

# Under Lock & Key



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## Affirmative Action Policies Never Addressed the National Question

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)  
July 2023

For all its self-proclaimed enlightened ways, U.S. imperialism continues to uphold the myth of race in everything it does. Enter the Supreme Court with their historic decision to end affirmative action in higher education. While the "race-conscious" policy did benefit (some in the) oppressed nations, the framework of race, created by the oppressor, continues to setback the progress of the oppressed.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority position,

"Many universities have for too long... concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual's identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin... Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice."

We are not in the game of integrating oppressed people into the oppressor nation, but affirmative action based on "race" did prove an effective way to do that. Ending it will mean less oppressed nation people in higher education as recent history in California has shown.(1)

However, the racial statistics used to tout the success of affirmative action can be misleading. Because "race" and not income,

or zip code, or cultural background are used in many of these statistics, what looks like perfect representation by skin color may be doing nothing to benefit the New Afrikan masses. Extrapolating from some broad statistics, one author estimates that maybe 7 or 8 of 154 "Black" freshman (5%) at Harvard in 2020 were from families defined in the U.S. as impoverished. Whereas, in the general population, 30% of New Afrikan youth are from impoverished households. This article also cites anecdotes saying the vast majority of black faces at Harvard are from bourgeois African families or had one Euro-Amerikan parent. Again, indicating affirmative action was not really benefiting the New Afrikan nation at Harvard anyway.(2)

The passage of the U.S. Civil Rights Act in 1964, which preceded the "affirmative action" practices we know today, was a comprehensive act to outlaw discrimination in what had been a segregated country. This was not just a result of the organizing of the oppressed within U.S. borders, but the pressure from the Soviet Union (though at that time they'd taken up the capitalist road) and China and the broader national liberation movement taking place across Africa, Asia and Latin America. And while progressive changes took place in the United States in the 1960s it did not quell the upsurge of national liberation struggles within U.S. borders because it never addressed the national question like the Soviet Union and China did. Rather it continued to institutionalize the concept of race through the new civil rights laws being passed.

By never addressing the national question, things like affirmative action, or *Under Lock & Key* can be attacked by the imperialist state as "racist." To the imperialists the oppressed nations don't exist, so when we talk about New Afrikans or Chican@s or Euro-Amerikans, they censor our literature for "racism".

We must identify the principal contradiction to keep our eyes on the prize and not get distracted into dead-end politics. The principal contradiction we see under imperialism is nation, as well within the United States we say it is nation. This does not mean everyone from an oppressed nation is an ally. We must think in terms of percentages, not in black and

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## The Three-Party Trap

by Xipe of Communist Party of Aztlán  
June 2023

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades! We must address parliamentarism within the empire in general, and reformism in particular. As our nation develops it compels us to deal with the new challenges and obstacles hurled our way by the oppressor nation and its lackeys.

In the 1960's, 70's and 80's, the Chicano nation mostly dealt with the *two-party trap*, that is the Republican Party and its counterpart the Democratic Party. These two wings of the Amerikkkan bird have hystorically bamboozled Chican@s and other colonized peoples into supporting its charade of bourgeois elections. The Chican@ Movement of 50 years past did a good job of alerting the nation of the "Two-Party Trap", which simply entangles our gente in models of bourgeois politics that in the end uphold U.S. imperialism while preventing the oppressed nations from ever obtaining true liberation.

Today we are faced with the *Three-Party Trap*. Parties "outside" of the traditional Democrat and Republican camps have begun to lure some of our gente into the swamp of dead-end bourgeois politics in the guise of a "Third

Party" option. This Three-Party Trap simply results in imperialism maintaining Amerikkkan hegemony over bourgeois politics.

### Muddying the Waters of Revisionism

Some may point to Lenin's stance on parliamentarism and specifically how in his time it was encouraged for communists to participate in the ballot box as millions of proletarians partook in such ventures. This may have been true of Lenin's time and for the proletariat of 1917 Russia. This debate also highlights the crucial necessity of studying correct political line as it is easy to take quotes from over 100 years ago and convince some of the masses why it applies today. Yet, without analyzing today's social reality here in the imperialist center the dogmatists and revisionists will have revolutionaries voting for the best imperialist while raising a clenched fist.

Imperialist U.S.A. is not 1917 Russia, and the millions of proletariat of that time were a vehicle for revolution, meanwhile there is relatively little proletariat within the United Snakes, and most are found in the fields and food production; the migrants. This rote learning of the revisionists and vendidos (sell-outs) who study

quotes and dogmatically pass on these weak arguments to the masses attempting to justify why they support U.S. imperialism via its bourgeois politics is what separates the bourgeois or cultural nationalist parties from the Communist Party of Aztlán (CPA).

Our struggle for self-determination means we must delink from imperialism not uphold it by participating in its politics. As dialectical materialists we move by analyzing objective reality as we believe Marx, Lenin and Mao did. Had these revolutionary leaders been alive *today* in 2023 United States, they would have likely had different views and plans of action for the internal colonies today.

The revisionists and vendidos (sell-outs) love to make assumptions on how Marx, Lenin and Mao would feel about the Three-Party Trap and how because of a quote they made over 100 years ago in another country under different economic circumstances with very different social forces that in imperialist U.S.A. today they would support a Green Party, Chican@ Party or any other party outside of the Dems or Republicans, which participates in the ballot box of bourgeois politics. This is absurd at

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### ATTENTION CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITIES:

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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 reli-

gious 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).

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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 America'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 personal 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 needless conflicts and violence within the U.S. prison environment. The oppressors use divide and conquer strategies so that we fight each other instead of them. We will stand together and defend ourselves from oppression.

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

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

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

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

### How to join the United Front?

- Study and uphold the five principles above.

- Send your organization's name and a statement of unity to MIM(Prisons). Your statement can explain what the united front principles mean to your organization, how they relate to your work, why they are important, etc.

- Develop peace and unity between factions where you are at on the basis of opposing oppression of all prisoners and oppressed people in general. 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.

# Fourth of You-Lie Fundraiser

by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2023

We've been a bit strained on support lately. One thing we forgot to do in *ULK 81* is promote our annual fund drive for the Fourth of You-Lie (July 4th). The good news is you can donate any time of year! The bad news is, so far we've only received a quarter of the amount in donations, and a quarter of the amount in payments for literature from our readers inside U.S. prisons that we received in 2022. But we're

already half way through the year! We have been rebuilding and expanding our reach over the last few years, so there's a lot of catching up to do to sustain our growth.

Prisoners, the amount we ask you to send is about \$4 or 7 stamps to cover a year subscription to *Under Lock & Key*. We know not everyone has that in prison, so anyone who can send more, all funds go directly to sending materials to prisoners. ■

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best. Since the revisionists love to make assumptions, we will do so as well and assume that Marx, Lenin and Mao would be against participating in the U.S. bourgeois elections via the Three-Party Trap or through any other vehicle.

As communists we study dialectics, the contradictions that exist. Looking to the social forces within these false U.S. borders reveals that the principal contradiction today is that between the white oppressor nation vs. the oppressed nations. Likewise, the small sector of proletariat mostly resides in the fields. The migrants who mostly do not partake in bourgeois elections and many being "undocumented" means they do not even have access to many of the options that paper citizenship brings!

The "work force" for the most part consists of labor aristocrats which describes most U.S. citizens. These elite workers benefit off the spoils of Third World plunder. The paid sick days and pensions that even many retail workers receive would have the Trotskyites scream exploitation and slave wages, while the proletariat of the Third World roll their eyes from the underground mines and maquiladores where they make pennies a day.

To date, there is no Three-Party line that identifies the concept of the labor aristocracy within so-called "workers" in the U.S. As historical materialism teaches, we look to history on what the ballot box approach has done. The strategy of a peaceful transition that the Three-Party line holds would only lead us down the road to neo-colonialism. We know this to be true through scientific study, because not a single nation has ever been

liberated and completely independent from imperialism through a peaceful transition from the ballot box. This is our scientific proof without assumption and without a dogmatic view of historical quotes.

## Imperialism is Incurable

It is necessary to address the left hand of U.S. bourgeois politics and that is *reformism*. Those of the Three-Party camp commit a political error in lofty ideals of reformism. Although reforms are nice and make existence more comfortable for the oppressed and down-trodden, reforms do not make fundamental changes in imperialism nor put a dent in the colonization of Aztlan or any other of the internal semi-

colonies for that matter. In fact, within these false U.S. borders, reforms have pushed people further away from revolution while bald repression has always invited revolution i.e. the Great Pueblo Revolt, The Taos Revolt, and more recently the Watts rebellion, the L.A. Rebellion of 1992, the San Quentin Six, Attica, the Pelican Bay hunger strikes, etc. When has reforming imperialism sparked resistance?

One of our long-term goals as communists is in the abolition of class society. How can comrades contribute to this goal by voting another imperialist into the White people's House, to do so would be acting as compradors, herding the masses into the corral of the enemy politics. A system that cannot be reformed, one that needs to simply be abolished and overthrown. How does voting — even in an "independent" or Chican@ bourgeois party, get us closer to this realization? How does it garner us international support? These are the questions that the Three-Party Trap cannot answer.

As revolutionaries we must be firm and clear on our stance as anti-imperialists. The Trots would have us spending our lives organizing white "workers" in the unions, reformists would have us voting for the next colonizer in chief as our way forward. As Chican@ Communists we see us contributing the most to the International Communist Movement by raising consciousness and providing an ideological center for Aztlan while training cadre who can begin to build base areas within the barrios where forms of dual power may be realized. We see that building a brown labor movement spanning both sides of these false U.S. borders is also an honorable way a Party of Communists should spend their lives building and supporting. For these questions on needs and goals of the Party we must put politics in command.

Mass line is key in a Party determining the needs of the raza. The barrios have the answer to

where we need to focus. The ballot box is out, and encouraging party members to knock on doors to vote a colonizer in chief for imperialism is not only a crime against the people, it's treason to the nation.

The state encourages, and in some cases funds, many of the Three-Party Traps that claim to be independent or even Chican@ in nature. It does so because corraling oppressed people who



# Civil War Looms in Sudan

by Badgreen of MIM(Prisons)  
May 2023

On 15 April 2023, a clash between two military forces broke out in the capital city of Khartoum in Sudan.(1) Two military generals, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo and Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head each of the sides involved. Out of the two military factions, the more "regular" armed troops of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) are led by Burhan, with the militia oriented Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Dagalo.(2)

## The Political-Economic Prelude to the 2023 Conflict

On 30 June 1989, Omar al-Bashir came to power in Sudan in a coup d'etat. For three decades Bashir ruled Sudan under a military dictatorship where Dagalo gained prominence as a General of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Under Bashir, the Rapid Support Forces grew out of the Janjaweed militias mostly comprising of the southern Sudanese peasantry. In the early 2000s, the RSF helped the SAF crush the rebellion in the western region of Darfur.(3)

Under the military dictatorship of Bashir, Dagalo received gold mines for his actions in the RSF. Burhan also had close ties politically with Bashir.(4) However, with the turbulent political climate that the military dictatorship of Bashir created among the civilian population, the SAF and the RSF have ousted Bashir and the military dictatorship alongside civilian protests. This coup-de-tat, birthed a short-lived civilian government that went by the name of the Transitional Sovereignty Council (TSC) led by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok with elections to have originally taken place in 2023. Despite Hamdok's appeals to the people's movement at the time, he has also had backing from the U.S. imperialists aimed to make sure the new governing force in Sudan remained friendly to the United States. Previously, al-Bashir had defied the Clinton regime in the U.S. by harboring Al-Qaeda's Osama Bin-Laden during the military dictator's reign.

In October 2021, al-Burhan along with Dagalo led a coup d'etat against Hamdok which ended the two year long civilian rule born out of the people-power revolution.

## Current Situation

Most of the current fighting is being done in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. On the second day of the conflict, the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors have reported that 56 people were killed and nearly 600 were injured. The World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement on 16 April 2023:

"There are also reports of short-

ages of specialized medical personnel, including anesthesiologists. Water and power cuts are affecting the functionality of health facilities, and shortages of fuel for hospital generators are also being reported."(5)

have a bone to pick with imperialism, in some cases having ancestral rights to the land going back before the white settler nation arrived, is beneficial to the state. Surely a landless field worker or an oppressed lumpen persyn would be less threatening to the state if they took their anger out in the ballot box than if they did so at the gates of the White House. Bourgeois politics provides a release valve while at the same time supporting the absurd notion that we live in a society of civil liberties rather than a prison house of nations. The Three-Party Trap thus ultimately pre-

holds U.S. imperialism and declaws any struggle for national liberation.



The Russian imperialists have taken a stake in this conflict with the Wagner Group's support for Dagalo's RSF giving the militia surface-to-air missiles and military training to the RSF.(6) On the eve of Russia's war with Ukraine, the Sudanese military's lapdogs of Russian imperialism granted Russia access to Sudan's gold in exchange for military and political support.(7)

The Chinese and the U.S. imperialists (alongside many other countries such as Egypt) have taken a more reserved stance on this conflict with more focus towards evacuating their countries' personnel. Hundreds of Amerikan and other western imperialist countries have taken part in evacuation plans.(8)

On 27 April 2023, the civilian death toll has surpassed 500 with more than 5,000 injured and still counting according to *The New York Times*.(9)

The bourgeoisie portray Africa as a chaos-torn continent with myriads of countries filled with constant violence, but we must remember that political-economic forces and class struggle drive the violence. The beef between Dagalo and al-Burhan is between a disagreement in assimilating Dagalo's RSF to al-Burhan's Sudanese military proper. While bourgeois rhetoric portrays this as humanity's woes of famine, plague, and war that are embedded within our nature, the more scientific way to look at this picture is that the comprador-bourgeoisie (both Dagalo and al-Burhan) always struggle among themselves to be the principal lapdog for foreign imperialist forces (in this case primarily Russian). This is typical of neo-colonialism where multiple imperialist forces oftentimes have stake in a single semi-feudal neocolony. Mao understood this for his country during semi-feudal China when the Japanese invaded, the western powers won't let go of China without a fight. This led to the birth of a strategy

by the people of having two or more imperialist forces fight amongst each other while the people maintain independence. While the current fighting is between anti-people forces, the workers and peasants of Sudan and Africa overall have the historical duty of ending these wars of the imperialists and compradors with revolutionary war of the proletariat.

**UPDATE 15 July 2023:** The situation has continued to worsen in Sudan since writing this article, with millions fleeing their homes and a civil war progressing. We hope to provide future updates. What has been even bigger news was the short-lived coup attempt in Russia led by the Wagner group mentioned above. Russia's accumulation of gold reserves from across Africa has been necessitated by the Amerikan-led sanctions preventing other key currencies from entering Russia. In this era where imperialist powers more and more depend on mercenary forces to run their military operations, contradictions arise like the one that led the Wagner group to begin advancing on Moscow with armored tanks last month. As there is increased push for Ukraine to join NATO, the inter-imperialist conflict continues to heat up. The people of Sudan and Ukraine are already suffering great losses. ■

- Notes
1. *The New York Times*, "Chaos in Sudan: Who Is Battling for Power, and Why It Hasn't Stopped" April 27, 2023.
  2. *Ibid.*
  3. Elian Peltier and Abdi Latif Dahir, "Who are the Rapid Support Forces, the paramilitaries fighting Sudan's Army?" *New York Times* April 17, 2023
  4. *Ibid.*
  5. CNN, "Fighting between Sudan military rivals enters a second day, with dozens dead" April 17, 2023.
  6. *Ibid.* (The Wagner Group is a Russian paramilitary organization that first appeared in Ukraine as part of Russia's seizure of territory there.)
  7. CNN, "Russia is plundering gold in Sudan to boost Putin's war effort in Ukraine" July 29, 2022
  8. Jennifer Hansler, "US has evacuated American diplomatic personnel from Sudan" CNN April 24, 2023
  9. *Ibid.*

supports fascism.

## Conclusion

The Three-Party Trap is one we will battle and raise consciousness on, as our predecessors did decades ago with the Two-Party Trap. Today's trap is probably even more dangerous as these parties are mostly comprised of Chican@s and New Afrikan peoples. To the Chican@ nation We say organize outside of the influence of the oppressed nation. Siempre! ■

- Communist Party of Aztlan (MLM)

# Atlanta Criminalizes Protest Against Cop City

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support  
July 2023

The Stop Cop City struggle is ongoing.

We explored some of the developments of the Cop City struggle in our article "The Struggle Against Cop City in Atlanta" in *ULK 81*. Cop City, or the "Atlanta Public Safety Training Center" as the state calls it, has recently begun construction in Weelaunee Forest in Southwest Atlanta. This effort is funded primarily by the City of Atlanta and is to be owned and operated by the Atlanta Police Foundation. This is a pig training center with a supposed construction cost of \$90 million, which will include a fake cityscape for police to learn tactics for suppressing urban resistance. This pig training center is part of a larger assault by the Amerikan state on New Afrikan communities and neighborhoods, along with the rise in gentrification, mass surveillance, police brutality and imprisonment rates. Some readers may remember the establishment of the community-run Rayshard Brooks Peace Center in 2020 (see: "Interview With Community Movement Builders On Their Recent Struggle On the Wendy's Site" in *ULK 71*) and the subsequent state repression. No one can doubt that New Afrikan oppression is intensifying as the police and prison apparatus of the state continues to wreck havoc for the interests of the Euro-Amerikan nation.

In response to these developments, many diverse groups have organized against Cop City. For a while construction in Cop City was stalled because of forest defender activists occupying the intended site of deforestation, resisting raids by police to move them off the site. In this struggle an indigenous anarchist who went by the name Tortuguita was viciously murdered by police agents in a final raid of the forest.

## Ongoing Developments in the Struggle

As the Stop Cop City movement continues, dozens of forest

defenders and other protesters have been arrested on various felonies, from "domestic terrorism" to "intimidation of an officer." For example, on 5 March 2023, Atlanta police arrested 23 protesters on "domestic terrorism" charges due to alleged property damage and trespassing, and that number has since risen to more than 40 over the last few months.(1, 2) These felonies are at least 20-year sentences in Georgia.

The state's repeated arrests were an obvious cause for concern. A non-profit, the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, organized funding to bail out these protesters who were the target of state repression. On 31 May 2023, the 3 organizers of that fund have also been arrested, charged with "money laundering" and "charity fraud."(3) This is yet another example of the state suppressing even the most legal forms of resistance.

While the DeKalb district attorney has declined to prosecute the arrests related to Cop City due to the unpopularity of Cop City, the Georgia attorney general has taken the cases and will still prosecute them.(4)

A "Stop Cop City" referendum petition has been filed (and approved on 21 June 2023) that will put Cop City on the Atlanta ballot if 75,000 signatures are produced in less than 60 days after the approval.(5) Many of the groups against Cop City have focused on this effort, which may have the unfortunate effect of completely legalizing the struggle (which is not a strategy for long-term political development).

## Bigger than Cop City

As Maoists we always seek to develop a dialectical materialist perspective that correctly denotes the relations of nation, class, and gender at play. Cop City is no exception. One of the most critical weaknesses of the Stop Cop City movement is that an advanced politics (one that is revolutionary nationalist and aimed at the long-term struggle) is not yet a leading line. If this problem is not prop-

erly resolved, the movement will give way to movementism and the Stop Cop City struggle will fizzle out like the 2020 BLM struggle, becoming co-opted into liberal election-eering politics.

