



Under Lock & Key

Español
página 18

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Publication of the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons

Thousands of California Prisoners & Supporters Rally for Weeks

by MIM(Prisons)
July 2011

UPDATE: The article that follows was compiled just before prisoners in Pelican Bay stopped their food strike on July 21, making a deal with CDCR that included the granting of the opportunity for some educational programs, winter hats and wall calendars. Reportedly, the agreement also calls on the CDCR to investigate larger demands around the use of SHU and how people end up there. (5) MIM(Prisons) has not seen the details of the agreement. While our experience of reviews within the department are universally that nothing happens, the leaders of the strike have nonetheless achieved a great victory in uniting prisoners across California and beyond for the just demands of the oppressed. This is a struggle to learn from and build on.

The campaign initiated July 1 by prisoners in Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) against the torturous conditions of long-term isolation has received broad support going on for weeks now. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation [sic] (CDCR) has admitted that 6600 prisoners refused food trays the first week-end of the strike across 13 of their 33 prisons.(1)

Meanwhile, numerous organizations have organized demonstrations and mobilized support across the United States and Kanada leading up to and following the start of the hunger strike. Over seven thousand people have signed an online petition pledging their support. Volunteers with MIM(Prisons) have interacted with thousands of people on the streets inside and outside of California with info on the hunger strike, gathering dozens of signed letters and a handful of donations. Demos big and small seem to be happening almost every day, whether inside California or elsewhere. There have been a number of solidarity noise rallies outside of prisons including in Youngstown, Ohio, at the Cooke County Jail in Chicago, at the Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles, California and a youth facility in Seattle, Washington. On July 18, about 150 rallied outside CDCR headquarters in Sacramento presenting them with over 7,500 petition signatures in support of the prisoners' demands.

According to CDCR 1600 prisoners remained on food strike one week after the start, and 670 remained by July 14. As of July 18, advocates were sure of thousands of prisoners continuing to strike at Pelican Bay SHU and General Population, CCI Tehachapi, Corcoran, Folsom, Calipatria, Centinela, RJ Donovan, San Quentin and Valley State Prison for Women, and still suspect many more participants in other prisons.(2) This increase came from people join-

ing the strike later in the month, in response to the CDCR's weak "proposal."

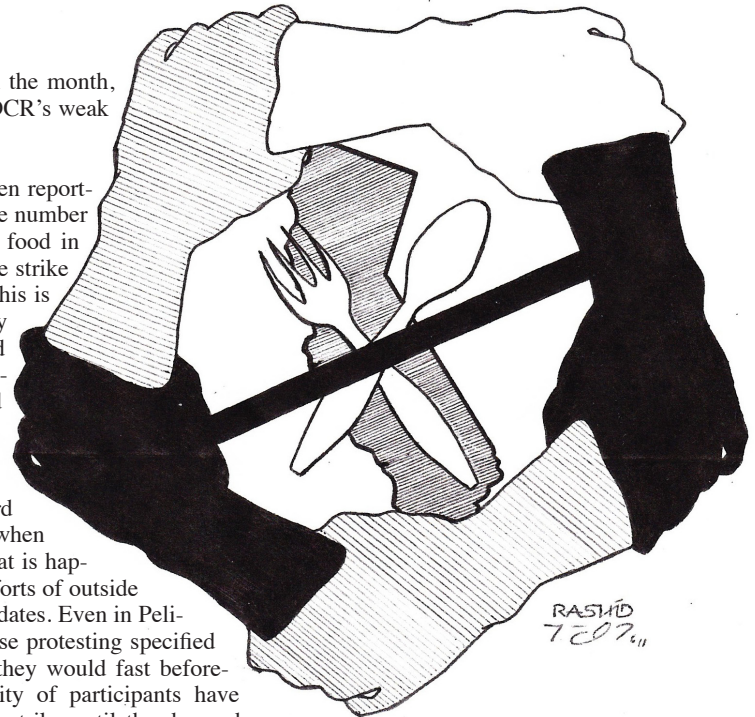
The media has been reporting a sharp drop in the number of prisoners refusing food in a tone that implies the strike is losing steam. But this is hardly the case. Many prisoners we've heard from outside of Pelican Bay only pledged to strike one or two days in solidarity. One reason for this is because it is hard for them to know when the strike ends or what is happening despite the efforts of outside supporters to send updates. Even in Pelican Bay many of those protesting specified the number of days they would fast beforehand. Only a minority of participants have pledged an indefinite strike until the demands are met. The rest of us work in solidarity with them until the end.

Weekly legal visits to people at Pelican Bay have been happening since the beginning and are planned to continue. The prisoner-approved mediation team had contact with strike leaders to negotiate the "offer" from the CDCR, but are no longer being allowed access. So reports from visits and letters are the main lines of communication.

On July 12, reports of prisoners falling into critical condition began circulating, with the CDCR denying it. Many of those who are going for the long haul are older and have spent decades in SHU, so their health is not good to begin with. The report included prisoners being in renal failure, producing no urine for 3 days. In addition, they say many are dehydrated, unable to drink without vomiting.(2) Many arranged to have outside family to be legally responsible for their medical decisions so that they could not be force-fed or medicated as their conditions worsen.

Continued on page 5...

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PBSP SHU D-Corridor Hunger Strike Demands

by a California prisoner
June 2011

Attention: beginning July 1, 2011, several inmates housed indefinitely in PBSP-SHU D-Facility, Corridor Isolation, began an indefinite hunger strike in order to draw attention to, and to peacefully protest, 25 years of torture via CDCR's arbitrary, illegal, and progressively more punitive policies and practices, as summarized in the accompanying "Formal Complaint." PBSP-SHU, D-Facility Corridor inmates' hunger strike protest is to continue indefinitely until the following changes are made:

OUR FIVE CORE DEMANDS:

1. Individual Accountability - This is in response to PBSP's application of "group punishment" as a means to address individual inmates rule violations. This includes the administration's abusive, pretextual use of "safety and concern" to justify what are unnecessary punitive acts. This policy has been applied in the context of justifying indefinite SHU status, and progressively restricting our programming and privileges.

Continued on page 6...

What is Under Lock & Key?

Under Lock & Key (ULK) is the voice of the anti-imperialist movement within prisons in the United States. Fighting the injustice system is just one part of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it is important that comrades not lose sight of the connections to the larger battle. For this reason, in addition to news about prisons and prison struggles, we also publish more general news and analysis important to the anti-imperialist movement. We welcome support and collaboration from those who are focused only on prison issues, but we also challenge them to see the importance of carrying out their work as part of a larger anti-imperialist strategy.

ULK serves as a forum to develop and promote agitational campaigns led by MIM(Prisons) and USW. 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. MIM(Prisons) and its publications explicitly oppose the use of armed struggle at this time in the imperialist countries (including the United States).

ULK is edited and published by MIM(Prisons) and mostly written and illustrated by USW and other United Front organizations behind bars. *ULK* comes out every other month, and is free for U.S. prisoners. For people outside of prison, all issues of *ULK*, plus additional reports from within U.S. prisons, are available on MIM(Prisons)'s website: www.prisoncensorship.info

What is Imperialism?

Imperialism is an economic system that V.I. Lenin defined as "the highest stage of capitalism." It became well pronounced in the early 1900s and is defined by the globalization of capital, the dominance of finance capital and the division of the world into imperialist and exploited nations; Maoists see the latter as the principal contradiction in the world today.

As the economic system that dominates the world, imperialism determines much of the material reality that all inhabitants of planet Earth face today, including war, poverty and environmental destruction. This means that the status quo promoted by imperialist interests is the biggest hindrance to change. As the dominant imperialist power, both financially and militarily, the United States generally serves as the primary target of our attacks as anti-imperialists.

What is the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons?

The Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons, MIM(Prisons), is a cell of revolutionaries serving the oppressed masses inside U.S. prisons. We uphold the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and work from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat.

Imperialism is the number one enemy of the majority of the world's people; we cannot achieve our goal of ending all oppression without overthrowing imperialism. History has shown that the imperialists will wage war before they will allow an end to oppression.

As revolutionary internationalists, we support the self-determination of all nations and peoples. Today, the U.S. prison system is a major part of the imperialist state used to prevent the self-determination of oppressed nations. It is for this reason that we see prisoners in this country as being at the forefront of any anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement. While our organization focuses on prisoner support, we believe that there is a dire need for Maoists to do organizing and educational work in many areas in the United States. We hope some people are inspired by our example around prisons and apply it to their own work to create more Maoist cells and broaden the

Maoist movement behind enemy lines.

MIM(Prisons) distinguishes ourselves from other groups on the six points below. We consider other organizations actively upholding these points to be fraternal.

1. Communism is our goal. Communism is a society where no group has power over any other group.

2. Dictatorship of the proletariat is necessary. In a dictatorship of the proletariat the formerly exploited majority dictates to the minority (who promoted exploitation) how society is to be run. In the case of imperialist nations, a Joint Dictatorship of the Proletariat of the Oppressed Nations (JDPON) must play this role where there is no internal proletariat or significant mass base that favors communism.

3. We promote a united front with all who oppose imperialism. The road to the JDPON over the imperialist nations involves uniting all who can be united against imperialism. We cannot fight imperialism and fight others who are engaged in life-and-death conflicts with imperialism at the same time. Even imperialist nation classes can be allies in the united front under certain conditions.

4. A parasitic class dominates the First World countries. As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM Thought 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 so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy; they are not a vehicle for Maoism. Those who work in the economic interests of the First World labor aristocracy form the mass base for imperialism's tightening death-grip on the Third World.

5. New bourgeoisies will form under socialism. Mao led the charge to expose the bourgeoisie that developed within the communist party in the Soviet Union and the campaign to bombard the headquarters in his own country of China. Those experiences demonstrated the necessity of continuous revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. The class struggle does not end until the state has been abolished and communism is reached.

6. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China was the furthest advancement toward communism in history. We uphold the Soviet Union until the death of Stalin in 1953, followed by the People's Republic of China through 1976, as the best examples of modern socialism in practice. The arrest of the "Gang of Four" in China and the rise of Krushchev in the Soviet Union marked the restoration of capitalism in those countries. Other experiments in developing socialism in the 20th century failed to surpass the Soviet model (ie. Albania), or worse, stayed within the capitalist mode of production, generally due to a failure to break with the Theory of Productive Forces.

What is United Struggle from Within?

United Struggle from Within (USW) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for U.S. prisoners. USW is explicitly anti-imperialist in leading campaigns on behalf of U.S. prisoners in alliance with national liberation struggles in the United States and around the world. USW won't champion struggles which are not in the interests of the international proletariat. USW will also not choose one nation's struggles over other oppressed nations' struggles. USW should work independently, but under the guidance of MIM(Prisons) to build public opinion and independent institutions of the oppressed in order to obtain state power independent of imperialism. Members don't have to agree with MIM(Prisons)'s cardinal points (see above) but they can't consciously disagree with any of them.

United Front for Peace in Prisons—Statement of Principles

The basis of any real unity comes from an agreement on certain key ideas. This statement does not grant authority to any party over any other party. We are mutually accountable to each other to uphold these points in order to remain active participants in this united front.

★ **PEACE:** WE organize to end the needless conflicts and violence within the U.S. prison environment. The oppressors use divide and conquer strategies so that we fight each other instead of them. We will stand together and defend ourselves from oppression.

★ **UNITY:** WE strive to unite with those facing the same struggles as us for our common interests. To maintain unity we have to keep an open line of networking and communication, and ensure we address any situation with true facts. This is needed because of how the pigs utilize tactics such as rumors, snitches and fake communications to divide and keep division among the oppressed. The pigs see the end of their control within our unity.

★ **GROWTH:** WE recognize the importance of education and freedom to grow in order to build real unity. We support members within our organization who leave and embrace other political organizations and concepts that are within the anti-imperialist struggle. Everyone should get in where they fit in. Similarly, we recognize the right of comrades to leave our organization if we fail to live up to the principles and purpose of the United Front for Peace in Prisons.

★ **INTERNATIONALISM:** WE struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people. While we are often referred to as "minorities" in this country, and we often find those who are in the same boat as us opposing us, our confidence in achieving our mission comes from our unity with all oppressed nations who represent the vast majority globally. We cannot liberate ourselves when participating in the oppression of other nations.

★ **INDEPENDENCE:** WE build our own institutions and programs independent of the United States government and all its branches, right down to the local police, because this system does not serve us. By developing independent power through these institutions we do not need to compromise our goals.

How to join the United Front?

- ★ Study and uphold the five principles above.
- ★ Send your organization's name and a statement of unity to MIM(Prisons). Your statement can explain what the united front principles mean to your organization, how they relate to your work, why they are important, etc.
- ★ Develop peace and unity between factions where you are at on the basis of opposing oppression of all prisoners and oppressed people in general.
- ★ Send reports on your progress to *Under Lock & Key*. Did you develop a peace treaty or protocol that is working? Send it in for others to study. Is your unity based on actions? Send us reports on the organizing you are doing.
- ★ Keep educating your members. The more educated your members are, the more unity you can develop, and the stronger your organization can become. Unity comes from the inside out. By uniting internally, we can better unite with others as well. Contact MIM(Prisons) if you need additional materials to educate your members in history, politics and economics.

Building New Groups Vs. Working with USW and MIM(Prisons)

a 2011 Congress Resolution of MIM(Prisons)

See page 9 for more Resolutions from MIM(Prisons)'s 2011 Congress.

We only work to build two organizations at this time: MIM(Prisons) and USW. The only organizing group we run for prisoners is the USW leaders group, and even that is mostly done through *Under Lock & Key* for efficiency and to reach the masses with info on USW work.

We do not think that we, or any other group, serves as the end-all-be-all vanguard organization for North America at this time. There are many roles to be played and more groups to be built. But for security reasons, and this is doubly true in prisons, organizational cells should be primarily location-based. Mass organizations like USW are countrywide because of coordination work through the vanguard organization MIM(Prisons).

Because of security concerns in prisons, and the very stringent restrictions on contact between prisoners, even within the same cell block, MIM(Prisons) encourages those who have unity with our cardinal principles (see page 2) to become USW leaders. We do not recruit prisoners directly into MIM(Prisons) because of the restrictions of the prison system, but we afford these comrades the opportunity to contribute and participate at the level of full comrade in every aspect of organizing work feasible, including encouraging them to help us develop new political line and move forward our organizing strategies.

There are only a few conditions that would merit launching a new prison-based organization:

1. Comrades launching the organization disagree with MIM(Prisons)'s cardinal principles. If you agree with our cardinal principles, why not work with the established group led by MIM(Prisons): USW? If you think you disagree, it is important to clearly articulate the cardinal principles of your new organization if you hope to organize people around common goals.
2. A disagreement with MIM(Prisons)'s policy of not recruiting prisoners into MIM(Prisons) while they are behind bars. These comrades may wish to establish a vanguard organization in their location, whose members are subject to democratic centralism and can focus on cell-based organizing.
3. The case of an LO or other existing mass organization that develops into a revolutionary party and adopts cardinal principles affirming their communist ideology. While we would consider this a very positive development, we caution comrades that this has been tried more than once by the most advanced comrades in an LO, and the limitations of communication with a countrywide group from within prison have always led to insurmountable obstacles in attempts to bring the

whole organization together behind communist principles. Further, we maintain that if the members of such a group are not overwhelmingly supporting a move to communist organizing, the advanced elements would be better to leave the group and join or form another, rather than wrecking the existing group from within. The reason we talk about vanguards versus mass organizations is that there are too many contradictions among the masses for everyone to take the leap of forming a scientific communist organization all at once. Existing groups that take up anti-imperialism play a very valuable role in the United Front without becoming communist organizations, often accomplishing things the communists could not.

