

# *The Prison News Service*

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# Quebec Police Lay Siege To Mohawk Community

by Jim Campbell

As we go to press, July 19/90, the standoff continues between the Warriors of the Mohawk nation, and the Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) at two Mohawk territories near Montreal. It is unclear at this time how much longer the stand-off will last. Negotiations are continuing between the Mohawks and various levels of government. There is certainly no indication as to whether or not it will be resolved without further violence on the part of the police. One very positive development has been a move, reported by CBC radio, that the various factions of the Mohawks, divided on the issue of gambling casinos on their territories, have come together for a collective defense of their land.

Early in the morning of July/11/90, a contingent of 500 heavily armed troops of the QPP, without any warning, opened fire with teargas and automatic rifles on a Mohawk village containing at the time mainly women and children. The encampment was protected by a barricade put up to defend land claimed by Kanesatake, one of seven communities making up the Mohawk nation. The attack would have been farcical if the situation itself were not so serious. In spite of all their fancy equipment, battle gear, body armour, face masks and many weapons, one cop was killed, and several police vehicles abandoned as they retreated in disarray when their own tear gas drifted down hill onto them.

According to reports the Mohawks heard over captured police radios, the officer was either killed with his own gun when he fell from a tree where he had taken a sniping position, or was hit by one of his fellow cowboys. The Mohawks did shoot to protect themselves, but witnesses on the scene say that their instructions were to shoot over the attackers' heads. The abandoned vehicles, 4 cruisers and 2 vans, were smashed by Mo-

hawks using a commandeered front end loader. They were turned into a second barricade, allowing the Warriors to extend their defensive position. The police, numbering over a thousand would-be-heroes at one point in time, but with reduced numbers now, erected their own barricade about 200 yards down the hill. The nearby town of Oka was placed under a form of martial law. All vehicles were stopped and anyone suspected of being Mohawk, or native, was turned back, even if they lived in town. The police had stopped food and medicine from going into Kanesatake, prevented Mohawks from returning home if they were outside the police roadblocks, and prevented Mohawks from getting to the hospital.

Incredibly, the attack was made in an attempt to serve a court injunction ordering the Mohawks to remove their blockade so that the town of Oka could cut down a pine forest, planted by the people of Kanesatake, to allow for the expansion of a local private golf club from 9-holes to 18-holes. It seems the mayor is a golf enthusiast, not content with the 7 other 18-hole golf courses within 6 miles of the disputed forest. The QPP claim that they were only responding to the request of the local government to serve the injunction. No one has really taken responsibility for authorizing the raid. Both the federal government and the Minister of Native Affairs in Quebec had publicly opposed any such police move just the day before.

To support their sisters and brothers under siege at Kanesatake, the Mohawks of nearby Khanawake blocked off one of the main commuter bridges going into Montreal from the south shore of the St. Lawrence. The bridge, which rises from their land, was also

closed last year to protest a massive police raid on the community against an alleged cigarette smuggling operation. In a major tactical advance, they have threatened to blow up the bridge if any Mohawk is hurt in a police attack. Since the authorities know that many iron-workers live in Khanawake, such a threat is taken seriously. Bridges make good "hostages"; they're expensive, and necessary for the smooth functioning of the profit system.

On the weekend of July 14th and 15th, hundreds of local residents demonstrated, protesting the seizure of the bridge. They burned effigies of Mohawks, complete with bow and arrow, screamed loudly about how they were tired of being dominated by "minorities", attacked and chased anyone thought to be a Mohawk. The racist nature of the mob's politics was so clear that even reporters for the mass media noticed it. The local municipal officials have been rabidly anti-native, fuming that a few Indians can stand in the way of a golf course.

While it may be frustrating for people to have an hour and a half added to their commuting time, the speed with which white supremacist politics came out under stress reveals that they are never very far from the surface. This highly charged and polarized situation was not created by the Mohawks. They have always been willing to negotiate — as

the native people have always been willing to try to talk through problems ever since the Europeans came to their land. It wasn't the Mohawks who felt that a golf course was worth risking human lives for. By closing the bridge, the Mohawks were using one of the few weapons available to them, against a society that has never hesitated to use whatever weapons they could to get what the Indians had. But nothing infuriates white supremacists as much as a people who refuse to lie down while they're being kicked around. They much prefer to be able to quietly go about their lives undisturbed, while the destruction of native people and land, upon which so much of their (our) comfort depends, continues.

Support for the Mohawks from other first nations was immediate. In British Columbia, elsewhere in Quebec and on the east coast, highways have been blocked, a tactic used since the early seventies to show solidarity. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the national organization of band councils, gave immediate support, as did the Lubicon

of the police and their complete disregard for human life. The face of a militarized state was visible for all to see on the TV. But this time it wasn't some far off distant place, this time it was "us". On July/14, 300 very angry people in Toronto turned a demonstration, sponsored by the Truth About Africa Committee, protesting a racist exhibit on British colonialism in Africa, at the ROM, — known as the Racist Oppressive Museum (Royal Ontario Museum) — to one protesting the situation at Kanesatake. The march blocked and held various main intersections as it proceeded to a Quebec government office. A Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty, which is raising money to be put at the disposal of the Mohawk people for food and other supplies, has been well received. Demonstrations also occurred outside the headquarters of the QPP in Montreal and elsewhere as well.

The Mohawks say that the attack by the Quebec police was in retaliation for the role that the native people played in the rejection of what was called the Meech Lake Accord. This constitutional Accord was an attempt to

## Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty

In the wake of the police attacks on the people of Kanesatake, sovereign Mohawk territories needs our assistance in the defense of their territory. Quebec Provincial Police laying siege to the community cleverly refuse to allow food to be carried in. It is clear that they fear that such assistance will enable the Mohawk people to carry on the defense of their lands.

At such a time, one of the things we can do, as people who believe that the sovereignty and self-government of the First Nations is crucial, is send material aid right away to help them buy supplies like food, medical supplies, fuel, etc. Even should the blockade be lifted, funds will still be needed to help rebuild and further the struggle for aboriginal title to the Kanesatake lands. With this in mind, solidarity activists in Toronto, as an ad-hoc committee, have put together a defense fund with the goal of sending immediate assistance to the people there. We are working with the Leonard Peltier Canadian Defense Committee and other native groups in our efforts.

Your immediate contribution is essential. Funds can be sent individually or through organizations. Support the First Nations of Canada in their struggle for sovereignty in this emergency situation.

Send money to:

Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty  
c/o Bread & Roses Credit Union  
348 Danforth Ave., Suite 211  
Toronto, Ont M4K 1N8

For more information call (416) 921-0437. Or write c/o Bulldozer, POB, 5052, Stn A, Toronto, Ont M5W 1W4.



graphic from  
A Basic Call to Consciousness

Cree and other nations involved in the so far non-violent resistance for their land. For three years various native leaders, including the AFN, have been warning that unless the provincial and federal governments began to take land negotiations more seriously, violence would be the result. No one is really surprised that it has come. The threat of guerrilla actions from the more than 1 million native people (nearly 5 percent of the population) is real. Their combined land base consists of millions and millions of acres, with many vulnerable targets in sparsely populated areas. Native militants, well aware of the process of destruction, will not stand by while they are destroyed, territory by territory.

Many non-native Canadians were shocked and outraged by the open aggression against Kanesatake. The reporters present at the time of the attack were personally horrified at the arrogance and incompetence

get Quebec, a primarily French-speaking province, to sign the new Canadian constitution that the other nine, predominantly English-speaking provinces, had signed in 1982. The Accord had a time limit of June 23/90, by which time all ten provinces had to agree to the terms of Quebec's signing the constitution. Elijah Harper, a Cree member of the Manitoba legislature, by refusing to give his assent to some parliamentary procedures, was able to run out the clock. Indians were opposed to the Accord since they were not invited to participate in the constitutional discussions and are not recognized in the constitution. In response to the incredible pressure put on Harper by the Quebec and federal governments "to save the country" as the deadline drew nearer, the AFN said that the settler nations of Canada, the English and French, had created this mess, that they, the

Continued on Centrespread

## Congressional Satraps Look Without Seeing

On 18/May/90, U.S. Representative Robert Kastenmeier (D-WI), chair of the U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Administration of Justice, which oversees the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) visited USP Marion. With him came two other members of the Subcommittee, Reps. Carlos Moorhead (R-CA) and George Sangmeister (D-IL), plus BOP boss J. Michael Quinlan. None of them deem letters from prisoners important enough to answer, indicating that the visit was a mere formality. According to reports, they were on the ground for about two and a half hours.

Kastenmeier said that no pressure was responsible for the visit but that it was "something overdue". For sure! He refused to come to investigate when his subcommittee was holding oversight hearings on Marion in 1984 and 1985 amid an avalanche of complaints about and condemnations of the brutal implementation and continuation of the lockdown starting in Oct/83. He relied instead on

a consultants' report that flatly admitted that it covered only the administrative side and ignored prisoner contentions, allegedly due to lack of time.

Kastenmeier and Company got the BOP sanitary treatment. Things were arranged to give an appearance of constant and relatively free activity while insuring that the tour wouldn't come in contact with any embarrassingly articulate prisoners willing to take the risk of speaking out. This included putting prisoners out in the yard way longer than usual and by altering and extending the inside recreation schedule. The alterations seemed calculated to insure that political or other conscious and vocal prisoners would be out of the cells should the bigwigs stop by. Chow was held up for two hours, likely because local porcine persons didn't want the trough masters to see how the slop was really prepared and delivered. Prisoners were hoping (futilely) to get some of the chow the tourists were shown.

Kastenmeier said that he was not "shocked or outraged" by anything he saw and that he was "satisfied" with the visit. He pulled the tatters of his liberal mantle around himself to say that he preferred not to see a lockdown situation but lamented how it was necessary for the safety of both staff and prisoners. Moorhead, ranking Republican on the subcommittee, parroted the long discredited justification for the lockdown and its abuses that Marion contains only the very hardest federal prisoners. Contrary to official propaganda, there are many prisoners at Marion who are not here for committing acts of violence in other prisons, and many others are kept here on the basis of petty infractions that don't have even the remotest connection to either violence or security. Given these politicians' long acquaintance with the Marion situation, their expressions of belief in the administrative line are either incompetence so gross as to be incredible or straight-up, knowing lies.

On the issue of political prisoners at Marion, Moorhead did the Republican thing and denied there are any. Kastenmeier cryptically called it "a plausible complaint", but only in reference to the spies in the super-protective custody unit. While spying may be inherently political, motivation determines whether its perpetrators are political. Despite spy Pollard's attempts to wrap himself in the Israeli flag after the fact, both he and spy Walker were in it for the money. The real political prisoners and prisoners of war were ignored.

Madison (WI) activist Chuck Winant confronted Kastenmeier about the political prisoner/prisoner of war issue and the visit to Marion at his campaign headquarters in Madison on 26/May. Kastenmeier said he

went everywhere in Marion and talked to a list of prisoners, including POW Ray Levasseur. Chuck then confronted Kastenmeier with Ray's report of the visit saying that noone from Ray's side of D unit was interviewed. Kastenmeier squirmed. Considering that noone from E unit was interviewed, either, and the short time the entourage was here, the contention that Kastenmeier spoke to any representative "list" is as truthful as his claim to have spoken to Ray. Chuck also pressed Kastenmeier about the water at Marion and whether the new bastille being built to replace Marion in Colorado would be used to punish political prisoners. He wasn't, however, able to elicit much more than what he described as "the Fish Eyed Stare". He didn't get much more than an audio version of the same when he pressed Kastenmeier on these issues during a subsequent press conference. But just the fact that he could put the questions in Kastenmeier's face is power for prisoners.

As was apparent from Kastenmeier's comments to the local press and his interaction with Chuck Winant, Kastenmeier is completely committed to the BOP's official mythology that Marion-style repression is only for vicious predators convicted of violence in other prisons and that only such prisoners get such treatment. To Kastenmeier, the BOP is honorable and above political repression. Considering the extent to which this view deviates from reality and how well aware Kastenmeier's position of so many years must make him of the deviation, it is unlikely that he is merely a dupe of the repressive apparatus. He is its agent and his visit to Marion was more public relations for it than anything else. Ray Levasseur wrote of the visit: "I think it will come to nothing." His thought is acute. ∞

## Chickasauris Yux

The much heralded and long awaited "improvement" in the chow at USP Marion and implementation of the "new, more healthful" diet has finally arrived, supposedly. Food quality took a dive last September, allegedly due to the budget crunch as the 30/Sep end of the federal fiscal year approached. The food manager and past warden kept promising improvements as soon as the money got right, and then the warden left to afflict USP Leavenworth. The same food manger and a new warden started promising even better things, and pegged arrival of fat city at June. Why it had to be June from January was never explained. Well, June has arrived and no one's getting fat.

