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What is Under Lock & Key?

Under Lock & Key (ULK) is the voice of the anti-imperialist movement within prisons in the United States. It serves as a forum to develop and promote agitational campaigns led by MIM(Prisons) and United Struggle from Within (USW). It is a free newsletter for prisoners in the United States, edited and published by MIM(Prisons). It is mostly written and illustrated by USW and United Front for Peace in Prisons comrades behind bars.

Fighting the injustice system is just one part of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it is important that comrades do not lose sight of the connections to the larger battle. 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.

Our current battles in the United States are legally permitted. 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).

What is United Struggle from Within?

United Struggle from Within (USW) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for former and current 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. It 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 six cardinal points, but they can't consciously disagree with any of them. See page 12 for campaign info.

What is Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support?

Launched in 2020, Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support (AIPS) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for those on the outside who want to support anti-imperialist prisoner organizing. Specifically, AIPS members and chapters will provide support for existing MIM(Prisons)/USW projects and help develop and support local campaigns to meet the needs of organizers inside.

What is MIM(Prisons)?

The Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons, or 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. We support nations which choose to delink from the imperialist economy, including the right of the internal semi-colonies to secede from the United States. 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 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) expresses general unity with all other groups and outbreaks against imperialism; mass movements against oppression have as many forms as forms of power. In this spirit, we insist on telling the uncompromised truth and discussing and criticizing the strategy and tactics of any given action. MIM(Prisons) encourages everyone, communist or not, to be involved in the struggle against imperialism. MIM(Prisons) distinguishes itself 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 expanded 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 sector of the 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 Khrushchev 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 (i.e. Albania), or worse, stayed within the capitalist mode of production, generally due to a failure to break with the Theory of Productive Forces.

On Prisons & Prisoners

MIM(Prisons) seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal 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 – roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft. It only insists that these crimes be committed in the interest of the bourgeoisie.

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

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

Free Political Books for Prisoners

Our Free Political Books for Prisoners Program is a Serve the People (STP) program founded on the model of the Black Panther Party's Breakfast for Schoolchildren and other STP programs, and on the basis of Mao's emphasis that communists should serve the people in everything we do. The purpose of the Free Books for Prisoners program is to help prisoners turn their time under lock and key into a time to develop their politics and build with us toward the beginnings of a more just and productive society. We collect and send out political, legal and historical books primarily (we also have some dictionaries and other reference items that are useful for writers and jailhouse lawyers). The materials we distribute are selected to help people study the conditions under which they are living and to turn their knowledge into political organizing.

We know that many of our subscribers lack financial resources, and this should not be a barrier to education. Because our purpose is to organize, we expect that comrades will exchange work for the books we send. You should write articles for ULK, create revolutionary art, form study groups with other comrades and work through the study group to educate and organize, share our literature and expand our mailing list, lead campaigns against local examples of oppression, or come up with other ways to contribute to the struggle. If you can afford to send donations, and if your facility rules allow, sending us stamps is the best way to donate. We can always use them to get you more books or to help other comrades who cannot afford to pay for their books.

We can send you a list of specific titles that we currently have available, but it is better to request general topic areas or include substitutions because our stock is constantly changing. The literature list also lists prices for the books we send in if you want to purchase them, but again, lack of funds will not keep you from getting literature, but lack of political work will. We ask you to help us build MIM(Prisons) and United Struggle from Within through your own work in exchange for the books. If you would like to receive books from MIM(Prisons)'s Free Books for Prisoners program, please let us know the subject areas you are interested in, and the work you are doing in exchange.

Fight Censorship

*Under Lock & Key*, *MIM Theory*, study materials, letters, and even books like dictionaries have been censored by the state. If your MIM(Prisons) correspondence is censored, the first thing you need to know is that you are not alone in struggling to get your mail and reading materials. You will need to be prepared to do the work yourself (making copies of rejection notices, filing grievances, sending copies of these documents to us), but we can send instructions on how to do this. In some cases, we can support your appeals with letters of our own.

These are some basic steps we recommend to everyone in prison:

- 1. Find out now what the prison rules

say about your right to receive mail and reading materials. You should read this policy carefully and get a copy for your file if possible. You can also send us copies of the rules to post on our website as a resource for the public.

- 2. Find out what the prison's implementation of these policies is like. Many times the policy looks reasonable on paper, but the prison staff behaves totally out of line. Ask around.

- 3. To keep our correspondence going, write to us every 6 months. If you're writing us regularly and are not getting any mail from us, there's a problem with your mail delivery. Do not assume we are ignoring you.

- 4. If your correspondence with us is censored, it is very important that you keep copies of all the paperwork, (rejection notices, grievances, etc.) and send us copies of these as well. Often this is the only way we find out that our mail has been censored. Once we know of the censorship, we can work with you to fight it.

Spread ULK

Let others read the literature we send you. Talk to potential comrades about our politics and work, and have them write in to get put on our mailing list. Our subscribers (you) play a vital role in the growth of our mailing list. Remember, a subscription is free to U.S. prisoners!

Administrative Details

Your subscription will be active for 6 months after each time you write to us. If we do not hear from you for 6 months, you will be automatically removed from the mailing list. We recommend writing to us regularly so you don't lose track of when to update your subscription. For people outside of prison, all issues of *ULK*, plus additional reports from within U.S. prisons, are available on the website [www.prisoncensorship.info](http://www.prisoncensorship.info). If you would like to become a *ULK* distributor, get in touch.

**Your address:** Please send us as detailed an address as possible, including your full legal name, prison and unit name, prison ID #, street address and P.O. Box, city, state, and 9-digit zip code. Please check with the mailroom to make sure you have the correct information.

**Releases:** Let us know if you are looking at a (possible) release date in the next two years. We recently beefed up our release support, and it includes a lot of set-up while you're still locked up. Also let us know your expected address post-release if you have one. Even if it is only the address of a relative who you think will be in the same place for a while, this could be the difference between losing contact and staying in touch and politically active after you are released.

**Your persynal papers:** Do not send us legal papers that pertain to your case unless you have checked with us first. In general, we cannot do anything with your legal papers as we do not have the resources to get involved in individuals' cases. We also cannot return them to you. Rather than focus on only your case, we strongly encourage comrades to write articles about the political implications of their situation, and work on cases that will positively impact the ability for prisoners to organize against imperialism and capitalism.

Please do not send us your only copies of artwork, articles or other writings unless you are certain that you will not need them in the future. Comrades have requested that we make copies of their work and send these copies back. Doing this takes up time and money that would otherwise go to filling book requests, fighting censorship and answering letters.

Other Resources

**PARC** provides a free resource guide for prisoners. Tell them you heard about them from MIM(Prisons):  
Prison Activist Resource Center  
PO Box 70447 Oakland, CA 94612

**Inside Books Project** sends free books and a resource guide to prisoners in Texas. Inside Books Projects, 3106 E. 14 1/2 Street

Austin, Texas 78702  
[insidebooksproject@gmail.com](mailto:insidebooksproject@gmail.com)

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 need-less conflicts and violence within the U. \$. 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. Campaign around the September 9 Day of Peace and Solidarity.

- 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.



# Study in History: Indigenous Nations Rebel in Ecuador

by Plastick of MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

## The 2022 Strike

On 27 June 2022, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) agreed in opening discussion with the Ecuadorian government in solutions for the national strike that has paralyzed parts of the country for two weeks.(1) Before declaring its openness to negotiations with the government however, CONAIE rejected President Guillermo Lasso's move in calling for price cuts of gasoline for 10 cents in diesel.(2) Currently, the fuel prices of Ecuador has doubled from 2020 with diesel going from \$1 to \$1.90 and gasoline from \$1.72 to \$2.55.(3) From CONAIE's "Agenda of National Struggle," the first point demanded:

*"Reduction and freezing of the prices of fuel: diesel at \$1.50 and extra and eco gasoline at \$2.10. Abolish Decrees 1158, 1183, 1054, and focus instead on the sectors that need more subsidies: agricultural work, farming, transportation and fishing."*

The demand was obviously not met, and CONAIE still continued to blockade the roads with President Lasso claiming,

*"Ecuadorians who seek dialogue will find a government with an outstretched hand, those who seek chaos, violence and terrorism will face the full force of the law."*(4)

Seeking to appease the rebellion in other ways, Lasso has lifted the state of emergency for the nation. CONAIE leader Leonidas Iza who was arrested by the national police on 14 June 2022, was rejected by President Lasso who claimed that the indigenous leader was an "opportunist."

*"We will not return to dialogue with Leonidas Iza, who only defends his political interests and not those of his base. To our in-*

*igenous brothers — you deserve more than an opportunist for a leader."*

## Historical Overview of Rebellions in Ecuador

Two years earlier, Ecuador faced another similar rebellion led by workers and students which sparked on the International Workers' Day of 1 May 2020. The political-economic crisis heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic revealed quite a few corrupt decisions made by the government.(6) Workers and students demanded better wages, co-ordinated sit-ins in medical facilities, and demonstrated in the streets with rallies. The main goals were for better wages, and ousting of then-President Lenin Moreno.

A year previous to the 2020 demonstrations, in October of 2019, another rebellion raged in Ecuador as the month started with President Lenin Moreno declaring 6 economic measures, and 13 restructuring proposals which was part of an agreement the government took in a \$4.2 billion loan with the IMF.(7) One of the key reform acts targeted by demonstrators was a 20% cut in wages for new contracts in public sector jobs, and a cut of a decades long fuel subsidies which led to an increase of fuel prices.(8) The leading two groups of this rebellion were the aforementioned CONAIE and the United Front of Workers (FUT).

Prior to that, there was also a rebellion in 2015, a rebellion in 2012, and another nationwide crisis in 2010. CONAIE and other indigenous national groups all played a role in these movements with varying degrees of involvement. From 2010 to 2022, there have been 6 major rebellions with the workers, students, and indigenous nations playing a leading role in the movements. Crisis after crisis, what is causing this trend? Every time the workers or

the indigenous nations rise up (oftentimes together) they are accused of staging a coup by the government. In 2000, there was a short-lived coup, but the Amerikans interfered to remove indigenous leaders from power. Despite this, they have denied the accusations in recent protests, while also following their word through with action. How come they seem to have no desire to seek state power despite having the independent institutions and subjective forces that are able to paralyze the country each time they rebel?



After many years of regular protests against political-economic crisis in Ecuador, there was a rise of the social-democratic movements in Latin America that became prominent in the

mid-2000s. This trend was strongly guided and inspired by the ideology of "Socialism of the 21st Century", which argued that societal change and shift from capitalism to socialism can be done in gradual and non-violent means.(9) Prominent leaders who have taken up this ideology include Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Nestor Kirchner of Argentina, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, Michelle Bachelet of Chile, and finally Rafael Correa of Ecuador.

Rafael Correa was the 45th

struct the country into a socialist state. The government ended its relationship with the IMF, and took an active part in creating the "Bank of the South" — a pan-South American monetary fund alongside the political-economic bloc of the Union of South American Nations.(10)

The class character of this movement can clearly be seen as that of the national bourgeoisie of South America: the bourgeoisie of South America stunted by imperialism as opposed to requiring imperialism to function as a class. With this national bourgeois led anti-imperialist movement in Ecuador, we see another example of a failure in reformism and social-democracy in history. With the PAIS alliance's right-wing turn under the next president Lenin Moreno, Correa distanced himself from PAIS due to disagreements. Under Lenin Moreno's presidency, and through the political-economic crisis brought by social democracy (such as national debt), the strategy of working within the system found itself reversing all its progresses. By the time Correa left office in 2017, there have already been 2 major rebellions. The rebellion in 2012, was part in reaction to the joint Ecuadorian-Chinese company "Ecuatoriente SA" commencing a 25-year contract of extracting natural resources on indigenous nations' land.(11) So with the failures of social-democracy and reformism came another lesson learned by the Ecuadorian masses. Whether this lesson can be synthesized back to the masses through a revolutionary lens is a question for the revolutionaries of Ecuador.

During the rebellions, one can see in images hammer and sickles, anarchist A's, and myriads of other ideological imagery painted across makeshift shields, helmets, and banners. With the tactics and strategy of blockades and

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# Supreme Court Sets Back Health of Gender Aristocracy

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is a setback for the health of mostly the gender aristocracy, but also some who are truly gender oppressed in this country. In that sense, we view this issue similar to how we view the question of universal healthcare in the United States.(1) However, MIM's gender analysis is more relevant in this struggle over abortion.

In a 1997 Congress Resolution on gender, MIM said:

*"The gender aristocracy by definition is not oppressed in the gender strand. Concretely, imperialist country wimmin are not gender oppressed."*

*For this reason, if we put forward the gender demands of the imperialist country wimmin, like it or not, we are heading in a reactionary direction."*

To those who see the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* as a violent attack on themselves, on wimmin, we offer some food for thought. The abortion issue was made a hot button issue with a lot of money for the purpose of mobilizing voters. As long as we live under a bourgeois democracy, this will continue to happen. For all the rhetoric about "taking money out of politics", nothing has hap-

pened, because we live in a profit-driven system. We must overthrow capitalism **and** patriarchy to meet the needs of the gender oppressed.

To those who oppose abortion, we repeat that we can eliminate abortion by sterilizing men after storing semen samples from them. If you aren't willing to talk about such alternatives, that would save the lives of wimmin, then you are not pro-life you are pro-patriarchy.

The MIM Platform calls for mandatory sex education by age 11. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat, there will be free universal health care including unlimited access to PPE such as contraception. This, combined with the overall sense of purpose and community that will come with building a new society, we believe will significantly decrease the number of abortions, which have already been declining in this country.

More than laws and policies however, what will be a decisive point in the struggle against patriarchy under proletarian dictatorship is the overall raising of class consciousness and mass campaigns of class struggle against patriarchy in the superstructure (from material institutions to backward ideological culture).

The key support of these policies of universal healthcare under socialism is having the masses learn in practice the new society they wish to implement free from male chauvinism amongst other backward/reactionary ideas. This is one thing the Maoist practice in China had a qualitative leap from the Soviets through implementing a cultural revolution.

Of course, some abortions are in response to medical conditions that we have no control over. Following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, Pew Research found that 57% of adults disapproved of the decision and 41% approved.(2) The survey also showed that only 8% believe abortion should be illegal in all cases. As the opposition to abortion came after big-money marketing over many decades, we can expect these numbers to shift quickly in favor of access to abortion with a shift in social relations under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In other words, mass collection of semen samples and sterilization of men probably won't be necessary to resolve contradictions in a socialist world as it is today. ■

Notes:  
1. MIM(Prisons), January 2010, *Health Care Universe Excludes Most People, Under Lock & Key No. 12*.  
2. Pew Research, 6 July 2022, *Majority of Public Disapproves of Supreme Court's Decision To Overturn Roe v. Wade*

## ULK 78: MIM(Prisons) Update

by MIM(Prisons)  
August 2022

The second annual Fourth of You-Lie fundraiser just wrapped up successfully. Just two issues ago we published a detailed update on our financial contributions with a graph for 2021. For the first two quarters of 2022 we've had more contributors and more money donated than any quarter in 2021. This steady increase in donations is great for our work and a great sign of our growing mass base.

We did not see a surge of donations around July 4th, but we have seen sustained contributions at a higher level since we began promoting the fundraiser. Steady is good. The Fourth of You-Lie fundraiser did bring in some generous donations from the outside, from at least one supporter.

For those that don't know, we ask that all comrades in prison who can to send in at least 7 stamps per year to cover your subscription to *Under Lock & Key*. Our costs may increase this winter though, we will keep you updated.

For outside supporters in particular, we have begun fundraising for legal fees to fight censorship in Texas. Please send a note or email us to let us know you are donating money for this purpose.

While our finances look sustainable, we remain in a deficit with comrade time. We will be continuing to shift tasks in the coming months to adjust for changes in support from outside comrades. Much appreciation to our new comrade who did much of the transcribing work for this issue! A few things that we continue to be behind on include:

- intro study group responses are going out months later than they should be
- advanced study group through the University of Maoist Thought continue to be unavailable going on a couple years now
- while we've been stepping up our efforts to combat the rash of recent censorship, we are not appealing all instances or taking them further
- the Texas Pack has not been updated since 2020 and there are no plans to update it
- the zine Power 2 New Afrika has not yet been printed, but should be soon
- *ULK* continues to come out every 3 months instead of every 2 as it used to, or every month as we would like

The above list is to let our comrades inside know what to expect, and a call for support from people on the outside. ■



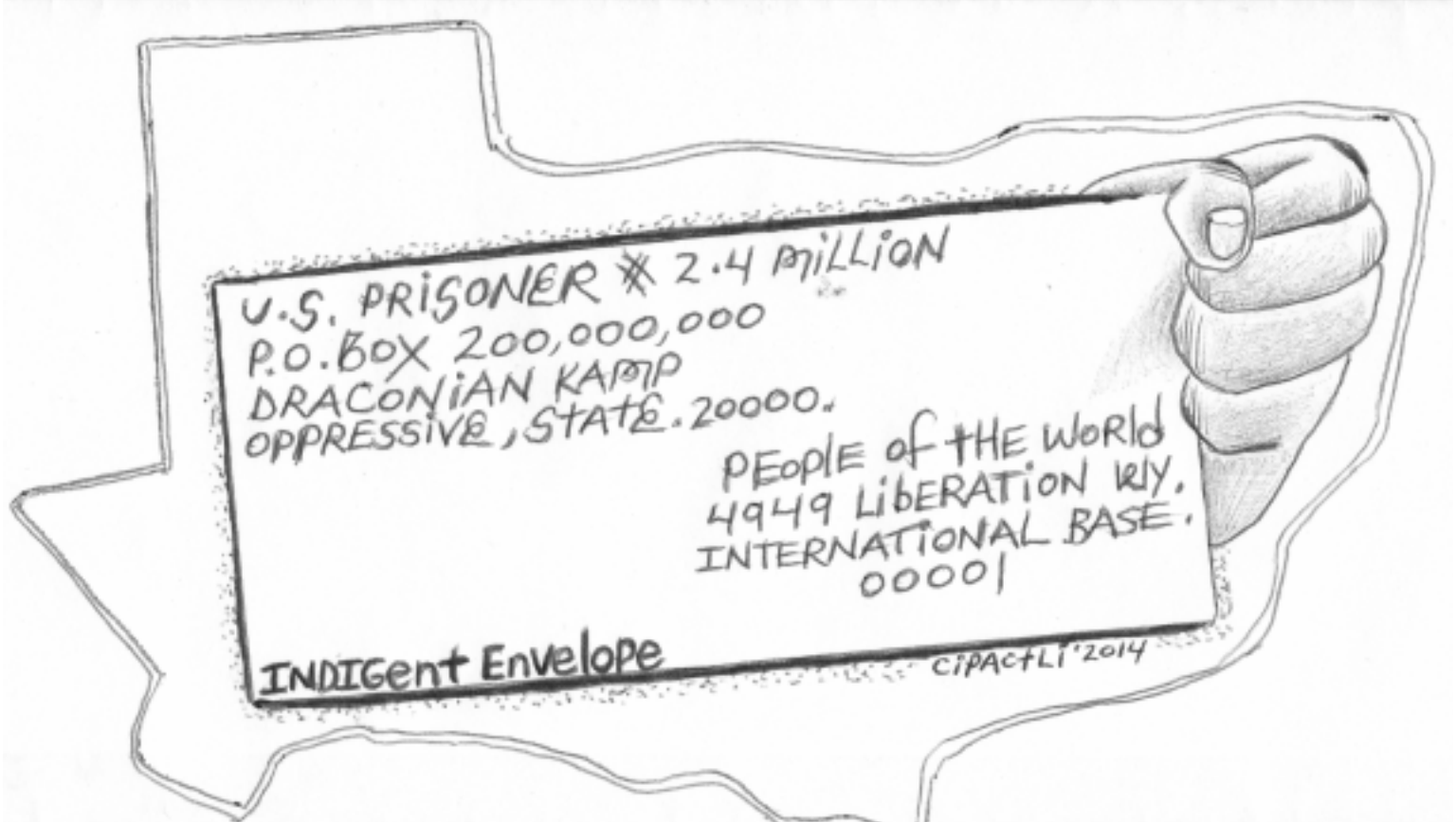
# Repression of Juneteenth Boycott Organizers has Begun

by MIM(Prisons)  
May 2022

[Originally published before Juneteenth 2022, censorship has increased greatly throughout June.] With just a month remaining before the first series of actions around the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative, we have received reports of repression of activists by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice(TDCJ).

