

THE MOVEMENT

Spring 2015
Issue #26

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

The Official News Magazine of the
Human Rights Coalition for the union of Prison-
ers' Families



**What happened to MOVE and Why
should we care? Beginning pg 19**

Long Live John Africa!

Save the date 5/13/2015



Merle 1985



Delbert

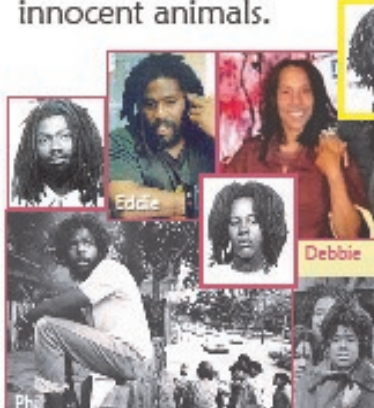


Delbert and Charles

Join the **MOVE** family and people from around the world for our

30TH Commemoration Activities

This date marks 30 years since the bombing of move family members and many innocent animals.



Eddie

Debbie



Our commemoration activities start with a **NOON RALLY** at 62nd & Osage Ave. Followed by a **MARCH/CAR CARAVAN** to First District Plaza 3801 Market Street



Janet



Mike



Mumia

Join us! Work with us! Help make this the successful event that it needs to be to send a strong message to officials that people have not forgotten and will never forget what happened that day and that we won't stop resisting until the **MOVE 9** and all political prisoners are home where they belong.



The program itself includes supporters from around the world:

- Angela Davis (via film message)
- Alton Maddox
- Michael Coard
- Nancy Mansour
- Ward Churchill
- Cornel West
- Chuck D
- Chairman Fred Hampton Jr.
- Alice Walker (via film message)
- Glenn Ford;
- Amina Baraka
- Rebel Diaz
- Mmoja Ajabu
- Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble
- The Welfare Poets
- Malik The Prophet
- Connie & Gerald Renfrow (Osage ave. residents)

Impact Theater and others to be announced as we confirm them

Recorded statements from various political prisoners

Call-ins from Delbert and Janine Africa as well as Mumia Abu Jamal

A speakout by members of the various religious communities and a recognition of loved ones murdered by the police

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**WHAT HAPPENED TO
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WELCOME TO THE MOVEMENT MAGAZINE

You've just come upon a dynamic and unique magazine that informs the public and speaks raw truth to power by educating the masses in society on major social issues of the day as it relates to human rights. While some of the writing is by journalists and professionals, much of the writings printed in THE MOVEMENT magazine are by activists, prisoners, and the families of prisoners. We publish four issues of THE MOVEMENT magazine a year and all back issues remain posted on the website - hrcoalition.org.

THE MOVEMENT magazine is an independent Voice of the Voiceless. We are unapologetically for human rights and solidly against status quo, racism, poverty, militarism, and the so-called criminal justice system.

We call for building a 'National Prisoners Human Rights & Abolish Prisons Movement', as well as forming coalitions with other social movements, throughout the United States to end the injustices of the establishment. THE MOVEMENT magazine advocates for human rights, justice, equality, freedom, protection of Mother Earth, peace, and total social-political economic transformation of the United States.

We especially encourage families of prisoners and prisoners (particularly women prisoners) to submit their writings of stories and experiences that critically examine the so-called Criminal Justice System (i.e., police, DA's Office, Public Defenders Office, courts, Parole Board, Dept. of Corrections, for-profit private prison corporations, and lobby groups) to THE MOVEMENT magazine.

Each issue of THE MOVEMENT magazine focuses on the Criminal Justice System, racism and poverty as human rights issues and what people can do to bring about change. Additional poems, art, political satire cartoons, announcements, and more are included. Unsolicited writings and graphics are accepted and welcomed. We won't guarantee printing but we'd like to see your work. If you want your work or photos returned to you, then include a self-addressed stamped envelope. This and other correspondence should be sent via regular mail to:

Human Rights Coalition, Attention: Newsletter Committee, 4134 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcoalition.org

On Cover: An unidentified lady holds a child outside another MOVE house on Pentridge Street in Philadelphia, May 15, 1985. (Photo: Gannett (Cherry Hill, N.J.) Courier-Post)

From The Desk of The Editor

Welcome to THE MOVEMENT

May 13, 2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Philly government's domestic terror bombing and murder of the Move family members in Philly, PA.

Most of America is totally ignorant of the tragic history of police attacks against Move. For Move's history, like the majority of Black history in America, has not been included within Eurocentric American history textbooks. America eagerly sweeps its history of racist genocidal actions against Africans in America under the rug, and then acts as if such history never occurred. I call it "historical amnesia".

We should prevent the government from wiping their atrocities against Black people out of the annals of American history by sharing our testimonies, so that our ancestors and history will be remembered by all.

I will never forget the racist police attacks against the Move family in Philly, first under the orders of white supremacist Mayor Frank Rizzo in 1978, and then under the authority of Philly's first African-American Uncle Tom Mayor, Wilson Goode in 1985.

As a young boy living in the southwest section of West Philly, my homeboys and I knew very little about Move. We only knew that Move members lived naturally, wore their hair in "locks", last names were Africa, and that they all were "good peoples". Although my friends and I were just a group of scruffy little 9 to 12 year old boys, when we heard on the news of the police siege of Move's house, we knew the police were up to no good.

Several of my homeboys and I jumped on our bicycles and rode to the Move home to observe what was happening. A small army of Philly police - whom we referred to as "pigs" then - had cordoned off the street, had guns and rifles pointed at the Move house, and - we heard - had shut off Move's water and electricity. People in the Black community were in support of Move and attempting to supply them with food and water. My friends and I left the scene for home with thoughts and discussions of how we could help Move, too.

The next day we returned to the Move house with bread and water to smuggle to them, but we were shocked to find that there was a vacant lot where the Move house had been! We learned that the pigs shot up the Move home, a pig-cop died by police gunfire, Move members were arrested, and their Move home was bulldozed away. That was August 8, 1978, the day the Move 9 became political prisoners for having the audacity to express their political beliefs and live a natural existence as taught by their leader John Africa.

Another date I will never forget is May 13, 1985 because that is the day the government dropped a powerful C-4 bomb from a helicopter on the house of Move at 62nd and Osage Avenue, murdering 6 adult Move members and 5 of Move's children that were inside the home. Over 60 homes were destroyed from the bomb and subsequent fire.

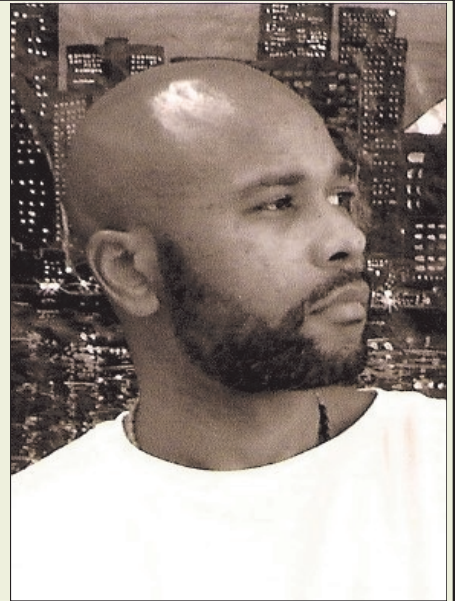
I was a young teenage high schooler then, and was at my Dad's house across town in the Black Bottom section of West Philly when I heard a tremendous explosion that rocked the earth. My Dad, his friends, and I rushed out onto the 2nd floor balcony to see what had happened on that hot summer day, and that's when we observed a large, dark mushroom cloud across West Philly around 63rd Street. I went back into my Dad's house to check out the news on TV and there it was, as breaking news. The Philly government claiming that they had just blown up the "Headquarters" of Move, as if Move were some sort of domestic terrorist group, when actually the government was the only terrorists we knew. Because despite what the city government and news said, the Move family members were "good peoples" and "freedom fighters".

Long Live John Africa, Merle Africa, and Phil Africa!

Long Live the Move 9 and Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Ona Move Sisters and Brothers!

By: Kerry "Shakaboona" Marshall #BE-7826, Box A, Bellefonte, PA 16823



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THE MOVEMENT

*Even as Many
Eyes Watch,
Brutality at
Rikers Island
Persists*

By **MICHAEL WINEIP**
and **MICHAEL
SCHWIRTZ**

FEB. 21, 2015



Inmate Jose Guadalupe at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, N.Y. Mr. Guadalupe has sued the Correction Department over injuries he says he suffered at the hands of Rikers Island jail guards. Credit Richard Perry/The New York Times

On Sept. 2, four correction officers pulled Jose Guadalupe, an inmate classified in medical records as seriously mentally ill, into his solitary-confinement cell at Rikers Island and beat him unconscious. A little over two months later, three guards wrestled another inmate, Tracy Johnson, to the floor, pepper-sprayed him in the face and broke a bone in his eye socket. Then, on Dec. 9, yet another group of officers beat Ambiorix Celedonio, an inmate with an I.Q. of 65, so badly that, as surveillance footage later showed, he had bruises and scratches on his face and blood coming from his mouth. The brutal confrontations were among 62 cases identified by The New York Times in which inmates were seriously injured by correction officers between last August and January, a period when city and federal officials had become increasingly focused on reining in violence at Rikers.

It was in August that the United States attorney's office in Manhattan issued a damning report about brutality at the jail complex and threatened to sue the city unless conditions there improved. And in November, Mayor Bill de Blasio declared that ending pervasive violence at Rikers had become a top priority for his administration. But The Times's examination makes clear that the violence has continued largely unabated, despite extraordinary levels of outside scrutiny, a substantial commitment of resources by Mr. de Blasio and a new team of high-ranking managers installed by the correction commissioner, Joseph Ponte, who took over the job in April.

According to Correction Department data, guards used physical force against inmates 4,074 times in 2014, the highest total in more than a decade. The increase came even as the jail's average daily population continued to decline, falling to 10,000 this year from 14,000 a decade ago. Seventy percent of the 62 beatings examined by The Times resulted in head injuries, even though department policies direct guards to avoid blows to the head unless absolutely necessary. And more than half the inmates sustained broken bones.

In October, a typical month, one inmate had his jaw shattered by a guard after being handcuffed and led into an elevator; another had his arm broken while handcuffed; and a third had three teeth knocked out.

The Times also identified 30 episodes from August to January in which officers suffered serious injuries in altercations with inmates. While most of the inmates involved sustained head injuries, nearly half the guards fractured bones in their hands and fingers, often after striking inmates in the head.

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The findings were based on a review of hundreds of pages of Correction Department reports detailing the most serious uses of physical force by correction officers, city records describing inmate injuries, internal city investigative documents and inmate medical records. Taken together, they suggest that in the face of an unprecedented push to reform Rikers, guards are either being defiant or are indifferent to demands for change.

Correction Department officials said the scheduled opening this week of a new unit to house 250 of the jail's most disruptive inmates should help reduce violence. The inmates will be locked in their cells 17 hours a day, instead of the usual 10, and extra officers will be assigned to the unit.

"It takes time to undo decades of mismanagement," the department said in a statement. "We are, however, on our way to a jail system that is safer and more humane."

Brutality by guards has long been a problem at Rikers. In July, The Times published an investigation that documented the cases of 129 inmates who had been seriously injured in encounters with guards over an 11-month period in 2013. Within three weeks, Preet Bharara, the United States attorney for the Southern District of New York, released his report, which described a "deep-seated culture of violence" at the complex. And several months after that, Mr. Bharara decided to sue the city over conditions at Rikers, joining a class-action lawsuit brought by the Legal Aid Society.

It was on Nov. 20 that Mr. de Blasio convened an unusual hour long news conference devoted almost exclusively to Rikers. He said ending the violence there was a "moral obligation" and announced that he had set aside tens of millions of dollars for improvements.

But in trying to turn around Rikers, the de Blasio administration is contending with an agency that for years, according to the city's Investigation Department, recruited officers who belonged to gangs, had criminal records or both. Training has long been criticized as inadequate and, once on the job, guards have learned to look the other way and cover up for fellow officers, investigators say. Ultimately, the biggest challenge may be altering the mind-set of the 9,000 correction officers who work on the island.

"Changing the culture of violence on Rikers Island will not be easy or quick," said Dr. Robert Cohen, a member of the Board of Correction, the city agency that serves as a watchdog over the jails. "It will not occur without constant external pressure, and consistent leadership within the Department of Correction.

The demonization of detainees is embedded in everyday practice."

Cover-Ups and Willful Neglect

Mr. Guadalupe's altercation with correction officers started innocuously, with a disagreement over personal photos he had hung on the wall of his cell.

During a search in September, the guards tore down photos of his family, along with pictures of women he had cut out of magazines, he said in a telephone interview from Fishkill Correctional Facility. When he asked to see a supervisor, Mr. Guadalupe said, the officers pulled him into his cell, where there were no surveillance cameras, kicked and repeatedly punched him in the face and slammed his head against the wall.

Later, at Bellevue Hospital Center, he was found to have suffered a concussion, according to his medical records. He was subsequently sent back to Rikers, where he spent the next three weeks in a wheelchair.

Jail clinicians labeled Mr. Guadalupe as "S.M.I.," or seriously mentally ill, in medical records, though the documents do not make clear the precise diagnosis. They do indicate that he had "mild mental retardation."

An excerpt from Mr. Guadalupe's lawsuit omitted due to space.

His case typifies the Correction Department's struggle in dealing with inmates who have mental illnesses, a group that now accounts for nearly 40 percent of the jail population. It is these inmates — particularly ill suited to the jail's regimen — who tend to behave the most erratically, bringing out some of the worst abuses by guards.

Mr. Guadalupe, 23, dropped out of school in ninth grade and said he had never held a job. He has spent five of the last six years incarcerated, most recently for using a BB gun to rob a man and then trying to get away on a bicycle.

After being beaten at Rikers, he told a social worker he was scared about returning to his cell, according to a transcription of the conversation entered into a daily progress note.

"I am worried I am going to get sent back to the building that I came from and that I am going to have to deal with the same officers," he told the social worker.

"I don't get along with some officers because they act like they are better," he added. "I have always been this way."

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Department protocol allows officers to use force when facing an immediate threat, but only as much as is necessary to defuse

correction officers tore down and crumpled the pictures he had on the wall of his cell. Mr. Guadalupe asked to speak with a captain about this. In response to this request, four DOC correction officers dragged Mr. Guadalupe into his cell, threw him onto the floor, and savagely punched him multiple times in the head and kicked him multiple times in the back, legs, and ribs. During this entire assault, Mr. Guadalupe was handcuffed, lying face down on the floor. For six hours after the assault, Mr. Guadalupe was left in a hot intake cell without medical attention, as he went in and out of consciousness. As a result of this brutal beating, Mr. Guadalupe lost consciousness and sustained a concussion; a laceration to his face that required stitches; swelling to his jaw, temple, and ear; bruised ribs; and severe lower back pain. He was also diagnosed

the situation. In several of the encounters examined, guards continued to use force long after an inmate had been handcuffed.

That was the case with Pernell Griffin, a member of the Bloods gang who is being held awaiting trial on an attempted murder charge. He is a contentious and sometimes violent inmate. On Oct. 28, he smashed a television and intentionally knocked over a cup of water on an officer's desk, said his lawyer, Jason Leventhal.

According to a Correction Department report, three officers in helmets and body armor led Mr. Griffin into an elevator, where he head-butted and then kicked one of them in the groin. In Mr. Griffin's version, the officers were the aggressors, handcuffing him first and then repeatedly punching him in the face while he was in the elevator.

What is clear from medical records is that his jaw was shattered so badly that it required two surgeries to repair. In the second, according to the records, surgeons spent nine hours transplanting bone from his hip to his jaw.

Two days after the surgery, he was put into a solitary-confinement cell. The same week that Mr. Griffin was beaten, seven guards subdued and handcuffed Rauf Yearde, pulling his cuffed hands so far behind his back that his left upper arm snapped.

One of the federal report's key findings was that cover-ups by guards and other jail staff members were commonplace. Cases from recent months suggest that continues to be true.

In December, after Mr. Celedonio was beaten, a Correction Department report compiled by officers said that the altercation had begun when he punched a captain, Medzid Kolenovic, in the face. City investigators came to a different conclusion, based in part on their review of surveillance video. They called the officers' version "false," and noted that Mr. Celedonio "did not react with violence, but walked away from the captain," according to investigative records.

The deaths of Jerome Murdough and Bradley Ballard, which attracted widespread attention last year after the

details were reported by The Associated Press, cast a spotlight on a different issue at Rikers: willful neglect of inmates by guards. Both men had schizophrenia. Mr. Murdough died when the temperature in his cell rose above 100 degrees; Mr. Ballard was discovered in his cell naked and covered with vomit and feces, after being denied food and medicine for nearly a week.

In the aftermath, city officials said that such behavior would no longer be tolerated. Yet several recent incidents suggest that even inmates in the most desperate circumstances are still being ignored.

One such inmate, Victor Woods, died on Oct. 1 from abdominal bleeding as a guard stood over him drinking a cup of coffee. According to an investigative report, it was other inmates who stepped in to help, "comforting him, cleaning his face and helping him to an upright position." The report quoted the guard, Wickenson DeMaitre, as saying, "I am not touching him." The report also noted that guards were slow to notify medical staff, who took 11 minutes to arrive.

Just days before, an administrative judge had recommended that Mr. DeMaitre, a 13-year veteran of the department, be fired over a pair of previous arrests. In December 2009, he had been charged with having an inappropriate relationship with a 15-year-old relative and sending her a photo of a penis. (The teenager later recanted, but the administrative judge felt the allega-

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tions were credible.) And in April 2010, Mr. DeMaitre had a restraining order issued against him after he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct for ramming the car of a man who had been on a date with his estranged wife. The administrative judge wrote in his Sept. 29 ruling that Mr. DeMaitre displayed “a disturbing lack of judgment and self-control” and his conduct “raised doubts about his suitability to be a correction officer.” A department spokesman said Mr. Woods’s death was being investigated but that Mr. DeMaitre had been dismissed, based on the judge’s ruling. In a brief phone interview, Mr. DeMaitre said only that he had been “railroaded.”

System Allows Repeat Abuses

Mr. de Blasio has acknowledged that when he came into office he underestimated how dysfunctional the Rikers Island complex had become and how much effort would be required to fix it. Rikers is made up of 10 jails, many in dire need of physical repairs. Compulsory overtime for the officers who staff them is now routine. They complain that repeated 16-hour shifts leave them exhausted, on edge and with little patience for disruptive inmates.

For now, the city is concentrating most heavily on turning around a single jail, the one that houses the island’s youngest inmates. Since federal authorities threatened to intervene in August, the city has created several new programs at that jail, increased the size of the correctional and clinical staffs there and provided specialized training for the guards who work with teenagers.

In December, the department ended the use of solitary confinement for 16- and 17-year-olds. For the first time, they all attend the jailhouse school. The department has also installed security cameras under stairways and in hallways where beatings had long gone on out of sight.

Mr. Ponte said he hoped the jail would serve as a model for reforming the rest of Rikers. But the results so far make clear that it will not be easy. Despite all the new initiatives, use of force by guards against the youngest inmates spiked in December.

Among the most pressing needs is remaking the department’s disciplinary system, which seems incapable of holding violent guards accountable.

In December, during a meeting of correction officials, Mr. Ponte complained that he had only recently been able to sign off on disciplinary action against a captain who had left the department two years earlier, according to a city official who was briefed on the meeting. Mr. Ponte also expressed concern that the process was badly backlogged because of understaffing and

low salaries in the department’s trials and investigations divisions.

One of the cases discussed at the meeting involved Officer Ramel Small. In June, Mr. Small had begun arguing with an inmate named Tamel Brantley, then punched him in the face with a set of keys in his hand, an investigative report said. Mr. Brantley’s eye socket and nose were broken, and he was kept handcuffed on the floor for over an hour without medical attention, the report said. Six months after the episode, Mr. Small still had not been interviewed by department investigators.

With a disciplinary system that is so feeble, there are officers who have been allowed to abuse inmates again and again, another issue highlighted in the United States attorney’s report. One guard, Bob Villette, who joined the department in 2006, has been involved in at least 88 uses of force, according to department records. He has also been named in seven lawsuits, costing the city \$450,000 in settlements for, among other things, cracking the teeth of one inmate and rupturing the eardrum of another.

