

Under Lock & Key



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Blacks targeted for drug imprisonment in Amerika

by MIM(Prisons)
December 2007

Large population counties across the United States continue to imprison Blacks for drug offenses at a much higher rate than whites, in spite of similar rates of drug use, according to a report released December 4 by The Justice Policy Institute. The report underscores the fact that "Whites and African Americans report using and selling drugs at similar rates, but African Americans go to prison for drug offenses at higher rates than whites."

The study used data from the National Corrections Reporting Program and other census and government sources, focusing on 2002 because that is the most recently year of NCRP data available. In 2002 there were approximately 19.5 million drug users and 1.5 million drug arrests (1 in 13 drug users). These arrests resulted in 175,000 admissions to prisons; 51% of these new prisoners were Black.

The 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that rates of drug use were similar between whites and blacks: 8.5% of whites compared to 9.7% of Blacks. Given the economic disparities and national oppression within Amerika, it is not a surprise that there is a slightly higher rate of drug use among Blacks.

These rates of drug use translate into about 14 million white drug users in 2002 compared to 2.6 million Black drug users (in the month prior to the survey). This means there are roughly 5 times as many white drug users as Black drug users. But Blacks were locked up in prison for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of whites: 262 per 100,000 for Blacks and 25 per 100,000 for whites.

Underscoring the fact that these lock up rates are not a result of Blacks using more potent or dangerous drugs, the Drug Use survey found that 24% of crack cocaine users were Black while 72% were white or "Hispanic," but over 80% of people locked up for crack use in 2002 were Black.

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Republic of Lakotah declares sovereignty

from www.republicoflakotah.com

We are the freedom loving Lakotah from the Sioux Indian reservations of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana who have suffered from cultural and physical genocide in the colonial apartheid system we have been forced to live under.

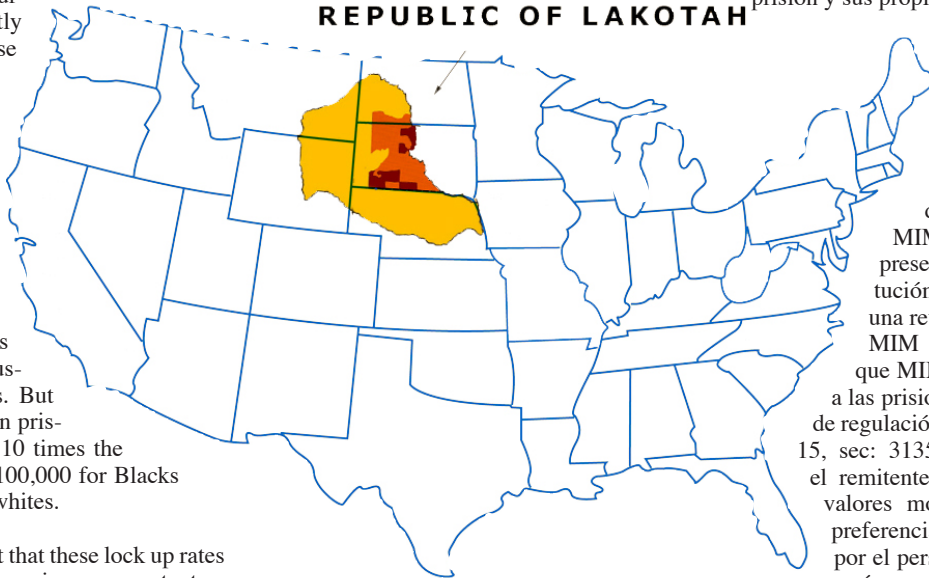
We are continuing the work that we were asked to do by the traditional chiefs and treaty councils, and 97 Indian Nations at the first Indian Treaty Council meeting at Standing Rock Sioux Indian Country in 1974.

During the week of December 17-19, 2007, we traveled to Washington DC and withdrew from the constitutionally mandated treaties to become a free and independent country. We are alerting the Family of Nations we have now re-assumed our freedom and independence with the backing of Natural, International, and United States law.

We do not represent those BIA or IRA governments beholden to the colonial apartheid system, or those "stay by the fort" Indians who are unwilling claim their freedom.

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REPUBLIC OF LAKOTAH



Write us at our new Address:
MIM(Prisons)
PO Box 40799
San Francisco, CA 94140

California Prohibe MIM Distributors

por MIM(Prisons) October 2007
traducido por un preso de WA

El Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) ha instituido una prohibición en material educativo dentro de prisiones, categoricamente censurando toda la literatura mandada por MIM su programa "Educacion de prisionero." Esta prohibición fue ordenada por Scott Kernan, Director de la División de las Instituciones Adultas por California, en un memoranda publicado en Diciembre 13, 2006 "dirigiendo una prohibición inmediata en el recibimiento, posesión, o distribución de literatura/publicaciones de MIM hacia o de prisioneros en la custodia del CDCR." Esta prohibición ha sido interpretado por prisiones que incluye diccionarios y libros históricos e incluso hasta MIM su propia revista y periódicos. En algunas prisiones la prohibición ha sido interpretada que también incluye todas las cartas escritas por MIM.

Esta censura es en violación directa del precedente legal el qual requiere ser revisado por contenido que viola reglas de prisión. Sistemático rechazo de todo correo por una organización basado en desacuerdo con el remitente y su política no es legal, hasta dentro del sistema de prisión y sus propias reglas y regulaciones.

Ni Kernan tampoco la administración de prisión applicando la prohibición nunca han proveido ni una evidencia que literatura del MIM, muchos menos, cartas, diccionarios y otros libros MIM mandara a los prisioneros, presenta alguna amenaza a la institución. La carta de Kernan contiene una revisión de la linea politica del MIM como evidencia suponiendo que MIM representa algo de peligro a las prisiones de California. El codigo de regulacion de California (CCR) Titulo 15, sec: 3135(b) dice: "Descuerdos con el remitente o el recividor y aparentes valores morales, actitudes verazes, o preferencia de palabras no será usada por el personal correccional como una razón para rechazar o detener el correo. Personal correccional no debe desafiar o confrontar el remitente o al recividor con tal valor de juicia, tampoco debe tal valor de critica ser considerado en ninguna acción afectando el correspondiente." Además, en Procunier v. Martinez, la Corte Sumprema sostuvo el derecho de

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DECLARATION OF CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE BY THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL AT STANDING ROCK INDIAN COUNTRY JUNE 1974

A long time ago my father told me what his father told him. There was once a Lakotah Holy man called Drinks Water, who visioned what was to be; and this was long before the coming of the Wasicus. He visioned that the four-legged were going back into the earth and that a strange race had woven a spider's web all around the Lakotahs. And he said, "When this happens, you shall live in barren lands, and there beside those gray houses you shall starve." They say he went back to Mother Earth soon after he saw this vision and it was sorrow that killed him.

-Black Elk, Oglala Sioux Holy Man

PREAMBLE

The United States of America has continually violated the independent Native Peoples of this continent by Executive action, Legislative fiat and Judicial decision. By its actions, the U.S. has denied all Native people their International Treaty rights, Treaty lands and basic human rights of freedom and sovereignty. This same U.S. Government, which fought to throw off the yoke of oppression and gain its own independence, has now reversed its role and become the oppressor of sovereign Native people.

Might does not make right. Sovereign people of varying cultures have the absolute right to live in harmony with Mother Earth so long as they do not infringe upon this same right of other peoples. The denial of this right to any sovereign people, such as the Native American Indian Nations, must be challenged by truth and action. World concern must focus on all colonial governments to the end that sovereign people everywhere shall live as they choose; in peace with dignity and freedom.

The International Indian Treaty Conference hereby adopts this Declaration of Continuing Independence of the Sovereign Native American Indian Nations. In the course of these human events, we call upon the people of the world to support this struggle for our sovereign rights and our treaty rights. We pledge our assistance to all other sovereign people who seek their own independence.

DECLARATION

The First International Treaty Council of the Western Hemisphere was formed on the land of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on June 8-16, 1974. The delegates, meeting under the guidance of the Great Spirit, represented 97 Indian tribes and Nations from across North and South America.

We, the sovereign Native Peoples recognize that all lands belonging to the various Native Nations now situated within the boundaries of

the U.S. are clearly defined by the sacred treaties solemnly entered into between the Native

Nations and the government of the United States of America.

In the face of the colonial apartheid conditions imposed on Lakotah people, the withdrawal from the U.S. Treaties is necessary. These conditions have been devastating:

MORTALITY

- * Lakotah men have a life expectancy of less than 44 years, lowest of any country in the World (excluding AIDS) including Haiti
- * Lakotah death rate is the highest in the United States.
- * The Lakotah infant mortality rate is 300% more than the U.S. Average
- * Teenage suicide rate is 150% higher than the U.S national average for this group.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- * More than half the Reservation's adults battle addiction and disease.
- * Alcoholism affects 8 in 10 families.