One of the hearts of this campaign is the brutal Allred Restrictive Housing Unit(RHU) where people have spent decades in isolation. We've recently learned that one organizer at Allred hasn't received half a dozen letters we've sent em over the last few months. Eir outgoing mail is also delayed or gone missing. This mail tampering is illegal. We wrote the warden of Allred to stop this censorship. If he doesn't stop it, we know this political repression is intentional from the top of the TDCJ to suppress our boycotting of Juneteenth.

We are asking others to join our letter writing and postcard campaign in support of the rights of MIM Distributors and these activists in Allred to freely communicate. The postcard at bottom of p.5 can be downloaded, printed on card stock and cut into four postcards. Then you can ask people to sign them, put a postcard stamp (\$0.40) on them, and drop them in a mail box. Over the next couple months we want to show TDCJ that people outside are paying attention and supporting the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative. This is one way to do that. You can also call Warden Jimmy



Smith @ (940) 855-7477 (\*069).

Stevenson Unit in Texas has also stepped up censorship related to materials about the Juneteenth boycott. The TX Team One Primer was censored for the reason:

*"Page(s) 4 contains information advocating prison disruption."*

Prisoners are very limited in what they can do when their grievances are ignored. Most actions will lead to repression. A boycott is the most passive action. There are no calls to violence nor

do the plans threaten security in any way. Just a peaceful demonstration of solidarity, demanding some basic humyn rights be applied in Texas prisons. Yet this is being outlawed by the state.

Even worse, in eir most recent update, one comrade in Stevenson reported that:

*"last night I was placed in handcuffs and marched off to solitary confinement, the place from where I currently write. I woke this morning to find I'm being charged with 2 new rules violations: 1) Attempt/threat to assault a correctional officer and 2) As-*

*sault of a correctional officer."*

There was no assault. In fact this comrade is not even supposed to be housed on the second floor because of eir health conditions. Ey believes this is retaliation for the appeals ey filed against the censorship of literature sent by MIM Distributors. Meanwhile, MIM Distributors was not given the opportunity to appeal, and only received the final decision from TDCJ.

As our comrade in Stevenson Unit so eloquently concluded,

*"They will never succeed in*

*snuffing out my flame and their attempts to silence the truth only causes it to roar even louder! They cloak themselves in legitimacy and the trappings of power because deep down they know they are weak and the system is crumbling — to be swept aside along with all the silly liberal reformers and we build a better world over their ruins, a new society based on equality and respect and compassion and truth and justice and "love" — a human society fit for fully involved and determined human beings at peace with themselves, each other, and the world around us."*■

... Continued from p. 1

## ... Juneteenth Freedom Initiative Phase 2

*for several weeks here. On Juneteenth, no movement due to low staff and no special holiday meal. The officers dining room had ribs, BBQ chicken and brisquet with all the fixins, and these were supposed to be delivered to each officer on duty. However, most were stolen en route. The warden and kitchen captain were pissed."*

The JFI was initiated by TX T.E.A.M. O.N.E who has continued to lead organizing efforts inside. Others, including Prison Lives Matter, Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee Local 613 #1, the Texas Liberation Collective, and United Struggle from Within cells, have joined the call. On the outside, MIM(Prisons), Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support, and the Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement have been providing support.

### Phase 2

Per the plan below, laid out by TX T.E.A.M. O.N.E. the next phase of the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative for prisoners is to file petitions with the Department of Justice. If you need a sample petition, write us to get a copy. This petition is not specific to Texas, so all prisoners are encouraged to participate.

Prisoners in long-term solitary confinement in Texas can also join the *Dillard* lawsuit against the TDCJ. If you need a copy of the motion to join, write us.

Outside supporters can best assist organizers inside by joining our campaign against censorship. We want to continue to let the TDCJ know that people outside are paying attention and not willing to accept this political repression. We will be following up with a lawsuit on behalf of an affected party in Allred and MIM

Distributors. You can help in the following ways:

- calling or writing letters to the TDCJ, and to Allred Unit in particular
- getting others to sign postcards protesting the censorship
- contribute to the legal fund to fight censorship

For more information go to: [prisoncensorship.info](http://prisoncensorship.info) and go to the Campaigns page and Boycott Juneteenth. For info on how to donate click the "Do Something" link.

### Background on JFI

As you may know, Juneteenth has now been made a federal holiday in amerika. On this day many will sing the praises of Our oppressors or otherwise negate the reality of the lumpen (economically alienated class), that according to amerika's 13th amendment We are **STILL SLAVES**. While We do not wish to nullify the intensity of the exploitation and oppression that New Afrikan people held in chattel slavery faced, We must pinpoint to the general public, those upcoming generations of youngsters looking to follow Our footsteps, that to be held in captivity by the state or feds is not only to be frowned upon but is part and parcel with the intentions of this amerikan government, and its capitalist-imperialist rulers. We say **NO CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH** until the relation of people holding others in captivity is fully abolished!!

Comrades have been organizing around the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative(JFI) for almost a year now, and we just completed phase 1. Prisoners in Texas and

North Carolina took up the campaign. Instead of celebrating Juneteenth, boycotters worked to get out the voice of the incarcerated in TX and NC.

Previous campaign materials include more demands and more details. Add your own demands that speak to your local conditions and make the JFI demands heard by the masses and the oppressors. Don't just boycott, organize.

The Boycott is just the first phase and launch of this campaign by and for all Texas prisoners.

1. Juneteenth boycott and voice demands starting 19 June 2022
2. present petition to the Department of Justice Special Litigation division (write in to get a copy if you still need one) — everyone should mail copies of their own signed petition to the DOJ following Juneteenth 2022
3. if (2) fails to bring proper response, we will petition the United Nations — date To Be Determined — watch for announcement in Under Lock & Key, we will be requesting testimonials and collecting statistics to back up our arguments on each campaign position and submit them as evidence to bolster the recent guilty verdict of the We Still Charge Genocide, International Tribunal 2021 where mass incarceration and solitary confinement were ruled to be vital tools in the U.S. campaign of genocide for centuries against Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples of this continent. ■

# Targeted Censorship & Abuse with Impunity

by a Texas prisoner  
June 2022

Hey fellas,

I got a correspondence letter from y'all a couple of weeks ago that was denied for "contents which would incite a disturbance". First, I asked if the letter was "Media Correspondence" and the chick said "yeah". So I'm like "Who denied it and why was it opened without my presence?" Of course, she didn't want to give no name — neither hers or of whoever denied it. So I refused to sign. I did try to appeal, but after refusing to sign I'm sure they just threw it away. So I don't know if you're acknowledged as a media correspondent or not, or if they got you some kind of watch list. I know what policy says and if they do it again I'll grieve that ass hard. I'm sure you been banned ever since you got those Texas Pack's out. They won't let that in, or any regular mail you send. But it's too late.

I did all I could and spread the word in the Allred law library — shit was a hit. They (TDCJ) call it inciting a disturbance, but we all know that it's all the information we should be entitled to have to fight the negligence, abuse, and misinterpretation of state and federal laws. This unit has a loooong history of violating its own policy and civil rights with impunity. The grievance department, to medical and everything in between, is set up this way. People like me who are in the know and work to expose the corruption are either shipped

elsewhere, or if they don't have outside help, are "rolled" off the unit with an ass whoopin and/or false charges. They do this to protect the "overall safety and security of the institution" that they have going.

I've only been here since February 2022 and have been either a witness or victim of every violation but murder. My biggest gripes were that the P4s (safe keeping G4) are religiously discriminated on and refused worship services unless they are of the mainstream faith. The transwomen have no privacy screens to cover their breast in the shower areas, exposing them to voyeurism when there is no "exigent circumstance".(see "BP-3.91 Says No Girlfriend Pix, But Sexualization of Trans Prisoners OK" from ULK 77) P4s are stuck in the cell during the peak heat of the day, even the hottest of days, everyday. Respite, and respite showers do not exist during such times. Cold water is only offered if they are lucky enough to have a janitor there to pass it out. The cops sure as hell ain't doing it. It's fucked up. I just got off that custody but I still feel for 'em and want to help cause I've never seen such animosity and neglect towards a population. There are only a little over 30 P4s on the unit, almost 1/2 are trans women. They should be protected, but instead are targeted. That's bout all I got for now.

Please hit me back when you can. ■



# Texas Prisoners Launch Attack on the Parole System

by Khufu Foundation  
May 2022

Greetings Comrades.

Imagine a lawsuit attacking the constitutionality of the Texas Parole System being filed in every U.S. District Court in Texas, by 100 or more prisoners. Well this is exactly what the Khufu Foundation is attempting to do. However, it can only be done with **MASSIVE** Prisoner participation. The Texas Legislature does not meet again until 2023, and any hope of them changing this system is slim to none. Thus, it is up to the Prisoners to effect a change.

For the prison system to function constitutionally, there must be a system in place that works. The continuous rejection of parole based solely on the commitment crime does not justify the denial, and is constitutionally unacceptable. Thus, the Khufu Foundation is calling on those hundreds of prisoners who have been repeatedly set-off for 1D and 2D, **SERIOUS NATURE OF OFFENSE** and **CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR PATTERN** to file Civil Rights Lawsuits for Declaratory

and Injunctive relief.

Every human, town, state, and country has a History. History is a fact that can never be changed, but redeemed. What is rehabilitation? It is a redemption of a past history of conduct. The Texas Legislators claim that incarceration "is the punishment" for the crime committed, and the parole system is the rehabilitation. Yet, without a workable parole system, without the intervention of "Board Members", a prisoner is continuously punished by the system which is unworkable. The fact is, the Texas Parole Board needs to be dismantled and replaced with a workable Parole System. The Khufu Foundation has compiled a Template Lawsuit based on the following, along with a Memorandum of Law:

*"While the U.S. Supreme Court has not defined the minimum process required by the Due Process Clause for a denial of parole under the California system, it made clear that the requirements were satisfied where the inmates were allowed to speak at their hearings and to contest the evidence against them, were afforded access to their records in*

*advance, and were notified as to the reasons why parole was denied."* — see *Pearson v. Muntz*, 639 F.3d 1185.

I am the Plaintiff in the lawsuit against members of the TBPP, as well as the litigator in another cause against them: *Hicks V. TBPP*, 6:22cv134 *Armour V. TBPP*, 6:22cv33 in the Eastern District-Tyler Division. This is an update to enjoin each of you who read this and have received multiple set-offs to file your own lawsuit and/or file motions to join these. Also, know that there has been an order to replead issued in *Armour v. TBPP* with the Court alleging that TBPP is protected by the Eleventh Amendment. Thus, I urge you to name Chairman David Gutierrez and Rissie Owens as defendants.

I will be arguing that the TBPP is not protected by the 11th Amendment in light of the *Ex Parte Young* doctrine, which states:

*"In determining whether the doctrine of Ex Parte Young avoids an 11th Amendment bar to suit, a federal court need only conduct a straightforward inquiry into*

*whether the complaint alleges an ongoing violation of federal law and seeks relief properly characterized as prospective."* *Const. Amend.11*

- See *Verizon MD, Inc v. Public Service Commission of Maryland*, 535 U.S. 635, 122 S.Ct. 1753 and *McCarthy ex rel Travis V. Hawkins*, 385 F.3d 407, 412 (5th Cir. 2000)

Next, please find enclosed my letter to the Court in *F. Martinez, et al., v TBCJ, et al.*, 3:21cv337. Please send a copy of my letter along with my name to the Plaintiff in this cause for it is very important that he not settle unless he gets something in writing from the Court. TDCJ will rock one into believing they are going to do the right thing; and they will do the right thing for just long enough for you to think all is well until one of their people violates someone then you find out there is nothing in writing that binds them. Examples: *Ruiz and Brown*.

The Khufu Foundation is currently seeking to hear from those who have been repeatedly set-off, and is asking them to file this law-

suit. If you would like a copy of this lawsuit, send a SASE and 3 stamps to:

THE KHUFU FOUNDATION  
910 LONEY ST.  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** We do not know anything about the Khufu Foundation and cannot vouch for them if you choose to send them stamps. However, this campaign for parole reform is in line with some of the demands of the June-teenth Freedom Initiative and we thought some of the legal strategies herein might be useful to others. We are not lawyers. We are revolutionaries.

As revolutionaries MIM(Prisons) does not spend time working for parole reform. We do work to build independent institutions such as our Re-Lease on Life program to help comrades be successful and stay involved in the struggle when they are released. If you have an upcoming release date or parole date, it's never too early to start working with us. ■

## Racist Double-Standards and Censorship in the Allred RHU Mailroom

by a Texas prisoner  
June 2022

Dear MIM:

Your last three mailings were denied by the mail room. The Last one, received on 5/25/22 stated "Denied: one letter. Content inciting a disturbance. DRC — non appealable list (offender cannot appeal)." The next two denials arrived on the same day (6/6/22): "One newsletter and one packet. Contains content inciting a disturbance." I did appeal these last two decisions.

Apparently, when a prisoner attempts to assert his rights, the mail room calls it "inciting a disturbance!?" These are the same racist dogs who can get away with denying me a photograph of my ten-year old nephew who was innocently posing while making some silly hand signs, calling that "gang related." The kids are being kids and their hand signs have absolutely nothing to do with gangs! Had it been white kids posing in similar fashion, instead of calling it "gang-related," these racist mail room employees would've called the photograph "cute."

These are the same racist muthafuckers who loved it — and applauded — when that comic figure (D. Trump) was separating all the kids from their parents at the border, you know, that as long as it is not their kids who are being treated so inhumanely, they obviously do not care about our kids, right!? And what's so fucked up is that when the white 'lady' who delivers the denial papers arrives to our cell, she pretends like she's really upset that I would even want to receive these MIM publications. She practically turns her back on me as if I were being so un-American, or something!

But I have news for her, and anyone else of her ilk. I don't want part of *any* system that snatches babies out of the arms of their mothers, or a system that allows their police forces to murder people of color with impunity, while these same fuckin' cowards refuse to enter a school where kids are being massacred! And while the trigger-happy cowards are quick to murder unarmed civilians, *none* of the recent sick and deranged school shooters (or other mass murderers) have been killed by police! Why not? Be-

cause the cowardly police officers were "too scared" and chickenshit to engage the "active shooters." Plain and simple. And each time these police officers take the stand at someone's trial, where they will lie and perjure themselves (as they are wont to do), they will recite their "highly trained" credentials, but where are all these "highly trained" credentials when the little kids in a school are being massacred and need help?

And their "exceptional training," without fail, goes out the window when these same police officers take the stand, not only do they (conveniently) "forget" vital details during vital parts of their trial testimony, they lie about who handled what piece of evidence, whether or not they used gloves to handle the evidence un-dated and un-sworn "supplemental reports" appear out of nowhere to "assist" these liars and "refreshen their memories" etc. And as the famous attorney Gerry Spence once remarked (an attorney who has practiced law for over 50 years), he has *never* been involved in a case where police did not lie or plant evidence, or engage in some other illegalities, in other words, like me, he has never met an honest cop! And like me, he's not saying they're not out there, I just haven't ever met one.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** Outside supporters, please join our campaign to protest censorship in Allred RHU. This censorship has ramped up in response to prisoner organizing. This is politically-motivated repression and it is illegal. You can call, write a letter, or better yet print out our post-cards and get others to sign them to let them know what's going on in Texas prisons!

In the week following Juneteenth we have received letters from all across Texas reporting on similar censorship of our mail. We need your help combat these attacks on prisoner organizing and basic rights to communication and affiliation. ■

## Grooming Victory in Texas, But Censorship and Release Problems Continue

by a Texas prisoner  
June 2022

I'm writing because I've had two or three letters from you denied here at Wynne Unit, they say "the information contains messages of hatred and statements that could start riots". Of course, I disagreed and wasn't given the opportunity to appeal it by the Texas Director's Review Committee.

Secondly, place this in your next issue: I won a §1983 Suit in Texas dealing with the beard and hair policy. Specifically you can wear goatees, dreads, and braids than "they've now said one big braid". The case log is *Newman v. Marfo 4:19-CU-00352* and, now I have a retaliation claim which is *Newman v. Bowers 4:22-CU-01649* because these officials are

still giving cases creating a related injury and causal connection due to this being directly related to my, as well as our, protected conduct guarded by the 1st Amendment Constitutional Right.

Please post this because we only suffered in Texas prisons because the residents are weak and have no real hope and don't acquire the will to believe we have the power to fight legally without physical contact but, by our minds. I also started another claim for another resident for abolishing the 1996 clause that says if we meet the standard for release, they don't have to let us go; signed by former President Clinton and Joe Biden. So, when Biden duped blacks to break all those records getting him in office why didn't he unsign it? ■

## Censorship of TBCJ, TDCJ Policies, Procedures and Rules

by a Texas prisoner  
June 2022

Dear MIM:

I'm writing to advise of a need for you to publish in your next issue a NOTICE FOR ALL TEXAS PRISONER ACTIVISTS concerning censorship of TBCJ-and-TDCJ policies (n.b.:The State-level Prison bureaucrats of Personnel) against the prison population and outside communities. This censorship practice is designed to keep the public relations of peoples who are incarcerated in ignorance and from having incarcerated people' loved ones and friends in a DIS-ADVANTAGED PHASE-AND-STATE-IN-NATURE when attempting to learn the proper information and steps to address the situations and problems arising outta the medical-and-mental health or prison conditions. The prison population needs to know of this. It seems that only certain information we've made/or ordered to be omitted from being accessible or available at the central-level and unit-level law library room Department's list of in-stock holding items on their shelf.

