

THE MOVEMENT

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The New and Official Newsletter of the Human Rights Coalition for the union of Prisoners' Families

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WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

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From The Desk of The Editor

Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to **THE MOVEMENT**, the official newsletter of the Human Rights Coalition (HRC).

I pen this article on December 10th, **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**. A day in which the world's people spend time reflecting on what Human Rights actually are and the ways we can struggle to obtain our human rights. I personally like to reflect on what I have learned of human rights from past great leaders Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X (Omwale) whom have paved the way in my understanding of human rights. It would do people some good to do an internet Google research on what Martin Luther King and Malcolm X had to say about human rights being the new struggle (not Civil Rights) and the instructions these two beloved leaders left behind to us as a roadmap to follow to end all inequalities and injustices to bring about a better and truly civilized world.

So one may ask, what is human rights? The Black's Law Dictionary, 8th Edition defines human rights as "The freedoms, immunities, and benefits that according to modern values (esp. at an international level), all human beings should be able to claim as a matter of right in society in which they live. See 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights'. Such definition of human rights written by the ruling class officers of jurisprudence appears a bit vague and intentionally elusive, so let me explain what human rights mean to me.

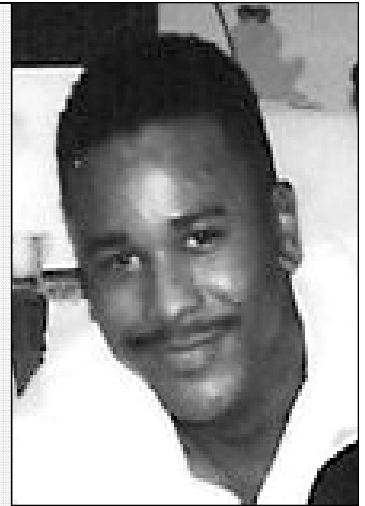
From my perspective human rights are our inalienable right as human beings to freely be provided clean water, natural foods, clothing, housing, education, healthcare, social services, clean energy, and an unpolluted Mother Earth to live on, equal treatment of (all) peoples, justice for all, and individual/collective freedom. Meaning freedom from tyrannical governments, exploitive corporations, unjust and racist laws, mass imprisonment, usury and debt, slavery in all its forms, and freedom from our governments' imperialist wars of aggression against other nations to steal their natural resources and live luxuriously off of the fat of those nations' lands, like bloodsucking parasites, while the host nations suffer in affect poverty and misery.

Some may call my perspective of human rights utopian, but I beg to differ. Anything that our minds can perceive, we as human beings can achieve it. The first act of transforming the world begins with the change we make in our own minds, and the second act of transformation is when we put our thoughts and ideas of human rights into practice to socially transform the world in a radical way beginning in our local areas. My personal philosophy is that if we can perceive a thing mentally, we can achieve it physically, but only if we believe it.

Now looking at human rights from a political and social stand point, if we had human rights there could be a thing as true equal treatment (equality) for all people, especially for the economically poor African, European, Asian, Latino (a), and Native peoples of America and around the world. Women, Gays, immigrants, and people of color whom have long been oppressed wouldn't be subjected to discriminatory acts or laws based on sex, gender, citizenship (nationality), and so-called race (i.e. ethnicity). There could be a thing as true justice for all, especially for the Native American people who are still held on colonial reservations and having more of their lands stolen from beneath their feet. African Americans who still haven't received reparations for American slavery, Jim Crow Apartheid, 100 years of lynching and state-sanctioned terrorism, and now the modern day version of Jim Crow in the form of radicalized mass imprisonment that has disenfranchised tens of millions of people.

Justice for all the peoples and nations of the world whom America has waged unjust wars of aggression against (Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea, Somalia, etc.) to force them into neo-colonial submission in order to steal their natural resources and enslave their people. Justice For All would mean the release from American pris-

(Continued on page 3)



ons of all **POLITICAL PRISONERS** currently confined, such as Lynne Stewart, Leonard Peltier, David Gilbert, Mumia Abu Jamal, Ruchell Cinque MaGhee, Russell Maroon Shoats, The MOVE members, The Cuban 5, and many other political prisoners who have fought on behalf of the people's movements against the rich ruling class oppressors in/out of government.

We cannot obtain these things under 'Civil Rights' which is defined as our individual rights of personal liberty guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and by the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments of the United States Constitution, as well as by such congressional legislation as the Voting Rights Act. Civil Rights, as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X rightly understood, can only take a peoples' movement so far, which is why those two leaders began to advocate the struggle for Human Rights prior to their assassinations orchestrated by government agents.

I believe that if the peoples of the world were to learn, accept, and advocate for the human rights of all people the world would be on a path of actually reaching civilization (i.e., civilized societies) instead of wallowing in the mud of Barbarism as we currently are, yet believing ourselves to actually be civilized nations and peoples. Our social evolution as human beings has not ended, and probably never will. That's why we must keep on move'n...STRAIGHT AHEAD!

Let's struggle to win. All power to all the people!

Kerry 'Shakaboona' Marshall, Co-editor In Chief

You can email Shakaboona now at: Shakaboona@gmail.com

THOSE IN PRISON

by Susan Zalatan

We want them to be responsible
So we take away all responsibility

We want them to be positive and constructive
So we degrade them and make them useless

We want them to be trustworthy
So we put them where there is no trust

We want them to be nonviolent
So we surround them with violence

We want them to be kind and loving
So we subject them to hatred and cruelty

We want them to quit being the "tough guy"
So we put them where only the "tough guy" survives

We want them to quit exploiting us
So we cage them where they exploit each other

We want them to take control of their lives
So we make them dependent on us

We want them to be a part of our community
So we separate them from our community

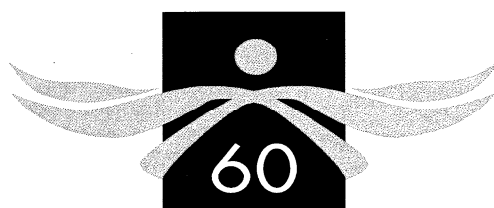
You want us to have self-worth
So you destroy our self-worth
And call it "corrections."

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Dignity and justice for all of us



United Nations



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights
and fundamental freedoms.*

*The United Nations is committed to upholding, promoting and protecting
the human rights of every individual. This commitment stems from the
United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the faith of the peoples of the world in
fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.*

*In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has stated
in clear and simple terms the rights which belong equally to every person.*

These rights belong to you.

They are your rights. Familiarize yourself with them.

*Help to promote and defend them for yourself
as well as for your fellow human beings.*

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity
and of the equal and inalienable rights of
all members of the human family is the
foundation of freedom, justice and peace
in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human
rights have resulted in barbarous acts which
have outraged the conscience of mankind,
and the advent of a world in which human
beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and
belief and freedom from fear and want has
been proclaimed as the highest aspiration
of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be
compelled to have recourse, as a last resort,
to rebellion against tyranny and oppression,
that human rights should be protected by
the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the devel-
opment of friendly relations between
nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations
have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith
in fundamental human rights, in the dig-
nity and worth of the human person and
in the equal rights of men and women
and have determined to promote social

progress and better standards of life in
larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged
themselves to achieve, in cooperation
with the United Nations, the promotion
of universal respect for and observance of
human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these
rights and freedoms is of the greatest
importance for the full realization of this
pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human
Rights as a common standard of achieve-
ment for all peoples and all nations, to
the end that every individual and every
organ of society, keeping this Declaration
constantly in mind, shall strive by teach-
ing and education to promote respect for
these rights and freedoms and by progres-
sive measures, national and international,
to secure their universal and effective rec-
ognition and observance, both among the
peoples of Member States themselves and
among the peoples of territories under
their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in
dignity and rights. They are endowed with
reason and conscience and should act towards
one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and
freedoms set forth in this Declaration, with-
out distinction of any kind, such as race,
colour, sex, language, religion, political or
other opinion, national or social origin, prop-
erty, birth or other status. Furthermore, no
distinction shall be made on the basis of the
political, jurisdictional or international status
of the country or territory to which a person
belongs, whether it be independent, trust,
non-self-governing or under any other limita-
tion of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and
security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude;
slavery and the slave trade shall be prohib-
ited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to
cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or
punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition every-
where as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled
without any discrimination to equal protec-
tion of the law. All are entitled to equal pro-
tection against any discrimination in violation
of this Declaration and against any incitement
to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy
by the competent national tribunals for acts
violating the fundamental rights granted him
by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest,
detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair
and public hearing by an independent and
impartial tribunal, in the determination of
his rights and obligations and of any criminal
charge against him.

Article 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence
has the right to be presumed innocent until
proved guilty according to law in a public trial
at which he has had all the guarantees neces-
sary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal
offence on account of any act or omission

which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and

to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

United Nations Department of Public Information

For more information

www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/udhr.htm

www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/index.asp

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?



http://www.africawithin.com/malcolm/malcolm_gallery.htm

What are human rights?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

Universal and inalienable

The principle of universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law. This principle, as first emphasized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, has been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions. The 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, for example, noted that it is the duty of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

All States have ratified at least one, and 80% of States have ratified four or more, of the core human rights treaties, reflecting consent of States which creates legal obligations for them and giving concrete expression to universality. Some fundamental human rights norms enjoy universal protection by customary international law across all boundaries and civilizations.

Human rights are inalienable. They should not be taken away, except in specific situations and according to due process. For example, the right to liberty may be restricted if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law.

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WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

(Continued from page 6)

Interdependent and indivisible

All human rights are indivisible, whether they are civil and political rights, such as the right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to work, social security and education, or collective rights, such as the rights to development and self-determination, are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. The improvement of one right facilitates advancement of the others. Likewise, the deprivation of one right adversely affects the others.