INCARCERATION

- * Indian children incarceration rate 40% higher than whites.
- * In South Dakota, 21 percent of state prisoners were Native.
- * Indians have the second largest state prison incarceration rate in the nation.

DISEASE

- * The Tuberculosis rate on Lakotah reservations is about 800% higher than U.S nat'l avg.
- * Cervical cancer is 500% higher than the U.S national average.
- * The rate of diabetes is 800% higher than the U.S national average.
- * Federal Commodity Food Program provides high sugar foods that kill Native people through diabetes and heart disease.

POVERTY

- * Median income is approximately \$2,600 to \$3,500 per year.
- * 97% of our Lakotah people live below the poverty line.
- * Many families cannot afford heating oil, wood or propane and many residents use ovens to heat their homes.

HOUSING

- * Elderly die each winter from hypothermia (freezing).
- * 1/3 of the homes lack basic clean water and sewage while 40% lack electricity.
- * 60% of Reservation families have no telephone.
- * 60% of housing is infected with potentially fatal black molds
- * There is an estimated average of 17 people living in each family home (may only have two to three rooms). Some homes, built for 6 to 8 people, have up to 30 people living in them.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- * Unemployment rates on our reservations is 85% or higher.

THREATENED CULTURE

- * Only 14% of the Lakotah population can speak Lakotah language.
- * The language is not being shared inter-generationally, today, the average Lakotah speaker is 65 years old.
- * Our lakotah language is an Endangered Language, on the verge of extinction.

After 150 years of colonial enforcement, when you back people into a corner there is only one alternative. That alternative is to bring freedom back into existence by taking it back - back to the love of freedom, to our lifeway. Canupa Gluha Mani

Three Main Points

MIM(Prisons) differs from other communists on three main questions:

* MIM(Prisons) holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976.

* MIM(Prisons) upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in human history.

* As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark.

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution." --Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Censorship Report: January 2008

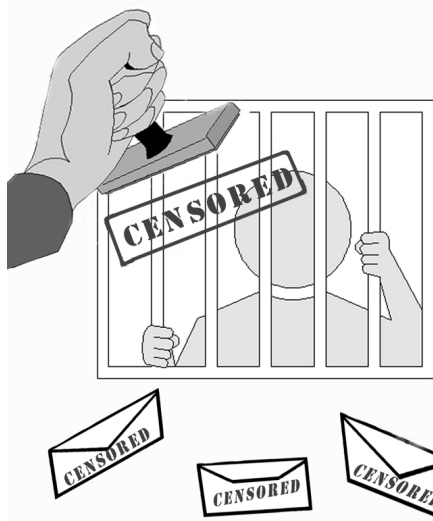
MIM(Prisons) is ringing in the new year by restarting an old practice of the Prison Ministry of producing biannual censorship reports. The following report is the first one created since we launched our new website at www.prisoncensorship.info. The detailed tracking through this site allows us to get a more detailed analysis than we had in the past.

This first iteration will be a little lacking though for a few reasons. First of all, the new tracking methods were rolled out gradually over the last year. Therefore, some states have been using the system longer than others, giving them more complete data. We are also in the process of reestablishing our connections to states that had been allowed to fall to the wayside in recent years. The people who had been responsible for these areas were not reporting censorship consistently, and communications with prisoners in these states were set back.

With these qualifications, this report will provide us with some baseline data. Overall, of the mail we recorded over the last year, 4.24% was censored, and 6.88% was received. The remaining 88.88% is of an unknown status. Therefore, one big conclusion we can draw from this report is the need for comrades to be more diligent in tracking our mail. If 93% of our mail is not being received then it is time to re-evaluate our strategy.

Prisoners, when you write to us, please include in your letter what items you have received from us since you last wrote and when you received them. If you didn't get something let us know, and send us any copies of censorship documentation, which we will post on our website.

MIM(Prisons) contributors, please make note of this information in the letters you receive and document it on the website. Congratulations to the comrades in Iowa, Washington and Wisconsin which were the only states to report on more than 20% of their mail.



At least three states have put almost complete bans on MIM literature in place. But this number may prove to be higher over the next 6 months as we finish getting things in order.

Complete bans: CA, IL, VA

States that censored: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MO, MT, NV, NY, OK, OR, PA, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI

States where censorship was overturned after appeal: NY, OR, WA

States that had no censorship reported: AL, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, KY, MA, ME, MN, MS, NC, NE, NJ, NM, OH, RI, SD, TN, WV

States that had no mail: ND, NH, WY

Connecticut and Illinois are two states that have a history of severe censorship that we need to investigate more. Anyone with information on the status of censorship in these, or any other states, and what needs to be done to deal with it should contact MIM(Prisons).

As we have already reported, California, the biggest prison state in the United States, initiated a complete ban on MIM literature, often extending to simple letters with no political content. Yet, the letter explaining the ban only discusses our political line, which is not a legal justification for censorship.

The highest confirmed rate of censorship occurred with MIM literature being sent to Virginia (over 18%). Comrades report that MIM has been labeled a Security Threat Group in this

letters			MIM lit			other lit			all mail		
received	censored	unknown	received	censored	unknown	received	censored	unknown	received	censored	unknown
18.15%	6.37%	75.48%	4.21%	4.34%	91.45%	8.21%	2.91%	88.88%	6.9%	4.27%	88.83%

Censorship in Oklahoma

by a Oklahoma prisoner
June 2007

The mail kops here stole whatever you sent me, using their standard excuses of "incites revolution" tripe. Probably they just got the secret ok from chuckle-head Chertoff to snoop and thieve at whim. With all the stuff being spewed by the government about terrorism, it's not a good time to be secretly branded with a bunch of black checkmarks by a pack of sociopathic, religion-crazed paranoids-in-power.

They sat on it for a month before finally deciding, for their own obscure reasons, to obey the law and tell me they stole mail that came from you. If it's any consolation, they are not equal opportunity thieves: they show a decided preference for stealing mail from you over the anarchist groups, Hitler huggers, KKK, etc.

state and that none of our literature is allowed in. The stated reasons for censoring MIM Notes include: promotes violence/terrorist activities, depicts gang signs, depicts violence/illegal activities & written a foreign (non-English) language. The details of this censorship and our efforts to stop it can be viewed on our Virginia campaign page (www.prisoncensorship.info/campaigns/va/).

A third campaign that is in full swing is being led by some New Afrikan comrades in New York, where possession of literature from the New Afrikan Maoist Party (NAMP) is enough to get people put in the SHU. Clinton Correctional Facility has been particularly repressive, returning any piece of mail from NAMP, including letters protesting the censorship of other mail. Prisoners in New York can write in to get more information on joining this campaign, which will also be made available on our website soon.

When the oppressed stand up for liberation they are regularly labeled gang members and terrorists. So it neither surprises nor offends us to be called such things. The problem we face is that the oppressor wants to make it illegal to be called a "gang member" or a "terrorist" regardless of whether one has violated any laws. The problem they face is how to put forth a definition of "gang" or "terrorist organization" that both applies to MIM and does not violate the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. This, of course, is impossible.

No matter what reasons they give or how they twist their words, the injustice system's attacks on MIM(Prisons) is nothing but naked political repression. They don't want people to think about, communicate or affiliate with our ideas.

Winning censor battles in Colorado

by a Colorado prisoner
July 2007

Thank you for sending in your MIM Notes. We've played hell getting them in to Colorado D.O.C. They don't like your message of truth. Our mailroom here in Fremont Correctional Center likes to act as our moral censor. Every time you send your notes it has to go through our "reading committee." Every time they have to give it to us.

In Colorado D.O.C. we've paid very little for our slave labor. I'm glad to get your writing and I try to pass it on to others in here. The ideas spark some heated talks between us here. Your words to us in here can and do instigate some good thinking. Keep up your good work for us on the "inside". We are appreciative of you and look forward to your mailings.

... Continued from page 1

prisioneros de recibir correo, sin importar la opinión del oficial de prisión en el contenido del correo, mientras no ahiga restricciones legítimas de la prisión relacionado con propósitos correccionales.

Hay una fuerte correlación entre educación y aprisionamiento. De acuerdo con el Buro de Estadísticas de Justicia (el Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos y su propia organización) el más reciente estudio de 1997 de información de población, 41% de prisiones de estado y federales no han completado preparatoria. Esto comparado con 18% de la población general 18 y mayores. (1) Las cosas se miran aun peor entre prisioneros edad 29 hasta 39 demostrando que la inclinación es hacia mas prisioneros sin una educación de preparatoria como prisioneros más jóvenes están aun menos educados que las prisioneros mayores. Otros estudios más recientes han enseñado que esta inclinación continúa. La probabilidad de terminar en una prisión es tremendamente más alto para jóvenes de raza negra quienes paran de atender la escuela antes de obtener un diploma de preparatoria. Y un titulo colegial es más protección contra el aprisionamiento.

