular envelope. They do photocopy all our regular letters and send them to us in a new envelope. They said they did that so that no more K2 or K3 will come

Continued on next page...

How Can We Be Rehabilitated By Those Who Sell Drugs?

by a Texas prisoner
September 2025

Right now we are experiencing lockdown on 19 units in Texas because of all the drugs, and the excessive sentences these younger generations are getting, killings, stabbings, over-doses.

They're only supposed to lock the G-4s and G-5, but we all are suffering for something the officials are doing. We are not bringing the drugs in, they are, and we get blamed for it. I am not responsible for what another inmate does, now they want us to snitch and put our lives in danger cause I know the officers are going to snitch you out. "Department of Corruption and No Justice." Cuz if there were justice this wouldn't be going on.

They're here to teach us what? This is the cruel and unusual punishment

ishment our government carries out!

They say they're here to rehabilitate us, but they themselves need to be rehabilitated from the top to the bottom. Wardens down to the peons and on to the people who hire them. How can you watch someone when you yourself is doing wrong? How can we be rehabilitated by those who sell drugs? We can't! So the state is wasting tax payer dollars.

There can be no justice where there is no truth!

We are retaliated against for standing up for what is right, by the very ones who are in the wrong, thinking that they themselves are doing right! Their main objective is to keep everybody high, less problems they say! ■

False Drug Charges Weaponized in NY Prisons

by a New York prisoner
October 2025

Dear Under Lock & Key,

I left the box back in June and they transferred me to Clinton Correctional Facility. As you already know, the C.O.s were out on strike because of their claim of unsafe work conditions (catch our reporting on this in "Update on NY Lockdowns..." in *ULK 89*). They tried to say that because of the HALT act that people are no longer afraid to go to the box, and that people are smoking an unknown substance and catching a contact high and getting dizzy to the point of them falling unconscious.

Now after the strike they are picking people at random and saying that they are under the influence. In my first couple months at Clinton CF they wrote me 3 alcohol/intoxicant use tickets and charged me \$91.52 per ticket, because they suit up in a Tyvek suit, gloves, respirator, goggles, and a bag to dispose of whatever they find in the cell. I don't even smoke that shit and they grabbed me up 3 times in 30 days. On the third time I lost it and now I'm being charged with assault on staff. And I'm in the box again for 120 days. I'm in the

process of appealing the ticket and hope to be out of here shortly. I just wanted to give you guys an update about what's going on here in upstate New York, and update you on my address change.

Thank you!

MIM(Prisons) adds: The war on drugs under imperialism has always been a war on the oppressed nations. Recently a comrade in California reported on punishments ey received for not "programming" and not partaking in the C.O.-run drug trade there (see "Imperialist Prisons..." on page 6 of this issue for more). This report from New York above similarly shows how drugs are just used as an excuse for repression. Just as they are used as an excuse to stop our mail (see our past reporting on censorship in Indiana). And just as the Amerikan fascists are using drugs as an excuse to murder Venezuelans (see "...Gunboat Diplomacy..." on the previous page) in the Caribbean Sea. Communists have real solutions to the drug problem that involves meeting peoples' basic needs and building community rather than torture and murder. ■

Arkansas DOC Going Digital, Lie About Drugs

by an Arkansas prisoner
September 2025

I received *ULKs 89 & 90* and would like to renew my subscription. Arkansas recently came with a new mail policy whereby letters are to be sent to a processor located in Tampa, FL. It's more of the same of what they've been doing in other states. These bullshit policies are designed to restrict communication plain and simple.

They often point to drugs as being the justification for a lot of the restrictive policies they come out with including on visits. But they totally ignore that during the Covid period when in-person visits were virtually shut down na-

tionwide and the mail was already being photo copied it was during this time that you had a truly record number of drug-related deaths. So obviously the shit wasn't coming mostly through the mail or visits but they don't want to recognize that. Now that this new policy is in place it's no telling how they will try to play it when it comes to the newsletters. With the way things are unfolding in the world these days it ain't no telling what tomorrow may bring. With the administration we got in D.C. calling the shots hell I wouldn't at all be surprised if they sent some goons your way. ■

Let the Revolution Begin!

... Continued from page 1

learned that although they have the authority, we have the power. Anyway, I know this is late, but I hope it can be of benefit."

A prisoner in Nottoway Correctional Center in Virginia was inspired by ULK 90 to write up the pledge ourselves and gathered 44 signatures:

"Being that I don't have the official pledge form, I hope that what I am sending is good enough. I explained the reason for the pledge and gave some history of why this is important, Nottoway is a work camp and there are around 250 that make up the population. I know that 250 won't sign because of fear of being targeted or either don't care. Hopefully what number do sign will add to the dedicated ones for change."

Not only is this "good enough," it is an impressive display of gathering pledges despite a lack of resources. We commend your initiative. The point is to reach people with the information and expand the number of people dedicated to change as you say. Comrades like this are helping get some of the lesser heard voices onto a statement that is not just being spread around the world, but is addressing one of the most horrific imperialist crimes of our day.

A comrade at Suwannee Correctional Institution in Florida also improvised, submitting 18 signatures underneath the following pledge:

"My signature below is proof and indication that I stand emphatically against all forms of oppression and genocide, no matter whom, where, why, and when this oppression and genocide may occur. I stand emphatically against capitalism, colonialism, imperialism, racism, fascism, and mass incarceration, and plutocracy."

2 Muslim prisoners held in Stiles Unit in Texas signed, with one writing:

"I am against Israel's relentless persecution of Palestine, and the U.S. government's assistance to Israel."

2 Muslim prisoners held in Stiles Unit in Texas signed. 4 prisoners from the Ferguson Unit also signed. Stiles unit comrades reported:

"I am against Israel's relentless persecution of Palestine, and the U.S. government's assistance to Israel."

Federal Reports

A prisoner in U.S. Penitentiary MAX (ADX) in Colorado wrote:

"If I get other prisoners to sign a petition, since this is the ADX, they won't let me mail it out. But you can count me as a signatory and being in solidarity with the Palestinian people. What's happening is a genocide, and I'm wholeheartedly against it. Free Palestine!"

A prisoner in USP McCreary in Kentucky signed the pledge:

"I have attempted to get others to sign this pledge, but no one wants to. I guess that others do not care because it is not them and the areas where they come from; it's not in the USA. I do not know why no one will sign this, but a few people has stated that it has nothing to do with them and some others just do not care. I have signed it and will stand with Gaza."

California Reports

A prisoner in Calipatria State

...Palestine Pledge

Prison reported:

"With regards to the Anti-Genocide pledge, I was reported to the captain for anti-semitism, other people mistrusted it for information gathering to commit fraud. This place got over run by Christians."

A prisoner in West Valley Detention Center in California signed the pledge.

20 prisoners at California State Prison - Los Angeles County, of various nationalities, signed the pledge.

A comrade in the Restricted Housing Unit of California State Prison - Corcoran got 29 people to take the pledge. As the comrade reports in a separate article (see "Rising to the Occasion..." on next page), about 50% of the people ey was able to communicate with from within long-term solitary confinement agreed to make the pledge.

Atmosphere of Repression

The fact that so many people reported fear around signing the pledge speaks to the role of prisons as political repression. Despite euphemistic names around "corrections," these institutions serve as population control, targeting populations that are most likely to question the system. While many comrades write about the lack of revolutionary activity, and the difficulty of getting people to do something as simple as signing a pledge, we agree with the state that there is potential in these marginalized groups to challenge the oppressive status quo. And unlike the imperialists, we think challenging oppression is a good thing.

Today we mark the "soft end" of the campaign to gather pledges against genocide in U.S. prisons. But we are happy to continue to send the pledge to comrades inside who think it will be a useful organizing tool. In the petition against Israeli genocide from a decade ago, it was 2 years later that we put together the final signature count. A sign of how slowly things can move with prison mail and communications.

On the one hand, we will wholeheartedly support any other organizing tactics USW comes up with to support the Palestinian struggle. Just as our comrades on the street continue to participate in actions to oppose the genocide. On the other hand we remind our readers that nationalism of the oppressed is applied internationalism. And if you find yourself limited in what you can do to directly support Palestine, it is more important that we take lessons from Palestine about what national liberation and resistance looks like and contribute to building those struggles here on occupied Turtle Island. If you have questions about what true internationalism looks like feel free to write in with your ideas and questions, join our intro study course that touches on this topic, or help build a USW council in your state to have these discussions with. ■

Imperialist Prisons Caught in the Downward Spiral

by a California prisoner
August 2025

I'm following the news closely, and seeing prisoners and prison staff going through all sorts of trauma. Malcolm, Marcus, and King saw this coming. Seattle and Red Jacket, too. I'm fighting several retaliatory charges of assault on the popos, and several false entries in my medical file and my central file. The popo's tactics include throwing shit at you so furiously — "loading your file" — and then restricting your access to the materials you need to address those issues (property restriction in the R.H.U. is super fucked up), that you'll just give up and smoke the dope that the pigs traffic into the facility. That is what the vast majority of these guys do. Some C.O.s have been caught, recently, tweaking on meth. One barricaded himself in a guard tower for a couple of days. Another C.O. took a female staff member hostage.

Yeah, so I'm stuck like a bug in molasses, in a lock-down unit, surrounded by brothers whose *only interest in life* is getting high on P.C.P.-like poison and gang-banging. It lowers their I.Q. considerably, which is why the cops haul it in by the truckload. No weed at all! Even the nurses say that marijuana would be a very welcome change to the shit these guys are smoking now.

... Continued from previous page

into the system. But I can tell you that even more prisoners are overdosing on those dopes than before. The pigs like to keep the prison flooded with dope so that one half stays high and the other half has to worry about our stuff getting stolen by the dope heads. The pigs do that to keep it so that they don't have to worry about us going after the pigs.

Things have changed over the years in prison. It used to be rats were treated worse than the baby touchers but now rats are treated the best both by the pigs and their "brother mans" because 90% of the rats in MDOC are so called thugs. What a joke.

New Topic! So I have allowed some people to read ULK and I get mixed reactions. The most common is that it's not for them. I do get some that like what they read and I have passed on the address, then there are the ones that straight up have nothing but bad

Anyway, thank you for the newspapers. Sadly, the 5 and 6-packs are a waste. I share my books and newspapers with the rare woke brothers that I meet in these "non-designated" facilities. I refuse to cell with dope fiends and gangbangers, so I'm always on "C-status" as a "non-programmer". (Obviously, the "program" in the C.D.C.R. is to smoke rat poison and be a stooge for the popos. The only gang these guys are in, is a gang of gimpy-ass rats!)

How low can these nazi flag waving pigs go? A few months ago I told a Trump fan who was whining about Ukrainian war casualties, "Until your government stops bombing babies in Palestine, you need to shut the fuck up about Russia!" The popo (Rosales, at Salinas Valley) said that I threatened him. I discovered, later, that I'm listed as an "S.T.G." (Hamas? K.G.B. agent? WTF!)

This empire is crashing. In 1977, I attended a series of seminars in Brooklyn, N.Y., in which a fellow name Park Sung Hee (?) said that all nations that are formed the way that Amerikkka was formed, ended their existences as autocratic (or totalitarian?) states. If Hee is correct — and I believe he is — then we are witnessing the last desperate gasps of a stillborn democracy, of

sorts. We need to get off the tracks and let this crazy train do what it's going to do. Our time is better spent laying the foundations for the systems that will replace this mess.

Uhuru

MIM(Prisons) responds: MIM's principal task has long been to create public opinion against imperialism and building the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power. So we agree that we must start building the new system. And we are entering a time where more and more people see the need for this. Though they have very different visions of what the new system might be. But ultimately there are only two options: 1) the current trajectory of imperialism, which as we're seeing necessitates periods of fascism, or 2) a socialist economy.

We know the conditions in U.S. prisons right now seems desperate with the rampant synthetic drug trade. But one of the independent institutions we are working to build is our Revolutionary 12 Steps Program. For those who are ready to start building the foundations of the new system but are surrounded by addiction and substance abuse, we encourage you to get a copy and help us build this program. ■

... Michigan LGBTQ Rights

things to say about ULK. I tell them they don't have to agree or believe that anyone else does because we have that free will to do and believe what we want and as a U.S. citizen even in prison we have that right to believe whatever we want. I do dislike when someone gets mad or wants to hurt someone else because they don't believe what they do. That is why there are so many wars going on right now.

MIM(Prisons) responds: Thanks for the update on how some of these issues are playing out in Michigan. Glad you're having some success with reaching others. Mixed responses are expected. But keep in mind, that even some who may verbally disagree aren't always enemies, and when the time comes will be on the right side.

We'd take some issue with your statement that so

many wars are caused by intolerance for different views. That intolerance certainly helps perpetuate and rally people around wars. But today the biggest cause of wars is imperialism. The logic of imperialism that has certain nations oppressing other nations, and all operating by the profit motive in competition with each other is at the source of war. The profit motive even drives a whole industry whose interest it is to have more wars. That is why ending imperialism is the only way to end the wars and oppression we face today. ■

Document Prison Abuses

We receive many reports about terrible conditions, abuse and neglect in prisons across the country. While most of these don't make it onto the pages of ULK, we do type these up for publication on our website (www.prisoncensorship.info).

Documenting and monitoring the abusive conditions in American prisons is an important part of our work. Keep sending in these reports! Online readers can search by state and facility to find your reports.



Solidarity between raza and Palestine has been at the forefront in Aztlán as fighting ICE and ending genocide remain the most pressing issues for many

CT C.O.s Want Torture, Prisoners Say No

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support
October 2025

Since we wrote about the hunger strikes in MacDougall Walker Correctional Institute in the last issue of *Under Lock and Key*(1), more prisoners have taken up the tactic to struggle against inhumane conditions.

Beginning on July 7th, an initial group of 9 strikers grew into a group of 15-20 throughout the month. On the first day of the strike the Captain of the prison called the strikers in to tell them the local administration couldn't influence prison policy and that instead they would need to meet with the Warden or Commissioner. Soon thereafter, restrictive housing and shakedowns were used to intimidate and retaliate against the strikers, which a group of local nonprofits and advocates protested in a letter to CT Department of Corrections Commissioner Angel Quiros.(2)

The striking prisoners cited excessive lock downs as well as low quality food, including a rat infested kitchen, and insufficient healthcare. Their demands included:

"legally-mandated five hours per day of out-of-cell time, the ability to shower after recreational time, improvements to the law library and increases in pay for their work so they can afford increasing prices of goods at the commissary."(3)

Prior to the strike, Cheshire was experiencing an unusual amount of lockdowns. Some were caused by staffing shortages, partially resulting from pigs' paid-time-off, and some from "code whites" which happen when prisoners need medical attention because of drug use. The pig union representative at Cheshire, Joseph McCarthy, argued no retaliation against prisoners was involved but instead lock downs were due to high amounts of drugs and the need to transport prisoners to medical facilities, exacerbating staffing issues. They also say that the pigs are "burnt out", suggesting that staffing issues result from pigs often simply not wanting to work.