Mr. Villette, who declined to comment when reached by phone, is a member of the elite emergency services unit, which specializes in subduing disruptive inmates. Including overtime, he has made over \$100,000 annually in recent years, city personnel records show.

In December, he got into a struggle with Leon Barnes, an inmate whose arm was in a sling at the time. According to a department report, Mr. Villette wrestled the inmate to the floor, where five other officers “applied control holds” and handcuffed him. During the encounter Mr. Barnes suffered a contusion to the scalp, a swollen jaw and a broken nose, the report said. The six officers reported no injuries.

Susan Beachy and Mark Josephson contributed research.

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/22/nyregion/even-as-many-eyes-watch-brutality-at-rikers-island-persists.html?smid=nytnow-share&smprod=nytnow&_r=0

Voice of Piper Kerman | Writer, Realist, Felon

Sometimes Good People Make Mistakes

“I’ve thought about what I’ll tell my son about prison. He will hear from me that not all people in jail are bad, though they may have done bad things. He will hear from me that jails don’t really make people better. They don’t necessarily make us safer.”

From: *More Mag.* 2/2015

"This Game Ain't No Game"

By: Daniel "Vito" Johnson

In the years since I've been down and snatched away from my family and budding music career I've received countless letters, and also hear from many people telling me how my lyrics and thug ways are missed on the streets. I often hear "Vito" you was a real n---a! They don't make 'em like you no more" or "the streets ain't the same without you."

While I appreciate the Luv I find it ironic because I ain't the same Vito no more and the same fame and glamour I was willing to live and die for is the same thing that shames me today.

Like many youth from the Hood I traveled the road in search of a treasure of gold, opened the treasure chest and found a mirror that revealed a fool. I'm here to tell you today my brothas and sistas, the youth, our future, that this thing they call the game isn't a game at all and it will devour you before you even realize how deep into the Beast's throat you are in. It's a trap, a real deep trap disguised by lies. You see, it never told me that at 19 years of age I would be charged with 5 bodies and placed on death row before I was even found guilty.

To add insult to my pain, the same lyrics and lifestyle I promoted through my music was being used as evidence to slay me. I remember it vividly, sitting in the court room, the D.A. playing my videos and songs claiming that I was guilty of murder because I rap about guns, drugs, the money, the loss/murder of friends and how before I let someone blast me I'll blast them. In the middle of this nonsense I look up and realize I am charged with killing someone who looks just like me and comes from the same background as me. The D.A. is trying to kill me for being a product of an environment and unjust system his people created. You see brothas and sistas like me ain't create the Hood or the Game, we was born into it! At that very moment of

realization, when I turned around and looked at both sides of the courtroom and seen the hurt and pain I realized I was played out, tricked and deceived. Our mother was hurting, and this D.A. was smiling.

Reflecting on this and sharing this through writing makes me feel sad for the old me, I see a boy who was lost and became addicted to fame and feeling accepted. I'm not the only one that goes through this ordeal; it is common in our Hoods. This is what we ride or die for, to be accepted and respected by our corner and neighborhood. Now listen, don't get me wrong, there ain't nothing wrong with riding for the Hood or our team

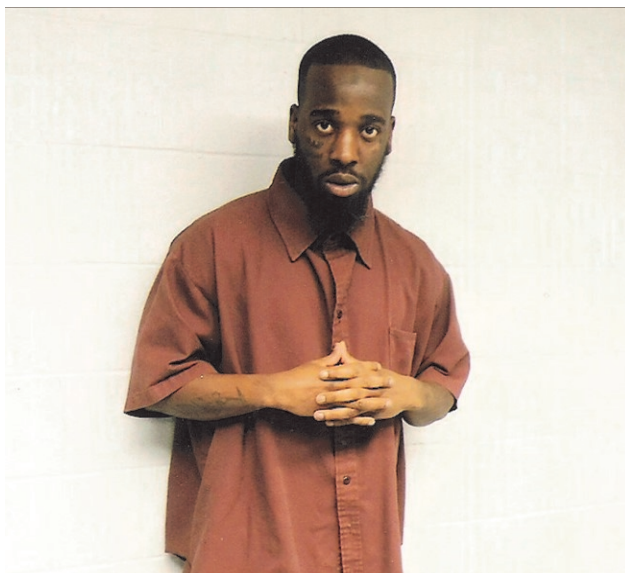
but what are you/we riding for? If we riding for our Hoods then we have to do more than destroy them and terrorize our own community. We ride for power and respect yet how come we can't even make our Hoods safe? How many of us are policing our own Hoods? We should be the ones our people call on for assistance or help, we should be the ones ensuring that the children, elderly and women can walk through our territory and not be robbed, harassed or frightened. I learned that this is what real riders do.

I'm writing this as a message to our youth so that we can no longer be fooled or lured by this game,

whose target is youth or color and especially Black youth, Us! We have to join together whether you like it or not to destroy this Beast of a prison system that is eating us alive.

I thought long and hard about writing this and one of my biggest fears in this journey and my change was being judged. I lived my entire life being what was expected of me by others, now I am defining myself. I write this today not to glorify my past but to warn the younger brothas and sistas about the game; the game is dead. I'm giving it to you raw and uncut, just like my lyrics. I been through it, had the fame, sold the drugs, rode for my homies and was left behind the lines. One minute I was sharing the stage with Meek Mill, the next I was on center stage in a courtroom fighting for my life. That is how quick this Beast can bite you.

(Continued on page 10)



Vito/Beye at SCI-Greene, 2015 sending love to the People.

(Continued from page 9)

I had a voice through Hip Hop and now I want to use my voice to keep brothas and sistas from falling into the jaws of this Beast. I want to show them the enemy isn't the brothas or sistas up the street from you but rather it is the system which is responsible for our oppression and conditions of our neighborhoods. Now don't get me wrong, I accept responsibility for some of my actions however the pain in our communities and violence amongst our youth is much bigger than anyone of us behind these prison bars. The FBI releases statistics every year that show that more white people consume drugs than Black people in the United States, yet why do our neighborhoods suffer the most? Why are all the drug markets in our Hoods and not in the white suburbs? It is because in the United States Black lives don't matter. Think about that.

I know for many my transition is shocking however don't get it twisted; I'm still a Rider! I still have luv for my homies and will never forget ya'll. I just now know what I am riding for. I will never forget the saying that if you want to hide something from a Black person put it in a book. I learned so much that I didn't know before and wasn't taught in school. I learned about Elder Russell Maroon Shoats, a former gang leader from West Philly who became a member of the Black Panthers and Black Liberation Army, who is now one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. He has been in prison since 1972. Him and his crew were working to end police brutality, poverty and injustice in our communities, conditions which created the environment that gave birth to the game I grew up in. His pamphlet "Liberation or Gangsterism" changed my life and gave me a mission in life and a role model who I can relate to and who comes from a background I emerged from. If you ever get a chance to read it, read it. (To my people on the outside it's available at www.sonsofmalcolm.blogspot.com/2013/11/liberation-or-gangsterism-by-russel.html.)

So in closing, the only way we can understand our worth is by understanding our history. I was once one of them brothas that looked at conscious brothas as crazy/shot out, not knowing that this stemmed from a lack of knowledge and understanding of my history and the elements we're up against. Unless we grow up and fight and stand for a cause much bigger than making a name killing our own off, we will never be remembered for anything of worth and to not be remembered is to have never existed. Real Riderz have a duty to fight and pass the torch of struggle to our youth, the same way my Elder Russell Maroon Shoats passed it to me, and the youth like me have a duty to make sure the torch is raised high with a fire that's blazing hot. Blazing hot because it's fueled by the hatred and lies they showed and told us, blazing hot because in every state all over the country its brothas and sistas in cells who have been tricked and deceived

into killing and destroying each other and our Hoods. Blazing hot because since the day we were given life the odds have been stacked against us. Blazing hot because the Beast is eating us alive! We have a duty to support one another, and to show real love to one another. Let's keep riding, but RIDING for a worthy cause – each other and Our People!

I recommend brothas and sistas from the Hood who are locked down, enroll in the One Hood United Correspondence Course. Brothas and Sistas on the street can check out our website: www.onehoodunited.org. We, at One Hood United and the Human Rights Coalition are trying to educate our youth to realize this game is a trap and most importantly, that we must defend and support our people and neighborhoods. Write the address listed below and request to be up on the One Hood United Correspondence Course waiting list:

Book Through Bars
Attention: Address This/One Hood United
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

You can learn more about Vito/Beye's music and story by visiting Youtube and typing in Vito Rip Kumuel. Also show him some love on facebook at Vit0_CORLEONE. Note: The O's in his name are actually zeros

For Issue #25 and Issue #26 of The Movement we were forced to ask for donations. Thank you, each of you, so much, for helping us raise \$1,000. In alpha order:

John Barbieri
Diane Brantley
Martha Copithorne
Thomas Dichter
Sandra Hill
Kim McClary
Sarah Morris
Layne Mullett
Elly Porter-Webb
Anne Re
David Reppert
Royster AF5135
Owen Schmidt
Erika Slaymaker
Hannah Spielberg

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Families Dare to Speak, Dare to Resist



I stand on the shoulders of our heroes and roar.

I grew up in West Philadelphia, a section affectionately known as “The Bottom”.

This area consists of two neighborhoods, Mantua and Powelton Village. My friends and I were just a group of teenagers going to school, attending weekend dances, hanging on the corners, and harmonizing to the popular doo-wops of the day. Just a bunch of kids trying to have fun and stay out of trouble. The group consisted of, Ms. Blanch's oldest son Conrad Hampton, the Tate brothers, Lonnie Boo, Cotton, Authur and more, along with the girls, Karen, Cookie, Loretta, Carolyn, Snookie, Audrey and others. We always came together at the end of the day just to mingle and discuss the latest going-on of the day. Then as we all began to mature into young adults we began to go in various directions. Some went to college, several married and had children. Others started careers and stayed in the neighborhood.

From time to time we'd run into each other and catch up on the latest updates on each other. Conrad, we called him Connie, would tell me about this group that he began meeting with. He would say how they were being educated about the system and the affect these actions have on our community. Bro Conrad, Bro Gerald and a few others from our neighborhood were attending the sessions. They were being taught information that was helping people understand and have more control over their lives through a holistic and back to nature approach. The group was called Move. Bro Conrad would tell me when and where the meetings would be held and that he expected to see me and my sons there. But life's responsibilities just kept me busy; and, I and some of the others just didn't get to these sessions. The Move members became more visible in the community selling vegetables, washing cars and other odds-and-ends jobs that they could do in the community.

During this period many people of our community were experiencing lots of confusing conditions and actions going on in our society: arrests, assassinations, the pressures of gentrification. It appeared that the city government, the Rizzo regime (run by Mayor Rizzo), the business community along with the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel, seemed to play major roles in these actions. The Rizzo regime was nationally known for its brutality toward activist groups like the Black Panthers, Move, Nation of Islam and others. The neighbors were experiencing the increasing control that the universities and governments were having over our neighborhoods and lives.

Move members demonstrated against a lot of these issues and many in the community supported and agreed with them even through they didn't join the group. Some people in the community objected to their lifestyle and didn't understand what it was about. Others knew individual members of the group and listened to their position and were supportive.

In 1978, when the blockade was put in place by the Philadelphia Police Department under the direction of Mayor Rizzo, the neighbors stayed close to the Move house to observe what was going on. We also brought food because it was said this would be a long stand off and that the city was going to try and starve Move out. That dreadful day in 1978, word spread through the community early that morning something was going to happen. People going through their regular routine of travelling to work or schools near by were stopped and rerouted. People started walking towards 33rd and Powelton and they were met by an army of police. Some expressed concern about loved ones, others wanted to know about the safety of the neighbors. Most of the observers were praying, protesting and crying.

I later learned that two of the people I knew well were not in the complex that day. However the heart-heavy outraged I felt that day continues. My brother/friend, Ms. Blanch's oldest son, Conrad Hampton was killed in the Osage fire.

RIP Bro. Conrad.

I've lost contact with Bro Gerald over the years.

Submitted By: Sister Karen Ali

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

Freedom Is A Choice

By: Omar Askia Ali, AF0814, PO Box 1000, Houtzdale, PA 16698

“Don’t find fault, find a remedy; anybody can complain.” (Henry Ford) It is not being knocked down that determines a person’s destiny, but the resolve to get back up is what marks the destination their life will reach. Freedom is a choice, not freely given but conceived in hard work, born of demand, and secured by action.

For over two decades I have raised my voice to make giving PA Lifers a second chance through parole a reality. At times I have felt like a solo artist with a bad contract, singing the cause of lifers into a dead mic. Nevertheless, I have never complained, even when no one seemed to be listening. Because, as Maya Angelou, “I know why the caged bird sings,” it sings for freedom. So, instead of complaining, I adapted and sang the cause of lifers even louder.

Although other prisoners across the state have sung the same song of freedom as I; without a conductor or a producer to bring it altogether, we have never been able to sing together in harmony with one clear voice, to deliver one effective message. Herein lies part of the stumbling block that has prevented us - lifers - from reaching our ultimate goal of freedom. This, I believe, is no longer the case. Over the past year a new, emerging and salient, coalition of organizations known as the “Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration” (CADBI) has been formed to explore how they could collaborate to END the death sentence of Life WithOut Parole (LWOP) in PA.

At its core is an organization known as Decarcerate PA (PO Box 40764, Philadelphia, PA 19107). Decarcerate PA is a coalition of organizations and concerned citizens working together to end the inhumanity of mass incarceration. Another organization closely involved in this effort is the Human Rights Coalition (HRC, 4134 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104). The HRC is an organization that is devoted to the cause of human rights for prisoners. It has also been a staunch advocate for parole for Lifers. Another organization at the center of the CADBI is Fight For Lifers (FFL, 1808 W. Tioga St., Ste. 101, Philadelphia, PA 19140), who is a constituent group consisting of family members of lifers and other supporters championing the cause of Lifers. Other organizations involved are: The Woman and Trans Prisoner Defense Fund, New Voices Pittsburgh and What’s Up!

These organizations have come together under one umbrella - CADBI - to organize, strategize, publicize, and coordinate the movement to provide second chances to PA Lifers. While the official launch of CADBI will be the first week of June, on August 28, 2014 Decarcerate PA, HRC FedUp!, and other advocacy groups gathered at the Capital Rotunda in Harrisburg, PA. The protest was attended by concerned citizens, lawyers, formerly incarcerated people, and many others. They broke off into groups and engaged the political structure in support of behalf of Lifers,

lobbying politicians on the following issues: 1) restoring meaningful commutation for Lifers in PA, and 2) to end the death sentence of LWOP by providing parole.

These developments aside, the real question now is: what are we - the five thousand plus lifers, our families, and friends - prepared to contribute to support the CADBI’s effort. This question reveals the other part of the stumbling block preventing us from achieving our goal of meaningful commutation or parole for PA Lifers, our own lack of participation in the struggle. As I said, freedom is a choice, not freely given but conceived in hard work, born of demand, and secured by action. So we, Lifers, have two choices. We can stand on the sidelines finding fault or complaining about what the CADBI is or is not doing, or we can join the choir of caged voices to sing with one voice a song of freedom. We can offer up suggestions, suggest a new track to sing to, or even write a brand new song of freedom to sing.

However, for the CADBI to be successful, for our effort to obtain a second chance to be successful, the masses of lifers got to get involved. A blue print of what we can accomplish is illustrated by the recent reductions in prison phone rates statewide. It was our actions over the last 15 years that shone the light on the problem. It was our voices that caught the ear of organizations and others to fight on our behalf. But most of all it was our actions in pushing to change phone rates that finally achieved the goal. We now must do the same to achieve freedom. Collectively we can do it.

As for me, I am going to continue to raise my voice in support of issues concerning Lifers, whether for meaningful commutation or parole for Lifers. 2015 is a new year with a new governor which equates to new opportunities for us to achieve our goals. So my hope is that the masses of Lifers, their families and other supporters, will join the cacophony of voices being raised to secure a second chance for PA Lifers. To get involved, either you or your family members can contact CADBI at: FFL: 215-223-8180; HRC: 267-293-9169; or DPA: 267-217-3372; or write to any of the addresses above. Remember, Freedom Is A Choice. Fraternally yours, Omar Askia Ali - #AF0814

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

Sudoku puzzle found on page 55

THE MOVEMENT

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The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!



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DALLAS 6

On Behalf of Andre Jacobs, Duane Peters, Derrick Stanley and my son Carrington Keys of the Dallas 6, I thank you for participating in and bringing together two successful fundraising events for legal fees for these men. These events were held in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Thank You to all the members of the support campaign and our endorsers.

In Pittsburgh we thank the Human Rights Coalition FedUp and Abolitionist Law Center, who helped pull this together; IHood and artists (Blak Rapp M.A.D.U.S.A., Idasa Tariq, Luc, Tahir, Jacquea Mae), Mikhail Pappas, Devyn Swain, Dos Noun and all the activists, community and supporters who showed up despite the cold! A very special thank you to Pam Africa who graced us with her presence and fed us with her knowledge! That will not be forgotten.

gotten.

In Philadelphia, we thank the groups from Philly and outside PA who are working on the Justice for the Dallas 6 Support Campaign: Every Mother is a Working Mother Network; Germantown Friends Meeting Mass Incarceration Working Group; Global Women's Strike & Women of Color@GWS – Human Rights Coalition – Philadelphia; Marcellus Shale Earth First; Mishkan Shalom New Jim Crow Study-Action Group; Payday men's network; Peacehome Campaigns; Shalefield Organizing Committee.

Thanks to Attorney Michael Wiseman who took time out from Valentines with his family to come out and say a few words. Thank you to all the folks who came out to show support and danced, danced, danced! It was an amazing good time!

Both events were amazing! If you did not make it you truly missed out! Thanks to all those who despite not being able to make it sent in checks or purchased tickets.

DALLAS 6 UPDATE

The Dallas 6 are six African-American prisoners in solitary confinement in the SCI Dallas Pennsylvania prison who blew the whistle on and peacefully protested against abuse and violence by prison guards in 2010. They were charged with "rioting" and have been on trial ever since in "kids for cash" Luzerne County.

Trial for the remaining three (Carrington Keys, Andre Jacobs and Duane Peters) Dallas 6 members is set to start on August 24, 2015 in the Luzerne "Kids for Cash" County Courthouse.

Derrick Stanley pleaded "no contest" to a misdemeanor and no longer faces charges related to the Dallas 6.

Anthony Locke has opted to argue his case before the judge **April 13, 2015** and was found not guilty.

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(Spring & Summer 2015 (ISSUE # 26 & 27))

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

SILENCING ACT **DECLARED** **UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, Chief Judge for the federal court of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Christopher Connor, ruled in favor of plaintiffs in the consolidated cases of Abu-Jamal v. Kane and Prison Legal News v. Kane and held the recently enacted Silencing Act unconstitutional.

Abu-Jamal v. Kane-4.28.15 decision

The court held:

“The court concludes that the challenged statute betrays several constitutional requirements; the enactment is unlawfully purposed, vaguely executed, and patently overbroad in scope. However well-intentioned its legislative efforts, the General Assembly fell woefully short of the mark. The result is a law that is manifestly unconstitutional, both facially and as applied to plaintiffs. Thus, the court is compelled to grant plaintiffs’ requests for declaratory relief, declare the Revictimization Relief Act, 18 PA. CONS.STAT. § 11.1304, to be violative of the First and Fifth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and permanently enjoin its enforcement.”

The so-called Revictimization Relief Act was passed in response to Abolitionist Law Center client and imprisoned intellectual and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal’s commencement address to Goddard College students in October 2014. Abu-Jamal’s commencement address led to yet another campaign of repression and censorship by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Pennsylvania political establishment designed to silence Mumia and any other former or current prisoner who’s speech roused the ire of prosecutors or crime victims.

In a crushing victory, the court found that all of the plaintiffs’ primary arguments against the constitutionality of the statute had merit: “Plaintiffs assert three principal challenges: first, that the Act is a content-based regulation of speech unjustified by compelling government interests; second, that it is impermissibly vague; and third, that it is substantially overbroad, all in violation of the United States Constitution. Each challenge is meritorious.”

