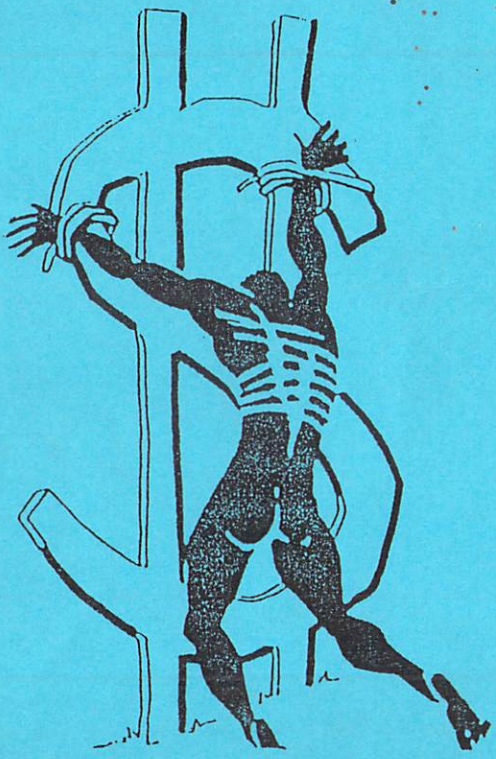
PRISONER ZINES



Anthony Rayson

Solidarity Conference Workshop

PENN STATE

April 7th, 2001



"Chanting Amandla"

Clenched fist raised high in the air
Masses of people stand about everywhere
Chanting slogans and words of wisdom they
Share... Amandla Ngawethu means strength is ours
"Chanting Amandla"
To the people it's a way to secretly express
amongst themselves the power they know they
possess, in unity they recognize the Power of the People...
"Chanting Amandla"
Wounded by the aftermath of slavery
Remembering the many dying comrades
and their bravery
We are a mighty people...
"Chanting Amandla"
Has become a victory call of oppressed
people everywhere they find themselves
for us the time is long over due
Strength is Ours...

Prisoner Zines, Newsletters, Collectives & Organizing

Before I get into describing various prisoner publications and groups trying to educate and organize prisoners and supporters, I'd like to give a bit of an overview of the system we are dealing with. I want to explain my intentions and the goals of this work. I also have a twenty minute street video of the police assault on last autumn's October 22nd march & rally, in Los Angeles. It's a remarkable little film.

This country is at a stage that I think is best described as *extreme* capitalism. The corporate domination that extends throughout the world, the rapid deterioration and destruction of our earth's environment, the accelerating extinction of species, the ongoing fascization of U.S. - supported governments, the naked U.S. - led agression seen as "Hyper Wars" in Iraq and Serbia, the decade-long infanticide in Iraq, the training of death squads, the incarceration frenzy in this country, the regimentation of schooling and work, the increasing police brutality, racism, sexism, class divisions etc. are all increasing inexorably.

This society is very sick. It is a false society based on greed, power and the acquiring of money, backed up by fear, ignorance, intimidation, coercion and lies. A genuine society is people - based, where communities cooperate with eachother and work for their mutual benefit, in a non-exploitative way. That has not been allowed to develop.

Many people have been bludgeoned into despair, apathy, aggression, hedonism and a wide variety of self-destructive aberrant &/or addictive behaviors, in a vain attempt to cope with their lives and the world around them. People have not been taught how to think lucidly and act responsibly, amidst a blizzard of societal obfuscation. They grope along with no idea of what is really happening around them and what the future holds, mostly trying to provide for their families in a draining, day - to - day ordeal.

On the surface, things seem sort of "normal." America is a huge and bountiful country that has only been ravaged for a couple of centuries. Per capita, we also bogart five or six times our share of all the world's resources. We are awash in goods. The mainstream media, owned by a few

mega-conglomerates, presents the corporate view at every turn. The undiluted truth of this world is only to be had through the underground. Those who suffer the most, know the most and can teach us the most. Television doesn't cut it, nor do newspapers, movies, radio and most school books.

Many of the brave and brilliant rebels of today - the George Jacksons and Malcolm X's of today, have either already been murdered or are incarcerated, often in the most Dantesque fashion - in clinical torture chambers. They are kept well-hidden and silenced by the authorities. All means are used to try to gag these people, including internal flops (adding time to their sentences, administratively, without court) framing them on serious charges, deprivation, loss of privileges, assault and even outright murder. It takes a unique resolve to challenge it.

The poverty, despair and hopelessness of the ghettos and barrios are the waystations to prison. Poor people and especially poor black people are nuisances &/or dangers to the system to be rounded up for the wildly profitable punishment industry, to be turned into modern day slaves. Indeed, the constitution still authorizes slavery for prisoners.

The most vocal and those unwilling to submit, either due to severe, often prison-induced psychosis or conscious rebelliousness, are marked for the unique cruelty of the supermax hellhole dungeons, that are proliferating at a terrible rate. Josef Mengele would feel right at home.

The government gets away with this massive daily criminality by a combination of factors, especially fear of involvement by those on the outside and the inside, threats, intimidation, demonization of "criminals" the noise and distraction of the dog-eat-dog rat race of every day life, severe censorship and internal punishment.

The drug war is a one way class war from the top down that can only be understood and analyzed correctly from those prisoners who suffer most and have the courage and ability to analyze and explain this ongoing holocaust from the inside. These are the brave people I work closely with.

I come from a political family. My father was a uniquely principled crusader for social justice and he exposed me and my brothers and sister to many things during the

tumultuous sixties and beyond. He died January 8th. I have a zine I wrote about him, here. It's a melt-your-heart zine. 5

I am an anarchist propagandist, writer, editor, publisher, distributor and organizer. I see my main role in the struggle to collect, help craft, publish and disseminate the most powerfully written and informative material I can find, on a wide assortment of subjects. But, I concentrate on prison abolition. I consider it ground zero in this worldwide struggle. It is quite aptly named the "belly of the beast."

Moloch is devouring people at a horrific rate and new prisons are being built and *planned* by the hundreds! There is now a huge population of women prisoners, mostly mothers of young children. They are overwhelming convicted of victimless crimes. Their children are then kidnapped by the state. Children are prisoners, too.

Parole is routinely denied, access to recreation, literature, libraries, lawyers, visitors, telephones, decent food, adequate medical care, etc., etc. are diminishing. Conditions are getting more overcrowded. More and more of the prisons are privatized, prison (slave) labor is on the increase and the barbaric dehumanizing conditions are getting worse, such as isolation, deprivation, assault, rape, torture, murder, etc. as profits are maximized and the evil of the system is manifested. New techniques of crowd control, developed in prison, spread to the outside communities.

It's a complex factory, with human beings being the raw material. The product produced is human misery and massive suffering. The largest "mental health facility" in Illinois is Cook County Jail. In New York, it is Riker's Island.

As my Chicago prison abolition collaborator Jane Doe so aptly describes it, we are dealing with "super predators" who feast on the food chain of the lives of human beings. It's like a foxhunt to them - the lawyers, prosecutors, judges, police, politicians and jailers. The incarceration industry is the fastest growing industry in Amerika swallowing up young, poor people of color (and so-called "whites'" too.) We're supposed to think nothing of the fact that rural communities, who've also been vicitimized by rampant, unrestrained corporate greed, can only find redemption by "winning" the awarding of a monstrous maximum security prison for their community! It's pure evil and the whole

system has to be utterly destroyed, for there to be any kind of viable future for any kind of life on this Earth! That's a frightful reality, but one we must understand and deal with. 6

Our enemies are very strong. They are armed to the gills and have millions of people brainwashed into obeying their orders - oblivious to the danger this bodes for all of us.