We must also look at the global nature of Cop City. The Atlanta Police Foundation is funded by Amerikan finance kapital, from the likes of Wells Fargo, JP Morgan, Amazon, Delta Airlines, and Waffle House.(6) Prisons and policing are not a struggle unique to the United States. The development of these bourgeois state organs are being rapidly replicated around the world. Cop City can and will be a test run for building pig facilities among the Third World nations as capitalism-imperialism decays. The struggle against Cop City will thus also play a part in the larger anti-imperialist struggle, and this is why developing a revolutionary nationalist line on Cop City is a must in this struggle.

Towards a preliminary analysis, we can say that Cop City is an intensification of New Afrikan oppression in Atlanta. The Euro-Amerikan nation — both Euro-Amerikan kapital and Euro-Amerikan communities — is united towards the policy of increased policing, gentrification, and imprisonment of New Afrikan and other oppressed nation communities. The Stop Cop City movement requires a united front, one that includes all those groups opposed to these methods of oppression, whether these groups be New Afrikan, Indigenous, Chicano, Euro-Amerikan, etc, but maintains some form of

*have been discarded like trash if she lied about her ethnicity; that could be corrected by self-criticism but if she consciously was willing to fight for the liberation of "New Afrika" then she's a "New Afrikan" it's that fucken simple. But we all need to wrestle with these contradictions here in the heart of empire.*

A better example than Rachel Dolezal is Yuri Kochiyama, who was actually a citizen of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA), joining at its founding in 1968 along with a 17 year-old Mutulu Shakur (see page 7 of this issue). Kochiyama was a close comrade of el Hajj Malik el-Shabazz (Malcolm X when they met). As a child of Japanese descent she spent years in a U.S. concentration camp during WWII. The RNA continues to serve as a model for how to address oppression from within the empire. Armed with Maoism, revolutionary nationalism within the belly of the beast can lead us to a world with out racism. ■

Notes:  
1. Nina Totenberg, 29 June 2023, Supreme Court guts affirmative action, effectively ending race-conscious admissions, NPR.  
2. Bertrand Cooper, 19 June 2023, The Failure of Affirmative Action, The Atlantic.



dialectical-materialist, revolutionary nationalist leadership in order to expand scientifically.

We have readers often tell us they want to start non-profits, but the Cop City arrests show that there are limitations to this type of organization: the state can and does retaliate against non-profits who pose a threat to the Amerikan state's interest. The Atlanta Solidarity Fund is one example, where the Amerikan state has no problem arresting protesters or even legal organizers under charges of money laundering if they pose enough of a threat to its expansionary interests.

Cop City reminds us of the need for independent institutions of the oppressed which are flexible and secure, and involve the masses at every step of operation. Campaigns like "Stop Cop City," or "Abolish Control Units," at-

tack the war apparatus that is aimed at the population within U.S. borders, especially the internal semi-colonies. As the above recent events demonstrate, we must build organizations that are prepared for the repressive response of the state. ■

## NOTES:

1. Sarah Taitz and Shaiba Rather, 24 March 2023, "How Officials in Georgia are Suppressing Political Protest as 'Domestic Terrorism'", ACLU News and Commentary.
2. Natasha Lennard and Akela Lacy, 2 May 2023, "Activists Face Felonies for Distributing Flyers on 'Cop City' Protester Killing", The Intercept.
3. Jeff Amy and Kate Brumback, 31 May 2023, "3 activists arrested after their fund bailed out protestors of Atlanta's 'Cop City'", ABC News.
4. Pamela Kirkland, 23 June 2023, "DeKalb County district attorney withdraws from prosecution related to proposed 'Cop City' training center near Atlanta", CNN.
5. Joi Dukes, 24 June 2023, "'Stop Cop City' organizers in race against time for petition signatures", FOX 5 Atlanta.
6. Margaret Kimberley, 25 Jan 2023, "Cop City Kills Before It Opens", Black Agenda Report.

## Aftermath Tears

by a California prisoner  
May 2023

Can equal justice really be counted upon,  
or will it be another Black shot dead  
on the front lawn?

Police suffocating Blacks with their knees  
Is the new hanging,  
All this yelling, marching and burning things down  
But ain't nothing changing.  
The list of Black youth being killed  
by police grew longer,  
but the memory of George Floyd in Minneapolis grew stronger.

We need to start recognizing, humanizing,  
and see the unrequited injustice,  
never forget the Declaration of Independence  
ain't no fate and irony in this,  
we need to fight for Dred Scott  
And the dead forgot for emancipation,  
we should know a universal equality  
will never get passed in this nation.

A cry from the heart,  
can't echo through the cracks,  
until the litany end  
what it do to Blacks.

Let's put an end to the painfully  
gradual process,  
If we can shrink the blue foot print,  
we can make an actual progress.

We know reform isn't enough  
We need heart and power  
in their voices,  
because only aftermath tears of justice  
will see rejoices.

4P's Vanguard  
Panther Progress ■

... Continued from p. 1

## ... Affirmative Action

white.

In discussing racism in political repression, Triumphant talks about the neo-colonial era (see "Power to New Afrika Ignores Racism?" on page 10). And we echo this sentiment that "skinfolk ain't necessarily kinfolk." That Black bourgeoisie are often playing significant enemy roles, in defense of U.S. imperialism.

However, just because neo-colonialism exists, it does not mean that nation is erased and class is all that matters. Neo-colonialism is still national oppression, it's just a smarter form.

In reality, not seeing race at all is impossible for us in this racist society. Even when speaking of nations, we use phenotypes to classify people; we are still stuck in this model handed down by the European settlers who created "whiteness." We must develop a political analysis to guide us that is beyond the myth of race and bloodlines, that instead operates in the material reality of nation, which J.V. Stalin defined as "a historically evolved, stable community of language, territory, economic life, and psychological make up manifested in a commu-

nity of culture."

Comrade USW36 wrote on this topic:

*i too, no longer use "Black" and "White" to define people. i'm a "New Afrikan", Black is "created" by European settlers to enforce their new "white" identity rule. i hope all Rev Nats study Fanon (and Yaki's "Meditations"), New Afrika, Native Amerika, and New Aztlan can be freed. We can be united and create a true North Amerikan Revolutionary Nationalist United Front to decolonize and delink from this imperialist juggernaut. Black and White identities won't help us free any of the NA nations (i'd like also to salute New Asian Pacific Islanders).*

*If Amerika is the "prison house of nations", if our aim is to weaken it from the inside, if revolutionary nationalism is viable then this isn't just a path for New Afrikans it's for us all, even European-settlers if they commit class-suicide. New Afrika isn't just descendants of Afrika. It's a scattered and potentially solidified nation with all sorts of "ethnicities", and too, anyone can be a New Afrikan; shaming people 'cause they're not "Black" enough or not at all is bourgeois bullshit. Someone like the Euro-Amerikan teacher Rachel Dolezal shouldn't*

# Law and the Courts of Late

by a comrade  
July 2023

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has been busy this past year. With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* still fresh in the public consciousness, the last month has seen the demise of student loan relief and affirmative action.

None of these rulings are of grave interest to Maoists on Occupied Turtle Island. College is seldom in reach for the lumpen and proletariat of this continent, and affirmative action in universities (especially Harvard, the topic of this case) concerns the comprador classes of the oppressed nations more than it does the masses. Despite its faux celebration of diversity, the 15% "African-American" portion of Harvard's student population is anything but representational. The interesting aspect of these rulings, insofar as they exist, is how the rulings relate to the broader Amerikan assimilation strategy of the oppressed nations. The rulings may indicate a more general wavering of assimilation as a strategy for semi-colonial management or the legal expression of the reactionary wing of social-fascist hegemony overpowering its liberal elements.

We'll take this spree of rulings as an opportunity to reflect on the nature and purpose of law in bourgeois society. We'll take the time here to briefly glance over the persynal ideologies and behaviors of two of the more noteworthy SCOTUS members, use these to reflect on the liberal worldview of law more generally, then transition to a materialist explanation of law and justice.

In a September interview with Colorado Springs 10th Circuit judges, 2022, Roberts described the "gut wrenching" experience of his daily commute to the Supreme Court. Following a draft opinion leak that revealed the Court's intention to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the building had been surrounded by a staff of guards and newly-erected barricades. This change was to the discomfort of Roberts and his colleagues, who shared stake in the tale that their careers were in justice, and not law. After lamenting this, he painted a troubling tale of what Amerika would look like if the courts were just a piece of political machinery like Congress of the Presidency. His persistence in the apolitical nature of SCOTUS was unwavering.

Since then, details have come to light concerning the longest-serving Judge Clarence Thomas, a man who shares in Roberts' conviction of the apolitical nature of the Courts. Of particular note in the latest news splash was Thomas' close relationship with prominent Republican financier Harlan Crow, a collector of Nazi memorabilia and real-estate mogul of \$29 billion in assets. Though Thomas forgot to put them on his financial records, flight records reveal he has enjoyed over two decades of apolitical weekly summer visits to Crow's private resort in the Adirondacks, vacations on Crow's superyacht, and flights on Global 5000 jets. In 2005, Trammell Crow Residential Co. found itself before the Supreme Court, being sued \$25 million for (allegedly) using copywritten building designs. The order by the court denying the petition to hear

the case consisted of a single sentence. Thomas did not recuse himself from the ruling.

In the fable of the nature of law in the liberal world order we are often brought to conjure images of court debates, evidence inquiry, or statuettes of scaleholding, blindfolded wimmin dressed in Graeco-Roman garb. These images are designed to have us associate law with the long history of philosophic investigation into the matter, of which there are over two millennia of

We find justice and law proposed to us as a single concept, yet the two are barely related. The illusion of the synonymy of justice and law depends on the thinker approaching law from an individualist perspective. It may, for instance, feel like justice when someone who starts a petty fight on the street gets charged, but law is not manufactured on the individual level; as policy, it is a society-wide institution and serves a society-wide function. Law serves a far more critical function than social conventions of justice.

self putting active labor into seed and soil, and seeing (throughout a growing season) that labor be embodied into a crop. Of note here is that I am not my labor. I made my labor, but it is not me. Instead, my labor has been embodied in the crop. This embodiment Marxists call value. However, at this stage, my labor embodied in the crop is only potential value. Value, for Marxists, is a social phenomenon. See, if I were the only person on Earth, objective determinations of value would be impossible as I could

ruled by land-owning classes.

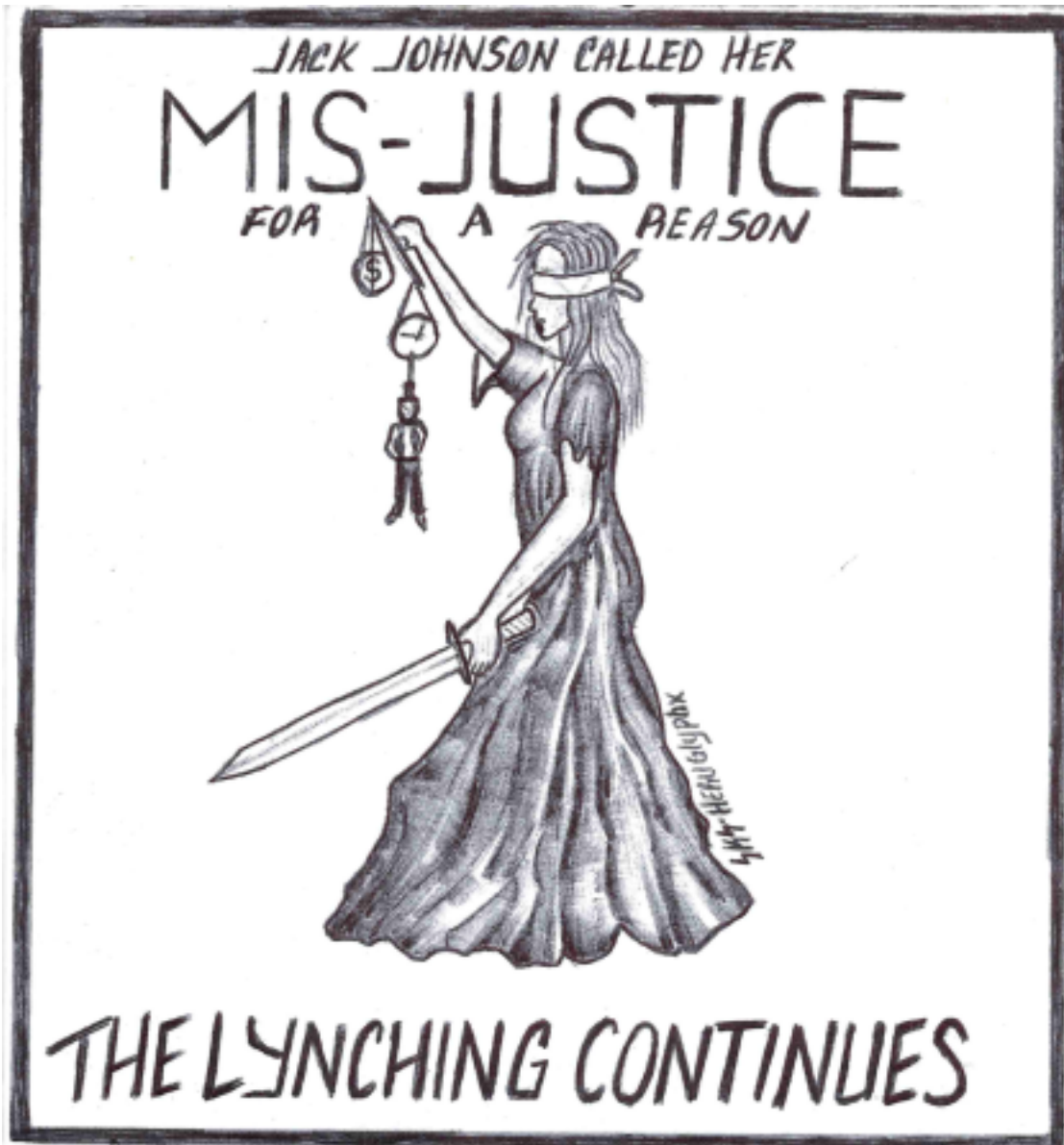
In the second chapter of Volume 1 of *Capital*, Marx tells this very narrative (though in denser terminology),

*"It is plain that commodities cannot go to market and make exchanges of their own account. We must, therefore, have recourse to their guardians, who are also their owners ... In order that these objects may enter into relation with each other as commodities, their guardians must place themselves in relation to one another, as persons whose will resides in those objects, and must behave in such a way that each does not appropriate the commodity of the other, and part with his own, except by means of an act done by mutual consent. They must therefore, mutually recognize in each other the rights of private proprietors. This juridical relation, which thus expresses itself in a contract, whether such contract be part of a developed legal system or not, is a relation between two wills".*

From this humble origin, it may be seen that law is not derived from moral notions. The two are only related insofar as they are like products formed to justify the same class society. Worse, law in our time is inherently unjust, as it is no more than an appendage of the apparatus of the Amerikan state (or Amerikan imperialism when imposed on the world at large). Law is the codified will of a state, itself the guarantor of relations of production and exchange. As such, there are no prisoners who are not political prisoners. But law is not the frontline of class struggle.

Bourgeois law need not directly sanction bourgeois right, imperialism, and national supremacy. Indeed, it would be against ruling-class interest to be so explicit. Bourgeois law need only provide the framework to get these tasks done, the state will pick up the slack.

With this origin and purpose of law in mind, considering SCOTUS as a non-ideological institution becomes as absurd as Justice Roberts' faint of heart over what the outcome of his job looks like to the portions of humynity who live below the steps of the ornate buildings he spends his life sheltered within. For the masses, the juxtaposition of Hellenic architecture and barbed wire is so far from "gut wrenching" that it's almost cliché. There is no more fitting a place for riot gear and sandbags than the courts, except perhaps Wall Street and Southern Manhattan. ■



content. More specifically, we are meant to sympathize with the enlightenment-era revival of these ideas, lest we think in units of cities and societies, as Socrates or Plato would have us do, rather than individuals, like Kant and the liberal framework he filtered these discussions through. But any talk of justice or morality is incomplete without discussing how these ideas change (or, much more likely, reinforce) the way humyn beings relate to each other in society.

Only the wretchedly naive buy into the Court's mythos of impartiality. The Supreme Court, for instance, is known for its habit of pre-planning sessions to throw a few bones to liberalism before saving the announcement of profoundly reactionary rulings for the end (this particular session was no exception: loan relief and affirmative action were taken to roost only after the entre of indigenous adoption and limitations on gerrymandering). It is clear they are deeply concerned with their relation to partisan politics and structure their role in the state apparatus around this reality.

But all this is to miss the main essence of the bourgeois fiction about legal justice. The ideology of Roberts, and bourgeois dictatorship in general, insists on an illusion that neither the Greeks nor Kant were ever under the spell of.

When you think of Lady Justice, do you recall that she carries a sword in her right hand?

The oft heard defense for their ultra-reactionary decisions is that their job is not to make ethical decisions, but to interpret the constitution as it was written. To posit legal interpretation as an objective endeavor (sometimes referred to as "textualist reading") is a difficult argument to take seriously, despite two centuries of top Amerikan legal minds insisting that we do so. Indeed, "objective law" is an oxymoron. The Maoist understanding of legality is much less fanciful: law is the codification of social relations. Under capitalism, that means the writing down of acceptable parameters for ownership and exchange in such a way as to ensure the maintenance and expansion of current (capitalist) relations. This can be seen in the early history of law, which followed, in all its independent developments, agriculture — the great first-permitter of primitive accumulation.

The primary development that brings law into being is the social invention of the concept of ownership. This concept of ownership comes about necessarily in pairing with general law.

Say I am a wheat farmer who labors to produce 20lb of grain. With bourgeois consciousness, I conceptualize this process as my-

subjectively declare the worth of anything around me without challenge. As a farmer in a capitalist economy, however, I do not plant crops because I find wheat persynally valuable. No, I make it so I can sell it on the market. In this process of (market) exchange, the potential value of my product becomes realized value. For the value of my product to realize its value, it must be desired by another persyn who wants to impose their will on the product to the exclusion of others, including myself. This is a fancy way of saying that the buyer wants to be able to eat the grain or bake it into a cake without having to share it between now and then. Here enters the social concept of ownership. When I bring my wheat to market, I have a social right to it and become a social subject. When someone else wants to buy it, they are also a social subject, and if we agree to exchange, the social concept of ownership for the wheat transfers to them. In short: (i) I own the wheat, (ii) I sell them the wheat, (iii) now they own the wheat. When enough members of an ownership class get together and create a society-wide, binding contract to enforce their ownership over objects, that contract becomes law, and the apparatus that enforces this ownership code becomes the state. Wheat is an apt example because agricultural goods formed the foundations of the first states,

**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.

# Chemical Suicide in Michigan Prisons

by Zulu Black of United Struggle from Within  
June 2023

During a documentary interview with a citizen from Mexico regarding the flow of illegal drugs across the border into the united states, the Mexican said, rather matter-of-factly:

"We don't have a drug problem in Mexico. The united states have a drug problem so Mexico have a problem trafficking drugs into the united states. For the united states to be the greatest country in the world, it seems everybody has to be high in order to live there."

As social beings, the environments we inhabit are essential for both our survival and human development. And social environments influence our behaviors and informs the mechanisms we use to survive the social stressors that push us towards drug usage and addiction as a means of coping. Otherwise, one may literally commit suicide.

