

# Break The Chains



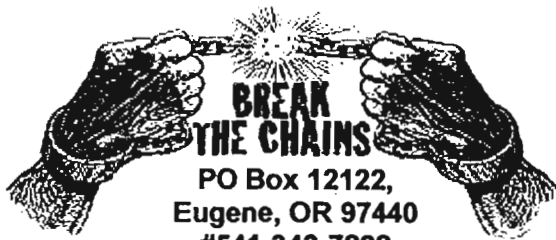
Welcome to the Break the Chains newsletter #20. You'll notice that this issue is a little smaller than usual. Because our last newsletter was produced late, we wanted to squeeze in another small issue before the end of the year. We hope you'll forgive us for not always being on time – we're busy folks with limited time and resources. We're striving to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis but other commitments sometimes make it nearly impossible.

As we go to print, there are a variety of projects in the works. Two of our collective members are shipping off to New York to attend the Safiya Bukhari Human Rights Day conference. We recently organized a successful benefit for the US Political Prisoners Education Campaign for AIDS Orphans in Africa and the local HIV Alliance. We are initiating a campaign against new prison developments in a small, rural community close to our home town. Some BTC members recently did a presentation about our activities with a local, alternative high school group and feel excited about the possibility of working with youth in the future... All of this and more will be reported on in the next edition of the newsletter. In addition, our collective has been discussing enclosed the letter from Ojore N. Lutalo at great length and will publish a response in the future!

Until then, The BTC Editorial Crew

Issue #20, Winter 2004/2005. This newsletter is free to prisoners in CA, ID, OR, & WA and \$2 to everyone else.

Break The Chains, PO Box 12122, Eugene, OR 97440 541-343-782 [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net)



PO Box 12122,  
Eugene, OR 97440  
#541-343-7828

breakthechains03@yahoo.com  
<http://www.breakthechains.net>

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Break The Chains* is a non-hierarchical collective working toward building an egalitarian society free of prisons. **We are committed** to the dynamic internal and external process of challenging racism, sexism, classism, and oppression in all its forms. **Our focus is on prison issues**, including, but not limited to: fighting state repression, prisoner support and prison abolition.

- **Fighting State Repression** means exposing and countering the efforts of the state to imprison activists and criminalize dissent and resistance. This takes the form of providing assistance to those on the outside facing time due to their involvement in social movements, exposing grand juries, COINTELPRO and other forms of counter intelligence, while educating the public about political and social prisoners.

- **Prisoner Support includes** supporting national Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, and politically active social prisoners on the West Coast. Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War are people who are incarcerated for engaging in liberation struggles and whose sentences reflect the politics involved. A social prisoner may not have been engaged in political activity on the outside, but has devoted inside time to struggling against injustice. We work to accomplish support by publishing the writings of prisoners engaged in resistance struggles, offering financial assistance when available, getting the word out about various cases, and exchanging information with social prisoners about resistance movements. While we cannot provide legal assistance, we may be able to direct prisoners to resources.

- **Prison Abolition is** the dismantling of the prison-industrial complex by working with groups opposing new prison construction, and engaging in restorative justice and decarceration initiatives. Our ultimate objective is to eliminate the prison-industrial complex by helping to build a society in which prisons are obsolete.

**Link the Struggles to Break The Chains!**

*Note: We have revised our mission statement and would like your feedback. This statement is intended to provide a clearer picture of our work and is subject to change.*

## NO ANARCHIST 'ENEMY COMBATANTS' IN AMERICA A letter from Ojore N. Lutalo

October 30, 31<sup>st</sup> 2004

Sisters & brothers: I read with interest Matthew "Rampage" Lamont's "It's Time for Change" article/position paper. I concur with what he had to say about how few comrades in the U.S. have any experience as a revolutionary, and how the vast majority of anarchist groups are nothing more than small activist cliques and lack any revolutionary aspirations... From here, all I see among anarchists in general, and white anarchists, in particular, is a grouping of people merely playing a game of some sort with revolution and anarchy within the framework of what the government allows... It's just like the late new Afrikan anarchist, Kuwasi Balagoon said: "By not engaging in mass organizing and delivering war to the oppressors, we become anarchists in name only"... Kuwasi went on to say: "We permit people of other ideologies to define anarchy rather than bring our views to the masses and provide models to show the contrary. We permit corporations to not only lay off workers and to threaten their salaries, but poison the air and water to boot. We permit the police, Klan, and Nazi's to terrorize whatever section of the population they wish without repaying them back in any kind"... All of this and more is true. Anarchists in general and white anarchists in particular, need to step up to the plate and cease playing sickening games with revolution and Anarchy.... Why is it that there aren't any Anarchist "enemy combatants" in amerika coast to coast and why is it that anarchists of color who desire to pick-up weapons are forced to join forces with nationalists, Marxists and revolutionary Muslims to wage armed resistance? All of this doesn't have to remain so...

As I critique your mission statement, I **have not (!)** seen anything that's revolutionary. The late Marcus Garvey and others taught us that "chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people." **Action, self-reliance**, the vision of self have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom! Perhaps white anarchists can't relate to the above because they do not see themselves as being a grouping of people who are oppressed and dispossessed. They are **blinded** by their so-called white skin privilege, and "have a desire to see ameriika as they know it remain intact." Most whites have problems accepting anything that differ from what the majority have been taught and believe. The late James Baldwin in his teachings noted this: "white children, in the main, and whether they are rich or poor, grow up with a grasp of reality so feeble that they can very accurately be described as deluded-about themselves and the world they live in. The reason for this, at bottom, is that the doctrine of white supremacy, which still controls most white people, is itself a stupendous delusion: but to be 'born black in amerika' is an immediate, a mortal challenge." I often say this is one of the reasons why the now defunct Weather Underground Organization refused to support the Black Liberation Army when they were called upon to honor their so-called commitment to struggle & revolution.