The following is the list of items that the central-level and unit-level personnel does not want us to learn about with respect to TDCJ procedures and rules:

1. Grievance Operations Manual (see: *"TDCJ Upholds Censorship of their own Grievance Manual"* from ULK 77)
2. Operations for Mailroom Manual \*
3. WSD Recreation Program Procedures Manual
4. Departmental Policy and Operations Manual
5. Food Service Procedures Manual
6. Safe Prison/PREA Operations Manual
7. Access to Court Procedures Manual \*
8. Substance Abuse Treatment Operation Manual
9. Sex Offender Treatment Operations Manual
10. Unit Classification Procedures Manual
11. TDCJ Intake Procedures Manual
12. TDCJ Records Detention Schedule
13. TDCJ Property Procedures Manual
14. Operational Review Manual
15. Unit Classification Plan \*

*Continued on page 7...*

**WE DEMAND MAIL AND PHONE ACCESS IN RHU!**

People being held in Allred Restricted Housing Unit(RHU) are facing inhumane conditions of isolation. They need contact with the outside world via mail and phone calls. They should not be punished for talking to the outside world about the conditions in RHU or for campaigning to end these conditions. These are legal actions. Censorship should not be used as a punishment.

Mail censorship of activists in Allred has been going on for months. I am writing to implore you to follow the law and stop the censorship.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

CITY,STATE\_\_\_\_\_



# Rest in Power: Principal Thinker, Peace Maker, New Afrikan Revolutionary Paul Redd

by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

As comrades in Texas, North Carolina and elsewhere took action to protest long-term solitary confinement and mass incarceration this Juneteenth, we lost a leader in the struggle against solitary confinement and oppression in all forms in California. Paul Redd passed away on 19 June 2022. His funeral was July 9th in Oakland, California.

Redd was a New Afrikan Revolutionary, an author, and a principal thinker behind the development of the 2012 Agreement to End Hostilities (AEH) across California prisons. The AEH preceded an historical campaign against Security Housing Units (SHU) that included the largest prison hunger strikes in history.

### Statement from Paul Redd's family

"Paul Redd left us on Juneteenth. A hero to so many, he was loved by so many communities: from his childhood friends in Oakland, to his family who has always been with him, to decades-long friendships from the inside,

to the many friends he made in his two years home after 44 years of wrongful incarceration, including 30 in solitary. He will be remembered for his infinite love, his courage, strength, generosity, hope, his poetry, and passion for justice. We love you Paul!"

### Words from Redd's comrades:

"Paul Redd's passing is heartfelt for many as he was a staunch advocate of Black Love and Solidarity. His dedication and commitment to freedom of himself and other prisoners made him a target of the State and thereby a political prisoner. I spent prison time with Paul in Tracy and San Quentin, and know of his years of selfless service in the Black Guerilla Family. As a soldier for the liberation of his people, he will be sorely missed in the field of battle opposing white supremacy and the tyranny of capitalism-imperialism. Paul, I salute you!!!" – Jalil Muntaqim

"He taught honor and respect to so-called thugs and 'hood niggas' and showed them how to respect and give concern for each other in such a way, thereby the world would come to respect and honor them. He also taught them to be young Lions and soldiers for all



Memorial for Paul Redd in Oakland, California

seasons. I was one of those young soldiers that he taught. And I was one of those young warriors that had grown with the example that he gave me. I stand now as an eternal witness to the teachings that this Brotha imparted to me, the political education. He taught

form or another of solitary confinement. One organizer died before he was ever to see freedom. Others have received new and serious charges that are possibly retaliatory, so as not to disrupt CDCR's false narratives that the organizers of the historical California Prison Hunger Strikes are the worst of the worst. And while studies claim that California faces a 66% recidivism rate, they continue to refuse to release these elders who pose a risk of less than 2%.

This constitutes a human rights crisis and we can no longer remain silent. We demand that the signers of the AEH, as well as for all organizers and participants of the California Prison Hunger Strikes, to be safe from retaliation, including further torture, isolation or, as laid out in the PHRM Blueprint, from being coerced, threatened and blackmailed to betray fellow prisoners with false accusations. We demand that the signers of the AEH be granted 2933 credits, based on the attached Certificate of Acknowledgment, to reduce or modify their sentences, and receive an immediate opportunity to demonstrate their readiness to return to their communities, starting with the individuals who have already had a positive impact on their community and society and would clearly have an even greater positive impact they will have on society as a whole if released.

In addition, the PEACE program that has already been established at Pelican Bay State Prison joins CPF and KAGE Universal to request that the AEH be posted throughout all CDCR institutions, using Inmate Welfare Funds.

Sincerely,

Kim Pollak, California Prison Focus, Executive Director

Minister King X, K.A.G.E. Universal, Founder, Executive Director

California Prison Focus, Director of Culture and Art

Cc: Kathleen Allison, CDCR Secretary, Signers of the Agreement to End Hostilities ■

me to refuse. He showed and taught me how to stand and not bend, buck or bow before the murderers who held us captive in Amerikkka's concentration camps.

"...This Brotha, his spirit lives

forever. I'm Brotha Balagoon Kambone, a Brotha and a friend."

See more in the article "Songs of tribute to Paul Redd, home with the ancestors", The San Francisco Bay View, Vol 47, No 7. ■

## CA Extorting Money from Prisoners

by a California prisoner  
May 2022

I was impressed with the research behind the articles about Suboxone in ULK 75 and 76. I first heard of this substance four years ago when individuals showed up on the yard (at Richard J. Donovan) that were using it. Someone I associated with informed me that it was like methadone and that it was highly addictive. I know that guys here at California Medical Facility are using Suboxone whether it's prescribed to them or not. In fact, illicit drugs of all types are available here, even during the quarantine lockdown when there were no contact visits allowed!

Also, this facility is holding a food sale to "raise money for the Special Olympics." The offering of a chicken sandwich, potato chips and a cookie for \$22.00 doesn't seem like a good deal to me. Especially considering that only a small percentage would go to the Special Olympics and that 10% goes to the "Inmate Welfare Fund". Is this a scam or what!?

An article in *San Quentin News* on a similar fund raiser reads:

"Prisoners spent \$63,000 with 10% of the profits going to a charity."

I see these sales as another scheme to extract money from prisoners and their families and friends and that the real benefactors for these "charities" are the CDCR.

There is another article in the same newspaper on the GTL tablets that are being pushed on us. I've read some of the specifications for these tablets and they are of course cheap pieces of crap. They are entirely dedicated to make GTL money pure and simple. How do companies like GTL get away with it? Here is some key points from the article:

"GTL is the phone service provider for all CDCR prisons...

According to *Prison Legal News (PLN)*, GTL has had to pay out millions of dollars to settle lawsuits over the years for alleged violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (TCPA).

"In October 2020 a New Jersey judge approved a \$25 million settlement agreement between GTL and New Jersey prisoners who paid up to 100 times the actual phone rate between 2006 and 2016, according to PLN.

"The company has also been sued for charging unlawfully inflated prices for collect calls made by incarcerated people throughout the U.S."

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** We wholeheartedly agree with this comrades assessment of these money-making schemes. We call this extortion, prisoners are forced to pay higher prices for things because there is no other option for them.

The Chik-Fil-A sandwich with waffle chips and a cookie that CDCR was charging \$22 for is about \$8 on the street. They're charging prisoners almost 3 times the normal price! If \$2.20 is going to charity, where's the other \$12 going?

For more on the topic of tablets, see "A Strategic Objective to Disrupt and Surveil the Communication Between Prisoners and Our Loved Ones" in *ULK 76*. The article on GTL tablets claims they offer "secure email", which is a joke because we know GTL and CDCR staff can read anything you send on those things. In other cases, companies have charged prisoners for things like ebooks that are free in the public domain. GTL loves it because they charge prisoners extortion-level subscription fees for very restricted content, and CDCR loves it because it increases the ease of surveillance. The article also promotes the tablets as pacifiers, like suboxone, to keep the prison population docile. ■

... Continued from p. 1

### ... Liberate Our Elders

prison to begin providing a host of rehabilitative programs. Because of the sacrifices those individuals made, countless others have been saved from enduring decades-long solitary confinement torture as they did.

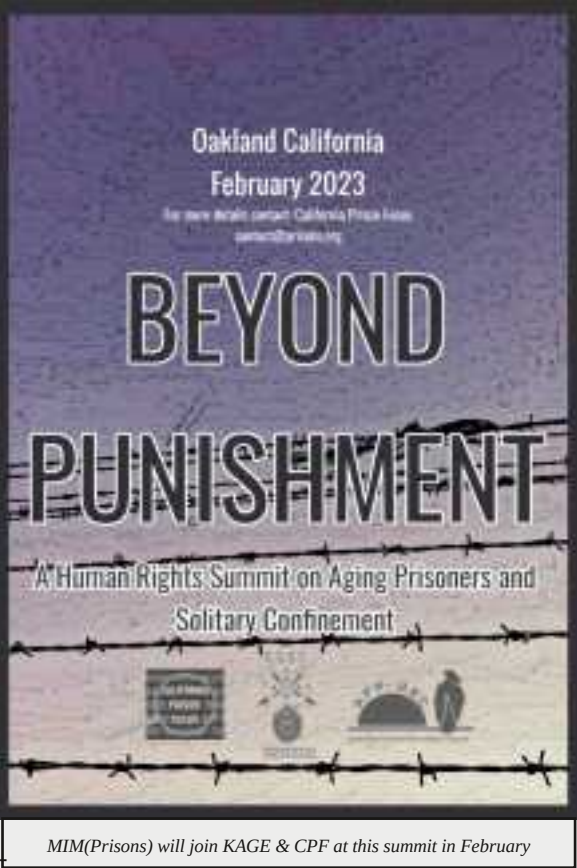
When these men, who had been tortured in solitary confinement for decades had attempted to disseminate and promote this historic accord, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) obstructed their efforts, claiming that the AEH qualifies as third-party communication. Staff members refused to post the statement throughout the prison, while during that same period, and since many years earlier, CPF was receiving reports that guards were placing "disruptive" individuals on the yards to instigate fights. [See *Prison Focus* archives, [www.prisons.org](http://www.prisons.org)]

"Mr. Y stated that some people try to sabotage it, namely the correctional officers, who continue to try to trick the general population with their anti-solidarity games..." *Pelican Bay State Prison Report*, PF Issue 48, Winter 2016

CDCR claimed that the signers of the AEH presented a major threat to the safety of the general prison population and in September 2013, there were approximately 3,881 prisoners in CDCR's Security Housing Units (SHU) when the AEH had just been distributed inside CDCR and outside to civil society.

Approximately 2000 people were released from the SHU starting in early 2016 as a result of the *Ashker v. Brown* settlement agreement. When these older men came out of the SHUs, their principle thinking, and mentoring of younger prisoners in General Population yards created a dramatic decrease in violence, except when instigated directly or indirectly by prison policy and/or guards. To the contrary, as the men returned to the yards struggling to cope after decades of torture, they continued to promote

and honor the AEH. Their commitment to non-violence and class unity among the SHU "kickouts" was even more remarkable as CDCR did nothing to assist SHU prisoners in transitioning to General Population even though it was extremely difficult for them



after decades of being in solitary, living 24/7 in tiny cells with no natural light and under severe and harsh conditions.

CPF received reports and letters that the elders who were released from solitary confinement after so many decades were having a profound impact in reducing violence on the yards. At the same time CPF was receiving hundreds of letters a year, reporting incidents of violence that were directly or indirectly caused by both overt and covert actions taken by prison staff, sanctioned by the policy and prison administration of CDCR.

The signers by every organized group in CDCR, those who promulgated the AEH, and their fellow prisoner organizers of the California Prison Hunger Strikes, have been suffering from extreme retaliation ever since. Twelve of the original 16 signers continue to languish in prison today, as most of them are still being held in one



# Understanding George Jackson

by a Texas prisoner  
July 2022

Peace Comrades. Recieved the latest issue of the newspaper & passed it off to one of my comrades who just recently got into some trouble. So if possible, I would like to receive that issue & the one before it. Thanks with much love in revolution.

I'm writing this as an article that I'm hoping will get published for the Black August Memorial in hopes that my earnest effort could perhaps clarify things a bit further in terms of matter of perspective & also to educate brothers/sisters on the legendary history of fallen comrade George Jackson.

I read an article that began somewhat vacariously about the fallen comrade & his connection to Hugo Pinnell who was also BGF & how because of George's wide encompassing views on race & its place in standing to building political/military cadre's, that this somehow means that we need to abandon the rhetoric that is connected with groups who are primarily concerned with fixing the "Black issue".

I strongly disagree with the content of that article & not because my views are just so diametrically different, but because I too have wide encompassing views concerning race. However, I'm not under the impression that we need to abandon our quest in building the support that is needed to eliminate the black problem altogether. My first reason for this is largely because I see that Blacks are the only group who is told to forget about the monumental issue that we faced & are still facing. But its also because of the fact that before we can ever hope to build in the concept of global Asiatic unity & eventually begin to merge our support with Europeans, we must first unify among ourselves & use that unity to destroy the Black problem & then we can go on to build with others & help others in their quest for the same sort of thing.

You see, revolution is tied to long range politics. This is so because revolution is so complex due to the fact that everything —

places, people, religion, economics, and sociology — will be impacted in a major way. It's not as simple as a government takeover & let's be real, if you cannot make revolution into a transmitter that spreads through all cultural variations, then a government takeover here & abroad will never be possible.

George was a people's revolutionary & by people's revolutionary I mean people in terms of all humanity. However, even he had to develop into that sort of personhood. Let's not forget either that George Jackson was a huge history major & for those who really know about George, they attest to the fact that he loved being Black & even wanted to be Blacker. That is not proof that he ever abandoned his concern for his people's plight nor did he have a lack of pride what comes from a lack of knowledge. Through his studies on Afrikan history as evidence through both of his books, I know he saw the connection between the Original man globally. That means that he saw the black, brown, yellow, red (a variation of brown) as Asiatics & all being the same people, & the fact that we suffered at the hands of the same forces & people was largely his reason to connect with these people.

The Black Guerrilla Family was initially started to combat racism within the confines of an openly oppressive prison system designed against Blacks. Yeah, sure, George did overcome the counterproductive effects of racism that would have surely stunted his growth as a communist revolutionary. But when did the Black Guerrilla Family ever become a family that forgot about the Black issue?

I think for a lot of people who became politically aware, they became like Utopian anarchists in a way. I say this because a lot don't see the fact that whatever issue they faced like slavery here and abroad is what fueled their passion to become revolutionaries in the first place. I get that we cannot stay blinded by that issue alone, but how do you walk on a broken leg? You have to heal that leg first. It's like Malcolm said "You can't stab a man with a 12-

inch knife and pull it out 3 inches and ask him why he's still complaining." One issue doesn't trump the next one, however until we get free completely its righteous for brothers to complain and use that concern to solve their problems.

Also as revolutionaries, it's supposed to be our aim to help others to eliminate their problems, not to beat them over the head for doing so.

I also disagree with the fact that August 21 and the Attica uprising were not events solely about George. Even if you believe the bullshit "story" that the state concocted to assassinate George, this still means that the events that took place and led up to the assassination were about George and this means that the San Quentin 6 coming together was for George. Perhaps it was solidarity across "national" lines but, if Hugo Pinell was Puerto Rican, then how wasn't he Black? Now I agree that the revolt of Attica was already brewing, however George's assassination was the match that struck an already heavily gasolined situation.

If anything, no one needs to forget the Black issue, but I mean this in a global sense, not an Amerikan sense, because the original man is everywhere and everywhere he has come into some form of struggle. Read the history books, don't just get immersed into revolutionary theory. How can you say that you agree with George or any other revolutionary leader if you don't understand their philosophies which are the result of history and the masterworks of theorists who came before them? I don't think those who are excited about Juneteenth are wrong at all. But it's an Amerikan tragedy & that's what Juneteenth should be about.

For Black August, we shouldn't be bickering over Black this, Puerto Rican that, we should be trying to show how we all the same people and use that to connect with each other. Globally the Black man is 11 to 1 there's no reason to argue over why brothers should deviate from Black revolution. If you don't understand that either you didn't go through the process of going from A to Z



or you understand revolution only as its all inclusive, which is good, but there's a process to inclusion.

So if you really champion George, then try to understand the core of his philosophy, not by separating Blacks from other Asiatics, but seeing them collectively as one globally.

Peace.

**Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons) responds:** This comrade writes, "Blacks are the only group who is told to forget about the monumental issue that we faced & are still facing." We hear this a lot from people of different nationalities, that they are told to, or that their own people fight for the liberation of others but not themselves. So I would say this is a misperception that probably stems from the overall lack of revolutionary nationalism among all nations entrapped by the United States at this time and a result of oppressor nation chauvinism telling the oppressed to essentially "stop complaining."

We wholeheartedly agree with this comrade on the need to unify within oppressed nations in order to build strong alliances between the oppressed and especially with forces in the oppressor nation (who are most likely to lead us astray). USW has a slogan, "Unity from the Inside Out", and this is one of the many meanings of that slogan. Like this comrade states, we find the work of prison-

ers (and oppressed nations in general) finding unity and inclusion amongst each other to be important work. We also find it important for two oppressed groups to 100% understand/accept each other's qualitative differences while building unity as blind unity is bound to fall apart. Malcolm X used the term "Black Revolution" as happening in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; so from that angle we see the positive and internationalist application of this model of thinking.

As we explain in another response on single-nation organizing (see p.13), the main reason we think this is true is because imperialism is the dialectical contradiction between oppressor and oppressed nations. To resolve that contradiction, and to end oppression of all forms in the world today, means prioritizing the struggles of the oppressed nations to overcome the oppressor nations and end imperialism.

As to the term "Asiatic", we don't subscribe to the ideas of a differentiation between original or aboriginal people and white people being a demonic derivation of that. And i've never seen any indication that George Jackson did either. We would use the term Third World oppressed nations, as the Black Panthers did. The principal contradiction is the contradiction between nations, which is an historical phenomenon, not a biological difference. ■

... Continued from p. 3 ... Ecuador

insurgencies the rebellions which seems to constantly appear in the country seem to be eclectic and non-ideological. When constantly accused by the regime that these groups are forming coup d'états, CONAIE and organizations representing the workers and students constantly deny the accusations of ousting any presidents. They follow through with their actions as well. Short lived insurgencies don't lead to state power.