From what Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support gathers, prisoners who go on hunger strike at Cheshire are placed on transfer lists to be brought to facilities with infirmaries, which Cheshire does not have. It's evident that this logical response from the prison authorities is hampering the ability of collective struggle against the abuse to be waged by prisoners. We're curious if the same is true of lockdowns, restricting prisoner's recreation time and ability to communicate with each other. Similar to how NY pigs love solitary confinement (see our article on this topic, "Update on NY Lockdowns...", in *ULK* 89), CT pigs love lockdowns, and fight against anything that might place a limit on their ability to employ them against prisoners:

"According to McCarley, the 2022 Protect Act, because of its out-of-cell time requirements, has made it more difficult for correction officers to conduct systematic shakedowns and locate contraband. Barbara Fair, the executive director of Stop Solitary and one

of the leading authors of the Protect Act, disagreed, saying that the Protect Act does not prevent shakedowns. And she said lockdowns continue to happen at facilities at around the same rate that they did before the law was passed."(3)

The PROTECT Act is designed to prevent solitary beyond 15 consecutive days and mandate that each prisoner receives 5 hours outside of their cell daily, and promote accountability and oversight. The act established an "independent advisory board" who would hire an Ombudsman in Connecticut to go throughout the prisons and review prisoners' conditions generally, responding to grievances, etc. This role is currently filled by Interim Ombudsman DeVaughn Ward, who was appointed by Governor Lamont in September 2024 to fill the role, at least temporarily.(4)

Stop Solitary CT says that during the debate over the PROTECT Act, "In a last-minute behind the scenes maneuver, two legislators inserted an amendment that allowed them to appoint two members to the Corrections Advisory Committee. Both with close ties to DOC".(5) These two Advisory Committee members were at the time current DOC employees, one a former "Correctional Officer" pig with a social media account toting confederate memorabilia, and another former C.O. pig who testified against the PROTECT Act while it was being debated.(6)

Ward told the *Mirror* that due to short staffing, indirectly caused by pig union benefits, he was unable to prevent Cheshire from going into lockdown:

"Ward said that when he spoke with wardens in the department, they said there's little they can do to address the problem, since the corrections officers are allowed to take time off for various reasons. Ward said this essentially gives corrections officers control over whether a facility goes into lockdown."

On the one hand it is clear that pig benefits hamper the ability of a prison to fulfill basic objectives for the imperialists. On the other hand, Ward's lukewarm language skirts around the alliance between C.O.s and the DOC in torturing prisoners and mutually benefiting financially.

Ward also warned prisoners against undertaking hunger strikes to get the Department of Correction's attention, citing poor medical facilities and the obvious risk involved to prisoners' health, as though this is something hunger strikers don't understand. Ward did not accept any responsibility for their office's inability to resolve the inhumane conditions causing the hunger strikes. The Ombudsman's office appears completely dysfunctional, with 400 complaints still piled up and still no staff.(7) The office really exists to create an illusion of "accountability" while the majority of prisoners are tortured.

We aren't exactly sure how the Cheshire strikes ended. One prisoner wrote to us in August:

"In response to what is happening on the ground at Cheshire C.I., you are correct

in that there was a hunger strike going on to protest our poor medical and mental health care as well as us not getting our five-hour out-of-cell time a day as mandated, as well as many other things. Unfortunately the pigs were able to con just about everyone out of the hunger strike without us being able to accomplish much."

The comrade sent us a document they'd written, a Request for Declaratory Ruling, that prisoners can file asking the state to ensure a facility complies with the law when it is not doing so. Exhausting the legal channels of complaints in the struggle for wins against oppression is essential and this comrade has used an important tactic in that realm. We are currently reviewing our Prisoners Legal Clinic materials and will hope to have an updated plan for that group later this fall.

Regarding our comrade's claim that the pigs had "conned" many strikers out of participation, we request everyone in Cheshire, MacDougall Walker and other locations write us with more information. In MacDougall Walker's 2024 strikes it is evident that a combination of bribery and intimidation broke the strikes down.

Following recent events in New York prisons we have seen the dramatic increase of retribution against staff from prisoners who are done putting up with inhumane conditions and outright murder by the staff.(8) In two different "New England" states, prisons are so short staffed that they are involuntarily brought into lock down on an almost daily basis, skirting legal minimum out-of-cell time. And yet, still pigs have good paying, union jobs with paid-time-off (PTO) days that put further strain on staffing requirements, and cushy paid retirements after only 20 years of "work." At the same time, DOC Commissioner Angel Quiros said "that in the 35 years he's worked at DOC, it's always had between 300 and 600 vacancies. He also told the lawmakers that the number of incarcerated people has increased in recent years." According to the *Mirror*, The Connecticut prison population rose by over 2000 in the past four years as of this June, while pig overtime pay has risen from \$54.5 to \$82.6 million since 2019.

The *CT Mirror* said that there was a strike at MacDougall Walker that began in "June" but they don't specify the year nor source their claim about strikes in 2025 so we are going to assume they were referring to the Summer and Fall 2024 strikes until we find a more definitive source. It is interesting to note however that on "Labor Day" this year, the prison pigs' union in CT said there had been seven different pig injuries requiring medical attention on Labor Day, all at MacDougall Walker C.I.(9) Most involved the incompetency of the pigs, while only one involved a prisoner directly attacking a staff, although we do not know the exact circumstances and have only the bourgeois media's word for now.

The New York pig strikes show the beginning of the decline of cushy pig jobs. In Con-

necticut we see some of the same contradictions of drugs, retaliation against staff, and chronic lockdowns, emerging within the system. It appears the intensifying struggles aren't going anywhere anytime soon, the Ombudsman's office still piled up with complaints, without staff, and having accomplished no fundamental change. Will Republican Amerika have money to pay enough pigs to successfully repress prisoners?

Hunger strikes are a crucial tactic in the movement. The greater question is what leadership will fall to this movement, and with what political line? We saw in California how historic hunger strikes can have little impact with incorrect leadership that gives into minor reforms. With the most advanced political line the movement can transcend cyclical protests against poor conditions and step further towards the full abolition of imperialist prisons. It is the torturers, the pigs, the "correctional" officers, the administrators, and everyone leading comfortable lives from the prison system, who belong locked away in order to reform them into functional members of society.

Please write us with reports from your prison about hunger strikes and all other conflicts. ■

Notes:
1. Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support, CT Ombudsman Stops Taking Complaints. *ULK* 90, July 2025.
2. Ote, Emilia. Family and Friends Rally as Hunger Strike at Cheshire continues. *CT Mirror*, July 31 2025.
3. Ote, Emilia. Several Incarcerated at Cheshire Correctional Begin Hunger Strike. July 22, 2025.
4. Hajela, Ashad. Connecticut's new prison Ombudsman wants better healthcare for incarcerated people. *CT Mirror*, Nov 19 2024.
5. Stop Solitary, CT. Legislative Advocacy.
6. Edison, Jaden. New DOC oversight panel appointments alarm advocates. *CT Mirror*, Feb 2025.
7. Hartford Courant. A year in, CT Prison Ombudsman has 400 complaints and no staff. Sep 10, 2025.
8. Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support, Update on NY Lockdowns and Wildcat Pig Strike, April 2025, *Under Lock & Key* 89.

Rising to the Occasion for Palestine

by Grim of United Struggle from Within
October 2025

"...We declare to every Zionist who has been occupying our land that we will resist until the last moment of our lives. And even if this war ends, we will be like active bombs which move in your settlements and rob you of your normal daily life. You will never be at peace in our land. We will not leave you alone as long as you occupy our land. Get out of it and get on with your lives. We request all free people in the world to burn the 'Israeli' flag and march towards 'Israeli' embassies in all countries."
-Fauda, 26 October 2023

Although it may be the case that, being inundated with jingoist Amerikan triumphalist rhetoric and Zionist hasbara (propaganda) for much of their lives, many behind the walls believe it their duty, patriotic/religious or otherwise, to stand behind the crimes and genocidal actions of the Zionist entity and its Amerikan, imperialist backers, this is simply not the case when you can really sit down and show the people how the world really is. Maybe this is why, stripped of most of the distractions, chemical or otherwise, that plague the imprisoned lumpen, that those thrown in the Corcoran SHU/RHU, a prison within a prison, stand tall against Zionist genocide, and categorically reject the "Israeli" settler state. Though it is not as high as it should be, nearly 50% of the people I asked for permission/consent to add them to the list (as we have no direct contact to pass the petition), gave me their last names and CDC(r) numbers to add, joining hundreds of U.S. prisoners (see "Oct 7: Signs..." on page 1 to read more about our work with these petitions). Some might say at this current time that seems rather high, and I don't necessarily disagree. The two things

Continued on page 9...

NATIONHOOD - What Do We Mean By Nation?

LANGUAGE - The *NATION* OF AZTLAN speaks the language of the south western United States with roots in Indigenous, Spanish, English, and migrant languages.

TERRITORY - The *NATION(S)* OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' land have been stolen by the Amerikans and concentrated into the rez.

ECONOMY - The *NATION* OF NEW AFRICA has a long history of being denied the value of its own labor through slavery, and later through theft by Amerikans, and most recently through things like imprisonment and exclusion from employment.

CULTURE - The *NATION* OF AMERIKA's psychological make up worships sex, money, drugs, and violence of the imperialist-patriarchy.

Is Lefty Gunplay Raza?

Lefty Gunplay, a popular Chican@ figure, is of mixed national descent. Ey claims that eir father was Euro-Amerikan and eir mother is part Guatemalan and Mexican. Ey had joined a Chican@ lumpen organization growing up which ey points eir father's absent presence a factor out of many. Many point to eir mixed heritage as a point of criticism with

regards to taking a role as a "Mexican rapper." What is the more important role? The history of the parents' genes or partaking in the living and breathing culture - the psychological make up - of the nation beyond the individual? MIM(Prisons) stands firmly to the latter.

Notes:
Diego Tapia, 24 June 2024, An Interview With Lefty Gunplay, Passion of the Weiss

... Continued from page 1

show up in front of the immigration court, a spike in numbers after a decrease.(9)

18 July 2025 — ICE abducts 3 more migrants in front of their headquarters.(10)

24 July 2025 — ICE abducts 2 wimmin and a disabled man in front of their headquarters.(11)

25 July 2025 — ICE abducts 6 more migrants in front of their headquarters — the most yet out of a single judge's docket. One persyn from Venezuela gives up eir asylum case and chooses to "self-detain" in fear of detainment. ICE arrests em later anyways.(12)

29 July 2025 — Two migrants arrested on 24 July 2025, have been confirmed to have been sent to Federal Detention Center in Honolulu; one of them mentally impaired.(13)

Interview With the Coalition

12:00 PM — a demonstrator relays on the megaphone: the court goes on a break starting at 12:00 to 1:00. If anyone needs to recuperate their bodies and prepare for the afternoon action, now is the time. This ULK correspondent found that this is a good time to ask these comrades some questions regarding theory and praxis. The questions focused on decentralization and anarchism in regards to line and tactics; the contradiction between bourgeois democracy and fascism; the overlap between the prison injustice system and migrant concentration camps; and the usage of social media on a tactical level.

Q. KALW reported that "Rather than being organized by a single organization... the group is a decentralized coalition of individual activists," would you say that this is an accurate description of the structure of this event?

Media Coordinator: Yes. People here come from a variety of backgrounds and some have involvement with established organizations, but there is no centralized leadership and no outside organizations are doing anything beyond amplifying our calls for people to show up on Tuesdays.

Demonstrator #2: At the current stage of the struggle, I think the masses are united by an understanding of who the target is which is ICE, the federal government, and any of the ideological forces of fascism which is represented by Donald Trump in popular culture. That identification of the enemy has allowed a wide range of organization and tactics to bloom. I think that a lot of us has taken inspiration from the Palestinian struggle where there are many different fronts both internationally and here in the United States. There are fronts of armed struggle in Palestine, there are fronts of labor movement, there are fronts of the student movement, but what united all is the identification of who the enemy is. In the Palestinian struggle for example, there is a widespread acknowledgment the targets as the comprador representatives of Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan or now Syria, or the companies that underpin and run the infrastructure of the genocide for example MAERSK. So both within the struggle to free Palestine and the anti-fascist struggle here, even though we have many fronts such as lawyers in the courts and the ones out in the streets that are fighting ICE, there are diversity of tactics that bloom from a unified politics.

Q. In the "Notes From Elder Organizers About Building Robust State-targeted Community Organizations" which is distributed here it was noted that "Autonomous anarchist organizations are more vulnera-

...Anti-ICE Demos

ble to cooptation but more resilient overall if one part becomes ineffective." In what ways do you think this lesson can be applied to this demonstration so far?

Demonstrator #3: That quote is talking about how autonomous organizing can at times leave a power vacuum which an opportunist org or individual could take over or co-opt. But the reason autonomous organizing can be more resilient is that it is harder for the state to find and repress leaders. You may find a leader and imprison them but the collective would still be able to operate and carry on the work. This demonstration offers a wonderful example of how autonomous organizing invites people to join and take ownership of the action or movement. Compared to hierarchical organizing where folks just joining assume everything is taken care of and they just have to show up. For example people have autonomously brought printed materials, food, banners and other materials. People see a need and contribute how they can without anyone needing to tell them to do so. We expand our collective power more in this way. This mobilization has showed us a model that can now be replicated to other days, expanding our impact, and also better preparing us for more state violence if/when the state changes their tactics.

Q. On 15 July 2025, 60 protesters were reported to have shown up here. This was a week after ICE pigs drove an SUV through the demonstrators which has been reported to be the most violent clash between activists and ICE in San Francisco so far. Do you think that the media coverage of the violence that week prior has influenced the large turnout the week after? What has been the role of social media in regards to the popular support and turn up of the demonstration?

Media Coordinator: I think the media coverage definitely influenced our turnout. Social media has been huge for getting the word out (follow @laxspenguins). Many established orgs like the DSA and PSL have reposted the info we've shared, so it's been very helpful for us amplifying our reach.

Q. At least two migrants were sent to the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu. ULK has received reports from Hawaiian prisoners where indigenous Hawaiians were shipped to prisons in the mainland with the reasons of overcrowded Hawaiian prisons. What do you think are the specific reasons as to why these migrants were sent to Hawaii when ICE doesn't even have a camp there?

Media Coordinator: Honestly, I have no idea. With the new federal funding, a lot will change, but up until now, ICE has not had a lot of success hiring — let's say — "professional" employees. Whenever they do something that doesn't make sense, it's useful to remember that.

