

# ***THE INSURGENT***

Newsletter of the Committee to Fight Repression Vol. 4 No. 3 Winter 1988

## ***Ohio 7 On Trial for Seditious Conspiracy***



In This Issue: El Grito de Lares in Puerto Rico  
Silvia Baraldini Facing New Ordeal  
Grand Jury Resisters

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We have had numerous requests from prisoners, asking to be added to our political prisoner list. The requests are too numerous for our collective to process. We have referred all requests to the Legal/Dossier Committee of the National Human Rights Campaign and will revise the list through that mechanism. We urge prisoners to write directly to the Campaign for information about how to proceed. ( See p. 10 for information and address)

## Committee to Fight Repression: Who We Are

The Committee to Fight Repression is an anti-imperialist organization that analyzes, exposes, and confronts political repression. We believe that in order to build effective resistance movements we need to understand the u.s. imperialist state and the dialectic between REPRESSION and RESISTANCE. People don't automatically resist government repression. We need to learn what we're up against and learn how to resist--from each other and from movements all over the world who are fighting the same enemy.

In any movement, political prisoners are living examples that political struggle requires courage and sacrifice. We believe that creating strong bonds with political prisoners can help to strengthen and mature political movements. Who would dare to struggle if their movement did not protect and defend those who were captured? We believe that we must consistently try to break through the state's isolation of political prisoners, so that we can learn from people who went before and who currently are in a high level of confrontation with the state.

For the last four years, our collective has actively worked to support political prisoners and POW's - from bringing support to political trials, to participating in campaigns to fight human rights abuses, to put-

ting out the Insurgent. We believe that support for political prisoners and POW's -- from the national liberation movements, the northamerican anti-imperialist movement, the Plowshares, Sanctuary and peace movements -- is a critical aspect of all current activities for human rights and social justice in this country.

The over 100 political/social activists and revolutionaries in u.s. prisons today are in jail for their activities and actions, their commitments and beliefs, their politics and their refusal to back down. Many of them have led struggles and organizations. Some were captured trying to build revolutionary organizations that were armed and clandestine. Some of the Black POW's and political prisoners have been imprisoned since the 1960's, targets of u.s. COINTELPRO.

From behind the walls, they each share our visions and concerns. They daily re-affirm their commitment, sharpened by the sacrifices they have made, and the abuse, isolation and degradation they experience at the hands of guards and prison officials.

As the imperialists develop their strategies to repress resistance inside prison walls and outside, our resistance, too, must grow. DARE TO STRUGGLE! DARE TO WIN!  
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POW'S!

# Ohio 7 Minus 2: On Trial for Seditious Conspiracy

Since the beginning of the Reagan administration, his Justice Department has been devising elaborate conspiracy indictments to put captured revolutionaries away for life. The Insurgent has chronicled many of these trials over the years. Yet the government has had some set-backs in this course of action because of the resistance of the people on trial as they fight for their politics and their human and legal rights.

In Springfield, MA, the government has found itself bogged down in the Ohio 7 trial and has been repeatedly criticized by the local media. The media is asking why the government is prosecuting people at the current cost of 2.1 million dollars, when all but one defendant have already been convicted for the same activities covered in this indictment and have sentences from 15-53 years. The jury selection alone had taken 6 months to pick only 6 jurors.

So, on August 30th, the government prosecutors dropped charges against Tom Manning and Jaan Laaman, announcing that they were trying to simplify the trial. In essence, however, they were maneuvering to divide and demoralize the defendants. With this move they could silence two powerful voices in the trial and separate Tom and Jaan from their wives and comrades. Jaan Laaman said in a letter to the judge, "The Ohio 7 has steadfastly maintained that we are guilty of no crimes. Having these charges dropped against the two of us certainly fits into our position.... The government's comments on our dismissal about prior sentences and shortening the case is just pure nonsense. All of us have some prior charges. As for trial reduction, evidence, etc. will be introduced. The only reduction is 2 or 3 defense lawyers to examine witnesses.... In one way though this case is substantially changed. Originally these charges of sedition and RICO were brought as general prosecution to criminalize certain types of political resistance to the U.S. government. Then-Attorney General Meese's hope was not only to intimidate similarly situated revolutionaries, but progressive activists in general. Now the case has additionally taken on the vindictive nature of a selective prosecution of three mothers, politically active and concerned women who have refused to renounce their husbands and life-oriented progressive politics they hold. If the government can dismiss charges against me, how can it justify the continued prosecution of my wife and Tom's wife.... Real justice demands: Drop all charges! Release the Women/Mothers now!

Jaan was sent to Otisville to the segregation unit and then to Lewisburg, and then to Leavenworth. Tom Manning was placed in the Maximum Control Unit in Trenton State Penitentiary. The criteria sheet for his designation to the control unit said:

"...given his status as a dissident and revolutionary terrorist..."

"Inmate's record further indicates a preference for secretive, paramilitary-like schemes. Subject inmate has displayed this behavior by becoming involved with various politically radical and violent groups who advocate the overthrow of the federal government..."

"This subject inmate has proved to be a leader. Because of his established revolutionary dissident record could use this position to negatively influence and manipulate the prison population."

Could it be clearer why prison systems use control units for political prisoners? soners?

Recently, in Springfield, the system of jury selection was changed to the "struck system" which the defense had long argued for in order to speed up the process. The defendants anticipate that jury selection will be completed in December, 1988. The trial should start in the new year. Keep on the alert for information and write to:

The Seditious Committee  
P.O. Box 4690  
Springfield, MA 01101  
413-586-4407

The Seditious Committee  
P.O. Box 1418, Cathedral Sta.  
New York, N.Y. 10025  
212-969-0448



From l. to r.- Ray Levasseur, Carol Manning, Tom Manning, Jaan Laaman, Barbara Curzi Laaman, Richard Williams (Pat Gros-out on bail)

# Resistance Conspiracy Case: Update from Washington, D.C.

In May, 1985, Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn were indicted for seeking "to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the U.S. government concerning various international and domestic matters through violent and illegal means." In specific, they were charged with conspiracy, and aiding and abetting the bombings of several military and government buildings, resulting in extensive property damage but in no injuries to anyone. The defendants call the case the "Resistance Conspiracy case." In their joint statement after their indictment, they said "The government is relentless in its pursuit of those whose love and concern extend across national and racial barriers, and whose commitment leads them to active resistance. . . The Reagan Administration wants our prosecution to serve as a warning to those who demand justice and human rights. . . We say as long as this government tramples on the rights, the lives and the dignity of human beings here and anywhere else in the world, there will always be resistance. This is not a criminal conspiracy -- it is a movement of solidarity and resistance, of love and of hope." (See The Insurgent, Vol. 4, No. 2 for more information)

All of the comrades were initially classified as "Special Handling" at the D.C. Detention Facility where they are held. The classification was made solely on the basis that they are political prisoners. They faced control-unit conditions: 23½ hour a day lock-down; no contact with other prisoners; shackled and handcuffed in legal meetings and in social visits (which are non-contact visits for all D.C. jail prisoners); no fresh air and continual harassment by guards.

These conditions were a fresh assault on Susan, who had just come from the Lexington High Security Unit; on Alan and Tim who had just come from Marion Federal Penitentiary; Linda, who was recovering from a shoulder injury that wasn't healing properly; and Marilyn, who was on crutches from recent surgery on her leg. For Laura, it represented the continuation of being held for over two years in preventive detention -- the longest held political prisoner currently held without bail.