Equal and non-discriminatory

Non-discrimination is a cross-cutting principle in international human rights law. The principle is present in all the major human rights treaties and provides the central theme of some of international human rights conventions such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The principle applies to everyone in relation to all human rights and freedoms and it prohibits discrimination on the basis of a list of non-exhaustive categories such as sex, race, colour and so on. The principle of non-discrimination is complemented by the principle of equality, as stated in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

Both Rights and Obligations

Human rights entail both rights and obligations. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfill human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, while we are entitled our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of others.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>

UNA MUJER DE VALOR

by Claudia L. Manriquez

Aquel que busca la voluntad de DIOS en toda decisión
Es un ser humano guiado por el Espíritu Santo
Ya no vive para sí mismo, vive para agradar a su SEÑOR
Piensa antes de hablar y actuar, porque ya es alguien sabio

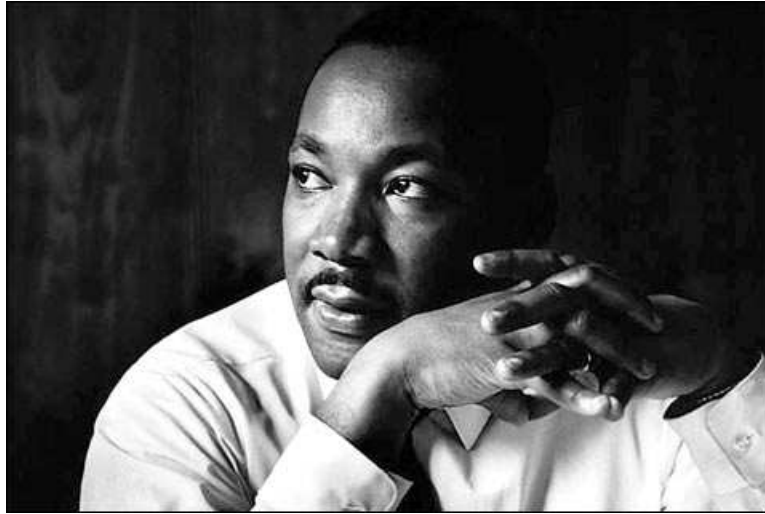
Aquel que sabe lo que es sufrir y esta arto
Que ya no pierda el tiempo y tome ese paso
Pongase ante los pies del que puede restaurarlo
Solamente así podrá recibir sanación y moldación

Todo ser humano necesita guía y estructura
Si ve que su manera lo ha llevado a una vida de tortura
Obviamente esta perdido, que busque la salida
Sola hay una forma de obtener paz y alegría

Esto viene de alguien que en lo mas profundo se undio
Cuando dijeron que pasaria el resto de su vida en una prisión
Si hera yo—yo no pude sola pero DIOS me rescato
Primero cambio mi mente, alma y corazón.

Luego cambio mi sentencia ~ Gloria a DIOS
Hoy soy una mujer fuerte ~ llena de valor
Una guerrera que traí almas, honra y Gloria a mi SEÑOR
Un día vivire para siempre con el dueño de mi corazón

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS?



<http://www.mlkonline.net/images.html>

The Martin Luther King You Don't See on TV

Media Beat (1 / 4 / 9 5)

By **Jeff Cohen** and **Norman Solomon**

It's become a TV ritual: Every year in mid-January, around the time of Martin Luther King's birthday, we get perfunctory network news reports about "the slain civil rights leader."

The remarkable thing about this annual review of King's life is that several years — his last years — are totally missing, as if flushed down a memory hole.

What TV viewers see is a closed loop of familiar file footage: King battling desegregation in Birmingham (1963); reciting his dream of racial harmony at the rally in Washington (1963); marching for voting rights in Selma, Alabama (1965); and finally, lying dead on the motel balcony in Memphis (1968).

An alert viewer might notice that the chronology jumps from 1965 to 1968. Yet King didn't take a sabbatical near the end of his life. In fact, he was speaking and organizing as diligently as ever.

Almost all of those speeches were filmed or taped. But they're not shown today on TV.

Why?

It's because national news media have never come to terms with what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for during his final years.

In the early 1960s, when King focused his challenge on legalized racial discrimination in the South, most major media were his allies. Network TV and national publications graphically showed the police dogs and bullwhips and cattle prods used against Southern blacks who

(Continued on page 9)

sought the right to vote or to eat at a public lunch counter.

But after passage of civil rights acts in 1964 and 1965, King began challenging the nation's fundamental priorities. He maintained that civil rights laws were empty without "human rights" — including economic rights. For people too poor to eat at a restaurant or afford a decent home, King said, anti-discrimination laws were hollow.

Noting that a majority of Americans below the poverty line were white, King developed a class perspective. He decried the huge income gaps between rich and poor, and called for "radical changes in the structure of our society" to redistribute wealth and power.

"True compassion," King declared, "is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

By 1967, King had also become the country's most prominent opponent of the Vietnam War, and a staunch critic of overall U.S. foreign policy, which he deemed militaristic. In his "**Beyond Vietnam**" speech delivered at New York's Riverside Church on April 4, 1967 — a year to the day before he was murdered — King called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

From Vietnam to South Africa to Latin America, King said, the U.S. was "on the wrong side of a world revolution." King questioned "our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America," and asked why the U.S. was suppressing revolutions "of the shirtless and barefoot people" in the Third World, instead of supporting them.

In foreign policy, King also offered an economic critique, complaining about "capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries."

You haven't heard the "Beyond Vietnam" speech on network news retrospectives, but national media heard it loud and clear back in 1967 — and loudly denounced it. **Life** magazine called it "demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi." The **Washington Post** patronized that "King has diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people."

In his last months, King was organizing the most militant project of his life: the Poor People's Campaign. He crisscrossed the country to assemble "a multiracial army of the poor" that would descend on Washington — engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the Capitol, if need be — until Congress enacted a poor people's bill of rights. **Reader's Digest** warned of an "insurrection."

King's economic bill of rights called for massive government jobs programs to rebuild America's cities. He saw a crying need to confront a Congress that had demonstrated its "hostility to the poor" — appropriating "military funds with alacrity and generosity," but providing "poverty funds with miserliness."

How familiar that sounds today, more than a quarter-century after King's efforts on behalf of the poor people's mobilization were cut short by an assassin's bullet.

As 1995 gets underway, in this nation of immense wealth, the White House and Congress continue to accept the perpetuation of poverty. And so do most mass media. Perhaps it's no surprise that they tell us little about the last years of Martin Luther King's life.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 12/10/2010



Criticism is not a crime: Human Rights Day 2010

"Despite grave risks, human rights defenders everywhere continue to champion the vision of the Universal Declaration through their ideas and deeds. They know that silence and inaction embolden those who violate human rights." In her speech to a special Human Rights Day event in Geneva UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay focused on the work of human rights defenders and the groups of people who require special efforts in the safeguarding of their rights.

Pillay acknowledged the famous defenders, those who have become "icons". Others, she said, "may be less famous but are not less determined and courageous."

The High Commissioner spoke of the Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, murdered in 2006, and Foribert Chebeya Bahizire found dead earlier this year. Many others remain unknown: Pillay recalled the kidnapping and murder of Guatemalan activist, Emilia Quan only days ago.

In both her speech and statement for 10 December Pillay singled out a number of groups for special focus – groups who through force of circumstance find themselves particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse with little or no chance of redress.

The High Commissioner pointed to the world's 370 million indigenous peoples many of whom "are considered unwanted guests in their own ancestral lands"; the 200 million migrants world-wide, especially those who are undocumented and irregular who face chronic forms of discrimination; and half of the world's population, women, who in many places still do not receive equal pay for equal work and whose rights generally continue to be restricted.

Pillay spoke of the necessity to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals through legislative reform and education initiatives; of the stigma, neglect and abuse directed against the elderly; and of the prejudice and resistance faced by persons with disabilities as they struggled to affirm their rights.

The High Commissioner called on Governments "to acknowledge that criticism is not a crime, and to release all those people who have been detained for peacefully exercising their fundamental freedoms to defend democratic principles and human rights."

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HumanRightsDay2010.aspx>

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Bringing a case against racial profiling

It was on their way back from a funeral 17 years ago that Robert Wilkins, an African American lawyer based in Washington, and his family were stopped by police on a motorway in Maryland in United States.

Speaking at an event on the sidelines of the Durban Review Conference - “Voices – Everyone affected by racism has a story that should be heard”, Wilkins said he would never forget that morning of May 1992. He was asked by police officers to stand in the rain while his car was being searched by a narcotics dog and motorway users watched the scene as they drove past.

Wilkins had rented a car to go to Chicago overnight. This detail may seem insignificant but, as Robert Wilkins later uncovered, it was one of the police’s primary reason for stopping the car. He also believed they had been the victims of racial profiling, a practice that still persists in law enforcement today.

Racial profiling is defined by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as “the practice of police and other law enforcement officers relying, to any degree, on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin as the basis for subjecting persons to investigatory activities or for determining whether an individual is engaged in criminal activity.” It is in essence a practice contrary to internationally recognised human rights norms and standards.

Racial profiling has proven to be an issue in the current political context because of its role in anti-terrorism measures. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Martin Scheinin noted that since 11 September 2001 law-enforcement authorities across the globe have adopted measures based on “terrorist profiles” which include characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin or religion.

The issue of profiling was addressed at the Durban Review Conference and mentioned in the Conference’s Outcome Document.

At “Voices”, Wilkins recalled a police officer telling his cousin who was driving the car that he had “paced him” driving 60 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. The officer then took his driver’s licence and the rental car contract and returned to his police car. He returned a short while later and requested to search the car.

“I told the officer that we did not consent to him searching anything and that my understanding of the law was that he could not search our car unless he was arresting my cousin and was making a search incident to that arrest”, Wilkins recounted. He added that the officer informed him that such searches were routine and that there had been problems with rental cars on the motorway with drugs.

Wilkins offered to provide proof he was indeed returning from a funeral and not engaging in criminal activity. But the policeman insisted on bringing a dog to the scene.

The Wilkins eventually reluctantly agreed to the search. “It is hard to describe the frustration and pain you feel when people presume you to be guilty for no good reason and you know that you are innocent.”

Robert Wilkins and his family felt humiliated by the experience. They decided to sue the State of Maryland to seek justice and also to set a precedent which would stop such practices. It was at the beginning of the legal process that Wilkins received the Maryland State Police’s “Criminal Intelligence Report”, a document he described as a racial profile.

“The Criminal Intelligence Report discussed the crack cocaine problem in the Cumberland, Maryland area, and recklessly and indiscriminately advised state troopers that the traffickers “were predominately black males and females” and that these dangerous armed traffickers generally travelled early in the morning or late at night along Interstate 68, and that they favoured rental cars with Virginia registration. Well, we fit the profile to a tee.”

In court, Wilkins’ lawyers overturned the report, proving that profiles were irrelevant when controlling motorway drug trafficking. It appeared that drugs were found in all types of vehicles driven by people of all races and age.

The Wilkins eventually won their court case in 1995 with a financial settlement of US\$96,000 dollars. Among other provisions reached through the settlement were the prohibition of the use of race-based drug courier profiles as law enforcement tools and the training of officers on the new policy.

This landmark victory was tempered with reports of old habits enduring. In fact Wilkins said that another court ruling was made in 2003 in an attempt to ensure full implementation of the 1995 decision. “I still hear about troubling incidents on the highways in Maryland, including reports from African American motorists about illegal stops, searches of cars, and even strip searches by police”, Robert Wilkins said. “Almost 100 official complaints have been filed since 2003, but the Maryland State Police has never found a single one of those complaints to be sustained.”

Seventeen years after the incident with the police, he still wonders how much progress has been made to fight racial discrimination and whether legislation in America is strong enough to foster change.

“Racial profiling has taken a critical turn after September 11. Before that date, there was more acknowledgement that racial profiling had no appropriate role in law enforcement. After September 11, they started backing off on some of those statements.”

