

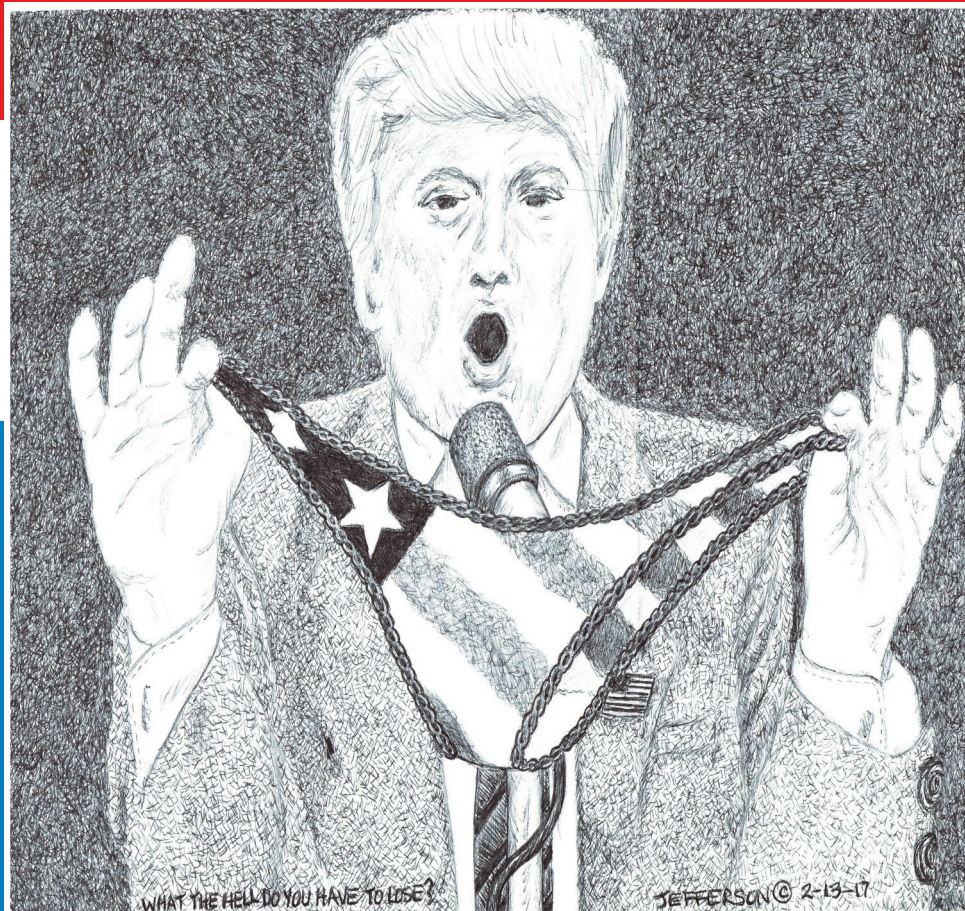
# THE MOVEMENT

Spring 2017  
Issue #31

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

The Official News Magazine of the  
Human Rights Coalition for the Union of Prisoners'  
Families

**Lets not end up with another  
“Disaster” VOTE!  
PA Primary Election is May 16, 2017**



**Predator-In-Chief**

Artwork By: Leonard Jefferson, 58330 Maximum Security, PO Box 8273, Cranston, RI 02920-0273

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215 People's Alliance  
AFSCME District 1199C  
National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees – AFL-CIO  
Pennsylvania Federation  
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) –  
IBT  
The B.L.O.C. Party - Build, Lead, Organize, Campaign  
Center for Carceral Communities  
Food & Water Action Fund  
Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club  
Pennsylvania Working Families Party  
Philly for Change  
Reclaim Philadelphia  
New Political Action Committee For Formerly Incarcerated Endorses DA Candi-  
date

"I first met Larry when wrongly arrested and assaulted by police outside a hear-  
ing for a ban against feeding the homeless. And he helped me get justice for  
that attack. Larry Krasner is a candidate that truly believes in justice, in protect-

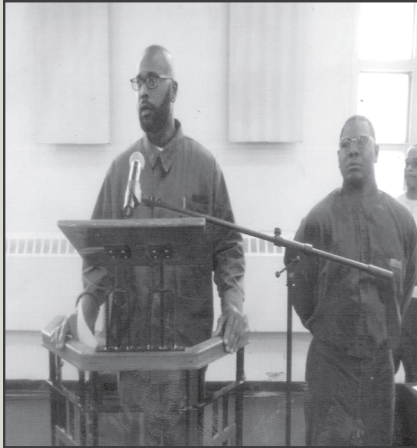
ing all citizens regardless of race or creed, and fighting for what's right. I've seen it firsthand. And this is why I'm endorsing Krasner for  
Philadelphia District Attorney.

— Dr. Khadijah Costley-White, Professor, Rutgers University, and Philadelphia resident

TELL YOUR FAMILY TO VOTE!!!



# From The Desk of The Editor



Bro. Shakaboona, Co-Editor  
Email: [Shakaboona41@gmail.com](mailto:Shakaboona41@gmail.com)

## Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to THE MOVEMENT human rights news magazine. We have another great issue for our readers. Much is happening in Pennsylvania and particularly in Philly, that we intend to enlighten the public about. There has been great news of resistance movements and civil/human rights challenges occurring throughout America despite the ascent of the white nationalist Donald Trump to the Presidency of the United States.

In Philly—the City of Brotherly Love—some great news has come in the form of a 50 count Federal criminal indictment on corruption charges of Philly’s District Attorney Seth Williams for taking \$175,000 in gifts and fixing his benefactors criminal cases.

In Philly’s 2009 District Attorney’s (D.A.) election Seth Williams succeeded Lynne “Deadliest D.A. in America” Abraham as the first African-American D.A. of Philadelphia on the promise to be “a protector of the community, not seen as

an oppressor.” But D.A. Seth Williams, like 99% of politicians, is a liar in the first degree whom shown himself to be just another oppressor in the skin of a Black male and Democrat. And people, please, stop thinking and acting like Black officials working on behalf of racist America in colonized communities throughout America’s city governments cannot be oppressors too!

Anyways, D.A. Seth Williams—an African American and proud Democrat—aspired to be a member of the establishment & wealthy class of people; he did the work of the oppressor government; he pursued the “tough on crime” ethos “stop-n-frisk”, “police occupation”, and “over charging prosecution-sentencing” policies of poor Black and Latino communities even when he did not have to; he fought in court Gov. Tom Wolf’s death penalty moratorium; he continued to impose “Life without Parole” sentences on child offenders even after Miller v. Alabama’s decision; and he seized the homes of poor little old ladies with civil forfeiture laws because their sons or grandsons were dealing drugs in them, unbeknownst to them. Yeah, this clown D.A. Seth Williams was putting grandmothers out into the streets making them homeless!!!

So good riddance to D.A. Seth Williams! I hope he’s convicted by the class he aspired to be part of and they sentence him to the same amount of time that he had his 2nd-in-command Deputy D.A. Tariq El-Shabazz argue in Federal Court for Pennsylvania’s 550 child lifers to be re-sentenced to—35 years to Life!

More good news. As of March 2017, D.A. Seth Williams announced he would not seek re-election as D.A. in the upcoming 2017 Philly’s D.A. election. On that note Philly has 7 Democratic candidates running for the D.A.’s office in the upcoming Democratic Primary elections, but only two candidates stand-out among the pack—former Deputy D.A. Tariq El-Shabazz and nationally renown Criminal Defense Attorney and Civil Rights Activist Attorney Larry Krasner.

Candidate Tariq El-Shabazz, as Deputy D.A., argued in Federal Court for child lifers to be re-sentenced to 35 years-to-life. So that should tell everyone what his position would be in regards to lobbying for adult lifers to receive parole eligibility on their Life With Out Parole (LWOP)/Death-By-Incarceration (DBI) sentences. Plus, Tariq El-Shabazz is the right-hand man of D.A. Seth Williams. And as my Mama use to say, “Show me who your friends are and I’ll tell you who you are.” Enough said, ya dig.

Candidate Attorney Larry Krasner, on the other hand, is considered the Peoples’ Champ due to his 30 year track record of defending ACT UP, KWRU, Black Lives Matter, Occupy Wall Street 2012 protestors; of exposing corrupt Philly cops; and of representing Black families whose sons and daughters were murdered by Philly cops. On the day of an-

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

nouncing his candidacy for D.A., a mass of activists—including public school moms, Black Lives Matter people, and Occupy Wall Street–Philly Alumni—had gathered behind him at the studios of a community TV station. There Krasner gave a speech sounding like a West Philly activist at an anti-police brutality protest.

So the question of which candidate to vote for in Philly’s 2017 D.A. Election is a no-brainer, the Peoples’ Champ!

The other good news is the success of the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI) 2017 Celebration Dinner held in March honoring families of prisoners whom are leading activists in the struggle to gain parole eligibility to persons serving Life With Out Parole sentences in PA. This event was the brainchild of Human Rights Coalition (HRC) members Jerome “Hoagie” Coffey (confined at SCI-Albion) and Theresa “Tiye Binta” Shoats, and organized in collaboration with CADBI members. So special congrats to Hoagie and Sister Tiye and CADBI members for a superb job well done with the 2017 CADBI Celebration Dinner.

I hope everyone enjoy this issue of THE MOVEMENT magazine, share it with family and friends, and use it as a tool to teach the public with. Spread the word y’all; we’re Ona Move!

Peace and Blessings.

Bro, Shakaboona CO-Founder and Editor of THE MOVEMENT

Mr. Kerry “Shakaboona” Marshall  
#BE-7826 / SCI-Graterford  
Box 244  
Graterford, PA 19426-0244

## I want to support the Human Rights Coalition by giving a Donation!

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Please make checks payable to the Human Rights Coalition and mail donations to HRC,  
4134 Lancaster Ave, Phila., PA 19104, ATTENTION: Charitable Donations.

**THE MOVEMENT**

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Spring 2017 (ISSUE #31)





By Francesca Forrest

## Guilty Until Proven Innocent: The Problem with Money Bail

*Pretrial incarceration is expensive for society and can destroy lives, but there are safe, humane, cost-effective alternatives.*

The principle of innocent until proven guilty is at the heart of our justice system, and yet in the United States today, 61 percent of people in jails have not been convicted.[1] Although their innocence or guilt has not yet been established, men and women may spend months or even years behind bars awaiting trial—at a cost to the nation of \$9 billion annually.[2] Furthermore, three-fourths of these individuals are charged with nonviolent crimes, including minor drug offenses.[3] Some may not be eligible for pretrial release (parole violators, for instance). But often they are imprisoned because they are unable to pay even the comparatively modest sums set as bail for crimes such as drug possession.

### What It Means for the Poor

The bail system affects the poor disproportionately: people trying to cobble together a living from several part-time, minimum-wage jobs may be unable to come up with even \$200 bail to secure release, whereas the more well-off, accused of a more serious crime, may go free because they can afford to pay their bail. (In Massachusetts, the case of Jared Remy, is illustrative. The son of sports broadcaster Jerry Remy, he was repeatedly arrested for assault and easily paid bail whenever it was set. Eventually he pled guilty to murdering a former girlfriend.[4])

The legal outcomes for those who await trial behind bars are much worse than the outcomes for those who don't. Using data from Kentucky, one study found that, controlling for factors such as prior criminal history or current charge, pretrial detainees are four times more likely to be sentenced to jail and three times more likely to be sentenced to prison—and their sentences are longer.[5]

Those who are found not guilty, meanwhile, may discover that their pretrial incarceration has cost them their job, their apartment, and even custody of their children. The Wellesley Center for Women reported that in 2012 in Massachusetts, 5,300 children were affected by their mothers' pretrial detentions in the Framingham women's prison. Over the course of a year, thousands more women are held pretrial in county jails, and like those in Framingham, the majority are charged with nonviolent offenses.[6]

### Proposed Legislation in Massachusetts

Tom Sannicandro  
Massachusetts House of Representatives

As of this writing, Senator Ken Donnelly and I have filed legislation to reform the pretrial and bail system by shifting from a wealth-based to a risk-based system. HD3156/SD1491 creates a uniform bail process that will keep pretrial detention from being based solely on a person's inability to pay cash bail.

The bill has four main features:

- \*it requires the judicial officer to consult a risk-assessment tool designed to predict the likelihood of a defendant returning to court;
- \*it creates a Pretrial Services Division that would prepare the risk assessment for each defendant and be responsible for any necessary supervision of pretrial defendants;
- \*it sets a statutory preference against cash bail, encouraging release and use of other evidence-based conditions and access to services that are more reliable than cash bail in ensuring a defendant's presence at court; and
- \*it initiates bail data collection and analysis.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

"When women are incarcerated, whether in MCI-Framingham or in another facility, their children become collateral captives shuffled among relatives or foster care situations. These children in turn are at elevated risks of abuse, high levels of use of [prescribed] psychiatric medication, and ultimately involvement in the juvenile correctional system," reports Susan Sered, a professor of sociology at Suffolk University.[7] The cost to the commonwealth is high, too. A woman held in jail for two months because she is unable to meet bail costs Massachusetts taxpayers a minimum of \$7,000, according to the Massachusetts Pretrial Working Group.[8] (In 2012, the average length of pretrial detention in MCI-Framingham was 77 days. The average length of pretrial detention in the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee, Massachusetts, for that year was 60 days.[9])

## Alternatives

Alternatives exist. Maine saves millions of dollars annually by working with Maine Pretrial Services, a nonprofit organization that assesses the risk of a charged person failing to appear for a court date. People who pass the assessment are released pending their court date and are supervised by Pretrial Services caseworkers.