The mainstay of the difference is some sort of hamburger-looking' chicken grind that might as well be lizard meat for all its identifiable components. It is rumored that this is where chicken lips can be found, not to mention the few feet and entrail parts too unsavory for McNuggets. This chickisaurus is now found in virtually everything — soup, spaghetti, tacos, stew, patties, chop suey (chop chickie?), gravy, etc., etc., not to mention the less identifiable delicacies. It is inflicted with an even greater vengeance on prisoners pursuing the no red meat diet on the BOP theory that chicken — if that's really all this stuff is — is not meat, even when it is sort of reddish brown. Chicken patties large and small and heavily enough breaded to disguise the what-was-thats until they're well on their way to the neck have also become common, as have similar somethings fishy. Beans and veggies and other stuff with more obvious redeeming nutritional value have become scarcer, and those remaining are often incinerated into sterility.

Other things also contribute to making dining at Marion such a gustatory delight. The kitchen swine seem incapable of getting the trays dry before loading them and so throw treated napkins under much of the food to control soggy. Whatever the chemical on the napkins is is picked up by the food (though it is not always possible to impair the taste). In addition, the "NOMEAT" label is xeroxed and just thrown in with the food. The food manager insists that this is no problem despite the fact that xerox workers have taken job actions due to the toxicity of the chemicals. The \$50 super trays have also developed leaks and cracks that frequently result in food being liberally smeared on the

BIO ENGINEERED BY THE BOP  
FOR YOUR DINING PLEASURE



outside as well as the inside of tray and puddles in one's lap as one eats. The swine playing demolition derby with the food bag carts and dealing the trays like cards aggravates the effect. But the government is my shepherd... ∞

## Marionnotes

**POW Attacked:** On 30/May/90, Prisoner of War Oscar Lopez was taken to the Marion hole from the pre-transfer unit. Guards claimed that they found a knife and two keys in his cell, according to other prisoners who were locked up for ridiculous weapon beefs around the same time but then released. Another POW was threatened with the same treatment if he didn't stop complaining about the obvious set-up of Oscar. Other prisoners have also been threatened with having something "found" in their cells. This accusation is a tactic to inflict more years of Marion on Oscar.

**Tours Delay Medical Care:** Upon hearing one prisoner's complaint about the long delay in promised dental care, the USP Marion dentist told him that they just couldn't get "escorts" to bring prisoners to the hospital. All the "escort" swine were being soaked up by tour duty, helping sell Marion as the cutting edge in humane and professional incarceration rather than the despicable dungeon that it is.

**Word Games:** The BOP requires a ritual phrase "Special Mail — Open Only in the Presence of the Prisoner" on legal mail. Courts (when sending prisoners material) will sometimes do this, but refuse to be bound. This month, a prisoner sent copies of the policy demanding the phrase and a denial of a request for a waiver for court stuff to the local district court. He requested that the court mark mail to him accordingly in order to preserve confidentiality and accurate delivery. The court refused. Ironically, other federal courts have ruled the policy unconstitutional.

**New Swine:** June saw the replacements for the USP Marion Guard Captain and Associate Warden for Programs scurry through the hole. New Captain Murillo came from MCC New York with a bad attitude and associate Warden Collins came from MCC Miami with a better hidden attitude. Comparing attitudinal badness of Marion administrators is somewhat like comparing the wetness of the various oceans, however. ∞

**Marionette Editor:** Bill Dunne

**PNS Editors:** Bill Dunne, #10916-086, POB 1000, Marion, IL. 62959. Jim Campbell, c/o Bulldozer, POB 5052, Stn A, Toronto, Ont. Canada M5W 1W4. Articles not otherwise attributed were written by Bill Dunne. Recipients of the PNS/M are free to reproduce it in whole or in part and are, in fact, encouraged to do so. Donations are sorely needed because it is by them that these publications survive. They should be sent to the Bulldozer collective which handles layout, reproduction and distribution, at the Toronto address above. Comments, criticisms and suggestions, etc. may be sent to either address. And if you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own.

## Can't Stop The Seasons

On 24/May/90, a bomb nearly took the lives of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney near Oakland High School in Oakland, CA. The two are Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members and Earth First! (EF!) leaders as well as being major organizers of "Redwood Summer". Redwood Summer is a mass, non-violent action to save Northern California old-growth forests from greatly accelerated destruction by rapacious, multi-national lumber companies. The bomb had been placed behind the driver's seat of Bari's car by reactionaries as yet unknown. Darryl received a broken arm, an eye injury, and lacerations; Judi suffered a broken pelvis in addition to serious internal injuries and soft tissue damage, particularly to the right leg. Both were taken to Highland Hospital in Oakland.

Darryl was treated and released, whereupon he was immediately taken into custody by Oakland police. Judi was put under police guard in the hospital. Both were accused of alleged possession and transportation of an explosive device on the theory that the bomb was theirs and had gone off prematurely. No justification was advanced for this absurdity. It was entirely inconsistent with either Darryl's or Judi's previous practice. Had they been Republicans or lumber company operators, they would have been lamented as victims of terrorism and shown every consideration. The blame-the-victims attitude of the Oakland police and FBI was a clear demonstration of political bias. It mirrored the Mendocino County (CA—where Judi lives) sheriff's office response to over 30 previous death threats to the pair that it would investigate when it had a body.

Alameda County Judge Horace Wheatly upped the bail for each from \$12,000 to \$100,000, apparently when the outpouring of support made it look as if the bail would be easily raised. He cited a police affidavit as the reason, but sealed this excuse. There is no physical or even circumstantial evidence that the crime was anything but an assassination attempt. Darryl was bailed out on 28/MAY. On 30/MAY, prosecutors announced that formal charges would be postponed, allegedly pending further laboratory analysis. Police guards have been withdrawn from Judi. She is not in the hospital's jail ward and is guarded now by EF! volunteers. She is not under arrest but dreads being arrested and moved to the jail ward that she experienced briefly after surgery because conditions there are life-threatening. That threat is an illustration of how imprisonment issues are important to all elements of the struggle.

On 31/MAY/90, a three page letter was received by the *Santa Rosa* (a small city south of Mendocino) *Press Democrat* claiming re-



graphic: A New Mexico Woman

sponsibility for the bombing in the name of "the lord's avenger". It denounced Judi as an idolator (tree worshiper), but the whole letter has not yet been released to determine its credibility beyond the FBI claim to be taking it seriously. There are, however, a multitude of possible culprits beyond the gonzo geek christian right and its neo-nazi and other loony fellow travellers. Due to disinformation efforts against EF! in Northern California, misinformation and ill considered statements and attitudes promulgated by municipal authorities closely associated with big lumber interests and irresponsibly biased reporting like the 25/MAY *New York Times* article, some loggers incorrectly perceive a physical threat in EF! and Redwood Summer. There are also the gyppo logging companies, small-time logging operations generally owned by local inheritors and driven to particularly egregious exploitation of both labor and the forests by the market power of their multinational competitors. These gyppos are also often afflicted with mythical notions of individualism and

independence that lead them to reactionary actions. The multinationals themselves — Maxxam, Georgia-Pacific and Louisiana-Pacific — reap large profits off the pillage and plunder of the countryside from which they export raw logs and jobs to Japan and super-exploited areas like Mexico. These organizations and their henchies have the most to lose from Redwood Summer.

The Oakland police also have an unsavory record of political persecution, and California police agencies have never been too troubled by jurisdictional limits. Witness the framing of Geronimo Pratt and the suppression of the California Black Panthers generally. And COINTELPRO is all that need be said regarding what the FBI is about with respect to dissent. The *raison d'être* of such agencies of the apparatus of repression is to defend the interests of the ruling class and its

minions. It is they who are the only true beneficiaries of brutality like the attempted murder of Judi and Darryl. In this case, the sundry swine want to stop Redwood Summer lest the resistance and attention endanger the profits of corporate ecocide like Mississippi Summer endangered the profits of racist genocide.

The following are some excerpts from an interview with Judi by Bruce Anderson in Highland Hospital and printed in the 13/JUN edition of the *Anderson Valley Advertiser* (Boonville, CA 95415)

"My left leg still works though my pelvis is broken in four different places and my coccyx looks like oatmeal on the x-rays.... They say I'll probably have to have a brace on my leg and I'll probably be able to walk...."

"I was dismayed to hear some people in Arcata say, 'Let's not do civil disobedience.' When people were killed in Mississippi, the organizers didn't say, 'Well, gee, let's not register black people. Let's just interview them instead.' You can't back down to terrorism. You can't back down to this kind of thing...."

"I think it [the bombing] had the exact opposite effect than intended. They don't understand us. They're looking for a leader, and they can't find a leader.... I'm really glad to see — I've known this all along — the community discovering that they don't need one. No movement is dependent on one person, and if it is, it's not a movement...."

"I'm talking about who is threatening the gyppos jobs and equipment, and I'm saying that the corporations are threatening their jobs and equipment. They're doing it by paying them so little per thousand [board feet of lumber] that they can't pay their employees a living wage, and they can't afford to maintain their own equipment. That's where the danger is coming from. It's not coming from Earth First!... This has been happening, and what is happening is that the smaller gyppos are being squeezed out as the laws of capitalism play themselves out."

"I see more hope of coalitions with the workers than with the gyppos. I think there's a difference between a gyppo employee and a gyppo owner. I would be willing to work in coalition with anybody against the corporations.... But I wouldn't compromise my principals to do so...." ∞

## Did DOC Employees Murder Michael Francke?

PNS #24 carried a note entitled "Corrections Count Croaked" about the killing of a state prison system boss. As the following article reprinted from Vol. 1, No. 1, May, 1990 of *Prisoners Legal News* clearly shows, the event was not as covered up as PNS reported.-ed.

On the evening of January 17, 1989, Oregon Department of Corrections Director Michael Francke left his office at the Dome Building in Salem. He never made it out of the parking lot. Someone had stabbed him in the heart. He died on his office building's side porch.

The initial investigation of Francke's death centered on parolees in the area and prisoners in the state penitentiary who may have held a grudge of some sort. Then, about a month after the murder, reports began to surface about corruption within the Oregon Department of Corrections, and the agency's possible link to Francke's death.

Many of the allegations were first made in a Portland newspaper, *The Oregonian*, where a columnist started asking a lot of questions about the police investigation of the murder. The first article quoted Patrick Francke, Michael's brother: "You want to know what I think? I think he discovered something within the [Oregon] system...something that he was getting ready to turn over."

In the next year the columnist published 50 articles dealing with Francke's murder and the Department of Corrections. Other papers, like the *Salem Statesman Journal* and *Willamette Week*, also started following the story more closely. Interviews with Michael's other brother, Kevin Francke, indicated that the director had told him of an "organized criminal element" within his department.

The media and public soon began to speculate and criticize the police for fo-

cusing intently enough on possible ties between alleged corruption with the DOC and the murder.

There was little response to these complaints until September, 1989, when Oregon Governor Goldschmidt announced he had appointed retired judge John C. Warden to head an independent investigation of DOC.

Warden's investigation lasted three months. His findings, according to the final report, confirmed the existence of "significant illegal activities or other wrongdoings" within DOC, but he found no "reasonable" link between those activities and Francke's death.

Many Oregonians still have questions about what Francke could have meant when he told his brother of an "organized criminal element" and about his yet unsolved murder. The police investigation is continuing. ∞

## Money Appeal

**Our financial situation, while never totally critical, is always of some concern. Our costs increase with each issue as we expand in size and distribution — we are sending over 500 single copies of this issue into American prisons. If outside prison support groups think that the Prison News Service is contributing to the struggle, perhaps you could consider making regular financial contributions. We thank all those people who have contributed money in the past.**

## The Class of Justice

On 11/MAY/90, the second highest official in the U.S. Justice Department, Deputy Attorney General Donald Ayers, and his number one assistant, Peter Nawinski, resigned after Ayers was forced to withdraw a letter of support for stiffer penalties for corporate crime. Subsequent to and perhaps as a result of the forcing of these resignations, a substantial amount of evidence has come out indicating the extent to which Attorney General Dick Thornburgh's Justice Department determines crime and punishment and how vigorously they will be pursued on the basis of social and economic conditions.

Ayers wrote the letter in question to the U.S. Sentencing Commission 26/Feb/90. It described guidelines such as the commission was proposing requiring federal judges to impose fines on corporations guilty of crimes like fraud and willful pollution as "urgently needed" to combat white collar crime. The Sentencing Commission was established in 1984 as an independent body in the judicial branch of the government with the power to set the limits on criminal sentences. Its members are appointed by the executive branch but, being members of the judicial, are then supposedly accountable to no one. Hearing about the letter, White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray then called Robert Ross, Thornburgh's most influential aide, to complain. The complaint caused Thornburgh to order the retraction and issuance of a new letter saying the sentencing issue required "further study", a buzz word for opposition to change. The pro-business Bush administration had effectively sent the message that no penalty should necessarily be imposed on these corporate crimes. At the same time, it was calling for harsh, mandatory sentences for frequently less serious violations of the law for which members of the proletariat are disproportionately prosecuted.

Illustrating the multiple standard further was Thornburgh's interference with the investigation of his press secretary, David Runkel, and the aide Ross. He held off the use



*Liberty and Justice  
for all...*

of the Justice Department's internal watchdog unit in the inquiry into leaks damaging to Congressman William Gray III in which the duo were suspect. In May/89, Gray was running for the number two Democratic position in the House of Representatives. Misleading information, the erroneous implications of which were damaging to Gray, were strategically leaked to the press. A big stink

was raised over the dirty trick and Thornburgh vowed death to the leakers and all that. Well, it turns out Runkel and Ross flunked lie detector tests in the matter. But their apparent culpability was concealed long enough after the fact to enable Thornburgh to claim that the failures of the tests were no evidence of wrongdoing and get away with merely reassigning the pair. Solicitor General Ken Starr was enlisted to cosign the move by recommending no disciplinary action. Gray didn't get the position.

