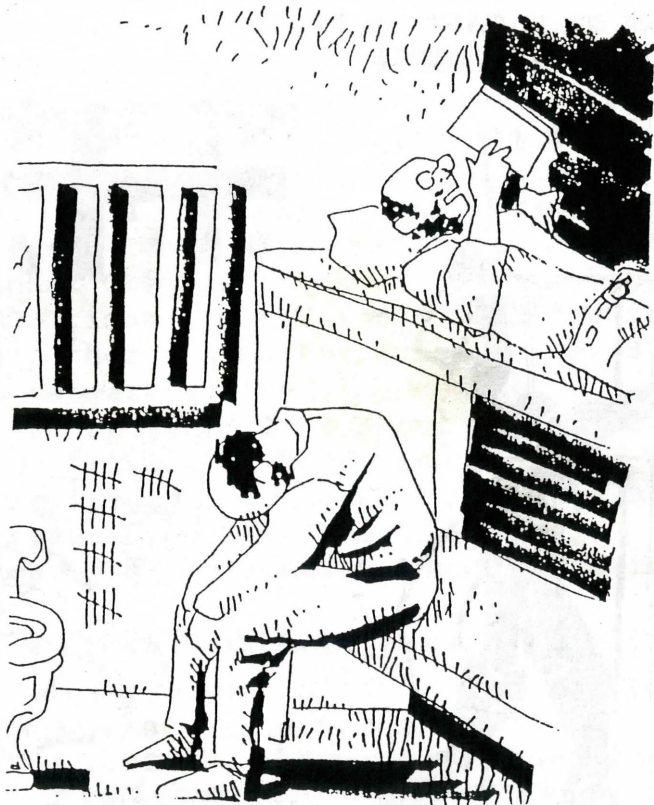


PRISONER ZINES



WORKSHOP

June 10-11, 2000
Bowling Green, Ohio
by Anthony Rayson

Greetings! My name is Anthony Rayson. I am the Midwest Coordinator for PPWC (Political Prisoners of War Coalition.) I help a lot of prisoners with their writing projects and other types of support. I am a prison abolitionist. Let me explain why.

We want an end to robbery by the Capitalists of our Black community.



Patrick Greenleaf #679426
9601 Spur 591
Amarillo, Texas 79107

Table of Contents

1. Prisons For Profit, by Kevin Spencer
2. Symposium on Mass Incarceration
3. In the Trenches... Ali Khalid Abdullah
4. Chain Reaction with Kevin Glover
5. Khalfani X. Khaldun & Indiana Politics
6. Mangwiro A. Sadiki-Yisrael Writes
7. Billy Brown (Bubba B) A Souljahz Thoughts
8. Behind These Walls by Sean Lambert
9. The Gargantuan Lie by Anthony Rayson
10. Red, White & Blue Fascism by Rob Thaxton
11. Zolo Agona Azania - New Afrikan Educator
12. Harold H. Thompson - Jailhouse Anarchist
13. Prison Censorship - Books to Prisoners
14. Abdul Olugbala Shakur - Criminology 101
15. MO Prison Labor Union - Jerome White-Bey
16. Together United For Freedom - S. Shepherd
17. Excarcerate Zine
18. PPWC Update / It's About Time / MOVE
19. The Artwork of Marc Mason & Hyung-Rae
20. The Voices Said by Akili D. Tarishi
21. Letter from Barrilee Bannister
22. Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network

Prisoner Zines Workshop, June 10-11, 2000

*by Anthony Rayson \$2.00 Free to Prisoners**

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro P.O. Box 721

Homewood, IL 60430 anthonyrayson@hotmail.com

<http://members.xoom.com/thoughtbombs/>



Greetings. First I want to give you an idea about what the New World Order means to the citizens living in America. The Big Lie is that the massive aerial terrorizing we're launching on whole countries is to be considered as "humanitarian aid." Domestically, we are "enjoying unprecedented prosperity." In fact, America is unleashing genocide on an unheard of scale abroad AND at home. The world gets bombs, we get bars.

This workshop is about prisoner zines, but first I must give you an idea of why the incarceration frenzy is taking place. I would like to read an article written by a group called PAT - Pembroke Advocates for Truth. These are mainly rural black organic farmers who live in a small (800 person) community about twenty miles from my home in Kankakee County, Illinois. Governor George Ryan, who is trying to portraying himself as Mr. Compassion for putting a Death Penalty Moratorium on in the state, and his billionaire buddy Tony Perry, are ramrodding the erection of an 1,800 bed women's prison in the heart of Pembroke Township, in the town of Hopkins Park.

The Perpetuation of Slavery

This monumental commitment to lock up a sizeable percentage of the population is an integral part of the globalization of capital. Its twofold purpose is profit and social control. Its public rationale is the fight against crime.

however, most of the "criminals" we lock up are poor people who commit nonviolent crimes out of economic need. like murder, rape, manslaughter and kidnaping don't

even make the top ten.

Like fear of communism during the Cold War, fear of crime is a great selling tool for a dubious product.

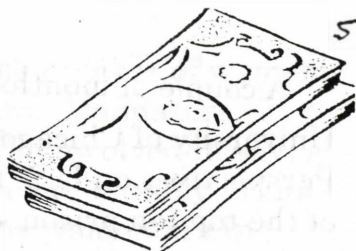
As with the building and maintenance of weapons and armies, the medical, transportation and furniture, all stand to profit by prison expansion. A burgeoning "specialty item" industry sells fencing, handcuffs, drug detectors, protective vests, and other security devices to prisons.

Prisons for Profit

By KEVIN SPENCER

As of February 15, 2000, there will be 2,073,969 adults behind bars in this country, with over 5.4 million others somewhere in the criminal justice system, thus awarding America with the largest incarceration population and highest incarceration rate (25%) in the world. At over \$41 billion to operate annually, employing over 523,000 people, U.S. prisons are the largest employer next G.M. . Why? Check out Wall Street.

Viewed as the "Theme stock of the nineties", last year, Wall Street prison investors made over \$4 billion in profit. CCA, Corrections Corporation of America, the largest of 18 private U.S. prison companies, saw its stocks increase by 60% in one year. Who are the investors in this growing industry? Merrill Lynch, Prudential Insurance, Goldman Sachs, & Smith Barney Shearson all underwrite prison construction bonds. Revlon, Nordstrom's, Starbucks, Motorola, IBM, MCI, etc. profit from the day-to-day



Hey, Dirty... Baby, I got yo' money!

operations and non-unionized prison labor. Investment firms encourage clients to add prison stock (in the form of governmental bonds) as a guaranteed profit maker for their portfolios. In fact it is estimated that each prisoner, as he enters the penal system, is worth about \$600,000 on the open market.

In the 90's , the U. S.

PAGE 2

INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Prisons for Profit (cont.)

increased its prison construction by 612% or 3 times more than the national military budget and 50% more than the judicial system. Hiring & training federal & state employees as prison officials became the government area of most rapid growth. In 1999, Illinois agreed to spend \$83 million for prison construction alone in Pembroke Township. Where does the state get the funds to pay for this, according to the Rockefeller Institute by selling bonds and by cutting welfare, health & education programs.

JPI director Vincent Schiraldi, reported that the ascendance of prisons last decade was the U.S.'s major public works project & social program' in *The Punishing Decade: Prison & Jail Estimates in the Millennium*. "Short of wars, mass incarceration has been the most thoroughly implemented government social program of

our time", says Elliot Currie. As for our education dollars, the U.S. spent more building prisons than universities since 1995 according to Justice Policy Institute (JPI). In fact some states pay prison workers \$10,000 more than their teachers. In 1994, Pres. Clinton's anti-crime bill encouraged the federal government's push to privatize incarceration to becoming the largest "factory" industry in this country. What was once the province of the government is now turned over to private corporations. The dividends from investing in the 'punishment industry', have replaced those of military weapons production. Dubbing this new trend in public punishment & it's link to big business profits, a "Prison-Industrial Complex, as noted by such activ-

ists as Angela Davis. What will keep these big machines rolling... Human Fuel.

Nils Christie, author of *Crime Control as Industry*, says people are the raw material for prisons. "The goal of the industry is to keep prisons full. A successful company locks up as many people as possible" states Dr. Jerome Miller ex-commissioner of Mass. Juvenile Corrections System. Although the nation's crime rate dropped 30%, prison population tripled with 84% of the newcomers being non-violent offenders. As criminal justice policies reflect the heavy influence of For-Profit interests in this new Industrial Complex, *human fuel* is going to be in continued demand. Maybe this article should read *Humans for Profit or for Sale....*



VOLUME 11

A couple of months ago I went to a symposium at the University of Chicago called Mass Incarceration: Perspectives on U.S. Imprisonment. Chicago boasts six of the top ten prison scholars in the country and they all gave presentations. Each one was more shocking than the one before. The audience was composed of bored law students - future prosecutors and judges. Only one other person besides myself even asked a question! So, the genocidal cattle-carring of young blacks is a ho-hum situation to the privileged whites. It's Hitler's Germany with Orwellian no-think using modern technology. It's genocide, it's day-to-day torture and it's murder, but without the gas ovens. The "communists" and "Jews" are now called "drug dealers" "gang bangers" and "terrorists."

It's a policy-driven war on the poor, but the revolution is being fought in prison. Prisoners are ready and willing to fight. They are screaming for empowering education and inspiration from us - the thinking underground writers of today, who have a soul, a passion for the truth and a commitment to genuine justice. We must overcome our fear and join the revolution! Our brothers and sisters whose lives have been stolen from them are beseeching us to use our talents to help them fight. Because, let's face reality, we are all prisoners or soon will be at these incomprehensibly accelerating incarceration rates.

According to the experts, these rates now "defy gravity" in the "new politics of punishment." Like the hyper wars being unleashed abroad, we have a "hyperinflation of incarceration." These are terms being used by staid professors!! The real horror can only be learned directly from articulate writers reporting from their super max hell holes.

It's not just the men, either. The number of women prisoners has doubled in eight years. Mandatory minimums treat women peripherally involved in say, a drug situation, the same - or even more harshly - than the men most likely involved. Many women are in prison for many years, just for being in love with a certain man! It's madness! Ninety percent of women prisoners have children, often under age five. Children are in prison. Babies are in prison! It reminds me of Argentina in the 70's and 80's where the government rounded up innocent parents, tortured and murdered them - and then came back for the children...

The mentally ill live in prison. The largest "mental health facility" in Illinois is Cook County Jail. In New York, it's Riker's Island! Every state's the same!!