### Lessons For Us To Learn

Fidel Castro has famously said that the reasoning behind his armed action and revolution against the Batista government was because working within the existing political system has been exhausted of its effectiveness. Yet, when the new generation of Latin American leftists and self-proclaimed "communists" came to prominence, Fidel Castro also famously claimed that the new generation is lucky because they are in a situation where power can be obtained through the ballot not the bullet. Throughout his life, Castro kept representing the

petty-bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie of Cuba through its alignment with the social-imperialists of the USSR: a similar move that Correa's government had done with the Chinese social-imperialists and the national bourgeoisie of Ecuador. In the end of his life, Castro closely aligned himself with the pink tide of Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, etc.

The lessons we can learn from the failures of reformism or "Socialism of the 21st century" can be standard lessons we have drawn from the failures of all reformist or electoral methods of achieving proletarian dictatorship/socialism. The state is a tool wielded by a class: currently the bourgeoisie. Despite this, finance capital finds its ways to implement social-democracy (or fascism) as a means of governing. Using the tools of the enemy won't get us state power. They will crush us as soon as we cross their lines.

The lessons we can learn from the CONAIE and the various workers and student organiza-

tions which rebel constantly in Ecuador are valuable as well. One lesson is in regards to the distinction of having reforms through violence in contrast to a revolution. Through a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist lens, just because one uses violent tactics or bears arms does not necessarily mean they are revolutionary or conducting meaningful armed struggle. One can be just as reformist through violent means as with electoral means. This highlights the key idea that reform vs revolution isn't a matter of strategies or tactics, it is a question of the correct analysis of how the change from a capitalist society to a socialist society happens. Thousands of masses can rally on the streets throwing firebombs at the police, but if the goal is to change laws and protest austerity measures then it is no different in quality than reform. In similar methods, things that might seem reformist at a shallow glance such as building independent institutions and spreading public opinion against world imperialism (advancing the objective and subjective forces) can be revolutionary if the goals are aligned and preparing for pro-

letarian dictatorship during non-advanced stages. ■

**Long live Ecuador!**  
**Self-determination for all oppressed nations!**

*Notes*  
(1) AP News, June 25, 2022, "Ecuador president: Indigenous leader is trying to stage coup."  
(2) Lina Vanegas, June 27, 2022, "Protesters Meet Ecuador Govt After Rejecting Fuel Price Cut," *International Business Times*.  
(3) Ibid.  
(4) Ibid.  
(5) Ibid.  
(6) Rhonny Rodriguez, October 7th, 2022, "Ecuador, el peor evaluado en la región sobre el manejo de la pandemia" *Expreso*  
(7) Kimberly Brown, October 10th, 2019, "Ecuador unrest: What led to the mass protests?" *Al Jazeera*  
(8) Ibid.  
(9) *Socialism of the 21st Century – Economy, Society, and Democracy in the era of global Capitalism*, Introduction by Heinz Dieterich  
(10) *El Mundo*, April 16th, 2007, "Ecuador cancela la deuda con el FMI y amenaza con echar al representante del Banco Mundial"  
(11) Amy Silverstein, March 9th, 2012, "Ecuador natives begin two-week march to protest Chinese mining company" *The World*

... Continued from p. 5

### ... Censorship

- 16. Restrictive Housing Plan (n.b.: This Plan is not the same as The Manual) \*
- 17. Security Threat Group Plan
- 18. TDCJ Volunteer Services Plan
- 19. TDCJ Suicide Prevention Plan
- 20. Operational Strategic Plan
- 21. TDCJ Administrative Plan for Capital Improvements by Donor Groups
- 22. Chaplaincy Department Manual \*
- 23. Safe Prison/PREA Plan \*

Comrades! The Procedures/Operations Manuals and The Plans are not the same. The manuals will provide the prison population all the ins-and-outs and references of all federal and state statutes or laws pertaining to the subject-matter in question. Starred items above are items made-and-available for the prison population to inspect and review. ■



# Grievance Tips & New Grooming Policy in TX

by Firewater of United Struggle from Within  
July 2022

In *ULK 76* you printed an article by the Connally Committee of Texas T.E.A.M. O.N.E. titled "Connally Unit Denying Grievances & Retaliating". I cannot vouch for the retaliation from here in High Security, but as for not responding to grievances and being chronically understaffed, I can vouch for.

I filed 2 grievances back in early April and have had zero response to them. I found a good cite in *Prison Legal News* June 2022 edition. It says, "A prisoner's administrative remedies are exhausted when prison officials fail to timely respond to a properly filed grievance." (*Haight v. Thompson 763 F. 3d 554 (6th Cir 2014)*) According to this, if they do not respond to our grievances we can go on to a §1983 Civil Action.

My suggestion to TEAM ONE here at Connally is to go ahead and file §1983 Lawsuits with hand-written copies of your Step 1's and try to file a Step 2. But your remedies are exhausted when TDCJ fails to respond to your grievances. They have 40

days to respond to a Step 1 or file an extension. If it has been more than 40 days and you have no answer, your administrative remedies are exhausted. I'm sending a handwritten copy of my Step 1 into the District Court this week. They will file, stamp it and assign it a document number and I'll use it as evidence in my case.

As far as being understaffed, I can certainly agree with the writers of that article. Every end of the month into the first of the month this place is a ghost town. We are locked in our cells and fed sack lunches.

We did recently win a small victory as far as the grooming policy goes. AD-03.83 & SM-06.16 (Rev5) were updated on 10 May 2022 to allow male prisoners to grow long hair and wear pony tails. There were a lot of §1983 lawsuits pending on this subject. I'm still not totally satisfied with the updated policy because TDCJ reserves the right to force cut our hair for disciplinary reasons and they do not do this to the women. Growing our hair is a religious right, not a privilege to be revoked so I still have it listed in my lawsuit. ■

# How can i help get grievances heard in Texas?

by Triumphant of Texas T.E.A.M. O.N.E.  
June 2022

Revolutionary greetings to u all! We hope everyone is prepping for the upcoming action(s) of Juneteenth, and otherwise doing well. Comrade FireWater posed a question, "How can i help Tx TeamOne with a class action suit to have Our grievances heard or to get independent oversight of the grievance system?" i've decided to share Our answer with all of you as it may be helpful to the Tx lumpen populace at large.

In the past few months, Tx TeamOne's founding committee has been forming working relations with a few liberal and petty bourgeois groups for progressive improvements within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). These groups include some elected officials, christian sympathizers, lawyers, radio personalities, and policy groups.

One such group is Tx Prison Reform (TPR), with whom one of Our founding committee members was able to conduct an extensive interview, establishing the basis of Our and the prison masses possible working relationship with this group. The interview will be published in their monthly newsletter and We hope to share it with u all as well. TPR is focused on the destruction of Restricted Housing Units (RHU), but is also collecting grievances and other forms of documentation to showcase the foul nature of TDCJ.

Many of u may be familiar with Tx CURE. If so you'll know the Tx branch has been M.I.A. for awhile, but now has been reorganized by a recently released TDCJ ex-prisoner. This persyn was a leading figure behind the RACK II air conditioning lawsuit. Ey hasn't established an actual mailing address but we have the help of a family law attorney who'll send mailings to the head

of Tx CURE. Right now, We're looking for documented complaints regarding major issues in TDCJ. These grievances will be read in front of and by the Tx legislator at the next session. The persyn from Tx CURE will be persynally speaking on behalf of Tx inmates.

The issue of the grievance process is not a new one to us nor the state officials. The grievance system in Tx and in fact many prison systems around the country were the direct result of the Ruiz Litigation (*Ruiz v. Johnson, 37 F. Supp. 2d 855 (S.D. Tex. 1999)*), and since it was instated the same issues have been present. Accompanied with your grievances you should write an official statement which may also be read for/by the legislators and others. This statement should articulate the need for *independent* oversight of TDCJ grievance system, and make specific reference to Representative Jarvis Johnson's 2019 House Bill which called for said oversight but has never been heard by the House. We want the 2019 House Bill 363 heard and approved by the Texas House of Representatives.

Other key points of emphasis are the excessive censorship and mail tampering and its socio-political nature. With the recent escape & man hunt We've found that censorship due to supposed security threats has picked up. MIM materials have been the target of much excessive censorship (see "*Repression of Juneteenth Boycott Organizers has Begun*" on p.4).

For those who don't know the demographics are slowly but surely shifting. Due to national gentrification, the thriving industries in the state, and no state income tax, among other things, Texas is becoming younger, darker, richer, and slightly more progressive, particularly among youthful citizens. An essential

## Duplicate Grievances and Send to District Clerk

by a Texas prisoner  
February 2022

I see a lot of complaints in *ULK 76* about problems with Grievance Officers. I've been having those problems too and have gotten in the habit of undertaking the laborious task of hand-copying several copies of my grievances and keeping one to "file", sending one to the "grievance box" and one to the "District Clerk". That seemed to get a response when I did it on Willacy and sent a §1983 along with in-

correctly screened (blocked) grievances. The wheels of justice quickly started turning the other way. Even though I don't really have the money to file another §1983, I can't afford to allow these Grievance Officers to get away with not responding to our grievances even more.

This grievance system was certified by the District courts as you've explained in the TX Pack and I'm hoping the courts will not be happy to see TDCJ blocking and denying our access to courts.

I'm not even sure a §1983 would be necessary if I were to somehow be trying to file for Contempt in the *Cole v. Collier* class action but I think Contempt has to be filed by Class Counsel? I'm not sure but am looking into it. It is a little confusing to know who all is a "class member" of that suit since the class extends to all who may be housed at the Pack Unit in the future that seems to me it covers the many prisoners TDCJ has rapidly assigned "Heat Scores" to. ■

## Update Regarding the Lawsuit on BP-03.91 Policies

by a Texas prisoner  
July 2022

Cause Number: 2:21-CV-00337

Styled Name: F Martinez, Doll, Pineapple Pictures, et al. Versus Members of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, et al.

Dear Friends:

Greetings! I am the leading plaintiff in the above styled and numbered case. I filed this lawsuit on my behalf and others similarly situated prisoners in TDCJ. I also represent the interest of Doll, Pineapple and other commercial vendors.

The reasons in filing this law-

suit is to challenge the constitutionality of the rules 1(C) and IV(A)(10)(11) of the "Uniform Offenders Correspondence Rules" (BP-03.91)

Rule 1(C) which limits to receive ten photos per envelope is unreasonably and arbitrarily applied to deny catalogs, brochures, and flyers from commercial vendors. Rule IV(A)(10)(11) which totally bans "sexually explicit images" coming into the general population all in disguise of rehabilitation purposes.

On or about 17 June 2022, I filed in court a "motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction." I hope that the court grant me this motion and

temporarily enjoin the defendants from enforcing these rules until the merits are decided in trial or through the summary judgement process.

Anybody interested in copies of the complaint and the "TRO" motion may request copies form the court. To request the price fees you may write to the clerk of the court at:

U.S. District Court  
Southern District of Texas  
Galveston Division  
Clerk of the Court  
601 Rosenberg Street, Rm 411  
Galveston, TX 77550 ■

contradiction in Tx is that of the rural vs. urban population and the culture wars, and fight for resources this intensifies. Urban populations tend to be darker, more liberal/progressive (not revolutionary though) and lean left of center on prison issues among others. Bernie Sanders' organization "Our Revolution" has been pushing campaigns by petty bourgeois, Democratic Socialist elements around the country for the last several years and now this present election cycle they have several candidates who're challenging the districts of the old guard Democratic Party establishment. These districts are in both rural and urban areas but mostly rural, which if successful will shift state electoral bourgeois politics for the next decade or so.

A key point of emphasis for these so-called New Left Democrats is Prison Reform. This will open organizing doors for revolutionaries within the walls and those who support us.

i share all this because elements from the New Left Democrats and some from a more moderate approach have championed and made possible a new committee to 'Study Tx Criminal Justice Issues.' They're excepting documentary information from now until October on a wide range of issues covering initial interaction with police, to jail policies & conditions, Grand Jury issues, sentencing, and finally prison conditions. Below i will include their addresses along with those of the lawyer, and the groups i mentioned have been establishing working relationships with.

p.s. We're also happy to announce the present development of a Tx TEAMONE committee in Smith Unit.

Jerney Coe Law Office/423 S. Spring Ave/ Tyler, TX 75702  
Tx Prison Reform/ Box #671/

Kaukana, WI 54130  
Fairchanges/2407 S. Congress Ave, Ste E-434/ Austin, TX 78704 (send reports on current conditions, at least 3 recommendations for change, deadline 7/4/2022)

RealLife Ministries/ Box #328/ Forney, TX 75126 (also does RealLife Radio, write to find out where you can tune in)

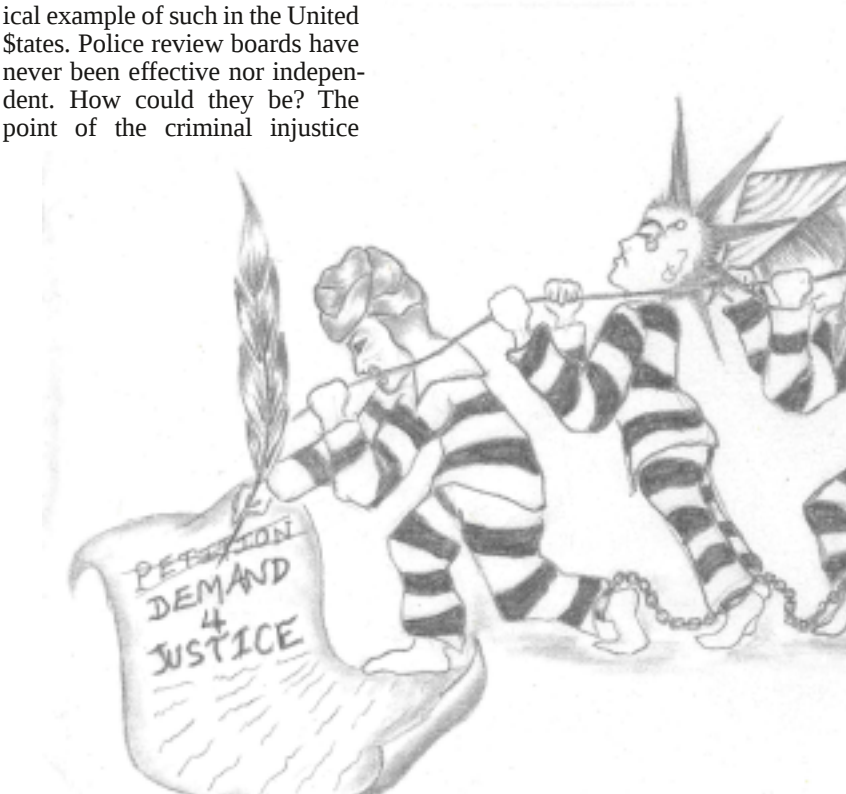
Dist. 141 - Senfronia Thompson/ 10527 Homestead Rd/ Houston, TX 77016 (Interim Study Committee on Criminal Justice reform ahead of legislation)

i hope this information is useful.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We agree with Triumphant that a shift in demographics and elected officials could create more space for prison organizing. In theory an *independent* review board could create space for organizing as well. However, there is no historical example of such in the United States. Police review boards have never been effective nor independent. How could they be? The point of the criminal injustice

system is to leverage the force of the state against those that pose a threat to the bourgeoisie's and the state's interests. This is a bourgeois dictatorship afterall, just like the rest of the world today.

Revolutionaries should campaign on the issues. If petty bourgeois reformers are willing to do the work to set up review boards and oversight and change rules, good for them. We should support them in doing so by campaigning on the issues that matter to us. As Triumphant mentioned, censorship and torture units (RHU) are among these issues. If we can campaign on these issues in ways that align with and support the bourgeois reformers that is a good thing. If revolutionaries take up the mantle of electoral politics and bourgeois reform, that is a very bad thing that leads to a never-ending cycle of oppression. ■





# Successful Method in Overcoming Malfeasant Adminstrators

by Hardhead  
June 2022

I write this in an effort to educate and bring into understanding one successful method of overcoming malfeasant administrators at their own game when they write a fraudulent disciplinary case on you — even though your actions fail to fulfill the elements of the charged offense while the Agency staff lie in support. Utilizing the Time Lapsed Video (TLV) camera footage evidence when cameras are installed on your unit.

In brief: After gaining authorization from the Floor-Boss I zipped upstairs to another cell, delivering a legal document (E.D.-02.01 TDCJ Ethics Policy) to an inmate. Within six second, I was back on the One Row Run. The units O-3 (warden) confronted me upon my coming down ordering me to return to my cell (we were being let out to go to showers).

In the course of returning to my cell of assignment, I encountered the Floor Boss going the other way. I asked him to inform O-3 that he had given me permission to deliver the document to another cell as we passed each other.

Three seconds later, this O-3 came up from behind me grabbing my wrist and puts handcuffs on me while proclaiming "I'm tired of you 'Mother Fuckers'". While walking me the rest of the way to my assigned cell: the O-3 yanked the cuffs backwards, forward and side-to-side in efforts to get me to go off — too smart for the O-3: I didn't go off.

I immediately filed a grievance against this O-3 for Non-Provoked Aggravated Excessive Use of Force, implementing penal codes, PD-22 Rules, and E.D.-02.01 "TDCJ Ethics Policy" standards in slamming this malfeasant warden.

Nine days later: following the 06-01 "Grievance Investigation Sheet" was presented to this O-3 this warden initiated disciplinary charges against me claiming that I was Out-of-Place and Created a Disturbance. Yeah, done in retaliation. Success demands that I be found guilty; and my Grievance was shot-down by the unit's O-2 warden.

Thirty four days after the occurrence (the time limit is 30

days) the administration illicitly ran this disciplinary case — taking four & 1/2 hours — where the C.O. I called as a witness in my defense was blatantly compromised (suborned) by the O-3, the charging officer. on camera in front of me and several others.

After a 30 minute conference with the Hearing Officer: The C.O. came and got me to return to the hearing officer's office. Where the C.O., of course, lied while supporting the lies of the O-3's that ensued.

At the hearing as well as in my grievance I repeatedly gave notice that the TLV, when viewed, will show absolute support to all my standings while revealing the malfeasance of this O-3. At no time did the disciplinary hearing officer view this TLV footage evidence. The video was acknowledged, yet, misrepresented by my counsel.

Of course I was found guilty, maxed-out on the punishments, G-5ed, and then I was shipped to another unit. Being the hard-headed individual that I am, while knowing I am not guilty of the lies I was charged with, I filed in the local Judicial District Court for an injunctive order and successfully gained an order from the court directing the TDCJ's Executive Director to ensure that the TLV footage evidence of the occurrence; with the suborning of the C.O. video, be preserved and not done away with. The Court bench warranted me for this action.

By the time I finished processing back into the TDCJ the disciplinary hearing's guilty finding was — miraculously — overturned. Who'd of thunk!?!

Presently, in that same District Court, I have filed a Cause of Action against the TDCJ Agency for retaliation. Naming each person involved in this fraudulently run railroading of that case premised solely on lies and retaliation. Naming each individual as "Persons of Incident."