Finding the statute “unlawfully purposed,” the court chastised the legislature for passing a law that was “manifestly unconstitutional” on account of the U.S. Supreme Court holding more than 20 years ago that restricting free expression for the purpose of protecting crime victims from mental anguish is unconstitutional:

“In the Revictimization Act, the Commonwealth articulates that which the state of New York in *Simon & Schuster* did not—an explicit intent to enjoin expression that causes mental anguish in crime victims. Compare 18 PA. CONS.STAT. § 11.1304 (“Revictimization Relief Act” (emphasis added)), with *Simon & Schuster*, 502 U.S. at 118 (“The [state] disclaims, as it must, any interest in suppressing descriptions of crime out of solicitude for the sensibilities of readers.”). *Simon & Schuster*, in conjunction with decades of Supreme Court precedent, seals the Act’s fate. Even the noblest governmental intentions cannot cure impermissible legislation when the United States Supreme Court has explicitly foreclosed the legislation’s purpose. See *Simon & Schuster*, 502 U.S. at 118; see also *Snyder*, 131 S.Ct. at 1218 (holding that even when expression “inflict[s] great pain ... we cannot react ... by punishing the speaker”). Hence, the

court must strike the Revictimization Relief Act for its impermissible infringement on the constitutional guarantee of free expression.”

The court observed that the law was so indefensible that the Attorney General of Pennsylvania’s counsel was forced to distort the legislative intent of the statute in a futile effort to argue that the law conformed with constitutional precedent:

“During oral argument, the Attorney General conceded that her office is uncertain whether even Maureen Faulkner—the victim-catalyst for the legislation—could successfully obtain relief under the Act. (Tr. 35:25 (“They

could certainly attempt to ... [but] I don’t believe that they could necessarily secure it.”)). Such equivocalty reflects the impossibility of defending this law: the weight of precedent has forced the Attorney General to contort the legislature’s vision so as to render it unrecognizable from its original intent. (See, e.g., *id.*)”

The opinion concluded with First Amendment truisms as well as an acknowledgment that the legal and appropriate way to counter speech one disagrees with is by speech, not repressive legislation:

“The First Amendment’s guarantee of free speech extends to convicted felons whose expressive conduct is ipso facto controversial or offensive. The right to free expression is the shared right to empower and uplift, and to criticize and condemn; to call to action, and to beg restraint; to debate with rancor, and to



Family members, Supporters, and Attorneys congregate after Hearing on March 30th.

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Activist groups seek to create own health data base for LaBelle, prison

February 12, 2015 | By Christine Haines



Coal ash is placed at a mine fill site on the banks of the Monongahela River, a public drinking water source, in LaBelle, Pa. Photo by Lisa Graves-Marcucci, ...

Stonewalled by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) for inmate health information at the State Correctional Institution at Fayette, the Abolitionist Law Center is trying a new angle: surveying all 2,000 inmates at the state prison in Luzerne Township.

Dustin McDaniel, executive director of the Abolitionist Law Center, said a request for inmate health information by his organization was denied by the DOC, and he is in the process of filing an appeal with the Office of Open Records (OOR). A similar request made by the Herald-Standard last September was also de-

nied by the DOC, but upheld in its entirety by the OOR. On Dec. 31, the DOC released some medical information, but not the information requested by the Herald-Standard or by the Abolitionist Law Center. McDaniel said his organization is in the process of mailing out health surveys to each of the 2,000 inmates housed at SCI-Fayette.

The group last summer published a report titled “No Escape” that included information from 75 inmates. The report appeared to indicate a high rate of illnesses among inmates that could be related to the prison’s proximity to the 500-acre coal ash dump operated by Matt Canestrone Contracting.

“We want to know how big the problem is and whether it’s related to the ash dump. The way you investigate that is through epidemiological evidence. The Department of Corrections is not doing that; they’re blowing it off,” McDaniel said.

The DOC issued a news release on Dec. 31, 2014 indicating that the cancer, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses at the prison were not among the highest in the state prison system. McDaniel said the information was far from the exhaustive study needed, leading to the creation of the eight-page health survey, including asking inmates if they have ever been diagnosed with one of 25 different types of cancer and if so, if they were diagnosed while at SCI-Fayette.

“We sent out the first batch last week and haven’t heard anything, which concerns us. We are willing to sue if it comes out that the prison interfered in any way,” McDaniel said. McDaniel said the DOC has been notified of its responsibility to comply with constitutional standards prohibiting censorship of mail sent to inmates.

Meanwhile, another activist group, the Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ), has been working with residents of LaBelle, a village of about 300 people located on the other side of the fly ash dump, downhill from the prison. Eva Westheimer, a community organizer with CCJ, said residents are putting together their own health survey, updating one done five years ago. “The survey is in response to community members noticing that many people in the community are sick,” Westheimer said. “This is due to the fly ash and water contamination in the community.”

The Tri-County Joint Municipal Authority, which provides drinking water to the village and the prison, has reported high levels of trihalomethanes, a known carcinogen, for more than five years. Trihalomethanes are created when chlorine in treated water mixes with organic material. The authority contends the problem is confined to the Scenery Hill portion of its system which is the end of the line with little water flow, allowing the problem to develop, and not on the Fayette County side of its service area including the prison, which has a high daily water flow. Testing for trihalomethanes, which tend to be at their highest in late summer, just began in December at the prison itself. The levels were within allowed standards.

Westheimer said a deadline has not yet been set for finalizing and circulating the petition, but once it is ready, volunteers will be taking it door to door and using other methods to distribute it. Unlike a survey presented to guards employed at SCI-Fayette which required full names and a fifteen year employment and residential history, the surveys being distributed among the inmates and LaBelle residents offer anonymity. Westheimer said the community survey will be similar to the inmate survey, but will also include questions on women’s health issues which weren’t necessary for the all-male prison population. Westheimer and McDaniel said the results of the two surveys will be tabulated to provide a better picture of the perceived health problems in the LaBelle area.

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"Is Innocence Irrelevant?"

The following state cases represent the "faces of HRC". As you read, ask yourself if justice is being served by the judicial system when it criminally tries and convicts individuals knowing of their innocence, and intentionally deny fair trials to others.

JUSTICE DENIED, JUSTICE DUE FREE AJAMU!!!

Name: Derrick Ajamu Hampton

Charge: Attempted Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Trespass

Location: W. Mifflin, PA

Date of Sentence: 10-24-2002

Sentence: 19 ½ to 39 ½ years

My name is Derrick Ajamu Hampton and I am an innocent man currently serving an unjust sentence of 19 ½ to 39 ½ years after being convicted of shooting a police officer in W. Mifflin, Pennsylvania in 2002. My so-called trial was a legal lynching that made a mockery of the criminal justice system, a system which claims to uphold justice but which in fact serves as an assembly line for Black men to be processed into the prison system. My case speaks to the heart of justice and the need to hold the police accountable and to demonstrate that police officers are not above the law. By virtue of my innocence I am compelled to tell my story to expose the fundamental miscarriage of justice that occurred in my case so that the people may be the judge because only with the support of the people of my community, and good people in general, will we be able to free not only the wrongfully convicted but also dismantle this unjust system which preys on people and communities of color.

I was convicted on the word of a police officer who claimed I shot him following a traffic stop yet during trial the prosecution did not introduce any medical records, police reports, x-rays, or photos of the officer's wound to support the officer's claim nor were any medical personnel (EMT's, etc.) called as witnesses. Only the word of the police officer was presented to the jury and based on his word I was convicted.

May I pose a question to you to consider? If any person was to shoot someone, wouldn't it be necessary for the state to establish the authenticity of the injury in order for a jury to convict them? Why should it be any other way? It defies logic that someone could accuse you of shooting them yet no proof that they were shot existed. Why should this standard be different for a police officer who claims he was shot? In my case, the first responding officer was a 25 year veteran of the police force who testified that when he arrived on the scene he didn't see any injury on the officer who claimed he was allegedly shot.

Even more outrageous is that during trial the police officer that claims I shot him, during cross examination, handed over to the prosecution a piece of lead that he claims emerged from his wound during an outpatient visit! This piece of lead was not turned over to the authorities to be properly cataloged into evidence and was a clear circumvention of the procedures governing the chain of custody of evidence. The state did not even produce the outpatient Physician Assistants who allegedly were present when the piece of lead emerged from the officer's alleged wound. Who is to say that this ever came out of him? Especially when it is contested that he even sustained an injury?

A criminal trial is supposed to be an adversarial process where a defendant's attorney challenges the state's evidence yet I had an incompetent attorney who seemed more concerned with identifying with the police officer and prosecution, and not offending the judge. He seemed more worried about accusing a



Ajamu on a visit with his sister and cousin. SCI-Greene 2014

cop of lying than pursuing the ends of justice. He conducted no investigation or preparation. At my post-conviction hearing challenging his ineffective assistance of counsel he was questioned why he never pointed out there was no medical record to support the officer's claim he was shot. He stated he believed he was provided with the medical records the day of the trial yet he did

not request a postponement to review the so-called medical records. The reason I say so-called medical records is because they are not in my case file and no medical records were stipulated into the record at my trial. A compelling proof of injury consistent with being shot wasn't presented at my trial, yet I was convicted of shooting an officer.

Police and prosecutors have placed themselves on a pedestal above the law and a clear conflict of interest is apparent when the judges who preside over trials and decide appeals are provided financial support for their elections by the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.). My case is part of a larger problem and that is the lack of accountability of police officers and the prosecutors who cover up their wrongdoing and allow police to act with a measure of impunity not only within our communities, as was demonstrated with the police murders of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, and the unjustified police shooting of Pittsburgh

(Continued on page 35)

THE MOVEMENT

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WHO ARE THE MOVE 9?

1. Chuck Africa

I was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1959 and was raised in West Philly. I have three sisters and a brother. We lived in various small redevelopment houses and/or projects.

My mother and father were divorced and I remember him briefly when I was about three or four. We settled down the bottom or "black bottom" on 39th and Reno Street.

My grandfather (who also lived with us) died in 1972. At that time I thought he was the smartest person I had talked with.. He talked about history and the second World War a lot. He told me about current events and was particularly fond of Angela Davis. I was always in search of knowledge and I wanted to be a part of something. I was never close to anyone in my family. Being the oldest male of the house, I was the "man of the house." I used to "take orders" at the supermarket on Lancaster Ave. To try to make money when I was young and also sold papers. Later on I got into stealing and robbing.

I remember seeing the Black Panther Party marching past our house and all through the neighborhood. Young dudes with rifles and shotguns flipping over police cars was a sight that blew my mind. I had never saw anything like it. I was too young to understand what was all going on throughout the country and that was the first time I had saw the BPP. We tried to march with them but our mothers kept us on the block.

I met MOVE in 1973. It was a cold winter night. Me and a few of my gang stepped in my mother's house and in the middle of the floor sat numerous men and women with long un-combed hair. The things that I heard stayed with me for the rest of my life. I had never heard anything like it. They talked about the court system, educational system, religion, news commentators, they spoke on science, prayer and time. The information they gave us was powerful and had a gripping force on me and my friends and really everybody with its clarity. As I listened I soon understood and witnessed this to be a fact! No one had ever explained the school system and its purpose before I met MOVE. There were things being told to me that I knew were true instinctively but I could never put them into words myself. I was always told all my life to go to school, obey the laws, etc., but never what was the purpose, whose education I was learning or why damn near every co I saw in my neighborhood was white and hostile to use blacks. My introduction to JOHN AFRICA's Guidelines opened my mind up to actually use it and question the norm, the constraints of every day life, the lies, the hidden truths in a world of constant dishonesty.

MOVE were the most united, together people I had ever met and I felt something coming over me and I knew right from the start that I would be a part of MOVE.

There were more rap sessions or study sessions to come as I met more MOVE people and was being taught and read more of JOHN AFRICA's Teachings. I went to be around MOVE in 1974 and would work at the car wash with MOVE and eat fresh fruit and vegetables that MOVE kept near its front porch. We all worked hard all day washing cars that we did for donations. It was always a real good family atmosphere whenever we did anything. We did everything as a family. MOVE's belief is activity, everything on Earth has got to move. We ran our dogs for exercise; we also ran for one hour, then two hours, every-

day in rain, sleet or snow as a family around the blocks of the neighborhood and we were in fantastic shape. I had never been in such good condition. We boxed in our exercise room did pull-ups, push-ups, and ran all day in the park. The more I stayed, the stronger I got. I had never met anyone like our COORDINATOR, JOHN AFRICA. The total trust and assurance being in that presence. It's something that you just had to experience to fully comprehend.

Chuck Africa

2. Debbie Africa

It was about 5 am on the morning of August 8th, 1978, when my husband and me woke up by sounds of unfamiliar male voices and technology clanging outside our house. My husband got u to see what was going on while I anxiously waited with our baby girl in my arms. My husband came back very quickly and told me that cops were surrounding the house, I got up and in a hurry we went downstairs where everybody was gathering children and dogs and going into the basement where it would be safe. We huddled together scared because we knew cops had lots of guns and other weapons, we didn't know how they were gonna do it, but we knew their plan was to kill us. Soon after everybody was in the basement, the windows were punched out and the cops were yelling over a loud speaker for us to come out the house. SHOOT! Wasn't nobody about to come out that house with all them cops out there with guns. We didn't know what they wanted, didn't trust them so nobody went out there. Before we knew it water was comin through the hole where the window used to be, the wave of water sprayed thru the fire hose took up the entire width of the window and the length of the window hole, throwing 2x4 oak beams across the room slamming our big dogs up against the wall, and literally tearing the house apart from the inside, then a second wave of water came through another would be window and we were caught in a cross fire of water.

All I could do was scream I was scared. Dogs and beams were flying everywhere and I cried when I saw our dogs being hurt and killed. I held tight to by baby and stayed low while the men hovered around us to protect us. When the cops started shooting I closed my eyes and just held tight to my stomach and protectively shielded them the best that I could from flying debris and planks. It was the most frightening situation I've ever been in. At one point I couldn't even see the baby's face because of the smoke bombs and tear gas thrown in the basement by the cops that was also choking me, all the while the water level was rising (we found out later during our trial from one of the lawyers appointed to represent us, that when a mixture of smoke and water are thrown together it acts as a deadly weapon and could have suffocated all of us). I personally thought we were gonna die. It was only a miracle that we didn't die, with the way those cops were shootin at us (some shootin point blank in our faces close range), the way the firemen had water getting into the basement windows and the way they gassed us.

They were crazy that day and all I can say is LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA that we didn't die because it wasn't no restraint on the cops' part that saved us. The attack was over in a short time but it seemed like hours when we finally came out the house, we were met by hundreds of

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THE MOVEMENT

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armed cops. All five MOVE men were beaten bad over and over again by the cops but only Delbert's beating was caught on camera.

I had just turned 22 in August. I was 8 ½ months pregnant when I had my 23 month old baby snatched from my arms by Philadelphia cops in front of my house on Aug. 8, 1978. I couldn't believe we were being arrested; and charged no less with murder because we hadn't done nothing wrong.

On September 15, 1978 I had my son in my prison cell naturally without the aid of doctors, nurses, or prison staff. The prison officials didn't even know I had had him until hours later only because we chose to tell them. Giving him up hurt like nothing I've ever felt before, to have my second baby snatched from me for no reason other than my belief, that I believe in the Teaching of JOHN AFRICA and am a MOVE member and this system wants to get rid of MOVE any way it can.

There were 7 women total arrested and 5 men. Only 4 committed MOVE women and 5 men ended up convicted and sentenced to 100 years each. Two women were given separate trials and are on the street. The third woman was released two weeks after our arrest because they simply said they are not MOVE members. The cops testified that the men had guns, but none of the nine of us have weapons charges. All the DA's witnesses, who were all cops, could say about the 4 women was that we were all in the house together and because of that we are committed MOVE members. They pushed for our conviction because their aim was to lock up all committed MOVE members. This is the issue that we have spent almost 20 years of our lives, 20 years of our children's lives, our family's lives in prison for: being committed MOVE members. Even the PA Patrol Board refused to let other committed MOVE members out of prison because they "were MOVE members," for years the P.B. refused and put it in the black and white on paper (you are not able to leave prison unless you leave the MOVE Organization) when Judge Malmed sentenced the nine of us, Malmed stated on the record that he was sentencing us each to the same time because we said we are a family. Imagine that being given 30-100 years in prison because we are a family because we are loyal to our belief, not murders, but a family.

I have not been able to physically mother my son and daughter, whom are now parents themselves. Two of my MOVE sisters who are in prison with me, Janine and Janet both had young children at home on Osage Ave when we were sent to prison, and their children were murdered on May 13th, 1985 by the same Philadelphia cops who attempted to murder us on August 8th, 1978. Their children were murdered for the same reason we were attacked. The system seen our MOVE children as a threat more than the adults because they are stronger therefore more committed to JOHN AFRICA's belief and the system wants to eliminate anything that is linked to JOHN AFRICA.

3. Delbert Africa

Delbert Africa is one of the MOVE 9. He has been in MOVE almost since the beginning.

Before MOVE I was a confused individual, even though I had thought I knew what revolution was, based on the theoretical outlook of Marxist-Leninist social democracy. I can still say, because I didn't know how to clean up the system's garbage in me, I was a thrown off person.

I had originally joined the Panthers not for any uplifting of people's rights or freedom. I joined it on an ego trip. It went along with what I was thinking anyway. I liked armaments, regime, discipline, power,

chauvinism, and all that. It was convenient. The only reason I joined the Panthers was because of a woman that I met at a party, the Minister of Health. I was hitting on her and she said straight up "I'm tired of all y'all handkerchief head niggers coming up with this lame stuff," and that blew my mind. I said, "What?!" and she said, "Yeah, y'all handkerchief heads ain't got nothing going... blah, blah, blah." So then I started hitting on her asking, "OK, where you coming from?" She ran down the whole party line for me and that's how I got interested in the Panthers.

We've often been said in MOVE that the basis for this revolution of ours is the women and it's been born true. In MOVE all the women that have been attracted to MOVE have more staying power in the long run than men, not that men aren't on that level. I'm saying that women just basically do not like to drift away from MOVE. I always say that our sisters and our wives in MOVE definitely are stabilizers. Whenever I was in trouble they were always there. I just love 'em, just the joy of working with them over these years. I thank JOHN AFRICA for they influence all the time!

I first encountered JOHN AFRICA's teachings in Phila while I was on the run. I was in the Black Panthers. In 1969, the leadership hierarchy of the Chicago chapter all had false warrants put forth, which I was one of them. Myself and 2 members fled to Canada. We were doing bad, we met other members of the Party while we were up there and we were doing very bad and could not get any financial support from the party as a result. We did stick up to take care of ourselves. It was going bad.

During one foray back into Chicago, on my way back to Canada I got into a car wreck, a very bad car wreck where my cousin and another friend of ours were killed. In October of 1969, I ended up in the hospital. I was interviewed in the hospital by the FBI because we were in a stolen car, by the way. I completely evaded all their warrants and everything. When I got out of the hospital I rejoined the other 2 up in Canada after a 3 months stay because I was in a very bad state. In March of 1970, we decided to come down to Phila because one of them was originally from Phila. And we thought we could make some contacts there, which we did. Our first apartment was in Powelton Village. I ran into MOVE people on a corner in 1970 talking about revolution. I approached them on the basis of "Well, what you saying is good, but what about the Red Book and what about Democratic Socialism?" They gave me a quick, simple answers of what revolution MUST be in order to work for everyone, which completely shot down all that theoretical scientific nonsense that I was equipped with. The people I was with went back to Chicago because the warrants were dropped. I refused to go back because I was still suspicious of the system.

I ran again into MOVE people and I stayed from that time on because I was intrigued with what I was hearing, it was uplifting. I was even given some information because I still had braces on my leg. I had a back brace and a nerve injury in my leg that prevented me from moving it and I had been told by the doctors that I wouldn't be able to run again, that I would walk with difficulty and so forth. Some information I had gotten from MOVE Law just put me on my feet, was cooling me out and everything. I have been here ever since. That is an oversimplification, but that's just what the fact of what happened. Everything I was getting from MOVE was generating me, making me stronger and exposing all the lies I've lived under.

In 1978, during the confrontation, the cops videotaped other cops beating me. It was regarded as one of the worst instances of police brutality ever caught on tape. I recovered right after they stopped, I was getting better. It's hard to describe it, that when they originally started beating me from the first cop in front of me hitting me with that helmet.

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The other fool put the shotgun stroke on me, put the butt stroke with the shotgun on me. From that time, MOMMA had just put me in a state of mind where I could feel the pressure from all the blows, the kicks and all that, but they wasn't really hurting me. I can remember after they beat me, during the segment that everybody seen during the video tape, they drug me across the street to where police commissioner O'Neil, the Chief Inspector, and other high rankin cops was at, and they was beating me over there. That's where I saw Phil and I can remember, and Phil remembers, me telling him, "It's gonna be alright." Some cop was about to put his foot on Phil's neck and I yelled at them to stop and I told Phil, "We're gonna be alright," and Phil said, "That's right. On the MOVE! Long Live JOHN AFRICA!" Phil was on the ground and another cop was about to kick him and O'Neil, the police commissioner, said, "Don't do that here because the cameras can see us." So then they separated me and put me in a wagon, but I never knew how bad I was hurt.