29 May, 2009

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Bringingacaseagainstracialprofiling.aspx>

THE MOVEMENT

www.hrcalition.org

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Twenty eight years on, people living with HIV still suffer discrimination

“It is wrong and unfair to assume that I or any other person living with HIV will get into your borders with the specific aim to transmit HIV. I am a responsible person and I am here to contribute to the fight against this epidemic, not to spread it, just like the majority of my colleagues living with HIV.”

Violeta Ross from the Bolivian, Network of People Living with HIV speaks passionately about the discriminatory nature of the HIV travel restrictions still in place in many countries. “Restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of HIV positive people are discriminatory. Even migratory birds have laws and treaties that protect them while moving across borders, but not human beings living with HIV. This is injustice.”

Ross was speaking at a special side event at the Durban Review Conference, “HIV-related discrimination: Travel restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV.”

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, organized the event to raise awareness about the existence of this form of discrimination and to highlight how the restrictions violate basic human rights.

Some 60 countries still impose restrictions on entry, stay and residence of people based on HIV status alone. The restrictions mean that people living with HIV can be prevented from seeking asylum, employment or study abroad, from conducting business or simply visiting foreign countries for tourism. In many of these countries testing for HIV is mandatory. The results are sometimes not communicated and are often not kept confidential. Those found to be HIV positive may be immediately detained and in many cases summarily deported with no offer of treatment even though infection may have occurred in the host country.

Maria Lourdes Marin from the organization Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE) described the impact of HIV testing on migrant workers. Rahul was in his third year of working as an assistant in a tailoring shop in a foreign country. When he was renewing his work permit, he went through a medical check-up. Rahul tested positive for HIV. He was arrested and kept for 15 days in a small cell at the hospital where he had been tested, with his hands and legs chained. Rahul was then deported. He was subsequently forced away from his family and divorced his wife. Rahul finally met a self-help group of people living with HIV and was assisted to set up a small business in his country of origin.

In a world where the search for employment is now global, Rahul’s story is not uncommon. For many the result of mandatory testing is devastating, work in destination countries is no longer a possibility, incomes disappear and standards of living fall drastically.

Additionally, there is very often no support of any kind for these individuals in either the host country or their country of origin. They are frequently isolated, rejected by their family and friends and unable to access information and treatment services.

The Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference recommends that States “guarantee universal and effective access to all health services, including medications at affordable prices, particularly those required for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV/AIDS”.

In her speech to delegates at the side event, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kyung-Wha Kung said, “The United Nations Secretary-General, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS together with other UN partners and a number of civil society organizations have provided leadership on this issue calling for a change in the laws that restrict the travel of persons solely on the basis of their HIV positive status.”

Kang noted that last year alone some 900 million individuals crossed national boundaries. “It is regrettable,” she said, “that HIV positive people are impeded in their enjoyment of freedom of movement given what we know about HIV and how it is transmitted.” Kang indicated that such restrictions were discriminatory and urged a concentration of efforts, “in fighting the disease of HIV, rather than the people living with it. Indeed, people living with HIV deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights just as much as all other rights holders.”

May 2009

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/TwentyeightyearsPeoplelivingwithHIV.aspx>

Airline Body-searches Tested Inside US Prisons (first)

Richard "Tut" Carter, Sr.

Interim Facilitator Human Rights Coalition

About a decade ago I was a part of a gathering of a number of critical-thinking prisoners at SCI-Dallas, PA and someone mentioned that, sometimes before society introduces new restrictions of citizen's liberties and freedoms, such policies are first tested within our prison system. If they work successful, inside prison, then they introduce those policies in free-society. When I listen to the current debates over new body search procedures they remind me of the legal debates I know in different lawsuits my team aided in litigating against the Prison System over the years. Sometimes the best lesson plans unveil themselves in real life parallels.

I remember when some prisoners invoked religious-rites which led the faithful to resist offensive rules. Those rules were made conditional for attending contact visits with family or, leaving lock-down in RHU, Inter Alia. As much as I sympathize with all them folks who are now complaining about losing their right to freedom of privacy when they fly - they are the same folks that called for tougher new restrictions, such as body cavity searches where prison guards need not have a search warrant nor probable cause to invade the privacy-rights of incarcerated citizens.

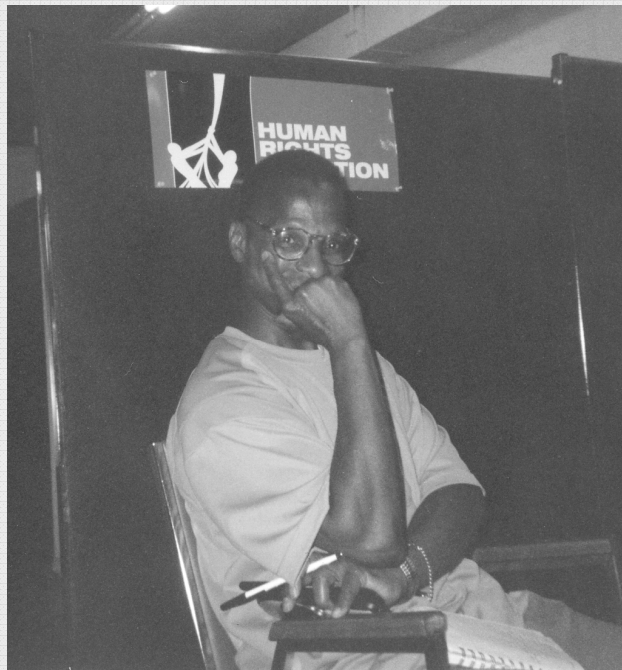
The call by a chosen few for Law and Order in our nation today is calling for tougher new restrictions on American citi-

zens. Supposedly, as the means of restricting terrorist and American born sympathizers from attacking Americans at home and abroad. I am certainly not implying that the nation shouldn't try every "reasonable" tactic and social-strategy to protect us from dangerous and heartlessly "evil" angry souls; my disagreement is, using practices which take away American liberties, in the same mind as I once opposed similar practices within our prison system.

When a nation feels that it has to resort to punishing the innocent with the guilty in order to protect the innocent - the innocent begin to feel that personal freedoms are no longer valuable civil-liberties in the mind of the government. The irony here is self-evident, when one side of society allows for the disenfranchisement of those they choose to treat differently—they allow for themselves to be also treated differently than the ruling class of Americans.

Who will refute the similarities of debates of old which were led by prisoners where today the same issue of personal privacy rights resurfaces in free society? Definitely that prisoner at Dallas was right: what society tests inside our prisons where inmates traditionally park US

liberties as citizens at the front gate - and after they perfect how to get citizens to accept the fact that they lost important personal constitutional liberties - then those same oppressive policies are applied to the nation. To board an airbus and fly in this so-called free society citizens must submit to offensive body searches. What's next? Body cavity searches?



A Moment for Movement-Building: Statement of Solidarity with Georgia Prisoner Strike

On December 9, 2010, thousands of prisoners in at least six Georgia state prisons initiated the largest prisoner strike in U.S. history, uniting across racial boundaries to demand an immediate end to the cruel and dehumanizing conditions that damage prisoners, their families, and the communities they return to.

Prisoners are demanding a living wage for work, increased educational opportunities, decent health care, an end to cruel and unusual punishment, decent living conditions, nutritional meals, vocational and self-improvement opportunities, access to families, and just parole decisions. These demands are not only fair and just, but mandatory under international human rights law and the U.S. Constitution.

And it is not just Georgia where these conditions exist. Prisoners throughout this country are subject to routine dehumanization, violence, denial of basic medical care, separated from their families, exposed to illnesses, and obstructed from accessing the court. Jails and prisons throughout the U.S. are routinely in violation of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It is imperative that members of the legal community, human rights advocates, social justice activists, faith communities, and concerned members of the general public mobilize in support of prisoners and their families in this urgent moment. Georgia prison authorities have reportedly reacted to the peaceful strike with violence. The threat of retaliation will remain for the foreseeable future, and we must rise to the occasion with increased vigilance and action.

We are especially asking that members of the legal community recognize their unique role and serious responsibility in working to support prisoners and communities targeted by policies of mass incarceration.

We must also seize this opportunity to support and strengthen those forces fighting against race and class-based policies of mass incarceration. Under the cover of a cynical drug war, the U.S. has constructed the largest prison economy in the history of the planet, incarcerating more of its own people than any other nation in the world. And when evidence of the pervasive targeting of communities of color at every level of the criminal legal system is recognized for what it is, there is only one conclusion to arrive at: mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow.

Like the old Jim Crow, this system serves to perpetuate institutionalized racism, economic inequality, and political disenfranchisement. It seeks to pit poor whites and people of color against each other in order to keep working and middle class communities subordinate to a political and economic order that prioritizes profit at the expense of our communities and our democracy.

The transcending of the politics of racial antagonism by the prisoners in Georgia striking for their human rights and human dignity is a profound call for the renewal of visionary mass movements for social justice and freedom in this country. Our communities outside of these walls are in dire need of human rights as well: health care, educational opportunities, jobs, food, housing, peace, and a livable planet.

In building an integrated, mass movement for human rights inside and outside the prisons we are also working to undermine the conditions of social, economic, and political inequalities that fuel crime and violence.

Continued on page 15

"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE"

Continued from page 14

We are asking that others sign onto this statement of solidarity and make a commitment to take action in support of the prisoners in Georgia, to take action in support of prisoners' rights, and to help build a historic mass movement against mass incarceration and for universal human rights and dignity.

Solidarity and Struggle,

Center for Constitutional Rights

Noam Chomsky

Professor Michelle Alexander, Ohio State University

Professor Jules Lobel, University of Pittsburgh Law School

Professor Marjorie Cohn, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Rosa Clemente, 2008 Green Party Vice President Candidate

California Coalition for Women Prisoners

Nkechi Taifa, Esq., Director, Legacy Justice Institute

Justice Now (www.jnow.org)

Drug Policy Alliance

Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance

Human Rights Coalition-Chester

Human Rights Coalition-Philadelphia

Human Rights Coalition-Fed Up! Pittsburgh

Vania Gulston, www.ontheblockradio.org

Jordan Flaherty, Louisiana Justice Institute

Paradise Gray, Executive Director One Hood

Van Jones, author, The Green Collar Economy

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition

MOVE Organization

Prison Radio - www.prisonradio.org

Redwood Justice Fund

Noelle Hanrahan

Pam Africa

Suzanne Ross, Co-Chair, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC) Spokesperson

Steven Gotzler, National Lawyers Guild National Vice President

Heidi Boghosian, National Lawyers Guild Executive Director

James Rucker, Executive Director, ColorOfChange.org

Annie Paradise, student, Anthropology Dept., California Institute of Integral Studies

Paul Wright, Editor, Prison Legal News - www.prisonlegalnews.org

Deirdre Wilson, Program Coordinator for California Coalition for Women Prisoners, and proud member of All of Us or None

Bruce Reilly, Behind the Walls Committee-Direct Action for Rights and Equality, Providence, Rhode Island

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Andrew Grant-Thomas, Deputy Director, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

California Prison Moratorium Project

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

Lois Ahrens, The Real Cost of Prisons Project

North Star Fund

Women Who Never Give Up (www.wwnng.org)

International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network – United States

Michael Letwin, Co-Convener, New York City Labor Against the War; Former President, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW Local 2325

Andy Switzer

Anthony Papa, author of 15 to Life

Dominique Reed

Pam Nath, Community Organizer, Mennonite Central Committee—New Orleans

Thousand Kites – www.kitescampaigns.org

Amanda Rosenblum

Laura Erickson-Schroth

Ali Brooks, Madison, Wisconsin, Groundwork Anti-Racist Collective

Bret Grote

Dr. Rachel Luft

Claude Marks, Director, Freedom Archives

Jamie Kalven, Invisible Institute

National Lawyers Guild – University of Pittsburgh Law School Chapter

Matthew Shelton

Emily Zeanah Shelton

Marlon Peterson

Jeff Hitchcock, Executive Director, Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc.