This society is brainwashed against children. There is no youth crime epidemic, yet 100,000 *children* are prisoners. These are kids under age sixteen!! People aged 10-23 only commit 10% of all crime, and this doesn't even count the real, massive corporate and government crime! Schools have become fascist bullrings of criminalization of our youth. Educators have ceded their responsibilities to law enforcement, who begin the process of racist vengefulness. Police have become body snatchers for the prison meat market. Thirty percent of black babies born today are destined for prison - but the rate of incarceration is off the charts, going straight up with no end in sight! It's absolute madness. Racism, sexism, homophobia, violence, coercion - everything evil - is boiled down in the cauldron of prison! The Time Machine is here, right now and the sirens are wailing! We must *act* - and act fast!

PRISON LEGAL NEWS
PMB 148
2400 NW 80th St.
Seattle, WA 98117

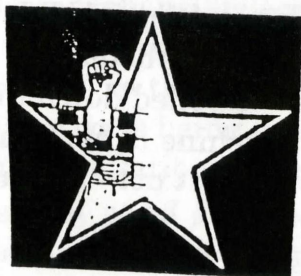
Roundtable

presents

MASS INCARCERATION: Perspectives on U.S. Imprisonment

Friday, February 11, 2000

The University of Chicago
The Law School
Weymouth Kirkland Courtroom



Facts About Incarceration

Number imprisoned in US per 100,000 residents,
by gender and race (1997)

White Female:	32
Black Female:	192
White Male:	491
Black Male:	3,253

8

In 1995, 1 out of 3 Black men aged 20-29 were under
justice system control on an average day

Percentage of U.S. men imprisoned at some time in
their lives:

Black men	29.0%
Latino men	16.0%
White men	4.4%

The imprisonment rate for white women in the U.S. is
higher than the rate for all adults in Indonesia

The imprisonment rate for black women in the U.S. is
higher than the rate for all adults in any European
country

The imprisonment rate for white men in the U.S. is
one of the highest rates in the world

The imprisonment rate continues to rise even while the
crime rate is falling

The total prison population is about 1.8 million

The prison population has grown 400% since 1978

Some comparisons: Number imprisoned per
100,000 adults (statistics from late 1990s)

Indonesia:	20
Japan:	37
Finland:	60
Germany:	69
Greece:	71
Netherlands:	74
Italy:	86
France:	90
Australia:	120
Portugal:	145
Russia:	685
United States:	700

The rate of incarceration for blacks is over 6 times the
rate for whites

A larger percentage of the mentally ill are in prison
than are in mental health facilities

The number of women in prison is increasing faster
than the number of men

Throughout the 1990s expenditures on prisons was the
fastest growing item in state budgets

52% of Black prisoners and 62% of Latino prisoners
were incarcerated for non-violent property and drug
crimes

In 1994 51% of the prison population was African
American and 15% was Latino

Symposium Speakers:

Norval Morris, Julius Kreeger Professor of Law and Criminology, Emeritus, University of Chicago Law School. Professor Morris received his LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from Melbourne University in Australia and his Ph.D. in law and criminology from the London School of Economics. Before joining the University of Chicago faculty in 1964, he directed a United Nations crime prevention institute in Japan. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written extensively on the criminal justice system, his latest four books being *Madness and the Criminal Law*, *Between Prison and Probation* with Michael Tonry, *The Brothel Boy and Other Parables of the Law*, and *The Oxford History of the Prison*, with David Rothman.

Alfred Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University. Professor Blumstein has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Research on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, serving as its chairman from 1979 until 1984. He chaired the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 1979 to 1990, and served on the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing from 1986 to 1996.

Randolph N. Stone, Clinical Professor of Law, University of Chicago, and Director of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. Professor Stone received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1975. Prior to his appointment to the Law School faculty, Mr. Stone was the Public Defender of Cook County, Illinois. He has also served as deputy director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; lecturer in law for the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop, and Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, DC. Mr. Stone is a past chair of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section and serves on several boards including The Sentencing Project, Inc., Treatment Alternatives for Special Clients (TASC), and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem.

Douglass W. Cassel, Director, Center for International Human Rights Law, Northwestern University. Professor Cassel earned his law degree *cum laude* from Harvard. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1972-76, then as staff attorney and later general counsel for Business and Professional People for the Public Interest in Chicago. He co-founded the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University in 1990, and served as its executive director. He was legal adviser to the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador in 1992-93. His weekly commentary on human rights is broadcast on WBEZ in Chicago.

Bernardine Dohrn, Clinical Professor of Law, Northwestern University. Professor Dohrn currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Violent Injury Prevention Center of Children's Memorial Hospital, Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Project, and the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights. She is on the Executive Committee of the Children's Court Centennial Commemoration and serves on the Citizen's Committee for the Juvenile Court.

Mark J. Heyrman, Clinical Professor of Law, University of Chicago. Professor Heyrman graduated from the Law School in 1977, spent a year as an assistant defender in the Office of the State Appellate Defender of Illinois. In 1978, he joined the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, where he specializes in the rights of the mentally disabled. In 1988, he served as executive director of the Governor's Commission to Revise the Mental Health Code of Illinois. He is past president of the Mental Health Association in Illinois, and currently serves on its board.

Franklin E. Zimring, William G. Simon Professor of Law and Director, Earl Warren Legal Institute, Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley. Professor Zimring graduated from the University of Chicago Law School and later served as Llewellyn Professor of Law and director of the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice. He joined the Boalt faculty in 1985. He is a fellow of the American Society of Criminology and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent books are *Crime Is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America* with Gordon Hawkins and *American Youth Violence*.

DRUG WAR P.O.W.'S
DON'T LET THEM BE FORGOTTEN

I consider myself a prisoner, even though I have a wife and two children and live on the outs. I call the outs "minimal" security, with the cameras, the checkpoints and the cops lurking everywhere, with their license to kidnap and kill. I call our society today, where the real mass murdering criminals are fawned over and treated like pharaohs, and the people are too afraid or brainwashed to revolt legitimately, "the profanity of reality." So, being a prisoner, I've joined the revolution! And I finally feel at home, in my foxhole. I'm a messenger and I slip in and out of many dungeons throughout the gulags. I want you to meet some of my comrades.

My main man in all of this is Ali Khalid Abdullah, a brilliant New Afrikan Anarchist imprisoned in Michigan. We collaborate on this zine, *In the Trenches...* which chronicles prisoner struggles around the world. Our group, PPWC - Political Prisoners of War Coalition is based on the anarchist principles of mutual aid and solidarity. We strive to be inclusive, encouraging and a beacon of light and insight in these tombs. I brought many copies of our latest issue, which I encourage everyone to take and read. Here's what Ali has to say about *In the Trenches...*

Revolutionary Greetings Comrads!

My dear friend & brotha, Anthony Rayson, has asked me to share myself regarding the all too important need for zines and especially for *In the Trenches...*

In the Trenches... is a zine that is needed in order to raise the consciousness of the people to a higher and deeper level. We need to expose them to the truth regarding the disenfranchised, the dispossessed, the lost, discarded, homeless, down 'n out earth travellers who've been neglected, misused, abused and unheard by mainstream-censored Amerikkka.

In the Trenches... is a zine that seeks to reach // the soul of the people by giving a Voice to the Voiceless, who most often are PRISONERS. The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) has literally criminalized hoards of people who ought not be in prison but because of an unfair political/judicial system, rabid police, corrupt prosecutors, judges and politicians, we have up to 2 million people languishing in state, federal prisons and jails. Others are on some form of state/federal probation or parole. More often than not, the vast majority of people are in this situation because of their economic situation, class structure or race. With many people more conscious of the political tyranny prisoners (Amerikkka's new slaves) are speaking out to the world, like myself. Shouting to the world what is going on and what we must do to stop the humyn carnage imposed by an insensitive government who now view humyn beings as profit margins for corporate investors on Wall Street. Prisoners ~~are~~ taking a firm and often dangerous stand to serve the people, to educate the people by any and all means. In the Trenches... is a vehicle for these brave men and wimmin. It is the voice for the Black, Latino, Native American, Asian and White radical who refuses to accept government abuse. Kapitalist abuse. Fascist abuse. Imperialist abuse. Police and Judicial abuse.

The aim and goal of In the Trenches... is to get people to THINK and NETWORK with one another so that WE can develop from within ourselves the wherewithall to OVERTHROW any and all tyranny against the good order and Will of the People! Our purpose is to open up the sleeping minds of our youth and get them to take on a more politicized proactive stance against systematic abuse and corruption and where WE transform from being "paper tigers" to guerrilla fighters and souljahs in the People's War for Social Justice and complete and autonomous living.

In the Trenches... is a political, social, economic, environmental tool... a ray of light you might say, so that others may guide themselves from and do their daily part in this seemingly never ending battle for what is humynitarianly right.

In the Trenches... is not (repeat) is not a Black 12
thing, but we do emphasize the Black issue abundantly
because this is an issue that still simmers from the
days of chattel slavery, Jim Crowism, Segregation,
Negation and Subjugation. It is important that We
listen to the Voices and hear the subtle tones of words
expressed, for not always will you hear the CRY out
loudly but beneath layers of words, neatly placed.

In the Trenches... is a voice for the white radical
youth, who've become dispossessed by materialism's
affect on the family, the future. Many are crying for
someone to hear them but with both parents slaving away
and being ignored and seeing the hypocritical lie being
told them, we now have school shootings & bombings.
In the Trenches... wishes to explore these issues whereas
the mainstream won't and let the white youth sing their
discontent to the world so that WE can find a happy
medium and make change come - even if it must be by the
brick, the bottle or the gun!

Yet ultimately, In the Trenches... is for bridging
false borders we have with segregated neighborhoods,
districts, etc. So, I would encourage all of you to
support not just ITT, but all zines. We must stand
together or nothing will change.

In the Trenches...

Ali Khalid Abdullah #148130
3225 John Conley Drive
Lapeer, MI 48446

Selected Writings of Ali Khalid Abdullah. Finally! A taste
of the thinking of Ali is put together. Essays include, "Being
Counterproductive," "Tupac...A Revolutionary Love Supreme!,"
"Regarding Our Youth," Understanding the Social Dynamic and
the Role of Drugs," "The Fear of Revolution," "The War on
Crime: Silencing the People's Voice," and "Watching Your Back
in Amerikkka." Dedicated to the struggle of liberation and
freedom. Ali & I are *CLOSE*! Learn why. \$1.50

4. In the Trenches... #3.5 October 17th, 1999

This is actually a split zine with Sean Lambert's Behind These Walls #3. Both of these tomes are 42 full sized pages, making the split a whopping 84 pages!! This split was created specially for the benefit concert we sponsored to help Ali in his legal battles and PPWC in general, which took place October 17th at the Fireside Bowl, in Chicago. Six searing punk bands donated their talents for this wild show. Ali wrote material which I read at this show, explaining what he was about, what PPWC was about, thanking those who helped and detailing what we are up against. I had a full table of prisoner zines available. This zine starts with an essay by him entitled, "White Workers and Their Unions," covers Texas women prisoners on death row, Tamms "Super Max" torture chamber in Southern Illinois, Khalfani X. Khaldun's case, Slavery in Texas, Mothers Against Injustice, Angela Davis' visit to Chicago, the Stolen Lives Project, other contributions by prisoners such as Bubba B, Abdul-Shaheed Muslim, Harold H. Thompson, Cinque Woodfox, Janine Africa, Willie Garrett, Walter Bell, Abdul Olugbala Shakur, Cynthia Jenkins, etc. \$2

IN THE TRENCHES...#4 This monster was edited by Ali Khalid Abdullah and Anthony Rayson. It's the organ of the PPWC - Political Prisoner's of War Coalition. This issue is now a 32-paged newspaper, cram-packed with prisoner info from around the world. In depth reports, speeches, analysis, essays, poetry, articles, graphics, contacts, etc. This is an anarchist-driven prisoner paper, second to none! \$2



In the trenches...