Most grotesquely illustrative of the Justice Dept.'s class bias, however, is the handling of the savings and loan magnates who swindled the citizenry out of a very conservatively estimated \$30 billion. That's in the neighborhood of 100 times the annual take of all the robbers in the country — and that is only through schemes the financiers couldn't get legalized. This is money that was squandered on disgustingly ostentatious opulence while farmers lost their land, the homeless suffered, and people without medical insurance died. This was money whose payback is now contributing to cutbacks in programs like nutrition for children, education, housing, rehabilitation, and more. It is money the want of which has aggravated all of the problems that have reduced the quality of life for so many and may very well trigger a recession.

Considering the social dislocation, hardship, polarization, and privation stemming from these crimes of crass greed, a law and

order government that talks so tough about crime would be expected to pursue these predatory parasites hammer and tongs. But they all belong to the suit set, have titles, contribute to the right Republican (and Democratic) causes, and spread their ill gotten gains liberally around their milieu. That's why on 14/Jun Treasury Secretary Nick Brady could lament that 17,000 referrals for prosecution from his department had not been acted upon. They gather dust with 4,000 others mentioned in relation to a speech by President Bush to U.S. Attorneys on 22/Jun while the statute of limitations ticks away.

Bush and Thornburgh trumpet their record of 157 convictions and sentences of 400 years. But there's more than that many years on a single tier of USP Marion. Verily, we learn from the 24/Jun *Face the Nation* that since Bush ascended to the throne there has been only a single indictment in the scandal. Thornburgh laments in the *New York Times* that he just doesn't have the money to prosecute these cases. That never stopped the prosecution of a bank robber — even if s/he already had a functionally forever sentence. But, then, bank robbery by his class is not called that.

All of this by no means indicates that prosecution equates with justice or that people should seek justice from the government, by calling for prosecution. It only illustrates that there is no justice from this government, of one class by another and that people must develop other means of pursuing it. ∞

## International Notes

**ORIGINAL GULAG:** On 17/Jun/90, police stormed a Soviet prison in Chilyobinsk in the Ural Mountains, recapturing the prison and killing one prisoner and wounding two others in the process. Prisoners armed with knives and sticks had taken six guards hostage and used their keys to unlock about 1000 other prisoners and take over the prison. Officials described the rebellion as being led by "hardened criminals", which seems to be Russian for "the worst of the worst" or "vicious predators", as if that alone explains the event. Abysmal living conditions were the real explanation for the takeover. The Chilyobinsk uprising came only three days after 1000 prisoners rioted in a prison in the Ukraine, also over conditions.

**NEW YORK UNREST:** ON 24/MAY/90, a prisoner died at Attica prison after being beaten by guards. Four days later, 450 of the prison's 2042 prisoners were locked out on the yard overnight after refusing to return to their cells from a rec period at 9:30 pm. Though prison officials would not reveal the reason for the demonstration, it is difficult to believe it would be entirely unrelated to the atmosphere in which guards beat a prisoner to death. Also indicative of the oppressive atmosphere in the NY system was the 18/May beating by guards of seven prisoners at the Wende Correctional Facility. They were there to testify in a racial bias suit. The proximity in time of that incident means that it can't be ruled out as contributing to the Attica demonstration.

**PROLIFERATION I:** A spokesman for the State of Massachusetts has announced that a new dungeon for 130 prisoners whom he described as "the worst of the worst" will be started next month. It is to be built on a site southwest of the state prison at Walpole at a cost of \$18.2 million. That's right folks, \$140,000 per cell for another Marionesque, "state-of-the-art", "high-security", isolation

unit. It is said that the cost is because special materials are required for "security" as if somehow ordinary concrete and steel are no longer up to supercons from hell.

**PROLIFERATION II:** The Colorado Department of Corrections is planning to convert the entire 336 bed Centennial Correctional Facility near Canon City into a hope-to-die control unit within a year. There will be 23 hour per day lockdown, no radio, no TV, and "limited" clothing and personal effects, etc., etc. Says a deputy director of the DOC: "Going into administrative segregation



tion in Colorado is not a big negative in the lives of these people, and it is my opinion that we need to make a conversion." So much for the difference between administrative and disciplinary segregation and due process prior to the infliction of "big negatives". He predicts "Almost absolutely" that 5% of prisoners will be "troublemakers" requiring ad. seg. He makes no bones about the metastasizing nature of his solution, either, projecting a "need" for twice as many dungeon cells in five years. ∞

## Women Prisoners in Iowa File Suit Against Abuses

A class-action lawsuit against Iowa Governor Terry Branstad by 14 prisoners at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women has brought to light a series of abuses of prisoners' civil and human rights. The institution is located in Mitchellville and is designed to hold 123 prisoners. Currently, 168 prisoners are housed there.

Filed in US District Court in Des Moines on April 9, the suit charges that prison authorities imposed a punishment on women prisoners called "four pointing". According to the suit, the punishment involves tying naked prisoners by the hands and legs to a bed in a spread-eagle position where they can be viewed by guards and passersby. "Some women have been held in this position for several hours", the suit says.

Other charges made in the suit include:

- \* not evacuating prisoners during a fire, causing some prisoners to suffer smoke inhalation;
- \* subjecting prisoners to isolation, physical abuse, sexual harassment and exploitation, and a lack of due process in disciplinary matters;

- \* permitting overcrowding and unsafe and unsanitary conditions, failing to provide medical care;

- \* censoring mail, limiting access to courts;

- \* frequently forbidding women in segregation wear clothing, forcing them to take showers with their hands cuffed and fastened to their waists while being supervised by male guards;

- \* denying sanitary protection to menstruating women in segregation and holding women in cells with human feces smeared on walls and with broken glass on the floors;

- \* serving spoiled food or food contaminated with hair or insects;

- \* and punishing women who complain or try to defend themselves.

The Mitchellville suit is the fourth filed recently against Iowa prison officials. Prisoners are not seeking damages in the suit. The prisoners' goal is to correct the problem, said Jane Harlan, the attorney for the prisoners.

Reprinted from *The Militant*, May 14/90. ∞

# Freedom Now! For Political Prisoners And POWS in the U.S.

by Vicki Legion

A veteran Bay Area activist reflected on the last 20 years of solidarity work with political prisoners in the US: "There's something new in the air. We haven't seen so much solidarity with political prisoners since the early '70s." The atmosphere in the US has been affected by the wave of concern for human rights which is sweeping the globe leading to the release of thousands of political prisoners during the last two years by governments as diverse as Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Soviet Union, Cuba, and others. The world's attention has been riveted by Mandela's release. In combination, these developments have made the concept of "political prisoner" into a household word. A number of recent events signal important steps forward in the struggle to gain recognition and freedom for political prisoners in the US.

## Mandela's Release

Nelson Mandela, originally convicted of seditious conspiracy and sabotage for his leadership of the armed wing of the ANC has shattered the political equation that those who engage in revolutionary political violence are common criminals and terrorists. Mandela, universally recognized as a statesman of integrity and principle, has insisted on the right of the oppressed people to use armed struggle to regain their freedom. During the four months since Mandela was released from his nearly three decades of imprisonment, he has made the release of all South African political prisoners into a central demand. Mandela and the South African liberation movement has explicitly rejected the De Klerk government's distinction between "bad" political prisoners who engaged in political violence against the apartheid regime and "good" prisoners of conscience. Fewer than 100 of about 3,000 political prisoners would be eligible for release under the government's definition.

As Juan Gonzalez pointed out in an op-ed piece in the *New York Daily News*, "As our leaders trip over each other to praise this 71-year-old man and unroll a red carpet for him, we must never forget that just a short time ago he was considered a criminal and a terrorist in his own country. They tried and convicted him and threw him in jail for 27 years for insisting that South Africa's blacks were as human as its whites, and for plotting a revolution to topple apartheid. While he was in jail, only a tiny few of those who now fawn over him ever lifted a finger of protest for his release or for an end to the barbaric treatment of his people."

Freedom Now! has pointed out that Mandela was convicted of the identical charge — seditious conspiracy — that has been lodged against US political prisoners, most notably the Puerto Rican POWs and the Ohio Seven."

The issue of political prisoners in the US was strongly represented in Harlem's 200,000-strong welcome rally for Nelson Mandela. Long-time political prisoner Dhoruba Bin-Wahad read a message to Nelson Mandela and Winnie Mandela from political prisoners, despite the efforts of some elected officials to force Dhoruba to give his message before the Mandela arrived. WCBS local news, which ran hours of live coverage of Mandela's visit, not coincidentally cut to a commercial break just as Dhoruba reached the podium. Dhoruba, a former leader of the New York Black Panther Party, released after a long court battle and 19 years as a political prisoner. Since his release on Mar/22/90, Bin-Wahad has been a strong voice for the freedom of all political prisoners in the US.

Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores and Oscar Collazo, four of the

five Puerto Rican nationalists who spent 25-29 years in US prisons, were honored in the VIP section at the Harlem rally. At 4:40 p.m. the former prisoners approached the stage changing "Free Puerto Rico," surrounded by supporters who steered Oscar Collazo's wheelchair. Collazo, who was draped in the Puerto Rican flag, wept throughout the entrance, while the crowd roared thunderous applause. Rafael Cancel Miranda stated, "My struggle has not changed at all. We remain fighters for the independence of Puerto Rico." Flores addressed the enormous crowd which stretched for blocks through the Harlem streets: "We went to Washington and waged an armed struggle to show the world that Puerto Rico was an American colony. Just as Nelson Mandela, upon release from prison, does not renounce armed struggle for the rights of his people, the same way we will not give up the armed struggle." The crowd responded with chants: "Aqui, seguro, a los yanquis le damos duro!" ("Here the Yankees will surely be hard hit.")

The four nationalist heroes had been invited to participate by the official Harlem Salutes Nelson Mandela and the ANC welcoming committee re-issued its invitation. Nonetheless, the nationalists were prevented from meeting with Mandela: as the four waited in the State Office Building in Harlem for the meeting to begin, the FBI and police barred Mandela for "security reasons."

At the Oakland Coliseum rally for Mandela, organizers showed portions of the Freedom Now slideshow on political prisoners in the US to a crowd of about 25,000 people. Showing its potential as a national campaign FN leafletted the Mandela rallies in New York, Boston, Atlanta and Oakland.

## The Media

On June 26 and 27, PBS aired *Through the Wire*, an hour-long documentary on the Lexington Women's Control Unit, an underground sensory deprivation unit built especially for women political prisoners. Two to two and half million people viewed Nina Rosenblum's film, getting a rare glimpse of the terrible human toll of US control units. Viewers also saw extensive and moving interviews with the three women political prisoners, Alejandrina Torres, Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini, in which they outlined how their revolutionary commitments grew out of their lives and movements.

The film contained serious weaknesses, such as underplaying the central role of the National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Women's Control Unit. This grassroots effort, initiated by the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional Puertorriqueno, and involving strong participation from the women's, lesbian and religious communities, was the motor that galvanized a broad campaign for the closure of the unit. Despite its shortcomings, the film had a very positive impact in the broadening consciousness that there are political prisoners in the US. FN hosted or spoke at *Through the Wire* openings in a number of cities, distributing literature and gathering names of hundreds of supporters.

In other significant developments over the last year and a half the press in general has been much more open to covering political prisoners in the US:

-Major Chicago radio stations, most notably the Black stations, have given hours of coverage to Dhoruba Bin-Wahad, Jose

Lopez and William Kunstler speaking on behalf of FN.

-The *New York Times* ran an op-ed piece on Alan Berkman's battle for decent health care and humanitarian release in his fight against cancer.

-The Pacifica stations and other progressive radio stations have been covering political prisoners with new depth.

-*Z Magazine* and *The Progressive* also ran lengthy pieces on US political prisoners.

## Freedom Now!

FN! Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the US was launched at the United Nations in Dec/88, on the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Drawing together families and lawyers of many different political prisoners, former political prisoners, and religious and human rights activists, the campaign sought to overcome the isolation of committees working on a local basis around particular cases. Vary briefly, we defined political prisoners as those imprisoned for their political actions and beliefs in pursuit of social justice and/or national liberation (irrespective of particular ideologies whether anti-imperialist, nationalist, pacifist, anarchist, communist, socialist anti-authoritarian, etc.) The issue of how to define political prisoners has long been a subject of controversy in the movement, and this controversy continues.

The Campaign was formed in the context of momentum generated around the victory in forcing the closure of the Lexington Women's Control Unit, the surfacing of former Black Liberation Army political prisoner Assata Shakur in Cuba, and the release of Puerto Rican POW William Guillermo Morales to freedom in Cuba. FN has also built on the foundation of 15 years of political work by small defense committees which organized tenaciously in the face of indifference and hostility. One of the few campaigns to gain national presence was the long and successful effort to free the Puerto Rican Nationalists. When *Can't Jail The Spirit* appeared in 1988 as a collection of biographies of some 70 political prisoners, it brought to light names and faces of many comrades who had been forgotten.