The way I see it, a very important and necessary task for us to attempt to do, is to educate, motivate, inspire, empower and *thrill* people out of their ignorance, lethargy, apathy and fear, so that we can all begin to wake out of our thorazine-like political stupor, and learn to think for ourselves. We must take the bold steps to live our lives based on humanitarian principles and begin to experience life as legitimate, contributing members of a mutually beneficial and interacting community. We can't *not* do this!

Once inertia is overcome and true education and participation occurs, a wonderful world will open up to us. Talents will be realized, nurtured and developed that we never thought we were capable of. All facets of human existence then become realizable. We *don't* have to merely live our one and only life as a cog in the machine of profit. A world of wonder will open up for us, even amidst such a tragic reality. Passion and joy and truth and beauty and kindness and understanding are our birthright! But, in this sick system, we have to fight for everything, every step of the way. It's a helluva challenge that every generation is given. We owe it to ourselves and the children of the future.

Before I talk about these prisoner initiatives, I would first like to show the video I mentioned earlier. This is what is going on in the streets of America. Imagine what is going on in Iraq or Colombia or throughout the gulag archipelligo.

Anthony Rayson
Midwest Coordination
Political Prisoners of War Coalition
South Chicago ABC Zine Distro

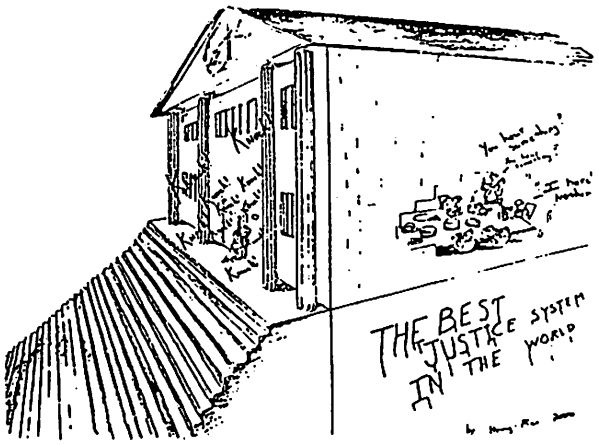
MASS INCARCERATION -

I'm involved in several prisoner collectives. What I did this year as part of my involvement with the October 22nd Coalition in Chicago, was to broaden the scope to more specifically include prisoners. For, who is more a victim of police brutality than the prisoner?

Here's a letter I received a few days ago.

JANE DOE

at the



JUSTICE FRONT

Dear Sir:

I am an inmate in the Texas Prison system. I am compelled to write to your office in search for help and justice. I have been a victim of an all out assault, an unnecessary excessive use of force. This excessive use of force was used on me by Lt. Maddox, Sgt. Reyna, Col. Hulen and Col. Aduddell, for no apparent reason. I did nothing to provoke these guards to assault and jump on me like they did.

The sad part is that there were 20 to 30 other ranking officers and officers there and these guards just stood there and looked as these guards viciously assaulted me.

On January 16th, 2001 I inmate Petty, was told by Lt. Maddox to go outside of the gym and stand over by the building. I, inmate Petty, did comply. Lt. Maddox told Sgt. Reyna to handcuff me and Sgt. Reyna did comply. This took place because I witnessed a confrontation between a gym officer and two inmates. I asked Lt. Maddox for a witness statement, two or three times.

This is when Lt. Maddox got mad and told me to go outside. While outside, I asked Lt. Maddox what was all this for. He walked up to me and stuck his finger into my nose and eye and stated to me in a harsh tone of voice that he was doing this because he was a cocksucker. Lt. Maddox turned to talk to some other officers and rank. Lt. Maddox then stuck his finger back into my face, then proceeded to run my head into the gym building with the help of Sgt. Reyna and Officer Aduddell. Then Lt. Maddox picked me up off my feet with extreme brutality and viciously slammed me to the ground with his 240 pounds landing on top of me. Lt. Maddox then proceeded to choke me while officers kicked and beat we while I was down on the ground. These other guards then started to turn my body in all kinds of positions using my legs and handcuffed hands to do so. Doing all of this injustice to me, I thought these guards had broken my back.

It is now almost three months later and I am still in constant pain from my neck, shoulder, center of back and lower back. I am seeing a doctor here that does very little for me. This administration is trying to keep this as quiet as they can. I have talked to internal affairs but do not expect them to do much, so that is why I am writing to you - to help get my voice heard, because I cannot stand to be silent and accept this unjust assault on me by these guards.

NO! There are many of us here that are just willing to turn away when this happens to them. But if you have never been in handcuffs and had your head ran into a building, picked up off your feet and viciously bodyslammed to the ground with about 240 pounds landing on top of you, being choked while other officers kick and beat you, for no reason, but they can. One thing is for sure. Your life will never be the same as it was before. Top administration, administrators and officers know that prisoners' rights are the lowest priority in the system. This is one reason why this kind of unconscionable prison brutality continues. Inmates and the courts allow the officers and the system to get away with it.

ps. Dr. Martin Luther King said: "It's better to go to war for justice than to live in peace with injustice. That more appalling than bigotry and hatred are those who sit still and watch injustice each day in silence."

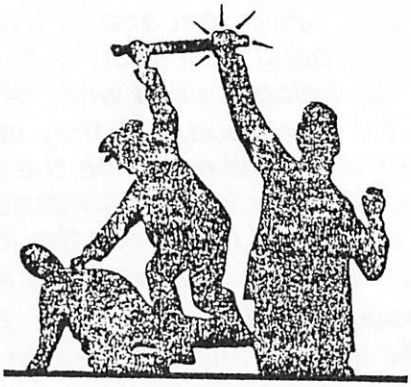
Send complaints about this injustice to:
Warden J. Domingues H.C.R. 4 Box 4000
Dalhart, Texas 79022 phone # (806) - 294 - 8655/5072
Fax: (806) - 294 - 8655 ext. 150

Mr. Wayne Scott, Executive Director T.D.C.J.
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, Texas 77342
Phone # (409) - 294 - 2101 Fax # (409) - 294 - 2123

Adolphus Petty #781307
Dalhart Unit
H.C.R. 4 Box 4000
Dalhart, Texas 79022

As part of the October 22nd weekend of events, we organized a rally and march at Cook County Jail. We got a tremendous response from the prisoners, as we marched completely around this urban concentration kamp. This is the zine that came out of that action.

PRISONER'S REPORT



to

October 22nd

2000

I got prisoners to focus their attention on how police brutality manifests itself in prison, as they related it to the October 22nd movement. This is one way to break down the barriers between those on the outs and our brothers and sisters penned up inside. it gives them a connection to the struggles out on the streets and vice versa. I also do this with my personal zine, *Thought Bombs*. I often include essays, artwork and letters by prisoners, which always improves the quality of any zine.

An important collective that I am heavily involved with is PPWC - Political Prisoners of War Coalition, founded by the amazing Ali Khalid Abdullah, a New Afrikan Anarchist, incarcerated in Michigan. Although anarchist-driven, this is a broad-based coalition of political prisoners, social prisoners and drug war prisoners with various political and religious beliefs. The outside support network is worldwide, with affiliates throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

We believe strongly in solidarity and mutual aid and put out many publications, such as the *PPWC UpDate* and *In The Trenches...* as well as several other pamphlets, analysing society with a strong focus on prison issues. They detail individual cases and are loaded with contact information, as are all these zines.

Ali was just denied parole once again in February. I would like to read his statement about this.