Ojore N. Lutalo  
#59860, PO 861, SBI#0000901548,  
Trenton, NJ 08625

# **A CALL TO ARMS**

**By Chris "Pyro" Kaviajecz**

Comrades, I have thought long and hard as to the contents of this dispatch. I have been here at EOCI for over 3 years now. I was in segregation during the hunger strike we had back in May of this year. My step-brother was involved in that event. He was given 120 days for giving those who were hungry, indigent, and showing their support, food from the canteen.

For some time now, the smaller groups of the over all Anarchist Collective of the West Coast and the Nation as a whole have been coming undone. As Anthony Vaughn, our comrade at OSCI stated in his dispatch "What if I Had Thirty Years?" we are all inmates of the prison industrial system. Our battles should not be amongst our fellow brothers and comrades but against the drivers of our slavery. All we do by struggling for status, focusing our efforts on holding one another down is help the prison industrial complex break our unity and spirit. Because now not only do we have to battle our captors, but also those who believe they are better than everyone else simply because of whom they "run with". We should all be driving towards a common goal, the over-all destruction of the prison complex, but yet we drive to destroy one another.

This is a call to arms for those who are driving to that common goal. It is time for us to stand and make it known that we no longer will stand for the unjust and improper treatment we receive here in prison. Yes, the hunger strike was a good start, but these people don't give a damn if we don't eat, let alone starve. The move that needs to be made is the one that will affect their pocket books. It is known that these people hunger for money. The garment factory, embroidery shop, creative arts, feed the hunger of this animal. Now is our time to stand if we plan to change the tides of our overall situation.

We need to stop trying to impress those who say they are our "friends" and stand by our comrades, regardless of race, gender, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation. We can be the machine to destroy these walls that imprison us, that keep us from our families and freedom. Anarchy equals freedom. This is a call to arms!

Write to: Chris Kavajecz  
#13148523, 2500 Westgate  
Pendleton, OR 97801-9699



## ***BTC MAILORDER***

We have a catalog of radical literature available. Most of the literature is anarchist, anti-prison, and anti-imperialist. Some of our literature is free to prisoners. Most items are cheap. The catalog is free upon request.

### ***Radical Prisoners Correspondence Project***

The second edition of the Prison Correspondence Project manual is available upon request. Without the help of Break The Chains supporter Ryan Mishap it probably never would have been completed. The Prison Correspondence Project is a compilation of biographies and contact information for prisoner's seeking correspondence, along with tips on writing to prisoners for un-experienced folks on the outside. If you're interested in writing to people in prison and you'd like a copy of this manual, or if you're a prisoner looking for correspondence and you'd like to submit your info for this project, please write to: Prison Correspondence Project, c/o Break The Chains, PO Box 12122, Eugene, OR 97440.

### ***A few friends & allies***

#### **Anarchist Black Cross Federation**

PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90603  
*ABCF is a federation of anarchist collectives organized to support North American political prisoners & prisoners of war.*

#### **Chicago Anarchist Black Cross**

PO Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430  
*Chicago ABC does a tremendous amount of support for radical political & social prisoners throughout the country.*

#### **Critical Resistance**

1904 Franklin Street, Suite 504, Oakland, CA 94612  
*CR is the leading prison abolition group in the US.*

#### **Jericho Movement**

PO Box 650, New York, NY 10009  
*Jericho is an international network of political prisoner/POW support collectives formed by the late Safiya Bukhari and Black liberation political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim.*

#### **Prison Activist Resource Center**

PO BOX 339, Berkeley CA 94701  
*PARC is an information clearing-house for people interested in prison issues. They also provide a resource directory to prisoners free upon request.*

#### **Western Prison Project**

PO Box 40085, Portland, OR 97240  
*WPP is a reform group doing great work in the Western states to improve prison conditions and develop alternatives to incarceration.*

# Mental Health In Jeopardy

I am a female inmate at Coffee Creek (CCCF) in Wilsonville, OR. I have been incarcerated since March of 1997. I feel that my mental health needs and treatment have been interrupted in such a way that my rights to adequate mental health care have been violated. This action does, in fact, affect many women here in the medium security section of this facility.

Our administrators are not mental health professionals, and they are making decisions that put our mental health and well being at risk with the holidays coming and depression increasing. A life could be lost because of this blatant discrimination against our mental health; our well being violated by deliberate indifference. It has come to my attention that the administration of CCCF has given our mental health professionals a directive to withdraw the dormitory restrictions of all inmates who are of minimum security status. There are no celled units in the minimum security section of our facility. Instead, they have communal living, dormitory units containing up to 128 inmates each. This creates a situation where crowds, lack of privacy, lack of ability to have some control of personal space, sudden loud noises, immature behaviors, male officers in and around the bunk areas, continuous noise, and various other conditions exist. Reasons for which many of us had such restrictions placed on our records because of our mental health issues being triggered by many or all of the above mentioned conditions and situations. Not to mention the recent past event of a lieutenant in the minimum security section being convicted of sexual activity with an inmate. This opened past issues of rape and sexual abuse for many of us.