The assessment considers factors such as past criminal history, mental health, presence or absence of substance abuse, employment history, and prior history of failing to appear. As a result of the work of Pretrial Services, Maine's jails are less crowded, saving the state money. In 2013, Capt. Marsha Alexander, Kennebec County jail administrator, estimated the savings from having fewer prisoners at approximately \$2 million. The county pays \$130,000 for Maine Pretrial Services assistance.[10] Not all counties in Maine make use of the nonprofit, however, and advocates would like to see its role expanded.

The District of Columbia's pretrial program, run by the Pretrial Services Agency, reports impressive statistics. About 85 percent of all those arrested are released prior to their court date, approximately 88 percent of those released return to court, and less than 1 percent are rearrested for a violent crime. "Most significantly, and unique in the entire nation, the District accomplishes this without using money bonds. Money bonds that detain people are illegal in Washington, DC," says Clifford Keenan, the agency's director.[11]

Not only does pretrial release save the government money and improve outcomes for people accused of crimes, it is also associated with a reduction in crime. Kentucky, another state with a pretrial release program, reported a 4 percent drop in the crime rate at the same time the number of people released into supervision pretrial increased.

The Pretrial Working Group would like to bring those benefits to Massachusetts. The organization is focused on developing

and implementing pretrial services throughout the commonwealth and raising awareness about the need to invest in alternatives to incarceration. Lois Ahrens, a cofounder of the Pretrial Working Group and founder of the Real Cost of Prisons Project, says, "Steps to see these significant changes realized include educating legislators, judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys, and the public about proven alternatives to bail already in use around the country, and urging support for the recently introduced bail-reform legislation.

"We believe the state has the responsibility to ensure that the amount of money a person has does not affect the kind of justice they receive. Rather than investing in new jails to incarcerate people who cannot make bail, we need to invest in pretrial services and community-based, community-run wellness alternatives, which are much less costly in terms of dollars and lessen the damage to men and women who needlessly spend months or even more in jail." (See "Proposed Legislation in Massachusetts.")

JusticeHome is an example of the type of program the Pretrial Working Group supports. Proposed by Families for Justice as Healing, a Pretrial Working Group partner, JusticeHome would allow pretrial women to remain in their homes, receiving services such as drug treatment or mental health services, prior to their court date.[12]

Until such alternatives become a reality, another Pretrial Working Group partner may be able to help. The Massachusetts Bail Fund endeavors to post bail for people who are unable to do so, and its volunteers help defendants get addiction treatment and other services in the community after release.[13]

Requiring money bail has been shown to be ineffective as crime prevention, inequitable, and expensive to society. Replacing it with conditional pretrial release would allow many more people to continue working, paying rent, and taking care of their families. Properly implemented, it poses no increased risk to the community and saves money for the state. Perhaps most important, it helps to restore the principle of innocent until proven guilty.

By: Francesca Forrest, a freelance writer, is a volunteer writing tutor at a Massachusetts women's correctional facility. Contact her at [forrestfm@gmail.com](mailto:forrestfm@gmail.com).

From: [www.bostonfed.org/publications/communities-and-banking/2015/summer/guilty-until-proven-innocent-the-problem-with-money-bail.aspx](http://www.bostonfed.org/publications/communities-and-banking/2015/summer/guilty-until-proven-innocent-the-problem-with-money-bail.aspx)

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Jean Trounstein, "Why Bail Jails Are a Bad Idea," Boston Magazine, February 6, 2014.

Testimony before the Massachusetts Judiciary Committee, April 24, 2014.

This figure is an approximation, as the cost of two months' incarceration varies from jail to jail. Sources consulted to arrive at the estimate include Massachusetts Department of Corrections Research and Planning Division, Prison Populations Trends 2012 (Concord, Massachusetts: Massachusetts DOC Research and Planning Division, 2013), <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/doc/research-reports/pop-trends/prisonpop trendsfinal-2012.pdf>; and Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, "Prisons, Probation, and Parole," <http://www.massbudget.org/browser/subcat.php?id=Prisons%2C+Probation+%26+Parole>.

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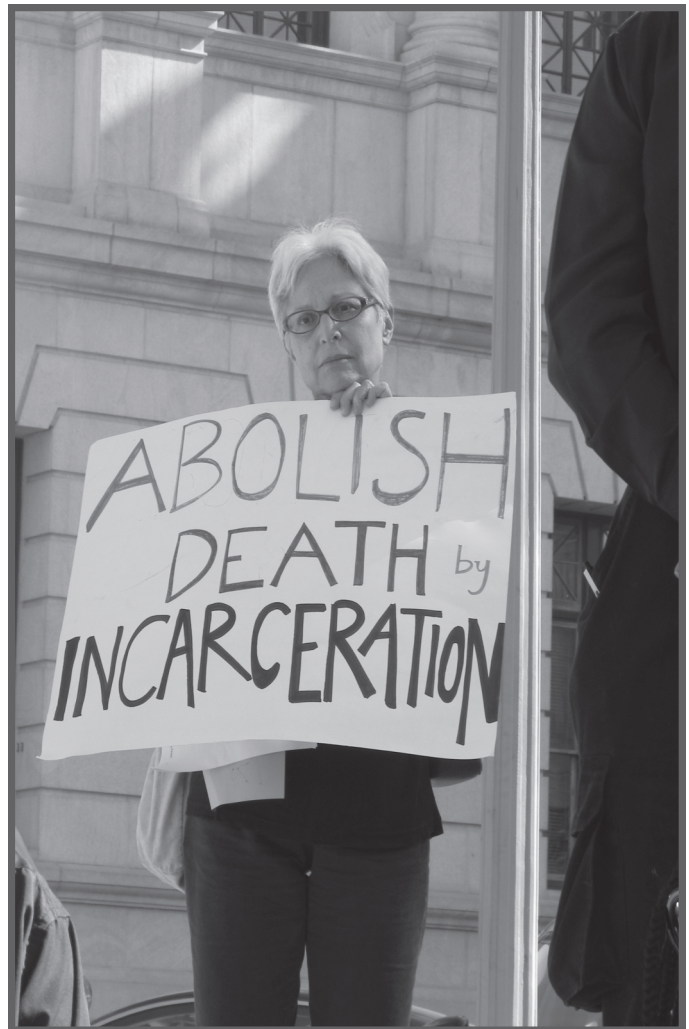
Kaitlyn Schroeder, "Panelists Urged to Rethink Maine's Bail System," Portland Press Herald, October 4, 2013, [http://www.pressherald.com/2013/10/04/maine\\_urged\\_to\\_revamp\\_bail\\_system/](http://www.pressherald.com/2013/10/04/maine_urged_to_revamp_bail_system/).

Clifford Keenan, "We Need More Bail Reform," September 2013, <http://www.psa.gov/?q=node/390>. Broadly speaking, money bail is cash paid by the defendant or on the defendant's behalf as insurance against the defendant's failing to appear for his or her court date.

See <http://justiceashealing.org/>.

See <http://www.cjpc.org/BailFund.htm>.

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**Stand Your Ground!!!**

(Continued from page 37)

interaction with those from urban areas and people of color. So racism and biasness prevails! When you have a correctional officer who fits such a mode it usually results in violence. Now I do not condone violence but in most cases this is the root. Many C.O.'s have military background and the average inmate does not. In fact [most] come from broken homes and raised on the streets. Therefore to implement structure one must be very tactful and [the] staff struggles. The majority of men here want to do what's right but staff is overbearing. The equivalent of walking on someone heels down the street. Their strategy is not working and pride refuses security to concede and try other methods. The majority of the incidents could be prevented; rather, staff kindles the fire. A very intense environment and undeserving.

While I am incarcerated I desire conditions to be as comfortable as possible, my goal is to fight my illegal sentence which is an uphill battle in itself. So many I witnessed [were] railroaded by

Attorneys, District Attorneys, Judges and officers. Another contribution to the tenseness.

We appreciate media sources such as yourself who expose the truth. Especially since we are in a rural part of the state which gets no media attention whatsoever. So in a sense staff has no accountability to the public and do as they feel. We have heard staff say if it were up to them we would not get anything other than three meals and locked in all day and night. Not only do they mean what they say but operate this prison under such conditions.

Hopefully I can contribute to your paper and be a source of inspiration to all who read it.

Take care,



Tommy

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## Here's How We Prepare to Be Ungovernable in 2017

A conversation with Kali Akuno, organizer with Cooperation Jackson and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement.

By Sarah Lazare / AlterNet January 1, 2017



Photo Credit: Cooperation Jackson

"We cannot and should not legitimize the transfer of authority to a right-wing populist who has neo-fascist orientations," Kali Akuno told AlterNet over the phone. "We shouldn't legitimize that rule in any form or fashion. We need to build a program of being ungovernable."

As the co-director of the Mississippi-based group Cooperation Jackson and an organizer with the nationwide Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Akuno is one of countless people across the country working diligently to build a platform sturdy enough to confront Trump's America.

Movimiento Cosecha, led by undocumented people and immigrants, is planning to go on the offensive to organize a migrant boycott and general strike demanding "permanent protection, dignity, and respect of immigrants." Groups including Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) are already striking preemptive blows against a potential Muslim registry under Trump by successfully demanding that the Obama administration eliminate the regulatory framework for a Bush-era registry. The New Sanctuary Movement, meanwhile, is getting ready to mobilize large numbers of people to intervene against a potential escalation of raids targeting immigrants.

For Akuno, whose organizations strive for self-determination for people of African descent and the eco-socialist transformation of society as a whole, now is an important time for movements to be talking to each other and strategizing how to unfold a program of noncompliance and noncooperation on both the federal and state levels. "We are not going to legitimize this regime, and we are going to try to draw a deeper level of criticism to the entire system," he emphasized. "If Trump and Clinton were the best the system could offer, there is something wrong with the system. There always has been. We need to start envisioning what kind of future we want and need."

**A call for civil servants to resist**

"A core component of resistance is to get the class of civil servants, particularly on the federal but also the state level, to not comply with arbitrary laws and policies that are going to be created," said Akuno. "To not recognize the laws we know are coming that will discriminate against Black people, Latinos, immigrants and queer people. There is no need for anyone to comply. Let's not give it legitimacy just because it's the law. We need to be prepared to disobey and engage in civil disobedience. We need to get ready for that now."

Akuno said there are already encouraging signs that such resistance is building among civil servants. Concerned that critical climate data will vanish under a climate-change denying Trump administration, scientists and meteorologists are working to copy and safely store public data using independent servers. Earlier this month, the University of Toronto held a "Guerrilla Archiving" event inviting volunteers to "join in a full day of hackathon activities in preparation for the Trump presidency." The website "Climate Mirror" was erected as part of an effort to "mirror public climate datasets before the Trump Administration takes office to make sure these datasets remain freely and broadly accessible."

Meanwhile, media reports are emerging that some Department of Energy officials are refusing to comply with a Trump administration demand to hand over the names of all of the agency's contractors and employers who have worked on key climate policies under President Barack Obama. The request elicited concerns of a witch hunt and purge orchestrated by the incoming administration. But The Independent reported earlier this month, "The US Department of Energy (DOE) has refused to answer questions issued to them by Donald Trump's transition team."

In a letter dated December 28, attorney general offices from 13 states threatened litigation against Trump if he discards the Clean Power Plan, as he has vowed to do.

Such resistance, of course, contrasts with the narrative of a "peaceful transition of power" at times embraced by the Obama administration and much of the Democratic party. But among lower-level workers, opportunities for resistance are manifold. According to Akuno, "it is impressive to see a certain level of resistance that members of civil society are already engaging in. I don't think this should be taken lightly. A broad alliance can be made, with a clear articulation of a call for resistance."

Akuno emphasized that such resistance is just one prong of a broader strategy that he says entails "not going to work, not participating in your run-of-the-mill economic activities, with the hope and aim that we can build prolonged acts of civil disobedience."

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(Continued from page 8)

ence that lead to a general strike.” While such plans are not fully fleshed out, he noted organizations across the country are actively discussing such a possibility.

### ‘Build and fight’

Strategies for large-scale disobedience should be buttressed by local plans that simultaneously prepare us for survival and orient us towards social transformation, he argued. “Cooperation Jackson is in the midst of a pivot that we’re calling, ‘Build and Fight,’” said Akuno, explaining that the initiative is premised on the assumption that “the left’s infrastructure domestically and internationally is profoundly weak. There needs to be a building piece in our view. This has to be a primary focus, and we want to build something that leans in an anti-capitalist orientation, like community-production based, cooperatively-owned digital fabrication.”

For inspiration, Cooperation Jackson looks to Black freedom organizers like Fannie Lou Hamer, who, in 1969, helped found the Freedom Farm Cooperative in Sunflower County, Mississippi, which was aimed at boosting food security and independence for Black community members who faced systematic dispossession. The Federation of Southern Cooperatives, meanwhile, has played a critical role in protecting those communities on the frontlines of Black freedom and civil rights movements.

According to Akuno, now is a time to fortify infrastructure for autonomy and resistance. “That’s where co-ops, land trusts, time banking, mutual exchange, community production and other new social relationships come in,” he said. “We want to build society in a prefigurative way. We want a guaranteed level of food security and energy security. We need bottom-up solutions to sustain ourselves and transform the world.”

Towards this end, Cooperation Jackson is building three green cooperatives, as well as an eco-village, protected by a community land trust. These bottom-up alternatives are coupled with a push for policies aimed at a “just transition” away from policies that worsen climate change and environmental racism.

In materials emailed to AlterNet, the organization explained that its approach is “premised on ending our systemic dependence on the hydro-carbon industry and the capitalist driven need for endless growth on a planet with limited resources, while creating a new, democratic economy that is centered around sustainable methods of production and distribution that are more localized and cooperatively owned and controlled.”

“We need to be building participatory democratic structures from below,” Akuno emphasized. “We should be building people’s assemblies, not as a substitute of the state, but to deal with areas where the neoliberal state is failing to provide basic social services.”