The Resistance Conspiracy defendants fought the conditions from the first. They brought a motion before their judge, Judge Greene, to put them into general population. The Emergency Committee for the Defense of Human and Legal Rights of Political Prisoners and the Committee of Family and Friends wrote to

the judge, to the Bureau of Prisons and to Congressional representatives. Supporters of the six wrote in protest. After fighting for months and refusing to give up, their conditions began to slowly improve. They were permitted to have legal meetings unshackled; Laura alone was placed in general population; finally, all were put in population with some few remaining restrictions.

They are continuing to prepare for trial, still suffering harassment. Judge Greene has limited the amount of money the court will pay to their court-appointed lawyers. Since pre-trial motions will be argued in January, this is a critical time for consolidating a defense, not for worrying about a lack of funds. The restrictive funding has a particular impact on the attorneys from New York City who are working on the legal team: Mary O'Melveny, representing Susan Rosenberg, who has represented her for several years; and Lynne Stewart, representing Alan Berkman, who has previously represented numbers of political prisoners on trial.

In addition, the six are being harassed by jail authorities. Both Linda and Laura have been put in punitive segregation for disciplinary infractions that were later overturned for being baseless. (Cont'd on p.9)



Laura Whitehorn

# Political Prisoners' Message to AIDS Protest

On October 8 - 11, 1988, hundreds of AIDS activists converged on Washington, D.C. to demand that the U.S. government change its policies on the AIDS crisis -- policies which are resulting in the deaths of thousands of people, most of them gay and/or Black and Latino. The weekend culminated in a day of civil disobedience at the Food and Drug Administration, the agency responsible for testing new medications. About a thousand people shut down the FDA, demanding that the FDA make experimental drugs available to people with AIDS more rapidly. 175 people were arrested, but hundreds more disrupted "business as usual" at the FDA for the entire day. The demonstration, and all

the weekend's activities, were sponsored by a national coalition called ACT NOW (AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win).

On October 10, ACT NOW held a "people's trial" at the Health and Human Services building to put the Reagan administration on trial for gross and inhuman neglect in the face of the AIDS epidemic. The following statement from the Resistance Conspiracy defendants was read to the rally. (The Resistance conspiracy defendants are Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg and Laura Whitehorn. Two of them -- Linda and Laura -- have spoken out as lesbians.)



## Friends:

We want to express our solidarity and support to all of you at this demonstration, advancing the fight for treatment for all People With AIDS and for adequate funding to research a cure that will control and destroy AIDS once and for all. We only wish that we could be with you tomorrow when you take direct action against the FDA, to demand access to health care as a human right, and to win the release of all promising AIDS treatments to our affected communities.

We particularly salute the ACT-NOW coalition for your growth, commitment and militancy. In one short year, your seriousness and determination to win the battle against AIDS has educated many thousands of people around the country, empowering people to try to confront U.S. government policies that consistently prioritize corporate profit over the human right to life itself. We support ACT-NOW's efforts to unify sectors of the gay and lesbian community who are addressing different aspects of the crisis; we support

your efforts to extend resources and services to people infected by IV drug use while respecting the basic right of these communities to formulate and control their own programs. The AIDS activist coalition has led in exposing the fact that government policies withholding AIDS treatments and curbing research amount to continuation of outright genocide of oppressed communities and nations. You have begun to expose how the U.S. callously uses AIDS to exert social control and commit genocide in Africa and the Third World; particularly through the stranglehold of U.S. drug companies on available treatments. You have effectively countered reactionaries and fundamentalists in their efforts to use the AIDS crisis to expand a fascist social base that is racist and homophobic, that promotes increased racist attacks against Black people and other people of color, and violence against lesbians and gay men throughout the U.S. Your resistance and organizing has an importance beyond winning the immediate, just demands you are fighting for today.

As political prisoners we, too, have faced losses. Like many others, our consciousness has been shaped by the fact that some of our dear friends and strongest supporters outside these walls are People With AIDS. We want to send all our love to you today. Our dear comrade, New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Kuwasi Balagoon, died of AIDS in prison in 1986; his life is commemorated along with too many thousands of others in the Quilt, in a patch inscribed "poet, lover, sorcerer, revolutionary."

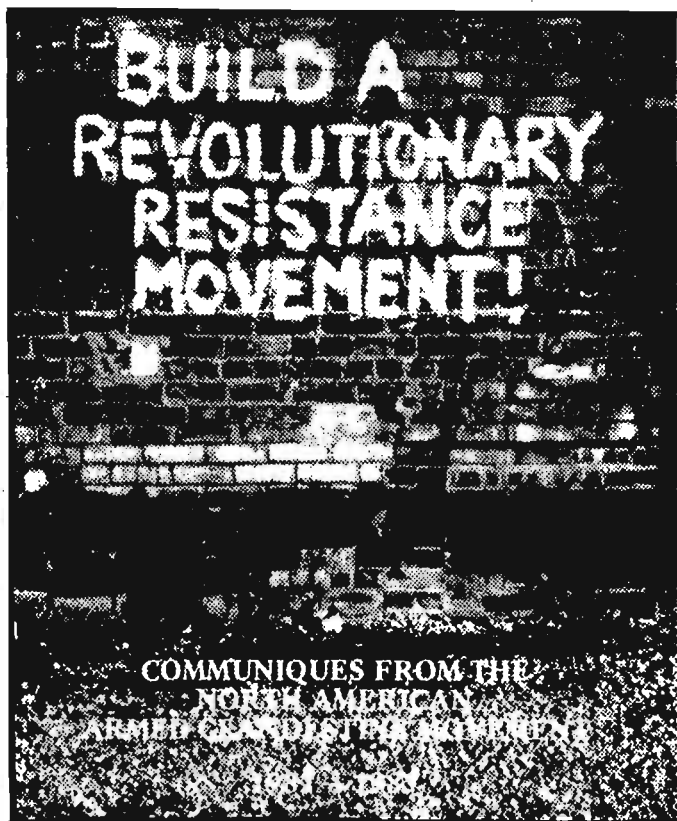
Like all prisoners, we have had to fight against mandatory and unconfidential AIDS testing; we have struggled for realistic AIDS education and met the opposition of prison officials who blindly pretend that sex and IV drug use don't exist inside prison -- and therefore condemn prisoners not only to ignorance, but to humiliation, pain and death. HIV-positive prisoners and Prisoners With AIDS suffer complete isolation, and prison officials systematically withhold not only treatment and basic health care, but they forbid human contact and compassion. We urge your support for people in prison who are fighting for AIDS education and treatment programs.

The six of us are on trial for resisting U.S. government terrorism around the world and against oppressed communities inside the U.S., for fighting for a new society and for a world where every basic human right is guaranteed to all people, including the most fundamental human right, the right to self-determination. We support the fight against AIDS, and for an end to lesbian and gay oppression, as an integral part of the struggle for human liberation. Our hearts and energies are joined with yours today and every day as you continue to struggle in your own communities.

FIGHT AIDS! ACTION = LIFE!

Alan Berkman  
Tim Blunk  
Marilyn Buck

Linda Evans  
Susan Rosenberg  
Laura Whitehorn



BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT: Communiques from the Northamerican Armed Clandestine Movement, 1982-85

The Committee to Fight Repression has published this collection to make available the words of the organizations which have made a critical contribution to the development of anti-imperialist resistance. The 54-page book includes all communiques issued by the United Freedom Front, the Armed Resistance Unit, the Revolutionary Fighting Group and the Red Guerrilla Resistance, which accompanied armed actions. It also includes a foreward by political prisoner Dr. Alan Berkman.