*free to prisoners**

MAY 2000

IN THE TRENCHES...#4

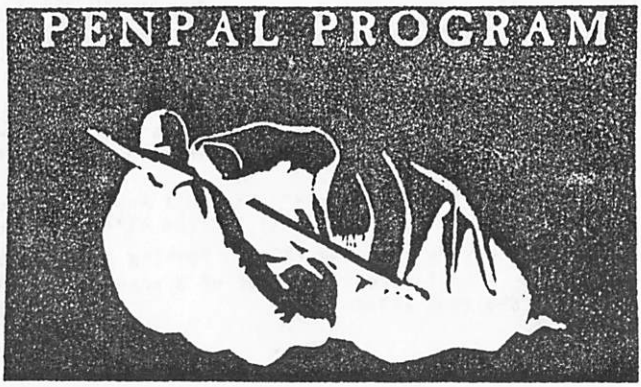
editted by Ali Khalid Abdullah & Anthony Rayson

ANARCHIST PRISONER

PPWC



"You may chain my hands, you may shackle my feet; you may even throw me into a dark prison; but you shall not enslave my thinking, because it is free.



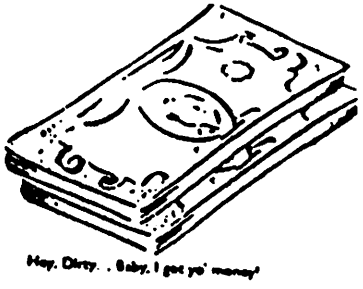
How many more Hugo Pinells to be beat down in jail?
How many more resistors will you relinquish?
How many more Herman Bells?
How many more Maroon Shoats & Move 9's will you allow to be confined?
How many FALN's, Deathrow 10's?
How long will justice be denied?

Free All Political Prisoners/Prisoners of War & Prisoners of Conscience

Fred Hampton Jr. Reg # B-42954
Statesville C.C. P.O. 112
Joliet, IL 60434

Another very important collective is MPLU - Missouri Prisoner Labor Union, spearheaded by the anarchist, Jerome White-Bey. Jerome has spent the last 2 years being shuttled about the Missouri gulag system from isolation cell to isolation cell because of this initiative. Jerome has a beautiful soul. This group has hundreds of Missouri prisoners in its ranks. They had a boycott campaign against prisoner-exploiter Colgate-Palmolive, which has received a lot of attention. They want basic rights as workers, such as minimum wage and rudimentary protections. But slaves of the state aren't supposed to clamor for these, and it takes a unique amount of courage and resolve to challenge the prison thugs, while caged in the hole. Here's their zine, *Off The Hook*, which I also help to publish and distribute. It's sweet.

Prisons for Profit



"I am not going to take all of this stuff. I'll only take a few and if you don't get a parole this time, next time you don't need all of this." After which she took a total of 10 petitions, letters and 1 post card. However, their own policy says that no one can send anything to them and that all materials to give to them on our behalf, such as letters, petitions etc., must be given to the prisoner and he or she must give it to the parole board member who is conducting the interview and they will take them back to the Parole Board's Office in Lansing, Michigan. In this case, this did not happen. So there seemed to be a dislike for the fact I had such national and international support.

It saddens me that they have sought to make me suffer in this way, when I have not hurt, harmed or killed anyone. One of my neighbors who went to the Parole Board with me is in here for "manslaughter" and he was given a parole. We have served the same amount of years and he was given a parole for beating a man to death. I have beaten no one to death and I am denied again. Nevertheless, what must be remembered is that we are living in a time when keeping a person locked up, in spite of what they have accomplished, and in spite of what the judicial system has taken into consideration before passing a sentence on an individual, the Parole Board takes on more than what the courts have done and go beyond what the courts have done. They do this because the Parole Board, in the state of Michigan, is accountable to no one but the Governor. There is no guidelines for the Parole Board to follow. They follow their own rules and their own bias and care less about making common sense decisions.

I do not have to tell you how badly this has hurt me. How it has hurt my family and loved ones. To say it doesn't hurt or that it doesn't matter would be a lie. But we have some difficult days ahead and I may not be around to remain in the forefront of the struggle for justice, freedom and liberation for all of us who are oppressed in some way or the other. But I want to say to you in this address, that whatever fate comes to me, I do hope that you will note that I have done all that I could to aid and help the multitude more than I have tried to aid and help myself.

Therefore, I am asking you all to not abandon the dedication and the commitment needed to carry on with struggling to have a better and just world. I hope that you will continue to show your support for those who are in peril and who need it, and not allow this defeat to me stop you from being active. I also hope that you (those who've been so good to PPWC and what we are fighting for) to continue being of service and much needed support to PPWC's facilitator Cynthia W. Ritsher, who has maintained (faithfully) the PPWC Information Center. She could use your help today. She could use your financial, material and moral support.

So with that I leave you now and but again, I am very appreciative for all the support, time, dedication and effort all of you have given and shown to me. There is no material wealth in this world that could measure up to what all of you have given and done. Thank you so much and may the Great Spirit of Truth descend upon all of you.

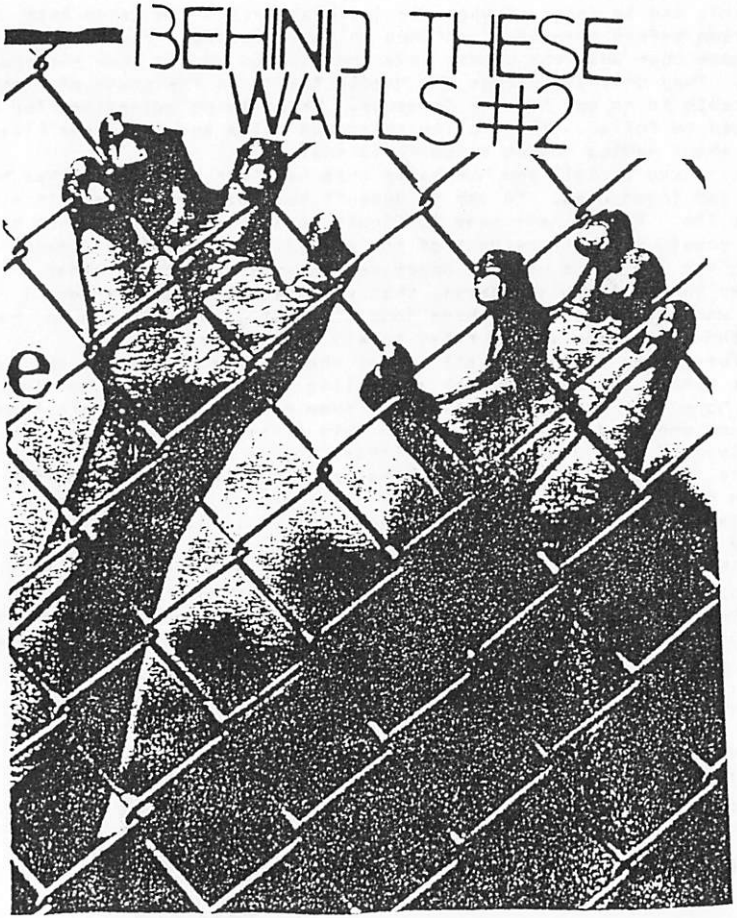
In the trenches...

