

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

OUT OF CONTROL is writing to you because recently one of our members, Bo, was asked to participate in a proposed mini tribunal about political prisoners that will be held in S.F. We want to express our concern. Bo is an ex-political prisoners who did 8 years in federal penitentiarys because of her activities with the George Jackson Brigade, a clandestine organization in Seattle during the 1970's. Bo has been doing work for and about political prisoners and POW's for twenty years. Bo is and has always been a very out butch Lesbian. Because of how Bo looks she has experienced homophobia from friends and strangers.

Bo and OUT OF CONTROL have worked with Freedom Now since it began. Among other things Bo spoke at a pre-tribunal event in December 1989. But recently at the Tribunal held in New York in December 1990, Bo was not invited to participate. When one of our members approached ~~the~~ organizers of this tribunal about this ~~they~~ dismissed it as an "oversight". We do not believe this.

We do not believe this because you do not hold a tribunal about political prisoners and not ask for testimony from a person who is an active member of the movement for political prisoners in the u.s. This is an example of homophobia. Two years ago during the press conference announcing the coming out of Freedom Now a similar "oversight" occurred. A formal criticism was presented at that time to Freedom Now by Out of Control. Once again our energy is diverted to petti bullshit, when we could be using it to deal with the BOP, and other prison issues.

We understand the difference between the Bay Area Freedom Now Network and the national Freedom Now organization. But we feel there are important connections. We want recognition that this stuff is anti-lesbian and anti-gay, not a mere "oversight".

Because we work on a day to day basis with people in the local network we want assurances from you that there is a continued building of trust and respect through open dialogue. Part of our work is to fight against lesbian invisibility not only for ourselves, but also for our Lesbian sisters, especially political prisoners inside.

In struggle for better and better days,

Julie, Bo, and Blue  
OUT OF CONTROL Lesbian Committee for Women Political Prisoners and POW's

cc: National FN  
suggestions

OOC not approached in the process of considering testimony from N.A.s ...  
Sag  
of  
prisoners +  
movement

new network

what happens.

→ what does this mean?

→ what does this mean?