\$2.50; discounts on bulk orders

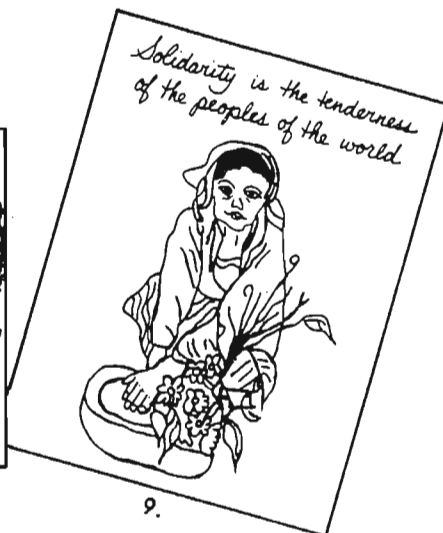
## RESISTANCE NOTECARDS



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1. Design by Timothy Blunk
2. "botánica salvadoreña 1" by Timothy Blunk
3. "botánica salvadoreña 2" by Timothy Blunk

4. "Mourners at Queenstown" by Timothy Blunk
5. "Palestine Lives!" by Laura Whitehorn
6. "Azanian flower" by Laura Whitehorn

7. "Palestine Will Win!" by Linda Evans
8. "Roots of the Tree" by Susan Rosenberg
9. "Solidarity" by Susan Rosenberg
10. "Resistance is not a crime!" by Timothy Blunk

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Cathedral Station  
New York, N.Y. 10025



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# Silvia Baraldini: After Lexington, A New Ordeal

During the campaign to close the Lexington Control Unit, the women there were visited by a psychologist sent by the ACLU, Dr. Richard Korn. He observed that the more they funneled their energy into fortifying their spirits, the more their bodies were physically weakening. He predicted that, if they experienced any breakdown, it would be physical and not mental.

One of the political prisoners, Silvia Baraldini is now living out this cruel scenario. Last spring, she noticed a tender swelling in her lower abdomen. Over two years ago, prior to Lexington, Silvia had required a medical evaluation for gynecological problems. Tests indicated that she had benign fibroids in her uterus. But this time the swelling was painful and enlarging. After stalling for weeks, the Bureau of Prisons finally provided a specialist to consult on her problem. This happened after the lime-light was turned on the women's plight by the start of the law suit against the BOP in Washington, D.C., in which Silvia was one of the plaintiffs. The consultant advised immediate surgery. Silvia's lawyers demanded and won the right to a second opinion, and this doctor also advised immediate surgery.

As the federal court in Washington ordered the Lexington Unit to close, Silvia was shipped out to a federal prison hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. This facility was recently built with an entire operating room inside its walls. Now the BOP no longer has to "worry" about transferring its "high" security prisoners to outside hospitals for major surgery.

At surgery, she was found to have, not only fibroids, but a dangerously malignant uterine cancer as well. Medical research has recently shown how stress weakens the immune system and increases the risk of cancer. And certainly all those months in the Lexington Control Unit was stress! The tumor required a second operation for a total removal of the uterus and ovaries. She then underwent radiation treatments to decrease the chance of a recurrence.

After nearly two years in small group isolation at Lexington, Silvia had to face the crisis of a diagnosis of cancer and traumatic medical procedures virtually alone. The radiation was near torture - she was shackled to a bed and had to remain motionless for 48 hours with vaginal radium implants.

Silvia's courage and resolve through this ordeal has touched everyone who has had contact with her. She faced her situation head

on, sought extensive information in order to be informed of her options, and tried to maintain as much control over her destiny as was possible. During the time when she might have experienced relief at the closing of Lexington, she was catapulted into a new crisis. She had to face the fear of cancer, surgery, radiation and premature menopause, while being under the control of the Bureau of Prisons, which had tried to destroy her in Lexington. Silvia's will to resist, which was seasoned in the isolation unit in Lexington, has not been destroyed, but only strengthened through this ordeal.

On October 22, Silvia was transferred to New York's Metropolitan Correctional Facility. The Bureau of Prisons designated her there in supposed accordance with Judge Parker's ruling when he closed Lexington. He ordered that the plaintiffs were to be placed in general population and prohibited any designation based on their political beliefs or associations. This is a cynical attempt by the Bureau of Prisons to sabotage the meaning of the federal decision and to continue its mission of isolation and denial of political prisoners. MCC, N.Y. is not appropriate. It is a detention center without facilities for long-term sentenced prisoners. The only long term prisoners there are Joe Doherty, an Irish Republican Army freedom fighter, and Silvia Baraldini - both political prisoners.

At MCC, N.Y. Silvia can not obtain even the minimal preventative measures to preserve her health. She needs regular exercise and weight lifting to prevent osteoporosis, the thinning of bones that can occur after menopause. She needs to have a high calcium diet, low-fat diet. It took several weeks to get skim milk - and that required a doctor's order. As every political prisoner knows, the general problems getting adequate medical care in prison are magnified for the political prisoner. The high security classification means that the prison's so-called security needs will determine how, when, where and if the prisoner will get any response to a medical need.

Silvia must be transferred from MCC to general population in one of the women's federal prisons, such as Pleasanton or Alderson. Send a protest about her treatment and demand her transfer:

J. Michael Quinlan  
Director, Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001



From left to right: Alejandrina Torres, Susan Rosenberg, Silvia Baraldini in the Women's High Security Unit, Lexington.

(Resistance Conspiracy, cont'd from p.4)

Laura Whitehorn is going back to court in Baltimore to demand that she be released on bail in her case there (which still has not been tried).

There are many important struggles ahead and an urgent need for support. The demand by the six that the government remove the plexiglass partition that was built in the courtroom to separate the defendants from spectators and the surveillance cameras trained on defendants and spectators alike has not yet been won. Both are prejudicial for the jury and intimidating to courtroom support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

-- Write letters demanding Laura's release on bail to Judge Norman Ramsey, U.S. District Court, Baltimore, MD.

-- Write to the following contacts for in-

formation, speakers and printed materials:

Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights  
P.O. Box 28181  
Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

Emergency Committee to Defend the Human and Legal Rights of Political Prisoners  
220 5th Avenue, 16th Floor  
New York, New York 10001

Committee to Fight Repression  
P.O. Box 1435  
Cathedral Station  
New York, New York 10025

-- Financial contributions are urgently needed! Make checks payable to Institute for Social Justice, Inc., earmarked for the Emergency Committee. Send to the Emergency Committee address above. All contributions are tax-deductible.

# Ploughshares Activist Convicted for Courtroom Solidarity

Last May, hearings were held in Judge Barrington Parker's courtroom on the lawsuit brought to close the Lexington High Security Unit. (See The Insurgent, Vol. 4, No.2 for information about the suit.) The hearings, which included moving testimony by Northamerican political prisoner Susan Rosenberg who was then held in Lexington, resulted in Parker's decision to prohibit the federal Bureau of Prisons from continuing to designate prisoners based on their political beliefs and associations.