4. Comrades who wish to build a new nation-based vanguard. MIM(Prisons) is not a single-nation organization, but we affirm the value of such groups to the revolutionary movement within U.S. borders. However, we caution prisoners looking to form these organizations from scratch that the difficulties in organizing outside of your own prison (or even within your prison when your group is targeted for lock-up in control units, or transfers, and other repression) are significant.

Revolutionary organizations representing different nations, lumpen groups, or regions require self-sufficiency. If comrades trying to launch such organizations continue to fail for lack of resources and support they should be working within USW and MIM(Prisons) on other projects until their conditions change.

USW is a mass organization, and therefore comrades can join USW while maintaining membership in another organization if that organization allows dual membership and that organization does not openly disagree with MIM(Prisons)'s cardinal principles. ★

SAMAEL Signs on to UF for Peace

by a Nevada prisoner
June 2011

I am writing this on behalf of S.A.M.A.E.L, aka "The Ministry". We are a small autonomous revolutionary organization devoted to engaging in, and fomenting, resistance via individual, tribal, direct, and guerilla action in the cultural, social and political milieu. Our ideology is within the ambit of class consciousness and holistic resistance, "each according to will and ability."

We feel the Statement of Principles of the United Front for Peace in Prisons is, in spirit, consistent with our own charter, oaths, and declarations which stress the need for unity in the face of a common enemy and resisting any "doctrines which divide us."

This being said, we accept this unilateral invitation and ratify the Statement of Principles of the United Front for Peace in Prisons in the spirit of solidarity and the advancement of our common goals. ★

Revolutionary Gangstas

Join UF for Peace

by a South Carolina prisoner
June 2011

I'd like to ask that my organization, Revolutionary Gangstas, be listed as an affiliate of the United Front for Peace in Prisons and the USW. I define Gangsta as one who doesn't conform to the rule of society (sheep mentality), one who refuses to be "hoodwinked" or "pickled" by the powers that be. In addition to concepts of Peace, Unity, Growth, Internationalism, and Independence, we incorporate and utilize: Power, Honor, Honesty, Truth, Respect, Control, and Liberty. We strive against obscurantism (opposition to the spread of knowledge), imperialism and capitalism. We strive to educate members of LOs that the purpose of founding of respective LOs was not to fight and kill each other over colors, points on a star, or geographical areas that don't belong to us. We emphasize that as long as LOs suffer from internecine disputes that the real enemy (oppressors) can continue unchecked. The founders (myself and another prisoner) as members of the Gangster Disciples have started by instructing members of that LO to stop engaging in self-destructive behavior and following misguided and unfounded "theories" of what being in a LO means now and get back to original purpose. We put emphasis on education and self-determination. We're accepting of all LO members who can unite under the ideology of all power of all people (oppressed) and sacrifice selfish desires for the benefit of the whole. ★

BORO Calls on Leaders of Lumpen Orgs to Step Up

by a Crown Prince of Black Order Revolutionary Organization
July 2011

Within the Black Order Revolutionary Organization we educate to create real meaningful change. The old saying says "action makes the front." But to take this analysis a step further, "bold, intelligent, revolutionary actions make the front." The war is real and it's a war that is physical as well as psychological and educational. The imperialist strives to physically as well as psychologically dominate, subjugate, manipulate and control the masses in prison and out of prison by creating and engineering social conditions that fit their agenda. The enemy of humanity understands the driving force behind action is man's mental orientation. So if they control our mental atmosphere and mental appetites they will control our social behavior. This is the reason why we as front line Askaris must always understand our greatest weapon is a correct analysis of concrete conditions as we strive to crush imperialism/colonialism in its total. To do that the Askari must keep his/her mind sharp.

Comradez, I've been on lock down in a federal SMU program since 2008. Since the fedz closed Marion max the fedz have created

Continued on next page...

National Liberation Revolution of Oppressed Persons Signs UF for Peace

by a Tennessee prisoner
June 2011

Myself and others have founded the National Liberation Revolution of Oppressed Persons (NLROP), to educate and liberate the oppressed and disenfranchised. Furthermore, to end the suffrage and disparagement of formerly incarcerated persons who are never truly free or relieved of their debt to society, constantly being subjected to various civil and humanitarian rights violations - "The New Jim Crow." We fully support the United Front for Peace in Prisons, and the principles thereof as proclaimed by

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...Step Up

the same lockdown scheme with the Special Management Units (SMU). It continues to be for the express purpose of controlling outlaw/anti-authoritarian revolutionary conduct. Every organizational structure across amerika can be found held within the lockdown yet there is no meaningful dialogue between parties, groups or organizations to effect meaningful change.

The project for peace in prison is a foundation laid so that inter-organization/multi-organizational communication can begin. But for the project for peace to work we need the leaders and spokesmen for these street and/or progressive organizations to accept the peace project. In a lot of these organizations, directions flow down the chain of command. The Latin King wrote in [to ULK] about Kingism, which was good. But he is only one man and cannot make an organizational commitment to accept the peace in prison project. That must come from Lord Gino, their crown. So I am calling on all leaders nationally from the Crips, Bloods, Vice Lords, Latin Kings, Mighty Mighty Black Nation, G.D.s, and all those in between to unite in principle and contribute to our collective struggles. T-fly, Bay Bay, Minister RKO for the Vice Lords where y'all at? G.D. Crusher holler at us brotha, Crown Prince AB for the MMBN, OG Mojo New York Damuz and all the other unmentioned men and women that have a voice in their organizational community, let's squad up so that the peace in prisons project can be real and used as a weapon.

MIM(Prisons) replies: We echo this call to those in leadership positions to represent what so many of the LOs already have in their bylaws and histories. But we want to reach all potential comrades with the message of the United Front for Peace in Prisons, from the capo to the pee wee on the street. While some of the leaders mentioned above could have a quick impact, we've learned from the past the short-comings of LOs whose leadership went radical, but the soldiers only followed the leader and never embraced the movement. It is not sustainable. Slowly recruiting a hundred local chapters or representatives to sign on to the Statement of Principles (see page 2) will mean more in the end. And building solidarity between organizations around common struggles at each locality is how we can build real peace. In many places this is already happening. ★

MIM(Prisons). The NLROP also fully supports the Prisoners' Bill of Rights as proclaimed by Incarcerated Citizens Coalition, the internal chapter of the Human Rights Coalition.

I have discussed the principles of UF for Peace with our members, and as Chairman I speak on behalf of the NLROP and do confirm our signing and full support of the United Front for Peace, and the principles thereof.

A committee of seven members from different affiliations is currently being constructed to oversee day-to-day operations in and outside of prison. Our first newsletter magazine is scheduled for production and release October 2011.

The NLROP is currently comprised primarily of incarcerated and affiliated persons within Tennessee prison colonies. However we do not limit ourselves or pose any restrictions on expansion, and welcome with open arms those who are committed to the cause and agree with our guidelines and/or principles internally, and that which we agree to as a whole, externally.

The reason UF principles are important to us as a movement is that they transcend those principles and guidelines that we already follow and believe in, and expound on such in a very clear and concise manner. ★

United Front for Peace

by an Oklahoma prisoner
July 2011

Fuck the hatred
It's time for changes
To free this world from the oppressor
It's time for us to make some better arrangements
In order to make our lives better
Revolution's the lesson
Not oppression as a profession
Anti-imperialist
Being groomed for a new session
Educate each other
As we're one within this struggle
United in this Front for Peace
Because Revolution is on the bubble
★★★

Guerilla Mafia Family Supports UF for Peace

by a Federal prisoner
June 2011

As an Urban Guerilla caught in this Babylonian country I speak for my organization as a whole for we neither seek nor do we see division, for every member is a reflection of GMF, as GMF is a reflection of us. We are a new org that is on the up and coming in this imperialist state. We stand on our ideology which is the 7 points of our crown - love, strength, unity, honor, truth, loyalty and sacrifice. For love for what we do gives us the strength to unite in unity as one body, one family, one nucleus. As we battle whole-heartedly in the struggle for peace, we see no prejudice except to the government of which persecutes our people and our allies. We are the voice of the voiceless, and the ear for those who scream to be heard as they fight for advancement in this oppressive world.

Our motto is:

Look for us and you cannot see us
listen for us and you cannot hear us
feel for us and you cannot touch us...
these are the characteristics of urban guerillas

We say this because we are the force behind the people! Know this and understand this. The Guerilla Mafia Family is signed on to the UF for Peace for your struggle is our struggle. ★

New Man Corp Supports UF for Peace and Freedom

by a Maryland prisoner
May 2011

While reading the latest issue of ULK I noticed the topic on Peace and Unity. As a member of the New Man Corp., it's my obligation to want to contribute to productive activity and liberation from what ignorance has bound me to. This is why I encourage all my comrades to work towards true freedom, and also to work

Continued on page 20...

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.\$. citizens are criminals -- accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.\$. oppression globally until the day U.\$. imperialism is overcome. All U.\$. 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.

...Continued from page 1 **...Rally for Weeks**

Three weeks into the California Food Strike the CDCR has given its official response, which can be summed up as "we'll look into it." On July 15, the CDCR proposed that Pelican Bay strikers end the strike, but offered no changes in return. The prisoners declined the offer and continued to fast, calling it "smoke and mirrors" and "insulting."⁽³⁾ These guys are willing to die for basic rights they've been denied for years, decades for many, and CDCR comes to the table with nothing.

Our inquiries received similar canned responses from the Warden about "operating in full accordance to [all] law... while providing for the ethical, humane treatment of all prisoners." Even more outrageously, he claims they provide "the ability to safely program and actively participate in their rehabilitation." The strike is on because there are no programs or rehabilitation!

Those in close contact with the striking prisoners report that some in Pelican Bay who had stopped fasting have returned to the strike in response to the CDCR's negligence.⁽³⁾ We've also received word from 4 comrades in the California Institution for Men in Chino that they have just begun a hunger strike in solidarity after getting news from MIM(Prisons). They aren't the only ones who staggered their participation, as Ad-Seg Unit A1 in Pelican Bay reported to start their strike on July 8. Spontaneous responses as more prisoners hear about the strike, combined with strategic timing by those who have been planning this for some time combine to ensure that the hunger strike is long-lived.

We've seen the ripples of this campaign in our own work as we connect with many new people in California and reconnect with people who we have been cut off from by the state. We've also seen record traffic on our website with the hunger strike campaign page and the article featuring the prisoners' demands bringing in a lot of hits. This increase in readership is a direct result of the organizing of prisoners in California. However we must admit that a good chunk of the traffic is coming from state officials trying to gather intelligence from our reporting.

Donations we've collected so far are less than a tenth of the printing and postage expenses for outreach, mailing protest letters and sending com-



munications to prisoners in California. As always, we can use donations of money and labor to keep up with this important work.

Building Support

The hunger strike comes almost a year and a half after a formal complaint was filed with the governor of California regarding the torture and violation of Constitutional rights that prisoners face in Pelican Bay. After being ignored by official channels, they turned to outside supporters who

came together and organized a press campaign and negotiation support. There was enough lead time that MIM(Prisons) was able to send campaign info to all of our California subscribers prior to the strike. We also hit the streets to gather signed letters of support and explain to people the importance of this struggle leading up to the strike.

A rally in San Francisco in June against the drug war, photographed above, featured the Pelican Bay prisoners' demands prominently. A comrade representing MIM(Prisons) spoke on the upcoming hunger strike, stressing that Pelican Bay was developed as a tool to repress political organizing in the California prison system and that those being targeted with indefinite SHU terms are largely leaders and influential people among the imprisoned oppressed nations. A former California prisoner also spoke about the torturous conditions in Pelican Bay, urging people to support the hunger strike.

During the march, supporters of the "Revolutionary Communist Party - USA" (rcp=u\$a) were chanting, "Once we have the revolution, there'll be no mass incarceration!" Even on a simple issue like opposing torture in prisons, rcp=u\$a's idealist/ chauvinist colors showed through. Which revolution are they talking about? As we point out in every issue of *Under Lock & Key*, all Amerikans should be viewed as criminals who need to reform under the dictatorship of the proletariat. When the revolution finally hits U.S. soil there will likely be an increase in incarceration of U.S. citizens, as the majority of the world experiences freedom they have not seen for centuries. The difference is that proletarian prisons focus on reform and reintegration into society not torture and isolation as the imperialist system does.

The Campaign Continues

Please stop any abuses that are going on inside the prison complex.

- Oakland, CA

Stop locking up prisoners who need other kinds of help (drug, etc.) P.S. Wasting my tax dollars 4 real!

- Berkeley, CA

P.S. U.S. signed the Convention Against Torture. It has been ratified. It is the law of the land. Please do not violate our laws! Thanks.

- Richmond, CA

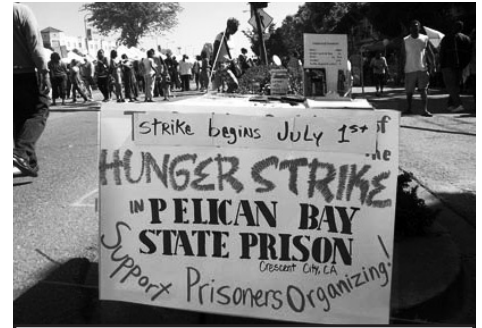
Please attend to this!!! NOW!

- Oakland, CA

I just don't understand how people in this day & time are still so devilish, when they got power & it's a very fucked up feeling because we are human beings & you all treat us like shit!

-Oakland, CA

These are some notes from outside supporters from the dozens of letters we've sent to Warden Greg Lewis, CDCR Internal Affairs and the CDCR Office of the Ombudsman. The California cities of Hercules, San Francisco, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Stockton, Napa, Chula Vista and Vacaville were also represented and supporters have forwarded letters they wrote from as far as British Columbia, Canada. ★



Comrades spread word of the then-upcoming strike at a Juneteenth festival celebrating the struggle of the Black nation for freedom in Amerika.

Once the strike began, MIM(Prisons) stepped up efforts to reach the public about the sacrifices and struggles of our comrades in prison. While comrades were able to reach visitors coming to CDCR prisons with fliers and letters of support, repression was reported from a few public spaces inside and outside California. In one case police forced comrades to leave for accepting donations without registering with the state, in others merely handing out fliers on public property got shut down. One police officer claimed that activists could not set up a table on a public sidewalk to solicit support for the strike, contradicting California laws and illegally shutting down our free speech. There are contradictions in a state that locks 100,000 of its citizens in isolation cells and prevents people from distributing leaflets in public space to support their struggle against torture. Their repression only strengthens resistance, and this campaign is a prime example of that. It is ludicrous to consider the label "free country" for a country that does not even provide equal access to political dialogue to all people.