That night, after separating me from the rest of MOVE members, they took me to Holmesburg prison, a nurse thought to give me an apple to eat. I said, "Thank you" and I went to bite down on the apple and my whole face just froze. It wouldn't work. I literally had to pull the apple out and that's when I found out my jaw was broken, my eye socket was fractured and all of that. I wasn't feeling hurt. In fact, I was just feeling angry at the thought of being captured.

I was held in the "hole" for 6 years. I originally went in January of 1984. I was at Dallas since August 1981. In December 1989 I was transferred out of Dallas because they had riots at Camp Hill prison, which I wasn't even a part of, but the state prison saw it as an opportunity to get rid of so-called trouble makers. So they transferred me to the Federal system. We were under 23 hour lock up here, 24 hours lock up on weekends where they wouldn't even let us out for yard. I stayed down there until May of that year. Then they transferred me to another prison. After looking through my records, they told me we don't want any trouble with you, but if you give us any trouble we'll lock you under. I said, "OK, I ain't got no problem with that." They even wanted to give me one of the prison jobs of printing in the printing shop. They were mystified when I turned them down because they were starting off prison wages good, it was \$86 a month. I said, "Naw, I don't want that." They said, "Wait a minute. This is just starting off, you can move right on up." I said, "Look, I've been in the hole for 6 years. I want some air! I don't want no career in the prison." So they assigned me to the yard detail. And that was it, I loved that. I stayed in there a year and they shipped me back to state. When I got back they put me in the hole for about 3 weeks, then I got out, they put me in population.

I would like to put one thing out there about the need for everybody to join this revolution. We always speak of JOHN AFRICA's revolution, we speak of that only in terms of people knowing that this is the impetus for giving US the direction, the drive to carry on this, but the main thing we always stress is THIS IS FOR EVERYBODY! Just as everybody's heart has to revolute, beat, and everybody's lungs has to revolute the old air out, the new air in, so it is that everybody has to revolute, beat, and everybody's lungs has to revolute all the heart attacks, all the lung disease, all the hemorrhages, all the problems of life is caused by this system. So what we're doing is necessary for everybody to do on whatever level they can do it on. That's what I want to put out to everybody.

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

Delbert Africa



4. Eddie Africa

On the MOVE! My name is Edward (Goodman) Africa. I was born in Philadelphia and raised in a Christian home by both parents. I'm one of six children. I grew up in the streets of Philadelphia, began drinking at the young age of fourteen and went on to drugs (marijuana, speed, pills, and heroin)—all by the age of fifteen. I went to jail for the first time in 1963 at the age of sixteen for "receiving stolen goods." I got out of jail in 1967, but went back every

summer after that. I started looking for something Black as I started to believe that all whites were evil. I supported the Black Panthers, the B.L.A. and finally joined the group known as the "Black Muslims."

I was still involved in street life: stealing, drugs, parties, women, etc...Most of my arrests were between 1967-1973 (when I joined MOVE) and were based on getting stopped by cops for nothing and refusing to be searched while being slammed against a car. When I complained, I got roughed up and when I resisted I'd get beat more. Of course I'd end up getting charged with assault and resisting arrest.

As I learned more about this particular Muslim group, I thought I had answers, but I still felt unsatisfied and the racism in me grew. About this time, one of my brothers and my cousin came to visit me in jail. They began telling me of the MOVE Organization, but I refused to listen because MOVE had white members.

I went back and forth with them until finally I had no choice but to admit that what they said was right, I couldn't deny their understanding. I began to work with MOVE because what they were giving me was more complete than anything I had ever known. I am now a committed MOVE member, a disciple of JOHN AFRICA, LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

My last arrest was on August 8, 1978, I'm one of the MOVE 9. We were each wrongly convicted of murder, assault and conspiracy by the late Judge Edwin S. Malmed and each sentenced to 30-100 years in prison. As of August 8, 2003 we will have served 25 years of that of that outrageous sentence, despite our innocence and despite our appeals. I have four grown children that I left as babies in 1978. I have several grandchildren that I have never been with except briefly on a prison visit. This applies to other members of the MOVE 9 as well. In closing I want to say that I had no intentions of becoming a revolutionary, this system encouraged me, pushed me to become a revolutionary; JOHN AFRICA provided the direction.

On the MOVE,
Edward Africa

5. Janet Africa

My name is Janet Africa. I have been in MOVE since 1972. Before I came in Move I was like everybody else in this system, looking for a happy content life, striving to make a comfortable living condition for myself so I could have a good life.



Despite the years of me attempting to do the things systematically required to achieve this kind of life, living according to the customs and tradition that were supposed to afford me some measure of satisfaction, I never reached that measure of satisfaction from this system.

I was born in 1951 in New Jersey. My mother was single. She was the second child of 20. Both my grandparents had to work hard to support a family that size, so being the oldest girl, the burden of responsibility for raising her mother's children fell on her – After I was born my mother gave me to my Aunt to raise so I could have a “better life” than she could give me, and not have to grow up in the cold streets of Newark, New Jersey where she lived.

I grew up living with my aunt getting pretty much whatever I wanted. We had a nice house; swimming pool in the backyard, my aunt sent me to dancing school for dancing lessons: Tap, Ballet, and Modern Jazz. I was involved in sports, won medals, ribbons and trophies in our Town Commerce Olympics during my elementary years. Things came pretty easy for me. When I was 11, in the 6th grade, my mother got her life together and was able to take care of me and give me the kind of life she wanted to give me. I spent the next 6 years living back and forth between my mother and aunt. My mother felt guilty about having to give me up when I was a baby so she tried hard to make up for it. She gave me all kinds of things. I was well fed, had nice clothes, went to good schools, had nice friends with good parents, pretty much the normal upbringing.

At 15 I got a job, this was to teach me how to be responsible and reliable and realize I had to pay my own way through life. After I got my driver's license, my mother bought me a car. I graduated from High School and had to be tutored my last year because I had a ulcerated stomach. I went to Proms, went on dates, lived the typical Black, New Jersey, suburban life. But I still wasn't happy, and I wasn't content.

I always felt there was something missing in my life. I didn't know what it was and couldn't explain it, but inside of me there was always this empty feeling even when I was with people I was close to, I still, deep down inside, felt like I was alone, that I didn't really fit and I didn't understand it. In my mind I was saying there must be something wrong with me, cause nobody else was feeling like that. But there was nothing I could do so I just went through the motions.

As I got older I started going from job to job looking for the “right” job, but never seeming to find it. I moved frequently looking to find a comfortable place where I felt settled and secure, I never found that either. In 1970, I moved to Philadelphia, got a job, met a man, had an average type relationship, got pregnant and had a beautiful baby girl. We bought a house in West Philly and tried to make things work.

I remember sitting in my rocking chair with my new born baby in my arms feeling the same way my mother felt, wanting something better for my daughter, wanting her to be safe, happy, free of the hurt, pain, disappointment and disillusion of this cold, cruel, prejudice system.

I did the only thing I knew to do. I prayed for guidance, direc-

tion, for something to give my daughter so she could have a good life. I got into religion. When I saw the ungodly behavior, the unclean conduct of those people calling themselves vessels of God, people who were supposed to be channeling me to righteousness, that left me numb, devastated and hopeless because I felt there was nowhere else for me to turn, I was getting ready to go back to school, I had become so callous and mistrusting of everything that society claimed to be moral, I kept searching for something but I wasn't as vulnerable or as easily accepting like I'd been before because I wasn't going to get burnt again, wasn't going to put myself in a position to be deceived, mislead and hurt like I did before.

One day I heard about Move by word of mouth, and it changed my life forever. I was approached by an acquaintance and asked would I like to attend a meeting; a rap session move was having, talking about the conditions of the world. I attended Move Guidelines, John Africa's teaching was read, the information was so clear, analytical and absolute it took me out. Not only was it breaking down this entire reform world system but descriptively explaining things so plain and clear, when I heard it, it was so understandable, so right. It made me feel familiar and connected to it. I can't even put into words the feeling I got hearing John Africa's teaching, it gripped me in a way that I've never been gripped before. For the first time in my life I felt like there was hope for me, and there was a reason why I was so detached, dissatisfied and unhappy.

I went to study sessions regularly and started incorporating John Africa's teaching into my life, it cleared away so much confusion I had been carrying. My mind started untwisting my thoughts became clear. I This reference was so clear it put me in touch with my instincts.

Thanks to John Africa I'm truly satisfied, secure, and have the life I've been searching for. I am strong, loyal, healthy, and committed to fight for all of life. I wouldn't trade that for nothing. I can truly say that John Africa gave me my life back that this system took from me.

I am a student of John Africa and I've been taught that the example of clean righteousness cannot be found in this reform world system and this is proven in the filth of this system's entire history. This is what move is now working to rid ourselves from and teaching others to do the same. John Africa have the direction to direct people away from man's reform world system to nature, God, the perfect system. LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

ONA MOVE

6. Janine Africa

On the MOVE! I'm Janine Africa, Minister of Education for the MOVE Organization. I've been in MOVE since 1973. I'm one of the MOVE Nine. We all were sentenced to 30-100 years for a crime we didn't commit. This system gave us these life sentences to try to stop MOVE. Since they didn't kill us when they attacked us August 8th, 1978, they figured they could stop MOVE by putting us in prison for the rest of our lives. But just like this system's guns, bombs, police, tear gas, deluge guns haven't stopped MOVE people from being committed to our belief, to JOHN AFRICA's Teaching, neither will this system's prisons. If I have to be in prison for the rest of my life, I will still stay

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committed to JOHN AFRICA's Teaching because of all JOHN AFRICA is doing for me.

I met MOVE people when I was 17 years old. They were having a demonstration and I just happened to be passing by. I stopped to see what was going on, I listened to them speak and what really caught my attention was the strength, confidence and assertiveness of the MOVE women. They were everything I wasn't and all I could think about was that I wanted to be like them. After the demonstration I approached some of the MOVE women and asked who they were. They told me they were the MOVE Organization and explained to me what the organization's belief is. They invited me to come to their weekly study sessions they held to teach people about JOHN AFRICA's Teaching. I started going to these study sessions regularly and listening to the information from MOVE's Guidelines and I could hear that what JOHN AFRICA teach is the truth, is right. JOHN AFRICA's Teaching is what I've been looking for because I was just like everybody else in the system, unhappy, riddled with problems, and desperately looking elsewhere for the solution to these problems. My search stopped with JOHN AFRICA.

I had a baby and got married when I was very young. I didn't know how to be a mother or a wife and trying to be both was driving me to a nervous breakdown. I developed a condition where my throat would close up on me and I couldn't eat. I went from doctor to doctor, hospital to hospital and none of them could do anything for me. I was at the end of my rope until I met MOVE. I joined MOVE and started living JOHN AFRICA's Teaching. JOHN AFRICA cured the condition with my throat and made me a good loving mother and wife, and made me a loyal sister to my MOVE family. JOHN AFRICA gave me strength, health, security and confidence that I've never had! LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA FOREVER!

I will never leave MOVE and give up all that JOHN AFRICA as given me, even if it means being in prison for 30-100 years!

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA'S REVOLUTION!

On the MOVE!

Janine Afri

Janine's Newborn Baby, Life Africa, Brutally Murdered by Police

After joining MOVE and living out their holistic and natural principles the condition with Janine's throat was cured. She also felt more confident as a mother and wife.

Janine gave birth naturally at home to Life Africa on March 8, 1976. Three weeks later seven MOVE members were returning from a stint in jail. Officers in at least ten cars pulled up to the house claiming that MOVE was creating a disturbance. Chuck Africa told the officers to leave them alone and was then grabbed and beaten, setting off other officers to beat the other six MOVE men. Janine Africa was trying to protect her husband Phil Africa, when she was grabbed by a cop, thrown to the ground with 3-week-old Life Africa in arms, and stomped until she was nearly unconscious. The baby's skull was crushed.

MOVE held a press conference the following day, explaining how the police had murdered Life and displayed a nightstick that was broken in two over Robert Africa's head and an officer's hat that was left at the

house. Because Life did not have birth certificate, the city denied the claim and so MOVE had to prove that Life was murdered by inviting local politicians over to view the body.

Charges brought against the officers who murdered Life were immediately dismissed despite neighborhood witnesses. The city instead pursued charges against the six men who were beaten that night.

No officer was ever charged with any crime for this infanticide. The officer remains unidentified. MOVE's column in the Philadelphia Tribune, which had documented the birth of Life Africa 3 weeks earlier, ran a series of pieces covering the March 28th attack. Interviews with several neighbors who had witnessed the incident were featured. Yet no charges were filed against the officers involved in the baby's murder. Instead the District Attorney's office pursued prosecution of the six MOVE members arrested that night! MOVE was prepared to present evidence of a long-standing Rizzo-directed campaign of harassment that

culminated in the death of Life Africa.

But before all the testimony could be presented, Judge Merna Marshall dismissed the case, thereby thwarting the chance to prove a citywide conspiracy against MOVE in a court of law. Dismissing felony charges of aggravated assault on cops was virtually unheard of in Philadelphia.

7. Merle Africa

Ona MOVE-

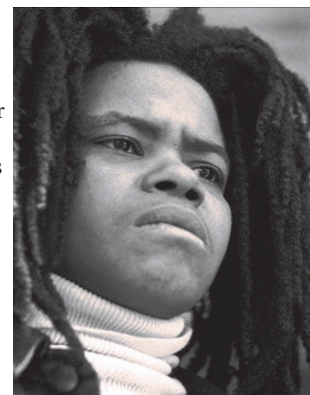
My name is Merle Africa, disciple of JOHN AFRICA and Minister of Administrative Coordination. I've been a member of the MOVE Organization since 1973 and these years have been the most satisfying and happiest I have ever experienced despite the almost twenty years spent in prison and the vicious brutal murder my family experienced at the hands of the system May 13, 1985.

Before joining MOVE, I had relatively the same type of existence as everybody else in the system: I went to schools in Philadelphia, graduated, got a secretarial job at Temple University, but I had plenty of problems with no hope of finding solution for them.

My only so called relief, outlet to these problems, was intoxication. I was an alcoholic from the age of 8 and a habitual drug addict since the age of 15. My father was a heavy drinker and along with other relatives, as a young child they would let me drink from their glasses, "taking a sip" until I had acquired a taste for liquor and as the years past, I drank at home and at friends' homes until I turned into an alcoholic.

Children are supposed to be happy. I was fat and mentally unstable. I have a sister (who isn't in MOVE) who I fought constantly, along with my parents because I thought they preferred her to me. I thought they didn't love me. I didn't trust them and felt I couldn't get any relief by talking to them. By the time I entered my teens, I was suffering from severe bouts of depression, hallucination, and paranoia. I was suicidal, went on eating binges and was bulimic. I also suffered from violent outbursts of temper where I'd try to hurt my mom and sister and tried to hurt myself by banging my head on the floor until it bled. I realized now thanks to JOHN AFRICA, frustrated and mentally demolished. I needed love, understanding, and attention as all people do, which I wasn't getting at

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home, only vicious abusive beatings from my dad to make me tow the line. That was the only solution he knew because it was the solution his father and mother knew. I didn't get any relief from talking to psychiatrists and group therapy sessions my mother took me to. I was suicidal because I felt I had no reason to live and when I asked the psychiatrists to explain my purpose in life, they had no answer, their solution was to tell my mom I was too violent, too disturbed to live at home. They considered me dangerous. The doctors didn't have any solution for me so they kept after her to institutionalize me, which she refused to do. The turning point in my life came when I met MOVE people and started hearing the powerful teaching of JOHN AFRICA.

I felt drawn to MOVE because of the true love, sensitivity, and family unity I saw in MOVE people that I met and eventually from talking to MOVE I started going to study sessions to hear the teaching of JOHN AFRICA, MOVE law. The information I hear is the most powerful, analytical, truthful writing I have ever heard about this system. I was real impressed with the way JOHN AFRICA took the time, had the patience to talk to a mother about her cranky, unruly child or listen to JOHN AFRICA speak at meetings giving a couple a solution to a marital problem they were having whenever any of us was unhappy or troubled. THE COORDINATOR always had the patience, the time to talk to us, give us real solutions to our problems— something no doctor, psychiatrist, minister or parent has ever done for anybody before. I kept going to more and more study sessions and other MOVE activities cause I felt drawn to MOVE law because it is the truth, and unlike other organizations I've heard of or read about, I realize JOHN AFRICA'S teaching ain't just a lot of meaningless rhetoric as the news media has claimed, but there's uncompromising power in MOVE law and its shown in the family unity, love, and sensitivity I've experienced and displayed since being in MOVE.

In the 1960's I had 2 backroom abortions performed on me. After the 2nd abortion I almost died from loss of blood. After that I was in constant pain and hospitalized for cysts and boils on my tubes and vaginal area. The doctors I went to couldn't find a cause for the medical problems I was having. When I got in MOVE the trouble continued until JOHN AFRICA told me what was wrong. HE told me I had a tumor in my stomach and it was because of the abortions I had had and I hadn't told THE COORDINATOR I had abortions, JOHN AFRICA knew what was wrong and told me! HE didn't examine me like no doctor, but knew the cause of the trouble I was having. THE COORDINATOR told me what to do, how to eat and said in time I would get better. I was in pain, bed-ridden for months at a time and bleeding most of the time. At no time did THE COORDINATOR force me to stay in bed; in fact it was THE COORDINATOR who told me if I wanted to go to the hospital, HE would get one of the men to take me and I told HIM I didn't want to go, that I trusted HIM and knew from all the examples I'd seen of MOVE people getting better after being sick, or brutally beaten by cops, I knew HE was the only one who could help me. I put my faith in my belief, in JOHN AFRICA to make me better and HE did cause the tumor came out on its own without me ever going back to the hospital for an operation and I've never had any more menstrual or stomach problems, no more cysts or boils! Long Live JOHN AFRICA Forever! If it hadn't been for the healing power of JOHN AFRICA I would have died! There's no doubt in my mind about that! If I hadn't been in MOVE, by the time the doctors finished probing and experimenting on me with medicine and gadgets the cancer would have spread to the point where the only thing left for me was to say goodbye to my family cause I didn't have a chance, but JOHN AFRICA GAVE me my life, GAVE me the opportunity to live for which I am so grateful and its why I am so

committed to my belief because it works, I've seen, felt MOVE law work for me! Long Live JOHN AFRICA Forever!

Because of this example I know I can always depend on my belief to give me everything I need to keep me healthy, strong and free of mental illness. That's something nobody can say about anything in this system. I've found in MOVE law my reason for living, satisfaction, happiness and that's what the whole world is searching for and its available for anybody who wants it. After years of being in the system and having bad relationships what left me distrustful and disillusioned, thanks to JOHN AFRICA and our application of MOVE law, I finally have a loyal faithful husband and we have a good strong marriage and that's something every woman longs for in the system.

When I look back and see how I was before MOVE and how I am now, I can't help but give my loyalty, my commitment to JOHN AFRICA, because without HIM, I would have died. I feel privileged, blessed to be allowed to be a member of MOVE, to help spread the teaching of JOHN AFRICA to the people of the world; to give them the motivation, the will to stop endorsing this system and start fighting it and take back all that it's taken from us!

On March 13, 1998 our revolutionary sister, Merle Africa, passed while incarcerated at Muncy Correctional Institution. The cause of her death is highly suspicious. Prison officials first stated that she died of natural causes, but there is nothing natural about a woman in her 40s dying, who is incredibly healthy due to her adherence to JOHN AFRICA'S teachings. Prison authorities then stated she had cancer. Regardless of the prison's story of what stole Merle's life, there is absolutely NO QUESTION that if she had been at home with her family, living freely, eating naturally, and exercising in accord with natural law, she would still be with us. Her family remembers her and her example of strength and love for LIFE!

Merle's passing crystallizes the need to return the MOVE 9 home! They have been serving prison sentences since 1978 for a crime they

8. Mike Africa

I am MOVE's Minister of Confrontation. I was born and raised in West Philly, youngest of eight children, raised in an environment of poverty, gang war, and all the other afflictions of ghetto life. I started drinking at an early age to hang out with the crowd and eventually ventured over to drugs. I joined the Marines at age 16 to try to stem that spiral, but it definitely made things worse. I wasn't socially conscious about many issues and didn't really care to be. My whole life basically centered around locating the next happening party.