You see, all too often, the TDCJ Agency will: in the course of "Taking Case of Our Own," intentionally ignore the TLV footage evidence. Herewith, I have figured out how to force them to acknowledge the video footage evidence as well as

achieving accountability for their illegal conducting: getting liability to duly attach on their heads.

The TLV cameras are there to record the truth. I here have opened the door so many have overlooked. Use the cameras to reveal their malfeasance in office.

For a small donation I am certain that MIM will be glad to forward a printing of the TDCJ E.D.-02.01. The Ethics Policy is an extremely powerful Executive Directive when quoted in your grievance. It scares them so much that they removed it from the Law Libraries Holding's list back in 2015. (1) ■

Notes:  
1. for a list of documents not being provided on the law libraries holdings list, see p.5 "Censorship of TBCJ, TDCJ Policies, Procedures and Rules"

### SUBMIT WORK REPORTS

All USW cells are encouraged to submit monthly work reports to the USW council. Work reports should be one to two paragraphs. Use these questions as guides for your report:

- What types of activities did your cell participate in that contributed to USWs mission?
- What campaigns did your cell participate in/promote last month?
- What Serve the People programs did your cell operate?
- What were the responses from the masses and USW recruits to this work?
- What questions came up? How did you answer them? Or do you need help answering them?
- What lessons did you learn in the last month?
- What are the most pressing issues that are of concern to the masses in your location?
- What organizations/services have you recently found useful in your work (include contact info)?
- What successes have you achieved in the last month?

# Substantive Grievances Work If You Follow Up

by a Texas prisoner  
March 2022

I am writing you today in regards to several issues. First, let me begin by thanking you in your support of those of us who fight. I learned of your existence through your "Texas pack". It is old and outdated, but filled with information that I was grateful to see distributed to the population.

I am currently on the Hughes Unit and my time is filled with Step-1, Step-2, §1983, Withdrawal of guilty pleas, PDR's, 11.07's, and 2254's. I am currently working on 2 Capital "Law of parties" cases, but grievances and withdrawals take up most of my time.

It literally destroys my heart to see so many with no knowledge of the system that enslaves them, abuses them, and ruins their futures. Please, continue to spread that knowledge. *Grievances work!* But you *have* to write them correctly, not as in format, but in *substance!* It is very unlikely you will get satisfaction on a Step-1, these people are cousins, friends, lovers, they will not punish themselves but a Step-2 will get you action. And always write "*Emergency Grievance:*" on the very

top, and first line, this will negate the denial "screening" process, and you can submit as many as you need. But *do not* clog the system with "ridiculously frivolous" issues, these are what the authorities point to as examples to pass or uphold restrictive policies.

Yes, file a grievance, no do not lose heart when your Step-1 is denied, Yes issue a Step-2 on every violation, deprivation or abuse. That is how we fight. That gives "Another clear example of the dangerous, culpable, cultural attitude of abusive, negligent, deliberate indifference to not only the lives, rights, health, and safety of the offenders assigned under their care and supervision, but also to the duties and obligations as prescribed by employment by the state and TDCJ." The cumulative reports are what WE must point to to bring to light the gross violations, and deprivations we suffer to get righteous policies and laws passed and abusive guards and administration fired. Don't stop. Never stop. They enslave us with paper, only paper will free us. If not, then there's a lot more of us than them. But that is off the subject. I am signing off. ■

# Update from Stimulus Check Suit in TX

by a Texas prisoner  
July 2022

In *Under Lock & Key* 76 we published an article on how to file for the suit Clay v. Director of IRS Mnuchin No4:21-CV-08132-PJH if you did not receive the \$3,200 stimulus checks while in a Texas prison during the pandemic. Here is an update from the initiator of this suit for anyone who has filed.

The IRS is seeking to deter and retaliate in order to lessen payments of rebate refunds by stating that a \$5,000.00 penalty

will issue if filer does not withdraw the form 1040s filed to receive EIP. The filers need to send the IRS letter to the 9th Court of Appeals as instructed in *ULK* 76. Tell them to attach the letter.

They are doing this because the “fluid recovery scheme” is exposed so they can’t use it. Now they seek to use “retaliatory scare” tactics by this notice stating a \$5k penalty and criminal charges for a 1040 that they don’t clarify why such is seeking benefit not entitled to or what deficiency is apparent. ■

# JFI: More Join Lawsuit to End RHU Torture in Texas

by MIM(Prisons)  
May 2022

Organizing is spreading around the *Dillard v. Davis, et al. Civil Action No. 7:19-cv-0081-M-BP* lawsuit against the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's use of long-term solitary confinement. Prisoners held in Allred Unit, ground zero for the Restrictive Housing Unit, and Michael Unit have filed motions to join the class action suit.

A comrade in Stevenson Unit wrote to say that there are only 12 restrictive housing cells there and they are only used very short-term. But ey is sharing the motion and other campaign materials with contacts inside and outside to support those in RHU fighting for their humyn rights.

Shutting down long-term solitary confinement is one of the key campaign demands of the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative, calling for a boycott of Juneteenth until real freedom is attained in this country. The lawsuit points to the irreparable harm on mental health caused by long-term solitary.

Anyone who is in a Restricted Housing Unit in Texas can use

the example motion to join this lawsuit. The motion should be sent to all three addresses listed at the end of the example motion.

**28 May 2022 UPDATE from Tx TEAM ONE member - Telford Unit:** I have submitted my interest in becoming a co-plaintiff to all inhumane conditions in all Ad-Seg/RHU buildings, especially on this unit, and the inhumane/treatment and living conditions endured by all alleged STG prisoners. Because for almost forty (40) years, those of Us that are considered STG's have been in these living conditions.

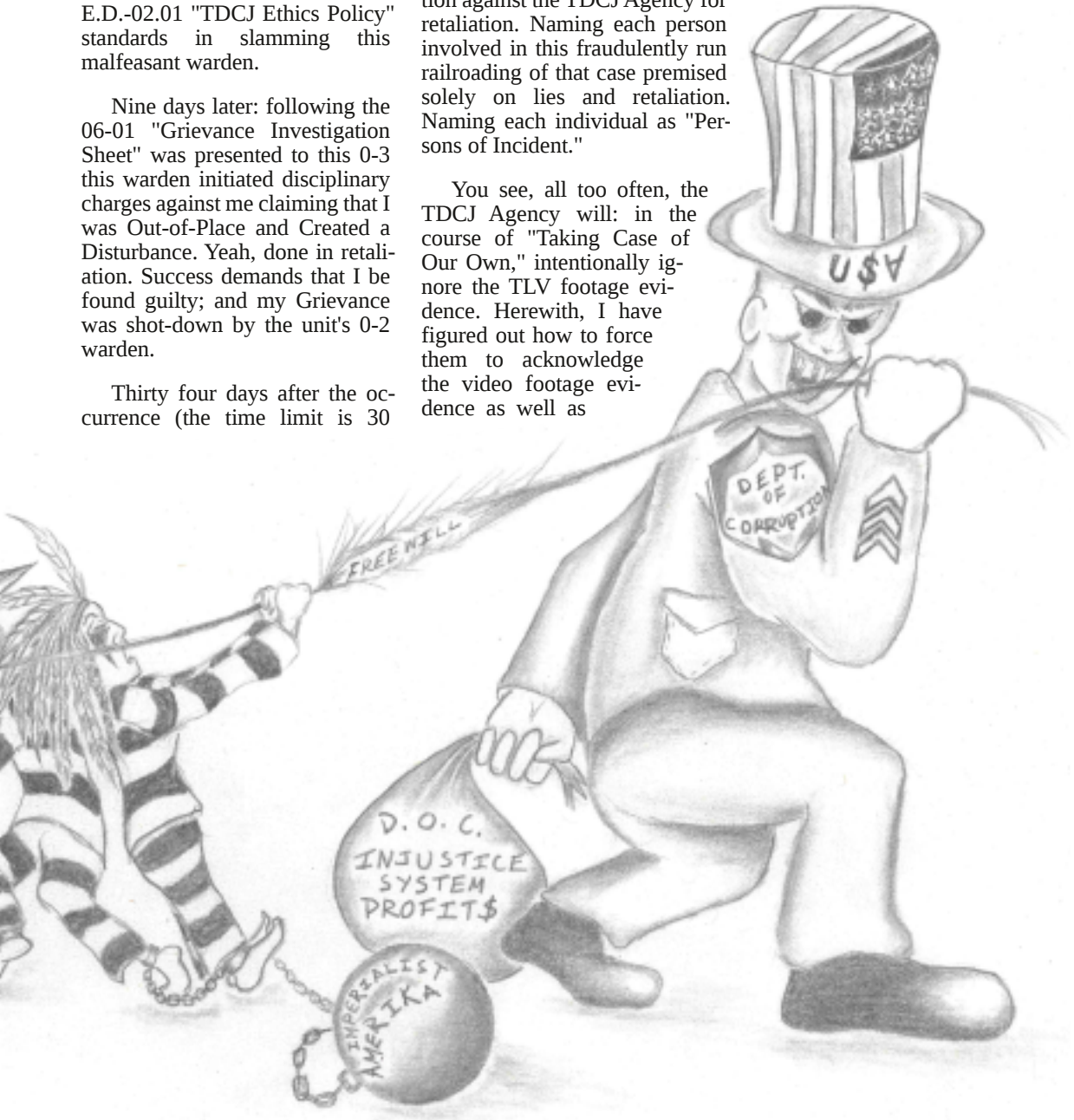
I have already written to the Eastern and Northern Districts, United States District Courts. And I have also written to the United States Department of Justice. ■

### FIGHT FOR YOUR HEALTH

Everyone should wear a mask.

You should not be forced into close proximity of people outside your cell.

Everyone needs access to soap & water or hand sanitizer at all times.





# Book Review: Arms & Empire

by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

*Arms & Empire* (1980) by Richard Krooth is a MIM must read. MIM(Prisons) just developed a study guide to go along with this book. The below is the intro to the study guide with some key quotes from the book.

## Introduction to the study pack

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (originally named the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement) was founded at a time when inter-imperialist conflict between the camp led by the United States and that led by the social-imperialist USSR posed a threat to the world. In one of the founding documents, written in 1983, comrades saw the combination of liberation struggles in the Third World and this inter-imperialist conflict as a hotbed for communist revolutions.(1)

MIM founders saw the success of communist revolution as an absolute necessity to prevent a new inter-imperialist war, that would likely lead to nuclear war. As such, they recognized that a revolutionary situation could arise within the United States in a matter of years, despite having a budding skepticism of the interests of most in our country in communist revolution.

For most of MIM's existence now we have not been in the situation described above. By 1991 the "Cold War" was over with the dissolution of the Soviet imperialist bloc. For a solid 3 decades we lived under a "unipolar world", where U.\$. dominated organizations and alliances ruled the world (NATO, World Bank, IMF, etc).

For many years now (in 2022) China has been the rising imperialist power, mostly independent of the U.\$.-dominated institutions, though deeply integrated with the U.\$. economically. As the contradictions heighten in the U.\$.-China economic system, they also heighten in the capitalist system overall. The post-USSR era brought a sacking of the wealth of the former Soviet states by cleptocratic capitalists. This aligned with the capitalist development of China, and the return of exploitative relations dominating over 1 billion people who became the primary producers for consumers in the United States and around the world. These processes of wealth extraction were the life-blood for global capitalism for those 3 decades of inter-imperialist peace. But, capitalism must keep expanding, and there is not much more room to expand. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a series of collapses in the international system of distribution that prioritized profitability over resiliency.

Earlier this year, Russia invaded Ukraine, in what many fear is the first hot war of what will be an escalating inter-imperialist war. Though to date, it has not yet exceeded in scale the U.\$./USSR conflicts of the Cold War. It has brought with it massive trade barriers. The Amerikans have rallied the world to isolate Russia with great success, yet differences in interests have also arisen. This will force many realignments in the coming months and years. The battle for markets, using tariffs and embargoes and currency manipulations, will only escalate. This makes *Arms & Empire* such a relevant read today.

In 1997, MIM passed a resolution stating:

*"For MIM's purposes, World War III began immediately after World War II ended in 1945. World War III continues today. It is a war between the imperialists and the oppressed nations. By defining World War III as post-World War II, MIM does not mean to say that imperialists did not wage war on the oppressed nations prior to 1945, only that the post-1945 period has specific characteristics (such as: 1. the leading roles of the U.S. and, for a time, the USSR and 2. the predominance of neocolonialism) which separatethisperiod from the pre-1945 periods."*(2)

We can say that world war is inherent to imperialism. As Lenin defined it, imperialism is when the world has been completely divided up by competing monopolist powers, making the export of finance capital the dominant aspect of the economy, and finance capitalists become the shapers of the world. This competition translates to economic and military warfare, both of which result in large numbers of unnecessary humyn deaths. Imperialism kills millions. When warfare between the imperialists can be minimized for a period, the warfare is aimed primarily at the oppressed nations who are resisting the imperialists trying to control and exploit them.

On the eve of World War I, the revisionist Kautsky proposed a theory of ultra-imperialism to supercede imperialism, where the imperialists can ban together to manage the world internationally. Today, there are many bad Marxists who unknowingly promote this metaphysical view of world imperialism where the imperialist forces of NATO are an invincible unbreakable force, and that the best thing the communists can hope for is a counter-balance to U. \$. hegemony while tailing other independent imperialists such as Russia or China. While also unknowingly parroting neo-Kautskyism, these revisionist Marxists also unite with the bourgeois Liberals on the world view of a post-Soviet world. The bourgeois liberals had their own theories of "the end of history" after the collapse of the Soviet Union that envisioned the current order to have proven itself as the stable state in which we would remain. In this book, Richard Krooth concisely points out why these fantasies can never come true. The internal contradictions of capitalism and imperialism, brilliantly exposed by Marx and Lenin, translate to antagonistic contradictions among the imperialists that cannot be resolved by synthesis but only by one aspect of that contradiction overtaking the other via warfare. This remains true despite brief periods of relative peace between the imperialists that must also coincide with periods of prosperity and great opportunity for the imperialists. And has MIM has pointed out, even in times of prosperity, the

different interests of the labor aristocracy can damper the plans of imperialist unity.(3)

Today, the labor aristocracy is talking about their inability to consume products not made by them in their movement to increased wages, decreased work-times, etc. However, they seem to be able to consume products not made by them pretty well. Cars, phones, food, etc. are mostly produced by the Third World proletariat, and the main gripe comes with things they don't own rather than things they don't produce: rent for example.

As we enter a period of heightened inter-imperialist conflict, we echo the sentiments of MIM's founders. We are not for war, but we recognize that war by the proletariat to overthrow imperialism is necessary to stop war. As military and economic warfare expands among imperialists and between imperialists and the oppressed nations, opportunities for successful revolutions to put the proletariat in state power increases. This is the solution to war. We aim to destroy imperialism, because imperialism is destroying the planet.

*Notes:*  
1. Manifesto on the International Situation and Revolution (first few pages)  
2. Resolution on World War III (1997 MIM Congress)  
3. Social-democratic gravy train opposes European Union (2005 MIM Congress)  
4. also see: "Ukraine: Imperialism in Crisis" in Under Lock & Key 77 for broad discussion of economic and military warfare against Russia in 2022.

## Key summary quotes from book

End of the Introduction:

*"For we will see that empire was systemic and competitive; that competition and nationalism then powered the changeover from one system of empire to another; that, consequently, the mercantile colonial system was replaced by a system of free trade with the coming of industrialism; that free trade was thereafter replaced by a return to colonial empires with the rise of monopolization in the leading nations; that war between the Powers resolved little in the fight for world domination; and that a new growth of monopolies led to strengthened colonial spheres of influence and renewed warfare."*

Explanation of the Great Depression (top of p.119):

*"The U.S. had long since closed down free trade into America, stopping Germany and other European countries from exporting to American shores to pay their debts. This secured the U.S. dollar for a while, making it the hardest currency in the world, pushing up its value vis-a-vis other currencies, but also making it inaccessible to nations that otherwise would have purchased from America. When other nations could not obtain dollars by exports to the U.S., obviously they could import nothing at all. And so U.S. exports tended to fall and had to be replaced with bilateral trade agreements. Up went U.S. unemployment when markets fell away and bilateral trade could not replace them. Then down*

# Kill The Bossman in Your Head

by a Texas prisoner  
June 2022

Queridos Compañeros and Camaradas,

(Dear Comrades and Fellow Travelers)

A report from South Texas: In the wake of another mass shooting in nearby Uvalde, the pigs and their masters are engaging in the usual finger-pointing and re-crimination but one thing is clear: the cops are cowards who are quick to shoot unarmed people, but become conveniently "policy-orientated" when they are faced with a disturbed young man wielding an AR-15 assault rifle slaughtering defenseless children.

I'm not really in the habit of blaming the consumers of this toxic system called "democracy", but these poor children were already the "walking dead" after only a few years in the classroom. The lame-ass governor and the fascist Ted Cruz and their clique call it a "massive system failure", but those who have been paying attention will immediately see the system works exactly as it was designed to operate: the state of Texas is the NRA torchbearer but ranks dead last in mental health treatment. In fact, the single biggest mental health care facility in the state is Harris County Jail.

Those who are waiting for a legislative solution better stop dreaming and open your eyes to the reality nobody is going to save us or free us unless we liberate ourselves and that can only happen if we organize and think and act strategically with our comrades and fellow travelers. It all begins with educating ourselves and arming ourselves with the necessary facts and tools to accomplish our goals and make the world a better place.

Here in Texas among the prison class it's a real challenge to create solidarity as the cell blocks are constantly flooded with mind-numbing substances along with the disputes and rivalries and materialism that comes along with it. I've made very little

*came the dollar, the U.S. devaluing in 1933 in an attempt to stimulate the exports again. But, alas, it was too late. The depression was on, production was down, America was spreading crisis to Europe!"*

Lead up to WWII (p.129-30):

*"Within European nations especially, the road to war was laid out in stages — the first for counter-revolution, the second for capitalist resurgence, and the third for crises and the rise of antagonistic governments seeking to take what all others held in trade, investments, colonies and profits. In the first period (1917-23) we can discern how civilian bands of reactionaries had used force and violence against the agrarian or socialist "revolutions"... The reactionaries demanded "law and order," eventually leading to "counter-revolutions." Yet the incipient fascist movements did not themselves assume government power, for the marketplace was being re-established and did not require a fascistic state.*

*"The second period (1924-29) had no use for a fascist government either. The powers of capitalist production were expanding, the market fetters were destroyed, and all the important nations save Great Britain were on the economic upgrade. While the United*

progress in my effort to "kill the 'bossman' in your head" — not actual physical violence, but to actually banish the word "boss man" from our vocabulary when addressing these pigs.

I'm attempting to show the direct line from slave plantations through "convict leasing program" all the way to the modern system of mass incarceration, and how the term "boss man" helps keep us linguistically and psychologically in bondage. So we need to banish the term, thought, idea of "boss man" from our hearts and minds if we ever want to be free.