In addition to talking to people on the street, comrades made efforts to reach people through independent media and art. MIM(Prisons) hosted a video clip on its website from the documentary *Unlock the Box* explaining the history of control units and how they were developed to repress those whose politics were in opposition to the state. Comrades also did outreach at hip hop shows and talked to a revolutionary Chicano group called BRWN BFLO who pledged active support to spreading the word about the hunger strike. Allies in the United States and Kanada hosted screenings of *Unlock the Box* as part of the campaign. Other organizations did interviews and programs on various radio shows.

Other recently received reports include that United Struggle from Within organized comrades in Kern Valley State Prison for a 24 hour food strike in solidarity. In High Desert State Prison, where the pigs were serving double the normal amount of food to prevent a hunger strike, a number of comrades didn't eat from July 1 thru 3. Whole sections of California State Prison - Corcoran are still on strike, demanding the same privileges as Pelican Bay prisoners and doctors are coming in regularly to weigh the prisoners. Supporters also report 70 new people at Corcoran have joined the strike in week 3, and prisoners at Pleasant Valley are planning to join the strike on July 25.

Those doing outreach on the streets reported many interactions with people who had been in Pelican Bay State Prison, in some cases multiple people in the span of a couple hours. All strong-

Continued on page 8...

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...Core Demands

2. Abolish the Debriefing Policy, and Modify Active/Inactive Gang Status Criteria - the debriefing policy is illegal and redundant, as pointed out in the Formal Complaint [IV-A, p. 7]. The Active/Inactive gang status criteria must be modified in order to comply with state law and applicable CDCR rule and regulations [eg, see Formal Complaint, p. 7, IV-B] as follows:

- Cease the use of innocuous association to deny inactive status,
- Cease the use of informant/debriefer allegations of illegal gang activity to deny inactive status, unless such allegations are also supported by factual corroborating evidence, in which case CDCR-PBSP staff shall and must follow the regulations by issuing a rule violation report and affording the inmate his due process required by law.

3. Comply with US Commission 2006 Recommendations Regarding an End to Long-Term Solitary Confinement - CDCR shall implement the findings and recommendations of the US commission on safety and abuse in America's prisons final 2006 report regarding CDCR SHU facilities as follows:

- End Conditions of Isolation (p. 14) Ensure that prisoners in SHU and Ad-Seg (Administrative Segregation) have regular meaningful contact and freedom from extreme physical deprivations that are known to cause lasting harm. (pp. 52-57)
- Make Segregation a Last Resort (p. 14). Create a more productive form of confinement in the areas of allowing inmates in SHU and Ad-Seg [Administrative Segregation] the opportunity to engage in meaningful self-help treatment, work, education, religious, and other productive activities relating to having a sense of being a part of the community.
- End Long-Term Solitary Confinement. Release inmates to general prison population who have been warehoused indefinitely in SHU for the last 10 to 40 years (and counting).

Provide SHU Inmates Immediate Meaningful Access to:

- Adequate natural sunlight
- Quality health care and treatment, including the mandate of transferring all PBSP-SHU inmates with chronic health care problems to the New Folsom Medical SHU facility.

4. Provide Adequate Food - cease the practice of denying adequate food, and provide wholesome nutritional meals including special diet meals, and allow inmates to purchase additional vitamin supplements.

- PBSP staff must cease their use of food as a tool to punish SHU inmates.
- Provide a sergeant/lieutenant to independently observe the serving of each meal, and ensure each tray has the complete issue of food on it.
- Feed the inmates whose job it is to serve SHU meals with meals that are separate from the pans of food sent from kitchen for SHU meals.

5. Expand and Provide Constructive Programming and Privileges for Indefinite SHU Status Inmates. Examples include:

- Expand visiting regarding amount of time and adding one day per week.
- Allow one photo per year.
- Allow a weekly phone call.
- Allow Two (2) annual packages per year. A 30 lb. package based on "item" weight and not packaging and box weight.
- Expand canteen and package items allowed. Allow us to have the items in their original packaging [the cost for cosmetics, stationary, envelopes, should not count towards the max draw limit]
- More TV channels.
- Allow TV/Radio combinations, or TV and small battery operated radio
- Allow Hobby Craft Items - art paper, colored pens, small pieces of colored pencils, watercolors, chalk, etc.
- Allow sweat suits and watch caps.
- Allow wall calendars.
- Install pull-up/dip bars on SHU yards.
- Allow correspondence courses that require proctored exams. ★

On Anti-Strike Propaganda

by Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons)
July 2011

"Solitary confinement is not something that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations engages in," according to CDCR Spokesperson Terry Thorton.(1) According to our surveys, California has around 14,444 people in Control Units, defined as "permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners." This is more people than any other state.

Thorton claims that prisoners in Pelican Bay State Prison's Security Housing Unit (SHU) have access to cable TV, books, yard time, the law library, weekly visits with family, and correspondence courses.

Yes, it is true that prisoners can occasionally receive books through the mail, as long as they aren't by or about Blacks or Mexicans. If you're not in SHU yet, such books might be used to validate you as a gang member and throw you in SHU on an indeterminate sentence. Otherwise they are often just censored as "gang material."

Correspondence courses are occasionally allowed, too. But we've confirmed 35 incidents of study materials from a MIM(Prisons) correspondence course being censored in California, 15 of which were at Pelican Bay. We've also been told that a radio show that broadcasts to Pelican Bay was shut down there after broadcasting a correspondence course on a show popular among prisoners.

Interaction with family, inmates and staff is greatly exaggerated by Thorton. We've known comrades whose only physical contact with

Pelican Bay Prisoner Joins Hunger Strike to Protest Sensory Deprivation

by a California prisoner
June 2011

On June 21 I received the [Hunger Strike] campaign update and I do truly admire your organization attempting to liberate not only confined prisoners but all oppressed people within the nation. Thank you!

Tomorrow, on July 1, I will most definitely be participating in the mass hunger strike here in Pelican Bay State Prison. I'm under lock and key isolated in administrative segregation awaiting transfer to Corcoran SHU for over 17 months now, and this inhumane, dehumanizing and repressive treatment of these control unit prisoners must come to an end. I am tired of being targeted and psychologically tortured in solitary confinement, which causes severe mental harm to the point of having conversations with myself. This is a form of sensory deprivation and must stop immediately.

Another reason why I will be protesting along with the SHU prisoners is because here in CDCR there are no simple programs such as tattoo removal programs. Some prisoners like myself were incarcerated as juveniles and tried as adults, and we made mistakes by putting tattoos on our bodies. So by attempting to truly rehabilitate myself I want all my tattoos removed. As a prisoner I should have access to programs like this. It makes me question, does California Department of Corrections deserve the title of "rehabilitation?"

MIM(Prisons) responds: There's no question about it, they do not deserve the title "Rehabilitation" which was added years ago without any change in their practice or policies to justify the term. Former prisoners who spent years in these isolation cells can attest to that. The lucky ones have family or find organizations with the resources to support them. But too many are stuck in destructive cycles. Meanwhile, there is a criminal mentality that penetrates the whole populace in the United States based in capitalist individualism. It is up to revolutionaries to develop independent institutions that can truly address the rehabilitation needs of the oppressed lumpen who have more interest in revolutionary change than most Americans who sit idly by while hundreds of thousands of people are tortured in their country. ★

another humyn being for many years has been guards putting cuffs on their wrists. And while Thorton makes family visits out to be a regular thing, the distance to Crescent City, California for most families is the first barrier that makes visits rare at best. One family member who spoke with MIM(Prisons) at a table while we did outreach in support of the strike described how they went to visit their brother at Pelican Bay once and had to talk through a TV screen. They have not gone back since. Others who visit Pelican Bay talk about how their freedom of association is limited just as the prisoners' is. If they are seen speaking to the wrong persyn (an-

Continued on page 8

Prisoner in CSP-Sacramento Calls on Warden to Address Hunger Strike Demands

by a California prisoner
June 2011

Dear Warden Lewis [Pelican Bay State Prison, P.O. Box 7000, Crescent City, CA 95531-7000],

I'm writing to express my concerns for the inhuman treatment being inflicted on these disciplinary-free prisoners housed at Pelican Bay State Prison's short-corridor Group D. The conditions there must change because of the nature of the situation. Please allow these people room to have phone calls, send pictures to their loved ones, etc. If we have no respect for the U.S. Constitution how shall I, as a free man one day, respect or honor the rights of others, after witnessing these wrong doings? I'm facing a real challenge when I return to society September 16, 2011. If we continue to strive to solve problems we must begin in our community and this is one of the largest communities I've ever been a part of and I believe that the strike on July 1, 2011 will begin the process for a collective change as one unity.

I have faith you will resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

[a prisoner in California State Prison - Sacramento]

I will strike with these men in unity. ★

Self-help Advocacy Group Supports Pelican Bay Hunger Strikers

by a California prisoner
June 2011

Below is an excerpt of a letter that was sent along with a resource packet to the Pelican Bay Warden and Pelican Bay Institutional Gang Investigations.

Greetings from *The Yard*. I am a prisoner that is providing a service to my incarcerated peers. I provide resources for self-help programs, rehab, housing and career info. It is my understanding that inmates in the SHU corridor are going to strike due to certain demands that they are asking for.

One demand that interested me was the opportunity to receive self-help and religious materials. I feel that *The Yard* can meet that demand. I have put together a self-help and religious resource packet that can be given to an inmate requesting self-help, religious or parole resources. All of these programs can be utilized by an inmate through the mail without any type of facilitator or supervision... The resource packet includes an application for parole resources. SHU inmates most likely do not have access to these resources. They can send these applications to *The Yard* and dedicated peers involved themselves in self-help programs will fill them out and send them back. *The Yard* has an ever-growing data bank of up to date resources for all of California. ★

Phoney Gang Debate to Discredit Strike Support

by Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons)
July 2011

The CDCR is trying to blame the organizing of the statewide food strike in California prisons on gangs. Meanwhile, the liberal line being put forth in the bourgeois media is that activists dismiss such accusations. Somehow prisoners across California, and even those transferred out of state, participated in solidarity with the food strike on July 1. We know that MIM(Prisons) was one of many organizations with newsletters that contributed to spreading the word, but none of us initiated or did the groundwork to ensure the effectiveness of this campaign. CDCR Spokesperson Terry Thorton tried to explain this as an indication of "the reach and the influence that prison gangs have on other inmates." She went on to say, "It's one of the reasons we have a Security Housing Unit, to remove gang members influence on other general population inmates."(1)

The media is juxtaposing the pigs' assertions about gang leadership to the denials of activists to paint strike supporters as idealistic know-nothings. The prison bureaucrats make careers out of being experts on gangs and criminology, and they rely on the public to trust in their expertise to keep them "safe."

In reality, this pseudo-debate being played out in the media is painting an idealistic view of prison society that ignores history. The pigs know that groups allied to the Black Panthers and other national liberation movements used to lead the prison masses. They know because they broke that up, partly by using long-term isolation, and they encouraged oppressed nation groups with more criminal tendencies to develop with bribery and by turning a blind eye. Now they condemn the monsters they created to justify more repression.

The line MIM(Prisons) has been pushing since before the hunger strike began is in defense of the First Amendment right to association. While countless people have been placed into gangs they've never even heard of by state officials in California, there are many in the SHU who are not trying to fool anyone into thinking that they aren't members of a lumpen organization considered an enemy of the CDCR. This is evident in the statements of the strike leaders which talk about uniting all "races," including "northern" and "southern" Mexicans. Aztlan is one oppressed nation that the pigs have helped draw a line through by promoting criminal organizations that must compete. It is only the fascist conditions within California prisons that prevents prisoners from even being able to speak of their organizational ties.

When we say there are comrades in Pelican Bay SHU who are respected leaders of lumpen organizations, there is no criticism implied there. Some of those comrades have worked tirelessly to orchestrate a Peace Accord between the major divisions within the California prison population, among many other positive projects for their people, including the current cam-

paign. The lie that is promoted by the "tough on crime" bourgeois media is that to be a member of a lumpen organization you must be an evil person. Just like they did for Tookie, there is no redemption for the lumpen under imperialism, even when they do more than anyone around them to change the world for the better.

Central to the demands of the striking prisoners is that the state cannot claim to abide by its own rules while it punishes people using secret evidence and petty charges like who they talk to or get mail from, what books they read or tattoos they have. The bureaucrats hide behind the presumed neutrality of the bourgeois courts to defend the torture they put these prisoners through.

The striking comrades are some of the individual oppressed nationals that the imperialists find the most threatening within their own borders. That is why they are being tortured in long-term isolation. Yet, by all indications, the state is going to let these brothers die rather than grant them Constitutional rights to association.

The oppressed nations are free to organize in this country, as long as it's on the Americans' terms. If not, then even talking about such organizations will get prisoners thrown in long-term isolation and will get supporters on the streets censored. ★

Notes:

1. *On the Block Radio*. July 14, 2011.

Tehachapi SHU Prisoner Supports PBSP Hunger Strike

by a California prisoner
June 2011

This letter is in response to the Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) hunger strike. First I'd like to say thank you for not only your ongoing support for us prisoners but also your truthfulness of viewing the facts of the matter. I have passed on the info you mailed me. I have spread the word of actions being taken by prisoners at PBSP-SHU. I can not say for sure how many will join this protest. However I can speak for myself and I find one must be willing to lead and/or follow with common sense to ensure change. For only by us prisoners making a stand - not allowing this injustice to pass - can we stop it. ★

Pelican Bay Strike Support from CSP-Sacramento

by a California prisoner
June 2011

Today I received the campaign update and the strike flyer with example letter on back. I'm writing to inform you that I will be lending my support, by sending two letters. One to the Internal Affairs CDCR office [10111 Old Placerville Rd, Ste 200, Sacramento, CA 95827], and the other to the Ombudsman [1515 S Street, Room 540 North, Sacramento, CA 95811]. ★

SHU is War on Aztlán

by cipactli of United Struggle from Within
July 2011

[Editor's note: We want to remind our readers that USW is open to anti-imperialist prisoners of all nationalities, just as the strike is being led by prisoners of all nationalities. MIM(Prisons) agrees with the line put forth here, because it is by building movements for national liberation against imperialism that we can best conquer the oppressive system we currently live in. Any genuine national liberation movement supports the liberation of all people. We want to be clear about this because there have been reports of the CDCR attempting to fuel divisions among the prisoners on strike along long-standing organizational and national divisions as they always do.]

I wanted to write and send a brief update on the conditions here in Pelican Bay coming from one of the participants of the hunger strike (HS) that began two weeks ago, on July 1 of 2011. I figured the historic precedent that the HS has accomplished thus far is worth noting, as the cause of the non-violent protest is one in which many people find themselves in across Amerika. The

Continued on page 13...

...Continued from page 5 **...Rally for Weeks**

ly agreed with our criticisms of the conditions there. However, some people concluded that there was nothing that could be done, and that oppressed nations will always be treated this way.