Ali Khalid Abdullah
s/n #148130
Thumb Correctional Facility

3225 John Conley Drive
Lapeer, MI 48446 USA

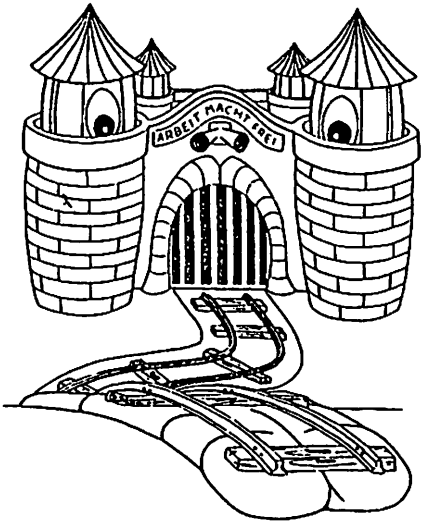


Another superlative project is the work of Sean Lambert, out of Kenmore, New York. His zine, *Behind These Walls* is crammed with prisoner information. Each issue has as much info as maybe five regular zines. It's plain awesome! Plus, he's developed this into a complete distro and has dozens of terrific prisoner zines available. Sean is also the New York affiliate for the PPWC.



Another serious prisoner collective I'm part of is the Chain Reaction collective out of Huntsville, Texas - the execution capitol of the world. They produce the important anarchist zine, *Chain Reaction*, which I publish and distribute. We have a mailing list of 250, mostly Texas prisoners. The writers are cutting-edge thinkers who are prisoners. Their motto is "Unshackling Captive Minds."





South Chicago ABC Zine Distro P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430 anthonyrayson@hotmail.com
http://members.xoom.com/thoughtbombs/

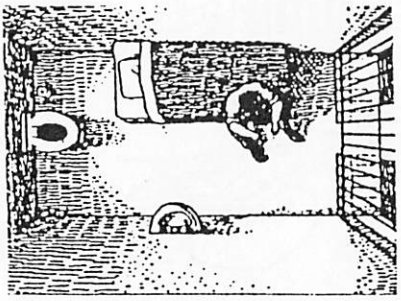
This has spawned other Texas prisoner zines, such as *Captive Voices*, *On Assignment To The Texas Department of Criminal Justice and T.U.F.F. Together United For Freedom*. This one tries to raise awareness about prisoners who were convicted for petty crimes, such as stealing a second hand fishing rod yet given felony length sentences. In a rare bit of sanity these "crimes" are no longer considered punishable by jailtime, but it is not retroactive, so these petty offenders continue to languish, often for decades in the Texas prisons.

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 face abuses by the prison authorities. Some are held in segregation units with violent white supremacists, who are a threat to their lives. 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. This support for imprisoned comrades is not based upon respect for the judicial apparatus, but is provided in the spirit of mutual aid and solidarity in struggle. The sharing of research material and resources will be an immediate goal. We welcome contact with those who have specific knowledge of legal matters.

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



aplan@tao.ca

Indiana boasts a very strong, dedicated and talented array of poets, artists, writers and organizers. You may have heard of Khalfani X. Khaldun, who was just convicted of the murder of a guard who died six years ago. It took them this long to stitch together an evidenceless case. He is an eloquent and courageous man, who is a prolific writer and organizer. Here is some of his work.

I.D.O.C. Guilty as Charged:
Arrogance Exposed



SLOW AS MOLASSES AND JUSTA STICKY.

by *Khalfani X. Khaldun*

THE PRISON LIFE EXPERIENCE...

BY:

INDIANA POLITICAL PRISONER BROTHER KHALFANI X. KHALDUN

Another fighter just recently released is Mangwiro A. Sadiki-Yisrael. He collaborated with Khalfani on a reconciliation zine, after bad blood developed between them due to a cointelpro-style instigated rift. It's a valuable lesson we could all learn from. I also worked with him on a powerful collection of essays and poems.



Zolo Agona Azania is an incredible artist, as well as a brilliant New Afrikan writer. He's a sort of elder statesman/mentor to many of the younger Indiana revolutionaries. The state of Indiana is intensifying their efforts to silence him through their legal lynching procedure.

Another important publication from Indiana is The *Voice of the Indiana Political Prisoner*. This should be required reading for every kid in the black ghetto - and everybody else. It's an amazing collection of essays from prisoners from several Indiana prisons, which is published in Denmark, then mailed to me for domestic distribution. The state has passed new prison regulations specifically to ban this publication. It has morphed into a zine called *Freedom Fighters*, which I edit, publish and distribute.

WORLD GANGSTERS

CRIME AND PROPERTY RELATIONS

By

ZOLO AGONA AZANIA

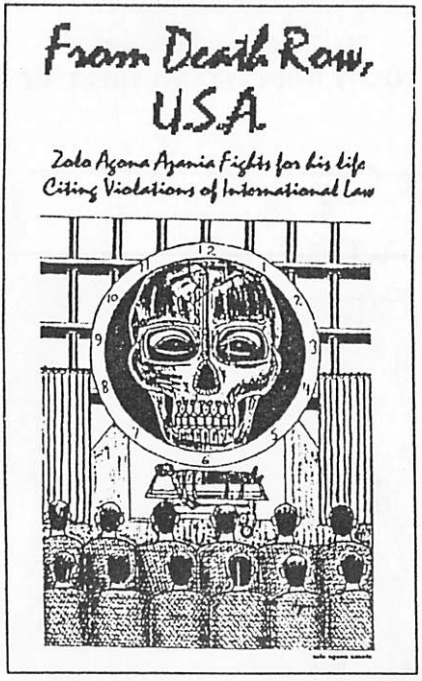
New Afrikan Sentiments



We Must Love Ourselves And Love The Earth To Care About Ourselves And Care About The Earth

BY

Zolo Agona Azania



2001

PIGHTING TO SAVE A LIFE ON DEATH ROW;
(Someone You Do Not Know - But Need to Know About)

By Ali Khalid Abdullah

POLITICAL PRISONERS OF WAR
COALITION
P. P. W. C.



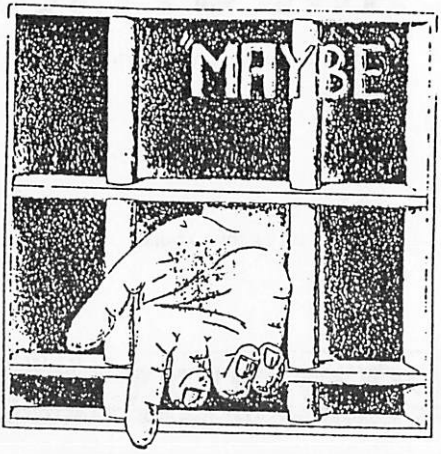
Another terrific thinker and writer I am privileged to work closely with is Talib Y. Rashid, who focuses on the psychological aspects of criminality, recidivism, self-hatred, racism, the criminality of the system, etc. He's written books, also. This stuff is pure education.