There was another political battle played out during the hearings -- the arrests of Ploughshares activists John Hyde and B. Wardlaw. The two, who were in court to support the women at Lexington, were dragged from the courtroom and beaten by federal marshals when they failed to rise when the judge entered the courtroom. The two were then arrested for assault on the marshals! (Individuals have the legal right not to rise for a judge, but this apparently did not stop the marshals.) Both comrades went to trial, which resulted in Wardlaw being acquitted and John Hyde convicted of assault.

The trial was marked by inflammatory testimony by several marshals and a nakedly biased judge. Fortunately, the defendants were able to put several witnesses on the stand to describe the philosophy of non-violence to which both Hyde and Wardlaw are totally committed. Conversations with some jurors after the verdict showed that they had voted

to convict John Hyde because they believed that he had tried to interpose his body between the marshals and B. Wardlaw. The jurors thought they had to interpret this action as assault because of the instructions they had received from the judge. The defense had protested these instructions, and they will be an issue in the appeal. Overall, the jurors said, they had not believed the marshals' testimony.

The government asked that Hyde be jailed immediately after his conviction, but the judge refused to do so. They have also asked that Hyde be jailed for a year because he has a previous record -- all arrests for non-violent anti-nuclear protests.

The beatings, arrest and trial of these two comrades is part of the government's strategy to intimidate supporters and potential supporters of political prisoners and Prisoners of War. In this case, their attempts have backfired. John Hyde's comment on his experience is that it has contributed to building greater unity between forces who might not otherwise have become political allies, Ploughshares activists and anti-imperialists.

No date has been set for sentencing. We urge our readers to send letters of support for John Hyde to Judge Oliver Gasch, U.S. District Courthouse, 3rd and Constitution N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

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## HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

On October 1, 1988, a hundred activists met in New York City to begin the process of forming a national campaign to demand human rights and amnesty for political prisoners held within the United States. The participants represented a broad spectrum of progressive and revolutionary forces who had worked against human rights violations in the U.S. legal and prison system and/or who had defended political prisoners. The campaign was co-initiated by the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN) and by Filiberto Ojeda Rios.

The Committee to Fight Repression has enthusiastically joined this initiative. We urge our readers to contact the following address for more information on the campaign. We urge political prisoners who have not yet heard about this effort to notify their representatives on the outside, or to contact the campaign directly. More information will follow as the campaign develops its structure and program.

National Human Rights Campaign  
c/o Movement Support Network  
666 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10012

# El Grito de Lares, 1988: Filiberto Ojeda Rios Speaks to the Puerto Rican People

El Grito de Lares (The Cry of Lares) is a yearly celebration in Puerto Rico, commemorating the first declaration of the Republic of Puerto Rico in 1868. The Independence Movement has claimed this celebration as a time to mark progress and setbacks in the long journey to self-determination, and to commit itself to completing that task. The great nationalist leader, Don Pedro Albizu Campos, brought a tamarind tree from Bolivia and planted it in the central plaza of Lares to symbolize the continental struggle to free Latin America and the Caribbean from colonialism.

This September 23rd was the 120th anniversary of Lares, and another cry was raised, "Filiberto, companero. Commandante Machetero." The revolutionary independence movement had the platform in mid-afternoon. Humberto Pagan, spokesman for the Anti-electoral Front, read a message from Filiberto Ojeda Rios, which he had sent from prison in Metropolitan Correctional Center in N.Y.C. Filiberto wrote, "The many times they have asked me if I was a founder of Los Macheteros, I have always replied that if they were to ask my people in Lares on any 23rd of September, I would accept with pride that answer to the question." With these words, the crowd erupted with their response, "Filiberto, companero. Commandante Machetero." Humberto Pagan continued after the crowd quieted, from Filiberto's message, "And today I say, yes. I was one of the founders of Los Macheteros! I am a Machetero! And I will be a Machetero until the day in which together we as a people win our complete freedom."

This declaration by Filiberto Ojeda Rios was viewed by the Independence Movement as a tremendous event. It reasserted a position that the only solution for the Puerto Rican people is independence from U.S. colonialism. And that this will only be won by the difficult building of a people's war.

On a day where different strategies for the nation were put forward by the electoral parties, such as statehood or a new free associated republic, Filiberto's position set a dividing line. On one side were solutions that would lead to neo-colonial domination by the U.S. On the other side was true independence. He argued, along with forces in the patriotic Anti-electoral Front (Frente Anti-electoral) against voting in the colonial elections. Filiberto's message said, "We have known ninety years of these abuses, of empty, and cruelly manipulative promises which every four years beseege us, aimed at drowning our senses like alienating drugs, creating mirages in a desert.

Every one - absolutely every one of our people knows that the solution is not to go to the colonial ballot boxes every four years. No solution is to be found in condoning the lying demogoguery of those who offer themselves as guarantors of the survival of colonial power.

Nor is there any better hope in the good faith of those who hope that through this 'peaceful' electoral process, we can win all our rights and freedoms without violence. Those who argue this solution must not be able to perceive the extraordinary violence which right now oppresses all our people - old and young, poor and working, men and women. It is a systematic violence which has converted them into dependents, addicts, alcoholics and criminals, a corrupt and corrupting system which transforms our youth into beings without identity who wander about the streets seeing nothing but an uncertain future leading to more of the same... In order to defeat the demoniacal perpetrator of the colonial violence from which we now suffer, we must unite and coordinate the great strength of our people on every front of struggle, using all of their creative power."

This year's Lares celebration had a special significance for the northamerican anti-imperialist movement as well. Representatives from the two current conspiracy trials of

(Cont'd on p. 13)



On Aug. 26th, Filiberto was arrested in a blatant maneuver to re-imprison him. He was charged with resisting his original arrest on Aug. 30, 1985. He was held on a U.S. base in P.R. under a storm of protest, and then expatriated again to M.C.C., N.Y.

# EPB-Macheteros and FALN Issue Plan for Puerto Rico's Decolonization

The Popular Puerto Rican Army (Macheteros) and the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) are clandestine organizations that wage armed struggle against colonialism and for the national independence of Puerto Rico. The first operates within the national territory of Puerto Rico and the latter in the United States of North America. We are submitting this joint message in writing because we cannot appear before this honorable Committee.

For nearly 500 years, Puerto Rico has been a victim of colonialism. For the past 90 years, it has been a colony of the United States. Ever since the military invasion of our country in 1898, the U.S. government has attempted to justify and legitimize its imperialist intervention by all means. In 1900, elections were imposed in order to create the illusion that the Puerto Rican people exercised self-determination. The reality was that the U.S. government controlled (and still controls) all aspects of economic, military and political life.

In 1917, the U.S. government imposed its citizenship upon the Puerto Rican people. Anyone that resisted the imposition of citizenship was stripped of all political rights and considered a foreigner in his own land. During this period, the U.S. totally ignored our people's clamor for independence even though the majority electoral parties included it in their programs.

The U.S. government carried out a brutal campaign of repression in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's which included: the Rio Piedras and Ponce massacres; the assassinations of many patriots; the incarceration of the nationalist Party leadership including Don Pedro Albizu Campos and subsequent leaders of the Nationalist Party; the "law of the muzzle" which made the independence movement illegal and culminated with massive arrests in 1950 before the implementation of "Free Associated State."

In 1952, the U.S. government acting with the complicity of the "Popular Democratic Party" of Puerto Rico approved the so-called "Free Associated State" in an attempt to legitimize its colonialism. This imperialist machination has been a caricature of autonomy during the past 36 years. Although Puerto Ricans are "free" to elect a puppet government, the U.S. maintains all sovereign powers: citizenship, currency, commerce, migration, military service, postal service, external relations, communication, etc. Puerto Rico has its own courts and laws but U.S. courts and laws can overrule them and have been used to repress the Puerto Rican

people in all facets of economic, political, and social life.