I have PTSD and genetic depression. I've been diagnosed with these since 1992 through a counselor who was then contracted with a church in Salem. While incarcerated, I have been to Marion County Jail in Salem, Yamhill County Jail

in McMinnville, OR, OWCC in Salem, CADAC in Florence, AZ, MCADC in Gallup, NM, EOCI in Pendleton, OR, back to OWCC in Salem and finally here to CCCF in Wilsonville. My ODOC mental health records began in Marion County Jail, but my current file doesn't show anything until EOCI in 1999.

During the last 7½ years I have been placed on low risk monitoring management four times. The first time is not in my records because it was at CADAC in Arizona in February 1998. The last time was here at CCCF on March 19, 2004.



I have copies of my ODOC file, but there are parts missing. I do not know how to go about obtaining those. I need help with the situation at hand. I feel like I have been asking for mental health help for years. I felt like I was finally on track and receiving the help I needed, and the time to change for a better

future. My time for help and healing has been cut short by those who are not qualified to make these types of judgments. I am not sure of how long I can hold myself together once I'm thrown in such a chaotic setting as minimum security in about 3 or 4 weeks.

I have well over 35 years of family abuse, domestic violence, rape and torture to heal from. I've only been given eleven months of treatment, in the form of a "DBT" skills-for-living group, to achieve a goal of healing. I realize that our facility is short on space. In turn, it has to find ways to house newcomers. Is this supposed to be at the expense of others?

I hope there may be an interested party or parties out there. Our lives are at risk because of an apparent lack of interest in the initial decisions made by our mental health professionals. Please contact me or ODOC as soon as possible.

Tia Ossenkop #12220640  
CCCF  
PO Box 9000  
Wilsonville, OR 97070-9000



## A Contribution from Political Prisoner Sara Jane Olson

I heard on Pacifica Network's new program "Democracy Now" that over 100,000 women passed into and/or through the U.S. Prison industry last year. The population of women in prison has grown 48% since 1995, mostly as a result of the War on Drugs. The War on Drugs is, in essence, a war on particular population groups: Native people, African Americans, Latinos and the poor. Bipartisan drug legislation, since the mid 80's has successfully targeted a huge member of males in these categories. In order to completely decimate any hope of social cohesion and political force in the same communities, government has gone after the women too. Drug trafficking must continue in the U.S. Its profits fund the CIA "Black Ops" budget among other services.

The drug war serves so many useful purposes. It affects over 775,000 arrests per year to feed the maw of an ever-expanding prison industry, federal and state. It has resulted in the disenfranchisement of 1.5 million non-violent drug offenders, who on the whole, don't vote republican.

More and more, the prison/industrial complex resembles the old apartheid south's social control policy of lynching. I guess the bipartisan-enacted drug laws would be the rope and the imprisonment the act. It's a way to get rid of those potentially "most likely to rebel" in the USA Yearbook. What with the involvement for the first time in history of the CIA intelligence operatives in FBI domestic surveillance activities, they are likely to be more and more people with ropes around their necks in the next four years. Many are going to be women.

Central California Women's Facility (C.C.W.F) with its sister prison right across the road, Valley State Prison for Women (V.S.P.W) comprise the largest women's prison complex in the world. It's boasted 20 miles north of Fresno in California's Central Valley, a city that has six state prisons within a 100 miles. The Central Valley grows fruit, vegetables and prisoners. Women are the fastest growing of all categories of prisoners in the country, America may not notice, but our children do.

# *All of Us or None*

Slave, who is it that shall free you?  
Those in deepest darkness lying.  
Comrade, only these can see you  
Only they can hear you crying.  
Comrade, only slaves can free you.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone his lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?  
If it's bread you would be carving,  
Come to us, we too are starving.  
Come to us and let us lead you.  
Only hungry men can feed you.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone his lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten man, who shall avenge you?  
You, on whom the blows are falling,  
Hear your wounded brothers calling.  
Weakness gives us strength to lend you.  
Come to us, we shall avenge you.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone his lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?  
He who can no longer bear it.  
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.  
Taught the time by need and sorrow,  
Strikes today and not tomorrow.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.  
One alone his lot can't better.  
Either gun or fetter.  
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

- *Bertolt Brecht*



**All of Us or None**  
c/o Legal Services for  
Prisoners with Children  
1540 Market St. Ste. 490  
San Francisco, CA 94310

*All of Us or None is a national organizing initiative of prisoners, former prisoners and felons, to combat the many forms of discrimination that we face as the result of felony convictions.*

# Los Mexicanos en el Conquista Imperial

-Benny Tapia

Observe por favor que mientras que imprimiremos artículos más españoles, no somos todavía colectivos bilingüe. No podremos responder a las letras o a la correspondencia en español. Nuestras apologías.

Historicamente, la función de el ejército ha sido para proteger y perpetuar los intereses ideológicos y materiales de la clase elite, los soldados/as vienen predominantemente de clase media y pobre y son de los menos informados en la sociedad. En el siglo 21 esto aun es cierto, esto explica los justificaciones dados por los Mexicanos/as sobre y por que estan en Iraq. Ellos han dicho, "Para librar a los Iraquis de Saddam Hussein", yo para "Eliminar una amenaza inminente a los Estados Unidos". Despues elaborare de estos dos cuotas cada en su turno. Pero primero quisiera haver una breve analisis historico de nuestra papel en la conquista imperial.