### Learning from history

“This moment calls us to really look at our collective history critically,” said Akuno. “In reality, this is not a democratic society, never has been. But, it’s based on democratic myths, not the concrete practice of democracy. We can look at the struggles of indigenous, Black, Xican@, Puerto Rican communities and draw new lessons. We can win genuine multiracial class unity that can benefit us during this time of struggle.”

Akuno emphasized that there are plenty of lessons to be learned from struggles around the world. “In the 1950s through 80s, movements fought the right-wing neo-fascist dictatorships of Argentina and Chile,” he said. “It took decades to turn the tide, people were organizing on an underground basis after most of the left was liquidated. How folks organized and delegitimized the regime—I think there’s a lot to be learned from that.”

From South Africa’s anti-apartheid movement to Spain’s civil war to 1930s-era Germany, Akuno emphasized that we need to “use history as a guide.” But he also underscored that we have to recognize what is unique about this moment, which he says emerges from a uniquely American legacy of “white supremacy in its segregationist apartheid form.”

“The orientation we’re taking is not just about surviving Trump, but drawing attention to the fact that the system was already heading towards more severe types of repression, surveillance and austerity,” he said. “We’re also looking at the global dynamics as to why right-wing populism and fascism is spreading internationally.”

What is clear, says Akuno, is that the right-wing populism of the Trump administration will not be defeated by civil discourse and liberal democracy. He emphasized, “If we are serious and steadfast, we can create a clear and comprehensive message around being ungovernable.”

*Sarah Lazare is a staff writer for AlterNet. A former staff writer for Common Dreams, she coedited the book About Face: Military Resisters Turn Against War.*

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# I am a Woman

Tiffanee O

They call me Mommy  
Oversized sweat pants and t-shirt  
Early morning their site of amusement  
Messy hair and morning breath  
Dawn and Ashlyn's protector, teacher  
Creating security  
Loved  
Needed  
Running on coffee  
Providing daily necessities  
I sing Lullabies  
Make favorite snacks  
Help with undone homework  
Retrieve misplaced shoes  
I find EVERYTHING

He calls me Gilly  
Loving wife  
Keeping his home in order  
An irreplaceable best friend  
Mikey's one and only soul-mate  
Undying loyalty

Obedience  
Honor  
Mellowing him like a sedative  
Tug-boating along in a perfect dream  
Attending to him with such ease  
No self-consciousness  
No hesitation  
Forever

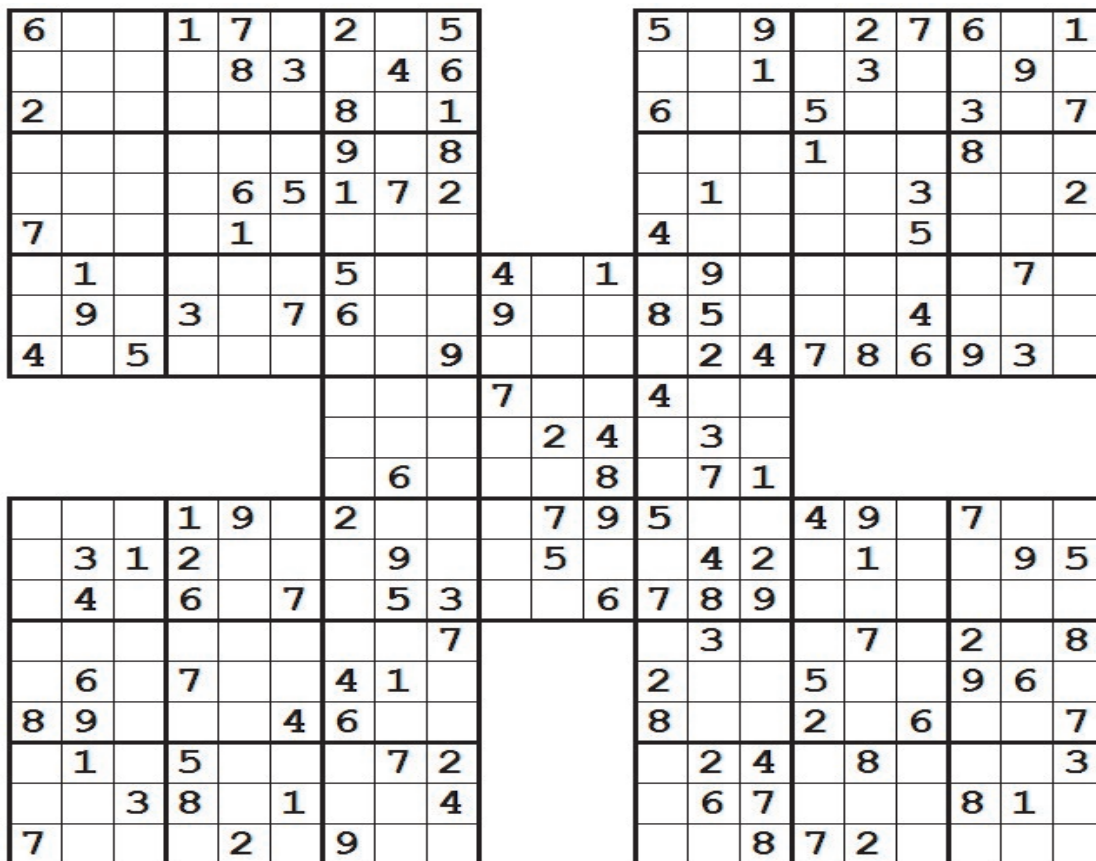
To some I am Tiffanee  
Wearing a heart on my sleeve  
Enlarging the world of friends  
Keeping deep and soulful secrets  
Hearing thoughts before spoken words  
Infinite  
Immortal  
Un-judging  
Riding on waves of laughter  
Providing shelter from sadness  
Unmatched understanding  
Open minded  
Trusted

But now I am O  
Inmate number 147493  
Wearing yellow and green

Stumbling blindly toward chaos  
Hurricanes, rage, and lightening  
I have been cast away  
Hurting  
Missing  
Needing  
In a skull shattering free-fall  
Playing tug-of-war with good and evil  
Cursed  
Emotionless  
Withdrawn  
Misunderstood  
Learning from a life full of mistakes

I am a Woman

From: **Captured Words/Free Thoughts, Vol. 10**, Spring 2012,  
From Denver Women's Correctional Facility. If you are in prison and would like to make a contribution or if you are wealthy and would like to donate, contact: Stephen John Hartnett, Dept. of Communication, University of Colorado Denver, Campus Box 176 , P.O. Box 173364 , Denver, CO 80217-3664



Moderate Samurai  
Sudoku Puzzle  
No. 14

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

See page 9 for answers.

Copyright 2009 www.FreeSamuraiSudoku.com

**THE MOVEMENT**

www.hrcoalition.org



## Let Your Voice Be Heard. Live From Prison...

Let's take an introspective look at the New Jim Crow,  
Where America's over-populated prisons continue to grow,  
Where unjustified sentences lead to the poor being persecuted  
Incarceration, parole, and probation replace whips, chains,  
and nooses.

No more slave boat cruises.

Prison blocks packed with men shackled up by the douces

The truth is – we're still being plotted against

Don't be fooled

The plantation still exist

It's been modernized

In the form of a prison yard

With barbed wire fences.

Slave masters renamed as superintendents

Working like mules for nineteen cents

America's most precious commodity

No longer sold on auction blocks.

Today's slave is sold in the courtrooms

Thrown in prison as live stock

The correction of slavery, past and present is no different

Today's slavery is disguised as prison

Replace lynching with lethal injection

And you have slavery resurrected

Thank you, thank you for listening.

We must continue to struggle forward and let our voices be heard.

All power to the people!!

By: Reginald D. West



## **ADDRESS THIS!**

The Pennsylvania Prison  
Correspondence Project



**IS NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLMENTS!!  
(Apply by April 30, 2017)**

**\*Note: Available only to individuals incarcerated  
in Pennsylvania**

*Address This!* is a volunteer-run project, based out of the Philadelphia area, that aims to provide innovative educational courses via correspondence to individuals currently incarcerated throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Each of the classes we offer is intended to foster dialogue, promote collective critical thinking and reading skills, raise awareness, encourage self-empowerment and provide an outlet for stimulating discussion on issues of importance to all of our lives.

### **Mission & Goals:**

*Address This!* and the classes associated with it are not traditional credit-granting courses. Instead, each class presents a unique opportunity for its participants to discover their own ideas while thinking about the assigned texts in concert with one another.

*Address This!* is specifically designed so as to facilitate and prioritize the participation of those housed in PA's Maximum Security and SHU units, as well as those in Minimum and Medium Security facilities. Over the course of six months, all

participants will receive an initial course reader followed by monthly discussion questions to which they will be asked to provide responses.

*Address This!* takes seriously the prospect of education as a means to both individual and collective development and empowerment. *Address This!* hopes this project will make its own contribution to larger efforts to interrupt and alter the experiences of isolation and monotony that often dominate the prison environment.

### **The Basic Logistics:**

- Classes begin in the Summer and Winter of each year and will run for six months.
- Participants may enroll in only one class each semester and may take each class only once.
- Currently all courses are conducted in English and include some college-level reading material.
- At the beginning of each semester, participants will receive a course reader containing all the readings for that class, divided up into six thematic units (of 30–60 pages per unit). You will also receive general instructions explaining the basic expectations and requirements for participation in the course.

Feel free to write us for more information and for more extended descriptions of each of the seven courses that are currently offered.

To enroll, simply fill out the information requested on the reverse side of this page and send this page back to us by April 30, 2017 at:

***Address This!***  
4722 Baltimore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143  
215-727-8170  
[AddressThisPA@gmail.com](mailto:AddressThisPA@gmail.com)



The course I would like to enroll in is:  
(Please select ONE only)

- ☐ **Black Social Movements from Civil Rights to Hip Hop**
- ☐ **Putting the "Us" Back in Justice: Community Responses to Sexual Assault**
- ☐ **La Lucha Sigue: Latin@ History, Culture & Contemporary Issues**
- ☐ **Control & Resistance: The U.S. Prison System and Its Oppositions**
- ☐ **Art to the Street: Social Movements and Visual Culture**
- ☐ **One Hood United Youth Empowerment**
- ☐ **Reentry: History, Strategy, & Transformation (NEW!)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOC # \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any additional mail or facility restrictions at your institution that we should know about? Please indicate them here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Donate If You Can!

While there is no charge for enrolling in these *Address This!* courses, donations are always appreciated. As an all-volunteer organization, we struggle to gather the resources necessary for postage, course readers, xeroxes, and other materials. Stamps are appreciated. **Please make any checks out to Books Through Bars, with "for Address This!" in the memo field.**

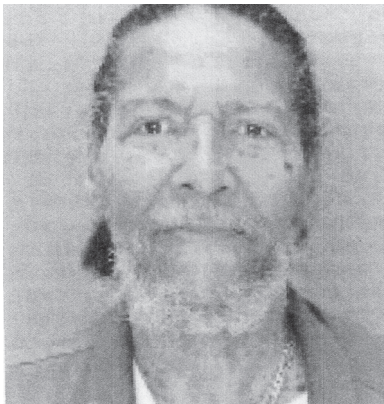
*We don't have the space to list all of the AT! course descriptions here in full, but here's just one example to hopefully incite your interest and give you a sense of the larger project:*

#### Control & Resistance:

##### The U.S. Prison System and Its Oppositions

This course explores the social and historical roots of the growth of the U.S. prison complex. We investigate the large-scale extension of state surveillance, imprisonment, and policing practices into our everyday lives and the impact this has had on individuals, families, and communities. We look at how U.S. prisoners have struggled in the face of these trends to define, politicize, and transform themselves beyond these societal definitions and constraints. We explore the efforts and strategies of several grassroots organizations (of regional & national scope) that work to advocate for prisoners' basic human rights on the inside and for foundational social change on the outside. We ask ourselves: what has made the unprecedented rise in U.S. incarceration rates possible (including the race, class, and gender dynamics that these numbers embody) and what would it take to reverse their direction?





## A EULOGY

**Mr. Loney J. Johnson Jr.**  
**June 26, 1940 - January 17, 2017**

Loney Johnson was a man we all knew and respected, a man who came up from the old school streets, who was imprisoned in 1960 before some of us were even born. Loney Johnson never allowed prison to be his curse or to hold him back. Loney never used prison as an excuse to develop the burning hate that some men have so deep inside, a hate that eats them alive.

Loney learned to teach men, tell stories only some of us had ever heard from books. He told us about the struggles for a black man in the days when men were men, real gangsters who wore 3 piece suits. In those days you fought with your hands, and then you went home. Sometimes, I think he was around before books were even in print . . .

Loney was a fair and truthful man, even when a lie would have been easier, even if there were hurt feelings. People deserve the truth and with Loney, like it or not, that is what you got. If you got over on him, you've seen a different side. But not many men got over on the old fellow. He was street and prison smart, wise as one can be. Once he caught on to you, you never got another chance again. A real "OG", right up till his last days on earth. In the hospital, Loney said, "tell them I am fine. And, it is what it is." To me, that meant that he knew his days were numbered. He was dying. Loney Johnson: hated by a few, but loved and missed by many.

They say when you lose a friend it feels like your guts have fallen out. Our lives will never be the same. Please Loney, understand that I did all I could to rush a compassionate release for you. I did everything to get you home. Time just ran out. It was the hardest thing to do, to turn our backs and leave it in God's hands knowing we would never see you again. You have no idea, Loney, how much we miss

you, how much we would love to look you in your eyes one last time. But, you will not suffer anymore. And, though the sadness will never leave and the emptiness will never leave, we will always cherish the memories of you.

Although in body you're not here, we hold you in our hearts. We'll always remember your old time sayings, your little jokes, your talk about the people in your memories, the good old days, the grand old folks. I sit here and ponder how very much I'd like to talk with you today. There are so many things that we didn't get to say. Loney, you'll live for all eternity, just as God has promised you.

No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. Loney, you were gone when I had to say goodbye. But, in my heart your words will never die.