I was introduced to some MOVE members by my wife's family, MOVE members had come to aid them during a neighborhood dispute. I later saw some of those same MOVE people demonstrating against the 16th Police District, a notoriously racist gang known for terrorizing the community where I grew up. The same 16th District that had members of the Black Panthers strip buck naked in front of their HQ, including pregnant women in the early 1970's. Most people I knew hated them, we just feared them more, so while I wasn't immediately attracted to MOVE, I was immediately amazed by their courage. I had never seen people confront the cops the way MOVE did — directly, forcefully and never taking a step back.

In 1974 I attended a demonstration where MOVE was protesting the jailing of 2 of their younger members, ages 13 and 15. A judge had them thrown in jail for speaking out against them. The police arrested us all, literally, as we got off the bus, and jailed us on a whole slew of charges. It really scared the hell out of me, but it also let me see more

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clearly what MOVE was saying about the system.

From that moment on, I listened more carefully to the Teachings of JOHN AFRICA. I became more attracted to the strength it took to confront the system as MOVE did. And as I read more of the Guidelines written by JOHN AFRICA I did become motivated for the first time in my life by something other than diversions, drugs, and parties. The more I engaged in MOVE activity, the less I engaged in that other stuff. In the first couple years being around MOVE I went from being a young chain smoking, pill popping alcoholic, completely apathetic to the problems of virtually everybody, to doing none of those things and being motivated to become a strong revolutionary soldier because of the example I say being demonstrated by JOHN AFRICA.

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

9. Phil Africa



Phil Africa with Dick Gregory in Philadelphia 1978

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA! On the MOVE!

My name is Phil Africa, I'm from Philadelphia and one of 13 children born to Frank and Maude Phillips. I'm a high school graduate and capable in a number of trades. Altho I've been involved in street life since a early age I was never arrested for anything until adult life, not that I was into anything other than growing up poor, in a big family in materialistic, racist 50-60's America.

As most kids I ran the streets, partied, and played sports in my early teens. At the age of 16 I was into drinkin, smokin cigarettes, weed, and had my first real contact with the racism of the Philadelphia police. I came to the defense of my older brother who had been stopped coming out of a check cashing place by cops. He was jacked up by them and they said "What is a young nigga doin with that kinda money," when I stepped forward from the crowd of scared adults, who'd come to "watch" victimize another young Blackman. I attempted to explain how my brother had just cashed his check from workin at the PGA Hospital.

Instead of the cops listening to what I had to say, I was snatched up by the neck by this big white boot cop (I was 14 or 15 at the time), told to "face the wall nigga," at which point the cop proceeded to kick me once in the balls so hard I couldn't breathe or scream out in pain! I was simply told to "get my Black ass home before I got what my brother was gone get" and as I laid on the pavement they put my brother in their car and drove off.

By this time I reached high school I was drinkin, smokin, sellin drugs, workin and a complete victim to the addictions of the streets this system uses to enslave folk to its destructive ways.

In my last year of high school I began to feel a need to make some changes in my life. With the Vietnam War goin on, the Civil Rights Struggle, the Black Power Movements poppin up I began to look in more areas for some direction in my life, some solution to the problems I had cause I realized my life was full of complexes, insecurities, depression, hates, and questions. I knew I was on a self-destructive course where at one point I felt I'd never live to see 16, 18, 21 years of age! It's how I and those around me were living at the time.

I looked to religions, the streets, drugs, education, the different Black movements, at the time, but found none able to offer the inner peace I sought, give me security of direction or give me answers to my questions.

In the early 1970's I moved to a Powelton Village apartment around the corner from the MOVE Headquarters. I had no idea who or what "MOVE" was, who the man "JOHN AFRICA" was, however right away I saw a difference in these people called "MOVE," a confidence, health, warmth, strength, security vibrated from them! They worked as a family everything they did and the information they spoke when talked to, "The Teachin" they called "MOVE Law," the clarity of it, the absolute power of it reflected the source of it JOHN AFRICA! Long Live JOHN AFRICA!

The attraction, the pull on me to MOVE is as profound now as it was almost 30 years ago, in fact it is even more so now!

As one of the MOVE 9 I've been unjustly imprisoned since August 8, 1978. I've been thru both of the Camp Hill riots in '83 and '89 and have spent half of those 19 years in the hole-solitary confinement.

At the present time our P.C.R.A. appeals were denied and we are preparing to appeal to the Federal Courts. We do not expect "justice" from this system as JOHN AFRICA explain, this system ain't got justice to give cause this system ain't just, ain't right!

JOHN AFRICA expose how this system can be made to do what's needed when it is pressured to. Pressure - massive pressure is what the people must put on this system to save Mumia, end the death penalty, Free the MOVE 9 and all P.P.s and P.O.W.s—and most importantly, work with MOVE to bring about the end of this rotten reform world system!

Long Live JOHN AFRICA! On the MOVE!

In Total Revolution,

Phil Africa

MOVE member Phil Africa dies in prison

By: Larry Miller Tribune Staff Writer January 14th, 2015

William Phillips, known as Phil Africa, a member of Philadelphia's MOVE group, died in prison over the weekend, authorities said.

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Africa, 63, was serving a 30 to 100 years sentence for a third-degree murder conviction for the shooting of city police officer James Ramp during a shootout in the Powelton section of Philadelphia in 1978. He was incarcerated at a state prison in Dallas, Pa.

MOVE is a self-described group of “revolutionaries.” All group members have taken the last name of Africa.

Phil Africa died Saturday, but details about the cause of death have not been released.

“We cannot discuss an individual’s medical information,” said Susan McNaughton, a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections spokeswoman. “The only thing I can do is confirm his death on Jan. 10, 2015. The county coroner determines the cause of death.”

MOVE members heard Phil Africa was sick but when they arrived at the prison to see him, were allegedly denied access, according to Ramona Africa, in a statement posted on MOVE’s website.

“On Sunday, January 4 Phil Africa wasn’t feeling well and went to the prison infirmary,” according to Ramona Africa’s statement. “Though he wasn’t feeling well, other inmates saw Phil Africa walking, stretching and doing jumping jacks. Hearing that Phil was in the infirmary, MOVE members drove up to visit him and were denied a visit by the prison. While they were visiting with Delbert Africa, Phil was secretly transported to Wilkes Barre General Hospital where he was held in total isolation, incommunicado for five days. The fact that Phil was isolated for the six days before he passed — the prison even refused to acknowledge that he was in the hospital — is beyond suspicious.”



Phil Africa, the organization’s minister of defense, and eight other members were convicted in 1980 following the group’s first violent confrontation with the city in 1978. They were convicted of third-degree murder for Ramp’s fatal shooting. Phil Africa is the second family member to die in prison, following the death of Merle Africa in 1998.

The remaining incarcerated MOVE members, Chuck Africa, Debbie Africa, Delbert Africa, Edward Africa, Janet Africa, Janine Africa and Mike Africa are serving sentences ranging from 30 to 100 years for Ramp’s death.

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the female and child escaped.” And Battalion Chief John Skarbeck said he had overheard a police sergeant say, “something to the effect that ‘I got one back there’ or ‘I shot one back there.’” But Sgt. Griffiths testified that he had been misquoted, that what he really had said was people had “dropped out of sight” at that particular time and place. Yeah. He actually said that. With a straight face, too.

The overkill police presence, the military-style assault, the malicious bombing, the callous burning, and the evil shooting at fleeing victims were not just “grossly negligent” and “unconscionable” as the MOVE Commission properly and officially noted in Findings Number 15 and 18. They were also murderous. And justice demands the prosecution of each perpetrator because there’s no statute of limitations for murder. If it were your family, your neighborhood, your home, your property, and your memories—even if it were—

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THE MOVEMENT

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WHAT HAPPENED TO MOVE IN 1978

August 8, 1978

The MOVE 9 are innocent men and women who have been in prison since August 8, 1978, following a massive police attack on us at our home in the Powelton Village neighborhood of Philadelphia. This was seven years before the government dropped a bomb on MOVE, killing 11 people, including 5 babies.

The August 8, 1978 police attack on MOVE followed years of police brutality against MOVE and was a major military operation carried out by the Philadelphia police department under orders of then-mayor, Frank Rizzo. Mayor Rizzo's reputation for racism and brutality was and is well known—it followed him up through the ranks of the police department to the police commissioner's office to the mayor's office.

During this attack, heavy equipment was used to tear down the fence surrounding our home, and cops filled our home with enough tear gas to kill us and our babies, while SWAT teams covered every possible exit. We were all in the basement of our home, where we had 10 thousand pounds of water pressure per minute directed at us from 4 fire department water cannons (for a total of 40 thousand pounds of water pressure per minute). As the basement filled with nearly six feet of water we had to hold our babies and animals above the rising water so they wouldn't drown. Suddenly shots rang out (news reporters and others know the shots came from a house at 33rd and Baring Street, not our home, because they actually saw the man shooting) and bullets immediately filled the air as police throughout the area opened fire on us. Officer James Ramp, who was standing above us on street-level and facing our home, was killed by a single bullet that struck him on a downward angle. This alone makes it impossible for MOVE to

have killed Ramp, since we were below street level, in the basement.

MOVE adults came out of the house carrying our children through clouds of tear gas, we were beat and arrested. Television cameras actually filmed the vicious beating of our brother Delbert Africa (3 of the 4 cops that beat Delbert went to trial on minor charges). Despite the photographic evidence, the trial judge (Stanley Kubacki) refused to let the jury render a verdict and himself acquitted the cops by directed order. Nine of us were charged with murder and related charges for the death of James Ramp.

Within a few hours of our arrest, our home (which is supposed to be the "scene of the crime" and therefore evidence) was deliberately destroyed, demolished, by city officials when they were legally obligated to preserve all evidence, but we were held for trial anyway. We went to trial before Judge Edward Malmed who convicted all nine of us of third degree murder (while admitting that he didn't have "the faintest idea" who killed Ramp) and sentenced each of us to 30 – 100 years in prison.

Judge Malmed also stated that MOVE people said we are a family so he sentenced us as a family; we were supposed to be on trial for murder, not for being a family. It is clear that the MOVE 9 are in prison for being committed MOVE members, not for any accusation of crime. Three other adults that were in the house on August 8th did not get the same treatment as those that this government knows are committed MOVE members. One had all charges dismissed against her in September of 1978 with the judge saying that there was no evidence that she was a committed MOVE member when the issue was supposed to be murder. The second one was held for trial

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but released on bail; she was acquitted. The third one was held for trial with no bail, convicted of conspiracy and given 10-23 years; she was paroled in 1994. It is obvious that everything depended on whether or not the courts thought it was dealing with a committed MOVE member, court decisions had nothing to do with the accusation of murder.

May 1985, Michael Coard's 2012 Report

On May 13, 1985 at 5:20 p.m., a blue and white Pennsylvania State Police helicopter took off from the command post's flight pad at 63rd and Walnut, flew a few times over 6221 Osage Avenue, and then hovered 60 feet above the two-story house in the black, middle-class West Philadelphia neighborhood. Lt. Frank Powell, chief of Philadelphia's bomb disposal unit, was holding a canvas bag containing a bomb consisting of two sticks of Tovex TR2 with C-4. After radioing firefighters on the ground and lighting the bomb's 45-second fuse—and with the official approval of Mayor W. Wilson Goode and at the insistence of Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor—Powell tossed the bomb, at precisely 5:28 p.m., onto a bunker on the roof.

This was followed shortly thereafter by a loud explosion and then a large, bright orange ball of fire that reached 7,200 degrees Fahrenheit. That day, Powell, the Mayor, the Police Commissioner, Fire Commissioner William Richmond, City Managing Director Leo Brooks, and numerous police officers committed, in the words of Philadelphia Special Investigation Commission (better known as the MOVE Commission) member Charles Bowser, a “criminally evil” act that led to the death of 11 human beings, including five completely innocent and defenseless children, the destruction of 61 homes, and the incineration of thousands of family photos, high school and college sweetheart love letters, heirloom jewelry, inscribed Bibles and Korans, and many other totally irreplaceable mementos.

Mr. Bowser, my mentor and the author of the powerful tell-all expose entitled *Let the Bunker Burn*, told me that five of the city's most influential black political leaders met at the Mayor's home before dawn on May 13, 1985, in response to the Mayor's invitation and warning that “I'm going to make a move on the MOVE house ... (this) morning.” This was in connection to what Goode described as complaints by Osage Avenue neighbors and outstanding arrest warrants. By the way, it should be noted that those same neighbors attempted to stop the police department's siege of their community as soon as they realized what was developing. In fact, as the five influential black leaders watched the television broadcast of the military-like assault unfolding with shots and tear gas, two of them repeatedly urged the Mayor to call it off. In particular, City Council President Joseph Coleman, sitting at the Mayor's kitchen table, told him the 500-strong police action was “excessive” and State Senator Hardy Williams, standing near the kitchen entrance, said “Why don't they just back up and relax? Nobody's going anywhere.”

MOVE: An Assault That Never Would Have Happened in the Northeast

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More than 500 cops fired more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition in less than 90 minutes—in a middle-class, black neighborhood. WTF? No, let me say it: What the Fuck?! This was blatantly outrageous brutal racism. It never would have happened in the Northeast or in South Philly, even if the Hell's Angels had kidnapped then-President Ronald Reagan. And everybody knows it.

The cops would have simply sent in a hostage negotiator. And if that didn't work, they would have cut off access to electricity, water and food, and then waited the criminals out. And if that didn't work, they would have sent in a professionally trained SWAT unit to storm that specific house with surgical precision. Goddamnit, even Osama's house and neighborhood in Abbottabad weren't firebombed. The Mayor, Police Commissioner, Fire Commissioner, Managing Director, and the cops—and especially the public—would not have approved, allowed or tolerated the burning down of a white neighborhood and the destruction of 61 white homes.

And don't tell me some shit about the incineration of Osage not being racist simply because the Mayor and the Managing Director were black. It's the victims that make it racist! They were black. And they lived in a black neighborhood. Furthermore, Powell, the bomb-dropping cop, was white. Moreover, William Klein, the cop who made the bomb, was also white. As eloquently stated by Bowser, "Goode and Brooks did not shoot 10,000 bullets into that house. They did not put military explosives into the bomb. They did not decide to let the bunker burn. And they did not shoot at children trying to escape the fire. I know none of that would have happened in a white neighborhood and so do you." That's exactly why the MOVE Commission pointed out, in one of its final official comments, that none of this would have ever happened "had the MOVE house and its occupants been situated in a comparable white neighborhood."

MOVE: The Making of the Bomb

Tovex TR2 was a commercial explosive invented in the 1960s as an option to dynamite, and its purpose was to dig trenches through rock in order to lay pipes. The "TR" is the abbreviation for trench, and the "2" refers to the second DuPont Company item in its trenching products. The company's explosive products division was located a little more than a half hour from Philadelphia in Delaware. But not one fire or police department official ever cared enough to contact DuPont and ask what could happen if TR2 were used in a residential neighborhood. And that's because they didn't give a shit about black people. If they had asked, DuPont would have told them that it had been designed exclusively for, and had been used exclusively for, underground purposes. And the last time I checked, every black man, woman and child in the Osage community lived above-ground.

It gets worse. As horrifically explosive as TR2 was, Klein fired things up even more. Exercising his independent judgment, he decided that TR2 wouldn't be strong enough to breach the bunker. So what did he do? He unilaterally placed a one-and-one-quarter-pound block of C-4 on top of the two sticks of Tovex—despite the fact that the U.S. Army in 1979 had ended distribution of C-4 to all local police departments throughout the country. But, as documented in an October 22, 1985 letter from a special agent who headed the FBI's Philadelphia office, approximately 30 blocks of C-4 had been delivered to the city by an FBI agent without the city requesting it and as a proposed solution during discussions regarding an anticipated

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confrontation with MOVE. Wow! And the rest, as they say, is history—or better said, it's Philly's 9/11, but as our own city, state and federal governments' inside job.

MOVE: The Scene of the Crime

If that's worse, and it certainly is, here's worst: The children, and some of the adults, were shot at or shot and killed by police as they were fleeing the flames and surrendering. Wow, again! The police covering the alley leading from the rear of the MOVE house had automatic weapons and shotguns. No one ever claimed that MOVE had automatic weapons or shotguns at the scene, and no automatic weapons or shotguns were found among the ashes. Police officer William Stewart, a 28-year veteran of the department and a firearms instructor at the academy, was asked by investigators, "Did you hear gunfire at this time," meaning when people were fleeing the MOVE house from the alley in the rear. With his lawyer present, he responded "Oh yes, automatic fire." And when asked about who was firing the weapons, he replied, "Police officers. All the stakeout officers were running into the alley. They all had Uzi machine guns." Strangely, though, 16 days later, he told the MOVE Commission that he never heard any police gunfire in the alley.

Fire Department Lt. John Vaccarelli and fireman Joseph Murray, who were veterans of the Vietnam War and who were in the vicinity of that very same alley, said they *did*, in fact, hear automatic fire when the MOVE members were running away from the flames. In fact, Vaccarelli pointed out that he saw at least three MOVE members in the yard next to the alley. This was corroborated by police officer James D'Ulisse. So since these people were outside the property lines of the interior of the house itself, how is it that their bodies were later found inside those property

lines among the charred rubble? Only the police (and no reporters or other civilians) had access to the sealed-off crime scene during and after the inferno. Hmmm ...

And why does the official report of the city's own medical examiner provide proof from the autopsies of six of the 11 dead—namely, seven-year-old Tomasa, nine-year-old Delicia, 10-year-old Phil, 11-year-old Netta, 13-year-old Tree, and 25-year-old Rhonda—that they did not die inside from flame-fire but died outside from gun-fire? If, as the police later testified under oath, these victims died from the flames that exceeded 2,000 hellish degrees inside the house, why were Tomasa's long locks still long? Why was Phil's body not burned? Why was Netta still wearing her white blouse with red trim? Why were Tree's pubic hair and blue jeans still intact? And why did Delicia's body and Rhonda's body have in them metal fragments consistent with shotgun pellets as noted by an FBI ballisticsian? You think maybe they were fatally hit when they all were being shot at while trying to run from the flames and surrender?

Even MOVE Commission Chairman William Brown, stated, "I firmly believe that more people got out than Birdie and Ramona and that's something that still nags at me. I believe that someone, someday will deliver a deathbed confession ..." And the Commission itself noted in Finding Number 28 of its official report that "police gunfire in the rear alley prevented the escape from the fire of some occupants of the MOVE house."

Also, consider this: Detective William Stevenson, who was assigned to take contemporaneous notes during the entire confrontation, wrote that Sgt. Donald Griffiths, a commander on the scene, "from stake-out is in the rear of Osage Avenue, 6221, and is pointing to an area that he states, 'I dropped an adult male from the MOVE property who fired at me when

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RAMONA AFRICA

WHAT HAPPENED TO MOVE & WHY SHOULD WE

In recognition of the 30th year of the Move Bombing Patricia Vickers, Co-founder and Editor of The Movement, and Karen Ali, prominent member of the Human Rights Coalition, were honored to interview Ramona Africa and, young Move member Chad Africa. Ramona Africa is one of two survivors of the May 13, 1985 bombing that killed 11 Move family members, including 5 children, and destroyed entire city blocks of homes in Philadelphia, PA. We met with Ramona on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 and it was an amazing, teaching experience where she responded to What Happened to Move? And, Why should We care? Patricia and Karen came away from this interview with a wealth of knowledge that we share (due space issues, not in its entirety) with you below. Ramona was mesmerizing as she spoke of the correlation between what happened to Move and the current travesties against people of color. Ramona, I bow to you. On the Move!

Patricia: So Ramona, how are you this morning?

Ramona: I'm good. On the Move. Long live John Africa. Long live revolution. I have my brother Chad Africa here . . .

Chad: Long live John Africa.

Patricia: Thank you Ramona and Chad for being here. Karen and I are excited to be able to sit and talk with you. Believe it or not, there are many in Pennsylvania and across the United States who are unfamiliar with MOVE and what happened in Philadelphia, PA at Powelton Avenue in 1978 and Osage Avenue in 1985. For those young (and older people) who ask the question; "Who are MOVE and Why should We care?" How do you answer them?

