

# Under Lock & Key



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PUBLICATION OF THE MAOIST INTERNATIONALIST MINISTRY OF PRISONS

## \$raeli Propaganda Capitalizes on Gender Hierarchy

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)  
January 2024

18 January 2024 — Today, *The Guardian* published an article claiming to have evidence of rape of \$raelis during the October 7th attack led by Hamas.(1) However, much of the evidence they provide is the same evidence provided by *The New York Times* in a similar article from December that has been largely debunked by *The Electronic Intifada*, citing lack of real evidence, claims that have been countered by the relatives of one alleged victim, and exposing a prime "witness" for being a Zionist operative who gave inconsistent accounts of what ey says ey saw.(2)

\$rael, U.\$ and British propaganda have been weaponizing gender to maintain support for the ongoing slaughter of Palestinians of all ages and genders. This has been their playbook against the Muslim world for decades, and against oppressed nations for centuries. It is a common tool of war to demonize and dehumanize the enemy to build support for violence.

Because Hamas attacked



Shani Louk was one of the \$raelis killed on October 7th that had glamorous photos spread across the media

civilians, including a rave full of young, beautiful people, the images of young, mostly European, wimmin have been at the forefront of the media since October 7th. Not only are \$raeli wimmin portrayed very differently than Palestinian wimmin in the propaganda war, they benefit from a pornographic culture that values their appearance over that of other peoples of the world. This gives them real gender power, and gives their images real currency in the propaganda war.

One of those kidnapped from the rave was the daughter of a billionaire who built his wealth on the occupation of Palestine. The *BBC* strangely titled their article on him, "Eyal Waldman: Israeli tech billionaire hopes for peace despite daughter's killing." In the article, Waldman seeths about eliminating those who did the attack and even all of Hamas.(3)

More recently, *The Daily Mail* featured an "exclusive" on "The faces of the girls STILL being held by Hamas". The tabloid style of *The Daily Mail* is based on using images of the grotesque and the sexy to capture attention. Stories such as this have allowed them to feature both side-by-side.

While at least one order of magnitude more Palestinian young wimmin have been murdered (not to mention those injured, starved, sickened) by \$rael since October 7th, it is the faces of Euro-\$raelis that we see in British and U.\$ media. Of course this can be explained by imperialist geo-political interests in the region. But this is also because sex sells, and young Euro-

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## Yemen Leads Humanitarian Intervention to Stop Genocide in Gaza



The masses of Yemen fill the streets to protest bombing of Gaza.

by MIM(Prisons)  
December 2023

On 23 December 2023 Reuters reported Iranian Revolutionary Guards stating the Red Sea will be closed if the United States and its allies continue to commit "crimes" in Gaza. The next day, a drone struck a commercial tanker owned by an \$raeli billionaire in the Gulf of Oman. The U.\$ and \$rael claim it was Iran who launched the drone, but Iran denies it.

While involvement of Iran in the emerging regional war remains cryptic, the Ansar Allah party has been very open about drone attacks launched by the Yemeni Armed Forces on ships in the Red Sea. They have said that until the siege of Gaza ends, shipping by \$raeli companies through the Red Sea is not gonna happen. When U.\$ Secretary of State Antony Blinken called for them to stop their attacks, they responded brazenly with "No."

Secretary of State Blinken has been behind imperialist bombings in Yemen for many years, as we discussed in a 2015 article.(1) It is no wonder that the Ansar Allah slogan is "Allah is great, death to the United States, death to Israel, curse the Jews, and victory for Islam."(2)

Yemen has been at war with the Americans and their Saudi partners for decades now, and despite being one of the poorest countries in the world, have maintained their sovereignty against those imperialist attacks.

The Yemeni Armed Forces response to the bombing of Gaza

started with warnings against any ships entering the Red Sea associated with \$rael, boarding ships and telling them to turn around. Then on 19 November they took over the ship *Galaxy Leader* with helicopters dropping off armed troops and boats flanking the tanker. They flew the Palestinian flag on the ship and posted videos online.

In addition, the Yemeni Armed Forces has shot missiles and flown drones into southern \$rael. They even knocked a \$40 million U.\$ drone out of the air.(3)

In Yemen, hundreds of thousands marched in opposition to the recent bombings of Gaza by \$rael. The people of Yemen have long stood in strong solidarity with Palestine liberation.

The Red Sea, going through the Suez Canal, is one of the three most critical shipping routes in the world, with bulk goods and containers going to the Mediterranean. The Red Sea is full of war ships from all over the world, Djibouti being the home of many imperialist naval bases. As much as 30% of global shipping containers can be in this area at any time.(3)

Many major shipping companies have stopped shipping through the Suez Canal in recent weeks. This forces them to go around Africa, delaying ships weeks to a month, greatly increasing cost.

In response to all this, the Americans recently announced a U.\$ naval task force to combat

Ansar Allah named "Operation Prosperity Guardian". Can't let interventions against genocide get in the way of profit flows to the the United States. No states on the Red Sea have signed on and the only Arab state to sign on, Bahrain, has no navy of its own but hosts U.\$ military bases. Meanwhile, close military allies such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia are not willing to sign on. It is not just in Yemen that the people are outraged about what is happening in Gaza. No Arab state, no matter how brutal and reactionary, is willing to stand with the U.\$/\$raeli camp in this genocide.

Even Egypt, whose whole economy is threatened by a halt of shipping through the Suez Canal, cannot assist the U.\$ effort against Yemen. They figure they can survive economic collapse better than the response of their people to such betrayal of Yemen and Palestine.(4)

Saudi Arabia is currently involved in the peace process in Yemen, bringing internal peace and unity to Yemen, following Ansar Allah's victory against U.\$/Saudi warfare. Standing up for Palestine militarily strengthens Yemen's position in the peace negotiations.(4)

\$rael is taking a huge economic hit from the war overall. The \$raeli airport is mostly closed, cutting off important tourist money. The Palestinian proletariat from the West Bank and Gaza are no longer coming in to do work, and tens of thousands of Thai proletarians have left kib-

Continued on page 5...

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AUTHORITIES:

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CENSORSHIP NOTICE

As the distributor of Under Lock & Key we retain a First Amendment right to correspond with prisoners, just as prisoners retain a First Amendment right to correspond with the outside world. While a rational basis test is allowed for the censorship of publications entering a prison system, such allowance does not allow a blanket ban on publications because prison authorities do not agree with the message or content, which may be political or religious in nature. Censorship regulations must be rational

and impose censorship only in furtherance of "an important or substantial governmental interest not related to the suppression of expression" and relate to "legitimate penological interests." The federal courts have ruled unequivocally that a prison agency censoring inmate publications and mail must provide the distributor or publisher with notice of censorship. This notice must provide articulate reasons for such censorship with specific references to the objectionable material. The distributor/ publisher must be given a meaningful opportunity to appeal the censorship decision to a person not involved in the censorship decision. Notice and opportunity to appeal are required by due process. We encourage you to carefully read and understand your agencies policies and procedures, as well as federal case law related to the censorship of incoming mail and publications addressed to prisoners.

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

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### What is Under Lock & Key?

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

Fighting the injustice system is just one part of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it is important that comrades do not lose sight of the connections to the larger battle. We welcome support and collaboration from those who are focused only on prison issues, but we also challenge them to see the importance of carrying out their work as part of a larger anti-imperialist strategy.

Our current battles in the United States are legally permitted. We encourage prisoners to join these battles while explicitly discouraging them from engaging in any violence or illegal acts. MIM(Prisons) and its publications explicitly oppose the use of armed struggle at this time in the imperialist countries (including the United States).

### What is United Struggle from Within?

United Struggle from Within (USW) is a MIM(Prisons)-led mass organization for former and current U.S. prisoners. USW is explicitly anti-imperialist in leading campaigns on behalf of U.S. prisoners in alliance with national liberation struggles in the United States and around the world. USW won't champion struggles which are not in the interests of the international proletariat. It will also not choose one nation's struggles over other oppressed nations' struggles. USW should work independently, but under the guidance of MIM(Prisons), to build public opinion and independent institutions of the oppressed in order to obtain state power independent of imperialism. Members don't have to agree with MIM(Prisons)'s six cardinal points, but they can't consciously disagree with any of them. See page 12 for campaign info.

### What is Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support?

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

### What is MIM(Prisons)?

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

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

As revolutionary internationalists, we support the self-determination of all nations and peoples. We support nations which choose to delink from the imperialist economy, including the right of the internal semi-colonies to secede from the United States. Today, the U.S. prison system is a major part of the imperialist state used to prevent the self-determination of oppressed nations. It is for this reason that we see prisoners in this country as being at the forefront of any anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement.

While our organization focuses on prisoner support, we believe that there

is a dire need for Maoists to do organizing and educational work in many areas in the United States. We hope people are inspired by our example around prisons and apply it to their own work to create more Maoist cells and broaden the Maoist movement behind enemy lines.

MIM(Prisons) expresses general unity with all other groups and outbreaks against imperialism; mass movements against oppression have as many forms as forms of power. In this spirit, we insist on telling the uncompromised truth and discussing and criticizing the strategy and tactics of any given action. MIM(Prisons) encourages everyone, communist or not, to be involved in the struggle against imperialism. MIM(Prisons) distinguishes itself from other groups on the six points below. We consider other organizations actively upholding these points to be fraternal.

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

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

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

**4. A parasitic class dominates the first World countries.** As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM Thought has expanded through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new sector of the petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy; they are not a vehicle for Maoism. Those who work in the economic interests of the First World labor aristocracy form the mass base for imperialism's tightening death-grip on the Third World.

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

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

### On Prisons & Prisoners

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

est 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 need-less 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.

# Successes and Failures of 2023

by MIM(Prisons)  
January 2024

Comrades in MIM(Prisons) and Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support (AIPS) have been looking at our last year of practice and planning for 2024. We want to bring United Struggle from Within (USW) comrades into this process as we have in the past. So we encourage thoughts and feedback on the below from our imprisoned readers, especially the questions at the end.

Starting with the basics, we collectively kept our key operations running for another year, which is a success in itself. We put out 4 issues of *Under Lock & Key* on schedule and with positive responses, processed our prisoner mail in a timely manner, kept our intro study courses for prisoners running, and sent out monthly literature orders to prisoners across the country.

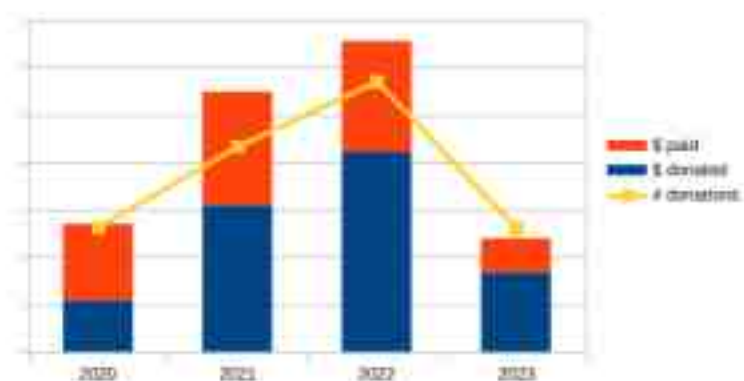
Some other accomplishments for 2023 were:

- released Second Edition of *The Fundamental Political Line of the Maoist Internationalist Ministry of Prisons*
- started new level 1 study program based on FPL 2nd edition
- transcribed and edited MIM articles on the Revolutionary Communist Party(USA) from *MIM Theory* journals and developed our own summary analysis of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM) related to the RCP=USA for a book we plan to release in 2024
- relaunched our level 2 study group for prisoners after a few years of hiatus
- expanded our pamphlet on the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China and began distributing it to prisoners
- upgraded and rebuilt our servers
- we maintained a weekly study program for more advanced comrades working with MIM(Prisons) on the outside

While we did not meet our goal of financial contributions from AIPS comrades, we did see a continued increase in those contributions, so thanks to those comrades for the vital funding support. However, as we hinted at in previous issues, we saw a steep drop off in the number and amount of contributions coming from prisoners in 2023 as seen in the graph above.

We are asking for our readers help in investigating this drop. Our first guess would be that less people are receiving *ULK*. There

Donations from Prisoners Over 4 Years



was a corresponding decline in incoming letters over 2023, which meant less outgoing letters. Though we still mailed out more *ULK*s than in 2022, we mailed out less other literature. All of these numbers seem to indicate a decrease in engagement with prisoners overall. We did not see a significant decrease in study group participation.

One of our failures for 2023 was to follow through with support for Texas prisoners; such as compiling reports for *ULK*, building and supporting campaigns, and updating our Texas Campaign Pack. None of that happened due to one comrade leaving who was leading AIPS efforts in Texas. Their efforts in 2022 led to an increase in outgoing letters, and we saw an increase in incoming letters that year seemingly as a result of the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative. Then in July 2023, Texas implemented their digital mail system, which has led to massive delays in prisoners receiving letters, and much of our literature being rejected because mailroom staff don't understand the new system or are using it as an excuse to censor us. While the decrease in incoming letters from Texas has continued since that happened, it began well before July. So the digital mail system certainly doesn't explain it all.

Another failure for 2023 was our Revolutionary 12 Step Training course. We want to apologize to the comrades who were keeping up with their responses to the course. Unfortunately, again, this is a case where the persyn leading this initiative was not able to follow through. For now we are considering the training course in that form as done. But we aspire to relaunch it in the future as we continue to focus on combating addiction. The *Revolutionary 12 Step Program* pamphlet was one of our most distributed items in 2023. And we are encouraging recipients to report on their efforts at implementing it so we can find ways to build it. (see p. 8-9)

In 2023 we've seen a surge in requests for us to message people

inside electronically through companies the states' are hiring to run their digital mail via tablets. Years ago we used to be able to do this. The early prison email systems were free and accessible. Now they require credit card information and often for you to install software to use them. This is not something we are set up to do at this time. So do not expect us to respond to requests from these state-sponsored messaging systems in the near future. One comrade in Texas asked why we don't have *ULK* on the tablets. Well, the point of the tablets is so they can further control and monitor what you read and write. So we assume that's never gonna happen, but if you have a way for us to get on there let us know.

Every recent issue of *ULK* has listed Spreading *ULK* as a campaign to support. In 2024, we need to get serious about that campaign if we want to keep *ULK* sustainable and useful. This could be done by increasing distribution outside of prisons as well. But as the prison ministry's primary task is organizing prisoners, we're asking for your help in both analyzing what is going on with subscriber numbers and transforming those numbers. Please take the time to send us your thoughts on the following questions:

- Have you noticed changes in the prison system that have made it harder for people to subscribe to *ULK* or less interested in subscribing?
- Have you noticed changes in the prisoner population that have made people less interested in subscribing?
- Have you noticed/heard of people losing interest in *ULK* because of the content, or because of the practices of MIM(Prisons)?
- What methods have you seen be successful in getting people interested in or to subscribe to *ULK*?
- Do you have ideas for how we can increase interest in *ULK* in prisons? ■

ultimate sin.

Even in death we see the privilege and power of the gender aristocracy whose pictures are spread around and mourned in the oppressor nations, while the Palestinian wimmin die nameless and faceless.

We've also seen Jewish student groups in the United States using signs in support of LGBTQ people in their counter protests to those opposing the war on Palestine. This is another example of trying to unite the oppressor nations around gender issues against the oppressed nations that has been used against the Arab world for decades.

Despite these efforts, a November Gallup poll showed that Amerikan wimmin were less

# The Significance of the Palestinian Liberation Struggle

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support  
January 2024

In the United States, prisons mean war against the oppressed nations. In occupied Palestine, war means prison for the Palestinians. Two sides of the same blood-stained coin which built the richest empire in history. Imperialism considers war to be a legal method of resolving issues, in deeds if not in words.

The struggle for Palestine is a national liberation struggle. The only consistently revolutionary class that may overthrow the bourgeoisie is the proletariat, but imperial domination can unite a whole nation against their occupiers for the establishment of independence. If independence is a precondition for the dictatorship of the proletariat, then Palestine's struggle is revolutionary and progressive. If Israel is an arm of imperialism, then the Palestinian struggle against them is revolutionary and progressive. Leadership of the proletariat in that struggle would intensify its revolutionary character, but it is revolutionary even without the proletariat in the vanguard. When Palestinian communists align themselves with all revolutionary forces against Israel in a united front, that is a correct policy. We have a clear history on this subject, and this practice is what led to the victory of the Chinese people in creating the most advanced socialism yet.

We in the United States face the strongest enemy in human history, and Israel is an arm of the United States in the Middle East. Everything which weakens Israel weakens the United States, which puts us in a stronger position. Our comrades fighting in Gaza today are putting us in a position of advantage for the final victory of the oppressed in Occupied Turtle Island. To oppose the struggle in Palestine is to oppose that which objectively weakens our enemy, to leave behind real friends who are fighting real enemies.

"Leftist" support for Israel in this war is often concealed by a position against Hamas. This

anti-Hamas, but allegedly pro-Palestine, sentiment is often based on the supposedly inhuman crimes that have been committed. On top of this being a complete deflection from the primary question of imperialism, the claims surrounding such crimes as the decapitation of infants have zero evidence behind them. Even bourgeois press (1) has shown that the claims are based on videos which show no beheadings, only IDF soldiers claiming that the events occurred. Media campaigns in support of imperialist interventions can go much further and be many times more difficult to uncover than what we are dealing with here. This is a particularly obvious example of an imperialist lie, and the propaganda will not always be so easy to see through. Therefore, in addition to exposing blatant falsehoods, we also need to be able to separate what makes a movement an ally or enemy and what doesn't, and be able to understand what line the media is attempting to push when they tell a particular story.

The media will tell us that Hamas is committing heinous crimes, killing babies and civilians. We need to ask why they are deflecting from the principal contradiction in the world today. We need to ask who weakens empire, and critically support those who do. We need to ask who strengthens empire, and make ourselves their enemy. That is what it means to understand what is principal and what is secondary. Contrary to popular belief, the moral position of communists is not to do with concepts like eternal justice and true liberty. Communists have one moral position: we are for those actions which strengthen the international proletariat. We understand that the work of Hamas as a whole strengthens the international proletariat. Therefore we understand that they are the allies of the oppressed and we align ourselves alongside them. ■

**From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!**

Notes:  
1. Ibrahim, Nur "Were Israeli Babies Beheaded by Hamas Militants During Attack on Kfar Aza?"

### 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.

## ... Continued from p. 1 ... Gender Aristocracy

pean wimmin are sexy.

MIM gave us the theory of the gender aristocracy to better understand this dynamic, and how it affects who are our friends and who are our enemies. The gender aristocracy are the wimmin (and the sexual minorities, etc) who benefit from and support the patriarchy despite having the biological characteristics that traditionally put people in the gender oppressed group under patriarchy. Like the labor aristocracy, the gender aristocracy expanded and transformed in the era of imperialism.

MIM Thought points to the material basis of gender in health status, and the gender aristocracy operating often as a subset of na-

tional oppression. So the young, healthy, strong, beautiful people are the ones with gender privilege. Tie that with oppressor nation status, and you have a group of people who have the dual characteristics of being highly valued as well as considered worthy of protection.