Your friend,

Timothy Mark Dodge  
aka Dodger

## *The Life and Death of Loney Johnson Jr. and a Case for Compassionate Release*

There should be a bill in place, call it the Loney Johnson Bill for Compassionate Release. Soon as doctors determine a man is terminally ill, a law firm should be contacted and assigned to start the paperwork work for Compassion Release. Why? Because time is of the essence. In Pennsylvania we have firms that are supposed to represent prisoners. These firms should be under order to start the paperwork as soon as someone is diagnosed as terminally ill; right then and there.

That way it is now, the person dying has to find the address, write for the forms, wait to receive the forms in the mail, then fill them out and mail them away. This could take months and more often than not, the person dies. The family is almost never allowed to visit and the prisons love it because it's cheaper to let a man die in a room in the back of a prison, than to send him to an outside hospital.

There needs to be a change and it needs to be changed now. Because every lifer will have to go through this fact, dying alone in a room, alone.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Love Knows No Bars

**Stacey and  
Mother  
(Yvonne)**



Hi Stacey -

Thank you so much for  
being a great sister t me.

I love you,

Your Sister Chenita

Stacey -

Hang in there knowing  
you have our support  
and love; keep smiling.

Mom

Stacey -

Always thinking of you.

Claudia from Washing-  
ton D.C.

Son,

Sorry I haven't  
been able to visit  
you in over a year.  
It was so nice to get  
a big hung and see  
with my own eyes  
that you are okay :)

Your family and  
friends send you  
their best wishes,  
can't wait to see  
you now that  
you're closer.

Love Ya  
Son.  
Mom



**Shakaboona  
and Mother  
(Patricia)**



# Love Knows No Bars

*"This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."*  
- Frederick Douglas

Dear Friend,

Yesterday, March 7, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in New York, Lynne Stewart passed away. On Thursday, sitting with Ralph, Ginny, and Don, Lynne - barely able to talk - said to me, "Don't cry".

Our memories of Lynne include her blue ribbon apple, blueberry, and rhubarb pie- just ask me and her grandkids.

Way back before she went to prison in 2002, we sat recording a piece at Prison Radio. I had her read a William O Douglas quote. She looked at me, winked and smiled. She said, "You know Noelle, he is not Irish". I turned bright red and just about bust a gut laughing. Being 100% Irish, I assumed William O. Douglas was Irish.

One night, we were having dinner at my house in San Francisco, and I said I would bring strawberries and whipped cream to the table. Some time later, Lynne yells upstairs, "Tell Noelle she isn't going to be able to whip the cream, the person she sent out to get it brought back half and half."

Lynne Stewart had a number of amazing qualities- she was a compass for the truth with a bitter wit that could cut to the quick. She, like Judi Bari, was a woman unwilling to suffer fools.

She put a a bright white hot spotlight on justice.

Under indictment, she spoke out for political prisoners. While appealing her sentence, she spoke out for Mumia.

Her example is courageous. She followed in the tradition of John Brown and Marilyn Buck. She believed in the humanity and the promise of freedom for all, and she fought every single day to make sure that our political prisoners were represented.

A slogan that Lynne knew and practiced better than anyone:

**Cuando luchamos ganamos,  
When We Fight, We Win**

*Noelle Hanrahan*

©Prison Radio/ Noelle Hanrahan

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



Lynne at Humanist Hall in Berkeley, CA for Mumia's book release of Jailhouse Lawyers on April 24, 2009



Lynne with her one of her grandsons at LaGuardia Airport on December 31st, 2013



Lynne Irene Stewart  
October 8, 1939 – March 7, 2017



## ***"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.*

### **Number of Exonerations Hits Record for Third-Straight Year**

BY TIM STELLOH,  
FROM: WWW.NBCNEWS.COM

A pair of reports released Tuesday examining wrongful convictions in the United States found that there were a record number of exonerations in 2016 — the third such record-setting year in a row — and that innocent black people face a raft of racial disparities that make them more likely to wind up behind bars, and to remain there longer than whites. Researchers at the National Registry of Exonerations, which is run by the University of California, the University of Michigan and Michigan State, published the data.



Mildred Pinkins and her son Darryl Pinkins embrace outside the Lake County Jail in Crown Pointe, Ind., after he was released on April 25, 2016 after serving more than two decades in prison for a gang rape in which he was recently cleared. Tony V. Martin / The Times via AP

Samuel Gross, a law professor at the University of Michigan and an author of the race study, attributed the growing number of exonerations to increased awareness and resources, and he said they were part of persistent pattern: the number of exonerations climbed to 166 last year, up from 149 the year before and more than double the number of cases in 2011. The registry has collected data on nearly 2,000 cases since 1989.

Researchers found that racial disparities disproportionately impacted black people across the three crimes they examined — murder, sexual assault and drug charges. Innocent blacks, for instance, were seven times more likely to be convicted of murder than innocent whites and three-and-a-half times more likely to be convicted of sexual assault.

Once convicted of the latter, the researchers found, wrongly convicted black people spent four-and-a-half years longer in prison than whites.

Cross-racial mis-identification was frequently what put them there to begin with — particularly "a core problem" among white female victims wrongly accusing black men, Gross said — but those black men who refused to plead guilty also received longer sentences than their white counterparts.

Then, Gross added, "there was more resistance to releasing them once other evidence began to emerge."

Researchers attributed 70 of the 166 exonerations across 25 states last year to specialized units within prosecutors' offices. That number is a record, thanks in part to the quintupling of so-called Conviction Integrity Units since 2011.

The 70 wrongful convictions involving official misconduct also set a record last year. The most common form, researchers found, involved police and prosecutors concealing evidence. There were a record number of overturned drug cases in 2016 as well — 61, up from 43 in 2014 — with the vast majority of them occurring in Harris County. A program there was started three years ago to clear defendants who plead guilty to possessing illegal substances — even though a crime lab analysis would later contradict the original drug charge.

Gross said that faulty drug testing kits were behind those charges. Recalling a case in which kitty litter was misidentified as cocaine, he said: "Those tests are very often totally inaccurate. But they're good enough to arrest people."

### **Poetry:**

Whether it rhymes, reasons, talks, sings, moves,  
or grooves we want to read what you have to  
write.

Some will be published, but all will be read.

Please address your poems to:

Human Rights Coalition  
ATTENTION: POETRY  
4134 Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

# **THE MOVEMENT**

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

I stand on the shoulders of our heroes and roar!!



Families & Community Speak Out!

November 17, 2016

Hello,

As the mother of a "lifer", Dierdre Owens, who has been incarcerated in SCI, Muncy, Pennsylvania for the last 31 years. I am writing this letter to you too ask for your support of the legislation to pass the law to release "lifers" after they have served 15 or more years of their sentence. I can tell you that my daughter did not do the crime she was accused of at the time. My only proof that I have is that I am her mother and I know my child just as you or anyone else knows their child./children. Of course that does not stand up in court.

My opinion is why the government would want to spend the money on persons for long periods of time as it gets more expensive as the persons get more problems as they age and would cost more to support them in prison.

I do not think that anyone who has been in prison for 15 or more years is the same person that went into the prison as they have had a lot of time to think about this and people do change. I believe that most change for good after that much time.

My request of you is that you do as much as possible to support the legislation for this law to pass and be signed to release life prisoners who have served 15 or more years in prison to be released to save citizens money of paying for them to remain in prison and reunite them with their families and societies.

A lot of these prisoners have received degrees of some kind and would now be upstanding citizens and no threat to themselves or others in society and would help make society a better place to live. Many have gotten GEDs, Associates degrees in one or more fields, etc. These people are going to be an asset to their communities.

There are families who have not seen their family members' in years due to reasons of poor health, financial, etc. I last saw my daughter in 1992. Health is a large problem for me as I have Rheumatoid Arthritis

all over my body and Osteoarthritis in both knees. For this reason, I cannot ride or drive for long periods of time. I live in Ohio and my daughter is in Pennsylvania which is a seven hour ride from here.

Again I ask that you support this legislature in any way that you can and get it passed as soon as possible. This would take a burden off all involved in a very large way.

I thank you for taking out time in your busy day.

Sincerely,

Doris Owens

\*\*\*\* [HB 2135 from last year has a new bill number which is HB 135, in general it will seeks parole for lifers after 15 years]



I stand on the shoulders of our heroes and roar!!



Families & Community Speak Out!

## COMMUNITY DINNER HONORING THE FAMILIES OF THOSE SERVING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE HOSTED BY COALITION TO ABOL- ISH DEATH BY INCARCERATION

This dinner honored every person who supports a family member or loved one serving a life without parole (or death by incarceration) sentence. They do more than we can ever fully recognize. We celebrate their love and labor.

The Celebration Dinner held on March 25, 2017 at the Church of the Advocate would not have happened without the vision and leadership of two people. The first is Jerome Coffey, a long-time activist from Philadelphia who is currently serving a DBI sentence at SCI- Albion. The second is Theresa Shoatz, a tireless organizer from Philadelphia whose father, political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz— is currently serving a DBI sentence at SCI-Graterford. The dinner was co-sponsored by the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration, Jerome Coffey, and the Shoatz family.

We also want to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Russell Shoatz, Hakim Ali, Sarah Small, John Bergen, Felix Rosado, Terri Harper, Kamau Becktemba, Keir Neuringer, LT Taylor, Reem Rosenhaj, Layne Mullett, and all of the other CADBI members who contributed time and energy. Thank you!



Thanks for sharing these beautiful pictures! the event looks so sweet. way to make Hoagie proud - eTTA





Hi CADBI,

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Saturday night. Much love and gratitude to everyone who made the dinner possible. It was powerful and needed - I hope events to honor the families of people sentenced to DBI continue!

I'm reaching out because I'm a part of the newly formed Philly Power Research Group. One of the things we're doing is research for the DA race. There is some research needed that is beyond our current capabilities and we're looking for people excited to do some volunteer legal research, particularly on prosecutorial history. If any of you are interested or know someone who might be, please reply to me!

Best,  
Elisabeth Long



***Family honored were:***  
***Patricia Marshall Vickers***  
***Barbara Lewis***  
***Brenda Harris***  
***Sandra Hill***  
***Teresa "Tree" Muldrow***  
***Lorraine Haw***  
***Virginia Whitaker***  
***The Shoatz Family***

## **MY SACRIFICE** By Yassin Sin Raws Mohamad

WAKE UP NOW ! And feel and overstand my wits—Well what's the real reason for politics? When politics advise the cops to carry extended clips—to tear my people lives to bits—that's why I'm hype as the odor of shit ! Not being held responsible for criminal acts they do—taking initiations like a gang—mafia—or terrorist crew. So what should I—Mike B.—or T. Martin do ? What Call your own 911 number on you ? Only for them to come and help you kill me too ?

Uses me as an example and excuse Why you should build more prisons—after flooding my hood with drugs—guns—and stool pigeons—closed our schools and took my job—then left me with no other decision . I'm extremely upset while conscientiously writing this—none of the police victims got to fulfill their dream list—and the cops acting like they don't know why us blacks are pissed !

Kill the youth , you killing me— imprison the elders , you steal our future our history. This is'nt a mystery—Deny the people equality—you begging for a civil war—So whose the politician keeping the score ? I'm in prison and it's said my life does'nt matter just like my black people—That I have no rights and no reason to ask to be equal . So guards degrade me in here while cops out on the streets killing people—this becoming a sequel—And the characters can't rest in peace .

So now I'm ready to sacrifice all I am and got—tell my love ones I will miss them a lot—but Major Change must create THE LAST BOOK—to stop the oppression of our enemies plot—and if I die it'll be from speaking—writing—or that hot shot .

## **The Movement**

We want to bring you up to date concerning THE MOVEMENT as we have had an unfortunate set-back. In 2015 with Issue #26 & #27 we lost our printer who was very kind; and, for years gave us a discounted price. We immediately searched for a new printer who would give us the same rate; but even the cheap-printer quoted a price 3x more than what we were accustomed.

We say all of this to say that where money wasn't a major issue in the past, it is an issue now. The cost of each issue is now \$2,000 per issue; and as the quantity increase so does the price. Each issue, beginning with Issue #26 & #27, has been published and mailed solely through donations. And, currently, each issue cannot be printed until we receive enough donations to cover the cost; this is the reason why we have not been able to keep to our schedule. As we cannot adhere to a schedule we will no longer sell subscriptions at \$12 per year, as this charge doesn't come close to covering the cost of printing and mailing. Also, we will not be able to send free magazines to family members, unless they specifically request them.

THE MOVEMENT is a powerful magazine that we do not want to see go under. It gives the men and women in prison a voice; it reminds the public that prisoners are human beings who have family that love them; it exposes the brutality that the DOC tries desperately to keep hidden and/or deny; it is an educational tool; it promotes change through unity, and it gives hope. This magazine is unlike any other through out the prison system. Therefore we are asking for your support through your donations. We ask that you tell others about THE MOVEMENT and ask them to donate. Donations may be made through PayPal at [www.hrcoaliton.org](http://www.hrcoaliton.org) or see page 29.

### **Proposed Schedule:**

Winter Issue - mailed first week of January

Spring Issue - mailed first week of April

Summer Issue - mailed first week of July

Fall Issue - mailed first week of October

# **THE MOVEMENT**



# Human Rights Coalition Report

To begin reporting on Pennsylvania's race for District Attorney (D. A.) we must be mindful of what we don't want in a D. A. And that would be, not another Seth Williams or anything similar! See why, below.

## A "Reformer" Who Reformed Nothing



Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams speaks during a news on Feb. 10. Matt Rourke/AP

The shameful legacy of Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams.

By Josie Duffy Rice

On a Friday morning in early February, Philadelphia District Attorney R. Seth Williams gestured the local press closer, opened a folder, and let out a loud sigh. "After devoting over 20 years of service to the city that I love and grew up in," Williams said at a press conference, reading from a prepared statement, "I have made the very difficult decision not to seek re-election to a third term as the district attorney of the city of Philadelphia."

