

# THE MOVEMENT

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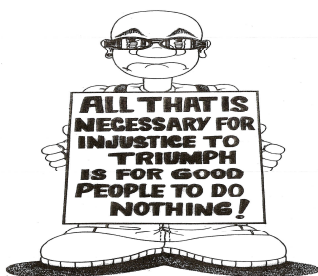
**Human Rights Coalition  
Dedicated to Protecting the  
HUMAN RIGHTS of All!**

## EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION AFTER 18 DAY PROTEST



Celebrations in Tahrir Square after Omar Soliman's statement that concerns Mubarak's resignation. February 11, 2011 - 10:15 PM

*Drawn by A.G. Hill, Jr.*



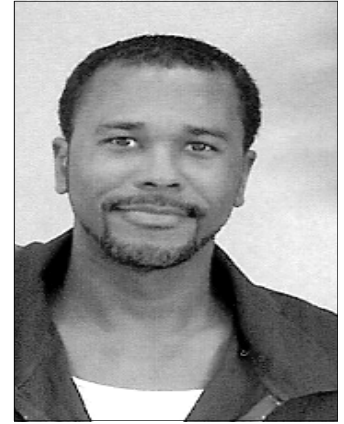
# Prisoners' Families Must Rise Up!

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## From The Desk of The Editor



Greetings Y'All!

Welcome to **THE MOVEMENT**. The first thing I want to say is - **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise Up!**

Over the past couple of months we have witnessed the masses of Egyptian people rise up in protest against their government for the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak, claiming "Enough is Enough!". As a result, we have watched a true National Democratic Revolution unfold before our eyes in Egypt at Tahir Square that began with the African countries of Tunisia and Algeria. Oh, how the dominoes fall. **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise UP!**

In the American protectorate island-state of Puerto Rico, some 15,000 university students and people defied Governor Luis Fortuno administration and marched into the Rio Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico to demand that the police be removed from campus and to reject the imposition of the \$800 tuition hike that excludes more than 10,000 students from a university education. The mass protest led to a victory for the students. Governor Luis Fortuno ordered police out of the campus. That's one more for the oppressed, the underdog in the struggle. **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise Up!**

Before the turn of the new year, the prisoners of the state of Georgia had the audacity, the gall even, to come together in racial unity and rise up against the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDOC) in a statewide prisoner-work strike to demand payment of wages for their forced free-labor, better living conditions, and to be treated like **HUMAN BEINGS!** I guess no one told the state of Georgia that 'chattel slavery' was abolished by the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in 1865. Georgia Department of Corrections must have read the "exception" to that same amendment that reads in part, "[except] as a punishment for whereof the party shall have been duly convicted". Think that over. Anyways due to the righteous stand made by Georgia prisoners of all ethnicities, the GDOC have begun to address the prisoners demands. That's one more for the history books. **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise Up!**

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Milton Street - brother of former Philly Mayor John Street - fresh from out of federal prison has declared he intend to run for Mayor of Philadelphia in 2012 by organizing Philly's estimated 300,000 ex-offenders into a political army to help him win the Mayor's seat. Former congressman Milton Street is just another political opportunist who see the political potential of the vast numbers of ex-offenders in Philly and seeks to use them. I hope you can see my point here - 300,000 of them! **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise Up!**

As those of you who are politically aware may know, the 2012 presidential and statewide elections are right around the corner. Political election campaigns have already geared up in preparation for what appears to be a political dog fight ahead. It is past time for prisoners, their families, and ex-offenders to jump into the gladiator-like political arena to influence electoral outcomes and make sure our interests are addressed as well. **Prisoners' Families and Ex-Offender Must Rise Up!**

The Human Rights Coalition (HRC) understands that the driving forces behind the rough criminal justice policies and racial-ized mass incarceration are the political ambitions of politicians from both the Republican and Democratic parties and, thus, neither have any interest at ending the current criminal justice policies that affect us all. So until prisoners' families and ex-offenders are able to ruin or help the political ambitions of politicians at the voting booths during elections cycles, we will never change the current criminal justice policies that have us all

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**“doing time”. Prisoner’s Families and Ex-Offenders Must Rise Up and Support the HRC-Political Action Committee!**

***Come join the HRC-Political Action Committee (PAC) to oust many of these useless Pennsylvania politicians in office like the Egyptian people did to their ruling class political establishment!***

***And let us remember the wise words of ‘The Last Poets’:***

***“Blessed are those who Struggle.  
Oppression is worse than the grave.  
It’s better to die for a noble cause,  
than to live and die a slave.”***

**LET’S ORGANIZE TO WIN. ALL POWER TO ALL THE PEOPLE!**

**Kerry ‘Shakaboona’ Marshall, Co-Editor In Chief**

***P.S. - I understand that many people (citizens) don’t know what a Political Action Committee (PAC) is and what it’s supposed to do. But I encourage all who aren’t in the know to perform a Google search on PACs to learn about it. You can also learn how PACs develop and behave by taking the time to observe a series or two of the documentary ‘Eyes On The Prize’ - web address and overview below .***

**<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/about/fd.html>**



**Series Description**

Produced by Blackside, *Eyes on the Prize* tells the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement that changed the fabric of American life, and embodied a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt today. Winner of numerous Emmy Awards, a George Foster Peabody Award, an International Documentary Award, and a Television Critics Association Award, *Eyes on the Prize* is the most critically acclaimed documentary on civil rights in America.

*Eyes on the Prize* recounts the fight to end decades of discrimination and segregation. It is the story of the people -- young and old, male and female, northern and southern -- who, compelled by a meeting of conscience and circumstance, worked to eradicate a world where whites and blacks could not go to the same school, ride the same bus, vote in the same election, or participate equally in society. It was a world in which peaceful demonstrators were met with resistance and brutality -- in short, a reality that is now nearly incomprehensible to many young Americans.

Through contemporary interviews and historical footage, *Eyes on the Prize* traces the civil rights movement from the Montgomery bus boycott to the Voting Rights Act; from early acts of individual courage through the flowering of a mass movement and its eventual split into factions. Julian Bond, political leader and civil rights activist, narrates.

The driving force behind *Eyes on the Prize* and Blackside, Henry Hampton (1940-1998) won numerous awards for this landmark series including the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton, the Peabody Award, and Academy Award nominations. He set out to share his vision of what he called "the remarkable human drama that was the Civil Rights Movement" through the *Eyes on the Prize* documentary and a book of the same title by Juan Williams. In recent years, a number of key figures who appear in the films (including the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott; Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, and an activist in her own right; Kwame Ture, also known as Stokely Carmichael, leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; and George Wallace, the 1960s Alabama governor who resisted integration) have died, making this record of their testimony all the more valuable.

# PRISONERS' FAMILIES MUST RISE UP!!

Continued from Front Page

## Celebrations in Tahrir Square after Omar Soliman's statement that concerns Mubarak's resignation. February 11, 2011 - 10:15 PM

**Author: Jonathan Rashad**

FRONT COVER AND BELOW PHOTO FROM: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tahrir\\_Square\\_on\\_February11.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tahrir_Square_on_February11.png)

[Edited]



Following the uprising in Tunisia, potential presidential candidate Mohamed ElBaradei warned of a "Tunisia-style explosion" in the country.

Protests in Egypt began on 25 January and ran for eighteen days. Starting at around midnight on 28 January, the Egyptian government almost entirely cut off the country from internet access. Later that day, as tens of thousands protested on the streets of Egypt's major cities, President Mubarak formally fired his government and appointed a new one. Mubarak also appointed the first Vice President in almost 30 years. On 2 February, pro-Mubarak activists led a counter-protest that turned violent. It is unknown who started fighting. Many international journalists complained of harassment and one local journalist was killed in the protests.

On 11 February, Mubarak ceded all Presidential power to Vice President Omar Suleiman, but announced that he would remain as President, wanting to finish his term. However, protests continued the next day before which Suleiman announced that Mubarak had resigned from the presidency and transferred all power to the Armed Forces of Egypt. Immediately after, the now-ruling military dissolved the Egyptian Parliament, suspended the Constitution of Egypt, and promised to lift the thirty-year "emergency laws" of the country and to force free, open elections within the next six months, or by the end of the year.

States and ordinary citizens in places across the world either expressed solidarity with the protests or were cautious. A few states in the region were supportive of Mubarak holding on to power.

On 21 February, David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, became the first world leader to visit Egypt since Mubarak was ousted as the president 10 days previously. A news blackout was lifted as the prime minister landed in Cairo for a brief five-hour stopover hastily added at the start of a planned tour of the Middle East.

# PRISONERS' FAMILIES MUST RISE UP!!

## Egypt: Hosni Mubarak used last 18 days in power to secure his fortune

Hosni Mubarak used the 18 days it took for protesters to topple him to shift his vast wealth into untraceable accounts overseas, Western intelligence sources have said.



The price of Brent crude rose sharply early on Friday when it appeared that President Mubarak would cling to power.

Photo: Reuters

Article By: Philip Sherwell, in New York, Robert Mendick, and Nick Meo in Cairo 8:26PM GMT 12 Feb 2011

The former **Egyptian** president is accused of amassing a fortune of more than £3 billion - although some suggest it could be as much as £40 billion - during his 30 years in power. It is claimed his wealth was tied up in foreign banks, investments, bullion and properties in London, New York, Paris and Beverly Hills.

In the knowledge his downfall was imminent, Mr Mubarak is understood to have attempted to place his assets out of reach of potential investigators.

On Friday night Swiss authorities announced they were freezing any assets Mubarak and his family may hold in the country's banks while pressure was growing for the UK to do the same. Mr Mubarak has strong connections to London and it is thought many millions of pounds are stashed in the UK.

But a senior Western intelligence source claimed that Mubarak had begun moving his fortune in recent weeks.

"We're aware of some urgent conversations within the Mubarak family about how to save these assets," said the source, "And we think their financial advisers have moved some of the money around. If he had real money in Zurich, it may be gone by now."

The revelation came as the ruling military council, which took power as Mr Mubarak stepped down on Friday, confirmed its pledge eventually to hand power to an elected civilian government, although it did not set a date.

It also reassured allies that Egypt will abide by its peace treaty with Israel, as it outlined the first cautious steps in a promised transi-

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tion to elections and "to build a democratic free nation".

The military council's spokesman, Gen Mohsen el-Fangari, appeared in front of a row of Egyptian military and national flags as he read a statement, proclaiming respect for the rule of law - a sign that the current system of emergency law may be ended.

But demands were growing among protesters in Cairo last night for Mr Mubarak to be put on trial for corruption.

The former president was at his family villa in the resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh. There were unconfirmed reports that he was effectively under house arrest, as the focus of protesters moved from toppling the hated ruler to seizing his fortune, although the army's ruling council which is in charge of the country pending its transition to democracy said Mr Mubarak was being treated with due respect.

During the protests last week, former deputy foreign minister Ibrahim Yousri and 20 lawyers petitioned Abdel Meguid Mahmoud, Egypt's prosecutor general, to put Mr Mubarak and his family on trial for stealing state wealth.

Crowds in Tahrir Square were yesterday hotly debating what to do with the disgraced former president, as protesters assembled themselves into clean-up squads to remove rubbish and cranes took away wrecked vehicles.

Manar Louay, 16, a student, said: "I don't think they should put him on trial - he did keep our country out of wars. But they should take his money, it is not his."

Mohamed El Beblawy, 60, a driver, said: "Not only should Mubarak be prosecuted, all the other thieves should be as well."

Fatma Samy Ahmed, 50, who was part of the clean-up operation, said: "He should be executed like Saddam Hussein. Half of the population lived in poverty, while Mubarak and those around him lived in heaven."

The intelligence source suggested that 82-year-old Mubarak may have learnt the lesson of his fellow dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the former president of Tunisia, who was forced with his family into a hasty exile in Saudi Arabia while Swiss authorities froze the family's bank accounts.

A US official told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "There's no doubt that there will have been some frantic financial activity behind the scenes. They can lose the homes and some of the bank accounts, but they will have wanted to get the gold bars and other investments to safe quarters."

The Mubaraks are understood to have wanted to shift assets to Gulf states where they have considerable investments already – and, crucially, friendly relations. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have frequently been mentioned as likely final destinations for Mr Mubarak and possibly his family.

The UK Treasury said it would have the power to seize Mubarak's British assets if Egypt made a formal request - and no order had yet been made.

But Lord Malloch-Brown, a former Labour foreign minister and former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "When people are forced out of office, if they have money way beyond what they should have earned, then a country like Britain should freeze those assets pending a court action by the new government.

"Given his and his family's strong links to the UK, it is reasonable to assume at least some of his assets are here."

Reports emanating from Egypt claim that Mubarak had accounts with the Swiss bank UBS as well as with HBOS, now part of Lloyds Banking Group, which is 41 per cent owned by the British Government. But it is understood that Lloyds bank officials have so far found no evidence Mubarak had secret accounts with them.

Quite how much Mubarak has stashed away - and where he has hidden that fortune - in the past 30 years is open to speculation. His 69-year-old wife Suzanne Mubarak - known in some circles as the Marie Antoinette of Egypt - is half-Welsh while it is claimed the couple's two sons Gamal and Alaa may even have British passports.

