

4 People Own \$1 Trillion Should We Tax Them?

by MIM(Prisons)
January 2025

A group called Americans For Tax Fairness posted an announcement online that:

"The wealth of the four richest Americans hit \$1 TRILLION yesterday.

"It's the first time in history the net worth of just four men — Musk, Bezos, Ellison, Zuckerberg — has hit the trillions.

"These four men were worth \$74 billion twelve short years ago.

"Tax billionaires."

A startling increase in wealth for sure. And who could possibly use so much wealth? Have their lives even changed with this increase of wealth of two orders of magnitude? Did they even notice?

Later this month, the wealth at Trump's inauguration also topped \$1 trillion, with three of the above attending with many other tech CEOs. One of them, Musk, ended a speech with a powerful Sieg Heil (Nazi salute). Ellison also met with Trump within days of his presidency beginning.

It is true that any of these individuals could take a chunk of that wealth and ride off into the sunset, never to be heard from again. But like any one of us, they can only operate within the laws of the world we were born into. And the laws of capitalism would just fill that slot with another individual.

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Assad Falls; U.\$. Reshapes the Mideast

by MIM(Prisons)
January 2025

Damascus, the capital of Syria, fell to militia forces on 8 December 2024. The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's Ba'ath government in Syria is another setback for the resistance to U.\$.-I\$rael aggression in the region. The last half century has also demonstrated the limitations of bourgeois nationalism in the Levant. While Syria has been the center of meddling by the imperialists and regional powers for decades, the Ba'ath government's failure is due to the bourgeois class' nature as a self-interested minority that cannot fully represent the interests of the nation.

The current civil war started during the so-called "Arab Spring" in 2011.(1) Popular protests that year led to state suppression of many of the more progressive forces. Meanwhile funding via U.\$. proxies (Turkey, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates) helped prop up extremist Sunni-affiliated militias. In the chaos that ensued, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria(ISIS) arose to control most of Syria, in terms of area, and parts of Iraq by 2014. At this point, the United States teamed up with the Kurdish nationalist movement in Syria to form the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to prevent ISIS from completely taking over Syria, while Hezbollah and Iran fought ISIS on other fronts. A decade ago, it was clear the Assad government could not sustain itself.

By 2024, the former al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, Al-Nusra Front, had evolved into Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). HTS led a coalition of militias from the Idlib region to take Homs and then the capital of Damascus soon after. At the same time, the United States rallied the Revolutionary Commando Army from al Tanf region near the Syrian-Jordan-Iraq border. Many of the 2000 U.\$. troops currently in Syria are in al Tanf. Meanwhile, the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) continues a war against the SDF in the North of Syria. The Syrian National Army has incorporated many former ISIS soldiers, and threatens to wipe out Kurds in regions bordering Turkey to serve Turkey's interests in suppressing the Kurdish independence movement.(2) But the U.\$. sees SDF territory as theirs, so Turkey is limited by its NATO master on that front.

In coordination with the taking of the capital by HTS, I\$rael immediately seized strategic territory in the Golan Heights and destroyed Syria's military installations (reportedly 90% of their capacity). I\$rael has seized the highest point in Syria and territory that was granted to Syria as a buffer zone in a previous war. I\$rael is now closer than ever to Damascus, with no Syrian military to stop them. This means the ability of Syria to stand as an independent military force against the U.\$./I\$rael has been eliminated. This has led HTS to say they will not allow Palestinian

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Luigi Mangione: Reaction or Revolution

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist
Prisoner Support
January 2025

In the early hours of Wednesday, December 4th, a masked gunman shot the CEO of United States insurance company UnitedHealthcare, Brian Thompson, to death in the bustling streets of New York City. By midday, CCTV footage of the act had gone viral across the internet and traditional news media, spawning endless narratives and theories. Simultaneously, the high-profile nature of the shooting prompted a national manhunt to search for the suspect. The shooter evaded capture for five days, but ey was eventually arrested after a tip was called in by a McDonald's employee in rural Pennsylvania.

As communists operating in the United States, how are we to understand this event? What does the event itself and its resulting fallout tell us about the political landscape we work within? If we wish to live up to the title of being Marxists, the only answer to these questions is that we must conduct a, as Lenin put it, "concrete analysis of concrete conditions." Let us begin with the facts of the case.

The Facts

The name of the alleged shooter is Luigi Mangione. As laid out in eir so-called 'manifesto', Luigi's motivation for the shooting is a disdain for U.\$. healthcare insurance companies in general and UnitedHealthcare in particular. The origin of this disdain likely lies in a combination of Luigi's persynal interactions with health insurance companies through eir struggles with back pain as well as the more widespread antagonism between the U.\$. population and health insurance companies.

Luigi comes from a well-connected family which has its roots in the suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland. Eir grandfather ran several successful business ventures which guaranteed employment and prosperity for the next generations of the Mangione family as they have now taken the reins on the family businesses. Luigi emself attended a private high school before attending the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania where ey got eir degree in computer science in 2020. According to Luigi's family and friends, ey ceased all communication with them in July 2024. Presumably, Luigi spent the time between then and December planning the shooting, which we will now focus on.

As mentioned, the shooting itself took place on the morning of 4 December 2024. Interestingly, Luigi employed a 3D-printed firearm to commit the shooting, which marks the first

time such a weapon has been used in such a high-profile case. Immediately after, Luigi evaded the swarms of police by traveling via foot, cab, and e-bike before boarding a train towards Philadelphia. Not much else is known about Luigi's whereabouts and travels during the 5 days between the shooting and eir arrest in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

The biggest takeaway here is how easily Luigi evaded both the NYPD and the FBI for an extended period of time. If Luigi had continued traveling, discarded the evidence ey carried on em, or put any effort into changing eir appearance, it's likely that ey would have never been caught. But this is simply speculation on our parts. Let us now turn from the objective facts of the case to the realm of ideology.

Luigi's Ideology

To understand why Luigi Mangione shot Brian Thompson, we must first understand eir ideology. The only clues we have towards this understanding are scattered social media posts as well as the aforementioned "manifesto" Luigi had on em when ey was arrested. While we'll primarily focus on the "manifesto", we will first highlight one of Luigi's social media posts where ey reviews the writings of Ted Kaczynski, also known as the Unabomber. In this review, Luigi highlights how Kaczynski was "rightfully imprisoned" because ey "maimed innocent people" but that these were the actions of an "extreme political revolutionary." Luigi's review finishes by quoting multiple paragraphs from a Reddit comment expounding how violence is the only method we have at our disposal to fight back against "our overlords."

Now, turning to the "manifesto", we wish to give our readers the fullest picture possible, so we have included below a full copy of the writing that was recovered when Luigi was arrested:

"To the Feds, I'll keep this short, because I do respect what you do for our country. To save you a lengthy investigation, I state plainly that I wasn't working with anyone. This was fairly trivial: some elementary social engineering, basic CAD, a lot of patience. The spiral notebook, if present, has some straggling notes and To Do lists that illuminate the gist of it. My tech is pretty locked down because I work in engineering so probably not much info there. I do apologize for any strife of traumas but it had to be done. Frankly, these parasites simply had it coming. A reminder: the US has the #1 most expensive healthcare system in the world, yet we rank roughly #42 in life expectancy. United is the [indecipherable] largest company in the US by market cap, behind only Apple, Google, Walmart. It has grown and grown, but as [sic] our life expectancy? No the reality is, these [indecipherable] have simply gotten too powerful, and they continue to abuse our country for

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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.pris-encensorship.info. If you would like to become a *ULK* distributor, get in touch.

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

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

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

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

Other Resources

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

Inside Books Project sends free books and a resource guide to prisoners in Texas. Inside Books Projects, 3106 E. 14 1/2 Street Austin, Texas 78702
insidebooksproject@gmail.com

United front for Peace in Prisons - Statement of Principles

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to join the United Front?

- Study and uphold the five principles above.

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

- Develop peace and unity between factions where you are at on the basis of opposing oppression of all prisoners and oppressed people in general. Campaign around the September 9 Day of Peace and Solidarity.

- Send reports on your progress to Under Lock & Key. Did you develop a peace treaty or protocol that is working? Send it in for others to study. Is your unity based on actions? Send us reports on the organizing you are doing.

- Keep educating your members. The more educated your members are, the more unity you can develop, and the stronger your organization can become. Unity comes from the inside out. By uniting internally, we can better unite with others as well. Contact MIM(Prisons) if you need additional materials to educate your members in history, politics and economics.

2025 New Year's Statement

by MIM(Prisons)
January 2025

At the end of every year, MIM(Prisons) does an assessment of our work and finances and we plan for the new year. We also solicit reports, criticisms and self-criticisms from USW comrades. We were a little late on that this year, so perhaps we will have more for next issue of *ULK*.

While most are finding it hard to predict what the next Trump regime will bring, it is clear from this choice that imperialism is in crisis. The uncertainty and threat of instability from things like tariffs, deportations and defunding important social programs do not bode well for the future of U.\$. imperialism or stability of the current world order of U.\$. domination. There are clear cracks in the latter, despite 2024 being a series of short-term victories for the U.\$. empire in the Levant (Middle East).

The coming upheaval of the current system requires preparation and organization. Since the dissolution of the original MIM in 2008, we cannot say that the MIM has seen significant growth. The prison ministry did accomplish a lot in the decade from 2008 to 2018, reaching new heights in MIM's prisoner support work. In U.\$. prisons we saw significant growth and some amazing actions of mass solidarity. As long-time readers know, MIM(Prisons) took some major setbacks in 2020 and we've been regrouping since. In that period we've successfully expanded our online recruitment. We've also seen a significant growth in MIM line in online communities that MIM(Prisons) has never or no longer participates in (see our 6 points on opposite page). This has come along with a general growth in "Maoist" groups popping up, evolving and dissolving, though most of these groups do not uphold the 3 cardinals. All of this indicates change in favor of the growth of our forces here on occupied Turtle Island.

Assessing 2024

In the last few years we have revamped and relaunched all of our educational programs for prisoners, which were all non-operational by 2020. We've also begun running them online. In 2024, we saw another significant expansion of our educational engagement with prisoners with the relaunching of our study group for USW leaders through the University of Maoist Thought (UMT). Meanwhile, every year, comrades inside and outside continue to complete our intro study courses. These education programs are the first step to building the leaders we need to grow our movement.

Beyond just education, 2024 marked the beginning of the intentional building of the MIM-led united front. By MIM-led we mean ideologically, not a centralized organization. While still in its early stages, these discussions have been fruitful, involving people in cadre orgs and mass orgs that are doing real work in the anti-imperialist movement outside of prisons.

To be prepared for the changes to come, we must continue on these fronts. We must



educate more allies into leaders, through both study groups and pushing them to engage in practical work. And we must continue to develop our networks and infrastructure to support real fighting forces in the future.

In 2024, our readership in prisons has continued its steady decline dating back to 2016. We didn't receive a lot of feedback last year on the possible causes of this, but some factors include: drugs, tablets, digital mail, more long-term isolation, and a general decline in the prison movement.

We had less prisoners write us in 2024 than any other year in our existence. This translated to another decrease in donations. A few years ago we accomplished our longstanding goal of having prisoners fund 10% of *ULK* costs. This seemed to be a result of Covid money. Since then donations have returned to the more normal rate, but with less people writing us that's an overall decrease in donations. The percent of *ULK* costs covered by prisoner donations dropped to about 4.2% in 2024, down from 11.5% in 2022.

On the other hand, this summer we distributed far more copies of *ULK* on the streets than ever before as part of our effort to link the prison movement to the student movement for Palestine. We got close to our goal of matching distribution inside prisons. And our donations from outside supporters (outside of MIM(Prisons)) reached an all time high as well to help pay for those papers.

Overall, our budget was very stable between 2023 and 2024, and much of the small increase was due to us expanding our operations in other locations.

Other than continuing our regular publication of *ULK* each season, we also put the finishing touches on our paper "Why the International Communist Movement (ICM) Must Break with the Legacy of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM)". This paper is an important summary of the MIM struggle against the Revolutionary Communist Party(USA) in the realm of the

ICM, pointing out key differences between us and the various revisionists claiming Maoism to this day.

New for 2025

We have a number of things planned for this year already.

As whitehouse.gov removes all Spanish-langague content, we are excited to announce the relaunch of our Spanish page (or section) that will start in *ULK* 89. We already have a Spanish version of our current letter introducing United Struggle from Within and MIM(Prisons), and will have a Spanish version of the intro study course level 1 soon. So if you know people who are interested in studying with us in Spanish have them write in for that. We are also looking for incarcerated translators to help contribute to this important project.

We are already making progress in 2025 towards our unachieved goal of establishing local AIPS chapters with local outreach, regular meetings, educational events, and campaign support for comrades inside. This should continue to expand our ability to correspond with prisoners and attempt to rebuild interest in U.\$. prisons around our work.

We will be pushing the September 9th Day of Peace and Solidarity, on the anniversary of Attica, on the streets in the forms of fasting, political work and study, and possibly larger events as we have promoted inside prisons for a decade now. We have not seen much activity around this inside prisons in recent years, so we hope this will inspire that again and that we can reinforce each others' efforts around 9/9.

The relaunch of our study group for USW leaders has been very successful overall. Specifically, it has brought together some of our most enthusiastic and advanced thinkers within the New Afrikan Independence Movement, creating momentum around more proactive work in that realm. We will be continuing this study and looking to produce work from it for the broader movement.

Join Us

Imperialism will keep providing opportunities for resistance as its internal contradictions only continue to heighten. It has been some time since we've seen real opportunities within the United States, and it remains one of the most stable places in the world. Yet, now is the time to build. Opportunities are close enough that people are getting interested in real change, but we must build before real crisis ensues and the existing dominant forces sweep away our efforts because we were not prepared.

Since 2020 we've seen a persistent slow and steady growth. We need your help to sustain that growth into the future. ■

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.

What is the Solution?

by Clark of Anti-Imperialist
Prisoner Support
January 2025

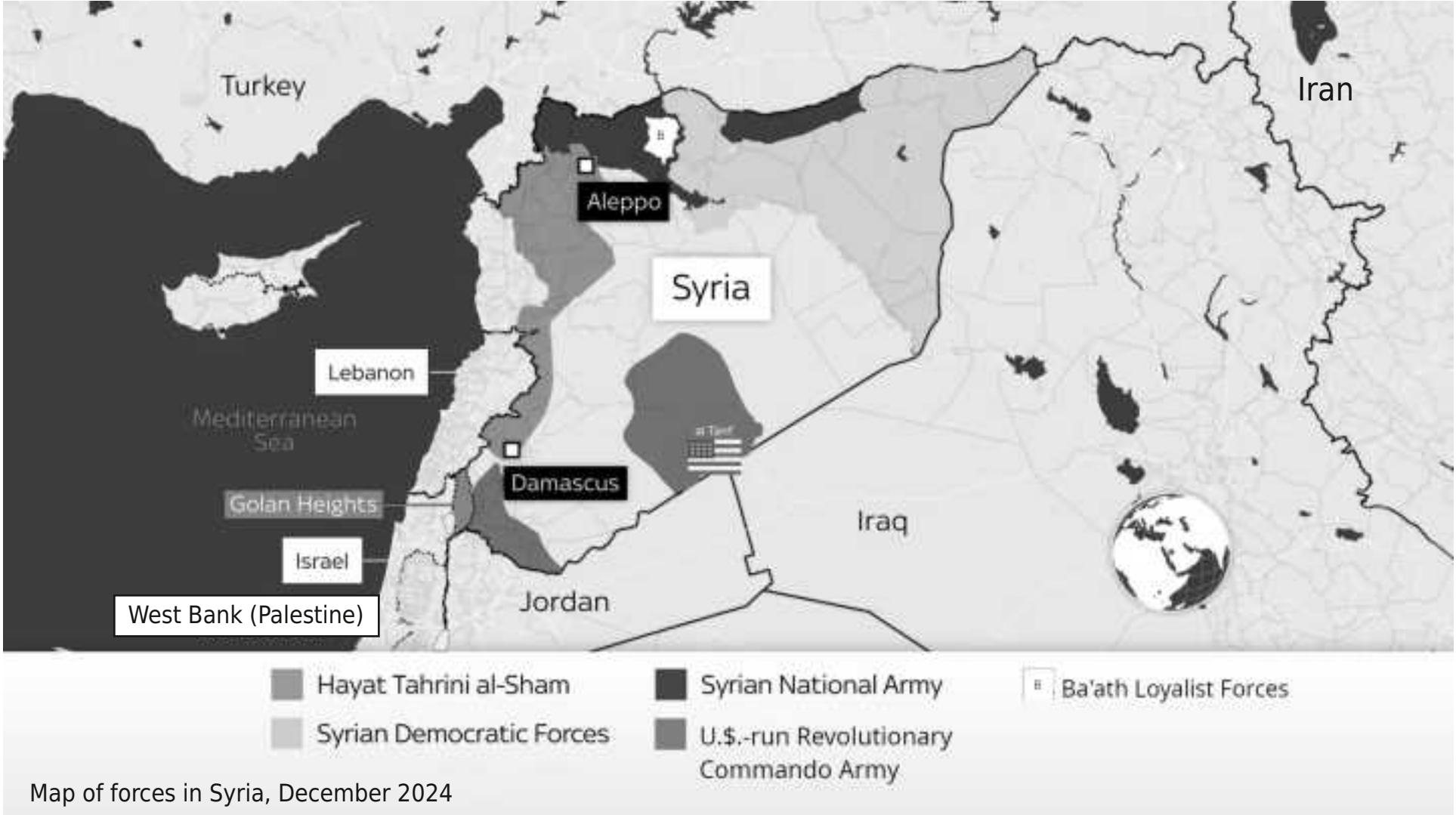
MIM(Prisons) regularly publishes articles speaking on the reprehensible conditions in U.\$. prisons. Why do oppressed nationalities suffer these life conditions disproportionately, and what is the solution?

The United States has been the largest economy in the world for some time. How is that possible? It is made possible because the United States reaps this profit out of the Third World. Many people know this subconsciously, but do not put all the pieces together. There is a common joke about Asian children making smartphones, but we do not question why this is the case. It is the case because it is profitable for the United States, because the company makes more profit when they pay lower wages, then these commodities are brought to the United States and sold for cheap, and everyone here benefits. The company makes a profit and the Americans get cheap goods. That much is clear from a cursory look, and proved by the recent literature on "unequal exchange."