There is a common attitude among current prisoners as well that struggling is useless. The SHU was invented to reinforce that idea. The best way to change those people's minds is by showing them the possibilities. We do that by fighting smartly, as these comrades in Pelican Bay have done resulting in people all over the world knowing about their fight. Serious, diligent organizing work is needed in our struggles for liberation, and basic rights such as the right of association, communication with the outside world and access to educational materials and programs. There are no quick fixes, so this is only the beginning. ★

Notes:

1. KPFA Morning News. 6 July 2011.
2. <http://julie-tackett.blogspot.com/2011/07/hes-dying.html>
3. California Prison Focus

...Continued from page 6 **...Anti-Strike Prop**

other visitor) while going on visit they can be restricted or banned from coming back.

Thorton described "the two ways" one can get into SHU in California, painting prisoners as either violent attackers or mob bosses running organized crime. Yet, as those who were there when Pelican Bay was being conceived can attest, it was built in response to those who dared to organize and stand up for their rights as the thousands of prisoners who went on food strike across California have done. As prisoners continue to organize and move in a positive

MIM(Prisons) 2011 Congress Summary

by MIM(Prisons)
July 2011

MIM(Prisons) held a congress in June where we addressed some important theoretical and practical questions for our organizing. We began congress with some study and discussion on the principal contradiction as applied to our work fighting the criminal injustice system. This discussion led to some clarifications and unity as well as an agreement to do more study to develop a position paper on this subject. The congress itself was left with the unifying understanding that the principal task overall is to create public opinion and independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power. All congress discussion strove to apply this principal task.

A discussion of finances and goals led to a re-affirmation that *Under Lock & Key* is our most important organizing tool. That thought informed discussions about potentially expanding the size and frequency of *ULK* and tradeoffs with producing and/or mailing other revolutionary literature into prisoners. With limited time and money, it's important that we make the best use of our resources by carefully considering these decisions.

We changed the distribution policy for *ULK* this year, sending new people only one sample issue before removing them from the mailing list if we do not hear back from them saying that they want to stay on. This led to an artificial drop in people on our mailing list, and our theory at the time of developing this new policy was that these people were mostly not receiving *ULK* and/or not interested in it. However, we've had a decline in the rate of new subscribers in the past year that we think might be associated with this changed policy. To test out this theory, we will be re-instating the policy of allowing all people to stay on our mailing list for 6 months before they get cut off if we have not heard from them.

On the positive side, we have had a big increase in regular writers, and the folks contributing solid, high quality articles and art to *Under Lock & Key* has gone up. We have also become more selective about which articles/letters get typed for posting on the website and consideration for inclusion in *ULK*. With an excess of good potential articles, we are focusing on the best submissions and trying to work with writers to improve their articles and writing skills when we don't accept something for publication. We are not as strong in this second area as we would like; more should be done to send comrades responses to their article submissions when they are not making the cut for print. We also need to give people more guidance about what we are and are not looking for to print.

and united direction, it will become harder and harder for the state to paint the organizations of the oppressed as enemies that deserve any torture or punishment they receive. ★

Notes:

1. *On the Block Radio*. July 14, 2011.

Although MIM(Prisons) focuses on work with prisoners, we know that in order to build public opinion we must also reach people on the outside. Our main tool for this work is our website www.prisoncensorship.info, which was relaunched in January 2011 with a new look and added features to bring in more readers. Our web traffic doubled in the past year and we are seeing a very strong growth in interest in our on-line work. To this end we are going to do some web-based outreach to continue to expand the voices of our comrades behind bars. This will include putting the many art submissions we receive but can't fit into *ULK* online for people to see.

Anti-Censorship and PLC

Since our winter congress, we have been focusing our anti-censorship efforts on trying to recruit lawyers on the outside to help us take some select prison administrations to court. This is a slow-going process, and we recently decided to refocus back on writing directly to administrators on behalf of prisoners who can't receive mail from us. This has proven to be a fruitful investment in the past, leading to both victories over censorship, and recruiting new comrades to work with MIM(Prisons) and the United Struggle from Within.

In other legal work, many of you know that MIM(Prisons) facilitates a Prisoners' Legal Clinic (PLC), picking up a project that MIM used to run. This incarnation has been going since November 2009 and has strayed from its original path of working on issues that are intimately related to our anti-imperialist struggle, and had degraded into a more broad legal strategy discussion group with contributors showing limited initiative to pick up tasks outlined by MIM(Prisons). In upcoming PLC mailings we will be refocusing on our goals and tasks, and referring comrades out for general legal discussion. A PLC mailing went out in June 2011, so PLC contributors should let us know if they haven't gotten theirs yet.

MIM(Prisons)-led Study Groups

Last year we separated our introductory study course into two different levels. The first level is short (only two assignments) and studies two articles written by MIM(Prisons). The second level studies more advanced material and lasts much longer (about one year). We have recently recruited advanced USW members as study group responders, which helps relieve MIM(Prisons) to do other work that can only be done by someone on the outside, and is a great task for someone to do who can't run a study group where they're at due to isolation restrictions. We encourage all prisoners, advanced or beginner, to get together and study revolutionary material. You will get so much more out of it than if you just read something once by yourself! See page 12 for more on starting a study group inside.

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2011 Congress Resolutions

See page 3 for our Resolution on Building New Groups Vs. Working with USW and MIM(Prisons).

Policy on Prisoner-to-Prisoner Correspondence

MIM(Prisons) provides *Under Lock & Key* as a general forum for public discussion of developments within the prison movement.

MIM(Prisons) provides small group forums for specific projects, involving those prisoners who have done work on, or have a special interest in said project. The principle example of this is the ULK Writers group. But our ability to run such groups is limited.

We do not want to hold the key to all work being done in the anti-imperialist prison movement, because this is not good leadership. Good comrades are rare, so it is in our interest that prisoners develop independent networks of communication with those they want to build with. This is also a positive thing in the case that MIM(Prisons) may be repressed or somehow put to an end.

With this in mind, the following is our policy for facilitating such developments without violating the role and purpose of MIM(Prisons) or jeopardizing the greater movement:

1. If comrades have outside addresses or are allowed to correspond with other prisoners we will forward their info to another prisoner per request of the persyn whose info is being sent ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. We will make the determination to do this based on the political value of aiding this connection, with careful consideration to the time and money this costs our very resource-limited program. Every piece of mail we send is less stamps and time we have available to send something else.
2. Comrades who have demonstrated a certain level of ideological unity with MIM(Prisons) may be assigned as theoretical corresponders. They will be sent correspondence from other comrades through us for response. The response will either be printed in *ULK* or sent privately to the original writer. In either case, neither persyn's identity is revealed to the other.

These assignments are to expand the work of MIM(Prisons), and primarily to improve the depth and breadth of our correspondence. Secondly, this is an important way for our comrades in prison to develop their political line and debate skills, especially those who are in isolation.
3. We will not serve as a dropbox for third party correspondence. Not only does this set us up for censorship, it takes up limited resources. Theoretical struggle between those not up-

holding MIM line should be able to be conducted through *ULK* or within MIM(Prisons)-led study groups. When necessary, one-on-one correspondence with recruits will be assigned to a comrade in MIM(Prisons) or a theoretically advanced USW leader. ★

On Relations with Prison-Based Organizations

MIM(Prisons) frequently receives statements of support and principles, as well as other contributions of work, from representatives of LOs and other groups that span states. Many of these individuals want their organization name printed with their article. We will always do our best to confirm that those submitting statements can speak for their organizations before we print them in *Under Lock & Key* or on the web. Part of this process involves observing good consistent work from that organization over a period of time. But we know that there are often organizations that span multiple locations where different political lines arise in different sections of that group. MIM(Prisons) cannot pick representatives for an organization or help with correspondence to get these groups better aligned (beyond what we already do via *ULK*). Due to the limitations of organizing from behind-bars, we encourage political LOs to consider dividing into location-based cells to ensure each group correctly represents the political line of its members.

For those groups whose material we do print or review, contact info will be printed in *ULK* when available. The only organizations you can contact via our address are MIM(Prisons) and USW. You may also send United Front for Peace related correspondence to MIM(Prisons). Mail addressed to other organizations but sent to MIM(Prisons) will not be forwarded or returned. ★

July 2011 Censorship Report

by Legal Coordinator of MIM(Prisons)
July 2011

We rely on information directly from prisoners and returned mail to track our censorship. For the 2011 reporting year, only 72% of all mail was not reported as censored or received. This is a big improvement from last year's 83% unreported mail status. We see two causes for this change. One is that we stopped giving everyone who wrote to us automatic 6 month subscriptions, and instead required confirmation of receipt (or censorship) of a sample issue of *Under Lock & Key* first. This not only reduced the amount of mail we sent in by 30% from last year, but pushed those who wanted *Under Lock & Key* to confirm receipt of the sample issue, doubling the amount of people reporting receiving *ULK*.

Another contributing factor to the high reporting rate is the institution of Unconfirmed Mail Forms, which is a short form we send out to encourage individuals to report the mail

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...Summary

More advanced study group participants have created a number of study guides over the last year, and comrades are actively working to build the MIM(Prisons) glossary, which should be available for distribution in the next year. Study group coordinators have worked to improve structure and set clear schedules and expectations at all levels over the last year.

United Struggle from Within

Of the hundreds of new people we've had requesting to be put on our mailing list in the last year, 50% of them were recruited by people with various levels of activity within United Struggle from Within (USW); 32% wrote in because they had seen some MIM or MIM(Prisons) literature, and 17% were referred by resource guides or non-prisoners, such as lawyers or family members on the outside. This shows that the USW is successfully completing the task of multiplying subscribers to *Under Lock & Key* as outlined in the USW Intro Letter and the Second Introductory Letter About MIM(Prisons).

Another USW task is to expand the grievance petition campaign that was initiated in California and spread to Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma. MIM(Prisons) was able to post these petitions online in February 2011 so family members and activists on the outside can print them and mail them to their people experiencing grievance issues. In California the campaign came to a head in February 2011, and the CDCR granted the prisoners a partial victory by slightly reforming their grievance process. Comrades in Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri are still requesting the grievance campaign from us and are submitting them to administrators. For more information on active USW campaigns, see page 12. ★

they've received. We primarily send these forms to people we suspect are experiencing censorship of our materials. Even if you don't receive one of these forms, you should still tell us everything you have gotten from us since the last time you wrote. Since we ask about the entire history of mail we've sent in, not just in this reporting year, the institution of the Unconfirmed Mail Forms (UMFs) has improved our stats on past years as well. In the last year we've improved the amount of mail unreported for the July 2010 Report from 83% to 78%. We plan to continue using UMFs to better assist in tracking our censorship.

Like we reported in our 2011 Congress Summary, in the past six months we have been focusing our resources on building cases and recruiting lawyers rather than writing letters to administrators. Most of the victories in the fight against censorship come from prisoners filing appeals and defending *Under Lock & Key* in hearings. MIM(Prisons) plays a supporting role in ensuring that the administrators know that

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...Censorship

someone on the outside is paying attention and publicizing their illegal actions. So while it is not of vital importance that we write these letters, it has still helped overturn censorship in enough cases that we find it worthwhile to pick up this task again.

Victories

A major victory was won against Dona Ana County Detention Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico this year. A prisoner won a partial settlement for censorship issues. The settlement names MIM Distributors and *Under Lock & Key* and is in favor of prisoners' rights to receive "copied" material. If you are experiencing censorship for copies, write in for this information.

Red Onion State Prison in Virginia has been notorious for censoring *Under Lock & Key* to the point where we haven't heard of our newsletter getting in since issue 5 (November 2008). *The Final Call* and *Prison Legal News* both won settlements in favor of getting their newsletters into Red Onion in recent months. Since the treatment of *The Final Call* and *PLN* was similar to the treatment of *ULK*, we are hoping that those settlements will impact how *ULK* is received at Red Onion. This is yet to be determined.

Changes

A reasonable expectation for our anti-censorship work is that when we win a victory in a state, we should either continue to have victories there or no longer experience censorship. Of course this expectation wouldn't apply if the conditions within the state change and become more repressive. In the cases of New York, Illinois and Colorado there have been victories in the past but only censorship without victories in this reporting year. In Illinois and Colorado, some victories have been connected to outside pressure put on by MIM(Prisons). This leads to the logical conclusion that victories would be more likely if we continued to apply this pressure.

In New York there doesn't seem to have been a connection between outside pressure and victories. Those reversals in censorship came strictly from the hard work of New York prisoners fighting for their own rights. We are unsure if the current lack of victories is due to a change in conditions in the NYDOCS or a lack of prisoners fighting censorship.

There is a hunger strike happening in Pelican Bay State Prison in California that is well under way. In June 2011 we heard word that our mail had recently started getting in just prior to the start of the strike after experiencing major censorship there for years. In the last year 44% of the mail we've sent into Pelican Bay has been confirmed as received (13% confirmed as censored), compared to the previous reporting year's 25% received (57% censored). Hopefully the hunger strike will be successful in granting people held in PBSP their five core demands, including an end to mail tampering.

Future Struggles

While we try to win as many victories as possible through writing letters, if a facility or state won't follow the law, then it eventually becomes necessary to take them to court. Due to our limited resources and time, we encourage the prisoners affected by the censorship to fight the issue as far as they can. In Arizona we came to one of these brick walls related to the censorship of a study group assignment for "promot[ing] racism and/or religious oppression" without containing any words that refer to race or religion. We reported on this issue in *Under Lock & Key 18* and are still struggling to find a lawyer that will take on this important case.

And yes, mailroom staff in California are still clinging to the 2006 memo banning MIM Distributors, which was nullified in a settlement between *Prison Legal News* and CDCR way back in 2008.

Continued on next page...

complete state-wide ban -	X
censorship reported -	C
censorship with victories -	V
no censorship reported -	N
no mail -	N/A

State	1/1/2008	7/1/2008	7/1/2009	7/1/2010	7/1/2011
Alabama	N	N	C	C	C
Alaska	C	N/A	N	N	N
Arizona	C	N	C	C	C
Arkansas	C	N	N	C	C
California	X	X	V	V	V
Colorado	C	N	V	N	C
Connecticut	C	N	C	N	N
Delaware	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A
D.C.	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Federal	C	N	C	V	V
Florida	N	C	C	C	V
Georgia	N	N	N	N	N
Hawaii	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Idaho	N	N/A	N	C	C
Illinois	X	X	V	V	C
Indiana	C	N	C	C	C
Iowa	C	N	C	N	N
Kansas	C	N	N	N	C
Kentucky	N	N	N/A	N/A	N
Louisiana	C	N	C	C	N
Maine	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Maryland	C	N	C	N	C
Massachusetts	N	N	C	C	C
Michigan	C	N	C	C	V
Minnesota	N	N	N	N	N
Mississippi	N	N	N	N	N
Missouri	C	N	C	V	V
Montana	C	N	C	C	C
Nebraska	N	N/A	N	C	C
Nevada	C	N	N	C	N
New Hampshire	N/A	N/A	N	N	N/A
New Jersey	N	C	N	N	N
New Mexico	N	N	C	C	V
New York	V	V	V	V	C
North Carolina	C	C	C	V	V
North Dakota	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Ohio	N	N	C	C	N
Oklahoma	C	N	N	N	N
Oregon	V	V	C	C	N
Pennsylvania	C	C	C	C	V
Rhode Island	N	N/A	N	N/A	N
South Carolina	C	N	C	C	C
South Dakota	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	N	N	C	N	C
Texas	C	N	V	V	V
Utah	C	N	C	V	C
Vermont	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia	X	X	X	C	C
Washington	V	C	C	C	N
West Virginia	N	N	N	N	C
Wisconsin	C	V	V	C	C
Wyoming	N/A	N/A	N	C	N/A

We Must Fight ULK Denials (Part 2)

by a Texas prisoner
June 2011

This is a follow-up article to the "We Must Fight ULK Denials" article I wrote, published in ULK 20. For my comrades who follow the news published in ULK, you will recall that I was denied my right to receive ULK issue 18. I am now sitting here writing this article with issues 19 and 20 in front of me.

