

To: Chair, Congressional Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Administration of Justice

**NO CONTROL UNIT PRISONS AT MARION, FLORENCE,
OR ANYWHERE ELSE!**

We, the undersigned, are aware of the following:

** The U.S. prison system, for which the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion is the ultimate prison, incarcerates more people than any other system in the world; that the imprisonment rate for Black people in the U.S. is eight times higher than the rate for white people and is almost twice as high as the rate for Black people in South Africa;

** That it has been proven that prisons do not deter crime nor do they rehabilitate; certainly they do not create a "kinder and gentler" society;

** That Marion, the "model" control unit, has been locked down for seven years, that the men there are locked in their cells, where they eat, sleep and defecate, for 22.5 hours a day;

** That despite claims by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Marion does not hold the "worst of the worst" but incarcerates instead dissidents from throughout the system who are hated by the BOP. Such prisoners include those pursuing their religious freedoms, those writing "too many" lawsuits, those participating in labor organizing, and political prisoners. In fact, according to Amnesty International, Marion violates almost every one of the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

** That given all of this, the U.S. government and the BOP are now building more control unit prisons, prisons that will surely be even more brutal and life-denying than Marion. For example, one is currently being built in Florence, Colorado. Florence is an economically devastated town and its almost all-white population will either starve to death or work as keepers in this prison which will contain over 75% people of color. The prison site is also located in the midst of substantial toxic wastes, stemming from uranium milling. The BOP thus far refuses to release plans for the prison but initial statements by BOP spokespeople suggest that this will become the most brutal prison in the history of the U.S. For example, Florence will be the first prison ever built for the purpose of permanent lockdown.

We believe that these control unit prisons are an outrage to morality and human dignity—both for those incarcerated and for those of us in whose name these terror mechanisms are being created. We reject these prisons. We will not have them built in our name. We demand that you end the lockdown at Marion and that you stop and desist with the plans for the construction of the control unit prison at Florence!

Name Address City State Zip

**Return completed petitions to:
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
P.O. Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657-8172 (312) 235-0070**