

to the Governor
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VA

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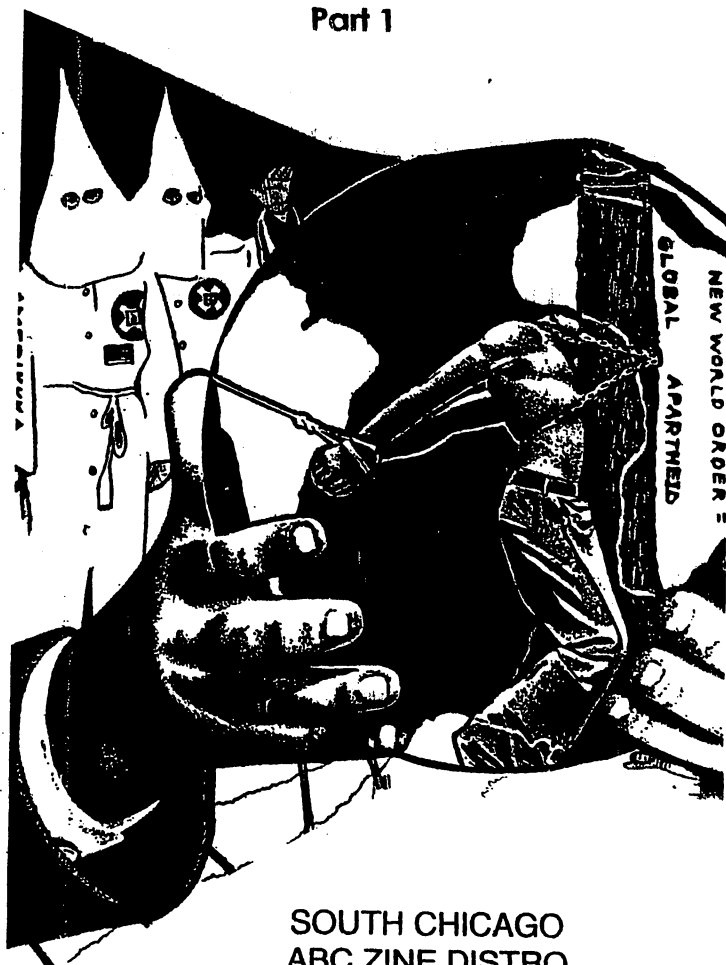
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STOP THE BRUTALITY OF INMATES AT RED UNION STATE PRISON

Defying the Tomb:

Prison Letters and Exchanges of
Kevin "Rashid" Johnson
Part 1



SOUTH CHICAGO
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HOMWOOD, IL 60430

A flurry of activism followed the summer, 2000 death of electro-shocked prisoner Lawrence Frazier at Wallens Ridge State Prison. Wallens Ridge is one of two super maximum facilities in western Virginia. One prisoner who has done time in both Wallens Ridge and the nearby, Red Onion State Prison, has carefully documented that while the activism has died down, the racist abuse and torture of prisoners in these secretive facilities continues.

Kevin (Rashid) Johnson, currently an inmate at Red Onion State Prison (ROSP), documented numerous incidences of Correctional Officers beating restrained prisoners; and using tear gas, electrical stun weapons, and five-point ambulatory restraints to punish prisoners who do not, Rashid writes, "show appropriate deference and submission to guards." Rashid also reports denial of meals, confiscation of mails, and Correctional Officers enabling the suicide of prisoners. He reports on the failure of the inmate grievance process as a measure to curtail this abuse.

Rashid's complaints are not new. Investigations of cruel and unusual punishment, including torture, have dogged ROSP and its sister supermax facility Wallens Ridge State Prison (WRSP) since the prisons were opened in 1998 (ROSP) and 1999 (WRSP). These prisons have been the target of a 1999 Human Rights Watch report ("Red Onion State Prison: Super-Maximum Security Confinement in Virginia"), letter-writing campaigns by

Amnesty International and a 2000 investigation Division of the Department of the Civil Rights of Institutional Act).