SPIRITUAL



HUMANISM

Clarence A. Taylor



The Anti-Recidivist Booklet 21st Century

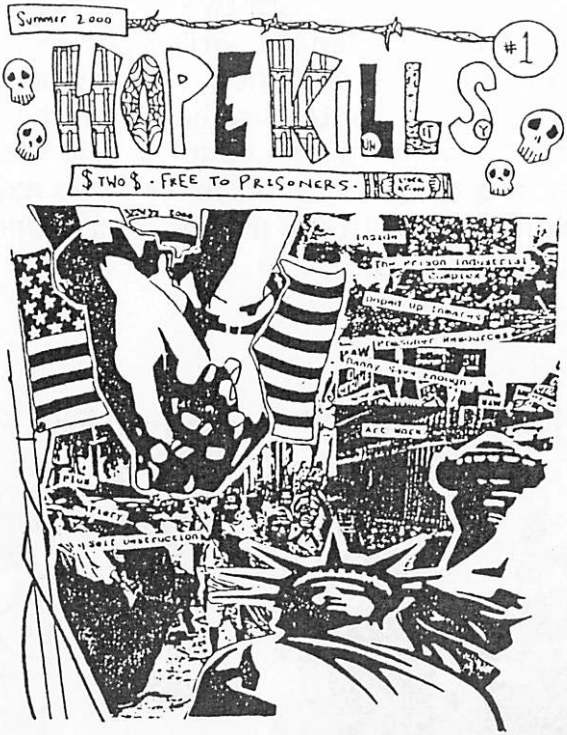
...YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THIS TIME

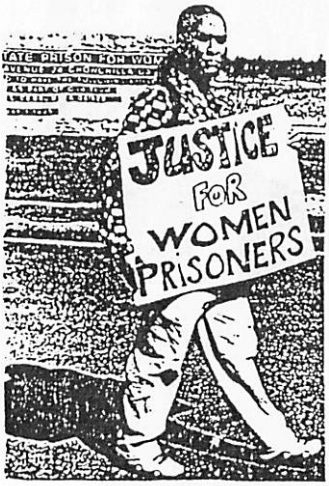
By, Talib Y. Rasheed

I.D.O.C.

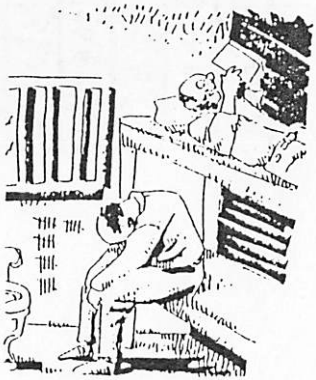
Guilty AS Charged: Arrogance Exposed Part II







PRISONER ZINES

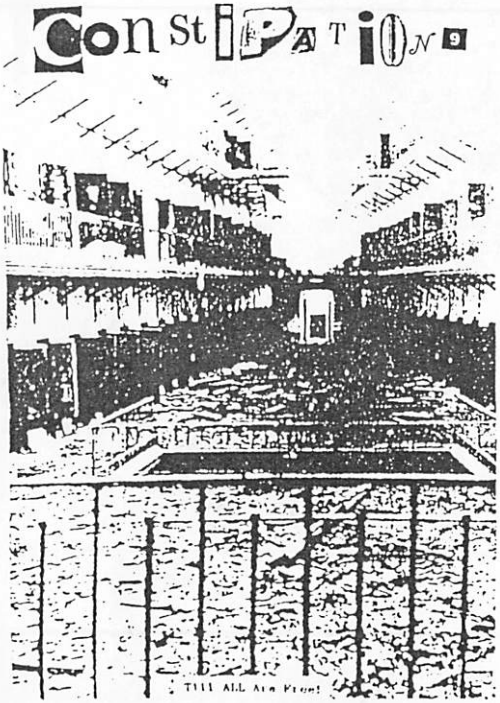


WORKSHOP

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

SOUTH CHICAGO
ABC ZINE DISTRO
P.O. Box 731 Homewood, IL 60430
http://members.xoom.com/thoughtbomb1/

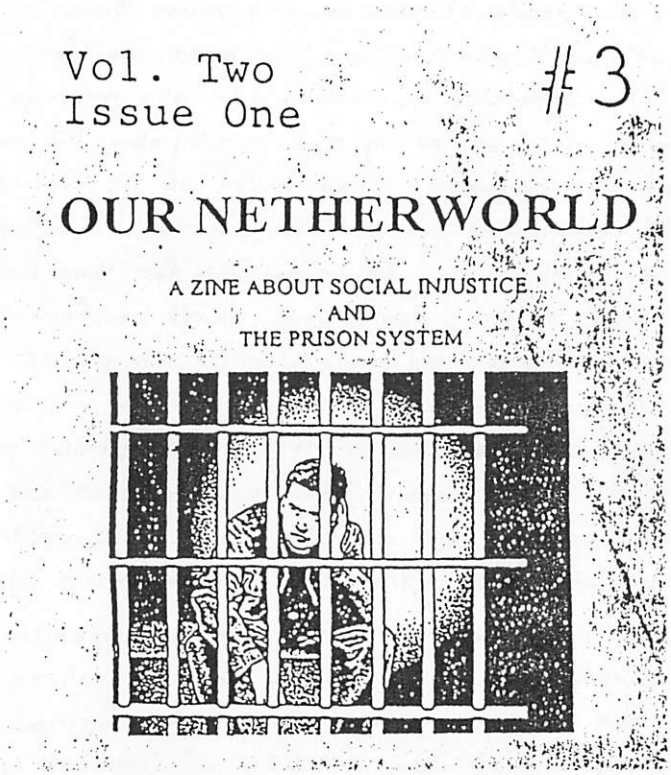
In Illinois, I work closely with two anarchist writers. Ron Campbell, who is in Menard, writes the excellent personal zine entitled, *Constipation*. He is working on a project that has as its goal to chronicle anarchist prisoner activist projects throughout the country. He is supposed to be released in a couple of months and has expressed interest in helping me with my distro, South Chicago ABC Zine Distro.







Another very important zine is *Our Netherworld,* written by Glenn Wright, a federal prisoner in Greenville and a dear friend of mine. He's written a statement specifically for this conference, which I would now like to read to you.



Solidarity Conference
Penn State
April 6-8, 2001

"I want to tear down the walls
that keep me in,
I want to reach out and
touch the fire."

U-2 "Where the Streets Have No Name"

In a country where communications are gods, with the internet, e-mail, fax, cell phone, PDA, text pagers, and who knows what all, with our CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, Fox, and other mega-media 24 hour news, and with the daily newspapers on every corner, we must be a well informed nation, the people of this country must know it all. But the truth be known, we are the most uninformed people ever. The corporate run media has the average person so snowed, and believing the pretty-boy PR man in front of the camera, that most of us would trust them if they said it would snow on the Penn State Campus in August. If it wasn't for the independant press, for zines, for flyers, and conferences like the one you're attending, the truth never would be known. One of the biggest lies we are told is about crime and punishment, about prisons.

America today has the highest concentration of prisoners out of all the world's countries, we are the only country that locks-up children, that will sentence them to life and death sentences as a routine act. We are a country where public housing for the poor has been transformed into a prison, where the quality of justice you get depends on the quanity of your bank account. But, more importantly, we are a country never told what conditions those we lock up face on a daily basis, we are not told of the mental, physical, and sexual abuses, they suffer on a regular basis. Those are not the stories your mega-media giant will bring you tonight.



In The Trenches...#5 Fall\Winter 2000-01

By Ali Khalid Abdullah



"Unity Is The Root Of This Revolution"

UNITY P.P.W.C. UNITY

POWER — FORWARD

Political Prisoners of War Coaltion

As I write this, I'm sitting on a metal stool, in a 7'x9' cell, with a bunk bed, sink, toilet, and shower. I am kept alone, away from all others, in solitary 23 hours a day. My mail is screened, delayed, and sometimes even lost, depending on if the guard likes or doesn't like what it says. The reason I live like this is because I've been labeled a ~~thre~~ "threat to the security and orderly operation of the institution", simply for trying to inform and enlighten those on the outside through my zine Our Netherworld. I'm now facing a transfer to a prison where there is someone who wants to harm me seriously awaiting me, and the federal bureau of Prisons knows it. This is their way of silencing the truth, silencing what they don't want You to hear.