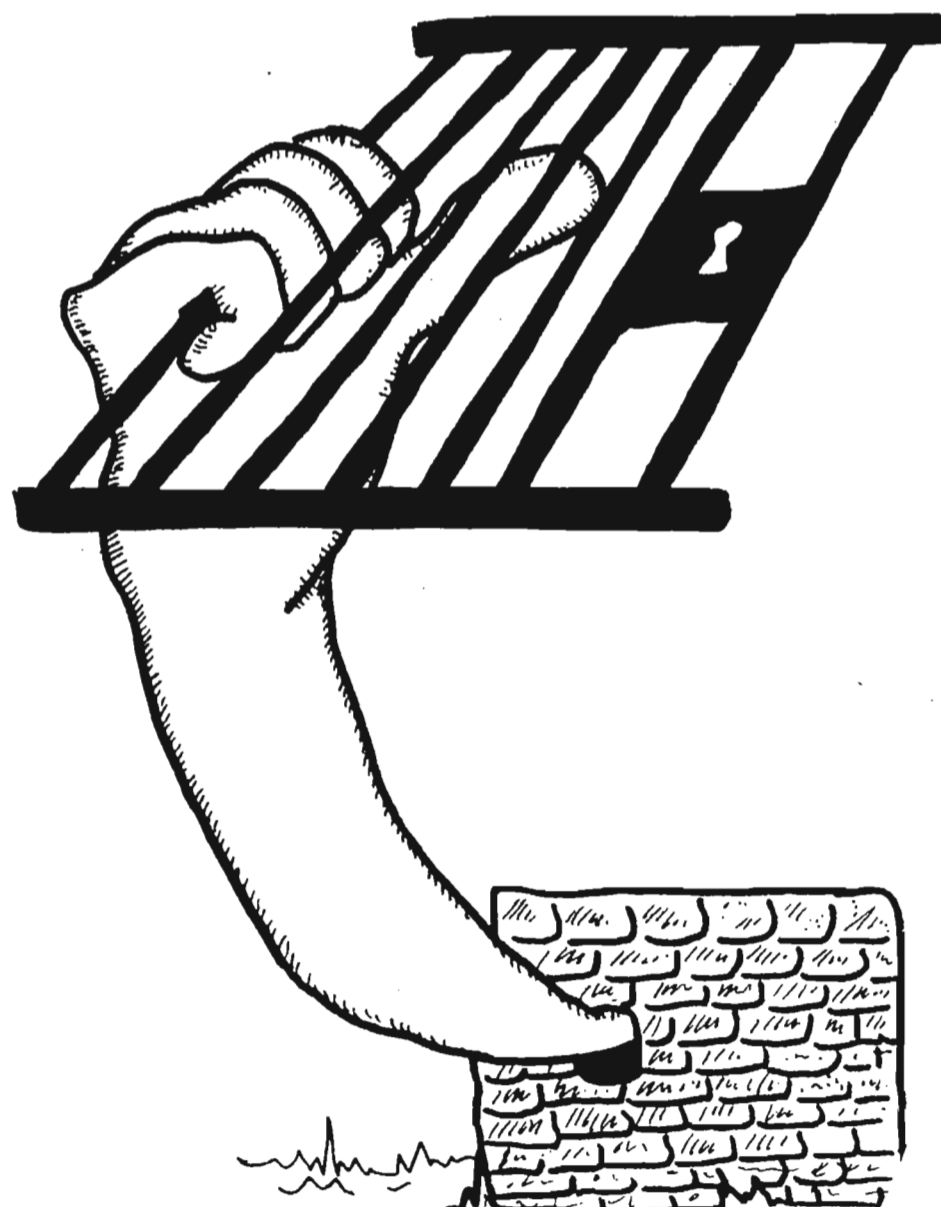
## What Are Freedom Now's goals.

- to conduct widespread educational work about the existence of political prisoners in the US:
- to argue for their amnesty:
- to protect their human rights:
- and to internationalize their struggle.

At the time FN was formed, the US was involved in three sets of international negotiations on human rights, to culminate in a major Human Rights Summit in Moscow in 1991. Despite the current upheaval in the socialist bloc, FN is committed to the importance of projecting political prisoners internationally. Work around political prisoners would also be done in the context of exposing the entire US prison system as a tool of counter-insurgency and population control, remembering that US prisons and jails hold well over a million social prisoners. The extreme racism of this system is revealed by the fact that fully one quarter of all Black men between the ages of 20 and 24 are today in prison, jail or on parole.

To achieve our goals, FN had to have through documentation and a very professional presentation of our arguments. The

*Continued on next page*



campaign was not seen as a "mega-defense committee". Defense committees project the politics of different groupings of prisoners, while FN would have a more focused mandate to advocate for amnesty and human rights among broad sectors. This in turn should create a more favorable political atmosphere for the work of the defense committees and for prison activists in general.

FN has taken significant steps toward these goals. The Campaign has:

-distributed well over 30,000 brochures and thousands more posters and fliers.

-developed a resource library of literature and videos which we lend or show to groups.

-carried out a 12,000-piece mailing to build support for the Tribunal.

-launched an Urgent Action Network to guarantee that we can deluge government officials with telegrams in the event of serious human rights violations. The first case taken on by the Network was that of Alan Berkman. The initial wave of campaign for treatment for his cancer was successful, and Alan wrote "In my opinion, the Urgent Action network helped save my life. We calculate that over 1,000 letters and fax messages were sent."

In terms of the goal of internationalization, FN made a formal intervention at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in Feb/89, circulating 50 copies of our information packet to various countries. In 1990, for

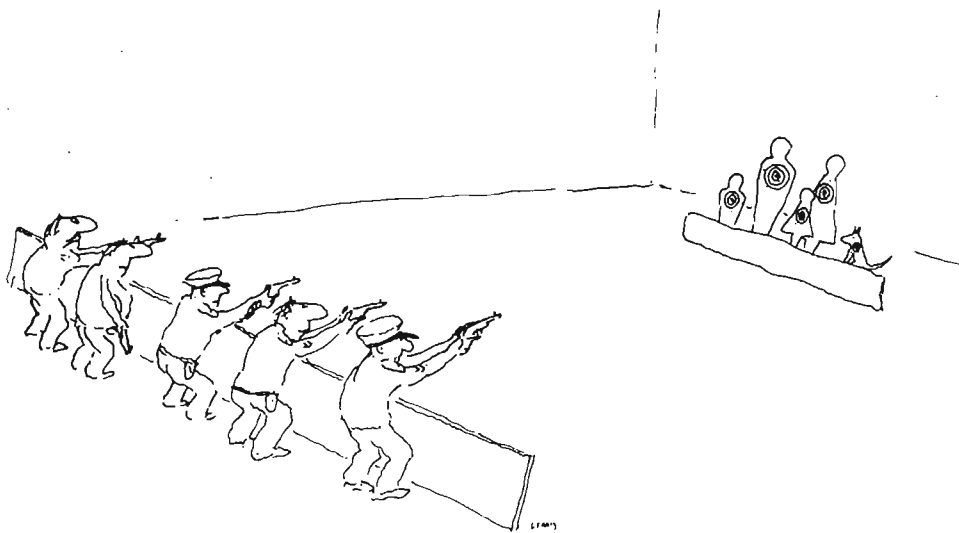
the first time seven countries raised the issue of political prisoners in the US. After doing extensive research at the Commission meetings, FN representatives toured Europe, speaking and making contacts. The Campaign's ad has appeared in the FSLN's *Barricada*, and we get numerous letters each week from people overseas.

In three cities, New York, San Francisco and Chicago, FN has recently been host to a number of major community events in solidarity with US political prisoners, with hundreds in attendance at each. On Apr/28, a Symposium on political prisoners and POWs met in Manhattan, with the goal of building towards an International Tribunal. Two hundred and seventy-five people attended the day-long organizers conference, with 350 attending a night-time event highlighted by an electrifying speech by Dhoruba Bin-Wahad, his first after his release from two decades in prison. The Symposium heard testimony presented by representatives of political prisoners from the Puerto Rican independence movement, the Black/New African/African-American movement, the Native American movement, the Plowshares/disarmament movement, and the white anti-imperialist movement. International respondents included Bobby Castillo of the International Treaty Council, former Puerto Rican political prisoner Pablo Marcano Garcia, Gabriela leader Ninotchka Rosca from the Philippines, Mexican attorney Pilar Noriega of the Int. Assoc. of Democratic Lawyers, Makoto Ota, novelist and vice president of the Japanese chapter of the International League for the Rights of the Peoples, and West German journalist Hieke Kleffner.

On Dec/8/90, an International Tribunal in New York will present a well documented Complaint to the international community, and will work to galvanize more active support for political prisoners in the US. Co-sponsorship is open to all groups which join a committee, contribute financially and mobilize attendance to the Tribunal. Coordinator Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon and other activists are mobilizing for two important events to build for the Tribunal: first, a Religious

justice. The potential to build and win a campaign for amnesty for all political prisoners has never been greater — but it depends on the efforts and creativity of each one of us.

Those who want to help should contact Freedom Now at the address below. You might organize a video showing in your area; organize for the Urgent Action Network; raise desperately needed funds; circulate literature; build the Midwest tour of Dhoruba Bin-



Summit to be held in NY on July/28, which will bring together theologians and religious leaders for the development of a pastoral letter and organizing strategy in support of political prisoners in the US; and second, a reading by 50 major literary figures.

#### Hard Road

These significant developments in outreach depend on having coherent organization behind them. Forming such a strong campaign has proven to be the most challenging task facing FN. Over the years similar efforts have quickly run aground. As Yuri Kochiyama, long-time political prisoner supporter has said, "Although many people did solidarity work in the 1970s, there has never been a campaign that has involved so many people and done such extensive work over such a long time."

What are some of the obstacle to forging a coherent Campaign? Prisoners also are often geographically and politically isolated, with varying amounts of outside support and access to political dialog. The task of harmonizing efforts among scattered defense committees and individuals, representing different histories, localities, political viewpoints and nationalities has proven to be very difficult. For instance, we had to cut back severely on national meetings because of their expense, while phone bills for the Symposium alone ran into several hundred dollars each month. The national office moved from New York to Chicago, where there was a larger committee to answer correspondence, produce and distribute literature and so on. Nevertheless, it is still difficult to staff and pay for the office. Over the first year and a half of the campaign, we have built up a mailing list of over 2000 people. This is an important development because for the first time we now have a way to reach a core of concerned individuals, as we showed with the Alan Berkman campaign. On the other hand, producing and mailing a newsletter takes much time and money. FN is an extremely complex and ambitious project, run by volunteers rather than by paid staff.

For the movement in the US, just as for every movement around the world, the issue of political prisoners is a litmus test. These people are among the most courageous and principled members of our movements. We do not need to agree with each and every one of their actions or political views to know that we must support those who have fought for

Wahad; or arrange for radio and newspaper coverage. Please also contact the International Tribunal Office in New York to participate in this important event.

For more information write:  
Freedom Now National Office  
59 E. Van Buren #1400  
Chicago, IL 60605  
Call (312) 663-4399

Freedom Now  
1560 Broadway #807  
New York, NY 10036

Freedom Now  
3543 18th St. #17,  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Int. Tribunal on Political Prisoners and POWs  
24 E 116th St.  
New York, NY 10029  
Call (212) 860-4101 ∞

## R.S.V.P., FN!

Alot of debate has been swirling around Freedom Now! (FN!) Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners. The group has unilaterally and unaccountably taken some very controversial and counter productive actions. Though there has been nothing but praise for FN!'s immediate goal of raising consciousness about political prisoners and prisoners of war (pp/pow) in the American Gulag Archipelago, there has been nothing but criticism of its administration and tactics in relating to its constituency. Lately, there has even been the suggestion that anyone making such criticism is playing into the hands of unnamed opportunists, a suggestion of which principle demands elaboration. In order to clarify their record, we hereby invite FN! to respond to the following right here in these pages:

1. Name the alleged opportunists, if any, and how they are unjustly disparaging or otherwise interfering with FN!

2. How were FN!'s definitions of political prisoner/prisoner of war (pp/pow) determined? Were the definitions and their interpretations offered for public or even constituents comment before they were used? What does the breadth or narrowness have to do with the demand for amnesty?

3. What is FN!'s process for adoption/disadoption of someone as a pp/pow? How is the subjective element handled considering that there are some clearly political prisoners who were set-up for non-political crimes and may be some convicted of political acts who no longer are or consider themselves political prisoners? What standard of proof of pp/pow status is required? What is done about prisoners further punished for prison activism? What precautions does FN! take to maintain security, both of its files and in its

process to avoid eliciting incriminating information from those anxious to be adopted?

4. Why and how was the political prisoners commission abolished, especially when other aspects of FN! were deemed important enough to require commissions? How does FN! envision representing a community without a specific mechanism to maintain an adequate level of interaction with a accountability to that constituency?

5. How and by whom was it determined who to delete from *Can't Jail the Spirit*? Why were those people not notified in advance of these deletions? How could the deletions be interpreted except as decertification/withdrawal of political status, why was the name of *CJTS* not changed to make clear that the deletions reflected only an organizational and not a status change?