Another very important prisoner zine is Chain Reaction, which is put out by an anarchist collective in the Texas prison system. They put it all together and I publish and distribute it. Here's what Kevin Glover says about it.

To The Underground Zine Readership

Howdy! Kevin from Chain Reaction here.
Revolutionary Anarchist greetings to you all.

We've been working on CR for nearly a year now and have put out 3 issues so far. What exactly is CR and its purpose, you might ask? Well, CR was started by me, Ron, and a fellow you may have heard of named Chris Flummer, basically out of total disgust at the lack of anarchist response to the mega monolithic TX prison system as well as lack of an anarchist movement in the geographical area known as TX. C.R. is a counter media designed to counter mainstream capitalist head-fixing propaganda. As well, we hope to inspire class consciousness in prisoners and "free world people," and get these people interested in anarchism, in this way, building an anarchist movement not bent on seeking reforms of our present rotten system, but intent on making a total revolutionary change in society, i.e. doing away with the cancers of capitalism and the state, and moving to a free communist society, based on the voluntary association of workers, and free access to all the necessities of life. We hope C.R. is a tool to help unlock what William Blake called "The mind forged manacles of unfreedom" in order to get people to step out, collectively and individually, of the ruling class manufactured ideas of acceptable (but

ineffectual) political discourse and action. Peoples' 15
minds have been skewed and circumscribed by years of
capitalist ideological conditioning, to the point
where impulses or creative visions of utopia are
repressed, stamped out, or laughed at as insane or
impossible. We hope to help destroy this ideological
bondage, and get people to demand the impossible. To
work towards a vision of a free society which promotes
the utmost well being of humanity and our planetary
ecosystems and other biological life, which, incident-
ally but poignantly, are in great peril due to the
present system the master class has us locked into.

It was difficult at first because we had to find
some solid people to help us with printing and distri-
bution. Very frustrating at first, as it's difficult
to find ~~A~~ revolutionaries out there who want to or are
able to help out. We lucked out though, as we ran
across a real solid anarchist, who has become a good
friend and comrade and has gone to the wire more
than a few times to help us with our project. To,
Anthony Rayson, we owe a great debt of gratitude, and
probably a lifetime supply of Grecian Formula, since
we noticed his hair has gotten a lot grayer since he
took up with us. Once we got the printing and distro
thing halfway cinched, I put out an ad in the Coalition
for Prisoner's Rights Newsletter about our paper and
how we want to hear from TX prisoners. It's a fairly
widely read by prisoners newsletter, and in the first
couple of weeks we got some 200 replies. We print
articles, news and excerpted letters from prisoners all

over TX to give voice about the outrageous conditions of brutality they endure under the boot heel of the fascist state of TX. This type of solidarity and communication has allowed us lots of interesting contributions from prisoners, and we hope that the momentum of the Chain Reaction continues to build as a result! 16

Who knows what the state forces of retribution and punishment will bring forth to us in the state of TX. We may be reduced to penning our words on toilet rolls like Martin Luther King, and sticking our graphics on with toothpaste. In whatever form we do it in though, we know that our comrades, like Anthony Rayson and floks at Claustrophobia and Books Through Bars will help us get the info out. Help us to build a movement for lasting social change. Help us create Anarchy!

We at C.R. say that it is literally one between utopia and biological extinction.

C.R. is, as I said, focused mainly on the geographical area of TX, however our outlook is international as well. We seek to show the common links - links which we hope will result in serious solidarity, between prisoners struggles, workers, environmentalists, anti-racists and people struggling against sexual repression. All of our struggles are interrelated, as the same capitalist neo-liberal forces feed on, or cause the prisons we must break free from, both subjectively and objectively.

The same forces which compelled the Zapatistas to 17
revolt, and the East Timorese to resist are the same
ones which criminalize the working class right here in
the U.S.A. and lock them away for decades.

Their struggles are our struggles. Workers of the
World Unite! Prisons are racist institutions, just as
capitalism is in general, and they perpetuate patriarchal
mind sets and social relations within the minds of
prisoners. We at C.R. are totally against this and
hope to inspire people both within and without prison
walls to destroy the hierarchical relations of racial
patriarchal dominance and to stop preying on one another.
In short, we hope to inspire true solidarity.

How do we do it? Well, I busted down and bought a
Smith Corona typewriter. It list prices for \$59.95 in
the world, but I paid \$159.00 for it in here. I still
can't type, but I can hunt ' peck like a madman,
specially with a good shot of coffee to help me along.
Add some good graphics which we cut out and paste,
and you have the makings of a good paper.

Ronald A. Young #625541
Huntsville unit
P.O. Box 32
Huntsville, TX 77348-0001

Kevin Glover #526379
Huntsville Unit P.O. Box 32
Huntsville, TX 77348-0001

* I would like to apologize to a very intelligent, committed
articulate anarchist comrade, by the name of Ronald A. Young.
He is an intricate member of the *Chain Reaction* collective,
who had sent me a terrific piece explaining his slant on doing
this zine and activism in general. I lost his contribution
before I could copy and save it and ran out of time before
this conference to ask him to write another piece. Write him.

Another very important prisoner zine I'm involved with is Voice of Indiana's Political Prisoners. Embarrassing to me, this zine is published in Sweden and then mailed to me for domestic publishing and distribution. It comes out every month! Indiana has a very solid group of revolutionary writers and activists, who are unmercifully repressed. This zine has maybe fifteen very pointed articles written by these men as instructions to the youth in the inner cities who are more and more being sucked into the bowels of Moloch's prisons.

Two of these fighters, I want to mention now. Khalfani X. Khaldun is a powerful thinker and activist, who've I've collaborated on a number of projects and zines, including this zine, I.D.O.C. Guilty as Charged: Arrogance Exposed. It's a passionate and devastating indictment of the prison injustice system of Indiana. He's to be released in July, hopefully. He was charged with the murder of a guard in 1994, but unbelievably was never brought to trial - because they never had a case, but he was treated like a cop killer these last many years. He is planning on starting a Midwest Support Coalition to help his brothers still locked down.

28. Voice of Indiana's Political Prisoners. This is a very important zine which comes out monthly! It is printed in Sweden and mailed to me for domestic distribution. It consists of maybe fifteen educational articles by prisoners throughout the Indiana system who are determined to instruct the youth of the black communities about the realities of the slave system and how we must organize to fight it for our own survival. I have issues back to September of '99. Each zine contains groundbreaking, contemporary analysis and empowering education. \$1.50 each

So. Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P O Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

Comrades, family and friends. For some time now I have been planning for my liberation from prison, which has consumed a lot of my focus. Like many of you who have at one point or another experienced "writer's block," I have become a victim of what happens when one attempts to take on too much at one time.

Many of you who have been in communication these past five years are aware of the obstacles I have had to get around, being the constant victim of strategic racist attacks by the current landlords of my confinement. I am sorry for not having updated everyone on recent rulings in the murder case I faced. On the grounds of denial of a speedy trial, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the lower courts

violated my Constitutional right to a speedy trial (due process of law). In the early part of this year, they dropped the case against me. This should have resulted in my immediate release.

However, the internal tricknology of the Indiana Dept. of Corrections, who found me guilty on the trumped-up charge of homicide, resulted in the rescision of some 700 days of "good time" due me, and so despite the fact that I have been cleared, I will not be released until 7/27/2000. In addition, having been cleared, I filed for parole release to the State of Missouri, where my fiancée and children reside. Because of faulty advice, whether intentional or not, this request was rejected.

Because of these internal machinations, family and friends have expressed their worry that the prisonrats will continue to come at me with phony beefs in an effort to punish me for my resistance by either keeping me imprisoned further or physical attempts on my person, in the same way they altered my release by the false homicide charge. I am prepared to condition myself to curtail response to any such attempts.

Furthermore, I am requesting that all my loyal comrades who have stood by me in the past be on alert for emergency direct response to the IDOC if anything is done in an attempt to alter my release. Below is all the contact information needed to respond quickly. Please contact ME and let me know if you will respond if needed.

I will remain in contact by phone and e-mail once released. I was recently notified that a profess white supremacist officer recently promoted to the rank of sgt. will be posted to my unit on the 3rd shift. He may have been placed here to come at me. He will also be handling the unit's mail. His name is Chris Fisher.

Much love and respect to you all. It's not over...it has just begun. A luta continua. One aim, one God one destiny.

Your brother & comrade Khalfani X. Khaldun
#874304 PO Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

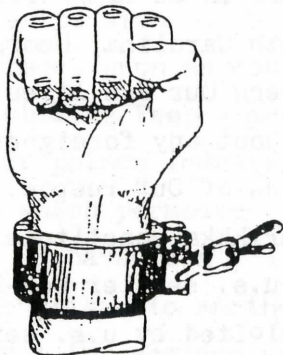
CONTACTS :

Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon
Office of the Governor
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797 (317) 232-4567

Indiana Dept. of Corrections
Central Office Rm E 334
IGCS 302 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 232-5711

Indiana Director of Offender Classification
James Wynn RmE 334 IGCS 302 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-2247 e-mail <junn@coa.doc.state.in.us>

Indiana D. O.C. Southern Regional Director
Bruce Lemmon
Rm E 334 IGCS
302 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-5723
e-mail <blemmon@coa.doc.state.in.us>



Radio Free Maine

PO Box 2705

Augusta, ME 04338

207-622-6629

Another lion of the struggle is Mangwiro A. Sadiki-Yisrael, who I've just finished this zine with. It's a 20 powerful collection of essays and poetry from a 27 year old man, who's been imprisoned since age sixteen. He wrote an in depth report specifically for this conference, which I'd like to quote from.

Workshop on Prisoner's Zines

Revolutionary greetings and universal luv!