Sarah Lomax-Reese, President, WURD Radio

Tema Okun, Dismantling Racism Works, Durham, North Carolina

Mollie Crittenden

Gary Johnson

Lisa Albrecht, University of Minnesota, Social Justice Program

Survivors Village, New Orleans

Russ Vernon-Jones, Alliance of White Anti-Racists (Hampshire Co., MA)

Serena Alfieri, Associate Director of Policy, Correctional Association of NY

Laurie Bezold, Baltimore, Maryland

Christian Peele

Amanda Johnson

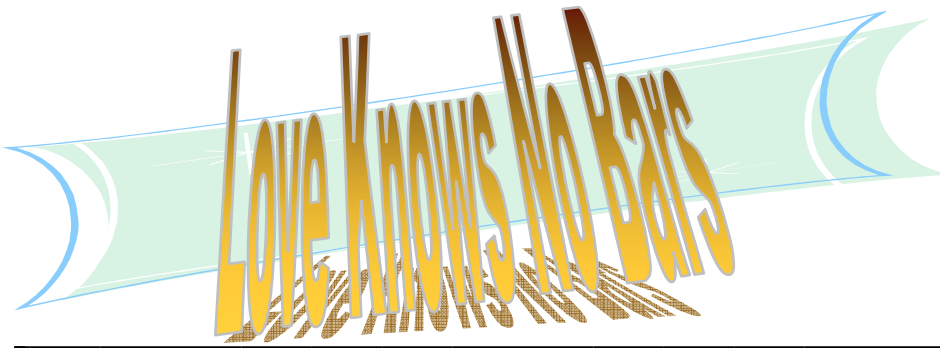
Geri Silva, Facts Education Fund: Families to Amend California's Three Strikes

Prisoners are People Too, Buffalo, NY

Camy Matthey, Wisconsin Books to Prisoners, Brooklyn, WI

Wendy Ake, Graduate Research Associate, Global Justice Program, The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University

Alan Eladio Gomez, Ph.D., Arizona State University



Send In a Picture of Your Loved One.

In each of our issues of The Movement, we will publish several pages of pictures to illustrate the strengths of families and the insanity of the PA Department of Corrections hostile anti-family policies. We want pictures of prisoners and their families, preferably taken in prison. We'll run as many pictures as space permits.

If you and your loved ones want to participate in LOVE KNOW NO BARS here's what you'll need to send us:

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

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

2	1	5	6	9	7	4	8	3
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The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

WE ARE ALL MUMIA!

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Published Nov 17, 2010 5:51 PM

More than 500 people, mostly African American and youth, mobilized for an outdoor rally Nov. 9 here in support of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The rally lasted through a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hearing on whether the death sentence would be reinstated for Abu-Jamal, who has maintained his innocence since being railroaded to death row for the 1981 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Abu-Jamal's supporters included a delegation from the Transport Workers Union Local 100; Charles Barron, the New York Freedom Party gubernatorial candidate; Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC; International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and the International Action Center. Activists traveled from as far away as California, Texas, Arizona, Germany, France and Russia.

Shenice Morris told Workers World that she and two other high school students missed school to attend: "We are not going to sit down and be oppressed. Mumia's case is an example of just how corrupt this government is. We are tired of the attacks on the African-American community. It has to stop."

Larry Holmes with the Bail Out the People Movement stated: "We are all Mumia. We want to see Mumia walk out as a free man. We will not give up until that happens. Around the world Mumia has come to symbolize the struggles of African Americans for freedom and against oppression."

Inside the court, a three-judge panel convened to reexamine their 2008 decision regarding confusion over jury instructions in the sentencing phase of Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial. Two years ago these judges, finding that the jury had been given flawed and misleading instructions, upheld an earlier decision by Judge William Yohn to vacate the death sentence. Yohn's decision left Abu-Jamal in prison for life without the possibility of parole.

However in January 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a lower court order vacating the death sentence in another case had been in error. That case, which also focused on confusing language on a jury ballot form and misleading instructions to the jury, involved neo-Nazi Frank Spizak, who was sentenced to death for the random killings of Black and Jewish people.

An appeal of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Abu-Jamal's case, filed by the Philadelphia district attorney, was pending in the Supreme Court. After ruling against Spizak, the court sent Abu-Jamal's appeal back to the 3rd Circuit, asking them to review their decision in light of the Spizak ruling.

While Assistant District Attorney Hugh Burns tried to argue that the issues in Abu-Jamal's case were "almost identical" to those in Spizak's, Widener University law professor Judith Ritter, arguing for Abu-Jamal, countered that the two jury forms were "fundamentally different." Ritter successfully argued the same issue before these judges in 2008.

At a press conference following the hearing, Professor Johanna Fernandez with Educators for Mumia said she "found it very disturbing that the court was obsessive over semantics and insignificant details, without being willing to consider the case as a whole — the overwhelming evidence of innocence and the totality of violations of Mumia's legal and constitutional rights."

No decision is expected until 2011, but even if the judges uphold their 2008 decision, the district attorney's office can appeal again to the Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court could vote to reverse the lower court and reinstate the death penalty.

If the Supreme Court chooses not to take the case or lets the lower court ruling stand, the district attorney would have to decide whether to seek a new penalty-phase trial or to leave Abu-Jamal with a life sentence. A new trial would give Abu-Jamal the chance to introduce new evidence regarding the killing.



After the hearing, supporters speak out to 'Free Mumia!'

WW photo: Joe Piette

The HomeFront: Serving Our Community!

Continued from page 18

It's clear that support for Abu-Jamal cannot be allowed to waiver. Supporters vowed to intensify a campaign demanding that Attorney General Eric Holder conduct an investigation into the numerous violations of Abu-Jamal's civil rights.

Justice debated

The high energy at the rally was fueled by an event the night before where two Abu-Jamal supporters, Fernandez and attorney Michael Coard, took on Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams and filmmaker Tigre Hill in a debate on the case.

Hill, who is African American, had previewed his anti-Abu-Jamal, pro-Fraternal-Order-of-Police film, "The Barrel of a Gun," to a mostly white audience of cops and politicians in September. He set up the Nov. 8 debate to follow a screening of his film at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia the night before Abu-Jamal's hearing.

It's hard to believe Hill did not anticipate that Abu-Jamal supporters would pack the hall, or that Fernandez and Coard would trounce him and Williams, but that's exactly what happened.

Hill's film claims that Abu-Jamal conspired with his brother, William Cook, to murder Faulkner because Abu-Jamal was a former member of the Black Panther Party and a supporter of the MOVE Organization that "always wanted to kill police."

Long on innuendo but seriously short on facts, "The Barrel of a Gun" presents a one-sided portrayal of the revolutionary Black movements of the 1960s and 1970s as a group of "violent, extremist, communist-sympathizing radicals out to kill cops."

There is never any mention of the rampant police repression against the Black and Latino/a communities, nor of the widespread corruption that eventually led to federal investigations of the Philadelphia police department. Hill ignores the fact that Black Panther Party members carried guns in self-defense after dozens of their comrades were killed by police.

Williams tried to minimize the facts as well, repeating a refrain that "four witnesses said they saw Mumia shoot Faulkner" and "Mumia confessed." When Williams said, "We're bound by the facts," he was greeted by jeers from the audience.

Fernandez responded that the prosecution's star witness, Cynthia White, initially picked out Kenneth Freeman, a passenger in William Cook's car, in a lineup. Police coerced White to change her testimony. Fernandez noted that 15 of the police involved in collecting evidence in Abu-Jamal's case were brought up on corruption charges for evidence tampering in other cases, but the jury was not told that.

Fernandez has produced another documentary on the case entitled "Justice on Trial." She challenged Williams and Hill to "stick to the facts in the case, not the ones you make up."

Coard spoke of the inherent racism in the U.S. and compared Abu-Jamal's case to those of thousands of other Black and poor people who are railroaded through the judicial system without adequate representation or juries of their peers. Coard noted that the police failed to perform gun residue tests on Abu-Jamal's hands to prove he had even fired a gun the night Faulkner was shot.

Coard also pointed out that Abu-Jamal's attorney during the original trial, Anthony Williams, was eventually disbarred.

Seemingly nervous that the debate was not going his way, Hill left the stage at one point to be coached on the sideline. He returned with yet another lie: that Abu-Jamal's former attorney, Robert Bryan, "was going to argue for self-defense." Fernandez and the audience booed this outright lie.

A highlight of the debate came when Coard stood up and hand-delivered an order charging Hill with copyright infringement for using substantial footage from the film "Black and Blue" without obtaining permission from its owner, Hugh King. "Black and Blue" focuses on police brutality in Philadelphia. The order instructed Hill to cease screening and disseminating his film and to destroy all copies or risk a lawsuit.

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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.

His family accuses U.S. gov't of medical neglect

The following press release was issued on Nov. 15 by Delaney Bruce, Legal Team Liaison, Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, P.O. Box 7488, Fargo, ND 58106; phone 701-235-2206; contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info

"A man dies from prostate cancer every 16 minutes in this country. Why does my brother have to wait over a year to receive even a diagnosis?"

Native American activist Leonard Peltier, who maintains his innocence, was wrongfully convicted in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1977. Imprisoned for 35 years—currently at the federal prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania—Peltier has been designated a political prisoner by Amnesty International. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—have all called for this immediate release. Widely recognized for his humanitarian works and a six-time Nobel Prize nominee, Peltier also is an accomplished author and painter.

Sister Betty Solano says Peltier began exhibiting symptoms commonly attributed to prostate cancer over a year ago. His age (he is 66 years old) and family history are risk factors for the disease. Pressured by Peltier's attorneys, the Bureau of Prisons ran standard blood tests in June. Peltier received the results last week, over four months later. A physician only now says a biopsy is needed to make a diagnosis.

Prostate cancer affects one in six men in the United States. Medical experts agree that the cure rate for prostate cancer is high, but only if detected early.

Even if Peltier doesn't have cancer, the symptoms indicate a serious medical condition and one that could lead to serious complications if left untreated.