It is obvious why the Third World is placed into poverty by this system, but why the oppressed nationalities within the United States? Historically the internal semi-colonies were sources of wealth as well, but today it is a question of distributing that wealth from the Third World. The Amerikan nation recognizes, consciously or unconsciously, that they have an interest in keeping their plunder to themselves. For that reason, Black and Brown people are excluded from employment, education, housing, and all the benefits of Amerikan empire. Racism, therefore, is the way that Americans assert their economic interest in keeping others from getting ahold of their money.

The movement against racism stems mostly from the desire of the oppressed nationalities to integrate into the empire; the desire here is for an empire free of national bigotry wherein the currently oppressed nations have equal access to the wealth which is pulled out of the Third World, the globally oppressed nations. Anyone with two eyes, however, can see that this struggle has been raging for decades without an end in sight

Continued on page 7...



Map of forces in Syria, December 2024

... Continued from p. 1

...Syria

militants to train in Syria anymore.

Over the last decade plus, hundreds of armed organizations have operated across Syria; a condition that is hard for us in the United States to imagine. The situation continues to be chaotic in Syria, and those much more familiar than us have a hard time knowing what is going on on the ground. It is clear that U.S. intelligence had a good sense of the balance of forces and was able to foster this takeover by HTS and others in very short time.

Short-term Impacts

Despite the reactionary nature of the Assad regime, which led to its quick collapse in December, Syria has served as a base of resistance for the region for over half a century. This is why, in the short-term, we see the fall of Assad as a bad thing for the anti-imperialist movement, despite being inevitable.

Syria was a transit corridor for resources from Iran to Hezbollah in Lebanon, this has been disrupted. Syria can now serve as corridor for Israel to reach and attack Iran. The overthrow of Assad is another short-term setback in the resistance to U.S. imperialism in the region following Israel's successes in decapitating Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine. The recent peace deal between Hezbollah and Israel also indicated a victory for the U.S. camp.

Five days after taking power, HTS declared that all Palestinian resistance forces must demilitarize. Palestinian factions, including Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), the Saiqa, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) Martyr Ali Aswad Brigade, have had a presence in Syria as guests of the government for decades. The refugee camp "Yarmouk", near Damascus, is the center of the Palestinian diaspora. Beginning with the Nakba in 1948, most Palestinians have been forced off of their land by Israeli settlers, and therefore live in what are now separate coun-

tries like Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. With the peace deal in Lebanon, Israel is trying to demilitarize Arabs there next. By cutting off the bases of operation of the Palestinian movement and the flow of supplies, Israel is remaking the region for a complete suppression of the liberation movement.

After more than two years without a president, Lebanon's parliament chose Joseph Aoun on 9 January 2025. This U.S.-backed candidate clinched the vote after the Hezbollah-favored candidate withdrew. Aoun, like HTS, has pledged to demilitarize any groups outside the Lebanese army. Hezbollah has long been the strongest military force in Lebanon, while participating in a multi-party government. According to the peace deal between Israel and Hezbollah, Israel had 60 days to withdraw from southern Lebanon. They have not done so as Hezbollah has also not demilitarized from the south as agreed to in the deal.

Sanction Wars

While the December events were swift, the overthrow of Assad was a U.S. operation dating back decades, through low intensity military and economic warfare. In 2002 Undersecretary of State John Bolton added Syria to the list of President Bush Jr's "Axis of Evil" countries, justifying economic sanctions, which the Americans get their allies to enforce as well.

Sanctions are economic warfare. Just like when you drop bombs on a country, sanctions often result in suffering and death of the civilian population. The fear-mongering around Russian election interference is a joke compared to what the Americans have been doing for decades, starving people to force them to change their political allegiances.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Syria's oil sales in 2010 would have been around \$3.2 billion or 25% of the state's revenue. But war and sanctions put an end to that within a year. Oil extraction in Syria was first done by an American beginning in 1956. By

1958, Syria was part of Nasser's United Arab Republic (UAR), which seized the oil fields and machinery from the American company. When the Ba'ath Party took over a couple years later, with the dissolution of the UAR, they kept the oil fields nationalized. By 2013, ISIS controlled most of the oil fields and were using them to raise money. Assad stated that ISIS had two partners in stealing the Syrian oil since 2014: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey and the Americans. China has echoed Assad on this point. In November 2019 Trump said to the press that "We're keeping the oil, we have the oil, the oil is secure, we left troops behind only for the oil," referring to northern Syria controlled by SDF.(3)

The U.S. imperialists want to monopolize the global oil supply as much as possible and ensure that all major oil producing economies are selling their oil in U.S. dollars. This allows the U.S. dollar to maintain an inflated value in global commodity exchange (by forcing countries that need to buy oil from OPEC countries to have a stash of U.S. currency on hand). A secondary effect is that it makes it harder for countries sanctioned by the U.S. to buy oil (forcing the use of proxies to access U.S. currency and do business with OPEC). This allows the Americans to artificially control inflation of USD, while currencies in other countries like Syria, or Nigeria (see p.8), take on that burden.

The Revolutionary Commando Army, paid by the Americans, was making 12 times what the Syrian Army was paying, thanks to inflation crippling the value of the lira, or Syrian pound. This inflation can be blamed on the U.S.-imposed sanctions. However, it is also a characteristic of a capitalist economy. There is a reason why socialist China did not have inflation despite U.S. sanctions on the Communist Party of China. (4) And there is a reason why inflationary forces and financial markets threaten the Chinese economy today, after 50 years of capitalism. Similarly, the Ba'ath economy was susceptible to these problems and more. Nationalist policies can slow the ef-

fects of capitalism, but cannot eliminate them like socialism does.

The Limits of Bourgeois Nationalism

The weakness of the bourgeois Syrian state is also reflected in Russia's unwillingness to get involved and Assad's sudden fleeing of the country leaving his army with no clear leadership for resistance. If there was a way to maintain Ba'ath rule, Russia would have wanted that. Contrast Assad to Sadaam Hussein in Iraq who faced a trial, and was executed by hanging while calling for a united Arab resistance to U.S. imperialism and a free Arab Palestine. The Ba'ath parties in both countries come from a nominally pan-Arab and nationalist background. But we see how circumstance exposes them as inconsistent allies against imperialism.

When the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party emerged, about a third of the world's population was living under socialism, most of them in the Soviet Union or China. The Syrian Communist Party was the other party with broad mass support. These influences pushed a pan-Arab line with pro-social economic policies in the early Ba'ath Party. Ba'ath was the radical alternative to Nasserism and originally mobilized the peasantry in Syria via land redistribution. The father of Bashar al-Assad led a coup that abandoned this path, and focused on serving the urban capitalist class. Today the national and regional economic projects of the 1960s are impossible as war and divisions have become dominant under imperialist influence.

The way the Assad regime folded was a sign of its own internal weakness. Of course, this came after 13 years of more or less constant imperialist meddling and instigating of civil war. But the resistance in Gaza has not folded after 75+ years, while the once stable and relatively powerful Syrian government folded in a matter of days. This speaks to the internal contradictions. While parties like Ba'ath and Hezbollah have served to suppress communist organizations, the conditions in Palestine have united the nation to the extent that commu-

nists and bourgeois nationalists are waging guerrilla warfare in conjunction against the occupiers just days before a cease fire is expected to begin (see p.5). Now that Assad's government has fallen, Syria faces greater chaos, allowing the imperialists to play forces off against each other.

Neo-colony of U.S. or Jihadist Caliphate?

While the general media propaganda in the United States has been to celebrate the takeover in Syria, the more thoughtful Americans are concerned that HTS is "former al Qaeda." They see conservative religious views of such groups and lump them in with Christians in the U.S. government who are fighting against abortion rights and diversity. On top of that is the racialized view of Muslims as foreign, other, and dangerous. But for the proletariat "al Qaeda" is not necessarily a negative, and the network continues to capitalize on the perception that they are fighting U.S. (and allied) imperialism.

Some real red flags for the proletariat to look out for are things like doing your first interview on CNN within hours of taking power, moving to neutralize threats to Israel, letting Israel seize territories of the former state, and the number 1 red flag to look out for: courting positive business relations with U.S. imperialism. These are all things HTS leaders have already done.

Osama bin Laden is rolling over in his watery grave as these rebranded al Qaeda leaders of HTS have become the tip of the U.S. imperialist spear in Syria. But what appears to be the rise of a clear U.S. puppet, emerged from the anti-imperialist bourgeois nationalism that dominates the Muslim resistance today. Their bourgeois character ultimately comes into contradiction with their nationalist claims.

As Marxists we look at class interests, and class interests in the form of national interests, to determine who are our friends and who are our enemies. And the majority of people in the Levant are proletariat and peasantry. Palestine is clearly included in the proletarian camp, despite

Continued on next page...

Palestine Celebrates Announced Cease Fire Deal

by MIM(Prisons)
January 2025

Yesterday, U.S. Presidents Trump and Biden announced a cease fire deal between their military outpost called I\$rael and the Palestinian resistance, primarily represented by Hamas. Palestinians are celebrating in the streets for this potential respite from the 15 month onslaught that has turned Gaza to rubble and murdered 47,000 Palestinians officially and closer to double that in reality. Despite these heavy losses, the cease fire is a victory for the Palestinian resistance that has not folded after 15 months of fighting a much more heavily funded occupier. The United \$tates says that the fighting forces in Palestine have increased in numbers since 7 October 2023.

At this writing, the peace deal has not begun and has not officially been signed by I\$rael. I\$rael has continued to murder Palestinians in recent days, including one reporter who had just announced the planned peace deal to the world. And the imperialists continue to spread lies about Hamas holding up the deal. Investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill says ey saw a deal signed by all of the Palestinian resistance representatives days before the deal was announced, when Biden was claiming they were waiting on Hamas.

The deal is a victory for the Palestinian resistance, in meeting their immediate demands, including a prisoner exchange that is supposed to release some who were sentenced to prison for life by the I\$raelis. The deal will also involve I\$rael's withdrawal from and the rebuilding of Gaza. At this time no details are public.

I\$raeli press has credited Trump with forcing the deal that has been drafted during the Biden

presidency and is scheduled to begin the day before Trump's inauguration. Trump had demanded a deal happen before he gets into office. The Trump administration has continued to call for the total elimination of Hamas, and the deal seems to also force a demilitarization of all Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip. While the majority of Amerikans opposed the bombing campaign of the last 15 months, they do not support a liberated Palestine. Trump seems to be willing to at least pause the slaughter that Biden supported and to appease the minimal demands of many Amerikans, but he is no friend of the Palestinian people. Those who demanded "Ceasefire Now!" may have their demand met, but this is not the first time Palestinians have celebrated in the streets after a deal is struck with I\$rael.

There is an antagonistic contradiction between the I\$raeli settlers and the Palestinians of the land that is far from resolved. And indications have already been made that I\$rael does not intend to see the deal through past the first phase. Only time will tell how the imperialists will behave in Palestine in the coming weeks and months. But the struggle for the national liberation of Palestine lives!

UPDATE: As we go to press, prisoner exchanges have begun, with the release of 90 Palestinian prisoners and 3 settlers, followed by 200 Palestinians and 4 settlers. Many Palestinians had been held without charges, and some were already freed by the resistance on 7 October 2023, but recaptured. The second group included many with life sentences. Meanwhile, I\$rael has launched a major military operation in Jenin in the West Bank, killing at least 10 people so far. I\$rael has also issued administrative detention orders to imprison 85 more Palestenians and has been targeting the families of released prisoners for harassment and repression. ■

... Continued from previous page

their economic structure limiting class development and perhaps being dominated by a lumpen-proletariat or semi-proletariat.(5)

Much has been made of the foreign nature of HTS, that it is a transnational group of ragtag extremists. But this too just feeds into neo-colonial thinking. Expelling the foreigners is progressive when aimed at the imperialists. But this is a specific brand of foreigner. And the imperialists can easily pull together a group of born-and-bred Syrians that will be happy to run the country for their Amerikan sponsors. So the oppressed must guard against this form of narrow nationalism.

Syrian nationalism may turn against HTS, but it is not clear who will take their place and how they will be any better. The national question is not clear in a country whose borders were created by the U.\$ and French imperialists in 1948. Like many political forces in the region, the Ba'ath Party came from pan-Arab roots, that see one Arab nation that is destined to dissolve the imperialist imposed boundaries. Syria even briefly formed the United Arab Republic by merging with Egypt towards this goal. More recently, ISIS united broad regions of Iraq and Syria for a short period, though against the will of many in the region. What is clear is that the Arab people of the region share a common interest, and should be working together to meet that common interest. Currently I\$rael is crushing the attempts at doing so.

The New "President" of Syria

Abu Mohammad al-Julani is the leader of HTS, who united the various forces that fought to overthrow Assad. He has returned to using his birth name of Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa. While he indicated it would be up to four years before elections would occur again in Syria, National Public Radio quickly began referring to em as the "President of Syria." The U.\$ State Department also lifted the \$10 million reward it had long offered for al-

Sharaa's capture on 20 December 2024, another indication of how the Amerikans are viewing the take over.

In 2021, al-Sharaa did an interview with *Frontline* where ey said ey was radicalized by the Palestinian Second Intifada, stating, "I started thinking about how I could fulfill my duties, defending a people who are oppressed by occupiers and invaders." Then al-Qaeda's attacks on 9/11 inspired em to travel to Iraq to fight the U.\$ invasion in 2003 as a soldier with al-Qaeda. Ey was arrested by the Amerikans in 2006 and imprisoned for 5 years. Ey was released, coincidentally during the start of the Syrian revolution in 2011 and began immediately working to build al-Qaeda in Syria, which ey called Jabahat al-Nusra, or in the U.\$ media referred to as Al-Nusra Front. Al-Nusra eventually emerged at the center of power plays between the Islamic State and al-Qaeda. The differences between these groups may be mostly about power struggles and not ideology. However, ISIS was initiated by al-Qaeda affiliated people who thought they weren't moving fast enough to liberate the land. Al-Nusra seemed to have a similar strategy, which is what led to confrontation with ISIS. In the end, HTS was militarily fighting both ISIS and al-Qaeda to govern Idlib province in the years prior to seizing Damascus, while benefiting from Turkish economic support.

U.\$ State Department aide Jake Sullivan told Hillary Clinton that "AQ [Al-Qaeda] is on our side in Syria" in 2012, referring to the Al-Nusra Front.

State of Imperialist Forces

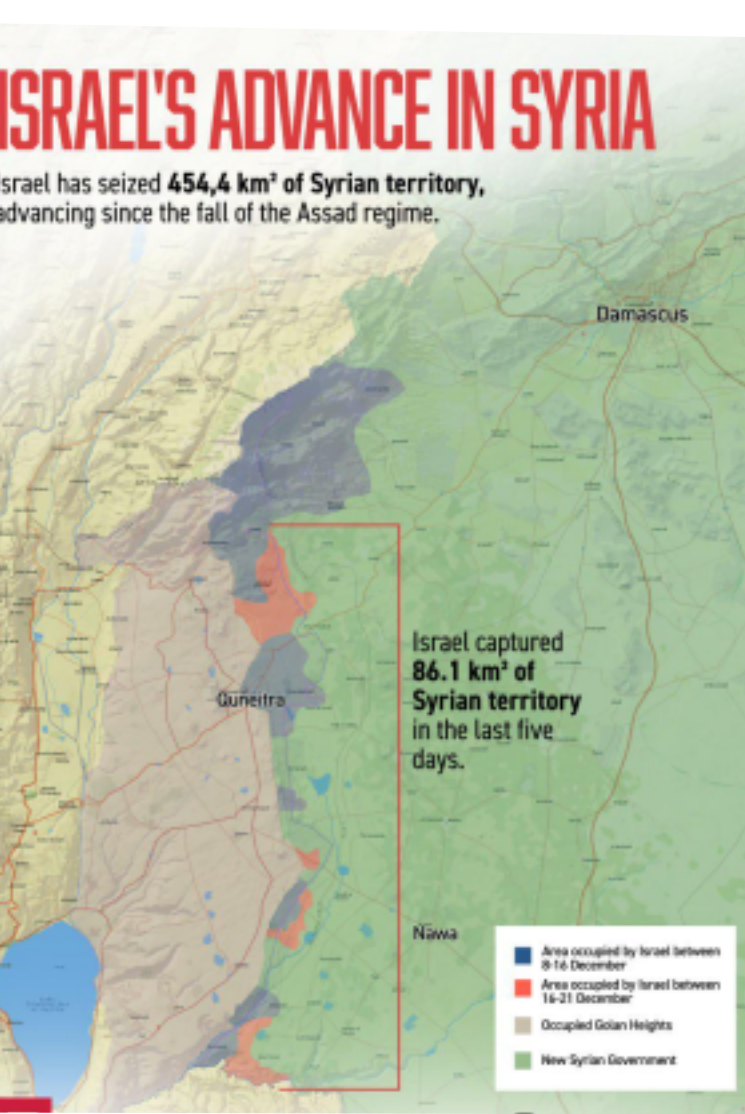
Russia's lack of action in Syria, compared to years past, is a sign of their military over-extension with the war in Ukraine. They lost a strategic naval base in the Mediterranean Sea without a fight with the fall of the Assad regime. Like the United States, they seemed aware of the Syrian government's inability to sustain itself and cut its losses, which were significant.

Recently a comrade wrote us asking about what are we waiting for to start the revolution here in occupied Turtle Island. Well a lot of things. From the Russian Revolution, Lenin taught us that a revolutionary situation is defined by the masses and the ruling class realizing the impossibility of continuing in the old way. In addition, an actual end to U.\$ imperialism becomes possible when it finds itself over-extended militarily. This is clearly not the case as it is effectively exerting its interests on the other side of the world via proxies like I\$rael, Ukraine, and militias in Syria. While the U.\$ is footing the bill, they are doing very little in terms of providing their own military support and are not putting Amerikan lives in jeopardy to do so. This could be to avoid open conflict with Russian troops, but also avoids much of the backlash they faced while occupying Iraq.

The overthrow of Assad with only 2000 U.\$ troops in the country is a victory for the imperialists, but we'll see whether this is enough for them to establish a new client state in Syria. Syria has also been a success for the Amerikans in terms of global public opinion. Following the escalated genocide in Gaza over the last 15 months, U.\$ public opinion has grown significantly to condemn I\$rael, but less so Amerikkka, despite the recognition by most that I\$rael is U.\$-funded. In Syria the connection is much less apparent, but the predominant sentiment is that the overthrow of Assad was a good thing. This is a big difference from the Amerikan regime change project that overthrew the Ba'ath regime in neighboring Iraq. During the invasion of Iraq, the U.\$ was in the position I\$rael is today. Today I\$rael could fall, and the imperialist superpower lives on.