With the institutionalization of the "Free Associated State", the U.N. in 1953, absolved the U.S. government of its obligation to render annual reports about Puerto Rico to its Decolonization Committee. In this manner, the U.S. government was able to maneuver the U.N. into recognizing the "Free Associated State" as the end of colonial domination. Repression against the patriotic movement continued during that period and today includes new methods: espionage and electronic surveillance; kidnapping and forced exile of patriots to prisons in the U.S.; mental and physical torture against Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, "preventive detentions" without trials and the right to bail; utilizing "grand juries" to incarcerate activists without trials; and others. At this very moment, the U.S. government is creating a new repressive model; subpoenas en masse of independence activists in an attempt to force them to testify in U.S. court under the threat of facing 5 years imprisonment without a trial or the right to bail if they refuse.

In 1978, after an intense struggle by our people, the Decolonization Committee valiantly abandoned its support of the "Free Associated State" and since then has issued annual resolutions denouncing colonialism and demanding implementation of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and independence.

Due to this new development, for the past years the U.S. government has searched for a new political formula to "decolonize" Puerto Rico. Again with the complicity of the "Popular Democratic Party" the U.S. has designed a scheme called the "culmination of the Free Associated State" that appears to be a decolonization model, but in content leaves all structure of colonial domination intact. The U.S. is trying to repeat its deception of 1952 and deceive the international community as well. In light of this political situation and in recognition of U.N. resolutions declaring colonialism as a crime against humanity, the Popular Puerto Rican Army (MACHETEROS) and the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) propose the following plan for the decolonization of Puerto Rico:

1. The United States must immediately recognize the colonial status of Puerto Rico and its inalienable right to independence. Consequently, it must cease all repression against the patriotic movement in Puerto Rico and in the U.S.



2. The United States must immediately release all political prisoners and prisoners of war, as well as, all non-Puerto Rican political prisoners incarcerated for acting in solidarity with our struggle for independence.

3. All U.S. military forces must be withdrawn and all military bases and installations dismantled.

4. The colonial government and all its repressive forces (police, national guard, etc.) will be dissolved and their arms turned in to the local militia and national army which will be responsible for maintaining public order and defending our national sovereignty.

5. The U.S. must transfer all the sovereign powers it has usurped in the past 90 years to the people of Puerto Rico represented by a Constituent Convention of the Republic.

6. Under supervision of the United Nations, a Constituent Convention of the Republic will be freely elected which will then elect a Provisional Government of a free, sovereign, and democratic Puerto Rico. All Persons considered accomplices of colonialism having served in a position of confidence in the colonial administration in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, armed forces, or police are not eligible to serve in the new government.

7. The people of Puerto Rico must be compensated for all the exploitation and damages suffered during the past 90 years of U.S. colonial domination.

8. This decolonization process must begin in January, 1989 with the immediate implementation of points 1 and 2 and should culminate September 23, 1992.

These eight points are what we consider to be a minimum plan for a true decolonization of Puerto Rico. Based on this decolonization plan, the Popular Puerto Rican Army (MACHETEROS) and the Armed Forces of National liberation (FALN) want to establish clearly the following:

1. The clandestine and public independence movement will not permit a false decolonization process to be implemented such as a so-called "culmination of the Free Associated State" which would only serve to camouflage colonial domination.

2. We demand that the U.S. government act before the free countries of the world and implement this decolonization plan so as to avoid a long but inevitable victorious war of liberation in Puerto Rico, as well as, in its own territory.

3. We call on the countries of the world to focus their attention on the political situation in our homeland and lend the necessary solidarity to the forces waging combat against colonialism in Puerto Rico.

The Popular Puerto Rican Army (MACHETEROS) and the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) solemnly swear that we will not put down our arms until Puerto Rico is a truly free nation and our people can construct a future of peace and justice.

El Grito de Lares, cont'd from p. 11

anti-imperialist revolutionaries - the Ohio 7 Seditious Conspiracy Case and the Resistance Conspiracy Case in Washington, D.C. - were invited to give message of solidarity. All of these defendants have been charged by the U.S. government of clandestine actions directed against the U.S. war machine, from the mid- 70's to the mid- 80's. Several of these actions were bombings of military targets in explicit solidarity with the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. The actions called for solidarity as well as for freedom of Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war. At Lares there was an opportunity to pledge solidarity directly to the people of Puerto Rico; and to promise that, as the struggle escalates against U.S. colonialism, there will be friends and allies among northamericans living within the borders of the U.S.



# Report from Tierra Amarilla: "This Land Is Ours!"

Around the circle, the Mexicano elders spoke one after the other. "The Indian was our mother, the Spaniard was our father. This land is ours."

So began the program at La Colonia Jose Maria Martinez, in Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico on September 17, 1988. in commemoration of Mexico's independence from Spain. The first land occupation by Mexican people within U.S. borders had been continued since April. This was when Amador Flores took a stand and defied the real estate company who claimed ownership of his land, and the courts that upheld that claim. (See *Insurgent*, Vol.4, #2, Summer, 1988.) Since then a small group of Mexican activists has maintained an encampment on this "liberated territory." They guard it with bunkers and armed security. "Tierra O Muerte," "Land or Death," is the pledge that declares that these people will defend this land with their lives.

Now the encampment was celebrating a Mexican national holiday and was the site of a national mobilization. The people of La Colonia welcomed supporters and shared the goals of their struggle. About 75-100 people gathered under the spectacular span of sky and mountains. They were activists from around the country. About 30% were students from the Boulder/Denver campuses. Most were active in the peace, anti-apartheid and Central American solidarity movements. Many were understanding for the first time that Mexican people here were also struggling for their human rights and ability to determine their own future on their own land.

Pedro Arechuleta, a fourth generation Mexican from Tierra Amarilla, former political prisoner, and regional coordinator of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional/Mexicano, (MLNM) began the day's presentations with a workshop on the history of the Tierra Amarilla occupation. Amador Flores' land is in prime fish and game territory and has been targeted by developers for condominiums. Flores is basing his claim on a deed he filed over 20 years ago and also on historic treaty rights. This land was part of a Mexican communal land grant. When Mexico lost the war to the U.S. in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo honored that land grant. But like the history of broken treaties with Native American people, the U.S. connived and cheated until eventually Congress turned the land grant over to private hands.

The afternoon program began after a lunch of roasted lamb and traditional foods. A guerrilla theater piece called, "The Language Enforcer," was put on. This was a satire about the fascist enforcement of Eng-

lish as the only legal "official" language in the U.S. It was presented by people who are involved in the Anti-English Only Campaign.

Dennis Jenning of the AIM Information Center in San Francisco, and the Native American Treaty Council gave the first solidarity message. "Why do North American Indians get involved with this struggle? We get involved because we are of the same blood and the same land." He pointed out the similarities of the encampment here to the encampments at Big Mountain and the Columbia River, which are Native American struggles to keep control of their land. He said that this struggle represented the community, which wants to make decisions for itself. In that regard, he pointed out that its like the aspirations of the people in El Salvador and all over the world.

(Cont'd on p. 16)



# French and Belgian Political Prisoners on Hunger Strike

From France:

ISOLATION DESTROYS!  
WE DESTROY ISOLATION!