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Intelligence sources indicate that the Mubarak fortune may be most easily traced via the business dealings of Gamal Mubarak, 47.

He once lived in a six-storey house in Belgravia in central London and worked in banking before setting up an investment and consulting firm in London. He resigned as a director of the company 10 years ago.

The president made his two sons the "go to" men for any companies that sought to do business in Egypt.

Kefaya, an opposition coalition that emerged before the 2005 elections to oppose the then president and his plans to transfer power to Gamal, released a lengthy investigation into nepotism, corruption and abuse of power by the ex-president and his two sons.

It said it was routine for businesses to be required to hand a cut – between 20 to 50 per cent - to Gamal or Alaa simply to set up shop. Favoured entrepreneurs who worked with the brothers were given virtual monopolies in return.

Dealing with the former president will present a major challenge to Egypt's first real democratic government, which is expected to be formed after elections.

On Saturday night the army was in charge, hugely supported by the people after promising to hand over power as soon as possible. The army was quick to promise to honour all existing treaties including the crucial Camp David Accord with Israel.

Most Egyptians spent yesterday celebrating their new freedom.

Hundreds of thousands filed through Tahrir Square, smiling soldiers let children climb onto, and even into, their tanks, and a sea of Egyptian flags waved over the heads of the crowd.

Some protesters promised to resume protests if the army does not show clear signs of allowing a transition to civilian rule. The people of Cairo were waking up to a very different world. After weeks of paralysis the economy is in chaos; expectations for the future have been raised dangerously high; and the revolution was so rapid that there is no leadership to offer a vision of a secure political future.

But the mood on Cairo's streets was euphorically positive. Dina Sadek, 21, a student protester, said: "A month ago people were too scared to criticise him in public. Now we have won our freedom and we are proud to be Egyptian."

Hundreds of pro-democracy supporters were arrested in Algeria, as hopes of freedom swept the Arab world.

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# PRISONERS' FAMILIES MUST RISE UP!!

## After the Revolution: Mubarak is Gone After 30 Years in Power, But Questions Remain as to How Transition Will Proceed

Www.democracynow.org.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**AMY GOODMAN:** Two days after Egypt's revolution, there are signs that the military is consolidating its power. On Sunday, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces announced it's dissolving parliament and suspending the constitution. The statement, read on Egyptian state television, also said the military council will remain in power for six months, or until elections are held.

**EGYPTIAN STATE TV:** The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces issued the following decrees. One, suspend the constitution. Two, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will run the country for a temporary period of six months, or until legislative and presidential elections are held. Three, The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will represent the council internally and externally. Four, dissolution of the People's Assembly and the Shura Council. Five, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces is empowered to issue decrees that have the force of law during the transitory time. Six, form a committee to amend some clauses of the constitution and determine the rules for a popular referendum about them. Seven, mandate the cabinet of Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Shafik to continue its work until a new government is formed. Eight, organize elections for the People's Assembly and the Shura Council, as well as presidential elections. Nine, the state commits itself to implementing international treaties and commitments to which it is a party.

**AMY GOODMAN:** To find out more about how Egyptians have responded to this news, we go to Cairo to *Democracy Now!* senior producer Sharif Abdel Kouddous.

Sharif, welcome to *Democracy Now!* While we did all sorts of special broadcasts on Friday, not everyone heard them. Can you share your reaction to what has taken place in your country, in Egypt?

**SHARIF ABDEL KOUDDOUS:** Well, Amy, I was in front of the Maspiro building, the state TV building, when I first heard the news that Mubarak had indeed stepped down. At first I didn't even believe that it had happened. There was just a cheer that rose up through the crowd. I wasn't exactly clear what was going on. People were hugging me and jumping up and down. I didn't really believe that he had left. And then I finally spoke to my father, and he said that Omar Suleiman had announced that Mubarak had resigned. And it was a very emotional moment for me, and it was difficult to comprehend at the time. And we rushed back to Tahrir. It was a joyous moment for, I think, all Egyptians, and really for people who fight for democracy around the world. This was a popular uprising, a peaceful one, a pluralistic one, and one that I think captured the imaginations of many people around the world.

But as we know, the struggle has just begun. The road is still long. This was one obstacle, albeit a very big obstacle, but now that that has been overcome, people are looking to what comes next. And as you said in your introduction, the military yesterday issued another statement dissolving both houses of parliament, the People's Assembly and the Shura Council, and also suspending the constitution. This was part of what protesters were demanding. Other demands that have not been met are the repeal of the emergency laws, which have been in effect since Mubarak came to power in 1981, as well as the release of political prisoners. And so, people are still calling for that. And what's coming up next is that within the next two months, a committee of legal scholars is going to draft a new constitution, which will be put to a popular referendum, and then elections will be held within six months.

But joining me here now in Cairo is Issandr El Amrani. He's an independent journalist who runs a very Arabist [blog](#).

Issandr, welcome to *Democracy Now!* Can you just talk about what are these changes? What do they mean for Egypt right now? The constitution has been suspended. Parliament is dissolved. What's going to happen in these next few months?

**ISSANDR EL AMRANI:** Well, I mean, basically what it means is that we're in a legal no-man's land. There's no constitution. There's no legitimate government in place other than the Supreme Military Council. It can effectively rule by decree. And how it's

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going to develop is going to depend on how the civilian side of government, together with the opposition, will work together with the military to form the mechanism for this transition to take place, you know, from the committee that's deciding on whether to amend the constitution, or perhaps even create a new one, to decide what political parties can compete in the forthcoming elections. There's hundreds of questions, thousands of questions, that are going to have to be addressed by this committee. And I think the committee is probably—I mean, the Supreme Military Council is not going to want to do that entirely by itself; it's going to want to delegate that to both the cabinet ministers and to hopefully an inclusive cross-party council of some form.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I wanted to bring in, Sharif and Issandr, Mona El-Ghobashy, who's a political science professor here in New York at Barnard College who has been following the social movements in Egypt for a decade.

Professor El-Ghobashy, there was a meeting that took place yesterday.

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** To follow up on what Issandr was saying, yesterday there was a meeting of the youth protesters, a delegation of about 10 of them, including Wael Ghonim, the Google executive, who of course has become very much an icon of this revolution. He then put the notes of the meeting on his Facebook page. And it was a very cordial meeting. They, of course, are treading on very delicate ground.

**AMY GOODMAN:** But explain exactly who was there.

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** The representatives were as follows: Wael Ghonim, representing himself and representing the Facebook page. There was also—

**AMY GOODMAN:** And this was the Google executive who was held for 12 days—

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** That's right.

**AMY GOODMAN:**—and then came out, and it was perhaps the biggest day of revolt before the final day.

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** That's right. And he's become very much a youth spokesman, an unintended youth spokesman, of this revolt. There was also Ahmed Maher, who is a member of the April 6 movement, which was very critical in launching this protest, to begin with, on January 25th, several other members of April 6. In total, there were about 10 youth, and they met with two members of the Supreme Military Council. And according to the notes that he posted on his Facebook page, it was a very cordial meeting. They discussed the two demands, the two core of the protesters that Issandr just pointed out. And that is, the lifting of the emergency law, which has been in place since September 6, 1981, and the release of all political prisoners, which human rights estimates put in the thousands.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Issandr, do you hear more on the ground about this meeting in Cairo?

**ISSANDR EL AMRANI:** Well, what we know from what the participants said is that they were pleasantly surprised at the military. You have to realize that the people in this military council, they're in their sixties and seventies. They're people used to having their orders obeyed. And the interaction was actually surprisingly cordial, as Professor El-Ghobashy just said. And they were quite happy that they weren't—it wasn't patronizing in any way.

Now, but this meeting, you know, is a gesture towards the protesters that held Tahrir for 18 days. It doesn't tell us what exactly the transition mechanism is going to be. It doesn't tell us how this relationship between the military and the opposition groups has to be systematized in some way. It has to be more inclusive. And the Tahrir groups aren't the only ones who need to be included in this. So we still know very little. The military seems to be going day by day. It's not great at communicating. You have to remember, for 30 years, the military was kept in the background, not in the foreground, of Egyptian \*politics. And I think it has to grow into this role, too. ....

... **AMY GOODMAN:** Well, that's very important. Just before we go back to Sharif and Issandr, while we talk about the 18 days of revolution that shook the world, this actually goes back before that. And if you can talk about, even amidst the repression, the 30 years of the dictatorship, the level of organizing that was going on, even April 6, named for a previous uprising.

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** That's right. There's a pre-history to this revolt. It didn't—Egyptian politics didn't begin on January 25th. In fact, what makes the Mubarak regime, and has been cited as a key source of its durability, is its capacity to actually absorb these protests, to manage them quite handily, even when they got so large, as they did, for example, in March 2003, when anywhere

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between 20,000 to 40,000 people descended on the very same Tahrir Square where Sharif and Issandr are now standing, and camped there for 24 hours to protest the Iraq war and the invasion of Iraq by the United States on March 19th, 2003. And so, for us to be able to really understand the significance of what's happening today, we have to link it to the fabric of Egyptian politics starting in 2000, for simplicity's sake, but protests actually occurred in the 1990s, as well. One of the largest protests was a quarry workers' strike in 1996 that really shook the country at the time. Of course, nobody remembers this now.



President [George W. Bush](#) and Egyptian President [Mohammed Hosni Mubarak](#) address the media in Cross Hall at the White House March 5. "We talked extensively today about our efforts," said President Bush of their private discussions. "President Mubarak has a long history of advancing peace and stability in the Middle East." White House photo by Eric Draper.

March 5, 2002 Archives of the George W. Bush-era White House website.

But again, the point I want to emphasize is, we are entering in a period, as Issandr mentioned, a real revolutionary moment in Egyptian politics where this constitution and parliament are suspended, but at the same time we have this roiling social structure where almost each and every sector of the population is taking to the streets, grasping the political opportunity afforded by the change of the regime, but they are doing this because they already know how to do that. They know how to encamp on the streets. They know how to negotiate with the government ministers. They know how many people to put on a street corner to make sure that the government minister comes and talks to them on the street corner. That's why this is significant, not because this is a rebirth of Egyptian politics after February 13th.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Sharif?

**SHARIF ABDEL KOUDDOUS:** Issandr, I wanted to ask you about this time line for the next elections, both parliamentary and presidential, being held in two months, also the constitution being put to a referendum—I'm sorry, the elections in six months, the constitution in two months. How does this work for new political parties being formed? Some think it's too fast.

**ISSANDR EL AMRANI:** Absolutely. Some people do think that the period, the adaptation period, should be longer. I think Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, leader of the National Association for Change, suggested a year. The key issue is how quickly and to what extent will new political groups, as well as old ones, be able to organize, formalize their role in the new political landscape. You had extremely restrictive laws in Egypt before on the formation of new parties. Will these be abolished? Can new parties form now when, for instance, the Shura Council, which used to license parties through its political parties committee, when it's not in session, when it's not—when it's been dissolved? If the new constitution or the amended constitution—we still don't know which one it's going to be—will be in two months, does that leave then only four months 'til the election? I mean, I think there's still a lot of possibilities for the deadlines to change for—depending on the events on the ground, depending on how the negotiations go between the military and the opposition, for these dates to change. But it's certainly going to be a short time, and it leaves the established both groups, basically the formerly ruling National Democratic Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, in the best position to \*compete electorally in six months' time. ....

**AMY GOODMAN:** Professor Ghobashy, last word?

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** I think that, looking forward, two things to watch about the military and the protesters. The optimistic route would be that the military would prove itself actually quite open to hearing what the protesters have to say, and they would surprise us by being pro-democracy and doing something that militaries rarely do, which is to really lead the transition to democracy and then go back to the barracks. I don't quite rule that out just yet. The pessimistic, or maybe the realistic, view is that the military

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

will be very keen not just to preserve its privileges, but to make sure that Egyptian politics remains the politics of the elite, that it isn't lots of representation for viable interests. That's—going forward, I think those are the two paths that we have to watch very carefully. Hard to tell right now where it's going to go, but equally plausible. ...

... **AMY GOODMAN:** And Sharif, I want to give you the last word. As you raced out of New York some almost two weeks ago, just racing in to get your passport and to get a flight to Cairo you didn't even think necessarily would land, when they were talking about closing the airport—your thoughts today, after these most remarkable 18 days?

**SHARIF ABDEL KOUDDOUS:** Well, Amy, I think if you had asked me three weeks ago, "Would a popular uprising have forced President Mubarak to resign?" I would have told you you were crazy. So, I think, by any measure, while this has been building and smoldering in Egypt for many years now, this explosion that happened, a peaceful one, a pluralistic one, that happened on the streets of Cairo, was inspiring, to say the least. And it took myself by surprise. I think it took many by surprise.

And what many hope for is that—you know, I went to Tahrir every day since I arrived. What was taking place in Tahrir, Egyptians had found their voice there, I thought. They found a new way of being together without fighting with each other, forming—I mean, it's quite remarkable, really, that everything the regime threw at the protesters—violence, propaganda, deceit—all of these things were adapted by the protesters in a leaderless, organic way. And I think this—it was really kind of a symbol of what the whole of Cairo, the whole of Egypt could be. And so, I think that's what everyone hopes for. People are proud now to call themselves Egyptian. That's the victory chant of Tahrir, was [in Arabic], which means, "Lift your head up high, you're Egyptian." So I think everyone's proud of what happened.

