

Many prison staff claim MIM(Prisons) is a threat because we encourage prisoners to organize. We look to history again, and help quell those fears by taking a look at two of the greatest examples of prisoners organizing themselves - Attica and Walpole. In the Attica rebellion in 1971, no COs were killed until the National Guard came in and shot 11 employees dead, along with 29 prisoners. Up until that point the prisoners of Attica had organized a democratically run society within the prison walls, including such things as their own food and medical services, while negotiating with the state on behalf of all prisoners.

The majority of the people in the world want peace now. They want their material needs met. Communities that are being occupied, imprisoned and bombed want an immediate end to violence.

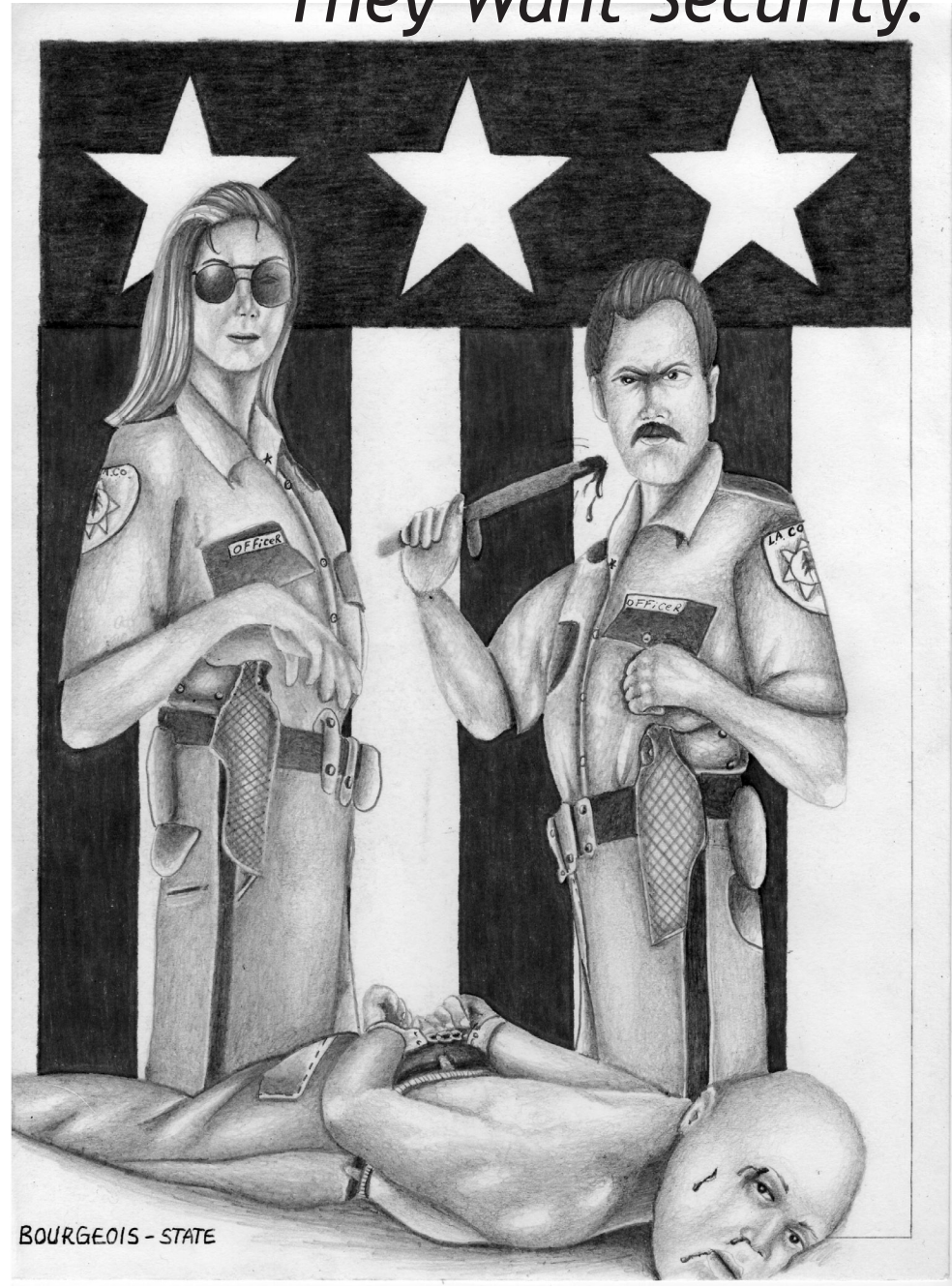
Huey P. Newton said it is up to the oppressor whether meeting such demands of the oppressed happens in a peaceful way or a violent way. Frantz Fanon said violence is part of the development of a humynism and new consciousness among oppressed people. Even if Fanon is right, it takes a lot to push the masses to the point of violence as Huey pointed out. This is obvious by the many more people who have spent many more days in peaceful submission than those who have not. Violent resistance from the people will only arise as it is necessitated by those who monopolize violence through their own power.