After being denied *ULK issue 18*, I sent the publication and denial form to the Directors Review Committee (DRC) for an appeal of the denial of the publication. As I said in my last writing, if you do not do this, at least in the Texas prison system, you will enable the mailroom staff to keep denying the publication. It gets placed on a ban list and is no longer allowed. Sure if you choose to appeal, you may lose and the publication will still be denied to our comrades. But what if you win? If you win you not only win an appeal against the system, you also win for all our comrades united in this movement.

I was never given a response from the DRC on my appeal, and I still did not receive the issue

... Continued from previous page ... **Censorship**

Can you believe it? The California institutions that are still favoring this method of censorship are Deuel Vocational Institution and Pelican Bay State Prison.

In Salinas Valley State Prison in California, rather than citing the overturned memo, the Warden creatively assures us that the staff was new at the time and have now been retrained, or claim to simply not see mail from MIM Distributors arriving there. This is completely bogus considering we consistently send in *ULKs* every time there is a new issue, in addition to personalized letters and other literature. When we called the Warden out on the fact that there was no change after the "new staff" was "re-trained," he simply baselessly told us there is no censorship and "no evidence the mailroom staff are negligent in their duties or MIM Distributors mail was illegally tampered with as you claim." No shit, there's no evidence if you just throw the mail in the trash! While some mail gets into SVSP sometimes, they are still highlighted on our list of brick walls we are determined to break.

In Nebraska the ACLU has picked up on censorship of our materials and has been doing research, writing letters, and may eventually file a suit on behalf of MIM Distributors and the prisoners facing censorship. They have reviewed most if not all issues of *Under Lock & Key* and have determined that "the prison is violating both [MIM(Prisons)'s] First Amendment rights and the rights of the prisoners." We are excited to be working with the ACLU to hopefully set a precedent in Nebraska that protects people held there against censorship. We encourage any lawyers on the outside to follow their example and get with MIM(Prisons) to fight censorship in prisons! ★

of *ULK* that I appealed in the first place. However, since the appeal I have received two other issues of *ULK* along with other correspondence from MIM(Prisons). It may not seem like much and maybe some who read this will say to themselves, "if you didn't get an answer from the DRC and you didn't receive issue 18, then how did you win?" That is the kind of thinking these people in control want us to have. They don't want us to win or even think that it's possible for us to win in our struggle. This victory is just a stepping stone for future victories. It has provided the necessary paper trail for future action.

I know that my fellow comrades see the point I am making. I also understand that not all prisoners understand or even want to understand the importance of fighting for a cause. But to my brothers and sisters united in struggle let this be a stepping stone and encourage us to keep punching back. Remember, you cannot win if you don't fight. ★

Fighting the System is Dangerous

by a Nebraska prisoner
May 2011

As mentioned in prior writings by comrades, the struggle, especially for those incarcerated, must encompass not merely a study of history but an application of those strategies that in some way benefit the cause as a whole. One aspect of such application are the legal remedies which can set precedence for many who may need such standards in proving the wrongs done by prison officials. However the opacity and cover-up culture of prison industry in some instances allows for these same freedom fighters to unknowingly sacrifice their very lives for the sake of the many. Here at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution in a rural part of Nebraska this fact remains ever alive.

We are still mourning the death of a prisoner who has on several occasions successfully challenged institutional policy, winning both injunctive and compensatory judgments. In the process he made enemies, invoking the wrath of those running this warehouse. And although this comrade was in phenomenal physical condition he somehow experienced an aneurysm and mysteriously died. Some have postulated his diet of tuna was the cause, other more conspiratorial minds say he was murdered because of his success in exposing questionable actions by those officials. I myself have chosen to accept the latter.

I mention this with regards to a legal battle I will enter very soon pertaining to a number of constitutional rights that have been violated. This struggle is real in every sense of the word and unfortunately requires its martyrs, without which one would not perceive the seriousness of our collective struggle.

Inhuman Living

by a Florida prisoner
May 2011

I am currently serving a state sentence at Florida State Prison on Close Management (24 hour lock-down) facility. The prisoners are treated like hogs in a barn, not human beings. The clothes here are filthy and stained with blood, urine, feces, oil, semen. They are passed out on a weekly basis. We can catch a disease this way.

And the meals are always underdone. Prisoners have gotten sick from this, a stomach virus. If you file a grievance on it, the correctional officers won't feed you the next day.

The pigs will write prisoners bogus disciplinary reports sometimes, and if you try to file an appeal after they found you guilty of the infraction your appeal comes up missing. How can a prisoner win like that? The system is designed for us to lose even if we're right in our argument.

The correctional officers like to jump on prisoners in handcuffs/shackles in the assigned cells, on the rec yard, anywhere where there's not a camera to catch the injustice. How can anyone defend themselves when they're helpless?

The COs try to discourage prisoners on a daily basis out of their institutional call-out, meaning they will bribe them with contraband like cigarettes, chewing dip, coffee, knives, etc. A lot of them will fall for it all the time because they are trying to support their bad habits. It's sad on both parties' behalf.

Florida prisoners have no unity whatsoever and they never will as long as they continue to be brainwashed by the COs and continue accepting contraband that is being brought in by DOC workers to prisoners. As long as this keeps going on there will always be fights between one another.

MIM(Prisons) adds: The oppressive conditions in Florida are similar to those throughout the criminal injustice system, and this comrade's call for prisoners to unite underscores the motivation behind the United Front for Peace in Prisons. One of the 5 principles of the United Front is *Independence*. The oppressed need to develop institutions that meet their needs. There are plenty of examples of prisoners pooling their resources to take care of each other, rather than relying on the COs who only hope to poison the prison population with drugs, weapons, rumors and jealousy. ★

The constant study, comprehension and application of the tenets of independent thinking, which will always remain applicable to our situation, must continue for substantial change to occur. ★

- UNITED STRUGGLE FROM WITHIN -

Under Lock & Key is the main organizing tool of United Struggle from Within (USW). This page details some of the active campaigns that USW is involved in. Those who want to push the revolutionary struggle forward from behind bars should get involved in USW by working on these campaigns, or initiating their own.

SPREAD UNDER LOCK & KEY

The most basic task someone can do for USW is get people to subscribe to *Under Lock & Key*. If you know someone who likes this newsletter, have them write to get their own subscription. People are moved all the time in prison and it's better to get in contact when our address is available than to lose it in a move. You can also ask other prison publications to run free ads for *Under Lock & Key* and MIM(Prisons)'s Free Books for Prisoners Program.

SHUT DOWN CONTROL UNITS

Control units are used as a tool of political repression to alienate and torture anyone who works for change from within prisons.

Control units can be generally described as: Permanently designated prisons, or cells in prisons, that lock prisoners in solitary confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time.

Research - We have the most complete data on control units available published at www.abolishcontrolunits.org. Help keep it updated by writing to MIM(Prisons) at the address on page 1 to get a survey for your state.

Spread *Unlock the Box* DVD - Let your contacts on the outside know about this fresh 2 hour documentary on long-term isolation cells and the struggle to abolish them. Send them to the website www.abolishcontrolunits.org/movie

JULY 1 PELICAN BAY FOOD STRIKE

Comrades in Pelican Bay State Prison in California initiated a food strike July 1 to protest inhuman conditions of isolation. You can help by sending letters to administrators in support of their struggle, or publicizing the strike with your contacts outside. See page 7 for administrative addresses.

WE DEMAND OUR GRIEVANCES ARE ADDRESSED

Comrades in California, Texas and Oklahoma have developed petitions against the corrupt grievance process in their state. If you are experiencing problems with your grievance process, you should join this campaign.

Sign and Mail Petitions - If you are in California, Texas, or Oklahoma, write in to get the petition for your state. If your prison's policies allow, donate stamps or envelopes to your comrades inside to send out the petition. Be sure you ask us for extra copies if you plan to distribute the petition and can't make your own.

Spread This Campaign - If your state is not currently covered by the grievance campaign, but you are experiencing a similar problem, volunteer to rewrite the petition to work for your state.

EXPAND STUDY GROUPS

Form a study group in your prison. Start by discussing this issue of *Under Lock & Key*. Choose what to study next based on what stumps you in this issue. If you want help from MIM(Prisons), it is best to come up with a general topic and we can suggest reading material and maybe a study pack. We can also help get the reading materials through to your comrades. As you study, you should compile study questions to create a study pack for future groups who want to study the same material. MIM(Prisons) runs Maoist study groups, but an in-persyn group may be better for those whose mail from us is being censored, or to reach people who wouldn't join our group.

FIGHT CENSORSHIP

Everyone should be sure to send MIM(Prisons) copies of your censorship documents for denied issues of *Under Lock & Key* and other mail from

MIM Distributors.

Missouri - "On 1 February 2010 the Director of Adult Institutions signed a censorship policy, instituting a blanket ban on all musical recordings which carry a parental advisory label. For a number of years now they have been arbitrarily denying any books or literature of a historical, social, political or religious nature that they don't agree with." - a Missouri comrade. Prisoners in Missouri are spreading a petition against the ban and censorship, write in to get it! Like with all petitions, try to make your own copies, share them, and help others out with envelopes and stamps if your prison's policies allow it.

Red Onion State Prison - Recently *Prison Legal News* and *The Final Call* have had success using the legal system to fight censorship of their publications at Red Onion State Prison in Virginia. Red Onion gives the same treatment to *Under Lock & Key* as these other newsletters. Comrades affected should get in touch with us.

California - We are in an ongoing battle with prisons in California that have banned MIM Distributors, citing a defunct memo from 2006. Send us copies of your documentation and grievances you've filed against it.

BECOME A ULK FIELD CORRESPONDENT

The first thing we tell comrades in prison to do when they ask how they can help is to write about conditions where they're at. If you've written us a letter, then you have all the skills you need to become a *ULK* Field Correspondent.

Many prisoners write about the horrible things happening to them with the mindset that once the outside world finds out, their problems will be over and the perpetrators punished. This expectation is a myth, but it is still important to report on conditions through *ULK*.

Due to space restrictions, many of the reports we get don't make it into *ULK*. Instead they are available on our website, which serves as an archive tracking the behavior of prison staff over years. This is part of our scientific method, collecting empirical data in the field. When you complain about some pig throwing your mail in the trash and people don't listen because they think it was probably just an accident, we have documentation of hundreds of "accidents" by the same staff, proving that it was no accident at all. Your reports back up others' reports.

In a real world example, when the Abu Ghraib scandal broke, the star of the original photos was Charles Grainer. When MIM searched through their *ULK* archives, they found that years before a prisoner in Pennsylvania reported that Grainer, who was a prison guard at SCI Greene prior to Abu Ghraib, was abusing people, calling them niggers, etc. Today that comrade is outside of prison documenting the reports of abuse from current prisoners, and leading campaigns to hold the DOC responsible for its regular abusive behavior. Being a *ULK* Field Correspondent lays the groundwork for more of this kind of research and agitational work. These reports provide a resource for non-prisoners to learn more about what's going on in the criminal injustice system and to rally support for our struggles.

When reporting on conditions, details are good, but keep it short. Not only does someone have to type all these articles, but remember that it is not your one report that's gonna make a difference, it is the accumulation of reporting from across the country and the connections we make between those struggles. So leave room for others to tell their stories, which strengthens your own.

For the print version of *ULK*, we look for news and articles with theoretical and anti-imperialist content. We also want to feature articles that show how to organize against these conditions, and not just document them. MIM(Prisons) offers resources and opportunities to help you develop as a writer, including a Writing Guide and, for those who complete some of our study courses and become regular contributors to *ULK*, a *ULK* Writing Group. So get started today!

...Continued from page 8

...SHU War

material conditions that have forced prisoners to deny themselves nutrients and sustenance are not exclusively bound to Pelican Bay.

The fact that the protest is in regard to torture chambers known as the Security Housing Unit (SHU) in California, a state that has more prisons than any other state in a country that has more prisoners than any other country, should be examined more closely for what it means to oppressed nation prisoners in general, but to people of Aztlán in particular. The fact that the state of California, which is geographically in Aztlán, has initiated what amounts to a war on the people of Aztlán by setting up more concentration camps in Aztlán than anywhere else in Amerika, along with incarcerating more Latinos in California than any other oppressed nations, and the fact that Latinos are now the largest population of captives held in Federal prisons, and the fact that most of the prisoners held in California SHUs are Latinos, all show that oppressed nations are under attack via the injustice system, and that prisoners from the Aztlán Nation are particularly targeted in Aztlán. California is also the state with the largest Latino population in Amerika.(1) Thus the scope of what is taking place should be seen for what it is - the assault on Aztlán is real and should be met as such.

What is occurring here at Pelican Bay is an attempt to break the will and desire to resist state repression plain and simple. The SHU was opened in 1989 and this facility was designed to isolate and deprive people of the most basic "human rights." Things like human contact, a cell mate, the ability to eat salt in one's food, the ability to correspond with friends and family via the mail, the ability to have natural sunlight or even to be able to read political literature have all been stripped from prisoners in the SHU. Brutality here has been documented for decades. Beatings and physical torture have even been brought to the courts to no avail. Recently the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that California prisons constitute "cruel and unusual punishment." Medical services are even used as barter. At least one prisoner was told if he wanted medical treatment then he should "debrief" (snitch on another prisoner). This is the depraved culture that has thrived here in SHU.

It is well known that solitary confinement causes very real psychological damage even if used for a few weeks, yet here in SHU prisoners have endured solitary for years and even decades in some cases. Human rights groups have condemned solitary confinement, yet the SHU continues this brutal practice. Once here in SHU the only way back to general population is to snitch on others (even if it is false accusations), die, or parole. Keep in mind the vast majority sent to SHU have not committed any crime or physical acts but are labeled a "gang member or associate" and thus locked in this control unit for one's supposed gang affiliation, i.e. one's beliefs. They are locking one in a solitary confinement cell, sometimes for life, for what amounts to thought crimes!

Grievance Petition Copies Refused in Library

by a California prisoner
June 2011

I am an American Indian here in California Correctional Institution who has had all the problems with the 602 grievance procedure here. The so-called Appeal Coordinator, K. Sampson, has repeatedly (16 times!!!) sent my appeal back to me because of complete bullshit reasons. So I wrote to your legal clinic, and you provided me with an awesome petition to send to the director about my, and all of our, appeal issues. Thank you!