The abolition of isolation units has arisen over these last years as the primary and common objective of all the struggles of prisoners. It could not be otherwise: isolation is the highest level of psychological/physical annihilation that the state scientifically carries on against jailed revolutionary militants and the most resistant working-class prisoners. Isolation units reveal the true nature of prison. A preview of the tomb, the logic of the destruction of the person and his consciousness manifests itself in a direct and immediate way. Isolation is prison without its mask, where the "white death" is programmed for those who reject the capitalist order. The time has come to end the isolation units.

We call on the working-class prisoners and imprisoned revolutionary militants to join us in the struggle against isolation. This call is directed in particular to the prisoners who over these last years have been involved in struggle, thereby affirming their consciousness and their determination against all obstacles.

The struggle against isolation is the struggle of all prisoners!

No to the death units of Arpaillange, Rocard and Mitterand!

Lift immediately conditions of solitary confinement!

Solidarity with the Basque militants in struggle against isolation and for the liberation of Euskadi!

Regis Schleicher  
Vincenzo Spano  
Claude Halfen  
Nicholas Halfen

(Ed. note: The four participants in the hunger strike are captured combatants of Action Directe, a clandestine anti-imperialist guerrilla organization in France. The "white death" mentioned in the text refers to sensory deprivation isolation units for political prisoners.)

From Belgium:

Statement from the Association of Parents and Friends of the Communist Prisoners

Today, September 2, 1988, four captured militants of the Communist Combatant Cells --



Banner from West Germany.

Top left: Association for Red Army Fraction and Resistance Movement Prisoners and all Political Prisoners. Top Right: One Front in the International Liberation Struggle.

Bertrand Sassoie, Didier Chevolet, Pierre Carette and Pascale Vandegerde resume their hunger strike which was suspended in the Spring of 1986.

Strong from the experience of their struggle in 1986 -- that is, convinced of the extreme limits to which they will, without a doubt, have to take their demands -- the militant prisoners have made the decision to space their respective engagements from week to week. Didier Chevolet begins the collective action today; he will be joined on September 9 by Pascal, the 16th by Pierre and the 23rd by Bertrand.

In '86, after 43 days of bargaining, the minister of justice and his counselors were involved in satisfying certain demands, but

it quickly became clear that they were only concerned about getting themselves out of an embarrassing situation. They never honored their promises. That is why the four militants see again the obligation to resort to the hunger strike, and why their principle demands are exactly the same as in '86:

- association for the four militants and eight hours of work meetings every day
- no restrictions on correspondence
- permission for two non-family visits for each captured militant
- authorization to receive political books and pamphlets, including second-hand ones
- wearing of civilian clothes.

These demands are exclusively political, their only aim being to achieve conditions for study, for political and theoretical work while in prison -- creative activity which for communists can only take place in a collective process. . .

The APAPC values as deeply righteous the struggle of imprisoned revolutionaries against the intention of the state to muzzle them, if not to destroy them. The APAPC demands with them their immediate association, obtaining dignified conditions of captivity that permit them to do theoretical and political work, and it will continue to provide them all the determined support of this organization.

We, parents and friends of communist prisoners, call on organizations and individuals who are concerned with these objectives to support the struggle of the captured militants of the Communist Combatant Cells beginning this September 2. Write to the militants! Support their association! Express your solidarity concretely!

APAPC, BP 6, St. Gilles 1, 1060 Bruxelles Belgium

Tierra Amarilla, Cont'd from p. 14

Felix Rosa, former Puerto Rican political prisoner, brought a message of solidarity from the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional on behalf of the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. He spoke of the history of solidarity between the Mexican struggle and the independence movement. He recalled the history of grand jury resistance over the past 10 years, when their people were called to testify before the same grand juries and refused to collaborate.

Among the solidarity messages read were messages from the anti-imperialist political prisoners in the Resistance Conspiracy Case in D.C.. One of the defendants, Marilyn Buck, who was at that time still locked down in N.Y.C., wrote, "The struggle for the land is one of the oldest struggles in the history of humanity. The rich and powerful have seized it, by force and deception, from the humble, those who have lived on and worked the land of their ancestors. But throughout the world, the humble and dispossessed have risen to take back their lands, their nations. You, the people of the land, of Tierra Amarilla, have a long history of struggle. Surely, this struggle will continue for as long as it takes to keep your land, and to reclaim those already stolen..." The co-defendants in D.C. Jail, Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg and Laura Whitehorn, wrote, "...We would say a few words to the North American companeros: The struggle doesn't get any more concrete than this. Solidarity is not a gift; it is a right to be demanded of us by La Colonia Jose Maria Martinez. We must provide what is needed, here at the colonia when asked and in the white community where we can try to put a stop to the developers, expose and challenge the workings of the Anglo courts, and stop the racist attacks against the culture, language and identity of Mexicano People. In the spirit of the San Patricio Corps, give what is needed."

Ricardo Romero, from the MLNM also took the opportunity in his speech to speak to the white people there about "looking at the attacks of all kinds against people of color from the drug war, to taking land, to racial violence," and asking, "What kind of country do you want to live in?" He argued that this land struggle is not for any one person, or family or community, but is for the majority of the people and for anyone who wants to develop something new. He urged us to challenge the minority, the imperialists, who have control; and expect to have to fight repression if that choice is made. He paid tribute to all the political prisoners who are a reminder to us that struggle is courage and sacrifice.

The final presentation was from Gambino Gomez, from the Comite de Defensa Popular in Chihuahua, Mexico. He brought solidarity from Mexican people below the border. He explained that the people of Mexico need to carry on the revolution of Zapata, which has been betrayed by the Mexican bourgeoisie.

Pedro Arechuleta concluded the day's program by inviting supporters to return to the encampment and bring others. They were beginning to build the structure needed for the winter. They need materials, money and work brigades. They are also planning to build a cultural center on this piece of land. It will be a center of Mexican culture and resistance, for this and future generations. For more information call: Pedro Arechuleta 505-588-7736. Send contributions to: The Coalition, 801 E. 22 Ave., Denver, CO 80205.

# Grand Jury Resisters Build the Wall of Silence

On July 27, 1988, Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and Bob Brown of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party joined the ranks of grand jury resisters -- people who refuse to inform on their movements, even at the risk of going to jail. On September 14, Bellecourt and Brown did go to jail for contempt of court, for 18 months or until that grand jury expires.

The grand jury is a body of citizens that works closely with a prosecutor to determine if specific criminal charges should be brought against an individual. Grand juries also conduct broader investigations of suspected criminal activity. They have the power to subpoena (call to testify) anyone they choose, and you can go to jail if you refuse to testify.

Grand juries are really run by the prosecutor. The Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals -- hardly a radical! -- said that a good prosecutor can get a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich! Since 1970, though, the U.S. government has found another use for grand juries -- to gather information on political movements and to jail political activists. Dozens of people -- from the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the lesbian movement, the Catholic left, the Black Liberation Movement and the anti-imperialist movement -- have been subpoenaed to grand juries. Most have refused to testify. Many have gone to jail for as long as two years for this stance of non-collaboration.