Q. A trend we are seeing with ICE's recent offensive is using the tactic of expedited removal commonly used in the borders into the interior. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would dismiss asylum cases on purpose so they could use expedited removal on asylum seekers which judges and lawyers have claimed as unlawful. What has been the experience with these bourgeois democratic forces such as lawyers and hotlines in this demonstration so far?

Demonstrator #1: We know that there are well supported rapid response numbers for all the bay area counties and many orgs (and the judges!) make effort to help connect people to pro-bono legal support. We've also seen that most judges

here approve (or keep in motion) the cases at very high rates. There are many organizations that are centered in church and faith spaces that do good work, but they are definitely constricted with how much they can do because of their status, in a way that we're not.

Demonstrator #2: Basically because the legal system and the non-profits and the civil society organizations that are organized around trying to secure the supposed rights guaranteed within the bourgeois democratic framework, they are limited in how they can respond which is the critical weakness in a moment where fascism is in power. Fascism provides an answer to the age old socialist question of socialism or barbarism? That is predicated on trying to preserve the privilege and power of the capitalist class and their compradors while absolutely ignoring any kind of semblance and respect for bourgeois democracy, human rights, and the legal system. In a moment where our enemies are no longer respecting the law and recognizing that there is only power, revolutionaries and those committed to defending our communities by any means necessary must also operate outside the structures of the bourgeois legal system. At best, the bourgeois legal system can only defend and support the victories of the mass movements in the streets.

Q. On one of the flyers that promoted this event, it said this demonstration will last every Tuesday 8AM to 4PM "until victory." What does victory mean for this coalition?

Demonstrator #1: My thoughts on this is that victory here at the courthouse means that we effectively see ICE not trying to come to the courthouse. I also think that until victory to me is broadly used in struggle and I heard it from the Palestinian struggle and until victory means total liberation.

Demonstrator #2: Okay um, in Latin America, people will say hasta la victoria siempre. It's a very old saying and it became very popularized in the Cuban revolution especially through Che. On one hand it's just an acknowledgment of our lineage of the anti-colonial struggle in Latin America. On the other hand it shows our philosophy of showing freedom by any means necessary. There is natural law of oppression, that people will struggle for liberation. It's an acknowledgment of the world. Or what Marx called the history of class struggle.

Demonstrator #3: I would say that there are different levels to victory. There are small victories that lead to the ultimate. On this scale, it is to stop ICE from abducting people in the courts. They will change their tactics to keep these arrests going if things that happened in LA tell us what is going on here, victory can be defined as resisting... on a larger scale it goes beyond abolishing ICE it is ultimately a tool of capitalism, a tool of oppression. It's what is responsible for destroying these communities and ecosystem. To me what victory means is the downfall of capitalism.

Q. Is there anything you would like to say for our USW comrades and readers inside the prison injustice system?

Demonstrator #4: We are in solidarity with you. Your resistance on the inside inspires and motivates us. We knew if ya'll can take the risk to organize on the inside we can certainly be brave enough to organize here. All our struggles are connected. None of us are free till we're all free, onward, until victory comrades. They may have the guns and resources, but we are armed with love and convictions stronger than theirs. Together, organized, we can win a new world.

Victories, Failures, and the Tasks of Revolutionaries

We believe that the most significant victories and accomplishments for this coalition are as follows:

- The specific tactic used by ICE/DHS in premeditated dismissals of asylum cases and on the spot deportation of migrants has been blocked. At the time this was written, no ICE pigs have been able to commit this act since their clash with the demonstrators since 8 July 2025.

- The information network of the demonstrators such as @laxspenguins on Instagram has been effectively used to gather a big turnout. Such was the case for 15 July's spike in numbers of protesters — a week after the incident of ICE thugs driving an SUV through a crowd has been made viral.

- Popular opposition to ICE has been able to be maintained and an example of what being against ICE looks like that is not dependent on the imperialist institutions has been shown to the broad public.

After a spike in numbers after 15 July 2025, ICE seems to have (for now) abandoned the "deport them in the court room" tactic at the time this article was written. That is a whole month of an independent action stopping ICE abductions. This is a direct result of the demonstration: the tactics of overwhelming the pigs, intervening on the illegal arrest process, and providing support so the asylum cases proceed or become reapplied after dismissal has been successful. This can be seen from the fact that after the 15 July 2025 demonstration on Tuesday, ICE has resorted to arrest migrants outside of their HQ on 630 Sansome Street. The demonstration is a physical blockade that stops ICE.

Migrants are still being captured on 630 Sansome Street as we can see on the timeline from 18 July to 25 July. We see this as a result of the big weakness to autonomous organizing. While this coalition has eschewed the label of anarchism, we see this tactic being used by anarchists from all over. A leaderless resistance means that the revolutionary fervor will be in reaction to the offensives taken by the imperialists and that they will be the ones making the first moves which we will have to figure out how to combat. An organization of professional revolutionaries working under democratic centralism means the ability to steal the ball and decide how the struggle plays out and force the imperialists to fight on our terms and conditions. That is how the Vietnamese were able to drive out three major imperialist powers (Japan, France, and USA) back to back: control the tempo and take the initiative.

Another short-coming of the current coalition is a lack of a clear unified objective and goal (i.e. victory) for the coalition. The demonstrator who explained the goals for the day was able to lay out well the tactical objectives of that particular day and was well versed on the terrain regards to the potential offensives of ICE. However, when asked what victory would mean, multiple demonstrators responded with "total liberation from capitalism" which presumes a creation of a classless and oppression-less society (the ultimate goal for us Maoists as well). However, we see this goal of world communism to be reached on a protracted struggle that could take more than 100 years. Energy depletes and recharges, and we must value this battle on San Francisco's immigration court happening every Tuesdays from 8:30AM to 3:00PM (and other days of the week) as part of that protracted struggle. If we only react to the offensives of the enemy and not build our independent in-

stitutions that aims to hold ground and root itself among the masses, then the revolutionary energy will be burnt out.

We hope that the committed comrades influenced by anarchism will be able to hear these criticisms in the light of unity-criticism-unity. We give great solidarity to the brave comrades in this coalition that have put their bodies on the front lines in order to serve the people. While we are Maoists, the MIM believes that the decentralized cell structure is the correct strategy for us as of this moment. We have much to learn



from the anarchists and much to learn in regards to how to implement democratic centralism while having a nationwide network of MIM cells.

On the side of our enemies, we believe that this policy of expanding expedited removal to cities such as San Francisco is an example of the war on the border coming home to the interior. We have received reports from Hawaiian captive comrades saying that prisoners in the island are being shipped to the mainland due to problems of overcrowded facilities (see "Hawai'ins Shipped to AZ..." in ULK 85). Certainly the policy of SHIP has no basis other than social control if captured migrants are being shipped to occupied Hawaii. This contradiction lies in the shift in strategy of the imperialists from bourgeois democracy to fascism. As contradictions heighten, the revolutionary forces must seize the progressive lawyers and judges who see the clear illegal actions of the fascist Trump regime away from the hands of the democrats who have allowed fascism to take power in this country.

We challenge our readers to build Maoist cells which takes on the arena of migrant deportations; independent institutions in the ghettos, barrios, and reservations; online information networks; student/youth mobilizations; and public opinion building against fascist U.S. imperialist regime. ■

Trump Invades DC, What's Next?

by a ULK field correspondent
October 2025

On 11 August 2025, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 14333 which is titled, "Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia." With this, Trump switched control of Washington, D.C.'s police from the city government to the federal government in addition



... Continued from page 7

that were able to get us there, without which, the amount of names would have likely been decidedly lower:

1. A weekly group where prisoners, all in individual cages, met to discuss topics or watch news videos/YouTube documentaries, with a New Afrikan free staff/facilitator (not a pig).

2. And equally if not more importantly: the courageous martyred Palestinian journalist Anas al-Sharif and his comrade journalists in Gaza.

Before the zionist entity, bejewelled in its genocidal arrogance, assassinated the beloved *Al Jazeera* correspondent and his fellow journalists and crew in a targeted strike on the clearly labeled *Al Jazeera* press tent on the grounds of Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza city on 10 August 2025(1) while they were all resting inside, conserving their energy from the little food they were able to find despite "Israel's" forced starvation policies, I was able to get the group facilitator to play some of Anas' coverage of the war and life in Gaza under the genocidal policies of the occupation forces along with other coverage and videos on *Al Jazeera* English's website.

Beside the coverage from independent journalists in Gaza, only *Al Jazeera* in my opinion could be trusted, as the bourgeois media apparatus has always been against Palestine and its liberation from the zionist entity. Being able to have this access al-

to deploying various federal law enforcement agencies and the D.C. National Guard in the city. (1) Trump's purported goal was to reduce the "rampant crime" in the city but this claim is clearly a front given that D.C.'s crime rate is at a 15-year low.(2) So what are the structural forces at play? And what implications does this move have for the communist movement in the United States?

Objectivity is the Objective

In American politics, subjectivity rules. Legislators who vote certain ways, presidents who make certain decisions, and judges who hand down certain rulings are all reduced to the personal beliefs, emotions, and desires of the individual. This is exemplified by cases such as George W. Bush claiming that invading Afghanistan was a way to "pursue peace" rather than plainly stating that said invasion helped fulfill several U.S. geopolitical aims in the Middle East.(3) Subjectivity serves no purpose other than to confuse people as to what objective forces underlie politics. Given this, one of the chief goals of communists must be to go beyond the subjective factors used to justify political action and uncover the real, concrete power struggles which take place every day and shape our political landscape.

"Progressive" mainstream Amerikan media will often at-

...For Palestine

lowed those in the group with me to see the genocidal intent at the heart of zionism, far better than if I just told them about it.

I'd also like to address the prisoner quoted in the beginning of the front page article of last issue and what ey said.(2) Aside from wanting free books and clearly not wanting to work with MIM or those around them on political work (or likely anything else aside from getting romantic penpals which we obviously don't do here) ey said "the Jews did not put me here and the Muslims didn't either". Though this statement is true, and it would be ridiculous to say such a thing, there is the more apt question: Did "Israel" contribute to a persyn being locked up? Stay with me here.

It is not controversial in the least to say that the government of "Israel" and its military and security industries are 100% connected. It is also true that besides genocide committed against Palestine being its *raison d'être*, "Israel" and its military/security industries have been involved in supporting genocide and ethnic cleansing by governments all over the world, from the military juntas of central and South America, to Sri Lanka where they helped with military hardware and training of the Sinhalese majority government in their genocidal ethnic cleansing campaign against indigenous Tamils and their national liberation/resistance movement, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to the genocide of the Muslim Rohingyas by the government of Myanmar.(3) Here closer to home though, and to get back to what I was originally saying, most pig departments in the United States, when trying to gain access to a persyn's cellphone they have in custody, will use a device called a Universal Forensic Extraction Device (UFED) hacking tool, "that allows the extraction of information from mobile phones", forcefully, without a password to the phone.(4)

This device, along with the soft-

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tribute the social ills of today solely to Donald Trump and eir psychological state. *The New York Times* editorial board justified their opposition to Trump not by pointing to eir strengthening of oppressive systems and institutions, but instead by claiming that Trump is "animated by a thirst for political power" and that ey simply shouldn't be President because ey has a "moral [...] unfitness" for the position.(4) Here, we think the *NYT* should open a book and learn about historical materialism, starting with the following lesson from Marx:

"Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past."(5)

Trump is nothing more than the product of historical circumstances that have led us to this point. In other words, Trump is not the cause of the capitalist-imperialist world system falling to pieces (much to the chagrin of "progressive" Amerikans whose life's mission is the pursuit of higher wages at the expense of the international proletariat), ey is merely a symptom of this decay, personified in an individual.

Who Benefits from Militarization?

The present militarization of

life in D.C., Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago (with more cities planned) ultimately benefits the same groups that have always benefited from militarization in the United States: the settler capitalist-imperialists. From Kent State in 1970 to the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, state intervention through an increase in force has historically led to tighter control over movements with some degree of revolutionary potential. What differentiates the present moment from history is that Trump's usage of federal forces (and co-opting of state forces) is largely proactive as one piece of a coordinated attack against the oppressed nations. One thing we'd like to point out for any readers with sympathy for the average Amerikan worker is that they, as a class, still have the audacity to complain about grocery store prices or opine for a "livable wage" while members of oppressed nations are hunted down in the streets, brutalized, and even killed.(6) In Chicago there has been organizing that uses this brutality as a cover for a campaign for more funding to local school districts. This is all to say, the labor aristocracy are still on the good side of the bourgeoisie and their parasitic class instincts are still intact.

September 6th saw several thousand D.C. inhabitants march against the Trump administra-

tion's militarization of the city. One participant stated, "What's happening here is a litmus test for freedom across the country. If we let them get away with this, it'll embolden their fascism everywhere." Given the expansion of federal forces into several new cities after this march, we'd tentatively agree with this protester.

Looking Onward

As daily life on occupied Turtle Island becomes progressively more militarized, the role of prisoners in our political movement becomes ever more crucial. Those who have operated and organized behind bars for decades are among the foremost experts in our movement on the topics of surveillance, state control, and life under repressive regimes. We invite all of our readers on the inside to write in to *ULK* to share their expertise so that we can build our movement to be ready when the opportunity comes knocking. ■

Notes:
1. Cybele Mayes-Osterman, "Trump sends 800 National Guard troops to crack down on DC crime. Here's what they'll do.", *USA Today*.
2. Daniel Dale, 12 August 2025, "Fact check: Violent crime in DC has fallen in 2024 and 2025 after a 2023 spike", *CNN*.
3. George W. Bush, 7 October 2001, "Presidential Address to the Nation".
4. *New York Times* Editorial Board, 11 July 2024, "Opinion | Donald Trump is Unfit for a Second Term", *New York Times*.
5. Karl Marx, 1852, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, Chapter I.
6. Priscilla Alvarez, 14 September 2025, "Man fatally shot during ICE traffic stop after dragging and injuring an officer in Chicago suburb, DHS says", *CNN*.

La Maggie: Shot 7 Times and Still Breathing

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

Since mid-September, Department of Homeland Security has been operating troops in Chicago to ostensibly round up migrants. They have raided housing projects, detaining families and zip tying children and adults, many of whom have lived in Chicago for generations. People in Chicago have responded by monitoring, video-taping, exposing and at times attempting to obstruct these operations. Photos and videos of mercenaries slamming onlookers to the ground, shooting a priest with pepper balls, and aiming fire arms at people in cars are circulating. In one video rent-pigs are seen driving around in a vehicle with a large Mexican flag printed on the hood.