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), as a micro-societal reflection of what's occurring in the macro-society, is wrestling with imprisoned men addicted to drugs on a scale rivaling the crack-era (epidemic). And in some respects, actually surpassing that horrible 1980s into the 2000s phenomenon. And the elements that catapults the present epidemic to rival the crack epidemic is the cocktail of mental illness and severe emotional instability, with a dosage of western social liberalism mixed in. The result is a generation, both younger and older, socialized into a neo-Nigga mentality born out of social backwardness or retardation, a strong sense of love abandonment, while simultaneously carrying the epigenetic traumas from this country's imposition of

myriad forms of violence on us in perpetuity. Out of this is produced The Nigga Creed: "Fuck it! Deal with us!"

In the MDOC, brothers are high strung on K2 in a liquid form that is free-based (or vaped, as it is euphemized) from paper. The phenomenon is akin to crack in that tiny pieces of K2 laced papers sell for \$3 to \$5, meaning the high is cheap like crack. And because the K2 high doesn't last long, it is chased after just like crack addicts chased crack. Also like crack, brothers sell all of their possessions to acquire K2 (nicknamed Twochi; or duece). But it's worse than crack in that (1) guys don't know nor seem to care what they are smoking; and (2) duece makes them hallucinate or have episodes of passing out, tripping, paralysis, violent possessions and overdose.

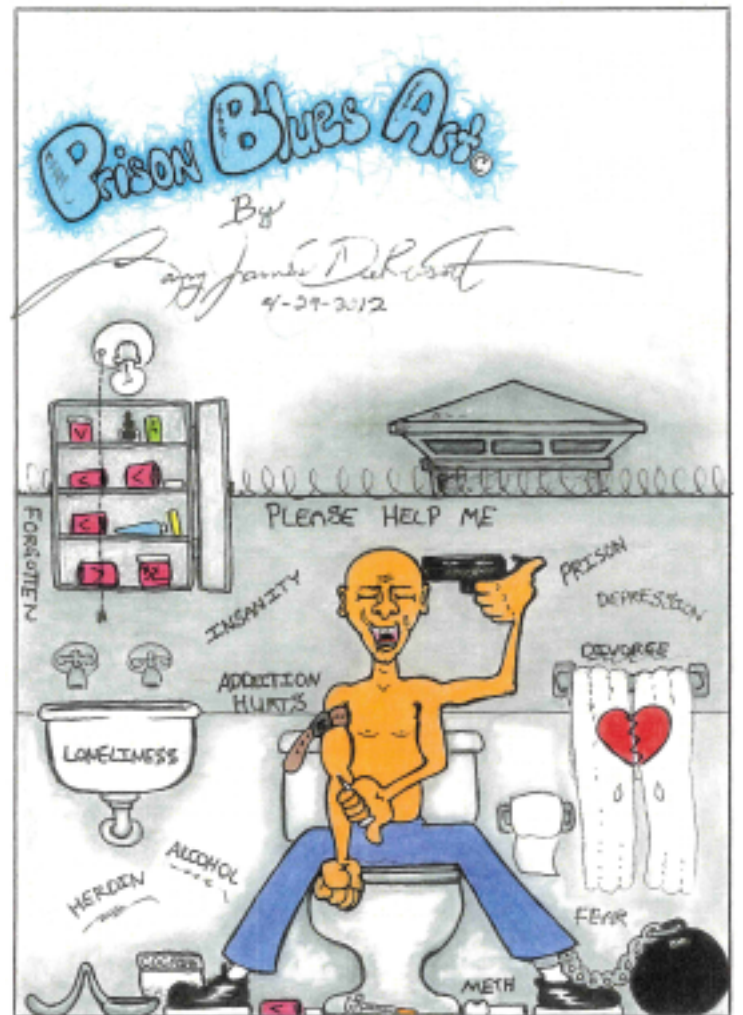
During a phone conversation with a comrade imprisoned in the Florida prison system, he shared that K2 had ravaged the Florida system years previously. That K2 had gotten so bad, the groups on the yard had to come together and ban K2. Unfortunately, at the present juncture in Michigan prisons, this is not possible because the groups that have the yard (NOI, MSTA, Sunni, Melanics, other lumpen organizations) are betraying the people and what they say they stand on as it is these very groups dealing in and using K2 — quite literally without consequence.

K2 is not detectable so one cannot drop a dirty urine for it, unless, which is frequently the case, it is laced with Fentanyl or PCP. And sadly, in addition to K2, somehow, brothers have found themselves hooked on meth (ice).

The ramifications of this reality has been staggering. There is an absence of activist personality, the so-called pro-Black prison vanguard groups have become apolitical and anti-radicalism. At the facility where I'm housed, I am absolutely the only prisoner advancing political education through our study group, the Sankofa Commune, which has existed since COVID lockdowns.

Brothers in the MDOC are struggling and we find ourselves in terrible shape. The conditions born out local poverty and state institutionalization as a result of poverty, is traumatizing culminating in degrees of mental and emotional instability. Requests for mental health therapy sessions go unanswered and drugs are the only outlet, aside from violence, that mends, however temporarily, the pain experienced by the broken men. Four murders have occurred on this prison within a year. Chemical warfare and chemical suicide are hard at work. Live from the MDOC!

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** This is the latest article on the scourge of K2 that's been hitting the prison population hard, dating back at least 10 years.(1) That is very inspiring to hear the report from Florida of groups coming together to ban it. We'd love to hear more about this and try to promote this model elsewhere. For those who don't know, we released our *Revolutionary 12 Step Program* last year, so those who are interested in organizing alternatives where they are can get a copy of the pamphlet from our Free Political Books to Prisoners Program or on our website. Unless of course you're in Texas or Florida where it's considered a security threat.(2) Where the pigs



don't even pretend to not be trafficking drugs.(3)

We would also advise comrades that in moments like these when the traditional leadership roles of the oppressed nations in prisons (such as the NOI) are partaking in anti-people behavior as described to use dialectical materialism to try and see how to solve this problem. What is our analysis of mass imprisonment? What is our analysis of groups such as the Nation of Islam? In a given situation, is the contradiction between these organizations and the anti-

imperialist forces of USW antagonistic or non-antagonistic? Should they be antagonistic? If they are antagonistic and we decide that it shouldn't be, how can we turn it non-antagonistic? Given our political line, and our strategy of USW in mind, what should be done? ■

Notes:

1. A Texas Prisoner, November 2017, Epidemic of K2 Overdoses at Estelle, Throughout Texas, Under Lock & Key No. 59.
2. MIM(Prisons), June 2022, FL, TX Censor Revolutionary 12 Steps Program, Under Lock & Key No. 78.
3. A Texas Prisoner, March 2021, TDCJ: Your Staff are Bringing in the Drugs, and it Must Stop, Under Lock & Key No. 73.

## Programming/Mental Health Denied as Drug Cartel Runs CA Prison

by a California prisoner  
April 2023

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has officially converted the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJDCF) into the Department of Crime, Corruption, and Racketeering (DCCR) where newly appointed Warden James Hills is at the helm.

On 27 March 2023, the RJDCF DCCR head wrote:

"Effective March 27, 2023, due to increase in levels of violence (2 attempted murders) with significant contraband finds (37 weapons, 27 on person and 10 uncontrolled). There have been 3 deaths on Facility C inmates due to illicit drug activity and 37 documented administrations of naran. Institutional program shall be modified pending completion of essential searches"

This was used to implement an institutional lockdown masked behind modified program.

Behind this arbitrary contention, however, is an attempt to protect the overall image of CDCR and to continue to hide facts from the public that, the illicit drug activity in question is, and has been for many years now, actually an illicit drug operation orchestrated and maintained by those employed to work here inside RJDCF.

Despite clearly identifying inmates imposing violence, possessing weapons, and requiring the administration of naran due to repeated drug overdose, no effective methods have been able to control or even minimize the illicit drug usage and operation because it is all by careful design. The extent of such design is now so widespread that it directly impacts those like me who don't use, sell, or otherwise have no interest in such. It gives the illicit drug trade here, and it's many members, direct control over not just me, but more so, my access to mental health and rehabilitative programs, services, and treatments.

To divert attention away from the fact that CDCR headquarter's officials have put those like me at risk by willful blindness, in allowing employees they hired to work inside RJDCF, to infiltrate the institution, flooding all five of its facilities with an array of fentanyl-laced drugs, prisoners and our families who sacrifice to maintain visiting with us, are the patsies.

We are locked down for search by some of the very employees responsible for this illicit drug operation, restricted in movement to suffer the harmful effects from prolonged confinement in isolated, vexed and annoyed from constant exploitation, and hindered in our mental, emo-

tional, and rehabilitative prosperity because of a debauch penal institution which causes more harm than help.

Instead of pumping millions of tax dollars into RJDCF to continue to enable this illicit drug ring, consider efforts to close down this cesspool. Or infiltrate the infiltration with federal undercover agents in disguise as CDCR employees, or even inmates for that matter. Otherwise these illicit drug operators will continue to be allowed by CDCR to profit from criminal enterprise while holding us all under siege,, while hiding behind the color of state law, and prove to all the world that crime does pay, but only if you're a CDCR employee.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** We must build independent institutions of the oppressed to meet the oppressed masses needs of rehabilitation. Programs like our political correspondence study program, Revolutionary 12 Steps program and Re-Lease on Life program are some examples of such institutions that we need your help to build. This comrade is correct that more action is needed to counter the state-sponsored drug trade plaguing prison systems across the United States as well. ■

**Drugs are Used as Weapons  
Against Us!**

## TDCJ Expands Repression of Their Own Policies

by MIM(Prisons)  
May 2023

Back in November 2022, MIM Distributors sent a copy of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) PD-22 codes to a prisoner at Smith Unit. The PD-22 codes are the "General Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Action Guidelines for Employees." The prisoner was notified that this was "70 pages misuse of state property." That's funny because MIM Distributors paid for the printing and mailing of this material the TDCJ claims to be their property. After the comrade appealed this, the Director's Review Committee (DRC) upheld the censorship, but changed the reasoning to "received in contradiction in BP-03.91." As we reported recently, we have already stopped mailing in the Offender Grievance Operations Manual (OGOM)(see: "Halting OGOM Distribution Until DRC is Challenged" in *ULK 81*) because of rampant censorship of this TDCJ document.

Since the 5th revision of the BP-03.91 was released on 25 June 2021, we have featured in *ULK* a series of articles on the newly revised policy including promoting phone zaps, protests, and lawsuits. The focus for many was the limitation on non-nude photos, and this was the subject of multiple lawsuits. MIM(Prisons) and TX TEAM ONE recognized the broader implications of

these changes and supported this campaign. But now that most seem to be getting their sexy photos okay are people going to stand up for the right to access public documents?

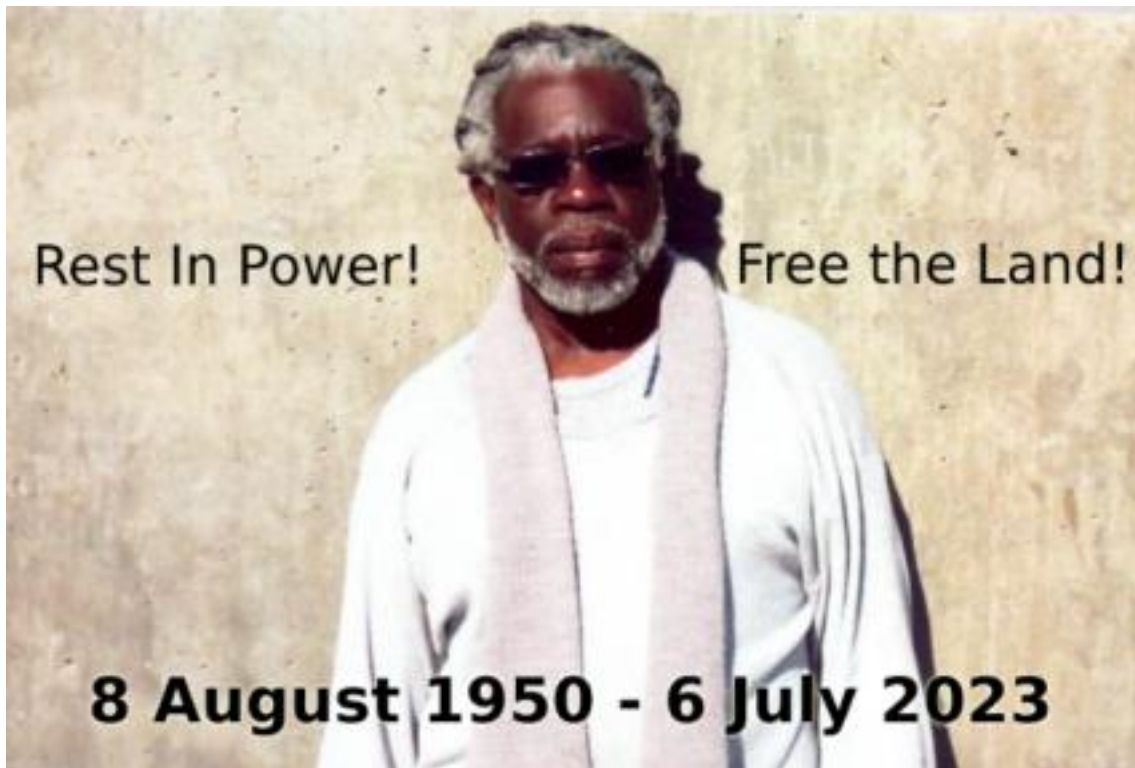
The relevant section of BP-03.91 (rev. 5) is IV.A.13:

"Contains records or documentation held by the TDCJ that are not listed in the attachment to the TDCJ Public Information Act Manual Chapter 2."

It is not clear to us at this time what this includes and does not include. This clause dates back to at least (rev. 2) published on 11 February 2010. Which explains why the TDCJ has been censoring the OGOMs we send in since it was officially removed from law libraries in 2014 (see: "Texas Hides Grievance Manual from Prisoners" in *ULK 42*).

While many prisoners write to us asking for legal help, we aren't lawyers and we don't offer legal help. We need your legal help. We need comrades in the TDCJ to get to the bottom of these issues, file lawsuits and lead campaigns. This is a very winnable battle that serves the interests of all prisoners in Texas. What we do do is support prisoners organizing against imperialism. If TX prisoners are ready to fight this we're ready to push this campaign forward to stop the censorship of public documents and advance the campaign to get grievances addressed in Texas. ■

# Rest in Power Mutulu Shakur



by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2023

Mutulu Shakur passed away on 6 July 2023, about 8 months after being released from prison. From a young age Shakur got involved in the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), and soon after became a citizen of newly founded Republic of New Afrika in 1968. Ey was a leader in the movement in eir late teens.

Shakur was a Prisoner of War for 36 years before eir release this winter. Shakur was imprisoned for the Brinks robbery case where a guard and two cops were killed. This incident is analyzed in detail in the book, *False Nationalism, False Internationalism* by Tani and Sera.

While in prison, Shakur spent most of eir years in torture cells. Ey was sent to the original control unit in Marion, IL for eir organiz-

ing of young New Afrikans, and was later sent to the infamous ADX prison. During this time ey also worked with step-son Tupac Shakur to develop the THUG LIFE code.(1)

Mutulu Shakur is also well-known for eir participation in the Lincoln Detox Center in New York, where ey spearheaded the practice of using acupuncture, as opposed to methodone, which the revolutionaries of Lincoln Detox saw as just hooking the people on another form of dope.(2) This history has been an inspiration to our own work, and the development of the *Revolutionary 12 Step Program*, which we aspire to develop into a Serve the People Program at the level that Lincoln Detox did in the early 1970s.

While Shakur continued to have an impact, as an educator, and especially through eir collaboration with Tupac, the decades

spent in solitary confinement were a great loss to New Afrika and all oppressed people. There is no question that Shakur had decided to wage war against U.S. imperialism, renouncing eir citizenship at 17 years old. And the imperialists waged war against em through the prison system and the extreme isolation of the control units. This is why shutting down control units and supporting prisoners organizing against imperialism remains an integral part of the anti-imperialist struggle to this day.

This Black August, we will remember Mutulu Shakur, along with many others who gave their lives to the New Afrikan Liberation Struggle. ■

Notes:  
1. MIM(Prisons), March 2009, *Peace in the Streets, Under Lock & Key No. 7*.  
2. Wiawimawo, November 2017, *Drugs, Money and Individualism in U.S. Prison Movement, Under Lock & Key No. 59*.

## Legal Ruling Against Non-Designated Program Facilities (NDPFs)

by Bluu Gaidi of United Struggle from Within  
June 2023

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has historically separated General Population (GP) prisoners from Sensitive/Special Needs Yards (SNY) for safety and security. Traditionally those who were convicted of high notoriety crimes, or who suffered "past victimization" or those who were informants or former Security Threat Group affiliates were housed on SNY. Yet, over time, the SNY population skyrocketed to the point of overcrowding. SNY facilities became increasingly violent, stigmatizing those "sensitive needs" designations.

To address this, CDCR developed Non-Designated Program Facilities (NDPFs) — an inclusive housing model created supposedly to mitigate stigma and allegedly help promote and advance CDCR's rehabilitative objectives. One brave brother filed a "writ of mandate" with the California Supreme Court for Sacramento County on 30 September 2022 ordering the CDCR to im-

mediately cease and halt reintegrating "sensitive needs" prisoners into general population, and from transferring GP prisoners to Non-Designated Program Facilities.

I am one of many prisoners housed in Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg), solitary confinement and have been written up and now face receiving additional time and will risk being transferred to a higher security level hundreds of miles from my family. My RVR (write up) reads that i am an immediate threat to the safety of self and others and that I "endanger institution security." Since me refusing to house on a NDPF isn't sufficient enough to retain me in Ad-Seg lock up, now the officers are claiming that i told them that i would assault their child molesters on NDPF yard.

The court found CDCR Secretary Kathleen Allison's enforcement of the NDPF policy in violation of the APA (the Administrative Procedures Act). Therefore the policy is an "underground regulation" that is void, entitling Villarreal to relief.

The court granted his requested writ and prohibited Allison and CDCR from furthering and implementing the policy until "properly" adopted by the APA. see: *Villarreal v. Allison, Cal. Super (City of Sacramento) Case NO. 34-2021-80003779*.

So Allison has a non-discretionary duty to refrain from implementing the uncodified NDPF Policy, the APA mandates that "the rulemaking agency must comply with the law's provisions" or the rule is void.

So here we have a victory. Thank you brother Israel Villarreal! Without struggle and sacrifice there can be no progress nor advancement. Allison is specifically required to examine and study prisoners before classifying them, the court said, but the NDPF Policy is analogous to the classification scheme in *Stoneham v. Rushen (1982) 137 Cal. App. 3d pg 729*, where prisoners successfully challenged an uncodified classification system as an invalid underground regulation. ■

## Political Education and Organizing is the Solution to Mental Illness

by an Oregon prisoner  
March 2023

Mental Health Infirmary (MHI) is a joke. As far as I've seen, it doesn't work and has never worked. It's basically a psychological torture chamber, with minimal physical torture, where we have to "earn" back all of our property privileges, rights, etc. through their unconstitutional "incentive" program. In sum, they're punishing us for being mentally ill and they think that their punishment is what we need to cure us, even though these "punishments" are what made me crazy to begin with.

