

1987



## COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

Dear

The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown and other organizers of the recent International Women's Day Demonstration in Lexington, Kentucky would like to thank you for your generous contribution and participation which helped to make the demonstration a success.

As you know, the demonstration was called to protest the recent opening of the new basement Control Unit for women political prisoners at Lexington Federal Prison. Three women are currently imprisoned in the Control Unit: Alejandrina Torres, Silvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg. The many inhumane conditions in the Control Unit have the purpose and effect of torture upon these women.

On the morning of International Women's Day, Sunday, March 8, over 250 demonstrators from Chicago, Cincinnati, Lexington and other cities gathered carrying colorful banners and flying kites featuring the faces of women political prisoners. The demonstrators protested with chants in both English and Spanish. Representatives from many church and community groups spoke, including Ben Chavis, a United Church of Christ Minister and Director of the UCC's Commission on Racial Justice. Letters were read from Alejandrina Torres, Silvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg as well as from other political prisoners within the United States. The demonstration ended with a moving recital by El Grupo Morovivi, a Chicago-based Puerto Rican musical group. Because all three local T.V. stations covered the demonstration, the prisoners were able to see highlights on television.

As you may recall, one of the inhumane conditions which we were protesting was the fact that the Control Unit walls were painted a disorienting and eye-blinding white. Significantly, two days before the demonstration took place, prison officials ordered the walls to be repainted to a softer, more humane beige color. The repainting was actually taking place while the demonstrators chanted outside the prison gates. We feel that this improvement in the prisoners' environment is a victory which your contribution and participation helped make possible.

The demonstration was successful, but until we Shut Down the Lexington and Marion Control Units and End the Lockdown at Marion, we will keep on working. As you can see from the enclosed mailing, we have lots more planned, and hope that you will continue to work with us.

Once again, thanks for your support.

For CEML,

**COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN**  
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