Para nosotros esto ocurrio por primera vez en el año 1519 cuando los compoallanos hicieron una alianza estrategia con Cortez y sus conquistadores. En su camino a Tenochtitlan los conquistadores continuaron a aquerir recuidos y hacer alianzas con los tribus opuestos a el imperio Azteca. Estos cuantos cientos de conquistadores y unos cientos de miles de aliados derrotaron con exito a los aztecas. Los "aliados", retuvieron algo de autonomia durante la conquista y creeron que estando libre de la dominacion azteca, sus condiciones materiales mejoraran. A pesar de todo lla que subyugacion de Mexico y Centro America se realizo y con las fuerzas imperiales a salvo, sus "aliados", fueron reducidos a comodidades de la corona Espanola, poniendolos en la misma categoria de los tribus que ellos ayudaron a conquistar.

Ahora brincamos adelante 3005 años a Texas. Creendo la propaganda de indendencia de los residents intrusos, muchos Mixicano/as polearon al lado de Sam Houston pensando que la Independencia seria prosperidad. Pero lla que la independencia fue realizada, los Mexicanos/as se dieron cuenta que los nuevos Tejanos no reconocieron su contribucion ni los asisnaron ninqun papel significativo al inrior del nuevo Estado independiente. De hecho, sus aspiraciones solamente resultaron ser la consolidacion Imperial de la tierra y poder de, "America".

Entonces hay muchas lecciones de los primeros naciones de Norte America quienes en varios "Euro-guerras", simpatisaron con los Britanicos, los fraucesas o con los "Americanos". Sin reparo de sus alianzas, lla con en enemigo derrotado y las fuerzas imperiales seguros, ellos al fin de cuentas siempre corrieron la misma suerte.

En estos ejemplos aquellos fuerzas indigenas tenian uno y otro estrategico independiente y/o interes material para pelear en guerras Imperiales. ¿En este año 2004, que es el interes del mexicano/as a cerca del imperialismo? Como

colonia conquistado del imperialismo estadounidense, no tenemos ningun interes independiente! Unos pueden decir que existe un interes "dependiente" pero aun es ilegítimo y solo sirve de testimonio a nuestra estado incapacitado y es una manifestacion de nuestro estatuo neo-colonial.

¿Peleeando para librar Iraquis – cuando y donde ha dado la libertad a alguien el imperialismo? ¡Este hecho historico no existe! Nosotros mismo ni estamos libres. ¿Entonces como vamos a poder librar a alguien mas? Por cierto solo estamos libres para ser buen sujetos de imperialismo. Detras de toda la propaganda, la verdad es esto: Mexicanos y gente de color, matando a otra gente de color por la chovinista imperialismo blanco.



Y aun si todo que fue presunto sobre Iraq fue cierto, lo que la administracion estadounidense nega que no fue. Debemos realizar que el imperialismo no solamente lo provoco pero crecio este amenaza. Si analizamos el siglo 21, dariamos cuenta que el imperialismo frecuentemente creo (y continuara creando), situaciones al rededor del mundo que exigia nuestra valentia, sangre, y vidas en grandes cantidades.

No vamos a dejar que nos ensanan haciendonos creer que la guerra en Iraq eliminara una amenaza inminente. Esta idea es propaganda para dar a la gente una falsa sentido de seguridad. ¿Quien o que es la amenaza mas inminente para nosotros? La palabra "inminente se implica algo que ocurría en el futuro. Repedir que examinaras la condiciones materiales como existen hoy en día y que decidiras ¿Cuales mas danino para nosotros, otra gente de color en paizes extranjeros, o el estatu quo aqui en los Estados Unidos? Indisputablemente es el estatu quo, es la opresion estadounidense, es el racismo institucional, es Mexicano contra Mexicano, es el halto numero de muertes infantiles, es el rapido aumento de Mexicanos/as encarcelados, es el halto proporcion de muertes de suicidio, etc. Todo es consecuencia del imperialismo.

Te reto que hagas un analisis cuantitativo sobre cuantos "terroristas" civiles o naciones bribones han matado gente fuera de su paiz. ¿Cuanta civiles murieron a manos del ejercito estadounidense en Vietnam? ¡Millones en una sola guerra! En Iraq el ejercito estadounidense lla mataron 10 veces la cantidad de civiles que murieron en 9/11/01. Tu decida quiern es la amenaza inminente a la humanidad y la estabilidad mundial.

Inafortunadamente los Mexicano/as lla convirtieron en elequivalente a las fuerzas Aztecas despues de que fueron derrotados. En realidad, estamos siendo utilizados (igual

que los Aztecas), para pelear y morir por la misma gente que nos conquistaron, los que robaron nuestra tierras y nos convirtieron en subsistencia. Atras de todo la falsedad y justificaciones ilegítimos los Mexicanos/as del ejercito estadonudense solo estan protegiendo y perpetuando el imperialismo. Estamos empesando desde el principio.

El hecho de que la mayoría de los Mexicano/as quienes ingresaron al ejercito estadonudense lo have espificamente para movilidad economico, dan potencia a una realizacion de la causa y los efectos del complejo industrial de ejercito Estadonudense como directamente se aplica a ellos, el proletariado y el "tercer mundo". Para la raza que son politicamente avanzados nuestro reto es desarrollar esta realizacion colectiva para asi remover, "nuestras fuerzas", de su presente posicion para parar la estabilizacion del imperialismo Estadonudense y la dominacion de nuestra gente.