Axis of Evil - 25 years of Reshaping the Middle East

Following al Qaeda's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001, U.\$ President George Bush coined the term "Axis of Evil" to refer to Iran, Iraq and North Korea in 2002. While these countries were not united in any way, Bush



claimed they were all sponsors of terrorism and manufacturers of "weapons of mass destruction." In reality their commonality was in their resistance to U.\$ imperialism.

This "Axis of Evil" was coined while the "Great Satan" U.\$ imperialists were invading Afghanistan, ostensibly for their harboring of al Qaeda, including Osama bin Laden. That invasion lasted until 2021, when the former governing Taliban finally returned to power. In those two decades, hundreds of thousands were killed and millions were displaced in Afghanistan. In 2011, the United States assassinated bin Laden in neighboring Pakistan. The 9/11 attacks also triggered the United States to launch an international prison network made up of CIA "black sites", in which the Bush regime okayed the CIA to ignore Geneva Convention rules against torture.

After George Bush's speech, Undersecretary of State John Bolton gave eir own 2002 speech entitled "Beyond the Axis of Evil" that included Cuba, Libya and Syria. In response to the "Axis of Evil" talk, people from these countries began talking about the "Axis of Resistance", since resisting U.\$ imperialist interests was the thing these countries had in common. Iran eventually took up this term around its informal alliance in opposition to the U.\$ imperialist outpost of I\$rael.

Before Syria's takeover this month, Syria was the only state power, other than Iran, to serve as a training ground and supply source for the other members of the Axis of Resistance. Ansar Allah in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in Palestine all participate in state power or at least dual power. Other members of this alliance include Shia militias in Iraq, other national liberation forces in Palestine, and now emerging militias in Syria that oppose the recent takeover.

In addition to opposing I\$rael and the United States, the Axis of Resistance has generally opposed Salafist groups like al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Salafism is a revival of

Sunni Islam that attempts to connect to its "authentic" traditions by opposing things that didn't exist in the times of the prophet Mohammed; a truly reactionary ideology that wants to take society backwards.

Despite Syria's important role in supplying Hezbollah in Lebanon and resistance forces in Palestine and being on the U.\$ "Axis of Evil" list, Syria actually served the U.\$ imperialists in their "War on Terror" in Afghanistan and Iraq. The imperialists invaded Iraq (again) in 2003 under the pretense of weapons of mass destruction, which was later proved to be a complete lie. During this period CIA black sites were operating in countries across the world, including Syria. These "black sites" were a secretive international prison system focused on torture, interrogation and disappearances.

While some recent U.\$ media coverage of the freeing of prisoners in Syria was proven to be fabricated, there were many people who suffered under the Assad regime who are understandably celebrating or at least relieved. While we criticized imperialist meddling against Assad and recognized the Ba'ath government as useful to the resistance in the region, its failure to serve the people led to its demise.(6) As always, we join in the call of the resistance forces in recognizing the right to self-determination of the Syrian people and opposing all imperialist occupation of portions of Syria and imperialist meddling in the economy and resources of the region. Much struggle will be needed to make that a reality. ■

Notes: Our citations for this article are not up to our usual standards, but we believe most of the facts here to be uncontroversial and easily verifiable.
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North Carolina Oppression Disguised as "Validation": Join the Civil Suit

by Joku Jējupe Mkali of Serving
With A Purpose
January 2025

My intentions here isn't to give a dialectical and historical context of the relationship between today's Lumpen Organizations (gangs) and past revolutionary movements, although there is an inextricable link between the two. The origins of today's Lumpen Organizations (L.O.s) were strongly influenced by the original Black Panther Party (BPP) and other similar organizations. They were formed to uplift and protect their communities from outside threats, threats that were typically imposed by law enforcement and the U.S. government.

With the destruction of the BPP, combined with the influx of drugs and firearms within their already oppressed communities, members of these organizations were lured into "gang-bangin'" against each other and a fratricidal and suicidal criminal lifestyle that resulted in the abandonment of the ideals and principles that were brought forth and established by the organizations' founders. Ideals and principles that that wer often influenced by those of the BPP and the Black Liberation Army (BLA). Today there are a limited few who diligently impress upon their "homies" the importance of espousing the organizations founding ideals and principles. Overall, a majority have been derailed from the organizations initial revolutionary path, which has been detrimental to the youth who romanticize today's "gang" culture and their communities. Moreover, the absence of these ideals and principles has engendered a culture of disunity, violent competition, and the romanticizing of the "gang-banging" mentality, which renders us incapable of redressing the conditions we find ourselves subjected to within these razor-wire plantations.

There is no silver bullet or magic wand that can be used to magically expedite the transformation that must be made. Transforming the criminal mentality into a revolutionary mentality is a protracted process that demands accountability and rigorous educating.

i am dedicated to assisting with this transformation any way that i can. One way is to shed some light on the draconian policies and procedures that governs those of us who have been labeled "gang members," labels known as Security Risk Group (SRG) or Security Threat Group (STG), so we can begin to seek redress to said policies and procedures.

Gang Validation Process

Those of us who have been validated as SRG/STG often suffer significant unfair prejudices due to the officers who are responsible for the validating opinions often basing these opinions on sweeping generalizations and stereotypes about "gang members" generally, unreliable methodology, and/or the officer's racial bias.

Here in North Carolina the Department of Adult Corrections (DAC) has "certified" twenty-one alleged prison gangs as Security Risk Groups. Prisoners are validated as members of SRG's by Prison Intelligence Officers (PIO) who are usually white, whose discretion reigns supreme in determining who is validated as SRG members and who isn't. These subjective decisions lead to disproportionate validations of New Afrikan prisoners and those from other oppressed nations. A stark example of the racially uneven application of SRG validations is evident in the percentage of "white" prisoners who have been validated compared to New Afrikan prisoners. White prisoners make up 1.9% of the prisoners

issue where gang membership and behavior are concerned beyond stereotypes and prototypes, being that these validations subject prisoners to indefinite sanctions and restrictions that not only affect the lives of the prisoners but also the lives of the prisoners' families.

These "gang officers" employ a worksheet which lists seventeen criteria for determining gang involvement, each of which is assigned a point value. Prisoners may be labeled as "suspects/associates" or "members". A qualifying score is not difficult to achieve: prisoners bearing tattoos "thought" to signify gang affiliation and who socialize with "confirmed" gang-members may be regarded as members themselves.

False positives are likely to

have the SRG validation removed. There is a SRG program that's accessible to a limited number of prisoners. It is a 9-month program at Foothills Correctional, a prison located in the rural mountainous region of Western NC. The staff employed there are exclusively white, live in race segregated communities and are out of touch with the cultures of the prisoners they oversee.

When these "gang officers" walk through the doors of the prison, many of them, knowingly or unknowingly, hold negative biases towards those who have been validated and those who don't look like them.

The media perpetuates inaccurate narratives of violence, criminality, and dishonesty among racial minorities that many of these "gang officers" unknowingly internalize. It shows in how they interact and deal with the prisoners.

The DAC describes this program as being a program that "targets those beliefs (cognitions) that support criminal behavior" and seeks to shift the thinking that supports these beliefs. Prisoners who complete this program must undergo a debriefing and renounce their affiliation, if any, before the validation is removed. This program is not available to prisoners who have been labeled problematic.

The other way to have the validation removed is to complete your prison sentence and be discharged from NCDAC custody. Of the 1,343 prisoners released from NCDAC's custody last year, 564 were alleged SRG members.

Draconian Gang Policies & Procedures

The ostensible purpose of the DAC's SRG policies and procedures is to avoid prison disturbances supposedly fomented by gangs. Nonetheless it is obvious these policies and procedures have the effect of incapacitating significant numbers of prisoners and has cultivated an environment opposite from what prison officials claim to be "safer".

Those who have been validated find themselves subjected to draconian sanctions and restrictions, such as being prohibited from receiving visits from anyone beyond immediate family. This excludes aunts, uncles, cousins, and the mother of your child(ren). If you have no immediate family members to accompany your child(ren) to visitation you will not be allowed to visit with them. Our childrens' interests are not, as a matter of right, factored into SRG validation determinations. The fact that parent-child visitation can help children overcome the challenges of parental separation and reduce recidivism rates is well-documented. However, prison officials find it plausible to implement such a policy that pre-

vents parent-child visits.

As with the prisoners who have been validated, New Afrikan children are the ones greatly affected by this policy. NCDAC has implemented this policy without any cognizance that such a restriction may implicate the parent-child relationship, which is typically subject to extraordinary protection by the courts. But yet this policy goes unchecked.

During my incarceration i've been unable to visit with my daughter due to me having no immediate family willing to accompany her. This has prevented her and i from developing a meaningful relationship. This is something that a majority of us are experiencing.

Moreover, this policy has an outsized impact on New Afrikan families and other members of marginalized communities who bear the brunt of mass incarceration.

Limiting a prisoner's visitors to immediate family only effectively cuts a prisoner off from family members who may have raised them. As we know in marginalized communities there are an overwhelming amount of fractured families, where grandparents and others play the mother-father role.

Then there are the prisoners who were raised in foster care, who have never had the opportunity to meet their immediate family. There is no exception for foster care parents.

Although these restrictions are sometimes justified, they are being used indiscriminately without individual analysis.

On 19 February 2019, a policy was implemented that prohibited validated prisoners from receiving monetary support from anyone who wasn't an approved visitor.

Prison officials claimed that this was done to curtail "Black Market" activities and strong arming. It's not difficult to see how such a policy would increase said activities and, moreover, would create an environment where those who do have means of receiving financial support become victims of strong arming and other acts of violence.

This policy was implemented 8 months prior to now-retired Director of Prisons Kenneth Lasiter requesting more funding for security and control weapons. During these 8 months, violence amongst prisoners drastically increased, i know because a majority of the close-custody facilities were placed on lockdown due to the increased violence.

Validated prisoners are prohibited from attending all educational/vocational programs, compelled to serve idle prison sentences. They are locked in their cells virtually all of the time and otherwise maintained in extremely harsh conditions. Unable to have their custody level reduced to medium or minimum security. And job opportunities are non-existent. Common sense would tell prison officials that there are many reasons to believe that these policies and restrictions will produce unfortunate results both inside and outside of prison.

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EXAMPLE

DC-410 (Rev. 8/1/23)

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION
PRISONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROCEDURE

Offender Name: John Doe Offender #: 00000000
Location: Maryland Department Date: 12-12-24

Grievance Statement: I am validated as a SRG member, upon being validated, I received no notice of my validation nor was I afforded an opportunity to attend a hearing that would allow me to produce evidence to contest my validation. Since being validated, I've not been afforded an opportunity to attend a periodic hearing that would allow me to have my validation level reduced or removed. While being validated, I've been subjected to draconian policies and procedures, I'm unable to visit with anyone beyond immediate family members, unable to attend any educational/vocational programs.

What remedy would resolve your grievance?: To have my validation removed altogether, or gives an opportunity to attend a hearing that would allow me to provide evidence that would contest my validation.

Offender Signature: _____

OFFICIAL USE

Date received: 1/1 Receiving Officer Signature _____ Staff ID _____
Facility #: _____ Year: _____ Housing #: _____ Sequence #: _____

Distribution: White - Facility Copy; Pink - Offender Copy

validated in NC prisons.

Around the world gangs are studied by those with specialized training in areas such as ethnography, anthropology, and psychology. In these fields, researchers are often subjected to ethical standards that warn against manipulating data to advance their personal objectives and required to employ social science field research best practices in relation to data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The officers responsible for validating prisoners are not held to any such ethical standards and lack the fundamental knowledge to determine if a prisoner is actually a SRG member or not.

The degree of specialized knowledge for these officers to be qualified as "gang-experts" is particularly lacking. An officer can be qualified as a "gang-expert" after having only a couple months on the job, as long as they have some formalized training. You would think these "gang officers" would be required to demonstrate a basic understanding of the complicated dynamics at

arise under this criteria, because while they may indicate a correlation with gang membership, they do not establish causation. Because gang membership cannot be reliably inferred from the factors aforementioned, these "gang officers" should not be allowed to opine about gang membership based on these factors alone.

Completed validation worksheets are forwarded to the NC-DAC's Chief of Special Operations, Daryll Vann, who reviews the worksheet, confirms that "relevant" documentation is attached, and validates the identifications. Prisoners who wish to contest the validation are not afforded the opportunity to do so. Prisoners receive no notice of their validation, no procedural due process, nor a periodic review that would enable the prisoner to have the validation removed. Therefore, prisoners who have been validated, remain validated for the duration of their incarceration and irrevocably are subject to SRG policy deprivations.

There are only two ways to

The PLRA and Getting Grievances Heard In Arkansas

by Alien of United Struggle from Within
January 2025

Welcome to the revolution! This is Alien tappin in with a response to *ULK 87* article "How To Get Grievances Heard In Arkansas."

I actually did many years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. The last six of those years was spent in the max (Brickeys/Cummins), cuz I 'bucked' on em repeatedly. I've personally been through *years* of what this Arkansas prisoner is describing. I filed hundreds of grievances and they always responded with a denial of allegations and found the grievance without merit, as this Arkansas prisoner said. I've also had similar experiences with the disciplining hearings, with disciplinary hearing officers, like 'no-socks', cutting the hearing camera off on me mid hearing and automatically finding me guilty, etc. For the longest time I held yards/showers down, barricaded cells with spears, stabbed people, flooded toilets, busted sprinklers, slipped cuff and attacked pigs to get justice, but I learned several things towards the end of my set that helped a lot.

So when you — this Arkansas prisoner — ask what to do I decided to give you a few answers in the long/short term; it's inspiring to see fellow Arkansas comrades goin' down the same path as me, while "fighting and spreading the word" in chains.

Okay, so in the short-term, request the prisoner's self-help litigation manual (4th edition) from the law library, they usually keep several torn-up copies of them on hand, go to the exhaustion of remedies section and pull up the case law at the bottom of the pages to "shepherdize". In 2016, while I was at Brickeys, *Prison Legal News* sent me a free copy of their magazine and it had a case in there from the Supreme Court that says that when a remedy (grievance) is unavailable, then it is a "dead-end" process and doesn't have to be exhausted.

What I'm getting at is that there are certain circumstances (such as when you're being retaliated against as a result of exhausting your remedies) that enable you to file the 42 U.S.C. §1983 lawsuit, without completing the grievance process. You just gotta explain to the courts in the §1983 complaint package why you had "no available remedy to exhaust", which sucks, cuz then you gotta survive a "summary judgement motion" — it's not easy either — once you file the lawsuit. The Arkansas pigs are aware of this, which is why they don't mind not signing grievances or doin' anything about your grievances once signed. Plus they're aware that the chances of them gettin' sued are low. Successfully sue them a couple times and watch their attitude adjust. I personally went through this and didn't get to finish the lawsuits cuz the pigs where I am now trashed all my files.

Don't just take my word for it though. Study into the case law on grievance exhaustion and go from there (there's no way to cover all the case law inside of

one article). If you don't know how to shepherdize cases, the book I told you about will instruct you on all that. On the bright side it'll give you something to do in the max. Get in the law library, cuz while grievances don't work in Arkansas, lawsuits do.

In the long term, I plan on collaborating with MIM(Prisons) to get a campaign going against the PLRA (Prison Litigation Reform Act §1997) — we'll call it the "PLRA campaign". The PLRA is what demands that prisoners exhaust all available remedies, prior to filing any Bivens/42 U.S.C. §1983 lawsuits (Bivens are filed against the federal government, while §1983 is for the state/local level). According to the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution we have the right to "petition the government for redress of grievances." And according to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution we have a right to equal protection. The PLRA violates both the 1st and 14th amendments and I intend to organize a class action challenging the constitutionality of the PLRA, through the PLRA campaign.

(1) In theory, our ability to "petition the government for redress of grievances" is life-threatening and often injurious, cuz we're forced to exhaust dangerous grievances, prior to filing §1983's. The fact is that prisoners can and do get killed and fucked off — injured — for filing grievances nation-wide. Filing grievances is dangerous in an infinite amount of ways. They can't legally force us to participate in a grievance process that's going to get us stabbed in the neck or jumped on by fuck-boys, who are often in collaboration with the pigs. We are *unable* to petition the government if doin' so is going to get us hurt in any kind of way. We can prove in a trial that it's common knowledge that guards nation-wide, are capable of silencing and do silence prisoner litigants' petitions through retaliation which intimidates many prisoners from initiating grievances or lawsuits. The feds spent decades tryin' to take down the five Italian mafia families, in part for silencing litigants so why not help us take down the pigs' PLRA which is essentially a technical loophole that they use to evade justice or trials and silence litigants with mafia-like tactics.

The whole "deliberate indifference" standard that applies to 8th amendment (cruel and unusual punishment) lawsuits wouldn't apply in a 1st amendment claim. We'd be arguing that the PLRA exhaustion requirement is "abridgement", which doesn't necessarily have to be deliberately indifferent.

(2) The PLRA violates the 14th Amendment cuz the prison class **can't** seek redress for mental injuries without there being a physical injury, and the non-prisoner class **can** seek redress for mental injuries even if there isn't any physical injuries

involved, which is unequal protection. Shutting the doors of the courts in prisoners' faces so that we can't seek redress for mental injuries doesn't allow us equal access to the courts, which also violates the 1st Amendment. An injury is an injury. Take it from me, a severely mentally ill prisoner, when I say that many mental injuries are just as bad, if not worse than, physical injuries. Suffering from mental injuries is also a "grievance" that we should be able to "petition the government for redress" for, under the 1st Amendment. We have to ask ourselves what the aim of the PLRA is when it comes to barring us from the courts for redress of mental or psychological grievances? I think that the answer to the question is obvious and speaks volumes.

How would the prison system look without the PLRA? The PLRA is an obstacle standing in our way of combating the number one form of psychological torture of the Amerikan nation's prison system — control units. And this is due to the fact that we can't sue anyone for the mental injuries involved with doing hole time if it doesn't cause physical injuries, and doing hole time, by itself, doesn't cause physical injuries. If we can successfully take down the PLRA, then we can sue to receive compensation when we suffer mental injuries as a result of doing long-term hole or max time, without there being any physical injuries. If they have to compensate prisoners every time somebody suffers a mental injury as a result of living long-term in control units, they may lean more towards changing living conditions in the hole (such as giving one access to books, radios, phones, jobs, fixing temperature issues, etc.), flat out abolishing the control units, or reducing length of control unit sentences.



Anything mentally injurious going on inside of the prison that is simply for revenge-based punishments and not for security purposes could then lead to mass amounts of compensation. The compensation will deter psychological torture and amplify mental-health treatments.