Ramona: Explaining to people that it's not about Move. It's about the injustice and the viciousness of the system, the treachery that people saw before their eyes in May of 1985. It was the same thing with the first attack on our family under the Rizzo administration; it was not just MOVE that was attacked; whole communities were attacked on Osage Avenue and in Powelton Village. This was not just an attack on Move. Ask yourself, why did this attack take place? Was Move accused of rape, robbery, murder, molesting children, pushing drugs, anything like that? NO! So why this vicious attack? And when people ask themselves those vital questions the answer is very clear. There is no justification for it. The reason that these officials come at Move the way they do is because we will not back up, we expose them, and we will not go along with their program. In the beginning of Move officials offered Move money, jobs, positions, they tried to co-opt us and buy us off. They realized that Move can not be bought off; we cannot be bribed. And when they saw that, that's when the brutality and attempted intimidation and the attacks started.

Move took a strong position back in the 70s; our position is very simple, that we are a peaceful people. We are uncompromisingly opposed to violence. But we're not stupid and we're not confused. We understand the difference between violence and self defense. You are not violent when you defend yourself, but you are violent if you allow yourself to be attacked and threaten and you do nothing to protect yourself; then you are violent because you're endorsing and perpetuating that violence. Move does not do that. We are not masochistic or suicidal, we understand the law, true law, the law of life, the law of self defense that every living being, everyone of God's Beings acts on instinctively; *instinctively*. This is very threatening, that's why they came at Move the way they did. The point is they come after everybody, or most people I should say, people who haven't done anything that's threatening like Amadou Diallo, Michael Brown, and most recently, Eric Garner. So if you can be victimized by this system rather you're standing up against them, and their madness, or not then you may as well stand up for yourself. I mean what do you have to lose?

Chad: Something people don't know about the events leading up to August 8th was that our people were getting attacked, our sisters were being beaten to miscarriages, and we said we're not having another baby, another woman, or another man beaten almost to death by the system. Just like Ramona said, we act on instinct for self defense. And that's when they started bringing in guns, trying to shoot people on August 8th and dropping the bomb on May 13th.

Patricia: That goes for prisoners too. When prisoners try to stand up for themselves when they know that they're being abused, they [prison administration] do the same thing to them.

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Ramona: Absolutely. And the thing is that prisoners are really in a better position for resistance; because, what do they have to lose. I'm not saying that prison is a free ride or a easy place, I've been there, I know. But what I'm saying is, they try to threaten prisoners with things like taking their TV or no commissary or putting you in the hole. They tried to do that with Move, but that didn't stop us. We were like "Take our TV, take commissary, you think we care about that more than we care about our freedom and standing up to you?" And that disarmed them, because they had nothing to come at us with.

Patricia: For those who are reading this article and asking themselves, how have you coped? Or how do you manage? [as the sole survivor of the bombing and burning of your home in 1985 and being badly burned yourself, as one who lost 11 family members because of that bombing, as an innocent woman enduring seven long years in prison knowing that you were not only innocent but a victim who had suffered unbearable loss, as a family member who has loved ones in prison for 36 years and sentenced to 30 to 100 years where the facts of the crime are, at the very least, questionable, and as one who mourns the deaths of two family members who died while in prison] Would you mind responding?

Ramona: All I can say is Long Live John Africa. And let me tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up with my mother. I never knew my father. He was a preacher's son that got my mother pregnant when she was 15 and was gone by the time I was born. So I was raised by my mother and mainly my grandmother. I was raised pretty middle class. I went to Catholic School for twelve years, 1st to 12th grade, then I went to Temple University, I graduated with a Bachelor Degree and Associate Degree. I was headed to law school; my mother always told me you can be what you want to be. She'd say be a doctor, be a lawyer; I wasn't into blood and guts, so I leaned more toward the legal system. So that's where I was headed. I was going to be a lawyer, and then maybe, hopefully a judge. In my last semester at Temple I got a work study job at Community Legal Services, I worked in the Housing Unit. If you work in the area of housing with tenants, anywhere really, you can't help but become an activist because you've got fight. So that's how I started getting active.

My first day on the job was August 8 of 1978, my supervisor was driving me up to 7th & Girard up to 1411 and we were listening to the blow by blow attack on Move. I knew something about Move then, but not much. I lived in West Philly all my life so I'd read about Move in the paper, saw certain little things on the news, and I rode the 31 Bus right by Move Headquarters, but never felt compelled to get off the bus and go talk to them. I'd worked with Milton Street, before he got elected, around housing and we would go to City Council every Thursday when they had open hearings and shouted "Fired Up! We ain't taking no more!" The fourth time I went I got arrested and was released on my own recognizance. The first time I went to court afterwards, a Brother named Mel (who had gotten arrested too, there were quite a few of us) and I were the first two down to court. We talked and exchanged numbers and would call each other from time to time. He called me at work and asked me did I want to go to a meeting to plan a Move demonstration. I said yeah, I've heard about Move and would like to learn more. I went to that meeting and "that was all she wrote!" I met my sister, Pam Africa, there - who was a supporter.

Patricia: So was John Africa at that meeting?

Ramona: No. John Africa was up at Rochester NY.

Patricia: So you had not even met him?

Ramona: Had not met him. I had just seen the Move 9 in court. Pam knew I was a pre-law major and encourage me to go over to City Hall and sit in on the Move trial to see for myself how those courtrooms operate. And I did. And I was astounded. I could not believe what I was seeing. It was nothing like what was in those text books I was reading at Temple. It was nothing like what those professors told us about how a courtroom is supposed to operate. And it kept me coming back, because I just couldn't believe it. Then I started going up to the prisons with Move supporters to visit Move at Holmesburg and The House of Corrections, and I talked to them and got more information. Then I got arrested at the Move trial when



Top: Chad Africa, Bottom left: Ramona Africa, Bottom right: Karen Ali

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Delbert got with the judge, telling them "We're not threatened by no contempt of court." And when he finished everyone started clapping. The judge singled me out, "You! Clapping in my court room. Come up to the bench". The judge held me in contempt. My contempt was that I could not come back to his courtroom. I was like this is not *your* courtroom this is the *people's* courtroom; how are you going to bar people from the people's courtroom.

So I came back, and ended up getting arrested. Lynne Abraham was the judge that I went before. She found me guilty of disrupting a government function and disorderly conduct, some stuff like that. And she asked me if I had anything to say before sentencing. I said yes, and I started talking about who the criminal is and what I saw in that courtroom, that I was on my way to be a lawyer but I saw what was going on . . . She told me to "shut up". I said "Didn't you ask me if I had anything to say and isn't this America where you tell the world that in America there is freedom of speech?" She said "No. I'm holding you in contempt." She held me in contempt for 60 days at the House of Corrections. This was the best thing she could have *ever* done to me. She sent me right up there with Move women for two months, up close and personal. And that was it! I did not go to law school. And Move did not influence me one way or the other, directly. Their example influenced me. I made that decision myself. I decided that I was *not* going to law school; I did *not* want to be like the judge, prosecuting attorney, or those spineless back up defense attorneys that they had appointed to Move.

Patricia: So how did their teachings help you survive all of this?

Ramona: They made you confident. When you are in a position where you can explain and substantiate why you're doing what you're doing, how it's right, and can't be proven wrong, that gives you confidence. When you can do that, and you know in yourself that what you're doing is right, what you're saying is right, that gives you all the motivation and confidence that you need. Why would you want to do something else? I'm not saying that to say that it's easy. But I wouldn't trade my belief. John Africa - Move's founder - taught us to believe in life, to put nothing above life. You see life is your little baby crawling on the floor. Outside of life is the glass or ashtray that a child might knock off the table and brake and the parents might want to smack them for breaking that technology, that thing that has no feelings, at all. John Africa teaches Move that life is the priority; and when you apply that across the board you understand why Move demonstrated at the zoos, because those animals have feelings too. They were kidnapped from their homes, separated from their children, their babies, their mates, and transported somewhere else just like Africans were. And one of the reasons why Europeans felt so comfortable in enslaving Africans is because they did it to animals first; the example was set.

Patricia: Yeah. They said slaves were animals.

Ramona: Yeah. Once you start making the separation in life dividing life into categories, that's it. It's done. Where do you stop? What I'm saying is that the confidence that Move members have because of what John Africa has taught us, how we have gone up against the most educated, the richest high society people and all, and don't feel inferior or anything because we can back our belief up; they can't. Obama can not substantiate why in his White House he waste more food than some people have to eat for a year.

After May 13th when they took me down to 8th & Race and was processing me; by the time they finished I knew that no one had survived (I found out just a little later that Birdie had survived); but, even knowing that it never entered my mind that it was over because I knew that what I'm fighting for, what I believe in, is right. And there was no way that I could just toss that out the window and well, "I'll just go on to law school now and be a lawyer." I couldn't do that. I couldn't and still can't.

Patricia: Well said. I have another question for you. On March 13, 1995 political prisoner Merle Africa passed away at State Correctional Institute - Cambridge Springs and recently, on January 10, 2015 political prison Phil Africa passed away at Dallas State Prison. From my understanding both MOVE members died under suspicious circumstances. Would you speak on the circumstances of their death?

Ramona: Both situations were very, very, similar. Merle had cramps in her stomach. Phil had stomach cramps. Merle wanted to go on to her detail - her job - she was feeling better. But they told her she had to take a "lay-in" which is where you're restricted to your cell. You don't go to classes. You don't go to the dining hall to eat. Merle ran everyday. She worked out. She was a strong healthy Move woman. And the night that they made her take the lay-in, she was restricted to herself, and they brought her a tray for dinner. Debbie (her cell mate) heard Merle get up and go to the bathroom. She didn't hear her come back to bed, so she finally got up to see what had happened. Merle had passed out. Debbie called the guard and the guard said she called the ambulance that according to them was 10 minutes away; but, it took about 45 minutes to get there. They finally got there and took Merle to the hospital. The next call we got was that Merle had passed.

With Phil they didn't do that, they took him out to the hospital, to the outside hospital; and, Phil didn't ask to go to the hospital.

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Now you got to be damn near dead, laying on the floor, before they take you out to the hospital. The day that they took him out he was doing exercises. They took him out on the day - a Sunday - that four of our family members went to visit. Two went to visit Delbert and two to visit Phil. Delbert had his visit, but they wouldn't let the other two family members visit Phil. We were calling. The hospital was denying that he was there and the prison was denying that he was there. So we had people all over the world calling about Phil. We finally got them to admit that he was at the hospital; but they would not give him any calls or visits. We said wait a minute, when he was in the prison he was allowed phone calls and visits; he wasn't on disciplinary status or anything. So by the fourth or fifth day they said we'll let him call his wife who is also an inmate. Janine said that Phil was out of it. She could tell that they had him drugged up. We said well wait a minute he was exercising, stretching, and talking to people when he left the prison to go to the hospital; so what the hell happened? How can you go to the hospital and get comatose?

Chad: About two or three days before he went to the hospital he'd just wrote me a letter talking about, he's doing good; and then this happened.

Ramona: And a lot of people say well "Did they do an autopsy?" First of all that's not our belief to have a body cut up and organs taken out. No. But the bottom line with us is very simple, they took strong healthy Move men and women from our home on August 8, 1978, they said that they [Move] were wrong, that they were criminal, that they need correction, that they were going to take custody and responsibility of them, send them to a correctional institution and that's what they did. So at that point they had responsibility for Move people - and every other prisoner. They determine what they eat, what they drink, what jobs they have, what time they get up to go to the jobs, and what time lights are out. Everything. So my point is - they took responsibility for Move people. Move people were not allowed to live the life that they chose to live, and nobody else in prison is either; they are under the thumb of prison officials, the government. So we don't care what they say happened to our family - *it's their* [prison officials] *fault*. If our family stub their toe, that's their fault because they took responsibility for them. And that's how we look at it. We don't have to have no meticulous dissecting of this, it's just that simple with us. You know Mumia is having trouble in there now too, breaking out in a bad rash. He didn't have that when he was out here.

Patricia: Many a time the story of MOVE is told in documentaries by affiliates of the White establishment and from the perspective of police. Will we ever see a documentary film from the perspective of MOVE members?

Ramona: I would like to say yes. Not only a film but also a book. We're just not focusing on that right now, because our focus is on getting our people out of prison and that's where all our energy is focused. Other people have done films about Move and written books about Move. Some of the films are not bad, they get a lot of information out there. I myself travel all over the world speaking to people. I just came back from Geneva, Switzerland. I've been all through Italy. I've been to Africa, Germany, South America, Belgium, France, Amsterdam, and the Netherlands. I've been to Greece. So information is getting out there. But when our people come home, then I think we will be able to focus on a film and maybe a book, too.

Karen: In speaking of them coming home, they do come up of parole at periods of time. When is the next time they'll be coming up for parole and what is it that the community can have in possibly assisting that parole to happen?

Ramona: The one thing, the most important thing that people can do, is whenever these politicians and elected officials come around at election time, get in their face. Make it an issue where ever these people go. Lynne Abraham is running for Mayor now. We're going to be on her case because as the District Attorney she could have done something. She is not going to walk around this city campaigning for Mayor and think that we are not going to confront her. Whenever these officials come around talking that vote for me stuff, ask them "well what are you going to do about this" and whatever other questions you want to ask. Don't let these people walk in your neighborhood kissing your babies, thinking they don't have to answer the serious questions. And that's what people can and should do.

The other thing about Move parole is - we had people flooding the parole board with letters about Move and Move being paroled. The prisons have recommended Move for parole; and, some of the guards who have talked to our family are bewildered. They don't understand it, about why Move is not being paroled.

Patricia: What do you think the Fraternal Order of Police have to do with this?

Ramona: The FOP is definitely a part of it. When our family goes up for parole even with the recommendation of the prison guards and prison . . .

Karen: How often do they go in front of the parole board?

Ramona: Mike got a five year hit toward the end of last year. When my family first went up for parole they got one year hits, all of them.

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Patricia: Which means they cannot come back in front of the parole board for one year.

Ramona: Yeah. One year. Then after a few years they started going to two and three year hits, and now they just gave Mike a five year hit. And our thing is what happened between 2008 and last year when Mike got the five year hit and, my sister, Janet got the three year hit. What happened to make them keep up-ing these hits. Did they get a lot of write-ups, get into fights or what? Why do the hits keep going up; based on what? They can't explain it. There's no justification for it. The prisons recommended my family for parole; they come get them when there is a problem in the jail to talk to people. But you said the "FOP". Whenever my family goes up for parole the FOP speaks up against them, they say they should not be paroled.

And the District Attorney. We're saying why is the DA in this? And what is it you expect them to say? Do you expect them to say "Oh they're good boys and girls"? Furthermore when is the last time they saw Move? The prison officials are repeatedly, constantly with our family; they're around them everyday. The parole board people see them once a year, once every two years, three years, five years. Who is better able to judge? And that's our position with the parole.

Karen: The prison have no power in that situation. It just a recommendation.

Ramona: It's just that, a recommendation. But it should carry weight. And furthermore they deny my family and say they won't take responsibility for the crime. Excuse me! Innocence of guilt is not what is suppose to determine parole, you've already been convicted. It's suppose to be what you've done since being in prison. It's suppose to be your home plan, job plan; and they've got all of that. So they're coming with this nonsense about refusal to take responsibility, lack of remorse. Excuse me! How am I'm going to have remorse for something I didn't do.

Karen: And that's a commutation blocker for certain people. You have admit remorse.

Ramona: Yeah. They want you to say you did it. But it's illegal. What about the Fifth Amendment against self incrimination? They say you cannot be made to incriminate yourself under the Fifth Amendment. So how are you going to *demand* that I say I'm guilty. The Fifth Amendment applies rather you actual did it or not, but certainly if you didn't do it.

Chad: There's something I wanted to say about the crime scene of August 8th about my family who are still sitting in prison. There was a light pole where they said the cop was standing next to. That was only light pole that was removed and that is new. All the others are like one step from falling down and breaking, but this one had been replaced. The trees an stuff that was all around was cut down. And they destroyed the house, one of the biggest pieces of evidence at the scene of the crime.

Karen: And Rizzo was known to do that in his era, to destroy crime scenes so there would be a lack of evidence or DNA to exonerate a person later on.

Ramona: But that shows you how they're in cahoots with the judges, because once vital evidence like a crime scene is destroyed, *deliberately destroyed*, by the government; there's not suppose to be a trial. That's it, you done blew it.

Patricia: So that brings me to another question. What is your opinion of how the White House and U.S. Justice Department have handled the Ferguson rebellion, the non-criminal indictment of cops that murdered Michael Brown and Eric Garner and the recent U.S. Justice Department's report on racial discrimination of Ferguson's police department and court system?

Ramona: Well, I'll tell you. In terms of the non-indictments by the Grand Jury, I don't know what people were waiting for or looking for. If Michael Brown or Eric Garner had been accused of killing Darren Wilson and whatever the other cop's name is, do you think they would have been on the street waiting for a Grand Jury decision? They would have been under the jail, if they were still alive. So this Grand jury nonsense is ridiculous. Then when you add to it the U.S. Justice Department doing absolutely nothing, they're telling you everything you need to know. I mean they bombed my family and burnt babies alive, and nobody got indicted for that, nobody got charged to go to jail, nobody but me. So how many examples do we need from these people before it finally starts sinking in and we stop hallucinating that we could get anything from them. Every now and then you might see a cop indicted for something, they have to do it every now and then, they can't just never do it.

The position of Move, what John Africa has taught us is: stop looking for what's right from these people. They don't have it to give! The only time you get any little thing that you can interpret as "anything" from this system is when you pressure them to do it. When they don't have a choice. It comes from the people, it's not coming from the officials and that's what people really have to understand. Stop looking for anything from them and organize ourselves to send a strong clear message as to what we will take and what we won't take. It's more of us than it is of them. And we better wake up and start realizing that; or, stop crying about our loved ones being murdered by cops, beat up, thrown in to jail unjustly.

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You know, I have to really control myself sometime when I talk to people because I wasn't always at this point. So I understand. But I just get so fed up. People might ask me about Mumia, they might ask about my family, the Move 9. And I'll put out a little information about their innocence. But my thing is don't care if you say that they murdered a cop; that Mumia murdered a cop, *that's not why they're in jail*. If murder was the issue, how come the people that murdered my family ain't sitting in jail with 30-100 year sentences. Why is that? How come Darren Wilson ain't sitting in jail for murder. Either you're opposed to murder or you're not. Now if you're opposed to murder you're opposed to it across the board; and, it will be seen. But any time you put my family in prison, calling them murderers, and then drop a bomb on babies and burn them alive and nothing happens; you better get out of my face talking that nonsense.

Patricia: Wow. That was awesome. I thank you so much for the opportunity to talk with you. Is there anything that you wish to add before we leave?

Ramona: Yes. When I was talking about people not looking to this system and representatives of this system for anything right, good, strong or honest, I'll give you an example. Obama, and any other President, don't know us. They don't know us from a can of paint. However Obama does know Skip Gates; he is a friend of his, a Harvard Professor who was coming home from teaching. He was coming home to his own house and got accosted [unjustly] by this cop who didn't believe that was his house. And this man is a personal friend of Obama. What did he do for him? Obama invited him and the cop to his house for beer. He's the *President of the United States* and that's the best he can do? What do we need him for? What good is he to us? Stop undermining ourselves. Stop looking outside of ourselves and start looking to ourselves. And then things will get better for us.

People say they believe in God, and Move does believe in God. We understand that the God of life did not put my brain, my thought process, in some politician's head; God put a brain in my head. Can't no politician run for me and put muscle in my leg, cannot drink for me and quench my thirst, we have to do these things for ourselves. And it applies across the board. Why would anybody just relinquish their power of purpose over to somebody else. And when you've done that for eons and things have just gotten steadily worse for you, why would you keep doing that? This system has sold people a rotten bill of goods. And people keep going shopping there.

Chad: There is something else that the government does. They try to put a Black face on someone who act like a puppet to do all the dirty work. Look at Wilson Goode, they used him as a puppet so that the people will be on his side, not fight or say "What did you just do here, you dropped a bomb and killed eleven people!" Instead they think, well he's a Black mayor, our *first* Black mayor. So they are basically just tricked, it's the same with Obama.