\*(escribiendo de la carcel)  
**Benny Tapia E28767**  
CSP/ SHU/4B4R34  
PO Box 3481  
Corcoran, California 93212



## ***A Message from "Thief"***

Naitze, I pen this letter in solidarity with all the flesh and blood of people worldwide: Those who have been stripped of their humanity and used as coals to fuel the flames that power this capitalist regime's death machine.

With the rapid development of current global events, the urgent need for revolution becomes more and more evident with each passing day. From the torture scandals at Abu Ghraib and Corcoran prisons to the aftermath of the Rampart Districts exposed corruption. In the city of L.A. Peter Jennings is reporting that street gangs have recently been at war with police, resulting in casualties on both sides. The paralysis of analysis is coming to end. From the Varios and Ghettos of the United Snakes to the selvas of Mexico and Central America, insurgents are rising up. At this crucial time the rally cry for all anti-imperialist subversive groups worldwide should be "Solidarity in the Struggle!"

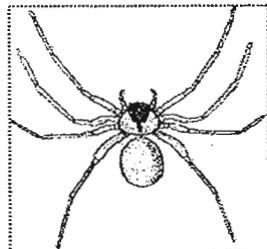
In every country we must bring revolutionary theory and practice to those sectors in society that has the greatest potential for revolution. The problem is that in this country this has not been happening, especially in regards to politicizing Xicano and Latino-indigenous people in the Varios and pintas.

Admittedly, many Xicano and Latino-indigenous people in the pintas and Varios of America are involved in a gang subculture which is often engaged in misdirected violence. These groups are still insurgent in nature. Not all of their violence is misdirected as evidenced by the Los Angeles Riots and the recent wars against the junta taking place in every hood USA. These groups are the most experienced soldiers the movement could hope to find, but their revolutionary potential is being almost completely ignored by activist groups. The only thing these groups lack is revolutionary education, because on their own they have

already organized themselves with all odds against them. The imperialists cannot stop us from organizing ourselves so their only hope is to keep us miseducated and thus misdirecting our violence on each other. But this is coming to an end as Xicano and Latino-indigenous are, without the real support of activist groups, re-educating themselves as exemplified by the Southern Mexicans and the Latin King and Queen Nation. These groups have been educating themselves in Anarchist and Marxist theory, Mesoamerican (Aztec, Mexican, Toltec, and Mayan) identity and history. Activist groups should not ignore this revolutionary potential. Publications and propaganda is needed not only in English, but also in Spanish, Nahuatl, and Mayan languages which are often the first language of our people. "Solidarity in Struggle!"

At the same time many of our people haven't made an effort to integrate themselves in the broader struggle so that is why I'm compelled to lead by example. I welcome all opinions, correspondence and support from those I agree with or don't agree with. I am currently doing ten years for engaging in misdirected gang violence, but I am also serving a sentence for attempting to murder a rapist that had been violating young girls in my area. I am originally from the Inland Empire in Southern California, and many other Califomians up here in the Oregon Department of Corruption. I came up here "on vacation, leaving probation." Many know me as "Thief (Insurgente)" of the incarcerated Xicano Hip-Hop Collective "Brown Recluse" and I have anti-authoritarian lyrics used against me in court for allegedly advocating the assassination of past presidents, politicians, and police, and I was also convicted of threatening a sitting judge. I have politicized myself during the resistance. To all my gente educate yourself, and organize yourself.

***In the Struggle...***



**Anthony Scheidemantel**  
#11965888  
2605 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310

*I'm like the fire to which they sent, a great wind to extinguish, that instead lit a multitude of flames, till they could no longer distinguish the first from the last, breathin' life in the words from the past, our reflections what we'd see, if Marco's face emerged from the mask, still we thirst for the glass-of freedom, left by the gods of Mexico these words conjure up the image, of the throne shared by Zapata and Villa, emerged from shadowy silhouettes, of neighborhood watch signs where thoughts cold Toltec Hieroglyph Inscriptions, of events foretold. It's like the year was 1940, in the month of June 'bout to bring it back to the era, of the Sleepy Lagoon, when Chucos hummed the tune to swing, how spoken word is in session from Mexica to Zapatista, "Our World is our Weapon". Beyond merely asking a question we offer the answer, visions of brown berets in the jungle walking with panthers. See Brown Recluse 'Bout the truth' While You Still Pretendin' record label try to capture us and milk our venom but we refuse to sell out 'cause ain't 'bout what you earnin' or spendin' 'cause half the emcees now, only rhyme about rhymin' while the other half seem to be blinded by diamonds. Word to Cauhtemoc, we Subterranean below the ground, straight out of the sewer, this is how hip-hops supposed to sound from the world's most dangerous group, Brown Recluse, what you thought son N.W.A, National Warriors of Aztlan.*

**- THIEF (Insurgente)**

# **Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network Statement on Billy Cottrell**

From the British ELPSN, November 25, 2004

On November 19th, 2004, William "Billy" Cottrell testified against two other people and he is now regarded as a police informant by ELP. The following is a joint statement written by the former "Free Billy Support Network" and ELP.

As everyone reading this will be aware, a couple of weeks ago William "Billy" Cottrell went on trial accused of involvement in a series of Earth Liberation Front arsons which targeted SUV dealers in the Los Angeles area.

What is less well known is that a week before the trial began his support network learned that Cottrell's defense lawyers intended to run a defense argument which involved blaming two other named individuals for the arsons. We have confirmed that these additional people were identified without any cooperation from Cottrell. It is believed that the information was obtained through Grand Jury testimony and various forms of electronic surveillance. It should be mentioned that Cottrell's attorneys filed a motion to exclude these additional names from court and the media, but Judge Klausner denied the motion.