The last aspect of taking down the PLRA is that prisoners would no longer have to exhaust remedies in order to file Bivens/§1983s. If we can end the PLRA in the long term, then this would end the grievance campaign altogether.

With that I'll close. I hope my response was helpful. ■

NYS DOCCS Pigs Kill Man Imprisoned in Marcy Correctional Facility

by MIM(Prisons)
December 2024

Robert Brooks, a 43 year old New Afrikan man, was beaten to death by Correctional Officers (C.O.s) in Marcy Correctional Facility in upstate New York on 9 December 2024, dying in the hospital the next day. On 27 December the New York Attorney General's office released body camera footage from 6 C.O.s and 2 Sergeants involved in the beating. They show Brooks being pinned to a gurney, while handcuffed, and beaten on-and-off for many minutes by the pigs.(1) Thirteen staff members of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) are being investigated in the beating.(2)

Marcy C.F. is in an area of upstate New York known for its racist rednecks, a very white area abutting the Oneida Nation Reservation. Just down the road is the infamous Clinton Correctional Facility as well as the Mohawk Correctional Facility offensively named after the neighboring Mohawk nation of the Iroquois confederacy. A comrade struggling with addiction was moved from Mohawk last year to a Secure Housing Facility where ey reports:

"I still am recovering from the brutal assault, battery, torture and sexual assault by the gang of pigz here at Upstate C.F. I am physically healing slowly and taking some drug to help with the brain damage I suffered from all the fractures in my face and forehead. I'm doing physical therapy for my arm. My studies with you all have given me the focus and strength to recover. I am no longer on the Suboxone

... Continued from p. 3

... the Solution?

The oppressed nationalities within the United States cannot leave behind the Third World on the low chance that they may succeed in becoming one with the beast, they must ally with the Third World in the struggle against imperialism. Only by overthrowing this system of class and national divisions can the oppressed within this country live to see a day where oppression in general is dying out, and prisons in particular become based on rehabilitation instead of "punishment," and where people are not restricted from life opportunities in the interest of protecting the wealth of the privileged nation.

Does anyone today believe that true integration, true "equality" between nationalities in this country is possible through the ballot or any other means? The response to this question will be "if not, what hope is there?" The choice seems to be between the gradual struggle for equality on the one hand or nothing on the other, since the only method of achieving liberation without reform is revolution, and most cannot imagine the oppressed nations in this country winning any real fight against the empire. But why are we imagining this fight as only between

program, smoking cigarettes, marijuana or PCP. I still struggle with K2, but the more time I spend grounded in studies, writing and reading with you all, the less time I have to think about wanting to get high. I thank you all and hope my struggle is an example to those who are sick themselves and struggling."

Brooks had recently been transferred from Mohawk as well, and sent to Marcy this month.(2) The state investigation indicates that Brooks did not attack the officers or do anything to warrant the use of force, which the videos show as well.(1,2) Brooks's death is suspected to be a result of "asphyxia due to compression of the neck." New York State Correctional Officers are required to wear body cameras and have them running whenever encountering a prisoner. While many involved covered their cameras, the beating continued despite the presence of the body cameras in the room. The *Times Union* reports that the C.O.s seemed to be unaware that their body cameras could be passively recording the incident.(2)

People posted pictures of Mario and Luigi cartoon characters online in response to pictures and videos of the beating. The outrage at this state-sponsored lynching is somewhat encouraging, but posting images online obviously won't solve the brutality waged against oppressed nations, and against prisoners in general, in this country. Organization is needed. Only together can we protect ourselves. ■

Notes:
1. <https://ag.ny.gov/osi/footage/robert-brooks>
2. Brendan J. Lyons, 27 December 2024, Court records confirm inmate was beaten while handcuffed, The Times Union.

Document Prison Abuses

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

Documenting and monitoring the abusive conditions in 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.

Imperialism and Neo-Colonialism is Killing one of Africa's Biggest Economies

by a Texas prisoner
January 2025

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and one of its most productive economies is currently facing an economic crisis. The masses of Nigerians cannot afford groceries or other essential products. The country's government has failed to remedy the situation with minuscule economic reforms.

These reforms were controversial and many working class people and groups protested and resisted them for sometime prior to their eventual implementation. Despite recent periods of economic growth, inflation in Nigeria has soared to 34% rendering one of the government's reforms (raised minimum wage) obsolete.

In December 2024 local police in Ibadan say that at least sixty people have died in stampedes. These stampedes occurred at three different charity events where organizations were giving out food and cash donations. In Ibadan, a charity event for children was held and thousands of people showed up with their kids, a lot of them were days early in order to receive the much needed essential products. Tempers flared as people became desperate for these donations and the stampede ignited. In the end at least thirty-five children died in Ibadan that day. It is safe to say that capitalist imperialism was party to their deaths.

These stampedes merely demonstrate the struggles and

desperation people of Nigeria are facing. The underlying causes of the economic situation in Nigeria is that the imperialist controlled General Bank placed inflation at 34%, and in order to minimize the effects of that high inflation rate the Nigerian government began to implement the reforms I have already mentioned. Western imperialist institutions and countries largely praised these reforms before and at the outset of their implementation. These institutions include the International Monetary Fund, as well as the United States government. Meanwhile, U.S. officials are working hard to get inflation back to around 3% for Americans, in a country where most people are in the top 10% income-wise in the world. The proletariat and lumpen proletariat in Nigeria as well as the small peasantry are suffering greatly compared to Americans complaining about gas prices for their 15 mile per gallon trucks they drive to Costco and load up on bulk foods.

As part of the reforms the Nigerian government devalued their national currency (Naira) making themselves more dependent upon the whims of foreign international economic interests and activities. These activities rarely favor African or other Third World countries. The Nigerian government also cut their electricity subsidies, and probably the most important reform being the ending of their fuel subsidy which is one of the benefits that Nigerians receive. While gasoline was slightly

cheaper in Nigeria in December 2024 (\$0.67/Liter) than in the United States (\$0.80/Liter), minimum wages in Nigeria were around \$42 per month. That's less than an Amerikan making minimum wage earns in an 8-hour day!

Previous governments have attempted to end the fuel subsidy but backed down repeatedly as a result of huge protests from the Nigerian people. The current and former governments set their sights on this particular subsidy because it was a very expensive one for the government, adding to government budget issues. The effects of cutting the subsidy for fuel saw the price of fuel, and subsequently transportation have soared. The latter makes it more expensive for corporations and businesses to perform their logistical duties, and they therefore raise their prices for consumers. Also because of power cuts people in Nigeria rely heavily on power generators and the cost of these have gone up as well.

The Nigerian people are angry at the failure of the Nigerian government to put comprehensive economic measures in place to soften the blow of the removal of the fuel subsidy, their inability to do so showcases their incompetence. The government has asked for the people's patience, and have expressed that they are aware of the economic pain this is causing, but that is necessary and temporary. As I have mentioned they

have risen the minimum wage and made it almost double what it was previously. However, inflation has made such measures void. The government has also done small cash grants to the poorest socioeconomic sectors of Nigerians. The people have a general feeling that the political class in Nigeria do not really comprehend the effects these economic policies are having on their day to day lives.

The writer believes that the government comprehends perfectly well, however they are more concerned with maintaining exploitative relations with the United States and its corporations along with those of other imperialists. ■

Down With
Imperialism!!!!

Insider Accounts

by Pennsylvania prisoners
January 2025

A local news station conducted a live mass interview with prisoners held in State Correctional Institution - Huntingdon in Pennsylvania as part of their coverage of Luigi Mangione's imprisonment. The reporter asked questions on live TV and had prisoners respond by yelling answers and flashing lights to their local correspondent on the ground. What follows are a couple of on the ground reports to verify that event and the conditions exposed in that video.

Sprayer wrote on 3 January 2025:
The area where our brother Luigi was/is held is called: D-Max, D-Rear, D-Obs. It is where they (Huntingdon) puts people when they want to grind them up. It is atrocious



... Continued from p. 1

We'll let Engels explain this in more depth:

"The capitalistic mode of production moves in these two forms of the antagonism immanent to it from its very origin. It is never able to get out of that "vicious circle" which Fourier had already discovered. What Fourier could not, indeed, see in his time is that this circle is gradually narrowing; that the movement becomes more and more a spiral, and must come to an end, like the movement of the planets, by collision with the centre. It is the compelling force of anarchy in the production of society at large that more and more completely turns the great majority of men into proletarians; and it is the masses of the proletariat again who will finally put an end to anarchy in production. It is the compelling force of anarchy in social production that turns the limitless perfectibility of machinery under modern industry into a compulsory law by which every individual industrial capitalist must perfect his machinery more and more, under penalty of ruin. But the perfecting of machinery is making human labour superfluous. If the introduction and increase of machinery means the displacement of millions of manual by a few machine-workers, improvement in machinery means the displacement of more and more of the machine-workers themselves. It means, in the last instance, the production of a number of available wage-workers in excess of the average needs of capital, the formation of a complete industrial reserve army, as I called it in 1845, available at the times when industry is working at high pressure, to be cast out upon the street when the inevitable crash comes, a constant dead-weight upon the limbs of the working class in its struggle for existence with capital, a regulator for the keeping of wages down to the low level that suits the interests of capital. Thus it comes about, to quote Marx, that machinery becomes the most powerful weapon in the war of capital against the working class; that the instruments of labour constantly tear the means of subsistence out of the hands of the labourer; that the very product of the worker is turned into an instrument for his subjugation. Thus it comes about that the economising of the instruments of labour becomes at the same time, from the outset, the most reckless waste of labour-power, and robbery based upon the normal conditions under which labour functions; that machinery, the most powerful instrument for shortening labour-time, becomes the most unflinching means for placing every moment of the labourer's time and that of his family at the disposal of the capitalist for the purpose of expanding the value of his capital." - Frederick Engels, Anti-Duhring

... \$1 Trillion

For those four people to keep increasing their wealth, is to fulfill their destiny in the system of capitalism. It is not a question of persynal greed, nor of humyn nature, rather it is the natural law of the current economic structure.

The call to tax billionaires is ultimately a futile act in opposition to the laws of the capitalist machine. It is possible to do, and could change the balance of wealth among those living in the most wealthy country in the world. But the tendency of the laws of capitalism is to go back to this point, and surpass it, in terms of the concentration of wealth. This tendency to concentrate wealth, to maintain profitability by out-competing others, is one of the inherent contradictions in the capitalist system that require its end.

In his last speech as president, Joe Biden pandered to the labor aristocracy with a hypocritical condemnation of a rising oligarchy. People want to pretend that U.S. imperialism wasn't always run in the interests of the largest corporations. This growing concentration of wealth is a law of capitalism that Marx exposed 170 years ago.

Marx & Engels also wrote about how the inherent contradictions of capitalism build a "reserve army" of labor, excluding more and more from participating in the wage system. Even in the richest country of the world, where there is virtually no proletariat like that described by Engels above, these laws of capitalism apply and we have a class we call the First World lumpen. A class that is excluded by capitalism — the only economic system that has ever had a thing called "unemployment." The idea that there is no work for some people to do is unheard of in most of humyn history, as well as in socialist countries of the past like the USSR and China.

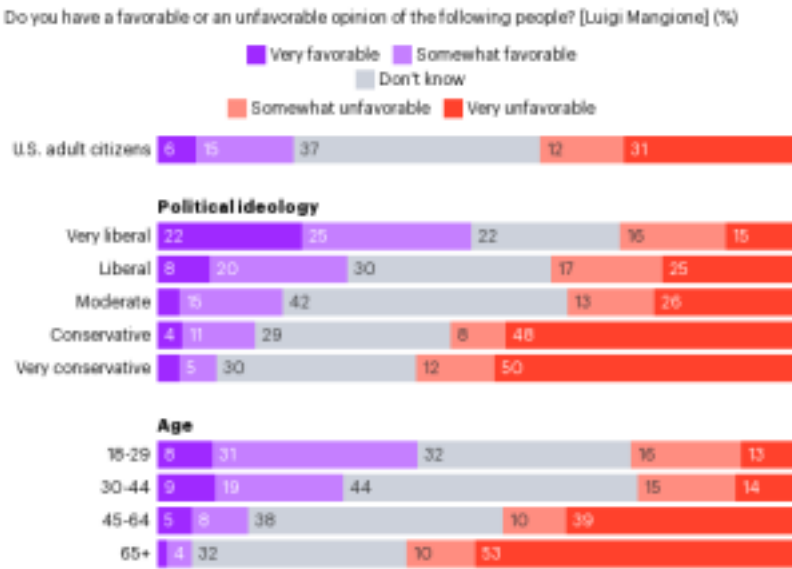
In 2024, homelessness increased 18%, following a 12% increase in 2023. The official count is over 770,000 people, meaning real numbers are approaching a million.(1) That is still less than half the people we have locked in prisons and jails in this country. And both numbers may continue to surge with proposed plans under the second Trump regime. However, mass deportations could also contribute to a decline in homelessness, as migrant raza make up a significant portion of those without houses.(2)

Most of the people in the United States raise their pitchforks at these billionaires in hopes of raising their taxes to maintain the standard of living here. These people believe in the system, they just think it needs to change a bit. The First World lumpen are at least torn, in that they benefit from operating against the rules of the

system, while also receiving some benefits from it. As contradictions spiral up, as Engels describes, the lumpen will be some of the first to see opportunity in the destruction of the old and the creation of something new, in particular the oppressed nation lumpen, who we identify in our analysis, "Who is Lumpen in the United States?" ■

Notes:
1. Michael Casey, 27 December 2024, US homelessness up 18% as affordable housing remains out of reach for many people, Associated Press.
2. Communist Party of Aztlán, November 2024, On Homelessness: A Growing Site of Lumpen Organizing, Under Lock & Key 87

Liberals and younger Americans are most likely to have favorable views of Luigi Mangione



of SCI-Huntingdon, Where Luigi Was Held

ck there, dirty and disgusting.

The media was camped out here a couple of weeks after Luigi's caught here in Blair County. s jail is the worst jail in the state Pennsylvania as for living condins. Light/night lights in the cells the RHU are constantly on 7/365. In D-Max, you might as l be sleeping outside.

Back here in the RHU if you 't cover up your air vent you get eezing cold because it's all cold coming out, no heat even in the iter.

Just the other day multiple C/Os (Correctional Officers) and a geant took a prisoner to the perty room in the Restricted using Unit (RHU) where there no cameras and beat the come because he wrote a nurse that ks here a letter and sent it to her

at her place of residence.

I've also enclosed documents of an assault I received here. [The grievance response confirms the comrade's report that CO1 N. Metzgar assaulted em with OC spray in September for no reason at all.]

A Pennsylvania prisoner wrote on 14 January 2025: The part of the prison that was featured on *NewsNation* (The Bandfield Show); providing the "Lights Show" that went viral, is an old add-on. There are 2 extended Blocks: E-Block, which is the Block that went viral with the light show, and F-Block, which is the so-called "honor block". Both E and F-Blocks assume "perks," such as a window and radiator. The rest of the prison is cells stacked by tiers and its steel bars and levers to latch close and to release cell gates. The cells are the size of a small bath-

room, and they are mostly occupied by 2 persons. However, the top 3 and 4 tiers (depending on the Blocks) are single cells only to relieve some of the weight as a solution to the structural damages. Prisoners are essentially housed on Blocks that should have been condemned decades ago. The Blocks that are indicated as condemned online are in fact **fully occupied**. Although SCI-Huntingdon isn't up to code or PREA compliance, its cost efficiency to operate due to its outdated mechanics rather offsets payment for fines.

[goes on to document mold issues, rats, bedbugs, lack of privacy in showers, very limited rec, and a total lack of heat in the winter. See our website for full details.]

The majority of SCI-Huntingdon's population are serving extraordinary lengths or death by

incarceration sentences. And this population is situated in a small rural district that's otherwise economically depleted. Thus, Huntingdon's prison population essentially compensates for its depressed economy by counting its prison population in the census to meet requirements for federal funding and political representation for its district. As an additional point of reference, SCI-Huntingdon makes up for a bulk of the production for PA Corrections Industries. Therefore, there's no wonder that in spite of the conditions, the corporate/private socioeconomic interest politically outweighs the civil rights and fundamental safety of its prisoners. This dynamic is not far removed from what the Mangione case represents. Although his alleged act represents a revolt against the exploitations of corporate healthcare insurance industries, there's a message that's also fitting to a corporate America in general.

While the Magione case is made the upper strata of U.S. society, these individuals are largely hypocritical and uninteresting for our purposes here. After all, even a child can identify the contradiction that's present when one mourns the death of a single CEO while simultaneously advocating for imperialist armies to indiscriminately murder the oppressed.

On the other side, there are large swaths of people who view Luigi as a "folk hero" or a "savior" and exist somewhere on the spectrum between sympathizing with or admiring Luigi. Typically viewed as part of the Amerikan "left" (though we have observed both Democrats and Republicans expressing these views), this group wishes for healthcare reform in order to ease up on the contradictions intrinsic to the capitalist system. More specifically, these individuals fall into the same category of social fascist labor aristocrats as Luigi. Their class status as labor aristocrats is being threatened by the "greedy" capitalists of the health insurance corporations who want to take away their hard-earned wealth (i.e. superprofits from the Third World) and Luigi's actions are simply one response to this threat. So long as their aim is narrowly limited on what can be done to improve the lives of Amerikans rather than taking a revolutionary approach to understand what can be done to improve the lives of all humyns, they remain enemies of the international proletariat.

The graph below helps illustrate the demographics of either group as well as the proportions of the U.S. population that fall into either side. We also must wonder if the 20% support for Luigi Mangione among Amerikans would translate to support for retribution for the killing of Robert Brooks by New York prison guards (see p. 7) and the slow genocide of New Afrikan men in U.S. prisons? We probably all know the answer to this question.

Though there is a real ideological divide between the two aforementioned groups, it would be wrong to overstate the width of this divide. Both groups are merely two factions of the white supremacist Amerikkkkan establishment which exploits the Third World in order to secure their own prosperity.

Our Thoughts

Where do we lie in this divide? You certainly won't find us shedding tears over a dead CEO, disavowing violence, or proclaiming pacifism, but you also will not see us celebrating Luigi Mangione as some sort of hero of the oppressed. Instead, we view Luigi as merely the latest manifestation of labor aristocracy angst towards the im-

specific to the basic need and right to adequate health care, such should represent to the people the primary contradiction of capitalism, which exposes a common enemy vested in a political system that panders and facilitates the corporate exploitations attributed to mass death, mass incarceration, mass inflation, and the mass affect of imperialism. However, individual acts of revolution which can serve as effective propaganda are often hijacked and trivialized by reactionaries, which are undermined by the corporate media apparatus. Although, it's my hope that such a message would galvanize the common sense of the people, and assume a superstructure concentrated on power to the people, rather than a cult of individualism where our grief is isolated and our passions to transform the world is reduced to alienation.