Williams usually has a politician's voice, personable and sonorous, but on this morning his words kept catching in his throat. More than one reporter described the tears in his eyes.

At the time, the moment may not have seemed particularly notable. If not for the passing allusions to the "embarrassment and shame" he felt about the "regrettable mistakes" in his "personal life and personal financial life," it would have seemed as if Williams had accomplished what most politicians hope for: the chance to leave office on his own terms. The truth, though, is that large portions of Williams' legacy will now be a matter for the courts to decide.

On Tuesday, the Philadelphia DA was federally indicted on 23 counts of bribery, extortion, and fraud.\* The charges were announced by federal law enforcement officials from the Department of Justice, the FBI, the IRS's criminal investigation division, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's homeland security investigations division. An FBI special agent called his alleged misconduct "brazen and wide-ranging, as is the idea that a district attorney would so cavalierly trade on elected office for financial gain."

Williams has already been in trouble over his sloppy record-keeping: In January, he was forced to pay the largest fine in the history of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics after he failed to disclose almost \$200,000 worth of gifts and expenses. But if the federal charges are correct, Williams' misconduct went much further. According to authorities, Williams not only accepted 16 round-trip plane tickets, vacations, a car, a sofa, and countless other gifts, but he traded those gifts for favors, including lighter sentences from his office.

If these allegations are true, Williams has violated the public trust in a significant way. But this is only the most recent in a long litany of disappointing behavior by Williams, who has always been better at talking about justice than he has been at practicing it. Over the past seven years, he has tried to look the part of the bombastic, idealistic outsider fighting for justice. He has behaved instead like a timorous yet power-hungry insider fighting for no one. He has either valued the wrong principles or none at all, and poor people and communities of color have had to pay.

Williams, a Democrat, was first elected as district attorney in 2009, beating the Republican opposition with 75 percent of the vote. Earnest and intelligent in conversation, Williams is hard to dislike, and voters appreciated the struggles he'd faced in his past: As a baby, he was put into foster care and was eventually adopted. His election also reflected the dramatic demographic shift in the city, which lost almost **one-third of its white residents between 1990 and 2010**.

As a candidate, Williams won by painting himself as the reasonable reformer, a contrast to his defiant and defensive predecessor. It wasn't difficult to be more of a reformer than Lynne Abraham, the woman known as the "Queen of Death" because of the 108 death-penalty convictions her office secured in her 19 years as DA. Last year, the Fair Punishment Project **named Abraham one of America's five deadliest prosecutors**.

Williams, on the other hand, employed kinder rhetoric on the campaign trail. "Mr. Williams repeats practiced lines from a justice-reform movement that has taken hold in places like New York, San Diego and San Francisco," wrote the **New York Times** in 2010. The article quoted Williams spouting out vague reformer-tinged language, like "Crime prevention is more important than crime prosecution" and "We need to be smarter on crime instead of just talking tough." He called for some specific progressive policies, such as restorative justice programming and an end to prison overcrowding.

But most of that rhetoric turned out to be empty talk. Today, Philadelphia's jail incarceration rate is higher than anywhere else in the country and more than three times the national average. A recent study found that Williams' office detains **1 in 4 misdemeanor defendants** simply because they can't afford bail.

Williams has not only punished the poor for being poor, but he's stolen from the innocent. Asset forfeiture abuse by law enforcement in Philadelphia is rampant. A 2015 American Civil Liberties Union report found that police and prosecutors have taken more than **\$1 million in cash from 1,500 people** who have not been convicted of a crime—71 percent of whom are

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued from page 22)

black. The city has pulled in around \$5 million annually from confiscating the property of constituents, and more than \$2 million of that goes directly to the district attorney's office.

**Williams has always been good at sounding good, but he's repeatedly failed to answer the call to do what's right.**

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, Williams has often failed to hold corrupt police and prosecutors accountable. He defended blatant misconduct, **refusing to fire** multiple prosecutors that were caught exchanging pornographic, misogynistic, and racist emails. And **more than once**, he has continued to use a police officer as a witness despite the fact he **has been caught lying on the stand**.

Williams has also failed reformers on the same issue that defined his predecessor's tenure. After

Gov. Tom Wolf was sworn into office in 2015, he implemented a death-penalty moratorium, calling on a state task force to do further research. **Mother Jones** reported that "Wolf listed race discrimination, bad lawyering, high costs, and the threat of executing an innocent man among the reasons for his decision." The Pennsylvania governor called capital punishment "a flawed system that has been proven to be an endless cycle of court proceedings as well as ineffective, unjust and expensive." Endless cycle was correct: At that point, it had been almost 16 years since the state had executed someone. The data also supported Wolf's claims of racial injustice—in 2007, a report **sponsored by the American Bar Association** found that one-third of the black people on death row in Pennsylvania would probably not have been sentenced to die had they not been black.

Given all those factors, Wolf's temporary stay on executions seemed like a reasonable request. Seth Williams apparently didn't think so. Instead, the Philadelphia DA—a self-proclaimed reformer, the first black elected prosecutor in the entire state, and the chief law enforcement officer of the county with the highest black population in the state—decided to fight Wolf's temporary moratorium, calling it "flagrantly unconstitutional." The state Supreme Court did not agree with that assessment, ultimately ruling in favor of Wolf.

While Seth Williams has not been as dedicated to the death penalty as his predecessor, his office has still sought a greater number of death sentences than more than 98 percent of prosecutors across the country. Among the people he wanted to execute was Terry Williams, who **was a teenager when he killed his two rapists**, middle-aged men who had been sexually abusing him for years. Last year, the U.S. **Supreme Court** ruled in *Williams v. Pennsylvania* that Terry Williams' due process rights had been impermissibly violated, entitling him to a new sentencing hearing.

Seth Williams did implement some legitimate reforms as district attorney, including supporting alternatives to incarceration for some people charged with low-level offenses. He also has a

habit of making promises only to renege after the initial wave of good press has died down.

In 2016, for instance, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in **Montgomery v. Louisiana** that inmates serving mandatory sentences of life without parole for crimes they committed as juveniles were entitled to resentencing. Technically, prosecutors had the option of recommending a life-without-parole sentence again, but those sentences would only be appropriate for "those rare children whose crimes reflect irreparable corruption."

At the time, almost 300 inmates in Williams' jurisdiction were entitled to resentencing—more than anywhere else in the nation. As these new hearings approached, advocates and reformers from across the nation called on Williams to agree not to request life without parole for any of those 300 people. When he stated on Twitter in 2016 that he would offer the possibility of parole in each case, **I publicly lauded him for his bravery**, and Williams thanked me. But just a few weeks ago, **the DA backtracked**, claiming he had never agreed to not ask for life without parole.

Had Williams believed that one of the many articles lauding him for his decision had misrepresented his position, it seems he would have clarified. But perhaps the good press was too good to pass up.

Just seven years ago, Williams seemed poised for political fame, destined to become a star of the Democratic Party. But at the podium last month, he looked like a man defeated. Williams has always been good at sounding good, but he has repeatedly failed to answer the call to do what's right. Williams abused the public trust in multiple ways during his tenure as district attorney. In the end, it turned out his reform jargon was mostly for show.

\*Correction, March 23, 2017: This piece originally misidentified Seth Williams as the former Philadelphia district attorney. He is still the Philadelphia DA. (Return.)

***To everyone who contributed to the publication of this awesome news magazine, all of us from the Human Rights Coalition say, Thank you.***

***Thank you.***

***Thank you!***

**THE MOVEMENT**

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# Human Rights Coalition Report

## When asked about Tariq El-Shabazz for D.A., this is what folks had to say!

Peace and Respect to all,

It is a good to see this critique on Tariq Shabazz. Simply by virtue of being black and Islamic his image and reputation would be appealing to some who have no idea who he is as a person, what he has done in his legal work in the community (for and against the community) and what sort of world we would live in if he were the new DA.

But I must say this. I have been in on the cash-bail discussions, Decarcerate meetings, Power meetings and many other meetings at Churches and other places where the DA race is being discussed. Frankly my frustration level is getting very high. As activists we've been discussing for years how to change the system. How long are we going to keep talking. Time is running out.

On May 16th the city of Philadelphia is going to elect a new DA. This will affect every aspect of criminal justice for years to come. Rich Negrin is the clear leader by virtue of his endorsement by the FOP Guardian Civic League and the Hispanic police officers Union. Tariq Shabazz has name recognition and is the only black candidate. Utemeyer has the money to throw at the race and Joe Kahn is running on his record as a lifelong prosecutor.

The others are of no matter....they will not win....

Here is the reality....only Larry Krasner will change the system and give us a holistic transformative D.A. office. He is the Restorative Justice candidate. He is the candidate every activist in the city should be supporting. His record of 30 years of supporting civil rights is the key to changing the Lynn Abraham/Seth Williams culture that permeates the D.A.s office to this day.

Instead of canvassing for cash-bail we should be canvassing for him. Instead of listening to any other rhetoric we should be flooding the candidate forums and supporting him... and taking to the streets to campaign for him. We should be creating a peo-

ple's movement to defeat the FOP and elect Larry Krasner....If Black Lives really matter, if we are serious about decarceration, if we truly care about people inside and their families...if we are really in the struggle against mass incarceration we should be out in force.... we should be supporting Larry Krasner.

That should be the only thought in our minds, the only words on our lips, all our energies should be devoted to electing Larry Krasner the next DA. Nothing else matters in the next 2 months.



If we really want to change the system start now.....join the Larry Krasner campaign/...come together and make the entire country see what can be done if we truly want change.....make people power real!!! Philly can be the first step to a national campaign of change come out to the peoples event on Friday and let your voice be heard.

By Jondhi Harrell, Phila., PA

**Last year**, during the oral arguments about juvenile lifer resentencing before Judge Savage, El-Shabazz was the highest-ranking person in the DA's

office present. He let one of his assistants do all the talking for about an hour and only stood up to insist that he wouldn't ask for less than 35-to-life for any juvenile.

'How can I look a mother in the eye whose child has been chained up and burned,' he said. 'And say we're letting this person go?'

Judge Savage--a federal judge--looked at him skeptically and reminded him that very few victims were chained and/or burned and that not all family members of victims support juvenile life sentences. Savage said something like 'of course we have to keep in mind the victim, but the supreme court was clear on

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needing to offer second chances for juveniles.' El-Shabazz spent the next 30 minutes arguing with everything he had against the judge, insisting that the harshest possible re-sentence for juvenile lifers was the only path he could follow and continuing to use the victims as his excuse to ignore the judge.

Hard to believe in a 'reform' candidate who's on the record using the cheapest arguments to defend the most backwards policies, even after the US supreme court says they're outdated and needlessly punitive. (Also hard to trust a guy to create change who seems like he'll say anything his bosses want him to.)

By John, Phila., PA

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What's on my mind? The DA race...**no coincidence that I've had personal dealings** with two of the hopefuls, that being El-Shabazz and Larry Krasner, so I'm giving up my personal impressions.

Let's cut to the chase. El-Shabazz was retained by me and my family to represent a loved one on a criminal matter. He gained our trust and our hard earned money by assuring us that he and the judge presiding over the case were good friends, that they often golfed together, ate together (as a matter of fact they were going to meet for dinner that very weekend) and he, too, was outraged at the MILLION DOLLAR bail given to our loved one on an allegation.

Well, that weekend came and went and after not hearing from him or his office, we called to find out what, if anything, happened. We never got any updates, only told by his staff to call his office at specific times upon his return. Again nothing. This back and forth went on for nearly 2 months, no bullshit, with not even ONE return call from him or his office.

When did we finally realize that he was full of ka-ka? I think it was when he failed to appear in court and lied in our faces that he was there. No, wait a minute! It might have been when he queried, "Well, [they've] been locked up before, right"? Whaaaat? Hold up! What does that have to do with this case that you were a few thousand dollars ago so outraged about? And still not a status return call. We had no choice but to hire someone else, but not without requesting a meeting with him.

We sat in his office for little over an hour boringly listening to him waxing poetry about his accomplishments, but nothing about OUR case. He was relieved to hear that his services were no longer welcomed or needed. Additionally, since most of his fee had been paid and he did nothing but bullshit us for the most part, we felt a refund in part was due. I broke down what I believed he was due and here comes the kicker! He charged us for EACH AND EVERY phone call made to his office at 50 dollars

a call. Mind you, we called per his staff's directions. He had detailed times, dates and duration of calls, most of them lasting less than a minute but each one being no less than 50 dollars. Who Does That??? We went to the judicial conduct board and in summary they concluded that "the \$600.00 in telephonic communication [El-shabazz's description of phone calls] are inappropriate and will be credited to the client." In other words, your own colleagues dug how greedy you were and couldn't in good faith rock out with you! In conclusion, the office you're seeking has been plagued with unscrupulous men and a woman and I fear that a person of your character will only add to the Plague.

I met Larry Krasner, me still chasing justice, and of course I was impressed. What we all have to realize though in retaining these lawyers is that they will all give you their best Oscar winning performance in wrestling your hard earned dollars from you. His partner Lloyd Long [I think he's referred to as the gentleman lawyer for his "refined" demeanor] took over the case.

Another piece of work! Long also insisted that he and the judge knew each other personally and that he would grab her by the "ear" beforehand and that he'd even treat my child like his own. Well, all I can say is that he must not like his child very much. You'd think I learned by now, right? Well, I knew after so many phone calls it was a wrap so I thought I'd meet him at his office unannounced. After waiting in the foyer for over an hour, Long sent out Dustin, the clerk, informing me that dude would not meet with me!! WTF. I paid him every cent of his fee which was half a year's salary and now you won't meet with me, the same law firm running around the city holding Know Your Rights symposiums!