One of the most extreme actions taken by the fascists so far occurred on 4 October. Lawyer Christopher Parente told a federal judge he has the body-cam footage from this day showing a Customs and Border Protection agent yelling at Marimar "La Maggie" Martinez — "Do something, bitch" — before steering his unmarked vehicle into hers and opening fire. The pig let off 7 shots, most, if not all, of which hit La Maggie. Two days later, La Maggie left the hospital bandaged up, and apparently on the road to recovery, greeted by supporters.

Department of Homeland Security released a statement that read in part:

"Unfortunately, JB Pritzker's Chicago Police Department is leaving the shooting scene and refuses to assist us in securing the area. There is a crowd growing and we are deploying special operations to control a growing crowd."

"Comparing ICE day-in and day-out to the Nazi Gestapo, the Secret Police, and slave patrols has consequences."

Yes, speaking the truth certainly does have consequences these days. As people like La Maggie are putting themselves on the front lines to defend oppressed communities from fascist thugs, city and state officials are pressured to act as well. As fascism marches on, the splits in the ruling class will only increase, creating new opportunities and alliances. ■

Note: Pablo Manríquez, 8 October 2025, *Chicago Latina Shot by Border Patrol Survives, Lawyers Up, Migrant Insider*.

Kebuka!

by Elisha Skrib
October 2025

Capitalistic cannibals!

They feed off the death of our people,
but call us animals.
Proselytizers, shadows,
beings from a dark place;
hell bent on extinguishing the light
shone by our race.
And we can't expect apologies, for this
is what gave them.
Our blood, sweat, tears,
pain and torture's what's made them.
From coffle lines in the Motherland,
to voyages sorely dreaded.
Barely given the chance to let it sink in
before beheaded.
Beaten, Hung, Raped, Lost.
What is this strange place?
If there's a God,
won't he extend
just a Mustard Seed of Grace?
A once proud people.
What have we done to earn this fate?
Now bound, cuffed and shackled.
Faith?
Draining like so much waste.
To the point that we've forgotten who
we are.
All of the systems efforts,
the epitome of scar.
This is the message of MUFASA
though,
as seen amongst the stars;
telling his hear, the young Simba,
to remember who you are!
The throne is ours.
So wake up
and clear the clouds of forced amnesia.
Close your eyes and visualize. |
Brothers and sisters, |
Kebuka! ■

California Prisons Following the New Regime

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

In recent months, Governor Gavin Newsom has echoed rhetoric about a free and independent California. But this has been to bolster his own ambitions to being the next president of the United States, rather than any real ambition to separate from the fascist state.

California is at the forefront of the implementation of fascist tech surveillance in the form of Flock surveillance cameras. San Francisco just gave a bunch of money to Ripple to run drone surveillance of the city. And the CDCR has been rolling back concessions they made during the rise of the prison movement over a decade ago.

In light of this, the recent court victory to say it is illegal for the national guard to be deployed is one limited victory in what seems to be a shift towards increased social control against all California citizens.

CDCR Rolls Back Ashker

This summer, long-term solitary confinement that they called "modified programming" hit over 30,000 people being held in level III and IV prisons. Hunger strikes were led in a number of prisons in response, with over 500 striking in Salinas Valley State Prison for 2 weeks. In a letter to the CDCR, prisoners wrote:

"We write to remind you of the commitments made in response to the historic hunger strikes... These agreements were not granted out of goodwill but won through struggle against abuses that were later exposed as not just

unethical, but unlawful."

Following these events we saw an uptick in censorship by CDCR including many books returned citing reasons about not being an "approved vendor" or "established publisher." The last time we saw CDCR use this reason regularly to censor us was in the period of the historic hunger strikes of 2011 and 2013. Prior to 2011 there was a 5 year blanket ban in CDCR on mail coming from MIM.(1) Without continued resistance, we might be headed towards another dark period in California prisons.

A third recent sign of roll-backs from the Ashker settlement has come in CDCR denying parole to New Afrikans who participated in the 2011/2013 hunger strikes and the Agreement to End Hostilities

The small reforms granted in the Ashker settlement were an insult to those struggling to end torture in prisons in the form of long-term solitary confinement.(2) As we've learned time and time again, from Attica to now, such small reforms can be rolled back whenever the imperialist state wants, especially once the organization that brought those reforms cools off a little. We need to develop leadership that can see through to the end the struggle for a prison system without torture, that promotes education and re-integration. ■

Notes:

1: MIM(Prisons), "California bans MIM Distributors," October 2007, Under Lock & Key Issue #1.
2: Wawimawo, "Torture Continues: CDCR Settlement Screws Prisoners," September 2015, Under Lock & Key Issue #46

Kirk Gets Murked, Who Cares?

by Malacia of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support
October 2025

On 10 September 2025, 31-year old right-wing propagandist Charlie Kirk was shot and killed while hosting one of his famous college campus debates in Orem, Utah. Just before the bullet entered his neck, Kirk had tried to pin the blame for U.S. mass shootings on "gang violence." His last words were spent using dog whistles against the internal semi-colonies/oppressed nations. It was truly a death lighter than a feather. The irony here is palpable. Kirk, who founded the conservative outreach group Turning Point USA in 2012, was a notorious, unapologetic bigot whose rise to conservative stardom was fueled by wealthy donors who paid Kirk to use high school debate tactics to show up college students for his YouTube videos. What a legacy to leave behind.

Across the United States, there has been widespread condemnation of Kirk's assassination among both Democrats and Republicans, though the underlying messaging differs. Republicans, led by Donald Trump, have pushed the fear-mongering narrative that Kirk's killing is an example of the "radical left" becoming more prone to political violence. Fascists like Donald Trump, JD Vance, Kash Patel and Steven Miller used Kirk's memorial to stoke the flames of civil war.

Over 90,000 people traveled to attend the memorial. The Democrats, always eager to please and to "reach across the aisle," have done nothing but disavow violence since the attack in an attempt to placate the Republicans.

The only real push-back Democrats ever managed to put together was when late night television host Jimmy Kimmel had his show "indefinitely suspended" for all of five days. To the "leftists" of this country, this suspension really drove home the fascism of Donald Trump. After all, it's not fascist when the government lies to prevent prisoners from communicating with anyone, bombs and kills foreign nationals with no justification, or snatches random people off the street to deport them. No, *real* fascism is when a rich white man doesn't get to host his television show for less than a week.

The tensions between the two sides grew after the alleged shooter, one Tyler Robinson, turned himself in. Immediately, each side tried to paint Robinson as either a radicalized leftist motivated to kill Kirk due to his relationship with a transgender individual or an extremist conservative who thought Kirk wasn't extreme enough. The truth is, not enough information has been released for us to confidently say one way or the other. But we challenge this

Death Heavier Than Mount Tai: Rest In Power Assata Shakur

by Laser of MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

On 26 September 2025, the Cuban government has announced that Assata Shakur has passed away. The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the following:

"Press Release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 25, 2025, U.S. citizen Joanne Deborah Byron, 'Assata Shakur', died in Havana, Cuba, as a result of health ailments and her advanced age." (1)

Assata Shakur (16 July 1947 — 25 September 2025) was a revolutionary who was part of the Harlem chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the Black Liberation Army (BLA). During her time as a Black Panther Party cadre and leader, Shakur organized protests, free breakfast programs, political education, and community outreach. She eventually left the party. Ey criticizes some aspects of the BPP in his autobiography.

Here Ey talks about how the BPP, despite his sharp theoretical prowess, was unable to raise the consciousness of the cadre on a broad organizational level:

"I am convinced that a systematic program for political education, ranging from the simplest to the highest level, is imperative for any successful organization or movement for Black liberation in this country. The Party had some of the most politically conscious sisters and brothers as members, but in some ways it failed to spread that consciousness to the cadre in general. I also thought it was a real shame the BPP didn't teach Panthers organizing and mobilizing techniques. Some members were natural geniuses at organizing people, but they were usually the busiest comrades with the most responsibility. Part of the problem was that the Party had grown so fast that there wasn't a lot of time to

come up with step by-step approaches to things. The other part of the problem was that almost from its inception, the BPP was under attack from the U.S. government." (Page 222, Assata: An Autobiography)

Here, Ey talks about the BPP failing at applying Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought onto the concrete realities of New Afrika:

"We reviewed articles in the BPP paper, read passages from Mao's Red Book, and discussed certain speeches and articles by various Party members. Most of the time whoever was giving the class discussed whatever we were studying and explained it, but without giving the underlying issues or

putting it into any historical context. The basic problem was not whether the teacher was good or bad. The basic problem stemmed from the fact that the BPP had no systematic approach to political education. They were reading the Red Book but didn't know who Harriet Tubman, Marcus Garvey, and Nat Turner were. They talked about intercommunalism but still really believed that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves. A whole lot of them barely understood any kind of history, Black, African or otherwise. Huey Newton had written that politics was war without bloodshed and that war was politics with bloodshed. To a lot of Panthers, however,

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"To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather." - Mao Zedong, *Serve the People*, 1944

...Working Towards

unity is because it's the one and only thing this country fears so much that the FBI created the Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), so why if we all know and were taught that divided we are conquered, do we not come together as one?

This is why right now I get locked down or moved around a lot. They never allow me to stay in one institution too long. Just a month ago in SCI Houtzdale we had a study class in the yard, about 15 men, and now I'm in solitary confinement waiting to be moved. Superintendent D.J. Close who is a malicious drunk and racist told me at my cell door "I have been doing this for 35 years. That was a gang meeting and I will never allow anyone to unite the inmates in my institution, so for that we are getting rid of you! Why don't you just retire." Again this is an example of their fear of our unity. It's the only thing that ever shook them to the core. Our organized

unity, why do you think they have come up with laws against our unity? Convicted felons can't hang together, Black unity amounts to being a gang and any form of protest in the name of revolution or Black unity will be met with force in this country. Pay attention to our history and not His story.

Their attempt at the suppression of our minds with mental health drugs and recreational drugs shows us they don't want us to think or use our minds, which is a danger to them since knowledge is power, unity is Our strength and wisdom is integrity. All of which we don't always have for ourselves and each other, which is ignorance which is what they want of us. Hence the word nigger.

We have the power to revolutionize the world and bring this country to its knees. The United Struggle from Within (USW) is the key. By unionizing and bringing a united shut down of this capitalist system from within, we will bankrupt this country without

Continued on next page...

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brother said "Writing a grievance is telling." (1) I could not believe my ears. My heart sank and I was so disgusted that I wanted to give up on everything and everyone. But I can't! Because the elders that taught me taught me well. I learned in the best college in the world in the New York State Prison system, where I stayed 20 years with Herman Bell, and Brother Jalil who taught us our rights and how to stand together as men and just how strong our

La diplomacia cañonera del imperialismo estadounidense en Latinoamérica

traducido por AIPS
October 2025
escrito por MIM(Prisons)

El fascismo de Trump mata a 11 personas en ataque aéreo a un barco cerca del sur del Caribe

En el 2 de Septiembre de 2025, La Armada de los Estados Unidos llevaron a cabo un ataque de precisión en aguas internacionales a un barco que atravesaba desde Venezuela a Trinidad y Tobago, matando a 11 personas.(1) En el mismo día y sin evidencia, Trump publicó en su red social Truth Social que el barco era parte de una operación ilegal de miembros de la organización Tren de Aragua.

"A primera hora de esta mañana, bajo de mis órdenes, las

la historia que los EE.UU. y la República Dominicana ha lanzado una operación unida contra el narcoterrorismo en el Caribe."(6)

Ruido de sables contra Venezuela

Desde el día del ataque, los imperialistas estadounidenses han continuado a subir su presencia militar en el Caribe mientras la Vigésima Segunda Unidad Expedicionaria de Infantería de Marina realiza ejercicios ruido de sables en el sur de Boricua. (7) Este entrenamiento ha sido parte de la nueva misión en el Caribe del Comando Sur (SOUTHCOM) que es "dirigido a responder a amenazas de la seguridad nacional de los EE.UU. viniendo de organizaciones que han sido consideradas como narcoterroristas en la región."(8) Hasta el 15 de Agosto del 2025, el fascis-

constitucionalmente a la república en armas" si los cerdos estadounidenses desplegados en la región atacaran el país denunciando su presencia como "la más grande amenaza que se haya visto en nuestro continente en los últimos cien años."(12)

Cambios potencial en la economía política de la industria de drogas en Latinoamérica

Lejos de la frontera venezolana, el cambio de drogas en México ha visto batallas significativas cuando uno de los operadores clave del Cártel de Sinaloa (también conocido como CDS) se declaró culpable con cargos federales de actividades ilegales. En el 24 de Julio del 2024, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, uno de los miembros principales del CDS, fue arrestado con Joaquín Guzmán López - el hijo de Joaquín

choque amenazando a destruir la ciudad. Con una combinación de una campaña contra las masas de migrantes, luchando y capturando la infraestructura de CDS, y el ataque aéreo reciente en un presunto barco del contrabando, la economía de drogas de Latinoamericano requiere un cambio en su estrategia.

Clases luchan

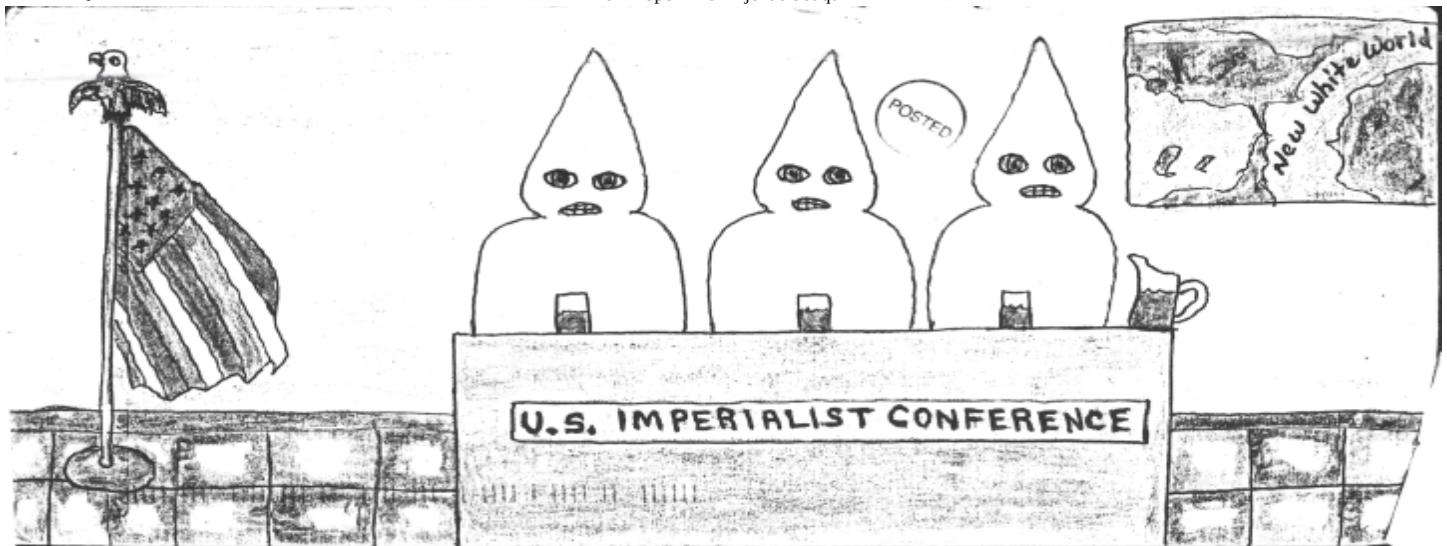
La burguesía nacional condena el imperialismo estadounidense:

La presidenta de México Claudia Sheinbaum dijo el 8 de agosto 2025 que no habrá "invasión de EE.UU. a México." "Fui muy informados que venía esta orden ejecutiva y que no tenía que ver con la participación de ningún militar o ninguna instituc-

se debería eliminarlos a todos violentamente."