Most of these other prisoners are too far gone to be able to take any worthwhile actions against all the abuse they endure (and none of them have legal knowledge into shit like this, which places legal burden on me). I must add that the conditions here in MHI are still not quite as bad as the unconstitutional conditions that I endured in another state, but the conditions are very similar. At least the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODC) has some type of program in place to make some kind of effort to try to help people with mental illnesses, because most southern prisons don't. I doubt that all the ODC administration here has any deliberate intentions to "torture" us (as we are being slightly tortured in MHI. After all, solitary confinement, in itself, is a form of torture, especially, when applied to the mentally ill). I think it's mostly unintentional and that they ultimately have good intentions behind runnin' MHI. And I say this because I know what it looks like for prison staff to deliberately torture prisoners and that's not exactly what's goin' on

in MHI. I just think that the ODC Administration isn't as smart as us Maoists, when it comes to psychological treatment, criminal justice, etc. And I also don't think they've been sued in federal court by somebody who knows what's illegal in prison and what's not. I'm gonna try to talk to their higher ups first before I go through with the lawsuits, to see if we can compromise towards a solution.

Another thing that I've concluded is that a lot of these prison psychologists wasted a lot of time and money on Amerikan college degrees, due to the fact that in spite of their presence in the lives of the mentally ill, they haven't even put a dent in reducing mental illnesses amongst the masses. And now they're wasting our time and money (money that lines their pockets) by subjecting us (sometimes by force) to their care and services, which obviously don't work. They don't understand the fact that only by ending oppression, through socialism / communism, can we reduce mental illnesses at a significant rate and in a qualitative way (communism being the end of oppression). Oppression, and all of the traumas that come with it, causes and fuels mental illness. It's the imperialist/capitalist society itself that is causing mass plagues of mental illness. The problem is more political than psychological. Their society is to blame for my personal mental illnesses — so I'm living proof of these facts. And their society has yet to cure me of my mental illnesses. Raising my political consciousness has had much more of a positive impact upon my mental stability. I learned this thanks to *MIM Theory #9*. ■

## Chester County Prisoners Petition Against Abuse

by a Pennsylvania prisoner  
June 2023

ATTN: Governor's Office  
Joshua Shapiro, May 10th  
2023

From R-Block, Chester County Prison, Westchester

Our Government, has set a Law under Commonwealth Code, 37 PA Code § 95.223 (4), governing Local and State corrections facilities here in Pennsylvania! You now as the elected Governor, "Joshua Shapiro" have duties to enforce these Laws, or correct these customs, used to violate our First Amendment Rights, freedom of speech, use of a protected conduct without retaliation! We have been abused, threatened, sexually harassed, injured and oppressed to a damaging element, involving injury both physical, emotional, mental and sexual in nature by correctional officers, Administration, and the County of Chester's elected Commissioners! I request your office to *fact check* this, as I've reported along with a copy of herein letter, to Pennsylvania Prison Society, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, PILP, Daily Local News, Fox 29, CBS, NBC 10! This prison population pleads for help of those elected to protect them!

[Signed by 9 prisoners at Chester County Prison]

ATTN: Chester County Commissioners Office, Pennsylvania Prison Society, May 10th 2023

From Chester County Prison, Westchester

R-2 Petition

Our Grievance system is broken here in Chester County Prison, and we are all being affected dramatically! Our grievance procedure requires inmates to request a Grievance via Inmate Request Slip, this Inmate Request Slip then in turn is returned to the block correctional officer, who may or may not be involved, but then proceeds to view, and read the request to use our protected conduct. Are we allowed to have our First Amendment rights so openly violated? We become subject to a Campaign of Harassment by attempting to use our protected conducts! Yet our in-house administrative remedies become non-existent! We need help! We have become subject to attack, abuse, retaliation and more!

[Signed by 9 prisoners at Chester County Prison] ■

# A Message to All Lumpen Organizations

by a South Carolina prisoner  
May 2023

## Introduction

*"I'm going to join the fight wherever Negroes ask for my help..." - Malcolm X*

Amani (PEACE) to all Lumpen Organizations ("L.O.'s") held captive in Amerikkka's prisons. As we fight against dehumanizing and tortuous conditions that's done by prisonkrats, we must get united and stay united!

Eye stand with each and every last one of you. Eye take a solidarity stand to see to it that all our needs are met. Of course Eye am one man, however, through these few pages with revolutionary strength we can all liberate ourselves behind enemy lines.

Eye will be building on some topics that need to be addressed. We are the change. Therefore, we must organize, agitate, and educate. Stay on course comrades as we seize the time!!

## Security Threat Group

### Wrongful Validation

*"A healer need to see beyond the present and tomorrow. He needs to see years and decades ahead. Because healers work for results so firm that may not be wholly visible till centuries have flowed into millennia. Those willing to do this necessary work, they are the healers of our people..." - Ayi Kwei Armah*

Eye am a general of the Damu Nation. Eye am wrongfully validated as "Security Threat Group" (STG) in the state of South Carolina. An STG is a classification that prisonkrats classify Lumpen Organizational members who they fear pose a threat.

The so-called threat can be educating, organizing, agitating, litigating, money getter, and/or violent. In my as well as many it's all of the above, however all these pigs have on STG's are Confidential Inmates (C.I.'s). When pigs validate you they place — rather kidnap — you and hold you hostage in segregation.

The only way off of a STG validation is by "snitching", make

parole, max-out, win through lawsuits, or you die. All sorts of foolishness can get you validated such as wearing flags, tattoos, literature, violence, snitches, and just being in a leadership position. Be mindful who you associate with, watch what you do and say etc.

Amerikkka's prison colonies have contracts with other prisons throughout Amerikkka. When pigs consider you a threat they will send you out-of-state to other prisons within Amerikkka. Comrades STG is not a game this label is on you for life so be very careful...PEACE.

## Case Law

*"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed..." - Steve Biko*

- *Frasie v. Terhune*, 283 F.3d 506 (2002)

- *Taylor v. Rodriguez*, 238 F.3d 188 (2nd Cir.2001)

- *Sostre v. McGinnis*, 442 F.2d 179 (1971)

- *Incumaa v. Stirling*, 2015 U.S. App. Lexis 11321 (2015)

- *Koch v. Lewis*, 96 F. Supp. 2d 949 (2000)

- *Harrison v. Institutional Gang of Investigations*, 2010 U.S. Dist. Lexis 14944

- *Rivera v. Long* (2011)

## Oppressed, Oppressing The Oppressed

*"Our objective is the destruction of the evil system of global white supremacy and the re-assertion of our right to self-determination and the resurrection of divine humanity that we brought to the world in the beginning..." - Heru Akki Seb*

As EYE build with each of you today know and overstand this — if you fail to overstand how white supremacy works, everything that you think you know will only confuse you!! EYE speak these words too because look at how "we" are carrying on? Every organization is at war with each other.

How are we supposed to fight

against oppression but yet we are doing the oppressing? We sell the enemy drugs to one another. We use derogatory language towards one another. We do everything we can to destroy one another.

These prisonkrats no longer have to get "down and dirty" to infiltrate the people anymore, you know why? You have as EYE write this C.I.'s (Confidential Inmates) within every lumpen organization. And these cowards are feeding all sorts of information to pigs.

Comrades today think that it is cool to be sitting in the office with female pigs running their mouth. Overstand this — pigs use the women to seek information, in return they pass the information on to the higher up pigs.

Overstand without the drug trade in prison majority of those pigs will not work back here. We have to end this oppression, all forms of it, because as of now all EYE see is agent provocateurs working against our liberation...PEACE.

## What It Means To Be A Leader

*"The leader who is not loyal to his trust, and to his associates, those above him and those below him, cannot long maintain his leadership. Disloyalty marks one as being less than the dust of the earth, and brings down on one's head the contempt he deserves. Lack of loyalty is one of the major causes of failure in every walk of life..." - Napoleon Hill*

EYE am sure that every lumpen organizational leader has his/her own definition for "what a leader is?" However, a leader is one who leads self first, then he/she leads others. A leader is one who judges according to his/her own actions and ways. A leader leads from the front never from the back in retreat.

A leader teaches his/her subjects the necessary knowledge and skills on how to live a productive life as men and women. A leader listens to the people effectively and intently to overstand the needs of the people.

A leader never moves off feelings or emotions nor do he/she feel fear. A leader has hands-on experience with the people and his community. A leader never plays the role of a politician, he/she is out in the field with the people he/she governs.

To be an effective leader one must know him/herself first, his/her culture, history then one recognizes his/her enemy. You must listen to the people and respond to them without lies and false hope. A leader must investigate everyone who declares themselves a member of his/her community. A leader must always educate, organize, and agitate...PEACE.

## Peace Behind Enemy Lines

*"Revolution is not a speed race, it is a race for he who runs to the end of his life, it is not a race for racehorses, it is a race for warhorses..." - Kwame Ture*

There should not be any wars with lumpen organizations! Comrades EYE need you to overstand how oppression works — it works by turning us against us. EYE overstand that people will have differences however, our differences must stop leading to riots, stabbings, degrading one another and murder.

We must end the beef amongst the oppressed if we want to be liberated. If the various leaders within the L.O.s are not leading right he/she must be removed. The only people that can liberate us-is-us!

P.E.A.C.E means Proper Education Activates Constant Elevation, therefore we greet each other with PEACE. From me to you we all we got so we must act like it...P.E.A.C.E ■

**SEIZE THE TIME**



# An Update on the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative

by Triumphant of TX Team One  
July 2023

Since Our last update regarding the J.F.I., and its three phase plan to magnify the genocidal practices, policies and procedures ever present within the Amerikan criminal justice system, there has been slight progress in our phase two, or the national phase of this campaign.

Namely, the U.S. DOJ has begun to respond to the hundreds of grievance petitions and testimonials sent to them last year. U.S. DOJ has shown interest in further investigating incidents of excessive use of force, and lack of staff. This is only what has been reported from Texas comrades, and We hope to hear more from others around the country as responses pour in.

Along these same lines, We have recently begun corresponding with a legal aid organization who has reached out to us, interested in representing prisoner's litigation efforts which are socio-politically motivated in nature. They've expressed interest in assisting us in the J.F.I. campaign

going forward, as this partnership develops We'll keep you all informed.

## An Update on Legislation Efforts in Texas

Through the last 180 days a lot of time and energy has been focused in support efforts regarding legislation beneficial to the Texas prisoner class.

We have been focused on the following bills and resolutions:

1. HB 2834, relating to minimum wage for inmates in certain work programs.

2. HB 782, gives authority to trial court to modify a defendant's sentence.

3. HB 812, regarding limitation on use of Administrative segregation.

4. HB 1362, relating to the use of the death penalty and life without parole in capital crimes for people younger than 21 years old.

5. HB 1736, relating to conspiracy and law of parties and crim-

inal responsibility in capital cases.

6. House Joint Resolution 63, regarding the explicit outlawing of slavery and servitude.

In Our efforts to abolish Ad-Seg, there was a book released and passed around to current legislators at the beginning of the session in January. The book, *Texas Letters Volume 1*, is an anthology consisting of prisoners first hand accounts of their experiences in long term solitary confinement in Texas. Despite these and other efforts it seems as though HB 812 will not pass this session.

In Our efforts to magnify HB 1362 and HB 1736, there is a current publication in the works specifically dedicated to telling the stories of those affected by the Law of Parties and the death penalty and life w/o parole at the ages below 21. Surprisingly, this is a bi-partisan effort. Despite this it has not yet been passed. People on the ground are developing different ways to get the information about this issue disseminated more widely to the public.

## On Other Efforts in Texas

Seeing that Our efforts in the legislation campaign have not been fruitful, We've channeled Our energy toward more cadre building through establishing Authentic In Manhood, Masculinity and Maturity (A.I.M) and its sub section Political Education 101, a series of seminars giving insight into the basic essentials of revolutionary political and social theory. We hope these efforts bear more fruit in the near future.

## An Update on the Forever Protecting Our Community Organization

Since the introductory article presenting Forever Protecting our Community (FPC) to the ULK audience (see *ULK 75*), i would like to inform you that the FPC organization has established a local community garden, promoting food sovereignty, and has begun to launch a program designed to combat open air sex and human trafficking in the local area. FPC has also taken part with other organizations in a memorial for people who've lost their lives to police terrorism and gang vio-

lence, members of the FPC have been active in mentoring youth in anti-drug and anti-gang counseling providing school supplies, and feeding the people. The organization's political line continues to mature, and we continue to observe this movement closely.

## TDCJ's New Mail Policy

7 July 2023 TDCJ announced they would begin the roll out of a new digital mail processing plant. Once fully implemented, Texas prisons will no longer accept general mail.

As other states have, TDCJ is justifying the move to prevent drugs. The sincerity of such claims must be questioned as TDCJ staff at all levels are well aware of the widespread drug use in these places and do nothing to try to stop it. Meanwhile, officials have banned programs and materials that would otherwise play a positive role in the fight against addiction, including MIM(Prisons)'s *Revolutionary 12 Step Program*. ■

**Dare to Invent the Future**



# United Front Means Thinking in Percentages

by MIM(Prisons)  
July 2023

After printing our long discussion of sex offenders (see: "ULK 80 Responses on Sex Offenders, Pedophiles, Gunnas and Gangstas" in ULK 81) we thought we might have spent a bit too much space on the topic. But as all the responses came in, we were reminded why we did a whole issue focused on this topic 5 years ago. It is a topic of great interest to the prison masses. It is important for building the United Front for Peace in Prisons. And we learned some stats on the large percentages of prisoners who are convicted of some kind of "sex offense" across the country (25% in Colorado, 21% in California).

Many of our readers feel they have been wronged or mistreated by other prisoners because they are labelled a sex offender. Others who are not convicted of any sex-related crime spoke up on behalf of those who are (see "Are Sex Offenders Allies or Enemies?" on page 15). And we know there are many with such charges who are reading ULK, reaching out to MIM(Prisons), who want to be part of the anti-imperialist prison movement. And so the question is, should we be excluding 1/5 to 1/4 of the population in any given prison system from the movement based on this label?

As scientists, we must think in terms of percentages. If 25% of people in a given prison system are sex offenders, that means in a wing of 100 people, 25 of them are convicted of some kind of sex crime. Are 100% of these 25 prisoners enemies of the people who cannot be redeemed? Even those who wrote to say that some cannot be reformed, did not include all "sex offenders" in that category. Yet, often, the way it plays out is 100% of those with known sex crime convictions are treated as outcasts. This is dividing the prison population. This is just one of many things dividing prisoners in the United States today. But it is one that affects a lot of people.

The possibility that we've been working to create since before the founding of the United Front for Peace in Prisons

## Rewinding Time: The State of Texas Prisons

by TX Team One  
June 2023

Observing the day-to-day operations within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), it's as if someone hit the rewind button on the worst movie ever made. A half century ago David Ruiz, then a TDC captive, filed a civil lawsuit against the state agency while suffering in one of TDC's many solitary torture chambers (cells). That humble complaint, after being joined with others' suits, became the widely known *Ruiz v. Estelle* litigation, which initiated over 25 years of litigation, scrutiny, federal oversight, and reform in prison policies.

One of the many aims of the *Ruiz* litigation was the destruction of the internal, neo-colonial structure, known then as the Building Tender System (BTS). In summary, the BTS was a mechanism designed by the state to handpick certain inmates, then utilize them to maintain order and



(UFPP) in 2012, is a united prison movement that acts in the interests of all oppressed people. People in U.S. prisons are being tortured, starved, denied medical care, denied educations, imposed with mental suffering and being repressed for political activity. A strong, united prison movement is the only way we can overcome these conditions.

The divisions preventing this level of unity is the old way, the way of imperialism. We are fighting for a new way, a revolutionary socialist way. This new way requires changes in how we live and interact. On the level of the individual this means applying the Maoist method of criticism/self-criticism. This is something we all must participate in to be part of the movement to overcome imperialism. It's not just sex offenders, or drug addicts, or murderers who need to self-criticize and reform ourselves, it's all of us. All of us have ways of thinking and behaving that are based in the values of imperialism.

We are calling on comrades to lead with the goal of building unity to build for the UFPP's annual Day of Peace & Solidarity, this September 9th. For years we've been promoting the Day of Peace and sharing report backs on events organized by prisoners across the country. What we want to focus on this September 9th is the importance of criticism/self-criticism in the building of unity. We challenge USW leaders to take on the following plan of action:

- Every day, ask yourself what is an interaction you could have handled differently to better

promote unity among prisoners? This could be a daily meditation question you take on for Black August.

- Every week, meet with like-minded people and discuss ways you are working to change yourselves to be better leaders at building unity. Give each other feedback on your shortcomings and progress.

- On September 9th, organize others to take the day off from work and school, to fast, and to focus on this question of building unity for common interests on a facility-wide level.

Use the article "Criticism and Self-Criticism" (on this page) as a guide and in your discussions in the coming weeks. In addition, last year we released our *Revolutionary 12 Step Program*. This pamphlet is a guide to self-assessment and self-criticism. It is a framework for transforming yourself along the guidelines of proletarian morality. Get a copy via our Free Political Books to Prisoners Program to help you with the above tasks.

Then send us a report on your successes and failures this September 9th so we can all learn, grow and share in the next issue of *Under Lock & Key*. Issue 83 will be focused on the theme of "Prisons are War." We will be printing stories that highlight the political war being waged against oppressed people and politically active people by the U.S. criminal injustice system. ■

Notes:  
1. PTT, November 2012, Review: *The Anti-Exploits of Men Against Sexism, Under Lock & Key* 29.

control among the masses of prisoners. Compensation of these hand-picked inmates services came in the form of ultimate power and authority in the prison, as well as extra work time and goods, in a time when these things meant something. This allowed them to go home faster. Furthermore, BT's, with the complicity of the state, were allowed to make slaves (male sex slaves referred to as 'punks') of other inmates on a whim.

The BT's were an essential part of the prison economy because their presence and services allowed the agency to cut costs and limit its budget by not having to pay as many guards as other states. As such, Texas had the lowest budget for any state prison system throughout the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's.

Today the state does not boast the lowest budget. Despite this and multiple pay raises, TDCJ can not maintain a necessary number of staff members to ade-

quately run and operate its institutions. This reality is currently creating the foundation of conditions similar to the *Ruiz* days BT system.

Case in point, reports from Coffield, Ellis, and Beto Units narrate how prisoners have complete control of the unit. Prisoners conduct counts, feed, clothe, discipline, and even act as suicide watch for other inmates. Some prisoners reading this may say 'that doesn't sound bad', and on the surface that may even be correct. However, the sad truth is that most prisoners are still operating with corrupt intentions. As such, when corrupt people are placed in positions of authority and responsibility it is the most marginalized and oppressed people who suffer at the hands of a corrupt power structure. This was true in the days of *Ruiz*, and it is true today, as it is also true in neo-colonies around the globe.

Under pressure from inmate litigation, over fifty years ago,

# Criticism and Self-Criticism

by a North Carolina prisoner  
July 2023

*"Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."*

-Lao Tzu

The practice of criticism and self-criticism is an essential component of a revolutionary organization. It is more intensely so inside a party based upon democratic centralism and the application of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Indeed, the very life of the party depends upon it. Life is a struggle and the ideological-political life of the party depends upon active, integral, ideological-political struggle. It won't do to let things slide for the sake of friendship or to "keep the peace". This is how little differences grow into big ones and disagreements turn into splits.