In fairness, the actions of Mr. Krasner's partner shouldn't reflect on him personally or at least I'm hoping. After all Mr. Krasner did go a little hard in exposing those 39th district corrupt cops, but that shit was so blatant even blind justice could have seen that, but just imagine if all these criminal defense attorneys grew some, and took off their blinders for a second, then maybe dismantling and disinfecting the DA's office wouldn't be paramount, but to quote Sister Ella Baker "I have always felt it was a handicap for oppressed people to depend so largely upon a leader because unfortunately in our culture the charismatic leader usually becomes a leader because he has found a spot in the limelight."

For me neither candidate is charismatic or a leader, so it all comes down to personal dealings, impressions, track records, or feelings (which ain't necessarily facts), integrity and character. And for that matter, I have to lend my support and campaign for Larry Krasner.

By Karen Lee, Phila., PA



## The Upcoming District Attorney's Race

*In February of 2017, District Attorney of Philadelphia, Seth Williams, announced that he would not be seeking reelection. This comes on the heels of scandals involving bribery, and unpopular "tough-on-crime" policies. On May 16, 2017, Philadelphians will vote in the primary to determine who the Democratic candidate for DA will be. The candidates include, former city and state prosecutor Michael Untermeyer, former Municipal Court Judge Teresa Carr Deni, former Assistant District Attorney to Seth Williams Tariq El-Shabazz, federal prosecutor Joe Khan, former city managing director Rich Negrin, former city prosecutor Jack O'Neill, and Lawrence (Larry) Krasner, a prominent civil rights lawyer and defense attorney. All of the candidates have shifted left from the policies and positions of former DAs, but Krasner has emerged as the candidate pushing a progressive agenda. Krasner is a civil rights attorney known for doing battle with police unions and defending the First Amendment rights of protesters, and he's never worked a prosecutor. Members of HRC were able to ask Krasner a number of questions in a recorded interview. We have included a transcription of that interview in this issue of The Movement to encourage our readers to form their own opinions about Krasner and to engage their family members on the outside in this DA's race. We need a voting block of families and communities affected by incarceration to push power holders in this city towards ending police brutality, prison abuse, and mass incarceration.*

## Q&A with Larry Krasner

1. If elected District Attorney, will your office investigate new-found evidence in prisoner's cases?

**Krasner:** Yes. **New-found evidence** that enlightens the process, about the process, about the truth, **should always be important to prosecutors.**

2. What is your position on the PCRA amendment of 1995 (which limits post-conviction relief appeals to one year after sentencing)? How will you work to expand the opportunities for incarcerated people to appeal their convictions and overturn unjust sentences?

**Krasner:** I am no fan of efforts to limit the ability of people, especially people who may have been underrepresented by one attorney after another, to a particular time period. I don't think justice is generally determined by time limits. How would I work to expand opportunities for incarcerated people to appeal their convictions and overturn unjust sentences? Incarcerated people who are not able to afford council are entitled to court-appointed or public defender council for direct appeals and have been since the 1960's. Court appointed attorneys and public defenders, like private attorneys, vary widely in their

ability and their effectiveness. Because a prosecutor, unlike defense council, has an obligation, an ethical obligation, to seek justice, the emphasis for the prosecution in appeals and in efforts to overturn unjust convictions or unjust sentences, must always be on seeking justice. Deadlines have their place. Justice has a much bigger place. Technical requirements have their place. Justice has a much bigger place. And this means that the prosecution must remain open to the possibility of innocence before conviction and after conviction in the appropriate case. It also means the prosecution must be supportive and creative in achieving justice.

3. Mandatory minimums and long prison terms (like life imprisonment) are the foundations of our overcrowded prison system. What is your position on mandatory sentencing laws, and in particular, what is your position on life without parole (Death By Incarceration) sentences?

**Krasner:** I am no fan of mandatory minimums. **Never was.** They were and are an effort to stop the people who know the most about the case from determining the appropriate sentence. They stop prosecutors, or at least assistant prosecutors, who want a sentence that is less than the mandatory minimum to be available. They stop defense council from arguing or negotiating on an even footing with the prosecution. And most importantly, they stop judges, who ideally come to the bench with a wealth of expertise in the field, who may have spent days or weeks learning about a case, and have led detailed and often somewhat confidential reports about a defendant, from determining what judges must determine, and that is the unique characteristics of the defendant and of the crime. What we do on the other hand, is that we have a bunch of upstate legislators, only some of whom are lawyers, and only some of whom have ever been in the criminal justice system, we allow those people to tie the hands of experienced judges and experienced assistant prosecutors, and defense council, as they try to find the uniquely appropriate sentence. More specifically, **we know that in PA, our jail population has increased 700% since the 1970s, due in part to mandatory minimums.** We know since mandatory minimums in PA were determined to be unconstitutional, based upon US Supreme Courts' decision in Alleyne, and the fact that PA mandatory minimum statutes were written in violation of Alleyne, we know that if they are brought back, it will cost a fortune. There is a State Rep in Montgomery County PA, named Todd Stephens, who has the idiotic idea of bringing it back, at a price of 20 million dollars in the first year, and 80 million dollars each year after that. 20 million dollars is the equivalent of 500 public school teachers for a year. 80 million dollars is the equivalent of 2000 public school teachers at 40,000 dollars a year. **It is insane in a state where our public schools have been devastated by mandatory sentencing and over-incarceration, to double down on that,** when we have been lucky enough to escape them, thanks to a decision of the United States Supreme Court.

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**My position on Life without parole, is that I favor the proposal, that people sentenced to life without parole, be considered for parole after 15 years.** This does not mean, that they should all be paroled, many should not. Some should. But it does mean that the prison environment will be safer for everyone, including the guards and other inmates, and more constructive if people sentenced to life, know that what they do their first 15 years count for something. It also means, that consistent with international standards, and the standards of other states, there will be sentences that are much shorter than life in the appropriate case.

4. What is your position on the current efforts to end cash bail in Philly?

**Krasner: I fully support them and I have championed them.**

5. What specific measures, pressures, and powers would you use to expedite the cases of over 300 juvenile-lifers waiting in Philadelphia for re-sentencing? Similarly, how would you reduce the certification of juveniles as adults during trial?

**Krasner:** Let me answer the second one first. Prosecutors do not have the ability to write laws, they do not have the ability to change laws. Although, can certainly advocate and use the office as a bully-pulpit, and they can lobby. What they do have is the ability to use their discretion and make decisions where decisions are permitted. When it comes to juveniles being certified as adults, **wherever I have the ability to use discretion, to keep all appropriate cases involving juveniles in juvenile court, I will do that.** It is my opinion that the juvenile court system should deal with juveniles, with few exceptions. It is my opinion that juvenile custody should be the only place where juveniles lay their heads, with few exceptions, if any.

As for the **300 juvenile lifers, this is an issue of international significance.** You have more juvenile lifers in PA than any other state in the US, and more in PA than in any other country in the world, based on the information I know from an academic or two. The key issue is not to expedite these cases, although time is important, the key is to get the right outcome in each one of these cases, because each juvenile lifer is unique. Their life circumstances, actions, victimization in some cases prior to the crime, is unique, each crime is unique, and each victim involved is unique, and their behaviors after sentencing, they range anywhere from curing cancer, to stabbing prison guards. Obviously their behavior post-sentencing is also unique. Consistent with the US Supreme Court's 3 important decisions on juveniles in the last decade or so, and consistent with the MacArthur Foundations psychological studies on juveniles that were the basis of those decisions, at least in part, we know a couple things about juveniles. We know that their capacities to make decisions like adults is missing, and we know that their potential for rehabilitation is greater. Therefore, the uniqueness of every defendant,

every case, every victim, must be carefully sifted in order to arrive at a just sentence. Unfortunately, in most of these cases, there was never a proper sentencing, their couldn't be, the judges were required by law, to impose nothing less and nothing more than life without parole. So who needs DHS records? Who needs school records? Who needs statements from defendants' family members? Who needs the records of the defendant being raped? In fact, who needs to hear from the victims? Because there was only one possible sentence, no matter how awful or how sympathetic the defendant was, no matter how horrifying the act was. Regardless of intelligence, psychological problems, trauma, regardless of all of these factors, there was only one possible sentence. So what does this mean? This means, that in order to do proper sentencing for these juvenile lifers, we now must obtain all available records from all kinds of different agencies, which takes time, and they must be sifted carefully, much like the way a death penalty phase is prepared in a death penalty case. And they must also be considered in light of information that may only be available to the defense, prior to coming to a conclusion, about what is just sentence, for each juvenile lifer. So this is why I say, expediting is not the most important thing, it is important. The most important thing is coming to the right sentence, which takes time. I would use all available resources including possibly, people who have specialized, such as social workers, people who have worked in the capacity of mitigation experts, to obtain the appropriate records, and then to meet with defense council, and then to be prepared to present the uniquely appropriate recommendation for each sentencing.

6. Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia was the first penal institution to use solitary confinement in the United States. It was also at the forefront when, in 1913, it abolished solitary confinement. A recent ruling handed down at the Philadelphia 3rd District Court of Appeals only adds to the now "growing chorus" questioning the constitutionality of indefinite solitary confinement. As DA, would you take up Philadelphia's rich abolitionist history and push for a 15-day maximum and an end to long-term solitary confinement?

**Krasner:** There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit court of appeals, and there is district court, there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit district court of appeals. I say all of this to say, if there is a decision either of the district court, or of the 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit court that speaks on this point, I'd be interested in seeing that, because I think it's a very important issue. The question does not actually reference a particular case. But, being the curious lawyer I am, I really would like to see any recent case law in our area which it would be within the 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit or within this district on this point. **The extremely psychologically detrimental effects of long-term solitary confinement, due in part to sensory deprivation, are increasingly well-known. Arguably, it is torture, and there is a growing chorus on this point. I am opposed to torture, which accomplishes nothing, but misery.**

7. As part of Philadelphia's \$3.5 million MacArthur grant to reduce our prison population, officials have advocated for diver-

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sion programs, the elimination of cash-bail, a strengthened Defendants Association - an association you have worked extensively with. These measures will all serve to prevent people from entering the prison population. What will you do to divert offenders away from the prison system?

**Krasner:** So the question, seems to be, very specifically about how to divert offenders away from the prison system. In a global sense the way to to divert offenders away from the prison system is for there to be less crime. In a global sense, the way to do that is to pursue a criminal justice model that is prevention model. In the same way that we view our medical system as being based on prevention. What do I mean by that? I mean that everyone knows that the heart surgeon is your hearts' last best friend, not your hearts' first best friend. You hearts, first best friend is exercise, proper eating, avoiding excessive alcohol and smoking. That's prevention. Your heart surgeon is your last best friend, is the one you go to for reasons that are beyond your control, or because you have not been successful in your efforts at prevention, you need to go to your last best friend, your last resort. For some reason, in the criminal justice system, we have generally failed to recognize that the best way to not have blood on the ground is to have a really good public school system. And the best way to not have blood on the ground, is to treat addiction like what is, a medical problem. And the best way not to have blood on the ground is to have intact families, hope, and a sense of fairness and equality. All of these things prevent crime because when young men, and it is young men, come out of a torn social fabric and have no hope, they are more likely to pick up guns and leave blood on the ground. And since we have more guns in this country than people, thanks to the NRA. Since they are mechanical devices that require little maintenance to last 400 years, and since there is no Hoover vacuum cleaner that's gonna suck 'em all up, we're gonna have to prevent young men from wanting to pick up those guns if we don't want blood on the ground. **And the way to do that, is by healing society, by ending mass incarceration, by ending the death penalty, by putting money where it belongs, in public education, in job programs, in drug treatment, and in things that give people hope.** That's the global diversion. It's called hope.

The narrower diversion, its what you do, with people who have come into contact with police. And the answer is, **where appropriate, and its often appropriate, we don't arrest them at all.** You find ways before there would be a need to set bail, and sit in courtrooms, to hold people accountable and give them a path, whether its community service, or treatment, or other forms of rehabilitation or restorative justice avoid ever having that bail hearing, and going to court, and developing a criminal record, while simultaneously holding them accountable. Second, for those people who are arrested and are appropriately sent to courtrooms. **There is a portion of those people whose cases are diverted right now, and there is a larger**

**portion of that group whose cases should be diverted,** so that where it is unnecessary for a young defendant, a first offender, to become a felon. Where it is unnecessary for a young defendant, for a first offender, to develop a criminal record or go to jail. That is avoided.

Again, **it would be avoided by a path, that requires accountability, whether that is treatment, psychological counseling, obtaining medication, community service, taking responsibility, other notions of restorative justice that make victims whole, there would be a path that would hold them accountable,** but that path would also not debilitate them from being able to earn a living, to turn away from crime, to have meaningful role in their families now and in the future. Because ultimately, if people, who were brought into the system, did comply with those conditions, they would be able to avoid a conviction, and through expungement would be able to erase that record, so that they could rebuild their own lives and the lives of others in their communities.

8. When questioned about how you will hold brutal police and police departments accountable, you have said, "I agree with what Black Lives Matter has said." Among the demands BLM has endorsed are community control over police with the ability to hire, fire, determine disciplinary action, control budgets and policies, and subpoena relevant agency information. Are these positions you are ready to agree with? If so, what means will you take to promote and enact them?