MIM(Prisons) responds: See article below for the class analysis that we agree with. ■

perialist leaders of the United States. If either of Luigi's actions or political line were rooted in revolutionary politics, we'd be a bit more sympathetic to em. But as it stands, Luigi's lone wolf killing is both tactically inept and ideologically confused.

More broadly, we understand the struggle of people in the United States for more comprehensive healthcare. But rather than trying to secure healthcare for Amerikans only, why don't we set our sights on securing healthcare for all people? Why should we advocate for petty reforms like getting earlier colonoscopies for middle-aged Amerikans when millions die each year in the Third World from easily-preventable diseases because of imperialist wealth extraction? or when U.S. weapons are used to murder doctors and bomb hospitals in Gaza? This is a topic comrades have written on before in relation to the Affordable Care Act, and it clearly remains relevant today.(3) Even if we limit our scope to be within U.S. borders, the lack of healthcare that's available for prisoners is a much more pressing issue than the reforms which the social fascists are seeking. It's well documented how healthcare, and lack thereof, is used as a tool to punish and torture prisoners rather than recognizing it as a constitutional right.(4)

Circling back to the central topic of this article, the question still stands: will this shooting actually change anything about the healthcare industry? Almost certainly not. But it has provided an opportunity for the fascism of the labor aristocracy to rear its head in a particularly brazen fashion through the actions of Luigi Mangione. As the U.S. labor aristocracy is faced with political chaos both at-home and abroad, they will resist the ever-looming threat of proletarianization. Will they recover and maintain their position in the imperialist world system? Will the U.S. population come face-to-face with proletarianization as global inter-imperialist conflicts intensify? We cannot say which is the case. The only thing we are sure of is that the actions of Luigi Mangione have provided a unique insight into the political terrain we operate in within U.S. borders. As communists, we must harness this insight and use it to guide our political action so that we may empower the international proletariat in their struggle against capitalist-imperialism. The only path forward is revolution. ■

Notes:
1. Ken Klippenstein, 10 December 2024, *Exclusive: Luigi's Manifesto*
2. YouGov Poll, December 2024
3. ULK 38, April 2014, *Affordable Care Act Underscores Need for Global Health Coverage*
4. ULK 12, September 2009, *Basic Healthcare Threat to Security*

... Continued from p. 1

... Luigi Mangione

immense profit because the

What else does Luigi write about? Ey brings up some rudimentary statistics about life expectancy in the United States and market capitalization before asserting that U.S. corporations have "gotten too powerful" and "they continue to abuse our country for immense profit because the American public has allwed [sic] them to get a

Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Fred Hampton, Malcolm X, or Huey Newton, just to name a few. These are of course only the most popular figureheads of past communist movements. In reality, there are millions who have stood their ground against the imperialist-bourgeoisie and lost their lives for it. But no matter their sacrifice, for we have been blessed with the gift of the wealthy Euro-Amerikan from Maryland showing us the path forward!

So where does all this leave us? Is Luigi really a Marxist revolutionary who has been sent down from the Heavens to end the oppression of the masses? Of course not. Luigi's writings and musings are nothing more than regurgitations of the same social fascist populism that is reminiscent of the messaging around Bernie Sander's presidential campaigns combined with an impetus towards political violence. Discontent with the healthcare insurance industry is normal everyday politics for people living in the United States. All Luigi did was elevate this discontent from the level

of complaining on the internet or attending protests to killing a CEO. An escalation of force, to be sure, but not one that is qualitatively different in its nature.

The Public's Reaction

However critical we may be of Luigi Mangione, ey is only an individual. It would be an error to narrowly focus on the individual agents of hystory rather than the political trends and their material causes which compel individuals to act the way they do. So what trend underlies the actions of Luigi? And how has this been reflected in the public's reaction to the killing?

Broadly, reactions to the shooting can be grouped into one of two camps: condemnations of Luigi's actions or celebrations of them.

Those who condemn Luigi tend to do so from a position of superficial pacifism wherein you must be totally against violence in all situations — unless it benefits yourself or your nation. A vast majority of U. \$. politicians fall into this group as well as a sizable portion of the U.S. citizenry. Typically hailing from

way with it." This strikes us as similar to the proposition that the Amerikkkkan public is "brainwashed" (how? by whom? why?) into merely passively accepting the capitalist-imperialist world-system. This stands in opposition to our political line which is that Euro-Amerikans actively embrace imperialism (consciously or not) as the primary source of their wealth via super-profits extracted from the Third World proletariat.

Luigi ends eir writing by admitting that ey is not "the most qualified person to lay out the full argument" for the issues of the U. \$. health insurance system but assures us that ey is, "evidently [...] the first to face it with such brutal honesty."

How high and mighty! Luigi is "evidently" the first to break through the veil of ignorance which plagues the rest of us. Though we would contend that there are perhaps a few people who have come before Mr. Mangione who have faced the "corruption and greed" of the healthcare industry (which is only a particular form of capitalist industry in general) with "such brutal honesty." Off the top of our heads, we can think of Marx,



American public has allwed [sic] them to get away with it. Obviously the problem is more complex, but I do not have space, and frankly I do not pretend to be the most qualified person to lay out the full argument. But many have illuminated the corruption and greed (e.g.: Rosenthal, Moore), decades ago and the problems simply remain. It is not an issue of awareness at this point, but clearly power games at play. Evidently I am the first to face it with such brutal honesty."(1)

Let us take a closer look at this writing. Luigi begins with saying:

"To the Feds, I'll keep this short, because I do respect what you do for our country."

To those who proclaim Luigi is spreading "class consciousness" or that ey is a revolutionary, this single sentence should shatter all illusions. If an ally of yours said ey respects federal agents (of the FBI, CIA, etc.) for what they "do for our country," would you be on eir side? Our answer to this question is a resounding:

Fuck No

Victory Getting Zionists Off Tablets; Organizing for Palestine Behind the Walls

by Grim of United Struggle from Within
December 2024

Countering the Bourgeois Media

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, where the Palestinian resistance factions (of which the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, was the largest) united in response to the continued occupation of their homeland by the Zionist entity, was launched on 7 October 2023. Since then, the brutal daily oppression by the occupation forces, and the continued desecration and assaults on Al-Aqsa Mosque atop al-Haram al-Sharif in occupied Al-Quds continues.(1) In the last 15 months, there have been many occasions to have political discussions and pass out literature regarding Palestine in the hopes of bolstering the support for Palestine among the imprisoned lumpen here in the South Bay. I would never assume this to be an easy task, and it hasn't been, but slowly but surely more people are breaking from the miasma of post-9/11 anti-Arab/Islamophobic sentiments (which itself is an accomplishment as this has been deeply ingrained in the Amerikan consciousness since the beginning of the so-called "War on Terror").

Here in the majority liberal South Bay, the main sources that prisoners get their news from is the *San Jose Mercury News* newspaper and the local news channel, *Fox 2 News*. Like all bourgeois media, both have been reporting on the genocidal Zionist war on Palestine from the general viewpoint of the Democratic Party, that is, a pro-U.S., pro-Israel view (with some small exceptions, most coming in the form of re-prints of articles by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and the occasional pro-Palestinian letter to the editor, though they have never printed any that I persynally have sent).(2) So on that note, it has been of paramount importance to combat the repetitive assertions of the usual incessant line, "the war began when Hamas terrorists (sic) launched a surprise attack on southern Israel (sic) ...", which is taken as unquestionable truth in line with the discourse of post-9/11 hysteria plaguing the psyches of those here on Occupied Turtle Island.

Being that the events of 11 September 2001 (9/11) are the main source of today's generalized sentiments in a large portion of Amerika's collective psyche, I believed it to be fitting to begin my organizing work by passing out and making available copies of Ward Churchill's wonderfully insightful 2001 essay "On the Justice of Roosting Chickens (Some People Push Back)," which echoes a quote made by Malcolm X shortly after the assassination of John F. Kennedy on 22 November 1963. I chose this essay because it, more than any other short and concise work on the subject, blows out of the water the commonly accepted reasons, propagated by the U.S. government, on the causes of 9/11. Churchill centers the reasons firmly on the shoulders of Amerikan imperialism and neo-colonial exploitation and oppression of the Arab world.

I paired this essay with copies

I made of AIPS comrade Lila's equally insightful and engaging article "What is Hamas?" (see *Under Lock & Key* No. 85). USW comrade Da Pale One's October 2023 article "A Brief History on Palestine" from *ULK* No. 84 was also very helpful for laying a basis for those willing to challenge their preconceived notions on Palestine, and those who had no previous opinion on the region and its indigenous inhabitants and wanted to learn more.

The conversations I had regarding the above writings led to much more interest into what the actual truth is behind the Palestinian people's valiant struggle against the ideology of Zionism and its settler-colonial project, and why it seems that Amerikan media has over the decades either been completely silent or ambivalently acquiescing to the will of the Zionist entity, protecting its blatant aggression and genocidal mentality towards the Palestinian people and its denial of their legitimate claims to the hystoric land of Palestine.

Who Supports Palestine vs. Israel?

Though it is probably obvious, those who are most against Palestine in this jail are most of the Euro-Amerikans, as well as the bible-thumping Christians. On the flip side, the people I have been working with and who I have persynally found to be most interested are: the Vietnamese prisoners and the Samoans/Pacific Islanders. There are large communities of both in San Jose and, just like the New Afrikan neighborhoods and the Chican@ varrios, they are also subject to brutal occupation and surveillance by SJPd pigs and at times also catch the ever-watching gaze of the FBI, which has a main field office in the largely gentrified town of Campbell, west of downtown.

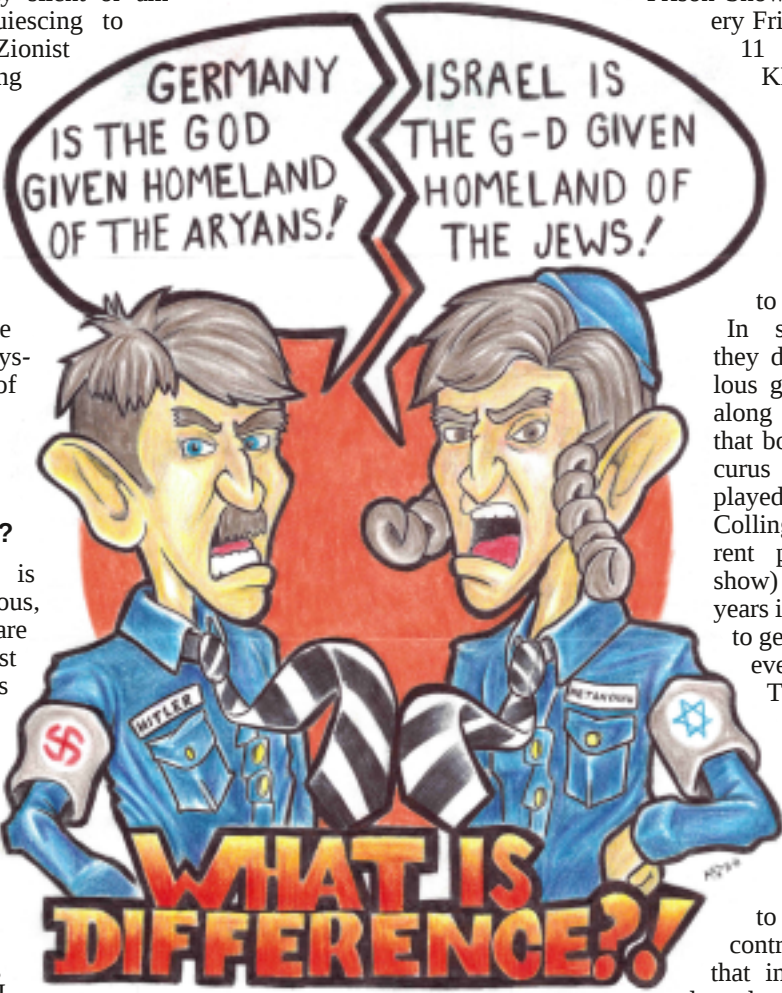
I have had many interesting conversations with Vietnamese prisoners, not just on Palestine, but also on the the genocidal Amerikan war against the people of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. I get a general feeling from these discussions that, though they are fiercely proud of their peoples' decisive victory against the world's #1 bully, imperialist Amerika, they are also troubled by the largely unanswered and undiscussed questions of, "What went wrong? What happened to our peoples' beautiful vision of a future communist nation?" I am glad to see them attempting to answer these questions, decades after many of their family members fled the atrocities of the Amerikan military and their South Vietnamese puppets.

On a final note, both the peo-

ple of Vietnam and the people of Samoa have had firsthand experience with European colonialism and Amerikan hegemony. The fact that they are able to connect their peoples' struggles to the relatable struggles of the people of Palestine is a success that I am willing to celebrate.

Prison Tablet Propaganda Continues, With a Victory

A barrier that those organizing for Palestine behind the walls, have had to deal with since Al-Aqsa Flood is the Christian Zionist prison ministries whom, as comrade Firewater noted in *ULK* No. 87, "have a monopoly on [the] tablets ... [that] needs to be broken up!"(3) I want to thank both comrade Firewater and comrade Triumphant very much



for their insights on this topic in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Before writing my original article on it, comrades in California began submitting multiple complaints related to the education app on Our tablets, "Edovo", which allows ministries like the right-wing evangelists who produce the "Real Vida TV" podcast from their studio in Tyler, TX, to continue to upload content that radiates conservative Christian or Christian Zionist rhetoric and beliefs. Much of this messaging is equal parts antisemitic, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, queer and transphobic and anti-immigrant. Thankfully, in apparent response to this deluge of complaints, Edovo removed all of Real Vida's content from their platform, which is as much of a win as we could have hoped. A more long-term goal would be to get MIM content on our tablets for a refreshing counterpoint to Our enemies' propaganda.

This removal of Real Vida from Edovo does not account for the fact that on other tablets and apps in other states' jails and prison systems, Real Vida continues to be available as Triumphant and Firewater have noted from the Texas prison system. In research I conducted after reading both comrades' re-

sponses, I found out several things. Firstly, the tablet app called "Pando" is indeed, as Firewater suspected, created and maintained by "right-wing evangelist kooks" as I was able to ascertain from watching a podcast interview with the main creator of the app, Isaac Holt.(4) I further learned that the apparent go-to excuse for Pando refusing content from providers is because "they only want to upload high-quality Christian content"(4), which apparently means refusing content from Christian organizations and denominations with a more liberal/progressive worldview like Unitarian Universalists.

I also heard a radio show/podcast that our TX comrades are likely familiar with called "The Prison Show" (which airs every Friday night from 9-11 PM central on KPFT 90.1 FM out of Houston). They recently uploaded about 50 of their previous episodes to Edovo, from December 2023 to November 2024. In several episodes they discuss the ridiculous game of stringing along and avoidance that both TDCJ and Securus Technologies played with David Collingsworth (the current producer of the show) for over four years in the shows quest to get on the tablets so everyone across TDCJ and in other states could tune in. He also spoke about their meetings with Pando executives who asked them to sign a mandatory contract that states that in order to be allowed to upload content, you must agree that all content will emphatically "preach the word of Jesus".(5) This ridiculous prerequisite should tell you all you need to know about Pando, its CEO Jake Bodine and what they and the TDCJ are trying to promote: an endless cycle of brainwashed evangelic "field ministers", of which I'm told TDCJ already has a great deal of.

Origins of Zionism and Christian Zionism

Central to the understanding of the land of Palestine and the Palestinian liberation struggle is understanding the twin ideologies of Zionism and its mostly Amerikan cousin, Christian Zionism.

Both ideologies are antisemitic in nature and began that way from their respective origins. Zionism, like any other settler colonial project, is based in the genocidal erasure of the indigenous inhabitants of a land, in this case the Palestinian Arab people, and the self-indigenizing of the settlers. The strange thing about Zionism is that far from being helpful to the Jews, both ideologies are grounded in antisemitism. This can be hard to grasp for people, as one would think that something supposedly in favor of the Jews couldn't pos-

sibly be antisemitic. The truth however, as with most things, lies in its history.

Zionism began as a political ideology grounded in the antisemitic belief that the Jews did not belong in Europe and therefore should be removed from Europe to some other locale. The land of Palestine was also not the first place that Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, proposed to remove all of the Jews to, as Herzl considered locations in Uganda in East Afrika and South America before landing on Palestine.(6)

This removal to Palestine was of course fully backed by Britain, culminating in the oft-cited Balfour Declaration of 1917 written by Lord Arthur Balfour, himself an antisemite, with strong backing from other British and Amerikan antisemites like Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson, and Harry Truman. Britain was the major imperialist power vying for control of the region at the time, with France a close second.(7) This is the same Arthur Balfour who was quoted as writing in an August 1919 memorandum, "The four great powers are committed to Zionism, and Zionism be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long tradition, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desire or prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs [the actual number at the time was at least several hundred thousand more] who now inhabit that ancient land. In my opinion that is right."(8)

Having an ostensibly European outpost in the Arab world was also thought by the Amerikans and Western Europe to be a strong tool for holding the spread of both Islam and communism at bay.(9)

As the horrors of the Nazi genocide became apparent and as European Jewish refugees continued to flood out of German-occupied Europe aside other groups singled out by the Nazi regime, instead of accepting these refugees into U.S.-allied countries, they were vehemently refused and forwarded on to seek refuge in the New Yishuv (in Hebrew: settlement/community) created by the Zionists in the land of Palestine.(10)

The Old Yishuv of Jews had been living in Palestine long before the creation of Zionism and the First and Second Aliya (Zionist-sponsored immigration waves of Jews to Palestine beginning in 1882). It bears mentioning that the Old Yishuv was, until the end of 1945 and WWII, majorly against Zionism and the hopes of the Zionists of creating a Jewish state on top of and instead of Palestine. However, this mostly changed after the world was made fully aware of just what the Nazi regime planned and carried out in regards to their so-called "Final Solution" to the so-called "Jewish problem".

Finally, after the initial 1948 Nakba ("the catastrophe", or ethnic cleansing of Arabs) and into the present day, the Zionist entity has supported, partnered with, trained the military forces and death squads of, and aligned themselves with some of the most genocidal and virulently antisemitic regimes and individuals

Continued on next page...

