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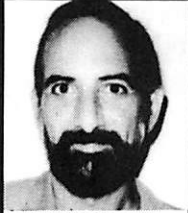
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FACE REALITY.

THERE ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.A. FREEDOM NOW!

Campaign for Amnesty & Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the U.S.A.

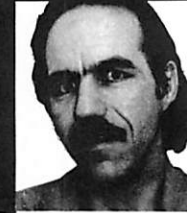
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POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.?

The government denies it. Yet today there are more than 100 people locked up in U.S. prisons because of their political actions or beliefs.

The U.S. alone among the world's governments maintains the fiction that it holds no political prisoners. The official position is that all those jailed for politically motivated actions are "criminals." The U.S. tries to hide the existence of political prisoners because they challenge the image that the U.S. is a truly democratic and humane society. These prisoners expose the fact that there are political resistance movements of such potential impact that the government is compelled to use repression against them.

By labeling political prisoners as criminals, the U.S. government has also been able to shield from view serious human rights violations against them. These include:

- excessive prison sentences—example: 8 Black political prisoners will soon begin their third decade behind bars;
- psychological torture;
- assault—example: one Puerto Rican prisoner of war was beaten to death by guards and his death labeled a suicide;
- sexual assault—example: under the guise of security, male prison staff forcibly conducted cavity searches on two women political prisoners at FCI Tucson;
- denial of medical care;
- placement in control units—example: the men's federal prison in Marion, Illinois, which includes several political prisoners among its 400 inmates, has been condemned by Amnesty International for violating international standards on the minimum treatment of prisoners. The men in Marion are locked in their cells 23 hours per day and are sometimes chained spread-eagle to their beds for days at a time.

WHO ARE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.?

Coming from many movements for freedom and social justice, they are people who have been imprisoned for their political actions or beliefs.

People of color are most often targeted. Black activists participating in the fight for Black Liberation and against racism are the largest group represented, with over 50 political prisoners. The Puerto Rican independence movement has also been heavily attacked, including the imprisonment of 13 prisoners of war. Other political prisoners in the U.S. include more than thirty white anti-imperialist and anti-nuclear activists.

FREEDOM NOW!

The government has sought to isolate political prisoners, not only from their friends and families, but from their ability to influence and lead political movements. Freedom Now, a campaign working for the amnesty and human rights for political prisoners in the U.S., is breaking that isolation. Join us in stopping the continued imprisonment and mistreatment of political activists in the U.S.

All of us should speak out against the terrible human rights violations taking place against political prisoners and all prisoners in the U.S. Jails and prisons have abandoned all pretenses of "rehabilitating" inmates, and have become concentration camps for warehousing the youth from the ghettos and barrios in the U.S.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Invite a Freedom Now representative to show a video about political prisoners in your home, at a program, or in a classroom.
- Join the Urgent Action Network of Freedom Now, a letter and telegram campaign to respond immediately to violations committed against political prisoners.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to Freedom Now. Checks should be written to the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Church — IPOC.

Freedom Now!

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