But we have to be very clear where we stand right now. There is a military group of commanders who are ruling the country, and there's still a very long road ahead to achieve real reform and real democracy.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, Sharif, I want to thank you for joining us from Cairo. As you were speaking, the military has just issued its fifth communiqué. If we can have it translated in the next 10 minutes, we'll let people know something about what it says. Sharif Abdel Kouddous, our senior producer in Cairo, thanks so much for being there and for really being our eyes and ears on the ground in Cairo. I also want to thank Issandr El Amrani, independent political analyst and writer based in Cairo who runs the popular blog [Arabist.net](http://Arabist.net). And thanks so much to Mona El-Ghobashy, professor at Barnard College. I'm very much looking forward to reading your book on social movements.

**MONA EL-GHOBASHY:** Thank you.

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# PRISONERS' FAMILIES MUST RISE UP!!

## *NOW! Prisoners Families Must Rise-Up*

Richard "Tut" Carter, HRC-Interim Facilitator

### HRC-Perspective

*"I, a girl, am going down to Tahrir Square,  
and I will stand alone. And I'll hold up a banner.  
Perhaps people will show some honor...."*

Before getting into the contents of this perspective I want to take a moment to reflect on the statement Asmaa Mahfouz, a 26-year-old Egyptian posted in her on-line video on January 25 where she began with the above quote. Where most people have mixed opinions regarding the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, I simply want to highlight how "a girl," as she describes herself took a stand "alone." In the February 8 edition of Democracy Now! under the title: *"Asmaa Mahfouz & YouTube Video that Helped Spark the Egyptian Uprising"*. It said, "Her moving call ultimately helped inspire Egyptian uprising."

If a girl in a society where women are looked upon as not being as significant as men stood up, "alone" holding a banner for the sake of moving a nation to show some honor, prisoners families should see Sister Asmaa's passion for change as an example. Please take a moment to let this idea sink in.

It doesn't take lot of people to spark uprising for change. It simply takes the right people rising up that sometimes serve as example of what a few can do to cause change. I can only imagine that Egyptian men who were idly standing around, uncommitted to changing oppressive conditions in their country may have been either insulted or embarrassed by "a girl" standing by herself in the famous Tahrir Square holding up a banner. Because Sister Asmaa deliberately got in the face of a nation with the purpose of encouraging other to "show some honor."

On much smaller scale, just imagine the reaction of prisoners, the government and the entire nation if prisoners' families rise-up and demand change of the U.S. Justice System and its Prison Industrial Complex. Imagine the impact on other prisoners and society at-large when a few prisoners' families rise up and demand that politicians investigate systemic prison-abuses and when the local and nation media reports: *Prisoners Families Sparks Investigation to End Prison Abuse.*

Certainly, those prisoners who receive visits and writes their families regularly, but, for whatever reason have not attempted to educate their families about the gross injustice which they either experience personally or see everyday inside prison -- that kind of media attention would inspire them to begin to inform their families about how they must get involved in a prison up-rise led by other prisoners families. Yes! I am talking about transforming prison visiting rooms into schools devoted to educating families and loved ones. Yet, I am also speaking about why prisoners must first educate themselves about the crucial issues that need to be changed in our prison system. Prisoners must be educated enough to educate others; prisoners families must begin hearing their loved one behind bars speaking intelligently about how prisoners suffer medical, physical and rehabilitative abusive care and treatment.

Even younger family members and children of prisoners must be educated by "well-informed" prisoners. Some prisoners who have not tried to educate parents and loved ones about conditions of confinement sometimes feel that, because their families are uneducated about politics and world affairs they will not understand what wrong inside the prison system. HRC receives hundreds of letters each year from family members of prisoners who ask for our help. Many of those letters from prisoner's families reflect the fact that their loved ones in prison never educated them about such basic, every day things which occur inside prison.

*(Continued on page 13)*

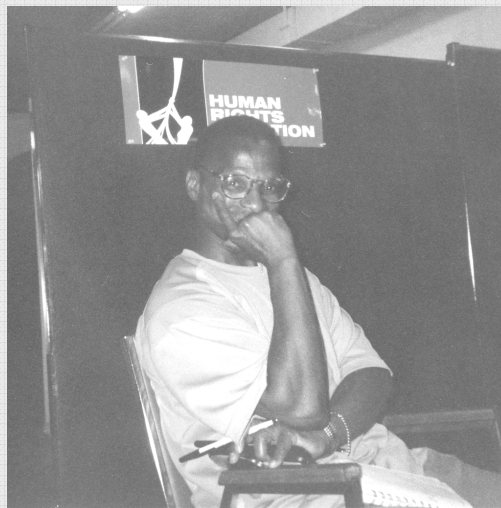
Many family members of prisoners don't know about misconduct rules or, AC and RHU status or, what a parole hearing is. Many families rely on television documentaries or worst, movies about conditions of confinement. Then, there are prisoners that try to keep their families ignorant about conditions of their confinement so that they can rely on "make believe personal prison crisis they invent" (some prisoners have even lied to their mother about being either raped by guards or being beaten up by prison gangs) just to extort commissary money from loved ones.

When I was in the belly of the beast for 24 years I repeated encouraged prisoners to educate their family, loved ones and their children about what they were experiencing. When some prisoners told me that their families were either not educated or non-political people I gave them a section of George Jackson's great writings to read – where Comrad George "educated prisoners about the importance of educating families." Comrad George told us about his experiences in the prison visiting room with his ignorant, wine drinking father. He said that his father came to see him oftentimes with the smell of wine on his breathe and red eyed. Our brother George retraced that experience by telling us that, at first he would get angry at his father because his father was always drunk and seemed to not understand one thing he would tell him.

As you read further, George reflected on the reality of what had happened in his father's personal life which rendered him ignorant and an alcoholic (like so many other poor-Americans of his time and still today). I am pointing this out about Brother George because he said that after a while he recognized that, regardless of what he had thought was so badly messed up about his father; his father actually tried his best to show him that he loved him and that he cared about his son. Brother George, with that rare kind of passion he had for the need to educate us about what our struggle was really about said that, once he was able to see that his father was a victim of an oppressive system, he made it his duty to educate his father. He told us that his father's only way of showing him that he loved him was expressed by him coming to visit his son. And, that his father once cried when trying to express to Brother George how bad he felt because as a father he could not help his son. After a while their visits comprised of basic adult educational sessions. We that read George Jackson's many writings know how deep he could get – he said when teaching his father he made it a point to speak at a level where his father would understand what he was talking about. Comrad George told us that he even became very proud of his father because of his efforts to learn and that his father had taken steps to recover from his drinking problem.

Please don't read this perspective out of context. The purpose of having visits from family is to express love and concern about how families and loved ones are doing. And as a secondary purpose, visits and writings to families must serve to inform, educate and agitate family and loved ones to get involved in changing the oppressive prison system. In these so-called modern times people who others "least expect to led the charge for change" must rise-up. I strongly believe that, (just like) if we are going to change our failing public school system, it'll take parents rising-up, so if we are going to change an inhumane, oppressive and abusive prison system it'll take families of prisoners rising up, NOW!

**Harambee=(“Lets Pull Together!”)**



## From Montgomery to Los Angeles and Beyond: Formerly Incarcerated People Building a Movement

It's time to build a Civil and Human Rights Movement for the 21st Century. We hope you'll join us - in Alabama, Los Angeles, and beyond.

February 18, 2011 |



Would you feel like a full citizen if most of your civil and human rights were denied you? If the privileges afforded to community members were withheld from you, would you feel like a welcome member of the community? Probably not.

As formerly incarcerated people, every day is another reminder that we do not have full access to our civil and human rights. Having served our sentences and returned home, we face circumstances that often seem designed to prevent our full participation in our communities and country: stigma for having a criminal conviction. Barriers to gaining meaningful employment and decent housing. Barriers to constructive educational opportunities. Lack of access to healthcare. Denial of our voting rights.

This is a widespread problem. Consider this: there are nearly 2.4 million people incarcerated in prisons and jails in the U.S. today. Most people currently incarcerated are coming home -- according to the Department of Justice, over 700,000 people were released from incarceration in 2006 alone. Across the country, over five million people are under state supervision like parole or probation. There are millions of people who are currently and formerly incarcerated, and millions more who were never incarcerated but have a criminal conviction--all of whom live, every day, without our full civil and human rights.

What happens when people's civil and human rights are denied for too long? Movements for change spark and catch fire.

As we near the 46th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, we're reminded of the Civil Rights Movement. For nearly 100 years after the end of chattel slavery, Black people

## **“ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE”**

*(Continued from page 14)*

were denied their human and civil rights, including the right to vote. People got tired and organized all over the country to win their rights. In Alabama, the movement was especially vibrant.

On Sunday, March 7, 1965, 600 Civil Rights activists attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery to protest the murder of a fellow activist and to demand their rights. As the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were brutally attacked by the State Police. After a second march was turned back, a third march was organized shortly thereafter-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Congressman John Lewis and thousands of others crossed the bridge and walked to Montgomery. The march delivered a powerful blow against Jim Crow, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge became a symbol of a people's struggle for justice against oppression.

Only by organizing and building a people's movement - the Civil Rights Movement - did Black people win their human and civil rights. The Movement transformed the South, the U.S., and the entire world.

For formerly incarcerated people, the promise of the Civil Rights movement - full civil rights and an end to Jim Crow - remains unfulfilled. Just consider the over four million formerly incarcerated people who are denied their voting rights.

Guided by this history, and inspired by demands for justice in the U.S. and around the world - from the prisoner strike in Georgia to the Egyptian revolution -- a vibrant new movement is now being born as formerly incarcerated people join together to secure our full civil and human rights.

From February 28 - March 2, 2011, formerly incarcerated people from around the country will gather in Montgomery and Selma to develop a common platform regarding restoration of civil rights, stopping prison expansion, elimination of excessive punishments, and protecting the dignity of family members and communities. The gathering, hosted by The Ordinary People's Society of Alabama, will include formerly incarcerated leaders from dozens of groups from round the country, including co-conveners All of Us or None (CA), Women on the Rise Telling Her Story (NY), National Exhodus Council (PA), A New Way of Life (CA), Direct Action for Rights and Equality (RI) and more.

After meeting, we will take action: on March 1, the eve of the Bloody Sunday anniversary, and with the blessing of Civil Rights veterans from Alabama and beyond, we will march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, signaling our intent to fulfill the promise of the Civil Rights Movement. The following day, we will rally at the statehouse in Montgomery, just steps away from Dr. King's old church.

The only way to secure our full civil and human rights is to organize a people's movement. Launching this national movement from the epicenter of the Civil Rights struggle is a symbolic action of great power, invoking similar moments such as Stonewall, the Great Grape Boycott, and the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments. A follow up gathering is scheduled for Los Angeles in November 1-2, 2011. Formerly incarcerated people are building Civil and Human Rights Movement for the 21st Century. We hope you'll join us - in Alabama, Los Angeles, and beyond.

Pastor Kenneth Glasgow is the founder and director of The Ordinary People's Society. Dorsey Nunn is co-founder of All of Us or None and Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.



## **THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN OF MUNCY**

In recent years, through the Middle East and Africa, women have been sentenced to death by stoning - often for adultery. The most recent case was in Iran. In every instance, however, a spontaneous eruption of empathy and support to the condemned women overflowed from the hearts of the American people. Each case prompted numerous news stories, in which human rights experts decried their sentences as excessive and inhumane. I agree, stoning a woman to death for any reason is reprehensible.

However, in evaluating the American public's outrage at the treatment of those overseas women, I am led to ask where is the outpouring of empathy and support for women incarcerated in the United States who are confronted by harsh treatment. Frequently these women suffer under the heavy yoke of wrongful convictions, problematic prison conditions, and inhumane prison sentences. Who empathizes with them? Have they been forgotten?

Over the last 30 years the fastest growing prison population in the U.S. has been women. In most states the criminal justice system has been ill equipped to handle such an increase of female prisoners. As a result, women imprisoned in the U.S. are subjected to all sorts of dire prison conditions: overcrowding, violence, and sexual abuse from other prisoners and prison staff. In point of fact, all over the U.S. incarcerated pregnant women are shackled during childbirth — through labor and delivery. Although this is no longer the case in Pennsylvania — thanks to Gov. Ed Rendell recently signing Act 45, which ended the practice in this state; incarcerated women in PA are faced with a far worse scenario. There are women in PA who have been in prison almost half a century with no relief in sight, some sentenced as juveniles.

Sharon Wiggins was convicted of murder in the 1960s at the age of 15. She remained on death row for 3 years before she was re-sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Now 60, Sharon has been in prison for almost half a century. She now retains the distinction of being the longest continually confined female juvenile lifer in the world. Is this humane? Most countries would answer in the negative.

A few years ago the United States Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons*, ruled sentencing juveniles to death to be a violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. And just a few months ago it spoke clearly in *Graham v. Florida* that sentencing juveniles to life without parole is never constitutional.