Joe Ends Term with One More Big Push for Genocide

by MIM(Prisons)
January 2025

Just a few months ago we reported on the ongoing illegal funding of I\$rael by the United States, with a recently announced \$8.7 billion funding package.(1) As Biden prepares to leave office later this month, it has been reported that another \$8 billion is being sent to fund the imperialist outpost in the Middle East. Axios reports:

"The State Department has notified Congress 'informally' of an \$8 billion proposed arms deal with Israel that will include munitions for fighter jets and attack helicopters as well as artillery shells."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) responded in part:

"Only racists who do not view people of color as equally human, and sociopaths who delight in funding mass slaughter, could send Netanyahu even more bombs while his government openly kidnaps doctors, destroys hospitals, and exterminates the

last survivors in northern Gaza."(2)

The Palestinian resistance has drawn the line in the sand, and are continuing to expose the racism of Amerikans and others in the imperialist countries who support this ongoing genocide. But it is especially the people in the United States who benefit from the funds feeding the military industrial complex, as most aid to I\$rael is spent here.

In further support of militarism on his way out of office, Biden has once again begun direct bombing of Yemen by U\$. war ships despite a pledge to end the war on Yemen when campaigning for the presidency. As part of Operation Prosperity Guardian, U\$. aircraft carriers have been in the Red Sea for over a year to safeguard international trade in general and shipments to I\$rael in particular. Recently, the Amerikans bombed both the only airport in Yemen, killing six and injuring 40, and the main port that serves as the lifeline for getting supplies to

Yemen. This port was already largely damaged in the ongoing war with the U\$.-backed Saudi regime. The airport attack was timed by I\$rael to happen while the World Health Organization General Secretary was there, though ey was not injured.(3)

Despite over 22 years of continuous U\$.-sponsored attacks, the people of Yemen stand strong, and Ansar Allah are clear they will not stop rerouting ships in the Red Sea and attacking I\$rael until genocide in Gaza stops.

There is no hope of the U\$. imperialists cutting off

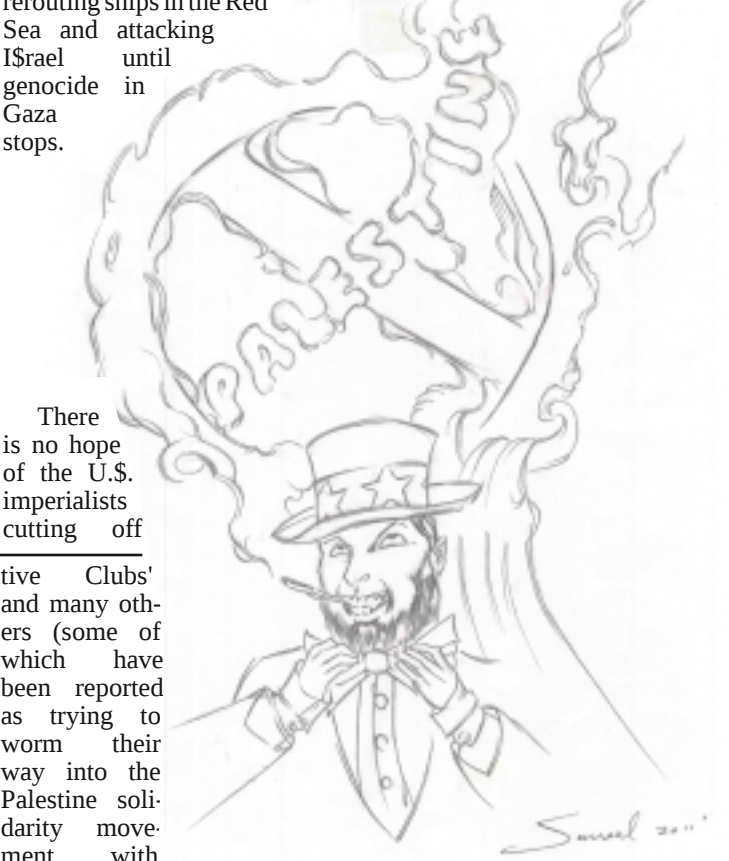
tive Clubs' and many others (some of which have been reported as trying to worm their way into the Palestine solidarity movement with antisemitic signage, chants and pseudo anti-Zionist discourse, i.e. anti-Jewish rhetoric masquerading as being pro-Palestinian or anti-i\$rael) may feel they have some wiggle room to recruit and organize after Genocide Joe leaves office and MAGA becomes the "law of the land". These concerns stem from discussions I've had with some of my outside comrades that have been active in the Palestine solidarity movement recently in college campus "Liberated Zones" and in the streets.

Concluding Thoughts

As the Palestinian resistance continues on, steadfast in their struggle for liberation and return and in fierce opposition to the genocidal logic of Zionism and settler-colonialism; as the Lebanese resistance takes time to restructure their leadership apparatus in lieu of the aggressive Zionist assassination operation of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and the majority of the political and military leadership of Hezbollah; as the brave members of the Yemeni Ansar Allah party continue their assault on the Zionist entity and their widely successful operation to throw innumerable monkey wrenches into the gears of the imperialist war machine and a global capitalism in unshakable support of the Palestinian people and their resistance; and as uncertain possibilities open up in Syria, all of Our eyes should continue to be firmly focused on Palestine and the Levant. The Christian Right's

I\$rael on their own volition, and everything in our power must be done here in the heart of empire to stop the funding of genocide and the expansionist settler colonialism spreading across the region. Palestine, Yemen and others in the region are at the front lines fighting imperialism and oppression. ■

Notes:
1. MIM(Prisons) October 2024, "U\$. Continues Illegal Funding to Zionist Terrorists", ULK Issue 87.
2. CAIR, 4 January 2025, CAIR Calls Biden Admin's New \$8 Billion Arms Sale for Israeli Genocide 'Racist, Sociopathic'.
3. Democracy Now! 3 January 2025.



"stand-in messiah", Trump 2.0, is threatening there will be "hell to pay" if the Palestinian resistance doesn't return the i\$raeli citizens taken during Al-Aqsa Flood. Trump may also take revenge against the Islamic Republic of Iran for allegedly plotting to assassinate him before the election.

May we all continue to learn from the steadfast courage of the Palestinian people, and may they find swift victory against the Zionist entity in the coming year. ■

Glory to the Marytrs

Freedom to the Prisoners

Healing to the Wounded

Revolution until Victory

Notes: 1. Hamas Media Office, January 21 2024, "Our Narrative... Operation Al-Aqsa Flood", www.palestinechronicle.com
2. Nicholas Kristof, November 24 2024, "Warrant for Netanyahu's arrest also implicates United States", San Jose Mercury News
3. Firewater and Triumphant, October 2024, "Christian Zionism Tablet Propaganda Helps Keep Support for Palestine Small", Under Lock & Key 87 (Fall 2024)
4. Inside Out Podcast, Season 1 Episode 7, "The International GPT Version"
5. The Prison Show, September 27 2024, KPFT 90.1 FM
6. Edward W. Said, 1992, "The Question of Palestine", Vintage Books, pg. 23; and Ilan Pappé, 2022, "A History of Modern Palestine" (3rd Edition), Cambridge University Press, p.47-48
7. Noam Chomsky, 2014, "The Fateful Triangle - The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians", Haymarket Books, p.96-97
8. Said, op. cit., p.16-17
9. Ibid, p.29
10. See generally, David S. Wyman, 1984, "The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-1945", Pantheon Books
11. Chomsky, op. cit., p.29-31
12. Shane Burley and Ben Lorber, 2024, "Safety Through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism", Melville House, p.219-220
13. Grim, July 2024, "On Christian Zionism and the Prison Tablet Propaganda Machine", Under Lock & Key 86 (Summer 2024)
14. Burley and Lorber, op. cit., p.82
15. Facing History and Ourselves, June 2022, "Nazi propaganda depicting Martin Luther".
16. Burley and Lorber, op. cit., p.160 and p.163-164

Happy Mass Murder Day

by SKS Heruglyphx of USW
November 2024

Happy Mass Murder Day, The last Thursday in November, a day to give thanks to god; for the natives being massacred. What kind of god do we believe in, making heroes out of criminals, celebrating the atrocities, of the so-called founding fathers, thieves, humyn traffickers, rapists, and slave holders? Thanking god for the parasites, no wonder we are still their sufferers.

Happy Mass Murder Day, The history speaks for itself, we see why the very same invasions, and massacres are happening, to the Palestinian natives. Funded and armed, by the very same parasites; who invaded and massacred, the American natives. Pretty soon there will be, a Thanks Giving day, for the invasion and massacre happening in Palestine. Inevitable, as long as the parasites, are in control of the narrative.

Happy Mass Murder Day, to who, the lawmakers, who got millions invested in military weapons manufacturing companies? And the owners of the companies manufacturing the bombs? Or the poor defenseless victims; wombmnen and children being blown to smithereens, with systematic impunities? Y'all keep celebrating the murderers, I'll keep celebrating the victims of these crimes against humanity, victims of CIPWS atrocities.

Happy Mass Murder Day, Isn't Gaza and the West Bank, in and of themselves reservations? Hasn't Gaza and the West Bank, been enduring the very same foreigner settler colonization and occupation, for 76-plus years? Doesn't that call for Palestinian indignation? And isn't it being done, by the very same victims of holocaust extermination? How do you scream "self defense" against a people you are denying self-determination? Where is God, or the United Nations?

Happy Mass Murder Day, why isn't anyone seeing a double standard of international law? Why isn't anyone seeing the Zionist, as being truly anti-semitic to the core? Why isn't anyone seeing that Amerikkka is arming the Zionist against the Palestinian poor? the blocking of humanitarian aid, the targeting of wombmnen and children, attacking hospitals and aid workers, medical personnel and UN Officials, need I say any more? Netanhitler is a proxy of the U\$., so he cannot be a war criminal, and what's happening in Palestine, in their eyes is not even war. Must be just a figment of my imagination, just keeping it raw.

Happy Mass Murder Day...

... Continued from previous page

in recent decades. These range from Somoza and the Salvadorean and Guatemalan generals and Central American dictators (11) to recent interactions in late 2023 and 2024 between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other i\$raeli leaders and Elon Musk, a purveyor of anti-semitic and white supremacist rhetoric and conspiracy theories, all in the name of Zionism apparently.(12)

The ideas behind Christian Zionism were around long before Herzl's ideology in Christian Europe. Christian Zionism, like its cousin Zionism, is predicated on antisemitic tropes about the Jews which date back to the Christian belief that the Jews (in the biblical form of the Pharisees, an ancient Jewish sect) are responsible and to blame (and to be hated for eternity) for the death of Jesus. As I've discussed previously in ULK, Christian Zionism is led in Amerika primarily by sections of the Christian Right, mostly consisting of right-wing evangelists.(13) These evangelists descend from the Protestant sect of Christianity that seceded from the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation and adhered to the doctrine of Martin Luther, a staunch anti-semite who authored the anti-semitic work, "On the Jews and their Lies", in 1543.(14) Hitler and the Nazis were admirers of Martin Luther, as exemplified by a 1933 Nazi propaganda poster that read, "Hitler's fight and [Martin] Luther's teaching are the best defense for the German people."(15) Today the Trump administration supports Netanyahu, includes Evangelical Christians and the richest man in the world Elon Musk who gave a Nazi salute at the inauguration.

Christian Zionists see the Jewish people as simply a pawn

... Christian Zionism

in their deranged so-called "End-Times prophecies", believing that the only Jews who are "redeemable" in their eyes are those who accepted Jesus as the "messiah" and their "lord and savior", thus converting to Christianity and leaving their own religious beliefs behind. They call these converts "Messianic Jews". According to these "prophecies", those who do not convert will burn in hell with the rest of the non-believers, as the true believers ascend in "glorious rapture" with their "messiah" Jesus Christ to the pearly gates of Lala Land.

The largest specific grouping of those who hold these hateful and outrageous beliefs in the United States are known as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), a right-wing Christian nationalist movement of around 3 million Pentecostal and evangelical Christians whose ideology also commands adherents to capture the so-called "Seven Mountains" of societal influence: education, religion, family, business, the government and military, the arts and entertainment, and the media.(16) They are an organization that we, as revolutionaries, should keep an eye on, especially in lieu of the "Oompa-Loompa Man" and his MAGA fanatics taking control of the presidency and both houses of Congress this year.

Groups like the Proud Boys have been relatively inactive since the Capital riot on 6 January 2021, mostly due to fracturing after their leadership was locked up. In addition, other white supremacist/nationalist formations, like the "White Lives Matter" crowd, the virulently antisemitic Goyim Defense League, Identity Evropa, Patriot Prayer, Blood Tribe, Nick Fuentes and the "Groypers", the so-called "Ac-

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Marooned

by Alien
July 2024

Swallowed alive by the 2nd Beast, digested for eternity.
Encaged, isolated and eclipsed, by spotlights under scrutiny.
Splinters in my feet, as I walk the plank voluntarily;
Poseidon's fishin' for me, with liquid dreams of recrutin' ye,
into the rank-n-file to crowd-surf waves momentarily.
suddenly, loose lips opened up, like cannon ports, aimed at you and me.
verbal cannon balls sunk our ship, Amongst A counter-revolution of mutiny.

The mutants sold us out and signed a deal with Big Satan.
Long Ago, Big And Lil' satan gave birth to their nations.
Over time their baby nations mutated, like x-men,
but with anti-hero superpowers to drop bombs on the next myn;
And also on their next Ken,
who ain't even grown myn,
just Palestinian baby P.O.W.'s, concentration camps, got em caged in,
unescapable lion's den of thieves, who steal lives from mere children.
I guess children's Lives Don't Matter, without world superpowers, like Biden.

Blurring the Lines: The Reversal of Officer and Inmate Roles

by Ali-al haf
August 2024

The purpose of this article is to shine a spotlight into an area where darkness prevails. Now I know Georgia's prisons are not the only ones with this problem, but I'm willing to wager that Georgia is most likely leading the nation in such instances where INMATES ARE PERFORMING (FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES) THE DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

First off, Georgia's close security prisons (same as maximum security) are experiencing extreme shortages of correctional officers. It seems as though no one wants to be a part of a very obvious and very well known corrupt system or governmental body.

So now what a lot of prison wardens, administrators, officers, are doing, is becoming very familiar with gang leaders, or high ranking members of gangs, and basically using them and their subordinate gang members to police other prisoners.

Now some may say, I thought you would like this situation, it's ideal. EXCUSE ME, BUT FUCK NO, IT'S GOT EVERYTHING FUCKED UP! For instance inside the housing units, if you're a civilian prisoner (non-gang affiliation) you are most likely not going to have access to a cell to sleep in or use the toilet, because gang members want their own personal room.

The gang members are doing a lot of oppressing towards civilian prisoners (robbery, extortion, beatings, stabbing, murdering) and a lot of these acts are done for the sheer pleasure or entertainment of the gangs.

They even kick other prisoners out of the housing units, forcing them to be housed in isolation/segregation. Basically if you're a non-gang affiliated prisoner, you can't stay in general population unless you want to sleep in the dayroom/common area. What's even more absurd is that the gang members don't even want their so-called brother member to share a room with him.

The gang members are assigned nearly all the prison jobs, therefore they control the whole prison and its movement. The meals are brought to the housing unit, where the gang members distribute out the trays to themselves first and give what

they don't want to the ones remaining. So you'd be fortunate to eat!

The food portions are very very pathetic, not even a kindergarten student would be fulfilled from these small portions. YES INMATES ARE PURPOSEFULLY STARVING OTHER PRISONERS.

HERE'S THE STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK, if for some reason you and an officer get into a heated exchange these same gangsters take the side of the officer against you and will even beat you, stab you, yes even murder you.

The sad thing about all of this is, these inmate officers are not handsomely rewarded for any of these acts! Yeah the high ranking ones have their contraband, and other prison luxuries, but for the most part they don't have anything to show for their acts. Most are serving a life sentence (must serve 30 years before parole board considers parole for them) or life without parole, or any other combination of lengthy sentences.

Now I respect that some prisoners are working the system to their advantage, but you should never forget that your goal is to get released. So while you working the system to keep contraband shipments coming, and hustling to either provide for family or to save up for attorney fee or both, keep in mind that you're contributing to the oppression of others and to yourself by helping the wardens, administrators, and officers operate these prisons.

Some prisons in Georgia are even neglecting to open the law library, especially here at Valdosta State Prison. The cell phones have been the biggest gift and curse in Georgia prisons, because these guys allow wardens, administration, officers, HELL THE WHOLE GDC TO VIOLATE U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS SO THAT THE STAFF DON'T COME SEARCHING AND POSSIBLY FIND THEIR CELL PHONE. THINK ABOUT IT prison cell then phone, and you get cellphone, that's babysitting you in a cell!

Instead of attending to the law library, and trying to find a loop hole with their case to regain their freedom, they're on social media, or chatting with some chatline girl, instead of using the

Report on Organizing a Study Group in Prison

by a Pennsylvania prisoner
January 2025

Some of the problems I have run into organizing are being targeted by administration for conducting a study group. Some times there's too many people interested for the space available, then when you've got 15-20 people huddled up and no violence is occurring, it scared the C.O.'s They are not used to that type of unity and they don't encourage anything that has to do with building a collective consciousness. I try to do study groups in smaller circles and more discreetly because some dudes are eyes and ears for the oppressor. Repression is not a

cellphone as a tool to regain their life. DO YOU GET IT NOW CELL PHONE? PRISON CELL PHONE!

It seems, gone are the times when prisoners would stick together regardless of race, organization, affiliations etc etc to reach a common goal or to better their treatment.

They've let the powers that be use their differences, along with their frustrating sentence/case circumstances, and their greed for material possessions (commissary food, cellphones and other contraband items) to divide them and place some above others to cause even more division.

In Georgia we're in prime position to unify and demand some things. Due to the fact that Georgia Department of Corrections is in an extreme shortage of officers.

This what I'm suggesting could be done without violence or breaking the rules. But we have to get the gangs and their purpose and main mission back into the proper perspective, which is to serve and protect civilians/citizens, to stop oppression.

The gangs have been infiltrated by these imposters who've gained rank and position only to destroy it from within. So be careful who you follow.

In closing, think deep, find what you and your so-called opp have in common, come together to fight against your common enemy. Don't allow your oppressors to use you to do their dirty work, by giving you some trinkets so you the oppressed will in turn oppress the already oppressed. We all have the same fight so why not join forces? There's nothing that a warden, administrator or officer could bring in to me or promise me to trick me into performing his duty. I'll never perform violence against another inmate for an officer, who when done with me, will turn traitor against me. Again I will not let Dept of Corrections pimp me. While they go home each and every day to their freedom and home and family, while some \$50 cellphone keeps me distracted from seeking freedom. These cheap devices are not worth a life! ■

**Refocus, Rehabilitate,
Regain**

good thing at all and I must say that before I continue. However, when they do crack down, that's when I pay close attention because certain responses help me inventory the caliber of men I'm studying with. The ones who know and understand the full magnitude of what the consequences can be for orchestrating a study group but are still willing to carry on are my type of comrades. In other words, the targeting helps me see who's who.