Fascismo es imperialismo

Un punto importante que frecuentemente se subestima por todos es la cuestión de fascismo en su estado natural imperialista. Mucho discurso alrededor del fascismo esta en su relación siendo una forma de gobernanza: hay fascismo, comunismo, socialismo, y democracia, según a la ideología burguesa. La ideología burguesa, con buena razón, se enfoca en el estado natural "autoritaria" de estados fascistas. Cuando estudiamos seriamente los tres grandes desarrollos fascistas en la historia (Alemania bajo los Nazis, Italia fascista, y Japón imperialista), podemos ver que imperialismo siempre estaba allí. La conquista de Asia de parte de Japón, la invasión de Italia



fuerzas militares estadounidenses llevaron a cabo un ataque cinético contra narcoterroristas del Tren de Aragua identificados positivamente", escribió Trump. "El ataque ocurrió mientras los terroristas se encontraban en aguas internacionales transportando narcóticos ilegales, en el camino a los Estados Unidos. El ataque resultó en la muerte de 11 terroristas."(2)

El siguiente día, el secretario de Estado, Marco Rubio, dijo desde la Ciudad de México que ataques similares tomaran a cabo de nuevo:

"Tal vez esta pasando ahora, no se, pero el punto es que el presidente de los EE.UU. va a lanzar una guerra contra las organizaciones narcoterroristas."(3)

Desde el primer ataque que tomo a cabo el 2 de Septiembre, los EE.UU. ha lanzado dos ataques aéreos contra barcos venezolanos, uno en el 15 de Septiembre y el otro en el 19 de Septiembre.(4,5) Esos ataques asesinaron a tres tripulantes, subiendo el total de víctimas a 17 muertos.

Es importante notar que el gobierno de la República Dominicana asistió a los imperialistas estadounidenses en el ataque mas reciente en el 19 de Septiembre y dijo que "esta es la primera vez en

mo de Trump ha mandado estas fuerzas militares cerca de Venezuela:

-Grupo de Preparación anfibia (ARG)

-La Vigésima Segunda Unidad Expedicionaria de Infantería de Marina -Un submarino de ataque de propulsión nuclear

-Un avión de reconocimiento PB Poseidón

-Varios destructores

-Un crucero de misiles guiados

El gobierno Venezolano han movilizado 328,000 de la población civil además de sus 150,000 miembros militares.(9) Creado en 2005 por Hugo Chávez, la Milicia Bolivariana de Venezuela es una organización formada de trabajadores y campesinos armados que ha sido establecido formalmente en 2010 como siendo parte de la fuerza militar del país.

"Esta semana voy a activar un plan especial para garantizar la cobertura con más de 4.5 millones milicianos en todo el territorio nacional - milicias preparadas, activadas y armadas," dijo Maduro.(11)

En el primero de septiembre, el día antes del ataque al supuesto encargamiento del TDA, el presidente de Venezuela Nicolás Maduro dijo que "declararía

"El Chapo" Guzmán y uno de los líderes de la facción "Los Chapitos" del CDS. Zambada, quien fue atrapado por López, entro un avión creyendo que iba a otro destino, y fue inmediatamente capturado por las autoridades de los Estados Unidos. En el 25 de Agosto del 2025, Zambada se declaró culpable de siendo un líder principal del CDS. Con eso, admisiones importantes de el incluyeron:

-Tráfico de drogas a lo mínimo 1.5 millones kilogramos de cocaína entre el 1980 al 2024 - la mayoría entrando a los EE.UU.

-Involucrándose con drogas en el 1969 cuando había plantado marihuana por la "primera vez"

-Reconociendo que el CDS era una "operación grande" bajo su liderazgo. (16)

Es demasiado temprano para distinguir el significado de la encarcelación de Zambada y López, pero marca un cambio en el poder del modelo viejo de los carteles. Cuando Ovidio Guzmán, otro hijo de El Chapo, fue capturado en Culiacán, el Cártel de Sinaloa movilizó cientos de soldados armados con lanzacohetes y rifles automáticos y amenazaron a destruir la ciudad. El resultado fue la liberación de Ovidio. Ahora, dos de los cuatro "Chapitos" juntos con un fundador original del Cártel de Sinaloa han sido capturados sin señas de sus tropas del

ción en nuestro territorio."(18)

Ali Bahreini, el embajador representando a Tehran en las Naciones Unidas (UN) en Ginebra, declaró que el ataque marco "una gran amenaza a la paz y seguridad internacional." Agrego que las acciones de los EE.UU. violaron las leyes internacionales. Además, declaró que el estacionamiento de un submarino nuclear estadounidense cerca a Venezuela era un "gran golpe al desarme y non-prolifерación."(19)

Imperialistas Rusos condenan sus rivales

Maria Zakharova del Ministro Ruso de Asuntos Exteriores denunció el ataque en el Foro Económico del Este en Vladivostok, Rusia en el 4 de septiembre. Ella acusó los EE.UU. de poniendo "presión flagrante" en Venezuela, y agrego que "Lo que el Oeste ha estado haciendo a los estados quienes desean perseguir sus propias políticas es absolutamente inadmisible."(20)

Una compradore caribeña lameculos

La primera ministra de Trinidad y Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, aprobó y elogió el ataque yanqui, diciendo que "La masacre de nuestro pueblo está alimentada por los malos traficantes de los carteles. No siento ninguna compasión por los traficantes; el Ejército estadounidense

en Etiopía, y la invasión de la horda nazi Alemán de países vecinos en Europa, son ejemplos perfectos del estado natural imperialista del fascismo. Mientras tanto, el imperialismo yanqui ha traído a poder fascistas en países explotados por imperialismo donde tienen poco apoyo popular. Hoy el vicepresidente J.D. Vance se burlo de los muertos y los pescadores en el mar Caribe con la amenaza de ataques de bombas. Los EE.UU. tiene una historia larga de diplomacia de cañoneras como una táctica, y el hecho de esta estrategia "vieja" esta de vuelta y siendo usada contra sus enemigos modernos muestra el "terrorismo abierto" del régimen de Trump. ■

(citations available on web or by request)

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...Working Towards

any violence unless it's to protect one's self and each other. All we have to do is not come out and work for the slave wages they give us, causing a halt to their slave labor, income, and before doing so place a national spotlight on it. This is the only way to bring about any real change. ■

Notes:

1: For more on this topic see Triumphant, September 2024, Continued Discussion on the Stop Snitching Campaign, ULK 87.

Dialectical Materialism, Buddhism, Heraclitus and Afrikan Philosophy

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

MIM(Prisons) has had countless debates about the relevance of Karl Marx to oppressed people today in the United States. We have a section in our new "What's Your Line? in the 2020s" page under "Anti-Maoists" for "Narrow Nationalist Socialism." These socialists are better allies than the various cultural nationalists who sometimes work with us. These socialists recognize the need for national liberation, a crucial point of agreement, which cultural nationalists deny or dance around.

Where we disagree are around the importance of key contributions of people like Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and Mao Zedong. Marx is a particular target for dismissal in the realm of identity politics due to his origins in Western Europe. MIM(Prisons) has responded in the past to argue that Marx analyzed something that was new, that people in the colonies had not even witnessed, and therefore could not have explained before Marx due to mere historical chronology. Of course we also argue that Marx's explanation of capitalism is the most useful, not that it was merely the first (it was not).

But what about the philosophical component of Marxism — dialectical materialism? Did Marx originate this philosophy? Couldn't it have been thought of before Marx's time? In fact, wasn't it present in ancient Afrikan, Greek and Buddhist philosophies? If we can all agree that we are dialectical materialists, then we will agree that ideas are secondary to material reality. And there is actually a history of philosophy, as our ideas are not just abstract thoughts that could happen in any place or time, but a direct product of our material conditions, including the economic system in which we live.

We have received an argument as to why dialectical materialism (DM) did, in fact, exist prior to Marx and Engels. The argument runs like this:

Buddhism, as a philosophy, is phenomenological, meaning its philosophy is only concerned with reality as it is "experienced" by humans. And on the basis of direct experience, be it material, mental, etc., it recognizes that reality will forever be made up of parts. And in order to understand the constant changing nature of human direct experience/reality, "Analysis is the dissection of an apparently unitary, homogeneous whole into its component parts." (286, The Tree of Enlightenment). This sort of Buddhist analysis, is even applied to consciousness. "In Buddhism, this division does not mean that we have an essential, irreducible duality of mind and matter. Buddhism is not concerned with mind and matter as ultimate metaphysical facts but with mind and matter as they are experienced. Mind and matter are forms of experience, not essences. This is why Buddhism is a phenomenological, not an ontological, philosophy." (p. 292) Is not this sort of phenomenological philosophical view materialist? I'd argue in the affirmative.

It must be remembered, Marxism, as a materialism, does not argue for the annihilation of or the non-existence of the metaphysical, or idealist philosophy, but rather the question is one of priority, of primacy - "it is the age-old question of mind vs. matter. DM discerns the priority of

matter." (See p.38 of Collected Works of the Black Liberation Army). Buddhism does not prioritize mind over matter, or matter over mind, for that matter. Instead, it says "it is important to remember that matter is not something separate from consciousness. In fact, mind and matter can be simply called the subjective and objective forms of experience." To the Buddhist mind, consciousness arises on the basis of matter, and matter is experience on the basis of consciousness. Neither is prioritized over the other. Buddhists are only concerned with the manner in which one or the other is experienced by humans within a social context, within a context of a concrete reality, and this makes this view not only phenomenological, but also, materialist.

Similarly, thousands of years before the Buddha, Black Afrikans in Kemet also would not have had the debate about matter vs. mind as being separate entities in exclusivity. "This opposition between 'matter' and 'spirit' does not exist in Ancient Egypt where nature forms a whole, matter and consciousness intermingled..." Spirit and Matter are both modes of being part of Reality. The "object" (the objective) is not separable, in Egyptian thought, from the "subject" ("the subjective"). (Theophile Obenga, p. 302, Egypt Revisited). And Obenga goes on to say "Life is matter, the knowledge of which is affirmed by the human spirit." The break in Buddhist thought from the much older Kemetic thought, however, is that Kemetic philosophy prioritizes matter.

Let us begin with Buddhism and Afrikan Philosophy. For dialectical materialism, mind and matter are "essences." They are not to be considered "as they are experienced," but as they are in themselves. Phenomenology (considering things as they are experienced) is subjective idealism, the eternal enemy of materialism. For materialism, everything experienced is secondary to the objective, external reality which is independent of our experience. In contrast, Buddhism does not regard matter as primary, and it is for this reason that it is not a materialist philosophy. Thousands of years before Buddha, Kemetic philosophy spoke of the proposition that all issues from abyssal water. This is very far from the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who stated that the world does not issue from anything, as it always was and always will be. The proposition of "matter before movement" is in direct contradiction to Engels, for whom "matter without motion is unthinkable." It is evident that these ideas from ancient Egypt and South Asia are not dialectical-materialist propositions in the slightest, but merely that, at best, they have aspects in common.

Dialectical materialism did not and could not emerge until Marx. It is the result, concretely, of the social practice of the proletariat, and, abstractly, of the philosophy of Hegel. As neither of these conditions existed prior to Marx's philosophical development, dialectical materialism could not have existed prior to Marx.

At the same time, it is evident that certain rudiments

of dialectical materialism existed, as the latter did not magically appear but is precisely the outcome of the development of the whole history of philosophy. These rudiments are best expressed in Heraclitus, but only the rudiments, as we will show below.

The proposition that dialectical materialism existed prior to Marx and Engels, and further that the latter two simply built

upon and applied it, is generally the result of a belief that the ideas and philosophies of the oppressed nations have been neglected due to white supremacy. The desire, is to uphold and recognize the theoretical capabilities of the oppressed nations against the white supremacist neglect they have suffered. It is of course true that oppressed nations suffer this fate, and that such a view of African etc. philosophy is a manifestation of racism, which is itself a product of national oppression. It is also of course the case that this ideological propaganda must be refuted.

However, ideology is not nearly as simple as this; in fact it is extraordinarily subtle. Not only does oppressor-nation ideology manifest itself in this way, but it also manifests as its very opposite. It is now a dominant trend, not only in revolutionary but especially in liberal circles, to uphold a species of cultural relativism, and to praise the traditions, accomplishments, and social customs of all societies, and especially of the oppressed nations. Let us take, as an example, the sheer scale by which Black culture has overtaken Amerika. On the one hand, conservatives are marked by the standard opposition to this culture on grounds which are not much more than bare-faced racism. The liberals, on the other hand, support this culture and regard its expansion as a step forward towards the unification of a properly democratic, egalitarian country. But is it not evident that the revolutionary must regard both of these positions as opposed to the true liberation of New Afrika?

This culture which has become so dominant in the United States, though undoubtedly the product and accomplishment of the Black nation, is nevertheless composed of a great mass of bourgeois, anti-feminist, and indeed imperialist elements (a topic we touched on in "Hip Hop Living..." in ULK 10). Thus it occurs that the American nation upholds this culture of New Afrika, precisely because it supports the continued oppression of the Black nation under the illusion of internationalism. Through upholding the reactionary (or only partly revolutionary) products of the oppressed nations, our enemies hold us down under the illusion of helping us to stand up.

The true embrace of the Black nation, the expression of genuine internationalism, is the belief that New Afrika can pull itself out of its own cultural product and unite with the whole third world against imperialism.

Anti-imperialism, socialism, and feminism are projects for humanity as a whole. To break from the narrow scope of one's own life and to look out at universal humyn aims is the capacity of every people on Earth, and it is simply the case that these universal aims were embodied in the persyn of Karl Marx.