Next we have Geraldine Lucas. Ms. Lucas has been in prison 40 years. She is now 79 years of age and blind. Nothing more needs to be said about Ms. Lucas' situation. The inhumanity of continuing to incarcerate a blind septuagenarian after 40 years of imprisonment speaks for itself.

Though examples, Sharon and Geraldine are not exceptions but the rule in PA. In SCI-Muncy there are numerous women serving life without parole just like them. They are sick, infirm, and surely no threat to society. Most have long since been reformed. So why are they still in prison? What is being gained? The American public were right in their outrage against the sentences of death by stoning for those women overseas. However, the countries that issued the sentences that offended American sensibilities would find sentencing a 15 year old girl to life without parole then keeping her in prison for almost half a century to be equally inhumane. For like those foreign women, after living almost half a century in a cell no bigger than a bathroom, the pain of every new day is the equivalent of the women lifers at Muncy being stoned to death one day at a time.

In a nation with an abundance of goodwill whose core principles involve justice, compassion, and forgiveness; the continued incarceration of these forgotten women cannot be squared with the U.S.'s admonishments to other countries concerning how they treat women who break their established laws.

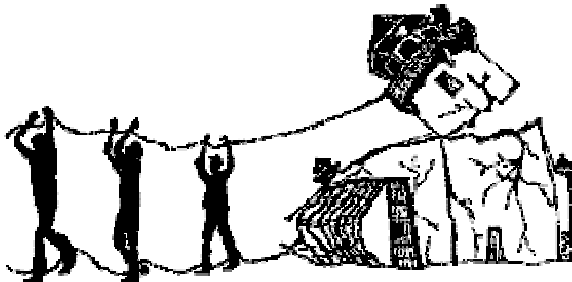
Before the citizens of the U.S. can be outraged at other countries' inhumanity towards their citizens, we first must be sure our own citizens are being treated humanely. Nobody is talking about releasing people convicted of crimes without being punished. But after half a century in prison being stoned may be preferable to continued imprisonment. Thus, for America's outrage to be reconciled with the reality of its own incarcerated women's plight it can start by providing parole eligibility for the forgotten women of Muncy. Its time for the PA General Assembly to pass legislation for parole for PA lifers.

**Lee Horton, CN2067**

**SCI-Mahonoy**

**301 Morea Road**

**Frackville, PA 17932**



*...And Justice For All*

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**Philadelphia, PA 19128**  
**Email: [atiba@ajforall.com](mailto:atiba@ajforall.com)**  
**Website: [www.ajforall.com](http://www.ajforall.com)**

As part of *...And Justice For All* (AJFA) mission, “to aid and assist prisoners and their families through direct action if necessary,” we have identified the need to act against the laws and practices employed to perpetually punish those who have been convicted of a crime. At what point has a person paid their debt to society? All formally incarcerated individuals were/are people before and after serving time.

Unfortunately, convicted felons are punished over and over again for the same crime, regardless of the amount of time between the conviction and present day. Today, anyone with a criminal record can be, and most times are denied jobs and housing because of their past, even if that past is twenty or thirty years ago.

The only way this will change is if we, those who are directly or indirectly affected by it, address it. To that end *...And Justice For All* has embarked upon the “Fight The Power Campaign!” We intend to motivate lobbying in Harrisburg to repeal laws that inhibit opportunities for formally incarcerated individuals to reach for the American dream of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Also, to create laws that prohibit the practice of employers and landlords of using old records to deny employment or housing.

To achieve these goals, we need to create a voting block. Mass numbers of registered voters who support allowing people a second chance in life. If you support this, we need you to list with us and join your voice with those who seek justice.

Listing with AJFA does not mean you are a member, it only means that you support giving people a second chance in life and that you want your voice heard with ours. To list with *...And Justice For All* please go to [www.ajforall.com](http://www.ajforall.com) and click on “**Fight The Power** Campaign VOTE! Then click “**List with AJFA**” and fill in the information requested and click **Submit**. For more information on *...And Justice For All* or any of its projects, go to the website or call Atiba Kwesi at 215-880-4117.

## **What is a Voting Bloc?**

A voting bloc is a group of people who vote together in support of a specific issue or common concern.

## **Why join a Voting Bloc?**

Joining a voting bloc significantly strengthens your vote and your ability to influence government policy on a specific issue.

It also gives you the ability to stand up for an issue that you care about without having to donate your time or money.

**P**ledge to vote only for a candidate that earns your vote on that issue.

**A**ffect government policy more directly and effectively on that issue.

**C**ollaborate with other voters behind an issue that is important to you.

By signing up with a voting bloc you are letting your elected officials know where you stand on an issue and how they can earn your vote. The power of your individual vote is increased in strength by the total number of members who are voting with you. As your bloc grows so does your ability to influence policy and hold your elected official accountable.



# Families Dare To Speak, Dare to Resist

## What Should We Do?

By: Abdur Razzaq

What should we do? First we must realize that we are all bonded by blood. We are all human beings. We all can see, hear smell and touch. Plus we can talk. We are all men and women. We all want the best for our families and communities. Brothers, sisters we have so much in common and so few differences. Don't be fooled. We are the majority. This is our system. This is our America. This is our Planet. Unite.

What should we do? We all have problems. So which problem is greater. Maybe some can be combined. Some can be stopped. And some we will have no matter what. The ones we can combine are the ones that affect us all. The ones we can stop are the ones we can control.

What should we do? Start acting. Start being a citizen. Lets us be human again. We cannot lose our hearts. We can not sacrifice our eyes for our stomachs. Want more from life; live like tomorrow is gone. Stop being entertained. Be hungry. Stand up.

What should we do? Look at yourself, myself, our self. Are we just the conquered/. Are we just the soldier. Are we just the workers. Are we just the inmates. Are we just here? Helping makes us greater. Being involved makes us stronger. Talking out makes us care. We love us. Fight.

What should we do? Tell our children, make our voice heard. Make our steps count. Make our presence felt. Look at history, no one succeeds without unity, plans, standing up, or fighting. What should we do? SOMETHING!

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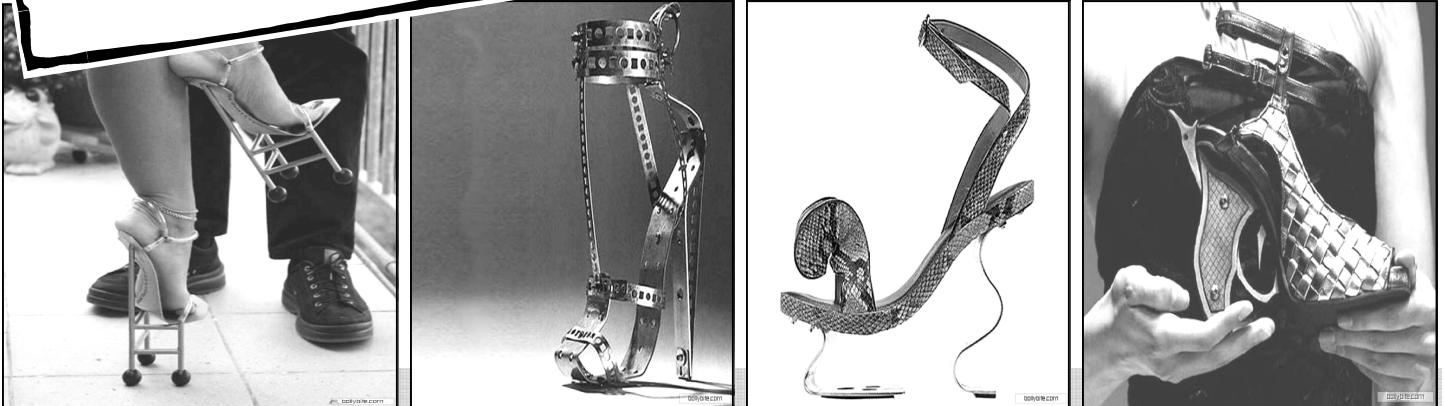
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# Families Dare To Speak, Dare to Resist



## I'm just saying...changes are coming...

There is nothing political about this email. It simply points out very probable changes that are in our future. **CHANGES ARE COMING** ----

Whether these changes are good or bad depends in part on how we adapt to them. But, ready or not, here they come

1. **The Post Office.** Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble that there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fed Ex, and UPS have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills.
2. **The Check.** Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with checks by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process checks. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the check. This plays right into the death of the post office. If you never paid your bills by mail and never received them by mail, the post office would absolutely go out of business.
3. **The Newspaper.** The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may go the way of the milkman and the laundry man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay for it. The rise in mobile Internet devices and e-readers has caused all the newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.
4. **The Book.** You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. I said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes. I wanted my hard copy CD. But I quickly changed my mind when I discovered that I could get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book. And think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.
5. **The Land Line Telephone.** Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't need it anymore. Most people

*(Continued on page 21)*

(Continued from page 20)

keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes

6. Music. This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalog items," meaning traditional music that the public is familiar with. Older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, check out the book, "Appetite for Self-Destruction" by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, "Before the Music Dies."

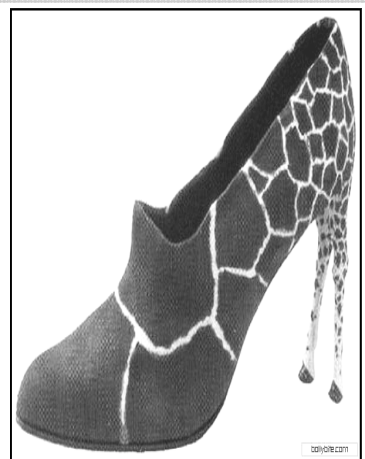
7. Television. Revenues to the networks are down dramatically. Not just because of the economy. People are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they're playing games and doing lots of other things that take up the time that used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run about every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. I say good riddance to most of it. It's time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. Let the people choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix.

8. The "Things" That You Own. Many of the very possessions that we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in "the cloud." Today your computer has a hard drive and you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be. But all of that is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all finishing up their latest "cloud services." That means that when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied straight into the Internet. If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you may pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider.

In this virtual world, you can access your music or your books, or your whatever from any laptop or handheld device. That's the good news. But, will you actually own any of this "stuff" or will it all be able to disappear at any moment in a big "Poof?" Will most of the things in our lives be disposable and whimsical? It makes you want to run to the closet and pull out that photo album, grab a book from the shelf, or open up a CD case and pull out the insert.

9. Privacy. If there ever was a concept that we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy. That's gone. It's been gone for a long time anyway. There are cameras on the street, in most of the buildings, and even built into your computer and cell phone. But you can be sure that 24/7, "They" know who you are and where you are, right down to the GPS coordinates, and the Google Street View. If you buy something, your habit is put into a zillion profiles, and your ads will change to reflect those habits. And "They" will try to get you to buy something else. Again and again.

**All we will have that can't be changed are MEMORIES.**



**THE MOVEMENT**

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SUPPORT STATE SENATOR SHIRLEY KITCHEN'S BILL  
FOR PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FOR PENNSYLVANIA LIFERS.

**WHY???**

**Retraction  
of State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen Flyer**

While most states provide parole for lifers, P.A. does not !!!

The Movement would like to retract the flyer that was placed in  
The Movement-Issue #9, page 22, from Shirley Kitchen.

Men & women have been in prison since the 1960's  
It has come to our attention that the flyer was a "draft" in anticipa-  
tion that Senator Kitchen would agree to introduce a bill concern-  
ing Parole for Lifers.

**\*THEY PAID THEIR DEBT TO SOCIETY\***  
To set the record straight, Shirley Kitchen has stated that she is  
very concerned about prison overpopulation and ensuring justice  
for all, but she has not written any legislation involving prisoners  
with Life sentences.

They have been assets to the prison system.  
She is working on second chance legislation that would provide  
more efficient and effective ways to help non-violent ex-offenders  
gain post-incarceration employment, rent apartments, obtain mort-  
gages and other opportunities that would improve their quality of  
life.

*Please Contact Senator Shirley Kitchen at:  
Phila. (215) 227-6161, Fax (215) 560-1316  
Harrisburg: (717) 787-6705, Fax: (717) 772-0581, E Mail: kitchen@pasenate.com*

*[WWW.SenatorKitchen . Com](http://WWW.SenatorKitchen.Com)*

*Designed By: Omar Askia Ali (Sistrunk) & Lee Horton.  
Paid for by the Mahanoy Residents Betterment Organization in  
Support for Senator Kitchens Parole Bill for P.A. Lifers.*

**WE WOULD LOVE to print your SHOUT-OUT (with picture) in our LOVE KNOWS NO BARS section of The Movement .**

If you and your loved ones want to participate in LOVE KNOW NO BARS please send:

- A picture taken during a prison visit.
- Names and Relationships of those in the picture, listed left to right.
- The name and address of the person sending the picture.
- A brief note by a loved one or prisoner expressing their personal feelings (article no longer than three paragraphs).
- A stamped, self addressed envelope if you want the picture returned.

Send your pictures and article to: H.R.C., Attention: Newsletter Committee, c/o Lava Space, 4134 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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# The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

## Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People's Movement Arises!