Under patriarchal thinking, the defiling of the nation's wimmin is often a higher offense than killing them. So when we compare the murder and capture of dozens of young Euro-Israeli wimmin to the murder of tens of thousands of Palestinians, there is just no comparison in the eyes of the oppressor. They will happily kill thousands of more Palestinian men, wimmin and children as revenge for the this

supportive of Israel's war than men (44% vs 59%). Bigger gaps were seen by age and nation, however. For age support was 30% for 18 to 34 year olds, 50% for 35 to 54, and 63% for 55 and older. Many have commented on the different views of Israel by age and historical context. But youth interests always differ from the rest, and we see this contradiction as the principal contradiction within the Amerikan nation. Within the United States we see the principal contradiction as that between the Amerikan nation and the oppressed nations. This is reflected in 61% white support for Israeli war, and 30% support from the oppressed nations in the poll.(5)

The current upsurge of youth and oppressed nations in response to the genocide in Gaza is

heartening. We must work to organize these forces into sustainable anti-imperialist organizations. The primary way to do this is in the battle of ideas and combatting the trickery the imperialists use to try to win them back over to the side of the oppressor. ■

Notes:  
1. Betham McKernan, 18 Jan 2024, Evidence points to systematic use of rape and sexual violence by Hamas in 7 October attacks, *The Guardian*.  
2. Ali Abunima, 9 January 2024, "NY Times 'investigation' of mass rape by Hamas falls apart", *The Electronic Intifada*.  
3. Orla Guerin, 12 December 2023, "Eyal Waldman: Israeli tech billionaire hopes for peace despite daughter's killing", *BBC News*.  
4. Natalie Lisbona, 7 January 2024, *The Daily Mail*, "The faces of the girls STILL being held by Hamas as their families make a desperate plea for their release three months after they were captured."  
5. Lydia Saad, 30 November 2023, "Americans Back Israel's Military Action in Gaza by 50% to 45%"

## Interviewing Activists in Support of Palestine



Largest U.S. rally in support of Palestine to date, estimated at 100,000 people in Washington DC

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support  
January 2024

A comrade attending rallies supporting Palestinian resistance to the Israeli war distributed ULKs this winter and talked to attendees. Here are a couple of the interviews ey sent to ULK.

### First Interview

#### 1. What brought you to this event?

Well, seeing as I am Black and a Christian, I find it important to come out and demonstrate solidarity with the people of Palestine as I believe our struggles are connected. Many people tend to see what is going on in Palestine as a sort of religious conflict, portraying it simplistically as a conflict between Jews and Muslims. Many Christians in this country support Israel because the Church tells them to, when in reality Christians are just as persecuted as Muslims in Palestine. I mean, they just bombed the Church of Saint Porphyrius — one of the oldest churches in the world — last night.

#### 2. Do you see any parallels, either current or historical, between Israel and the United States? if so, can you elaborate?

Yes, I see many parallels actually. The biggest one being that they are both settler-colonial projects. It is important to remember that in both cases, the land was not empty when the settlers arrived. Israel has been waging a war against the Palestinian people in order to clear and settle the land. When the Europeans came to America, the first thing they did was wage war against the Indigenous population to do the same thing. They are both guilty of ethnic cleansing. Think about the Nakba. Think about The Trail of Tears. In Ohio, they said the land was "too good for Indians" — similar justifications were made for the initial Nakba.

I would also say that Israel is almost as racist as the United States. They have different laws for different people. That's apartheid. Zionists call us anti-semitic, yet they treat non-White Jews like second-class citizens. Look at how they treat Ethiopian and South-East Asian Jews within their borders. You know they sterilized them in the 1970s and 1980s. Zionism isn't about Judaism, it's about white supremacy. So I think there are very real parallels to draw between Israel and the United States as they both are rooted in war, ethnic cleansing, and white supremacy.

#### 3. We promote the right to self-determination of all oppressed nations from oppressor nations and imperialism more generally. What do you think about the idea of the oppressed nations (i.e. Chican@/Latin@, First Nations, New Afrikans, and other Third World Peoples) within the so-called United States breaking from the United States in order to realize self-determination?

I'm not entirely sure if I think it is possible, but I support it. That said, I am very skeptical. The only feasible way I think that could happen is if the American Government allows it to happen by carrying it out themselves, but I really don't see that happening anytime soon.

#### 4. Finally, what do you think is the best way we could demonstrate our support and solidarity to the Palestinian people?

I think we could demonstrate our support and solidarity by boycotting Israeli products and participating in the BDS movement as a whole. By continuing to protest. By not allowing Israel to participate in soccer. And by not allowing Israeli academics to sanitize what has happened in the past 70 years. It is important that we utilize our legal means and push politicians to support an end to the genocide.

### Second Interview

#### 1. What brought you to this event?

I'm here to show support against the repression of Arabs in Palestine, to demonstrate mass support, and to lift the spirits of others who find these war crimes unacceptable.

#### 2. Do you see any parallels, either current or historical, between Israel and the United States? if so, can you elaborate?

Yeah, I see parallels in that they're settlers, racists, and repress native populations. But I also see parallels between First Nations and the Palestinian people — especially in their emancipatory spirit.

#### 3. We promote the right to self-determination of all oppressed nations from oppressor nations and imperialism more generally. What do you think about the idea of the oppressed nations (i.e. Chican@/Latin@, First Nations, New Afrikans, and other Third World Peoples) within the so-called United States breaking from the United States in order to

#### realize self-determination?

Yeah, of course! The first priority is emancipation of those groups, even if that means through violence.

#### 4. Finally, what do you think is the best way we could demonstrate our support and solidarity to the Palestinian people?

I think we can demonstrate our support by continuing to go to these demonstrations and by showing our support for fringe groups such as Hamas, PFLP, etc...the militant fighters.

### Editor's Note:

PFLP is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an organization that arose during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, and was one of the Palestinian organizations greatly influenced by the Maoism of the time. In those early years they gained notoriety for hijacking airplanes and remain on the U.S. terrorist list to this day. They took a pan-Arab approach to the revolution, and co-ordinated with many organizations outside the Arab world, including providing training to communists from Azania (aka South Africa). This connection is relevant to why South Africa today has brought charges of genocide against Israel to the International Criminal Court, as well as the fact that Palestinians today are facing the same apartheid conditions that Africans in South Africa once faced. PFLP took part in Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7th along with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The latter is also a Maoist-inspired group that came out of PFLP. ■

## End Colonialism, Free Palestine

by Frosty  
October 2023

I've been closely following the conflict between Palestine and Israel, which is one of a supremacist, colonial, capitalist power imposing its will against a native people much as Britain, France, and Spain fought like rabid jackals over the lands of the Cherokees, Arawak, Shona, Khoisan, Fayu, Inca, the people of Kerala, Cuba, Australia, Algeria, the Caribbean, South Pacific, and many, many other peoples to divest them of their land and liberty purely for financial gain and control of the world's resources and humyn affairs. This is the well-documented and ongoing history of western European colonialism. Note the historical and cultural patterns which connect Israel to the scheme of using religious shenanigans to claim sacred and divine rights to other people's lands and bodies — via slavery — while committing genocide upon those who resist.

The history of the colonial societies is one of making "missionary" forays into lands to reconnoiter them, then instigating friction with the native populations. When the natives rise up to resist the systematic intrusion of the disease-ridden, perfidious colonials — who move about the Earth like an insidious contagion — the colonials cry "foul!", "we're under attack!" and make a ridiculous claim of defending themselves.

Israel's strongest supporters are other colonial capitalist police states, and their neo-colonialist sycophants — like

**Israel... using religious shenanigans to claim sacred and divine rights to other people's lands and bodies — via slavery — while committing genocide upon those who resist.**

Japan, South Korea, and the Christianized parts of the southwestern United States.

The major cause of most non-natural catastrophes in the world is colonialism. The poverty, violence, pollution, pandemics, etc are mainly symptoms of colonialism, and would abate considerably if colonialism were abolished. There are enough floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, spider bites, blizzards, and other things in the world to fret about. We really don't need to complicate things with racism, genocide, global warming, and the deranged antics of lunatics like Benjamin Netanyahu and the proud boys. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been invading the West Bank of Palestine, killing many Palestinians in the process, violating international law. When nations — like Venezuela, India, Cuba, and even Canada and Italy call Israel out on these crimes, the Israeli government either denies that it

is happening — or simply doesn't respond. The United States and Britain simply look the other way.


When one carefully traces the development of humyn cultures around the world and the present circumstances of humynity, what this likely portends for the future becomes clearer. I think that former U.S. attorney Eric Holder understood this quote well when he made his statement about the U.S. being a nation of cowards:

*"it's easy to pretend that we don't see or understand the problem if we are afraid to make the necessary sacrifices to arrest and remedy the injustices of despotic governments acting under the pretense of humyn compassion and divine guidance."*

I recently helped a seemingly kind and capable correctional officer to examine the historical, cultural, and economic connections between the antebellum slave trade, slave patrols, and the modern prison industrial complex, with the militarized police state of the modern era. He sheepishly admitted "well, I need a job, and this one's legal." I reminded him of the U.S. government's former policy of Indian removal and open genocide, and asked if he would have participated in the scheme had he been alive in the 1820's. He mumbled something inaudible and just kind of slithered away. Amerikkkan policy — foreign or domestic — holds no quarter with what is virtuous! This is par for all fascist regimes. People who parrot the ridiculously insipid "amerikkka is the greatest nation on Earth!" are the most delusional and obtuse cowards in the world.

I'm not implying that there aren't some great things about amerikkka. Anti-slavery revolutionary John Brown is one of the most honorary humyn beings ever, much like Hamas in Palestine today. I am saying that being the most deranged, murderous thief in the world wouldn't make me a great guy. It would make me a deplorable monster. The people in Israel are not Hebrews, and their ancestors were never slaves to any nation on the African continent. None of those people would survive a day toiling in the Egyptian sun, much less years, decades, and centuries. I can, however, easily see them selling out the anti-colonial revolutionaries for 30 pieces of silver, and oppressing others as colonial slave traders. Their British, Spanish, and French ancestors did the same thing to the Tainos, Cherokees, Fulanis, Maoris, and countless others that they're doing to Palestine: invasion, enslavement, and systematic genocide. It's the nature of the beast. A stand against colonialism is a stand against genocide. ■

Uhuru!



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\*\* Sending money to them will help fund not only the next issue of Under Lock and Key, but the free Books to Prisoners program. If you believe that Black Lives Matter, then donate to MIM(Prisons) and continue funding the education of revolutionaries behind prison walls. \*\*

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PO BOX 40799  
San Francisco, CA  
94140

# A Brief History On Palestine

by Da Pale One of United Struggle from Within  
October 2023

**All Power To The People**

As prisoners our imprisonment stultifies our social consciousness, our isolation prevents us from receiving information about the world from social interaction and direct experience. We are expected to relate to the world — and form our opinions about it and what should be done in it — through the ruling class's media; if it wasn't reported, it didn't happen. The way it's shown is how it is.

All of the mainstream media sources claim objectivity, but they don't practice it. How can news be objective when the very language is biased as in the I\$raelis always being "allies" and the Palestinians always being "terrorists?" This is obvious in the reporting being done by the mainstream media and the U.S. government as it pertains to Hamas' attack on I\$rael. The "terrorist attack" narrative is being shoved down our throats. With their half-truths, omissions, spins, etc, they have led the masses to conclude that what we are being told is the truth. This is evident in my peers' responses to the ongoings of the Middle East.

I encourage all prisoners to ascertain the truth of the matter via conducting their own research. Because whatever the news story, trusting and believing it as it is laid out is the most beneficial practice to the ruling class and their "allies".

The forthcoming is by no means an exhaustive piece, nor a diatribe. My intention is to provide you with some context as it pertains to the conflict between I\$rael and Gaza. This conflict dates back to when the Ottoman Empire ruled the region. Prior to WWI, the area now known as I\$rael was known as Palestine and was part of the Ottoman Empire. During WWI, as the fall of the Ottoman Empire became imminent, the governments of France and Great Britain signed the Sykes-Picot Agreements on 16 May 1916. France and Great Britain agreed "to recognize and protect an independent Arab state or a confederation of Arab states" upon the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire. In December 1917, Palestine was occupied by the Allied Forces under General Allenby of Britain. After WWI, the Allied powers divided the former Ottoman Empire into mandates and Great Britain was given a mandate from the League of Nations to govern Palestine.

In 1917, before the British mandate, the native Arab population accounted for approximately 94% of the total population. Under the mandate from 1922 to 1947, the Jewish population in Palestine increased by approximately 725%. During the twenty-year British mandate, violence was used by Jewish settlers to establish territory. As Jewish immigration into Palestine continued, Britain refused to recognize Palestinian right to self-government. The Zionists resorted to violence to hold the ground they gained and to press toward their ultimate aspirations of a Jewish state in Palestine.

On 29 November 1947, the U.N. voted to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states and make Jerusalem an international city. The Arabs re-

jected this plan, which was later dropped. After the announcement of this plan, violence erupted in Palestine and within three months, 869 people died and 1,909 people were injured in Palestinian-Jewish clashes. Jewish paramilitary attacks on Palestine villages led to the mass exodus of Palestinian Arabs to other areas of Palestine as well as other countries. The displacement of over 750,000 Palestinians from their land during this period is referred to as the Nakba, or catastrophe. The violence escalated as the neighboring Arab states (Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Transjordan) joined the hostilities and fought what came to be known as the 1948 Arab-I\$raeli or Middle East War.

After the British mandate expired on 14 May 1948, I\$rael declared its independence as a state. The U.S. and the USSR subsequently recognized I\$rael. The I\$raeli forces were well-armed and well-trained and quickly overpowered the forces of the intervening Arab states. By the end of the war, I\$rael occupied most of the territory of Palestine, with the exception of the area along the West Bank of the Jordan River (known since as the "West Bank") and a strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea (known since as the "Gaza Strip").

In 1948, the Arab-I\$raeli war ended with the signing of the bilateral armistice agreements between I\$rael and Egypt, I\$rael and Lebanon, I\$rael and Jordan, and I\$rael and Syria. The purpose of these agreements was to reach a formal peace treaty within six months, but it ultimately failed.

In 1956, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal and barred I\$raeli ships from using it along with the straits of Tiran, another shipping route. (ULK editor: this is a precedent for what Yemen is doing to stop ships to I\$rael in the Red Sea today, see our article on p. 1). I\$rael, who was aided by Britain and France at the time, then invaded Egypt. The Soviet Union, who was an ally of Egypt, threatened I\$rael with nuclear retaliation if they did not exit Egypt. This threat forced the U.S. to pressure the British, French, and I\$raeli forces to withdraw. Subsequently a peacekeeping force was deployed by the U.N.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed in 1964 in Egypt. The purpose of the PLO was to unite Arab groups and liberate the Palestinian territories through armed struggle. The PLO would later become co-opted by the United States and I\$rael and change its name to the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In 1967, Egypt ordered the U.N. forces to leave and closed the Straits of Tiran to I\$rael again.

This sparks the Six Day War. I\$rael attacks Egypt and later Jordan and Syria, capturing Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Sinai Peninsula.

From 1973 until 1979 — when the Camp David Accords peace deal was set up by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and I\$raeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin — war raged unchecked.

As all prior peace agreements the Camp David Accords peace deal was short-lived. In 1987

Palestinians organized by the recently created Hamas staged the first of the two uprisings (intifadas), in Gaza, I\$rael and in the West Bank, using mass boycotts, civil disobedience and attacks on I\$raelis. More than 50 I\$raeli civilians were killed. From 1987 to 1990, the Palestinians and Hamas held numerous protest demonstrations to which the I\$raeli Defense Forces (IDF), special forces, police, and I\$raeli settlers responded with live ammunition, indiscriminate beatings of Palestinians, as well as other means of oppression. The primary focus of Hamas was to spread its Islamist ideology and respond to the immediate needs of the Palestinian people, particularly their need of basic services and psychological need to resist I\$rael's brutal and racist military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

After the PLO sold out the Palestinian struggle for national liberation by signing the Oslo agreement with I\$rael in 1993 the people of Gaza supported Hamas becoming a political structure. Subsequently they elected members of Hamas into positions of local leadership, then ultimately as their overall national leadership. Hamas has remained relatively free of pressures and outside influences. They have set up social support programs to help provide for basic needs like food and medical care that I\$rael has been blocking for decades now. The Palestinian people took up arms against I\$rael and its illegal settlements that have been murdering Palestinians, especially children, and increasingly stealing their land. In 2006 the Palestinian people elected Hamas as their national political leadership in place of the PA despite knowing the United States and I\$rael would retaliate by cutting all funding they were giving to prop up the neo-colonial PA, and scraps they were tossing to the already ruined Gaza economy. So if we are to keep it real Hamas is a reflection of and carrying out the will of the Palestinian people.

In 2008, I\$rael launched a major military campaign against Hamas. The fighting ceased on 18 January 2009, with 1,440 Palestinians and 13 I\$raelis killed. I\$raeli forces killed Hamas's military chief Ahmed Jabani in a missile strike. The strike was part of an I\$raeli operation to eliminate weapons, and Hamas members in Gaza. In the wake of the death of their military Chief, Hamas made it clear that the "gates of hell had been opened."

From 2012 up until the most recent attack by Hamas there have been constant clashes between Hamas and I\$rael. If you noticed there have been more Palestinians murdered. Even after the attack that occurred on October 7, over 15,000 and counting Palestinians have been killed, including people of all ages. The I\$raelis have prevented any humanitarian aid from entering Gaza, they have had Gaza under a blockade for 16 years, and they have had over 2 million Palestinians confined to a 147 square mile open air prison. It is axiomatic that violence begets violence. The oppressor should never holla "terrorist attack!" when the rooster is simply coming home to roost. ■

**Dare To Struggle**

**Dare To Win**



... Continued from p. 1 ... **Yemen's Intervention**

butz farms where they did much of the agricultural work for the country. Meanwhile, half a million I\$raelis evacuated the south and the government is paying to house them in hotels. Unemployment in I\$rael has tripled in the last month, and businesses have lost half of their revenues. (3) Ansar Allah is contributing to this increasing economic pressure on I\$rael demonstrating what real internationalism looks like in the face of a genocide against an oppressed nation.

**UPDATE:** As we go to press the United States and Britain have begun bombing Yemen in retaliation for their embargo of certain trade in the Red Sea. In response, Yemen has not blinked. Having won the war against U.S. puppet Saudi Arabia just recently, the people have lived through decades of U.S.

imperialist attacks. Millions of people continue to flood the streets in resistance to the Great Satan of U.S. imperialism, standing strong in their convictions to fight. ■

Notes:  
1. Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons), July 2015, Honduras to Yemen: Puppet Regimes Falter, Under Lock & Key Issue 45

2. We of course would not promote a slogan of "curse the Jews." There is a history of anti-Jewish sentiments creeping into the communist movement. Discussing the

pogroms that happened after the October Revolution in Russia, Bolshevik leader Preobrazhensky stated:

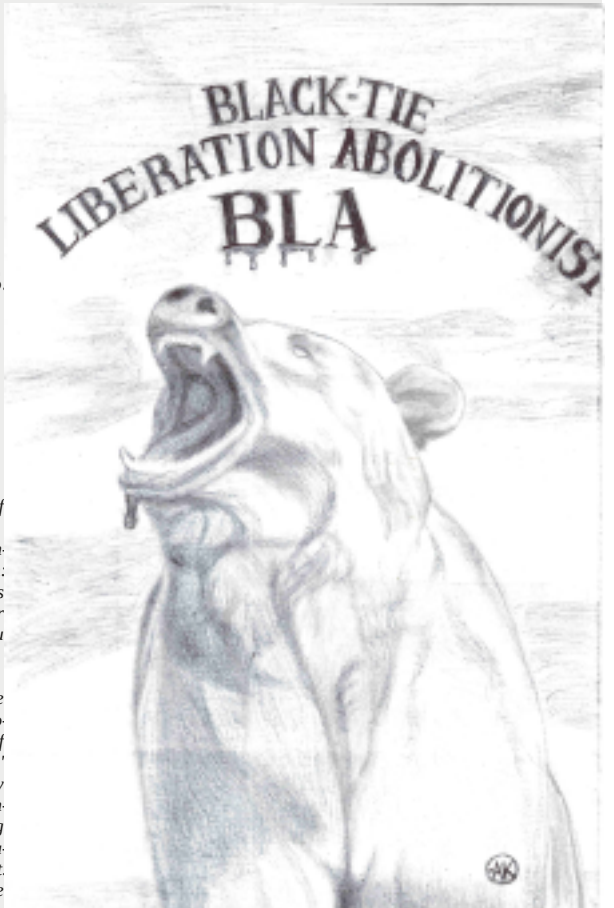
"This anti-Semitic agitation, frequently masking under radical slogans, represents an enormous danger both to the Jewish people and to the revolutionary movement in the country, for it threatens to drown in fraternal blood the whole cause of freeing the people and to cover the revolutionary popular movement with indelible shame."