Ramona: And it worked too. When Rizzo and his cops attacked Move, he came at Move with everything he thought he needed to kill Move off. That was his intent, to kill off Move, annihilate Move. It didn't happen. He tried, but it didn't happen. One of his own cops got killed, not by Move, but got killed nevertheless. People - Black, White, young, old, men, women - took to the streets, marched on City Hall, defeated the Charter Change - Rizzo was trying to change the charter to run a third term. People went off! They wasn't having it! And it was mainly, a lot of it, behind what he did to Move. Fast forward, 1985, a Black Mayor came at Move with everything he had, saw what happened in 78 and came with a bomb. Move people were killed in 85; five babies burned alive. How come people didn't come to the street then? They're saying, we have to support our first Black mayor. But that's why they put him in there.

So there you have it. The games people play.

But they can only play them if you let them.

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accede with reticence; to advocate offensively, and to lobby politely. Indeed, the "high purpose" of the foremost amendment is perhaps best displayed through its protection of speech that some find reprehensible. Johnson, 491 U.S. at 408-09 ("[Free speech] may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger." (quoting *Terminiello v. Chicago*, 337 U.S. 1, 4 (1949))). The United States Constitution precludes any state enactment that effectively limits expressive conduct when the essential injury is personal affront. 13 See Coleman, 335 F.Supp. at 589.

The victims who have suffered at the hands of certain plaintiffs are not without remedies. Victims are free to protest inmate speech through demonstrations, picketing, or public debate. They may publish responsive leaflets and editorials. As Maureen Faulkner did, victims may air their grievances to the press. Indeed, the victims' discourse may include expressive conduct that plaintiffs themselves find objectionable. The First Amendment does not evanesce at any gate, and its enduring guarantee of freedom of speech subsumes the right to expressive conduct that some may find offensive."

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teenager Leon Ford, which left him paralyzed for life. They are also free to lie and fabricate evidence with impunity in the courtrooms across the United States and prosecutors and judges are their willing accomplices.

The fact is in the United States, when it comes to police injury, crimes against the police or crimes committed by the police truth is sacrificed to cover up the wrongdoing of the police. Grand jury processes are merely a filtering system which the prosecutors use as a smoke screen to suppress the truth. When it comes to protecting the police prosecutors use every trick to exonerate the police.

This is the atmosphere I am litigating my case in; it cannot be separated from the structural police abuse and racial discrimination being exposed across the country. I am currently in the federal phase of appeal, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. I am awaiting the Judge's report and recommendation which will determine whether the court deem my issues raised worthy of relief. The court has already denied my request for discovery of the medical records on the grounds I haven't pursued them diligently at all levels of my appeals process. This is not supported by the record but because I am without an attorney and representing myself the court is attempting to just dismiss my appeal on a technicality, which will allow my conviction to stand without addressing the merits of my appeal.

What I need is justice and this will only be possible when the courts stop sheltering cops and aiding and abetting the wrongdoing of cops and prosecutors who lie under oath and disrespect the rights of the innocence. In order for me to receive justice I need support, I need the community in my corner. I need an attorney who is willing to stand up to the bullying behavior of police and prosecutors inside and outside the courtroom. I need an attorney who is willing to face a judge and stand his ground in the interest of justice. Most importantly I need people to know that I am innocent of this crime for which I am convicted and have matured into a man who is interested in rebuilding his community, healing the wounds within our communities caused by youth violence and committed to dismantling a corrupt justice system that prey on the poor and disadvantaged while protecting the powerful who break the law with impunity.

In order for us to dismantle this system we are going to have to work together and unite, not only amongst ourselves but most importantly uniting our families, friends and loved ones into a force and movement that will advocate on our behalf with the same zealousness as prosecutors who advocate on behalf of corrupt cops. We need our advocates and they are found within our homes and communities. Towards this end I encourage all prisoners to encourage their families to join and support the Human Rights Coalition and subscribe to The Movement. Let's get this movement going!

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Call for Contributors

THE MOVEMENT magazine is looking for quality, writing, especially from the families of prisoners, prisoners, and former prisoners that contribute to critical thought and reflection in the various sections of this magazine. Please not more than 2 pages. In particular we are interested in the following:

Feature articles: In-depth, analytical articles that critically examine the criminal justice System, poverty, racism, and that provide solutions to those issues.

Book reviews/political satire art/poetry: Is there a book you'd like to review for THE MOVEMENT magazine? Do you create political satire cartoons or other artwork? Do you write poetry? Let us know and send us copies of your work.

Letters: We love to hear from you. Families of prisoner and prisoners send a shout-out letter and visiting room photo for our 'Love Knows No Bars' section, and send your letters to the Editor for our new 'Writings of Multiplicity' section of THE MOVEMENT. Please let us know if we have your permission to print your letter.

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What's The News!



U.S. appeals court orders that Alan Newton be paid \$18.5 million for wrongful rape conviction

BY STEPHEN REX BROWN
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Published: Thursday, February 26, 2015,
1:05 PM

Alan Newton has a lot to celebrate now that he is on the verge of receiving \$18.5 million for his wrongful rape conviction.

A Brooklyn man who did 22 years in prison for a rape he didn't commit is on the verge of becoming \$18 million richer. A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that the sum awarded to Alan Newton by a jury for the city's mismanagement of

evidence in his case should be reinstated, reversing a lower court's ruling.

Barring an appeal by the city to the U.S. Supreme Court and a dispute over attorney's fees, the money will be paid. John Schutty said his client — who has been out of prison since 2006 — was overwhelmed by the news.

"He cried with joy," Schutty said. "He was ecstatic. He hasn't received a nickel from the city and state. Finally, we're hoping this is it."

U.S. Circuit Judge Raymond Lohier wrote that Newton proved the city's evidence-handling system was woefully inadequate around the time of his conviction in 1985 and subsequent appeals — a key element in determining whether he deserved the hefty sum.

"This evidence supports a finding that the City, through the poor administration of its evidence management system, perpetuated a practice or custom that was wholly inadequate," court documents said. "The problem in Newton's case was with the retrieval of evidence that was sitting there all along."

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin of Manhattan Federal Court set aside the award in 2011, writing that Newton de-

served no cash because the city did not intentionally violate his civil rights. Newton, who could not be reached, told the Daily News in 2011 that since his release he struggled to pay the bills while working part time for CUNY's Black Male Initiative. "He could not stay angry. He knew the anger would kill him if he held onto it. He's remarkably at peace with injustice performed on him," Schutty said.

A city Law Department spokesman said it was reviewing the decision.

ACLU of Indiana Files Suit for Woman Punished by the DOC for Facebook Post Supporting Her Imprisoned Brother

February 5, 2015

Indianapolis —A woman whose Facebook post supporting her imprisoned brother resulted in the Indiana Department of Correction both curtailing her contact with the brother and in segregation time for her brother has filed suit against the DOC for violating her First Amendment rights.

Today the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana brought suit on behalf of Valerie Buford, the sister of Pendleton Correctional Facility inmate Leon Benson, whose "Free Leon Benson" social media campaign involves several Internet sites seeking to gain his release from prison. Buford had posted a video to her Facebook page of her brother thanking and rallying his supporters. Benson had sent his sister the video via J-Pay, a company that contracts with the State to provide services to prisoners and their families such as email, video messaging and money transfers. When the prison learned the video had been posted on Facebook, Ben-

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son was disciplined and the DOC has blocked Buford's ability to use J-Pay.

"Ms. Buford was advocating for her brother and the State cannot penalize private citizens for exercising constitutionally protected rights of free expression," said ACLU of Indiana Legal Director Ken Falk. "The First Amendment protects against retaliatory actions of government officials that can have a chilling effect on speech."

The case seeks to remove the block preventing J-Pay communications between the plaintiff and her brother and to prevent any such future retaliatory actions. It also seeks the client's damages.

From: www.aclu.org/free-speech/aclu-indiana-files-suit-woman-punished-doc-facebook-post-supporting-her-imprisoned-broth

Valerie Buford v. Commissioner, Indiana Department of Correction, No.1:15-cv-157-SEB-TAB, was filed on Feb. 5, 2015 in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division.

American Bar Association calls for end to life-without-parole sentences for children

The American Bar Association (ABA), the country's foremost legal membership organization representing nearly 400,000 prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys and other lawyers, today approved a resolution calling for an end to the practice of sentencing children to life in prison without parole and urging "meaningful periodic opportunities for release."

In approving this resolution, the ABA demonstrates its commitment to ensuring that children are held accountable in a way that provides them the opportunity to be rehabilitated and prove themselves deserving of a second chance. Passage also signals the ABA's commitment to reforming our country's juvenile sentencing laws to reflect child developmental science demonstrating that adolescents are still growing and changing, and recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court affirming that children are "constitutionally different" from adults, and therefore less deserving of our harshest punishments.

"With the adoption of Resolution 107C, the American Bar Association has sent a clear message to the legal community and policymakers across the country that children should never be sentenced to die in prison," said ABA President, William C. Hubbard. "As the world's foremost leader and defender of human rights, the United States should ban life without parole sentences for children - a severe violation of human rights. The ABA applauds those states that have already taken steps to reform their laws and urges other states to pass similar reforms as soon as practicable."

The ABA approved the resolution during its Midyear Meeting in Houston, made up of 560 delegates from state, local and other bar associations and legal groups from across the country. In doing so, the ABA joins a growing movement among policy makers, opinion leaders and national organizations seeking an end to life-without-parole sentences for children, including the American Correctional Association, the National Probation and Parole Association, the National PTA, and that National Association of Counties. Significantly, the ABA resolution received a favorable vote from the U.S. Department of Justice

when it was heard by the Criminal Justice Section last fall, making its position in opposition to life-without-parole for children public for the first time. The resolution was sponsored by Kelly Mitchell, executive director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota Law School.

"Our sentencing strategies should focus on rehabilitating children and preparing them to re-enter society, rather than condemning them to die in prison," said Stephen Saltzburg, a law professor at George Washington University and a former official in the U.S. Department of Justice. "We can never know what a child will be like when he or she is an adult, so we need to check in on them to see if they have changed as they have grown and matured."

The United States is the only country in the world known to sentence its children to die in prison. In addition, the U.S. and South Sudan are the only countries that have yet to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the imposition of life-without-parole sentences upon children. Somalia ratified the treaty last month. Pope Francis also has called for an end to life sentences.

"We are thrilled to have the nation's most respected legal organization add its voice in opposition to this unjust practice," said Jody Kent Lavy, CFSY director & national coordinator. "Their partnership and the overwhelming support for establishing fair alternatives to life-without-parole sentences for children demonstrate that it is time now for the United States to join the rest of the world and stop sentencing our children to die in prison."

Onward!
Jody Kent Lavy, 2/9/15

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say what ? . . . speak up! / writings of multiplicity

A Prisoner's Voice on Terrorism

By: T. Coleman/Adib S. Shabazz, BN9362

I write today regarding what seems to be a pressing need... This topic is Islam in Pennsylvania's prisons.

I have been incarcerated for twenty-five years now and I have been Muslim all of my life. My days are filled with varying educational activities, but most importantly, spiritual growth and self-refinement.

Consequently, Islam has seemingly become stigmatized by the media and many others in our society today. The stereotypes placed upon Muslims in general has led to many of us being unfairly ostracized in—not only society, but in prison as well.

The call of the day by the media and others is, "We need Muslim leaders to speak out against terrorism!" While many Muslim leaders have in fact done so, as well as published many articles in this regard, the manacle of cynicism still continues to subdue those Muslims who have heartfelt disdain for the evils of terrorism.

The big talk now is the radicalization of prisoners. This so-called radicalization of prisoners can never come to fruition if one educates himself upon the correct aqeedah (belief) and manhaj (methodology) as was taught by the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), his companions, and all of those who followed their proper way.

Unfortunately, many men who become, or, became "ignorantly" radicalized because of their miseducation of the true and authentic teachings of Islam. Their palpable ignorance has led to chaos in this country and abroad.

There are no verses in the Noble Quran, or the authentic Sunnah (way) of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), read in its proper context that condones what is being done by these besotted terrorists! In fact, to the contrary, the Noble Quran and the authentic Sunnah (way) of the Prophet (S.A.W.) is in direct contrast to their (terrorist) deviant beliefs.

An example of this is found in the Noble Quran, which reads, "And do not kill yourselves!" This is found in Sura (chapter) four (4) Ayat (verse) twenty-nine (29). This means that anything that would immediately or gradually lead to one's death is haram (unlawful). This sura and verse directly conflicts with anyone who kills themselves no matter what is used to do so. Especially by blowing oneself up! Again, this is not condoned by Allah (God) (S.W.T.) in this religion, and those deviants that does this claiming that it is a halal (lawful) act done for the sake of Allah (S.W.T.) (God) is clearly ignorant and in need of true guidance.

Moreover, the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) has clearly condemned the killing of three groups of people IF one is at war with an oppressive enemy. This killing prohibition is for the following: Women, Children, and the Elderly. Proof of this condemnation can be found in the authentic hadith (narrations of the Prophet (S.A.W.)) entitled, Sahih Al-Bukhari [4:257-OB] or Abridged Bukhari Chapter 69 entitled, Killing the children in war. pg. 613. Also, following this hadith—hadith no. 1294, pg. 613 forbids killing with fire as was recently done by ISIS to a Jordanian Muslim pilot.

Again, this ignorance of the aforementioned deviants should not be attributed to the true teachings of Al-Islam. While we should be courageous in the face of an enemy, we are also obligated to strive to be the most peaceful of all people, the kindest, the most charitable, the most hospitable, and much more than this that radiated the true conduct and character of the 'educated' Muslim in America and abroad.

As stated above, courage is displayed and fear is dismissed in the face of an enemy. Needless to say, the enemy in Islam are those who seek to oppress and impede upon the free practice and propagation of Islam here in America and abroad. In this breath, I say, there is clearly no one stopping the free practice of Islam here in America, so there is clearly no enemy to be fought, rather, it is the misguided, miseducated, and ignorant terrorist that are to be fought—be it by the pen or any other means in hopes of restoring peace which is the true theme of Al-Islam.

Unfortunately, post nine-eleven (9/11) an un-warranted stigma has been placed upon many prisoners here in PA. It is hoped that this stigma will soon be lifted by those who doubt the true peaceful call of Al-Islam and that this said true way of life is investigated from verified authentic sources. The true teachings of Islam cannot merely be found in any old book entitled, 'Islam'. Many books and articles come from unauthentic sources which can lead a layman reader astray, if not properly explained. This being said, I encourage the reader to go to AuthenticStatements.Com to read books, articles, CDs, and DVDs on Al-Islam. While there are other authentic web sites in this regard, the above would be sufficient to begin with.

In conclusion, I reiterate—the shameful uprising of terrorism under the guise of Al-Islam here in America and abroad is because of the lack of authentic information and education, subsequently followed by sincere actions upon the information sought. Indeed it is a well established principle in Islam that knowledge must proceed speech and actions. Clearly, this principle is not applied with the deviant terrorist and others with similar evil objectives that doesn't conform with the true teachings of Islam.

say what ? . . . speak up! / writings of multiplicity

Re: the System

As I sit here in a concrete tomb built for one, which houses two, I can't help but reach out to someone with ears to hear and eyes to see. The most recent events plastered all over the news in light of the decision not to indict a Caucasian man for murdering an "African American" male has compelled me to step out of the shadows and speak up.

Are "We" really surprised? I know I'm not. When are "We" as a people going to finally wake up and realize the "Rules, Laws, Decrees, Procedures, and Constitution etc..." has always will have a double standard to those of us unwilling to recognize the masters of this Nation will never be given equality by people whose nature it is to believe "We" are unequal.

Now, for those of "Us" who aren't aware of what type of ADJUSTMENTS master makes, let me elaborate.

There was a time when "We" didn't have "Rights" the white man was bound to recognize. See (the case of Dred Scott). The ADJUSTMENT made: "Our" rights are predicated upon when master chooses to recognize them. What are "Rights"? Besides a word you say with no enforceable power by those of "Us" who say it. You may think this man is delusional, bitter, miserable, upset, etc... all the things you were taught to say about someone attempting to wake you up to the harsh reality of the TRUTH. To you I say: I empathize with you because I once was lured to mental unconsciousness like so many others who believe they have "Rights". Those of "Us" who believe "They can't do that, or this", but like so many of "Us" learn, yes They can, They will and They did. I was taught the harsh reality "Rights, the Constitution, Rules, Procedures etc..." are only meaningful to the extent the powers that be are willing to recognize and apply them. My "ah ha" moment came when I told the "Honorable Court" my "Constitutional Rights" had been violated and his response was: "that doesn't matter, it won't stop what I'm doing here today. The Judge informed me that not only does a violation of that "Right" would have to rise to a certain level to even matter. WOW! As you can imagine I was Crushed. Why was I crushed? Because like so many others, I was taught to believe I had "Rights", the Constitution applies to people like me as well, all these things mean

something. I quickly learned they don't.

I listened to Michael Brown's mother and so many countless others tell reporters how they can't believe "The System" could fail her/them like this and my heart breaks because I know, first hand, that "The System" has, still and always will fail "Us". "We" talk about "The System" as if it were this entity deserving of reverence, or respect. When in actuality "The System" is nothing more than a process "We" are sent through with the belief it's the best thing for "Us".

Think about this: How many times do "We" have to see, or hear about it taking decades for an innocent man/woman to be released from a concrete tomb before they receive "Justice"? Is "Justice" spending enough years of your life in a tomb to wipe out a generation before being released to an unknown world with nothing, then being led to believe that "The System" worked! If you don't stop! "The System" did everything but work. Or did it? If it did work, Who did it work for? Ah ha. "The System" victimizes, it rapes, it assaults, it insults and it murders mentally, spiritually, physically, psychologically and emotionally.

My next ah ha moment came when facing the Death Penalty. I learned there is a standard in the Rules of Procedure that requires attorneys to have a certain amount of educational and trial experience before representing a defendant facing Capital punishment. The requirement can not be waived and is the "Honorable Court's" responsibility to ensure defense counsel is in compliance with said Rule. If not, it would be a violation of my "Constitutional Rights". I figured I better let the "Honorable Court" know about this since the attorney representing me failed to comply with the said Rule. The "Honorable Court" kindly introduced me to another one of "The System's" ADJUSTMENTS. That Mr. Morris is what we like to call "Harmless Error". But my "Rights" what about my "Rights"? The look I got, the court opinions I got said it all. What "Rights". Mr. Morris you have no "Rights".

The next ah ha moment came when I started doing my illegal sentence in a D.O.C. Correctional facility at Coal Township. While attending the Law Library, speaking with other inmates illegally housed, I learned that I'd better eat, sleep, and squat Law because there's this thing called the Anti-Terrorism Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) of 1996, Public Law No. 104-132, 110 Statue 1214 (1996)

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enacted by former President, Bill Clinton. This Bill introduced tens of thousands, if not, hundreds of thousands of prisoners to a thing known as a "Time Bar". Meaning in effect, your "Rights" may have been violated but you did not argue that in time, so, too bad. Got cha! Damn ADJUSTMENTS. You have one year in the state of Pennsylvania and many others states to study and learn the law, gather your resources, if you have no resources, obtain resources, accumulate evidence, learn what are your strongest issues and present those because the "Honorable Court" doesn't want you to raise too many issues or else your appeal gets brushed aside and rubber stamped denied! All this needs to be done within the strict time constraints of "The System" or else you're not even entitled to an elaborate opinion on why none of your issues pass the muster of standards of ADJUSTMENTS so precisely orchestrated by "The System". Your issues and those "Rights" of yours are all deemed to be waived! Got cha again. Damn! This amounts to rotting away in a prison issued tomb. Thanks a lot Bill Clinton.

Not only did I learn I don't have "Rights", I also learned, even if I did, they come with an unreasonable expiration date. It's impossible for individuals with little to no education to overcome all the ADJUSTMENTS enacted by "The System", compounded by the strict nonflexible timeline. Is "The System" Working? Yea, it's working all right, but for who? You decide. Some may say: that's why "The System" provides lawyers for those unable to hire their own. Another agent of the State, a Mr. Smith of sorts (Mr. Smith—referenced from The Matrix movie). You can keep your Benedict Arnolds. No thanks. To list all the improprieties "The System" has done, will do and is still doing would take a lifetime.

In closing, I ask "The People" to not only fight and protest for the Michael Brown's, Trayvon Martin's etc... of the world but for your other brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins also locked away rotting in concrete warehouses. Our lives matter too. Death to Life Sentences, Death to the Death Penalty, Death to the Time Bar, Death to Harmless Error etc..." Now put that in your local and national newspapers and on your television screens. How much better is "The System" than the so called "criminals" it convicts. "The System's" criminal history in this Nation is well documented. Who will prosecute it to the full extent of the Law? If anyone deserves a Death

sentence it is "The System" for its premeditated intent to commit mass rape, assault, and murder!