One of the articles I wrote over a year ago foretold of how the feds would limit our calls to twenty a month, less than one a day. This month the new limit was put in place. I caused a stir when I pointed out the Federal Bureau of Prisons misled the public with statistics on racial make up, claiming there were nearly twice as many whites as blacks in custody. They did it by counting Hispanics as white. And, I'm constantly getting into hot water for talking about this prison's $23.5 million budget. In FY 2001, the budget increased to $23.775 million, apparently to compensate for the 200+ new beds, yet all budgets for the

prisoner related services and programs, except medical, were cut, including food service, education, and clothing. These were all stories neither prisoners nor free world people would have otherwise read about.

An oft overlooked area which needs your help and support is the prisoner and prisoner-help organizations. Alot of news and info gets put out in the form of zines thanks to the efforts of Anthony Rayson, the over worked, under appreciated, activist, from South Chicago ABC Zine Distro in Chicago. Through his efforts many prisoners are given a voice and the chance to be heard. I urge you to support his efforts and read prisoner zines. But even more important, I urge you to act on what you read, tell others, write letters, become an extension of the fastest growing form of truth, the zine.

Prison is not fun, and far from an easy place to spend 5, 10, 20, 100 years of your life. But, Knowing I can tear down the walls and reach out and touch the fire of activists, of people who care about people, makes my time easier to do. Please don't pass by this opportunity to make a big difference in someone's life. Today I'm in here, but tommorrow it could be you.

Glenn Wright
40494-004
Po Box 5000
Greenville IL 62246

In Solidarity
and Struggle,

Fred Hampton Jr. has also written a poem for us today. It's entitled,

Jus' Curious?!

How many more times are we to be buried before our time?
Framed up & chained up & placed behind enemy lines.
How many more Stokelys to be snatched,
Malcolms to be murdered & Khalids to be killed?
How many martrys to go unremembered? &
How many more monuments won't be built?
How many more Mumias, H. Raps, Sundiatas & Peltiers?
How many more political prisoners?
How many more fuckin' years?
How many more frame ups on Fred?
And Merle Africas coming up dead?
How many more revolutionaries in the cemetaries?
How many more blood stained beds?
How many more February 21s, August 7ths and December 4ths?
How many more fallen comrades?
How many more of us have got to go?!
How long before the Cinque Magees, Angola 3's are to be finallly unleashed?
How many more Geronimos, COINTELPRO's & Shaka Sankofas
To be drugged & body bagged on deathrow?
How many more SET-UPS & WET UPS & FBI Files?
How many more Assata Shakurs to be forced into exile?
How many more Khalfani Khalduns to be beat by prison goons?
And bad Negroes named Goode will you let drop bombs on MOVE?
By the way, should the Minnesota 8 simply sit back and wait,
For you to muster up the courage to say that they've been framed by the state?
How many more Sekous, Mutulus & Ojure Nurus'?
Lucasvilles & Statevilles & Attica 32's
How much injustice can you stomach?
How much more can you take?
How many more Bashir Hameeds, N.Y. 3's
Robert Hayes & Eddie Conways?
How many more Zolo Agonas and Sister Ramonas?
Will you sit back & let us be attacked for
Fighting While Black?

TO: AN OPEN ADDRESS TO ALL THE COMRADES WHO'VE SHOWN ME SUPPORT FOR MY RECENT FEBRUARY 13th PAROLE HEARING

FROM: ALI KHALID ABDULLAH

DATED: MARCH 15, 2001

Revolutionary Greetings Comrades and Supporters:

I want you all to know that I deeply appreciated all the loyal and dedicated support all of you have shown to me in the past and most recently during my recent call for letters and petitions of support to offer the Michigan Parole Board on February 13, 2001.

Many of you from around the world have heeded this call and have shown your unyielding support and have sent many letters, petitions and signed your names on the Post Cards that were distributed around the world. Many of you, I do not know. Many of you, I will never know or have the opportunity to meet in person. But to all of you do my heart beat with your love and loyalty that was so generously given. One human being could not ask for better support than what you all have given.

One February 13, 2001, I went before one parole board member. Her name was Barbara Queen-Johnson. Upon my entering the interview room and sitting down I spoke and she refused to not only respond to me but look at me. Her first response to me was, "you have the thickest and sickest file I've seen all day." I assume she was looking for a reaction, which I did not give to her. In fact I said nothing. From that moment on I knew that this would not be a victory for us. The interview lasted a mere 5 to 6 minutes. None of the things I have achieved or are doing that are positive were ever acknowledged by Ms. Johnson. Rather, she asked me about my crime, the fact I had a prior adult arrest and conviction; earlier substance abuse history in my life, and the fact that I had a juvenile arrest when I was a mere 15 year old.

After two minutes of her rambling on about this, she asked if I had anything to say? I spoke intelligently and accurately to her and shared all that I have done. I spoke of my receiving my Bachelors degree in Behavioral Science. Having achieved my Para Legal Certificate; Custodial Maintenance; completed all the substance abuse courses and that I run a substance abuse class at the Thumb Correctional Facility (as its President) called: People Against Drugs (P.A.D.), which the Warden and the Administrators of this facility likes and allows to operate and which the Parole Board Administrative Assistant have written to me acknowledging how good the program is. I mentioned to her that I had a job prospect waiting, a good home placement with family, loved ones and friends all behind me to lend whatever support they could to insure my reentry back into society is a productive one. After that, I attempted to hand her all the letters, petitions and cards that all of you had sent in. She refused to accept them all. In fact, she challenged me, in that, she did not believe that all of you had signed the petitions and cards, and written letters of support for me by indicating the following:

"How do you know all these people? How do I know that you did not have someone write all this up and pretend it is from different people? All of these petitions are saying the same thing. Nothing original or from that persons own words. I could stand in front of a supermarket and have people sign petitions." She then added:

OFF THE HOOK



MISSOURI PRISON LABOR UNION

Newsletter

Volume 2 – Fall/Winter 2000/2001

RAGE
By Jerome White-Bey

Greetings Comrades...

As I sit here in my cage writing this missive, I sit in RAGE! For the State of Missouri is preparing to carry out one of it's State Sanctioned Murders. I do not know the name of the prisoner that the beast plans on murdering tonight, at 12:05 AM (August 30, 2000), nor can I picture his face or the nature of the crime he is accused of because all of that is irrelevant to me.

There is no such thing as legal murder, for murder is murder and I don't care which end one looks at it from, it is wrong to take a life of another human being. The State of Missouri is using murder to justify murder. Comrades, I sit in RAGE!

There is a stillness in this slave camp, and a person can tell that a lot of prisoners are doing a lot of soul searching, however, it is not my soul that needs searching because I know it is black, because I sit in RAGE. So I understand the stillness among the other prisoners, for one can smell it. Its name is 'fear'. However, their fears are justified and with very good reason to be, because anyone of us could be next. So I sit in RAGE, and I have no plans of going off quietly into the night without a fight. For I sit in RAGE! Stay Strong Comrades!!

In Struggle
Jerome White-Bey
MPLU

Editor's note: Gary Rolls was granted a stay and then it was lifted and he was the third execution in Missouri this year and the 44th since the resumption of the state-killing in 1976. At this point Missouri is in fourth place on the 'killing scoreboard', just behind Florida but gaining in the un-human race.

What's Inside-
By order of Articles

Rayson
Moore El
Ridinger
Adero-Glass
A.K.Abdullah
Brewer
Luc Larasseur
Cameron Cesspool Campaign

UNITED NATIONS COVENANT ON CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS
ARTICLE 22

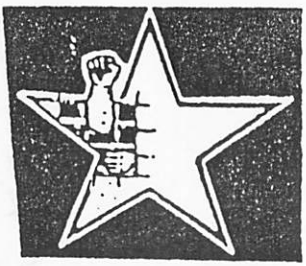
1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests....