To this day we still have problems in the international communist movement (ICM) of groups focusing on Israel, rather than the imperialist powers. This reference to Jews by Ansar Allah's slogan, similarly risks misidentifying the enemy, though correctly putting U.S. imperialism first.

As for victory to Islam, see: Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons), January 2016, Islam as Liberation Theology, Under Lock & Key Issue 48.

3. most of the facts in this article are from the radio show/podcast The Electronic Intifada from 24 December 2023.

4. Mitchell Plitnick, 21 December 2023, Biden administration's flawed response to Yemen attacks increases possibility of regional war, Mondoweiss.



**Free Poem**

by a North Carolina prisoner  
January 2024

The Black Liberation Armies Our Disciples Be  
Our civilians in the streets be the BPP  
We not white, not black, it's you and me  
Honor, Trust, Love, Respect, and Loyal-ty  
We tie Family ties and combine our mind  
Now we on our business shit, black-suits, Black-Ties  
Building ties in the street and upgrading communities  
An independent movement fuck police immunity  
Liberating our people in a fight for equality  
Internationally representing from Congo to Albany  
Re-educating our people, treat them responsibly  
Within the Black Liberation Movement to develop more harmony  
Cause wit Black-ties Matter BLO Liberation Unit  
And the Bld Brotherhood Revolutionary Army Headquarters,  
Allegiance of Improvement  
We'll be a professional militia till the day that we die.  
Funeral of red white and blue collars, Black-Ties. ■

# Lurch to the Right, or Revolution?

by Mwamba of the New Afrikan Independence Movement  
December 2023

Seems clear that the United State's lurch to the right is a done deal. On a quantitative scale, how much so is still an open question, but it is an astonishing thing to see and one we better get better at grappling with.

The Biden administration has recently vetoed a UAE brought emergency meeting to vote on a Gaza ceasefire in Israel's "un-ceasing" assault on Gaza. *Time* magazine of 10 December 2023 and virtually all U.S. media describe it as a campaign to eliminate Hamas. Always the materialists, they never forget to remind that it is due to Hamas' "terrorist" attack of October 7, its alleged sexual assault and taking of hostages etc. In fact U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Robert A. Woods states as his reasons for vetoing this emergency resolution that it was "an imbalanced resolution that was divorced from reality and would not move the needle on the ground in any concrete way."

Woods goes on to state the U.S. couldn't understand why the authors declined to include language condemning "Hamas's horrific terrorist attack" and "the resolution failed to mention Israel's right to defend itself". Indeed the U.S. did propose adding language about its "role in diplomacy, increased opportunities for humanitarian aid, encouraging release of hostages, the resumption of pauses in fighting, and laying the foundation for peace" the *Time* article wrote. But Wood says the "recommendations for peace were ignored."

The *Time* article was further confirmed by a clip of Wood's speech aired on *Democracy Now!* (11 December 2023), which then went on to play a clip of Jamie Raskin's outrage of U.S. society's obvious lurch to the right in regards to the ousting of an MIT president for trying to defend bourgeois free speech. However, *Democracy Now!* makes no mention of Raskin's earlier calls for the need of Israel to eliminate Hamas or his refusal to call for an immediate peace agreement or even his stance on the UN resolution for an immediate cease fire. All this clearly, even on the part of such petty bourgeois outfits as *Democracy Now!* to accept and adjust to this obvious social shift, but still find some space to claim to be left or progressive etc. It should be noted Amy Goodman often has Raskin on to help her with her Trump and MAGA bashing and to tell people to vote for their democracy.

Back to Woods, he states the U.S. wants a 2 state solution, but doesn't support an immediate ceasefire as "this would only plant the seeds for the next war because Hamas has no desire to see a durable peace, to see a 2 state solution." This stupid equivocation could only be logical to a bully on the verge of vic-

tory. Recall he told the same council it was due to the resolution not giving the U.S. its props for all the fine things, like 4 hour "humanitarian pauses" and the U.S. aid for Palestinians, not being in the resolution.

A "good thing" one could point to is how isolated the U.S. is on this and the exposure of its hypocrisy on a world scale. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stated after the U.S. veto that the U.S. is "complicit in war crimes" and the vote was "aggressive and immoral." China's U.N. rep Zhang Jun accused the U.S. of "double standards", "claiming to care about the lives & safety of people in Gaza." Russian U.N. rep Dmitry Polyansky stated "our colleagues from the U.S. have literally before our eyes issued death sentences to thousands if not tens of thousands more civilians in Palestine and Israel."

Even domestically, social democrat Bernie Sanders, who has consistently (see below) refused to call for a ceasefire up to now, now states the "U.S. should not be vetoing a U.N. (ceasefire) resolution." He goes on to his usual duplicitous doublespeak stating "children need food" and "it's imperative - it remains imperative that Israel puts a premium on civilian protection." Social democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (A.O.C.) went even farther: "Shameful. The Biden Administration can no longer reconcile their professed concern for Palestinians and their human rights while also single-handedly vetoing the U.N.'s call for ceasefire and sidestepping the entire U.S. Congress to unconditionally back the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza" (*Newsweek*, 9 December 23)

As for the above comment of "sidestepping" Congress, she is referring to the 13,000 plus, worth \$106 million, of tank ammo sold to Israel that Secretary of State Blinken et. al managed to get to Israel in an emergency sale. The Biden administration additionally has a \$100 billion package in aid for Israel, Ukraine, and "other national security priorities." So A.O.C. is likely to get her wish. As to why this sale required "sidestepping" Congress, Blinken stated, "The needs of Israel's military operation in Gaza justifies the rare decision to bypass Congress." He goes on, "Israel is in combat right now with Hamas and we want to make sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against Hamas," hence the \$106 million sale of 13,000 plus ammo (shells) to Israel.

And in case anyone missed it the larger bill which needs Congressional approval is tied to the U.S. immigration issue and its border, "National Security".

On 10 December 2023, Mitt Romney stated on *Meet The Press* that Biden didn't have to tie the border policy issue to the

Ukraine issue. But he did so now the Republicans will be holding him to it. Biden obviously acknowledging he must move to the right, has recently hinted he is willing to make significant compromises on the border. He seems to be saying he needs to be able to say he had no choice. J.D. Vance has stated, "What will \$60 billion (going to Ukraine alone) more do that \$100 billion hasn't done?"

In both of the last 2 presidential candidate debates, Vivek has stated he will be smoking the terrorists on the southern border and "Bibi" has to do the same.

Something we can't go into here but worth mentioning is the conservative Center for Renewing America's Project 2025 handbook, which is a 1,000 page "Let's finish what we started" playbook, which is part of the Heritage Foundation's think tank. It includes many "right flank" organizations, many new to mainstream bourgeois politics. This is to do away with the "deep-state" and in doing so avoid Trump's 1st term pitfalls of being thwarted by those not willing to go as far as he wished. The point made here is that all Democrats and ol' fogey Republicans realize this shift is very real and it seems a little conscious compromise is a tactic the bourgeois left is making for its own reasons. Late capitalism is not running on fumes though pixie dust no longer seems to suffice. Now the machine requires the flesh and blood of little boys and girls.

Recently heard our old friend Bill Fletcher on KPFA's *Sunday Show* (10 December 2023) saying, like always, 3rd parties are a waste of time, must vote for the Democrat even though he agrees it is genocide in Gaza and Biden administration was wrong for their U.N. veto. Again, according to Fletcher, we must do as he suggested the first time and push Biden to the left.

If only Mao was here and could fight our battles for us. Ob-

viously no real revolutionary is saying this but in practice we are saying these are not revolutionary times and I contend this is why we're in this situation. Yes these are revolutionary times. We simply must learn and apply the stages of revolution. We may be limited by majority having no current interests in revolution. But we are in no position to be talking about a majority any way. We clearly accept objective factors. Even MIM's 3 dividing line principles.

But contradictions (all) carry within them their very opposite. It's a unity of opposites, mere "identity", not absolute of contradictions. We indeed should be pushing some to the left but not bourgeois politicians who would have no interest in social change in any situation but our own nations, prison class, musicians. And we definitely should be serious about drawing clear distinctions between ourselves and the bourgeoisie with its values and world outlook. This is simply accepting the phase of revolution we're in. Too many fear armed struggle and fear its adventurist aspects. I contend this means to fear the people or at the very least fear they are unable to grasp revolutionary theory or its requirements.

We're in the middle of it. This rightward shift is but a shift no more to my mind than a deeper neo-Liberal shift. Only by relying on the bourgeoisie and the fakes should we care if its a rightward shift or leftward shift. Especially if out of our control.

From the outset of this flareup and resulting genocide of Palestine the pretensions of the left media and settler nations obvious new center of gravity has led it to pretend the U.S. is at least grappling with the moral consequences of innocent civilians. Yet Blinken, Biden, and Sanders as well as virtually all bourgeois outlets and mouthpieces have stated "Israel has an obligation to defend itself" Blinken 13 October

2023, Biden "Israel has the right to respond, indeed has a duty to respond" 10 October 2023, and 300 former staffers of Sanders asked Sanders (very nicely) to support a ceasefire saying "We believe in you." In mid October, Jamaal Bowman was roundly condemned for going to Israel, to see the apartheid for himself, by A.O.C.'s & Sander's Democratic Socialist of America (DSA). Even MSNBC's Al Sharpton states "Gaza is not occupied." We could literally go on and on about how this lurch is not only acknowledged but immediately dressed up and condoned by all progressives, leftists, moderate Republicans, and a great majority of this settler nation.

In the backdrop is always Trump, the MAGA movement, and settler nation chauvinism. Beside Project 2025 mentioned above, recently Trump announced the need for "ideological screening" to "bar Christian hating communists and Marxists" stating "those who come to our country must love our country." Such is already the practice in Israel. Trump goes on to list things that would be grounds for disqualification: "If you want to abolish the state of Israel you're disqualified"... Again we encourage all to check this out because this shift is now much bigger than any individuals or even movements. Trump was one of the first to congratulate the Congresswoman who held the 3 college presidents to these new standards.

As stated we are very much in "heightened contradictory times." Not having the right line on the make up of the U.S. and world economy, nature of settler society, neo-Liberalism, following idiotic communists, and being afraid to rely on ourselves and our own nation has led to very bad practice for years and deprived our people of a prepared and organized fighting force. Lurch to the right or revolution. ■



## 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.

# Genocide Joe Compares Trump to Hitler

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)  
December 2023

The Biden/Harris campaign released the image to the right criticizing some language coming from recent Donald Trump campaign speeches for the 2024 U.S. Presidential election. Meanwhile Trump continues to lead by a landslide for the Republican ticket, which is not surprising, as Hitler viewed the Amerikan project with envy.

The United States has been milking it's alliance with the Soviet Union to fight fascism for over 75 years now. If it were not for the sacrifices of the Soviet people, over 20 million of whom died in the war fighting fascism, and if it were not for the strategic leadership of the Comintern in building alliances with some imperialist powers to fight others, we might not have had 75 years of self-righteousness to have leaned on by U.S. leaders.

Usually U.S. officials would raise the "Hitler" comparisons when it was time to expand imperialist wars against another Third World country, such as Iraq or Panama. But today the leading Democratic presidential candidate is using it against the leading Republican candidate at the same time that the Democrat is facing legal charges for enabling geno-

cide emself. It seems the mask is coming off.

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed a complaint in federal court in November on behalf of Palestinians that is seeking recognition of the ongoing genocide in Palestine and the requirement for President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to do all they can to prevent Israel's genocidal acts.(1)

While the occupation of Palestine by I\$rael and their imposition of an apartheid state has long been genocidal, the war has reached unprecedented levels since the Hamas-led attack against I\$rael on 7 October 2023. By mid-December, a whopping 85% of the population of Gaza has been displaced from their homes and 1% of the population has been killed by the I\$raeli onslaught. At least 8 of the murdered and around 100 of those injured were at the hands of "civilian" settlers.(2) Large numbers of the displaced have no access to food or clean water.

Whether the Amerikan courts will recognize what is happening to the Palestinians in Gaza as genocide is questionable according to legal experts. But legal filings continue to be submitted to bolster the case.

The "We Declare Genocide" tribunal held within U.S. borders last year already found the United States guilty of genocide against the internal semi-colonies who are facing an ongoing low-intensity warfare.(3) Of course, this finding does not have official legal standing by the United States government itself. The CCR suit is attempting to get that for Palestine, and further brings attention to the genocidal acts of U.S. imperialism around the globe.

The United States has single-handedly prevented the United Nations Security Council from implementing a ceasefire in Palestine. The United States picks and chooses who is allowed to commit war crimes and who is not, and the UN is toothless to stop it.

During the second inter-imperialist war, the United States was in a position to play the good guy because of rival interests with the fascist countries and the opportunity it allowed them to exert power over Europe as a whole. I\$rael on the other hand is the #1 U.S. client state, receiving far more funding from the Amerikans than any other country since World War II. As Biden said, if I\$rael didn't already exist they would have to create it. This puts the U.S. in a position where

it is impossible for them to oppose the genocide in Gaza.

The settler state is by definition a genocidal state. Stalin helped give the United States a fig leaf to cover that legacy in the form of supporting the Soviet defeat of Hitler. That fig leaf is drying up and falling off. And the legitimacy of U.S.-run international institutions like the UN and the United States itself are com-

ing more and more into question by global public opinion. ■

Notes:  
1. Center for Constitutional Rights Press Release, 23 December 2023, "New Filings in Gaza Genocide Lawsuit: Palestinians Refute Biden Admin Arguments That Court Cannot Review Its Role in Furthering Israel's Genocid"  
2. Anna Lekas Miller, 23 December 2023, "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood' Day 78: UNSC resolution criticized as 'meaningless,' hundreds of thousands evacuate central Gaza", *Mondayweiss*.  
3. Triumphant, January 2022, "We Still Charge Genocide: Will The Real New Afrikans Please Stand Up!", *Under Lock & Key* 76



## Are I\$raelis Israelites?

by a Federal prisoner  
January 2024

The illegal, inhumane, and barbaric war of genocide taking place against the people of Palestine must be addressed from a historical perspective without fear of retaliation or being "white balled" by the white supremacist and neo-fascist power structure.

FEAR = False Evidence Appearing Real, and there is nothing more false than the Khazarian Settler-KKKolony in Northeast Afrika (Canaans) posturing as the descendants of the ancient Israelites and committing mass genocide against its melanated population.

Revolutionaries, community activists, and all good-hearted people cannot afford to tiptoe around this issue. To continue to call these people "Israel" is to continue to perpetuate a blatant lie and become co-conspirators to one of the greatest frauds and identity thefts in modern day history. They are not Israelites and have no historical connection to the land. They are invaders who have seized control of the major means of production — backed by U.S. and British imperialism — and turned Palestine into a neo-KKKolony where its people must fight for their national liberation and self-determination. Just as AmeriKKKa is an imperialist empire consisting of neo-KKKolonies fighting for their self-determination from their invaders, conquerors, and oppressors, Palestinians are doing the same.

These invaders, like every other rapist, abuser, and tyrant, have the audacity to blame the victim for their victimization when they decide to stand up straight so that their oppressor falls off their back. They claim everything was going well until several members of Hamas decided to invade their territory and kidnap and murder dozens of innocent "Israeli" children, wim-

min and men. I'm pretty sure all rapists think that their savage actions are going well until their victim gets hold of something to defend themselves, and fight back!

History is often defined by its conquerors, and especially when that conqueror is in control of the propaganda networks, they are able to shape the narrative for the future generations to come. These Khazarians are no exception! We must collectively, through international solidarity, diametrically oppose the systemic lie that they have introduced to the world through religion, geo-politikkks, the mis-education system, and the media.

The falsification of consciousness is so prevalent that they have conceived the world that people can actually be anti-semitic against them, when in fact:

1. There isn't even a son named "Sem" in all of the Torah. Noah had three sons: Shem, Khem, and Japheth.
2. "Ashkenaz", a name which at least 90% of these modern day Khazarians identify themselves as, are descendants of Japheth (Gen. 20:2-3). Since they, by their own admission, are not Shemitic (descendant from Shem's bloodline, not "religion"), no one can possibly be "anti-shemitic", "anti-semitic" or whatever else you want to call it.

Words matter. Historical materialism matters. "Anti-semitic" is a politikkkal term they've developed in order to prevent those who become conscious of their international zionist agenda from speaking out or engaging in the growing struggle against kkkapitalist exploitation and white supremacy of which they are dead at the center of.

Khazarians in 740 began to

practice much of the spiritual discipline, culture, and way of life of the Hebrew Israelites. History reveals that prior to this decision these Khazarians were already at war with Arabs and Muslims from 642-652 and again from 722-739 in what is called the "Arab-Khazarian Wars".

When the Khazarian Kingdom began to decline, the national identity of the Khazarian people got absorbed by other European nations that they amalgamated into, but holding on to the only thing that would always be able to identify them no matter where they ended up so that one day they could come back together and resurrect their Khazarian empire: "Ashkenazi Judaism".

During the Moorish rulership of Southern Spain, the great Hebrew Israelite chief minister of the Caliph of Cordova, a diplomat, scholar, physicians, and financial advisor, Hasdai Ibn Shaprut, shared multiple correspondences with King Joseph of Khazaria where Joseph admits that his bloodline and that of the Khazarian people go back to Japheth not Shem!

The reason this is so important to point out is because it destroys the lie that they are some "chosen people" based on spiritual text, with some divine rights of dictatorship over Afrikan people and other people of color. What is going on in Northeast Afrika is not a war between the "white" descendants of Isaaq and the "black" descendants of Ishmael — it is a war for national liberation against foreign domination... period! They have perverted the text and twisted it for their own opportunistic benefit.