En el otro lado de la educación, programas de educación dentro de prisión han repetidamente estado enseñando que reduce el reofendimiento ayudando los prisioneros a encontrar trabajos y oportunidades cuando ellos son puestos en libertad. Estudios individuales y metalicos repetidamente concluyeron lo mismo.

Desde 1990, la literature ha mostrado que prisioneros quienes atienden programas educacionales mientras ellos están encarcerados son menos probable de retornar a prisión después de su salida. Estudios en varios estados ha indicado que en promedio 24% ha desminuido donde han recibido una educación apropiada. Además, la clase correcta de programs educacionales lleva hacia menos violencia por los presos envueltos en los programas y un ambiente prisionero más positivo. (2)

California ya tiene uno de los más altos porcentaje de reofensa en el país, con un inmenso 70% de prisioneros en libertad terminando para atras en prisión dentro de tres años. Y en años recientes nosotros hemos visto que programas de educación, visitación, y hasta correo recortado, así los prisioneros son dejados con muy poco que hacer detrás de las barras y virtualmente un imposible trabajo de ir derecho de prisión hacia las calles sin una educación o servicios transicional.

Implementando una prohibición por todo el estado de material educativo del MIM es una manera más de mantener los prisioneros encarcerados. Prisioneros quienes leen nuestra literatura frecuentemente nos dicen que ellos aprenden a canalizar su tiempo dentro de actividades productivos en vez de participar en violencia detrás de las barras. Y la educación ayuda ellos a tener una mejor oportunidad de estarse en las calles una vez ellos son puestos en libertad. Nosotros recibimos cartas preguntando por ma-

terial que leer como esta todo el tiempo: "Soy un prisionero del estado en el Valle Salinas y estoy en una yarda que ha estado en encierro constantemente por aproximadamente cuatro años. Por eso me encuentro sin poder llegar a la librería aquí. He leído cada panfleta. Estaría muy agradecido por cualquier clase de libro cuberita suave que puedan mandar. Cualquier cosa que tu mandes sera leído y releído por bastantes prisioneros." Seguramente el CDCR sabe que allá hay una demanda de material para leer en la prisión, pero ellos ni siquiera se molestan en llenar este vacío con novelas de pelusa. Ellos prefieren gastar su gran paquete en salarios más altos para sus brutales guardias y defensa legal de sus actividades ilegales tal como crear pleitos como deporte.

Claro, el CDCR tiene razones en prohibir el MIM a los prisioneros. Educar los prisioneros es contrario a sus metas. Con la educación viene la conciencia, y mientras los prisioneros trabajan con MIM reporta que evitan enfrentaciones violentas (con los dos, sus semejantes y los guardias), también ellos son más probables a tomar apelaciones legales y administrativas, y de educar y organizar sus propios compañeros prisioneros para levantarse por sus derechos legales. Como un prisionero de California nos escribió en octubre del año pasado:

Extendiendo mis respetos hacia todos, me gustaría tambien expresar de todo corazón mi agradecimiento a todo aquel que trabaja, trabajando con y/o afiliado con el Movimiento Internacional Maoista por todo lo que ustedes hacen y el servicio que proveen. Especialmente, con respeto a las prisioneros. Hablando de experiencia personal yo puedo decir que recibiendo y leyendo tus boletines, es las dos cosas, una mayor motivación y fomentación. Decir que tus Notas MIM me ha servido bien no cubre nada en especifico, pero puedo decir que tus notas han sido un potente ingrediente hacia mi transformación: y tu programa de libros gratis para prisioneros me ha criado y alimentado como un pequeño en los pechos de su madre. Los libros que tu

me has mandado tan generosamente, me han enseñando a respetar y valorar la importancia de una educación... una educación que me ha enseñado que con el conocimiento viene enorme responsabilidad. La responsabilidad que surge de no solo saber la diferencia entre lo que se dice ser bien, o mal, probando y deseñando, verdades y mentiras, pero sabiendo y actuando en acuerdo con lo que es consistente y progresivo en el ejercicio de determinación personal y defensa personal.

Nosotros continuaríamos persiguiendo el pleito contra esta prohibición en California, trabajando sercamente con nuestros compañeros detras de las barras para disputar esta acción en corte si es necesario. Nosotros animamos el CDCR liderazgo y los politicos del estado de California a levantarse hacia adelante y derrocar esta prohibición ilegal antes de ellas ser forzados a desperdiciar dinero sin necesidad en una batalla legal que solamente expodrá sus despreocupaciones para la rehabilitación, el bienestar de prisioneros, y los propias leyes ellos afirman sostener.

Necesitamos ayuda de prisioneros en este batalla, y el suporto de la gente afuera para parar esta prohibición. Manda cartas de protesta a: James Tilton, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S. Street, Sacramento, CA 95184.

Notas:

1. Buro Estadístico de Justicia de Reporte Especial: Educacion y Poblacion Correccional, Enero 2003.
2. Boletín Correccional de educacion, v55 n4, p.297-305, December 2004. También mira "La Nacion" Marzo 4, 2005. Estudios han demostrado que participantes en educación de prisión, vocación y programas de trabajo tienen una tendencia en promedio de 20-60 porciento mas bajos que esos sin participar. Otro reciente estudio mayor de prisioneros encontro que los participantes en programs de educación fueron 29 porciento menos probable de terminar para atras en la carcel, y que los participantes ganaron salarios mas altos despues de su salida.

FREE POLITICAL BOOKS FOR PRISONERS

The MIM(Prison) newsletter is free to all prisoners and is mailed out to all prisoners actively engaged in correspondence with us. MIM (Prisons) also runs a books for prisoners program through which we mail prisoners political theory and history books and magazines in exchange for political work. Prisoners requesting books need to tell us what work you are going to do, or just send the work (articles, artwork, poetry, report on a study group you formed, etc.) in the letter. For many prisoners, the easiest way to start is by writing about what is going on at your prison.

Our books for prisoners program relies on donations of books and money. We buy books at used book stores when we have money to do so. Unfortunately the demand far exceeds the supply. The areas most in demand are dictionaries and writings by Mao and Lenin. Know that we send these out as fast as we get them in. We often can not fill requests for these and other books. If you have any contacts on the outside who can donate to our program, or who can hook us up with dictionaries, Mao or Lenin, or other political books, please tell them to contact us. When requesting books it is best to just ask for general topic areas and let us send you whatever we have on hand in that area.

DOC claims integrating Prisoners back to society/ work force a priority

by a New Jersey prisoner
October 2007

I felt the need to express my opinion on this matter, since I will be one who will be affected by this phenomenon that has yet to be solved.

The other day I was watching the New Jersey Network channel, in which they were airing a program called *Due Process*. The topic being spoken of on *Due Process* was on the issue that prisoners will be facing prior to their release from prison. The main & only topic was "jobs." there were several spokespersons, one was from Princeton University & the other was from the Department of Corrections.

The Department of Corrections states that they have implemented programs to help prisoners in obtaining jobs when released back into society. So here I am to expose the so-called programs & to hopefully make clear what is the Department of Corrections (DOC)'s main priority.

As you may know, I am a prisoner at Southwoods State Prison (SWSP) in the state of New Jersey, which is the largest prison in New Jersey. In this prison you have a variety of programs that you may choose from. They consist of Educational, Vocational, therapeutic programs such as Moral Recognition Therapy, Life Skills & AA. DOC has also started a program by the name of S.T.A.R.S. which is suppose to help prisoners to re-enter society. The S.T.A.R.S. program provide prisoners with the help of resources, how to apply for jobs and how to manage your money. There is also another so-called program that is provided to prisoners who are within 2 weeks

of their release from prison to prepare them to re-enter society. This program also provides resources.

This leaves us with DOC's top priority program, The Therapeutic Community Drug Program, which to my understanding is a funded program. The Therapeutic Community Program (TC) is a program that is provided in several of the New Jersey State Prisons for prisoners with substance abuse disorders. It does not provide prisoners with educational, vocational, nor a transitional re-entry back to society.

Upon entering DOC, you are interviewed by so-called trained clinical screeners, to evaluate the severity of ones substance abuse. Once you see classification, which have the final say, they determine if you qualify for the TC program by evaluating your clinical screening results. If your results are a 5 and above, then you are automatically classified to the TC Program.

Now the catch to this program is that if you deny or refuse the TC Program, you are given an I-Override, which means that you will not receive any type of status, forcing you to do the remainder of your time behind the wall without the possibility of obtaining full minimum status or the possibility of obtaining full minimum status or the possibility of going to a Halfway house, unless you submit to such TC Program.

I am one who will be facing the I-Override for my refusal to participate in such programs. I was classified with a score of 5 which according to the Administration makes me an appropriate candidate for such programs, in which I have no substance abuse disorder since 1999 & my Pre-Sentence Report states clearly "no drug use during the time of crime, no drug evaluation or recommendations for drug use programs." But according to the Administration they state that due to my previous and present drug charges, I am an appropriate candidate for such programs.