**Krasner:** Ok let us be clear. The statement, "I agree with what Black Lives Matter has said," was in response to a specific question, having to do with police brutality and I stand by the answer. It did not mean, that I necessarily agree with anything and everything certain individuals with Black Lives Matter have said in the past or will say in the future. Often I do agree, with things involved in that organization have said. I probably will agree, in the future, often with things that are said. So let me be more specific about your answers. My history includes as an attorney, being appointed by Mayor Wilson Goode, to a blue ribbon panel that looked into a very serious, violent confrontation between police and members of Act Up [*an LGBTQ organization taking direct action for AIDS survivors*] when the first President Bush was in town. And like his Republican predecessor, Ronald Reagan, was doing a pretty good job of pretending that the AIDS plague didn't exist. After months of hearings, one of the recommendations that the panel in which I served made was the establishment of a police advisory commission. We have a police advisory commission, due at least in part to my recommendation. So my history with this issue, my involvement, goes back a long way. **I fully support more community control over the police.** Always have. I fully support additional input and community control over hiring and firing, determining disciplinary actions, controlling budgets and policies to the extent that it's possible. But let us not kid ourselves. **Under current law, and based upon currently existing contracts with the police department, neither the**

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**mayor, nor the police commissioner, has very much ability to fire a police officer.** That's just the truth. So we will need to go one step at a time in this regard. And it will require, many public officials, who are willing to push back about police contracts. It will require public officials who are not focused primarily, on running statewide and ingratiating themselves to every police union across the state. Finally, as for subpoena power, **I fully support a police advisory commission or similar entity that has subpoena power.** Otherwise, these organizations are toothless tigers. I would like to think that my 30 years record of supporting good police officers, who like me, figure that when you wear a uniform, you should come correct, and therefore, are against bad police officers, says all I really need to say about what I would do to promote these positions. Unlike the other candidates in this race, **I have filed more than 75 civil rights actions over 25 years, in those specific instances where I felt that individual police officers had been unconstitutionally brutal or unconstitutionally corrupt.** It is my belief, that that record makes me credible when I say that I will be fair to good police officers and I will be fair to bad police officers, just like I will be fair to the members of Black Lives Matter I've represented and the members I have yet to represent. **No one is above the law.**

## Philly DA Candidates Differ More Than We Think

If you are looking for clear-cut policy differences in Philadelphia's District Attorney (DA) race, you'll be hard pressed to find them. Bring up **cash bail**, you'll have a chamber choir waiting to sing its downfall. Every candidate, except the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) darling Rich Negrin and republican Beth Grossman, has said they want to "get rid of it" or move to a no-cash bail system. Even Negrin says it's in need of "reform"; even Grossman, a "broken-windows" prosecutor and head of Philadelphia's infamous civil asset forfeiture program, acknowledges cash-bail's disproportionate impact on poor people and people of color as "problematic." Take the **opioid epidemic**, an issue very personal to the people of Philadelphia, a city with over 500 opioid overdose deaths a year. On this issue, every single candidate has advocated treatment over incarceration. Yet, take a closer look, and candidates do differ and diverge. Michael Untermeyer and Jack O'Neil, despite their pledge to treat, both advocate charging dealers with homicide if their drugs result in an overdose. Grossman, again, offers nothing new, harking back to washed up just-say-no programs like D.A.R.E. Tariq El-Shabazz, former right-hand man to the now-indicted Seth Williams, agrees we can't incarcerate ourselves out of the situation, but doesn't say much about how he would prevent overdoses, treat users, and move away from the incarceration of dealers.

It is not until you take a look at the positions Larry Krasner, frontrunner and long-time civil rights lawyer, that one sees the specificity and insight becoming of an experienced DA candidate, a candidate ready to hit the ground running in the eve of their election. On the opioid epidemic, only Krasner links the staggering rise in overdoses to a specific policy in the larger War on Drugs. "Where marijuana is readily available," Krasner says in his interview with Philly Mag, "there's a 25 percent reduction in opiate/opioid overdose deaths." Here, Krasner is details an area where the DA can immediately exercise their discretion by "choosing not to enforce against marijuana usage."

This enforcement, Krasner says, while part of the day-to-day in Germantown and Cheltenham Avenue, "never (happens) in Chestnut Hill."

On the issue of **police-terror**, the inhumane brutality endemic in police departments throughout the country, Krasner again sets himself apart. Tariq El-Shabazz, the only Black candidate running for office and the only candidate who himself has been stopped-and-frisked, says when faced with brutal police to "negotiate as opposed to ... prosecute may be in (our) best interests in the long run." El-Shabazz' experiences may be aligned to those of local Black and Brown activists, but his policies seem closer to what the FOP (police union) has pushed. Krasner, the attorney of choice for local Black Lives Matter activists, aligns himself, no surprise, with Black Lives Matter. Among Black Lives Matter's demands are the demilitarization of police departments, mandated legal representation for those in immigration court, and an end to the mass surveillance of Black communities. How Krasner would use his power as DA to push for these specific demands still needs to be explained, but his work is enough to garner the rare endorsement of leaders in Philadelphia's movement for Black lives.

**The Democratic primary is on May 16th. The general election for Philadelphia District Attorney is on November 7th.** With Trump's election, it is local races such as this which serve as a jump-off to an organized, sustained, powerful resistance to White House-sanctioned terror and oppression.

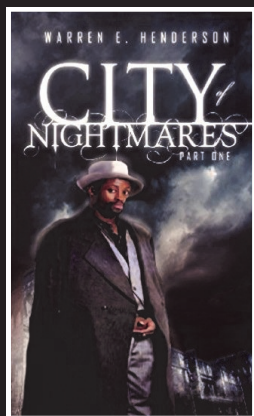
By: Evan Mathews

\*\*\*\*\*

### (FOOTNOTES)

1) "Broken windows" policing says crime is the result of disorder like graffiti, litter, and other quality-of-life issues. Rather than looking at joblessness, residential segregation, racist exclusions as the cause of crime, a broken-windows theorist would say I sell drugs because my neighborhood is run down, because my neighborhood has too many broken-windows.

2) Many thanks to Holly Otterbein and Philly Mag for their crucial and illuminating interview series with each of the 7 DA candidates: Teresa Carr Deni, Beth Grossman, Joe Khan, Lawrence Krasner, Rich Negrin, Jack O'Neil, Tariq El-Shabazz, and Michael Untermeyer.



## Must Read Books By Warren E. Henderson

**City of Nightmares (Part One)** - Real life stories about life inside the prison system.

**City of Nightmares (Part Two)** - Continues the prison madness in deeper details.

**Must I** - The experience of a man re-entering society after spending 10 years in prison. The drug game, the drug wars, the women and much, much, more!!

**Hotter Than** - True facts about the government, the mind, and life experiences . . One of the most raw, informative, deep and knowledgeable books of the century!!

**Pleasure of Hell** (Horror Fiction) - The most horrible horror story ever written . . Said to be too horrible for the human mind!!

You may order through:

XLIBRIS Corporation  
1663 Liberty Drive  
Bloomington, IN 47403  
Price: \$20.00  
XLIBRIS Corporation: (818) 795-4272 or (610) 915-0294

## A CELLFIE OR A SELFIE By Leonard C. Jefferson

A collection of 69 outstanding, creative, black & white drawings. Mr. Jefferson's art work speaks, without apology, to the injustices and inhumanities of prison.

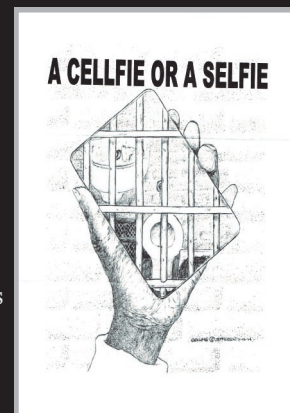
In addition this book illustrates his ingenious straight forward commentary on torture inflicted on prisoners *daily* at the adult correctional institution in the State of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations; it includes the racist abuses, ala Dred Scott, by the officers of Rhode Island's courts, and more.

A 'CELLFIE OR A SELFIE' is available as of 5/1/17 and you may obtain your copy by contacting:

Linda Martin via email at grelinpress@aol.com

Price: \$20.00

Mr. Jefferson's art is feature on this issue's front page.



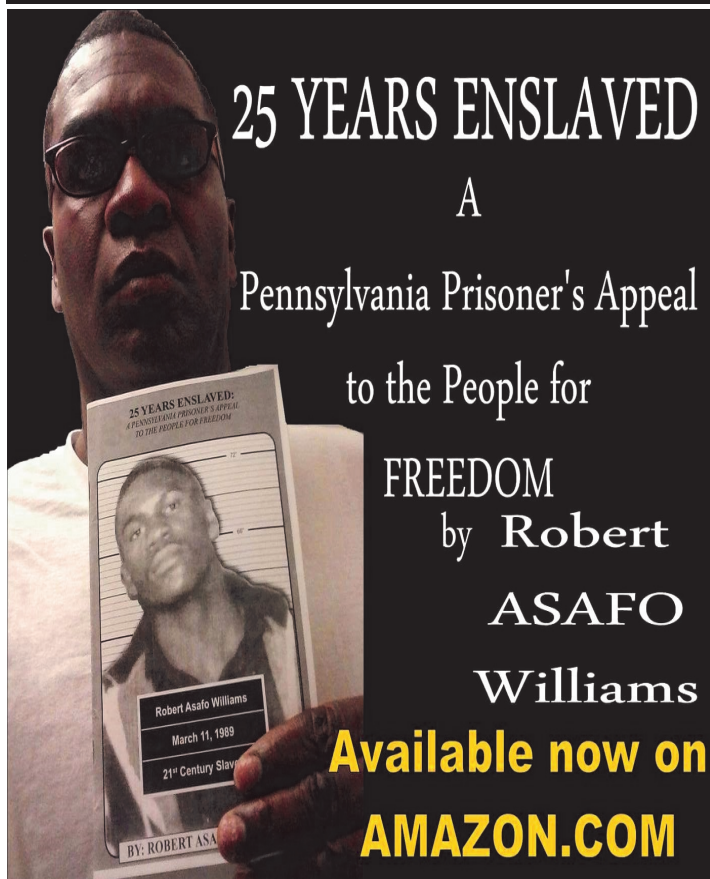
## Call for Contributors

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

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

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

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



**THE MOVEMENT**

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# What's The News!

## Federal Judge Grants Immigration Detainees Go-Ahead to Sue Over Slavery Conditions

By: Evan Matthews

For those that are just now reading the Constitution, it may be news that slavery was never fully abolished in the United States. Yet, for anyone who is locked up, who has a family member locked up, or for anyone who's had any serious, extended interaction with the U.S. prison system, that slavery is still alive and profitable is not news. In Pennsylvania, you may be paid \$1.00 a day to cook then charged \$3.50 at the commissary for a bag of Cool Ranch Doritos. It's not just making license plates, it's building school-desks for elementary school kids, cooking, doing laundry, cutting hair, even doing maintenance for the facility. Indeed, slave labor and de-facto slave labor is such an ingrained part of the private prison industry that the business model would not function without it.

Yet, a recent ruling by a Colorado district judge expands the means of resisting this institution of neo-slavery. In 2014, 9 people claimed the Aurora Detention Center forced them to work "without compensation and under the threat of solitary confinement." The 9 plaintiffs were or are currently detained at the Denver area ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) facility. The plaintiffs are accusing the prison of violating the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a historical law passed in 2000, which prohibits obtaining labor "by means of force, threats of force, physical restraint, or threats of physical restraint." Around 400,000 people find

themselves detained in immigration prisons each year. Roughly 60% of the prisons make a business out of detention. Aurora itself is owned by GEO Group, a corporation with upwards of a billion dollars of revenue per year.

The decision by Judge John Kane is at the nexus of the movement to abolish slavery. If we're paid \$2 a day to do someone else's laundry, then charged the same to call our children, then that prison is our plantation. While the decision by the judge is just a "go ahead" for the lawsuit, the ruling does represent a precedent for upwards of 50,000 prisoners fighting for a living wage. It is also important to note that Judge Kane moved forward on the question of coerced slave labor, but struck down the portion of the suit demanding minimum-wage laws be applied to those imprisoned. The minimum wage in Colorado is \$9.30; wages at the prison are as low as \$1 a day.

The Aurora decision is a wind to the massive resistance growing against the United States' draconian and predatory system of mass deportations and imprisonment. When Trump was elected, prison CEO's throughout the country rejoiced. People detained, waiting for deportation, must be imprisoned somewhere, and there are small towns throughout the country whose prison cells open for business. Take, Raymondville, Texas. As soon as the prison opened in 2003 people both inside and outside the prison recognized its food as inedible, its conditions as unlivable, its consistent stream of sexual assault allegations as unimaginable.

Yet, it wasn't until 2015, after the prisoners took control and burned their cell blocks, that the prison lost its contract with ICE. Now, Raymondville, which is in the midst of a lawsuit of their own against MTC Corporation, sees hope in the mass deportations occurring around the country. In the arrest of family many do not see terror or violence, they see economic opportunity coming back to their deindustrialized town. Indeed, if Raymondville's prospective new contract

is anything like their old one, the town would receive \$2.50 per day for each person incarcerated in it's prison. Perhaps *these are the jobs Trump so often spoke of "bringing back" to the United States.*

Now, when we identify the conditions of the incarcerated as neo-slavery, GEO group in Colorado says it's a "volunteer work program." Then let's just call a sharecropper a tenant, and a slave a piece of property. Again, the decision coming out of the Colorado district court is nothing but an allowance for part of the case to proceed. But, what the ruling does signal is a building of the toolbox, a stockpiling of precedents, and more momentum for the movement to abolish mass incarceration and its systematic enslavement of the people.

### RESOURCES:

1. Christian Science Monitor, "Forced to Work? 60,000 Undocumented Immigrants May Sue Detention Center," March 1, 2017
  2. CIVIC: End Isolation, Immigration Detention Map & Statistics, accessed March 3, 2017
  3. Los Angeles Times, "This industry stands to benefit from Trump's crack-down on the border," February 14, 2017
  4. San Antonio Express News, "Willacy county officials mull offers to reopen defunct immigrant detention facility," March 1, 2017
- Menocal et al vs. GEO Group Inc., accessed March 4, 2007, [http://deportationresearchclinic.org/Menocal-Et-Al\\_v\\_GEO\\_Cert-2-27-2017.pdf](http://deportationresearchclinic.org/Menocal-Et-Al_v_GEO_Cert-2-27-2017.pdf)



# What's The News!

## Arkansas Abolishes Life Without Parole for Children



CFSY National Advocate & Senior Advisor Xavier McElrath-Bey, Arkansas Representative Rebecca Petty, and Linda White

Connecticut has joined the growing list of states considering legislation to confront the use of solitary confinement in its prisons. This week, NRCAT representatives joined allies at a hearing of the Connecticut Judiciary Committee to provide testimony in support of HB 7302: 'An Act Concerning Isolated Confinement and Correctional Staff Training and Wellness.' NRCAT Board President, Rev. Allie Perry of New Haven, testified in support of the legislation. NRCAT written testimony in support of HB 7302 is available for sharing.