But again I, and all of us on my side, have run up against a potential problem. I took the petition to the law library and the CO refused to copy it. Even when I signed a trust withdraw slip to pay for it myself! She told me that the petition was all crap and that I should be written up for simply having it. She tried to take it from me. I had to "cause a scream" and get at a sergeant finally who gave it back to me. He told me he knew that our 602 process was crap and good luck! You believe that?!!

Is there any way that your office can please send me enough for at least the 10 very good people on my tier? Every single one of them was very impressed and wanted one of the petitions for unjust grievance procedures appeals process. Everyone wanted to loan it from me to get it copied, but our law librarian refuses to allow us to copy the petition. She told me if I didn't like her decisions to "appeal it" and then laughed in my face!

Thank you so much for everything you have done to help me further the struggle and get out of this U.S. gulag.

MIM(Prisons) adds: See the opposite page for more info on the grievance campaign. ★

Placement in the "hole" or SHU is frequently due to political affiliation of prisoners who are members or may associate with revolutionary groups or lumpen organizations that the state labels as "gangs." In their play on words, any attempt at oppressed nations to organize in a way that is not state sanctioned, is a gang. Similarly, they call uprisings "riots" in a derogatory way, to hide the real causes behind them. But many times people aren't even members of any organization and are falsely accused by others who are trying to get themselves out of SHU. In either case, prisoners held in SHU conditions overwhelmingly qualify as political prisoners.

The world would gasp should they find out the thought police are goosestepping in lock step here in Pelican Bay, jack boots and all. The Gestapo in Nazi Germany rounded up communists and others and placed them in camps and jails under "preventative custody." And now the imperialists' first line of defense keeps oppressed nations in neo-camps (SHUs) under "validation

Continued on page 17...

Repression in PS Housing

by a Nevada prisoner
May 2011

On April 28, 2011 a complaint was made against two lieutenants and the associate warden of operations at Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC) for threatening the entire Protective Segregation (PS) housing unit population with group punishment if the gambling, homosexual activity, tattooing, etc. continued, despite the fact that those who'd been caught were known and identified and/or already facing disciplinary procedures.

The same night, a number of individuals were caught gambling, and the following morning both PS housing units 3A and 3B were locked down. The lockdown was purportedly in response to the gambling incident.

On May 10, 2011 a minor altercation occurred between two prisoners in the LCC dining hall. These two individuals were placed in more secure housing where they received more privileges than the remaining PS prisoners in 3A and 3B who had nothing to do with either of these incidents.

During the lockdown a shakedown (described as getting the unit into compliance) was done resulting in the confiscation of appliances, which was later returned because "it should not have been taken in the first place."

Upon being let off of lockdown some of the population united around these and other issues long overdue for redress and formulated a complaint alleging several violations of civil and human rights which are embraced by the following acts and holdings among others:

22 USCA 6021 (9)
22 USCA 6401 (in toto)
42 USCA 1997a (CRIPA)
42 USCA 2000c1 (RLUIPA)
Bounds v Smith 37SCT1491 430US817
Heck v Humphrey 114SCT2364 512US477
Wolff v McDonnell 94 SCT 2963 418 US 539
Breenholtz v Nebraska 99 SCT 2100 442 US 1
Estelle v Gamble 97 SCT 285 429 US 97
Turner v Safley 102 CT 2754 482 US 78

All of which are U.S. Supreme Court holdings which are binding upon Nevada (Nevada constitution article 1 Sec 2 *Bargas v Warden NSP* 482 P2d 317 87 Nev 30 91 SCT 1267 403 US 935 29 LED 715)

The complaint raises the following (and other) issues which are constant and pervasive conditions at LCC among PS prisoners:

- unsanitary/unsafe dining hall conditions
- inadequate food and medical treatment
- compulsory strip searches daily (to boxers) frequently done by females
- verbal abuse by staff in the form of derogatory racial, cultural and gender charged epithets
- abusive and retaliatory behavior toward adherents of non-traditional religions
- inadequate legal access and retaliation for ac-

Continued on page 20...

Amerikan Drones Kill Own Troops, Chickens Come Home to Roost CIA Killer In Pakistan Released After Blood Money Payment

by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement - Denver

April 2011

Reprinted from www.anti-imperialism.com

We have reported widely about the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, and their use in the current wars the United Snakes is conducting.(1, 2)

Recently there was another military strike that involved drones. This time the attack killed Amerika's own troops. According to the Pentagon, a drone fired a Hellfire missile that killed a Marine and a Navy medic.(3)

This incident took place in the southern province of Helmand in Afghanistan. This has been a site where U.S.-led occupation forces have had many battles with the Taliban. A contingent of Amerikan marines were under heavy fire. Other troops came there for backup, along with unmanned Predator drones. Those Marines under attack were able to view the infrared images from the Predator drone, and mistook their own troops for resistance fighters.(4)

This is just one case of what Malcolm X called "the Chickens Coming Home to Roost." Amerikan imperialism has a wanton disregard for human life in the recent wars in this region. Over 1 million Iraqi people were killed in the latest U.S. military operation in that country. Already thousands have died in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The resistance here has cost the U.S. thousands in troops and trillions of dollars, itself stolen from exploitation around the world. The euphemism "friendly fire" is a case of being killed by ones own troops, what with the mass amounts of firepower expended even their own troops get hit with it. With drones and other high tech weapons of war Amerikan troops are even less in danger in prosecuting imperialist occupation, but more danger comes to the Third World people they target.

Predator drones are remote control instruments of death. These and other drones, like the Reaper drone, are operated by remote pilots residing in the U.S., halfway around the world. Despite the high technology resources poured into them, the number of supposed accidental killings has risen as the number of drone strikes goes up. The technology, while lauded, is not always accurate in pinpointing the intended targets, and not surprisingly non-combatants are killed.

A number of civilians have been killed, not only by these drones, in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.(5) Civilian casualties in Afghanistan have happened since 2001, and each time the puppet government of Hamid Karzai gives a weak verbal protest to the U.S. while the body count continues to rise. Recently the news of an Amerikan army "kill team," or death squad, has been revealed, which we have also covered, showing the real extent of the depravity of this war and occupation.(6) (See opposite page.)

As in Pakistan, with another subservient government, there have been increased civilian

casualties from these drone strikes. The CIA, which orchestrates these targeted assassinations, has developed its own networks inside Pakistan to bypass the Pakistani ISI intelligence service. The U.S. willfully violates the sovereignty of Pakistan, and gives the ISI no advance warnings of the drone attacks. Popular anger against the U.S. has risen, due to the recent discoveries of CIA involvement in Pakistan where one of their mercenaries was captured after murdering two motorists, and increasing drone attacks that have resulted in civilian casualties.(7) Many in Pakistan have called openly for Pakistanis to shoot down the drones, although moderate elements warn the alternative could be Amerikan ground troops.(8)

The drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan have become more frequent, as the U.S. relies more on these instruments in their war of occupation. The attacks have begun attacking more "low-level fighters and junior commanders," not just top operatives as supposedly before. With the increase of drone attacks, it means more casualties, including more civilians. Furthermore, Obama has authorized drone attacks for the first time in Libya, as the U.S.-NATO war in that country expands.(9)

In both Afghanistan and Pakistan, and surely in Libya too, the people have directed their anger at Amerika. And they are right to do so. Imperialism is the chief enemy of the people of the world, bringing death and misery on them, and their violence they spread oftentimes comes back to them. We don't weep for the two Amerikans killed by their own government. Turning the tables they would be called collateral damage, a reference used by the Amerikan military to refer to unintended deaths of the ones they target. Their deaths, from their own oppressor military, are lighter than a feather, and much lighter than a Predator drone. One should weep for the ones whose lives have been taken too soon by the exploitative and oppressive system Amerikan imperialism stands for. Imperialism itself is a predatory system, leaving many corpses behind it. Only the peoples' resistance will stop it and build something better. ★

Sources:

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CIA Killer In Pakistan Released After Blood Money Payment

by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement - Denver

April 2011

Reprinted from www.anti-imperialism.com

While world attention has been focused on the revolts in North Africa, and the beginnings of U.S. and NATO military escalation in Libya, recently in Pakistan a case of murder by a CIA "contractor" (read mercenary) has raised tensions in the region. It also shows the extent the U.S. is involved covertly in Pakistan in its war in the region.

Raymond Davis, a mercenary connected to Hyperion Protective Consultants LLC, was a 10 year Army Special Forces veteran and a former employee of Blackwater. On January 27 2011 Davis gunned down two men on a motorcycle, and was subsequently arrested. A third person was killed by a speeding car going the other way down a one way street, presumably by an Amerikan agent attempting to rescue him.(1, 2)

We have previously reported on the covert war going on in Pakistan orchestrated by the CIA and its private contractors, specifically Blackwater.(3) This current incident left a lot of questions about the extent of Amerikan covert operations in Pakistan, not helped by the spin going on by the U.S. trying to secure his release. When he was first arrested the U.S. claimed Davis was a "diplomat," only later coming out that he was a CIA contractor. The U.S. wanted him released on grounds of diplomatic immunity, which Pakistan denied.

Davis was recently freed after a payment of \$2.34 million in "blood money" to the families of the victims. In exchange Davis received a pardon for his crimes, in a deal negotiated in a closed door court session in Pakistan. After the payoff, Secretary of State Clinton, becoming as expert at truth bending as her husband Bill, denied the U.S. made the payment. Some suspect it was the CIA, which operates under an unaccountable "black budget," while others say it was the Pakistani government, with the expectation to be reimbursed by the U.S. government.

Furthermore, a part of the deal involved 331 U.S. officials accused of engaging in espionage under diplomatic cover, to immediately leave the country.(4)

The Davis case has increased tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan, whose relationship has been volatile since the beginning of the so-called War on Terror. Back in 2001 the U.S. twisted the arm of the Pakistan government to allow the U.S. to use the country as a staging ground in its war against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan, which previously supported the Taliban, did an expedient turnaround as the subsequent governments attempted to contain Islamists and anti-Amerikans inside their governments and within the populace. With this the CIA is not trusting of the Pakistani Inter-Servic-

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es Intelligence (ISI) agency, for the latter is putting its country's strategic interests before the Amerikan's own. It can be seen in this situation how the CIA is operating without any checks by Pakistan. One of the rumors circulating is that the two killed were connected to the ISI, and not just robbers as Davis claimed.

There has also been increased conflict within Pakistan between its weak government, propped up by \$3 billion a year in military and development aid from the U.S., and the populace at large. Right wing and Islamist parties have already rallied around this issue, and claim the families were forced to take the blood money. Reports say many family members were taken by ISI for days. Pakistanis have overwhelmingly been against the U.S. presence in their country. Polls taken have shown that the majority think the biggest threat to their country is the United States.(5)

As the Vietnam War was not only fought in Vietnam, the Afghanistan War is being fought outside of that country also, specifically in Pakistan. Among other things drone strikes have been a common occurrence in the country, and have increased every year. Most of these strikes have targeted civilians.

On March 17th, just after Davis was released, a drone strike in the tribal area of North Waziristan killed over 40 people, including tribal elders.(6) This was the highest number of killed in a single strike, and the toll brought rare condemnation from Pakistani civilian and military officials, who usually are apologists for Amerikan presence there.(7) The Pakistani government is expected to buy off the families of the victims with more blood money to appease their anger.(8)

The opposition Pakistani parties are agitating on these issues now. Yet there is not enough blood money to be paid to compensate the people of Pakistan who have been at the receiving end of U.S. aggression. With covert CIA operatives and drone strikes out in the open, the face of the imperialist occupation of Pakistan has been revealed. It is no doubt the actual extent of CIA and military involvement in Pakistan is much deeper. The Pakistani people are right to resist Amerikan imperialism in their country. This should also be a warning to other countries aligning with the CIA and other agents of U.S. imperialism. Keep U.S. out of everywhere. ★

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Update on Army Kill Team in Afghanistan: Amerikans Are Still Pigs

by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement - Denver

March 2011

Reprinted from www.anti-imperialism.com

We reported [in October 2010] on an Army "Kill Team" operating in Afghanistan that came to light. Recently one of these pig soldiers, Jeremy Morelock, pleaded guilty to being part of that "kill team" that deliberately targeted Afghan civilians. This atrocity was significant not only on the scale of the hideousness inflicted on other human beings, but that it was exposed out in the open. The U.S. military could not ignore such blatant acts of murder, so it brought the members of this kill team to trial. Morelock, in exchange for testifying against the other pig soldiers accused, will get 24 years in jail with parole eligibility in seven years. Hardly justice, but typical for those who kill for imperialism, many of its servants who will never have to face up to their crimes.

According to the *Guardian*, "In a series of videotaped confessions to investigators, some of which have been broadcast on American television, Morelock detailed how he and other members of his Stryker brigade set up and faked combat situations so that they could kill civilians who posed no threat to them. Four other soldiers are still to come to trial over the incidents."(1)

The *Guardian* further mentions how much of a public relations disaster this will be for the U.S. military. The geniuses who handle the Pentagon's PR rightly predict that the story of these U.S. Army sadists who not only killed but took pictures and collected trophies of their victims will affect Amerika's already fragile image around the world. Let's hope it does. If anyone in the world, including in Amerika itself, is not familiar with what the imperialist United Snakes is about by now, then wake the fuck up already.

Recently the German magazine *Der Spiegel* released 3 of the estimated 4,000 photos and videos taken by these pigs.(2) We show them here:



If the facts about the kill team are not enough to get one to hate Amerika, a look at their sup-

porters should be a helpful boost.

Our previous article on this subject, also posted at our old blog, generated a great spike in hits in the past few days due to the recent news about this case. One unfavorable comment was left by some kracker-ass named appropriately enough "dog shit." It is as follows, in all its bad spelling and grammar glory:

"thank you, i didnt know how stupid you and your dumb web site were until i read this ol artical..i just wanted you to know that ive printed out a copy and used it tonight as toilet paper to wipe the shit out of my ass...too bad your faces were"nt close by,,,,,anyway just thought id drop you a line to let ya know how everythings going and sincerely hope you get the flu again sometime soonsincerely your high school buddy...."

So, our alleged high school buddy, who from the looks of it did not even graduate, thinks RAIM and our website are stupid and dumb. But at least we can write in whole sentences nah nah nah. And we hope his employer knows about his misuse of the office printer, and his lack of use of toilet paper. Or maybe he was trying to read it and like typical Amerikans mistook his head for his ass. Well, we at RAIM can only hope the contents of our article on the kill team gets absorbed through this asshat's bloodstream via his preferred reading method. And as we always say in Amerika and inside any other First World exploiter countries, Fuck The Troops! ★

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As imperialists and lackeys continue assaults, Libyan masses prepare for all out resistance

by Nick Brown of the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement - Denver

July 2011

Reprinted from www.anti-imperialism.com

On July 1st, 2011, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Tripoli for a massive rally in support of Muammar al-Gaddafi and the Libyan government. The rallies come in the wake of all-around attacks by Western imperialists and their lackey regimes in the Middle East against the north African country's social and political institutions. Since March 19th, the Naked Aggression Treaty Organization (NATO) has been attacking the country, resulting in over 6,000 civilian casualties in the first 100 days alone. NATO reps announced its intentions of killing Qaddafi and overthrowing the government he heads. By early July, the Libyan government had lost control of the eastern region of the country to Western and Monarchist-backed "rebels," who advanced to within 80 km (50 miles) of the capital. In addition, a vicious propaganda war has been unleashed against the Libyan government and Qaddafi by various media outfits, one being *Al Jazeera* which is owned by the Qatari royal family. It is under such conditions that the population of Tripoli has rallied around the beleaguered Libyan government.