A physician who conducted an independent review of Peltier's medical records in 2000 concluded that Peltier's overall medical treatment is below a reasonable standard of care. Decades ago, Peltier suffered a stroke which left him nearly blind in one eye, damage physicians say could have been prevented had he been treated sooner. In the 1990s, there was international outrage after the BOP botched surgeries to correct a jaw problem. Only then was Peltier transferred to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for treatment.

Subsequent procedures were recommended by a specialist, but never performed by the BOP.

"Last week, at the United Nations, the United States claimed that it is unequivocally committed to the humane treatment of all individuals in detention, including criminal detention. Delaying tests, avoiding a diagnosis, and preventing proper medical treatment for a potentially life-threatening disease is not humane by anyone's definition," a spokesperson for the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee said.

"Unfortunately, this situation isn't unique to Mr. Peltier. Many U.S. prisoners die prematurely because treatment is delayed or denied."

Family members want the government to release Peltier, who was denied parole in 2009. His North Dakota tribe has twice passed a resolution asking the government to transfer Peltier into their custody. Peltier's many supporters believe his release from prison is the only way Peltier will receive humane treatment.

Source: U.S. vs. Leonard Peltier: Evidence of a Wrongful Conviction. From the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



<http://photobucket.com/images/leonard%20peltier/>

Free Leonard Peltier!

Add your voice to the millions worldwide who demand his freedom. Help our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally.

Contact:

United American Indians of New England.LPSG

Phone 617-522-6626

info@uaine.org www.uaine.org

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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.



Incident Date: 11/29/88	Year of Conviction: 1992
Jurisdiction: NY	Exoneration Date: 4/28/10
Charge: 2nd Degree Murder	Sentence Served: 17.5 Years
Conviction: 2nd Degree Murder	Real perpetrator found? Yes
Sentence: 25 Years to Life	Contributing Causes: False Confessions / Admissions
	Compensation? Not Yet

FRANK STERLING INNOCENT SERVED MORE THAN 17 YEARS

Frank Sterling served more than 17 years in New York prisons before DNA testing obtained by the Innocence Project led to his exoneration in 2010. He was convicted based almost exclusively on a false confession he gave after hours of police interrogation, and he was finally cleared when DNA tests implicated another man in the killing.

The Crime

At about noon on November 29, 1988, a 74-year-old woman was taking her daily walk along an abandoned railroad bed in Rochester, NY, when she was shot twice in the head with a BB gun, struck with a railroad tie and beaten to death. The police investigation would later show that the assailant dragged her from the path to overgrowth alongside the tracks. Her body was found by duck hunters later that afternoon, stripped naked from the waist down with her ski jacket pulled up to expose her breasts.

The Investigation and False Confession

Police quickly focused on anyone with some connection to the victim. An early suspect was Frank Sterling, whose older brother, Glenn, was in prison for the attempted sexual assault of the victim three years earlier. Sterling was 25 years old at the time and had no criminal record or history of violent behavior. He voluntarily submitted to multiple interviews with police, denying any involvement in the murder, while clearly documenting his whereabouts on the day in question. Sterling's alibi was airtight – numerous co-workers testified that he was at work as a bus aide at the time of the murder.

The investigation stalled for more than two and a half years without any charges being filed. Then, in 1991, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office formed a new investigative team in an effort to solve the cold case.

Investigators approached Sterling as he returned from a 36-hour trucking job. He agreed to an interview at the police station, which began in the afternoon and continued overnight into the following morning. Sterling maintained his innocence, while saying he had trouble remembering. The interrogation included several highly suggestive methods – including hypnosis and the suggestion of details. At one point, the officers showed crime scene photos to Sterling to “help him remember.” Interrogation standards followed by hundreds of law enforcement throughout the country admonish against such techniques.

The officers had Sterling lay on the floor with his feet up on a chair and his eyes closed. As they rubbed his back, the interrogators insisted that Sterling had committed the murder, showed him pictures of the crime scene and the victim's body and shared key details with him. One of the officers told Sterling that he would feel better if he let out his anger towards the victim, telling him that the victim “deserved what she got,” and insisted that “we're here for you, we still care for you.”

Finally, after more than eight hours at the police station, Sterling tightened up, began to shake, and blurted out “I did it, I need help.” At this point, the officers demanded a videotaped confession and an exhausted Sterling complied. His confession included numerous inconsistencies, including the incorrect location of the crime scene on a map. Sterling also could not describe what he had supposedly done with the BB gun, and where or how many times had shot the victim. Despite his immediate recantation of the confession, he was charged with murder.

The Trial

The evidence against Sterling at trial consisted almost solely of the false confession, which the judge admitted as evidence over the objection of Sterling's attorneys. The jury deliberated for two days and sought multiple instructions from the judge regarding the confession. Finally, on September 29, 1992, the jury convicted Frank Sterling of murder in the second degree.

Before his sentencing, Sterling and his attorneys learned about Mark Christie, a young man from Rochester – and an early suspect in the murder – who was not investigated further after he gave police a false alibi that they took at face value. Friends told Sterling’s attorneys that he had bragged about the murder. In response, his attorneys moved for an order setting aside the verdict in light of this newly discovered evidence, but the judge did not believe Christie’s numerous admissions to friends to be credible and sentenced Sterling to 25 years in prison.

Post-Conviction

In 1996, Christie pled guilty to the 1994 killing of a 4-year-old girl. After his conviction, Sterling’s attorneys learned more information about Christie’s possible connection to the murder for which Sterling had been convicted. Sterling’s attorneys again sought to overturn the verdict based on this new evidence, but were denied a second time due to the perceived unreliability of the admissions.

Sterling sought DNA testing in 2004, and a single hair strand was tested. Unfortunately, it proved to be consistent with the victim. In 2006, at the urging of the Innocence Project, prosecutors agreed to test numerous pieces of crime scene evidence at Orchid Cellmark Laboratories. Testing for Touch DNA, which can detect sweat and skin cells left by a perpetrator, was performed on numerous pieces of the victim’s clothing. Results on two key areas of the clothing where the perpetrator would have grabbed the victim while beating her and dragging her body conclusively excluded Sterling and implicated Christie.

The DNA evidence of Sterling’s innocence was corroborated in January 2010 when Christie gave a detailed confession to an attorney from the Innocence Project and an instructor for John E. Reid and Associates, the world’s largest trainer of interview and interrogation techniques to law enforcement agencies, which he repeated in April to the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office.

On April 28, 2010, Frank Sterling, now 46-years-old, was officially exonerated. He had spent nearly 18 years in prison for a murder that he didn’t commit.

Pro bono assistance was provided to the Innocence Project in Sterling’s case by the Weil, Gotshal & Manges law firm and Kroll, one of the world’s leading investigative firms.

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Affiliated with the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University

info@innocenceproject.org

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ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 16

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

A Sentence of life In P.A. Means Death In Prison.

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Please Contact Senator Shirley Kitchen at:

Phila. (215) 227-6161, Fax (215) 560-1316

Harrisburg: (717) 787-6705, Fax: (717) 772-0581, E Mail: kitchen@pasenate.com

WWW.Senator Kitchen . Com

Designed By: Omar Askia Ali (Sistrunk) & Lee Horton.

Paid for by the Mahanoy Residents Betterment Organization in

Support for Senator Kitchens Parole Bill for P.A. Lifers.

The Human Rights Coalition (Disclaimer)

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

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

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

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

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Prisoners Strike in Georgia

By SARAH WHEATON

Published: December 12, 2010

In a protest apparently assembled largely through a network of banned cellphones, inmates across at least six prisons in Georgia have been on strike since Thursday, calling for better conditions and compensation, several inmates and an outside advocate said.

Inmates have refused to leave their cells or perform their jobs, in a demonstration that seems to transcend racial and gang factions that do not often cooperate.

"Their general rage found a home among them — common ground — and they set aside their differences to make an incredible statement," said Elaine Brown, a former Black Panther leader who has taken up the inmates' cause. She said that different factions' leaders recruited members to participate, but the movement lacks a definitive torchbearer.

Ms. Brown said thousands of inmates were participating in the strike.

The Georgia Department of Corrections could not be reached for comment Saturday night.

"We're not coming out until something is done. We're not going to work until something is done," said one inmate at Rogers State Prison in Reidsville. He refused to give his name because he was speaking on a banned cellphone.

Several inmates, who used cellphones to call The Times from their cells, said they found out about the protest from text messages and did not know whether specific individuals were behind it.

"This is a pretty much organic effort on their part," said Ms. Brown, a longtime prisoner advocate, who distilled the inmates' complaints into a list of demands. "They did it, and then they reached out to me." Ms. Brown, the founder of the National Alliance for Radical Prison Reform in Locust Grove, Ga., said she has spoken to more than 200 prisoners over the past two days.

The Corrections Department placed several of the facilities where inmates planned to strike under indefinite lockdown on Thursday, according to local reports.

"We're hearing in the news they're putting it down as we're starting a riot, so they locked all the prison down," said a 20-year-old inmate at Hays State Prison in Trion, who also refused to give his name. But, he said, "We locked ourselves down."

Even if the Corrections Department did want to sit down at the table with the inmates, the spontaneous nature of the strike has left the prisoners without a representative to serve as negotiator, Ms. Brown said.

Ms. Brown, who lives in Oakland, Calif., said she planned to gather legal and advocacy groups on Monday to help coordinate a strategy for the inmates.

Chief among the prisoners' demands is that they be compensated for jailhouse labor. They are also demanding better educational opportunities, nutrition, and access to their families.

"We committed the crime, we're here for a reason," said the Hays inmate. "But at the same time we're men. We can't be treated like animals."

The Scott Sisters' "Debt to Society" and the New Jim Crow

January 7, 2011

by James Ridgeway

Jamie and Gladys Scott walked out of prison today into the free world. The sisters were convicted, on dubious grounds, of an \$11 armed robbery, and sentenced to life in prison. Both sisters lost 17 years of their lives behind bars before Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour suspended the remainder of their draconian sentences; Jamie also forfeited her health, and is now suffering from end-stage renal disease. Yet the sisters' "debt to society" is still far from paid.

First and foremost, the conditions of their release stipulate that Gladys Scott must give Jamie Scott a kidney. From the very beginning of this medical scandal, in which Jamie's health was further compromised by inadequate prison health care, Gladys offered her kidney for transplant to her sister. For the governor to mandate this donation is both unprecedented and unconscionable. As others have pointed out, releasing Jamie Scott before she has this costly life-saving surgery could also stand to save the state a considerable amount of money; a donation from her sister could save even more, and is apparently part of the price of their freedom.

At the same time, the Scott sisters will have to pay out money to maintain their freedom. Rather than pardoning Jamie and Gladys, Barbour suspended their sentences. According to Nancy Lockhart, a legal advocate who played an instrumental role in the sisters' release, each will have to pay \$52 a month for the administration of their parole in Florida, where their mother lives and where they plan to reside. Since they were serving life sentences, that means \$624 a year for the rest of their lives. Both women are now in their thirties; if they live 40 more years, each will have paid the state \$24,960. Of course, Jamie, in particular, will be lucky to live so long.