Funny that no where in the 10A Law does it state that you will be classified to the TC Program because of your past & present drug conviction. But as I mentioned above, the TC Program is a funded program, which provides money to DOC for keeping the programs beds filled. Which leads me to really question the contradiction that DOC has imposed on itself. What is really their priority? Are they really providing prisoners with the proper transition program to re-enter society, who has always abandoned our interest & needs, after being released?

DOC claims are nothing but bull shit, like every politician here in the united snakes, who sell dreams. DOC fails to really understand the prisoner's needs. Lack of job opportunities is not the only obstacle that many prisoners will be facing when released. Many prisoners will be facing the obstacles of not having a place to stay upon their release & health issues as well. But has any of this really been a concern to DOC? Of course not! If DOC was really concerned about this issue, then they will provide more educational & vocational programs. Here the only certificate that is really recognized in society is the GED certificate, which is authentic. All the other certificates are not recognized in society. I took a Core Curriculum & Building Trades course at this prison and according to the teacher who taught one of my classes, the certificate that I received from the National Center for Construction, Education & Research really meant nothing. He stated that if we were to provide these certificates in our resume or job interview, that employers will probably laugh because the reality is that no one has ever heard of such a place.

Here at this prison there are College courses, that are being provided to those prisoners who are under 25 years of age. Leaving those who do not meet the age criteria with no hope of pursuing a higher learning. Of course there are Col-
continued on page 12...

You are receiving this newsletter from the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons - MIM(Prisons). In the past year the Maoist Internationalist Movement has taken some security hits and has changed its organizing strategy as a result. One of the significant changes relates to cell-based organizing. In September 2007, MIM spun off the prison ministry into an independent cell. The Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons or MIM(Prisons) upholds the MIM cardinal questions and political line. We distribute MIM Notes and MIM Theory and recommend these independent media outlets as well as the MIM web site at etext.org as sources for correct news and theoretical analysis. We carry forward the work of the MIM in the fight against the criminal injustice system.

Some of you receiving this have written to us in the past year and received no response. We are in the process of catching up on mail and therefore have included general introductory information in this issue of Under Lock and Key. If you are receiving this then you are on our mailing list for a free prisoner subscription.

The Maoist Internationalist Movement

(MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlán, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire.

What is MIM(Prisons)?

MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups; classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possible by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for the United States as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world he-

gemony. [Note to prisoners and to mailroom staff -- MIM and its publications explicitly oppose the use of armed struggle at this time in the imperialist countries (including the united states). Our current battles in the united states are legal ones. We encourage prisoners to join these battles while explicitly discouraging them from engaging in any violence or illegal acts.]

Fighting the injustice system is just one part of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it is important that organizers on the outside and prisoners not lose sight of the connections to this larger battle. For this reason, in addition to news about prisons and prison struggles, this web site will also publish more general news articles from both organizers and prisoners, as well as some general theoretical writings from prisoners. We welcome support and collaboration from those who are focused only on the prison struggle, but we also challenge them to see the bigger picture of imperialism and the importance of carrying out their work as a part of a larger anti-imperialist strategy.

Colonial oppression of Palestine

from www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/
November 24, 2007

MIM is coming under criticism, so it would do well to recall why MIM said colonialism is a factor with Palestine. We already explained that it is our past published line that South Africa had an advance by finally giving citizenship rights to Blacks; even though, South Africa was still capitalist.

If Palestine is already a neo-colony, then MIM is making a mistake to support the two-state process. We would be getting swept up in a fad. The argument in favor of our critics is that there is already a Palestinian Authority. On the other hand, everyone knows that the PA is not official for international purposes yet, so this question needs closer examination.

The colonial residues can be seen as follows:

1) When Jimmy Carter goes to monitor supposedly Palestinian elections, he has to ask Israeli officials to let East Jerusalem Arabs to vote, and Israelis have in the past effectively decided the question for most voters; Carter also has to ask Israeli officials to open roadblocks to let other Palestinians vote.

2) Israel has Palestine's tax revenue.

3) Israel holds many Palestinian prisoners.

4) What many may not realize is that Gaza and West Bank people do not vote in Israel.

5) Israel restricts Palestinian and foreigner travel along Gaza's coast and other incipient Palestinian borders and also holds the Palestinian economy under a partial blockade.

We should add that according to one Israeli professor in favor of keeping the colony, the Palestinian Authority only remains alive because Israel conducts "counter-terrorism" operations in the West Bank. (1) Certainly this adds to the picture that Abbas is like a county official in authority, subordinate to Israel, the direct ruler that carries out military operations when it wants to in Palestinian territory.

The situation of Gaza and West Bank people has to be carefully distinguished from Arab Israelis, who are more like U.S. Blacks. They face some discrimination and do not have the same attitudes toward military service as Jews do.

The distinguishing feature of colonialism is direct rule by the mother country. In this example, Israel is the mother country whose officials decide things for Palestine.

Part of the problem with Palestine is that some Jews are not entirely sure a two-state solution would be better than a one-state solution. The important thing is not to be paralyzed, to push for either the vote for Palestinians or a two-state solution now. Because 80% of Zionists do not consider themselves "secular," (2) the two-state solution is the way to go.

There is not really an Israeli Left in the old sense, only a little bit. Peace Now is not thronging the streets stirring up sedition. When MIM says "Zionist Right," we are referring to people who want neither to grant the right to vote nor to withdraw from the colonies. Since MIM sees the task as ending colonialism, we have defined "Left" and "Right" in that context. The ability to settle into a routine where Israel cannot let go or give out the vote is what we call "Right" or right-wing for today's Israel context.

If MIM has fallen for a fad with regard to the anti-colonial theory, then of course the theory of "Left" and "Right" would also be wrong. If our goal were socialism in Israel, then our "left" and "right" definitions would have to change. However, it is MIM's position that socialism is not on the short-term horizon for Israel. It is just that an imperialist brokered peace can do better than what it has so far, because no other rich country has the same or worse problem internally.

The Israeli Right does not want its votes overwhelmed by Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza in a one-state solution. There is also a huge class gap guaranteeing political friction. We contend that in the rich countries, there is no face-off like we see in Palestine with Israel, now that Blacks have the vote in South Africa and the Irish have been bought off. The French rebellion of migrant and immigrant youth was the closest thing. (3) It was similar to previous Black rebellions say in Watts or after the Rodney King case in Los Angeles. Yet, these rebellions are still a few notches down from the armed struggle carried out by revolutionary Palestinian nationalists and their Arab supporters.

So there are two ways to be done with colonialism: 1) Give a people citizenship rights, so that they are not directly ruled by others. 2) Withdraw mother country officials and allow neo-colonial lackeys or puppets to take over.

All First Nations within U.S. borders are composed of people offered U.S. citizenship and so the argument is that there is no direct rule. The most radical Mohawks will still receive Social Security checks from the U.S. government. Within U.S. borders, the most borderline situation is with migrants with no legal citizenship rights.

Puerto Ricans are in a yet more colonial situation, because if they do not leave the island, they go into a no-man's land of mixed local government and U.S. government without citizenship rights. Most Americans do not know this, because the economics of Puerto Rico has been depoliticized, something Israelis and today's U.S. imperialists could learn from when looking at Palestine.

Within U.S. borders of course First Nations face a hellish tyranny of the Amerikkkan majority. Still it is neo-colonial rule. Drawing a distinction between Palestine and First Nations inside U.S. borders is not divide-and-conquer, but drawing a distinction among neo-colonies would be.

To sum up politically, there are various schools of ultra-left thought confusing people about Palestine: 1) There is the idea that Palestine is already a neo-colony, thus completely in denial that Palestinians have not the citizenship rights of a one-state solution nor the independence of a two-state solution. 2) There is the old Trotskyist idea that the national question does not matter, because the Palestinian and Israeli exploited are about to rise up together at any minute in the most watered down version of simultaneous revolution theory or rise up together in all countries internationally in the maximum purity Trotskyist theory or even worse, that oh-so-advanced Israeli workers will rise up and free the Islamic colonies. 3) There is the crypto-Trotskyist reading of Stalin that says the national question and economic question do not overlap because there is no longer an agrarian question in need of bourgeois revolution. This completely denies MIM's thesis that there is a new overlap of the national question with economic questions, the super-exploitation question by virtue of the fact that Israel lacks the proletariat to carry out Trotskyist and crypto-Trotskyist fantasies. 4) There is a strange kind of imperialist ultra-leftism originating perhaps from Trotskyist culture, which holds that Palestinians should recognize Israel for considerably less independence than Kim Il Sung obtained from his armistice in the Korean War. Even by standards of bourgeois diplomacy it is hard to see what these people are thinking.