Unlike the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, MIM(Prisons) does not threaten people's lives, berate people into suicide, or carry out assassinations. MIM(Prisons) only engages in and promotes legal means of combating injustice. When the prison staff represses every educational and legal outlet for prisoners to redress their complaints then it is clear what kind of strategies they are promoting. In those prisons, we predict there will be violence, and they cannot blame it on us because they have kept us out.

Get full issues of *Under Lock & Key* and more news from the anti-imperialist prison movement at:

www.prisoncensorship.info

We Want Peace! They Want Security.



Below are excerpts from an article published in Issue 7 of *Under Lock & Key*. ULK is a bimonthly newsletter mostly written by prisoners, that is published and distributed for free to prisoners by the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons. Read more about ULK and how to get involved at www.prisoncensorship.info

The main purpose of issue 7 of *Under Lock & Key* is to show who wants peace and who does not. We will also focus on our long-held line that prisoners accomplish nothing by lashing out and fighting each other or prison staff. Every prison that censors this newsletter is acknowledging that peace among prisoners is contrary to their goal of so-called “security,” further substantiating our thesis presented below.

Our track record speaks for itself. At least dozens of prisoners and former prisoners have given up lives that once included physical attacks on cops, and often fights with other people as well, after taking up the anti-imperialist struggle through MIM.

There are plenty of studies showing how all sorts of educational and family contact programs help reduce violence and anti-social behavior. Unfortunately, in a system focused on punishment and ostracizing groups of people, these programs are used to manipulate rather than rehabilitate.

Security Threat Group (STG) is the buzz word developed in the 1990’s to apply to a range of street and political organizations. Many so-called “correctional professionals” claim MIM(Prisons) is an STG. But exactly what are we a threat to the security of?

Many prisons interpret the law to mean that if you tell prisoners to file complaints, write the press, join organizations or build lawsuits in response to torture, physical abuse, lack of medical care, censorship, etc. then you are threatening the “good order or discipline of the institution.” Reviews of current u.\$. case law demonstrate that under capitalism in amerika, prisoners actually do have rights and the above interpretation is a violation of them.

From the Correctional Officers (COs) up to the directors, they defend their corrupt institution and their own lucrative jobs. We admit to being

a threat to the jobs of corrupt officials and abusive institutions, as any conscious and active citizen should be. In issue 7 of *Under Lock & Key* you’ll read stories of foiled peace plans, violent set-ups and hazard pay for COs. The various unions representing so-called peace officers are some of the strongest in the country and their main leverage tool is personal safety. They say, “we’re putting our lives at stake to protect your shit, you better pay us good.” Hence the built-in motivation for more violence, more riots, more “validated” gang members and more maximum security and supermax prisons. It all means more money in their pockets.

More generally, amerikans as a whole benefit from their positions of power over the oppressed. Middle-class amerikan citizens benefit from being members of the group of people who can be cops or get similar jobs as oppressors in the criminal injustice system, and they benefit from the services the cops provide in maintaining lines between social groups.

These national lines of us vs. them were created by the white settlers centuries ago and are deep in that history of land grab and slave trading. Over time this forces the oppressed to see the world in a similarly divided way. Our analysis of imperialism and the principal contradiction predicts that amerikans cannot de-escalate this contradiction, and so far we’ve been proven right. And that is why u.\$. prisons have become a per-versely violent microcosm of amerikan society.