6. What has FN! done or is it doing to establish better lines of communication with those pp/pows it purports to represent? What is its process for determining its organizational activities on their behalf, and what is it doing to make it more open and inclusive?

7. What is FN! doing or has it done to prevent its recognition of some political prisoners/pows from being construed as indicating they are no other pp/pows. Even now, this interpretation is being made by some of the unknowledgeable.

FN! may perceive PNS as too insignificant a "who-sees-that?" venue for explanations by such an august body. But humor us lowly lumpen, some of whom you purport to represent and all of whose loves you aspire to affect and probably will. We would like to believe that the full potential of the pp/pow issue will be realized in FN!'s hands. ∞

## Support Berkman

Alan Berkman, a political prisoner since 1985, is currently suffering from a recurrence of Hodgkin's Disease (lymphatic cancer). The BOP has done everything it can to have him lose this fight for his life. He is receiving chemotherapy at the D.C. Jail and DC General Hospital, while awaiting trial in the Resistance Conspiracy Case. This treatment is difficult under the best of circumstances; the abuses, pressure and stress of incarceration make it significantly worse. Alan's chances of survival would be better if he were not in prison. If normal security standards were applied now, he would already have been released on parole.

The case itself is at a critical juncture. All six defendants need support for a "Drop the Charges" campaign. The government's case against them has had some recent reversals. Strong support at this time, could help determine the future direction of this case.

For more information on the case, or about Berkman write: Com. for Political Prisoners Rights, POB 28191, Washington, DC 20038

For \$5.00, you can get a fax a letter in support of Berkman to the U.S. Parole Commission. Call 1-800-782-5465 and ask them to send the "Alan Berkman message".

## Defend Mumia Abu-Jamal

Don't tell me about the "valley of the shadow of death." I live there.

- Mumia Abu-Jamal, Huntington death row.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a U.S. death row political prisoner. A former Black Panther Party spokesman, outspoken MOVE supporter and a journalist called the "voice of the voiceless" for his championing the rights of the oppressed, Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for 21 years. From the depths of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania's death row, Jamal's columns about the homeless, racist terror brutality of American prisons and the hypocrisy of America's leaders appear regularly in newspapers around the country. It is that pen and that voice the U.S.' racist rulers are determined to still for good.

At the age of 13, Jamal was beaten and arrested for protesting a rally for Alabama governor George "Segregation Forever" Wallace, held in the white racist bastion of Mayor Frank Rizzo's South Philadelphia.

In 1968 at age 14, Jamal was co-founder and Minister of Information of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Jamal wrote for the *Black Panther* newspaper.

A widely acclaimed journalist since 1970, Jamal was broadcast on national radio networks. Jamal was elected president of the Association of Black Journalists.

Jamal became a supporter of the Philadelphia MOVE organization in the aftermath of the murderous 1978 siege on their Powelton Village home by more than 600 heavily armed cops. In 1985, this cop vendetta culminated in Mayor Wilson Goode's hideous bombing of MOVE which left eleven, including 5 children, dead. On Dec/9/81, these same Philadelphia cops tried to kill Jamal on the streets, but failed. He was hospitalized with a bleeding stomach wound, and arrested on charges of killing a cop.

Jamal's trial was a classic racist frame-up — denied the lawyer of his choice and resources to

prepare a defense; of the prospective black jurors all but one were excluded from the jury of twelve because of their race while admittedly prejudiced white jurors were chosen to decide Jamal's fate. Jamal was convicted by this hand-picked panel. On 3/July/82, the prosecutor secured the death sentence with the argument that Jamal should be condemned to death simply for his political history and beliefs, claiming his membership in the Black Panthers and use of the slogan "power to the people" 12 years earlier proved he was a committed cop-killer!

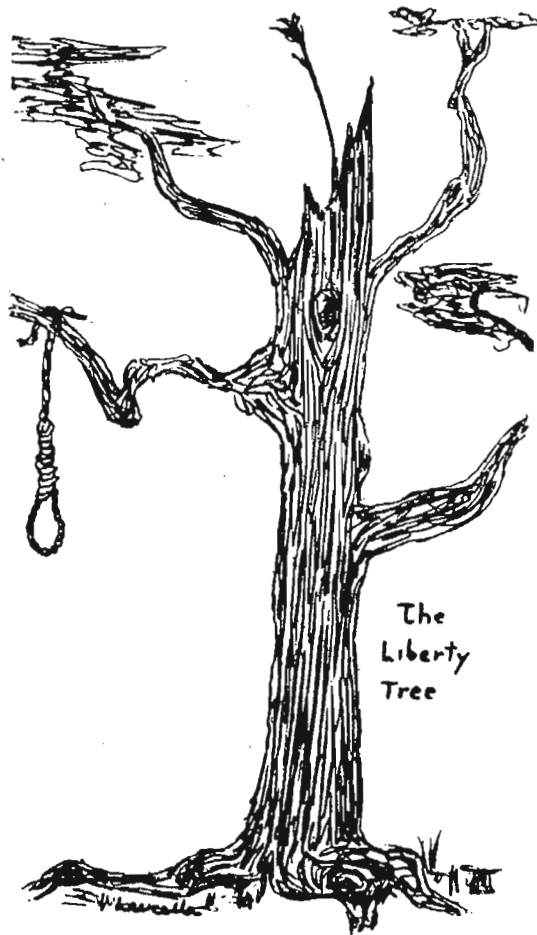
On 1/Feb/90, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied Jamal's petition to reargue his appeal. A petition for review to the U.S. Supreme Court has been filed. Last year PA state representative David Richardson declared, "Mumia's trial was a farce ... It was clear to anyone whose eyes are open to racism, that Mumia had been framed for his political beliefs ... An innocent man has been sentenced to die."

Jamal's appeal was supported by an *amici curiae* (friend of the court) brief from the American Civil Liberties Union and National Conference of Black Lawyers. Thousands of people around the world have signed statements demanding Jamal not be executed, and the campaign has been endorsed by various individuals and organizations from labour, human rights, political and international organizations.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is what the death penalty is all about. It exposes not only the barbarity and arbitrary cruelty of this ultimate form of state terror, but the inherent racism in its application. The fight to save Jamal is the fight against racist state murder around the world.

Write letters of protest to Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey, Main Capitol Building, Rm 225, Harrisburg, PA 1712.

For more information write: In Canada, "Save Mumia Abu-Jamal," c/o Partisan Defense Committee, Box 314, Stn B, Toronto, Ont. M5T 2W1, (416 593-4138. In the U.S.: P DC, Box 99, Canal St. Stn. New York, NY. 10012



The Liberty Tree

On 4/July/90, eighty people in Toronto attended a demonstration in support of Jamal in front of the American Consulate. The demonstration, organized by the Partisan Defense Committee, was endorsed by a number of labour and political organizations as well as human rights lawyers and activists.

## Mohawks *continued from page 1*

Indians, would not save it; that indeed, they would kill it if possible. They did. The role Harper and the AFN played in stopping the Accord has helped to cement the leading role that the native struggles are playing in Canada. In turn, it has broadened their base of support in the non-native communities.

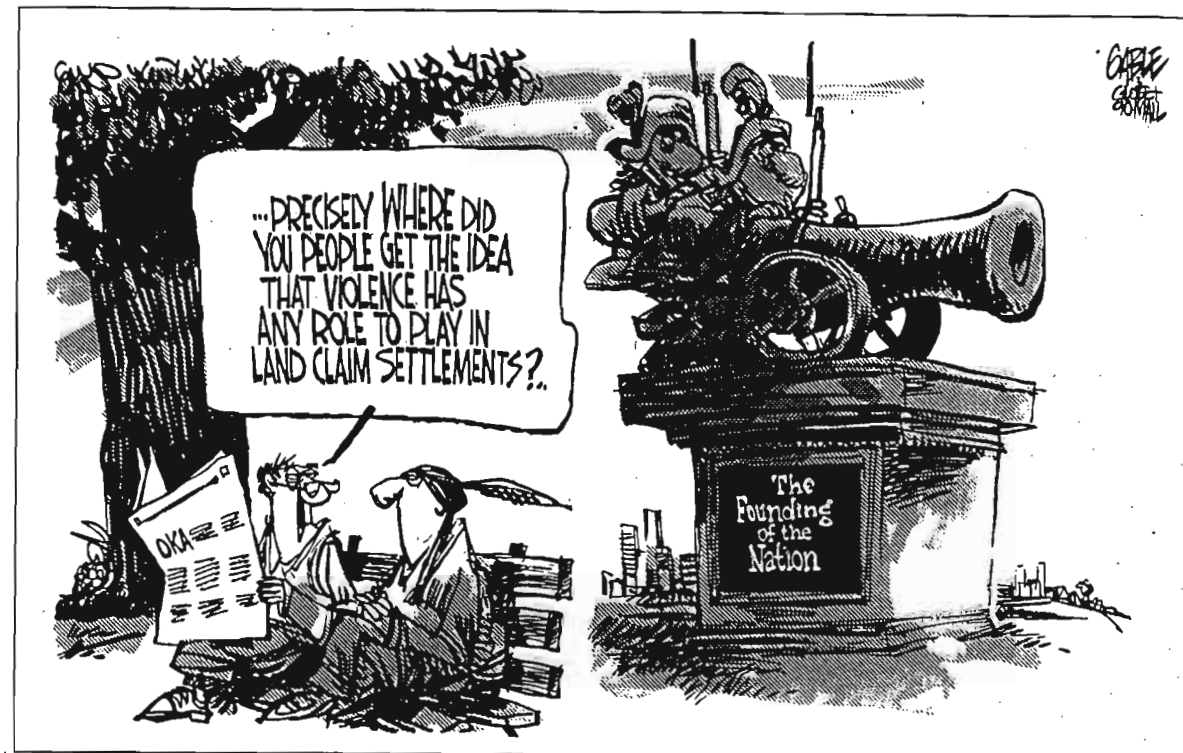
As Harper held out, and the deadline came and went, he became a popular hero across the country. Ironically, he has become a major common symbol, cutting across many of the divisions within Canadian society; English/French, native/non-native, immigrant vs. Canadian born, left/right. The failure of the Accord was greeted with great joy. For the right-wing elements, like the English-only movements in Ontario and the west, the Accord was opposed for anti-French reasons. But the Accord was also opposed by women, the two northern territories and other peoples (ie non-English, non-French, non-native), about a third of the population. The defeat of the Accord was humiliating for the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney, one of the most hated governments in Canadian history. The popular movements in Quebec also hailed Harper as a hero. The rejection of the Accord gives them the opportunity to go for an independent Quebec if that is indeed what they want.

It does seem to be more than coincidence that such an armed attack against native people in Quebec would take place less than a month after Quebec warned the native people that they would suffer for the defeat of the Accord. Quebec, for all its attempts to claim recognition as a "distinct society" — ie French as opposed to English — refuses to grant any recognition to native peoples at all. Eighty-five percent of Quebec is under some form of land claim. It is not that the provincial governments in English Canada are any less racist, but the native people in Quebec are a major impediment to the schemes of its current Liberal government. It wants to begin the biggest hydro-electric project in history near James Bay in northern Quebec. Negotiations have already begun to sell power to the northeastern US. The James Bay II project, costing over 20 billion dollars, would divert rivers, build dams, flood valleys, lakes and rivers on an unprecedented scale. James Bay I, completed in the seventies, although eventually agreed to by the James Bay Cree

and Inuit, has been a disaster. Communities have been displaced and disrupted, resulting in cultural breakdown. Natural mercury has leached out of the now flooded land, contaminating the fish and other sources of food. Populations of animals, and the crucial ducks and geese, have been reduced. The Cree want no more development. And they're on a crash course with the province and its publicly owned utility, Hydro Quebec, since energy sales to the US and new power projects are one of the economic pillars of the province.

Regardless of the outcome of the siege of Kanesatake, tensions will remain high in Canada between the First Nations and the various settler governments. The Indians just have too much of what other people want. The Mohawks have come in for particular harassment since the re-emergence of the Warrior's Society has given them an armed self-defense that has to be taken into consideration by the governing authorities. Hence the massive over-response to the peaceful occupation of Kanesatake is intended as a warning to all native peoples that resistance will be met with repression, harassment and intimidation.

As Canadian society undergoes great strains, the police are taking more and more of an independent role in repression. In Toronto, neither the local nor provincial governments will act against the use of force by the police in spite of the shootings of several people, mainly young Africans. And in this incident, the provincial politicians, supposedly the political masters of the police, deny any responsibility for ordering the raid, yet totally backed the cops in spite of the obvious counter-productive nature of the raid. The Canadian military and police are still out in force on the Akwesasne reserve. And Native organizers working to support the Mohawks have been harassed by the police on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ont. Nor is it just their racism that sends the cops into a fury. Even as the siege by their provincial counterparts was continuing, the Montreal police raided a private lesbian and gay party, sending one man to hospital, arresting ten and beating many. On July/16/90, the Montreal riot squad attacked a demonstration protesting the initial raid, and they sent two to hospital in critical condition, arrested 47 protestors out of a total of 200, and viciously beat many of those arrested. It is obvious that the police are not going to stand by while "their" vision of Canada is being challenged. They are ready to beat, intimidate and try to destroy whoever threatens the way things are.