All these schools of thought get ahead of conditions into a nice and fanciful future. It is not for MIM to say that no Palestinians should hold such views, but we believe that few do. If Palestine is a neo-colony or if Palestine is really only concerned about going into socialism, then there is probably nothing the imperialists can further offer the Palestinians in Annapolis and the beyond. Somehow that will be up to the Palestinians to decide. Our professional analysis is that Palestinians will accept a better offer from the imperialists, because there is room for improvement. True, if Palestine is completely bourgeoisified, at that point, its improvement will be at the expense of neo-colonies. Thus far, potential gains are at the expense of colonialism. If the imperialists decide to make Palestinians exploiters like the Israelis, there is probably not much we revolutionaries can do about it. Such Palestinians will still be in-between allies like bourgeois Blacks, thanks to historical memories and sympathies for the Third World.

Regarding the diplomatic meeting on the Mideast in Annapolis coming up, we do not blame anyone who sees it as a photo-op. It looks like Arab lackey regimes are coming to recognize Israel, just because Bush turned the screws. We will predict that something will come of Annapolis and it will be a step toward peace, even as Abbas does nothing that Hamas would attack as selling out. If we turn out wrong, then of course readers will be right to ignore us and say they told us so. We believe the Mideast can be arranged a little better than imperialism has done so far.

[MIM(Prisons) does not think this prediction negates the correct analysis in this article and continued on next page...]

... Continued from page 1

The JPI report focused on 198 counties with populations over 250,000. They found that "Despite similar rates of drug use across counties, drug admission rates vary substantially." The correlation is not between drug use and imprisonment but rather JPI found that drug imprisonment was directly correlated to the per capita policing and judicial budgets in each county. The JPI explains that the bottom line is resource-driven discretion by local police:

To further substantiate these results, JPI conducted a multiple variable analysis that controlled for the crime rate, region of the country, the poverty and unemployment rates, and the percent of each county's population that is African American. The results strongly suggest that the resource-driven discretion that local police forces have is the engine driving the wide variation in local drug imprisonment rates. This relationship is evident in this study's finding that policing budgets are positively associated with the drug imprisonment rate—even after controlling for the crime rate.

The JPI report looked at likely causes for this disparity in imprisonment rates. They cite mandatory minimum laws as contributing to a growing disparity because Blacks are already more likely to be locked up for drug use, and they are now also more likely to be incarcerated under a mandatory minimum sentence - increasing the length of time they spend in prison. Between 1994 and 2003, the average time Blacks spent in prison for drug offenses rose 77% compared to a 28% increase for whites. They also noted disparate policing, disparate treatment before the courts, differences in availability of drug treatment, and punitive social spending patterns.

These are all important factors but they are not the whole picture. All of these discrepancies in treatment between Blacks and whites are symptoms of an underlying system of national oppression in the United States. Studies have repeatedly shown that imprisonment rates are not correlated with crime rates. The fact is that prisons are used as a tool of social control and disparate arrests, sentencing, imprisonment, access to education, health care, financial loans, job opportunities, and more are part of this system of social control that maintains the supremacy of

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so reprints it in full here.]

Notes:

1. "For Israel, containing terrorism and waiting patiently for better times is probably the best course of action." "The Great American Delusion,"

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1195546714054&pagename=JPot%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

2. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/927396.html>

3. We concur with Time Magazine: "French jihad? Algeria's revenge? Intifada-sur-Seine? Forget all that. The riots currently rocking France have far more in common with the violence that shook Watts, Cleveland, and Harlem in the mid-1960s than they do with the Islamist extremism behind 9/11 or the attacks in Madrid and London." <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1127429,00.html>

whites in a society that pretends to offer equality to all.

The JPI report concludes with the recommendation of a "more evidence-based approach to drug enforcement." They want to hold the criminal injustice system to standards enforced by statistical analysis of arrest and imprisonment rates. This is probably the best that we can hope for from an institute like the JPI. The fact that there is currently no science behind the actions of the criminal injustice system is a striking indictment of American society overall. But the problem is not just in the police and the judicial system. Both of these systems are part of a larger political infrastructure that props up a massive imperialist state. We can not expect one aspect of this state to change and grant equality to oppressed nations while all other aspects remain the same.

Locking up more whites would be progress - if the whites in question were those in the government who are responsible for more death and destruction than all the 2 million people in U.S. prisons combined. In the end, progress of this sort, or progress towards a more equitable justice system will only come through revolutionary struggle.

Notes: The full Justice Policy report can be found here: http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07-12_REP_Vortex_AC-DP.pdf

Beating on Blacks in Maryland

by a Maryland prisoner
February 2007

I've been locked up 16 years and I could have been up town a long time ago, but I always wind up beefing with these pigs because I'm not going to let them beat on my people. They keep jumping on people up here at WCI in Cumberland, Maryland. They killed one person up here and now they are telling prisoners, look we got away with one murder, what makes you think we won't do it again and get away with it!

They have this hearing office doing whatever they want it to do. They find everybody guilty, and tell you that if you don't plea guilty you will get the max no matter what. So they are saying we don't have any rights!

They are also playing with my mail and others. The office tries to send people's books home, but only Black books. Over the last 15 years I've been in this belly of the beast and I have been mindful of its design to destroy the strong beautiful Black minds that enter.

CAMPAIGNS

MIM Banned in VA? We are working to collect information from prisoners and other organizations that have been facing censorship in Virginia. Red Onion Prison seems to be banning all literature they disagree with. Please send any info you have and we will post updates on our website as information comes to light.

Unlock the Box: MIM has been leading an ongoing battle to shut down the Control Units in prisons across the united States. We can use audio and video of testimonies and hearings related to long term isolation. We can use artwork. And we need researchers on the ground. We want to know the names of the Control Units in your state, when they opened and how many people they hold, as well as details of the abusive conditions within them.

Stop the mail ban in California: In December 2006, the state of California banned MIM from sending mail to people in its prisons. Comrades are writing letters, conducting a postcard campaign and talking to allies who have challenged similar restrictions in the past. Letters can be sent to: James Tilton, Secretary, CDCR, 1515 S. Street, Sacramento, CA 95184 (see article on p.3)

New York Prisoners defend the 1st Amendment:

The battle against illegitimate uses of Rule 105.12 in NY continues. There are no updates on the class action suit at this time, but prisoners in NY can still contribute by writing affirmations. Write in to us for a copy of NAMP's guide to producing an affirmation. Rule 105.12 does not apply to outside organizations, and denial of the right to communicate and affiliate between prisoners and those on the outside is a blatant violation of the Constitution's First Amendment.

The campaigns section of Under Lock & Key will help us promote and build support for ongoing campaigns to improve the conditions in prisons in various parts of the united States. Write us with information about campaigns that you are involved in or want to start. We will promote the campaigns that we get involved in on our website at www.prisoncensorship.info where people can download fliers, petitions and information.

Amerikans: Oppressing for a Living

by MIM(Prisons)
December 2007

Critics of amerika's unprecedentedly high incarceration rates have stressed that increased imprisonment does not correspond to less crime. And despite decreasing crime rates, imprisonment continues to rise. How is this possible?

A recent report from the JFA Institute describes how the increase in prison populations is a result of a change in laws and policies in enforcement. (1) We have been in the era of "tough on crime" politics for decades, but most amerikans will still hide the fact that this translates into increased control and repression of the internal semi-colonies. At the same time, millions of amerikans are supporting these laws as a means of securing the jobs and livelihood of themselves and their families. While white people like to look at slavery and genocide as things in the past, the amerikkan nation has probably never been so deeply entrenched and invested as a nation of oppressors as they are today with millions serving as cops, spies and military personnel.

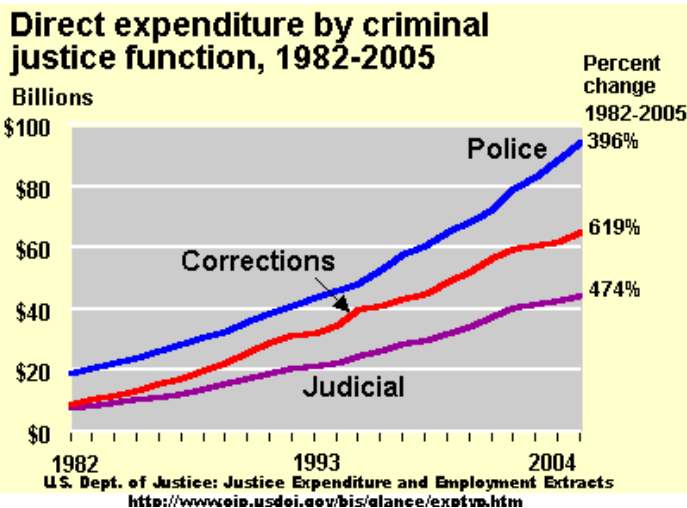
And while the white media would have you believe that "tough on crime" policies are protecting amerikans from murderers and sexual predators, about two-thirds of the 650,000 prison admissions each year are people who have violated their probation or parole. And half of these violations are technical, in other words, they're going to prison for things most people could not be put in prison for. (1) The demand for more incarceration is putting hundreds of thousands of people in prison each year for doing things not generally considered crimes under u\$ law.

Who's Profiting?