To continue to allow this to go unchecked and label people who are actually descendants of Abraham "anti-semitic" — rather Hebrew Israelite and He-

brew Khemite — will allow those who are actually being "anti-shemitic" to continue to drop hundreds of bombs on innocent people who just want to be free. Since 7 October 2023, a little over 2 months ago, the Khazarians have murdered over 20,000 Palestinians! And I understand the reluctance of some people to speak this truth. The world has witnessed what these imperialists have done to the Nick Cannon's, Kanye's, and Kyrie's (see: "Sorting Out a Defense of Kyrie Irving" from *ULK 80*), not to mention the Afrikans and others who dare to speak truth to power. But all oppressed people everywhere have a humyn right to resist KKKolonialism — white supremacy. We have an obligation to our ancestors and a responsibility to our children to say that oppression anywhere affects us everywhere!

Whenever Europeans are oppressing people of color, just already expect them to come up with a clever word in order to cover up their savagery, while at the same time discouraging you to extinguish the fire of your revolution. That is what they've done, and that is what they will always do! They will call your response "reverse racism", "woke theory", "anti-semitic", etc. But as a conscious Hebrew Israelite and a dedicated New Afrikan revolutionary nationalist (see: "Some Discussions on Bad Ideas Pt. 1" from *ULK 79*), I say it's time to call it what it is: Revolutionary Justice!

**Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons) responds:** We have much unity with this comrade's conclusions regarding the role of I\$rael in the world, and the relationship of oppressed peoples to I\$rael as an arm of the U.S. empire. This article validates some of the things we wrote in *ULK 79* about the overall alliances of the New Afrikan masses who are follow-

ers of Black Hebrew Israelites (1) and in *ULK 80* on Kyrie Irving and Ye (fka Kanye West). (2)

We are not scholars of ancient civilizations, and will not try to set the records straight here on the history of Khazarians. What we do know, is that similar ideas to those above have been used by conspiracy theorists who believe that Khazarians have controlled the world for 100s of years, even calling people like the Bolshevik revolutionaries V.I. Lenin and Joseph Stalin Khazarian Satanists. Clearly such ideas have strayed far from historical materialism into the realm of fantasy. Therefore we caution the author above, and our readers regarding these ideas.

Certainly there is much to be learned by studying ancient civilizations. But what we won't learn is who is controlling things in our world today and why. And while the bible has historical value, it is not a document of factual history. I\$rael today exists by the grace of U.S. imperialism and its military industrial complex. We must attack Zionist oppression, without succumbing to idealistic thinking. Conspiracy theories that attempt to explain all of history are such idealistic thinking, that serve to disempower the masses at the hands of an all-powerful oppressor.

While playing with the words of the fascist conspiracy theorists, the author above does not fall into these traps in what ey wrote. Ey correctly points out that European settlers are using anti-semitism as a shield to their genocidal project in the interests of imperialism. And we join em on the side of the oppressed nations against imperialism. ■

Notes:  
1. MIM(Prisons), October 2022, *Some Discussions on Bad Ideas Pt. 1*, *Under Lock & Key* 79.  
2. A New York prisoner, January 2023, *Sorting Out a Defense of Kyrie Irving*, *Under Lock & Key* 80.

# CA Silences Reports of Drug Trade in Prisons

by a California prisoner  
January 2024

MIM Distributors published my article "Programming/Mental Health Denied as Drug Cartel Runs CA Prison" in *ULK 82*, to highlight correctional officers' (C/Os) direct involvement in the constant infestation of drugs in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJDCF). In April 2023, I went a step further by bypassing CDCR's inmate grievance process in order to catch a C/O in the act of distribution.

You see, CDCR's departmental operations manual (DOM) at Section 31140.6.2, regards felonious conduct like drug smuggling in a state correctional facility as 'Category II' serious employee misconduct investigated by the Office of Internal Affairs (OIA).

I figured undisputed evidence directly to OIA would not only prevent a coverup inside the prison, but also save lives of those addicted to using while confined based on accessibility, and maybe even a citizen faced with some newly released parolee on the prowl to maintain a drug high fostered therein.

I used my influence and social status with their prisoners as an investigative tool to uncover one C/O's method of smuggling. Once I monitored and confirmed the C/O's pattern practice, including specific inmates receiving drug shipments, I recorded the exact date, time, and location consistent with audio video security surveillance (AVSS) and body worn camera (BWC) footage installed thanks to the current *Armstrong v. Newsom*

## The Stoopid Epidemic of K2 in Nevada Prisons

by a comrade of SAMAEI  
December 2023

Revolutionary Greetings,

I am writing this on the verge of my 5th release from prison on *this* sentence. I began doing time in 1976. I began this sentence in 1979. I mention this by way of context.

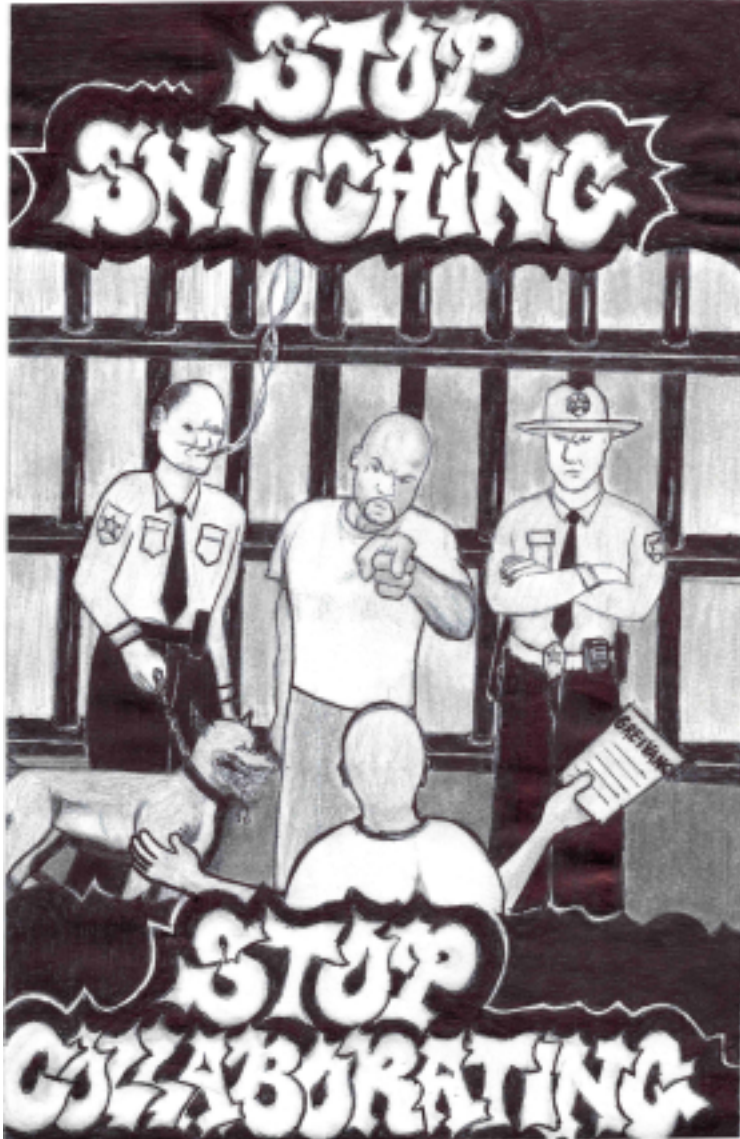
I have always occupied an anti-authoritarian if not outright revolutionary space. That space always required an awareness of material conditions and my relationship with it demanded a combat perspective and by extension, an unwillingness to expose weaknesses to the enemy, or reveal any vulnerability which may be exploited by any hostile agency.

I currently live on a tier with 57 other prisoners. Of these prisoners a sizable portion are users of spice, or K2, what is known here in NV as spig.

It is a daily occurrence that prisoners will sit at tables on the tier and smoke spig in direct and plain line of sight of cameras and enemy personnel.

Daily, these prisoners are so fucked up they fall off their chairs, throw up, have seizures, or need assistance to get to their cells. Apparently stoopid is the new cool.

Nobody seems to question why the guards allow it. They al-



N.D. (94-CV-02307 CW) injunction.

Late April 2023, I completed and mailed my findings on the attached CDCR approved DOM Section 31140.6.2 Category II OIA form, directly to the OIA, emphasizing concern over my safety, requesting therefore to remain anonymous. However, on about 28 June 2023, OIA Senior

low it because it is a tool of division. If you are too high to sit without falling off your chair, you are too high to write a grievance and definitely too high to defend yourself against a physical attack. To be in that state of inebriation in a prison environment is unconscionable.

The conditions in this prison are deplorable. The food is inadequate, staff unprofessionalism soars, open retaliation for grievances, deprivations of tier time and yard, outrageous canteen prices, while half the tier gets stoopid fucked up on the regular instead of waking up.

Spig is a very real problem here. I have been back about 8 months on a parole violation and it's been epidemic in every unit and on every tier that I have been on.

Some of us have had the presence of mind to come together and organize but it's a sad day when the oppressed openly invite and encourage and assist in their own oppression.

Hopefully, this is a transient stage, but it doesn't appear to be improving.

Thankfully, those who will fight will always fight and those who will stand will always stand. Change has always depended on the few.

In struggle. ■

Special Agent Michael Newman forwarded my reported findings and identity back to RJDCF Warden James Hill in the attached correspondence "For Appropriate Handling" which commence first with the involved C/O immediate cease of all drug shipments in my specific housing unit.

Then came direct scowls and open unwillingness to address housing needs or issues followed by rumors within the prison population of me being a "snitch on C/O's".

And finally, as drug withdrawal riled up many addicts' moods from days and weeks without fix, one mustered the boldness to confront me on behalf of the involved C/O, on a rant like some four legged creature foaming from fangs, blam-

ing me for his forced clean and sober reality.

While I no longer advocate or impose violence, I am no stranger to such since I could fuck and fight before I could read and write. I'd like to think that not sensing fear sent the man beast on his way, disappointing the gazing C/O who not only stood watching the entire antic, but set the whole play in motion.

Meanwhile, my DOM section 31140.6.2 reported findings was converted into an inmate grievance, log #459686, then intentionally delayed until all AVSS and BWC footage evidence was purged. Once so, RJDCF reviewing authority M. Palmer issued the attached grievance response discrediting me as some liar or one who simply made up this whole event.

Initially, I found it courageous and heroic to risk my own personal safety, maybe even my life, to rid the prison environment of drugs by exposing not merely the problem, but more so, the reason this problem exists and persists. I always thought with the right facts and evidence I could make a huge difference, but now I realize that stopping drugs in prison is as futile as Ronald Reagan's war on drugs campaign.

That's because, many officials I turned to turned out to be those who want drugs inside prison, and rather than utilize resources and power to target C/O's who introduce drugs into prison, these officials opt to use their resources and power to target the very individual bringing detailed facts to their attentions.

To me, a sacrifice is only grand should it effect change in better for those who follow. With the extent of CDCR's decay, this type of exposure is pure suicide, or positions one to be forced to homicide, and whether the former or latter, when it's all said and done, drugs will continue to be made available to those in prison who want them until and unless these prisons are closed down.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We agree that the actions this comrade took to fight state-sponsored drug trafficking was brave. It is also brave for the comrade to look at the effects of these actions, draw lessons from them, and be self-critical in front of the movement as a whole. This is a good example of learning through practice, and by sharing these stories we can all learn from each others' practice.

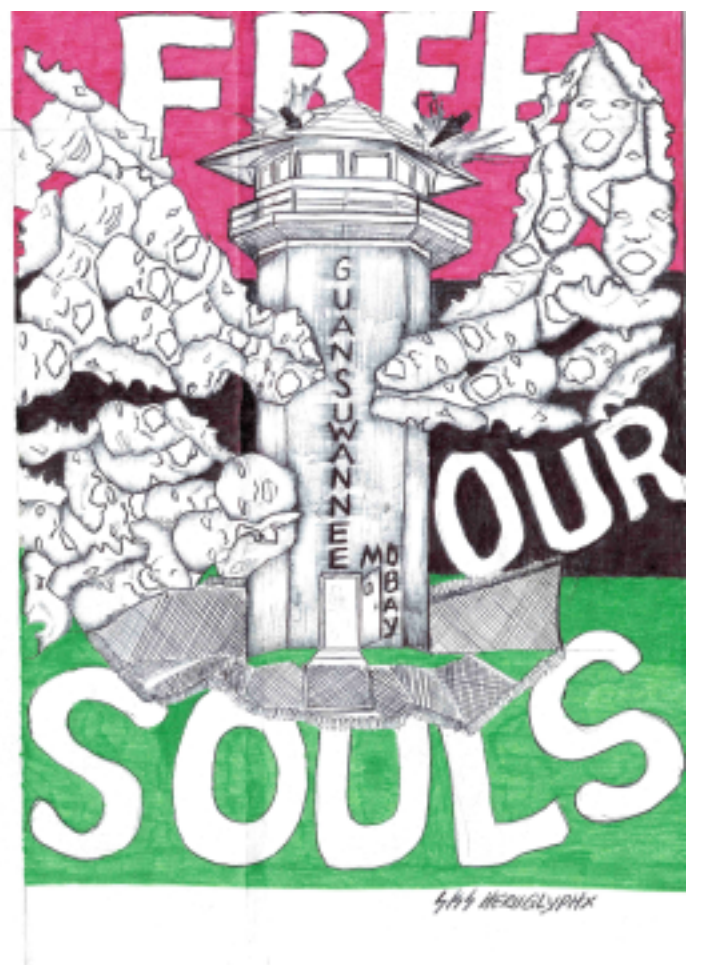
**pigs they work with are professional snitches**

We can also see how the campaign to combat drug addiction in prisons is tied to the campaign to "Stop Collaborating" among prisoners. These state-employed drug dealers are using other prisoners to attack those who speak up. These collaborators, accusing others of "snitching" on pigs, are enemies of the people. The pigs they work with are professional snitches. To use the state to stop abuses within the state as this comrade attempted to do, is an honorable, if sometimes futile, thing to do.

As futile as this comrade's risks taken were in the immediate term, we are not quite so pessimistic on the prospect of ending drugs in prison. As we've discussed many times, it is by building a community in righteous struggle for justice that we can best provide the antidote to addiction. While prisoners across the country are writing to us about the dire conditions currently, we can look to the history of socialist China, which was ravaged with widespread opium addiction across the population just decades before liberating themselves from imperialism establishing a socialist state, and ending addiction in the country for decades to come. No small task for sure, but not impossible.

While those fighting addiction feel isolated now, through the pages of *Under Lock & Key* we can see that there are more of you then you realize, and we can continue to share these lessons and build successful strategies to help the masses overcome drug addiction. ■

*FOREVER EXCLUDED*  
I'm sure watching TV from prison knowing you are forever excluded from everything on the screen you see because you're buried alive, distressed, tortured, from society, whenever politics is being discussed, no one is under the TV, when sports is on, the day room is standing room only, because we've been thoroughly conditioned psychologically, into believing that our lives are dictated by sports, rather than Political Policy, we are more concerned with shoes and scores rather than Hitler's reawakening coming to reality, or health care, or mass shootings, due to fascist belief in B&T or more tax cuts to the wealthy while the poor banks deep and deeper into prime insured. Political Policy created and perpetuated, Poverty. Hitler is talking about suspending the Constitution and holding office til infinity.  
- SKS Houghlyphx





# If the Taliban Can Do It, So Can We

by Mica of MIM(Prisons)  
January 2024

The Taliban retook power in Afghanistan after the U.S. retreat in August 2021.(1) In April 2022, the Taliban once again instituted a ban on poppy cultivation, and by December 2023 they had reduced production by 95%. Most global poppy cultivation now takes place in unstable regions of Myanmar.(2) The Taliban banned opium production with similar results in 2000, but when the

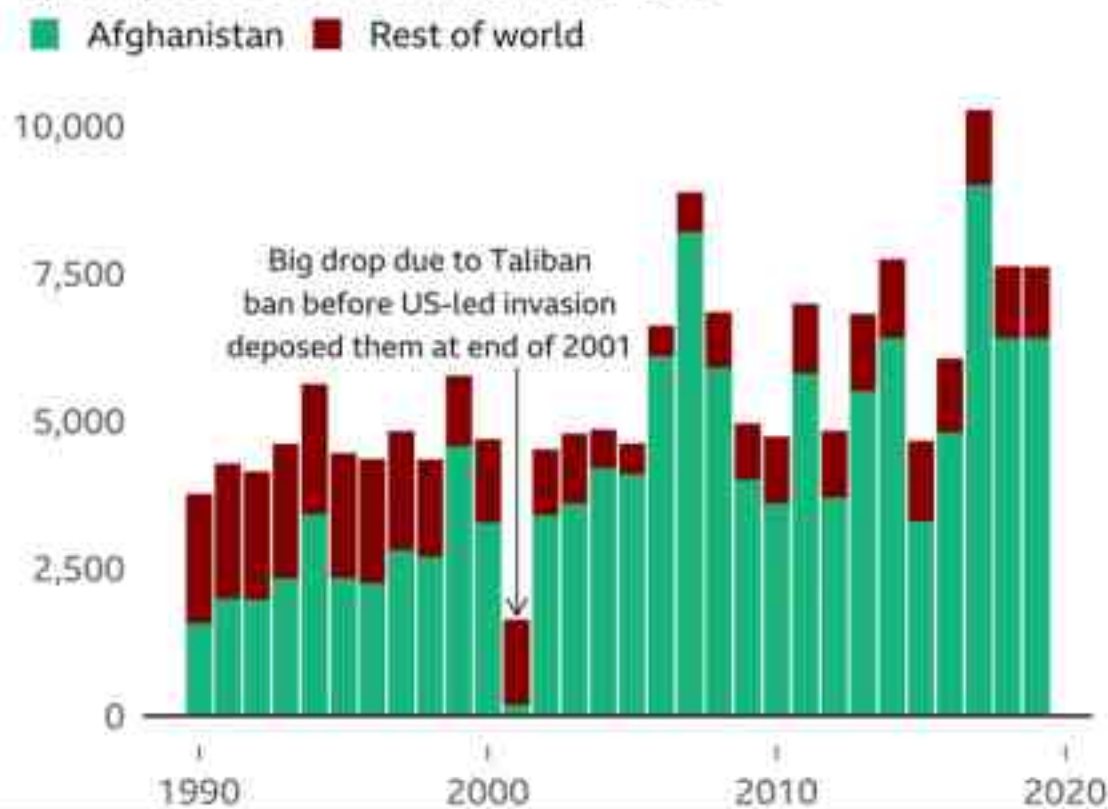
interesting to note that besides U.S. oil interests, Americans were concerned with the ruling Ba'ath Party's support of certain militant groups in Palestine.

Of course a better example of eliminating opium is China, where the masses were the victims of British Opium War. The Taliban isn't fighting addiction so much as they are trying to shift agricultural production in a way that is challenging the incomes of poor farmers. The Chinese Com-

Here we see the United States failing where socialist China succeeded, using the exact same tools! These historical examples demonstrate that the principal contradiction behind the drug epidemic is found within the structure of society and not with specific treatment techniques. China was also a divided, drug-ravaged population coming into the war of liberation, proving how a new culture can be built and a people can rise above addiction.