The theory of Marxism is not

the work of a white European man, it is the work of all humynity which has merely culminated in em. To uphold African, or Indian, or Chinese philosophy in its own right is itself bourgeois ideology. True internationalism realizes that such nations have the capacity to rise to the level of dialectical materialism, to become world-historical in our common work, the task of building communism. To deny this to any people, by either denying their potential to do so or by upholding their current standpoint, is itself nothing more than bourgeois ideology which serves to maintain imperialism. The theory of Marx is the weapon by which all the oppressed people of the world will be liberated. This is not the theory of a certain persyn, but the outcome of the sum-total of humynity's labor. It will therefore be seen that there is not an ounce of the "white savior" in Marx, for ey always stressed that the masses must free themselves.

Marx's theory is a tool, a guide to action, by which we can rise from our individual standpoints to the great task before us. If you wish to show that dialectical materialism existed truly in an ancient Afrikan philosophy, you must show:

1. That they regarded practice as the criterion of truth
2. That they regarded the transformation of quality into quantity and vice-versa, the negation of the negation, and the unity of opposites as universal
3. That they regarded all mental phenomena as secondary to material phenomena, and
4. That they considered there to be an objective, external world which is entirely knowable.

These aspects form the core of the philosophy of dialectical materialism. In Heraclitus we find two of these, namely the existence of an objective external world and the unity of opposites, but we do not find the proposition that mind is secondary to matter, nor the other two laws of dialectics. Thus it is that Heraclitus is an ancient approach to dialectical materialism, but only a rudimentary approach. ■

Are Tablets Working in Federal Prisons?

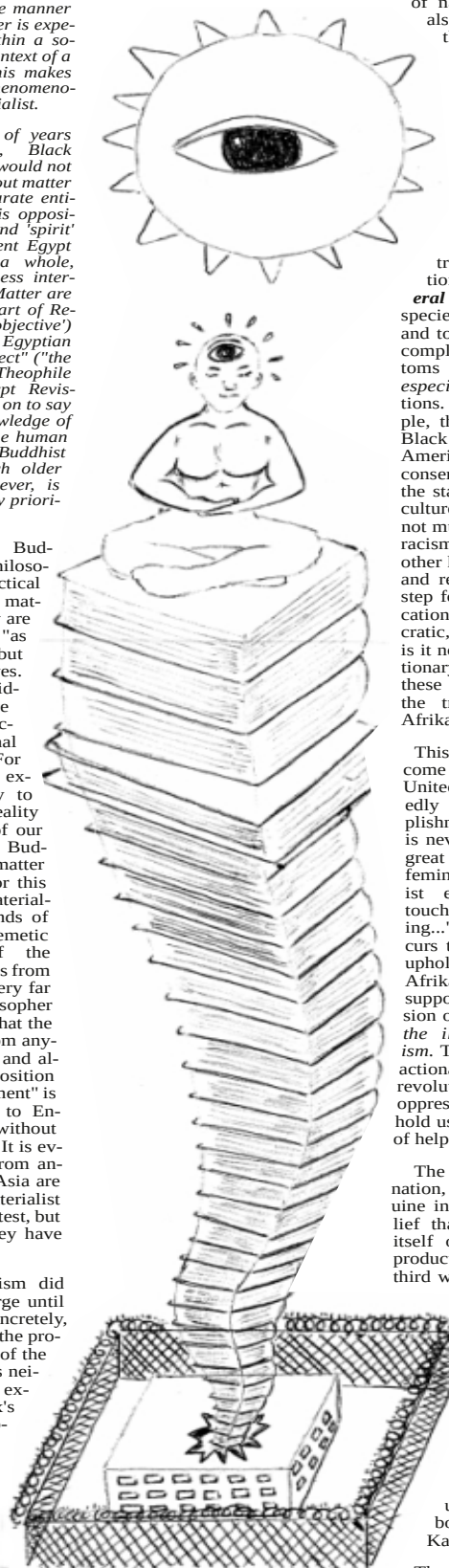
by a Federal prisoner
August 2025

In the last few years, the technology of society has begun to penetrate the realm of the incarcerated. Multi-million dollar businesses involved in this include: Securix, GTL/Viapath, ICSolutions and Keefe. These major players in the tablet-in-prison industry focus offer this technology for a fee.

The Keefe Group, for example, offers the Score7c tablet to many federal facilities, such as USP Tucson, in Arizona. But, has the introduction of the tablet to many federal facilities, such as USP Tucson, been beneficial to the prisoner, or just a cause to make money from families of the incarcerated?

To begin, the Score7c stands

Continued on next page...



Using ULK as an Educational Tool

by Ya'iyur
June 2025

Greetings from inside the belly of the beast, a prison in eastern PA (SCI Chester). First off I want to thank you for the work your organization does providing educational material and assistance to people locked behind bars.

Your publication *Under Lock & Key (ULK)* has been an a big help over the past six months since I was transferred to this facility. Countless political discussions have been sparked after I shared *ULK* with people I've recently met. Unfortunately, I haven't had success cadre-building, but that's more to do with the fish than the bait. This facility is only recently receiving "long-term offenders" and "lifers" regularly. Previously 90% of the population were short term and drug offense prisoners. Most live with addiction and aren't really fighting it. The K2 and subs are their escape from the reality of their conditions. I say all that to say, there isn't much appetite for political consciousness around here.

However, the demographics of the population are shifting, and I have a few associates who are down to build on politics, though they aren't yet prepared to reject capitalism. I don't get tired of trying to convince them. And recent world events assist in proving a lot of my points.

One very helpful article in *ULK* is the "Timeline History of the Black Panther Party..." from issue 89. It might not seem like a lot, but I was able to engage some of the younger guys in lively debates about the revolutionary potential of this generation of activists. The fact that I could divert them from video games for a few minutes gave me encouragement and motivation. It's tough

finding folks who are willing to study and write. Attention spans are short so you have to pick your topics and keep the discussion interesting and relevant. Your article on Luigi ("Luigi Mangione..." in *ULK* 88) was also popular in that way.

One of the ways I do political education is with a kind of collective journaling project. I use a composition notebook that we pass around a small group, responding to different articles, essays, etc. One person reads the article and takes the notebook for a day or two and writes a one or two page reflection. Then he passes it to the next guy who does the same. As it travels around you can read all prior reflections and then comment, question, disagree, etc. Once the whole group has contributed we get a new article and start again, so the discussion continues and fills the notebook as topics change. I've only got six guys in the current group and we've only been working on this book for about a month, but that's how it starts. If you think this political education technique would benefit anyone you know, feel free to share it. If you have questions about it, hit me back.

MIM(Prisons) responds: We're sure others will find this idea useful. In fact, it's a lot like how we organize our own study of articles online, with people writing their thoughts and responding to each other.

For those who missed the BPP timeline, it is also available in the latest edition of our Maoist Reference Guide. This guide also includes our full glossary of terms. It is available free to anyone who organizes a local study group or participates in our intro study course through the mail. If you haven't yet, get started on your study program today! ■

... Book Bans

focused on fighting censorship in prisons since our very beginning. For the 2025 Prison Banned Books Week (Oct 19-25) we will be co-hosting a local event with others active in supporting prisoners and fighting arbitrary censorship rules to better connect our efforts and bring in new people to the prisoner support work we are doing.

When MIM(Prisons) took over MIM Distributors's Free Political Books to Prisoners Program we stepped up efforts around actively fighting censorship. The free books program, censorship battles and Prisoners' Legal Clinic are all Serve the People programs run within the context of a broader political program. People inside write us every day about the various injustices and abuses that run rampant in U.S. prisons. But history shows that fighting these problems piecemeal can be like walking on a treadmill. That is why we focus on programs that we see helping the oppressed themselves to get educated and organized. It is only by developing consciousness and understanding broadly that we can ever hope to organize to fight the oppression faced under imperialism. ■

... Continued from page 3

their approved newspaper. A comrade reports:

"We are not allowed our local newspaper *San Diego Union Tribune (U.T.)*. We used to get it 7 days a week then it stopped about a year later we were forced to read the *USA Today* one of the worst, worthless, empty newspapers I've ever come in contact with. I have tried to have the *U.T.* ordered with a personal subscription. That was a waste of money. I then tried to subscribe to the *Los Angeles Times*. Again a waste of money. They say it's a security issue but the real reason was the "watch dog" reporters at *U.T.* would run stories on the jail conditions. The sheriffs didn't like the honesty and canceled our subscription and replaced it with a placebo newspaper. I can't get any help in fixing this issue."

Maury County Jail in Tennessee started blocking our mail back in 2016 stating they no longer allow magazines or newspapers. We've never heard from prisoners at that jail since then. According to their website this appears to still be the case. Since then all mail has gone digital and "Inmates will be allowed to receive books in the mail ONLY from national booksellers [e.g. Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Books-a-Million, etc.]"

Prison Banned Books Week 2025

MIM Distributors has been

... Continued from previous page

for "Secure Commitment to Offender Re-entry and Enablement". The "7" is, of course, the diagonal width of the screen (Keefe also boasts a Score5c), and the "c" stands for camera, which is (obviously) disabled.

The idea of purchasing a tablet had been around for years; we heard rumors of it being beta-tested at a women's facility. But when we asked staff about it, they dismissed the idea of selling one because of some policy that forbids the sale of any electronic device over \$99.00. Very likely, the tablet would have to sell for over \$100.00, and thus, likely to never be sold in federal prisons.

By October of 2022 it became clear that we would soon be able to purchase a tablet. Many prisoners were tremendously excited about it, and wanted to know what would be available. Prison staff at USP Tucson gave no information, so many turned to the outside to find information.

We obtained a 4-page copy from the Keefe site and looked at what the site promised to deliver. We found that, according to the Keefe site, the "...system...was first deployed in 2004 and has been exhaustively battle-tested for 15 years at hundreds of state and federal facilities..."

The Keefe site says as well, "We've deployed 14,000 kiosks and over 300,000 secure devices, more than 326,000 offenders use our devices... we handle over a million messages and several thousand video visits daily" and "we've delivered 100 million songs..."

However, no information about this device could be found elsewhere. So in October of 2022, I began to write a running essay about the Score7c tablet, to question if what we have yet to buy was rehabilitative, or a ripoff? There were early concerns about this device.

It wasn't until mid-December of 2022 when finally, the first dorm at USP Tucson was allowed to purchase the Score7c, at a price of just under \$119.00. The entire facility was excited about the possibilities, and those who first purchased them became rock stars. As new owners returned to our dorm with the tablet raised triumphantly in the air, there was a feeling of euphoria on the compound, even though my dorm had to wait until February 6th to buy the Score7c for \$123.

The Score7c's specs include the Android 10 operating system (although the Keefe site says Android 8.1), a quad-core Mediatek 8167 CPU, a Mali-400 MP2 GPU, 1GB of Ram and a storage of 32GB. The touch screen has a resolution of 1024 x 600, with one micro USB and one 3.5mm headphone jack. The Score7c does allow for FM radio, but to use it, you would have to permanently disable your MP3 (if you had one).

As far as content, the Score7c came with 5 free games, like Sudoku and a Puzzle Suite, and it also came with a scientific calculator. We were able to buy movies for rent (not own), and had 48 hours to watch them a maximum of 1.5 times. There was about 100 movies to choose from, updated monthly. We could also purchase music, but many who had an MP3 player opted to keep their music there (like myself) since it was more

...Tablets in Federal Prisons

convenient to carry than a 7-inch tablet.

For most, the tablet was about games. Many prisoners enjoy RPGs (role-playing games) or RTS (real-time-strategy) games such as the Final Fantasy titles or the Civilization/Age of Empires types of games. We all hoped that this would be the beginning of an exciting revolution with the tablet. Games available to purchase included "Andor's Trail", "Shattered Pixel Dungeon" and "Mindustry", the three most popular games.

But over time, the expectation for games had diminished, as fewer (and poorer) games were added to purchase. This then accentuated the obvious problem: the complete lack of educational content.

From the Keefe site, they claim,

"Using SCORE Secure Devices, offenders have a wealth of options for occupying their time and enhancing their quality of life. They can take advantage of many free and fee-based features:

- Life Skills Videos: More than two dozen tutorials for personal

Empty Your Pockets



growth and successfully transitioning to life outside the corrections institution.

- Project Gutenberg e-books: More than 51,000 public domain books in a digital format

- Khan Academy Lite: More than 7,000 instructional videos in 2,000 categories, and support material, which cover a broad range of common-core subjects and provide a foundation for high school equivalency testing.

- Connection to the outside: Communication with loved ones using fee-based text, photo and video-gram messaging."

None of these were available to any of us from the day we first purchased the Score7c to now, more than 24 months later.

Over time, the euphoria wore off, and misery began to germinate. Other tablets by other companies provided more (and better) content, to include better games, but the Score7c remained as empty as the day we first purchased it.

Rumors (and publications about the tablet) implied that one reason for the lack of content was that the prison controls all content, to accept or deny. According to the obtained Keefe site:

"As with every technology we develop, security is paramount. That's why both SCORE Secure Devices run on a customized Android 8.1 operating system locked down with layers of security features..."

This implies that the prison staff may be the gatekeepers of all content, and if so, our ability to purchase any content for the Score7c is directly related to whether USP Tucson will allow us to have them or not. After two

years of owning the device, we clearly weren't getting much content at all.

Problems began to mount with the device over time: USP Tucson (or FBOP) removed the most popular game on the tablet, "Mindustry". Then, they put firmware to limit all text to 20 characters. Later, they removed, without memo or warning, 15 games (from the 100), although if you already purchase it, you didn't lose it.

So, for example, if one owned the bowling game, you still owned it to play, even though it was removed from the list. But, if you hadn't bought it, you no longer could.

In addition, the price for the tablet continued to increase, from under \$119.00 to start, to about \$123.00 when I bought it, then to \$131.00, then \$137.00 to its current price (as of May 2025) of \$141.70. There is nothing new with these devices except protective corners and four added television series (single season), so a new prisoner to USP Tucson would have to buy a Score7c at \$141.70, and get less games than those who bought the device in late 2022 for \$118.00.

And, not to be lost, after 24+ months,



And Empty Your Mind

still no educational content.

Questions abound concerning lack of educational content, lack of games and an increase in price. USP Tucson claims they're installing Wi-Fi for future content, but since August of 2024, and seeing CISCO boxes affixed to the ceilings, nothing has changed.

I started a series of essays, "The Score7c Tablet: Rehabilitation, or Ripoff?" in October of 2022, to chronicle these events. To date, I'm past "Part 60", and the overall feeling for the tablet now is discontent. Most would be satisfied if we just got decent games, but for now, it appears we're stuck with a \$130.00+ scientific calculator.