My liberated name is Mangwiro Anyabwile Sadiki-Yisrael. i'm a 27 year old "New Afrikan Revolutionary Nationalist" being held kaptive in a political prison (i.e. control unit) called "G" - cell-house administrative segregation, at de Pendleton Correctional Facility in Pendleton, Indiana.

New Afrikan Revolutionary Nationalism is de Political line of "Blak" Revolutionaries in de u.s. who are Fundamentally concerned with seizing state power in de Blak belt South i.e. Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana so that We can govern Our own lives and determine Our own destinies without any foreigners impeding or infringing upon de lives of Our Peepoe. We believe that Blak Peepoe in Amerikkka constitute a Nation; a Nation being subjugated by u.s. settler neo-kkkolonialism, and brutally exploited by u.s. settler imperialism. Afrikans in Amerikkka being shot at 41 times; laws which are designed to disproportionately affect New Afrikans (Blak) and railroad Us into these kkkoncentration kkkamps; de high infant mortality rate; de deplorable living conditions and inadequate inner-city housing

homelessness; inadequate health care; the so called war on crime, etc., etc., etc. Are all reflective of a racist and genocidal policy against New Afrikans to systematically deny us the ability to fully and freely exercise and develop for our own purposes and to our own productive capacities. Thus, we believe that by freeing the land in the Black belt south and building the Socialist Republic of New Afrika, Afrikans in Amerikkka will have the requisite power to end our oppression.

To date, i have been held captive in prison for a period exceeding 10 years. i was supposed to have been released Jan. 31, 2000; however, because 8 out of those 10 years i have spent engaging in critical studies, organizing activities designed to help shape and facilitate revolutionary nationalist consciousness amongst prisoners, and developing progressive/revolutionary relationships with Brothers and Sisters outside of prison, such as comrad-Brother Anthony Rayson, who help mobilize Peepoe against the brutally exploitive reality of the prison industrial complex and the horrific atrocities which permeate throughout these torcher chambers. i have been constantly kept in transit from one prison to another and blatantly set up on bogus conduct infractions which have resulted in the deprivations of my so-called good-time, prolonging my release to the de-privileged but not yet Free-world. But i continue Forward.

NEW AFRIKAN POLITICAL PRISONERS OF WAR IN AMERICA

Communication is Our first line of defense, thus 22
developing relationships with progressive/revolutionaries on de inside of prison with those on de outside is of utmost importance. These relationships, however, must extend beyond writing eachother letters or having visits whenever time permits, or even merely writing about de condition, to actually doing something about de condition thru concrete conscious political activities. As a Revolutionary writer, i overstand de importance of writing materials which will compel Peepoe to act: to act towards completely dismantling de parasitic system of monopoly kkkapitalism; to act towards being luvving Mothers and Fathers, husbands and wives, sistars and brothers; to act towards ending class oppression and racist violence, and towards building national and international working class unity. Language, must be a place of struggle, so if what we say aloud, or on paper does not compel ones to act against de oppressive conditions which affect, effect and in most cases infect All of Our lives, then we have failed at Our obligation to de Peepoe.

What is desperately needed here on de Indiana Front, is more of you out here in de world willing to use whatever avenues you have at your disposal, to help Us get Our writings published and distributed to de Peepoe. Over de years i have witnessed support in this area dwindle to almost non-existence! There are many reasons for this, such as lack of resources, or fears of terroristic retaliations by de agents of repression or their lackeys on de part of supporters. We have

witnessed de petty-opportunist tendencies on de part 23
of "supporters" who only want to publish Our writings
when there is a highly publicized incident that has
occurred so they canperpetuate themselves as die-hard
supporters of P.P.'s/P.O.W.'s, and turn a profit. Once
de situation has subsided, so too does de commitment
of these endeavors. For sometime now, comrad-Brother
Anthony Rayson has been one of de very few souljah's
giving unselfishly his time and resources to not just
ensuring Indiana's P.P.'s/P.O.W.'s writings and poetry
reaches de Peepoe, but many other P.P.'s/P.O.W.'s
throughout this fascist empire! This is entirely too
much responsibility for one man, so We truly need more
of you to step up and help shoulder this responsibility.
All Power to de Peepoe!

To learn more about de struggles taking place on
de Indiana Front, and to read Our writings and poetry
which is further testimony of Our creativity and
burning desire to end Our oppression, log onto our
website which publishes Our monthly newsletter, "Voice
of Indiana's Folitical Prisoners" at:
<http://home4.inet.tele./lepan/lene/indiana/> Thank you
for your time. Uhuru Sasa i.e. Freedom Now!

Re - Build!

Mangwiro A. Sadiki-Yisrael
s/n James Malone #913752 15-2D
Pendleton Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064



MUMIA ABU-
JAMAL AND
POLITICAL
PRISONERS



Slavery ... in Ole' Glory

Another Indiana brotha is Billy Brown, also known as "Bubba-B." He's written the zine A Souljah's Thoughts and has also sent a contribution specifically for this conference.

A SOULJAHZ THOUGHTS

LIBERATION!



By: BUBBA-B!

Billy Brown, (Bubba "B") A Souljah's Thoughts

Greetings, One and All.

For starters, i'd like to thank Anthony, and all of you for giving US (prisoners) an opportunity to showcase our talent(s.) It's not everyday that we're given this chance, so i hope that we all make a great enough impression on you, to want to become (and get others) more involved in prison/prisoners issues.

To begin with, writing in and of itself takes a lot of concentration, (it's not so easy when you have constant yelling, screaming, kicking & rattling the bars for hours) but i've learned to focus, and this means, blocking everything out - EVERYTHING- and placing myself, or my mind in the situation or subject which i'm writing about. (This piece is not an exception.) Once i place myself (mentally) there, i flow like a river.

Personally, i don't think i have a particular technique, in as much, my style changes with the situation, for the fact that, from a prisoner's point of view, a majority of our interactions are negative. I try to take that negative situation, and transform it into writing in a way that is understood, as well as how that negative can be turned into a positive.

In writing, we touch a lot of people, (young & old.) So, we must be conscious of how we write, as well as what we write, because like music and T.V. (tel-lie-vision) Writing also influences people, whether positive or negative. So, we must be conscious of what we write.

I would suggest to whomever that writes pamphlets essays, etc. to stick to the basics, and not try to throw a lot of "fancy" words or using "M.I.T. Vocab" on people that you're trying to reach. The best advice i can give when writing is this; remember we are not all on the same "level" when it comes to "comprehension/reading comprehension," and when you are writing, we must all keep this in mind.

i focus a lot of my writings (85-90%) on the youth of Amerika, so i have to keep in mind that a lot of these youths that are going to be reading something that i've written, probably never even heard some of the political terminology that's used in some of our (prisoner's) writings, so i would advise to ALL? Keep it simple.

Lastly, i'd like to encourage everyone to write. Write what you feel inside; write the truth. Remember, there's "someone" reading what you write and hopefully, we touch those youths in a way that makes them want to write, as well.

Thank you all for youe time today. You'll never know how much this has meant to me, so thank you all.

'Till All Are Free!

i

Remain,
Bubba-B!

P.S. if anyone here is interested in some of my writings? i've written a pamphlet called: A Souljah's Thoughts by: Bubba-B!



write to: South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430
\$1 "Freeworld" People / Free to Prisoners

Request a catalog also.

Billy Brown #855988 Loc: SHU B-411
Indiana Dept. of Corr.
Wabash Valley Corr. Facility
P.O. Box 1111
Carlisle, IN 47838

Behind These Walls #1

27

"I guess I should start by saying that Behind These Walls is a zine published and distributed by You're Not Normal Publishing. This zine is dedicated to and all about the prison struggle! I want this zine to be a voice for prisoners of our fascist state and also to inspire those of you on the outside to get involved in the struggle." Absolutely loaded with information, 44 pages of tiny print anarchist analysis and education. Learn all about it, right here! \$2

Behind These Walls #2

More prisoner information about the Institute for Criminology 101, New Afrikan Community Parole Review Board, poetry, the case of Rafael Ballarin, information on the PPWC, the political background of Ali Khalid Abdullah, "Neo-Slavery in the 21st Century" by Amir Askari Ajoke Tanimowo, "Give the People What?" "Apartheid, American Style" and more by Ali Khalid Abdullah, information on the ABCF (Anarchist Black Cross Federation) Mumia info, the courts, citizens' complaints, the War on Drugs & much, much more 43 pages \$2

Behind These Walls #3

Sean Lambert's awesome half of this split zine. Includes interviews with Khalfani X. Khaldun, Ali Khalid Abdullah, "Assassination of Character - The Murder of a Person or People" by Ali, detailed information on Khalfani's struggles, "The Theoretical Concept of Criminology 101," by Abdul Olugbala Shakur, "Lethal Elections and Lethal Injections" by Khalfani, "Relentless Counterinsurgency" at Indiana's Westville Supermax hellhole, poetry, survival tips, and news from prisons and prisoners from around the globe. Terrific \$2

Sean Lambert

2835 Delaware Ave #1

Kenmore, NY 14217

Sean is part of the PPWC Collective & also runs a distro of zines, tapes, etc. These Behind These Walls zines are thick & packed with vital prisoner info.*

"We had to destroy the freedom to save it."

My friends, we're being lied to every day, in every way. From the open and grotesque, such as the overstuffed shirts of the IMF and the World Bank claiming to be "working to help the poor" as their riot goons club and gas folks outside, to the insidious daily mind-altering of the ubiquitous image box, the lying is relentless.

"Correctional facilities" house their kidnap victims in "dorms." Come and sleep over - for the rest of your ruined lives! The criminal "INS" system will keep you safe and locked-up tight, while those in the "outs" cringe behind triple padlocked burglar bars to better enjoy their "liberty!"

Little Havana, is where Little Elian enjoyed his freedom (in a closet, ala Patty Hearst!) until the state gun-wielders plucked him from the squealers for freedom. And what of the glorious "freedom" that they enjoy? Well, like all the rest of America, it's a completely commodified society based on capitalist greed, which also happens to be the home-away-from-home for South and Central American dictators and their right-wing death squads.

"Drugs are bad." They tell us. But, what *are* "drugs?" "Bad drugs" are what they tell us they are - the ones they've made illegal, such as pot, cocaine, LSD and heroin. They all used to be legal. The government, the police, the courts, prisons and big banks make an enormous amount of money on these drugs, either directly or via their punishment industry. Drugs, like everything else, are chemicals, compounds made from elements, molecules and atoms. They are variously benign &/or harmful. The most deadly, toxic and poisonous substances on Earth are the creation of and the exclusive possession of the state, who use them to threaten people with. Now *that* is truly dangerous! Some drugs grow directly out of the ground, like marijuana and have been used by people for thousands of years and are incredibly useful and often very harmless. Many others are created by profit-seeking companies to foist on people, killing many of them every year. What is classified as "legal" and "illegal" is completely arbitrarily determined by government and change invariably to make more money for the enforcement authorities. It's an absolute divorced-from-reality farce, underscored by the threat and use of guns, clubs, handcuffs, bomb-laden airplanes, etc. Bullies and liars use force to get their way and keep their stolen possessions and always have. But, never has it occurred so piously and pitilessly as in present day paradise - Amerikkka! Orwell and Hitler would both be retching!