## Afghanistan is responsible for more than 80% of global opium production

Opium production in tonnes, 1990-2019



United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001, they saw to it that opium production was restored and there were continued increases up until last year. As a very poor country, poppy production is a significant cash crop for Afghan farmers. Still the Taliban has been able to enforce the ban, while working with farmers to grow alternative crops. The United States says they spent \$8 billion trying to eradicate poppy during their rule over the country from 2001 to 2018.(2)

Afghanistan has been negotiating agricultural deals with China since the Taliban regained power in 2021, and are scheduled to begin shipping large exports of produce to China this month December 2023. Afghanistan has attended China's recent Belt and Road Forum, with China becoming Afghanistan's second biggest trade partner after neighboring Pakistan.(3) This growing export of raw materials has come with far greater imports of products from social-imperialist China, that will feed a relationship of unequal exchange leading to wealth transfer out of Afghanistan. But in the short-term it is helping provide economic options other than exporting opium to Europe, where Afghanistan had provided 95% of the black market supply.(4)

While the United States invaded Afghanistan shortly after the 9/11 attacks, by 2003 they had begun a full-scale invasion of Iraq using 9/11 as a cover once again. Iraq had also had a culture and tradition that made drug use relatively uncommon. This began to change since the overthrow of the Ba'ath Party in 2003, with sharp increases in crystal meth and the stimulant Captagon documented since 2017.(5) It's also

munist Party (CPC) gives us a better model than the Taliban of how to fight addiction by empowering the masses through socialism from 1949-1976. We wrote about this in Issue 59 on drugs:

*"Richard Fortmann did a direct comparison of the United States in 1952 (which had 60,000 opioid addicts) and revolutionary China (which started with millions in 1949).(9) Despite being the richest country in the world, unscathed by the war, with an unparalleled health-care system, addicts in the United States increased over the following two decades. Whereas China, a horribly poor country coming out of decades of civil war, with 100s of years of opium abuse plaguing its people, had eliminated the problem by 1953.(9) Fortmann pointed to the politics behind the Chinese success:*

*"If the average drug addiction expert in the United States were shown a description of the treatment modalities used by the Chinese after 1949 in their anti-opium campaign, his/her probable response would be to say that we are already doing these things in the United States, plus much more. And s/he would be right."(9)*

*"About one third of addicts went cold turkey after the revolution, with the more standard detox treatment taking 12 days to complete. How could they be so successful so fast? What the above comparison is missing is what happened in China in the greater social context. The Chinese were a people in the process of liberating themselves, and becoming a new, socialist people. The struggle to give up opium was just one aspect of a nationwide movement to destroy remnants of the oppressive past. Meanwhile the people were being called on and challenged in all sorts of new ways to engage in building the new society."(6)*

But wait, the Taliban and the CPC both had state power when they eliminated drugs. True. And the people in state power in the United States are not interested in empowering the people. Instead, they continue to allow the free flow of drugs into even the most controlled environments. On the road to state power, the CPC built dual power, by developing liberated zones in China where they could begin to experiment with the policies and practices of building socialism, including the elimination of drug use.

U.S. prisons are very different conditions than the Chinese countryside. And communists are far from state power in this country. But comrades must use the materialist method to develop strategies for building forms of dual power and transforming the culture of the oppressed to fight drug addiction. The Revolutionary 12 Steps that we published last year is one tool for that, but the real challenge is putting programs into practice. We must build independent institutions of the oppressed that combat addiction by empowering people in a greater liberation struggle. It is the plague of hopelessness that is truly killing us. ■

NOTES:  
1. Plastick, October 2021, "Whither Afghanistan?", Under Lock & Key Issue 75.  
2. CBS News, 12 December 2023, Myanmar overtakes Afghanistan as the world's biggest opium producer, U.N. says.  
3. Ralph Jennings and Mandy Zuo, 7 November 2023, CIE: "China, Afghanistan cultivate deeper ties with agriculture deals" South China Morning Post.  
4. BBC News, 25 August 2021, Afghanistan: "How much opium is produced and what's the Taliban's record?"  
5. Jamal Muzil, May 2023, "Substance abuse in Iraq, Quantifying the Picture" Journal of Population Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology 30(12):302-313.  
6. Wiawimawo, November 2017, "Opioids on the Rise Again Under Imperialism" Under Lock & Key Issue 59.

# We Want Security, They Want Control

by Gonzo of United Struggle from Within  
October 2023

We've been having tons of problems here at Bent County Correctional Facility in Colorado. There's been a surge of drugs and violence, culminating in a murder just last week. Meanwhile, they are attempting to force non-trouble-causing prisoners in the "incentive program" into providing unpaid slave labor by working — normally paid — job assignments for free. They are closing down numerous educational programs, leaving no "incentives" for good behavior.

For some unfathomable reason, they actually promoted the Chief of "Security" (Control) here — the very one who oversaw the increases in drugs, gangs and violence here — to Associate Warden! The problems have continued to get worse since his promotion. I honestly suspect he is behind all the drugs and other contraband coming in here; he is known for his "old school" mentality on running a prison. And what better way to maintain con-

rol (NOT security!) than to keep everyone high and fighting each other, right?

I have had a lot of positive feedback from people here about some of the concepts in the Revolutionary 12 Steps program. I hope to continue spreading the ideas of unity and change around here. I'd like another copy and any other ideas you have for our course fighting addiction. I've enclosed a donation of stamps.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** Thank you. You should have received another *Revolutionary 12 Steps* by now. Please continue to send us your successes, failures and lessons learned in fighting addiction and we will share them with others in *ULK* and via the 12 Step Training Group. While our training program is on hiatus until we can get a skilled trainer to run it again, we will keep everyone who is actively working on this issue informed of any progress on our end. ■

## Suboxone Pushed Willy-Nilly by CDCR Medical Staff

by Frosty  
November 2023

A LOT of these guys here are on Suboxone (synthetic heroin). I was offered some, by a medical staffer. I assured her that I've never had a drug abuse problem, but I do like Peppermint Schnapps, German beer and the occasional magic mushroom. She insisted that the Suboxone would be good for me. That crept me out. That stuff, along with the bath salts and the bug killer these guys widely use in this facility seems to affect them like a chemical lobotomy. They have super short attention spans, and fiend for more of that shit all day, every day.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** In *ULK* 76, we printed a report on the government-sanctioned spreading of Suboxone throughout California prisons that began in 2020 (see: "Suboxone: Chemical Warfare on the Oppressed" from *ULK* 76). While some have found Suboxone helpful in an injustice system that offers no real solutions to the oppressed's problems, the overall net effect has been a continued numbing and division of the imprisoned population. This comrade's experience speaks to how the state is acting as a drug pusher on the oppressed, using drugs as weapons against us. ■

## Revolutionary Sobriety

by Menlo  
January 2024

What is the revolutionary response to addiction? I am an alcoholic who has been in recovery for two years. I sobered up in an anti-suicide cell after committing the crime that would send me to federal prison on a five-year bid. I have a complicated relationship with my crime. If my bomb had successfully blown up that natural gas pipeline, I would be dead. It was as much a suicide attempt as a strike against capitalism, both desperate and hopeful.

I consider the fact that I am still alive to be a responsibility to make reparations and amends to who I have harmed, to make a positive impact on the world, and to forgive myself for my mistakes.

Honesty is paramount to an alcoholic and addict. I tentatively practiced honesty, at first with a few, and then with wider and wider groups of people. I began to take a position of self-criticism and humility, yet also self-love and self-care. I was controlled by my shame and failures and giving into defeatism. No longer. I lied to my family and closest friends. No longer. I neglected myself and wished to kill myself.

No longer.

My sobriety date is 26 January 2022. Shame has left me. I am free inside my head. I am an honest, motivated person who is trusted by my community on the basis of my vulnerability and actions. I have not yet had the opportunity to learn about the Revolutionary 12 Step Program, but I know that my work is never finished and I would love to work those steps. I write this in the hope that it inspires a comrade in addiction to have the courage to stay sober for 24 hours. Just for today. ■

## Indiana Grievance Petition

by an Indiana prisoner  
January 2024

A comrade in Indiana has drafted a petition to address relevant state officials regarding failures in the grievance system in the Indiana Department of Corrections. Prisoners in Indiana can write us to get copies of this petition as well as our Federal appeal petition in the case that the state petition is not effective. ■

**We Demand Our Grievances Are Addressed!**

# Challenging Constitutionality of Digital Mail; reports from TX

by a Texas prisoner  
November 2023

On 20 October 2023 I filed a complaint challenging the constitutionality of the Texas Prison Administration's contracting with a private sector, for-profit company in Dallas, Texas to digitalize all TDCJ-CID prisoner's incoming personal/general correspondence and photographs for posting to the SecurusTech tablets issued to us in May 2023. I paid the full filing fee as well as the administrative and service fees.

I submit this information and the following to ULK for the following reasons:

1. To seek unity across state and federal prison systems currently under digitalized mail policies.
2. To provide fellow prisoners in all prison facilities with details on my challenge to digitalized mail so that we can coordinate a nationwide attack, and perhaps get an inter-state class action lawsuit that will be moved to the u.s. supreme court.
3. To hopefully secure a Pro Bono assistance of attorney to ensure all the bases are covered.

While I was able to cover the initial \$500 cost to file the complaint by sacrificing renewal of several magazine subscriptions and commissary "luxuries", I do not have the financial ability to hire counsel or investigative resources, nor any further admin fees so I am going to need help.

The complaint's Constitutional challenge relies on numerous First and Fourteenth Amendment issues of freedom of speech and due process, to wit:

## 1. Exaggerated Response:

TDCJ-CID administration claims the ban on physical mail is to stop the drugs/contraband that come through USPS mail. However, *physical mail may account for less than 1% of incoming drug contraband*, and such drug-laced articles of mail can be easily detected, isolated, and removed using the K-9 drug detection units that are maintained on every TDCJ-CID unit. *Everyone*, including the prison administration, knows that almost 100% of the drugs and contraband that enters prison facilities gets in through one of only three ways:

A. Corrupt admin/security employees.

B. Outside trustees picking up "drop" packets outside the security fence

and bringing or passing them to inside trustees.

C. Private sector deliveries to the prison (kitchen and office supplies, or vendors for guards' food orders and commissary supplies) having "special" cartons containing hidden contraband.

Yet, the prison administration takes almost no measures to check these primary sources for drugs/contraband.

## 2. "Chilling" and/or blocking legitimate freedom of speech and expression:

As a published op-ed columnist and essayist whose work has appeared in two syndicated newspapers, and on several internet sites that are operated by 501.3-c organizations, my readers range from Junior High students to nursing home residents, Democrats, Republicans, members of every other political party, housewives, secretaries, police officers and bartenders.

Often my readers want to write me but the venues I am published in rarely publish contact info, so readers google me to find out I am confined at a certain prison facility then google the facility to determine its address then send their letters to me there.

Prior to the digital mail policy, I received their letters (about 8-12 per week). After the policy, I have received NONE. The unit mailroom return to sender all "personal/general" mail that comes for a prisoner without explanation. Hence, this blocks my readers' letters to me and "chills" their desire to communicate (they probably think I refused their letters). They often don't know to go to the prison website to check correspondence rules.

## 3. Denial of due process prior to restriction of mail:

I am a Naturist. I don't use drugs, nor have I ever had anything to do with drugs. I have never been accused of, charged with, nor found guilty on any drug-related behavior in any administrative or criminal hearing, and have never been accused of or found guilty of smuggling/attempting to smuggle or possess "contraband." That is, yet.

Without any form of due process I have been denied my lawful privilege and right to re-

ceive property sent to me (i.e. the physical letters and photos).

Physical letters and photographs have a sentimental "keep-sake" value beyond any monetary valuation.

The u.s. supreme and lower courts have held uniformly that copies/digital images of a document/photograph are *not* the same as the original. Ergo, sending me or any prisoner digital copies of their letters and photos (or even copies) is *not* giving them the *property* their letters/photos constitute.

The u.s. Constitution requires a due process seizure hearing before government can seize a citizen's personal property, whether that property is land, a vehicle, or an article of mail having value to the citizen.

Note: If the government, at such a hearing, can produce legitimate evidence that I have attempted to smuggle contraband/drugs through the USPS mail into the prison, then and only then would it be legally justified in enforcing a "digital mail only" rule upon me.

## 4. The digital mail "blanket" policy is overly broad:

The number of prisoners who attempt to smuggle drugs/contraband through the USPS mail is minuscule. 99% of prisoners would never even consider such a foolish act. Even prisoners who use and traffic drugs and other contraband generally don't use the mail because (a) the volume of drugs that can fit in a letter doesn't justify the risk and (b) it's much easier to get large amounts of drugs brought in by one of the other venues.

All the digital mail policy does is punish hundreds of thousands of prisoners who don't smuggle drugs or contraband in the first place. It's analogous with fining the entire town's citizens for excessive noise because there's one "pothead rocker" playing eir stereo too loud.

Most prisoners use the USPS mail in a legal, rule abiding manner and never try to smuggle through the mail. First and Fourteenth Amendment rights are fundamental, and mail digitalizing policies abrogate those rights in an overly broad and exaggerated response to a security issue that would be more easily (and economically) dealt with in a less intrusive manner.

These four points are the primary basis of my complaint.

Do prison authorities have a legal right to impose and enforce mail digitalizing for security reasons? Yes. But only in a reasonable manner necessary to address the specific security problem without punishing prisoners who are not a party to the problem. Officials can not punish innocent prisoners nor strip them of constitutional rights merely because a tiny fraction of the prison population is causing a problem.

So if anyone wants to get on board to help get this issue litigated properly, get in touch with me ASAP through MIM(Prisons). Today is 18 November 2023, don't delay.

## A comrade at Bridgeport Unit

**reports:** I would like to inform you of a change in the Law Library Holding list as of November 2023 the Law Library has taken the PD-22 Rules of Conduct out of the Law Library. It seems as if any ammunition we can use to fight with they want to destroy it somehow. The other problem is this digital mail is taking forever to get to one's tablet. I have received numerous letters that are 2.5 to 3 months old. This has become a problem for many. I did receive newsletter #83 in the month of November 2023.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** We have reported on the history of censorship of TDCJ's own documents (see: "Halting OGOM Distribution Until DRC is Challenged" in *ULK 81*) in previous issues. While we had encouraged comrades inside to challenge this legally, one comrade has informed us that ey believes this to be a faulty strategy. We are not lawyers, so we provide these ideas for consideration:

TDCJ has the discretion to withhold, or delay, any administrative documents they may or may not deem to be challengeable in public information act. There is a logical reason behind certain "administrative documents" not to be made available for Texas residents (i.e. friends and families, including incarcerated prisoners off of general population). I'm sure by now that these certain "administrative documents" are not censored. For items or certain materials that are being withheld — whether it be a policy, procedure, regulation, or rule — it is a fact that a governmental department is not obligated to disclose public information. Governmental departments are obligated to disclose public information at the requestor for inspection and review. See Tex. Gov't Code, Sec. 552.221 through Sec. 552.235. They are not censoring. They are REMOVING it. Trickery word.

Filing lawsuits in federal court pertaining to the items or materials being complained under the claim of censorship is supporting and encouraging those administrative suits in being DISMISSED (or dismissed with prejudice). Giving away \$350-\$400 for free without meaningful merit to be heard or read...

Please refer incarcerated people in Texas to search out an author by the name of Raymond E. Lumsden on numerous books: *The Pro Se Section 1983 Manual*; *The Habeas Corpus Manual*; *Ask, Believe, Receive*; *The Pro Se Guide to Legal Research & Writing*, etc. These books are available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and FreebirdPublishers.com.

**A comrade in Allred Unit reported:** Just today I received your mail confirmation letter via my tablet. The letter is dated 14 September 2023, so it is taking over 2 months to get our mail and we cannot print it out. TDCJ rules on Digital Mail say that if a document requires an inmate's signature it is supposed to be sent to the unit's Law Library. I doubt that they will give it to us if it is not legal work though. They would not allow applications from transition houses in until recently "Forgiven Felons" got permission to send theirs in.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** The digital mail is making it harder for us to even track censorship by not allowing prisoners to fill out and

return forms, not to mention blocking opportunities for support upon release, or receive notices from the institution as described below.

**A comrade at Ferguson Unit reported:** When you sent the *ULK 82 & 83* bulk mailings they initially denied them entry, without giving me notice. They don't even send such institutional forms like that via regular mail, it went electronic and i don't have a tablet since September so i didn't even know until early December when i finally got them to budge and print out the electronic mail. This mail shit is absolutely showcasing the inadequacy of these state actors and the exploitative corporations (Securus/JPay).

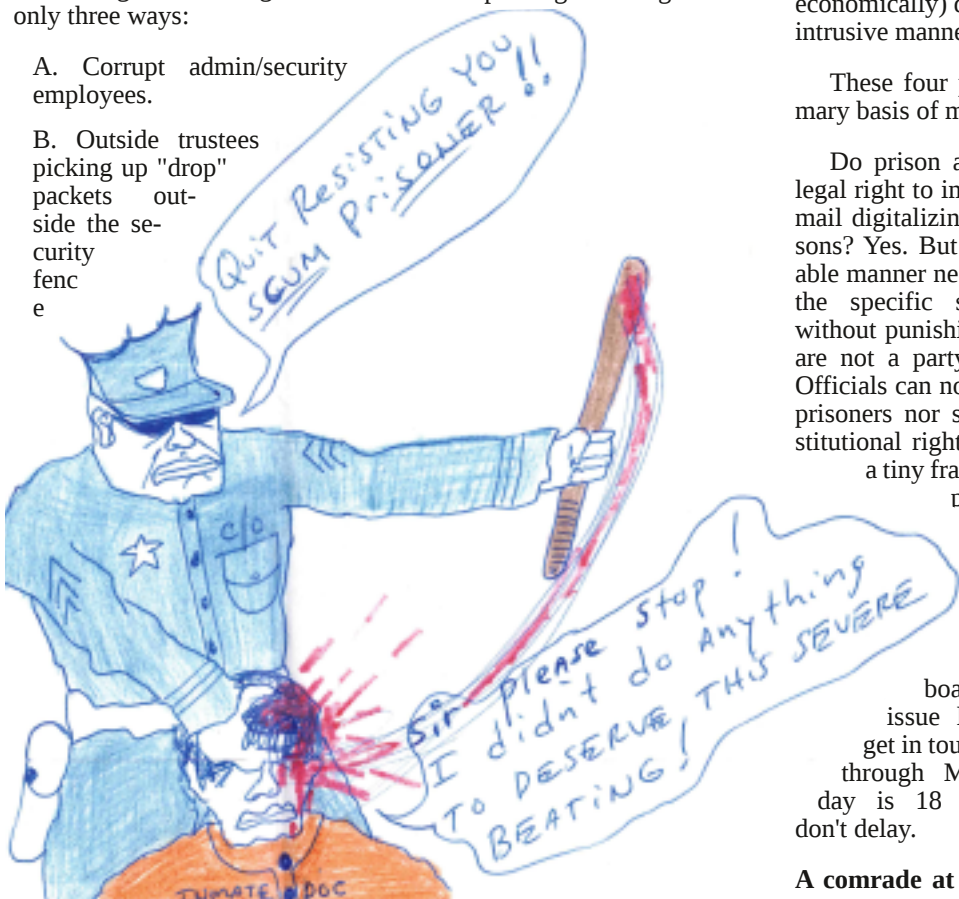
**Warriors in White, a non-profit org supporting restorative justice wrote:** Our newsletter was blanket-banned across the entire TDCJ system due to a change in mail policy, which required all mail to be sent to a central mail processing facility. This new policy was approved on 23 June 2023 but not updated in unit law libraries until 4 August 2023. No reason has been provided. At the end of October 2023, we received clearance and approval to again distribute the newsletter. But again, no reason for denial, and no notification for denials and newsletters returned has ever been provided.