As far as the question of being surrounded by enemies, we can list the various forces inside prisons similar to classes/nations outside because there are different types of people and not everybody is on the same page. For example, if in the prison I am housed at I did a united front for Palestine solidarity, certain people would not even consider it because that's not the level of struggle they are interested in. But if I did one for, let's say, advocating for more quality programming inside the institution, you will see a different crowd. Even in this crowd, you will have some who fully identify with capitalist principles (even fascism) and their oppressor.

Different initiatives will attract different people. I feel like it's important to dichotomize because not everybody is qualified for revolutionary work. You've got some people who are so broken and battered they will utilize this as an opportunity to gain favor with the oppressor.

United fronts can be formed that resolve around us understanding our personal experiences within the criminal injustice system and putting it in a larger context of abolishing the prison system and all other oppressive, capitalist-imperial systems. By us connecting this link to the outside world, we will see how these systems overlap and the need for a united front for all the oppressed. The fight continues.

MIM(Prisons) responds: Last issue we asked for feedback on what it was like to build support for Palestine in prisons. As this comrade indicates, it can be a hard sell. Focusing on quality programming can be a better place to start, but it is not inherently going to build the movement. More programming can lead to more state control over what prisoners are doing with their time, more brainwashing. So such a campaign would need to have a component where you were also building programs, or just space for discussion, that serves the movement for it to be a progressive campaign. That is, a campaign that serves the international proletariat rather than something that just helps a small group of people get jobs when they're released or whatever. Campaigning for Palestine is much more inherently internationalist in its content, and it does not present these challenges — it presents the challenge of being harder to mobilize people around instead, as comrades in TX and FL have also reported. ■



Prison Drugs Endanger Disabled Prisoners

by an Illinois prisoner
October 2024

I recently received my first *Under Lock and Key* (Winter 2023, No. 80) newsletter. I really wish I'd been receiving it years ago, cuz it's a good read, and very informative.

Just read page 7. Drug addiction remains a primary barrier to unity, and I would like more info on United Struggle from Within's *Revolutionary 12 Step* training program. And if, and how, I can get involved, cause here in the Illinois prison system, drugs have become a major issue, especially since Covid hit. Prisoners are having their people dip/spray letters, cards, books, magazines, and even obituaries with drugs and other chemicals in order to eat or smoke the paper to get some type of high. Whatever these guys are smoking is causing them to have episodes such as freaking out, seizures, and even O.D.ing. It's so bad at times you can see a smoke cloud in the air, and C.O.'s, Sgt's, Lt's, and even Major's have been on a wing during this and have done nothing but tell the wing to put that shit out and spray something in order to cover up the odor, and they've even said, smoke it at your own risk and don't call for help if you O.D. There ain't a unit, wing, or housing that don't have an issue with this stuff. Seg and even the infirmary are smoking it up. To a point the staff have given up trying to get this under control and these substances have caused multiple issues for all of us in here.

They've gotten real strict on the mail and what we receive and how we receive mail such as letters, cards, photos, and books/magazines. They've told us that our letters can't be more than 3 pages, we can't receive 2-ply cards, and they can't have any glitter on them. All photos have to go through a company such as Freeprints or Pelipost, can't come from our family, friends, Walmart, or Walgreens any more. All books and magazines must come from a vendor or company, and even then, a lot is not allowed, no hard cover books, and can't be over a certain size.

Also, it plays on us prisoners that have health issues and altered immune systems such as myself. I have breathing issues and I've even had a sinus surgery in order to open my nose so I could breathe better. And I use a rescue inhaler and have been put in by my surgeon to have a sleep study done due to my breathing and my surgeon has even said that I need a CPAP machine which is what the sleep study is for.

I've even gotten into arguments/fights with cellies that I've had over them wanting to smoke this stuff.

I have wrote the warden and the placement officer multiple times, the warden has never responded. And it took me three times writing the placement officer before I got a response. I had asked, "which wings exactly are the non-smoking wings?" "This is a smoke-free institution.", word-for-word the response I was given.

Staff C.O.'s and nurses crack jokes and talk about how bad the smoking is on a unit or on a wing, and I've heard/been told by a few C.O.'s and nurses that some staff have lawsuits in due to them

coming in contact with said substance and/or smoke.

There is nowhere in this prison that is smoke free, and with them not having a place for those of us that don't want to be around this stuff, they are putting us in harm's way and putting our health at risk.

A couple questions: is this a violation of my rights? What should/can I do about it?

Please help me if you can, thank you!

Please send me the Grievance Campaign – petition for Illinois.

MIM(Prisons) responds: This is the same story we've been hearing across the country, and one of the reasons we launched our *Revolutionary 12 Step* program when we did. It's almost as if this drug plague prisoners are facing was intentional. You should have received a copy of our 12 Step program by now. Unfortunately we do not have an active training program. But we are looking for experienced comrades to restart our training program, and for comrades on the ground to implement the program and send in reports on its successes and failures and how to improve it. This is an important challenge that the anti-imperialist prison movement must overcome to be successful.

Is the smoke a violation of the law? Yes, as the staff told you it is a non-smoking facility and you have a legal right to not be exposed to second hand smoke there. The Smoke-Free Illinois Act (SFIA) of 2008 forbids smoking in all buildings (with exceptions like homes and designated hotel rooms), where smoking is defined as:

"Smoke" or "smoking" means the carrying, smoking, burning, inhaling, or exhaling of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, hookah, weed, herbs, or any other lighted smoking equipment. "Smoke" or "smoking" includes the use of an electronic cigarette.

Is the smoke a violation of your rights? Well, we'd say there are no rights, only power struggles. So you can use the SFIA to grieve this issue, but if they don't listen you'll have to get organized, find allies inside or outside and apply pressure. We've sent you the grievance petition, this is one tool you can use to try to organize people around this issue.

The oppression which prisoners face in this country is one result of the global system of imperialism whose primary victims are the oppressed nations globally, meaning that this system is our primary enemy. We must spread the word that prisoners in this country are suffering because the Amerikan empire's wealth is based on class and national barriers; the Amerikan nation does not want to share its privileged position with Black and Brown people, so they restrict them from employment, from education, from housing, and force them into a life in the "underground." The solution for the oppressed is not to fight to get into the club, but to unite with the oppressed in the Third World to destroy the club system as a whole and build a socialist world. A world where peoples'

needs are put first, not the current world where people are constantly struggling for petty basic rights like not to have your life threatened by toxic smoke. ■

The Science of Resistance

by an Illinois prisoner
January 2025

The methods of oppression are ever evolving to suppress the masses. The people must realize that revolution and resistance is a science, not rooted in emotion. Being a prisoner of war, enslaved by the state of Illinois, I have learned that resistance to my oppression must be calculated and strategic.

To all comrades held by the beast, learn the law! Stop allowing the State to offer you meaningless distractions that prevent you from fighting against this system. We must learn to use the weapons we got. Understand comrades, the pigs are trained and equipped to handle any form of physical resistance, but they lack any true method to handle a revolutionary mind.

Resist by challenging all conditions of your enslavement, use their laws against them. Utilize every tool available to you. All peer advocates/jailhouse lawyers must unite to teach all that they know. Don't let false titles keep us from uniting. Don't let organizational ties, race, ideological stance, or religion stop us from coming together to fight against this system.

We must be organized and disciplined in our approach. Educate yourselves, train your mind & bodies, read every day! Write every day! Fuck that TV or tablet get in the law library! All corporate media is a lie! Unburden yourself from that illusion. A pig's nature is to consume uncontrollably, don't be a pig or a pig sympathizer by allowing their oppression of you to go unchecked! Master everything you commit yourself to studying revolutionize your mind. If the system doesn't fear your physicality, it fears your mind, or should I say, the potential of what your mind can become! ■

"The heart of a soldier with the brain to teach a whole nation..."
-2pac/No More Pain

In Solidarity



Fascism Rising? Lumpen Must Get Organized

by LeninII of United Struggle from Within
January 2025

Greetings Revolutionaries, activists, thugs, radical students, pimps, hustlers, players, strippers, sex workers, and all the thoroughbred Runaway Slaves in the First World; this is strictly addressed to the First World Lumpen. Marxism has taught us how to operate and harness the laws of the universe in the interests of those systematically locked out of the production process, those who finance-monopoly capitalism continue to dehumanize in its relentless, dogged, determined pursuit of endless profits.

Fascism is the word of the current movement. Trump's election represents a certain heightening of contradictions. This is a sign of the imperialists recognizing their need for that strong persyn to move this space into its more authoritarian direction, into its more authoritarian disposition.

We have to be vigilantly on the prowl for the emergence of fascism. Social commentary should center primarily on building public opinion in this direction. Even in its embryonic stages, fascism doesn't miss out on any opportunities to undermine the working-class revolution and smash working class organizations; First World and Third World.

It is time to crack open the history books and practically apply the dialectical-materialist analysis of history. There is nothing else at the moment that warrants any more attention. Period. 2020, though a moment, a flash point in social development, like I said previously in some past article was not in any way contradictory to the U\$. empire; nor was there any easing of tensions between law enforcement and those of us trapped in the ghettos that pockmark this landscape.

In 2022, actual U\$. military expenditure exceeded \$1.52 trillion — more than twice the officially acknowledged level of \$766 billion. Overall military spending are not included in the empire's "defense budget" strategically. To estimate actual U\$. military spending, dialectical materialist methodological approaches must be utilized. I recommend publications like *Monthly Review*.

Nothing will be gained at the expense of the Third World because of our lack of genuine effort to combat our First Worldist dispositions. We in the ameriKKKan heartland must sit down and focus on studying fascism. We most definitely have the leisure time because of the labor aristocratic essence of the working class demographic in these parts. The class of people in the First World who are excluded from the productive process, by virtue of living in the First World, on

average receive more material benefits from imperialism than the global proletariat. This is the First World lumpen. But the radical student movement is now with us, thanks to the gunshots let off on 7 October 2023 in Palestine and its people's struggle to free their land from i\$raeli and ameriKKKan aggression.

We have to have a completely scientific understanding of the concrete reality of our situation. George Jackson once spoke of this. I believe his classic work *Blood In My Eye* must be resurfaced and consulted for the best, most in-depth theoretical analysis of the current moment. Fascism and its historical significance was the point of his whole philosophy on politics, and its extension, war.

George posited how corporate-fascism's nature advanced world-wide socialist consciousness after WW2. U\$. imperialism emerged after the Western powers had already divided up most of the most important markets in the world. The aftermath of WW2 left those same Western powers severely weakened, the U. \$. became head honcho.

Social development continues to march ahead towards its logical conclusion — via stages of course. All the forces of reaction and counterrevolution have localized themselves and continue to radiate their oppressive energy in the now emerging ameriKKKan corporate-fascist state. Despite the presence of political parties, corporate politics is all that truly matters here. Corporate personhood command all state power.

We hear about the corporate political maneuvering of entities like Amazon, IBM, Facebook, Samsung, Apple, and many more. The modern chip industry speaks to the authority large private corporations have over state bodies. Just as steel a century ago was the essential commodity for economic development, the chip is the 21st century repeat. Chips are central to the technology pivotal to the present order. I say that to say that possibly by 2030, China's chip industry could rival Silicon Valley's influence; so this means something, the implications are beyond disruption of U. \$. tech firms and trade flows, we are talking about a reset of the balance of military power.

Huawei has been at the center of all sorts of geopolitics in recent years. I think it's time USW comrades study Huawei, and learn what makes this entity's political maneuvering such a nightmare for Western imperialists, and sidestep amerikkka's "Russian threat" distraction with the whole bogus fabricated Uhuru 3 persecution.

The African People's Socialist Party are posing a very serious question that all revolutionaries active at the moment should sit down and reflect and ponder over: Did the FBI conspire with Russian intelligence to frame up Black activists in the United States?

The Uhuru 3 free speech trial has positioned me as an historical singularity, as that historical singularity who sees all angles, all sides, who sees the furthest ahead and who more than anyone at the moment understands the line of

Continued on page 16...

Review (Part 1): Kites #8 on the CPUSA of the 1930s

by Pilli of Republic of Aztlán
January 2025

"The CP, The Sixties, The RCP and the Crying need for a Communist Vanguard Party Today: Summing up a century of communist leadership organization, strategy and practice in the United States so that we can rise to the challenges before us"

by the Organization of Communist Revolutionaries

Kites Journal #8

13 March 2023

[MIM(Prisons) adds: We've published a paper by the Dawnland Group discussing the organizations that were behind the now defunct magazine *Kites*. As summarized in that essay, these organizations reject the labor aristocracy thesis and the importance of national liberation struggles (see "What is MIM(Prisons)?" on page 2 for more on our positions).

In addition, this month we are publishing on our website the final version of our paper, "Why the International Communist Movement (ICM) Must Break with the Legacy of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM)." This paper is a critique of the RCP-USA, and the RIM that it helped lead, on the grounds they that put First Worldist and revisionist ideology at the forefront of the ICM. This paper was inspired in part by the work of the OCR and the ideas and papers (by Bob Avakian) that they promote. Part 2 of this review by ROA addresses the section of *Kites #8* on the RCP-USA.]

In this piece put out by the Organization of Communist Revolutionaries (OCR) they attempt to shed light on two organizations — the Communist Party-USA (CP) and the Revolutionary Communist Party USA (RCP-USA). This paper further delves into the 1960's and the communist movement in general, particularly within these false U.S. borders.

As the writers point out little has been written about the RCP-USA so not much is known for the newer generation of revolutionaries. Some of the members of our organization however have experience with the RCP-USA and have debated and struggled with them for a couple of decades over their neo-colonial line toward Aztlán to no avail. Their failure to recognize the existence of the Chican@ Nation has led us to label them as a revisionist party to say the least. So this paper was welcoming and a

way for our comrades to sum up this relic of a distorted past called the RCP-USA.

The writers list the Socialist Party of America (SP) and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) as the forerunners to communist organization in the United States. It should also be noted that white supremacy and language barriers hindered the recruitment of Chican@s, or other raza, into these organizations. It is interesting that 100 years later white supremacy continues to affect the line of many multi-national organizations like the IWW, especially when they attempt to put our national interests on the back burner while accusing us of wanting to put our nation first. It is not that we simply want to put the national struggle to the forefront for some subjective reward, we do so as revolutionary nationalists because we have determined that the principle contradiction is between the oppressed nations and the oppressor nation. A people cannot be free to determine their future if they are suffering from oppression.

As noted in this paper, the early days of the communist movement in the United States had a proletariat that was "substantially immigrant", today we see the same with the proletariat being mainly migrant workers, particularly those from Mexico. This seems to make the vanguard's job easier organizationally. Back then there was a proletariat of various migrants from various countries, including many from Europe, so a communist vanguard's role would have been to create agit/prop material in these various languages in an attempt to raise consciousness in these populations. We see the Chican@ nations role as key in today's environment where the proletariat is largely Mexican@ and from Central and South America making Aztlán's job of uniting the Brown exploited workers under the Chican@ leadership much easier than any other national organization. The trail of liberation on these shores is Brown.

At one point the issue of Black oppression was addressed in this paper, noting that the communist movement of this time essentially dropped the ball and:

"Subjectively, the failure of US communists to prioritize making an analysis of the Black national question — the oppression of Black People and how that oppression can be ended through communist revolution and begin making political interventions in struggles over the oppression of

Black people was a serious, strategic blunder that only compounded the objective problem."(1)

Another "strategic blunder" of the time was in not prioritizing an analysis of Chican@ national oppression — not only back in the early 1900's but the continued blundering of today when many political organizations within these false U.S. borders continue to ignore the very essential Chican@ struggle in their analysis. This also highlights the continued necessity of single-nation building for Aztlán. After all if the Chicano nation does not organize for the liberation of Aztlán who will?

The early 1900's was prime time for the Chican@ nation in terms of rebellion, it was just about 50 years since colonization at the hands of U.S. imperialism but it was also a time of the Plan de San Diego. As our Chicano Red Book put it:

"During the first decade of the 1900's a group of unidentified Mexican@s or Chican@s put out a document calling for armed resistance by Chican@s. The Plan de San Diego called for Armed Struggle against Amerika and proclaimed that upon victory the "South West United States" would become a Chican@ state, New Afrikans would form their own state and First Nations their own state. This was the first united front of the oppressed nations on these shores that sought independence for all oppressed nations upon victory: the Plan demonstrated true internationalism."(2)

So although Chican@s have been resisting and organizing for independence even before U.S. communists began to organize in the SP, IWW, CP or Communist Labor Party (CLP), none of these so-called revolutionary orgs developed an analysis on raza or our colonization during the early 20th century. The RCP-USA still has not supported Chican@ independence. Marxism taught us historical materialism which we use to learn from hystory. Hystory has taught us that anytime we have lifted the boot of the white oppressor nation off our necks it has been by Chicanos coming together and struggling. Whether it was against white terror that las Goras Blancas (the white caps) fought or against Amerikkka which compelled the Plan de San Diego to develop, we have, as a people, always struggled against national oppression from the factories to the field. The most significant labor strike in U.S. hystory was a Chican@ strike that white labor has hijacked and renamed "The Ludlow Massacre".

During the time that the SP, CP, IWW and CLP were committing the blunder on the Black nation, they likewise committed a great blunder on the Chican@ nation who was also struggling against national oppression. Because of this hystory we set out to create the Republic of Aztlán, the government in waiting for the Chican@ nation. The writers note the CP's "foreign language workers clubs" and their role in organizing non-English speakers. Taking into account the almost non-existent analysis of the Chican@ struggle by the movement in U.S. borders, it highlights the need for Raza workers org's and clubs to help organize and develop immigrants who suffer from exploitation.

This piece sums up the trials and tribulations of the CP. Their factionalism and devotion to the unions seemed to drown out the suffering of the internal semi-colonies of the time. The Comintern and, in particular, Stalin's guidance, led the CP to finally give the Black nation and their struggles against national oppression some attention. Aztlán was ripe for development during this time when white labor denied Chican@s as well as many other oppressed at the time.