So my Juneteenth Freedom Initiative direct action is only days away and I will be peacefully protesting the lie that "slavery was abolished when in fact it's alive and well in forced prison labor programs all over the United Snakes of America. As you can see from the enclosed denial forms, almost all your subsequent mailings have been denied. I am appealing the censorship and will keep you posted. At this point I am largely in the dark with regards to progress in other facilities, but I ask your assistance in helping me to challenge this censorship. In the meantime, I await further info/instructions.

PS: It is increasingly clear to me that so-called "Aryan" white supremacist groups are expanding and enjoying cover from prison officials. We need to focus on this and build Brown and Black alliance/solidarity along with white fellow travelers (very few of them), but I'm sure they are around. But my point is, these Aryan reactionaries are tools of the state and should be viewed as such. Recent headlines about "Right-Wing Domestic Terror Threat" are propaganda designed to increase even more police/surveillance state apparatus that will be used to control us, not them. That's how they justify this shit with headlines to "combat neo-nazi terrorists" when in fact the plan all along is to keep their foot on our necks. ■

*States enjoyed legendary prosperity and the Continent was doing almost as well, Hitler's putsch was a footnote in political economy. France evacuated the Ruhr, the Reichsmark was restored by U.S. loans, the Dawes Plan took politics out of reparations, Lorcarno was in the offing for peace, and Germany was initiating seven fat years. The gold standard ruled from Moscow to Lisbon by the close of 1926; buyers could now pay for their imports, restoring the capitalist marketplace to its full capacity.*

*"Then came the Great Crash of 1929, the market economy turning down, general economic crisis forcing nations to be sellers but not buyers in the world. The continuing deadlock of market dealings demanded changes in the political way in which economic solutions were planned. The Italian trusts chose fascism as a way out of their economic malaise. The German cartels demanded continental markets and colonies, not by marketplace dealings - for they were shut out of the markets and colonies of the other Powers - but by military conquest. Hitler, their puppet, demanded no more than they asked, Germany taking the lead in totalitarianizing Europe. And with Japan in the Asian wing, the Axis*

Continued on page 11...



# What is the West?

by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

In recent years many have explored the myth of "the West" and "Western Civilization", connecting them to racist views of humyn society. Often this was in response to right-wing white nationalists rebranding their common cause from the "white race" to "Western civilization."

Yet, the term "the West" is used every day in a variety of news sources, some claiming to be proletarian news services. It is used by MIM in a number of older documents, and you even see it crept in to the last issue of *Under Lock & Key* in our discussion of Ukraine.(1)

## The West and Militarism

The Russian invasion of Ukraine seems to have brought the term even more to the forefront, which could explain why it ended up in our article on the subject, despite our understanding the problems with the term. "Western unity" today is synonymous with fighting Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has helped make this true in the Amerikan press.

There are reasons to refer to "the West" instead of the more accurate term "NATO." NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military pact between countries to defend each other with very clear membership. NATO exists clearly in space and time. It was formed in 1949, as the U.\$ and Britain focused their aggression towards the Soviet Union following the defeat of fascism. NATO will not exist for-

ever, with many calling for it to be dissolved now.

The meme of "The West" on the other hand is ahistorical, and even vague in terms of who is included. President Zelensky is making a hard push to put Ukraine in "the West", when it was very clearly part of the USSR that NATO formed to oppose.

Zelensky has repeatedly called on "the West" to impose sanctions against Russia, to send military aid to Ukraine, and to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine. All of these feed the militarist war machine that imperial-

ing interests in this conflict playing out. The strongest example might be Germany, the dominant imperialist power in continental Europe, and their economic connection to Russia, which has made them much more hesitant to join actions that the United States is quick to take against Russia. Meanwhile Germany has moved to significantly increase its military for the first time since WWII, loosening its dependence on the United States for military action. In most of our lifetimes, the so-called "Western" countries have been united politically and economically. But this has not and will not always be the case.



The Western world according to Samuel P. Huntington's 1996 book *Clash of Civilizations*. In a lighter color are Latin America and the Orthodox World, which are either a part of the West or distinct civilizations intimately related to the West.

## The West and the Ancient World

We won't repeat others summaries of the history of the concept of "the West" here. But it does appear with the wars between Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages, later being used to distinguish between areas dominated by the Western reformist church and the Eastern orthodox church.

Just as New Afrikans today may take up the study of ancient Egypt to learn about their "roots", euro-Amerikans may study ancient Greece with the same goal. In reality, ancient Egypt and Greece (in certain periods) were actually connected and learned from each other. They were more similar to each other (and more geographically close to each other) than the actual ancestors of most New Afrikans or euro-Amerikans. Both are caught up in a mythology that links them to an ancient society based on racialized concepts of continents.

The idea of Europe as its own continent is also a myth that stems from this history and the fact that our knowledge in the United States is dominated historically by Europeans. And today, U.\$-cultural dominance helps shape the memes that take on global significance.

Europe is a region in actual space, however, unlike "the

West", which often lumps Western Europe with occupied regions of North America and Oceania today. In a sense, "the West" is almost describing something real. Throw in Japan, and you've got the advanced imperialist countries of the world.

## The West and Freedom

A more modern concept of "the West" starts from the fight against fascism and morphs into the fight against communism. "The West" claims to offer freedom and democracy instead.

On 5 July 2022, a Ukrainian court banned the Communist Party of Ukraine and ordered all its assets seized by the state. This is a party that got 13 percent of the votes in the 2012 general election. This follows the ban of a

number of other "socialist" or "left" parties in the country for being "pro-Russian."(2)

On the Fourth of July, the city of Akron, Ohio issued a 9PM to 6AM curfew preventing people from leaving their homes except for work or emergencies. This was on a night when masses of people stayed out all night partying and lighting fireworks in most cities across the country. The curfew was issued because cops shot unarmed 25-year-old Jayland Walker the night before with 60 bullets. The young Black man died Fourth of July morning.

Through May and June MIM(Prisons) sent hundreds of letters, petitions and legal documents to prisoners across Texas leading up to a planned boycott of the Juneteenth holiday on June 19. The weeks leading up to the Fourth of July our mailbox was full of letters from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and from prisoners in Texas, notifying us that our mail had been censored because it promoted a disturbance or a riot (see *"Racist Double-Standards and Censorship in the Allred RHU Mailroom"* on p.5).

Prisoners in Texas are being tortured in long-term isolation, forced to work without pay, and facing all sorts of abusive conditions including lack of food, dangerous temperatures and lack of

yard time. Jayland Walker was shot 60 times over a tail light. Yet boycotts and demonstrations have been deemed illegal in Texas and Akron, Ohio in response. In Akron 50 people were arrested after protestors were sprayed with tear gas because police said they "cannot condone property destruction."(3) This is the behavior of the oppressor, of the imperialists.

## The West and Language

The more modern framework of the North versus the South developed as an improvement on the West/East concept. The "North/South" framework is more geographically coherent (with the exception of Australia and New Zealand) and is defined economically. It also avoids the racist exclusion of Japan and the "three tigers." Though it could play into some theories of geographic determinism, which can mirror racist conceptions of history.

Regardless, North/South terminology was developed to be "valueless" and as such becomes a euphemism for what is really going on: some countries are exploiting other countries. And we have perfectly good terminology for "the West" or "the North" in this context: imperialist countries. As anti-imperialists, we must expose imperialism and its crimes at every turn and not hide it behind euphemisms that reference geography or pseudo-scientific concepts of race over materialist understandings of political-economy.

On the other hand of the dialectic of imperialism we have the oppressed nations, or the exploited countries, or the semi-colonies or neo-colonies, depending on the context. Arguably these terms are also better than the First/Third World language we have often used historically. (4)

As a general principle, our writing guide reminds us not to use euphemisms and not to use passive language. Like "the West" these styles creep into our writing because they are common in the bourgeois press. We should consciously combat this by being clear about the relationships of oppression and exploitation and who is doing what to whom.

Whether it relates to religion, philosophy or democracy, all historical concepts of "the West" are related to justifying invasions or imperialism in different forms. ■

Notes:  
1. MIM(Prisons), April 2022, *Ukraine: Imperialism in Crisis, Under Lock & Key* 77.  
2. 5 July 2022, *Communist Party of Ukraine banned and all its assets seized by the state, Morning Star*.  
3. Stephanie Warsmith and Craig Webb, 6 July 2022, *Dozens arraigned on charges from Jayland Walker police shooting protests. Yahoo! News*.  
4. MIM(Prisons), October 2015, *What is the Third World?*

### ON "OBJECTIVE" REPORTING

ULK relies on our comrades behind bars to report on conditions and events inside prisons. We track the history and reliability of our writers and, when possible, we double check facts in the articles. But there will always be some facts we cannot verify before printing. Our readers are encouraged to let us know if they have information that contradicts what they see in ULK. Yet, recognize that no matter how much the bourgeoisie tries to pretend, reporting is never completely objective or devoid of political content. MIM(Prisons) will always report from the perspective of the international proletariat and on the issues that best serve their interests.

# Get Up, Stand Up

by Bluu Gaidi of United Struggle from Within  
July 2022

The realization of The Dilapidation of a so-called 'Democratic free nation' Ran and orchestrated by The Illuminati and freemasons has everybody Divided by social injustice, bigotry, classism and racial segregation The nation's leaders claim "In GOD We Trust" But their God is "G"old-"O"il-"D"rugz because they really serve mammon and Satan instead of peace these imperialists promote violence, crime, poverty and fornication, with the primary agenda of bringing forth Desolation, Degeneration and moral degradation, Because these 'Khazars', Capitalist, and The rest of these cocky caucasians are set on achieving Global Domination by way of 3rd world occupation, Through means of military invasion and mental, religious and economic manipulation The imperialist wants us to bow down and praise them, and each day our oppressors are gettin more brazen, These racist-ass crackers know shall us 3rd world people unite, through our melanin alone we have the power to bring about their Genetic Annihilation, and nothing is more Dynamic than our Black and Brown Genes not even Their "white" Jesus can save 'em Black, Brown, Red, Yellow and politically conscious Whites its time we unite, and mentally awaken, By all means necessary even if it means comin' out weapons blazin, To reclaim all that's been forcefully taken, including our cultural names, religion, Ancestral Tradition, pride and Self-Determination its time to reclaim our natural resources and Wealth and oust the imperialists from out of our Lands and nations! So Get Up, Stand Up, Stand Up for your rights! Long Live The Revolution! ■

... Continued from p. 10

## ...Arms & Empire Review

*Pact aligned fascist power over five continents.*

*"Thereby the material conditions of society — monopoly ownership, overproduction, market struggle, political bankruptcy, and military occupation — had ended the marketplace system. The monopolists and cartelists needed fascism to build themselves strong for a military confrontation which, they believed, would award them with more raw materials, more markets, more profits and more power. The liberal business interests, then opting for increasing national*

*competitiveness, also blocked any move towards allowing the social means of production to provide for popular need, instead of their private profit. The fascists, combining jingoism and planned speed-ups for the working population, now displayed a tawdry alternative to the free marketplace. And the monopolists then brought them into power in hopes that their accumulation of private gain would continue undiminished. World War II inexorably followed, not only because leaders willed it, but also because the solutions to economic and political crises required it."* ■



## Capitalism Spawns Betrayal

by General Divine Minister  
July 2022

Betrayal of one's comrades: what in prison is called "snitching", is an aspect of capitalism. Capitalism creates the myth of an isolated individual. "Snitches" and "informants" are people who are convinced that they are acting in their own best interest at the cost of breaking their social ties. "Prison create snitches" not only because they want information to use against others, but because it is a proven method of "breaking" people.

Denmark Vessey, who was betrayed before an 1822 slave uprising, warned against trusting a slave who accepts gifts from a master. These gifts represent attaching values to "things" and not one's bond with other human beings. They reflect the "fetish" of commodities; putting values into possessions at the cost of your human relations is cruel & deadly. Prisons found that snitches become a lot more violent, animalistic, & don't care who they hurt — just to survive for the moment. Prisons had to create special yards just for them, which even according to their

own data, were most violent, where new gangs were created as the snitches attempted to create some semblance of self-respect.

The Pelican Bay hunger strikers overcame the idea the system perpetuated. It re-established human solidarity across gang & racial lines. As opposed to the snitches the system used to keep people in perpetual solitary confinement. The idea of solidarity caught on with tens of thousands of state & federal prisoners, and many times more out on the streets nation-wide...(wake up) we can no longer allow the imperialists to use us against each other for their benefit!!!

Collectively we are an empowered force. The People's Commission, consisting of: the Almighty Black-P-Stone Nation El Rukn Tribe, the Almighty Latin King Nation, & the Almighty Vice Lords Nation have been united in solidarity & nation building for 75 years. We call upon all street organizations in the American western hemisphere to do the same. ■

-*All Is Truly Well*-

## Juneteenth — Last Day of Oppression

by AK47 of United Struggle from Within  
June 2022

*The North Carolina United Front for Peace in Prisons (NCUFPP) is not a gang — it's a variety of lumpen organizations united in peace in prisons. No one is over or under anyone in the NCUFPP and we respect and recognize everyone's credentials/status.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Why do we oppress one another as we are being oppressed by the fox tactics of the divider and conqueror?

They've programmed many of our fore-fathers to accommodate in the destruction of our people (the oppressed nations). If we do not band together we will never win. The lone wolf may become timid, but together the pack has courage and we are strong.

Without the United Front the ocean will eventually swallow the land. Give the Man an inch and he'll take a mile. First our recreation; then our picture-mail; batteries; and now tissues — what next? Everything else like visitation, rations, haircuts, supplies, and property — they take and give back when they feel like it.

**Attention NC Prisoners:** Not getting our letters? Textbehind returns our mail saying they only process mail from friends/family. Yet many NC prisons now return our letters **because** they are friend/family mail and that is not accepted at the facility. We need your help to fight this.

## Gunnas Stop

by a Virginia prisoner  
July 2022

Have some respect! Not only for the women officers and staff of DOC, but for yourself as well. These ladies come here to work to pay bills and take care of their families, not to partake in your perverted fantasies. If you wouldn't sit in a car or stand behind a bush and do it, don't do it here! If you would they have QMHP for you. It doesn't matter if you're tall, short, skinny, or fat, you can have a pinkie or a horse, it's degrading to yourself and the female no matter her nationality. You wouldn't want your female loved ones to be subjected to this, so why would you subject someone else's to it? Do not submit to your lower passions because of your surrounding or time.

Rise above your circumstances. ■

## Things Must Change, Starting By Uniting the Lumpen

by New Born  
March 2022

Peace and Blessings to the Revolutionary Souljahs Around the Globe. I'm writing you because the Missouri Department of Corruption has found a way to censor "Prison Legal News and Criminal Legal News". I believe that it's retaliation for my activism. However, I'm not the only one that had their issues taken by Deputy Division Director Jason Lewis and Ryan Crews. Maybe they want us reading Dr.Seuss and Mickey Mouse!

Anyway, the Struggle continues and the Damus are mobilizing here at Potosi Correctional Center for the "Greater Good of the Multitude", We are cleaning our own house

so that we can put things into perspective and form some type of "solidarity" with the other Lumpen here in misery! Things must change for the Black, Brown, and Red! We have been getting slaughtered all over the globe and all we do is "march" chanting "Black Lives Matter". If Black Lives Matter, then "why are we still marching?". I do understand that there is a time for war and for the "fight to end oppression", but how much longer must we sit by and allow the enemy to oppress us? We are *many* and must unite to combat the deaths of our Brothers, Sisters, Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Husbands, and Wives!

Things must change People.

Uhuru Sasa ■

## Wine-Sniffing Dogs a Scam in Maryland, Drugs Benefit State

by Melo x  
May 2022

This is my first issue of *ULK* (#77) and I am writing in regards to the Suboxone and drug use within the prison system here in Maryland. K2 and Suboxone are in high demand. They are the most popular of all of the drugs here. I would say Suboxone is the most popular because of the "trips" that come with the K2. It is my belief that they allow drugs to come in for the money. They get the money for the urine test, for the search task forces and the intelligence agents they use to combat the contraband problem. And when they get the money, it's misappropriated.

A recent example of this was the wine sniffing dogs. It was a big deal, it was all on the news. They played it up as alcohol was such a big problem so they needed these dogs. But the crazy part is that I have never seen a dog come through sniffing for wine. So where did that money go? Honestly if a prisoner is making wine, he doesn't have a lot of places to stash it anyways. So there's really no use for the dogs in the first place. It's all for the money. The prison staff are just making shit up so that they

can steal the money.

Now speaking on the statement made by the person from Allred's RHU, with the increase of contraband came a decrease in unity. That is one of the major effects of capitalism; division (see "*Capitalism Spawn Betrayal*" on this page). Not only will debts drive a wedge between debtor and supplier, but the competition between the peddlers will create a divide because each dealer wants to monopolize the sections. This will create beefs between gangs and organizations. Then the increase in violence will only justify the prison's request for more money from the state. It's the same way on the streets, the prison system is just a microcosm of the streets.

Now let's talk about the drain of ambition as an effect of the drug. No longer will the prisoner seek self-developmental programs, nor will he choose to blow the whistle on the prison system's injustices. He becomes content on doing dead time, with his Xbox, T.V., and tablet. There are many issues that spawn from drugs. This is just the tip of the iceberg. ■

## Black Power Black August

by SKS Heruglyphx  
August 2022

When brother Malcolm X died,

I died inside,  
When Fred Hampton died,  
I became revived,  
When George Jackson died,  
I blooded in my eyes,  
When Huey P. died,  
I revolutionized  
and realized,

I'm Toussaint, Garvey and  
Stokely,

Turner, Biko, Prosser and  
Vessey,

Fanon, Cabral, Lumumba,  
Sankara,

Ruchell, Jonathan, McClain and  
Christmas.

My goddesses are: Truth  
Sojourner,

Harriett Tubman, Candos,  
Kween Nzinga,

Angela, Ericka, Afeni and  
Assata,

and all the MOVE comrades  
Last name Afrika.

I'm MLM to the fullest,

Anti-CIWPS, Anti-misogynist

All the way feminist,

egalitarianist,

Lumpen proletarian, street  
reactionary

Turned radical internationalist

Revolutionary intercommunalist,

My oath is with Mother Earth

Climate Justice.

A prisoner, yeah,

But I'm not the real criminal,

Not the one making the policies,

Which creates poverty for  
capital

Thus, creating crime and  
immorality,

which are mostly survivalist,  
reactionary,

miseducated responses and  
reactions

to CIPWS miseducation and  
poverty.

Till we, as a People

Start taking politics personal

We will keep being the victims

of the real criminals, the real  
parasiticals,

The plutocrats,

Republikkklands and

### Comrades in TN

### Observing their

### First Black August

by a Federal prisoner  
July 2022

*“When prisoners come together around an issue that does not directly reflect their own narrow self-interests, then that is when there will be a real prisoners movement again. Until prisoners understand that simple lesson they are doomed to live with an increasingly heavy boot on their neck...” - Ed Mead*

Greetings Comrades,

I had to write to you all to let you know that *Under Lock & Key* has taken root & blossomed in an area or shall I say a plantation here in Memphis, TN.