Secondly, all TDCJ residents now rely on Securus tablets to receive mail. As of the end of October 2023, most are still receiving mail postmarked throughout August into the first week of September 2023. TDCJ policy clearly states all mail is to be processed within 72 hours (3 days), through the mail processing facility.

According to the TDCJ Mail System Coordinator, there is a staff shortage at the facility. Additionally, MSC has claimed they were unprepared for the amount of mail received at the new facility. This is quite hard to believe, when the TDCJ, in decades past, has logged *every single piece* of mail through its system both on computer and in paper log books.

According to the TDCJ Ombudsman, all mail is being processed within the 3 day limit and there are no staff shortages at the mail processing facility. According to Securus, they are unaware of any mail processing problems, and that "all mail is processed within 5 days unless it includes photos or pictures, in which case it may take a little longer."

Further, the TDCJ is clamping down on peer-to-peer legal assistance. If you have a Securus tablet which receives programming from the Freedom Radio Legal Show on 106.5 The Tank, that info has been banned from the tablet due to overwhelming listener response. While gratefully received, TDCJ will no longer accept requests, etc. addressed to the legal show, one of a long list of new restrictions. So if you sent a newsletter request to Freedom Radio for a Warriors In White newsletter subscription, the Polunsky Unit mailroom has been destroying all requests since the beginning of June 2023 to the present. If you know someone who applied for the newsletter please resend your request to WIW-DOM PO Box 301, Huntsville, TX 77342. Please do not send legal questions to the PO Box as we are not ready for those yet. ■



# How the Prison War Looks in Texas Ad-Segs

# ULK 83 Correction: Murders Weren't About Drugs

by comrades of United Struggle from Within  
January 2024

"[A]ll over the world now the institution of the prison serves as a place to warehouse people who represent major social problems." - Angela Y. Davis (1)

Looking at the incarcerated world around us, it is no wonder the numbers of New Afrikan and other darker hued people who are captive is so high. It is no wonder why the level of illiteracy is most highly concentrated among the incarcerated. It is no wonder the level of schooling is low among the captive population. It is no wonder why there is more money invested in mental health services behind bars than in free world facilities.(1)

All this means that when we imagine our resistance against prison systems we must see prison as being more than just the place where people who commit crimes are sent. We have to begin to analyze the interconnected and multi-layered oppression within prison.

A key feature in warfare is physical violence. In prison, "official" physical violence is documented as use of force. The most use of force and most excessive use of force in Texas takes place at Bill Clements, specifically amongst its PAMIO program participants. PAMIO, for those who do not know, is a psychiatric program designed for those in Ad-Seg.

If you follow the logic, Texas residents with psychiatric illness are more likely to be held captive by the state, while in captivity they have a greater chance to be held in Administrative segregation (Ad-Seg). While in Ad-Seg their psychiatric state is likely to deteriorate and they are likely to face "official" physical violence at the hands of their captors at greater numbers than those without documented psychiatric history.

## Conditions At Clements

Our situation at Bill Clements Unit Ad-Seg or ECB, Extended Cell Block they call it, has not improved. Although less deaths we are seeing a rise in starvation, torture, neglect, and unsupervised migrant workers running the prison as they see fit with little to no training. Regardless of what administration says. These Africans on this unit have not been taught day rules, standard operating procedures, and have zero regard for this so called rule book. And why shouldn't they when there is no enforcement and or reprimand on the side of TDCJ.

During the last shakedown, a state-wide attempt to catch contraband(see next article), they had me in a cage outdoors for 2 hours while they tossed my cell. Guards and inmates watched me in handcuffs while Major Pacheco instructed Field Boss Shrader to steal all my electronics and commissary food items — over 200 dollars worth. All this I believe is because my toilet hasn't worked for months and I keep requesting maintenance but it never comes. Same with the broken shower and the water leak resulting in a wet floor. I have receipts for all the electronics and commissary items they stole, and I listed all this and the witnesses on grievance — they put the witnesses on

chain! Nobody goes on chain unless it's to Montford Psych or hospital.

The second week of December we were allowed to shop commissary, the second time in 4 months. Breakfast chow consisted of two tablespoons of scrambled eggs with a quarter inch of grits and applesauce. In total it was 4 spoons of food. For lunch and dinner we had a cheese sandwich. They backdoored commissary with a shakedown and stole what we purchased.

I was allowed 1 hour out of my cell twice this year. The "weekly" library ran 9 times. Average time to see a mental health professional is 9-12 months. Delivered mail can sit in the mail room for over 6 months. They are understaffed and don't have enough people to properly run the facility. Once they tried to put some beef on dough and call it pizza, it was not cooked and the meat was bad. Raw dough and spoiled meat. No shit. No exaggeration.

Not feeding us is not only to starve us but to keep us from relaxing. We are constantly fasting involuntarily. The hunger keeps us anxious and irritable, to put it mildly. In my pod of 60 I have seen 12 people lifted out on stretchers this year, nobody checking for a pulse or performing CPR. That's 1 per month on average. This cell is worse than the third world POW camps I visited during my time in the USMC. The corruption is so bad with so many hands in the cookie jar that one cannot even get a judge to hear them out about violations. TDCJ just ignores our requests and cites their lack of staff as to why they have nobody to process the documents.

## War in Ferguson

On November 16th all the interconnected elements of prison war worked together on the Ferguson unit as five officers, unprovoked and without cause, entered the cell of two men demanding they submit to a complete strip search and handcuffs. When one of the captives asked why, he was immediately hit in his face with closed fist by CIT Gates while SGT Vasquez grabbed the captive's head and slammed it against the concrete wall, causing injury. The captive fell to the ground and was kicked, his head was banged against the floor repeatedly. Afterwards he was dragged to the run, outside of the cell, where he was continuously kicked in his face and was even stood on. The entire time other captives were yelling in protest for the guards to stop, but they refused. While on another row, but hearing what was happening, I began launching projectiles from my cell. Eventually this caused the guards to cease their beating. They escorted the beaten man away, then returned minutes later to handcuff and escort me.

I was housed in solitary two cells down from the victim. I had the opportunity to speak with him for the first time, find out first hand what took place. He

Continued on page 13...



by a Texas prisoner  
December 2023

Dear MIM-ULK Editor,

Your Fall 2023 edition, at page 11, published the article "Prisoners Punished for Drug Problems in Texas" (ULK 83). The article began:

"On 6 September 2023 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prison system mandated a statewide lockdown due to the number of deaths related to drugs: a total of 16."

This "related to drugs" statement IS A LIE fabricated by prison administrators to cover up the TRUE basis for the 16 murders, and cast the blame and causes for the killings on *solely* the prisoners, with no accountability on the government. Drugs had little to nothing to do with the murders!

I am on the McConnell Unit — 5 of those 16 murders occurred here; the highest murder rate of any TDCJ-CID facility. There were, also, 3 sodomy sexual assaults. 5 murders and 3 rapes in one 12 month period. NONE of them drug related per se.

From reading the article and its various contributors' focus; I am making an informed deduction that the fellow prisoners who contributed based their deductions solely on the TDCJ-CID "Public Information Office" press release propaganda alone, with no real knowledge of the truth. I dug deeper and actually investigated.

The FACTUAL causes of the murders was *total absence* of any meaningful Classification and Housing Policy/Practice to separate categories of personality types; coupled with the administration's practice of imposing 24/7 lockdowns due to shortage of personnel; and, feeding high-carb, starchy meals that meet caloric amounts but are devoid of bio-necessary nutrients.

Of the 5 murders and 3 rapes over 12 months here at McConnell Unit, one murder was committed by a prisoner high on K-2 and one of the rapists was drunk on "hooch". The other 4 murders were NON-drug-related — the killers and victims were incompatible personalities placed in an 8'x12' closet-sized cell and, at the time of the murders, having to spend 24 hours a day in the cell together. Nerves got frayed, personalities clashed, someone died. All three rapes occurred under similar circumstances: cellmates who were under a prolonged in-cell period due to "Staff Shortage"; one a

dominant predatory personality, the other a passive victim — the predator gave in to his nature, the victim got sodomized.

In EVERY murder and rape, it *could have been avoided* had TDCJ-CID enforced a legitimate and meaningful classification, Housing Policy and Practice that separated prisoners into housing with compatible personalities and dispositions. However, classification is almost universally based on:

- (1) age range;
- (2) physical size; and,
- (3) disciplinary history.

While TDCJ-CID *policy* states various other factors for the classification as well, *actual practice* uses only the above 3. Cell assignments *usually* keep the occupants within a similar age and physical size, but the overall cellblocks will contain ranges in age from 18-98 and people ranging from 5'2", 100 lb to 6'6", 350 lb. We'll get a 19-20 year old first offender with 10-12 disciplinary cases in prison for a few theft cases put in a cell with a hard-core Gangsta on his fifth trip to prison for domestic violence/armed assault.

Since state law does NOT allow for any kind of public oversight NOR citizens' investigations of conditions and administrative practices in the prison facilities, TDCJ-CID can fabricate whatever tale it wants to explain the murders and rapes — hence, put the blame on drugs, gangs, etc. and deny itself any blame.

I realize ULK Editors MUST rely on prisoners' reports to even know what circumstances are behind the walls. However, it's prudent that you fact check what the prisoners say, because the vast majority of Texas prisoners actually take "Official Reports" as truth and never even question what they hear on the news!

CLUE: Anytime an Official Report points its finger solely at prisoners to assign blame, and/or gives excuses that open a door to imposing harsher or more restrictive "security" measures — the odds are the official report contains lies and is little more than "Perception Management" propaganda to deceive the public.

Courts will not pry into prison operations; they always defer to the "professional knowledge of prison authorities" and accept whatever fabricated "fact" the prison administration offers. When any public organization tries to monitor inside prison conditions, they are blocked.

And, the prison administration always has "Brown Nose" prisoners willing to sing whatever song officials want in exchange for privileges.

Prisons are for the most part "black holes" where the light of truth is concerned — truth is sucked in and hidden while only the darkness of lies is visible.

TDCJ-CID has about as much transparency as the CIA — and, until Congress adopts a Law, or the people put in the state Constitution something that imposes citizen oversight (by independent organizations), TDCJ-CID will remain a near-opaque agency.

Thank you for the attention you've given to this reality of life in Texas prisons.

**MIM(Prisons) responds:** We thank this comrade for the additional information on the situation on the ground. We explain our perspective and our reliance on on-the-ground correspondents in every issue of ULK in a box titled 'On "Objective" Reporting.'

The main point of the article being responded to was that the TDCJ was enforcing a statewide lockdown for a problem that they caused. We know there is massive drug addiction plaguing the imprisoned population in Texas and many other states right now. So in these regards we had the facts straight, and made it clear that it was the staff to blame.

That said we appreciate the additional information this comrade provides on the causes of the deaths and violence. We would not say that celling certain personalities together are at the heart of the violence. And we certainly wouldn't blame predatory behavior on an individual's "nature." There are plenty of contexts in which different people can live together without killing each other. It is the particular oppressive and stressful conditions of U. S. prisons that lead to these tragedies and lost lives. As this comrade mentions, solitary confinement and poor food are serious stressors on the body, especially the brain. It is our experience that the drug economy is a big contributor to conflicts as well. This is not blaming the prisoners, this is blaming the state for promoting the current drug epidemic as a means to divide and pacify the oppressed.

The principal contradiction that defines the prison system is that between the captive and the captor. It is in the interests of the captor, who is the minority, to distract and divide the captives. This must come first, before things like ignoring celling protocols can become operative in a way that leads to deaths. A united prisoner population would not be manipulated by celling strategies.

That said, we agree that policies regarding who is celled with who can reduce these conflicts in our current situation. More importantly, we agree that some kind of outside oversight and pressure is necessary to change the ways of those who would be enforcing such policies. It is only through building true independent institutions that we can begin to apply such independent pressure in a way that serves the people by preventing these oppressive tactics. ■

# Book Review: Tip of the Spear

by Blux of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support  
January 2024

*Tip of the Spear Black Radicalism, Prison Repression, and the Long Attica Revolt*

Orisanmi Burton  
University of California Press  
October 2023

“without understanding carceral spaces as zones of undeclared domestic war, zones that are inextricably linked to imperial and officially acknowledged wars abroad, we cannot fully understand how and why the U.S. became the global leader of incarceration that it is today.” (1)

*Tip of the Spear* is the story of the organization and flourishing of resistance to American imperialism as it developed in the New York state prison system in the 1960s and 1970s, including the time well before the four days of Attica in 1971. Professor of anthropology Orisanmi Burton does many things in this book, a lot of which we'll only be able to mention briefly or not at all, but MIM(Prisons) has already sent out many copies of this book and is prepared to send out many more to enable further study and discussion of Burton's very worthy research and ideas.

We are asking our readers to send their own feedback on this book, to write up their own local histories or stories applying the framework below, and to popularize this understanding of U.S. prisons as part of the imperialist war on the oppressed peoples of the world that we must unite against.

## Prisons are War

Burton begins his investigation with George Jackson's observation that Black people “were defeated in a war and are now captives, slaves or actually that we inherited a neoslave existence.” (2) Prison conditions don't originate in the law or in ideas but in the historical fact of defeat in a war that still continues.

But what kind of war is it? One side surrounds the other and forces it to submit daily, the way that an army laying siege to a city tries to wear down the resistance of the population. These sieges include not just starving prisoners of food but of social life, education, and culture. In maintaining its rule the state uses the tools of counterinsurgency to split the revolutionary ranks, co-opt the cause and re-establish its rule on a more secure level. On the other side, the prisoners have themselves, their ability to unite and organize in secret, and their willingness to sacrifice for the cause – the attributes of a guerrilla army. (3)

Burton spends an entire chapter, “Hidden War,” laying out the strategies the state pursued when its naked brutality failed to prevent prisoner organization and rebellion. After the smoke cleared at Attica and wardens, politicians and prison academics had a chance to catch their breath, they settled on four strategies to prevent another Attica from happening: (4)

One, prisons were **expanded** across the state, so that density was reduced and prisoner organizing could be more effectively

disrupted. If a prisoner emerged as a leader, they could be sent to any number of hellholes upstate surrounded by new people and have to start the process all over again. The longer and more intense the game of Solitaire the state played with them, the better. We see this strategy being applied to USW comrades across the country to this day.

Prisons were also superficially **humanized**, the introduction of small, contingent privileges to encourage division and hierarchy among prisoners, dull the painful edge of incarceration somewhat, and dangle hope. Many prisoners saw through it, and Burton makes the point that the brief periods of rebellion had provided the only real human moments most prisoners had experienced during their time inside. For example, Attica survivor, John “Dacajeweah” Hill described meeting a weeping prisoner in D yard during the rebellion who was looking up at the stars for the first time in 23 years. (5) Burton sums this up: “the autonomous zones created by militant action... had thus far proven the only means by which Attica's oppressive atmosphere was substantially ameliorated.”

even sacrificing its own employees as it had at Attica, to restore order. The classic carrot-and-stick dynamic of counterinsurgency was operating at full force.

## Before Attica: Tombs, Branch Queens, Auburn

Burton discusses Attica, but doesn't make it the exclusive focus of his book, as it has already been written about and discussed elsewhere. He brings into the discussion prison rebellions prior to Attica that laid the groundwork, involved many of the same people, and demonstrated the character of the rebellions overall.

The first was at Tombs, or the Manhattan House of Detention, where prisoners took hostages and issued demands in the New York Times, denouncing pretrial detention that kept men in limbo for months or years, overcrowding, and racist brutality from guards. Once the demands were published, the hostages were released. Eighty corrections officers stormed the facility with blunt weapons and body armor and restored order, and after the rebellion two thirds of the prisoners were transferred elsewhere to break up organizations, like the Inmate Liberation Front, that had

grown out of Tombs and supported its resistance. (6) Afterwards, the warden made improvements and took credit for them. This combination of furious outburst, violent response and conciliatory reform would repeat itself.

Next Branch Queens erupted, where the Panther 21 had recently been incarcerated. Prisoners freed them, hung a Pan-Afrikan flag out of a window, took hostages and demanded fair bail hearings be held in the prison yard or the hostages would be executed. The bail hearing actually happened and some of the prisoners who had been in prison for a year for

possibly stealing something were able to walk out. The state won the battle here by promising clemency if the hostages were released, which split the prisoners and led to the end of the rebellion. Kuwasi Balagoon, who would later join the Black Liberation Army, was active in the organization of the rebellion and learned a lot from his experiences seeing the rebellion and the repression that followed after the state promised clemency. (7)

At Auburn Correctional Facility on November 4th, Black prisoners rebelled and seized hostages for eight hours. Earlier, fifteen Black prisoners had been punished and moved to solitary for calling for a day off work to celebrate Black Solidarity Day. After the restoration of order, more prisoners were shipped away and the remainder were subject to reprisals from the guards.

In each case, prisoners formed their own organizations, took control, made demands and also started building new structures to

run the prison for their own benefit – even in rebellions that lasted only a few hours. After order was restored, the state took every opportunity to crush the spirits and bodies of those who had participated. All of this would repeat on a much larger scale at Attica.

## Attica and Paris: Two Communes

Burton acknowledges throughout the book a tension that is familiar to many of *ULK*'s readers: reform versus revolution. He sees both in the prison movement of the 1960s and 1970s in New York, with some prisoners demanding bail reform and better food and others demanding an end to the system that creates prisons in the first place. But in telling the story of Attica and the revolts that preceded it he emphasizes two things: the ways reforms were demanded (not by petitions but by organized force) and the existence of demands that would have led to the end of prisons as we know them. On Attica itself, he writes that the rebellion demanded not just better food and less crowded cells but the “emergence of new modes of social life not predicated on enclosure, extraction, domination or dehumanization.” (8) In these new modes of social life, Burton identifies sexual freedom and care among prisoners emerging as a nascent challenge to traditional prison masculinity.

Attica began as a spontaneous attack on a particularly racist and brutal guard, and led to a riot all over the facility that led to the state completely losing control for four days starting on September 9th, 1971. Hostages were again taken, and demands ranging from better food to the right to learn a trade and join a union issued to the press. Prisoners began self-organizing rapidly, based on the past experiences of many Attica prisoners in previous rebellions. Roger Champen, who reluctantly became one of the rebellion's organizers, got up on a picnic table with a seized megaphone and said “the wall surrounds us all.” Following this, the prisoners turned D Yard into an impromptu city and organized their own care and self-defense. A N.Y. State trooper watching the yard through binoculars said in disbelief “they seem to be building as much as they're destroying.” I think we'd agree with the state trooper, at least on this. (9)

Burton's point in this chapter is that the rebellion wasn't an attempt (or wasn't *only* an attempt) to get the state to reform itself, to grant rights to its pleading subjects, but an attempt, however short-lived, to turn the prisons into something that would be useful for human liberation: a self-governing commune built on principles of democracy and solidarity. Some of the rebels demanded transport to Africa to fight the Portuguese in the then-raging colonial wars in Mozambique and Angola, decisions were made by votes and consensus, and the social life of the commune was self-regulated without beatings, gassings and starvation.