The grand jury to which Bellecourt and Brown (along with AAPRP leader Kwame Toure, formerly known as Stokeley Carmichael and AIM leader Bill Means) were called is particularly ominous because it illustrates a new aspect of the government's anti-"terrorist" strategy: the attempt to link U.S. activists with State Department-defined "terrorist states," in this case, Libya. The grand jury was convened in September, 1987 as part of an FBI investigation code-named "Operation Friendly Skies" which was investigating Libyans in the U.S. Since 1981, the Reagan Administration has waged a campaign of inflammatory propaganda, economic destabilization and military attacks against Libya because of that country's fiercely independent and anti-imperialist stance. Libya has supported liberation movements in southern Africa, Palestine and Central America, and has recognized and given support to the movements of Native American, Black and Chicano/Mexicano people within the U.S.

On April 12 - 14, 1987 AIM and AAPRP organized a peace delegation to Libya, one year after the U.S. bombing of that country (in-

tended, among other things, to assassinate Libyan President Moammar Al-Qadaffi). Over 200 activists went to Libya to attend meetings and forums and to see the damage that the U.S. bombs had done. On January 30, 1988 the Libyan government hosted a Conference for the Liberation of the Indian Nations of the Americas. None of these activities were likely to improve the U.S. government's hostile and aggressive attitude towards Libya.

Sure enough, in July, 1988 the U.S. government arrested the Libyan 8, six Libyan students and two Arabs and charged them with, among other things, diverting their student stipends to finance these and other internationalist activities. These are the matters about which Bob Brown and Vernon Bellecourt were called to give information. Their response has been to refuse to become informers for the U.S. government. Their position of non-collaboration, the absolute refusal to cooperate with government investigations, is the best weapon we have to protect our movements and to build a strong resistance to repression, even if some people have to go to jail in the process.

Why is non-collaboration the most effective way to stop the grand jury and to build our resistance? The answer comes directly from an analysis of what the government's goals are:

1. They want to get information about our movements, ranging from the names of people



who are involved in political work to how we make decisions to where we hold meetings.

2. They hope to isolate the targets of the grand juries, especially when those targets are armed underground (clandestine) organizations. They want to send a message that some people are "too hot" to support.

3. They hope to jail numbers of activists and to intimidate numbers more by this naked display of government power -- we can put you in jail simply for refusing to answer our questions.

Non-collaboration confronts and confounds all of these goals. They don't get their information. The grand jury resister demonstrates with her/his actions that even the threat of jail will not undermine their principles or, in many cases, their support for clandestine organizations or activities. And, instead of creating a movement of cowardly informants lining up at the U.S. Attorney's door to rat on their friends and comrades, they help us to create a combative movement that will stand up for itself. By resisting the grand jury, we grow even stronger.

Some progressive people have argued that it is a waste of valuable human resources to take a position of non-collaboration. Activists are more valuable on the streets than in jail. Especially in instances where people don't have any information that could be useful to the government, they should testify and stay out of jail.

We certainly support people staying out of jail, but we think there are several problems with this viewpoint. For one, we can never be sure (until it's too late) what information is "useless." Even what is sometimes called "negative information" (which clears the person testifying of suspicion) can be used. An illustration of this was offered by Puerto Rican POW Oscar Lopez Rivera in an article he wrote several years ago. He described a woman, a member of the Puerto Rican independence movement, who was shown a picture by the FBI. She was asked if it was a photograph of her. She looked at it and stated that no, it wasn't, because the woman in the photo was smoking and she didn't smoke. The FBI went right out and subpoenaed the woman who did appear in the photo. They had been trying all along to figure out which of two women was shown in the photo, and now they had! That's the problem with giving up "negative information" -- it just makes the government's work easier.

In addition, the experience of our movements has been that if a person appears cooperative, they will be questioned over and over again. If the government sees someone who appears to be ready to talk, they will try to turn that person into an informant, a creature of the political police who will say anything to stay out of trouble.

Non-collaboration has been established as the most principled response to the grand jury by years of resistance. There has been, as yet, no such standard established for people who are called to testify as witnesses at trials. The U.S. government has given the defendants in the Hartford/Puerto Rico 15 trial currently in progress a list of some 400 people who will be called as government witnesses. The list includes independentistas, friends and relatives of the defendants. What should these people, for example, do?

We think the same guidelines that apply to a grand jury subpoena apply in situations like this one: Will we be giving information about the movement or about people in it to the government? Will we undermine the people who are on trial? Will we communicate a spirit of resistance, or one of groveling at the government's feet? We think that in almost any set of circumstances, that applying these guidelines will lead to a conclusion that a solid, unbreakable wall of silence is the best response.

A telegram campaign demanding the release of Vernon Bellecourt and Bob Brown is underway. Send your telegram to:

Judge T.S. Ellis  
U.S. District Court  
100 S. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Lawrence Leiser  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
701 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Richard Thornburgh  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20005

For more information on the Libyan 8 grand jury:

National Committee in Support of Grand Jury  
Resistance  
202 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Suite 274  
Washington, D.C. 20005



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# Virgin Islands Five

In September of 1972, on the Caribbean island of St. Croix, the Rockefeller-owned golf course "Fountain Valley" was attacked by men in army fatigues bearing automatic weapons. This assault resulted in the death of eight American tourists who were close friends of the Rockefellers, six other people were said to have been wounded. As a result of this attack on the imperialistic structure, the island was immediately placed under seige by more than 300 FBI agents and u.s. marshals.

The attack took place on September 6th, and for the next few days roadblocks were set up throughout the island. Black occupants were dragged from their cars and searched, then taken to the scene of the attack for interrogation. More than 200 Blacks were apprehended for such questioning. The government saw this as an opportunity to rid the island of some of its dissident opposition. Ismail Ali, Warren Aziz Ballentine and Raphael Kwesi Joseph -- three political activists who were already on the local police "most wanted" list -- immediately became prime suspects.

Beaumont Hanif Gereau, who had recently returned from Vietnam with a dishonorable discharge after having expressed militant and separatist views to military officials and who at the time was very active on community organizing in the Virgin Islands, along with Meral Smith, were also added to the list.

All five men were eventually arrested and tortured and forced -- through physical beatings, hangings from trees, plastic bags placed over their heads and then water poured into the bags -- to sign confessions which implicated them in the attack. Eventually the government was able to buy off several people and use them as government witnesses, including a survivor of the attack who identified one of the brothers as the person who carried a submachine gun during the attack, even though reports said that all the combatants wore masks.

After a very lengthy and unjust trial, in which several requests to have the biased judge removed were denied, they were each sentenced to a period of eight consecutive life terms.

In the fourteen years in which they have been incarcerated, the American corporate businessmen in the "u.s. Virgin Islands" have led the cry of "crucify them," and painted the scenario that this supposed act of five men was the sole factor causing the plunge in the island economy into near-collapse in the early 70s. A large number of

the Virgin Islands community bought this lie, due to the fact that tourism is the main industry of the islands and the tourist attraction did dwindle after the killing of well over 60 people between the years 1971 and 1973. It is quite obvious that it serves u.s. businessmen's interests to keep outspoken radicals locked away in mainland prisons as their presence in the islands poses a threat to foreign dominance. A conscious slave has always posed a threat to the slave-master's household.

Although the only "crime" they were guilty of in the early 1970s was being conscious of their oppressor, today they are still being used as scapegoats to cover up the ill effects in Virgin Islands society which are really the result of decadent Western influence. They are also being used as a deterrent to other oppressed people who may eventually sense the need to resist u.s. colonialization of the homeland.