### Update

July 19th - There have been no direct negotiations between the Mohawks and Quebec for a number of days. The Mohawks, supported by other native leaders, have been putting pressure on the federal government to get involved in order to reach a solution. The federal government has refused to get involved. Their position is that they will not negotiate "under the gun". The Mohawks refuse to take down the barricades. They say that they have, as a sovereign nation, every right to defend their land from armed attack. And they won't remove the barricades until amnesty is granted to for any charges that might arise out of this incident, and until they get some where with the land claim.

Letters protesting the attack on the Mohawk people, and demanding that Canada and Quebec negotiate in good faith with them and other native nations would show that the world community will not stand back while the native nations come under the armed attack of the Canadian police or military.

Write to: **Thomas Siddon**  
Minister of Native Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ont K1A 0A5

**Charles Ciaccia**  
Minister of Native Affairs  
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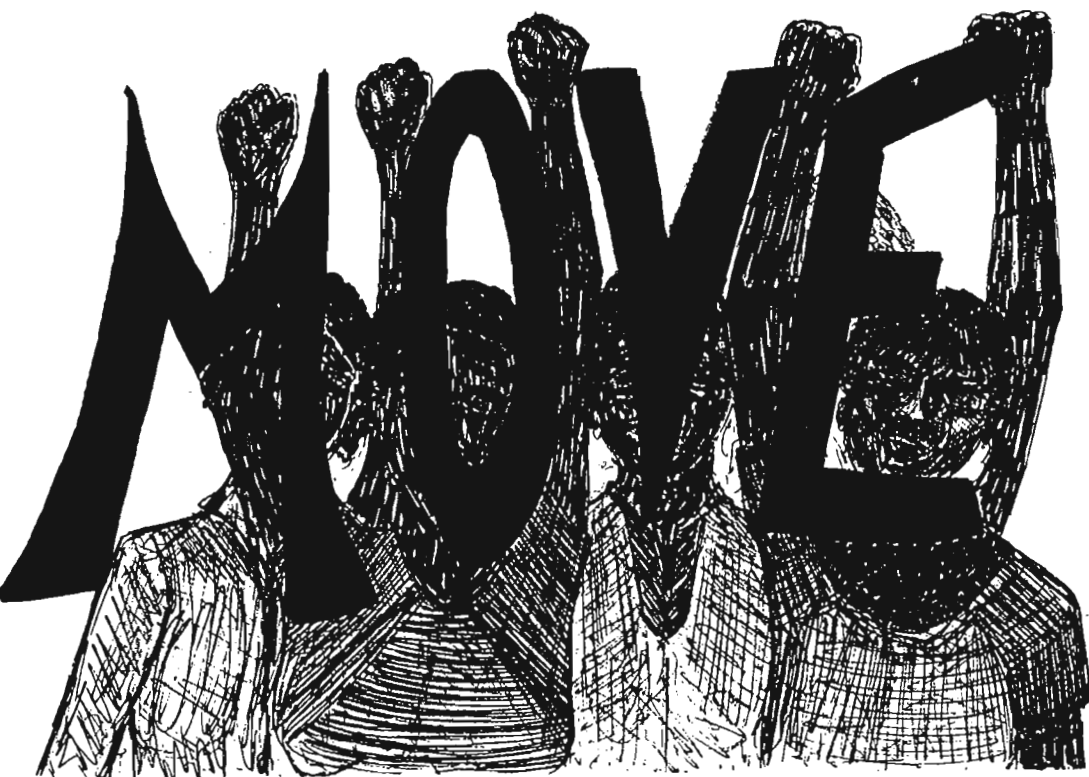
## More On Move

information compiled by Bulldozer

Mumia Abu-Jamal is by no means the only prisoners associated with MOVE. Ramona Africa, the sole adult survivor of the police bombing of the MOVE headquarters on May/13/85, is being held at Muncy. Seven adults and four children were burnt alive in the para-military operation that more resembled a search and destroy mission than a police response to some neighbourhood complaints. The cops were armed with water, tear gas, smoke, machine guns, rifles, shot guns, anti-tank guns, high-powered explosives and bombs. In ninety minutes, the police fired 10,000 rounds of ammunition at the house and dropped a bomb on it, destroying the neighbourhood in the process.

At her sentencing, Ramona said, "I was sentenced when my skin was burned off my body, scarring me for life. I'm here simply because I'm a MOVE member, and I survived." She added, "As long as people are wronged, resistance is inevitable."

Ramona, who received a sentence of from 16 months to 7 years, was told that she would have to renounce MOVE before she would get parole. Attempts by MOVE to open negotiations on the release of the prisoners have been blocked by Ron Castillo, the District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia, and other city officials. Castillo was also instrumental in getting the Grand Jury which investigated the massacre to rule, in spite of eye witness testimony to the contrary, that it was not police gunfire that drove the MOVE members back



into the burning house after they tried to flee. Rather, by some bizarre reasoning, the jury concluded it was of some confused desire to commit suicide.

MOVE has been attacked by the authorities and the mass media almost since their formation as a predominantly black, revolutionary utopian organization. They were radical ecologists long before it became the current fashion. According to the

book, *Attention, MOVE This is America!*, "MOVE refuses to respect present-day America and its prevailing values. Its members openly defy official power and its prevailing values and tirelessly preach against a system they consider utterly corrupt and destructive of life on this planet, particularly through the use of modern technology. And when threatened and confronted by the authorities, as they have been throughout their short and stormy history, they do not back down."

The majority of imprisoned MOVE members were charged with the killing of a cop during a major confrontation between MOVE and the authorities which occurred in 1977-78 when Philadelphia police blockaded a MOVE house in Philadelphia for nearly a year. This included a fifty-day siege in which no one was allowed in or out of the house and food and water were cut off in an effort to starve them out. This confrontation eventually climaxed in Aug/78 with a massive police assault that included high pressure water hoses, a battering ram, bulldozers, and automatic weapons. In the subsequent trial, nine MOVE members were each sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison, charged with murdering a policeman who almost certainly died in the police crossfire.

The war against MOVE has not yet succeeded, but they need public support. Write to: *Committee in Support of MOVE*, POB 18891, Philadelphia, PA 19119. Phone (215) 726-0289; or write: *Ramona (Johnson) Africa*, #007564, POB 180, Muncy, PA 17756.

## Prison Action In Germany

Alexander Gronbach, a political prisoner in Mannheim, Germany offers this report, dated 1/June/90, about a disturbance over there.

We had heavy riots here yesterday, or more correctly, peaceful resistance and heavy police forces on the scene. Four days earlier, there was peaceful resistance in another prison where nearly 30 prisoners got onto the roof of Hamburg prison and around 200 to 250 stayed in the yard. On 31/May, we tried to enter the roof too. Only three prisoners made it, but 150 others remained in the yard after the end of yard time. The screws told us to move into block 4, door 1-25. But we laughed and told them to keep themselves away. The head screw entered the scene and asked us what our problem was, why we were outside and why we wouldn't move in as it was illegal and against the law. We yelled at him and told him to fuck off.

So the police forces moved in. Within a few minutes, 10 police-vans, each with 12 heavy armed pigs, 30 police cars, each with 4 pigs, a camera team of political police, some bikes and a headquarters unit. Shortly after, they also had dog-squads and an anti-terrorist/riot unit with maybe 50 pigs, batons, shields, combat-uniforms and helmets. We went to the inside wall and stayed there.

The civil police arrived as well with some cars. The speaker-van announced, "The police are here!" Ha! Ha! We started to laugh. We had a whole army in front of us and they tell us that the police are here. They told us that they would give us five minutes or they would enter our area. After the five minutes passed, 200 unarmed men with dogs and 3 police on horses came in. The combat unit stayed right outside the fence and got ready for action. We asked them not to use violence. They got us one by one and held us by our hands. They dragged us into the doorway because we wouldn't walk for them. The camera team shot a whole film on me alone. They can use this in court. They surely picked out the ringleaders and told me that I will face hard times. Inside, the political police prepared a sheet for me and three others. They told me to give my name, etc. . . and fingerprints etc. . . I told them to fuck off again and was escorted to the wing.

Now nearly 150 prisoners, including two other political prisoners, are locked down. The German Shepherds bit five prisoners and one comrade had his arm broken. The three prisoners that had been on the roof were raided and taken to another prison. Today, there are still police outside the prison. There are twice as many screws (guards) inside as normal. In Germany, you have

n't a chance to resist with peaceful demonstrations. News about the disturbance was on both the radio and TV. There was no yard today, and 150 of us have lost the right to yard. Two hundred and fifty prisoners didn't go to work. The prison held 800 prisoners, maybe about 250 who are on remand and are separated from the other prisoners, and another 100 are considered "half-open". So about half of the other 500 prisoners are in the struggle, ha! The solitary confinement unit has 4 cells. I'm in there, but now they've converted the whole floor, 1-4 into a high security unit.

During the night of 31/May-1/June, the police forces controlled the outside and heavily armed guards were in the towers beside the walls. As of today, we don't have a head prison warden here, but the Minister of Justice sent in a group. Our demands are: to close down the bunkers, humane treatment, an end to 23-hour cell lock-up, the right to have external medical care, better food and an end to inhuman working conditions as well as better payment for our work as outlined by the European court for human rights.

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Germany

# Hungerstrike in Spain Continues: One Prisoner Dies!

Compiled by Bulldozer

The hungerstrike in Spain, by members of GRAPO (Oct. 1st Revolutionary Anti-fascist Group), which began on Nov/30/89, has resulted in its first death. On May/15, Jose Manuel Sevillano was transported to a civilian hospital in Madrid. Although pronounced dead by the Ministry of Justice, Jose's heart-beat was revived and he was kept alive on machines for another week. The latest report is that at least twenty more hunger strikers are in critical condition.

The current situation goes back to the struggle against the fascist Franco regime. GRAPO's first action in 1975 was in response to the execution of anti-fascist prisoners by the Franco dictatorship. A little later, after Franco's death, an amnesty was declared for some political prisoners. But the majority of such prisoners were excluded, particularly members of ETA, the armed wing of the struggle for Basque independence. In response, many popular organizations arose to demand the release of the political prisoners. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated on their behalf. The military and police, still under the control of officers from the fascist period, responded by killing a number of demonstrators and militants. GRAPO, based on these organizations, carried on a campaign of bombings and assassinations of prison and military officials, to support the struggles both inside and outside the prisons for amnesty. The Spanish government would occasionally release some prisoners, but refused a general amnesty for the anti-fascist fighters. Even today, there remain as many as a thousand political prisoners in the country.

The political prisoners themselves, using hungerstrikes and other weapons at their

disposal, fought for the right to have a collective existence inside. The government at times allowed the political prisoners to live, study and work together — in other words, to maintain their political identity — only to separate and isolate the prisoners on the slightest pretext. Though nominally a democracy, the Spanish state has maintained laws from the fascist period aimed at the anti-fascist fighters, the various armed independence movements and the prisoners. This pattern of continued struggle, both inside and outside the prisons has continued up to the current hungerstrike.

The PSOE (the governing socialist party) has taken a hard line in this matter. They approached the major Spanish papers to urge them to voluntarily refuse to report on the strike. The papers refused, but there has been little attention in the international media. Support demonstrations of up to 70,000 people have occurred in Spain, and there have been demos in a number of other European countries as well as in Vancouver, Toronto, New York and Washington. Social and political prisoners in Europe have also had solidarity fasts.

We're printing excerpts from 3 documents about this situation. The first is a communique from the GRAPO central committee, announcing the assassination of one of the doctors in charge of force feeding the strikers. Force feeding — considered torture by many human rights activists around the world — entails the intravenous injection of a nutritional solution when a prisoner is about to fall into a coma. Once the prisoner comes out of the coma, he or she will be sustained for a few days and then slide back into a coma again. This practice causes irreversible physi-

cal damage and some of the prisoners have been placed on life support machines. The second document, from the GRAPO prisoners themselves, opposes the killing.

The third document, in an honesty unusual for any government, describes the politics around the hungerstrike as well as any-

one on our side could. It illustrates clearly the intention of the Spanish government to destroy the prisoners and their resistance, regardless of what suffering they may endure. It was released by the Spanish consulate in Zurich in response to a number of demonstrations on behalf of the GRAPO prisoners.∞



## Spanish Doctor Assassinated: In Favour . . .

On 27/Mar/90, a combat group of our organization (GRAPO) "Juan Jose Crespo Galende", executed one of the medical chiefs in Zaragoza who has been in the forefront of the force feeding of the PCE(r) and GRAPO political prisoners who have been on hungerstrike since 30/Nov/90.

Since that date the social fascist government has not stopped at using any method to break the prisoners will of resistance, including the use of force feeding in an attempt to make them abandon their just demands. Dr. Jose Ramon Munoz Fernandez has been one of the tools used, not just to break the hungerstrike, but also, to make other professionals accept this criminal policy which, hypocritically, is presented as "respect for life".

