

C 27980

Demonstrate!

MARCH TO THE BUREAU OF PRISONS AT
METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER



SATURDAY
DEC. 6
12 NOON
DALEY
CIVIC
CENTER

**STOP THE LOCKDOWN AT MARION PRISON!
CLOSE ALL CONTROL UNITS!
STOP SELECTIVE MISTREATMENT OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS & PRISONERS OF WAR!**

called by: The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown

The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

Marion Federal Prison in Illinois is the most maximum security prison in the United States. The entire prison is a Control Unit where the Bureau of Prisons experiments with behavior modification through isolation and sensory deprivation. Marion has been on lockdown for three years now, with the men caged in small cells for 23 hours a day. This has meant:

- * Prisoners are denied contact with each other, forced into isolation and ldeness;
- * There are no contact visits - the men cannot embrace their families or loved ones;
- * While the frequent beatings that marked the early lockdown have abated, prisoners are still shackled every time they leave the unit for a court date, hospital visit, etc.;
- * There are no work programs, educational activities, or group religious services;
- * The prison guards constantly humiliate the prisoners and stress their power over them by demanding finger probes of the rectum to search for "contraband," by arbitrary enforcement of unwritten rules, etc.

Marion Prison is the brutal trendsetter in the U.S. Following along this path, the Bureau of Prisons just opened a Control Unit for women in the Lexington, Kentucky Federal Prison. It is in the basement, totally separate from the rest of the prison - literally a dungeon:

- * The cells get no light from outside, and are painted bright white, a condition known to produce disorientation;
- * The women are constantly monitored by guards. When allowed to leave their cells, they are also watched by video cameras wherever they go;
- * Since this Control Unit is in the basement, and the population is planned for 16, women here will be even more isolated from each other than the men are at Marion;
- * Visits are restricted to family members and attorneys; no friends will be allowed. All visitors will be photographed as they enter the prison.

U.S. prisons hold a vast number of people of color. Black people are incarcerated at six times the rate for white people in this country and almost twice the rate for Black people in South Africa! This is the highest in the world. Such a large number of incarcerated people constitutes a well-defined system of population control. In fact, it is predicted that U.S. prisons will hold over 1,000,000 people by the year 2000, and that more than half will be people of color. In addition, U.S. prisons hold many political leaders; there are now over 100 Black and Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war, as well as a growing number of North American political prisoners. In the past few months, Oscar Lopez-Rivera, Kojo (s/n Gralling Brown), Tim Blunk, and Ray Levasseur have all been transferred to Marion, joining Sundiata Acoli, Sekou Odinga, and others. Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres and North American political prisoner Susan Rosenberg have become the first women to be sent to the Control Unit at Lexington. Marion and Lexington are thus becoming the major political interment centers in the United States.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is responsible for this barbaric process and has tried to keep a lid on the facts about Marion and Lexington. But our voices and actions can make a difference. On a recent National Public Radio documentary, many prisoners courageously spoke up and let in a crack of light. We must do the same. **We are marching through the Loop to the Bureau of Prisons to expose what is hidden behind the walls, and to help bring these conditions to an end. Please join with us.**



For more information, call: The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown at 663-5046.