The progressive groups opposing the prison industrial complex like to condemn so-called "prisons-for-profit." But it isn't primarily corporate profits behind the three decades long prison boom and the so-called "tough on crime" legislation. It is amerikan cops and bureaucrats maneuvering for government funds (money that comes from taxing amerikans whose wealth comes from the exploitation of labor and resources from the Third World). And it is career politicians catering to a white nationalist vote. "Tough on crime" stances aren't tolerated in amerikan politics, rather, they are demanded by the voting public. Politicians who have attempt-

ed to go against the tide can attest to this.

Other than "prisons are big business" the other popular argument explaining the surge in incarceration is that it is "modern day slavery." As an economic force behind imprisonment, this too is largely a myth. If the motivation for being the number one imprisonment country in all of history was exploiting labor then you would see the majority of prisoners engaged in productive labor. While some sources claim half of all prisoners work, one study from 1994 found less than 10% are involved in work other than maintenance and housekeeping. (2) More recent statistics by state indicate industrial employment at similar low rates. (3) The estimate of half of prisoners working seems reasonable if we acknowledge that most of those prisoners have part-time jobs doing upkeep of the prison. While also dated, MIM cited statistics from



1995 showing that only 6.4% of sales stemming from prison labor in the united States was private in MIM Theory 11: Amerikkkan Prisons on Trial.

Generally, if prisoners work for an outside corporation and produce goods for interstate commerce, then they are legally required to receive amerikkan exploiter level wages. The benefit to the companies is that they can skimp on benefits and don't need to give raises. Small business owners have fought to limit the benefits of those who use prison labor, since they lack the capital to take advantage of such competitive advantages. The petty bourgeois interests here keep those of the imperialists in check. (4)

Therefore, most prison labor is done for the state, who can pay whatever they want, and increasingly garnish most of the wages to pay for the prisoners' own imprisonment. These prisoners are either working to run the prison and therefore allowing the amerikans in charge of the prison to work as well-paid bureaucrats and not have to worry about cooking and cleaning, or they are working for government industries that supply state agencies and therefore subsidize the tax money of the state as a whole

ARE PRISONERS EXPLOITED?

Please send us your answers to the following questions for an upcoming report on prison labor:

How many prisoners at your facility?
How many of them work?
Who do they work for?
What work do they do?
How much do they get paid?

by reducing state expenses. The National Correctional Industries Association says state industries contributed \$25 million by garnishing inmates wages, not a very large contribution to the cost of the u\$ prison system. However, one estimate done by MIM 10 years ago indicates the savings in wages overall (not including benefits) could be on the order of 10% or more of current overall state expenditures on corrections (5), which have risen sharply (see graph on this page).

Some state industries export products to other countries, but interstate commerce has largely been restricted by the efforts of small business interests and amerikan labor unions. Since the 1980s, the federal government has tried to embrace the model of "factories with fences." But the free market for slave labor continues to be hampered by state laws. This year, Alaska passed a law that allows the Department of Labor and Workforce Development can enter into contracts with private companies or individuals to sell them prison labor,

provided that the commissioner consults with local union organizations beforehand in order to ensure that the contract will not result in the displacement of employed workers, will not be applied in skills, crafts, or trades in which there is a surplus of available gainful labor in the locality, and will not impair existing contracts for services. A contract with an individual or a private organization must require that the commissioner be paid the minimum wage for each hour worked by a prisoner." (10)

Clearly this has nothing to do with prisoners' rights, but it is crafted for the protection of labor aristocracy jobs and small businesses. And as many states do, Alaska allows for the wages to be garnished before disbursing them to the prisoner. So there is no law that the prisoner must be paid a certain wage.

What about the one industry that does have unfettered access to prison labor? Theoretically, private prisons could collect fat contracts from the state and let prisoners do much of the work to run the facility. But after 3 decades of prison boom, still less than 5% of prisons are privately owned, at least partially due to an inability to remain profitable. (4) It is often pointed out that it costs more to keep a person in prison for a year than send them to college. (The difference for sending youth to a correctional facility compared to grade school can be differences in order of magnitude). This is a price that largely tax-averse amerikans are willing to pay.

State Bureaucrats and National Oppression

Strictly speaking, prisons are a net loss financially for the amerikkkan nation. And the boom cannot be blamed on any major corporate interests. What a beefed up injustice system does offer economically is a means of employing millions of people at cushy exploiter wages. It is a means of shuffling the super-profits around the pigsty and maintaining a consumer population. These millions of people provide a self-perpetuating demand for more prisoners, and more funding for various law enforcement projects.

One example of this self-perpetuating bureaucracy dates back to 1983 when James Gonzalez became Deputy Director of the California Department of Corrections. He immediately expanded the department's planning staff from 3 to 118 and began focusing on modeling that would forecast increasing needs for expansion into the future (it's not just COs getting the jobs). (6) Since then California has built 23 major new prisons, expanded other prisons and increased its prison population 500%. (7) With more prisons, come more prison guards, creating the 31,000 strong California Correctional Peace Officers Association with yearly dues totaling \$21.9 million. (8) This is the same union that earned itself a raise following the exposure of gladiator fights staged by guards at Corcoran State Prison, where many prisoners were murdered. The very same that was behind the 3 strikes laws to put people away for 25 to life for petty crimes, and that has campaigned repeatedly to eliminate educational programs for prisoners.

The CO's are partners with the private industry that has boomed off of an economy based on war and repression. A visit to the American Corrections Association conference will tell you it's not just a few imperialist suits in a smoke-filled room. It is a getaway for a large mix of salesmen, cops and CO's; just regular amerikkkans. (9)

In the united States there are laws that prevent the military from lobbying the government as a safeguard against war being carried out in the interests of the warmakers. There are no such limits on the police and correctional officers (COs), allowing the war on gangs to go on perpetuating itself both politically and economically. The NYPD and LAPD have arsenals and capabilities that rival many nations' armed forces, and they are allowed to influence politics on the local, state and even federal level both directly and indirectly.

On the local level police departments have undermined trends toward so-called "community policing." Where youth in the community have been effective at reducing violence through dialogue and organizing, the police have rejected these programs in favor of community representatives who will rubber stamp their continued strategies of suppression and harassment of oppressed nation youth. When street organizations came together to form peace treaties in Los Angeles and Chicago in the 1990s, the police

responded immediately through the white media saying it was a hoax and it would never last. Let there be no confusion, the police created these wars and the police will not let them stop.

In the late 1990s, the New York Times reported that most white residents of New York City were comfortable with police behavior, while 9 out of 10 Blacks believed brutality against Blacks to be frequent. The regular "stop and frisking" by police that was then practiced under Mayor Giuliani, was found to be directed at Blacks and Latinos 90% of the time. (11)

Politically, the rest of the oppressor nation is willing to go along with the job security plans of the police and correctional officers as a means of protecting their collective privilege. One of the few things amerikkkans can agree to spend state money on. With that, the injustice system becomes an important part of the national culture in rallying the people in material support of the imperialist system that they benefit from.

Who's being locked up?

While the question of who is profiting from the prison industrial complex is a bit cloudy and controversial, everyone knows who is being locked up. In a half century, amerikan prisons have gone from white dominated to Black dominated in a period where the Black population has increased less than 2 percentage points to its current level of about 12%. And yet amerikkkans are not outraged.

As we recently reported (see article on page 1), Blacks are imprisoned at rates 10 times those of whites for drug charges and the increase in drug-related prison sentences was 77% for Blacks compared to 28% for whites. (12) So, the increase in sentences that is behind the current prison boom is targeting certain populations.

The JFA Institute report references research indicating that incarceration often encourages crime. In their summary of literature, they point to evidence that people will leave criminal lifestyles when given opportunities. No shit? Stopping crime isn't exactly rocket science. While communists know how to put an end to crime,

the pigs and their fans have demonstrated that they aren't really interested in that. That would involve destroying their own privilege. In it's advanced stage of parasitism, the amerikkan nation has a well-entrenched sector of pigs who get job security and pay raises from perpetuating crime and imprisonment.

Interestingly, the report also points to a number of studies indicating that government run programs have very marginal effects on reducing recidivism. This conclusion is supported by reports we get from comrades criticizing government programs. (13) Apparently, the literature also supports the need for programs like MIM(Prisons) Prisoner Re-Lease on Life program, because the only programs that seem to be effective in treatment and rehabilitation are independent from the government. (1) The people aren't stupid, they know what the state is there to do.