Following the changes in ROSP and Angelone, Director of the Department of Corrections May 9, 2002. The state of Connecticut, and the Department recalled the state and had bought cells for in other changes seemed Virginia's compliance and international conventions of human rights. However Commonwealth failed the recommendations of Rights Watch in 1999, Rashid, the abuse con



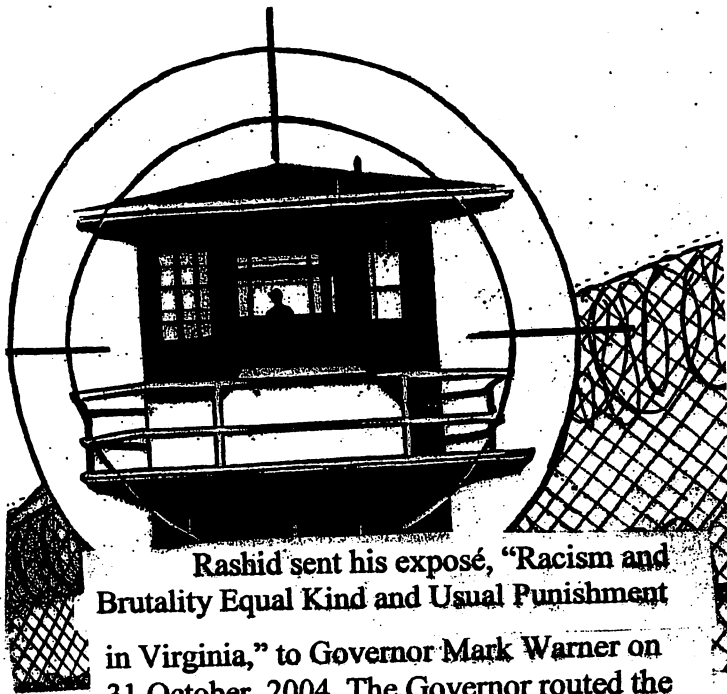
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**Rashid sent his exposé, "Racism and
Brutality Equal Kind and Usual Punishment**

**in Virginia," to Governor Mark Warner on
31 October, 2004. The Governor routed the
document to Sgt. D. Tate at ROSP.
According to Rashid, Sgt. Tate is "both the
ROSP investigator and a supervisor in the
superseg unit – he has himself been
involved in various prior abuses of
prisoners, myself included...." In fact, Tate
is named frequently in Rashid's exposé
and proceeded to find himself not guilty of
any allegations.**

**Rashid's exposé ends with the
following statement: "The state's
government is using a poor, economically
depressed and exploited segregated White
community to brutally oppress a vastly non-
white prisoner body, exactly as
impoverished whites were deliberately used
to savagely brutalize Blacks with license
and impunity during the chattel slavery
process of this same rural Amerikan south.
There is clearly no interest and no intent by
government officials to reign in such
abuses. [In fact, the situation is] created by
such authorities"**

Fed Up! is a newly formed alliance of concerned citizens, who oppose the abuse and torture of prisoners at ROSP. We are looking for allies and help with this campaign to further expose the great injustices occurring within the walls of this Super Maximum Security Facility in the mountains of western Virginia.

Contact us:

FED UP!

5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-802-8575
de_tritus@yahoo.com

Contact Rashid :

Kevin (Rashid) Johnson #185492
Red Onion State Prison
P.O. Box 1900 Pound, VA 24279

<http://www.rashid-art-attack.org/>

**To see the Human Rights Watch Report
on Red Onion State:**

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/redonion/>

**To see a great website on the reality of
Virginia Prisons go to:**

www.vadoc.com

**Please take time to write to
of Virginia. Tell him the a
for and that the correction
to be held accountable for**

Mark Warner, Governor of
State Capital- 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Don't be shy, give 'em a call

**Write the Warden of Red
Prison. Demand to know
abuse continue. Tell him
inmates are allowed to fol
with the standard grievan**

Tracy S. Ray, Warden of R
P.O. Box 970
Pound, VA 24279

Call him up too, 276-796-7

**And then there is always
Virginia Department of Co
Headquarters:
P.O. Box 26963
Richmond, Virginia 23261**

804-674-3574