As Mao cautioned:

*"I hope that you will practice Marxism and not revisionism; that you will unite and not split; that you will be sincere and open and not resort to plotting and conspiracy. The correctness or otherwise of the ideological and political line decides everything. When the Party's line is correct, then everything will come its way. If it has no followers, then it can have followers; if it has no guns, then it can have guns; if it has no political power, then it can have political power. If its line is not correct, even what it has it may lose. The line is a net rope. When it is pulled, the whole net opens out."*

-Talks With Responsible Comrades At Various Places During Provincial Tour, 1971

We must bear in mind that there are:

*"Two types of social contradictions - those between ourselves and the enemy and those among the people themselves [that] confront us. The two are totally different in their nature." (On The Correct Handling of Contradictions Among The People, February 27, 1957)*

It won't do to confuse one for the other.

*"To criticize the people's shortcomings is necessary . . . but in doing so we must truly take the stand of the people and speak out of whole-hearted eagerness to protect and educate them. To treat comrades like enemies is to go over to the stand of the enemy." (Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art, May 1942)*

Criticism and self-criticism can be "toxic" if it is not done properly. Our aim must be constructive and not to shame any comrades or ourselves. Some people chronically "beat themselves up" over their shortcomings, thinking that will correct their unwanted behavior. Often times, they grew up in an abusive parenting situation and thus think this is normal, but it is not. This Texas legislatures, enacted the following law:

Tex.Gov.Code Paragraph  
500.001

Supervisory or Disciplinary Authority of Inmates

*"(a) An inmate housed in a facility operated by the department or under contact with the department*

type of self-criticism only undermines self-esteem. Criticism can be a form of bullying, of mental and psychological abuse. What we want to nurture is constructive criticism that is an expression of Panther Love and true komradeship. We all have issues of bourgeois ideology and it could not be otherwise. We grew up in the sewer of capitalist-imperialism, how could we not need scrubbing?

We not only grew up in it but we still live in it. How could we be sparkling clean? We need to help each other to scrub the parts we cannot reach, to see the filth we cannot see. Sometimes it is hard to see where we are in error or we've become "nose blind" to our own smell. Our egos can get in the way. If we have an exaggerated estimation of ourselves, where is the incentive to grow and to become better revolutionaries? Likewise, if we underestimate ourselves, we may need positive feedback from our komrades to build our self-confidence and appreciate our worth to the struggle.

Every komrade should be part of a revolutionary collective, a basic unit of the party. This is imperative to have the benefits of collective wisdom. Our collective is our family, our closest comrades. You don't want your closest comrades to "look up to you" but to see you as an equal. You want them to understand your strengths and weaknesses and to be there to check you when you need checking, and give you a push when you need pushing, and to catch you when you fall. Every komrade is a work in progress and we must be constantly building each other up and struggling to make each other the best we can be.

We are not "carbon copies" of one another, our struggles are complimentary. Collectively we are stronger than our individual strength. Teamwork makes us each more powerful and competent. It minimizes our individual shortcomings and makes us wiser and more capable. A team of horses or oxen can pull more weight for longer than each can individually. The party is stronger than many times its number of individuals acting on their own judgment and initiative. The base of this strength is the basic unit of the Party and its democratic centralism. At each level there are committees up to the central committees and at each level we must practice criticism and self-criticism and work together to achieve collective wisdom and cheeks and balances.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** While we do not have a party at this time, these same principles should still be applied at the local cell level. This is why we have said a cell should have at least 3 members to function in a healthy way. ■

*may not act in a supervisory or administrative capacity over another inmate.*

*(b) An inmate housed in a facility operated by the department or under contract with the department may not administer disciplinary action over another inmate."*

Continued on page 11...

# Finding Outreach Opportunities in Crisis

by Grim of United Struggle from Within  
July 2023

On Sunday, 28 May 2023, Santa Clara County Main Jail went on full facility lockdown shortly after pill call when evening program (out of cell time) began.

This is not all that unusual by itself, as Main Jail goes on lockdown on average 10 times a month, often more, as it is facility policy to lockdown the entire complex for ANY disturbance, almost as if they fear a replay of the Attica uprising in September 1971 or the Lucasville uprising at Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in April 1993 (which I could see being a distinct possibility).

Yet what was different about this lockdown was the guard taking off at a sprint out of our unit after screaming "lockdown!", before making sure we all were in our cells locked down (which is against operations protocol). We could see out our unit door to the 7th floor control booth where the guards rushed by into the elevator

to get to wherever the incident occurred (our Main Jail is a tower complex).

After getting back to my cell, the guards who came by to do their hourly checks were extremely close-lipped and stone-faced which they usually aren't after their usual "reindeer games" of hosing down with O.C. spray and prying apart lumpen-on-lumpen conflicts (they're usually giddy after getting their adrenaline fix).

The next day we knew something "big" (at least in the pig administration's eyes) had occurred when all GTL tablets were confiscated from prisoners without a word as to why or when they would return.

Persynally, this was only a minor inconvenience, as the only thing I really use my tablet for is to use the phone app in the privacy and quiet of my cell, as the "edutainment" platform "Edovo" on them is full of bullshit and bourgeois drivel aside from several collected works of Marx and

Engels though even those are contained within a course with video lectures from the bourgeois perspective of a Yale professor.

It wasn't until after reading an article in Wednesday, 31 May 2023's *San Jose Mercury News*(1) and hearing whispers gleaned from the looser lipped pigs that the full picture started to come together.

A prisoner in one of the protective custody units on the 6th floor had taken his tablet, busted it down, and out of the smashed wreckage was able to make a "crudely made knife" as the article called it, and with said knife assault two pigs with it.

Of course the bourgeois media reported the usual drivel from the sheriff's office, that it was a "shocking and unprovoked attack". Knowing the hystory of Main Jail in recent years, from the 3 pigs who beat mentally ill prisoner Michael Tyree to death in his cell, to the recent report of the mistreatment of another mentally ill prisoner Juan Martin Nunez at

the hands of pigs and medical staff in the psychiatric unit on the 8th floor of the jail which in the aftermath left the prisoner paralyzed, this seems highly unlikely. (2) Oh and don't forget their usual closing line, "Our correction deputies (sic) play a critical role in maintaining law and order within the correctional facilities and this attack serves as a stark reminder of the risks our deputies (sic) face daily." The lumpen can see these for the fearmongering lies they are.

In the aftermath many crafted grievances to attempt to get eir tablets back, which I decided finally against as the assaulting of 2 pig guards along with the problems comrades across the California gulag archipelago (as well as across occupied Turtle Island) are having with their facilities' worthless grievance systems made a win highly unlikely.

Instead, I spent the time trying (actually with some success!) to get my collection of revolutionary literature (by comrades George, Mumia, Maroon, etc and

all my MIM literature) out to the masses of New Afrikan, Chican@, white, and Asian/Pacific Islander comrades who suddenly had nothing to occupy their in-cell time. Many finished books/zines from my collection, some only read an article or two from ULK, but it was all-in-all a positive outcome.

On 21 June 2023, the tablets were returned, with the pigs now lording over them and having to fill out a checklist every morning and night to make sure all tablets given out are returned to the charger carts at night. Yes, it took them almost a month to come to this "brilliant" idea.

While many have gone back to eir program of zoning out on their tablets all day, I am happy that at least a few have had eir interests piqued and luckily just before another organizing opportunity, Black August. ■

Notes:

1) Austin Turner, 31 May 2023, "Sheriff says inmate attacked 2 deputies", *San Jose Mercury News*.

2) Robert Salonga, 12 May 2023, "Jail report angers county leaders", *San Jose Mercury News*.

# 'Power To New Afrika' Ignores Racism?

by Triumphant of United Struggle from Within  
July 2023

A USW comrade in New York sent a critique of the claim in *Power to New Afrika* that Malcolm X was not killed by racism:

"Is it then a coincidence that Blacks who seek Black power are killed/imprisoned by said "corrupt power structure" at a disproportionate rate than any other race... If white people kill/imprison Black people who seek Black power for themselves in order to maintain white power for themselves, what could this pattern be symbolic to other than anything but racism?"

**Triumphant of United Struggle from Within responds:**

No, it is not a coincidence, but neither is "racism" an exact description of the actual social, political, and economic components of Our national oppression. The State/power is going to kill/imprison, disproportionately, any and all threats or perceived threats, or perceived disposable populations. This is to preserve power, self-reservation of the status quo. In the period you're speaking on when a large amount of Blacks who were imprisoned were politically active or politicized, the Black colony was the most actively radical populace in the empire. Therefore, its numbers in prison reflected such. In more recent times, and without the guidance of mass social-political movements, this would-be active elements have largely succumbed to criminality and gangsterism, a common thread in colonized population groups around the world. So to answer the second half of your above question, the other thing that the pattern could symbolize is common and routine government oppression, the wielding of power. It is what empire does to any historically oppressed and dynamic social force.

History shows that New Afrikans have been the key to opening social, economic, and political doors that have been shut in various times of Amerikan history. By being suppressed at the bottom of the social ladder,

Our advancement, in its various forms, has always led to the advancement of the society as a whole, and due to the law of contradictions those advances that we often take for granted these days, have and will always come at a severe price. It will always come at a sacrifice, of mass struggle, and each time we've advanced despite it. It is the power structure's role to maintain as much power and resources in its hands as possible, only conceding when forced or coerced to do so. That is another explanation of the phenomena you've mentioned.

Should oppressive exploitative power be evenly distributed against all and not disproportionately to one group? The power, again, represses those who resist, or threaten its power. This is regardless of color. Case in point, during the high tide of revolutionary struggle, what made it a high tide? The same thing that has made recent years noteworthy, because all colors have been involved in struggle, one way or another. In the 1960s-70s era, there were a more or less proportionate number of PP/POW to the rate of participation by nationality. There were fewer Amerikan comrades, because Amerikans are the oppressor nation and not oppressed. However, all the groups that were active in the ways that most advanced Black revolutionaries were active were attacked and repressed the same. Many of them were co-defendants of each other.

I'm talking about: Marilyn Buck, Susan Rosenberg, Tim Blunk, Barbara and Jaan Laaman, David Gilbert, Richard Williams, Silvia Baraldini, Carol and Tom Manning, Oscar Lopez-Rivera, Alan Berkman, Jaime Delgado, Raymond Levasseur, Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn, and many others.

We hurt ourselves by not sharing the full stories of those times. The BPP, BLA, RNA, SNCC, RAM, and others were not attacked and repressed because they were Black organizations. It wasn't because they were Black political organizations. They were attacked because of the type

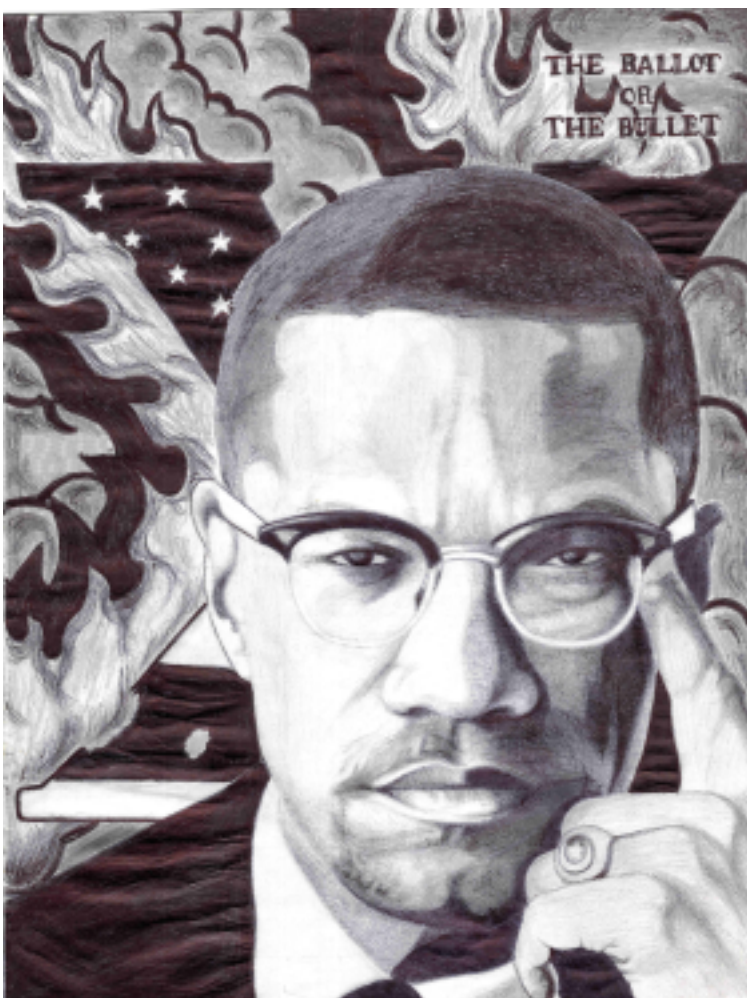
of Black politics they organized around. The proof of this statement lies in the fact of people they worked with (Black, white, brown, male, female, heterosexual, non-heterosexual). These weren't racial movements in the strict sense, and their actions show that for those who have eyes to see. Take an incident that gets a lot of hype, like Assata Shakur's escape. The BLA did not liberate alone. In fact, those alleged to have been involved with it were majority non-Black. And they and their organizations were attacked, imprisoned, along with the Black revolutionaries they

disproportionate rates" is flawed and not in accordance with reality. Why? Because it is not white people who imprison/kill. In most cases it is representatives of the system (police, prosecutors, judges, jurors, C.O.s, etc) and in other cases it isn't system reps at all. In fact, studies show we lose more Black lives to self-destruction than anything else. And since the early 1970s, colonialism has transitioned into neo-colonialism (mass integration into the social, political, economic and cultural apparatus of USA). So now when we talk about the system, or power structure, and other politi-

...You correctly say, "political power in all societal cases will always be the most efficient first step on a pathway to freedom for any race or people," and because the power structure knows and agrees with this is why Malcolm and others were killed and/or jailed. And as far as you saying the power structure, despite their intentions "effected racism, by oppressing, exploiting and killing the futures and politics of the predominantly Black supporters he represented." Now here is why we must really deconstruct "race" as a useful social construct in our spaces, because it confuses us as a people. What we've been bred to refer to as races are in actuality nations and nationalities of people who've developed organically and historically within the social realities of 400 years in North America. The assassination wasn't merely to win the war for ideologies as you said, but to win, before it even began in earnest, the full scale actual war (of national liberation). These weren't acts of racism, but much more! These were acts of national oppression, acts of warfare designed to do as you said, oppress, exploit, and kill the future of our politics. What is that then? Genocide? Colonial suppression/domination? National oppression designed to keep an oppressed and colonized social group in its place. This isn't racism and calling it that limits our actions in correcting it. This is Warfare, the same war that began Black August 1619. It has always, despite intentions on either side, had the effect of national oppression. They implement the continued political, economic, social, and cultural inability to develop independently, or without being dictated to by the empire. Therefore, national liberation, is to enforce the opposite relationship, to dictate our own affairs. In other words, it isn't a white/black thing, it's a power struggle, hence the title, *Power to New Afrika*. ■

**Re-Build**

*Power to New Afrika* is available for \$3 to prisoners, or work trade through our Free Political Books Program, and free on our website.



were in solidarity with.

My point? When people choose the revolutionary path and act it out, they become targets for repression and extinction, regardless of color.

...Your notion that "white people imprison/kill Black people at

cians are helping to invest in police forces in places like New York, Chicago, Houston, and elsewhere. Therefore the old notion of a simplistic black/white; white power/Black power worldview is overly simplistic and keeps us missing the mark in our analysis and in our subsequent practice in our organizing.

# Waging A Campaign for Clemency in Virginia

by a Virginia prisoner  
June 2023

*(originally written for the Incarcerated Women's Clemency & Support Project (IWCSP), details are omitted for print, full article is on our website)*

I filed about five clemency petitions during the course of my 28 years of incarceration before finally being granted a pardon in 2022, by former Governor Ralph Northam. The first three petitions were filed "pro se," meaning on my own. The last two petitions were filed with the assistance of counsel and with the support of state legislators. The last successful push for clemency was also aided by the Justice for Uhuru Coordinating Committee – a group of friends, abolitionists and student organizers from the College of William & Mary.

Borrowing from knowledge and practical experience gained from navigating the clemency process over two decades, what follows is a brief outline of what I believe is the most effective strategy in helping an incarcerated person and their loved ones to wage a successful campaign for clemency in Virginia.

## The Law

Neither the Virginia Parole Board nor any court in Virginia has the authority to grant a petition for clemency.

Pursuant to Virginia (VA) Code section 53.1-229 and Article V, Section 12 of the Virginia Constitution, only the Governor has the absolute power and authority to grant clemency.

*However, pursuant to VA Code section 53.1-231, [the Virginia Parole Board investigates and reports on these cases], shall, at the request of the Governor, investigate and report to the Governor on cases in which executive clemency is sought. In any other case in which it believes action on the part of the Governor is proper or in the best interest of the Commonwealth, the Board may investigate and report to the Governor with its recommendations."*

The Virginia Supreme Court in the case of *Howell v. McAuliffe*, 292 Va. 320, 788 SE 2d 706 (2016) ruled the Governor has no authority to issue group pardons because Article V, Section 12 of the VA Constitution requires the Governor to give a

particular (specific) reason for granting each pardon which is something the Governor cannot do when issuing mass (blanket) clemency.

## The Process

There are two types of clemency in VA: restoration of rights and pardons.

A petition for restoration of rights restores the rights one forfeits as a result of having been convicted of a felony and can only be sought by people who are not currently in prison. People with nonviolent felonies must wait three years after completion of their sentence before applying for restoration of their rights and people with violent felonies must wait five years. The restoration of rights does not restore the right to purchase or possess a firearm...

There are four types of pardons in VA: simple pardon, absolute pardon, partial pardon, conditional pardon

A **simple pardon**, sought after a person's rights have been restored, is an act by the Governor granting forgiveness for a crime for which one has been convicted. A simple pardon does not expunge the conviction from a person's criminal record or restore the right to purchase or possess firearms.

An **absolute pardon** is granted when the Governor is convinced that a person is innocent of the charge(s) for which they have been convicted and freely and unconditionally absolves the person from all direct and collateral consequences of the crime. A person can petition for an absolute pardon only if they plead not guilty during trial proceedings and exhausted all appellate and other post-conviction remedies, including a Writ of Actual Innocence pursuant to VA Code sections 19.2-327 through 19.2-327.13.

A **partial pardon** can be conditional or unconditional and remits only a portion of the sentence and leaves the rest of the sentence intact. This is the pardon I received.

A **conditional pardon** is an act by the Governor which modifies or ends the entire sentence imposed by the court when there is "substantial evidence of extraordinary circumstances to warrant it" and does not become

operative until the grantee satisfies a prerequisite and can be revoked if that prerequisite is not met.

There is also something called Executive Medical Clemency where the Governor grants conditional release to an incarcerated person who is terminally ill with three months or less left to live.

## Preparing and Filing the Petition

It took me, my lawyer and supporters working together as a team about a year researching and collecting all the pieces for my pardon petition. And by pieces, I mean certificates and diplomas earned since I've been in prison, supplemental online petitions, and support letters from family, friends and state legislators who recognized the injustice in my sentence and sympathized with my plight enough to be willing to support me. It is important to collect all these pieces and attach them to the petition as supplements and exhibits at the time of filing because they may not be accepted or considered if they are sent in separately at a later time.

Whether the incarcerated person is applying for a pardon on their own or if someone on the outside is applying for it on behalf of the incarcerated person, it is important (and mandatory) for the incarcerated person to first complete the "Virginia Pardon Petition Questionnaire" and mail it to the VA Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)...

## The Organizing

Organizing here refers to any action (before and after a petition is filed) that will raise awareness about a person's case and gain community support for their pardon request.