Picture By: Tamika Moore -- The Birmingham News

Alabama represents the answer to a clarion call. This is a call that speaks to us in our own voice; clear, loud and urgent. A voice that speaks to our identity and emanates from the soul, ringing true both in the head and the heart. Our objective is a collective one, continuing in that vein, as we gathered fifty people from across the nation to engage in a conversation about the need to build a Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's Movement. We understand and declare very clearly: the criminal justice system does NOT work. It is no more than a destructive force in our communities now and for future generations.

Fifty formerly incarcerated and convicted organizers came with a dedication and commitment stating that this was our time. We were not deterred by our inability to raise the entire budget to fly, feed and house people in Alabama for three days, nor were the few dozen supporters who found their own means to be present for this historic moment. As activists, we have been to our share of conferences and rallies, yet before many of us left our homes, we knew this invitation was different. And we readily subsidized our own fight for restoration of our own civil and human rights.

The first exercise was to introduce ourselves to each other not simply by our names or the many great struggles that we were currently engaged in, but by who we embraced as our heroes. We wrote our names and the name of our hero on a piece of paper and we taped those to the front of the table where we sat. We were quickly able to see the right people were in the room. We participated in designing a historical time line and this practice drew us closer to discovering our common history, something uniquely ours as incarcerated, formerly incarcerated and convicted people. Knowing where we came from made it easier to find our vision. We agreed to accept as our vision "The Fight for the Full Restoration of Our Civil and Human Rights."

The concept and construction of a movement requires a vessel large enough to hold us all, and steering a vessel of this scale requires a crew of many navigators and leaders. Agreeing on a vision was an essential and amazing accomplishment in light of the fact that time was short, and with so many leaders in the room egos could easily have gotten in the way. We agreed to maintain the structure that propelled us to this point. However, we needed to enlarge the steering committee to seriously consider setting a national agenda. Twenty people volunteered to join the steering committee, providing us greater diversity in both geography and gender. We decided we would do regular conference calls to move forward with the agenda and coordinating the Los Angeles convening.

The Steering Committee planned to kick off the beginning of this Movement by walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, in Selma (see photo by Tamika Moore). Days before any of us hopped in a plane, bus, train, or car, we were informed that we would have stay on the sidewalk if we were going to march across the bridge. Over 247 people called the mayor of Selma and let him know we were coming to march over the bridge, and not on the sidewalk. Some of us consciously considered going to jail again, and some of us even emptied our bank accounts just in case we needed bail. We didn't anticipate Mayor George Evans of Selma would ask to speak with us after our march, or agree to read our statement at the 46-year Jubilee marking Bloody Sunday. Nor did we anticipate that our march across the bridge would be headlines on one of the largest papers in Alabama, with over twenty photos online. Our own Tina Reynolds was photographed carrying a sign proclaiming that "Democracy Starts At Home." We should be allowed to vote and exercise our civil rights regardless of where we live in the United States.

Our visit to the state capital in Montgomery is a testament to the power of unity. While standing on the stairs of the Capital building we were introduced to, and had a short conversation with, Alabama Chief Justice Sue Cobb-Bell. The Chief Justice explained the serious effort underway to rewrite the criminal code and reduce the prison population by 3,000. Once inside, we were led into a conference room where we met Rep. John Rogers, the head of the Alabama Black Caucus. After a spirited discussion about press-

*(Continued on page 25)*

**THE MOVEMENT**

[www.brcoalition.org](http://www.brcoalition.org)

# The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

(Continued from page 24)

ing issues, we were ultimately promised a community forum of which we would take part in choosing the community organizations to participate. We were also promised that key elected officials, including the governor, would be present at the forum.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the work and support that our host organization, The Ordinary People Society (TOPS), put into ing. On a side ously respected by of the Alabama pledged their sup- and prominent Selma and Mont- our Allies were efforts, such as supporting on our side (and should be), and for our voices to committed to rec- ties and helping our organizing



our initial organiz- note: TOPS was seri- prominent members legislature, who port to this struggle, officials in both gomery. Meanwhile, honing their own

those organizations inspiring those who creating more spaces be heard. They are ognizing our priori- us create the tools for efforts.

Last but not least, everyone who attended and wrapped their heads around the bigger picture of Movement and a larger agenda. As a collective we all committed to something bigger than each of our own organizations or individual work. We took action and decided to organize through Regions represented by our expanded Steering Committee. Regional caucuses will facilitate closer collaboration in our areas, and we will build a movement on one accord, as a collective committed to “The Fight for Full Restoration of our Civil and Human Rights”. Let us keep moving forward, and share this document with people we believe should know and participate in our common efforts to build a Movement. Let people know about the goal to meet in Los Angeles- November 2nd, 2011.

we want to thank

We have recognized these dates/weeks for actions, meetings, and solidarity. We call on our members to take part in order to raise our capacity, profile, and build a Movement:

March 29th

April 23rd

May 21st (Riverside Church), May 28th (Solidarity w/ Georgia Prison Strike)

June 17th (40th Anniversary of Drug War)

Aug. 21st (40th Anniversary of San Quentin Uprising)

Sept. 29th (40th Anniversary of Attica Rebellion).

On June 23rd-26th is the Allied Media Conference in Detroit. There is an entire track of workshops focused on the Prison Industrial Complex, and members of the FICPM will be participating. This is an excellent opportunity for those who can attend.

Sincerely,

Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People’s Movement Steering Committee

**THE MOVEMENT**

[www.brcoalition.org](http://www.brcoalition.org)

# The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

## Chester Re-Entry Plan Eyes Success

By **RICHARD "TUT" CARTER**  
and **RUSSELL COLEY**  
Delaware County Times Guest Columnists

After a year of meetings and planning the Chester Prison Re-Entry Collaboration is proud to announce the opening of the city of Chester and the county of Delaware's first prison re-entry center on March 14.

Last year, the city of Chester, much like most of the nation, was hard hit by a high rise in violent crimes, unemployment and staggering recidivism rates. As a result, Chester Mayor Wendell N. Butler assembled a diversified group from sectors of local government, law enforcement, the faith-based and grass roots community and prison re-entry advocates to facilitate and organize a plan to address ex-offenders as they integrate back into society, as well as those at risk groups and individuals likely to be incarcerated, or become victims of criminal activity.

The decision to focus on aiding ex-offenders and would-be offenders as a social-strategy to reduce the growing crime rate is a much-needed innovated step. According to national statistics in one of many studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, it is estimated that approximately 750,000 citizens are released from state correctional institutions, county prisons and community correction centers each year.

However, statistics and reports also suggest that as high as 60 percent of those prisoners remain unemployed for one year after release. With the lack of gainful employment for ex-offenders and its obvious negative and counterproductive consequences, recidivism rates have continued to grow. An already backlogged criminal justice system will become even more overburdened with caseloads, as well as the correctional facilities currently at or above full capacity. Property values, as well as community safety levels, continue to rapidly decline.

Under these present conditions the outcome and the total impact on city, county, state and the national level has indicated a no win situation.

The present system of traditional crime and punishment has failed to curtail these negative social trends or prevent a new wave of high risk candidates for incarceration and recidivism where rehabilitation is unsuccessful. The proposed Re-Entry Initiative planned for the city of Chester, but designated to serve the target groups and individuals on a county-wide basis, would do just that, creating a win-win situation and much needed relief.

An apparent lack of second-chance employment for those returning to society and family from a period of incarceration is just one of many barriers and obstacles to a successful return into the workplace, tax base, and families in need of the support of their parents.

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# The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

*(Continued from page 26)*

The ultimate goal and design of the Chester Re-Entry Center is to increase the chance for a successful re-entry of ex-offenders back into the community and workforce while decreasing the probability of recidivism. In addition to the staggering 60 percent aforementioned, it is estimated that many as 70 percent of those released into society from incarceration will recidivate within three years of release. According to these data the question becomes, can we not afford to initiate, collaborate and demonstrate that such a proposed program could be the change in these alarming trends that all involved have needed, but until now were unable to formulate?

When asked what its recidivism rate was in October 2010, the Acting Chester chief of police, Darren Alston, said, "As high as 85 percent." He stated that Chester's crime and drug problems were mainly committed by repeat offenders.

The collaborative effort was coordinated by Rev. Richard C. Dalton of Grace Community United Methodist Church's Community Development Center. From March to October of last year between 20 to 30 agencies signed on as collaborating partners, including Maureen Barden, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice's Prison Re-Entry Center; Michael Green, District Attorney of Delaware County; Eric Baynes, aide to state Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland, D-159 of Chester; Robert Wrease, director of Chester Workforce Development; Donald Finch, Delaware County Career-Link; Minister Keith Muhammad, Chester Islamic Study Group. Also present were representatives of Thresholds of Delaware County; Pastor Bayard Taylor, director of Delaware County Law Enforcement Chaplains, and more.

On March 14, the collaboration will commence with the first phase of the Re-Entry Program, the opening of its call-center where ex-prisoners can call in and then register to receive assistance.

The Chester Re-Entry Program will offer aid on a case-by-case basis where prospective candidates must be evaluated to determine the needs of callers and schedule subsequent interview where a more detailed assessment will occur and referrals and placement service implemented. The focus will be on directing callers to one of the many service-programs offered. The initial aim is to change the mindset of ex-offenders.

We hope to have training program participants think differently about pursuing gainful employment; abstaining from drug use via outpatient counseling services and 12 recovery group attendance and explore securing either GEDs, job training, college or entering apprenticeship programs through participating trade unions.

We hope to successfully compile pertinent data on candidates through our call center to help determine what the next logical step should be in effectively breaking the vicious cycle of crime, incarceration and recidivism so as to aid individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system embark upon the road to true success.

Richard "Tut" Carter is operation director of the Chester Re-entry Call Center of Delaware County, and Russell Coley, Widener University, is senior assistant to the director/public liaison.

## ***Is Innocence Irrelevant?***

*As you read, ask yourself if justice is being served by the judicial system when it criminally tries and convicts individuals while knowing of their innocence, while prosecutors are not held accountable for their illegal misconduct at individuals trials, and while the courts and intentionally deny fair trials to others.*

### ***The Foul Politics of Prosecution***

***After Sixteen Years, Jabbar Collins is finally Freed***

***The Westchester Guardian, July 1, 2010***

***By Jeff Deskovic***

Jabbar Collins, now thirty-seven years old, was convicted in 1995 of killing Abraham Pollack during a 1994 robbery attempt. Pollack was a rabbi and landlord in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Two witnesses said that they saw him running from the crime scene, while a third claimed to have been present when Collins planned the crime.

On June 8, 2010, Collins was cleared of this crime after serving sixteen years in prison.

After his appeals failed, Collins set about the task of educating himself. He obtained his General Education Degree in prison and taught himself the law. He became fluent enough in law to assist other prisoners with their appeals, and in several cases, he helped them regain their freedom.

Using the Freedom Of Information Law (FOIL), Collins obtained a mountain of evidence that had been illegally withheld from his lawyers by Brooklyn A.D.A. Michael F. Vecchione, now the head of the Rackets Division.

Hundreds of pages of documents were uncovered, including secret notes by Legal Aid lawyers, prison records, 911 tapes, and statements by key witnesses in his case.

Collins obtained permission from prosecution witness, Edwin Oliva, to obtain notes from Oliva's Legal Aid defenders. These notes revealed Oliva testified for the prosecution in exchange for leniency in a robbery case. This was crucial because

Vecchione previously denied Oliva had made any leniency deal. Indeed, in his closing arguments, Vecchione said the claim was "absurd" and "laughable."

Another witness, Adrian Diaz, returned from Puerto Rico with Vecchione. In court, Vecchione swore that Diaz had not been promised or given anything other than lodging and airfare. After locating Diaz from prison, Collins called him posing as a prosecutor reconstructing records. Diaz admitted in a conversation Collins secretly taped the prosecution had eradicated Diaz's probation violation.

Angel Santos testified against Collins at trial. In a post-conviction habeas corpus hearing, Santos described how he was coerced to give favorable testimony for the government. "I told them I didn't want to get involved," he said, "so what they did, they locked me up." Santos said Vecchione repeatedly threatened to hit him and said, "If you don't testify, you're going to be in jail in a long time."

Santos was held in jail for a week before he cracked and agreed to say what Vecchione wanted to convict Collins.

The 911 tapes were discussed during Collins's trial but never been turned over to the defense.

*(Continued on page 29)*

## *Is Innocence Irrelevant?*

*(Continued from page 28)*

Other documents linking two other men to the crime were uncovered by Collins's FOIL requests.

Federal district judge Dora Irizarry presided over Collin's post-conviction habeas corpus case. She had ruled Collins was entitled to an evidentiary hearing at which prosecutors, police officers and civilian witnesses would testify in order to fully uncover what happened in the underlying state criminal case. Prosecutors strongly objected to the hearing, but she overruled them, saying, "What is the fear of going forward? It makes all the sense to me to have the hearing and let the parties air it out and let the chips fall where they may."

After Santos, the first witness, testified, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office suddenly agreed to drop all charges and not retry Collins. Judge Irizarry lamented the hearing would not go forward so that all the wrongdoing by police and prosecutors could be exposed.

In response, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes defiantly announced to the media Vecchione did nothing wrong and there would be no internal investigation into his conduct.