## Abolition and the Concentric Prison

Burton is a prison abolitionist, and he sees the aspirations of the Attica rebels at their best as abolitionist well before the term became popular. But he doesn't ignore the contradictions that Attica and other prison rebellions had to work through, and acknowledges the diverse opinions of prisoners at the time, some of

whom wanted to abolish prisons and some of whom wanted to see the Nixons and Rockefellers thrown into them instead. (10)

The Attica Commune of D Yard had to defend itself, and when the rebelling prisoners suspected that some prisoners were secretly working for the state, they were confined in a prison within a commune within a prison, and later killed as the state came in shooting on the 13th. There was fighting and instances of rape among the prisoners that freed themselves, and there were prisoners who didn't want to be a part of the rebellion who were forced to. And the initial taking of the guards constitutes a use of violence and imprisonment in itself, even if the guards were treated better than they'd ever treated the prisoners.

Burton acknowledges this but doesn't offer a tidy answer. He sees the use of violence in gaining freedom, like Fanon, to be a necessary evil which is essential to begin the process but unable to come close to finishing it. Attica, even though it barely began, provides an example of this. While violence is a necessary tool in war, it is the people organized behind the correct political line in the form of a vanguard party that ultimately is necessary to complete the transformation of class society to one without oppression.

## Counter-intelligence, Reform, and Control

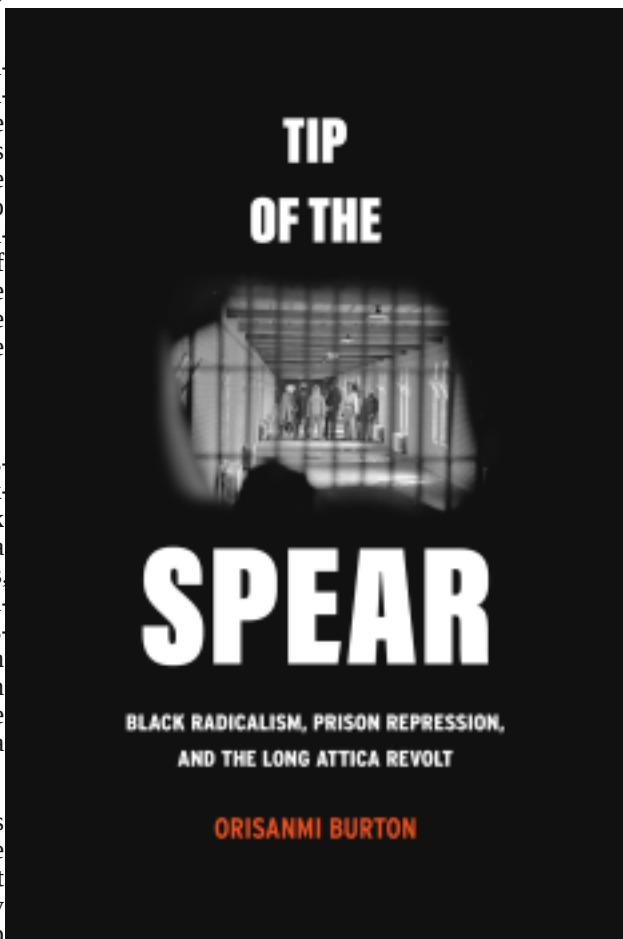
The final part of the book, “The War on Black Revolutionary Minds,” chronicles the attempts by the state to destroy prison revolutionaries by a variety of methods, some more successful than others, all deeply disturbing and immoral.

Some of the early methods involved direct psychological experimentation, the use of drugs, and calibrated isolation. These fell flat, because the attempts were based on “the flawed theory that people could be disassembled, tinkered with, and reprogrammed like computers.” (11) Eventually the state gave up trying to engineer radical ideas out of individual minds and settled for the solution many of our readers are familiar with: long-term isolation in control units, and a dramatically expanding prison population.

There is a lot else in this book, including many moving stories from Attica and other prison rebellion veterans that Burton interviewed, and who he openly acknowledges as the pioneering theorists and equal collaborators in his writing. Burton engages in lengthy investigations of prisoner correspondence, outside solidarity groups, twisted psychological experiments, and many other things I haven't had the space to mention. We have received a couple responses to the book from some of you already, which the author appreciates greatly, and we'd like to facilitate more. ■

### Notes:

1. Burton, Orisanmi *Tip of the Spear: Black Radicalism, Prison Repression, and the Long Attica Revolt* p. 19 All citations will be of this book unless otherwise specified.
2. Jackson, Soledad Brother, 111–12 cited in Burton p. 10
3. p. 3
4. pp. 152-180
5. Hill and Ekanawetak, *Splitting the Sky*, p. 20. cited in Burton, p. 107
6. p. 29
7. p. 48
8. p. 5
9. pp. 88-91
10. p. 95
11. p. 205



## Some Thoughts on S.O.'s and Sexual Orientation

by Triumphant of United Struggle from Within  
January 2024

I wanna add my voice to the ongoing conversation on Sex Offenders (S.O.'s) and LGBTQ people from a revolutionary perspective.

One key hurdle I think has to be constantly attacked and can only be attacked through criticism and self-criticism: so-called revolutionaries, activists, and political prisoners self-identifying as these things but still holding to the vestiges of their gangster, reactionary world views that make them comfortable.

A political activist analyzes people, places, and things from a political perspective. What is this person, place, or thing's worth, or lack thereof, to the political programs that political group/individual is striving for? The military activist analyzes people, places, and things from a military perspective, analyzing what will be most advantageous to the military goals of their army, militia, unit, etc.

Because of this, morals and standards in political and military groups, among such people are constantly shifting. When one is on the battlefield, even the most avowed racist, sexist, homotransphobe, sex offender bigot, will not allow their hate or disdain for the "other" to cost them their lives. The primary concern for the soldier or military commander would be can this person maintain discipline in battle, can they perform under pressure, will they desert their comrades in battle or go AWOL, are they reliable. If the S.O. or non-heterosexual was saving your life on a battle-

field, no one would say "let me die I don't like your kind" or "you're irredeemable." At that moment, the equality of humankind will shine bright and true and all the self-gratifying lies we tell each other will shrink in comparison with the truth.

I am not saying you should have no concern about the moral fabric of comrades. Usually morality and politics overlap. What I am saying is that a person/group's political line and commitment should be of deciding and primary concern if you yourself are indeed a political activist or military activist.

How many times in prison have we seen the "rules" of organizations bent for certain "stomp down" individuals. How many times have we seen people look the other way when a member of their org partakes in sexual gratification that the org prohibits or has a case that's frowned upon by the org? When this occurs it is usually because those in the org recognize the person in question is a practitioner of violence and that violent aggression is better with you than against you. So people make a tactical or strategic decision to condone, accept what they would otherwise attack or shun. For better or worse, this is political maneuvering at its core and it's done every day in every prison. I am not promoting it, simply stating truths. The purpose of pointing these truths is to say that if the apolitical populace can discern these nuances then why can't the politically do so when our causes are so much more noble and worthy of forgiving of one another's trespasses (real & perceived).

Try a new way of relating to

the people on the compound with you. If we're revolutionaries then we should be revolutionizing the social relations and castes in prison. The prison culture fosters a caste system based on criminal history, skin color, material wealth, propensity for violence, and sexual orientation. As revolutionaries we must check ourselves if we're not actively establishing a new prison culture and eliminating the hard-line caste structure. How? It starts with building and maintaining relations based on ones level of revolutionary ideology and practice.

Instead of greeting people with "Where you from, what you in for?" or being concerned about who they're attracted to or intimate with, your greetings, concerns, and inquiries should be, "What are your politics? What do you think about capitalism? How do you think we could organize against the issues we face? Check out this political program, and tell me what if anything you'd be willing to contribute to advancing it." If you aren't doing that in some form or fashion you need to engage in self-criticism, are you a revolutionary or a convict bound by the rules and ideas of prison culture?

Lastly, the notion that any group, or person is exempt from recovery, rehabilitation, or transformation is metaphysical, subjective, and thus incorrect. Despite the subject matter, the universe and everything in it, including one's ideas and impulses, attractions, are in constant movement and development. Nothing remains stagnant. This universal truth is the only universal truth,

Continued on page 16...

## Prison Closures in Virginia

by a Virginia prisoner  
January 2024

It will please your readers to know that approximately two weeks ago **four Virginia prisons were ordered shut down for good!** Augusta, Sussex 2, Haynesville, and Stafford Correctional Center. Augusta continues its industry and small cadre to support it. Nottoway and a sixth prison, so far unnamed, are also on the chopping block as the VA DOC

is now, quietly, downsizing due to its lack of sustainability (\$1.1 billion/year, approximately 26% of the entire state budget).

As is always the case, we'll see how things develop.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** The closures are scheduled to complete by 30 June 2024 according to the VADOC. It is notable that Augusta Correctional Facility is one of

the prisons comrades were campaigning to shut down for lack of air conditioning (see: "Shut Down Prisons with No Air Conditioning During Dangerous Heat Wave as Global Warming Advances" from *ULK* 79). At this time we have no reason to believe the decision was connected to that campaign. However Nottoway was also targeted by the campaign, along with a third prison Buckingham.

## Tennessee Bans Slavery — So What?

by a Tennessee prisoner  
December 2023

This year Tennessee banned all forms of slavery in the state. Now I'm trying to find out how to fight to get fair wages for work. If you can send info on how to fight that, that would be great.

**A Florida Prisoner writes:** Do you guys know the steps California prisoners took to gain their liberation from being treated as slaves under the 13th Amendment of the Constitution? I need to know the steps they took because I would like to initiate these same steps in the Florida prison system to see if we can also gain our liberation under the 13th.

**A Texas Prisoner writes:** This is a plea for us to come together in a prolonged effort to get the Texas Legislature to end slavery in Texas by removing the exception clause from the Texas Constitution. This is what we're asking each and every one of you to do: From now until the Texas Legis-

lature convenes, write to your state Representatives and Senators and ask them to convene a special session or whatever it takes to remove this clause. You should also write to Sunset Advisory Commission PO Box 13066 Austin, TX 78711.

**Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons) responds:** In the November 2022 elections the vast majority of Tennessee voters voted to amend their state constitution to read:

*"Slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an inmate from working when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime."*

We print the first two comrades' questions for others to answer. We've been asking for years what the point of these campaigns to amend the Constitution is? How does this get us closer to liberation, not to mention just benefiting prisoners in the short-term? An attempt to search for increases in prisoner wages in Ten-

nessee just brings up articles on massive increases in C.O. pay (prior to the above amendment).

As for California, the Constitution still says slavery is okay for the convicted felon. So there's been no "liberation" in that regard. California prisoners are required to work or engage in other programs deemed rehabilitative by the state. While California legislators have cited cost concerns for not supporting amending the Constitution, it is not clear that states that have changed their constitutions in this regard have had financial impacts (especially by requirements to pay prisoners higher wages).

If our readers have information to the contrary or examples of these campaigns leading to anything, please write up an article for *ULK*. But we know from a historical materialist understanding that slavery has only been ended through class struggle, not by voting or writing your Senator. ■

## In Their War They Expect Violence

by a New York prisoner  
December 2023

Greetings!

I received *ULK* 83 and I too agree prison is war. I've in the past heard on numerous occasions that the prison guard "respects violence!" No, they "expect violence." They can and will never "respect" those they consider subhuman and dispensable. And they fear those knowledgeable enough to know and combat this.

This "expect violence" recently reigned true for me when a Sgt. Reid came to my cell and ripped my clothing line down (making my wet clothes fall on me and the floor) in anticipation of some violent outburst. When he didn't receive one, he literally stalked me for the rest of the day provoking me and hoping to get a violent reaction. Singing things like, "you're too scared to die," to no reaction and therefore the harassment continued into the bathhouse and so forth. ■

## Resourceful Responses to Two Articles from ULK 83

by Grim of United Struggle from Within  
November 2023

Re: "Prisoner Put in Solitary for Organizing Political Education in Ohio" (from *ULK* 83), by an Ohio Prisoner

Greetings comrade,

While I wish I could do more to help you combat the political repression you are experiencing within the Ohio gulags, I am sending MIM a leaflet in hopes that it may help you as a replacement for your "self help litigation manual" that you mention was (intentionally) lost. Comrades @ Midwest Books to Prisoners have formatted Columbia University's "Jailhouse Lawyers Manual" (JLM) into zines (one chapter per pamphlet) and will send you 3-5 per request, for free. I hope these pamphlets will help you get around the pigs not allowing you to order books from the SHU.

1321 N. Milwaukee Ave

PMB #460

Chicago, IL 60622

Re: "Prisoners Punished for Drug Problem in Texas" (from *ULK* 83) by a Texas Prisoner

Though I will not pretend to know what goes on within the oppressive behemoth that is the TDCJ (being that I am going on 3 years here in a county jail in the Bay Area), I read recently after receiving *ULK* 83 a news snippet within the newest edition of the anti-authoritarian/anarchist website ItsGoingDown's newsletter "IN Contempt #34" that might shed some light on the reasons behind the Sep. 6th

lockdown for Texas' gulags. I copy it verbatim:

The Texas-wide prison lockdown that began in September has now been lifted [*this newsletter was posted Nov. 2nd 2023 - editor*]. The lockdown was officially described as an effort to combat drugs, but some prisoners have questioned this and suggested it was actually an attempt to suppress prisoner unrest after a particularly brutal staff beating at Coffield Unit. From a Texas Tribune article:

*"On Sept. 5 an inmate [sic] at the Coffield Unit stabbed a correctional officer [sic] in a high security unit. TDCJ officers [sic] responded to this incident with excessive force and prison system spokesperson Amanda Hernandez told The Texas Tribune established protocols were not followed. After an internal review of that incident, seven correctional officers [sic] were fired and another six officers [sic] resigned...."*

I'm not 100% sure what the spokesperson for TDCJ meant by "established protocols were not followed", but from the expansive reporting of Texas TEAMONE and others within TDCJ, we know that "excessive force" is standard operating procedure for Texas pigs.

**MIM(Prisons) adds:** We too distribute chapters of the PLM through our Serve the People Free Political Books to Prisoners Program. See page 2 for more info on how to get books. Also see the other response regarding the Texas lockdown (see: "ULK 83 Correction: Murders Weren't About Drugs" on p. 11) for more info on what was behind it. ■

## ... Continued from p. 11 ... Texas Ad-Segs

also shared with me his history of intellectual disabilities, and mild history of psychiatric illness. He had been adopted at a young age and raised in the foster care system. Our time near each other came to a close after the pressures of solitary confinement pushed this brother to attempt suicide. Days later as a result of this incident I was notified by the Ferguson Unit Warden Wheat that I would be reassigned to Administrative Segregation, under trumped up charges of assault on staff with a weapon.

Attempts to appeal the reassignment to Ad-Seg have been hampered by Unit Grievance Officer D. Turner not allowing my appeal of classification to go through.

I have personally reported the unprovoked excessive assaults these same clique of

guards have taken part in in the five months I've been on Ferguson. There is a culture of unmitigated brutality here and the slightest show of counter-force is excessively punished. Warden Wheat has been made aware of this clique of pigs constantly assaulting people without cause, he has ignored or punished reporters.

Prison is War. Prison is Violence. Administrative Segregation is the highest form of it, where prisonrats are allowed to hide you and abuse you away from any and all scrutiny. A tool that is used to throw away resisters in the prison battlefield. End RHU! ■

Sources:  
1. Angela Y. Davis, *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, pp. 23-24.

# Seducing The Jaguar: Chican@ notes on U.\$. counter insurgency

by Communist Party of Aztlán  
January 2024

The methods employed by the U.\$. government that are directed at the internal semi-colonies are vast. Although counter-insurgency is a practice taken up by many oppressor nations globally, it is unique within the U.\$. empire because of the magnitude of national oppression in the form of mass imprisonment of the internal nations and the fact that the

carceral state has in fact created the very conditions that uphold and nurture insurgency from its very bowels. U.\$. counter insurgency has had a program in place which changes names but stays consistent in targeting its enemies within the prison system in general and those within the prison movement in particular. Methods employed today within U.\$. prisons and especially prisons within Aztlán (the so-called "U.S. Southwest") are meant to declaw our young Jaguars and to seduce the nation into a role that is at war without shield nor spear.

It is this clear persynal experience in being a target of COINTELPRO which led to the culmination of this paper. Our party sees the need to begin this conversation in the nations so that not just Aztlán but all who fight colonization and the hyper-policing, frame ups, state-sponsored terror, and assassination can begin the hard work of guarding against counterinsurgency in an era that demands our boots on the ground to stomp out the rising tide of repression.

Revolutionaries are organizing daily in the occupied territories to raise consciousness and heighten the contradictions whenever they arise through agitation and political education. The state and its apparatus is also working hard daily to subdue our efforts and seduce our young jaguars into the temptation of empire and all the trappings of U. \$. imperialism.

Chican@ units and organizations that influence the nation to challenge the state and set out on the path of liberation and independence are targeted. The imperialist state will do everything in its power to prevent socialist revolution from developing in Aztlán and beyond. Our role as Chican@ revolutionaries should be to hold workshops in every barrio of Aztlán where the ideas of socialist revolution are realized and embraced, it is the duty of Chican@ communists to respond to U. \$. counterinsurgency in this manner. Only by mobilizing the entire community, the entire barrio in this way, will we ever finally get over the obstacle of U. \$. counter insurgency.

## Political Line Is Decisive

In our analysis we uphold the idea that ideology is key in how we move. Political line helps guide us in our political endeavors and we must constantly make adjustments and test our theory in order to maneuver in ways which push not just the Chican@ movement forward but the whole International Communist Movement (ICM) forward as well. We realize that the trappings of living in the imperial core among the world's labor aristocracy pushes many to be-

lieve that revolutionary organizing is not a life-or-death choice. The Communist Party of Aztlán (CPA) feels otherwise. Indeed we see that — even here in the First World where most "workers" are bought off by blood stolen from the Third World — revolutionary organizing is a matter of life or death to the Chican@ nation. If we do not set out on the task of organizing Aztlán and revolutionize our nation it will succumb to capitalist roaders. For this reason this paper serves not just as a study guide for oppressed nations but also as a *cri de coeur* (cry of the heart) for the raza to grasp the urgency that we see in the great task ahead or our nation may die.

Although we have a huge responsibility positioned here in the heart of imperialism, as we combat counter insurgency and mobilize the people we have no confusion about the fact that the Third World leads the ICM and our efforts here in the First World merely compliment them. Maoism as an ideology is clear on this despite the eye rolls from the trots, who have never led a single successful revolution.

It is crucial that Aztlán comes to grasp the reality of the class structure in the United \$nakes — as well as in Aztlán — as being made up of petty-bourgeois class forces. The exploitation of workers does not exist on the scale that it did in Lenin's Russia, on the contrary, what exists today in the occupied territories for the most part is a labor aristocracy whose life support remains connected to the value extraction from the Third World. We need to move from this perspective and understanding. Aztlán's future demands that we grasp this. Political line must be decisive in order for our tactics and strategies to be effective in our struggle for national liberation in the midst of the counterinsurgency offensive. Ideology allows us to identify our friends and separate them from our enemies. This does not mean we will not take losses to state repression, it simply means that we will be better equipped to continue in this beautiful struggle against oppression.

As Maoists we realize that being triumphant over U. \$. counter insurgency efforts and the occupation of our homeland will only happen when the U. \$. government has been completely overthrown and a complete revolution on these shores has occurred. Anything short of that will prevent real liberation from being realized for Aztlán.

As a party for the Chican@ nation we believe the Maoist concept of mass line is the way forward. It is the Chican@ masses who define the path by their ideas which are synthesized by our party. The raza will make history. Ultimately, our job is to engage the people into realizing their power.