These brothers are in need of legal assistance and any form of support in coordinating efforts to form a defense committee. For further information, contact Hanif Shabazz Bey, s/n B. Gereau, #96544-131, P.O. Box 1000 Marion, Il 62959 or Brother Al Saladin, Blisschords Communications Network, P.O. Box 53435, Chicago, IL 60653



# Shawangunk Protest

Over 50 prisoners have been on a lock-down protest since October 4th at New York's Shawangunk Correctional Facility's "Close Supervision Unit" (CSU). The CSU is a control unit to which have been designated a number of political prisoners as well as other prisoners considered "disciplinary problems" -- in other words, some of the most conscious and militant prisoners in the system. CSU prisoners are subjected to video and audio (sound) surveillance, less time out of their cells than other prisoners, frequent searches and continual harassment.

The prisoners are demanding: the release of prisoners Harris and Seelandt from disciplinary segregation. These are two prisoners whose disciplinary write-ups precipitated the lock-down protest.  
-- the removal of Sgt. Rodriguez (a particularly assaultive guard) from the facility.  
-- no retaliation for those involved in the protest.  
-- the immediate dismantling of the CSU.

The response of the administration has been to refuse to begin negotiations with prisoner representatives until they accept the legitimacy of the CSU. They have been holding disciplinary hearings for all of the protesters and have placed many in segregation. In statements issued to the press, the protesting prisoners have said "We are not

choirboys. However, neither are we the stupid, unfeeling brutes the Department of Correctional services attempts to portray us as. . . We are men, not beasts, and we will not be beaten and driven as such. We demand the right to retain our self-respect. We will retain our self-respect."

Letters protesting the conditions at CSU and supporting the prisoners should be written to:

Superintendent Louis F. Mann  
Shawangunk Correctional Facility  
Box 750  
Walkill, NY 12589

Thomas Coughlin, Commissioner  
N.Y. State Dept. of Correctional Services  
State Office Building Campus  
Albany, NY 12226

For further information, contact:

Lawrence Epps  
#77-A-1364  
Shawangunk Correctional Facility  
Walkill, NY 12589, or

Ken Stephens  
Prisoners' Legal Services of N.Y.  
2 Catharine Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

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# Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 Trial Underway

On Sept. 6, 1988, jury selection began for 5 of the Puerto Rico Independence 15 - Juan Segarra Palmer, Camacho Negron, Roberto Jose Maldonad, Carlos Ayes Suarez, and Norman Ramirez Talavera. After a month, 6 men and 6 women were selected. There were no Puerto Ricans eligible out of 400 and no one on the jury speaks Spanish. During the voir dire every juror was asked how they would feel if their country were invaded. Nearly all of them, including some who were selected, said they would fight to defend their country.

During the opening statements, each defendant explained how this case concerned the independence of Puerto Rico. All but Camacho Negron said they were Macheteros. The prosecutor and the judge disrupted the political parts of the opening statements - a lesson for the jury from the beginning.

After routine testimony from Wells Fargo guards, the prosecution presented an ex-prisoner and drug addict, Kenneth Cox, who was befriended by Segarra in 1971. Cox said he was motivated to testify because of his anti-communism and desire for the reward money.

He has been the only person that tried to link anyone on trial to the robbery itself. He said he was recruited to drive a car in a practice run.

On the first day of the trial, another defendant, Luz Berrios, entered a guilty to a charge of conspiracy. She told the judge she had done nothing wrong, but recognized that she had violated laws of the United States. She received the maximum sentence of five years and is designated to Lexington Federal Prison, where the control unit used to be housed before being closed. She is in the early months of a pregnancy, and will go to Lexington in early December.

All other Hartford 15 defendants are waiting for a decision on a government motion to appeal Judge Cleary's suppression of tapes made at Filiberto Ojeda Rios' home because the tapes were not sealed immediately after obtained.

## UPDATES

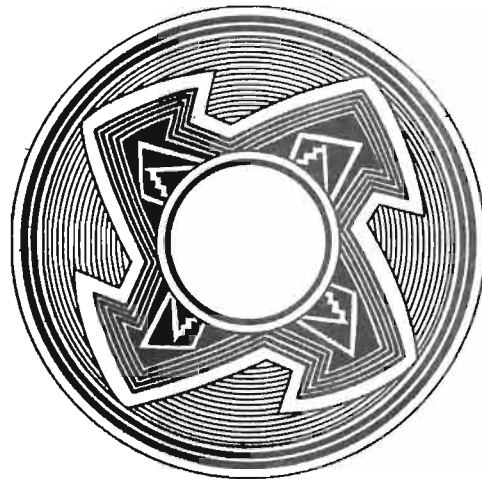
On Black Solidarity Day, November 7, 1988, Assata Shakur sent a message to Black people from her exile in Cuba. She said that Black people should be proud of the unity they demonstrated recently in the elections. "Black people voted for Jackson not as a simple gesture of protest..., but as a solidified block in support of Black unity, Black solidarity and Black political power. ...in the midst of an ever increasing onslaught of racist hostility...Our people have a long and proud history of struggle... Our struggle is for power. Our struggle is to control our lives so that we can end our oppression and build a better world for ourselves and for our children. And in the struggle for liberation our unity must take on new forms.... We need a Black agenda that supports our right to self-determination, the right to decide for ourselves the form that our liberation will take." She urged an agenda that demands reparation, education and employment, an end to exploitation, police brutality and government repression, the end to control units such as Marion and Lexington, and the immediate release of all political prisoners and freedom fighters inside U.S. prisons. "We are an oppressed people and we continue to show our solidarity with other oppressed people, here inside the U.S. and also around the world. We need an agenda that calls for an end to U.S. intervention and imperialism wherever it crops up." She ends with a call to pay "homage to those who are locked in prison cells all over the world, because they cared to stand up for freedom. Let us also pay homage to all those who have struggled and who have sacrificed for freedom, but are not longer with us. It is in their spirit that we will continue to fight and it is with unity that we will win!"

Alejandrina Torres was removed from the Lexington Women's Control Unit to the Metropolitan Correctional Facility in San Diego. Although this institution does not have programs for long-term prisoners, she was designated there indeterminately. However, she is in general population and reports she is doing well.

After almost a year, anti-imperialist political prisoner Judy Clark has been returned to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York. She had been held at the federal facility at Tucson, Arizona, allegedly because construction at Bedford Hills created a "security problem." Judy's sudden transfer to FCI Tucson came soon after she completed a two year sentence in disciplinary segregation for conspiracy to escape.

On November 1, a bomb rocked the offices of General Electric in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. The action was claimed by the Pedro Albizu Campos Revolutionary Front, a clandestine armed organization fighting for independence for Puerto Rico. Their communique explained that the action was taken to protest the pollution of Puerto Rico's air and water by U.S. corporations, including G.E. The level of pollution in Puerto Rico is extremely high because of the concentration there of pharmaceutical and electronic plants, and because the U.S. government has "relaxed" environmental protection standards to increase corporate profits. The communique also condemned the elections and urged Puerto Ricans not to participate in this colonial exercise.

The Appeals unit of the Immigration and Naturalization Service has just ruled that Irish Republican Army POW Joe Doherty may apply for political asylum in the U.S. This appears to be a reversal of previous U.S. government policy; former Attorney General Ed Meese personally intervened last spring to order that Joe be deported to Great Britain. Joe has been held at New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center for five years. The government's reversal is due to the massive support that Joe has received from the Irish Republican movement internationally and from the progressive community in the U.S.



# WRITE TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS:

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NEW YORK, NY  
PERMIT NO. 7302