Notes:

- (1) *The JFA Institute. Unlocking America. November 2007.* <http://www.jfa-associates.com/publications/srs/UnlockingAmerica.pdf>
- (2) <http://www.ncpa.org/bal/ba245.html>
- (3) Miller, Karin. *Prison Labor: Some Facts and Issues.* <http://www.anarchistblackcross.org/content/essays/articles/labor/jail.html>
- (4) Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California.* University of California Press: Berkeley, 2007. p. 21.
- (5) *MIM Notes 171, October 1, 1998.* <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/dc/prislab.html>
- (6) Gilmore, p. 96.
- (7) Gilmore, p. 7.
- (8) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Correctional_Peace_Officers_Association
- (9) *Stop the ACA! MIM Notes 242.* <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn242/stopaca.txt>
- (10) *Monthly Labor Review. Vol. 130: No.1, January 2007.*
- (11) Hayden, Tom. *Street Wars.* New Press: New York, 2005. p. 108.
- (12) *Blacks targeted for drug imprisonment in Amerika. December 9, 2007.* <http://www.prison-censorship.info/news/all/US/91>
- (13) *DOC claims integrating Prisoners back to society/work force a priority. October 19, 2007.* <http://www.prisoncensorship.info/news/all/NJ/82/>

On Prisons & Prisoners

MIM(Prisons) seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers -- the imperialists and their lackeys -- roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

All U.S. citizens are criminals--accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals.

MIM(Prisons) does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners -- whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

California housing integration an excuse to lock more prisoners in control units

by a California prisoner
November 2007

Section 3005, 32691, 3315 and 3341.5 are all sections of the California Department of Corrections (CDC) Title 15 Rules and Regulations that have recently been changed, to implement the department's new behavior control tactic of integrated housing. This is a plan that the secretary of CDC, Mr James E. Tilton published to the public on the date of June 18, 2007 and will attempt to prescribe into prison law in the following manner:

* The insurance that race will not be used as the primary determining factor in housing the department's inmate population. All inmate housing assignments shall be made on the basis of available information, individual case factors, and objective criteria, to implement an integrated housing plan. It is the intent of the CDC to ensure that housing practices are made consistent with the safety, security, treatment, and rehabilitative needs of the inmate, as well as the safety and security of the public, staff, and institutions.

* The housing plan involves an interview with the inmate, a review of the inmate's central file, and a review of all available and relevant information. The housing plan will use all available information to determine an inmate's eligibility for integration and will assign inmates to available and appropriate bed based on their integrated eligibility.

* Implementation of the integrated housing plan will occur over several phases. The first phase will occur in 2007 and will consist of the development of an integrated coding system that will be used to identify each inmates eligibility to integrate. The actual implementation of integrated housing will commence in 2005 at designated facilities such as reception center, and then be phased in statewide commencing in 2009, over a period of several years.

Now I understand that our people of society may take this plan and the implementation of this plan as something greatly needed in California prisons. That is the reason for the CDC claiming that this plan was designed because integration in other states has assisted in the management of gangs and disruptive groups and reduced racial tension. Integration of housing in other states has also assisted with breaking down prejudicial barriers, perceptions and attitudes, promoting increased tolerance of others reflecting community norms.

Wow! With that type of talk you would think that the department is actually making an attempt at changing California's wicked prison system. Yea right! Take it from a California prisoner, looks can be deceiving. In digging deeper into the core of this matter, one may retrieve some very disturbing news for California's prisoners. The integrated housing plan is a trap and nothing but it. Although the CDC states that the plan is designed with an overarching strategy

for safe implementation and not forced integration, they also state the options for inmates who fail to comply, such as rule violation reports and alternative housing placement.

Non-compliance will be rewarded with a RUR-115 or a stay in either ASU or the SHU until they agree to integrate. Refer to new Title 15 subsection 3269.1 or 3005(c) - It's not a forced integration, but if you refuse you will be labeled as a non-compliant inmate and dealt with accordingly. Wouldn't you say that's real contradictory? I know I would. But then again I'd say everything that the CDC does and says is contradictory! CDC claims this effort and plan is intended to control gang and race wars, but California is one of the most gang infested states there is. About 90% of California prisoners are gang affiliated. [MIM(Prisons) notes: we can not verify this statistic, but we do know that the prison classifies many prisoners as gang affiliated upon entry into the prison simply based on their nationality and birthplace. The prisons then promote tension and conflict between these groups, making it dangerous for them to live in the same areas.]

The department claims that its response to the non-compliant inmates will be the placement of these prisoners into control units known as ASU and SHU housing. But one may fail to realize that the Department of CDCR is limited on its ASU and SHU housing bed and space, therefore they have nowhere to place the masses of those who refuse to integrate. Or at least that's what they tell us.

California state Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger just recently asked the U.S Supreme Court for permission and funds to add a couple thousand beds and add on to some of the institutions already built. The CDC knows that with all the prison politics and prison gang warfare, there's no way in hell that prisoners will accept an integrated housing plan. At least not on the level fours (Maximum Security yards). Therefore they look good to the public when they come saying they need funds to build more control units for the non-compliant inmates who are too violent for general population. When in all actuality what they're really saying is, give us some money and we'll use the integrated housing plan as our front and reason to remove all the real brothers who are willing to go toe to toe with them for the cause, from the general population. See they want lay down yessa masters like Jessie Jackson on the yards, so they don't have to do their jobs and still get paid. So they can shit all over the prison population and not be held accountable for it. If they lock up all the non-compliant inmates then they don't have to worry about brothers being on their heads for them to do the things they are paid to do. They don't have to worry about so called gangsters and thugs uniting together as a convict structure like in the 60s and 70s with our comrades the Soledad Brothers.

The effect that the integrated housing plan will have on the California prisoners, is the

destruction and I mean the total destruction of prison civilization. We think we got it bad now. Let them come with this plan of integration in 2009 and truly lock all those who refuse in the SHU indeterminately. We are going to see how bad prison can really get.

Shut Down the SHU in NY

by a New York prisoner
October 2007

Let me explain the situation here in Southport. They got regular cells and regular blocks, but not this one. This one is D-block, the most high profile are here, the worse of the worse, that what the crackers say. These are some crazy cells where out of your window nothing can be seen. This is like the basement of the SHU. The lights are kept on 16 hours a day. A real big light which causes pain in the eye. Out of the metal door there is a lil' window which you only can see to the front and to the front there is nothing but a well.

The showers are Tuesdays & Fridays only and you get to shave and shower for 5 minutes. They put a brother like me right now in shower deprivation. That means no shower for over 30 days. The same with rec [recreation]. Over 30 days locked in this crazy cell eating a crazy bread loaf for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

They run into brothers' cells here on a daily and they start taking non-important papers or cases we get from the law library that they say is gang stuff. They write you up and the cracker that conducts the hearing gives the person 2 or 3 years with loss of good time. The Sergeant don't care here. Whatever the pig CO do he's OK with it- here they all cracker protect each other's dirty action.

There are video cameras here but when they want something out they just call Dep. Superintendent of Security (D\$\$) and you can bet it is out. There is no ventilation. They keep the back door open in winter. This is the nastiest place I've seen. This block got to be shut down. People here are sufferin and their mental state is not 100% for the simple fact that they are being tortured; most of the time mentally, but there is a lot of physical torture, not just here in this block, but through all the slave houses, especially A-block. That's where everything happens, and the sad thing is they get away with it. Gov. Eliot Spitzer needs to take this place into consideration to be closed down.

Long term segregation in Nevada

by a Nevada prisoner
October 2007

I'm currently doing 365 days in the "hole" (disciplinary segregation) at Ely State Prison in Nevada. There is only one unit in this entire prison that gets to walk the yard. The rest of us are on 23/24 hour lockdown and have to be

cuffed and shackled and escorted any time we leave our cells. And not all of us are on disciplinary segregation. I was told that it's a federal law that prisoners are only supposed to get a maximum of 100 and something days in the "hole" but Nevada gets away with it because of our privileges. Some people are allowed to have appliances in the hole, and that's cool, but a lot of us either lost that privilege or can't afford that stuff, so we are forced to do 1, 2, 3, maybe more years, in the hole with nothing. Me personally, I'd rather only do a couple months in the hole with nothing and get back to a mainline, then sit back here years with a TV.

In this state they have slimmed down on the physical abuse so now they're going even more for the mind. And a lot of dudes can't take it. I request books from our library, but that's a joke, so I was given an old copy of MIM Notes to read from a comrade, and I was relieved to have something righteous to read, and I was also glad to know we have fellow comrades on the outside who are truly helping us in the struggle. Being that I'm fresh out of Y.A. (youth authority) and still a youngsta, it's been difficult finding info on the adult system. I never know where to look up, but MIM Notes has put me up on game.

Militant in the struggle

by a Missouri prisoner
June 2007

I, a true militant in the Global Struggle, write you from inside the sordid trenches of a Missouri gulag. I recently received a package from you - finally, after a death struggle with pigs to receive my material that had been censored.

I'm headstrong and set in my ways. Prison cells can't contain or circumscribe my thoughts and ideas. In similar aspects, subjugation/incarceration mirrors social ostracism. In both cases, one is treated as an outcast. That is why, importantly, we must nurture strong identities and, essentially, maintain outside connections and support. We, as prisoners, have something to prove: it is our responsibility to work for positive change, mobilize the masses and endear them to our struggle - and then "shut down" the slave-making prison-industrial-complex.