Two of the most important things that should be done before a pardon request is filed are 1) creating a social media presence and 2) creating an online petition on <http://www.change.org>.

With organizing, gone are the days when news of a planned event had to be promoted via word of mouth and crudely hand-crafted flyers. In this day and time, social media is king and one post about an injustice that has occurred can quickly go viral resulting in hundreds and thousands of people showing up at a planned protest in opposition to that injustice...

the walls to combat what will ultimately become a battle of control and influence between reactionary and revolutionary power.

## DARE TO INVENT

### THE FUTURE

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** This comrade notes the very relevant history of the BTS in Texas and how those conditions are being repeated today. But there is other history to look at, like the 1973 takeover of Walpole prison in Massachusetts. Guards went on strike and the prisoner union took over running things smoothly and peacefully. This was only possible however because prisoners had spent years organizing into a union. As staff shortages seem widespread in prison systems across the country, opportunities for organizing can arise. But it will take preparation, education and organization to properly seize such opportunities. ■

I would add that social media is more critical to freeing someone from prison than the pardon application itself. Why? Because to be incarcerated for 20 to 30 years is to be erased and rendered invisible to the masses, especially to people born after a person was incarcerated. Case in point, many of the people on the Justice for Uhuru Coordinating Committee (JUCC) were students from the College of William & Mary and were born a decade after I came to prison. So, social media can help bring incarcerated people and their freedom campaigns out from the obscurity of the prison industrial complex and connect them and their campaigns to young abolitionists who are doing most of the on-the-ground agitation and organizing.

...Another thing that should be organized are public rallies. My team organized a rally both before and after my petition was filed.

The first one, organized by my attorney before she filed my pardon application, was held at the state capital. Though it received a low turnout, word of it spread to staff in the Governor and SOC offices and members of the General Assembly resulting in a veteran state senator showing up, listening and speaking to those in attendance. This is why it is strategically important to hold a rally at the state capital even if only a small amount of people show up...

Another thing that should be organized are carefully timed emails and phone calls directed at the SOC, the pardon staff, and the Chief of Staff for the Governor after a pardon petition has been

## Small Victories at ECI, Organizers Keep Pressure On

by a USW comrade  
May 2023

I appreciate all the comrades who assisted us with our struggle for change here at Eastern Correctional Institution (E.C.I.). (see *ULK 81*) We have begun to gain traction. Delegate Charles Otto has responded with a response from Maryland Department of Public Safety. Once I make copies I will send them to you all so that you can see the crap they're saying. None the less the prison is beginning to change. Our visiting time has increased and so has our outside rec. They are even talking about allowing us to take pictures. We are not stupid though we understand that this is all to pacify us. But there has been something major that we have recognized. The system has now exposed their hand and now they are open for the guerrillas to attack -- in one of the buildings here they are renovating due to the pressure from the people and as such they have to move people out of the building. So they must find space for these men. They are scrambling for spaces to put them. Now understanding this I have come up with an idea which is now under way. The plan goes as follows:

### Mission #1 Fire Starter

**Primary Objective:** Exposure. We must expose the prison's conditions to the outside world. We must present these conditions to our local politicians. We must network through our channels and use our families and friends to agitate those in position.

filed. There is a common belief that contacting the SOC and pardon staff will have an adverse impact on a person's pardon request and will even result in a pardon application being prematurely denied. This may be the case if the calls/emails come across as demanding or pressuring officials to grant a pardon request. Those are not the kind of calls/emails I am recommending here. Based on my own experience and insight gained from someone working in former Governor Northam's administration, it is helpful to have a person to make a follow-up email to the pardon staff about six months after a petition is filed to inquire about the status of the petition. Most importantly, all supporters of the incarcerated person (including any political supporters) should make calls to the SOC and the Governor's Chief of Staff a week before a Governor's term is set to expire to (politely) reiterate their support for a person's pardon request and state the reasons the incarcerated person would be a good candidate for clemency.

One last note I want to make is that parole and pardon requests are often denied on the basis that early release of the incarcerated person will pose a serious threat to public safety.

Ultimately what needs to happen in order for a clemency campaign to be successful is that the incarcerated person and his/her/their team must garner as many supporters as possible so that the voices of the people who want the person out of prison are louder (and more powerful) than the voices of the people who want to keep the person in prison. ■

### Weapon of Choice: Media

#### Mission #2 Fire Spreader

**Primary Objective:** Spread what you have done in your prison to the other prisons in your state. This must be done simultaneously.

**Weapon of Choice:** Letters, Phones, Social Media

After these missions are complete it will unleash a fire storm that will burn these prison systems from the inside out. Once comrades are released they are then to assist the cells from the outside.

It must be understood that every prison in Amerikka has its issues and for them to be exposed in the manner we are seeking will force the people in position to react. They will then have to renovate these prisons and to do so they will have to decarcerate, releasing our brothers and sisters on to the streets because they will have no where to put them once they are forced to clean up the prisons. This is the beginning of a prison abolition movement I believe that will deliver a major blow to the system. The comrades here at E.C.I. have completed Mission #1 Fire Starter and we are now underway with Mission #2. It must be understood that it may not work every where but I do encourage all to try it. ■

**It is time for the dragon to be released.**

**Long live George Jackson!**

## ... Continued from p. 9 ... Texas Prisons

Despite enacting this law, state officials didn't initially, and still don't, abide by it. Only the most recent example is the widespread use of life coaches as suicide watch sentry. Despite their best intentions, life coaches aren't equipped to deal with a serious suicide attempt, and neither are correctional staff, if we're being honest. Instead of channeling their budget towards more and better medical and psychiatric personnel, or releasing more people, TDCJ's executive director Brian Collier has begun to implement a portion of his so-called 2030 plan. The portion important to this topic is his professed desire to initiate 'new positions' for inmates, so that they can allow this institution to function smoothly, 'with less dependency on correctional staff'.

Since I've been released from solitary, and been housed on Ellis Unit's CTIP, I've witnessed and

experienced the new wave BT system up close and personal. Here inmates operate in-and-outs, feed, and other duties reserved for paid officers. As you can imagine, this situation causes tensions among the hand-picked, and the masses of prisoners. These tensions have their fall-outs and all this is instigated by the illegal policies and practices of the state. In 2023, we're still being (neo)colonized and enslaved in Texas.

All too often, horrific incidents have to occur, lives have to be lost and tarnished before the public and people in positions to alter things begin take notice. If the incidents of 50 years ago are any indication we cannot afford to lose so many lives, for any more people to be physically violated, before we begin to bring these conditions to the attention of the public, and simultaneously organize liberation armies behind

# Nature and Politics of Sexual Orientation

by MIM(Prisons)  
May 2023

In some circles we've gotten push back on our entertaining of certain ideas among the masses(see: "Sorting Out a Defense of Kyrie Irving" from *ULK* 80). We already critiqued this error among self-described "communists" of "hating the masses for their reactionary ideas under oppression" (see: "Some Discussions on Bad Ideas Pt. 1" from *ULK* 79).

The quote below is from a new reader of *Under Lock & Key* in a discussion with MIM(Prisons). We will note that this comrade advocated for closing down "pig stations (pig pens)" to build community centers and sees Black people as one with North Korea as both face the imperialists as their enemy. With that we seem to have strong unity on the principal contradiction in this country and internationally.

And we are printing this comrade's words not to pick on em, but on the contrary because we see em as a comrade and ally in the struggle that we want to build unity with. And we are printing them in *ULK* because these ideas are not unique to this one persyn, we hear similar things all the time, and too often the correct line is just assumed, but the incorrect lines are never addressed.

*"Now as to your question of how I see LGBTQ people. No, I don't see them as a problem for the oppressed. I see them with love and respect. However, I must be definitive of myself, I choose a female as my mate. That is the natural order of existence, respectfully, the opposite does not hold the continuation of life. The demands of nature are written in the libido, the libido is the driving force of procreation.*

*"One's body does not belong to the individual, it is on loan from the ancestors. I will not deny the call of the ancestors. Yet, who am I to judge. I'm just expressing myself as every person should have the right to express themselves fully without contempt. I do believe that the LGBTQ movement is a faction that has a driving force behind it that is bigger than the movement itself. I believe that the imperialists are the driving force behind that movement, just as much as they are the driving force behind militarism, desensitizing, hypersexualism, hate, division. They have controlled the narrative of these characters, they have broadcast, advertised, marketed these characters and now they are doing the same with the LGBTQ community."*

Already on this topic of LGBTQ we see this comrade respects all people and is not approaching this with hatred or desire to oppress others. Again, more basis for unity.

In our response we want to address: 1. the natural order; and, 2. imperialism using LGBTQ movement to forward its own

ends.

## The Natural Order

We've all heard countless times that anything other than straight procreative sex is unnatural because it does not reproduce the species. We'll put aside for now the fact that most of the sex these people have is not procreative either (presumably these people never even masturbate). There is a certain logic to this thinking from the framework of the individualist culture of the nuclear family.

One thing that is characteristic of humyns is the long period it takes for a newborn humyn to become self-sufficient. The patriarchal family structure in this country was established around the system of slavery, where New Afrikan slaves provided much of the childcare and food for the table for the white settler family. In other nations the grandparents and extended family help fill similar needs.

There are indigenous cultures where it has been documented that people we would call LGBTQ today existed. This counters the argument that such people are a modern invention. And these people had particular roles in the community that were important to sustaining that community even if they did not participate in sexual reproduction. It is our atomized society today that makes it seem natural, or necessary, for everyone to be a sexual reproducing member of society.

The comrade here states that eir body is a gift from the ancestors, but we would add that the African ancestors of New Afrikans (like many pre-colonial cultures) did not adhere to our modern capitalist patriarchy. European colonizers in Africa were troubled when people they perceived as male did not perform the role of a man, and in turn punished such people to impose their gender roles in the name of Christianity. Female to female marriage has been documented in over 40 pre-colonial African societies.(1)

In closely related species, social structures are built around one male who does most of the sexual reproduction for the whole group. Other species mate for life. And many species have sexual activity between animals of the same sex, etc. Certainly, the sex between males and females are crucial for the continuation of species like ours before the development of medical methods of fertilization. But it is not true that non-procreative sexual behavior doesn't occur in other species, in previous humyn societies, or that it is somehow detrimental to our species.

Another example that adds to this point is that oftentimes the political-economic decadence of oppressor nations (predominantly

petty-bourgeois societies such as Japan, South Korea, and even modern day Settler-Amerika) sees declining birthrates. The petty-bourgeoisie often point to non-heterosexual romance or miscegenation as the cause of low birth-rate for oppressor nations, but the materialist truth points to decadence and capitalist alienation which is the true detriment to the reproduction of humynity.

Despite our current individualistic society, we remain social creatures. Our behaviors are largely influenced by our society. Sexual behavior has evolved and changed as society has changed. While various parallels of LGBTQ people existed prior to patriarchy, there is also no doubt that the patriarchy impacts peoples' sexuality. For example, under patriarchy wimmin can become afraid to date men and men can become afraid to express affection towards men. It is also true that national oppression and imprisonment impact peoples' sexuality.

What we do know is: 1) that gender, and even the sex binary as we recognized in our 2018 congress resolution (see: "Attacking the Myth of Binary Biology: MIM(Prisons) Eliminates Gendered Language" in *ULK* 47), are not biological facts, but rather social constructs. 2) to the extent that biology does determine things we call gender and sexuality, that there is always variation in nature.

To be a scientific thinker one must be able to think in terms of probabilities and percentages. Male and female, black and white, good and evil are ways we categorize things. The idealist believes these are pre-existing truths, while the scientist recognizes them as humyn-made categories. For the scientific thinker, what is unnatural is for everything and everyone to fit into two neat little categories.

A more objective view of the world will also recognize that it is myopic to see humyn society as separate from the "natural." To put it another way, there will never be a humyn society where humyn beings behave by some pre-ordained natural way determined by our biology, where no social factors determine our behavior. On the contrary, it is our aim to revolutionize our society to revolutionize how we interact with each other into ways that have never been done before. There is no "natural" way we are trying to return to as the conservatives imagine. We want to create new and better futures, based on humyn relations without oppression and exploitation. That is the radical, and the only, answer to the "ills" of our society today.

## LGBTQ and Imperialism

The comrade quoted above said ey loves and respects LGBTQ people but has issues with their movement being used towards imperialist ends. If the latter is true, then this could be the correct position for revolutionaries to take. So is the LGBTQ movement a weapon of the imperialists?

We have certainly noticed the LGBTQ cause being weaponized against the oppressed nations both inside and outside United States borders. One big example of this was during the Bush administration's imperialist crusade against the Middle East and Cen-

tral Asia where semi-feudal patriarchal practices of the masses in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq were put in the spotlight as justification for genocidal war. This was a big rallying cry for the "feminist" argument that U.S. invasion of Afghanistan meant freedom and liberation of Afghan womyn and LGBTQ. When the Taliban kicked out the U.S. imperialists in 2021 (see: "Whither Afghanistan?" from *ULK* 75), the fact that public education for Afghan womyn were taken away by the Taliban was put in the spotlight again alongside news of anti-LGBTQ lynchings, etc. So in cases such as these, we can see how even progressive causes such as the freedom for wimmin to have education and for LGBTQ people to express their love can be weaponized by the imperialists whose bombs will murder Afghan womyn and LGBTQ people and take away their freedom to be alive.

On a side note, looking at things in a historical materialist perspective, the brief experience of bourgeois democracy for middle class womyn to gain education and for LGBTQ people to exist without the immediate threat of death has been tasted by the

broad Afghan masses (or at least the Afghan petty-bourgeoisie who could have afforded to experience it under the reactionary comprador U.S.-backed warlord regime). This gives the historical duty of the petty-bourgeoisie in Afghanistan to partake in a new democratic revolution alongside the proletariat, the peasantry, and the national bourgeoisie to overthrow the semi-feudal and semi-colonial state and implement those said freedoms under a proletarian dictatorship.

But for us inside U.S. borders, what is the significance of this? Anti-imperialists should confront rallies to "defend Afghan wimmin" through U.S. bombs with anti-war, anti-militarist messages. But this has nothing to do with the realities of homosexual romance or people adopting gendered appearances that the patriarchy did not assign to them. More homosexual romance does not inherently bring more bombs dropped on the Third World. As pointed out, these bombs are killing LGBTQ people indiscriminately as well. ■

Notes:

1. Mohammed Elnaemi, 29 April 2021, *The "Deviant" African Genders That Colonialism Condemned*, *JStor Daily*.

## Unconsciously Racist

by Race Trader  
July 2023

For the past 30 years of my life I thought that I was somewhat assimilated into the urban culture simply because I vibe to rap music and grew up around Black folks.

But reality has hit me. I'm a racist white male. I've unconsciously struggled thru life with a white privilege card. And honestly, I'm disgusted with not only myself but also my white racist peers.

There is NO EXCUSE that it took me 30 years to realize the reality that I'm racist. But now that I have become conscious of my racist tendencies within me. I have reached out to multiple prison support groups/organizations (i.e. ATL/ABC,blackbird publishing, MIM, etc.) to educate myself and have been very fortunate to run into a revolutionary prisoner who makes it his duty to edify the ignorant racist white prisoners.

I know that right now a lot of people are scratching their head saying "is this dude serious"? But YES I'm serious and until we can admit our faults we cannot call ourselves revolutionaries. Just because you're not screaming racist words or in some Aryan cult doesn't mean you're not racist. There are different kinds of racism.

- You have AVERSIVE racism, which means that even though you might not 'hate' black folks you still have tendencies to avoid black folks due to your uneasiness, fear, and disgust of them.

- You also have MODERN racism, that means you ignore that racism is even real. You're so comfortable with the way the 'ruling class' wants to segregate us that you just go with the flow and became ignorant to the fact that humans just like us are being abused and oppressed just because of their skin color. I have to admit, this is what happened to me. Taking the easy

way out in life.

Admitting to being racist is a bitter pill to swallow. Everything I thought I stood for stands on a shaky foundation. It's hard to even look myself in the eye in my mirror now. I'll break down knowing that I've allowed corruption and brainwashing to make me think I'm better than other humans just because of my skin color.

I speak to my fellow racist white peers, it dwells deep within you. It's there. And embrace that. It's time to start over and relearn the history you thought you knew, it's artificial to hide the truth. That you're not superior to NO ONE. It's time to embrace the struggle. Because it's time to truly struggle with ourselves.

Don't just READ but STUDY revolutionary material and other books that have been written by people of color. Try to visualize the world as they see it and even though it is not humanly possible for a white person to feel the pain and the oppression that black folks have been subjected to for over 400 years. Try to feel their pain. I do it daily now. And one day I will not be racist. But it's a hard road to travel. Trust me, cuz I'm on it. I won't stop. I can't stop. Too much blood has been shed due to this way of thinking. NO MORE EASY WAY OUT!

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We welcome this self-criticism from a new subscriber. It is true that we must constantly be examining ourselves and how the oppressive system impacts the way we think and believe. As materialists, we understand we are products of our material conditions. As such, we should refrain from becoming self-flagellating in our examination of self (a religious approach to one's faults that focuses on the self). It can be a painful and shocking experience as this comrade describes. But the resolution comes through better revolutionary practice in the anti-imperialist movement. We focus inward to better focus and act outward. ■

### 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 USW's 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?

# Why Prisoners MUST Speak

by a Federal prisoner  
May 2023

There's an ongoing debate as to why prisoners must have rights to the First Amendment, the right to free speech. Prisons often suffocate prisoners from speaking about what happens in prisons, as if it is a "security" risk. While there are elements that can pose a prison interest, most times this is not true, but prisons use flimsy excuses to prevent prisoners from telling the world what goes on. Prisons, like USP Tucson, use the Las Vegas mantra, "what happens in prison, stays in prison" (even if it's illegal).

Let me share with you an example of prisons illegally suffocating a prisoner's right to tell the public what is going on:

A magazine called *Labyrinth* published a story about two Black prisoners at a federal facility, Terre Haute, who died of asthma. Apparently, in January of 1975, a prisoner died, then in August at the same prison, another Black prisoner died of asthma. During that time, the prison (Terre Haute) had only one respirator, which was known to have been inoperative in January when the first prisoner died. It wasn't working when the second prisoner died either.

That is negligence. The prison's incompetence cost two Black prisoners their lives.

However, when *Labyrinth* tried to send their magazines to

Marion Federal Penitentiary, the prison blocked it, claiming that the article could be "detrimental to the good order and discipline" of the institution. The courts disagreed, stating that the incidents in Terre Haute, a federal facility, are newsworthy and of "great importance" (*Pell v. Procunier*, 417 U.S. 817, 830, n.7. 94 S. Ct 2800, 2808 n.7, 41 L.Ed 2d 495 (1975)).

In that incident, the necessity to report prison negligence outweighs the prison's vague idea that anything that happens in prison are not for the public's ears. The public has a tremendous right to know that prisoners are dying in American prisons, and more so, if those working in prisons are indirectly, or directly, responsible for it.

Prisoners must be allowed to tell society if human beings in American prisons are treated with humane dignity, or like slaves at a plantation, or Jewish prisoners at a Concentration (and Extermination) camp. Left unchecked, this is exactly where prisons will gravitate to.

A few years ago, I personally wrote an essay about a prisoner here at USP Tucson, who was murdered while in the SHU (Special Housing Unit). I wrote that the staff *knew* that if they put the prisoner in a cell with a certain prisoner, that he would be killed. And so it was.