The Collins case is an extreme example of prosecutorial misconduct. It highlights why federal legislation is urgently needed to criminalize such misconduct. Currently, no law is in place to restrain rogue prosecutors, and there is no internal oversight or discipline within most D.A.'s offices, as Charles Hynes made abundantly clear.

Hynes's statement that Vecchione did nothing wrong was outrageous. Vecchione hid a mountain of evidence, lied to the jury, coerced witnesses, and failed to correct perjured testimony. This conduct is simply not acceptable. As Judge Irizarry told the prosecutors, "Your job is not simply to win, it is to seek justice" Under that standard, how can it be said that Vecchione or his colleagues in the Brooklyn D.A.'s office measured up?

Hynes's statement signals to prosecutors working for him that it is okay to engage in misconduct, and they need not fear reprisals.

He should bow his head in shame.

Collins repeatedly sought relief from the courts, but prosecutors fought him every inch of the way, even when they knew his arguments were meritorious. What is more, the prosecutors were successful. In his lengthy, 24-page decision dated Sept. 5, 2007, Justice Robert K. Holdman refused to hold a hearing on Collins's claims, and based on prosecutors' arguments, insisted Collins was just a lying murderer.

Thank God for Dora Irizarry. Her decision to hold the hearing which Justice Holdman refused made all the difference in the world. Faced with the prospect its misconduct would be exposed, the prosecution caved in.

The Collins case reminds me of the Anthony DiSimone case here in Westchester. D.A. Jane DiFiore refused to turn over 376 pages of information to DiSimone's attorneys, including information pertaining to the guilt of two other parties. Nonetheless, she wants to retry DiSimone. This is not justice. Nor is it consistent with her mandate to seek justice, not simply win cases at all costs. DiFiore, like Hynes, is betraying the public trust and acting shamefully. Yet, she postures that she is an anti-wrongful conviction advocate. She, too, should bow her head in shame.

Let us hope DiSimone can be heard in federal court. His habeas corpus petition is now pending.

## BEWARE ...

By: Saleem G. Griffin JK-5015

### ... BEWARE

the rape of Mother Earth  
willful destruction of our home & ozone  
B.P. as slick as oil  
Gulf coast un-natural disaster spill  
drill baby drill spill  
adventure capitalist politics  
hood environmental racism  
industrialist factory smoke stacks cloud vision  
toxic chemical M-E-T-H-O-D man  
carbon footprint on my back  
global warming forewarning  
air & water pollution revolution  
me & Mr. Van Jones  
got a eco-green thing going on

### BEWARE

billionaire ole boys club  
the Dow Jones  
it's going down down down  
Wall Street stick up boys  
playing with others life savings like toys  
gold men sack & pillage  
those whom make up the village  
which raise God bless the child  
Walmart consumer have a coke & a smile  
feeing non-great depression recession  
outsourced & unemployment  
the black buck stops here

### BEWARE

hatetriot game players  
tea party white American express  
vitriol Birthes a hot mess  
run away slave master mentality  
out of their cotton picking mind  
Kodax picture polarization divided nation  
race bait & switch son of a bitch  
Negropean sell out & snitch  
come on down the price is right wing  
Uncle Clarence Thomas  
disgrace to King's dream & Malcolm's promise  
U.S.D.A. Shirley Sherrod resignation  
too quick to judge unfair racist condemnation  
the divided states of America  
Black & White  
by the dawns early light  
masquerade Post-Racial facial

### BEWARE

prisoner of consciousness  
the usual suspects  
not at liberty  
for whom the bell tolls  
just to pay the price  
a pound of flesh  
blood of a slave  
heart of an African King  
both scream let freedom ring  
Tocqueville democracy how now  
immigration the sacred brown cow  
don't tread on me Arizona laws  
unconstitutional white supremacy clause  
Hannah & Tony Montana  
say hello to my little friend  
bite that Brochacho ...

**The Human Rights Coalition (Disclaimer)**

*The Human Rights Coalition is an organization that focuses on the plight of prisoners in their struggle for human rights and humane conditions of prisons and challenging the prison industrial complex exploitation of inmates and the drastic ramifications on the families of prisoners and society at large.*

*We recognize that most prisoners are people of color and often are economically disfranchised working class people. HRC serves as an educational and resource forum to the community.*

*The Human Rights Coalition does not have the ability to represent individuals in the court of law nor has funding for such activities. The Human Rights Coalition does not have lawyers for personal counsel nor the ability to write legal briefs on behalf of any individual.*

*The Human Rights Coalition is about building a grassroots movement with the leadership of the families of prisoners and citizens who are concerned about the proliferation of prisons and the lack of social programs that could prevent crime and injustice.*

*"We can bomb the world into pieces but, you can't bomb it into peace"*

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3	5	6	7	1	9	4	8	2
8	2	1	4	3	5	6	7	9
9	7	4	6	2	8	5	3	1



***Inmates! Know a family member in society who you would want to receive this newsletter?***

**Please provide:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prisoner Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Philadelphia, PA 19104



# PRISON'S TORTURE DEVICES: Restricted Release List and Behavior Modification Units

By: Changa Asa Ramu

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections policy DC-ADM 802, H.4 "Restricted Release List", has proven to be another formality policy and deceptive attempt to deny prisoners due process. The policy states: "Inmates Identified on the Restricted Release List may not be release (from the strictive housing unit) without approval of the secretary/designee".

- A. The program Review Committee (PRC) make a recommendation to the Facility Manager if it is believed that an inmate on the Restricted Release List could be safely released to general population;
- B. The Facility Manager must provide rationale for recommending the release of inmate to the Regional Deputy Secretary;
- C. If the Regional Deputy Secretary disapproves the release of the inmate, the Facility Manager will be advised and the recommendation will not be forwarded to the Secretary/designee;
- D. If the Regional Deputy /Secretary approves the release, he/she will forward the recommendation to the Secretary/designee;
- E. The Secretary/designee will make the final decision whether or not to release an inmate on the Restricted Release List to general population.

I have been identified as an inmate on this "List". I received no notification, nor hearing to rebuttal the evidence against me, and, have been in the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU), since July of 2000, although the Restricted Release List's policy became effective on May 5, 2004. The State Correctional Institution at Smithfield submitted a recommendation to Deputy Secretary Vaugh and Secretary Beard to have me removed from this "List". I was told by SCI-Smithfield officials that their recommendation was returned from Secretary Beard marked "Denied". No rationale for denying me release was given. The arbitrary placement and consequential denial of my removal from the Restricted Release List (RRL) is in fact inhumane and abuse of discretion. I have challenged this policy in the Commonwealth Court and was denied relief. It is now pending in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, **ROGERS V. BEARD, No. 81 MAP 2006**. The arbitrariness in this procedure point to the fact that it was not meant to give long term administrative custody prisoners meaningful periodic reviews.

Prison officials on the institution level who have regular contact with prisoners are more qualified to make an assessment on my adjustment and future behavior. There are maybe thirty (30) prisoners on the RRL for different reasons. We all remain in "ILLEGAL LIMBO" denied our liberty interest and due process pro-

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## Human Rights Coalition Report

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tected by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Since October 1, 2006 a new policy statement was issued stating criteria for placement of an inmate on the “List” included but not limited to:

- 1. assaultive history against staff;**
- 2. assaultive history against inmates;**
- 3. sexual assault history;**
- 4. escape history, or serious escape attempt;**
- 5. threat to the orderly operation of a facility** (attempting to organize inmates, demonstrated involvement in a Security Threat Group that poses a risk to the security of the facility, etc.).
- 6. LTSU/SMU graduate who remain a threat, and or;**
- 7. LTSU/SMU failure.**

These amended criteria are two years after the effective date of the RRL, and clearly misrepresentation of the practice that ultimately places prisoners on this “List”. Although the RRL is allegedly designed for security concerns and to house allegedly incorrigible or dangerous inmates, many of us do not meet those criteria. These conditions of confinement are cruel and unusual and outweigh the penal interest and legitimate security objective; and, the suffering and degradation and total disregard of the fact that prisoners, even the so-called worse of the worse, are members of the human community. Prisoners on this “List” have been in solitary/segregated confinement anywhere between seven (7) to thirty (30) years with no prospect of immediate release in the near future. Prisoners on the RRL are typically confined to their cell alone 23 hours each week-day and 24 hours on weekends. RRL prisoners are permitted one hour of “outdoor exercise” five days of the week. However, unlike general population prisoners who have the opportunity to utilize recreational equipment or engage in organized team sports or exercise, an RRL prisoner’s ability to exercise is severely limited.

No recreational or exercise equipment of any kind is provided to the RRL prisoners. We are subjected to humiliating strip searches every time we leave and enter our cells. It is a degradation procedure designed in part to humiliate prisoners, and in part to be sure no contraband is brought to the yard. The strip search procedure coming back from the yard can only be perceived as humiliation. Consider the psychological effects of being strip searched every time you leave and enter your cell in addition to the night light that is on 24 hours a day disrupting sleep patterns, and causing distress. These policies procedures and conditions in my opinion is the cause of the assaultive and problematic behavior of prisoners who experience such conditions for a prolonged period of time. Prisoners who have had problems but are not dangerous such as myself, who committed a single assault on another prisoner, and accumulated non-violent misconducts have been sent to the Special Management Unit (SMU) at Camphill which is a supermax control unit with serious psychological effects. Dr. Stuart Grassian, a psychiatrist testified in many court cases to this fact.

Dr. Grassian is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and maintains a Faculty Appointment at the medical school along with a private practice in psychiatry. He has testified at length regarding his research

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## Human Rights Coalition Report

*(Continued from page 33)*

into the “toxicity” of control unit environments. Based on his observations and studies, Dr. Grassian found that prolonged confinement in these restrictive environments caused inmates in control units to experience similar reaction of “symptoms”. These symptoms include anxiety disorder, paranoia perceptual disorders, and difficulties in thinking, concentration and memory. After graduating from the SMU, I was placed in general population at SCI-Mahanoy on ninety (90) days probation. I had a fight with another prisoner because of the noise he was making directly above my cell. I could not tolerate noise and was experiencing post traumatic stress disorder from lingering psychological effects of prolonged periods in a control unit. I was sent back to Camphill’s SMU and was shocked to discover that almost every prisoner that graduated returned for similar reasons.

I manage to graduate from the SMU for the second time. Although I tolerated the SMU environment better than the majority of people who face such confinement, I developed mental health problems typical of prisoners who are deprived of social and environmental stimulation for prolonged period. After two years in general population not understanding what was wrong with me and a genuine fear of psychedelic drugs, I started to exhibit significant problems with perceptual distortion, illusion and experienced brief periods of an overt confused state of mind.

No one could relate to what I was experiencing. My family questioned my behavior on our visits and I became aloof from them as well as my fellow prisoners. I became fixated with revenge fantasies on those who I deemed responsible for my suffering and state of mind, which eventually became a reality with assaultive behavior. As a result of these actions, I have been in segregated confinement on the RRL for seven (7) years in spite of demonstrating accumulation of positive adjustment reports, and earning the Program Review Committee (PRC) recommendation to be released into general population. I have been fortunate to learn about the psychiatric harm, as well as the cause of the disruption and deterioration of my family ties. Prisoners in these control units, and those who graduate from them are left to believe their suffering is a result of weaknesses in their character, and mental disorder. I came to the conclusion that it is a deliberate and systematic intent to break prisoners’ minds.

The prison administrators are well aware of these effects, and still fail to counsel and prepare these prisoners for re-entry into general population. Most prisoners quietly suffer from these conditions not wanting to be perceived as weak or broken. If the proper information was given to them, they would have a better chance to treat their psychological conditions. Prison administrators and officials are negative profiling these prisoners to justify supermax control units, and the RRL. These policies, procedures, and the prison officials need to be exposed. The media, general public and social organizations (who can assist in preventing abusive practice and promote public accountability) need to be made aware.

**Editor’s Note: What is overlooked is many prisoners held in control units and similar segregated confinement will complete their criminal sentences and return back to society.**

## **PA Prison Report - Monday, March 28, 2011.**

**Prisoner activist returned to solitary confinement:** On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Jerome Coffey was transferred to SCI Forest from SCI Greene, where he had spent 9 years and 4 months in solitary confinement despite remaining misconduct free for an extended period of time. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, he was finally released into general population. Six days later, he was back in solitary confinement after his failed attempts to get help adjusting to human contact led to an altercation with prison administrative staff.

According to reports by prisoners at Forest, Mr. Coffey's requests to be housed temporarily in a single cell were denied by his Unit Manager, Ed Heberling. He was immediately forced to share a cell with another man, despite the well-known debilitating effects of long term solitary confinement upon survivors' ability to be close to, or share space with other people. Mr Coffey was also not seen by a prison psychologist upon his release from nearly ten years in isolation.

After six days, Mr. Coffey filed a grievance with prison administration and in while in G-Unit yard he approached Deputy Superintendent Overmeyer about his need for a single-cell status. Mr. Coffey reports that the deputy called him a "nigger", and that he then struck the deputy in the mouth and was given a 90-day sentence of solitary confinement. The Pennsylvania State Police have interviewed Mr. Coffey and have vowed to press formal charges against him.