Before activists were involved with the legal side of his case, non-movement attorneys were hired and a direction for court strategy was developed. Neither Cottrell, his attorney's nor his community received any support from local activists throughout the Grand Jury and investigation process. It should also be noted that Cottrell was never part of any movement or activist community. As a result, serious mistakes were made both in testimony before the Grand Jury and the handling of alleged evidence.

As it turned out, the defense strategy which subsequently developed was to admit that Cottrell was at the scene of the actions and spray painted ELF slogans, but did not participate in the planning or execution of the arsons. His defense would argue that Cottrell had Asperser's syndrome and so did not have the mental state required to engage in conspiracy; instead, they would claim he was the innocent dupe of the two other named individuals. However the trial Judge rejected a defense plea of Asperser's syndrome and ruled to exclude any mention of the syndrome from the trial.

As soon as the full defense strategy was known, FBSN was shocked to learn that the defense lawyers intended to name other people as being responsible for the arsons; FBSN had received assurances throughout Cottrell's imprisonment that this would not be the case. The FBSN strongly advised Cottrell, his family and his lawyers against this defense strategy. FBSN also informed ELP about what was happening and ELP likewise raised concerns, with Cottrell et al, about the implications of such a strategy.

It was decided, at that time, by FBSN & ELP, not to publicize Cottrell's defense strategy in order to allow Cottrell and his defense team time to alter their course. However despite the advice of both FBSN and ELP, this was not the case.

In court, Cottrell's lawyers alleged that Tyler Johnson and Michie Oe were responsible for the arsons Cottrell was charged with. Due to various factors, including his diagnosis with Asperser's and imprisonment at MDC, FBSN believe that this decision was made largely without the input of Cottrell himself.

However, on November 17th, William "Billy" Cottrell was called to testify. Cottrell's testimony was witnessed by members of his support network. In his testimony Cottrell stuck to his lawyer's defense arguments and blamed Tyler & Michie for the arsons. To make matters worse he also extensively detailed their conversations and actions, providing information that could not be

obtained by authorities in any other manner. Cottrell even confirmed their images when shown pictures of Tyler & Michie.

In the interests of protecting all individuals currently under investigation for the ELF actions of August 2nd, 2003, FBSN & ELP cannot condone any court strategy which implicates or exposes others. This is particularly important considering the brutality and wrongful prosecutions which characterize previous investigations by the FBI and associated agencies.

Because of Cottrell's actions in naming and implicating two other people for the arsons, Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network has been forced to withdraw all their support for Cottrell and instead have named him as a police informant. Likewise FBSN cannot approve of Cottrell's actions and as such, the Free Billy Support Network has been dissolved.

As for Cottrell himself, despite his testimony, on the 19th of November he was found guilty on seven counts of arson and one count of conspiracy to commit arson. The Jury did, however, clear him of the most serious charge, that of using a destructive device during a violent crime. Sentencing is not expected until March 5th, 2005.

A full Court Report about Cottrell's trial will appear in the next issue of Spirit of Freedom (due out in January 2005). In the meantime both ELP and FBSN would like to apologize to all those people who have supported Cottrell due to our efforts. Throughout his imprisonment, Cottrell received amazing support from liberationists across the globe. We sincerely apologize to everyone who contributed; we had no idea, until the very end, that Cottrell intended to testify against others and we did everything we could to dissuade him from his testimony.

Despite the fact that Cottrell has testified, both ELP and the former FBSN would like to remind everyone that although Cottrell has turned traitor there are many other good prisoners who need our support and we hope this will not put people off supporting them.

For more info on eco-prisoners please write:

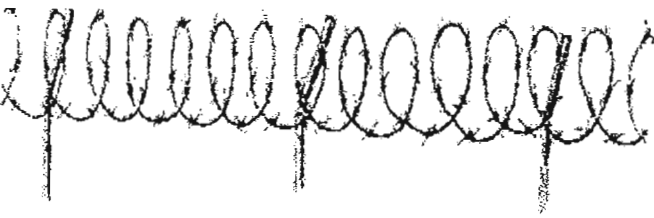
**Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network**  
BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX, England

## **ELP: Critter gets release date!**

*ELP has some fantastic news. In a very excited letter dated 5th of November 2004, American eco-activist, Craig "Critter" Marshall, has written to ELP to inform us that he has been given a release date! Critter is due for release on the 6th of January 2005. This is great news! Critter himself states "I'm obviously pretty happy, but I'm also a bit nervous about it."*

*Please send letters of congratulations & support to:*

**Craig Marshall #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914, USA**





## **A Message from former Political Prisoner Ray Luc Levasseur: "All Our Political Prisoners Need to Be Brought Home"**

November 2004

Dear friends,

On August 6 I was transferred from the U.S. penitentiary at Atlanta to a pre-release center in Portland, Maine. On November 4th I was released from the federal bureau of prisons custody. After 20 years confinement I've finally come home.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who've supported me during this excruciating ordeal. Some of you have been around since the first day of my capture in 1984. Others became involved during court trials attempting to criminalize actions taken in support of struggles from Central America to Southern Africa. Some, of you came through during the lockdown years at Marion and ADX - prisons continually violating the spirit and law of human rights. Others joined in during the quest for parole. Be it cards, letters, phone calls, books, literature, funds, political events, providing various kinds of support - each of you contributed in some way to my survival enabling me to reach the dawn of a new life.