MIM(Prisons) adds: We too have been printing a long series of articles from across the country on the increased censorship, surveillance and costs that come along with these digital tablets in prisons. This was also the focus of last year's Prison Banned Books Week. This year, Prison Banned Books Week is October 19-25 (2025), and the focus is:

"rise of 'approved vendor' and mail scanning policies in jails. Jails are denying detained people access to paper books and correspondence in droves. Denying independent booksellers the ability to send books and family member and friends the ability to communicate with their detained loved ones these policies are being quietly implemented by jails around the country under the specious claim that mail is the primary conduit of contraband." ■

Movie Review: One Battle After Another

by MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

One Battle After Another

161 minutes

Rated R

2025

One Battle After Another is an action comedy film directed by Paul Thomas Anderson starring Teyana Taylor, Leonardo DiCaprio, Benicio DelToro, Chase Infi, and Sean Penn. The movie follows the story of the French 75 — a fictional left-wing urban guerrilla group — and their downfall birthed by a petty-bourgeois lack of discipline, lumpen machismo, and military adventurism, which resulted in assassinations, snitching, and surviving members going off the grid.

In the beginning of the movie, the French 75 frees detained migrants while Perfidia Beverly Hills goes to General Lockjaw and zip ties the pig while humiliating em. Aroused by the humiliation from the New Afrikan urban guerilla, Lockjaw begins to develop a sexual fascination with Perfidia.

On one mission, while planting a bomb, Perfidia is caught by Lockjaw who claims that ey will let the French 75 complete the action if Perfidia agrees to have sex with em at a motel. Perfidia agrees which ends up giving birth to a baby girl named Charlene.

Perfidia gives birth, but Pat — who is doing majority of the parenting labor — is unable to convince em to live as a family. We see Perfidia storm out of the house after the two bicker while Pat, holding the infant child in air arms, says to eir partner "go do the revolution baby."

"You know, you are so unsuitable for my daughter," says Perfidia's mother to Pat. "My child comes from a whole line of revolutionaries, and you look so lost. What are you going to do about this baby?"

Next, there is a scene of a bank robbery. As the guerrillas begin their expropriation mission, Junglepussy recites a soliloquy speaking about Black wimmin sexuality and the empowerment of eir sexual prowess. The monologue is cut by a gunshot. There is a security guard crawling at the floor to reach eir pistol. Perfidia, aiming eir gun at the downed pig, tells em to stop crawling towards eir gun then shoots em.

After this botched bank-robbery mission, Perfidia is captured by Lockjaw who arranged a deal to avoid prison time in exchange for information about the French 75. Perfidia enters witness protection while a montage of assassinations and arrests of the French 75 begins. The survivors go completely underground. Perfidia eventually leaves the witness protection program and flees to Mexico. Pat and Charlene are forced to live in hiding as Bob and Willa Ferguson.

This reviewer interprets Perfidia's betrayal as follows: Perfidia's logic of sleeping with the enemy in her mind was that of weaponizing sex against an imperialist pig in order to commit to bombing and robbery actions. We can deduce from the French 75's other wimmin members that the organization had a sort of female sexual empowerment political line — especially for oppressed

nation wimmin. Such "empowerment," where the New Afrikan womyn is playing the role of the man, is what we call gender aristocracy politics. This is just an inverted version of petty bourgeois sexual politics that set back the actual urban guerrilla groups the French 75 evokes: the Weather Underground for a time treating free love as a revolutionary principle and the Revolutionary Action Task Force including active pimps in their organization. These organizations in real life had a combination of oppressor nation petty-bourgeois elements and oppressed nation lumpen machismo.

With the French 75, we see wimmin comrades much more sexually empowered, but just as undisciplined and petty-bourgeois in political content. Perfidia Hills sees taking care of eir newborn child as something that weighs down on eir revolutionary activities — something that takes up time and resources in which she is in denial of. Pat Calhoun, eir lover, can now no longer create bombs for the cause; so in a way, Lockjaw was able to slow down French 75's actions by putting a baby inside eir leader. In a sort of postpartum depression, Perfidia's petty-bourgeois tendencies cause em to betray the movement after being threatened with murder charges. During a failed robbery Perfidia kills a downed bank security guard who is crawling towards eir gun like an infant and puts a second bullet in em before warning, "Stop crawling!"

Drugs, Sex, and Guns — Criticizing the 1970s Urban Guerrillas

Inspired by the Thomas Pynchon novel *Vineland*, Paul Thomas Anderson (PTA) attempts to create a critical view of the urban guerrilla groups of the 70s which the French 75 evokes much of. To this, we say PTA has failed. During the portrayals of the most undisciplined aspects of the revolutionaries, we saw the audience members laugh at the sexual remarks, drug/alcohol usage, and hype moments of the revolutionaries. Here, we will criticize these characters instead.

Criticize the Sexual Politics of the French 75

In the middle of a bombing operation, Perfidia makes sexual advances towards eir partner Pat Calhoun. This is bad discipline and an apt portrayal of the subjective feelings which motivate revolutionaries. Once you blow up a power grid, your first move is to run away to a rendezvous point, not have sex in the middle of the field. Some revolutionaries might say that there should be no romantic relationships between comrades, but we believe that romance will be common especially when two people share such close connections such as comradery over a long period of time. The MIM made sure to create disciplined revolutionary culture such as not allowing cadres to date recruits and practicing forever monogamy to mitigate chauvinist errors.

We see this as well with Junglepussy's monologue of Black wimmin sexual empowerment. This is no time for poetry on the sexual liberation of New Afrikan wimmin. The main objectives are to expropriate the funds from the imperialists for the revolutionary vanguard. Keep your barrel

aimed on the security guards and control the crowd. Perfidia might not have had to shoot the pig that day if all guns were pointed at the correct targets.

Sleeping with a chauvinist Euro-American sex pig is not tricking the enemy using sex. In fact, they are tricking you. Their colonial hedonism which drives them mad might make it seem like you are in control, but they don't need the discipline we need. They already have state power. The power dynamics and coercion between revolutionaries and the imperialists make all sex happening between the two parties rape. This goes out for all our readers on the inside who seeks to sleep with the C.O.s to gain a power dynamic and especially relevant for readers who think they have control over the pigs because the pigs bring in drugs for them. They are using you for a quick fuck in which you have no power in and they let you poison each other with K2.

Drugs Are Poison — Even Weed and Alcohol

When Sergio "Sensei" Carlos (played by Benicio DelToro) helps "Ghetto" Pat Calhoun (who now goes by Bob Ferguson) track down eir kidnapped daughter, the two characters drink beer while driving on long empty roads. If these two weren't drinking — Pat would have been able to have a spotter for the sniping mission ey partakes in later on as Sensei was captured for drinking and driving. Perhaps a sober shot would have been able to take out Lockjaw in one shot and rescue Calhoun's daughter.

Before Lockjaw and eir pigs raid Pat(aka Bob)'s home, Bob attempts to call the underground revolutionary hotline service which connects revolutionaries with each other and transfers information. But because ey is high as hell on weed, ey cannot remember the security codes ey must recite in order to access the information such as the rendezvous point. If Bob had remembered the code here, it would have cut the nearly 3 hour running time for the movie in half. The high Bob provides comic relief for an audience that has been bread on decades of culture depicting intoxication as fun and humorous.

Interestingly, during this sequence, we see the *Battle of Algiers* (a much superior film than this) playing in the background as Bob is smoking marijuana. During the start of this scene in particular, a scene of *Battle of Algiers* where children in revolutionary-controlled Casbah — the Arab ghetto of French occupied Algeria — publicly humiliates the local drunk for consuming and becoming slave to the imperialists' alcohol. While this could be a (very subtle) attempt to criticize the character of Bob here, one might wonder if PTA is acknowledging the lack of seriousness with which eir film approaches the topics by contrasting it with a truly revolutionary film.

Clout is a Drug Too

In another attempt at calling the underground revolutionary hotline, Bob Ferguson, now frustrated and stressed out, goes on a full blown screaming match with "Comrade Josh" — the operator at the other end of the phone. Ey begins yelling to Josh all the crazy actions ey have done back

in the days and rests on eir laurels in order to bypass the security codes which ey himself forgot. Here, we see Talleyrand (played by Dijon Duenas) the communications leader snatch the phone from Josh's hands. Ey recognize Pat/Bob and tells em the rendezvous point. Talleyrand later scolds Comrade Josh and says that Bob is a "war hero" and that ey should have just let em have it with the info. Revolutionaries must not rest on clout. Comrade Josh was one of the few people in the whole movie that actually showed great discipline. It could be argued ey was too lenient and gave Pat/Bob too many chances.

Revolutionary Parents Don't Create Revolutionary Children.

In the first part of the movie, Perfidia's mother (played by Starletta DuPois) says to Pat Calhoun that Perfidia comes from a "long line of revolutionaries" and that Pat is not a good fit for eir daughter and quite frankly "looks lost" in all the chaos. This is the type of "ecological determinism" which was one of the biggest revisionist politics criticized during the cultural revolution in China. All the children of party cadre who defended eir parents' status in the party were the ones defending their parents attempting to restore capitalism to the proletarian dictatorships. In many cases, the most revolutionary red guards were the ones who came from counter-revolutionary backgrounds in the countryside redeeming the crimes of their former landlord/rich peasant parents. We can see that Perfidia Hills is another example that coming from a "proletarian" or "revolutionary" background means little.

Counter-Revolutionary Parents Don't Create Counter-Revolutionary Children

Former French 75 revolutionaries, now operating a convent of revolutionary nuns, still haven't learned their lessons on ecological determinism. When they meet Charlene/Willa, they are immediately hostile to em calling Willa a child of a "snitch." When Willa is interrogated by Lockjaw himself under the threat of eir own life, ey doesn't give up any information and even condemns eir counter-revolutionary mother. We can see that Willa Ferguson is another example that coming from a "bourgeois" or "counter-revolutionary" background means little at the individual level.

Turn Your Fucking Phones Off

One big error that Willa Ferguson makes is when ey is rescued by Deandra (played by Regina Hall) ey lies to em and says that ey are not carrying a phone. This is how the pigs catch Willa's location. We can be much more forgiving to Willa as ey never asked to be born as a child of a former revolutionary in hiding and that this is their first time entering political life. However, we see too many people bring phones to political events, even using them to film others. We hope that this scene portrayed the importance and actual value of turning one's devices off.

We Want Revolution — We Must Learn the Lessons From the Past

"Maybe you should have studied the rebellion texts better."

- Comrade Josh

It seems that PTA actually attempts to reflect on all the errors of the past revolutionary movements: eir error lies in joking about these grave issues and making references only few in the audience would get. The political criterion itself is not too bad, but the artistic criterion was not appropriate in getting these messages out. However, one great thing about this movie that makes it worthy of discussion for revolutionaries is the artistic portrayal of what rebellion would look like in today's day and age. Arguably, this is the first movie to come out under Trump fascism with a portrayal of what mass rebellion and resistance could actually look like against an enemy with far superior resources and state power. The most important lesson, is that even at the faults and errors of all the revolutionaries, if they rely on the masses they can accomplish great things. Sensei Carlos, is a leader of the migrant masses that runs an impressive network of escape routes, safe houses, and information network for the local community who arguably saves the day when it comes to helping Bob find eir kidnapped daughter. The great thing about this sequence, is that we do not see the masses as fear-ridden wretches who wail and cry against repression but as a disciplined community that keeps calm and focused when the pigs come in with automatic rifles to their own homes. Now imagine if these leaders were half as disciplined as the masses were.

For readers who recognize the foolish actions of the protagonists and actually want to study the rebellion texts explaining errors of groups like the French 75, we just updated our study pack based around *False Nationalism False Internationalism* by E. Tani & Kae Sera. That book is a biting critique of the Weather Underground, Black Panther Party and Revolutionary Armed Task Force, that is well worth reading, with some of the caveats we offer in our study guide.

Perfidia Williams is no Assata Shakur

On the morning of this movie's premier, the Cuban government announced that Assata Shakur, former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, has passed away.(see p, 10)

In the end, *One Battle After Another* centers around 3 characters whose revolutionary politics are chained by sex, drugs and individualism. The focus on these individuals, and not the seemingly more disciplined revolutionaries who play very secondary roles in the film, is emblematic of Amerikan individualism that would much prefer sexy explosions and joking about drug use. The masses' resistance against oppression becomes merely a backdrop for the individualist pursuits of the main characters. That said the movie offers some interesting portrayals of the infrastructure of a revolutionary organization and a broader mass resistance movement. The latter will help keep the attention of more revolutionary-minded viewers. And the struggle against migrant detention camps and an underground railroad for migrants are very relevant to today's reality in the United States.

Continued on next page...

Lost in Translation: Is Bad Bunny an American?

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)
October 2025

Two Amerikan mainstream media commentators had an exchange about musician Bad Bunny performing at the Super Bowl this year that has many Amerikans laughing at Lahren and many others cheering em on.

Tomi Lahren: He's not an Amerikan artist...

Crystal Ball: He's Puerto Rican, that's part of America dear.

This is a conversation between a nationalist imperialist and an integrationist imperialist. What is lost in translation here is that Tomi Lahren is saying Bad Bunny is not Amerikan, while Crystal Ball is saying Bad Bunny is a citizen of the United States of America. These are two very different things. Amerikans

are a nation of people, who have historically been culturally Christian, speak English, are of European descent, and most importantly are oppressors and exploiters of other nations of people. Whereas the United States of America is a country on the North American continent led by Amerikans that has displaced, occupied and even formed many nations within it. Bad Bunny clearly recognizes the difference when ey speaks of eir role in the Super Bowl as a victory for "our people." Bad Bunny is not referring to the Amerikan nation, nor to U.S. citizens when ey says this. Ey is referring to the Puerto Rican or Boriqua nation, and extending that to the broader Latino or Raza population — a majority exploited, Spanish-speaking people. It is these people that Bad Bunny was concerned for when ey decided not to do a U.S. tour be-

cause of the risk of ICE targeting the events.