Jerome Coffey is a prisoner-activist who has been a long time member and vocal supporter of the Human Rights Coalition, a factor that may have contributed to his long-term solitary confinement. Earlier this month he wrote, "With every bone in my body I will never submit to slavery. I hate it. It's wrong. My mentality will always be resistance to oppression, institutional racism, white supremacy, sexism, homophobia, capitalism. . . . I refuse to be a slave."

**Jailhouse lawyer removed from treatment unit in retaliation for lawsuits:** Damont Hagan, a human rights defender at SCI Cresson, reports that he was recently moved to the Restricted Housing Unit from the Secure Special Needs Unit (SSNU) in retaliation for filing grievances and assisting other prisoners in advocating for their rights. The Secure Special Needs Unit is a form of solitary confinement for prisoners with diagnosed mental health needs and was originally designed to provide mental health treatment. Hagan was not issued any misconduct prior to being moved, but was told he was being put on a "time-out." The Restricted Housing Unit at Cresson, like others across the state, does not allow for any substantial access to mental health care.

Removal from the treatment unit followed weeks of escalating harassment and threats of retaliation. In one instance, after overhearing Hagan discussing a lawsuit he intends to file against Cresson, Sergeant Dow confiscated paperwork from Hagan and terminated his access to the law library. Other prisoners in the unit have reported that guards deprive mentally ill prisoners and those who file grievances of food, bedding, personal

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items, and other necessities. There have been several reported instances of psychological harassment as well, including guard encouragement of suicide.

Mr. Hagan has spent nearly every day of the past ten years in a solitary confinement cell. During that time he has been subjected to repeated instances of racial abuse, physical assault, and food deprivation. Over the years, Hagan has adopted a strategy of resistance with his pen, filing grievances, studying law, and pursuing justice in the court system. Mr. Hagan has been informed on several occasions that he will not be permitted to progress through the treatment program and be released to general population if he continues to file grievances and lawsuits regarding violations of his rights.

### News from the Courts

On March 17th, state prisoner Vincent Hallman was found guilty of aggravated assault against a guard at SCI Huntingdon for a January 2010 dispute over mail policy.

Hallman's court-appointed attorney, Ray Ghaner, provided a slim defense based on Officer Stitt's unsubstantiated allegations of medical injuries, despite video footage showing Stitt advancing on Hallman aggressively after Hallman voiced confusion with a new mail policy. Commonwealth attorneys and DOC officials misleadingly informed the jury that correctional officers had a right to assault prisoners, and Ghaner was unprepared to argue excessive force and human rights violations. The commonwealth also used misconduct history to paint Hallman as a "problem prisoner", which is likely affecting the judges sentencing decision.

Hallman testified that the majority of misconducts he was issued were false, or in retaliation for filing grievances and speaking out against human rights violations in the Huntingdon RHU. Hallman also testified that he was intentionally not transferred to another prison, so that DOC officials could continue to retaliate and discredit his legal claims. He is working on acquiring transcripts and filing an appeal.

**Pennsylvania Superior Court rules that judge violated rights of 11-year-old:** A panel of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania has held that a Lawrence County trial court erred by compelling 11-year-old murder suspect Jordan Brown to admit guilt in order to have his case transferred to juvenile court. In a 2-1 decision, the Supreme Court majority vacated the trial court's refusal to transfer the case to juvenile court and remanded for a new decertification hearing "because the court violated Jordan's right against self-incrimination." Brown was 11 when he was arrested and charged with murder in 2009. He has consistently asserted his innocence.

**Live radio prison news reports produced weekly on WPEB 88.1 FM (Philly) Fridays at 9pm or on WRCT 88.3 FM (Pittsburgh) Mondays at 6pm or visit [www.hrcoalition.org](http://www.hrcoalition.org).**

### Gas Truth Rally Challenges Guv Over Fracking

Hundreds of anti-oil drilling activists from the organization Gas Truth of Central PA demonstrated in Harrisburg, PA at the January 18<sup>th</sup> inauguration of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett. Loud chants of “Tom Corporate, No Way! No Fracking in PA!” drowned out the pro-drilling governor’s speech.

Gas Truth of Central PA, which aims to obtain a statewide drilling moratorium in the Marcellus and Utica Shale regions, organized the rally. The group of activist held a large banner calling the governor “Tom Corporate” and “Toxic Tom,” referring to major election campaign contribution Corbett received from the natural gas industry. The natural gas industry has rushed into Pennsylvania, which has little to no environmental regulation, to take advantage of recently discovered shale formations in the Marcellus and Utica regions thought to contain massive natural gas reserves worth billions of dollars.

### Cuba Offers Free Medical School Scholarships to Poor American Students

African-American, Latino/a-American, Asian-American, and Caucasian-American High school students from impoverished communities throughout the United States seeking to become doctors, are accepting Cuba’s full medical school scholarships to study medicine in Cuba at the prestigious Latin American School of Medicine (LASM).

LASM is held up as an important alternative for young African-Americans and Latino/a-Americans and their parents who wish to some day become doctors and help others. Cuba’s full medical school scholarships at the famed Latin American School of Medicine is free, providing one condition. In return for free scholarship, Cuba only ask that the new doctors from the U.S. and around the world return to

practice in their medically underserved communities.

Contact Pastors for Peace — the U.S. coordinating agency for scholarships — to discuss the application process, education requirements, and status of current students and graduates for your children. Find LASM information at [www.pastorsforpeace.org](http://www.pastorsforpeace.org). Freedom must be fought for in every generation and sometimes within generations or it will be lost. Having said that, people who want to be free must fight for it themselves.

The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands.

### PA Justice Castille Appeals to Lawyers

Pennsylvania’s Chief Justice said in January he wants the state’s 70,000 lawyers to pitch in to address what he describes as a crisis in the legal-aid system regarding civil matters.

Chief Justice Ronald Castille released a letter he sent January 7, asking every lawyer to take on at least one new pro bono matter or continue to volunteer through a legal-aid provider or other organized program.

### Ousted PA Governor Rendell Urges Overhaul of Death-Penalty Law

Governor Ed Rendell, before leaving office, called on lawmakers to overhaul Pennsylvania’s death-penalty law. In a letter to members of the General Assembly, Rendell wrote: “As a former district attorney and death-penalty supporter, I believe the death penalty can be a deterrent — but only when it is carried out relatively expeditiously.”

Specifically, Rendell asked state lawmakers to explore whether additional steps can be taken to shorten the time it takes to carry out a death sentence, and if

not, that they study the possibility of replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without the chance for parole, pardon or commutation.

Governor Ed Rendell served two terms as Pennsylvania’s Governor, and signed 119 death warrants over the last eight years. There are 213 men and four women sitting on the state’s death row. Gov. Rendell left office on January 18, 2011, and was replaced by newly-elected Governor Tom Corbett.

### More Voters From State Law Changes

Since 1997, 800,000 people have regained the right to vote as a result of felony re-enfranchisement in 23 states. So says a new publication of The Sentencing Project (1705 DeSales Street NW - 8th Floor, Washing DC 20036). It states that nine states have either repealed or amended lifetime disenfranchisement laws. Three states have expanded voting rights to cover those on probation and parole. Eight states have eased the restoration process for those who have completed their sentences.

In particular: Rhode Island’s repeal of a state prohibition on voting for people on probation and parole has resulted in the restoration of voting rights to more than 15,000 people. Maryland’s repeal of its lifetime prohibition on voting for those who have completed their sentences resulted in the restoration of voting rights for more than 52,000 people. Connecticut’s repeal of its ban on voting for those on probation has extended the right to vote to more than 33,000 people. New Mexico’s repeal of its life time disenfranchisement provision restored the right to vote to more than 69,000 people.



Don't stop now, Let's keep it up ...

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## Your Legal Corner

WE ACCEPT LEGAL ARTICLES THAT EDUCATE AND EMPOWER FAMILIES OF PRISONERS THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND LAWS, AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THE POLICE, LAWYERS AND THE COURTS ON BEHALF OF THEIR LOVED ONES.

# PENNSYLVANIA VOTER PROTECTION QUIZ

Prepared by Vote for Homes and Advancement Project

## Voter Intimidation and Suppression

**True or False: A police officer can always be within 10 feet of the polling place during he election.**

**FALSE:** A commissioned police officer, whether in uniform or in citizen's clothes, may not be within 100 feet of the polling place during the election unless the officer is voting, serving a warrant, or is called upon to preserve the peace.

**True or False: You can be turned away from the polls if you are in line at 8:00 p.m.**

**FALSE:** You are entitled to vote if you are in line, either inside or outside the polling place, at poll closing time (8:00 p.m.) even if you have not reached the voting machine.

**True or False: Your vote can be challenged based on your temporary mailing address if you are homeless.**

**FALSE:** You are allowed to register to vote and cast a ballot using a temporary mailing address if you are homeless. Your vote cannot be successfully challenged for this reason alone.

**True or False: Poll watchers can always come inside the voting booth with you to cast you ballot for you.**

**Not Necessarily:** The only time someone can cast your ballot for you is if you are physically unable to do so yourself. If you need help reading, writing, or operating the machine, you can request assistance; the level of assistance you receive should be dependent on your needs. For example, if you only need instructions on how to operate the machine, the person giving you those instructions should not enter the booth with you. On the other hand, if you need help operating the machine or reading the ballot, a person of your choosing can enter the booth with you to help you read the information but they should not vote for you because you alone have the right to decide who to vote for.

**True or False: You cannot vote in the General Election if you did not select a political party on your voter registration application.**

**FALSE:** You do not have to pick a political party in order to vote in a General Election. You only have to pick a political party ahead of time if you want to vote in a PRIMARY election. If you did not select a party when you registered, you can amend your voter registration information to add one.

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**True or False: You cannot vote if you have unpaid parking tickets, owe child support, or any money to any city, state or federal agency.**

**FALSE:** You cannot be prevented from *registering or voting* because you owe any city, state or federal agency some money. If anyone asks you about your personal debts at or near the polling place, tell the Judge of Elections when you get inside!

**True or False: Poll workers and other election officials can require voters to show ID while they're standing in line—otherwise they will not be allowed into the polling place.**

**FALSE:** There is no federal or state law requiring voters to show their ID to *anyone* while they are standing in line. If you are part of the category of voters who is required to show ID before voting, you are entitled to show your ID once you get inside the polling place. If someone approaches you demanding to see your ID while you're in line, tell them you will take care of it inside—then tell the Judge of Elections what happened when you get in!

**True or False: If election officials anticipate a lot of voters will show up on Election Day, people can be asked to vote on two separate days in order to help alleviate the crowds.**

**FALSE:** This is a common trick to try to get voters to stay home on Election Day. If you get a flyer or a phone call telling you that some voters are being asked to vote on any day other than Election Day, DO NOT believe it! If this happens to you, tell someone.

**True or False: People handing out information about who to vote for and members of the general public can stand as close to the entrance of the polling place as they want, as long as they are not blocking the door.**

**FALSE:** Only voters, election officers, official poll watchers (they will have a special certificate), people providing assistance to voters in need, and police officers who are voting, serving a warrant or have been called upon to preserve the peace, can be within 10 feet of the polling place. If you see non-voters crowding near the polling place, let the Judge of Election know when you get inside.

**True or False: "Voter intimidation" only involves physical threats that take place on Election Day.**

**FALSE:** "Voter intimidation" comes in many forms, can take place in the days leading up to the election, and can involve anything designed to make you believe or feel like you should not or cannot vote on Election Day. Broadly speaking, it is often accompanied by efforts designed to impede or interfere with your right to vote, including phone calls telling you to vote on a different day, flyers telling you your polling place is closed, people videotaping your every move at or near the polling place, people with large dogs blocking sidewalks at or near the polling place, and much more. If you see or experience any form of voter intimidation, call you local voter registration office immediately.

**True or False: New federal laws require some voters to show more than one kind of ID before they can vote.**

**FALSE:** There is no federal law requiring voters to show more than one kind of ID in order to vote. Federal law and Pennsylvania state election law require certain voters to show one kind of ID before voting. The state has created a list of approved IDs than can be used for these purposes. Once you have shown a valid ID from this list, you do not have to show a second form of ID.

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## Your Legal Corner

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**True or False: If you register to vote, your Social Security Number or your Driver's License Number becomes available to the public.**

**FALSE:** While the new Pennsylvania voter registration application requires you to provide either the last four digits of your social security number or the number from your PennDOT ID, the Board of Elections is not permitted to share this information with the general public. Any public list of voters will not include this information.