29
Recently, the Chicago Tribune ran a headline entitled, "Massacre Uncovered." Lo and behold, the U.\$. 's South Korean puppets had marched a lot of peasants to ditches and put bullets into their heads, killing them. Then, they went for more. This happened over an extended period in many areas, while U.S. forces quietly watched or furtively participated. This happened in 1950! Some "revelation!" Nazis and fascists do this all the time, "officially" slaughter people. The U\$. did this for years in Korea, Vietnam, Europe, Africa, South America - many, many places throughout the world, and continues to do so. But, we've rarely executed people by ditches. We train others to do that and we kill anonymously from the air, dropping bombs and poison gas, melting, burning and exploding our victims. But, this doesn't count as a "massacre" see? In fact, since Kosovo, carpet bombing is now considered "humanitarian aid."

The press bleats about "totalitarian" Cuba. Where's Castro's ditches full of bodies? They don't exist! Yet, in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, Columbia - you name it in Central and South America, hundreds of thousands of people have been tortured, butchered, murdered, "disappeared" and massacred by U\$.-trained forces of these sweatshop catering "fledgling democracies." Lies! Murder! Enormous lies!! Decades of mass murder!! The typical U\$. citizen is as politically aware as a mental patient sleepwalking to get his daily dose of haldol, thorazine, prozac and the colorful assortment of sedatives. We're political zombies!! Have a cigarette!

Another obscene thing is the parrot talk of "freedom" here in the U\$. Freedom to do what? To be a whore to your own life, that's what! Freedom to eat sugar, become obese and die ignorant! If you have a conscience or happen to possess protective melanin, expect to be clubbed, gassed and jailed! If you're a capitalist, you have the freedom to exploit labor and rape mother Earth. You have the freedom to be evil.

For most folks, freedom consists of a boring, life-stultifying job, worry, alienation, heartache, despair and lots and lots of television. The ideas of freedom are kept well hidden, mocked, scorned, ridiculed and lied shamelessly about. Allowed ideas are vomitted out of the mouths of sexist pigs on radio and fascist fools in newspapers. Everything including the air, water and soil has a price tag on it. Prison eternally beckons. Enjoy your fucking "freedom!" You'll find it inside a hydrogen bomb.

- Anthony Rayson

I can only go for so long without being compelled to go off on this disgrace, this mockery of a society.

**REMEMBER
WE'RE
STILL
HERE**

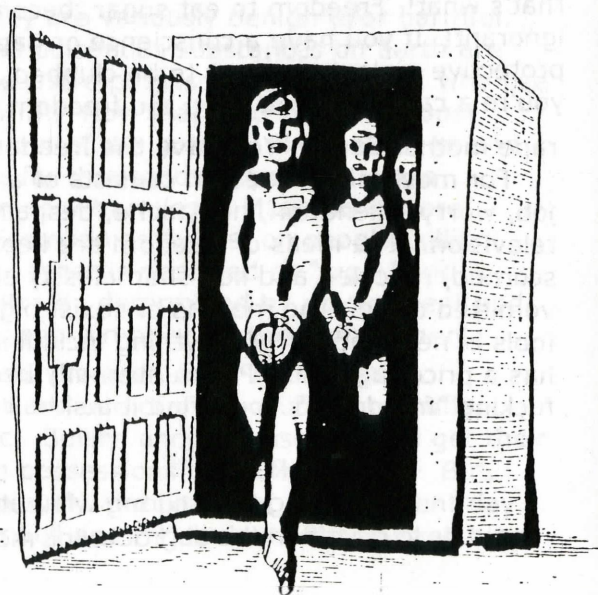


**SUPPORT
ANARCHIST
AND
CLASS WAR
PRISONERS**

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



***YOU CAN KILL
A REVOLUTIONARY
BUT YOU CAN'T KILL
THE REVOLUTION.***



***CANT JAIL
THE SPIRIT***

Another fellow you probably have all heard about is Rob Thaxton, the Eugene anarchist sentenced to seven years for the June riot there. He's written a comprehensive deconstruction of prison, which I will reprint in full and quote from, called *Red, White and Blue Fascism*.



**Jailhouse Writings by Political Prisoner
Robert Thaxton a.k.a. Rob los Ricos**

Red, White and Blue Fascism

Rape in U.S. prisons is so much a part of the American culture, comedians and TV sitcoms often refer to it as a way to score a quick laugh. This is a sad reflection of the state of American society. The issue of prison rape points to many related concerns about the civil rights, health and safety of prisoners and the "build 'em & fill 'em" mania that has the U.S. political system moving in a seriously dangerous direction.

The incredible growth in the punishment industry has made it an integral part of the U.S. economy, similar to the way the production of war materials is essential for economic growth. This continual expansion requires ever more people to be incarcerated for longer periods of time. It's about jobs.

My intention in writing this was originally to call attention to the plight of a woman prisoner I know - Barrilee Bannister - who has just been transferred (again!) to:

Barrilee Bannister #11309597

EOCI

2500 Westgate

Pendleton, OR 97801

Her story is so typical, it's impossible to separate from the larger social and political issues which created and perpetuate these conditions.

Though many states were already headed in the direction of tough-on-crime politics before then, George Bush brought it to the forefront of the political arena as a central part of his campaign strategy of '88. The alternative candidate retorted, not by challenging Bush's alarmist rhetoric, but by trying to show just how tough on crime he could be. Since then, attacks on women's access to abortion providers, an anti-flag burning amendment and tough-on-crime posturing have all been essential elements in winning election campaigns for much of the country. This vilification of the general public has led to the ascendance of a corporate-run police

state in which the masses are horrified of "violence" directed at corporate property, but indiscriminate assaults on anyone³⁷ and everyone by the police are tolerated as a just aspect of imposing order, as happened during the so-called Battle of Seattle when the World Trade Organization conferred there last year. The overly shrill denunciation of the rioters is but one example of attitudes which have - unsurprisingly- created an atmosphere of self-repression by the general public. Voters unthinkingly allow to be passed new legislation into law in their eagerness to repress themselves: three strikes, mandatory sentencing and upward reclassification of lesser crimes are repressive measures being enforced with a vengeance. This has led to a dramatic increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. Earlier this year, the prison population here has exceeded 2,000,000 men, women and children. Worldwide, there are 8 million people in prison. With 5% of the world's population, the U.S. has 25% of its prisoners. Land of the free, my ass.

Just as the U.S. holds a disproportionate number of the world's prisoners, a disproportionate number of those prisoners are black and latino. Most of us are poor, too, as are most of the white prisoners. With token exceptions, mainstream America is lily white and worships wealth. Anyone outside the mainstream is objectified as "others," as opposed to friends, neighbors and relatives. This makes their vilification easier to accept. Our youth are also a targeted segment of society. Despite the fact that juvenile crime has been in decline since the 70's, the media and politicians are in hysterics about how to better control youths. Control, to the forces of order and power, means prison.

So many people are being incarcerated these days that building and running prisons constitute two of the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy. This awful situation is made even worse when one considers that this was done deliberately by the corporations and the governments -

county, state and federal. The cooperation has led to the creation of a corporate state. Get it? The Italian word for corporate state is *fasciata* - fascism. Just to clarify: I am in no way implying the U.S.A. *resembles* a fascist nation/state: I'm saying the U.S. is in fact, a real, actual fascist country.

If you think I'm exaggerating to make a point, consider:

1) a right-wing, fascist sympathizer (who would display this by honoring the fallen heroes of Hitler's SS - his Nazi-party army) - this after addressing a gathering of Spanish Fascists the previous week, where he said the U.S. fought on the wrong side during WWII and he did it while still in office! - is elected President by a small percentage of eligible voters and promptly declares his victory a "revolution."

2) His first act as President is to fire the striking air traffic controllers. Later, the leaders of the 1st U.S. fascist puppet regime has the Savings & Loan industry deregulated so that the board members could plunder them. He used the General Accounting Office to withhold funds for "anti-business" projects - like enforcement of OSHA and EPA regulations - and redirected the money to his friends and allies in the defense industry and to raise private armies to wage "secret" wars.

3) At the end of the first puppet regime, the corporate state is so entrenched in power that no politician dares speak or run against it. They only slightly disagree on how to manage it. A controversy in legislatures is usually about whether to give the corporations all the power and money they demand or give them even more.

4) Laws are passed to encourage industries to shut down and relocate their operations. This leads to hundreds of thousands of people losing their jobs. Many of these relocations are done in retaliation for city and state governments passing regulations favoring workers and protecting the environment.

5) To prepare for the conditions which massive unemployment will cause their communities, many begin to build jails and prisons, both to house the people whose lives were devastated by the loss of industries and to provide jobs for the select few.

6) International treaties are ratified to force nations to submit to domination of their economies by the corporate state.

Fascism is a socialistic form of rule whereby institutions are everything and the people - apart from the ruling elite - are nothing. Though fascist governments function most efficiently under a dictatorship, there have been instances where fascists were voted into power - El Salvador and Argentina, for instance. Racism is usually associated with fascists, though it certainly isn't a definitive character. Two of the most recognizable traits of fascism are extreme nationalism and intolerance for opposition.

Just because American fascists don't openly goose-step at mass rallies doesn't make them any less recognizable. It will be interesting to see how they react to an unexpected turn of events - the recent emergence of genuine opposition to their iron-clad rule, as is being demonstrated by massive street actions, in First World countries. So long as these actions lead to no real changes in international policy, they will be tolerated - even welcomed - as a new-found tool to control the masses. Though this oppositional movement shows some promise, the utterly dismal failure of the IMF/World Bank protests shows how easily the opposition can be co-opted and/or silenced. We can look back to the last worldwide period of unrest - '68 - '72 to see that much of what pacified the militants then is already occurring now: the well-trained professional activists call for restraint in exchange for photo ops with and meaningless promises from politicians. Those not satisfied with this arrangement will face harsh treatment

from the police - which makes the leaders of the opposition-like organizations all the more eager to compromise with the forces of order and power. For now, however, it seems possible that this could change, should the opposition solidify its position against capitalism and keep pressure on the capitalist politicians.