After getting the essay out, I

got a letter from a law firm representing the victim's wife. They wanted to talk to me, to get information about the staff working at the time of the murder, because USP Tucson refused to release such information. Even though staff was *directly* responsible for a man's death, they refused to give the attorney the information, protecting the officers that facilitated the murder.

Sadly, I did not have such intel, because while the prison population all knew what happened, and how, most didn't know who worked that day. A prisoner who was in the SHU that period of time, however, would have known. This is not about "safety and security" ...it's about murder.

Prisons like USP Tucson can toss every law over their back, and treat prisoners like dogs. They can beat a prisoner, steal their property, rape them, and no one on the outside would ever know. And, if it *did* get out, the prison would suppress all information and "defend the shield." The First Amendment allows prisoners the equalizer, to hold prisons responsible for how they treat those under their custody.

Here at USP Tucson we were put on lockdown on Friday November 18th for what was identified as a "staff assault" in a separate dorm. USP Tucson brought a prisoner that is on a high care level, with clear and documented psychological issues, from a high-level prison. He

has only been on the prison grounds less than a week, and the prison decided to take away his medication. Why? That makes no sense! He obviously needed it for a reason. So, when the prisoner was refused his medication, he got angry, and assaulted an officer. The prison identified the perpetrator, moved him out of general population then it turned to the rest of the prison and punished them severely as if we all had a hand in it. This is called mass punishment and it is frowned on by many countries, yet the United States continues to use it. Here are some of the other violations we experienced during the lockdown:

1. The warden never told us the reason for a lockdown, so we had no chance to challenge it. USP Tucson prevented prisoners from filing a grievance.

2. Unit Team (Unit manager, case manager, counselor) avoided all prisoner questions, except legal calls or when passing out disciplinary charges. Unit team refused to pass out paper, envelopes or writing instruments, prohibiting prisoners from writing. The sale of stamps was also prohibited. Prisoners with no stamps had no way to let loved ones know that they were okay, or alive, or if USP Tucson was beating prisoners, stealing property or doing all sorts of things to them. When families and loved ones called the prison, many were told that we were on a "COVID-19 lockdown". That was a lie.

3. USP Tucson violated their own policy, forcing kitchen workers to work 10-12 hours a

day — every day — to prepare and clean the cafeteria. Prisoner medical orderlies, laundry workers, and selected prisoners were forced to work, but the prison refused to allow the dorm orderlies to clean the showers, which quickly became toxic.

When the prisoners lose their First Amendment, when prisons like USP Tucson rob people of this protected right, it immediately opens the door to mistreatment. It *always* happens. Without fail. It is said in a case law, *Thomberg v. Abbot*, that

*"A prison ban on prisons sending letters that complain of internal conditions in the institution restricted the First Amendment in two ways: one, the prisoner's right to free speech is curtailed and two, the public's right to know what is happening within the prison system, a right that can only be fulfilled through an informed press, is restricted."*

For four weeks, I didn't have the chance to tell people what USP Tucson was doing to us. For 25 days, I could not let my mother know that I was still alive. For 25 days I could not tell society that these federal prison staff officers had denied us humane showers, stole property, and practiced slave labor.

For 25 days we were tortured and nobody knew until now.

This is why prisoners **MUST** write. And just wait until you read what I share after the four weeks ended, and we were finally able to find out everything that happened around the prison. ■

## Promotion of Homosexuality within the Kentucky Department of Corrections

by a Kentucky prisoner  
June 2023

First allow me to say that I am in no way homophobic and hold no bias nor any prejudice toward gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, or queer people. However, I find it inhumane that, while men can flaunt themselves around in thongs, booty shorts, leggings, mascara, eyeliner, makeup, and sports bras, I am being denied pictures of my fiancée because she is wearing those exact same things. The woman who has dedicated her life to me, stands by my side through the trials and tribulations, who has weathered the storm, someone who I am going to wed.

I have been denied pictures of my fiancée on vacation in a bathing suit because they were "sexually explicit" but in turn a gay man can receive pictures of another man in boxers? I am restricted from receiving pictures of my fiancée in boy shorts or leggings while men walk freely past the guards and Warden wearing those and everything is fine.

The Kentucky Department of Corrections Penitentiary System encourages homosexuality while banning intimacy with your loved one. Your visitor is not permitted to wear a dress, shorts, leggings, or tight jeans on a visit, meanwhile transgender people are encouraged to receive hormone shots to grow breasts, walking hand-in-hand around the loop with another man. In the Kentucky Department of Corrections Penitentiary System homosexuality is forced upon the heterosexual inmates where men can lay in a cell with another man in their arms, but magazines such as "Idore", "Spicy", "Straight

Stuntin", "King", "Phat Puffs", or "Sultry" are not available or restricted to purchase. Magazines with women in clothes like two piece swim suits are restricted. But why? Because they are women, or because they are what, real women?

How do you combat a whole state, let alone a prison, where the Warden is promoting homosexuality? (Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex, Warden J. David Green).

I am not concerned as to what other inmates choose to indulge in, I just want to be able to receive pictures of my future wife in her boyshorts, leggings, in her intimate state, to help with my sexual release and soothe my mind, to escape, but instead I am subjected to cruel and unusual punishment and the promotion of homosexuality within the Kentucky Department of Corrections Penitentiary System.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We agree that the Kentucky DOC is being intentionally cruel in its biased enforcement of rules around sexually explicit materials. This is happening in a number of states, including Texas where at the same time some prisoners are being forced to watch porn (see: "Gov. Abbot Pledges to Eliminate Rapists while Porn is Forced on TX Prisoners" in *ULK 76*). And as we know corrections officials communicate with each other, it is likely no coincidence.

It's a tactic the police have used forever; treat certain people differently from others in an arbitrary way and watch them turn on each other. They've used this against political prisoners, granting one prisoner more freedoms

than eir comrades to promote suspicions that the privileged comrade snitched when in reality ey had not.

Administrators know how important pictures of loved ones, including "sexy" pictures of partners, are to prisoners. Just as the comrade we addressed in a longer piece on the nature of sex and sexuality (see facing page), this Kentucky prisoner says ey has no issues with LGBTQ people. Yet, we sense the resentment here in what ey wrote. We call on our readers not to let that resentment cause you to turn on others who are not your enemy.

There is a right-wing talking point these days that the woke government is trying to turn people, especially children, transgender or gay. These identity politics are being used to manipulate people, and to get votes. If comrades are serious about fighting the "enforcement" of homosexuality in prisons, we suggest allying with gay prisoners who will likely be strong allies in a campaign to allow **all** prisoners to have equal rights to express their sexuality. Meanwhile, the fight against censorship of photos should connect to the fight against political censorship of mail. It should be illegal for the state to stop any mail that is not a direct threat to safety. If you are organizing around these issues we want to hear from you. ■

## White in the Mix

by a Minnesota prisoner  
July 2023

I hear white privilege being spoken  
of by people,  
I've never known anyone graced by that  
steeple,  
Me and mine came up from the gutters  
where it's dark.  
Shunned as no good white trash from the trailer park  
Yet supposedly cause of my color I'm a ruler  
of this earth,  
Never mind the fact that I've been dirty and  
broke since birth,  
Powdered milk and government cheese that don't melt,  
Holes in all my clothes impoverished is all I've felt,  
People miss the point when they blame race,  
Last I checked me and mine are with you in  
the same damn place,  
It's about class these days money and property,  
The rich on top then us on bottom in poverty,  
It ain't about the color of skin anyone may hold,  
It's about that beautiful equality in communism  
to uphold,  
Misdirected anger can make a wise man a fool,  
Don't let the rich subtle tactics make you a tool,  
I don't care how you look on the yard my brother,  
Raise that communist flag high for that ideal  
don't see no color.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We agree with the author when ey writes, "People miss the point when they blame race," but we disagree that therefore it is just about class. The idea of "not seeing color" is common among the conservative bourgeoisie protecting white power, but it is also common among the general population in this country, of all nationalities. That's why the bourgeoisie uses it, it resonates with many and it sounds righteous. It sounds kind of like opposing racism, and for some it really is.

Yet we challenge the Minnesota prisoner to see beyond eir individual experience to take on a sociological understanding of the world we live in. We do not challenge the facts written in the comrade's poem about how ey came up, and we agree that in prison, in most cases, prisoners are one class facing the same oppressor. But the poem ignores the reality that there is an historically European-descended nation of people that on the whole are living a privileged life off the backs of the world's majority who are the exploited. One must put on blinders to the majority of the world to talk about Americans as the poor and exploited — and this is a type of blindness that we must combat. ■

# How Should We Handle SOs?

by Badgreen of MIM(Prisons)  
August 2023

In *ULK 81*, there was an article on how we should handle sex offenders in our prison movement where Comrade Slaughter expressed what can be explained as an anti-sex offender line when it comes to forming a united front. (1) This can be traced back to our overall effort to not expel and write off snitches, sex offenders, and general pariahs within the prison justice system of the United States pertaining to our movement. (2) In the *ULK 81* article, Comrade Slaughter has raised the questions of personal trauma of the victim, the morality of a revolutionary movement, and the ideal socialist society's handling of the very real anti-people sex crimes that happen day-to-day in our imperialist society — all very important questions that a revolutionary prison movement that seeks to rehabilitate the imprisoned lumpen onto a revolutionary road must cover.

We thank Comrade Slaughter for bringing forth these questions, and as Maoist revolutionaries MIM(Prisons) as a cell has the duty to coordinate this line struggle within the United Struggle Within through unity-criticism-unity. One divides into two: a thing that was in a state of unity will have its contradictions and arrive at a point where the two are split. And through criticism and self-criticism and ridding metaphysics and idealism, the two aspects of the contradiction will find unity where one side will overtake the other.

Before we begin with the following quotes of the responders to Comrade Slaughter, we raise the question Mao Zedong asked when he and his comrades were beginning a revolutionary people's war in semi-colonial and semi-feudal China: who are our friends? who are our enemies?

**Comrade Jade responds:** In regards to Slaughter's response I would like to point out a few things you may overlook in regards to sex offenders in general.

First, not everyone convicted of a sex crime is a child molester. Are all white males Aryans? Are all Hispanics Cartel? Are all Black males gang bangers? There will always be diversity in all groups we attempt to label or create. It is a proven fact. We all are individuals who are slightly different even under the exact same conditions.

Next, I believe that you need to truly look at what they did or did not do before ostracizing or mistreating them. Do not just judge them by the label corrupt politics fostered on them.

I agree that those who truly rape/molest and prey on underage children are not likely to be rehabilitated or to further the cause. But, how many of the people convicted of sex crimes are the true predators?

I know from personal experience, as a former psychiatric nurse, that females tend to mature sooner and seek out sex earlier. As puberty shifts from the old 12-15 to 8-11 now due to steroids and worse it makes them even more likely to become sexually active by 14. They will seek out partners where they will, including older more experienced men, who in their opinion can please them or teach them. While I do

not advocate for them to be sexually active, especially not with grown men, due to early menstruation and physical development some females 14-17 look like grown adults. Then add to that the over-sexualization of our society, they tend to become aggressive in a sexual nature. As a result, some men may not realize their partner is underage. While this is not an excuse, it does happen.

Then you have men whose adult female partner falsely accuses them in revenge to a variety of things. It is not uncommon in a situation like this for the man to be convicted or pressured into a deal.

This does not mean all sex offenders are able to be rehabilitated, though the ones convicted rarely re-offend according to statistical evidence.

To this end we need a viable alternative to prisons and/or death for all offenders who truly cannot be rehabilitated. None of the current approaches are going to work. It will have to be a new idea.

We also must address the over-sexualization of our society. By making sex less of a pass time, less appealing, less mainstream,



we can reduce many sex offenses as well.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** Comrade Jade reveals an important aspect of the registered sex offenders status — the moral panic and the scapegoat aspect it represents. How many non-registered sex offenders and non-confirmed sex offenders in prisons (who might perhaps gotten in prison for non-sex related crimes such as murder or drugs) will partake in the ultra-leftist crusade against the confirmed ones? For the readers on the outside, that sentence alone might carry a reactionary and apologist undertone, but that is because petty-bourgeois justice oriented revenge killings is a material reality in prison and much less often outside. The life of a lumpen organization member for example is an oppressive and gritty one, and sexual crimes or sexual relations where consent isn't prioritized aren't uncommon; yet most lumpen organization members won't come to prison on sex related crimes but on drug and homicide related crimes.

Subjectivism, ultra-leftism, and individualist oriented justice is another form of opiate of the masses in prison: take that anger out on the confirmed sex offenders says the pig, but us at MIM(Prisons) know that the pigs are laughing all along as this happens because it's just that much

easier to control a violent lumpen class than a cool and collected one — a class in itself vs a class for itself. Drugs aren't the only form of individualism that is used to placate the imprisoned lumpen, the imprisoned lumpen's penchant for ultra-leftist violence will also come in handy as a governing tool.

In a socialist society we will ban things like pornography for profit and misogynistic media and media that is predatory towards children. These things are so common under imperialism and reinforce and encourage sexual abuse.

**A Colorado Prisoner Responds:** I agree with Wiawimawo. I disagree with Slaughter.

A "sex offense" is whatever a legislature defines as one. It can be anything like actual physical rape to someone who is caught peeing on a dumpster in an alley. In my 14 years in a Colorado (as we call this state) prison I have met only a couple of people who were actual "rapists." The vast majority of sex offenders were people who had younger lovers who chose to be with them. But someone, often a jealous want-to-be lover, found out, ratted the two out, and the older partner was arrested and



charged.

Now prosecutors adore sex charges. They require no physical evidence, no witnesses. Only an allegation and a "victim" coached by D.A. investigators to say how they were fooled, manipulated, led astray, by that evil older man (almost always a man). And in states like this one without a time limit for filing, a "victim" can say, "20 years ago he took advantage of me" and the D.A. can file a charge and get a conviction.

Slaughter talks about "children." A child is whatever the legislator says he is. Anyone under 18 is defined a child. Right now it is 18, which is the "age of consent." Back in 2009, in Colorado, it was 15. And a female of 12, with parental permission, could marry (official papers) anyone.

In Texas, as in most of the South, the legal age for marriage was 12 when I was there. I don't know what it is now.

The fact is, the religious right bible-wavers do not like sex, and they do not want these pesky kids having any of it. Thus the law, and the pigs (Amerikkka's version of the Nazi SA) are used to stop it.

The conclusion of this religious fear will be what was done in the Salem-Keizer school district in Oregon. Reported on

broadly, on vice.com, "Teachers Forced to Report All Teens Having Sex in Oregon School District."

At those schools, since Oregon law only allows sex for those 18 or older, anyone under 18 doing the dirty is a criminal. So any school personnel discovering an under 18 having sex is required to report him or her to the police for prosecution.

Hey, if enough "children under law" would be arrested and thrown into prison then unapproved sex could be stopped. Of course, putting older partners in prison is already being done and that does not stop them from re-offending. So it should work with the children also.

Slaughter (what is in a name) wants those sex offenders (ey calls them pedophiles — a term created by prosecutors to inflame) to be punished, and people protected from them. In Colorado there are about 4000 sex offenders in prison (CDOC). The vast majority have indeterminate sentences, which means most will die in prison. That number is a full 25% of the CDOC population. And as you probably know, the giving of indeterminate sentences is an easy way for prosecutors to get a life sentence for defendants that did not kill anyone. Great for the D.A.'s stats when a performance review comes around.

The issue is of life sentences in Amerikkka. Get the article, "The Only Way We Get Out of There is in a Pine Box" in the April 2022 issue of News Inside published by The Marshall Project. It tells of elderly prisoners, convicted of murder or other violent crimes who will die in prison. At great expense to tax payers for all their medical care.

...Make no mistake about it, if the Christians like Pence, DeSantis, etc. take over, a new inquisition, just like the Spanish one in the 18th Century will be instituted. And right at the top of the list, below LGBTQ people, will be the communists. Off to the concentration camps for all.

**MIM(Prisons) Responds:** A recent report by the Prison Policy Initiative exposes the arbitrary repression of so-called "civil commitments." In cases where someone is not given a life sentence, they can be civilly committed after fulfilling the sentence given by the courts. Most who go to civil commitment will never see the outside world again. At least 6,000 people, mostly men, across the country are in civil commitment after serving their time for sex offenses. Unlike court, the process to be sentenced to civil commitment is largely arbitrary. The following will make you much more likely to be civilly committed: being gay, being transgender, being Black, being disabled. (3)

Under imperialism, well-meaning laws that sound good on paper such as ones surrounding the age of consent (or the anti-mask laws first intended against the Klan protesting while cowardly hiding their identities, but now used against progressives and oppressed nation youth protesting against police violence) will be abused for the interests of the imperialist-patriarchy. The truth is, law in itself for any given class society has been simply state en-

forced rules to govern the overall humyn society in accordance with the respective class dictatorships. This is why legalism (in this case referring to the idea that good laws will create good society and bad laws will create bad society, see p.5) is in no way shape or form a scientific solution against the tragic cases such as rape, molestation, and grooming of children.

Under the imperialist patriarchy that we live in, children have no rights or agency to consent and the rape culture of our world will always harm the most vulnerable. "Good" laws under an imperialist patriarchy will be designed and used for the purposes of maintaining it (the nuclear family, heteronormativity, youth oppression, etc.) that has children raped in the first place while a socialist society/proletarian dictatorship will give power to the youth to properly protect themselves and prioritize abolishing oppression above all else and especially against prioritizing profits and maintaining a patriarchal culture.