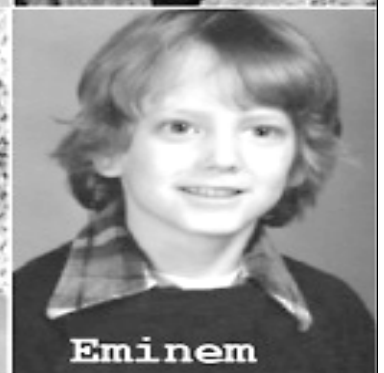
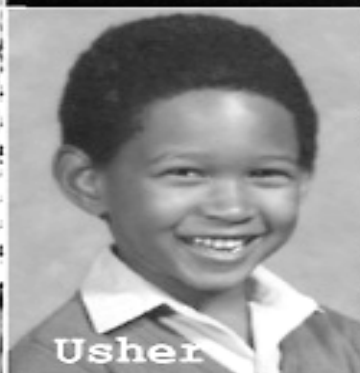
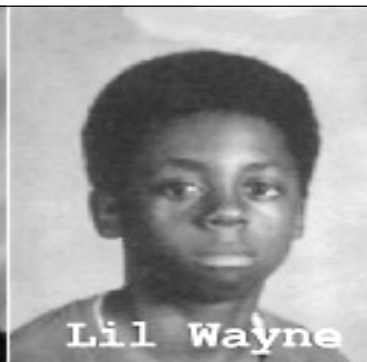
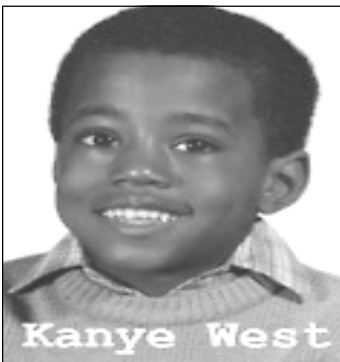
### After the Election

**True or False: You can check to see if your vote by provisional ballot was counted.**

**TRUE:** In Pennsylvania, you can call 1-877-VOTES-PA three days after the election to determine if your provisional ballot was counted, partially counted or not counted at all. If it was not counted, you should be told why.

**True or False: Your absentee ballot can be challenged.**

**TRUE:** Your absentee ballot can be challenged if it turns out you were able to vote in-person on Election Day. In Pennsylvania the public is entitled to know who voted by absentee ballot. For this reason, the Board of Elections makes a list of absentee voters publicly available—and this is how someone can double check to see if you voted absentee when you could have voted in-person!



**THE MOVEMENT**

[www.brcoalition.org](http://www.brcoalition.org)

## **Human Rights Matters**


Human Rights Coalition  
Philadelphia Chapter  
C/O Lava Space  
4134 Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

William Krainsky HW-3655  
SCI Frackville  
1111 Altamont Blvd.  
Frackville, PA 17931

April 26, 2010

Dear Editor:

I an inmate warehoused at SCI Frackville. About eight months ago I was introduced to The Movement and the Human Rights Coalition. Because I, myself, have been one of few revolutionaries in this institution, fighting everything from the Keefe Monopoly, Inmate Telephone Extortion, parole for lifers and JLWOP. Throughout my contacts I have received numerous newsletters from various Prison Advocate Organizations and noticed a trend among most of them. It appears that more attention is directed on African American inmates than the Caucasian inmates. Throughout my many years of incarceration I have experienced that in the eyes of the oppressors, WE ARE ALL ONE COLOR, "COCOA BROWN". I'm sure that in some instances favoritism, and racism may be evident, as is reverse racism. Yes, there is such a thing as reverse racism! When a C/O tells a group of Caucasians to disperse, but turns a blind eye to a group of African American inmates standing a few feet away. Racism exists the same as reverse racism does, but overall we are all of the "COCOA BROWN" persuasion and the injustice affects us all the same ways. My belief is that if an injustice occurs to one inmate, regardless of race, an injustice occurs to us all. I've put in my share of "work" for the benefit to all inmates. Grievances, Legal Action, complaining, etc. I'm doing it all and sometimes stand on my own to face the retaliation. It's bad enough that the system intentionally separates us into categories, we as convicts and those supporting us should help keep us together. Instead of black inmates standing on one side against the injustice and the white inmates standing on the other side against the injustice, we need to stand together in an "US against THEM" formation.

Very Truly Yours,  
  
William Krainsky

## *The Babylon System -*

**Bab.y.lon** - noun, Etymology: Babylon, ancient city of Babylonia, 14th century, a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure, many liken Babylon to the United States, see Revelations 17-18.

*If any prisoner, family member, or community activist would like to submit an article that is “critical” of the state and county prison systems, courts, D.A. offices, police, capitalist corporate America, and the government, just forward your article to the HRC’s Newsletter Department for possible printing.*

### **FUSION CENTERS SHOULD BE DISMANTLED, EXPERT SAYS**

**BY MATTHEW HARWOOD**

A constitutional and international lawyer told lawmakers yesterday that the United States should dismantle state-run intelligence fusion centers, which have grown dramatically since 9-11 with the assistance of the federal government. Police and federal officials defended fusion centers and described measures being taken to protect citizens’ privacy and civil liberties.

Bruce Fein, of Bruce Fein & Associates and the Lichfield Group, compared state fusions centers to the Soviet Union’s KGB and East Germany’s Stasi and called for the United States to “abandon fusion centers that engage 800,000 state and local law enforcement officers in the business of gathering and sharing allegedly domestic or international terrorism intelligence.”

Fusion centers bring together law enforcement and intelligence personnel from state, local, and federal government to collect, analyze, vet, and disseminate intelligence to first responders on the ground in an effort to disrupt terrorist or criminal activity. The Department of Homeland Security recognizes 70 fusion centers nationwide but because states operate fusion centers, no two are exactly alike.

Fein was also critical of suspicious activity report (SARs), whereby police officers and concerned citizens report unusual behavior that may indicate a terrorist or criminal conspiracy. These reports typically flow to fusion centers.

“To an intelligence agent, informant, or law enforcement officer,” Fein, said, “every unconventional or unorthodox looks like at least a pre-embryonic terrorist danger.”

Fein argued that if you employ the intelligence collection standards employed by fusion centers, everyone from the Founding Fathers to abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to suffragette Susan B. Anthony would have been the subject of SARs. He also noted that the United States has engaged in such behavior before, as when the FBI spied on the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., or surveiled the peace movement underneath COINTELPRO, an FBI domestic surveillance program.

Fein said similar mischief by fusion enters is already afoot.

In recent months, leaked bulletins have shown fusion centers have singled out for monitoring groups that engaged in politically protected speech. A February bulletin from the North Central Texas Fusion System alerted law enforcement officers to watch out for Muslim organizations that espouse the supremacy of Islam. Another February report from a fusion center in Missouri listed the characteristics of a militia member, which included support for libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul as well as anti-government bumper stickers and flags.

Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA)—chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment - dismissed Fein’s “Orwellian view of fusion centers” in her opening statement and asked the other witnesses

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**THE MOVEMENT**

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# The Babylon System -

**Bab.y.lon** - noun, Etymology: Babylon, ancient city of Babylonia, 14th century, a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure, many liken Babylon to the United States, see Revelations 17-18.

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“to address what by my lights are alarmist and over-the-top claims directly.”

Robert Riegler, director of the state and local program office of DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis, said that all DHS intelligence and analysis staff assigned to state fusion centers are trained in privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties issues. He also noted that DHS has made recommendations to fusion centers to promote transparency and privacy protections among its staff.

Allegations that armed forces offices play a vital role in fusion centers or that fusion center staff provide inappropriate intelligence to the private sector are myths or exaggerations, said David Gerstein of DHS' Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

While some fusion staff members are military, they are there in support roles but in no way lead the centers, he said, as for private sector involvement in fusion centers, Gerstain said fusion centers share intelligence to the private sector when it involves critical infrastructure or specific threats to a company.

House Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie Thompson (D-MS) said fusion centers will only work if they are “done right.”

“Fusion centers should be about creating intelligence that tells first preventers what to ‘be on the lookout’ for,” he said. “That’s information that will help keep Americans safe, without violating out First Principles.”

Russell M. Porter, director of Iowa’s fusion center and chairman of the Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Units, agreed.

“If we fail to continue to make the protection of privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights a top priority, the fusion center network will not be sustainable.”



# Prisoners' Bill of Rights

1. We call for the right to be free from state sanctioned murder by use of the Death Penalty.
2. We call for the right of Parolees to be free of discrimination and disenfranchisement by denying those on parole the right to vote, quoting the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, section (1): "The right of citizens of the United States to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
3. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

We call for an Amendment of the clause to ensure that the language specifically prohibits slavery or involuntary servitude of any form in any land/territory subject to United States jurisdiction.

4. We assert that no one should be deprived of the fundamental right to vote whether in county, state, or federal prison, as long as they are American citizens and are of the age of eighteen or older.
5. We call for the **abolition** of sentencing juveniles to Life imprisonment whether with or without parole. We assert that the recent findings of neuro-psychiatry have definitively established that the frontal cortex of the brain, which is the region that governs impulsivity, judgment, planning for the future, foresight of consequences, is the last to develop and do not reach optimal functioning capacity until well into a person's early twenties of age. This scientifically fact is germane to mitigating juvenile criminal culpability.
6. We call for all juveniles sentenced as adults to be given a five year deferment of sentence, during which time the juvenile will undergo intense rehabilitation efforts. At the end of the five years, should the young adult fail the program, his/her sentence will be reinstated, unless it's a Life sentence - in which case the sentence will be commuted to a maximum sentence not to exceed his/her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We assert that the United States being a signatory of the International Convention Treaties and Declarations under the United Nations rules pursuant to the Convention on the Rights of Children (C.R.C.) Article 37 (a), which states: "Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without the possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age." Article 40 (1), continues stating: "Parties recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others, and which takes into account the child's re-integration and the child assuming a constructive role in society."

7. We call for the end of the use of permanent, indefinite, and long term lock-down in solitary confinement areas within prisons. We assert that every prisoner should be given the opportunity to work their way into a less restrictive environment, as opposed to being lock-down in solitary confinement 23 hours a day on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends, for the rest of their natural lives or until they complete their entire sentence. Prisoners are consistently being left to perpetually languish in solitary confinement, because of the falsity and embellishment of prisoners' prison records or due to an incident that took place 10, 20, or 30 years ago.

*(Continued on page 46)*

8. We assert that all of the abuse, deprivations, and other human rights violations against prisoners that are systemic throughout America's prison system, will continue until prisoners are afforded a voice to collectively speak on their behalf, and therefore, we call for the formation and legalization of Prisoners' Unions.
9. We call for the reinstatement of Pell Grants for the education of prisoners. We assert that studies clearly show that for prisoners who received some college level courses, the recidivism rate dropped significantly, and this drop was directly proportionate to the degree of education received while in prison. We reject the argument of budget restraints when one knows that the allocation of funds for Pell Grants (of any state's federal budget) was only one percent of one percent.
10. We call for a mandate of every state's Department of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, to initiate programs designed to help maintain the cohesion of the family unit of prisoners. For example, confining prisoners at prisons in the region near their homes, providing conjugal visitations for married prisoners, family/parent-children sessions, and therapy for children of the incarcerated.
11. We call for Community Service Work Furloughs as part of a re-integration program, as an act of contrition for offenses committed against the community.
12. We call for the General Assembly to revoke the Supreme Court's ruling, which held that a prisoner with an eighth grade education is sufficient enough to make him/her proficient in law, enough to represent themselves in post collateral appeals, and of which they are expected to learn in less than one year under the most adverse conditions that which every attorney within the judiciary had to study in colleges for 4-8 years in order to learn.
13. We hold for as long as the said ruling is upheld by the Supreme Court, that every county, state and federal prison must establish Para-Legal classes teaching prisoners the fundamentals of constitutional law, criminal/civil rules & procedure, legal research, and criminal appellant rules & procedure. These classes must be free to any prisoner wanting to take it.
14. We call for an equal distribution of funding for both the District Attorney Office and Public Defenders Office, so that a court-appointed attorney can properly represent his client in a criminal proceeding.
15. We assert that state's Department of Corrections must have a Community Oversight Committee, invested with the power and authority to effect change in any policy or regulation, they deem not conducive to the positive growth of prisoners or that which violate the human rights of prisoners.

We, the **Incarcerated Citizens Coalition**, representing a multitude of individuals, groups and organizations and acting as the internal division of the Human Rights Coalition make this proclamation, and call for the above enumerated tenets to be translated into legislative language to be presented as a provisional National Prisoners' Bill of Rights.

We believe that this document can/should serve as both a nexus for prisoners' solidarity and a spark to galvanize the prison movement around a National Campaign for Human Rights.

It has been said that one can determine if a society is politically advanced by observing what positions women in that society holds. Likewise, one can determine how humane and civilized a society is by observing how the society treats its prisoners.

## Official HRC Chapters

### Human Rights Coalition - Philadelphia Chapter

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412-361-3022 xt.4

[hrcfedup@gmail.com](mailto:hrcfedup@gmail.com)  
[www.thomasmertoncenter.org/fedup/](http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/fedup/)

**START A HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION (HRC) CHAPTER OR BRANCH IN YOUR AREA. Each Chapter or Branch must comply with eight requirements. These eight are:**

- 1.) Respond to inquiries in a timely manner as resources permit.
- 2.) Update membership to HRC-Philly at least quarterly.
- 3.) Incorporate as a non-profit organization.
- 4.) Publish a newsletter at least semi annually as resources permit.
- 5.) Send minutes of chapter meetings to HRC-Philly.
- 6.) Establish internet video conferencing for statewide chapter meetings.
- 7.) Create a cooperative business to finance your chapter or branch to be financially independent.

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