The consequence of failing to pay the fees charged for parole or probation can be a return to prison. As the Southern Center for Human Rights has documented, such fees are part of a larger system that adds up to what are in effect modern-day debtor's prisons:

Contrary to what many people may believe, there are debtors' prisons throughout the United States where people are imprisoned because they are too poor to pay fines and fees.

The United States Supreme Court in *Bearden v. Georgia*, 461 U.S. 660 (1983), held that courts cannot imprison a person for failure to pay a criminal fine unless the failure to pay was "willful." However, this constitutional commandment is often ignored.

Courts impose substantial fines as punishment for petty crimes as well as more serious ones. Besides the fines, the courts are assessing more and more fees to help meet the costs of the ever-increasing size of the criminal justice system: fees for ankle bracelets for monitoring; fees for anger management classes; for drug tests, for crime victims' funds, for crime laboratories, for court clerks, for legal representation, for various retirement funds, and for private probation companies that do nothing more than collect a check once a month.

People who cannot afford the total amount assessed may be allowed to pay in monthly installments, but in many jurisdictions those payments must be accompanied by fees to a private probation company that collects them. A typical fee is \$40 per month. People who lose their jobs or encounter unexpected family hardships and are unable to maintain payments may be jailed without any inquiry into their ability to pay or the wilfulness of their failure to pay.

This system of imprisonment-by-poverty in turn fits into what author Michelle Alexander, among others, have called "The New Jim Crow"—an America in which mass incarceration has become the new means of wielding control over poor African Americans. For more on how Mississippi and other southern states have historically used fines and imprisonment to extend the institution of slavery, see today's post on the Prison Culture Blog.

<http://solitarywatch.com/2011/01/07/the-scott-sisters-debt-to-society-and-the-new-jim-crow/>

GA INMATES STAGE HISTORIC ONE DAY PRISON STIKE TODAY, 2010-12-09

BY Bruce A. Dixon-GA GREEN PARTY

In an action which is unprecedented on several levels, black, brown and white inmates of Georgia's notorious state prison system are standing together for a historic one day peaceful strike today, during which they are remaining in their cells, refusing work and other assignments and activities. This is a groundbreaking event not only because inmates are standing up for themselves and their own human rights, but because prisoners are setting an example by reaching across racial boundaries which, in prisons, have historically been used to pit oppressed communities against each other.

The action is taking place today in a least half a dozen of Georgia's more than one hundred state prisons, correctional facilities, work camps, county prisons and other correctional facilities. We have unconfirmed reports that authorities at Macon State prison have aggressively responded to the strike by sending tactical squads in to rough up and menace inmates.

Outside calls from concerned citizens and news media will tend to stay the hand of prison authorities who may tend to react with reckless and brutal aggression. So calls to the warden's office of the following Georgia State Prisons expressing concern for the welfare of the prisoners during this and the next few days are welcome.

Macon State Prison is (978)-472-3900

Hays State Prison is at (706) 857-0400

Telfair State Prison is (229)-868-7721

Baldwin State Prison is (478)445-5218

Valdosta State Prison is (229)-333-7900

Smith State Prison is at (912) 654-5000

The Georgia Department of Corrections is at <http://www.dcor.state.ga.us> and their phone number is 478-992-5246.

One in every thirteen adults in the state of Georgia is in prison, on parole or probation or some form of court or correctional supervision.

Russell Maroon Shoatz Seeks Release From Solitary Confinement After 21 Years.



From: www.ontheblockradio.org

Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, former black panther member, has been in solitary confinement for 21 years. The Pennsylvania Department Of Corrections has recommended that Russell "Maroon" Shoatz be released into the general prison population after spending 21 years in solitary confinement. Russell Shoatz hasn't had any infractions in the last 21 years. He is to appear before the Program Review Board on Jan 5, 2011, regarding whether to release him from solitary confinement. Family members say there is strong evidence to believe that Superintendent Folino may block efforts to release him.

We speak with the son and daughter of Russell "Maroon" Shoatz-- Teresea Shoatz and Russell Shoatz III--about their father's confinement.

The family asks that individuals write the officials listed below or call their offices non-stop and request Russell "Maroon" Shoatz release into the general prison population.

Superintendent Folino: Phone 724.852.2903.

Superintendent Folino's Address: 169 Progress Drive, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Secretary of Pennsylvania Prisons, Shirley Moore Smeal Phone: 717-975-4918

Rally to Free Sekou Odinga and All Political Prisoners

Attorney Chokwe Lumumba, a Jackson, Miss., City Council member and revolutionary rapper M-1 from Dead Prez were among those on the platform during a "political prisoners unity rally" held Oct. 17th in Brooklyn, NY. Special attention was given to free Sekou Odinga, an activist who was imprisoned for actions with the Black Liberation Army (BLA) in the 1960s and 1970s.

Called by the Sekou Odinga Solidarity Committee and the Committee to Honor Black Heroes, the large gathering of supporters was inspired by speakers Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Charles Barron, Freedom Party candidate for New York Governor, Fred Hampton Jr., Coltran Chimurenga of the December 12th movement, and Dr. James McIntosh of Cemotap.

One conclusion and goal of those present was well expressed by revolutionary artist M-1 when he said "We have to dismantle the system!"

HENRY GLOVER JURY FINDS 3 OFFICERS GUILTY IN DEATH, BURNING OF ALGIERS MAN

Published: Thursday, December 09, 2010, 6:20 PM Updated: Friday, December 10, 2010, 7:10 AM



Times-Picayune Staff

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A federal jury on Thursday evening found three New Orleans police officers guilty in the shooting, burning and cover-up of the death of Algiers man **Henry Glover** after **Hurricane Katrina**.



Lt. Travis McCabe, left, was convicted of writing a false police report about the incident and lying to federal investigators. Officer Greg McRae, center, was convicted of burning Henry Glover's body in a car. The jury convicted former officer David Warren, right, for shooting Glover, finding he was responsible for the man's death and that he committed manslaughter.

The jury deliberated for three days before coming back with the verdict. Their decision was split, completely acquitting two of the officers -- Lt. Dwayne Scheuermann and retired Lt. Robert Italiano -- in the burning and cover-up.

The jury convicted former officer David Warren for shooting Glover, finding he was both responsible for the man's death and committed manslaughter. Officer Greg McRae was convicted of burning Glover's body in a car. Lt. Travis McCabe was convicted of writing a false police report about the incident and lying to federal investigators.

Immediately after the verdicts were read, prosecutor Jared Fishman asked that McRae and McCabe, who have been free on bond, be taken into custody. U.S. District Judge Lance Africk declined to rule on the request right away but scheduled a bond hearing for Friday at 9 a.m.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said after the verdict, "There are men and women in that police department who honor the badge every day and every night, and they sweat and they strain, and they work for too little money and they don't see their families enough, and they risk and sometimes give their lives. This is a win for them, too. This case is not about departments; it's about individuals who thought they were above the law and weren't."

The five current and former New Orleans police officers were accused of shooting Glover, beating men who tried to help him, burning his body and covering up the incident with a false report and lies to federal investigators. McRae and Scheuermann were both cleared

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in the beating of two men who tried to help Glover after he was shot.

Only former officer Warren, a rookie on the force at the time of Hurricane Katrina, was accused in the shooting of Glover, a 31-year-old Algiers man. Witnesses testified that Glover and his family stayed for the storm and on Sept. 2, 2005, went to a nearby Firestone outlet and took a truck to use in evacuation.

Glover and a friend, Bernard Calloway, next drove to a nearby strip mall, where two women they knew had left suitcases they took from a Tuesday Morning store. Warren and his partner that day, officer Linda Howard, were protecting the mall because it was also home to the 4th District's detective bureau.

What happened when Glover drove up to the strip mall was a key factor for jurors to consider.

Warren testified that the men roared into the back parking lot, jumping out of the truck and running toward an unlocked ground-floor gate to the mall. Fearing for his life, and spotting an object in Glover's hand that he said he perceived as a weapon, Warren aimed his personal assault rifle and fired.



Retired Lt. Robert Italiano, left, and Lt. Dwayne Scheuermann were completely acquitted in the burning of Henry Glover's body and the subsequent cover-up.

But government witnesses painted a very different picture of the shooting. Calloway testified that just before he heard the "pop" of a gunshot Glover had actually been leaning up against the truck, lighting a cigarette. Warren's partner that day, Howard, testified that Warren fired after the men began running away, startled by his scream for them to "get out."

Warren was charged with depriving Glover of his civil rights by shooting him, as well as using a firearm to commit a crime of violence. For the civil rights count, jurors were asked to consider multiple factors, including whether Warren was acting "under color of law," meaning in his official capacity as a police officer and whether he "willfully" deprived Glover of his rights.

To convict Warren of the weapons charge, jurors had to first find that he committed the civil rights violation and used a firearm in the process, according to U.S. District Judge Lance Africk's instructions.

Struck by a bullet, Glover ran away from the strip mall, collapsing in the street less than 100 yards away. His brother, Edward King, flagged down a nearby motorist, William Tanner, who agreed to help get Glover medical attention. Along with Calloway, the men put Glover into the backseat of Tanner's car. Making a decision that it would take too long to get to the nearest hospital, Tanner drove Glover to a nearby school, Paul B. Habans Elementary School, where the NOPD's Special Operations Division had set up camp.

At the school, Tanner and Calloway testified that the officers handcuffed them and accused them of looting. The officers offered no help for Glover, who pictures show lay bleeding or dead in the back of a car. Tanner accused two officers, Scheuermann and McRae, of beating him and King. His testimony was corroborated by a police officer, Jeffrey Sandoz, who said he also saw his colleagues beat two men.

Scheuermann and McRae denied they beat anyone. Frank De-Salvo, McRae's attorney, pointed out during cross examination that Tanner previously identified a man with tattoos, a description that fits Sandoz, as the person who beat him.

Both Scheuermann and McRae are charged with civil rights violations for the alleged beatings.

Capt. Jeff Winn, their commanding officer, testified he checked on the man in the back of the car, determining that he was dead. He ordered McRae to move the car, with Glover's body inside, to the Mississippi River levee behind the 4th District's station.

Scheuermann followed behind in a pickup truck.

When the men got to the levee, however, McRae didn't just leave the vehicle. He tossed a flare inside. McRae testified that he alone made the decision to torch the vehicle, while Scheuermann sat in a truck on top of the levee. Prosecutors disputed that McRae acted alone.

Two other officers, Italiano and McCabe, are accused of helping cover up what happened to Glover by authoring a false report. The only supervisor to respond to the Warren shooting scene was

Continued on Page 32

(Continued from page 28)

Sgt. Purnella Simmons, who testified she did write a report about the incident three months later. But the report eventually filed into police records was not what she wrote, Simmons testified.