My release after 20 years imprisonment for political offenses demonstrates that political prisoners can be brought home. Do not forget those left behind. Mumia is still on death row. The MOVE prisoners have endured over 25 years of unjust imprisonment. Mutulu Shakur, Oscar Lopez, Marilyn Buck and many others are weighed down by inordinately long sentences. A new generation of political prisoners needs support - from younger activists like Jeff "Free" Luers to immigrants detained in the extended post-911 repression.

I make special mention of my codefendants - Tom Manning, Richard Williams and Jaan Lamaan. Of 8 of us charged with United Freedom Front actions, they are the only 3 remaining in prison. That's "freedom", as in what these comrades fought for on behalf of others. They deserve respect and support. All our political prisoners need to be brought home.

One does not pass through 2 decades in America's maximum security cells without feeling its effects. The voices still reverberate from those I knew that died in prison. The sun is shining but shadows around me bear decades of physical and emotional pain. I remember hunger strikes and beatings; the sickening sounds of violence and the creeping silence of box car cells. I know the medical neglect suffered by some of our prisoners. I remember a world apart within which the spirit of political prisoners remains unbroken, and the circle of life survives the house of the dead. America's political prisoners are among the most principled people it's ever been my honor to know.

I was never a victim. I am a survivor of wars fought for and against U.S. imperialism. I believe that our political prisoners stand on the side of history that will vindicate our actions to alleviate the suffering of those most used and abused by a system that prioritizes profit over human needs. However, I am an anti-imperialist whose military role has ended.

I am now home with my *wife* Jamila and close to my family, including daughters, grandchildren and mother. From my heart I thank you all, for what you gave helped in some way to make this return home possible.

*Love & Respect - Ray Luc Levasseur*



### **REMAINING UFF POWs**

**Jaan Karl  
Laaman**  
#W41514, Box  
100, South  
Walpole, MA  
02071

**Thomas Manning**  
#10372-016, Box  
4000, Springfield,  
MO 65801

**Richard Williams**  
(check info below)

### **Revolutionary Greetings from Friends and Family of Richard Williams**

This is to inform you that the BOP transported Bro Richard to North Carolina. He will be receiving follow-up treatment for the cancer that was removed by surgery in October. We knew this move would take place, but there was hope that he would go to Minnesota because the Mayo Clinic is there, one of the world's leading institutions dealing with cancer.

Because most of Richard's family resides on the East Coast they are now much closer to him and are already planning visits. He will probably be in North Carolina for 3 months before being sent back to USP Lompoc, CA. He will then finally go to USP Victorville where many of the Lompoc prisoners have already gone. Bro. Richard's Revolutionary spirits remain high. And as he always says,

*!Venceremos!*

Bro. Richard's new mailing address is:

**Richard Williams, #10377-016**  
Federal Medical Center Butner  
PO Box 1600 Old North Carolina Hwy 75  
Butner, NC 27509-600

# Prison Censorship

## *Communiqué from Native American Political Prisoner Eddie Hatcher*

This communiqué serves to alert all publishing and public interest organizations that the new North Carolina Department of Correction (DOC) and prison systems across the South have implemented the most oppressive policy to date wherein practically every progressive, left-leaning publication and many mainstream publications have been banned from entering the prisons.

To date, those publications which have been banned are: *Maxim*, *Green Anarchy*, *Burning Spear*, all ABC [Anarchist Black Cross] publications, all MOVE publications, and all anarchist publications.

To date, publications which are rejected at a frequent rate, but as yet not banned completely are: *Rolling Stone*, AIDS/HIV publications, prison rights publications.

The current move by the North Carolina DOC and prison systems across the South is designed to gradually prohibit all publications that even occasionally speak to prison issues, include prison commentary, and offer prisoner support or directives to those who offer support.

Moreover, the underlying goal of these systems is to eventually prohibit and outlaw completely all publications, as reading materials serve to enlighten and educate prisoners. This move by the prison system became very intense immediately after the implementation of Homeland Security and the Patriot Act.

If an effort is not made very soon to challenge these policies that are being imposed on prisoners, we will eventually be prohibited from receiving any progressive publications and more likely, the prison systems will enact rules which specify the few mainstream publications prisoners can choose from. And this short list will not include any progressive publications.

We understand that for the last two years practically every organization has been heavily involved in the issues surrounding Iraq and the war. And it has been during this period that the state government, under the directive of the Justice Department, has had free reign to implement these widespread, oppressive acts against us. While no one was watching, we have been subjected to everything from new rules and policies intended to lock us down, to brutalities which are a breach of humanity.

These state systems have now become so oppressively powerful that a movement must meet these atrocities head-on, or we will be in constant conditions far worse than any Iraqi prison. ***We sincerely ask for your help.***

Write to: **Eddie Hatcher** #0173499,  
PO Box 2405, Marion, NC 28752

# Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim:

## ***Message of Solidarity to the Committee for the Families of Political Prisoners and Detainees in the West Bank***

As Salaam Alaikum -

Inshallah, this statement will find all of you in the best of Allah (SWT) health and mercy. I wish to extend my solidarity and my support for the political prisoners and detainees in the West Bank and throughout the occupied territory of Palestine.



I am a former member of the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army who has been in prison since August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1971, when I was first arrested at the age of nineteen. I was accused and convicted of engaging in underground activities against the then President Richard Nixon government, opposing racism and imperialism. I have always stood in support of the Palestinian people to be self-governed and to establish an independent,

sovereign nation. As the founder of the Jericho Amnesty Movement, I have always equated Zionism as a racist apartheid system supported by US imperialism. Therefore, the task for those of us who understand the extent of US support of Zionism is to provide our support to those who suffer under such racist oppression.