They speak of respect for life, precisely when they have turned this hungerstrike into the longest torture session in history. Those who conceived this sinister plan say it with the intention of taking the strikers to their limit, in a situation where, broken in health, it would serve as a subterfuge to make them capitulate and submit to isolation and dispersion. But when neither atrocity has given results — before the moral integrity of these men and women that does not allow comparison with that professed by their executioners — gave way to force feeding with the clear objective of destroying their will. Indefinitely prolonging their agony in a macabre spiral that makes the Nazi medical experiments pale in comparison.

All those that have practiced the torture of force feeding, using as a pretext various ethical codes, are conscious that they are actively and directly collaborating with the government's terrorist policy against the pol-

itical prisoners and revolutionary movement. We do not confuse these collaborationist elements with the collective of doctors and medical professionals. Some of these doctors have faced retaliation for having opposed in an honest and truthful manner these aberrant practices which violate their own medical code approved by the World Medical Association, which, in their 29th World Medical Assembly stated: "When a prisoner refuses all food and the doctor believes that he is capable of formulating a conscious and rational decision over the consequences which flow from his refusal of his nutrition, he should not be artificially fed."

To justify their repressive policy and not accede to the demands of our imprisoned comrades, the regimes spokesmen have tried to present the hungerstrike as a publicity stunt by the political and military organizations of resistance. This theory is completely false. In respect to our organization, it is clear and well known that we have never "made politics" from the suffering of prisoners or other victims of state repression. In all cases, we have limited ourselves to denouncing and confronting the government's attacks against us and other popular organizations in the best possible manner under the circumstances. This is particularly true with respect to the conditions imposed on all political prisoners. As is well known, we have never sought anything in prisons other than to preserve a regimen of internal life that is minimally acceptable. The prisoners of GRAPO have never created situations which could serve as arguments for prison officials to justify dispersion or other reprisals against them. . .

If, as they never cease to say, have so much love for life and really seek to solve the problem that they call "of violence", why

don't they free the prisoners who have suffered the most from the heavy blows of institutional violence? Let them free those who because of torture and repeated hungerstrikes, brought on by the state, have serious and irreversible physical consequences. Let them free these men and women. This will demonstrate a true interest in resolving this problem.

There is no other solution. But they can continue with the same path as always: that

of torture and state terrorism. But, in this case, let them take into account that the struggle will be very long and though they may hide behind walls and machine guns, we will come for them. We will find them and we will do justice.

Central Command of the Groups of Anti-Fascist Resistance, First of October (GRAPO).

## . . . Opposed

Letter of the Political Prisoners of the PCE(r) and GRPO on hungerstrike in the Penitentiary Hospital at Carabanchel, directed to the doctors and medical personnel of the Gregorio Maranon hospital of Madrid and any other medical center where we may be received.

Five months ago now, we began an indefinite hungerstrike for the reunification of all of us in one prison under dignified living conditions. The prolongation of this strike has been entirely against our will and is due to the force feeding to which we have been subjected, for which we suffer, apart from the difficult agony, irreversible consequences, paralysis and witherings which have not been sufficient until now for the government to meet our just demands.

Before this situation, with only the sure possibility of a certain death, we felt that the social fascist PSOE government would be obligated to concede and renounce their policy of dispersion and annihilation of political prisoners. We have suffered from isolation,

bad treatment, torture, humiliations, macings, non-communication with our family and friends, the censorship and destruction of our mail, prohibition of all types of work and collective study. We're forced to live with drugs, hepatitis and other contagious diseases, which makes our hungerstrike a struggle for the right to life. For this, the Spanish government has had no scruples in shifting a political problem to the medical collective. This type of conflict is foreign to the nature of the medical collective. But by making them force feed us, the government is trying to present us to the doctors as though we were their enemies. Their use of a false concept of the right to life has been accepted by some of the doctors, even though it denies the will and lives of the hunger strikers.

But we do not confuse these loose elements with the medical collective and other professionals, many of whom have been retaliated against for having opposed, in an

continued on page 9

Spain *con'd from page 8*

honest, progressive and truly humanist manner, to practices which violate their own Medical Code. . . On the contrary, we consider the great part of the medical collective to be our friends whom we acknowledge for respecting our will and not falling into the trap which the state administration is setting.

With all of the above said, we, the prisoners of the PCE(R) and GRAPO on hungerstrike at the Carabanchel penitentiary hospital and the Gregorio Maranon hospital in Madrid, want to make a public declaration that we excuse from all responsibility the medical personnel of the Gregorio Maranon hospital and any other medical centers we may be sent to, of anything that may happen to us as a result of the hungerstrike, and to respect our wishes, to respect our will and not feed us and to leave to us the initiative to take our strike to the end; until we achieve our just demands.

The only ones responsible for this situation and the possible consequences it could produce, are the minister of Justice and of the Interior and the General Directorate of Penitentiary Institutions. With their repressive policy of dispersion and extermination, they

seek to force our prison conditions to the maximum, with the object of dividing, demoralizing and breaking our firm conscience as political prisoners. They also seek to take us to repentance or death so that we are not an example of struggle, of rage and resistance to the ample and generalized Political Repression Movement which each day is wider, stronger, more radicalized in its development in the streets.

We, the prisoners on hungerstrike, want to finish by saying that, for our part, we are not going to renounce our ideas nor our dignity as people nor will we follow any lifestyle that undercuts our dignity. At no time have we sought anything else in prison other than a minimally acceptable form of internal life. Nor have we created situations which could serve as an argument for the government or prison officials to justify our dispersion nor any other type of reprisal. We live by and for the outside, by and for the Revolution and conceive of prison as a front on which it has been our destiny to struggle for our ideas of socialism and liberty. . . We rest our faith in victory and in the security that we do not lack the understanding, the help and the solidarity of our people. ∞

## Consulate Reveals State Strategy: Destroy Them

*Extracts from a statement released on 23/Mar/90 by the Spanish General Consulate in Zurich (Switzerland)*

There is presently a movement in the Swiss Confederacy whose goal is to offer support to the hungerstrike begun on Dec/1/90 by 40 members of the GRAPO organization in Spain, a movement ready to use every means at its disposal. As a result our Consulate has been the object of demonstrations on many occasions and during which our Government has been attacked, and has been the target of extremists who have not hesitated to paint Consulate walls with slogans. Moreover, other Spanish institutions have been attacked, and the authors of these attacks have gone so far as to sabotage locks on doors.

The Spanish Consulate hereby makes a formal protest against all of these anti-democratic practices. In the judgement of our Government the population of Switzerland should be made aware of these unjustified attacks. It would be incomprehensible for Spain to keep silent over such anti-democratic methods and over propaganda that undermines credibility in our legally-constituted State.

GRAPO is a political organization that has set itself the goal of overthrowing the Constitutional order of the Spanish State. Under these circumstances it is logical and legitimate on the part of our Government to try and destroy this organization by

all available means. In recent years it has been possible to arrest many members of GRAPO. Unfortunately, these members continue their destructive activities against our State, even from within the prison system. Other States, especially West Germany and Italy, have had to go through similar experiences with prisoners belonging to politically motivated organizations. With this category of subversive individuals, individuals who even in captivity can not be "tamed", justice demands that we isolate them, even from each other.

Given the present situation, the fine West German experience in this field, accumulated over the last twenty years constitutes a model for Spain. Solitary confinement, that is to say, private lodgings in special cells, is a proven method for getting prisoners to break with their destructive political beliefs and thus a way to appreciably weaken their organizations. Accusations that penitentiary conditions like these are nothing more than a form of torture are out of touch with reality, although it cannot be denied that over time health disorders will occur. This is a price that must be paid under the circumstances.

The Spanish Government is following the example set by West Germany. We are not to be ruled by fear, even if deaths are on the horizon. In a modern democracy, in periods of confrontation with the politically violent, no other possibility exists. ∞

*Taken from Angehorigen Info, No. 39, 26/Apr/90.*

## Letters

## Remember Mumia Abu-Jamal

First of all I want to speak on one of my brothers on Death Row, because he's the one that really opened my eyes to how this system will do you if given the chance. Mumia Abu-Jamal is on Death Row in Pennsylvania for "what they say" was the killing of a cop. But you research his case and look deep at the fact that he was a one-time spokesperson for the Black Panther Party, and a journalist and

where players are electrified, poisoned, gassed or spend the rest of their life in "Hell", and the "house", the system, never loses.

I speak for my "comrades" all around the world. This suffering we're doing doesn't have to be this way. To resist is to win! There's a lot of people running around talking a good "revolution game" but talking and trying to convert ain't what's happening. Don't you remember what Fidel Castro said, "For a revolution to be strong, and invincible, it must be authentic." Nobody gave Cuba the

## More on Clallam Bay

On Apr/11/90, at Clallam Bay Corrections Center, In Washington state, in the closed custody unit, a fellow prisoner was being cowed because he refused to lockdown for something he had no control over. (At Clallam Bay, if you don't go to school or you don't have a job, you have to stay in cell from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, on what is called non-programming status. And Clallam Bay only has room for about 250 prisoners to work or go to school.)

Clallam Bay, was built for 580 prisoners and now it has at least 720 prisoners in it at this time. The closed custody unit was opened up at Clallam Bay because Walla Walla had to close down 8-wing for remodeling.

Well any ways this prisoner, like I said, was being cowed by the pigs, they (the pigs) had him handcuffed behind his back and shackled. But in order to subdue this prisoner one of the pigs (a Sgt.) jammed his finger into the eye of the man until he had drawn blood, (of course when a finger goes to the hilt in your eye, you would also become immobile.) And a female pig was sitting on this prisoner's back and was pulling his hair and was hitting and scratching the back of his neck and his back. A male pig had a hold his legs by the chain of the shackles and was trying, it looked like, to lift the lower part of his body off the ground. (With someone sitting on his back no less.)

I and some of the fellas just couldn't stand it anymore! (Watching a fellow prisoner getting treatment like this.) The closed-custody unit at Clallam Bay, F-Unit, is supposed to the Intensive Management Unit (I.M.U) for Clallam Bay. So it is set-up just like Shelton's I.M.U. to the tee. There are three podes with a control booth, that operates all the doors in the unit. Well the female pig in the control booth opened our pod door

to let three prisoners in our pod and as soon as the door opened up about 12 of us made it out the door before the pig in the booth tried to close it. But one of our comrades held the door open for us. We went out in the rotunda and proceeded to kick some ass, which we did and put 5 of them pigs in the hospital for treatment. I can't name any of the men that helped because I am the only one they remember by face and name, but they know who they are, and thanks for being strong!

Anyway, after Terry and I were taken to the strip-cells, F-Unit, just busted loose and tore up everything but the phones and TVs. They were ready to rock-n-roll, but the pigs had mace and concussion bombs and so the pigs got everything cleaned up in about 5 hours from the time they started until they chained us up for a bus ride to Shelton I.M.U. They only took 44 out of about 90 men that participated in the riot. I am proud of this small crop of individuals that took a part in this riot at Clallam Bay.

Some of you out there that read this may think that it did no good for us because it didn't last long. But I think it is just the beginning for this state. Wake-up and see what the Man is trying to do to us, which is to take away our independence. And I hope others will wake-up and see for themselves what the Man (Pigs) is trying to do to all of us.

A good friend of mine said it best, so I will quote him. "I'm proud of what all of you did. I wish that violence was not necessary, but it was. Stay strong and friends!"

Well you stay strong too Shawne, and every one that helped, I wish you all the best.

*Forever Free!*

Robert James Lindell  
909273 I.M.U. D-101  
POB 900 Shelton, WA 98584



a MOVE supporter; and look at what the prosecution used as the basis for his trial and conviction. "They said" (which I quote from the Philadelphia Inquirer) that Mumia, then 17, read Mao Tsetung's famous statement "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." This statement was used as a basis for seeking the death penalty.

National politicians have re-discovered the potency of the penalty of life in prison, and the death sentence, for sucking up votes; so once again as in our forefathers time, men ascend to power on Black backs. Prisons bulge with black life, tombs for the living dead. Death Rows overflow with black Hispanic, Indian and poor white human refuse, rejected by a society in degeneration. And judges (politicians still) play the game of Death using Africans, Hispanic and others as slots in a macabre Wheel of "Mis"-Fortune,

revolution. They made it happen themselves. And they didn't do it by a whole lot of "Rap!"

I said more than I wanted to. I don't want to say too much; But if I can leave you with this last thought: I'm not an American. I'm one of the millions of oppressed people who are the victims of Americanism, the victim of democracy; nothing but disguised hypocrisy; and I see America through the eyes of the victim.

Just like Malcolm X said; "I don't see any Amerikkkan dream. I see an Amerikkkan nightmare that's happening now.

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# The Marionette

Number 49

May-June 1990

## Demonstration Day

On 5/May/90, approximately 100 protesters converged on the entrance to USP Marion to protest the supply of contaminated water to prisoners and demand an end to the lockdown of Marion, now in its seventh year. They chanted slogans, carried signs, and listened to speeches. The event was the culmination of two days of activities in the area. Other actions included a presentation of a video with speakers the previous night and an early morning rally on the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale campus. From there, the protest moved to the Carbondale post office, and then to Crab Orchard Lake in Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, the source of the contaminated water. At the end of the demonstration at Marion, the group presented petitions containing 6376 signatures demanding a change in the water to a prison official. The events were organized by the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML), National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, and the Southern Illinois Marion Prison Task Force.