Ernest R. Morris, JJ1120

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November 17, 2014

As I write this article, I ask myself what will the new governor Tom Wolf do for the state of Pennsylvania?!!

I understand that he will have many challenges awaiting him in Harrisburg. But as I set in my prison cell, I am a witness that history was made in the state of Pennsylvania his past election year.

What I would like to see Governor Wolf do, is to let those lawmakers in Harrisburg know that they need to work on a better system for the criminal justice system in this state!!!

When you have over some fifty-six thousand men and women who are incarcerated in Pennsylvania Department of Corrections that is costing the taxpayers of this state over two billion dollars a year something is wrong and something needs to be done!

Because most of that money could be used for bettering the education for young people for social service programs, for our elderly who live in this state, and who need it more than building new prisons. If you just walk in any county in this state you will see peopling living on the streets!

The people of Pennsylvania opted for a change by kicking Tom Corbett out office.

We know that the state prison system is about jobs for those state lawmakers who have them in their districts and need their votes to keep them in Harrisburg!

But how about the out-of-state contractors who are taking jobs out of the state by making millions and millions of dollars off of those who are incarcerated in this state.

It's time for Gov. Wolf to set down with the Republicans as well as the Democrats to revamp the justice system!!!

Starting with the State Parole Board as well as the Pardon

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Board, you have so many human beings who have a sentence of life, who should get the opportunity to get another chance in life for that one mistake. How many of the people who are law-makers in Harrisburg has made mistakes in their lives? Once again, it's time to revamp the justice system!

Gov. Wolf you and those around you don't know that we have prisoners who are part of different organizations in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections that reach out to different charities in this state, they do this because a lot of them feel remorseful for the crime that they had committed, but who in Harrisburg wants to tell you this? And by the way, most of those prisoners who do this have a life sentence, and only make 19 cents an hour.

When you were running for office you said that you would be the Governor of all the people of this state, well Gov. Wolf, those who are incarcerated are also part of this state and also pay taxes like everyone else!

"Trafficking In WHAT?!** **I'd Never Be A Party To THAT!!"

ANY type of Illegal Detainment is a serious crime. But kidnapping and holding for ransom (or for other gain) is a Federal offense; it carries a life sentence. Conspiracy to commit such a crime adds another life sentence.

Plotting to deliberately increase a person's length of incarceration (beyond the actual intended sentence) for personal interest or for gain, amounts to the same thing: felonious depravation of freedom. AND it constitutes an AGGRAVATED felony (for each conspirator) because there exists a danger: that those so detained face the ever increasing likelihood of DYING while still incarcerated WELL BEYOND eligibility for parole. The death of any person during the commission or perpetration of a crime is punishable as Murder...

In fact, many of the Ohio 'parole' board's victims HAVE died while being held YEARS PAST their legitimate terms of incarceration. (ELIGIBILITY is 2/3 of the Judge's stated "minimum": 5-to-25" "3 1/2 years with good behavior; otherwise 5 years;" "10-to-25" means "7 years with good behavior; otherwise 10 years."

Once PAST the ACTUAL "minimum" (5 of a "5 to 25," etc.), a "prisoner is NO LONGER serving any LEGITIMATE sentence and so becomes a "CAPTIVE," just as surely as if he

were a victim of kidnapping.

So-we are wondering-WHAT will be the punishment of these conspirators for their willful participation in this most flagrant form of HUMAN TRAFFICKING!???

Are State employees not subject to the SAME laws (and penalties) as are OTHER citizens????

R.J. Reece
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Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in hopes of receiving The Movement, also to express my thoughts about the Silencing Law (SB-508).

Upon learning of this legislation, I believe it is not actually designed to help victims. But is a cynical move by legislators to stop people in prison from speaking out against an unjust system. The bill is also a clear violation of the First Amendment, my right to freedom of speech. Unfortunately the PA General Assembly didn't think so.

It is overbroad in violation of the First Amendment since it encompasses a substantial amount of lawful speech could cause "mental anguish" and therefore be censored under the law; I'm appalled, dismayed.

It is void for vagueness, as it provides no guidance to what type of conduct or speech may violate the law, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause; it discriminates against speech based on the identity of the speaker, in violation of the First Amendment; it censors speech based on its content, when that content causes "mental anguish", also in violation of the fact the First Amendment places standard-less discretionary authority in those who have been victims of personal injury crimes as to when a lawsuit may be filed, and the same standard-less discretionary authority in a judge as to when an injunction maybe issues which enables arbitrary censorship in violation of the First Amendment.

The law was passed in response to Mumia Abu-Jamal giving a pre-recorded commencement speech to a graduating class at his Alma Mater, Goddard College. Abu-Jamal has spent 33 years in prison, 30 of which were in solitary confinement on death row after being convicted at a 1982 trial that Amnesty International said "failed to meet minimum international standards safeguarding the fairness of legal proceedings. I end this letter with the feelings and emotions of many political prisoners, inmates, convicts. . . No! to SB-508.

By: Termaine Saulsbury GP-3965, Camp Hill.

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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.

America's Guilt Mill

Thousands of Americans, many of them poor, are wrongfully convicted each year for crimes that don't make headlines. While innocence advocates focus on lifers, those falsely accused of lesser crimes are the overlooked casualties of our overburdened courts.

February 9, 2015

By David J. Krajicek

Part I of III

When Rachel Jernigan was falsely accused of robbing a Gilbert, Ariz., bank 15 years ago, she expected the American criminal justice system to do the right thing.

"They tried to get me to plead guilty," Jernigan says. "They told me they were going to give me 27 years (in prison). But I said I'm not going to plead guilty for something I didn't do. I really believed I was going to come home from my trial. I was shocked when the jury found me guilty."

Sentenced to 14 years, she spent more than seven years in prison before the real robber was identified by Jernigan's determination and a fluke twist.

"If it can happen to me," Jernigan says, "it can happen to anyone."

And it does.

In a sense, Jernigan was a lucky exception.

Experts believe that thousands of people are wrongfully convicted each year in America for the types of crimes that Jernigan was charged with—second-tier felonies like robbery, burglary and assault. And when misdemeanors and driving infractions are included, the number of flawed convictions increases exponentially.

Yet only a tiny fraction of these cases are ever exposed. The cadre of criminologists and law professors who study wrongful convictions regard these missing exonerations as one of the great mysteries of American criminal justice.

Many believe the victims are likely the low-hanging fruit of the justice machine, poor men and women who don't have the wherewithal to pursue justice.

They likely do what Jernigan was not willing to do: suck it up and accept a plea deal.

"My own somewhat unstudied, seat-of-the-pants estimation is that a lot of working-class folks are probably pretty cynical about the world," says Marvin Zalman of Wayne State University, a leading wrongful convictions scholar. "And I think that when they get convicted of relatively minor stuff where they didn't do anything wrong, they just chalk it up to a bad experience, do their time, and simply move on."



Rachel Jernigan

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Most who are convicted of minor crimes are unlikely to pony up a retainer—typically \$25,000 or much more—to hire a lawyer to seek justice. Nor can they expect help from the community of innocence advocates, who focus on cases where DNA can provide irrefutable evidence of innocence—usually homicides and rapes.

“Unfortunately, the Innocence Project would never take cases like these,” says Mitchell Beers, a South Florida criminal defense attorney who won an assault exoneration in 2006.

About 6,000 people a year ask for help from the Innocence Project, a network of about 65 largely autonomous organizations. It has about 250 active cases at any given time, and nearly all of them focus on DNA evidence, says spokesman Paul Cates.

“We are still very committed to taking cases where DNA evidence is available to prove innocence,” says Cates. “That might change at some point down the road, but the thinking is that DNA is still kind of the gold standard in proving innocence.”

The Innocence Project has had a role in 325 exonerations since it was founded in 1992; just eight of them did not involve DNA cases: four home invasions, three car-jackings and one robbery. In the alternate reality of TV cop dramas, every crime scene is scraped for biological evidence. The real world doesn’t work that way. DNA evidence is rarely collected in the ham-and-egg cases—stickups, break-ins and rip-offs—that predominate on court dockets nationwide.

Biological evidence is collected in just one of five crimes, nearly all of them murders or rapes. A 2010 study for the National Institute of Justice said fewer than 10 percent of assaults, burglaries and robberies had physical evidence examined in crime labs, compared with 81 percent for murders.

So how vast is the trove of undiscovered wrongful convictions? No one knows for sure, because there is little empirical evidence. Zalman calls wrongful convictions “one of the most remarkably loose areas of analysis in the criminal justice field.” As Sam Gross, a University of Michigan law professor and editor of the National Registry of Exonerations, has written, “The fundamental problem with false convictions is also one of their defining features: they are hidden from view.”

But interviews by *The Crime Report* with more than 25 scholars, advocates, attorneys and victims suggest a growing imperative to unearth the missing exonerations and fix the systemic problems that cause them. The stakes are high. The best new research suggests that between one and five percent of all convictions across the breadth of our criminal justice system are unjust. Consider this: about one million people are convicted of serious crimes in America each year. By these estimates, as many as 50,000 of them are innocent.

Few Exonerations for Assault, Burglary

Gross’ compendium of exonerations now includes more than 1,500 examples of men and women exculpated in the United States since 1989 after convictions based upon such things as false accusations, police or prosecutorial misconduct, eyewitness misidentification, faulty forensic evidence, false confessions or a combination of causes.

Gross cautions against using the registry data to draw broader estimates of wrongful convictions. But the data is the best record we have, and it plainly points out the statistical anomalies hinting at thousands of undiscovered wrongful convictions.

About 75 percent of all known exonerations have involved a homicide or sexual assault case. Exonerations for other crimes trended upward in 2014, thanks to a cluster of 33 wrongful convictions in drug cases exposed in the Houston area. Still, just 6 percent of known exonerations were in robbery cases, even though there are four times as many robberies reported annually than the total for murder and rape.

As Gross and collaborator Barbara O’Brien wrote in 2007, “There are virtually no exonerations for the misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies that constitute the vast majority of all criminal convictions, and probably include the majority of false criminal convictions as well.”

A number of different data sets drive home the point.

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- Of the 1.16 million violent crimes reported in the U.S. in 2013, 62.3 percent were assaults, 29.7 percent robberies, 6.9 percent rapes and just 1.2 percent murders. In whole numbers, the country had 14,196 homicides, about 80,000 sexual assaults and 345,000 robberies in 2013, according to the FBI.
- There were an estimated 724,000 aggravated assaults, the most prevalent violent crime. Well over 20 million assaults have been logged in the 25 years since the registry's data starting point of 1989. Yet the registry includes only about 50 assault exonerations. Similarly, there are fewer than 10 known exonerations for burglary, another prevalent crime, with about 1.9 million reported in 2013.
- At the end of 2013, federal and state prisons held a total of 258,600 inmates convicted of property crimes, including 131,000 burglaries, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. About 721,000 were imprisoned for violent crimes, including 186,400 for murder or manslaughter, 188,000 for robbery, 161,000 for rape and 140,000 for assault. Nearly 290,000 were locked up for narcotics.

With more than 2 million people behind bars in America, those who claim wrongful convictions for lesser felonies have little chance of being heard above the din of lifers asking for help from innocence advocates.

Advocates focus on murder and rape cases for several good reasons.

The stakes are highest in capital cases like homicide, where the sentence can be life in prison without parole or, in 32 states, the death penalty. Those convictions often can be confirmed or overturned based upon DNA testing of stored evidence. (DNA testing confirms guilt in about half the cases the Innocence Project investigates.) The calendar is another important factor. A successful challenge of a wrongful conviction takes an average of five to seven years, according to the Innocence Project.

Those convicted of lesser felonies rarely serve prison terms that long.

The average time served in state prisons is just 28 months for violent offenders, 13 months for drug crimes and 12 months for property crimes, according to the Department of Justice. The average terms are 13 years for homicide, four years for rape, 34 months for robbery, 17 months for assault, 15 months for burglary, 13 months for drug offenses, and just 11 months each for larceny, auto theft and fraud. Someone released after serving a year for burglary is unlikely to draw retroactive attention to his or her case amid what Zalman calls the "triage" of innocence advocacy.

"There are so many petitions for assistance, and the selection standards are so high, that some actually innocent prisoners will be lost in the triage," Zalman wrote in a 2012 journal article. Those convicted of "run-of-the-mill felonies" don't stand a chance, he says. Claudia Whitman, a longtime New England-based innocence advocate who has had a role in several exonerations, says she and her peers are inundated.

"Before they reach out to me, they've written to a hundred people, every Innocence Project, you name it," Whitman says. "Either they get no answer or they get a form letter saying, 'Sorry, we can't help you.' Every letter I get says the same thing: 'I've been trying for years, and nobody will listen to me.'"

Journalists get many of the same letters, and some have led to revelatory exonerations. But most get tucked in a to-do file that never gets done. Whitman shared a 2005 letter from a Michigan inmate that shows the tenacity those who claim wrongful conviction must have to find an advocate. Whitman had suggested a few contacts.

The man replied:

Yes, I have written to Doug Tjapkes at Innocent, and was referred to Keith Findley at the Wisconsin Innoc. Proj, and was told that U. of Wisconsin do not have the resources to handle cases in Michigan. Also, I have written to Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (AIDWYC), Mr. Barry Scheck of Innocence Proj/Cardozo School of Law, Ms. Elaine Utal of Centurion Ministries Inc., Ms. Barbara Jean McAtlin of Justice Denied, Ms. Kathy Swedlow of MI Innocent Proj at Thomas Cooley Law School, Ms. Joyce A. Brown of MASS, Professor Anita Hill at Oklahoma Law School, Innocence Proj of Express Legal Service, Ms. Jennifer Linzer of Center on Wrongful Conviction/ Northwestern U. School of Law, Mr. David A. Moran of Wayne State U. Law School, Professor David Protess at Medill School of Journalism, Dr. Lawrence Farwell of Brain Fingerprinting Exam Proj., U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, U.S.

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Attorney, President Clinton, and Governor Jennifer (Granholm) of Michigan. Unfortunately, all were unable to assist me.

‘Sheer Good Luck’

Until the age of DNA testing, there was no certain method of exposing unjust convictions. In 1932, Edwin Borchard, a Yale law professor and wrongful conviction pioneer, famously wrote that most exonerations happen as a result of “sheer good luck.” DNA testing added scientific certainty to major felony cases where blood, saliva, skin, hair or semen evidence is available. But little has changed since Borchard’s time for those convicted of lesser felonies. As often as not, luck still plays a role in the few exonerations for those crimes.

In March 1990, Robert Farnsworth Jr. was working as a manager at a Wendy’s franchise in Jackson, Mich. He dropped two bags down a bank deposit chute one night, but only one was found the next morning. Farnsworth, 29, was fired. Later, he broke down during a police interrogation and said he stole the money. He immediately recanted and said he’d been coerced. He was charged with felony theft of the missing \$2,300. He rejected a plea agreement and insisted on a jury trial. A bank employee testified it was “absolutely impossible” for the deposit to vanish, and Farnsworth was convicted based on his questionable confession. He was ordered to pay restitution and received probation and a suspended jail sentence.

Farnsworth gritted his teeth and took the punishment.

Later that year, a deposit from another local business disappeared down the same deposit chute. The bank inspected the device and found three bags hung inside, including the Wendy’s deposit and a third that had not been reported missing.

Farnsworth, who had gone bankrupt as a result of legal fees, was exonerated.

“I told them and I told them that the deposit bag had to be in that bank, and they did not believe me,” Farnsworth told the local press. “Their attitude was that I was guilty and they were going to get me. Everybody turned their backs on me.”

“It’s so idiosyncratic how we go about exonerating someone,” says Allison Redlich, an associate professor of criminal justice at the State University of New York at Albany. “Where are the missing exonerations and how do we find them? It’s really the million dollar question. If and when we can answer that, hopefully there would be no more wrongful convictions.”

Michigan’s Gross says he suspects the rate of wrongful convictions for lesser crimes like Farnsworth’s is lower than that of capital cases. Others, including Jon Gould, an American University law professor, believe the rate is higher in minor crimes because they get little attention as they are plunged through courthouse bottlenecks. No one doubts that robberies, assaults and burglaries are subject to the same issues of mistaken eyewitnesses, the calculated police false testimony known as “testi-lying,” incompetent defense attorneys, and crime lab malfeasance that doom defendants in major cases.

“It’s foolhardy to think that errors aren’t reasonably substantial in all other crimes, both felonies and misdemeanors,” says Wayne State’s Zalman.

Conviction and incarceration statistics only hint at the potential for errors. The larger picture shows a fire hose blasting new cases into the criminal justice system every day and corresponding pressure on the courts to dispose of them quickly. American law enforcers arrested 11.3 million people in 2013, or about 31,000 each day. More than 3 million of those arrests were for narcotics crimes, drunken driving or drunkenness. Property crimes, including burglary, larceny and theft, accounted for about 1.6 million arrests, and violent crime for nearly 500,000.

Even after 20 years of a steep decline in crime, the American justice system staggers under its own weight. In the various state and local courts of California, our most populous state, 1.4 million new criminal cases were filed in 2012, according to *the National Center for State Courts*. That’s one new criminal case for every 26 Californians. But criminal cases represent just a fraction of U.S. court dockets.

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Traffic cases are by far the greatest burden on California courts, with 5.4 million cases in 2012. The state also had 1.2 million new civil court cases filed in 2012, 400,000 domestic court cases and 110,000 juvenile court cases. Across all categories, the 2012 total was nearly 8.5 million court cases, or roughly one for every five of the state's 38 million residents.

And California's numbers were not exceptional. New York saw 715,000 criminal cases filed in 2012, or one for every 27 residents; Alabama had 235,000 (one in 20); Ohio 825,000 (one in 14); Arizona 595,000 (one in 11), and Texas 3.3 million (one in eight). Arkansas was the per-capita leader, with 519,000 new criminal cases in 2012, or one for every six state residents. Across all types of cases, about one in three residents of the states of Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio had contact with the court system in 2012. Texas, with 3.3 million criminal and 8 million traffic cases, had 13.3 million total court filings in 2012, or one new case for every two of the state's 26 million residents.

Due to the length of the above report, Part II of III, America's Guilt Mill, will be printed in the next issue of The Movement. Please note that this report has been edited for fit.

Full report may be found at: www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2015-02-americas-guilt-mill





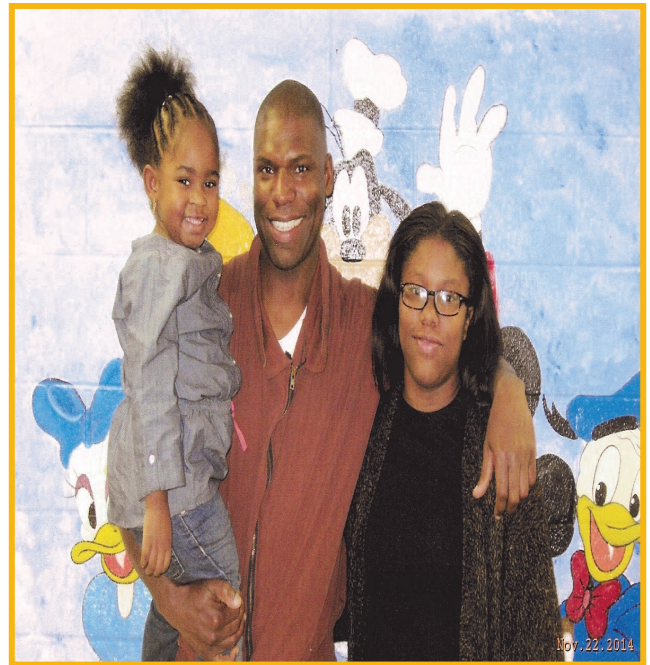
Uncle Hoagie's 45th Birthday

Happy Birthday to my Uncle Hoagie . We love you so much and was so happy to be able to visit you on your birthday. XOXOXO

Thank you shero and Human Rights Activist, Theresa , for help organizing the visit on my Uncle Hoagie's 45th Birthday and all the remarkable work you do for children as well as the elders in the community through love and humanity by way of peace. May God bless your heart.

Sincerely,
Kyarah Coffey

From left to right:
A'niyharay,
Uncle Hoagie, and
Kyarah



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

Sudoku #173 (Easy)

Sudoku is easy to play and the rules are simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

See page 13 for answers.