Throughout my years of incarceration I've personally witnessed poignant scenes that have left an indelible mark on my soul; each time I replay these scenes in my mind, I tremble from head to toe...knowing that, somehow, I got to make a change for "me" (and the voiceless, hopeless brothers and sisters dealing with the turmoil of prison.)

To my MIM brothers, sisters and comrades: you have a lifelong supporter, friend, ally in me. I'm scheduled to be released in the next 2.5 years, and the enemy is doing everything in its power to prevent my emancipation (they have me facing trumped up criminal charges for allegedly committing violence on a DOC employee.)

So stand with me in solidarity to eradicate

this beast of property (PIC)! From the trenches, to the streets - can't no concrete tomb hold my body down, still I rise!

Fees keep prisoners from needed medical care

by a Pennsylvania prisoner
June 2007

Recently the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, in conjunction with Prison Health Services, the statewide healthcare provider for the PA-DOC based out of Brentwood, Tennessee, made it much more difficult for prisoners to get medical treatment by increasing the co-payment for medical services to \$5. A fee of \$5 will be assessed each time a medical service at sick call is provided to a prisoner when seen by any physician, physicians assistant, dentist, optometric professional or other person licensed to provide health care under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also, an additional fee of \$5 will be charged for each subscription that is ordered for the prisoner by an on-site health care professional.

No complimentary services will be given to prisoners, with the exception of prisoners with well documented chronic care issues: HIV/Aids, hepatitis, hypertension and diabetes.

With the average wage paid for a prison work assignment here in Pennsylvania of 19 cents an hour, 4 hours max a day, many prisoners are letting their illnesses go untreated. They are unable to pay for medical services and buy bare necessities like toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo from commissary! Frequently prisoners are deliberately given medication subscriptions that do not improve or fully restore them back to good health.

Under DOC policy DC-ADM820, there should be no additional fee when this takes place, however a prisoner still must fill out and sign a DC-138 cash slip for follow up sick call visits, and these signed cash slips are being forwarded to the facility business office for fee deduction from the prisoners account.

The prisoner can use the grievance system to try to recoup these deductions, however the odds are small that fee will ever be credited back



to the prisoners account. This is just one of the many ways the executive administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections manipulate the prison population into handing back over the slave wages they work all month for.

Law library access restricted

by a California prisoner
November 2007

I will soon encounter a new roadblock [in researching censorship lawsuits to help fight the censorship of MIM]. Our law library will be shutting down soon. The library clerks told us that after the 29th of November the law library will only be running for a day or two out of the week. The reason for this, or excuse rather, is that since our gym is due to be emptied out within the next couple of weeks, the population on the yard will be substantially smaller, there is no need for law library to be open every day. Of course this is just an excuse for them not to run the library for us. So most likely the only people allowed inside will be those with "PLU" status, no chance for the rest of us to do any research. However, people are already preparing to draw up 602s and those that are more experienced with the law have promised to pursue the matter. As long as the library remains open, I will hopefully be ready to file the complaint with the district court.

I also want to mention, I just acquired a Jail-house Lawyers Handbook a few weeks ago. It only instructs prisoners on how to file 1983s. I've checked out a couple other similar manuals and this is most certainly the simplest and straight to the point manual I've come across, very easy to understand. You can have people download it for free on the internet, or you can write to the National Lawyer's Guild via a letter and request it for free. For a copy, write to: The Prison Law Project, National Lawyers Guild, National Office, 132 Nassau St, Rm 922, New York, NY 10038. Download it at <http://jailhouselaw.org>.

Texas women's prison blocking mail, gassing prisoners

by a Texas prisoner
October 2007

On March 27, 2006 the MV staff gassed me (pepper spray) to take from me my sealed, outgoing legal mail. That gassing nearly killed me. And it was obviously a violation of the law - as well as TDCJ's use of force plan. That's when MV started blocking all of my outgoing mail and most of my incoming mail. And the TDCJ mucky-mucks I could reach through the very flawed grievance process did nothing to stop it.

MV is way out of control - with many folks having their mail blocked; and many folks (like myself) having our visits blocked because staff like Warden Black herself were lying to our visitors that they couldn't come see us. Even lawyers were leaving their visits blocked - but, you can't count on lawyers to do a damn thing! And you can't count on cops anywhere to do a damn thing right - just to be misogynist, racist thugs.

Legal research on censorship

by a California prisoner
December 2007

I've been in and out of this prison law library and I've found some information that should be placed in the Under Lock and Key section of MIM Notes. According to the California Prisoners Rights Handbook, page 49:

Prison officials are permitted to open and read most incoming and outgoing mail, except legal or confidential mail that may not be read by prison staff. Such "regular" mail may be withheld or censored only when necessary for the reasonable protection of the public. Mail cannot be censored because prison officials believe it improperly magnifies complaints or contains inflammatory remarks. A prisoner should receive notice of any mail that is withheld or is returned.

I've studied other law books and prison officials taking our mail or sending it back is dead wrong. I've heard that the prisons and their officials are supposed to be letting us prisoners get our political books back, but it's just a rumor as I've heard. I will keep studying the law books.

**mim(Prisons) has its own
website at:
www.prisoncensorship.info
Friends, family and supporters
can check us out online and get
the latest news and campaign
info from the anti-imperialist
struggle under lock & key.**

New Jersey DOC claims to prepare prisoners for release

...continued from 5

lege correspondence courses, but the issue with such courses, is the money the prisoner will have to pay, in a place where the common pay is \$1.40 a day.

There is truly a lack of understanding by DOC, when it comes to the prisoner population, in dealing with the needs & obstacles that we face collectively when we are released from prison. The priority should be Educational & Vocational learning skills. DOC should find a solution for upgrading the educational & vocational programs.

Here in New Jersey, every prison has an Inmate Trust Fund, which is generated by the surcharge of the Institution Commissary Sales. What the Inmate Trust Fund is being used for is recreational equipment, Incentive Meals and for more commissary purchases. This trust fund is well over 2 million dollars.

To give you an insight into how much the Inmate Trust Fund generates a month, I will give an example. At this prison it is said that it holds up to 2800 prisoners. Let's say that all these prisoners receive a state pay of \$16.00 a month. Let's also say that all 2800 prisoners will use their \$16 for commissary orders. So 2800 prisoners x 16.00 dollars = \$44,800 dollars made in commissary sales, now \$44,800 x 10% of commissary surcharge = \$4,480 made for the Inmate Trust Fund. Just think, over the years the amount that the Inmate Trust Fund has generated. Yet DOC claims that they run on limited funds for educational programs.

This money from the Inmate Trust Fund should be used to build a complex to provide prisoners with a true & certified vocational trades before and after release. It should be mentioned that the Inmate Trust Fund is run by a Board of Trustees, in which we the prison population have no say or rights.

If DOC wants to make re-entry a priority, they should stop giving I-Overrides for a TC Program that does not provide any educational or vocational learning skills and and replace them with proper training to re-enter society. If you were to do a survey of prisoners who participated in TC Program and prisoners who participated in real educational & vocational training,

I can guarantee we would see a lower recidivism rate among those who got the educational & vocational training.

It is evident that the DOC priority is money as they keep giving I-Overrides to those who refuse TC Program, while educational & vocational programs are optional. As mentioned above, the TC Program enrollment brings money to the DOC while other training does not. If they were truly concerned about prisoners post-release they would give I-Overrides for refusing educational & vocational training instead.

DOC's form of helping to deal with this matter is by providing prisoners with pamphlets listing resources. This method is like giving a person a map to find a specific place. Of course I will refer to the pamphlets as I would the map, but the rest is really up to us.

Another way that DOC could really help prisoners with the transition back to society is to bring back the Work Release Program that were eliminated for reasons unknown to me. And if they were to bring back the Work Release Program they should find jobs that provide true vocational skills for prisoners to become equipped with the proper training for today's work force.

I myself will not submit to the TC Program, I will not take part of a program whose only beneficiary is the DOC, not me. I tell all those inside the belly of the beast, to stop submitting, stop participating in any TC program. Note that DOC has no priority or concerns in this matter. Don't rely on DOC rehabilitative process because if you do it will only keep you contained. The struggle continues.

MIM replies: We don't know much about the programs described above, but we actively support the demand for more educational and training opportunities for prisoners. As the author stated, these are proven means for helping prisoners after release and therefore helping society as a whole. There are tactics that we can use to build a campaign among prisoners and concerned citizens on the outside to push some of the reforms suggested.

At the same time, we encourage those who are concerned with these problems to work to build the Serve the People Prisoner Re-Lease on Life program as well as our Free Books and educational programs for prisoners. The state has the ability to provide various training on a large scale to prisoners. But as we see here, this is a constant battle. And ultimately we must create institutions that can provide the people with what they really need.

The DOC has two main motivating factors: 1) to perform the task of social control, including the suppression of liberation movements, and 2) the meeting of the narrow economic interests of the bureaucracy and prison guard unions. Only institutions by and for the people, free of these narrow interests can really address the concerns expressed in this article.

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