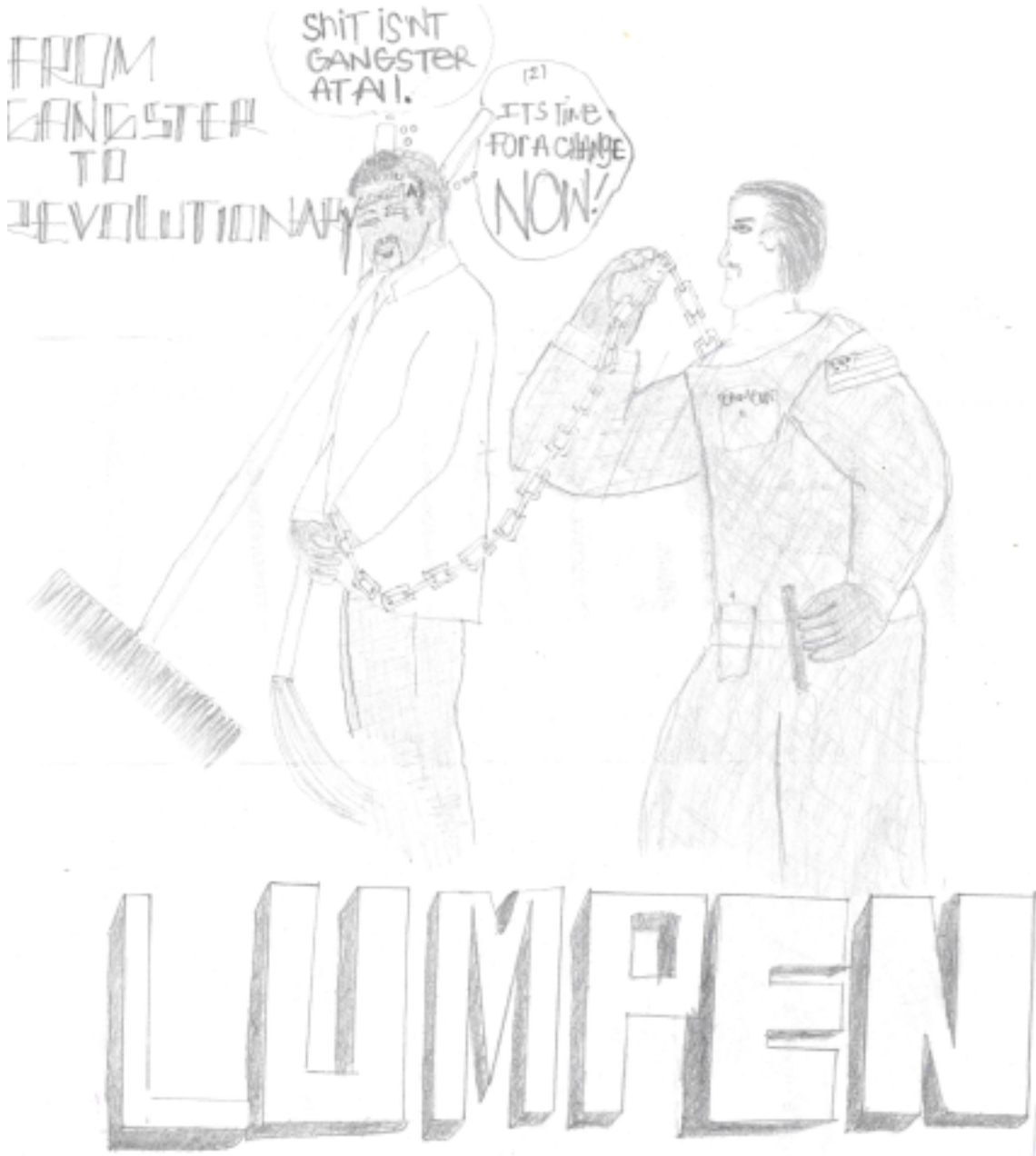
**A California Prisoner Responds:** I can see this comrade has done a significant amount of revolutionary education. However to truly be a communist means one has to recognize the humanity of others. It is here this comrade's own hate is still an obstacle in the way. The ONLY path forward for this comrade is to forgive his abuser. This comrade must also recognize that the Known Sex Offenders (KSO's) on the yard are NOT his abuser, meaning this comrade does NOT know their circumstance.

This comrade separates sex crimes from all other crimes by stating that "all other crimes are political crimes," as a result of capitalism I presume. Sex crimes are an "illness." This comrade (let me say comrades) states he is in for murder and that murder is somehow NOT an anti-human crime but only a "political crime." Furthermore, Comrade Slaughter states that he is rehabilitated by saying he has "learned to be objective towards KSO's." He also states it is only possible for all other criminals to rehabilitate by saying "unification with the KSOs is futile because after the revolution the KSO will still need to be dealt with" meaning presumably rehabilitation for sex addiction is somehow not possible for the KSO.

I would like to start with the motion this murderer is not as rehabilitated as ey claim. The statement "after the revolution the KSO will still need to be dealt with" proves Comrade S. is not as rehabilitated as ey thinks. It also proves that Comrade S endorses the puniluation method used by the Nazis to "deal with" 6 million Jews. Comrade S. is obviously proposing the genocide of a whole group of people (KSOs). I think a lot of Jews, Armenians, and Africans would tell Comrade S. that his crime of murder is not political as he claims, but in fact is an anti-people crime. Moreover, most KSOs are more rehabilitated than this murderer.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We would say that the comparison of Slaughter's comments to the holocaust of Jewish, Gay, Romani, and politically subversive revolutionaries under Nazi Ger-

Continued on facing page ...



## Thugs Are Sex Offenders Too

by Black Moses  
July 2023

The first topic I'll like to respond to in Issue 81, is the article that reads "Colorado Prison Censors New Afrikan Literature". The brother pointed Colorado's contradictions with allowing certain white reactionary novels as opposed to the Black revolutionary ones. The Wisconsin DOC for a long while was banning books like *Know Thy Self* by Na'im Akbar, *Revolutionary Suicide*, *Soledad Brother*, *Blood In My Eye*, *Assata*, *Seize the Time*, *A Taste of Power*, *This Side of Glory*, *We Want Freedom*, *Isis Papers*, *Destruction of Black Civilization*, and all of Amos Wilson's books until the courts got involved and the WDOC reasoning was that the books were inciteful and accusatory towards Amerika and people of European descent. Yet they allowed in all of Donald Goines, ICE Berg Slim

and often "hoodbooks" that promote Pimping, drug dealing, Black on Black homicide and anything that glorifies the "Black Criminal Mindset" because it keeps us in Lumpen-criminal-colonial state of mind. This state of mind justifies the mass incarceration of anyone of Alkebulan (indigenous word for the continent commonly named Africa today) diasporan descent, while the Revolutionary mindset poses significant threat to Uncle Sam's "Economic Station." The brother who wrote MIM needs to know ICEBerg Slim, Donald Goines and anyone of Alkebulan (Black & Brown) Diasporas descent promoting and glorifying the exploitation of our people and all oppressed nationals are unhealthy and they are just as much enemies to our own people as Adolf Hitler, J.B Stone, David Duke, Richard Spencer, Donald Trump and the like, you dig? I would advise the brother to read books by Black

authors who believes and write about the advancement of Black people oppose to the destruction of us. It's impossible to discuss pimping, drug dealing, gang-banging without mentioning white supremacy, OK.

The next topic from Issue 81 is "ULK 80 Responses on Sex Offenders, Pedophiles, Gunnas and Gangstas". In it you write that sex offenders don't practice reactionary thug life politics (drugs, shootings, etc) and that's completely false. Most sex offenders claim to be part of lumpen organizations (CRIPS, Bloods, Vice Lords, GD's, BD's LK's, etc). I believe sex offenders are irredeemable and permanent enemies of and to the "people". By sex offender, I don't mean a 17 year old dude having sex (consensual sex) with a 16 year old girl because I do not consider that

Continued on page 16...

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### ... Handling SO's

many to be a bit of an exaggeration. Yet it is true that the fascists will mobilize people around persecuting scapegoats, and currently it is this fanatical connection between pedophilia, transgender people and gender non-conforming people in general that is mobilizing the reactionary forces in the streets.

As we assemble this issue of ULK, a news story dropped about Larry Nassar being stabbed in prison. Nassar was convicted of molesting hundreds of young girls over decades while serving as the doctor for the U.S. Olympic team. Whether it's to make themselves feel better about themselves, as the California prisoner above proposed, or to take out some anger, or to earn some stripes, the collaborative effort to punish people like Nassar undermines the principal contradiction in prisons. These attacks are generally a collaborative effort be-

tween prisoners and staff. Staff who may overlap with the fascist movements on the streets threatening drag story times. And while we would not argue there is never a time to ally with staff, it is a rare occasion, when they actually side with prisoners against the system. In contrast, this type of "outlaw justice" is really state-sanctioned. And it does reinforce the idea that there is some common interest between the oppressed and the oppressor in punishing these crimes considered most heinous.

If we aren't organizing collectively to transform systems and transform ourselves, then we aren't working towards justice. Triumphant mentions an example on the streets of FPC addressing open air sex markets in the community. (see p.8 ) Without knowing the details, this seems like an approach that could actually mobilize the people in a way that reduces sexual abuse of children

and teenagers. Within prisons we can point to the example of Men Against Sexism (see: "Review: The Anti-Exploits of Men Against Sexism" in ULK 29), which successfully eradicated rape in Washington State Prison. (1) So if people are serious about taking action against sexual assault, there are actual effective ways to do this.

The ability to truly rehabilitate people will increase as communists increase their power and influence over society. We agree with this comrade that the current system can't properly address those who aren't being rehabilitated. And we look to socialist China's model for how they rehabilitated people who committed crimes against the people.

Comrade Slaughter is right to bring up the question of how and what the morality of a revolutionary should be implemented and look like. To that we answer that proletarian morality must be

## Sexual Offenders As Allies or Enemies?

by Menlo  
July 2023

I was reading ULK 81 when I came across a conversation on whether or not to ally with sex offenders (see: "ULK 80 Responses on Sex Offenders, Pedophiles, Gunnas and Gangstas" from ULK 81) and I feel that I have a fresh perspective to contribute to this conversation. FCI Seagoville, for those unaware, is a low-security federal prison with a majority sex-offender population. I have made friends with and enemies of pedophiles, and as such I have experience working with them. It would be almost impossible for me to organize in here without interacting with sex offenders. For example, I am the only member of my 7 man Narcotics Anonymous group who is not a sex offender.

The two main federal S.O. charges are pictures and enticement. An emblematic picture case is that of a friend of mine, who became addicted to opioids during the crisis and enjoyed the rush of getting away with all kinds of criminal behavior while high. He expropriated his neighbors' lawn furniture and dumped it all in a business parking lot. He also surfed the internet while high and looked up child porn. He became dependent upon the feeling of getting away with things he knew were wrong, and the pursuit of that anti-social feeling led him to federal prison.

The vast majority of enticement cases are sting operations. A non-S.O. comrade of mine, J, contends that sting enticement cases should be judged not by the fact that they were stings, but rather by the ill intentions of the one being entrapped. The sting usually goes like this: an agent poses as a young person on a dating site. They are matched with someone, engage them in conversation for a few days, and then reveal that they are under-aged. If the person messages back saying that they want to continue the relationship, an investigation is

opened into them. This gets at the wider issue of us prisoners using the oppression of the state as a justification for and personal forgiveness of our immoral actions. When I talk about immoral actions, I mean actions that would require self-reflection and self-criticism under a proletarian system of justice. Many of the enticement cases claim that their actions hurt no one, that the government set them up, and that the government is the largest distributor of child pornography. None of these claims are untrue, yet all of them serve to minimize the S.O.'s role in their own offense.

These minimizations on the part of the S.O.'s belie a genuine understanding of the severity of their actions. S.O.'s were exposed to just as much fear mongering propaganda about pedophiles as the rest of us. To associate that propaganda with yourself often leads to a searing self-hatred. To my understanding, the prison system seeks to imprison each of us with shame and guilt over our crimes, in our own heads. The fear mongering media propaganda apparatus plays an active role in priming us for a mental imprisonment alongside our physical imprisonment. Nowhere is this method of mental domination more apparent than in the case of sex offenders.

Comrade J states: "S.O.'s are no different than 'normal' people when it comes to reliability or revolutionary potential. It is rather that their status as sex offenders, if known, may be weaponized against the movement." As to the question of whether to ally with sex offenders, I have this to add: my closest, most reliable comrade is a sex offender. He gave me the copy of ULK 81 that inspired this response. I can offer no better proof of the reliability of S.O.'s as allies and comrades than this, the existence of my contribution. ■

### 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](http://www.prisoncensorship.info)).

Documenting and monitoring the abusive conditions in Amerikan 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.

based on whatever is best for the whole of society to be rid of oppression in contrast to bourgeois morality which is based on individualism, Liberalism, and profit. We tell Comrade Slaughter, and to all comrades in the revolutionary struggle (especially the imprisoned lumpen) to protect themselves as revolutionaries from individuals with bad intentions, but also to push themselves beyond the subjective trauma that they have faced as oppressed people. Use mindfulness and other resources made available by this imperialist system and use it to better oneself as a revolutionary to heal the persynal scars to better transform the world around us. Don't let the imperialists weaponize mindfulness or therapy to numb and placate one's self.

All crimes are political. Post-modernism (the narrative of non-narrative) recognizes phenomena such as this and says that the persynal is the political. Maoism

goes beyond this to say that the narrative of the oppressed must replace the narrative of the oppressor with revolutionary violence (rhetoric alone will solve nothing). Persynal scars are political scars, and recognizing the contradiction between the individual and the oppressive system is recognizing that one must recognize their own lived experiences isn't all there is to the world and is an unscientific way for the oppressed nations/internal semi-colonies of the United States to understand the material reality around them. ■

Notes:  
(1) *Wiwimawo of MIM(Prisons)*, April 2023, *ULK 80 Responses on Sex Offenders, Pedophiles, Gunnas and Gangstas, Under Lock & Key 81*.  
(2) *Legion of United Struggle From Within*, September 2017, *We Can't Write Off Whole Groups From the United Front for Peace in Prisons, Under Lock & Key 58*.  
(3) *Emma Peyton Williams*, 18 May 2023, *What is civil commitment? Recent report raises visibility of this shadowy form of incarceration, Prison Policy Initiative*

**IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN MARYLAND PRISONS**

Prisoners at E.C.I. submitted 13 demands around conditions at this Maryland prison back in April. Readers of ULK called and wrote letters of support. In May, they began to increase their efforts to get the word out and have called on others to join them. (See page 11)

**JUNETEENTH FREEDOM INITIATIVE**

This campaign, initiated by TX Team One to address issues of solitary confinement, censorship and other abuses focused on the farce of the new Juneteenth federal holiday to organize in 2022. The call is to not celebrate Juneteenth until we are really free! The campaign has been in a stage of collecting responses from the Department of Justice to their petitions and building legal strategies. (See page 8)

**CRITICISM/SELF-CRITICISM SESSIONS TO BUILD TOWARD DAY OF PEACE AND UNITY**

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. This year we have called on prisoners to follow a program of criticism/self-criticism to build for 9/9. (see page 9)

Submit reports on your local organizing efforts for the next issue of Under Lock & key.

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 and ask for a copy of our 9/9 study pack.

**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're happy to send you a replacement copy for the one you passed along.

If you have a regular group of readers, become a ULK distributor and get multiple copies when new issues come out.

**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, 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.

**HELP FUND ULK**

We just passed our annual Fourth of You-Lie Fundraiser with only 1/4 of the donations we received from prisoners last year. Do you know supporters of ULK who'd be willing to donate? Do you have the ability to do a fundraiser? (see p. 3)

**FIGHT CENSORSHIP OF TDCJ POLICIES**

On page 6 we provide an update on the latest censorship by the Texas Dept of Criminal Justice of TDCJ's own policy documents that are important for prisoners trying to defend prisoner rights. We call on prisoners in Texas, and outside legal supporters, to challenge the censorship of public documents by state agencies.

**EXPOSE & COMBAT ADDICTION**

Drugs are being used to control people in prisons from Texas to California to Michigan, as described in this issue of ULK. This threat can only be tackled with organized resistance. Become a trained facilitator of our Revolutionary 12 Step Program and begin a program in your prison to help those who want to quit. We want to hear more about lumpy orgs that are working together to combat these dangerous chemicals among the people.

... Continued from p. 15 ... **Thugs are Offenders**

rape. Some of these Gunnas who rape other Kaptives are sex offenders, homosexuals and the list could go on, OK. I would argue that both groups are enemies to the people. Those who refuse to abandon the thug mentality for a revolutionary one are enemies of and to the people. I do concur with your assessment regarding how the fascist system use both lifestyles as political points to further the dehumanization of these groups. I'm not against homosexuals, transgenders and what have you, I'm against those who hunt and oppress women and children. Those I do not condone their lifestyles.

I'm not bothered by referring to a transgender man who see's himself as a woman and a transgender woman who see's herself as a man as She and He. The problem is that most transgender men-women in prison are sex offenders, they are in for preying on children. I'm a former Black Gangster Disciple (from 1983 to 1998) and I'll be the first to say that Growth & Development literature reflects Elijah Mohammad's "Message To The Black Man" and that it was not founded to destroy our communities, yet that's what it's doing and I am against it and any gang (its not an organization) that terrorizes its own people or people period. Members of these groups are "Redeemable" and we must not turn our backs on them unless they refuse to open their eyes and do the work of the civilized.

As you know, I am the Founder and Chief Advisor of Freedom Fighters, Inc and we do not condone the distribution nor usage of alcohol and drugs nor any lifestyle that poses a threat to the moral fabric of humanity/the human race. In closing, though I understand the nexus you made with brother Comrade Slaughter regarding drug dealers and sex offenders, I still feel that it's out of context. The drug dealer and gangbanger is "redeemable". The sex offender isn't. I was molested, violently, from the age of 7 to 11 by a female relative who is still alive and to this day, in her 60's (I'm 47 and have been enslaved since the age of 17). She's still sick.

Even though a sex offender is capable of coming to terms with his or her own sickness, they remain sick in the head and sick in the heart, maybe. Toookie was a byproduct of his environment and when he woke up he didn't fall back asleep. The sex offender falls back asleep because he or she is innately. The vast majority of sex offenders was never molested or raped, it was in them. I know a lot of bothers/men who were molested and never became molesters themselves. I have never raped nor molested anyone, never even had the thought to do so. I have never sold drugs either, but its different. I'm mentally ill, I was raised in mental institutions (and it could be said that prisons are also Mental Institutions) and I was exploited by the older mem-

bers of BGD to rob and kill white people and once I came to terms with this, I renounced black racism and I will never rob or kill someone based on race. I was sentenced to life for killing a woman who robbed my guy and charged at me with a machete, and though my actions could be justified, I still partook in the genocide of our people and I'll never engage in such idiocy ever again. And though I see the nexus you made, I just don't agree with it. I do, however, respect your position. Disagreement is healthy and we should never tear each other down due to it unless the disagreement becomes detrimental to the organism, you dig?

**Wiwawo of MIM(Prisons) responds:** We welcome critiques of certain "hood" writings as the comrade offers above. Yet we still recognize their biased censorship as part of national oppression, and the struggle against censorship in prisons can make strange bed fellows as we've discussed with the struggles around nude and non-nude pictures.

As for the sex offenders issue, this comrade has been debating us on this since back in *ULK 64*. I welcome the correction regarding sex offenders practicing thuggish anti-people activity as well. There is certainly an overlap between the two behaviors that I was ignoring in my sloppy language in *ULK 81*.

Next point, no one is arguing that "those who hunt and oppress women and children" are communists or allies. So that's a moot

point. Nor are those who are hunting, killing, poisoning, and oppressing men for that matter! And we seem to have agreement on that, as far as various forms of anti-people activity go. Yet, this comrade echoes the point made by Slaughter that it is only the sex offender that is unredeemable. The argument being that the sex offender is innately oppressive towards other humyns. Yet no evidence is offered to support this. In fact, we can point to statistics that sex offenders have the lowest recidivism rates.(1)

It is also odd that you seem to favorably cite Elijah Muhammad who is a known child predator who never atoned for the abuses he committed against at least 9 young girls and wimmin, and exploited eir cult of persynality to cover up those crimes while using metaphysical interpretations of the Quran/Bible to justify the acts. This was exposed by el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz (Malcolm X) shortly before he was brutally murdered for promoting a revolutionary nationalist interpretation of Islam separate from the NOI.

If we look at socialist China we see the virtual elimination of all sorts of crime, drug abuse, prostitution, etc, in a very short period of time. We addressed this in more detail in *ULK 59* on drugs.

We are the last ones to say that everyone is a comrade. Usually we are being criticized for being too pessimistic about the revolutionary potential in this country. But we are engaged in the project of uniting all who can be united in the prison movement.

We aren't saying we can reform all anti-people criminals today. But we are saying that we can under the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is what we are fighting for. And to get there, we need to break down these phony barriers between the oppressed based on idealism. ■

Note:  
1. Wendy Sawyer, 6 June 2019, BJS fuels myths about sex offense recidivism, contradicting its own new data, Prison Policy Initiative. In numbers from a 9-year follow-up on people released from state prisons (2005-2014), rape/sexual assault recidivism rates for any crime were less than 67%. This is 20% lower than all other categories. Only about 7.7% were re-arrested for another sex offense.

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