How will the corporate state respond to real, determined opposition in the First World to its policies and goals? If one listens to the mouthpieces of the ruling class, the prospects are not encouraging. Elected officials have basically exonerated the out-of-control Seattle Police Department for its savage attack on everyone in the streets of downtown and the Capitol Hill neighborhood, yet have denounced the people who attacked and damaged corporate property. The loyal opposition has joined them, too, leaving an isolated minority vulnerable to reprisals from the forces of order and power.

Notice my deliberate use of the cliché "law and order." Much of the actions by the Seattle police during their all-out assault on the people in and of Seattle were illegal in many respects - violations of the U.S. and State of Washington constitutions, human rights treaties, city, state and federal laws. At issue is not the respect for law, but who has power: people in the community, or corporations who have the economic power to control the actions of the government and police, and with the exception of the street vandals during the Battle of Seattle, few people have yet to challenge that power.

I'm going to briefly mention corporate crime. Despite massive and blatant disregard for health, safety and environmental laws and regulations, I see no politicians or government officials calling for long jail sentences for these crimes, nor for the plunderers of the S & L industry, which has cost the taxpayers over a trillion dollars so far. Under a fascist government, the ruling elite is beyond the reach of the law.

Given the current "anti-crime" hysteria in the political scene these days, the future for political dissenters looks quite grim. One group who has recognized this goes by the name of Future Political Prisoners of America.

When is Rape Legal?

My friend, Barrilee Bannister, is involved in a scenario worthy of the most twisted imaginings of Franz Kafka.

This young, working class, single mother (there's three strikes against her already!) lost her temper. Her and her friends lives were endangered by the reckless actions of a stranger - a man, who she later assaulted in a fit of rage. She is currently serving a 12 year sentence for her crime, under the supervision of the Oregon Department of Corrections. Had the man she assaulted killed her through his reckless actions, he might have received a considerably lesser sentence.

Unprepared for the drastic increase in prisoners due to mandatory sentencing laws, the ODOC decided to send a number of prisoners out of state. 78 women ended up at the Corrections Corporation of America's Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence, including Barrilee. This was not a facility set up to accomodate women prisoners. The all-male staff there was quick to take advantage of their position of power over these women to force them into performing erotic acts for them, when they weren't actually raping these prisoners. Women who tried to call this to the attention of the warden were subjected to particularly harsh retaliation. This was not a matter of a few bad apples abusing their authority. Somewhere between 27 (according to CCA staff) and 50 (according to the prisoners) guards, joined in.

This is not a lone example of sexual abuse of women in prison. Women in Washington D.C.'s Department of

Corrections reported they were forced to dance naked for guards. This *after* the DCDOC had settled a lawsuit for \$8 million for sexual harassment of women prisoners. 39

As is typical in such instances, the women's complaints were not reported to law enforcement agencies or to the proper courts. Instead, the women were identified to the staff as "loudmouths" and subjected to disciplinary action, like being put into segregation units - the hole - good time taken away and sometimes the women were fined, in addition to a continuation or even an escalation of their abuse.

How far will governments and prison officials go to protect their rapist guards? Rather than punishment for their crimes, guards have sometimes been promoted after being accused. The state legislature of Michigan even passed a special law to prevent a lawsuit from being filed against the MDOC by victims of sexual abuse by MDOC staff.

All this has not gone unnoticed, even if the American public is, for the most part, unconcerned. Human Rights Watch has begun documenting these abuses and has a report on the MDOC - "Nowhere to Hide: Retaliation Against Women in Michigan State Prisons."

When Barrilee and other women finally decided to take drastic action against CCA to put an end to their torture and humiliation, their story created a media sensation, first in Oregon newspapers and TV. The story exploded nationally. Eventually, the women were returned to Oregon and the CCA fired or suspended three dozen staff members.

If this were a Hollywood story, Barrilee would have been released due to massive public outrage and a sympathetic court system. In the real world, Barrilee is still in prison, under the supervision of people who's jobs and careers she has put in jeopardy by standing up for her rights. She has been repeatedly told to keep quiet by the prisoncrats at Oregon's Women's Correctional Center. If there are three words that can describe Barrilee, though, they are "Fight, fight, fight!"

Utterly unintimidated, Barrilee continues to speak her mind and stand her ground. 40

This is where I enter the picture.

As a lifelong activist, when mutual friends introduced us through the mail, I became not only outraged over her abuse but also impressed by her strong spirit. Her story became known to me over several months correspondence. I told her I'd try to get some outside support for her, which I did. As an anarchist organizer, activist and writer, I have a number of contacts, in the anarchist community. One man in particular stands out in this part of the story - Anthony Rayson - one of the strongest supporters of anarchist and other prisoners in the U.S. He is the Midwest Coordinator of the Political Prisoners of War Coalition and also participates in the Anarchist Black Cross - another support group - which sends literature to prisoners.

Anthony sent Barrilee letters of solidarity and reading material. Alarmed that she was getting the attention of political activists outside, the administration quickly moved against Barrilee. She was assigned to Security Threat Group (anarchist) status - a designation used to keep gang members under closer supervision than general population prisoners. Since this was a new - not to mention fictitious - development, Barrilee was put in the hole, had 12 days of accumulated good time reinstated to her sentence and fined. She was also fired from her job. Upon her release from the hole, she was again thrown in the hole - this time for attempting to write Anthony a letter! Because, now all communication with Anthony had been forbidden. She had been warned not to contact me or Anthony. She had also been instructed to stop referring to the OWCC staff as "gestapos" in her letters.

Human Rights Watch's report - "All Too Familiar: Sexual Abuse of Women in U.S. State Prisons" - along with dozens of individual and class action lawsuits, suggests sexual abuse of women's prisoners is not only evident, but rampant in U.S.

prisons. Estimates run as high as 70-80% of women prisoners experience sexual abuse. The apathy of the general public to this horror has pushed some women prisoners to suicide - particularly in the states of Florida and Connecticut.

This lack of empathy from outside is only a single symptom of a greater lack of concern about abuses of power by those supposedly in charge of upholding the law. The public has apparently failed to realize that the increased penalties for a greater variety of crimes, along with the constant addition of new laws to the books, will do nothing to make their society safer and instead turn their "democratic" corporate state into a totalitarian police state.

Since the focus of spending for prisons has shifted to construction, prisons have had to cut back on programs intended to prepare the incarcerated for their return to society. Thus, the purpose of internment has changed from rehabilitation to punishment. This partially explains why the public is disinterested in the abuse - sexual or otherwise - of prisoners. That, plus a willful stupidity. If it hasn't occurred to the voters in Oregon that sexual and physical abuse are learned behavior, they'll be figuring it out soon, as the first wave of Measure 11 offenders - victims of long, mandatory sentences (and abuse) are released. Since so many (65%) victims of Measure 11 are young, first-time offenders, this portends a social catastrophe in the making. What percent of these first time offenders will repeat the behavior they learned in prison upon their release? And what if efforts to head off this impending social disaster through educational and activist campaigns are successful? If, probation is again an option to judges, juries and prosecutors, along with shorter sentences, there will be even less incentive to rehabilitate

Cynthia Ritsher
PPWC Information Center
P.O. Box 554
Lincoln, MA 01773

Check out this website.
It has a lot of great links, too.
<http://members.access1.net/janed5>

prisoners. The state will need repeat offenders to keep their prisons full. Before dismissing this notion as cynical paranoia, let me remind the reader that when a small Florida community learned the local industry would soon close, leaving 1,700 42 people without work, their solution to this problem was to build a 1,200 bed jail. Crime is a good business investment. If the government and politicians want to invest in prison and jail construction, you can bet they'll see to it that their money is well spent.

According to a prisoner in Texas I've been corresponding with, "...they're putting people in and they're not letting them out." Several states, including Oregon, now require prisoners due for release to take a psychological examination, without explanation, hearing or a chance to respond to the psychologist, face to face. The prison officials can extend the prisoner's "stay" for 2 years, even if the prisoner has no history of disciplinary infractions or has not been found guilty of new crimes. This is illegal. The courts have instructed the ODOC that they have no authority to do this. But, they continue to do it, anyway.

So, the prison staff abuses prisoners, rapes women prisoners and the administration covers it up, condones it or in extreme cases, rewards the abuse of its staff - then takes disciplinary action against or extends prisoners sentences in retaliation if they take legal action to correct these abuses.

A recent federal inquiry into abuse by police and prison staff (Clinton Administration's report on the U.N. Committee Against Torture 10/15/99) proudly announced that though there are instances of abuse - they are aberrations and there are no signs of widespread human rights violations of Americans by the forces of order and power. Unlike the gullible citizens of the U.S., the rest of the world isn't buying Clinton's story. A Canadian judge recently refused to extradite a young man to the U.S., citing inhumane conditions -

the toleration of homosexual rape among them - in U.S. prisons as his reason.

43

My courageous friend Barrilee's situation is a microcosm of everything wrong with this society. Sentenced to an incredibly harsh prison term for a relatively minor offence, she was shipped to a distant state where she was sexually abused, ignored by the administration of the for-profit institution when she reported the abuse, then sent back to Oregon where she was threatened with retaliation and finally dumped into the hole for continuing to speak up for herself. And so far, the administration and bureaucrats are able to get away with this because the citizens of Oregon not only don't care, but many of them actually approve of the humiliation, beating and rape of prisoners.

Under Red, White and Blue fascism, the American people have been conditioned to love the powerful and hate themselves - objectified as "others." If the corporate state closes the local industries and moves them abroad, the media plays "America the Beautiful." The corporate leaders wave the flag and the politicians build prisons for the newly created underclass.

Barrilee Bannister #11309597
EOCI
2500 Westgate
Pendleton, OR 97801

Robert Thaxton #12112716
OSP
2605 State St.
Salem, OR 97310

Prison Legal News
2400 NW 80th St. #148
Seattle, WA 98117

Human Rights Watch
350 Fifth Ave., 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118
(212) - 290 - 4700
fax (212) - 736 - 1300

Stop Prison Rape
6632 Lexington Ave. Suite 48
Los Angeles, CA 90038

email hrwnye@hrw.org <http://www.hrw.org>
<http://www.hrw.org/reports98/women>

Another liberation fighter, writer and artist I work closely with is Zolo Agona Azania. He's is on Death Row in Indiana, 44 after a bogus trial amidst racist hysteria several years earlier. He is a New Afrikan elder statesmen, who not only writes beautifully and instructively, but is a renown artist and painter. Here's a couple of zines I've worked with him on. He's a uniquely talented and sensitive human being, which the state is trying to murder.