The U. \$. government is at war with Aztlán, yet the tactic of low intensity warfare pulls the wool over our eyes and clouds our social reality from being realized except for the more politically conscious. Even among conscious raza in general and communist raza in particular one of the things which separates revo-



lutionaries is the understanding, which Mao pointed out, of class struggle continuing not just under a socialist government but even within the party itself as a bourgeoisie develops within. Understanding this Maoist doctrine in pre-revolutionary times is perhaps more crucial than even picking up the gun in revolution. Even in our current battle of raising public opinion and evading counterinsurgency tactics by the state, grasping this doctrine helps anchor us on the path to liberation rather than the capitalist road.

Raza of all political stripes may be targets of the imperial counterinsurgency campaign. Many may even be successful in evading state repression, yet evasion per se is not the objective, our aim of course is national liberation. As a semi-colony existing in the world's imperialist center Aztlán's primary objective is national liberation. We cannot help free other nations if we are not yet free. At the same time we should also identify that in order to win a war for national liberation we need a Raza Army, a Raza Army that is led by the CPA.

## U. \$. Counterinsurgency

Counterinsurgency is a military concept meant to partake in certain actions that neutralize insurgents. The United \$nakes targets and identifies politically conscious and revolutionary folks within the occupied territories as insurgents and has designed a program that aims to

destroy us and our efforts. This program attempts to neutralize us "legally" according to its own illegitimate "laws", but will resort to cold-blooded murder if necessary.

Most of those targeted come from the oppressed nations. This is not to say that most anti-imperialists or revolutionaries are from the oppressed nations, but that the U. \$. knows that it will ultimately be the internal nations that tip the scale in our favor come civil war. AmeriKKKa has worked hard to brainwash the oppressed and although they have managed to ward off the seizure of power by the oppressed they truly never gained real legitimacy in the eyes of the raza. At the same time the imperialist center has not held on to the internal colonies and its global influence for nothing, indeed they pour billions each year in its various agencies in order to hold onto white power.

Communists often say we are "professional revolutionaries" because we take our role seriously and understand that many times our very lives are at risk as we organize here in the Snakes. We should also grasp that the imperialist state also sees itself as professional oppressors because it is their lives that are in peril should revolution succeed.

The oppressor's counterinsurgency methods rely largely on intel. Information about the intended target is essential. Knowing everything about a tar-

get is vital to take that target down cleanly. The state agents are like hunters at this stage of struggle, one of their roles is to stalk their prey, find its habits and activities so that when it's time to hunt they'll know whether to use a bullet, crossbow, knife or simply poison the water hole. We give them this intel wittingly or not because they can only find a trail that we ourselves leave.

In the year 2023 our party took some hits by the state. It's interesting that in the California prison system the number 23 is a known symbol of white power so in some sense we anticipated the white power structure to strike in some way. But 2023 was also a year of growth and development for the CPA. We were able to learn a lot from the repression that was rained down on us when our Chairman was kidnapped.

National oppression in the form of imprisonment is one of the weapons the state uses in its counterinsurgency campaign. When targeting revolutionaries the state will often raid a cell or do a round up sweep but allow one or two to "get away". This tactic is meant to study the regrouping method and allow the one or two "lucky ones" to lead them to the others. It reminds me of an ancient Chinese tactic, where Chinese families for thousands of years have caught cormorant birds on Weishan Lake and tied string around their throats, letting them dive in lakes for fish while being unable to swallow, in this way recruiting a fleet of slaves for the master fisher. This is also akin to probation/parole.

The state also employs agents of various stripes who do in fact infiltrate revolutionary groups and cells. Counterinsurgency aims to neutralize insurgents. The state identifies those who take up agitation and/or organizing in order to reach our goal of national liberation. Once identified these individuals, groups, or organizations become the state's target. Various methods are used in surveillance, but of course human intel is always preferred by the state. Plants who give the state the ins and outs of a target's daily functions as well as goals and objectives or war plans are golden.

The FBI and CIA both utilize various assets for COINTELPRO — like operations which spawn various counterinsurgency actions. Their assets may be a partisan, prisoner, or paralegal. Most people can be utilized so nothing should be a surprise and people should be on a need-to-know basis from a comrade to a lover. We should also understand that the \$tates' wet dream is to in fact have the comrade or lover of a target as an asset, it is the golden egg in the realm of counterinsurgency.

## Assets

Assets come in many forms as has been stated. The state may employ a deep cover asset which would provide undercover intelligence and assist the state in gauging the threat. By alerting her/his controllers to an impending "crime" which can be real or imagined, for example the deep cover asset may report that a target has an arsenal of firearms at their residence which may not even be true, the controllers will either obtain probable cause for a search warrant or will send in an undercover informant within the

*Continued on next page...*

# Rest in Power Ruchell "Cinque" Magee

by a comrade  
December 2023

As we were assembling the copy for *Under Lock & Key 83*, Ruchell "Cinque" Magee died on 17 October 2023. We did not learn of eir death in time to announce it in that issue.

The Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu Jamal recently held a memorial event for Comrade Cinque. The lawyer who helped fight for Cinque's last minute clemency release told a story of how the state's attorney baited Magee on the stand. The lawyer asked Cinque what ey would do if the bailiff's gun was sitting on the table right in front of em. Comrade Cinque responded that ey would pick up the gun, take the bailiff hostage and use the hostage to get to the local news channel to get eir story heard.

Sundiata Tate also spoke emotionally on behalf of the hardship that Comrade Cinque went through, spending eir entire adult life in prison, 67 years. The brutal conditions ey faced. And eir insistence on going through it all without kneeling down to the oppressor, but staying on eir feet.

Attendees appreciated the portrait of Cinque by comrade AK47 featured in *ULK 83* and



many grabbed a copy. Comrades made the connection to Cinque's life and struggle as a Prison War Veteran to the state's use of prison as a tool of war against the oppressed.

It has become customary for the state to release political prisoners shortly before they die, to soften the potential blow back of a death in their custody. They do so at no risk of the comrade

contributing to the revolutionary movement after release. A speaker shared the precious moments Cinque had with eir family members in eir last months, most of whom ey was meeting for the first time in eir life. But a real victory for the people will be when we keep true freedom fighters out of the oppressor's prisons. That is a sign of winning the war. ■

## ... Continued from p. 14 ... Seducing the Jaguar

scenario who can then corroborate the asset's intelligence. An informant's job will be to record conversations (wear a wire or plant bugs) and to get up on the stand in open court to swear on their undercover "evidence". With regard to revolutionaries, this "evidence" is usually the most outlandish story imaginable so long as it neutralizes the target. An informational informant would be one whose only role is to gather intel to feed to the agents but would never reveal themselves nor get on the stand in open court. Such informants usually work for years in this way and almost always join the movement in some way, in an organization, as an occasional protester or in today's world as some sort of online activist . . . the point is they will attempt to stay familiar to revolutionaries and to gain the raza's trust in some way.

### COINTELPRO

We can never hear too much about COINTELPRO, (counter intelligence program) which the U.S. government unleashed on the people in the 1950's. Initially COINTELPRO was used during the "Red Scare" when communists in these false U.S. borders were targeted and terrorized. The state would infiltrate communist organizations and even study groups gathering intel in order to strike. In the 1960's the repression continued this time on the oppressed nations.

AmeriKKKa trembles at the thought of a Leninist cadre organization developing on its shores, its stomach turns when professional revolutionaries are conceived in its putrid womb. Our existence can only be realized if security measures are upheld to guard against COINTELPRO attacks.

The state employs COINTELPRO tactics to entrap or even assassinate our leaders. It develops moles of all types and agent provocateurs to get our cadre killed or captured. It slanders our

brightest and most dedicated and frames those who can't be neutralized any other way. The imperialist state does the unthinkable in order to keep the slaves holding their own blinders and covering their own ears. Just as the unjust cruelty is unleashed on the Third World, our most cherished acts and ideas are thoroughly violated in order to inflict the most damage to the movement. Not only are emotions like love defiled, in some cases they are weaponized to serve the imperialist masters.

Today we have the memory of COINTELPRO and even of the pigs that have been mostly etched out for us from seasoned revolutionaries or from the dusty pages of library shelves. But we define a pig as the MIM defined it in their pamphlet "What's Your Line?":

*"A pig is a police officer or other representative of the government's repressive apparatus, especially one who breaks down people's doors or quietly infiltrates a movement."*

We often think of a pig as a uniformed badge-wearing slave hunter but, according to the above definition, how many pigs are really out there?

Our party has enacted security precautions because of COINTELPRO attacks that we suffered in 2023. We do not name members of our party. How can organizations that are seeking to seize power identify themselves to the enemy who will come to kill them when the revolutionary war arrives? Why would we arm the state with a list of those it should round up? Why would we hand them the thread to pull apart the fabric of our party?

Those who scoff at the warnings of COINTELPRO are those who consciously or not believe in the fantasy of U.S. "democracy". They have a disdain for those who attempt to raise the alarm of COINTELPRO and who raise

consciousness around these matters. These Ti@ Tacos usually embed themselves in progressive orgs and wallow in cultural nationalism if they are raza. They essentially feel safe in the United Snakes. We should identify these Toms and learn to never feel safe among them or their kind.

Most recently it was reported in the corporate U.S. news that the settler state of I\$rael assassinated the leader of the Palestinian resistance in its current war on Palestine. We hear these selective strikes happen all the time yet many are still oblivious to the fact that the oppressor nation and its agencies always keep lists of revolutionaries. Their flow charts list leaders of the movement it has identified and will strike at will. We should move like we know this.

Historical materialism teaches us to learn from history in order to transform the future, and COINTELPRO in the 1960's taught us lessons when it came to the Black Panthers. For example, the FBI sent in informants and agents who identified what groups the Panthers were funking with, and one such group was the black nationalist organization United Slaves. The feds ordered their agents to foment conflict and heighten tension. Within the Chican@ movement today we see this play out in various forms. In order to guard against this we need a no tolerance policy in this area.

### Tactics

AmeriKKKa has been very creative in its efforts which have helped to stunt the growth of any real rebellion that confronts U.S. imperialism. Since colonization the state has employed various tactics to the oppressed nations, often utilizing others among the oppressed to do the States' bidding. An early record from the U. S. army from *Geronimo* touches on this:

*"Reliable Indians will be used as auxiliary to discover any signs of hostile Indians, and as trailers. This is the fifth time within three*

# Sekou Odinga Has Joined the Ancestors

by spiritofmandela1@gmail.com  
January 2024

[The following statement was circulated by email from spiritofmandela.org]

Sekou Odinga is celebrated & admired by freedom & justice movements worldwide for his persistence, courage, & principled adherence to freedom struggle.

Baba Sekou Transitioned on January 12, 2024.

Sekou Odinga was a globally recognized Black liberation activist, member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity, founding member of both the New York City chapter and the International Section of the Black Panther Party, and former US political prisoner who survived 33 years of state captivity before his release in 2014.

Prosecuted as one of the "Panther 21" in New York City, Odinga was a prominent historical figure, having been featured on *Democracy Now!* and in nu-

merous documentaries, concerts, mass public events, and major news outlets.

In addition to being featured in the widely circulated social movement texts *Can't Jail the Spirit* (2002) and *Hauling Up the Morning: Writings & Art by Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War in the U.S.* (1990), Odinga published his writing in *Look for Me in the Whirlwind: From the Panther 21 to 21st-Century Revolutions* (PM Press, 2017) and *Black Power Afterlives: The Enduring Significance of the Black Panther Party* (Haymarket Books, 2020).

A survivor of state torture and the FBI's notorious Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO), Sekou Odinga is both celebrated and admired by freedom and justice movements worldwide, exemplifying persistence, courage, and principled adherence to freedom struggle under the most repressive circumstances imaginable. ■



*months in which the Indians have been surprised by the troops . . . given them a feeling of insecurity"*

The above gets into the mindset of the imperialist state. It tells us that — despite many among the oppressed internal nations feeling as if they are mere fingerlings in the geo-political landscape — the state sees us as extreme threats. The U.S. government wants to know who the hostile people are, who the rebels are, the anti-imperialists, the revolutionary nationalists, and all the enemies of the state. The state also wants to psychologically harass and confuse us, at one time this was accomplished by horseback and today it is via the internet.

Prisons are also a target. The state knows very well that when revolutionaries are captured they continue with their duty to raise consciousness and to politicize the very concentration camps they are held in. La lucha don't stop in any sense of the word, if anything the struggle accelerates because of the uncut repression that prisons and prisoners experience.

The FBI actually created a prison activists surveillance program (PRISACTS) in 1970. This was meant to crush the prison movement. The methods used were military tactics which Orisanmi Burton calls "carceral spaces as zones of counter-revolutionary warfare" in *Targeting Revolutionaries*. This government project displays the lengths to which the state is willing to go to neutralize revolutionaries even when they are imprisoned. We take these methods serious as all people should as we all have comrades who have been captured if we are truly fighting im-

perialism.

### Outro

The state ultimately works to seduce our raza with financial incentive, integration, or intimidation. We need to build a stronger security culture which strengthens our efforts in the anti-imperialist movement. Counter insurgency efforts by the state are real. Our role in the empire is real.

We need to build stronger networks that nurture and support our imprisoned and captured comrades. We cannot forget about those who sacrificed their lives by being on the front lines. The front is wherever we find ourselves, even behind the razor wire and in the concentration camps. All Power To The People! ■

### SUBMIT WORK REPORTS

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

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

**2024 ULK EXPANSION**

After a year of shrinking subscribers and donations from prisoners (see page 3), we need to expand our reach for ULK to survive.

Prisoners should pass this issue of ULK on to someone else. If you need more copies let us know, or sign up to be a distributor and get multiple copies of every issue.

Outside supporters can also share ULK, distribute it at events and spaces where people will see it. Local distributors funding the ULKs they distribute also helps us survive and reach new supporters. We welcome organizing reports from the outside as well to better build connections between organizing inside and out.

Let's make ULK something people want to have. Respond to our short survey on page 3 so we can keep improving ULK. Spreading ULK is not a useful goal in itself unless it is enabling anti-imperialist organizing in prisons and on the streets.

**STOP DIGITAL MAIL RESTRICTIONS**

The spread of digital mail across U.S. prison systems has further threatened the rights to association, speech and information of prisoners and their outside contacts. See the article on page 10 for info on a lawsuit filed in TX and ideas for how to combat these issues in systems across the country. If you can't take legal action you can actively grieve and write letters when digital mail infringes on your

rights, and write it up for ULK to share and connect with others!

**WE DEMAND OUR GRIEVANCES ARE ADDRESSED IN INDIANA**

Indiana is the latest state to launch a campaign to bring more attention to the broken grievance system within the state Department of Corrections.

Indiana prisoners can now write in to get a petition custom to your state.

As the pigs respond with retaliation, and snitch-jacketing, we are also pushing the campaign to "Stop Collaborating" among those inmates who are siding with the pigs to oppose filing grievances.

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, IN, 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. Remember, you need to send them out to the administrators and politicians yourself.

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.

**BUILD A UNITED FRONT FOR PEACE IN PRISONS**

Does fighting and divisions plague your prison? Help

promote the ideas of the United Front for Peace in Prisons outlined on page 2. Get involved with USW to learn from others who are organizing in their prisons. Write in for a copy of our September 9th organizing pack and start building for the Day of Peace & Solidarity in your prison.

**EXPOSE & COMBAT ADDICTION**

Drugs are being used to control people in prisons across the country from CA to NV to CO, as we expose in this issue of ULK. This threat can only be tackled with organized resistance. We began distributing our Revolutionary 12 Step Program over a year ago. We need to hear from you if you have tried to implement the program. What worked? What didn't? How can we improve and expand these efforts? You can also write in to get a copy of our Revolutionary 12 Step Program and begin a program in your prison to help those who want to quit. We want to support you in combating these dangerous chemicals among the people.

**CREATE ART AGAINST IMPERIALISM**

We need good art to promote the campaigns and messages of ULK in each issue, on fliers, and on our website. Pick an article or campaign in this issue and create art that depicts a main idea in it, and send it to MIM(Prisons). If you don't already have our revolutionary art guide, write in to get a copy.



**CAMPAIGNS**

**They Say**

by a North Carolina prisoner  
January 2024

They Say:  
They say they gone always be there  
but never there when you really need them there  
unless  
its self care.

They Say:  
When you Fall down get back up, but don't tell you  
when you get back up its gone be Someone Hoping  
you  
Turn the left cheek in knock you down in say it Fair.

They Say:  
Love thy Neighbor as you love your Self but behind  
close doors Say Destroy they Neighbor in Conquer  
Wealth

They Say:  
We fight for justice but only by killing It was  
Justice For All.

They Say:  
Hey fellow you Committed a CRIME time to go to  
Jail,  
but don't tell about the Greatest CRIME Committed  
here in there.

They Say:  
FORGET About them, but we say Forget the  
Fascist in  
Say high to this Guerilla warfair.

They Say, They Say a lot of things  
But the "People" say All Power to the "People"  
Revolution is here in will always be the "People"  
WAR FAIR ■

**Revolutionary Triumph**

by Bluu Gaidi of United Struggle from Within  
January 2024

To revolve is to change,  
  
Transformation is what revolution brings, no  
face, no place, no name, all is suitable for  
guerilla tactics, so we study and we study so  
that we become self made autodidactics.

Nothing comes to a sleeper but a dream, so we  
must put *Theory* into practice in order to  
manifest that thing.

It's impossible for a persyn to be true to anyone  
else, without first being true to thyself!

If you should fail, go forth and try again. Mind,  
body, spirit must be imposed with discipline,  
with undaunting vigor we shall win.

Keep your mind focused, we shall not fold, nor  
shall we bend!

Triumph is ours! ■

**MIM(Prisons)  
PO Box 40799  
San Francisco, CA 94140**

send stamps or cash donations  
NO checks or money orders

[www.prisoncensorship.info](http://www.prisoncensorship.info)  
[mimprisons@posteo.net](mailto:mimprisons@posteo.net)

newsletter is FREE for prisoners

Donate Monero Here:



... Continued from p. 13 ... **S.O.'s and Orientation**

that nothing remains the same. Therefore to predetermine that anyone or anything is irredeemable is out of compliance with reality and is therefore incorrect thinking, and merely a reflection of one's biased and narrow analysis. Another small point I want to turn on from *ULK #82*, "Thugs Are Sex Offenders Too", where the writer says:

*"The problem is that most transgender men-women in prison are sex offenders, they are in for preying on children."*

This statement is obviously biased and subjective, and leads to flawed analysis. It is possibly true that the trans people that writer has encountered in prison are all S.O.'s, but it is the exact opposite for my own lived experience. No transgender person I've encountered has ever been locked up for a sexual offense, outside of soliciting prostitution. Here's what I mean by a purely subjective analysis, one that is narrow and one sided relying on one's own experience only. The truth is that trans people are most often victims of sexual predators in and out of

prisons. Those who've become predators themselves, whether trans or not, are most often victims of prior sexual abuse. Though this may not align with the writers lived experience it is the majority experience in society as told by polls and statistics. Yet the metaphysical, subjective, nature of postmodernist philosophy has us giving more credence to our own individual lived experience than that of the society at large or a wide array of the population. If we're in the business of transforming society at large that sort of analysis will not work well. ■

**Dare to Invent the Future**



**ATTENTION PRISONERS: You must write to us every 6 months to stay on our mailing list. Tell us what mail you've received from us since the last time you wrote.**