When I first arrived here there were five conscious souls here. However, after sharing and expounding on the five principles of the United Front for Peace in Prisons, with emphasis on Unity, the members of different street organizations have now agreed to observe Black August, including the Spanish brothers. ■

### GA UFPP "Loyalty

### Ov3r Royalty"

### Statement of Unity

by Nino G of United Struggle from Within  
July 2022

I, Nino G, vow to promote unity in an organized fashion to secure the rights of all inmates in the state of Georgia, and to find solutions of our daily problems of peace and identifying the real oppressors, and exercise our power through grievances and lawsuits instead of brute force or intimidation tactics.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** Comrade Nino G. Leads the group Loyalty Ov3r Royalty (L\$R) in a Georgia prison to build the United Front for Peace in Prisons. The UFPP is a project created in 2011 by a council of anti-imperialists in prisons facilitated by MIM(Prisons). The project is an effort to unite all those who can be united around the common interests of the U.\$. prison masses. The project is a culmination of various formations of prisoners primarily lumpen organizations (aka "gangs" or "sets" or "crews") who seek to abandon the gangster mentality for a revolutionary anti-imperialist outlook. ■

Demoncrats,

Working only in the interest of  
the tall hats

while their Plutocrat Imperialist  
Goons

Keep lynching us.

Then they wonder why,

We're getting politically  
conscious

Self-defensive and rebellious

Screaming,

All Power to the People, from  
the soul

Screaming, All Power to the  
Proles,

Black Power, Black August

Black essential self-  
determination,

Our number one goal,

Only us could free us,

Black Power as a whole.

Black Power, Black August,

Black essential self control.

Black Power, Black August,

Breaking the mental and  
physical holds.

Black Power Black August

Black Power Black August.■



# FL, TX Censor Revolutionary 12 Steps Program

by MIM(Prisons)  
June 2022

As soon as the first printing of our new *Revolutionary 12 Step Program* pamphlet landed in prisons across the United States, it has been targeted for censorship in both Florida and Texas.

The Florida mailroom staff who seized the pamphlet checked two reasons for impounding it:

"(15)(i)is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law or Department Rules"

and  
"(15)(p)otherwise presents a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

Since the pamphlet is actively preventing harm to the safety of any person and actively training people to stop breaking the law or engaging in destructive behavior, we must wonder what are the "rehabilitative objectives" of the Florida Department of Corrections.

MIM(Prisons) appealed this [and received no response].

Texas on the other hand did not give MIM(Prisons) the opportunity to appeal, as required by Federal law, and only notified us of the censorship after the re-

view committee's final decision, which, like Florida, said the "Entire publication contain security concerns."

The reason they cited:  
  
"Publication contains material that a reasonable person would construe as written solely for the purpose of communicating information designed to achieve a breakdown of prisons through offender disruption such as strikes, riots or security threat group activity."

Literally no reasonable person would think this.

But as we've been reporting on, the TDCJ is openly trafficking drugs to sell to the people they imprison (see: "*TDCJ: Your Staff are Bringing in the Drugs, and it Must Stop*" from ULK 73). So it is not surprising that they find our efforts to combat addiction to be a disruption to their operations.

It's also no secret that the oppressor prefers us to be drunk and high, rather than thinking clearly and doing good for ourselves and our people.

Prisoners can help by getting our Censorship Guide and appealing any censorship as the comrade in Texas did. People on the outside can help by volunteering to help us appeal and hold these state agencies accountable. Legal expertise with these issues is also something you can contribute. ■

# George Floyd Day

by a North Carolina prisoner  
June 2022

I began a Juneteenth protest in April on the 23rd. I went on hunger strike on the 28th, but broke it 2 days later to get my strength up after being threatened by Sergeant Couper.

19 May 2022 — I began a second hunger-strike for 8 days. On the 3rd day of the strike, I was taken to a dirty holding cell in receiving — with ants, no bunk, and poop caked up inside a broken toilet. I was only allowed a bible, one sheet, and one blanket. They placed the old raggy mattress on the floor where I was to sleep for the next 5 days.

No incoming or outgoing mail; no human contact; no offer of food; and no vital-signs, weight, or sugar was checked (nurses documented false reports).

May 23rd, in medical, when the nurse asked why I wasn't eating, I told them, "because it's 'George Floyd Day', Get Your Knees Off Our Necks."

26 May 2022 — I went on S.I.B. [self injury behavior watch] and was given an even worse mattress that smelled of feces. No one checked on me.

27 May 2022 — I was shipped to the Emergency Room at Central Prison. A level-one bone-marrow cancer had intensified the damage to my body. Some negotiations were made and I broke the fast. However, while I was on the IV a nurse came in at shift change and snatched the IV out of my arm and told me and my officers to get out.

## One Month Earlier

April 23rd, I was attacked by Sgt Couper because I had asked for a roll of tissue (I had been asking for 24 hours). Sergeant Couper said he needed to search my room for tissues then pulled out his mace and tried to find an excuse to mace me. When I cuffed up he resorted to violence by snatching my arms all the way out the trap, then opened the door and threw me head-first into the back wall, then applied torture techniques, such as bending my fingers & choke holds, while tightening the restraints.

I was eventually taken to receiving and left on the floor with the restraints for 4 hours. I had lost feeling in my arms, wrists, and shoulders.

Sergeant Couper continues to harass and retaliate against us; intercepting grievance appeals and managing investigations for disciplinary reports that he has officers fabricate against us. But "We Reap What We Sow". On 9 June 2022, he got served!

## Power to the People

By the United Front "T.R.U.C.E." of the People's Army - T.R.U.C.E. (Teams of Revolutionaries Uniting to Combat the Enemy)

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** On 30 June 2022 there was a phone/email zap to Granville Correctional Institution to support the strikers and to call for an end to the physical abuse by Sergeant Couper. Staff responded by saying that Warden Roach was not in that day to take calls and that there was no physical abuse going on there. Emails to the Warden and Director of Operations were not responded to. ■

# FAQs on Class and Nation and What We Will Print

by Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons)  
July 2022

MIM,  
  
Thank you for the book *MIM Theory 2/3 on Gender and Revolutionary Feminism* — this is exactly the kind of reading material I want and need.

I do want to briefly comment on a recurring phrase I see in some of your theory: "white worker". Does this mean white collar worker as in labor aristocrat or is this a prejudice that labor aristocrats are white skin color? If you mean privileged as in white collar then why don't you say collar?

I have not read much of the book yet, just a few pages. However, I can agree that much of the working class in amerika is labor aristocrat, where you lose me is that when I think of labor aristocrat I see a face like Eric Adams, the mayor of New York City, who is constantly calling for more police and more oppression.

Here in California we have a lot of Brown faces, perhaps 50% Brown. The point is whenever I talk to a Brown or Black person about socialism the response is mostly the same. Black & Brown people in amerika love their privilege, they enjoy exploiting 3rd world workers, there the labor aristocrat is Brown and Black in the face and white in the collar.

I think *MIM Theory* agrees with me that First World working class has no use for revolution and is impossible to recruit or even harmful to the movement, as bourgeoisie in any dictatorship of the proletariat is only there to revive capitalism. However, as *MIM* states the majority of First World working class is labor aristocrat, then I would assume *MIM* is considering the demographics of the First World as a whole and means "white collar worker" and not merely a racist jab of "white worker." All of the cops here have Brown faces.

In Solidarity, a California prisoner

**Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons) responds:** Sounds like we have a high level of unity on the class structure in this country, and the world. The truth is the analysis has evolved since the 1980s, when it was more reasonable to talk about a proletariat in the internal semi-colonies (by which we mean New Afrika, Boricua, Aztlan, and the First Nations). So back then writers like MIM and Sakai would talk about a Black or Chican@ proletariat, while seeing the white workers as an enemy class. And yes, by white we mean white people, though we use it to talk about nation, rather than race, which is a myth. Therefore today we'll often use Amerikan instead. And many "non-white" people have integrated into Amerika today. *Euro-Amerikan* is a term for the oppressor nation, but *white* is still a valid term that is understood by the masses today.

In the introduction to our pamphlet, *Who is the Lumpen in the United States*, we wrote:

"If we fast forward from the time period discussed above to the 1980s we see the formation of the Maoist Internationalist Movement as well as a consolidation of theorists coming out of the legacy of the Black Liberation Army and probably the RYM as well. Both groups spoke widely of a Black or New Afrikan proletariat, which dominated the nation. MIM later moved away from this line and began entertaining Huey P. New-

ton's prediction of mass lumpenization, at least in regard to the internal semi-colonies. Today we find ourselves in a position where we must draw a line between ourselves and those who speak of an exploited New Afrikan population. If the U.\$ economy only existed within U.\$ borders then we would have to conclude that the lower incomes received by the internal semi-colonies overall is the source of all capitalist wealth. But in today's global economy, employed New Afrikans have incomes that are barely different from those of white Amerikans compared to the world's majority, putting most in the top 10% by income."

The above quote is referring to the MIM Congress resolution, "*On the internal class structures of the internal semi-colonies*". Even since that was written we've seen the proliferation of what you talk about, Chican@ prison guards being the majority in much of Aztlan, and New Afrikan prison guards being the majority in many parts of the Black Belt. This of course varies by local demographics. Regardless, it makes one question whether there are even internal semi-colonies to speak of, or at which point we should stop speaking of them? The massive prison system in this country is one reason we do still speak of them.

So we agree with you that the term "white worker" has kind of lost its meaning today. However, we still see the principal contradiction in this country as nation. Despite the bourgeoisification and integration of sectors of the oppressed nations, and the subsequent division of those nations, we still see nationalism of the internal semi-colonies, if led by a proletarian line, as the most potent force against imperialism from within U.\$ borders.

A couple more minor points. We'd probably say Eric Adams, and high ranking politicians like em, are solidly bourgeois. Whereas the labor aristocracy would be those Brown guards overseeing you. In addition, we do not use labor aristocracy and white collar synonymously either, as white collar work has always been petty bourgeois or at best semi-proletariat by Marxist standards. So the real controversial issue is to say there are "blue collar" workers who are not exploited.

## Organizations for Whites

Another comrade wrote saying that ey had no organization to join because ey is white. They had mistakenly thought that we think people should only organize with their own nation. We do not take a hard line on this question. And it is obviously related to the above.

MIM(Prisons), USW and AIPS are all multinational. Yet in our understanding of nation as principal, it seems necessary for there to be nation-specific organizations to play that contradiction out between the oppressed and oppressor nations. We certainly have supported single-nation organizing, and in another resolution we put out, we cite that as one of the handful of legitimate reasons to start a new organization instead of joining MIM(Prisons) or USW (See the MIM Prisons 2011 Congress Resolutions).

But there may be situations where multinational organizing

in this country is actually more effective. At this stage our numbers are so small that it should be strongly considered just out of necessity to begin building our infrastructure. And when single-nation organizations do exist, the united front exists for them to work with others outside their nation.

## Printing Anarchist Content

Finally, we had a discussion with a comrade who submitted an article that was favorable or uncritical of anarchist organizing strategy. The comrade wanted to know why we asked em to change eir article, because we claim we will print articles form anarchist allies.

Just because we will print content from anarchists, even content we might have disagreements with, it doesn't mean we always will. First, our goal is to win people over to the Maoist line. So if you submit something that disagrees with that, our first response will often be to struggle with you over that line with the goal of gaining a higher level of unity.

Now some comrades are avowed anarchists. For them we do not need to keep having the same debate. Nor do we need to have that debate in *ULK*. When we say we'll print material from anarchists we're talking about material that actually pushes the struggle forward. Not material that is debating issues we think were settled 100 years ago. This is similar to a critic complaining about us not printing eir piece (see "*MIM(Prisons) Practices Deception by Leaving Out Other Side of Debate*" in *ULK* from December 2013) in *ULK* when we responded, because we weren't showing both sides of the debate over the labor aristocracy. Again, this is a debate that was settled decades ago.

On top of this there are many comrades and organizations we work with that aren't in the camp of the international communist movement such as the Nation of Gods and Earths for one example. While many aspects of the Supreme Understanding taught by the NGE certainly goes against the Maoist worldview, we are able to find solidarity in practice and in a united front. We don't necessarily have to battle out whether the Supreme Understanding or Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is correct in the newsletter. We encourage line struggle on the ground.

In summary, this is a Maoist newsletter, edited to represent the Maoist line. We get to pick and choose when to print stuff that disagrees with Maoism if we think it is useful to advancing the struggle. Sure we find it important for cadres to be able to commit to line struggle scientifically and principally, and communists in general should have the ability to look at sources that challenges their viewpoint and uphold their line while analyzing what's wrong/correct during line struggle. There is infinite non-Maoist material out there; and we advise our readers and comrades to go to those materials if they want to see what our critics are saying. We certainly won't expect our critics to use space in their newsletters publishing entire polemics that we wrote against them, nor would we say that's unfair to us. ■



# Movimiento Ibérico de Liberación, Salvador Puig Antich, and The Labor Aristocracy

by Cadre1  
June 2022

The Movimiento Ibérico de Liberación (MIL) was an anti-capitalist group consisting of both anarchists and communists that was active between 1971-1973 in the fascist state of Spain under Franco. The group was unique in that, unlike most revolutionary organizations, it was not centralized. MIL did not believe that a centralized group could be revolutionary. They insisted that a centralized group was synonymous with a party and that a party could not achieve social revolution because a party, by necessity, seeks to gain state power and then strengthen its position. The strengthening of state power — any state power — weakens the revolution.

### MIL Line and History

MIL was internationalist in scope and honored the memory and history of various class struggles around the globe. Including, but not limited to: the Iberian class struggle, the Revolution of 333 Days in Hungary, the November Revolution in Germany, and the Bavarian Council Republic. They also had ties to anti-capitalist organizations outside of Spain, especially in France. In addition to it's internationalist practices, they also collaborated extensively with other revolutionary organizations in Spain (most notably the GAC and OLLA).

The main element of MIL's revolutionary action was the expropriation of funds from the capitalists through armed agitation. They would spread the expropriated money around the anti-capitalist movement to help further other clandestine operations as well as support worker's struggles, families of prisoners, and victims of the police. A good chunk of these expropriated funds were invested in the library that MIL helped create called the Ediciones Mayo del 37. The purpose of this library was to publish and distribute revolutionary texts that could help raise the political consciousness of the working class.

Another important aspect of MIL was its support of women's struggles against patriarchy. They claimed that any group that did not support such struggles were not revolutionary, for it was impossible to fight against capitalism and remain blind to the oppression and exploitation of women in capitalist society. Therefore, any organization that did not support women's struggles were purposely ignoring their plight, and thus, could not be called revolutionary. Furthermore, MIL advocated revolution across all aspects of society: social, cultural, sexual, familial, and political. Revolution is not partial

to any part of society; revolution effects society in its entirety.

MIL did not consider itself a vanguard of the revolution — in fact, they opposed the very idea of a vanguard. Which is why they engaged in armed agitation rather than armed struggle.

*"'Armed agitation' is wholly different from the strategy of 'armed struggle', in which a specialized group acts as the vanguard of the movement by constituting the nucleus of a future army...serving as the military wing of a clandestine political party...or by carrying out the most spectacular actions and using its position to attempt to influence and direct a mass movement...on the contrary, the groups that carry out armed agitation understand themselves to be simply a part of a bigger movement, increasing that movement's capacity for communication, self-defense, and self-financing by organizing and funding clandestine printing, attacking the forces of repression, and expropriating money from capitalists...They also seek to generalize their practice rather than centralize it, distributing weapons among the lower classes and encouraging the horizontal proliferation of armed groups." (1)*

The core reason why MIL was opposed to armed struggle and the philosophy of the need for a vanguard was because they believed that nobody but the proletariat could liberate the proletariat. The idea that the proletariat needed an external group to lead or liberate them went against everything that MIL fought for and believed in. The members of MIL did not think of themselves as heroes of the people. They believed that their role in the anti-capitalist struggle was to act in ways that would help the working-class become politicized and then liberate themselves. As mentioned previously, the way that MIL thought best to achieve their purpose was through the expropriation of funds. By the time that MIL dissolved in September 1973, they had expropriated 24 million Pesetas from capitalists.

Ultimately, MIL dissolved itself after it had reached a point where the members could no longer consider their actions as revolutionary. Although MIL opposed specialization they found that they had become an organization that practiced specialization. They had done so inadvertently by continuously engaging in armed agitation without developing a political line that could explain and support their action to the masses. Just as theory — political line — needs to be supported by practice, so too does practice need to be supported by theory. The lack of one diminishes the other.

Initially, a Congress was held by the members of MIL to seek a

solution that could save the group. In the end, they decided to dissolve; in part because their actions had failed to inspire the proletariat to engage in open class warfare. They decided that, at that time, the working class was not sufficiently politically conscious and that their main objective should be to politicize the masses through propaganda until the time came when armed agita-



tion was necessary.

### Salvador Puig Antich

The most famous member of MIL was, by far, Salvador Puig Antich.

Salvador was born on 30 May 1948 in Barcelona. He began rebelling against authority figures in his youth and was once expelled from school for punching a teacher in defense of another student. Although he was involved in the worker's struggles in his youth, he did not engage in revolutionary actions until he joined MIL during the summer of 1972. He participated in his first bank robbery on October 21st of the same year (acting as the getaway driver), and the action resulted in the expropriation of 990,200 Pesetas from the Laietana Saving Bank. Shortly after that Salvador began to carry a gun and go into banks himself.

He was a committed anti-capitalist who identified as an anarchist. Although he didn't join MIL until it had been active for a year, he quickly became a prominent figure within the organization. He authored several texts that were circulated among the members of MIL. The purpose of these texts was to formulate discussion about various topics relevant to the organization and the revolution.

On 25 September 1973 Salvador was in a shootout with the police. During the altercation he was shot twice and one officer was killed. After the incident occurred he was taken to the hospi-

tal to be treated for his injuries; when he was determined to be in stable condition he was transferred to Modelo prison to await trial. On 9 January 1974 he was given the death penalty.

Although capitalists have attempted to portray Salvador as a degenerate criminal, the truth cannot be denied: he was a true revolutionary. He never denied his actions and always maintained that everything he did, he did in the name of the anti-capitalist struggle. His every action, his every thought, was centered toward the abolition of the state and the state apparatus. He never capitulated. He stayed true to the revolutionary struggle until the bitter end.