However, the greatest solidarity we can extend is to build and strengthen the struggle here opposing white supremacy and US imperialism. The best support I can provide Palestine is to continue to contribute to the struggle opposing national oppression in this country. The parallels between our peoples' struggle are numerous, just as the opposition to a sovereign Palestine is the same opposition to a free and independent Black nation.

Inshallah, this message of solidarity will be accepted in the spirit of a Muslim and political prisoner, who after 33 years of imprisonment, continues to seek the means to contribute to the overall struggle opposing US imperialism and its Zionist cohorts.

Mas Salaam – Jalil Muntaqim

Write to: **Jalil Muntaqim** (Anthony Bottom)  
#77A4283, Box 618, 135 State St., Auburn  
Correctional Facility, Auburn, NY 13024

## Enslaved

I am presently enslaved in the prison industrial complex at VSPW in California. I'm doing a life sentence for a crime I did not commit. It's a fact that I was in my home state of Oregon while this allegedly occurred. Nevertheless due to a joke of an attorney, and being a survivor of domestic abuse, here I sit like so many other women. Many here have fled violent situations only to be thrown into another abusive situation at the hands of the state. The faces may have changed, but the violence remains. It is primarily verbal abuse by a predominantly alpha-male staff. Our voices are muffled by the razor wire and concrete walls. You are told if you don't like it, don't come to prison!! Being humiliated and degraded is constant. To go up against the Mafioso style guards union is a guarantee to make your stay quite uncomfortable. We are jammed up to 8 women to a room designated for four. The fee the state pays for this overcrowding is minimal in comparison to the money they make for forcing us to live like cattle. Medical and mental health services are a disaster here. Neglect is the key word and being told that you are too dramatic or that you're lying is common practice.

Rehabilitation isn't encouraged, it's discouraged. Any rehabilitation a person does is for you. It's certainly not promoted. If the state provided women with tools to empower and educate themselves, they wouldn't return to their old habits and the state wouldn't be able to use incarceration as the money making slave industry that it does. I believe that the goal here is to break a woman's spirit and keep you here for money making purposes.

For example, this facility doesn't allow long-term inmates to have flu visits with their children and loved ones. Which is unfortunate for their own families who shouldn't suffer more than they already have. Visits would promote family ties. Children and loved ones need that connection. The statistics speak for themselves about the child's chances of being depressed, suicidal or incarcerated later in life. This facility is quick to say that visiting is a privilege, not a right. It is common for loved ones to wait unneccarssily due to staff being lazy and neglectful in getting you to your visits. The staff here would like nothing more than to see all of our privileges eliminated.

California remains in the dark ages with regard to incarceration. Locking us up and throwing away the key? Clearly this isn't the answer.

Lynn Noyes  
CDC# W90294  
D1-8-2low  
PO BOX 92  
Chowchilla, CA 93610



# Wild Poppies

A new CD of

poetry by  
**Marilyn  
Buck**

From  
The Freedom  
Archives



A gathering of poets to celebrate the work of poet and political prisoner Marilyn Buck, who has spent more than 23 years in US prisons for her anti-imperialist activities. It's a poetry jam created across and despite razor wire, prison bars and censored phone lines. Poet contributors - among them - Amiri Baraka, Dennis Brutus, Uchechi Kalu, Genny Lim, devorah major, Sonia Sanchez, Piri Thomas, and Mitsuye Yamada lend their voices to support this sister who has struggled for justice her whole adult life.

In the eyes of the government, Marilyn is an enemy of the state, despised for her role in freeing Black Liberation leader Assata Shakur, hated for her willingness to risk her life and freedom for a world imaginable only to a revolutionary-or a poet.

Yet for the poets who rushed to lend their voices and their words to this collection, Marilyn is someone very different-a woman who lives for transformation. Through her political activism and writing, she creates the possibility of a world of social justice and peace. Marilyn is one of more than 100 political prisoners in this country. As you listen to her poems and those of the other extraordinary poets here, let the ideals, the vision, the sacrifice of those political prisoners reverbate in your ears and your heart.

To order Wild Poppies: send check or money order for \$12 (\$13 in Canada) (includes shipping) to:

The Freedom Archives / 522 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110 / (415) 863-9977  
info@freedomarchives.org



# Call for Solidarity with Native Youth Movement



The Native Youth Movement (NYM) struggles for land, freedom, and sovereignty for Native peoples in Canada and the United States. They are influenced by the legacies of many Native rebels, including the American Indian Movement, but they have no desire to mimic other movements of past or present. Their strategy is mobilizing the youth to struggle against the violence of colonization and racism.

NYM is one of the most energetic and militant organizations in the US & Canada. The governments of both countries recognize this and that's why NYM is increasingly targeted by police agencies. We believe it is essential for social justice movements to support the efforts of NYM to reclaim Native land, protect wilderness areas, empower their youth and strengthen their communities.

Break The Chains is a prisoner support/anti-repression organization, focused primarily on issues in the Northwestern region. We pledge to support NYM as a whole, and its Northwestern members in particular, against repression and imprisonment in the difficult years ahead.

**There can be no  
justice on stolen land!  
Support the Native  
Youth Movement!**



Publisher & Distributor  
PO BOX 12122  
Eugene, OR 97440  
[www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net)

TO:

If you wish to receive this publication in an envelope, please let us know.