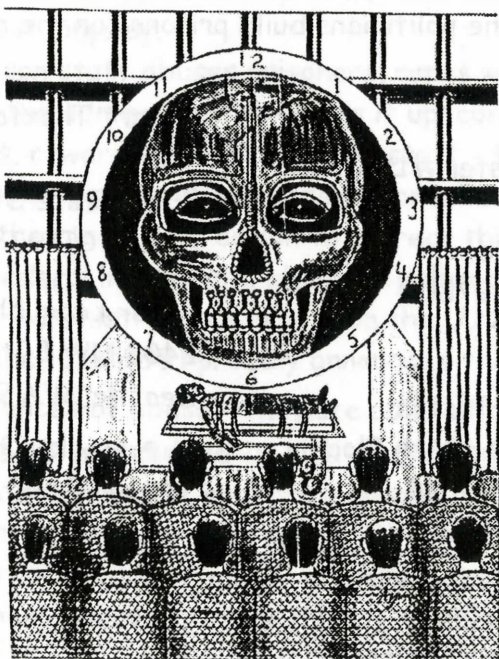
Zolo Agona Azania #4969

Indiana State Prison

Michigan City, IN 46361-0041

From Death Row, U.S.A.

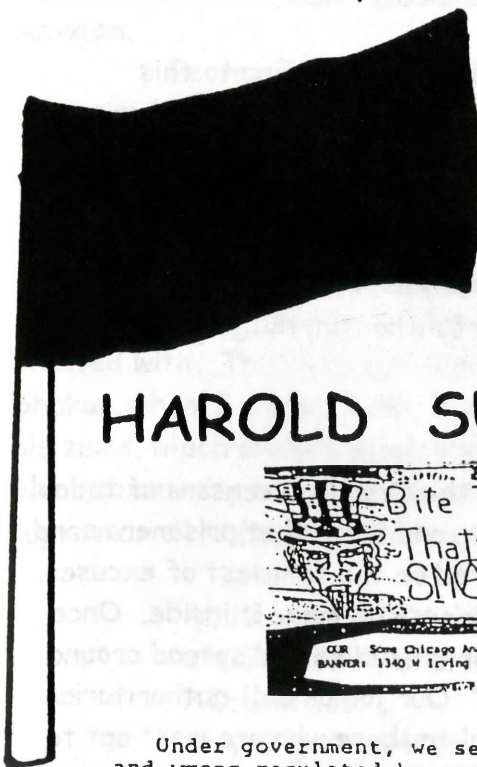
*Zolo Agona Azania Fights for his life
Citing Violations of International Law*



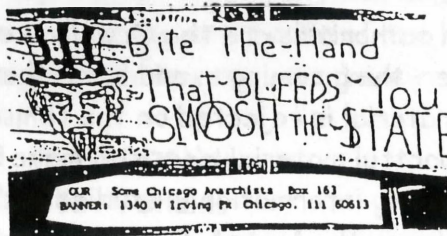
zolo agona azania

Lastly for today, I want to mention my good friend and fellow "pure anarchist" Harold H. Thompson. He was set upon by 45 Aryan Brotherhood goons last year and severely beaten. He's in the process of suing the prison librarian that was involved in this set-up. We've worked on a zine about his case. Also, I just received a new zine by Harold, just before leaving for this conference. It is a how-to manual entitled Anarchist Survival Guide For Understanding Gestapo Swine Interrogation Mind Games. He helps many prisoners on legal matters and acts as a spokesman for prisoners at his gulag.

Harold H. Thompson #93992
N.W.C.C. Site 1
Route 1, Box 600
Tiptonville, TN 38079-9712



HAROLD SUES PRISON



Under government, we see the standard of right and wrong regulated by enactments. One portion of society dictating to the other and exacting service. Anarchy teaches that law is to be discovered, not manufactured, and that conformity to natural law means happiness; disregard thereof, misery. The form of government is immaterial. Anarchy denies the right of one man to rule another.

MURRAY FOR ANARCHY!

Last words spoken by George Engel
on scaffold, Chicago 1887.

There are many, many other prisoners that I work with and are worthy of inclusion in this workshop, but I wanted to leave a little time today to open it up for discussion and let others add their input. Tomorrow, I will talk about other zines, with more specific activist agendas, how to communicate with prisoners, dealing with censorship, prisoner support groups activist prisoner initiatives and their zines. 46

Sunday, June 11th, 2000

Hello again, my friends. Thanks for coming to this workshop. Today, I want to get more specific in explaining how zinesters can become involved in prison abolition work and useful prisoner support work. With two million prisoners in America, the wealth of talented writers, artists and poets is just incredible. The level of analysis, literature, and emerging artwork is is much more powerful than anything else around, in my opinion.

I. Censorship.

The prison authorities are the Orwellian censors of today. They read everything coming in and much that prisoners send out. Often, material is rejected on the flimsiest of excuses. But, much impactful material *does* still make it inside. Once inside, empowering information is studied and spread around like it should be on the "outs." Our job as anti-authoritarian writers is to send our material to those who are most apt to take it seriously and act upon the ideas presented. So, it is of the utmost importance that we supply prisoners with zines.

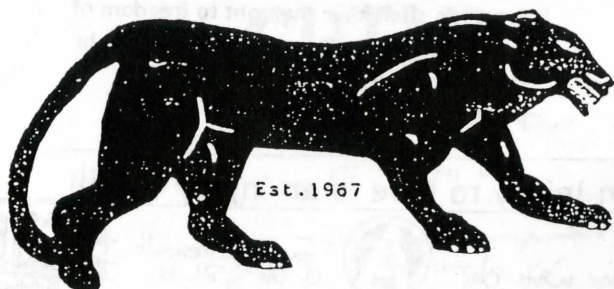
A general rule is that published material must be sent from the publisher. That's why I started my Zine Distro - to become a publisher, so I can send zines into prisons. You must stamp the zines with the address of the distro and use the same return address. This usually gets the zines in, unless

censored because the content is too explosively honest and 47
revolutionary. Another method used by the George Jackson
Books to Prisoners Project, is to send single sheets - chapters
from a book. Most prisons allow a certain amount of loose
papers to also be sent it, with letters. This skirts the
requirement that a book must be sent from the publisher.
You can get it in, piecemeal, where hopefully prisoners can
make copies and use them in workshops. Prisoners are mostly
interested in books by the likes of Angela Davis or George
Jackson - concentrated instructions to empower prisoner
activism.

George Jackson Books to Prisoners Project
P.O. Box 1285
Roswell, GA 30074
jrrrHodes@hotmail.com

Another important prisoner-driven initiative is the New
Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101, which PPWC is also
involved with. This is being spearheaded by Abdul Olugbala
Shakur, whom I worked with on zines, also. Here are a few of
his zines, which analyse what this society has done to the
black community and what the oppression of the harshest
super max SHU (segregated housing units) are really about.

Abdul Olugbala Shakur
c/o Sharifa A. Shakur
P.O. Box 135
Daly City, CA 94016-1305



Another prisoner project that deserves special mention is the MPLU - Missouri Prison Labor Union. This initiative goes at the very heart of the slave labor industry. Jerome White-Bey is a fearless anarchist organizer who has paid dearly for his struggle to organize Missouri prison laborers. This newsletter called OFF THE HOOK, has just recently come out and 48 explains the situation very clearly.

Jerome White-Bey #37479
Potosi Correctional Center
Rt. 2 Box 2222 (6B-41)
Mineral Point, MO 63660

Missouri Prison Labor Union

Newsletter

Vol. # 1

OFF THE HOOK



United Nations' Covenant on Civil & Political Rights

Article 22

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests...

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!



By Jerome White-Bey



Founder & President
of the M.P.L.U.



Another zine, which I edited is called T.U.F.F. Together ⁴⁹
united For Freedom. This chronicles the plight of thousands
of Texas prisoners who've been sentenced to harsh, long years
of hard time for "crimes" that have since - in a rare instance
of sanity - been downgraded to non-prison offenses, but they
see no reduction in their sentences. Contact:

Sterling Shepard #648874

Terrell Unit

12002 F.M. 350

Livingston, TX 77351



FORSAKEN CHILD

© Hyung-Rae
Todd (Hyung-Rae) Terrell
BY-8025
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, Pa. 15370-8090

Comments & Correspondence
Welcome!

There are several groups who put out prisoner support related zines. A very good one is called Excarcerate. This is a superb anarchist analysis of the whole prison phenomenon written by a brilliant lady, who thoroughly deconstructs this mess and loads this zine with information and tons of contacts.

Excarcerate
P.O. Box 30924
Philadelphia, PA 19104
excarcerate@hotmail.com

Issue #1

excarcerate.



social control function of prisons·political prisoners·domestic covert action·FOIA requests·prison labor/prison privatization·corrections vs. higher education·prisoner support·PA prison addresses·prison activist resources

Our own newsletter, PPWC Update is crammed with reports of prisoner struggles from around the world and what our group is involved in. Contact:

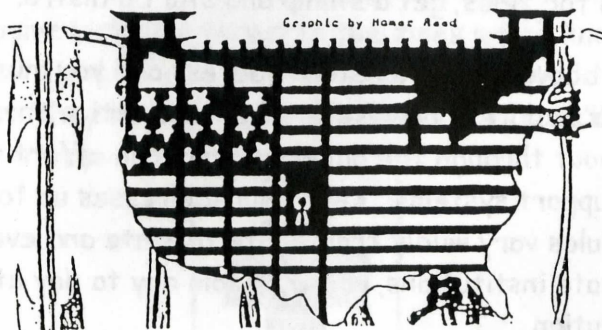
Cynthia Ritsher
PPWC Information Center
P.O. Box 554
Lincoln, MA 01773

Another excellent zine is It's About Time put out by the Black Panther Party Alumni Association.

It's About time
P.O. Box 221100
Sacramento, CA 95822

The last one I'm going to mention is First Day, put out by the MOVE organization. There's many, many others such as Out of Time, supporting lesbian prisoners, OFF! out of Binghamton College in New York, Prison Legal News, etc. etc. Once you get involved you'll see what I mean.

The MOVE Organization
First Day
P.O. Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143





your rad, Marc Mason

SHUT IT DOWN

501 16th St.

Canyon, TX 79015

Next I want to show a little artwork, done by prisoners. I mentioned the artwork of Zolo Agona Azania, yesterday. Today, I want to show you some work by two very talented artists, Marc Mason and Todd (Hyung-Rae) Torselli.

So, I think the first step is to write letters to prisoners. The system relies heavily upon implied intimidation. These are human beings, our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers. sons and daughters. They *deserve* to hear from us and we need their insight, plain and simple. They've been kidnapped from us. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated. Stretch the rules. Send typewritten material along with your handwritten letters. As for zines, get a stamp and start a distro.

You must always have a return address and you must get the prisoner's address precisely. The more active ones are shuttled about through the gulag system in an effort to shake off their support systems. Keep your addresses up to date. All prison rules vary wildly from state to state and even between state institutions, or even from day to day at the same institution.