On 2 March 1974 Franco's fascist state executed Salvador Puig Antich via garrot vil [editor: a chair that is used to strangle people to death]. He was 25 years old. Even though MIL did not develop a sufficient political line and dissolved after only two years of revolutionary action, it should by no means be forgotten. Both MIL and Salvador Puig Antich have influenced countless people in Spain to engage in revolutionary struggle. And, importantly, MIL advanced the theory of the Labor Aristocracy in a time when few did. Even today few recognize that in places like the United States of America, the proletarian class has ceased to exist and a new class has risen in its place; a parasitic class that benefits from the exploitation of the working class in the Third World. This parasitic class is the Labor Aristocracy.

### MIL on the Labor Aristocracy

The same day that Salvador was executed Oriol Solé wrote the following from Modelo prison:

*"In the United States, in Europe, under the rule of the superpowers, the proletariat has disappeared. Society has engendered a new social class that creates surplus, accumulates capital, and at the same time grows bloated on the surplus generated by millions of wage workers in the poor countries. A new class that builds itself a paradise paid for with the blood of the exploited poor of Africa, Asia and Latin America." (2)*

MIL's line regarding the Labor Aristocracy was spot on, but several of their positions were flawed. For example, MIL

viewed a vanguard as synonymous with a party and argued that any party would seize state power and strengthen its position. They held that no party could be revolutionary because the point of revolution is to abolish the state and the state apparatus.

This is an anarchist view and cannot lead to revolution. The anarchist believes that you should abolish the state and its apparatus immediately. While their concern about a new power oppressive power arising is a valid one, the communist recognizes the impracticality of combating strong class enemies without a state

power and acknowledges that an intermediary stage between capitalism and communism is necessary — this stage being socialism. The socialist stage gradually diminishes until the state no longer exists. Only then can communism be achieved.

Another flaw is MIL's view regarding the vanguard. They did not believe one was necessary and actively spoke against the creation of one. However, history has shown us that not only do vanguards work, but they are necessary to carry out a revolution. Three such examples are the centralized vanguards led by Mao, Castro, and Lenin. All of which carried out successful revolutions. Without their vanguards, those revolutions would not have occurred.

Yet, even with obvious flaws in their political theory, the MIL should not be thrown on the ash heap of history. Both MIL and Salvador Puig Antich are famous in Spain for their revolutionary legacy. But they are little known elsewhere. We should remember Salvador for his revolutionary actions, beliefs, and ultimate sacrifice. He lived for the people and he died for the people.

Likewise, we should not let the MIL fall through the cracks of history. In the two short years of its existence, its actions shook the foundations of Spain, and surprisingly, it did so without killing. The only death attributed to MIL was that officer killed during the shootout with Salvador. MIL directly contributed to the worker's struggles and did not seek to control or direct the proletariat for personal gain.

Every anti-capitalist revolutionary should remember Salvador Puig Antich and MIL and celebrate their legacy every March 2nd — the anniversary of Salvador's death.

Notes:  
1) Salvador Puig Antich: Collected Writings on Repression and Resistance in Franco's Spain; by Ricard de Vargas Golarons; translated by Peter Gelderloos; pg.16  
2) ibid; pg.159

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** The story of MIL becoming specialized when they opposed specialization echoes the lesson of Jo Freeman's *The Tyranny of Structurelessness*. This essay is included in our study pack on organizational structure, for those who want to dive deeper into the Maoist line on this topic.

While MIL grasped the economic realities of the imperialist countries at an early stage of history, like many others they failed to answer the question of how to organize for the end of oppression in these conditions. This has been a question that many similar groups in the First World took to similar conclusions, leading to dissolution. MIM attempts to answer these questions by recognizing the fact that armed struggle is not viable against a strong imperialist state, and the need to be a mass-based movement. We cannot expect huge or flashy actions at this stage of the struggle, and we must build the infrastructure and educate the cadre for when conditions change. Time is on our side.■



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94140



# Tasks of the Revolutionary

by a Texas prisoner  
July 2022

The task of a revolutionary, regardless of ones political/ideological or cultural leanings, is to make revolution. Revolution is all about change. The biggest change that a revolutionary must undertake is the equivalent to in the religion of Islam what is called Jihad. Jihad is not limited to what most Western religious enthusiasts have been led to believe, the meaning of Jihad goes much deeper than the concept of crusades or mere bombings. The biggest Jihad or battle that one can have is the battle for control over oneself (also see MIM(Prisons)'s study pack on religion). To the revolutionary, this task is important because he/she has to become the change they wish to produce to the world.

A constant improving of one's character with the righteousness of ideals that have went through the rigors of tests to be found or rather proved to be correct for the overall ordeal of advancement. Once again before this can be felt by the untapped but potential revolutionary or the dumb, deaf & blind brother/sister clinging to a culture intended to kill them, the revolutionary must make this change (revolution) within his/her own personal character. This is what should be used to provide an example for others of whom we are trying to reach. This also however leads us to the conclusion that people no matter the fact that we come from common ways of living & thinking, are still each different.

This statement doesn't mean that I subscribe to individualism, because true revolutionaries think from the communal mindset. However, since we are far removed from that concept, we must find ways that are productive to lead one to the communal mindset that already exists in us naturally. The idea of individualism is one of the main obstacles to overall community change, because we're not acting as organisms moving together for the betterment of the body (society). But that doesn't mean that all aspects of individualism are wrong, for example, "each according to ability." So while some may think of us all developing the mind of the commune will lead us all to thinking like the Borg from Star Trek (everyone thinking the same thing), I see it more like the Smurfs. Yes the Smurfs. They had a unified community, accompanied with everyone playing a specific role. This way shouldn't just be relegated to one's own political vanguard or the military brigade. We have to find some means of communicating these ideals to everyone. Since we all share a common enemy, all of our efforts have to revolve around crushing that threat.

If we relegate ourselves to constantly battling over which of the communal methods hold the stronger validity, we'll all end up moving in our own directions & probably never initializing the changes that are the basis of our citizenship within these groups. We'll more than likely continue to develop the mentalities they would like for us to develop, which will ultimately reduce us to caricature. All opinions are not equal & there is such a thing as counter-productive revisionism. Our vanguard elements are going to have to develop the use of Democratic Centralism. This process however must be done

without the bitterness & rancor that can only come from egoism. In fact egoism must be crushed, because great man personalities have no place in revolution. Revolution, whether politically or through armed struggle, is all about the altering of a society that is crushing the life force out of all of us, this is not an individual problem, once again it is communal!

Dialectical materialism is all about examining things within their total sequence & seeing the pros & cons in the struggles of the past. The obvious reason is to better equip ourselves from suffering the same fate as a result of the same failures of our previous brave brothers/sisters engaged at trying to crush the outside enemy culture & to utilize whatever methods may be useful to strengthen what we already have. A constant improvisation still needs to be done, but this doesn't mean that we should stop studying people's war. We have to study the principles of people's war & learn to interpret them to fit our overall situation here. Most wars of liberation took place in the countryside of their respective lands. Our situation is different in that Amerikan settler-colonialism is modernized & at least 80-90% of Amerika is industrialized, so the nerve centers of this nation are indeed the cities. This means that hip shooting cops are all around us, thus making them easier to reach.

those brave brothers/sisters. The guerrilla chief however must also have a thorough understanding of the true nature of fascism, the modern industrial state, the economic landscape etc. The reason is that if one group dies or is not as effective the guerrilla chief & his band of revolutionaries can still keep the revolution alive.

As of now our main problem is the fact that our vanguard & military groups have shifted their focus from revolution to clinging to the culture of anti-people crimes. The settler-colonial strategy is law & order which ultimately means prison — our tactic is perfect disorder which leads to the proletariat & the lumpen creating mass disorder to work against the beast (cops) & their vigilante supporters. In 1969, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover declared that "there will no longer be a Black Panther Party in the U.S." The Black Panther Party was not the only revolutionary group & in spite of popular belief, they were not just a group working exclusively in the interest of Blacks. The Black Panther Party like almost every other revolutionary group, was a communist organization that utilized the principles they learned from successful communist victories, from examples such as Mao Zedong and his Red Book. They formed alliances with many other revolutionary groups and because the Black situation stood out more (& still does) they were thought to be the

wiretaps, surveillance, to out sending letters to leaders that were supposed to have come other leaders declaring war between the groups. The goals the establishment used largely worked and eventually several key leaders either went into hiding, left the country, or were even assassinated while the political prisoners suffered death legally and quasi-legally.

Of course progressive thinking was still held as an ideal in some people's minds and this led to groups that eventually turned against the community even further by becoming gangs. Community Revolution in Progress became the goal for Raymond Washington and Stanley "Tookie" Williams or Brotherly Love Overriding Oppression & Destruction became the acronym for Blood. These were good ideas and could've worked if we had received the freedom first. The freedom I'm referring to must come first in the form of a freedom because our situation was more psychological than physical. This means that our minds were created for the sole purpose of getting us to act against our even better interests. This shouldn't be understated since the mindsets that we have now didn't exist in communal Africa. These mindsets is what led us to industrializing this country which ultimately our labor was used as the down payment on the system of economics that determines one's status in this country.

Without the mindsets that we adopted (through long usage) we would've long been better equipped at resisting. But since chattel slavery lasted for 400 years and we haven't been free 200 years, how can we hope to win freedom, especially since once again we are still clinging to the ideas that created our mindsets in the first place? Since it is our design that gave beauty to the world, which should be easy to see since others are quick to pick up on our culture, even sometimes more readily than we are, we must go back to our own design. This could work for the betterment of not only us as a group however, this could be used as a basis to show others righteous examples that could ultimately lead to a change. But it must begin now. For us to delay what must be done today is like asking someone else to undertake to aid us in a liberation effort that must be engaged in by our own efforts.

Another problem working against us is our inability to understand the difference between reform and change. Largely the only righteous peoples who were working for us are the people who were attacked by the outside enemy culture. Anyone else was used because their stance wasn't revolutionary. I'm not dismissing people like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks etc, but I know that the main reason why they are mentioned over people such as Malcolm X or Huey Newton is their view against the necessity not only of violence and the correct usage of armed struggle, but it also mainly rests with them telling us to escape from the culture that we embrace. Malcolm X's image is only now used because at the end of his life he was said to have accepted whites. Part of that was true, but he never said they weren't devils just because he converted to orthodox Islam. What he said was that in his view the devil (white man) could only be redeemed in his opinion through Islam because Christianity has not redeemed them from not only killing us, but also start-

ing wars with other whites.

So people like Martin, through his practice of pacifism and his refusal to go against the culture of Amerikanism, resulted in him winning a few reforms which are only offered to us as tokens, these tokens however are not change. Change is why we are no longer looked at as second class citizens in a world where some are held above others based on racial & economic reasons. His Imperial Majesty who heavily inspired Bob Marley to later embrace Rastafarianism, said that "until the philosophy that the color of one's skin is as less significant as the color of one's eyes there will always be war." The road to freedom means freedom, justice & equality for all regardless of one's ethnicity, political views, religions, spirituality etc.

We will have this freedom even at the cost of total war. We come to the conclusion that violence to us may be the only recourse. This violence shouldn't be tied to romanticism, it's about us altering the conditions that are restricting our passage to freedom. I humbly and passionately respect all the sincere people who gave their life and ideas to produce men like me whose goal is to move further than when they left off and that's even for those of whom I disagree with. I recognize that passion leads to different outcomes and different results, as long as they were intended to benefit us as a whole than whether I disagree or not I still have the fact that their life force was used to alter the conditions that is for the betterment of our lives as a whole. My stance as a whole is rooted around us globally enjoying freedom, justice & equality. I realize the imperial process is only complete if the parent imperial nation - USA - is strong so I'm all for bringing Amerika down to her knees. Anyone who sincerely has that as a goal I embrace, white or Black I embrace, but it must begin now.

**Long Live Guerrilla Chief  
George Jackson!**

**Long Live All those Who  
Don't Fear Freedom!**

**Plastick of MIM(Prisons) responds:** This comrade here has given us a core learning element of leading the masses by example — a new socialist world and a new human being will have to constantly remove the old world's reactionary culture and habits.

One thing this comrade has mentioned that we are in disagreement is in regards to fascism. Originally, the comrade has spoke of fascist Amerika which has been changed to settler-colonial Amerika by this responder. We define fascism as a new strategy by the bourgeois dictatorship when it can no longer rule the way it has ruled before. We believe that Amerika is likely to turn fascist through a political-economic crisis which is integral to capitalism-imperialism. However, we believe that the current state of methods such as police killings, imprisonment, and exploiting the majority of the world for superprofits and high level of consumption has always been the way that Amerika has ruled. When this social-democratic strategy of sharing the piece of the imperialist pie to the oppressor nation (Amerikans) ceases to work due to an ever deepening of the crisis, then fascism will indeed come. Up until now, Amerika has maintained relative strength, and Sun Tzu taught us to attack when the enemy is helpless. ■



In the opening phases of our struggle for liberation, I feel just as Comrade Jackson felt, that the military proper must be kept hidden & separate from the political front. You see the role of a political revolutionary is totally different than the military who are engaged in armed struggle against macabre freaks. The guerrilla chief is tasked with communicating to his soldiers that they must protect their political peoples at their work. If we let our "voices" die to machine gun fire, no knock invasions, the anonymous tip, political incarceration & even the work of agent provocateurs & class defectors, then our dream of eventual freedom will more than likely die with

overall vanguard party to even other political & military vanguards. So the goal wasn't to just fix conditions in the Black community. That was their primary objective, but they understood that if you just focused exclusively on the black conditions and fixing only our areas, we would have to ghettoize other segments of society that would equal Mexicans, Chican@s, First Nations, etc.

To stop the progressive elements of unity among different cultural/revolutionary groups, the establishment caused the leaders of these groups to distrust their own members. This was done by the government from planting spies in these groups, along with



JUNETEENTH FREEDOM INITIATIVE

End Solitary Confinement! End Restrictive Housing Units(RHU)!

End Mass Incarceration!

Transform the prisons to cadre schools!

Transform ourselves into NEW PEOPLE!

See the article on p.1 for more background. Phase 2 has begun. We are aiming to get as many petitions from prisoners submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice this summer!

Many in Texas have already received and submitted the petition. But this petition concerns the conditions of all prisoners similarly situated across this country. You should receive a copy of the petition with this issue of ULK if you are receiving it in our original bulk mailing. If you need more copies, just write us to get more.

The next phase, TX Team One will be collecting statements from prisoners across the country to take to the United Nations if necessary. So stay tuned.

STOP CENSORSHIP OF POLITICAL SPEECH

See page 4 & 5 for more info on our campaign against the massive censorship of mail in Texas prisons in response to the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative.

Comrades on the inside, keep appealing, and if you can take legal action.

Comrades outside, call, write letters and help us gather postcard signatures to send to the TDCJ. You

can also donate to our legal fund to fight censorship in Texas by filing a lawsuit.

See inside for more info on how to help.

SPREAD UNDER LOCK & KEY

Every subscriber should pass this issue of ULK on to someone else. Even better if you can get them to actually read it! Share what you got from the newsletter, and how it has impacted your time in prison. We are still recruiting ULK distributors who can receive a small stack of ULKs to distribute at their prison.

WE DEMAND OUR GRIEVANCES ARE ADDRESSED

If you are experiencing problems with your grievance process, such as delays, unanswered grievances, or harassment, you should join this campaign. Petitions are available for AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, KS, LA, MS, MT, NV, NY, NC, OK, OR, SC,



CAMPAIGNS

and TX. If the state-level petition doesn't bring relief, we now have a new follow-

up petition written to hold states accountable to federal requirements.

Write in to get the petition for your state. If your prison's policies allow, give stamps or envelopes to your comrades inside to mail out the petition. Remember, you need to send them out to the administrators and politicians yourself. MIM(Prisons) does not have the resources to mail out the petitions for you.

If your state is not currently covered by the grievance campaign, volunteer to rewrite the petition to work for your state. Update this campaign - If you participated in this campaign in the past, send us a report on what happened. Tell us how you used it to help organize others and build group consciousness or how it didn't work.

SEPTEMBER 9TH DAY OF PEACE & SOLIDARITY

Organize locally for the September 9th Day of Peace and Solidarity, to promote the United Front for Peace in Prisons and an end to conflict amongst prisoners. September 9th is the anniversary of the Attica uprising. This campaign was initiated in 2012 by an organization participating in United Struggle for Peace in Prisons and has been taken up as an annual UFPP event, with people committing to participate in prisons across the country.

This demonstration aligns with the UFPP principle to build unity among prisoners who have a common interest in fighting the oppression of the criminal injustice system. Prisoners are taking the 24 hours to engage in solidarity building and education, ceasing all prisoner-on-prisoner hostilities. This is a critical step in building a United Front among prisoner organizations and individuals committed to the anti-imperialist movement. We do not need to agree on every political issue, but we must come together united around core principles to build and fight together. The unity building starts well before September 9th for those who are engaging others to participate in the commemoration. It is a long, consistent process of education and organizing to build the anti-imperialist movement.

See page 2 for more info on what the UFPP is about. Write in to let us know about how you are implementing the UFPP, what you did for September 9th, and ask for a copy of our 9/9 study pack.

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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 received from us since the last time you wrote.

ATTENTION  
CORRECTIONAL  
AUTHORITIES:

PLEASE READ THIS  
CENSORSHIP NOTICE

As the distributor of Under Lock & Key we retain a First Amendment right to correspond with prisoners, just as prisoners retain a First Amendment right to correspond with the outside world. While a rational basis test is allowed for the censorship of publications entering a prison system, such allowance does not allow a blanket ban on publications because prison authorities do not agree with the message or content, which may be political or religious in nature. Censorship regulations must be rational and impose censorship only in furtherance of "an important or substantial governmental interest not related to the suppression of expression" and relate to "legitimate penological interests." The federal courts have ruled unequivocally that a prison agency censoring inmate publications and mail must provide the distributor or publisher with notice of censorship. This notice must provide articulate reasons for such censorship with specific references to the objectionable material. The distributor/ publisher must be given a meaningful opportunity to appeal

the censorship decision to a person not involved in the censorship decision. Notice and opportunity to appeal are required by due process. We encourage you to carefully read and understand your agencies policies and procedures, as well as federal case law related to the censorship of incoming mail and publications addressed to prisoners.

If you have any doubt you should consult your agencies legal counsel. We are prepared to exercise our Constitutional rights and appeal censorship which does not adhere to applicable law. Such exercise of our rights may include legal action seeking declaratory and injunctive relief as well as monetary damages and legal fees. Failure to adhere to federal law, your state's administrative regulations and your agency's policies and procedures is evidence of malicious intent to violate our rights. See generally Pell v. Procunier, 417 U.S. 817 (1974); Turner v. Safely, 482 U.S. 78 (1987).

PLEASE GOVERN  
YOURSELF  
ACCORDINGLY.

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Document Prison Abuses

We receive many reports about terrible conditions, abuse and neglect in prisons across the country. While most of these don't make it onto the pages of ULK, we do type these up for publication on our website (www.prisoncensorship.info).

Documenting and monitoring the abusive conditions in American prisons is an important part of our work. Keep sending in these reports! Online readers can search by state and facility to find your reports.