Simmons testified that her report was later changed, deleting that Howard did not agree with the shooting and adding language that justified the shooting. But McCabe testified that the report was actually one he helped Simmons write, not a false document cooked up after the fact. Simmons denied that she worked on the report with McCabe.

Italiano, the supervisor of the 4th District detective bureau, signed the report, but otherwise said he didn't remember the four-year-old document until after federal investigators asked about it in the spring of 2009.

Both Italiano and McCabe were accused of obstruction of justice for allegedly putting together a misleading and false report.

They were also accused of making false statements to FBI agents about the report and what they knew about the circumstances of Glover's death. Both Italiano and McCabe said their statements were misunderstood by FBI agents, who as a policy don't record their interviews with witnesses.

McCabe was also accused of perjury before a grand jury. But he testified he told the grand jury the truth. This is the form used by the federal jury to report their verdicts in the **Henry Glover** case.

The story reported above did not come about because of conscientious law enforcement agents doing their jobs and investigating the actions of other “bad apples” on the NOPD. Instead, it was the tireless work of investigative journalist A.C. Thompson and one of the witnesses to the events, William Tanner that finally brought the story to public attention and eventually led to the prosecution and conviction of three NOPD officers. Below is an excerpt of an interview with A.C. Thompson by Amy Goodman in the March 17, 2010 edition of Democracy Now. The interview took place after a police investigation had begun, but before the trial.

A.C., welcome to Democracy Now! Tell us exactly what you have found out.

A.C. THOMPSON: First I should say that this project that we've been doing, the reporting there, has been with the Times Picayune and my colleagues there and PBS Frontline, so we're all working together on this.

But what we're learning about the Henry Glover shooting, and his death, when he was burned up in the car on the banks of the Mississippi River, is that the police report that was generated documenting the officer-involved shooting involving Mr. Glover looks to have been altered, fabricated, changed from its original form from what was originally submitted to the police department. And so, the document that we have, the document that we believe the federal government has, does not seem to be the true, genuine, authentic, original police report...(..)

AMY GOODMAN: Who was Henry Glover?

A.C. THOMPSON: Henry Glover was a thirty-one-year-old man. He lived on the west bank of the Mississippi in New Orleans. He was a father of four. And on September 2nd, 2005, somebody, we believe probably a New Orleans police officer, shot him a single time in the chest. He was rescued by a Good Samaritan who drove him, ironically, to a place where police were camped out, thinking that the police could help him, give him medical aid, and save his life. But according to three different witnesses that I've interviewed, the police didn't offer any assistance. What they instead did was they let Henry Glover bleed to death in the backseat of the car, and they physically assaulted the men that he was with, including the Good Samaritan. What we know happened after that is the car the Good Samaritan was driving and

(Continued on page 30)

Henry Glover's body were found behind a police station on the banks of the Mississippi River, and just—they were completely incinerated. There was almost nothing left. So, we have photos, video of Mr. Glover's remains. And we're talking about bone fragments, charred flesh, ashes—very little left.

AMY GOODMAN: Who was the Good Samaritan?

A.C. THOMPSON: The Good Samaritan was William Tanner, who is really the person who got this story out there and spoke to me first and spoke—and has been speaking and saying this was insane, this was terrible, and really trying to get the story out there.

ANJALI KAMAT: And A.C., put this into a broader context. The Times Picayune had an editorial earlier this week describing what they called a grotesque and nauseating pattern of police cover-ups.

A.C. THOMPSON: Here's the pattern, is that in the week after Hurricane Katrina, ten to eleven, possibly more, people were shot by the New Orleans Police Department. Now, the narrative that we had at the time was the citizens are running amok. More and more, it looks like perhaps the police were running amok.

And what we know about these shootings is, in two cases now, we have cases of fabricated documents or altered documents. In multiple cases, we have incidents where citizens were shot in the back. And that immediately raises suspicions that these were not good police shootings, that these were unnecessary uses of force. When somebody is shot in the back, you wonder if they're really posing a threat to the officers.

As well, in the Glover case, in the Danziger Bridge case, and several other cases, we have these allegations that citizens were possessing a weapon, or they were possessing something that looked like a weapon, and so police had to shoot at them. But in multiple cases, we've now found that those people didn't have a weapon. And again, it makes us question whether these were good shootings or not.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain the Danziger Bridge incident.

A.C. THOMPSON: The Danziger Bridge incident happened on September 4th, 2005. And so, that morning, as we understand it... less than a week after the storm had hit and the levees broke. That morning, as we understand it, police got a call that two officers were, quote, "down" under the Danziger Bridge. And from what we understand, they read that to mean they had been shot, they were wounded. And so, a truckload of officers stormed to the bridge in a rented—a commandeered rental truck and jumped out of the truck. And they say that they immediately came under fire from citizens who were on the bridge. But what we're learning from the plea deals that are coming out in federal court is that other officers are saying, no, the citizens were not shooting, there was no gunfire, the people who started shooting were the police, immediately. That's what we're learning from the federal court hearings and the plea deals. So what happens is, the officers jump out, begin shooting, and six citizens get hit. And these are not minor wounds. One woman lost her arm. One man said that he was shot twice in the stomach at point-blank range. And two people were killed. So this is a very, very serious incident.

AMY GOODMAN: Who were those two people?

A.C. THOMPSON: That would be James Brissette and Ronald Madison. And in Ronald Madison's case, he was a forty-year-old man. He was mentally retarded. And we believe that he was chased off the bridge and into a hotel parking lot and then shot repeatedly in the back. If you look at his autopsy report, he was shot over and over again from behind.

Your Legal Corner

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

PENNSYLVANIA VOTER PROTECTION QUIZ

Prepared by Vote for Homes and Advancement Project

True or False: You can be prevented from voting if you are homeless.

FALSE: You cannot be prevented from voting if you are homeless. Just register to vote with the address of a shelter or program that will let you receive mail.

True or False: You can only register to vote if you are 18.

FALSE: You can register to vote before your 18th birthday as long as you turn 18 on or before the very next election.

True or False: You can vote while you are in prison if you are serving time for a misdemeanor only.

TRUE: You can vote from a penal institution by absentee ballot if you are convicted of a misdemeanor. To get an absentee ballot, you must fill out an absentee ballot request form/application and return it by the appropriate deadline.

True or False: You cannot vote if you have a prior felony conviction.

FALSE: In Pennsylvania, people with felony convictions on their record can vote as long as they are not actually serving time for a felony conviction when they vote or on Election Day. The law requiring people with felony convictions to wait five years after release before voting was eliminated in 2000. Now, all people convicted of felonies can register as soon as they are released, so long as they are not in a halfway house on pre-release status.

True or False: You cannot vote if you're on probation, parole, or house arrest.

FALSE: People who are on probation, parole, or house arrest can vote. Also, people who are awaiting trial can vote, even if in prison. The only time a person convicted of a felony cannot vote is when s/he is serving her/his sentence behind bars or is on pre-release status.

True or False: Registering to vote signs you up for jury duty.

Not Necessarily: When you register to vote, you are put on the list of people who may be asked to serve jury duty. However, you are also put on the list when you apply for a driver's license.

True or False: You cannot vote in Pennsylvania if you were convicted of a felony in another state and that state did not restore your voting eligibility.

FALSE: Even if you were convicted of a felony in one of the few states that permanently takes away voting eligibility, because Pennsylvania does not do that, if you are a resident of Pennsylvania and you meet all of the other requirements for becoming a voter, you can register.

True or False: College students are always considered residents of the city and state where their parents live—especially if their parents claim them as dependents on their federal income tax form.

Your Legal Corner

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

FALSE: A student has choices. S/he can be a registered voter in the city and state where s/he attends college or in her/her former city and state of residence. If you choose to remain registered in the state where you used to live, you can vote in that state by absentee ballot. When deciding what state to register in, consider what registration will say about your residence because your official place of residence may affect other aspects of your life, such as your car insurance premiums and residency-based scholarships.

Election Day

True or False: People are not allowed to have help inside the voting booth.

FALSE: If you are unable to read the information on the machine or ballot for any reason, or if you cannot operate the machine without help, you are entitled to assistance. Just fill out the declaration of assistance form available at your polling place on Election Day then choose someone to help you.

True or False: Anyone you want can assist you inside the voting booth.

FALSE: While you have the right to choose the person who will help you, your employer, an agent of your employer, your union leader, an agent of your union or the Judge of Elections CANNOT be your assistance provider.

True or False: Polling places only have to be accessible to people with disabilities where election officials know there are disabled voters on the voter registration list.

FALSE: All polling places must be accessible to disabled voters even if no registered voter has indicated in advance that s/he is disabled. If you are a disabled voter and will need assistance on Election Day, you have the option of filling an application setting forth the exact nature of your disability with the commission, a registrar, or a clerk, in advance of Election Day. Your voter identification card will then reflect that you are in need of assistance. If you do not provide this information in advance, you are nevertheless entitled to receive assistance at the polling place upon filling out the Declaration of Assistance available on-site.

True or False: If you are a disabled voter and you have been assigned to an inaccessible polling place, you will simply not be able to vote.

FALSE: If you are a disabled voter and you have been assigned to an inaccessible polling place, you are entitled to vote by alternative ballot. To obtain an alternative ballot, you must submit an alternative ballot application.

True or False: In Pennsylvania, you can only vote in English.

FALSE: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Federal law) requires Philadelphia County, the city of Reading in Berks County and some wards and divisions in Allentown, to provide ballots, poll workers, information, and other resources in Spanish and English.

True or False: You can see what is on the ballot before you vote.

TRUE: Election officials must post sample ballots in or around the polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot is often printed on colored paper so that it's easy to see.

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True or False: You can bring your children into the polls with you.

TRUE: Bringing your kids with you on Election Day helps teach the next generation that voting is important; and while you can enter the polling place with more than one child/minor(s), only one of them can go into the voting booth with you.

True or False: You must have ID to vote.

TRUE and FALSE: If you are a first time voter who registered by mail (Pennsylvania considers voter registration applications submitted through voter registration drives to be delivered by mail) or if you are voting for the first time at a polling site, you must show ID. If you forget your ID or if you don't have ID, you can vote by a paper ballot called a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will be counted if election officials can match the signature on your voter registration to the signature you add to the outside of the envelope in which you will place your provisional ballot.

True or False: Your voter ID card can be used as ID when you vote.

TRUE: You can use your voter ID as ID when you vote. If you don't receive your voter card 14 days after you registered, or if you've lost your voter ID card, call your local voter registration office to ask for a new card. Some other acceptable forms of ID include; PA driver's license, any ID issued by PENNDOT, a passport, Armed forces ID, an Employee ID, a utility bill, a bank statement, or a paycheck—if these last three show your current address. Just remember, if you don't have ID, you are still allowed to vote by provisional ballot!

True or False: You can take as much time as you need to cast your ballot.

Not Necessarily: Pennsylvania voters have the right to remain in the voting booth for up to three minutes and may be given more time by election officials if other voters are not waiting to vote.