These prison censors are dullards and you can slip a lot of explosive and empowering material in if you take a few precautions. Zine covers should be innocuous and pictures of cops getting shot, people waving guns or cryptic writing all over envelopes is disadvantageous. Start your letters quietly. Usually, they just skim through this stuff and let it slide. Your goal is to get those zines to prisoners, who are desperate for them, and to let them know that they are loved - somebody cares about them!

They will take that zine and run with it. They'll read it carefully and pass it around. They will start discussion groups. Encourage them. Ask for *their* advice! Ask for their thoughts, writings, artwork, etc. It's often incredible! The most important education you will ever get is from prisoners.

Conscious prisoners are the bedrock of the zine community. They are the most knowledgeable readers of zines, read them the most thoroughly, are the most appreciative, reflect on the ideas the most thoughtfully in letters, and are the biggest word of mouth advertisers of our medium that we have. They are clamoring for the actualization of the potential of zines that we are trying to make happen. They talk incessantly to their comrades about a good zine, contribute artwork, essays, analysis, poetry, etc. to many zines and use them as a tool to raise consciousness and recruit new activists. That's why the censors hate them so much!

You know how frustrating it is to table shows and events - even anarchist book fairs and zine conferences, because of the pervasive lack of interest in the zines we all know to be dynamite. You don't get that "who cares?" attitude from prisoners. They may not have any money, but they'll give you their last stamp.



They know all about fascism and censorship. They live it every day. They know you can't learn the truth from mainstream rags. I've often heard them complain bitterly that they let *Playboy* in, but not one of my zines. They know all about the class war being virulently waged, because they're some of the first victims!

In Northern Ireland, the IRA prisoners communicate with the outside using "comms" - communiques that are meticulously written in tiny print on cigarette paper and rolled into invisibility and hidden past full body searches.

Just as the government hasn't closed the window on internet email activism - yet - so too are zines still somewhat allowed. We *must* maximize this opportunity while it still exists to not only get zines to prisoners, but to have them contribute their marvelous talents to jack up the impact and quality of our own zines. We must collaborate with them on their zines, because behind the walls of this hideous injustice system, lie 2,000,000 souls - many with incredible talents and insights, just bursting to educate and empower us. The knowledge they have gained has been forged through bitter struggle and long hours of serious thought.

We've got to get away from the false sense of safety that we hide behind and join forces with our class brothers and sisters who are crying out for our help so desperately.

I would like to close by reading a poem. It's called *The Voices Said*.

The Voices Said

Intrepidly we fight to maintain our dignity and sanity,
in environments devoid of logic and humanity.
As night approaches with reckless speed,
loneliness, gloom and despair spread their seeds.
Born in the ghetto of another man's land,
while all roots have been severed to the Mother-Land.

*The Voices Said This Will Always Be
For You Are A Prisoner Can't You See*

We are herded like cattle across every State,
for brothers and sisters command a premium rate.
Forced to exist in a man-made hell,
to the rest of the World, it's known as a cell.
Subjected to atrocities for which there is no protection,
and if questioned, the oppressors claim no recollection.

*The Voices Said This Will Always Be
For You Are A Prisoner Can't You See*

Brothers and sisters adversely exploiting each other,
children today lacking respect for their Mothers.
In homes which are devoid of Fathers,
young brothers of today become tomorrow's robbers!
In drug saturated neighborhoods,
sisters sale their kids and womanhood!

*The Voices Said This Will lways Be
For You Are A Prisoner Can't You See*

I think about "Apartheid" and I'm filled with rage,
as Amerikkka disapproves, only on life's stage!
Famine stricken Ethiopia overwhelms me with sadness,
watching what Amerikkka waste I think what cruel madness!
I think about the poor Latinos and Caucasians cast the same lot
only now do we realize that all along there's been a plot!

*The Voices Said This Will Always Be
For We Are All Prisoners Can't You See!*

By:

Akili D. Tarishi

s/n

Dwayne Walker,

(©) Copyright June 13, 1990

"In order to reform a criminal you must first break his spirit." - Warden of Ossing NY Penitentiary...

56

Anthony -

Some spirits were made unbreakable. Mine is one of those spirits, that stands strong against the blows of captivity from an indifferent world/society, that is mostly blind to the corruption inside of prison. I'm told that I am a difficult prisoner to deal with, cause I speak loudly and boldly about my rights as a human, a U.S. citizen, a prisoner. I question the gestapo's authority, their actions and never refrain from putting one in their place when their sense of power urges them over the line. I cite the law to them, their own rules, and code of ethics they're supposed to follow. Usually when doing so I use a clear, semi-sarcastic, smart verbal approach - which seems to make them cringe. Of course, due to this, I'm watched more than my fellow prisoners, and whenever the gestapos get a chance to call me on something, they don't miss their chance. Let's just say, I keep them on their feet, and continuously wondering what I am up to. It's become a game to make it a point to smile at them.

What saddens me is that the women here at OWCC (Salem) are so subservient, never sticking together or standing up for their rights in order for change. Most are afraid of the hole (segregation) or losing what privileges they are given. There are very few other prisoners like me that don't give a shit about segregation or a few privileges taken away. I try to explain to them that their spirits are broken down, their dignity destroyed. I'm simply told I'm negative or too aggressive in my beliefs/opinions. Well geez, thank goodness I'm not weak and/or unservient. I'm the type that gets knocked down, and gets right back up on my feet.

Okay, so I received your letter and the zine distro catalog. I want to order "Excarcerate, Anarchist Yellow Pages, and Revolt #6" but the problem is that I can't send cash. I'll have to have ODOC cut a check out of my account to send to you. Would that be alright with you?

I've got a new cellmate and she didn't know me by looks, but she heard a lot about me and thought I was a big 200 or 300 pound butch black girl, cause so many people talk about me, and describe me as being vicious and mean. She was completely surprized cause I'm like 5'7" 120 pounds and white. It was like, "Wow!" So, I pretty much walk around laughing my ass off, cause of the false image so many have of me. I'm quiet, tame and laid back, until I'm provoked.

Anyways, I'd love to start my own zine, so if it's not too much of a problem, please fill me in on the info I need, to do so. Well, I'm going to drop this in the mail to you. Please take care and be extra good to yourself. Toodles!

In Resistance, Barrilee

Dear Barrilee - Greetings, Sister!

I received your letter. Thankyou very much. Rob Thaxton told me about you and I am very glad to have met you. I believe we can work very productively together. I will mail you my zinemaking outline to give you an idea of what it all entails. I can help you put it together. Basically, you have to write it and decide how you want it to arranged. I'll finish it, edit it, add graphics, etc.

The situation you describe whereas most fellow prisoners lack conviction & strength is mirrored out here in minimal security (the "outs.") Our system of greed, lies & oppression relies on brainwash & heavy intimidation. Like most of the German people under Hitler, it is an effective, albiet a totally morally depraved, tactic. We must gain strength from eachother - those who have overcome fear and become active and conscious - plus the inspiration of those who came before us. It is us who the people of this world depend on to help them weather through this process of regeneration.

True freedom is possible, even in this fascist country, even in thy dungeons. It explodes from inside, as you well know. It's a painstaking daily process with seemingly little reward, but slowly, our work seeps into peoples' consciousness and gives them an example of a life lived that they can emulate. Look at George Jackson. He was but one soul - one individual, who didn't even live to see his 30th birthday, but his ideas & example are spreading like wildfire!

Keep the faith, my dear, and know what you are doing is crucially important, inspiring and will activate others.

I would like to use your letter in a zine, either *Thought Bombs #12* or *In the Trenches... #4*.

OK, moving along. I will send you the zines you requested. All my zines are free to prisoners, so don't try to send me your money, which you need for yourself. Your letter has brought me great happiness & fortifies me for the struggle. \$1,000 couldn't do that!

What I will ask of you is this. As editor of several zines, I am always looking for reports of conditions, articles, essays, poems, artwork etc. from prisoners (& others.) I am especially interested in procuring this type of material from women prisoners and about women's prisons.

One of the projects I am involved with is working with a group called PAT - Pembroke Advocates for Truth. This is a group of black farmers, about twenty miles to the south of me. They are fighting the state of Illinois, who is trying to dump a hideous 1,800 bed, maximum security, women's prison on their community and make it look as if they are ever so "grateful." It's most obscene. We are doing public forums in these towns around here to educate folks about the reality of the situation. I have a group too, called *STAND* (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down.) We're fighting the state too, who with their sleazeball landgrabbing business buddies, are trying to destroy a huge area (3 x's the size of O'Hare!) for an unwanted, unneeded airport that would destroy several viable farming communities and much prime farmland (my house included.)

Anyway, PAT is a great group of people who put out a very militant newsletter called *Insight*. They are very receptive to the idea of getting support from prisoners - especially women prisoners, as they are being menaced by the threat of a women's prison. So, any report from you will be most welcome.

Your friend, Anthony

Insight / P.O. Box 301 / Hopkins Park, IL 60944

AGAINST PRISONS

Does the Abolition of Prison Mean
the Abolition of Justice, Laws and any kind
of Society? **YES**

A.P.L.A.N.

Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network

818 SW 3rd Avenue PMB #354 Portland OR 97204 USA

The Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network (APLAN) is a prisoner-guided initiative, formed to provide legal aid and outside support for imprisoned anarchists. We believe that anarchists need to support those who are arrested and already in jail. This isn't always easy, yet is a challenge our movement needs to take on.



There are dozens of anarchists in prison, many of whom are being held in segregation units along with white racists, who try to kill them. Others face different abuses by the prison authorities. We can fight repressive action taken against anarchist prisoners, but it will take effort from inside *and* outside the prisons to do this.

Anarchist prisoners can contribute to struggles on the outside, but need outside contact to do this.

APLAN aims to facilitate these efforts and thus strengthen anarchist practice as a whole.

We hope to provide sound legal advice and aid for anarchist prisoners. Legal work is not a substitute for other activity, but can be a useful compliment. The sharing of research material and resources will be an immediate goal. We welcome contact with those who have specific knowledge of this area.

We hope for broad involvement, in multiform ways, from throughout the anarchist movement. Write for information about current activities and how to get involved.



REVOLT!



SHUT DOWN THE U.S. CONCENTRATION CAMPS!



**JUST THINK. IN ABOUT
TEN YEARS HE'LL BE
OLD ENOUGH TO EXECUTE.**



Amnesty International USA

ENOUGH KILLING. ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.

The United States continues to violate UN standards by executing juvenile offenders.

While it is true that horrible crimes can be committed by children, other countries have found alternatives to the death penalty. Is it because they're smarter than we are? Or more civilized?

212-807-8400 ext. 508 www.amnesty-usa.org/abolish

So. Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P O Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430