One reporter who is not part of the imperialist-centered establishment described military preparation in Tripoli as thus:

"The neighborhoods in Libya are preparing for a ground invasion and to confront directly the invaders with a plan that one imagines would not be unfamiliar to a General Giap of Vietnam or a Chinese General Lin [Biao], being a massive peoples defense. It has been organized with a house by house, street by street defense plan for every neighborhood and will include all available weaponry."

"The defenders are not military although many of the older ones had done one year compulsory service following high school. Their ranks include every able bodied woman and man from age 18 to 65. Younger or older will not be refused."

"They are organized into 5 person squads once they complete their training. It works like this: Anyone over 18 years of age can report to his neighborhood "Tent". Knowing virtually everyone in the area, the person will make application and will be vetted on an AK-47, M-16 or other light arm."

"I agreed not to describe other weapons that will be used if NATO appears besides rifles, grenades, booby-traps, rocket propelled grenades (RPG's) but they appear formidable."

The previous existing relationship between Qaddafi, the Libyan people and imperialism has now changed. Forces are squaring off into two distinct camps: the imperialist-backed 'rebel' camp and the pro-government camp now aligned against Western imperialism and foreign intervention. Whatever initial, genuine, anti-government rebellion by the Libyan masses existed, it has since been co-opted by Western imperialism and its regional lackeys in an effort to install a regime more compliant to their rotten interests. The "reforms" this anti-people bloc offers would clear away the remaining economic protections enjoyed by Libyans and work against inter-African and Muslim unity. (For example, the puppet "rebels" of the 'National Transitional Council' have rejected every proposal by the African Union to begin negotiations between the two camps. This disregard for the African Union will continue if the "rebels"

take power and it will only serve to benefit imperialism against Africans.)

Libyan resistance to the NATO alliance must be supported by all revolutionaries because the outcome of the struggle in Libya is part of a larger, global class struggle. Revolutionaries do not try to assuage imperialism into not being the aggressive beast it is. Nor do we advocate jumping behind Qaddafi and pretending he had our full support all along. Rather, through such conflicts we champion organizing for resistance to the imperialist aggressors and the political awakening of the Libyan and world's masses.

US-led imperialism is as belligerent as ever, spurred on by rising competition from Chinese and Russian interests and further challenges in the Third World such as South America's 'Bolivarian Revolutions' and the creation of the African Union. Yet, each act of belligerence increasingly sets the masses of the Third World against imperialism. Western imperialism is on the brink of picking fights it won't win.

Long live resistance by the Libyan masses to NATO and the comprador "rebel" movement! Long live the real rebel movements to carry out real revolutions against lackey regimes in Africa, the Maghreb and Middle East! ★

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As protests intensify in Yemen, US steps up unilateral covert war

by Nick Brown of the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist Movement - Denver

June 2011

Reprinted from www.anti-imperialism.com

According to recent reports, the United Snakes is stepping up a covert war in Yemen amidst mounting protests which threatens to topple the US-backed regime there.

In recent weeks, suspected "militants" have been attacked by US fighter jets and unmanned drones. The escalation in US attacks in Yemen comes after Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has ruled the country since 1978 as its first and only president, fled to Saudi Arabia to recover from massive burns and a collapsed lung sustained during a June 3rd assassination attempt. With the local government's approval, the US has been conducting a unilateral, unofficial war in Yemen since at least December of 2009.

Amidst the escalating US covert war, the 'Arab Spring' protest movement in Yemen, now in its fourth month, is inching closer to forming a new government. The civil conflict has left the capital city of Sanaa without electricity. "Mili-

tants" have reportedly seized cities in the south of the country.

Each time the United Snakes rushes to stomp out the smoldering embers of peoples' resistance, new coals heat up. In the Middle East and around the Third World, the US will soon be engulfed in the flames of peoples' revolution. "Amerika," as it is said, "must be burned!" ★

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Assassination Nation: The World's Foremost Terrorist State is America

by R7, a Michigan prisoner
July 2011

America is delusional. One need look no further than the Disney Corporation's attempt to trademark "SEAL Team 6," in order to market the image of paid killers as toys for children. How is this acceptable on any level? It's not, it's insane. In fact, a reasonable psychological diagnosis of the American state would conclude that it is severely schizophrenic.

Americans are indoctrinated since childhood to believe that America is a bastion of freedom, equality, and law; a bulwark against the lawlessness, murder, mayhem and terrorism that is rampant in the world today. Nevertheless, the reality is that America is the number one source of lawlessness and terrorism in the world today and has been for quite some time. Moreover, when America isn't committing acts of terrorism, it is abetting those that do, such as the European settler state in Palestine known as Israel.

America has many fine-sounding laws against assassination, hostage-taking, and torture (in a word "terrorism") but follows none of them. See the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976, 28 USC §1602 et seq.; Civil Liability for Acts of State Sponsored Terrorism Act of 1996, 28 USC §1605 (i.e., the Flatow Amendment); Antiterrorism Act of 1990, 18 USC §2331, et seq.; and Torture Victims Protection Act of 1991, 28 USC §1350 (i.e., the Alien Tort Statute). Further, America is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, and the International Convention Against Taking Hostages, codified at 18 USC §1203.

All the foregoing laws and conventions expressly forbid the majority of acts taken by the American military in the world, but America ignores them all when it comes to its actions and only applies them to other countries when they dare try to emulate America's propensity for murder and mayhem. Long ago America's rulers chose to follow the old Spanish Colonial aphorism that "the law is to be obeyed but not followed."

For example, in *Elahi v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 124 F. Supp. 2d 97, 107 (D.D.C. 2000), the court found Iran's murder of an American citizen fit the definition of an extra-judicial killing, as follows:

First, ...the assassination was a deliberate act. Second, Cyrus Elahi was not afforded the judicial process contemplated by the statute. Third, as this Court stated over twenty years ago, assassination is "clearly contrary to the precepts of humanity as recognized in both national and international law." [citation omitted.]

The American government's murder of Osama bin Laden on International Workers' Day, May 1, 2011, is no different than Iran's alleged murder of Cyrus Elahi and meets all three of the criteria set by the *Elahi* court. First, the assassination was a deliberate act. Second, he was

not arrested and brought to trial, i.e., afforded judicial process. Third, assassination is illegal in accordance with national and international law. Bin Laden was summarily executed because, as a known CIA asset, he would have exposed secrets the American government did not want exposed.

The American government admitted bin Laden was unarmed and surrounded by his children, who had to be cleared out of the way, and at least one of his wives, who was shot in the leg, so as not to interfere in the U.S. Navy SEALs' hit. And hit it was, as bin Laden was shot once in the chest and once in the head in the classic assassination style known as the double-tap. No doubt there were powder burns surrounding his head wound, where the coup de grace was administered by these cold-blooded killers as he lay on the floor of his home, but we will never know as his body was promptly disposed of as is common in many professional hits.

Earlier the same day, it was reported that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's youngest son and three grandchildren were murdered by NATO bombs dropped on their home. Whether it was done by American planes or not is of little matter, as we all know if the American government didn't support this bombing it wouldn't have happened. This was nothing less than an assassination attempt, that included the intentional bombing of civilians in their home, which was done in direct violation of the UN mandate to protect civilians in Libya via a no-fly zone and the laws and conventions cited above.

It should come as no surprise that the assassination target was Qadhafi, who was said to have been at the home and narrowly escaped along with his wife, as the American government has been trying to murder him for years. President Reagan had Qadhafi's home bombed on April 14, 1986, successfully murdering women and children but failing in his attempt to murder Qadhafi. President Obama has proclaimed his authority to assassinate anyone overseas, including American citizens, without a trial, so murdering Qadhafi would be no problem for him. Wives, daughters and sons are all just collateral damage.

America has never hesitated to murder civilians, men, women and children, in their homes. In WWII, America fire-bombed civilian targets in Germany and Japan's cities and used nuclear weapons on Japanese civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as the Japanese government tried to surrender. Post-WWII, the American government has targeted the people of Korea, the Congo, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and, now, Libya. My apologies if I left anyone out.

This campaign of control through terror is by no means limited to the rest of the world. Here in the good ol' USA, on May 17, 1985, the infamous "Mothers' Day Massacre" occurred, perpetrated by the police, who murdered 11 MOVE

organization members, including children, in their home and incinerated an entire neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the full cooperation of the American government, who supplied the explosives used in the massacre.

Not to be outdone, the FBI murdered 76 people, including children, in Waco, Texas, by blowing up their home and burning them alive on April 19, 1993. The FBI has proven time and again that it is willing to murder whoever, wherever, whenever, from Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago, Illinois, on December 4, 1969, to Randall Weaver's wife and son at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in August 1992. "No crime too foul" ought to be the FBI motto.

Speaking of mottos, the infamous mass-murderer and war criminal Harry S. Truman had a motto: "the buck stops here." No doubt, the buck should stop with the American presidents, but it also reaches back into the cesspools known as corporate boardrooms. Consequently, it is time to end this criminal reign of terror. Every single one of these criminals in high office, national or corporate, should be tried and hung as the murderers they are. To continue to allow them to run free, let alone run the country, makes us all complicit in their assassination nation. It is high time we, as Americans, put an end to our complicity and our complacency once and for all! ★

...Continued from page 13

...SHU War

custody." This is what the lumpen face in the United States; this is our apple pie in the home of the incarcerated, land of the oppressed.

Yet, prisoners have always defied the lash, because as Mao said, where you find much repression you'll find much resistance. This is the dialectical materialism that manifests itself and blossoms, even within cinderblock gardens, in the form of our united resistance.

The first of the five demands issued for the hunger strike here at Pelican Bay is to end group punishment. This happens frequently where one prisoner breaks a rule and that whole group or ethnicity will be locked down or penalized in some way. We are talking about one person doing something against prison rules and two or three hundred people are then locked down for months over it. This is common practice and is meant to pit prisoners against prisoners.

The second demand is to abolish debriefing and modify active/inactive gang status criteria. Debriefing is used to force people held in SHU to give up names and activities of others in order to leave SHU - even if the information provided is false. The accused cannot even present a good defense as the informants are not identified and often times the accusations themselves are considered "confidential." Active/inactive status is when after six years if one has no new activity one may be given "inactive" gang status and released to the general population. But this is

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Validation Update for CA SHU

by a California prisoner
June 2011

I'm writing you this brief missive to update you on things here at 4B SHU - CCI. The pigs are using any and all of the smallest things to validate a person as a member/associate of a prison gang. Speaking to someone in passing, roll calls, working out on yard together, drawings, etc. This includes literature (MIM, Prison Focus) and any stuff dealing with Afrikan or Latino culture, and especially having the name and CDC number of your homeboys/friends in your phone book. Once they validate you it's for a minimum of six years plus you have to do 100% of your sentence.

All of the bullshit that you can expect a repressive/imperialist power hungry regime to do takes place here. That stuff is expected. One can't expect anything else from a pig. So our focus should be on elevating our minds to find ways to get out, stay out and bring light to all this by connecting the free world to those held captive, so that we all realize that we are all sinking on the same boat.

MIM(Prisons) adds: As we hit the streets building support for the food strike in California we are stressing to people that this is about the First Amendment rights of the oppressed nations to associate with (and read about) themselves. California Prison Focus recently released their Prisoner Self-Help Manual to Challenge Gang Validation (SHGV), 5th edition. They can be contacted at 1904 Franklin Street, Suite 507, Oakland, CA 94612. We need to keep challenging these repressive tactics at the group level, to defend the rights of all oppressed people to self-determination. ★

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...SHU War

rare since anything qualifies as "activity." For example, participating in this hunger strike will be considered new gang activity.

The third demand is that the CDCR complies with recommendations from a 2006 U.S. Commission which called for an end to isolation. The fourth demand is to provide adequate food. The food here would make a racoon's stomach turn. Often we don't know what it is we are eating and we get no salt, so all food is bland. For punishment often times we get boiled beans with no salt, and this has gone on for years. The fifth demand is to expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU prisoners. This means those of us who must stay in SHU will be able to have educational courses, art supplies, and the ability to make a phone call, which some have not done for 30 or more years.

These points are basic things that should be given, especially to people who have not broken any rules to be placed in SHU in the first place! What is happening here in Pelican Bay SHU amounts to crimes against humanity. To have people in solitary confinement in some cases for decades is incredible, and it's incredible that

Continued on page 20...

Edificando Fronteras Unidas, rodeado por el enemigo: caso estudiado de la caída del mercado domiciliario en EEUU

por Wiawimawo de MIM(Prisons)
traducido por un@ prisoner@ en Texas
Noviembre 2010

Esta artículo es continuado de Under Lock & Key 19. Escríbanos para recibir ULK 19.

Las subidas y bajadas más grandes en todos los mercados financieras son seguramente señales de crisis, pero para actuar como los americanos se han estado hundidos a condiciones del Tercer Mundo en el 2010, es ridículo. Si solamente esas activistas gritaran tan fuerte para ellos que realmente tienen que vivir en condiciones del Tercer Mundo por toda sus vidas y generaciones!

La mayoría, si no toda, la pérdida del valor neto americano es contada por carteras de acciones y valores de domicilios (las cuales se vende y se compra como acciones hoy) en otras palabras pérdidas del capital financiera. Tradicionalmente, la pequeña burguesía marxista no fue explotado, ni tampoco ha significativamente explotado de ningún otro. Para decir que ellos que ganan de inversión de capital financiera son algo menor que los miembros de la pequeña burguesía es un rechazo a la definición marxista. Con la propiedad doméstica alrededor de 68% en años reciente, eso es un sólido dos tercios de las gente en los Estados Unidos que ciertamente cae en la categoría de la clase media, o más alto, incluye 50% de Negros y Latinos (mínimo). Este grupo tiene 210 millones de gente, o solo 3% de la población mundial en 2010, pero ellos tienen más riqueza neta de la capitalización total del mercado de todas compañías que cotizan en bolsa en el mundo.(7)

Nuestros críticos señalan a las iniquidades grandes de riqueza en los Estados Unidos como una razón de organizar americanos para la revolución. Entonces dejemos mirar sólo al 80% inferiores de los americanos, quienes eran dueños de 15% (un insignificante arañazo de la masa) de la riqueza neta en los EEUU en 2007 (y esta fue un mínimo de 15 años para ellos).(8) Mientras su parte ha bajado unos pocos porcentajes desde 1983, un total de la riqueza neta en los EEUU se ha incrementado por cinco veces. Por eso lo más inferior 80% de americanos fueron acerca de \$2.2 trillones de riqueza neta en 1983 hasta casi \$10 trillones en 2007. (9) La clase media en América tiene activos que superan el Producto Interno Bruto de China(10), la potencia industrial del mundo que representa casi 20% de la población mundial. Eso se compara solo las clases americanas "media" y "pobre" a toda la nación de China, incluye su clase capitalista muy desarrollada.