An interesting mention in this piece was on the development of a "guerilla military force." In discussing the communist activities of the 1920's the writers state:

"There is a question of whether Communists could have developed some type of guerrilla military force to supplement the mass labor struggles that erupted and to contend with the repression by way of organized armed defense of strikers where appropriate (some of that happened spontaneously) and selective assassinations of agents of repression!"(3)

Although we do not promote People's War today, the fact remains that a vanguard's role is to be prepared to defend the people, especially when the capitalist state unleashes the most vile forms of repression. One has to be prepared for the inevitable, this includes the understanding that a strike force is a very necessary vehicle for defense of an oppressed peoples. No nation will ever acquire liberation without such a mechanism in place. Cadre should grasp this, teach this and prepare for the time when such a force is necessary. Fanon was clear in that colonial violence can only be overcome by a greater violence, the oppressor nation understands no other language. At the same time, the cadre should accept that such a dialogue is a great sacrifice of the



highest form. Indeed, we cannot study revolution without studying what such warfare would deliver society to such a transformation. The Black Liberation Army sliced to the heart of it when they said:

"Bombings, kidnappings, sniping, revolutionary executions, surprise raids, bank robbery: all of these are rightfully weapons of urban guerrilla warfare. As we use them we must take care to maintain high principles and keep in mind that power to the people is more than just "campaign rhetoric"."(4)

Although campaign rhetoric may be leading much of the public discourse, a realistic view of national liberation leads us to develop plans of attack and self defense even if the plans do not become operational until after our demise. The future of any socialist revolution demands this.

Subjectively, the part of this writing that hit the hardest to those of us who organize within the U.S. concentration camps was the portion describing the story of the young womyn named Marian Morna, the 18 year old member of the CP's Young Communist League who describes integrating with the masses to organize strikes in the fields of California's Imperial Valley. Her description was incredibly moving, in her words:

"The years with the fruit pickers became a world within the world, a microcosm of feelings that never left me, not even when I left them. I lived with the pickers, ate, slept, and got drunk with them. I helped bury their men and deliver their babies. We laughed, cried, and talked endlessly into the night together. And, slowly, some extraordinary interchange began to take place between us. I taught them how to read, and they taught me how to think. I taught them how to organize, and they taught me how to lead. I saw things happening to people I'd never seen before. I saw them becoming as they never dreamed they could become. Day by day people were developing, transforming, communicating inarticulate dreams, discovering a force of being in themselves. Desires, skills, capacities they didn't know they had blossomed under the pressure of active struggle. And the sweetness, the generosity, the pure comradeship that came flowing out of them as they began to feel themselves! They were—there's no other word for it—noble. Powerful in struggle, no longer sluggish with depression, they became inventive, alive, democratic, filled with an instinctive sense of responsibility for each other. And we were all like that, all of us, the spirit touched all of us. It was my dream of socialism come to life. I saw then what I could be like, what people could always be like, how good the earth and all things upon it could be, how sweet to be alive and to feel yourself in everyone else."

If one were to replace the words "fruit pickers" with "lumpen" or "prisoners" it would be spot on to an organizer's experiences in the concentration camps. I feel it. The connections that develop with the masses in

Continued on next page...



Rest In Power: Bilal Sunni-Ali

by a comrade of Anti-Imperialist Prisoner Support
January 2025

Bilal Sunni-Ali (13 July 1948 – 30 December 2024) was a revolutionary and dedicated citizen of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA). That dedication took various forms, from eir clandestine organizing to eir contributions to revolutionary culture via eir jazz, blues, and spoken word performances aimed at challenging the status quo and building up a revolutionary nationalist consciousness among the people.

From eir youth, Bilal partook in pro-people activities from eir time as a musician in the Youth Division of the North East Bronx NAACP, to eir later activities as a founding member of the New York City Black Panther Party fighting housing issues, police brutality, and recruiting street L.O.s into the movement. Dedicated to the self-determination of New Afrika, Bilal Sunni-Ali went underground in 1968 with the Black Liberation Army. In 1982, ey would be charged and acquitted in RICO charges related to the freeing of Assata Shakur and a bank robbery by the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF) for which Sekou Odinga (who died 12 January 2024) and Silvia Baraldini were convicted. Bilal was successfully defended by the late Chokwe Lumumba in the politically charged trial, where they charged the U\$. government with conspiracy on behalf of the RNA.(1,2) The RATF is described in detail in the book *False Nationalism, False Internationalism* as the last attempt at the radical militancy of the 1960s by members of the RNA and the Euro-Amerikan May 19th Communist Organization. Prior to

this, Bilal was locked up in Soledad prison from 1970-1972, where ey struggled to develop both the general and political education of prisoners. Bilal's support for prisoners continued throughout eir life, as before eir recent death, ey was involved in the Jericho Movement and the Imam Jamil Action Network — organizations dedicated to the struggle of political prisoners.

Bilal was a devout Muslim who truly lived in accordance to eir faith — not only by embodying the Islamic practice of standing up for the oppressed, but by raising their consciousness at the same time; drawing the connections between imperialism and white supremacy to the oppressed youth.

Sifting through Bilal's tenor saxophone performances online, one will come across em performing at many events centered around prisoners. The usual song of choice that ey perform is entitled "Look For Me In The Whirlwind" (a title inspired by Marcus Garvey). The lyrics are as follows:

War is never easy
its bound to bring to bring on hardship
its bound to make you weary
reach out for me
and war will have us parting
our paths are getting distant
we might not ever see each other again
until we win
until we win
so until then
until we win
look for me in the whirlwind
try try to see my face

in the whirlwind
try try to grab my hand
in the whirlwind
do all you can
to help your brotherman
through the whirlwind
reach out for me
reach out for me
reach out for me
for victory.

It is said that Bilal also went by the name "Spirit" and I believe that to be an apt name for an individual who epitomizes the spirit of eir people in all that ey does. ■

Rest in Power Bilal Sunni-Ali!

Long Live the Republic of New Afrika!

Notes: 1. spiritoftmandela1@gmail.com, January 2024, "Sekou Odinga Has Joined the Ancestors" ULK Issue 84.
2. MIM(Prisons), March 2014, "Mayor Chokwe Lumumba Dead - Demand An Autopsy!", ULK Issue 37.



its efforts, it continues to be anchored in the graveyard of bourgeois elections today. This first part of the review was successful in "burying" the CP for our organization. ■

Notes:
1. "The CP, the Sixties, the RCP and the Crying Need for a Communist Vanguard Party today: Summing up a century of Communist leadership , organization, strategy and practice in the United States so that we can rise to the challenges before us." By Organization of Communist Revolutionaries
2. Chican@ Power and the Struggle for Aztlán by a MIM Prisons Study Group, 2nd Edition 2021, Aztlán Press, Page 40.
3. Organization of Communist Revolutionaries IBID.
4. Collected Works of the Black Liberation Army, Rookery Press, Page 92.

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?

... Continued from page 6

The Ramifications of these Policies

Motivated by an inaccurate conception of gangs and how they operate, the NCDAC has adopted policies that have enhanced group cohesiveness and the identities of gang-affiliated prisoners. These policies have promoted new gang connections for prisoners who, due to the difficulties inherent in gang identification, inadequate procedures and racial stereotyping, are misidentified. The validated prisoner tells emself "they think i'm a gang member, i might as well be one". Of course these policies raise obvious moral and ethical questions. However, i would like to focus on how these policies make no sense from a correctional perspective. Even if these "gang officers" are creating or enhancing gang identities, why does it matter? Validated prisoners maintained in these locked down blocks, after all, are effectively disabled from com-

mitting acts of misconduct when locked in their cells.

Validated prisoners are denied access to visitation, financial support, transfers to medium or minimum custody,

as well as parole. They have nothing more to lose so they are not deterred by any threat of punishment, what else can be taken from them? They have no incentive to refrain from gang involvement?

Aside from prison concerns, the impact of these policies' ramifications will be felt most profoundly on the streets and communities to which these prisoners will return. As i pointed out, 564 of the 1,343 prisoners released from NCDAC's custody last year were alleged gang members. In general, 96% of all prisoners return to society. There are recidivism studies focusing on gang affiliated prison releases, that show that gang members may retain their gang identity upon their release. (see: Salvador Buentello et. al, "Prison Gang Development: A Theoretical Model", *The Prison Journal*, Fall-Winter 1991, at 3.8.) Thus, these policies not only fail to enhance prison security, they also undermine public safety.

We Have A Responsibility

All across the United States, prisoners themselves are subjected to similar sanctions and restrictions under the guide of enhancing prison security. i've revealed how these policies target New Afrikan prisoners and others of the oppressed nations and how they affect not only the prison but their families and communities as well. We have the numbers, we have the capability and we have the know how to bring about change. But as

... NC SRG Suit

Komrade George Jackson expressed:

"We all seem to be in the grip of some terrible quandary. Our enemies have so confused us that we seem to have been rendered incapable of the smallest responsibility. I see this irresponsibility, or mediocrity at best[, as] disloyalty, self-hatred, cowardice, competition between themselves, resentment of any who may have excelled in anything...."

Because of the inexorable nature of our overseers, nationwide demonstrations on the outside and within these walls is presently necessary if we are to correct the correctors.

We have united fronts such as the United Front For Peace in Prisons, the United Struggle Within (USW) and Prison Lives Matter (PLM). PLM is a united front for political prisoners, prisoners of war, politicized individuals behind the walls of these razor-wire plantations and their organizations, as well as any outside formations in union with the struggles of prisoners, that has made it possible for us to address and redress the inhumane living conditions we find ourselves subjected to. It's on us to initiate the process, it's on us to communicate and network with one another, to get on the same page, so we can unite a page in the history books.

A Call to Action

As we grapple with an expanding and increasingly repressive prison system here in North Carolina, any hope for change lays in perfecting ourselves — our physical care, intellectual acumen, and cultural proficiency — while simultaneously confronting our overseers. And as i aforesaid, "There is no silver bullet or magic wand that can be used to expedite the transformation that must be made." We have a personal responsibility to contribute to the confronting that must be done.

Some of us don't seem to know what side we're on. We're obsessed with near-sighted disputes based on race, gang affiliation and so on. We expend our energies despising and distrusting each other. All of this is helping the NCDAC. We permit them to keep us at each others throats. i am calling for unity. We outnumber them. Wake up!!! Put your prejudices, biases, and gang affiliation aside for the purpose of OUR fight with the NCDAC. i'm asking we start by submitting a grievance concerning NCDAC's SRG policies and procedures (an example has been provided on page 6).

Of course i'm not expecting any redress from submitting grievances. NCDAC's Administrative Remedy Procedure process is ineffective and honestly a waste of time if you are seeking redress. However, i've not asked you to submit said grievance with hopes that NCDAC officials will correct their wrongs.

i'm currently in the middle of litigating a civil suit against NCDAC on behalf of all prisoners who have been validated as a SRG member. By submitting a grievance you will be supporting the claims i have made. Thusly i entrust you take the time and submit the grievance on page 6, and if you can send a copy to MIM(Prisons). ■

Free The Land

... Continued from previous page... the CPUSA

any environment cannot be manufactured insincerely. Oppressed people, wherever they may be struggling against an oppressor, at some point develop relations that give us a glimmer of what social interaction and struggle will feel like as society transforms to a higher level, we taste it and this sampler compels us forward for more.

Another glimmer of hope we learn about in this piece was in the lesson of the Yokinen Show trial in 1931. August Yokinen was a member of the CP who refused to allow Black folks to enter the Finnish Workers Club in Harlem and went on to say their place was in Black Harlem. The reaction to this was the CP having a show trial charging Yokinen with white chauvinism. It was public and even got coverage in the bourgeois press with *The New York Times* putting it on the front page. The trial provided good agit prop for the masses and highlighted the inability of the capitalist state to address white supremacy and hold white chauvinism accountable and the CP did. This educated the masses and put Amerika on blast. This reminded me of our org's action around a gun buy-back program by the pigs. We had a comrade announce on the radio live that there was going to be a gun buy back, where the pigs can turn in the stolen "hot" guns they had in their trunks that they regularly planted on people. We announced they can remain anonymous and that we will not ask for a badge number. Our goal was simply to keep our streets safe from pig terror. We did this to raise consciousness and, although in our

case we did not get coverage in the bourgeois press, we addressed a real form of repression in a very audacious way which, to our knowledge, had not been previously done.

Raising consciousness is our job as communists however because of the brainwashing that the state does on a mass scale we have to be bold, creative and audacious in our efforts, all without crossing the line where the state has ammunition to lock us up. In the end sometimes they'll make shit up and lock us up anyways. The Republic of Aztlán has taken up its responsibility to serve the people by all means necessary and we overstand the dangers that come with this role!

This piece has many lessons within it, too many to address in our writing here. The case of the Scottsboro boys is worth a mention though. It was of course a sad case of injustice and imprisonment but the lesson was definitely on how communists of the time responded and struggled with bourgeois liberals on which way that struggle developed. This struggle reminded me in a small way to the prisoner hunger strike of 2011/2013 in Califas and how a variety of orgs entered the arena of coalition.

It is always a struggle to at once unite with the masses in struggle while resisting the pull towards reformism which often engulfs mass struggles. This first part of our review framed the CP and its good and bad characteristics that we can learn from today. Soviet revisionism ultimately sank the CP ship. Despite all of

END CHRISTIAN
MONOPOLY ON TABLETS

As Christian Evangelists take over the U.S. government and private corporations take over prisoner communications, they are conspiring to determine the information available inside. This is a violation of the separation of church and state, freedom of religion and freedom of association. Prisoners in Santa Clara County Jail have succeeded in getting some of this content off their tablets (see p.10). We want to repeat this campaign across the country and offer alternatives to the imperialist propaganda in most prisons and jails.

Steps to launch a campaign in your prison or jail:

1. write up a summary of the companies, apps, and programs available to you and what their bias is
2. create a list of people to contact about this bias in your prison/jail/government
3. draft an example protest letter or petition
4. send to MIM(Prisons) and we will help combine this info and distribute it
5. identify allies inside and outside who will support the campaign and contact them with these materials.

We are also still interested in hearing from prisoners on how we might get content onto your tablets or reach people inside in ways other than *ULK*.

SUPPORT CIVIL SUIT
AGAINST GANG

VALIDATION IN NC

North Carolina prisoners can support this suit by submitting grievances like the one on p.6 and sending copies to MIM(Pris-

ons). Anyone who can support this campaign outside can also get in touch. Follow us on Mastodon @mimprisons@convo.casa for campaign updates.

WE DEMAND
OUR
GRIEVANCES
ARE
ADDRESSED

If you are experiencing problems with your grievance process, such as delays, unanswered grievances, or harassment, you should join this campaign. Petitions are available for AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MS, MT, NV, NY, NC, OK, OR, SC, and TX. If the state-level petition doesn't bring relief, we also have a 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 cam-



CAMPAIGNS

aign, 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

September 9th is the annual day of Peace and Solidarity, built around the principles of the United Front for Peace in Prisons outlined on page 2. Actions and events on this day should focus on building peace among all who can be united, while abstaining from work, commissary, tablets, etc. The united front is to bring prison-based organizations together for the common interest of all prisoners.

In 2025, we will be organizing comrades on the outside to fast, study and organize on 9/9. We will be printing plans in the next *ULK*, so

send in your plans to be included.

EXPOSE & COMBAT
ADDICTION

Drugs are being used to control people in prisons across the country. 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 transform themselves to a new revolutionary persyn. We want to support you in combating these dangerous chemicals among the people.

SPREAD ULK

Help popularize and improve *ULK* to grow our movement. While we've succeeded in expanding *ULK* on the streets, our subscribers inside continue to decline.

Prisoners sign up to be a distributor and get multiple copies of every issue. Get those who read *ULK* to write in for their own subscriptions.

Prisoners, cover the cost of your annual subscription by sending 7 stamps (if your facility allows it). Outside supporters, send \$50 and we'll send you 50 papers. Local distributors funding the *ULKs* they distribute also helps us survive and reach new supporters.

... Continued from page 13

march the New Afrikan liberation movement should be taking, as fascism continues to kick its boots at our doors in the First World.

I will be waiting to hear your thoughts soon. In the meantime, all efforts on our boycott campaign should center on Securus. No opportunities to vilify Securus between December 6 and December 13 should be missed.

MIM(Prisons) adds: We have not received any further reports on the outcomes of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak Week of December 6-13, but welcome your reports. As to fascism and the new presidency, we've written more extensively on the previous Trump regime to say that it was not fascist, but merely business as usual.(1) *Blood In My Eye* is an excellent book that we distribute, but we think there is strategic significance to distinguish between fascism and bourgeois democracy, the two faces of imperialism. (2)

... Fascism Rising?

election of Trump indicates that the imperialists are looking to reshape things. In 2019, we wrote about how the absence of a real proletarian threat makes fascism unnecessary and unlikely. The threat that has emerged since then is Palestine heightening its war of national liberation, which has forced all parties involved in the region to make their positions clear. In addition to this shakeup in the Middle East, there has been the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its effects across Europe. What seems likely is the imperialists are seeing cracks in the previous world order and signs of economic crisis that require a shift in strategy.

Trump remains erratic in eir speeches, and we have no great predictions for how this next term will go at this time. What is clear is that the need to build a strong movement against imperialism and fascism is now. There are opportunities on the horizon, and we hope you will join us in preparing for them. ■

We agree with the author that the re-

Notes:
1. MIM(Prisons), April 2019, "Fascism, Imperialism, and Amerika in 2019", Under Lock & Key 67.
2. Wiawimawo of MIM(Prisons), November 2016, The Strategic Significance of Defining Fascism, Under Lock & Key 53.

ULK EN ESPAÑOL

Estamos emocionados a anunciar el relanzamiento de nuestra sección/pagina en Español que empezara en *ULK* 89. Ya tenemos traducido la carta introduciendo Lucha Unida desde Adentro (United Struggle from Within) y MIM(Prisons), y pronto tendremos una traducción del primer curso de estudio introductorio. Entonces, si tu conoces gente que estén interesados en estudiando con nosotros en Español, diles que nos escriban pidiéndonos eso. También estamos buscando por traductores encarcelados para ayudar contribuir a este proyecto importante.

ATTENTION
CORRECTIONAL
AUTHORITIES:

PLEASE READ THIS
CENSORSHIP NOTICE

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

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

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

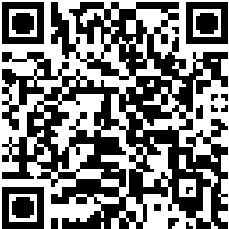
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ACCORDINGLY.

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Tell us what mail you've received from us since the last time you wrote.

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www.prisoncensorship.info

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We do not have Jpay, Getting Out, Connect Network or other services where we have to pay for them to digitally surveil our communications. We believe paper mail remains an important First Amendment right and format for education, communication through art, and petitioning the outside world for support.