This is why MIM(Prisons) does not use the term "Amerikan." In a 2003 MIM Congress resolution entitled *MIM Accused of "Anti-Americanism": What Americans?*, MIM pointed out that racist Amerikkans have distorted the meaning of the term.(1)

The MIM Congress resolution was in response to attempts by David Horowitz to launch a new McCarthyism. What Horowitz and others worked towards after 9/11, President Trump is now making a reality. In September, Trump signed National Security Presidential Memorandum 7 (NSPM-7), which authorizes intelligence agencies to disrupt groups "before they result in violent political actions." NSPM-7 lists "anti-Christianity," "anti-capitalism," "anti-Americanism,"

and "support for the overthrow of the United States Government" among others as "indicia" of such violence.(2)

This directive serves as instructions to over 4,000 FBI members who are members of about 200 Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) across the United States. The first JTTF was formed in New York City in 1980 to target revolutionaries, some of whom responded by forming the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF), which the FBI crushed following the 1981 Brinks robbery and shoot out. As the name implies, JTTFs use local police forces teamed up with the FBI. ■

Notes:
1. 2003 MIM Congress, MIM Accused of "Anti-Americanism": What Americans?
2. Ken Klippenstein, 27 September 2025, Trump's NSPM-7 Labels Common Beliefs As Terrorism "Indicators"

... Continued from previous page

...Movie Review

In the scene mentioned above where Lockjaw confronts Perfidia while planting a bomb, ey states that ey does not care what the French 75 blow up. Lockjaw's motivations are some combination of fetishization of New Afrikan wimmin and monitoring the French 75 in order to undermine them, both of which can be accomplished while allowing them to blow up the court building. This is reminiscent of one of the lessons of *False Nationalism, False Internationalism*.

"They [RATF] mistakenly thought the job of the State security apparatus was to stop them from doing actions; so if they were pulling off expropriations and prison breaks then the FBI must be powerless to stop them.

"...The political police have long-range concern for political goals. They don't care primarily about bank-jobs, prison escapes, hijackings or symbolic bombings per se. The CIA/FBI, etc. are concerned about winning protracted war, not about small skirmishes along the way. If you will help them stage a front-page propaganda show trial, help them morally discredit the BLA, help them deepen splits in the liberation movement, help them appear all-powerful, then they'll be glad to let you stage some actions before your arrests. And the security forces will be especially glad to let you attract all the new (and old) people possible into their trap." (p.252)

The last big success of the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF), and the whole movement that came out of the 1960s, was to free Assata Shakur. This is a victory that still resonates in the minds of the people, most of whom wouldn't recognize the name RATF or know anything else about them. This was a political defeat for the state, so we might assume they did not just allow it to happen. But by the time of the infamous Brink's fiasco that led to the capture of so many members and destruction of the last remnants of the revolutionary left of that era, the political police were certainly in control and ready to determine the future of the RATF. Therefore understanding what real victories look like is crucial, as Tani & Sera point out.

One can't help but look at the ensemble of these very flawed revolutionaries and think to oneself, what would revolutionaries like Assata Shakur do? What would Malcolm X do? What would Mao or Lenin do? Perfidia Hills' escape to Mexico evokes Assata Shakur's escape to Cuba, but the latter never snitched or betrayed the movement like the former which is probably why the imperialists were so angry with not being to capture em til eir very last days. To the comrades who lament the fact that all the heroes are dead: one must realize that the Perfidia Hills of the movement are a work of fiction (either written by film directors or the pigs themselves) while Assata Shakur was the real thing. ■

"You know what freedom is? No fear!"

- Sensei Sergio Carlos (One Battle After Another)

"I'll tell you what freedom means to me: no fear."

- Nina Simone (Real Life)

... Continued from page 10

...Assata Shakur

struggle consisted of only two aspects: picking up the gun and serving the people." (Page 221, *Ibid.*) (2)

Some readers might feel that Assata here might be going on a narrow-nationalist or rightist bent. However, ey clearly gives credit to the contributions Marx and Lenin made.

"Usually, after a disagreement, they suggested I read this or that, often Marx, Lenin, or Engels. I preferred Ho Chi Minh, Kim Il Sung, Che, or Fidel, but I ended up having to get into Marx and Lenin just to understand a lot of the speeches and stuff Huey Newton was putting out. It wasn't easy reading, but I was glad I did it. It opened up my horizons a hell of a lot. I didn't relate to them as the great white fathers or like some kind of gods, like some of the white revolutionaries did. As far as I was concerned, they were two dudes who had made contributions to revolutionary struggle too great to be ignored." (Page 220-221, *Ibid.*)

We agree with eir sentiments that treating Marx and Lenin like great white fathers as some communists did was revisionism and ultra-leftism plain and simple. In the context of the national liberation movements to which ey was part of, considering them as "two dudes who had made contributions to revolutionary struggle too great to be ignored" is not wrong and was perhaps needed for dogmatic Euro-Amerikan organizations who still believed that the "white workers" will come and save the day. Us at MIM(Prisons) uphold Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao much firmer than Shakur does here, but not higher.

It is quite difficult to properly gauge what Shakur's individual actions were during eir time as a member of the BLA due to the clandestine and underground nature of the group. However, it is widely known that the BLA participated in expropriating funds from capitalist banks, planted bombs, and waged armed guerrilla actions against pigs and dope pushers. In 1973, Shakur was captured by the pigs on the New Jersey Turnpike which resulted in her being put in solitary confinement on Rikers Island for 21 months.

In 1979 Shakur escaped the Clinton Correctional Facility for Women in New Jersey with the assistance of comrades in the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF). Shakur lived underground until eir escape to Cuba in 1984. In Cuba, ey published eir books *Assata: An Autobiography* and *Still Black, Still Strong* with Dhoruba Bin Wahad



and Mumia Abu-Jamal. Ey described Cuba as "One of the largest, most resistant and most courageous palenques ["Maroon camps" where escaped African slaves built independent communities] that has ever existed on the face of this planet." Ey described Fidel Castro as a "hero of the oppressed" and also worked as an English-language editor for Radio Havana Cuba. While the anti-imperialist revolution in Cuba overthrew the comprador U.S.-Batista regime, we are much more critical of Castro and Soviet social-imperialism's role in Cuba.(2) We believe that this is the critical point of contention to which Assata Shakur's politics differ with ours.

Today, Assata Shakur exists almost as a folk hero for progressives, communists, and revolutionary-minded New Afrikans. Teyanna Taylor, who played a New Afrikan revolutionary in the film *One Battle After Another* (see opposite page) claimed that Assata was a great inspiration for em and that eir autobiography was one of the texts which were read while making the movie. It is widely known that Shakur was a godmother to Tupac Shakur and many conspiracy theories claimed ey faked eir death and went to Cuba eirself. Chief Pig Trump, in 2017, attempted to extradite Shakur in exchange for canceling the "Cuban thaw" policies enacted by the former Pig Obama, while referring to Shakur as a "cop killer." As-

sata Shakur died free in Cuba until eir final days.

Rejecting "JoAnne Chesimard" as a slave name, ey chose *Assata Olugbala Shakur* as eir name which is a West African name deriving from *Aisha* meaning "she who struggles" with *Shakur* meaning "thankful one" in Arabic. *Olugbala* means "savior" in Yoruba.

"It sounded so strange when people called me JoAnne. It really had nothing to do with me. I didn't feel like JoAnne, or no Negro, or no amerikan. I felt like an African woman." (Page 185, *Ibid.*)

Many revolutionaries nowadays say "Assata taught me" when beginning to spread the thoughts and ideas of the late revolutionary. This is one thing Assata taught me:

"Dreams and reality are opposites. Action synthesizes them." ■

Rest In Power, Assata Olugbala Shakur

The One Who Struggled!

Notes:

1: "Nota de Prensa del Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores," 26 September 2025, *Cubaminrex*

2: For more info see MIM Theory 5: A Spiral Trajectory: The Failure and Success of Communist Development

Who Would You Be After One Mistake?

by a Virginia prisoner
October 2025

Who would you be after 30 years in a penal institution?

Would you be the same or succumb to its influence?

Daily seeing window bars and dealing with mental scars.

How would you be aware, if the system had tore you apart?

No longer understanding the context of the youth or newer technologies.

Altered in your thought patterns, subtle new slants on what is morality.

What would the world be in your eyes as it treats you like an animal?

New Jim Crow statues pimping your family for billions, as love ones DIE, your forbidden to attend the funeral.

How would you hold it together? Demonized by the media, as a political failsafe and scapegoat.

CREATING millionaires by your diminishing hope, and you can't vote.

Filing your mind with sophistry, censoring your incoming mail and books.

EMASCULATING you by daily calling you an OFFENDER or prisoner, cameras wherever you look.

Do you think that man who endures isn't strong, the defiant, who walks alone but not in fear.

Who directs his mind, the human divine, who grows in spite of the bid.

These questions are not being answered, most officials don't care to ask.

But are experts in making good promises, while generating wealth off our over sentenced backs.

Would you be angry reading commissary profits over \$300,000 dollars?

Knowing the system won't allow you to work, and your other support is your elder mother's overtime hours.

No library or religious services, increase in addictions and success.

So tell me, who would you be if you had to live inside? ■

NATIONAL LIBERATION FROM FASCISM

We have long said the principal contradiction in the United States is between the oppressor nation and the oppressed nations. That contradiction is heightening here, and globally. In recent months USW comrades rallied hundreds in opposition to the genocide in Gaza (see p.1). Meanwhile struggles in U.S. cities have broke out in defense of Raza, and also many First Nations, New Afrikans and revolutionaries who are being targeted in these raids. In this issue we have launched a new box on nation, because some pointed out that not all of our readers understand what we're talking about, and think we are talking about "race" or something. (see p. 7)

How can we keep pushing support for Palestine in U.S. prisons? How can we connect prison struggles to national liberation here? As always we want your art promoting these ideas. Send in brief examples of what nation looks like, like the one on Lefty Gunplay in this issue. This is a call for new and existing campaigns in support of national liberation.

SPREAD UNDER LOCK & KEY

Every subscriber should pass this issue of ULK on to someone else. Even better if you can get them to actually read it! Share what you got from the newsletter, and how it has impacted your time in prison. We're happy to send you a replacement copy for the one you passed along.

We Demand Our Grievances are Addressed

If you are experiencing problems with your grievance process, such as delays, unanswered grievances, or harassment, you should join this campaign.

Petitions are available for AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, KS, LA, MS, MT, NV, NY, NC, OK, OR, SC, and TX. If the state-level petition doesn't bring relief, we now have a new follow-up petition written to hold states accountable to federal requirements.

Write in to get the petition for your state. If your prison's policies allow, give stamps or envelopes to your comrades inside to mail out the petition. Remember, you need to send them out to the administrators and politicians yourself. MIM(Prisons) does not have the resources to mail out the petitions for you.

If your state is not currently covered by the grievance campaign, volun-



teer to rewrite the petition to work for your state. Update this campaign - If you participated in this campaign in the past, send us a report on what happened. Tell us how you used it to help organize others and build group consciousness or how it didn't work.

BUILD A UNITED FRONT FOR PEACE IN PRISONS

The Day of Peace and Solidarity on September 9th was built around the principles of the United Front for Peace in Prisons outlined on page 2. The purpose of the UFPP is to bring prison-based organizations together for the common interests of all prisoners. This year the only 9/9 organizing we know of occurred outside prisons. Are you organizing around the

UFPP? Let us know. Want

to organize for next year, get our September 9th study pack.

ADDITION & RECOVERY STORIES

Are you organizing a Revolutionary 12 Step group? If so, submit stories of recovery for future issues. (see p.4-5) Stories of recovery are part of building the community needed for successful recovery. We hope to feature these stories in each future issue of ULK. Don't have our Revolutionary 12 Step pamphlet yet? Get a copy. And send in your feedback and reports on successes and failures.

GET ON OUR LISTS

You may be on our subscription list, but did you know we have other lists for people to get more involved? Our artist list provides artists with upcoming ULK topics that we need art for. Our new LGBTQ list will allow us to communicate with comrades who don't conform to the patriarchy. Is your facility a womyn's or youth facility - make sure we have that marked in our records. Want to get free books? Get on our active list by submitting art, articles, legal work, campaign materials, etc. Willing to offer legal work, join our jailhouse lawyers list. And for those who are serious about working with the anti-imperialist prison movement, earn your way on to our USW list by contributing regular work.

... Continued from page 9

ware that runs on it, is manufactured by an "Israeli" surveillance/security company, Cellebrite, and is sold to pig departments not just in the U.S., but around the world. So, if you were arrested and "evidence" from your phone was used to convict you or prove you had some kind of knowledge about or played a role (however minor) in a so-called "crime", it is almost certainly extracted from your phone using this Zionist surveillance tool that was first tested and used against the Palestinian people across occupied Palestine.(5)

As the current part of the ongoing genocide continues past the 700th day, with over 64,000 Palestinians confirmed by the Gaza Health Ministry to have been martyred, with the Palestinian resistance continuing to rise to the occasion in confronting the Zionist entity and the settler regime, with a recent successful mission against the settlers encroaching on occupied al-Quds, and as resistance continues to rise outside of occu-

...For Palestine

pied historic Palestine, we in United Struggle from Within must continue to follow the lead of our comrades in Palestine and rise to the occasion in all that we do. ■

Glory to the Martyrs

Freedom to the Prisoners

Healing to the Wounded

Revolution Until Victory

Notes:

1. Global News Podcast, 11 August 2025, BBC World Service.
2. MIM(Prisons), "Palestine Shows the Way, but Will we Listen?", June 2025, ULK 90.
3. Antony Loewenstein, "The Palestine Laboratory - How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World", (Verso, 2025), pp.52-53.
4. Ibid., p. 170
5. Ibid., pp.171-172

SUBMIT WORK REPORTS

All USW cells are encouraged to submit monthly work reports to the USW council. Work reports should be one to two paragraphs. Use these questions as guides for your report:

- What types of activities did your cell participate in that contributed to USWs mission?
- What campaigns did your cell participate in/ promote last month?
- What Serve the People programs did your cell operate?
- What were the responses from the masses and USW recruits to this work?
- What questions came up? How did you answer them? Or do you need help answering them?
- What lessons did you learn in the last month?
- What are the most pressing issues that are of concern to the masses in your location?
- What organizations/services have you recently found useful in your work (include contact info)?
- What successes have you achieved in the last month?

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Censorship regulations must be rational and impose censorship only in furtherance of "an important or substantial governmental interest not related to the suppression of expression" and relate to "legitimate penological interests." The federal courts have ruled unequivocally that a prison agency censoring inmate publications and mail must provide the distributor or publisher with notice of censorship. This notice must provide articulate reasons for such censorship with specific references to the objectionable material. The distributor/ publisher must be given a meaningful opportunity to appeal the censorship decision to a person not involved in the censorship decision. Notice and opportunity to appeal are required by due process. We encourage you to carefully read and understand your agency's policies and procedures, as well as federal case law related to the censorship of incoming mail and publications addressed to prisoners.

If you have any doubt you should consult your agency's legal counsel. We are prepared to exercise our Constitutional rights and appeal censorship which does not adhere to applicable law. Such exercise of our rights may include legal action seeking declaratory and injunctive relief as well as monetary damages and legal fees. Failure to adhere to federal law, your state's administrative regulations and your agency's policies and procedures is evidence of malicious intent to violate our rights. See generally *Pell v. Procunier*, 417 U.S. 817 (1974); *Turner v. Safley*, 482 U.S. 78 (1987).

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