Puesto que el proletariado, por definición, tiene un valor neto insignificante en forma de activos, dejemos a mirar a sus ingresos.(11) El ingreso generalmente crece proporcionalmente con la riqueza neta alrededor del mundo.(12) Casi una mitad de la población mundial vive en menos de \$1000 al año. Eso es 3.14 billones de la gente vive en menos de \$3 trillones en

un año.(13) Ahora, antes de condenar los activos grandes americanas, hay que estar seguro que ellos son mejores en el ahorro y también el invierto de su dinero que el proletariado. En 2005 el 20% del mundo lo más rico contaba con 76.6% de todo del consumo privado de bienes. el 50% lo más pobre contaba con sólo 7.2% de consumo(13) Una estimación conservativa nos deja con los americanos consumiendo al menos de 27 veces más que la persona promedio en la mitad del mundo lo más pobre.(14) Entonces las habilidades de administrar el dinero no pueden explicar la riqueza neta americana grande.

Una sociedad humana justo y sostenible requiere que la aristocrática obrera americana se reduzca a los niveles de consumo mucho más cercanos a los del Tercer Mundo. Pero este ejercicio demuestra que esto está muy lejos de pasar, peso a los gritos de los alarmistas.

Últimamente, la contradicción que estamos describiendo está entre la aristocracia obrera y el imperialismo. Los imperialistas, en particular el capital financiero, son un clase oportunista dinámica. En contraste, las obreras aristocráticas se benefician de la estabilidad del estado actual de los asuntos.

Los capitalistas financieras eran capaces de hacer unas ganancias rápidas por la venta en corto de la aristocracia obrera, entonces los americanos están disgustados. Aunque tal vez empuja la aristocracia obrera hacia el fascismo, los capitalistas financieros están malvendiendo al consumismo de los americanos en lo que su sistema depende tanto. Lo que estamos presenciando es una contradicción interno en el sistema capitalista llevando a cabo. Los dos grupos controlan trillones de dólares en riquezas del Tercer Mundo, y anti-imperialista Frontera Unidas no tiene un interés en uno de ellos teniendo más que el otro. Hay que mantenernos sentados fuera de nosotros.

La Migración a los EEUU

Como discutido arriba, altos salarios y crecientes valores domiciliarios se reafirman en nuestro sistema económico actual, haciendo el rico más rico. Sin embargo, no podría mantenerse sin levantar una frontera afuera de lo que estas dos cosas no puede fluir. Entonces mantener los salarios y el valor domiciliario de alto está directamente relacionado con la lucha por la creciente represión de trabajadores migrantes en las fronteras de los EEUU La contradicción en esta lucha es entre las naciones oprimidas que están tratando de acceder a puestos de trabajo en los EEUU y la nación opresora que está intentando de mantenerlos afuera. Esta desaffo a los privilegios de los países imperialistas indica que la lucha por los derechos del inmigrante es parte de la lucha anti-imperialista.

Continuado en la página siguiente...

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...Fronteras

Mientras la gente del Tercer Mundo y algunos jóvenes americanos enfrentaron las obreras aristocráticas americanas en la calle, fue el Tribunal del Distrito de los EEUU quien puso en marcha una orden judicial contra la mayoría de lo dispuesto en el proyecto de ley del senado del estado de Arizona 1070 (SB1070) a la luz de una demanda presentada por el departamento de justicia (DOJ) contra el estado de Arizona. El DOJ sostuvo que la inmigración es de la jurisdicción federal y que el DOJ tenía un plan para todo el país para equilibrar sus diversos intereses relacionados con la inmigración que Arizona no se le permitiría echar a perder.

El interés de los miembros de la clase media internacionalista esta en teniendo acceso gratis a los mercados y trabajadores, no mencionar que también relaciones internacionales. Este campo incluye el gobierno federal y sus capitalistas financieros como también los negocios pequeños que solo operan en los EEUU pero dependen en el trabajo de inmigrantes. Su conflicto es con los intereses de otros miembros de la clase media y la mayoría de de la clase media americanos cuya posición de privilegio viene del elitismo de quienes son permitidos entrar a sus fuentes riquezas.

Entonces hay una frontera unida efectiva entre el internacionalismo de los más resistentes a SB1070 en ambos lados de la frontera con Méjico y el gobierno de EEUU que actua a favor de los miembros de la clase media internacional. Y por ahora, son los imperialistas quienes son los que realmente lanzan una llave en el trabajo de los americanos, aunque la contradicción es básicamente entre naciones oprimidas y naciones opresoras.

Una mayoría de los americanos, en una serie de encuestas, apoyo a SB1070, o una ley similar. El mayor porcentaje que figura en un artículo, 79% no estuvieron de acuerdo que los "inmigrantes ilegales tienen derecho a los mismos derechos las libertades fundamentales como un ciudadano de los EEUU."(15) Esta es la definición del chovinismo estadounidense. A lo mejor, un quinto de ciudadanos americanos no piensan que ellos merecen más que otras personas humanas por la virtud de haber sido nacidos en EEUU. Eso es porque nosotros dejamos de buscar un rayo de luz en el imperialismo del primer mundo.

Con los latinos, nosotros podemos ver rápidamente esta consciencia desarrollar por seguir el porcentaje de coco en la población. Una encuesta de decisiones latinas que encontró que un 12% de la población latina de votantes de la segunda generación en Arizona estaban de acuerdo con SB1070. Por la cuarta generación ha incrementado a 30% de acuerdo con la posición de coco (16) El americanismo es una creciente enfermedad que ha aclamado proporciones significativas de las semi-colonias internas de los EEUU.

Une a todos los que puedan unirse

Mientras muchos dogmáticos todavía criti-

can a Mao por aliarse a los comunistas chinos con la clase media nacional, podemos tomar la teoría de Fronteras Unidas aún más y llegar a ejemplos de fuerzas progresivas aliándose con el gobierno de los superpoderes imperialistas del mundo contra una nación opresora. Esto nos enseña que no podemos dejar que las ideas de extrema izquierda de la pureza prevenimos aliarse con aquellos que podrían ayudar a nuestra causa.

Los errores de la derecha en aplicar la teoría de Fronteras Unidas sucede cuando tenemos líneas incorrectas en otras partes. No reconocer que la Frontera Unida trabaja con una clase enemiga, ni llegando a ser convencida que otras contradicciones han sido resueltas y no empujada a una posición secundaria son la formas principales del derechismo para protegerse. Mao tuvo que luchar el derechismo con otros comunistas quienes pensaban que los comunistas y la clase media nacional deberían fundirse en uno, donde inevitablemente la clase media reaccionaria llevaría a causa de su poder relativo. El derechismo en los EEUU se ve como gente que se encontró con batallas legislativas sobre los derechos de obreros migrantes. Sin la liberación nacional no hay libertad para las naciones oprimidas bajo al imperialismo. Y los imperialistas siempre se oponen eso, como las nacionalistas se fajaron con los comunistas en una guerra civil cuando los Japoneses fueron forzados afuera.

No buscamos unidad por el privilegio de estar unidos. Buscamos la unidad que usa todas las fuerzas posible para parar la principal contradicción, o las batallas que empujan la contradicción principal adelante. Cuando encontramos grupos en los cuales podemos unirnos estratégicamente, las Fronteras Unidas también ofrecen un base para la unidad - crítica - unidad la cual avanza la lucha y depende de unidades revolucionarias y toda gente oprimida por un futuro mejor. ★

Notas:

1. J. Sakai, *Settlers: The Mythology of the White Proletariat*, Chicago: Morningstar Press, 1983, p. 10.
2. Arghiri Emmanuel, *Unequal Exchange: A Study*

of the Imperialism of Trade, Paris: Monthly Review Press, 1972, p. 337. Su teoría del Intercambio Desigual se simplifica mucho en este artículo.

3. U.S. Census Bureau, *Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division*

4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeownership_in_the_United_States

5. Arianna Huffington, *Third World America*, Crown Publishing, 2010.

6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Graphic.png>

7. Este es el precio teórico para comprar todas las empresas que cotizan en bolsa. Era tan bajo como \$ 40 billones de dólares en septiembre 2008. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_capitalization

Mientras tanto, los propietarios estadounidenses pasaron de 65,5 trillones de dólares en 2007 a 54,2 billones de dólares en 2009. <http://srph.it/c5OWkd>

8.G. William Domhoff, *Wealth, Income, and Power*, UC Santa Cruz, August 2010.

9. Mumir Daya, *Commendable Philanthropy*. The Citizen, 7 August 2010.

10. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29

11. Según las citas de Wikipedia, aun el cuarto más inferior de los ciudadanos estadounidenses no tiene riqueza neta. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_in_the_United_States#cite_note-GWUS-2

12. <http://www.iaiiw.org/papers/2006/davies.pdf>, Davies, James B. *The World Distribution of Household Wealth*. 5 December 2006.

13. <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>, Anup Shah, *Poverty Facts and Stats*, March 28, 2010

14. Mientras la mayoría de estadounidenses están en la 10% superior, todos están en la 20% superior, para ser conservativo tomamos 76.6 encima de 20 y compararlo a 7.2 encima de 50. Resultamos en un ratio de 3.83: 0.144 o que el estadounidense típico consume al menos de 26.59 veces más de la persona típica en el 50% más inferior

15. Daniel B. Wood, *Opinion polls show broad support for tough Arizona immigration law*. The Christian Science Monitor, 30 April 2010.

16. Peter O'dowd, *Some Latinos Support Arizona's New Immigration Law*. NPR, 25 May 2010.

Special Literature Offers

Spanish: If you can read Spanish, or know someone that does, let us know to receive Maoist lit en español.

MIM Notes: Write us to get a package of old MIM Notes, the defunct newspaper of the Maoist Internationalist Movement.

El MIM(Prisiones)

El MIM(Prisiones) profesa la revolucionaria ideología comunista del marxismo-leninismo-maoísmo y constituye una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo.

El MIM(Prisiones) lucha para acabar con la opresión de cualquier grupo por parte de otros grupos, clases, géneros o naciones. El MIM(Prisiones) está consciente de que la única manera de llevar a cabo dicho propósito es mediante una consolidación de la opinión pública a favor de la conquista del poder a través una lucha armada.

En el caso de EE.UU., la revolución irá convirtiéndose en realidad en la medida en que el gobierno amplíe el alcance de las fuerzas militares en un intento de mantener la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM(Prisiones) ha fundado una organización antiimperialista de prisioneros, Lucha Unida desde Adentro (USW), encabezada por el MIM(Prisiones); el propósito de ésta es organizar a gente antiimperialista dentro del sistema carcelario. Nuestros camaradas de la USW escriben artículos delineando condiciones de sus cárceles, distribuyen el Bajo Cerradura y Llave dentro de las cárceles, organizan grupos de estudio y, por lo general, asumen cierto grado de liderazgo práctico en cuanto a la educación sobre las cárceles como un aspecto del imperialismo estadounidense por medio de recursos puramente legales.

Nosotros proporcionamos herramientas para llevar a cabo la educación de los prisioneros y la gente afuera de las cárceles sobre la opresión de los prisioneros.

Si Ud. escribe en español o si les gustaría traducir artículos en inglés al español, Ud. puede ayudarnos con la publicación de las futuras ediciones de Bajo Cerradura y Llave. Este proyecto ayuda a divulgar el pensamiento marxista-leninista-maoísta entre los pueblos de habla hispana, y sobre todo, las semicolonias internas de EE.UU. Si Ud. es bilingüe de habla inglesa e hispana, avísenos aunque no quiera ayudarnos. Si quiere entregar artículos en español, hágalo (de todas maneras nos ayudaría recibir sus cartas en inglés, si es que Ud. sabe escribir en inglés).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTENTION PRISONERS:

You must write to us every 6 months to stay on our mailing list.
Tell us what mail you've gotten since the last time you wrote so we can track and fight censorship.

20

Under Lock & Key No. 21, July/August 2011

...Continued from page 18

...SHU War

...Continued from page 4

...New Man Corp

this has gone on so long and that for the most part the public has been silent over this. Well, today the light is shining on these torture chambers and Pelican Bay prisoners will no longer be silent while taking the lash.

Notes:

1. *The New York Times Almanac 2011*. p. 285.

against this diabolical establishment. I believe we as men should study our heritage and culture and protect each other from this open enemy. I understand the need to study George, Malcolm, and Huey to become well versed with the people of the struggle and develop a sense of camaraderie. It has come time for all of us to stand together as one united front, so we can fight against

prison injustice.

I reside in Maryland Correctional Institution, where peace and unity is imperative. It's become increasingly clear that our continued genocidal tendencies are at our peril. We complain about the injustice we are forced to deal with inside this slave plantation known as prison, but it pales in comparison to the pain and sorrow we have inflicted upon each other.

...Continued from page 13

...PS Housing

presenting a united front against oppression. It should never be allowed to get this bad before action is taken, but it apparently must get bad enough to inspire action.

It is easier to keep what one has than it is to regain what one has already lost, but this is not a message which is widely understood by the new prisoner class. In any event, if information concerning our struggle becomes available, it will be put "before the world."

MIM(Prisons) adds: We applaud prisoners coming together to fight repression in their housing units. In this case it is prisoners in protective custody, a place our prison comrades are fond of reminding us is rife with people who informed on other prisoners (often falsely) to save their own hides. We cannot often know who, in PC or general population, is a snitch, but we can judge prisoners by their actions and uphold the correctness of struggles against prison brutality wherever they arise. ★

cessing legal process

- coercion/harassment in the form of cell searches and theft/destruction of personal property as retaliation and for furtherance of personal agendas
- withholding/theft of mail, opening legal mail outside of prisoner's presence
- use of prisoners in supervisory capacity and as facilitators/teachers of rehabilitative and psych programs which impact earned sentence credits, parole board decisions and sentence duration
- fomenting hostility and animus between prisoners using confidential or otherwise sensitive information
- group punishment/threats of collective retaliation and punishments

The above is a summary that serves to articulate the overall conditions here (and elsewhere) and exemplifies the need for solidarity and

Just think of the power that is in our writing against the elements that thrive successfully because of our difficulties and divided strata. It is time for all of the warriors of the prison tribes to realize that together we are unstoppable. It is time for those of us with political minds, influence, rank, and respect to start believing in and advocating peace and unity. We must revolutionize ourselves, become new men, and liberate ourselves mentally. This will redirect our energy towards the interests of our people. This is why I stress education of the lumpen to understand why we are where we are, while building strong ties to change our reality. Those who benefit from the oppression and exploitation of others do not want such change to take place. So lets come together to overthrow this oppressive imperialist system, this is the only thing that will truly bring peace and unity to us in prison. ★