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

By Jerome White-Bey — Founder & President of the M.P.L.U.

Another important voice is that of Abdul Olugbala Shakur. He is a Panther, supermaxed in the notorious hellhole known as Pelican Bay, out in California. He is subject to up to eight full body cavity searches per day, and is unmercifully shackled and kept in an isolation cell. Here are some of his works.

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



POVERTY, CRIME, AND GOVERNMENT

by Bro.
Abdul Olugbala Shakur

with additional writings by:

Mumia Abu-Jamal
Hugo Pinell
Ruchell Cinque Magee

Another real friend is anarchist prisoner Harold Thompson, locked down in Tennessee. Last year, he was set upon by nazi thugs, who beat him with pipes in his cell. They were sent to assault him on the urgings of a racist prison librarian, of all things. He is suing her right now. Here's one of his recent zines.

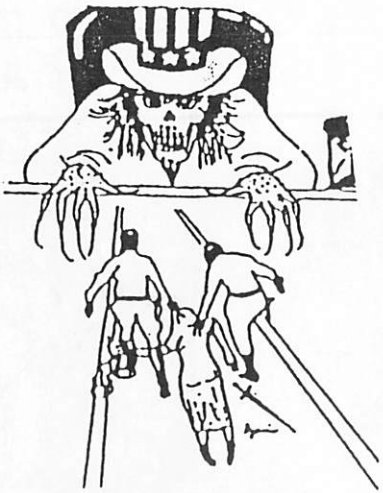


Some prisoners are incredible artists, such as Todd (Hyung - Rae) Tarselli, Zolo Agona Azania and Ana Lucia Gelabert. Their work dramatically improves the quality and importance of many a zine and brings the horrors of prison reality directly into our brains.



your rad, Marc Mason





Now, why are zines so important in this struggle? Well, prisoners don't have internet access and the truth of what is happening is only known by those inside. This is how it must be done. The Irish prisoner had to resort to "Comms" communications written on cigarette papers and rolled up into near invisibility and secreted in body orifices. The situation in the U.S. prisons is fluid and volatile. It is changing rapidly - for the worst - as repression accelerates. Many of us at this conference will no doubt become prisoners before long, regardless of the innocence or so-called "guilt" of the charges we will be convicted of.

Groups of outside supporters are springing up. ABC's are forming to help the increasing numbers of anarchist prisoners being imprisoned. In Oregon, the A with a circle around it is now considerd a "gang symbol." So, anarchists who believe in the advanced political philosophy of anarchy as articulated by such renown philosophers as Proudhon, Bakunin, Kropotkin and many others - just as these gangs themselves - are being demonized, and are now to be considered American untermensch as dictated by the super predators who run this evil system and their punishment industry gauleiters.

Groups like APLAN - Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network, out of Portland, Oregon are working to give voice to these people with an internal discussion zine, entitled *We Never Sleep*. They've developed a penpal program, too. There are other groups supporting all kinds of prisoners and incarcerated activists. Here's a book that lists many of them. Before I shutup, I have one more thing to say. Sometimes, the hard work pays off a little and we see some of our Brothers and Sisters get their freedom again. Such is the case recently, as reported by OUT OF TIME, a lesbian prisoner support paper. Linda Evans and Susan Rosenberg were *finally* released recently, as was Robert King Wilkerson of the Angola 3. They live to fight again - on the outside.

Thankyou for your attention. Now for questions and comments.

March 18, 2001

Dear Anthony,

I hope these words find you and family in the best of health and spirits. As for me I'm finally back from a trip far far away ☺.

Allow me to explain. I had the parole board on January 31st I recieved another year from them. They didn't tell me when I said them, but sent it to me in the "Mail." I think it all just become overwhelming for me. Loosing my daughter, my father, already recieving the flop from them. It seems all everything came crashing down on me and all the pain and disappointments of this time in prison finally caught up.

I detached myself from myself and every one around. It was like I was watching everything through a movie screen. I actually wanted to die, but was to much of a coward to kill myself. I had to search inside of me for all the strength I had to continue. I'm not going to get into all that, I'm okay now. Like I said I'm back. And in a better frame of mind. It took a lot of prayer and spiritual understanding.

So, now here I am responding to your last missive. I apologize for the delay. Ali thought I had dropped from the face of the earth. I hope you understand.

I'm also getting a better understanding of Anarchy. I can understand what you are saying. I was sent some addresses of Mother's Rights groups. I wrote them this weekend. Ali told me of this person in California and I think he's sending my story there also. I would like to receive those zines you speak of also. This truly needs to be voiced. I know that loosing my daughter

has caused me severe mental anguish. I'm sure parents are feeling me who have been through the same situation. Al also spoke of writing a letter to the U.S. Senate. These laws need to be changed. I couldn't do nothing to help my case, but I can help fight against the kidnapping of future children. That's exactly what they did, the courts forcefully kidnapped my daughter.

Yes, I received the money you sent. Thank you so much Anthony. That was really appreciated. It truly helped me a lot. I do appreciate and respect the support that you have given me.

I'm sorry to hear about your Dad. I can feel your pain as mine died also since I have been there. That paper you sent me truly touched my heart and drew tears to my eyes. You have been in my prayers and I know that your father is proud of who you've become. You are a true humanitarian. A true Anarchist.

I have thought about the group I want to start. Actually thoughts of that have helped me come out of my slumber. I even thought of a name: PACK (Parents Against Court Kidnapping) What you think? It would not only be for mothers but for fathers also. I know a Brotha here in Michigan who is deep in the struggle now, fighting for his kids. Have you spoke to that lady Lucretia Katz? What I'm thinking of is an organization who writes letters to the courts in the name of the parent, maybe even being there at hearings to show support. This may be a long term goal, but it's where I'm headed. As for as right now, just getting like minded folks together to launch it. You know what I'm saying? This is what's making me move forward Anthony. And I will continue to fight and struggle until it's started. I have a mission, a purpose!

You're right on the biggest obstacle of starting a zine is getting started. Ali said something about doing one called Kelly L. Warner Vs. the State. Which sounded good to me. He really, along with you has been a true encouragement to my life. I'm waiting now to hear back from you.

I must tell you something about myself that has changed. I don't know if this will cause a obstacle between the communication that we have. I truly call you my comrade and friend. So I must be honest and up front with you.

I said in your Zine Catalog, a zine called Jesus Shared and your comment on that zine. Well in my Spiritual search I found my peace in the Bible and have became a born-again Christian. This is not going to stop me from being who I am, nor am I going to be a Bible Thumper. It just made me a better person and Jesus is my strength to do All I can in the struggle for justice. I just needed to let you know this. I Still Love YA Ant! :).

Well I'm going to end this here. I also enjoy hearing from you. And hope to hear from you soon. I always keep you in mind :). Until then....

Love,

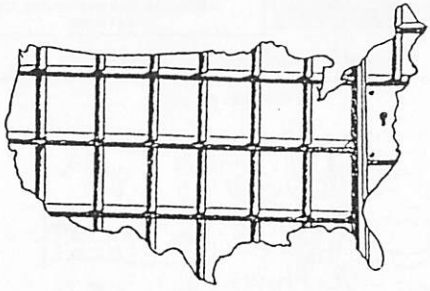
Kelly

P.S. What's up with the zines you said you would send. I know you're busy, but I still put knowledge :) Shoot I'm only 24 I have a lot of mind to fill :). Have you did any more Thaigh Bombs?