The May/5 events at the prison were the pinnacle of a much broader, nationwide opposition to forcing prisoners to use water from a contaminated source so polluted as to be on the EPA's Superfund list of worst sites. In the 10 days preceding and including 5/May, there were programs on the issue in San Francisco and Madison, WI. There was a demonstration at the federal building in Chicago and one at the office of U.S. Representative Robert Kastenmeier, chair of the congressional subcommittee that oversees the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). A meeting was held with the BOP by a religious delegation followed by a press conference. In Hartford (CT), Philadelphia, and New York City, informational pickets were conducted at the respective federal buildings, and another picket was done at a shopping mall in Denver. The day before the Marion demo, there was also a press conference with Southern Illinois media, a meeting with local U.S. Representative Glen Poshard, and classes at Logan Community College, in addition to the program at Southern Illinois University. On 6/May, there was a demo at the ferry that goes to Alcatraz Island from San Francisco. And the petitions protesting the contami-

nated water were signed in 22 states and seven countries outside the U.S.

The local media is well aware of the needless and counterproductive repression attendant to the lockdown and all the reasons it has been protested since its imposition in 1983 — not to mention two previous demonstrations organized by the same people. It chose to focus entirely on the toxic waste contaminated water that prisoners are forced to use for drinking and bathing and in which their food is cooked and laundry is washed. PCBs, dioxins, furans, lead, cadmium, and who knows what all have been leaking into Crab Orchard Lake for years, most from a dumpsite left by Sangamo Electric, now the multinational Sangamo-Weston, Inc.

A lawsuit opposing the hazardous water has languished in the courts, also for years. But the BOP refuses to let any engineer hired by the public interest lawyers who are handling the case for prisoners to test the water even though that would settle the lawsuit. Instead, the BOP insists that the water is just fine and poses no health hazard even though it looks, smells, and tastes bad. Many prisoners long exposed to the water have developed health problems like rashes and lipomas (small tumors mainly in subcutaneous fatty tissue), skin maladies being a common symptom of PCB poisoning. There have been other cancers and illnesses as well.

In response to the protests, Warden Clark claimed that he has dedicated his whole adult life to the safe and humane treatment of prisoners, but he is a very poorly preserved specimen of an apparent fifty-something, and he admits to having been a priest previously. He asserted that the water is safe and that he would not tolerate its use if it were not. But he also falsely denied knowledge of the replacement prison for Marion being built in Colorado before it was announced by the local congressman but long after it was common knowledge. And he denies that there are political prisoners at Marion. Despite his claims of the water's safety, Clark did say that the BOP is "exploring" the digging of wells and/or a surface reservoir for the prison — as if it were doing so as a matter of course rather than out of the same concerns that led the town of Marion to abandon Crab Orchard as a water source. Clark's predecessors Wardens Henman and Williford told the well story, too.

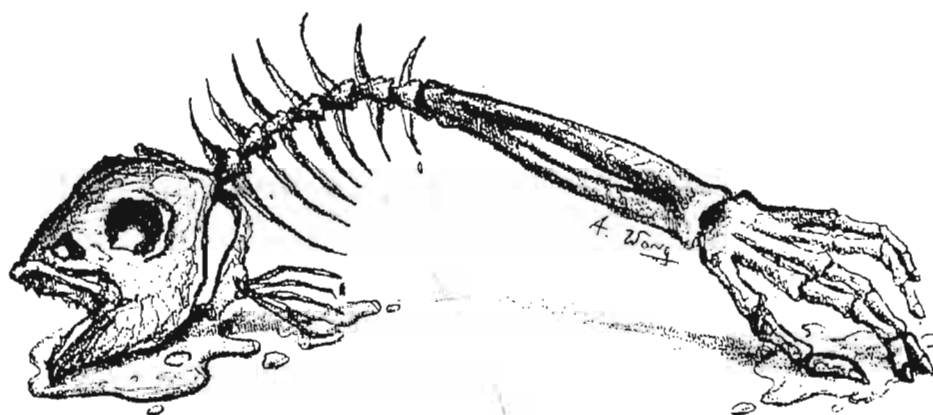
Clark went on to disparage the demonstrators' focus on the water by contending that they were just people who don't like the BOP and had lost every other issue they'd raised against it. The very names of the groups organizing the event — Committee to End the Marion Lockdown and National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War — indicate the real issues, however. Their presence demonstrates that those issues have not been lost and are still very much in contention — and that they have good reason not to like the BOP. The courts to whose opinions

against prisoners Clark was apparently referring described Marion conditions as "ghastly", "sordid and horrible", and "depressing in the extreme". Such a technical defeat in such a biased venue can hardly be considered a loss of the issues.

The water is just one more instance of physical and psychological abuse added to the brutality, the isolation, and the emotional, intellectual, and sensory deprivation that are intrinsic to the lockdown. Marion lockdown conditions not only violate the legal and

AI gave that report to the BOP for comment months before its public release. That was four years ago. Nothing of substance has changed since, and for Clark to suggest that interviews and reviews of records now would have a different result is disingenuous.

The demonstrations against the Marion lockdown focus necessary attention on an important but neglected and distorted issue. Anti-crime hysteria and criminal bashing notwithstanding, people want corrections to be effective, not make matters worse. Nor do



human rights of prisoners as expressed by the United Nations, among others, but also those of the community into which debilitated, stressed-out prisoners with no social or job skills will be released. All of that inhumanity is compounded if the prisoners are sick from being fed poison water.

Clark tried to dismiss the condemnation of Marion operations by Amnesty International, an organization that even Clark praises, by accusing it of not doing its homework. But AI did do its homework before making its condemnatory conclusions. Its representative came and sat through a number of hearings in the litigation against the brutality and lockdown in addition to substantial other investigation before AI prepared its report.

they want society's image dirtied by human rights violations in its name or public money wasted on counterproductive imprisonment, whatever their opinions of prisoners. The attention is especially important at this time of rapid proliferation of lockdown prisons and units in the states and with the imminent construction of at least one and perhaps two new, larger federal dungeons at which to reproduce the Marion lockdown.

The organizers of the 5/May and preceding events as well as the participants are to be commended for the acuity of their perception in recognizing these facts and for their commitment in doing something about them. Prisoners greatly appreciate their support. ∞

## Relief From Restitution?

Tim Smith and Steven Danforth, from the Stillwater, MN Prison Mirror.

An opinion released May 30th by the US Supreme Court (PA Dep't of Public Welfare v. Davenport published at 47 CrL 2100) ruled that criminal restitution amounts are dischargeable in a "Wage Earner Plan," a special Bankruptcy proceeding also known as "Chapter 13". "The Court's ruling creates the opportunity for prisoners to relieve themselves from the massive restitution balances that, in many cases, burden them for many years after their sentence expires.

It is possible to do it yourself. Official forms are available directly from the Bankruptcy Court. However, as always it is advis-

able to have a lawyer represent you. Legal assistance may be available through legal assistance agencies in your home areas. As an alternative, private attorneys perform bankruptcy work amazingly cheap; Chapter 13 proceedings may cost as little as \$400-600.

Failing to pursue a Chapter 13 in time may cause you to lose out on an opportunity to discharge your restitution obligations. Like Minnesota prisoners, if you waited until you were already released and paying under DOC order, you could be revoked. The other problem is that Congress could decide to amend Chapter 13 at any time to eliminate this "loophole". Once it is thus closed, you will be stuck with your restitution. In other words, the word of the day is scramble. ∞

# Resources For Prisoners

The following list is by no means complete. We will run it as regularly as possible. If you have a magazine, book or service that might be of interest to prisoners, please let us know. In particular, we would like to list any pen pal services that are available.

**Prison Journals and Books** - The material in these magazines is predominantly written by prisoners, for prisoners or about prisons and prisoners. Free to prisoners unless otherwise stated. Non-prisoners should send a donation or exchange publication.

**Antigone** — Newsletter of the National Committee on U.S. Corrections. \$2.00/yr for prisoners. \$7.00 for free world residents. Write to them at: POB 308, Farmington, MI 48332.

**Arm The Spirit** - This new journal from Toronto deals with political prisoners and the politics of resistance and repression in the advanced capitalist countries. Write to them at: Box 475, 253 College, Toronto, Ont M5T 1R5.

**Behind The Walls** - Like the PNS, it was started on the inside, but is produced on the outside. Prisoner subs are \$5.00/yr; outsiders, \$10.00; Foreign, \$15.00. Write to PANAL, 5 Star Press, POB 4167, Halfmoon, NY 12065.

**Can't Jail The Spirit** - This book, released in conjunction with the Freedom Now campaign for amnesty, has biographies of various Political Prisoners and POWs. \$12.00, Editorial El Coqui, Publishers, 1671 N. Claremont, Chicago, IL 60647.

**Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter** - This is one of the oldest publications directed at prisoners. Includes short articles as well as excerpts from prisoners' letters concerning legal matters and other issues. Write to: CFR, POB 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

**Convictions** - A well produced magazine by prisoners, for prisoners and their people. Prisoners \$8./yr.; others, \$10yr.; Canadians add \$3.00. Write: Convictions, POB 1749, Corvallis, OR 97339-1749.

**Dante's Gazette** - "A prisoner's consortium for justice, a publication for people who can't afford a lawyer." It has lots of information on legal cases, involving prison issues and conditions. Edited by Tennessee prisoner, Calvin Murray. \$2.00 for prisoners. Make checks or money orders out to Jackie Campbell, Write to them at: CVLP 2930 N. 46th st. #107, Phoenix AZ 87108.

**Endeavor** - "Live voices from Death Row." This paper was done with great difficulty from Death Row in Texas. Write to them at: POB 23511, Houston, TX 77228.

**Inside Out** - A bimonthly publication produced by Vancouver Anarchist Black Cross. Write to: Vancouver ABC, POB 2881, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 3X4.

**New Studies on the Left** - Their prison issue is like a book. It has extensive information on Marion, Political Prisoners and POWs. A definite must if you're interested in the politics of prisons and prisoners. Outsider subs are \$10.00. Write to: Saxifrage Publishing Group, 1484 Wicklow St., Boulder, CO 80303.

**Prisoners Legal News** - Produced by prisoners Ed Mead and Paul Wright, it covers legal news of special interest to WA state. But their interests are wider in terms of interests and region. Donations of money and stamps are needed to keep this going. Donations should be sent to: PLN, 4557 - 8th NE #3, Seattle, WA 98105: Letters, articles or requests should be sent to: Paul Wright #930783, POB 5000, HC 63, Clallam Bay, WA 98326.

**PWA-RAG** - This is a Rights Advocacy Group for Prisoners with AIDS. Its purpose is to offer support along with educational materials to prisoners that are having any problems related to the HIV virus. Write to them: c/o Saxifrage Group, POB 18717, Denver, CO 80218.

**Women Prison Survival News** - WPSN focuses primarily on women in prison. They also do networking and education work around AIDS in prison, especially as it affects prisoners. A new issue will be out shortly. Write: WPNS, POB 770, Stn P, Toronto, Ont M5W 1P7.

**Other Publications** - These publications take a decidedly political interpretation of the world. They should be of interest to any prisoner wanting more information about the outside world. These magazines usually have some content specifically geared towards prisoners.

**Bayou La Rose** - This magazine has 1 covers prison, native, environmental and workplace issues. Write

to 302 N. "J" St., #3, Tacoma, WA 98403.

**Breakthrough** - Political journal of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. It has a theoretical approach, but remains readable. Always has interesting material. Non-prisoners, \$10.0/4 issues. Write to: PFOC, POB 10422, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Endless Struggle** - The final issue of this very good magazine helps to develop the revolutionary anarchist-autonomist tendency. Write: Endless Struggle, POB 69601, Stn K, Vancouver, BC V5K 4W7.

**Gay Community News** - This weekly is the Gay and Lesbian paper in the U.S. Has a pen pal service. Write to: GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

**Liberty** - Covers a variety of social and prison issues from an anarchist perspective. No address is listed in the magazine, but we'll forward requests if you write to: Bulldozer, POB 5052, Stn A, Toronto, Ont M5W 1W4.

**Love and Rage** - A revolutionary anarchist monthly with news coverage from around North America. It's prison coverage is provided by the New York Anarchist Black Cross. Write to: Love and Rage, Box 3, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012.

**Nommo** - This is the magazine of the African Students at UCLA. The May issue was a special on prison. Lots of interesting articles from a revolutionary African perspective. Write to: Nommo, 112 C, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

**Profane Existence** - A zine of the anarcho-punk persuasion. Articles on prisons and anarchism are reviews of music releases and zines. Non-prisoner subs are \$9.00/yr. Write to them at:

**The Tennessee File** - The second issue has a good introduction to anarchism, the Anarchist Black Cross and prison struggles. Though a year old, it is still worth a read. \$1.00 for non-prisoners, Write to: Knoxville ABC, POB 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061.

The following groups provide free books and magazines for prisoners.

**Gay Community News Prison Project** - c/o Mike Riegle, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02146.

**P.A.N.A.L.** - c/o Barry Carpenter, POB 1153, Russellville, AL 35653.

**Prisoners Literature Program** - Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

**Prison Book Program** - 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.