True or False: You can vote if your name is not on the rolls.

TRUE: If your name is not on the rolls but you believe you are a registered voter, ask the poll workers to check the supplemental list. If your name is not on this list either, ask the poll workers to help you figure out if you are at the right polling place. They can compare your home address to its designated polling place. If it turns out you are in the right polling place, ask for a provisional Ballot.

True or False: You can use your Student ID to vote on Election Day if you are a first-time voter.

TRUE: Student IDs are valid forms of ID for first-time voters. However, the ID must be current and valid.

True or False: You should vote by absentee ballot even if you can make it to the polls on Election Day.

FALSE: If you receive and/or cast an absentee ballot but are able to vote in-person on Election Day, you must present yourself at your polling place. Take your absentee ballot with you (if you have not already sent it in), then tell the Judge of Elections you have the absentee ballot and would like to void it. You will be given an affidavit to sign, stating that you have voided your absentee ballot and will be voting by regular ballot (on the machine). If you have already sent in your absentee ballot, ask the poll workers to look for your name on the absentee ballot list, then ask the poll worker to mark your name/ballot as "void" so that you can vote on the machines.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

Challenging the Prison-Industrial Complex

Activism, Arts, and Educational Alternatives

EDITED BY STEPHEN JOHN HARTNETT

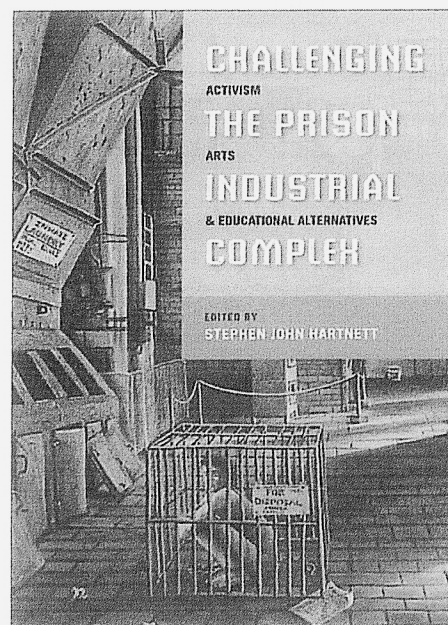
Boldly and eloquently contributing to the argument against the prison system in the United States, these provocative essays offer an ideological and practical framework for empowering prisoners instead of incarcerating them. Experts and activists who have worked within and against the prison system join forces here to call attention to the debilitating effects of a punishment-driven society and offer clear-eyed alternatives, emphasizing working directly with prisoners and their communities.

The volume offers rhetorical and political analyses of police culture, the so-called drug war, media coverage of crime stories, and the public-school-to-prison pipeline. The collection also includes case studies of successful prison arts and education programs in Michigan, California, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania that provide creative and intellectual resources typically denied to citizens living behind bars. Writings and artwork created by prisoners in such programs richly enhance the volume.

Contributors are Buzz Alexander, Rose Braz, Travis L. Dixon, Garrett Albert Duncan, Stephen John Hartnett, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, Daniel Mark Larson, Erica R. Meiners, Janie Paul, Lori Pompa, Jonathan Shailor, Robin Sohnen, and Myesha Williams.

"This is an important, timely, and well-informed consideration of one of the major social issues of our democracy. The essays are relevant, varied, and written from the perspectives of committed activists, offering both a sophisticated understanding of the complexities of the prison-industrial complex and a refreshingly useful set of practical, tested paths toward action."

—Judith A. Scheffler, editor of *Wall Tappings: An International Anthology of Women's Prison Writings, 200 A.D. to the Present*



STEPHEN JOHN HARTNETT is an associate professor and chair of communication at the University of Colorado Denver. He is the author of *Incarceration Nation: Investigative Prison Poems of Hope and Terror* and *Executing Democracy, Volume One: Capital Punishment and the Making of America, 1683–1807*.

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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.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS BROKEN!

BY OMAR ASKIA ALI (SISTRUNK) AND LEE HORTON

(PART I, was published previously in Issue #8 of The Movement)

PART II

Following suit in this clear breakdown in the administration of justice in Pennsylvania are the Judges and the Courts. For the most part they are no different from the prosecutors. Instead of judicial referees, they have tended to operate as unofficial prosecutors. As it has often been said by out of state lawyers, Pennsylvania is the only state where the judges don't follow their own rules. They sit on their benches as if they were judicial thrones, clothed in their black robes ignoring injustice, turning a blind eye to unfair prosecutorial practices often facilitating them. They sit as no more than overseers of unfair trials and a rubber stamp to appeals, calling constitutional violations harmless errors. Too often they tip the scales of justice to the side of the prosecutors, turning their courtrooms into gallerias of legal perversion and orchestrated injustice: i.e., routinely issuing illegal sentences, assisting prosecutor's efforts in coercing guilty pleas, and handling appeals poorly, dismissing them without adequate review.

A profound case in point of unfair judicial practices is the recent indictment of two senior, and former President Judges from Luzern County Pennsylvania. A federal probe has uncovered that former President Judges, Michael T. Conahan and Mark A. Ciaverella, Jr. accepted 2.8 million dollars in kickbacks for steering adjudicated juvenile offenders to two private prisons. These two judges, essentially, entered into a secret contract with private prison companies to turn their courtrooms into de facto auction blocks for the sale of juveniles, predominantly white. To meet their quotas they convicted and sentenced as many juveniles as possible, regardless of guilt or innocence. The goal was to keep those private prisons full to maximize their profits from the government. Though the judges have not yet faced trial, dozens of youth offenders have been released and exonerated. This is a blatant and disgusting display of judicial misconduct that went on for years. Instead of exposing this, the DA's offices (in these areas) and other judges ignored it. Sadly, this is more rule than exception. Only God knows how many other judges have made similar deals or how many young citizens have been affected.

Compounding the overall malaise of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), factor in the reactionary politicians. In knee jerk fashion, feeding off of the public's outrage at a seemingly ever growing crime problem, they have implemented a steady spate of misguided laws and ineffectual programs to ameliorate the problem: mandatory minimum sentences, longer sentences, and draconian appellate rules like, the Post Conviction Relief Act or (PCRA) one year time bar designed to limit appeals. In the 1990's under Governor Tom Ridge, pardons and commutations were de facto eliminated. Then, in 2008, Governor Ed Rendell invoked a moratorium on all paroles in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in response to a person released on parole killing a cop. None of these things have worked to stop crime. They were all politically motivated, feel good, quick fixes which never addressed any of the overarching causes of crime.

Ultimately, these four factors: rogue police, out of control prosecutors, corrupt judges, and reactionary politicians; over the last three decades have only served one purpose, to drive the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to an unprecedented expansion. An expansion that went from six prisons and less than eight thousand prisoners in 1980, to an overwhelming 27 prisons and 51,000 prisoners.

first it was all good. Like weeds prisons sprung up in those depressed rural and suburban regions of Pennsylvania where the coal industry died and prominent companies pulled up stakes and fled to overseas countries, and years of downsizing and outsourcing left scores of people unemployed. With the job shortages, scarce resources and lack of tax revenue, prisons became the new industry; prisoners the new commodity. Prison jobs, and the prison construction and services provided to and around the prisons became the new economy. Every county with a prison prospered, so every rural and suburban county wanted a prison. In their census they counted incarcerated prisoners as residents of their counties, which meant

(Continued on page 36)

The Babylon System -

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

(Continued from page 35)

more state and federal money for local government and more political representation in the State Legislature, Halls of Congress and the Senate. For a while the mantra was more prisons, more prisons. From which the police, district attorneys, judges and politicians derived the incentive to feed the demand, and feed it they did. Prison populations exploded.

Ignored in this transaction was the human and financial toll these actions were taking. Because, while the rural and suburban areas were prospering, cities like Philadelphia were decimated and families torn apart. But how long can you make a living off of other people's misery and misfortune before it unravels? It seems not long.

The Criminal Justice System has become criminally dysfunctional. Costs of prisons have skyrocketed with no dent in crime and the taxpayers are shouldering the bill. As the prison population ballooned so did the DOC's portion of the State government budget, going from two or three hundred million dollars a year in the 1970's and 80's to two billion dollars currently. Thanks to mandatory minimums, longer sentences, and de facto elimination of pardons and commutation the overall prison population has gotten older and sicker. Even more the lifer population has grown tremendously, from around 800 in 1980 to almost 6,000 currently. Indeed the Pennsylvania lifer population is the oldest and largest in the world. According to State Senator Stewart Greenleaf in 2002, it costs 75,000 to 80,000 a year to keep prisoners incarcerated. This has no doubt increased over the last eight years, which is all taxpayers money. It may no longer be a shock to learn that more in taxpayers money is spent on housing each prisoner than to educate each child in this Commonwealth.

All of these factors have inexorably led to extreme overcrowding and a critical strain on available resources to rehabilitate or train prisoners for eventual release which has led to high recidivism rates. Pennsylvania prisons are bursting at the seams, more than 51,000 prisoners are presently crammed into facilities designed to hold only about 43,000. However, unlike most other states and the overall national trend - who have found innovative ways to safely decrease their prison populations and close down prisons - Pennsylvania has opted to stay the course, even in the face of the recent economic melt-down, record deficits and forcing state employees to work for days without pay. Instead of facing the fact that the lock'em up and throw away the key and build more prisons strategy has failed. Undaunted, Pennsylvania has plans on the drawing board to build four more prisons at a cost to taxpayers of 1 billion dollars. To alleviate the prison overcrowding until the new jails can be built, ironically, Pennsylvania is contracting with those states that have reduced their prison populations, to house two thousand prisoners at a price tag of around 40 million dollars of taxpayers money per year. Thus the pillars have been pulled down and the structure of justice near collapse.

Looking at all of these factors, the words of Philly's new DA and the Pennsylvania Chief Justice are right on point: « the criminal justice system is broken ». We cannot allow the words of these esteemed men to go unheeded. From the police to the prisons, the Criminal Justice System is in dire need of an overhaul. The public should be outraged. But it is not time for mere emotion, it is time for the public to stand up and demand a better accounting of its money. The CJS doesn't generate revenue for the state, but is a huge drain on its available resources. In the face of crushing deficits, deep budget cuts, and a volatile economy Pennsylvania doesn't need more police or more prisons. It needs better policing practices, fairer DA's, unbiased judges and more effective courts, and more thoughtful political decisions. We need better rehabilitative and educational programs for prisoners returning to society, more drug treatment centers for parolees, better parole board decisions, and parole for lifers and a more objective and fair process for pardons and commutations. For sure this is not an exhaustive list of remedies, but it is a start. It's time for a change. Lets demand that the Criminal Justice System be fixed. We owe it to our children.

By: Omar Askia Ali (Sistrunk)
#AF-0814; and
Lee Horton, CN-2067
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Prisoners' Bill of Rights

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page 40)

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

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

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

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

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

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