Resource Directory

For Educators & Activists on the Crisis in Prisons



Winter 2000 edition

PRISON ACTIVIST RESOURCE CENTER

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email: parc@prisonactivist.org web: www.prisonactivist.org
tel: 510.893.4648 fax: 510.893.4607

cover art designed for PARC by Brenda Castellanos, PBSI
logo by Eric Brooker

We Never Sleep

Newsletter of the Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network
March 2001 - Vol. 2 No. 3

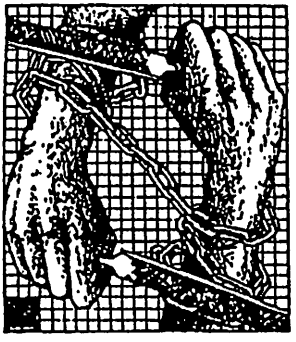
"We Never Sleep was the name of a 'zine put out by former prisoner Paul-X, who worked to bring news from prison to the community before taking his own life when the pressures outside prison became unbearable. The name reflects our nature and resolve as anarchists."

Pen Pal Program

The pen pal program mentioned in February's We Never Sleep has been rethought somewhat.

APLAN has received requests from varying inmates requesting pen pals. This will also help outside support members to focus on network obligations other than being pen pals (although, I'm sure many of us will still keep writing already established friends). A "How to Write Prisoners" pamphlet has been written to help others understanding some of the guidelines necessary with writing prisons and to help them get over the initial writer's block of writing a stranger for the first time. We want to compile addresses of those who want pen pals and hopefully a brief bio on that inmate or what the inmate may be looking for in a pen pal. Anyone interested in getting some pen pals, please let us know, and include, as brief as possible, any information you think may be relevant for your pen pal.

The "How to..." will be distributed at the Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair and will probably ask interested persons to write APLAN for a list of addresses.



Some requests from the outside support group:

- Please date all correspondence.
- Write "For We Never Sleep" on everything intended for publication in the bulletin.
- While we will not censor contributions for the bulletin, we would prefer if disputes between network members were discussed directly between the relevant parties.
- To ensure that you continue to receive bulletins, drop us a note if you haven't been in contact over the last few months.
- If you are a prison abolitionist contact on the outside, please send us some stamps or international reply coupons to help cover the cost of mailing this bulletin to you.

Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network
818 SW 3rd Ave PMB #354 / Portland, OR / 97204 / USA
aplan@tao.ca

THOUGHT BOMBS #14
8% Computer FREE!
Author - Anthony Rayson
Cover Dude - Stanton



PRISONER SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The Defenestrator / PO Box 30922 / Philadelphia, PA / 19104 / USA.

Mutual Aid Legal Aid / PO Box 95616 / Seattle, WA / 98145-2616 / USA.

Northwest Anarchist Prisoners Support Network and *Northwest American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network* / PO Box 11331 / Eugene, OR / 97440 / USA

Political Prisoners of War Coalition / PO Box 554 / Lincoln, MA / 01773 / USA

Houston ABC / 1302 Waugh Dr. #433 / Houston, TX / 77019 / USA.

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro / PO Box 721 / Homewood, IL 60430 / USA.

Books To Prisoners c/o *Left Bank Distro* / 1004 Turner Way East / Seattle, WA / 98112 / USA

Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine (prisoners' vegan diet info) / 5100 Wisconsis Ave. NW / Suite # 404 / Washington, DC / 20016 / USA.
e-mail: nutrition@pcrm.org

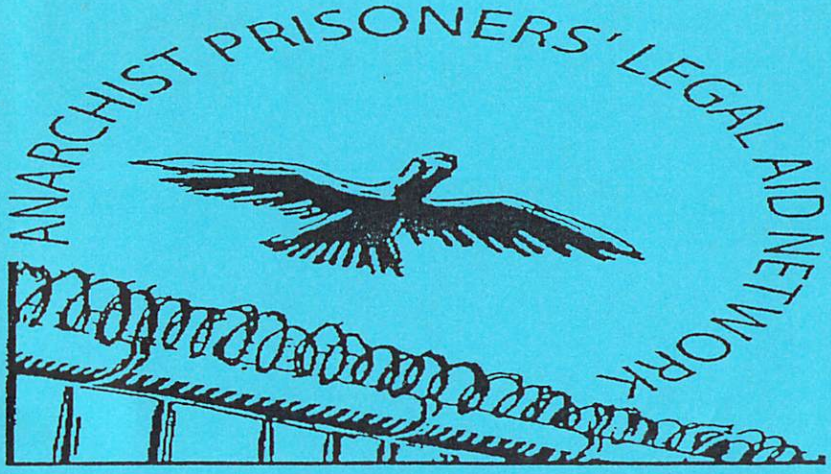
Vegan Prisoners Support Group / PO Box 194 / Enfield, Middlesex / EN1 3HD / UK.

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group / BCM 1160 / London / WC1N 3XX / UK.

Earth Liberation Prisoners c/o *Cornerstone Resource Center* / 16 Sholebroke Ave. / Chapeltown, Leeds / LS7 3HB / UK.
e-mail: earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com

ABC Innsbruck c/o *LOM* / Postlagernd / 6024 Innsbruck / Austria.

ABC Dijon c/o *Maloka* / PO Box 536 / 21014 Dijon Cedex / France.



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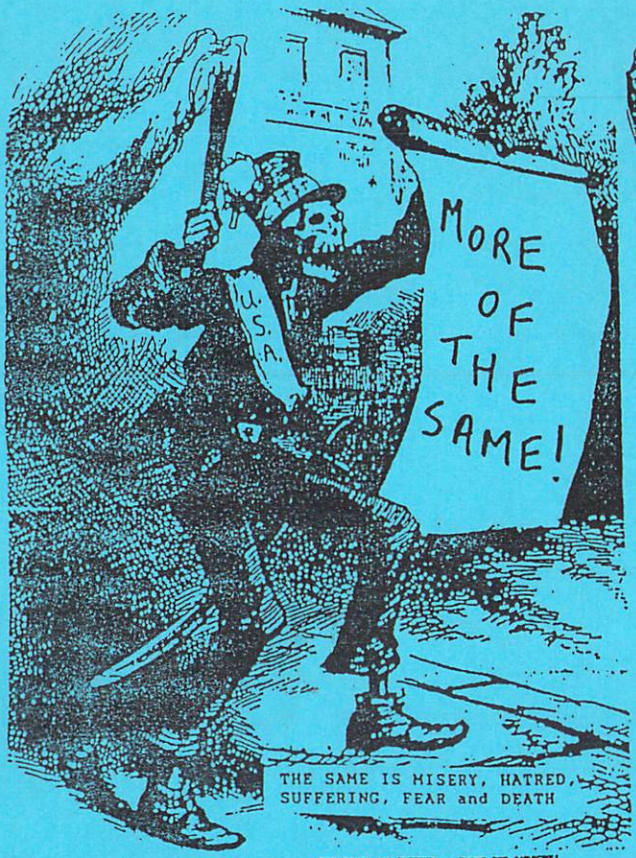
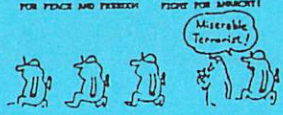


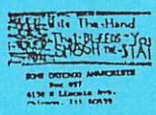


GEORGE W. ANOTHER ROTTEN ASSHOLE IS U.S. president

Rebel!

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SHAME!
Monthly Anarchist Forum
This Sunday Jan. 14, 4 pm
Room of Open Minds basement
656 W Barry





Anthony Rayson

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