In advance of the hearing and as a part of the national campaign to make public the hidden torture of isolated confinement, the NRCAT solitary cell replica was displayed in the Connecticut State Capitol building in Hartford. The replica cell was also displayed at the New Haven Free Library and the campus of Yale University. More than 500 visitors in Connecticut spent time in the solitary replica, including Connecticut state legislators. Testimony

of clergy who spent time in the replica cell were among those submitted for the hearing this week, including by Rev. Toni Smith and the Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse. A complete list of testimonies is available [here](#).

State by state, the movement to end solitary is advancing. Recently, the New Jersey Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement launched a campaign website at [www.njcaic.org](http://www.njcaic.org). In New Mexico, legislation to confront the use of solitary (HB 175) recently passed both houses of the state legislature and awaits the action of the Governor.

For the latest on developments in the campaign to end solitary in Connecticut and the role of the faith community in these efforts, visit the NRCAT Connecticut state campaign page. Have an update to share from your state? Let us know.

Thank you for your commitment to growing the movement for human rights and an end to torture, without exception.

In community,

Rev. Laura Markle Downton  
Director, U.S. Prisons Policy and Program

## Life Saving Treatment for Mumia to Begin!

**When we fight, we win!**  
3-31-2017 | Noelle Hanrahan, P.I.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) told Mumia today that they will provide him with the hepatitis C fast-acting antiviral treatment beginning next week. In Court the DOC filed a

status report today declaring that they were going to treat Mumia. This treatment consists of one pill per day for 12-24 weeks, and has over a 90% cure rate.



International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal lead a demonstration in Philadelphia

To put it plainly- we did it. Exactly two years ago yesterday, Mumia was critically ill in renal failure at the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Medical Center. He and his family, friends, lawyers, and world-wide supporters have been waging a heroic fight for hepatitis C treatment ever since.

For the last 53 days, the DOC, prison medical staff, and Legal Department have stood in contempt of court following the order to treat Mumia. The DOC in defiance of the Injunction filed a stay, hoping the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals would bail them out and block Mumia's treatment.

On Monday, the DOC lost their 3rd circuit appeal. In an order signed by Judge Ambrose, the United States 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals denied the DOC's request to withhold treatment from Mumia. The court upheld the preliminary injunction order, issued on 1/3/17, by District Judge Robert Mariani ordering the treatment. On two occasions, the 3rd Circuit Courts have ruled that the Pennsylvania DOC "protocol" for treating hep C is uncon-

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# THE MOVEMENT

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

# What's The News!

(Continued from page 32)

stitutional and violates the 8th Amendment.

Mumia's attorneys in Abu-Jamal vs. Wetzel, Bret Grote and Robert Boyle, have not only succeeded in getting Mumia the hepatitis C cure, but have also paved the way for over 200 people in Pennsylvania prisons to receive Hep C treatment this year! Thousands more people who are at great risk from Hep C complications in prison will be able to receive treatment because of this "first of its kind" federal court order victory establishing a right to hep C treatment for prisoners.

That is the good news.

The bad news is that Mumia has not been treated and is sicker. Mumia was told that he now has an F4 score, meaning cirrhosis of the liver. This progression of liver damage is a direct consequence of being denied treatment for two years, and has increased the possibility of other health complications and potential for liver cancer.

We must stay vigilant. We must insist that the treatment be given and completed in full, and we need to support the lawsuits Abu-Jamal vs. Kerestes and Abu-Jamal vs. Wetzel as they continue to hold the Pennsylvania DOC accountable.

On April 24, Mumia will be in court on his original criminal conviction in the case Cook v. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia, presiding Judge Leon Tucker. Mumia has been in prison for 36 years too many- 29 of which were spent on death row. Free Mumia!

*Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist and author of nine books, including the forthcoming Have Black Lives Ever Mattered (June 2017, City Lights) and Murder Inc.: Empire, Genocide, and*

*Manifest Destiny with Stephen Vittoria (2018).*

From: Prison Radio: prisonradio@gmail.com

## New York City is officially closing the infamously troubled Rikers Island jail

From: <http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/3/31/15142188/rikers-island-new-york-city-closing-down>

It's finally happening. Here's why.

After years of abhorrent conditions and abuses, New York City will shut down the notoriously troubled Rikers Island jail.

"New York City will close the Rikers Island jail facility," Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Friday. "It will take many years. It will take many tough decisions along the way. But it will happen."

The details of what will come to replace Rikers Island are still unclear. As the New York Times reported, a commission previously recommended that the jail be broken up into smaller jails located in each of the city's five boroughs.

De Blasio was previously skeptical of shutting it down, but it seems like public pressure to do something about the jail — and perhaps a looming reelection campaign this year — pushed him to change his mind.

Rikers Island is notoriously awful. Rikers Island has earned a national reputation for its terrible conditions, with horror stories regularly coming out.

One such story was that of Kalief Browder, who killed himself in 2015, after his release. He spent three years in the facility even though he was never convicted of the robbery he was wrongly accused of at

the age of 16. He claimed he spent more than 400 days in solitary confinement, and he attempted suicide at least six times while at the jail. "I didn't get to go to prom, graduation, nothing," Browder told New York City's ABC 7. "I'm never going to get those years back. Never."

A New York Times article headlined "Rikers: Where Mental Illness Meets Brutality in Jail" detailed several other examples of abuse at the jail. In one case, officers reacted to an inmate's suicide attempt by beating him:

After being arrested on a misdemeanor charge following a family dispute last year, Jose Bautista was unable to post \$250 bail and ended up in a jail cell on Rikers Island.

A few days later, he tore his underwear, looped it around his neck and tried to hang himself from the cell's highest bar. Four correction officers rushed in and cut him down. But instead of notifying medical personnel, they handcuffed Mr. Bautista, forced him to lie face down on the cell floor and began punching him with such force, according to New York City investigators, that he suffered a perforated bowel and needed emergency surgery. De Blasio and other city officials had worked to try to fix the jail facility. But the pace of change was slow, and the jail could never shake its reputation as a place of historical brutality. Now Rikers Island is closing down, affecting the roughly 9,000 inmates held there on a daily basis.

Rikers Island's end is a sign of where the country is going on criminal justice issues. Beyond New York City, the shutdown is emblematic of the kind of criminal justice reform that's taking shape across the country. Over the past few years, dozens of states have pursued criminal justice reforms, typically focused on low-level drug and property offenses, in an attempt to cut down their massive prison populations.

The reforms are meant to address a serious issue: Although the US makes up about 4 percent of the world's population, it accounts for 22 percent of the world's

(Continued on page 34)

## THE MOVEMENT

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# What's The News!

(Continued from page 33)

prison population — putting it out of step not just with its developed peers in Europe but also with authoritarian nations like Cuba, Russia, and China.

But through reforms, the US prison population began to drop for the first time in 2010.

Criminal justice reformers argue that much work remains to be done, particularly since reform efforts still haven't targeted the violent offenders that make up a bulk of the US prison population. The US, after all, still locks up more people than any other nation in the world.

Still, the demise of Rikers Island indicates that something really is changing in America's criminal justice system. That's something to celebrate for reformers.

## State Criminal Justice Reform

MARCH 31, 2017

### States Consider Sentencing Code Reform

Several states are considering legislative proposals to recalibrate mandatory minimum sentences and other criminal penalties. Sentencing code reform can result in prison population reductions and lead to prison closures.

**Missouri** lawmakers are considering **House Bill 38**, a bill that restructures the state's sentencing code for mandatory minimum penalties by making them discretionary. The measure would also establish a process for parole eligibility for serious offenses. The measure garnered **support** from progressive and conservative state groups.

**Nebraska** officials are deliberating **Legislative Bill 447**, a proposal to scale back mandatory minimums. The introduced legislation would have repealed minimum sentences for a variety of offenses, including hate crimes, certain gun felonies, and

drug trafficking. Lawmakers adopted amendments during the floor debate that narrowed the bill to only include certain drug possession offenses for crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin. The measure has **surfaced disagreements** among some conservative lawmakers; some publicly support the bill because of prison growth concerns while others are opposed due to support for punitive responses to crime.

Policymakers in **Washington** considered **House Bill 1789**, legislation that would establish a community review board to evaluate sentencing release applications for certain incarcerated persons after 20 years in prison. The **Washington Community Action Network** is organizing to build momentum and advance the policy goal.

A number of states — Iowa, Idaho, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Ohio, and Wisconsin — have also **introduced** sentencing code law reforms this year. . . .

### Scaling Back Collateral Consequences

States have furthered efforts to address the collateral consequences of conviction in order to reduce returns to prison for justice involved persons.

**Kentucky** lawmakers are considering several reform measures to address the state's prison system and have adopted **Senate Bill 120**. The bill removes automatic exclusions for occupational licenses for persons with a criminal conviction. SB 120 was amended to clear various legislative hurdles, such as removing a provision that would have **increased property thresholds** for certain felony theft offenses.

**Utah** officials adopted **House Bill 178**, to eliminate automatic bans to rent property under the Good Landlord Law for persons with criminal histories. The bill **amends the process that rental properties** voluntarily comply with to receive program tax incentives and other benefits.

Lawmakers in several states are sponsoring a **range of legislative proposals** to address the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction. These include measures addressing eligibility requirements for public benefits, employment barriers, and voting rights.

### Other State Reform News

**Arkansas** officials **eliminated** juvenile life without parole as a sentencing option.

**Louisiana** legislators will consider a **range of recommendations** to address the state's high rate of incarceration.

**Maryland** lawmakers **advanced legislation** to remove the governor from final approval for parole decisions.

**Michigan** officials **adopted** a package of 20 bills including one that limits jail stays for parole violators to 30 days.

**Nebraska** legislation was **advanced** that repeals a 2-year waiting ban on voting for persons with a felony conviction.

**Oklahoma** policymakers voted **several bills** out of the House including a measure that authorizes parole eligibility for persons convicted of nonviolent offenses who have served 25 percent of their sentence.

**Tennessee** legislators are **considering legislation** that would authorize a parole review for certain homicide offenses after persons serve 25 years. Currently, persons sentenced to indeterminate life are eligible for parole after 60 years, or 51 years with good time.

**Texas** lawmakers are considering legislation to **establish a parole process** for young defendants sentenced for serious offenses who are under age 18. The bill would allow parole when the actual time served equals one-half of the sentence or 20 years, whichever is less, following a 2-year mandatory minimum requirement.

Also in **Texas** advocates are calling on the state to **close additional prisons**.

Legislation was **introduced** in **South Carolina** to scale back truth-in-sentencing requirements from 85 percent to 65 percent for certain serious offenses.

Entire article may be found at <http://www.sentencingproject.org/news/5053/>

## THE MOVEMENT

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# COMMUTATION SUPPORT KIT

The Campaign to Restore Meaningful Commutation is coming out with a Commutation Support Kit. It will include the following tips from Ellen, a copy of an application that ended up winning freedom for a lifer, and sample letters to write to family and friends to help them support you in this process. Please request the Commutation Support Kit by writing Commutation Kits % Let's Get Free at 4812 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 - Please include 2 stamps if you can afford it.

Tips for writing a commutation application (during the Wolf administration)  
By Ellen Melchiondo, The Women's Lifer Resume Project

The "Original" application is only original due to the red and blue stamp on the top. The rest of the pages are generic copies. An application must use "Supplemental Pages" and there is no limit to how many copies are made and used. If you have a long list of offenses, copy Section 3 page 2 before you begin, same with Section 4 page 5.

Currently, There is a program at the University of Pennsylvania called The Prison Project led by Dr. Brown's undergraduate course, Forensic Mental Health. They have been helping people with their commutation applications. If the DOC considers your application "Meritorious", then Dr. Brown's class can get involved to help sharpen the reasons for your application by using academic research and data. You will be contacted by DOC if you are selected. So far, Dr. Brown has been leading seminars at Muncy and Graterford on how to prepare the application.

A commutation application is an autobiography. Use as many Supplemental Pages you need!

For all questions that require you to explain your life story:

On page 2, Section 3: The role you played in the crime:  
When describing the role you played in the crime, tell it from your perspective, not the D.A.'s. Include feelings of remorse throughout the explanation (I am so sorry...) and missed opportunities to do something different ("I know I should have..."). Do not use quotes describing who said what during the crime and do not use humor! Do use the names of the victim(s) as much as possible.

Section 5: Check and answer all 6 reasons for seeking clemency:

Age: Explain how your age affected you during the crime and how you have matured while in prison.

Health: Explain how your health is, whether it's good or bad or if it has improved.

Re-enter the Community: Explain what you would do on parole. Be realistic. Rehabilitated: Write about what's on your resume. All of the positive things you have done and challenges you have overcome.

Spend More Time With Family: Write about your aging family, your children, anyone you consider family and how these relationships are so important to you.

Other: Write something like this: I have exhausted all of my legal appeals and commutation is my only hope for a second chance.

Section 5: What efforts have you made to rehabilitate and improve yourself?: Include your Women Lifer Resume Project PA resume - if applicable. Explain what you were like before the crime and how different you are now. Be descriptive. But always take responsibility. It's ok to express and describe sadness, despair, abuse, addictions, overcoming denial, owning your decisions and most importantly how you helped others to grow and name those staff members or other prisoners who helped you. Share praise, show gratitude, be humble.  
(Section 5 "Rehabilitated" box, is the same. However, write more in the main Section 5 question).

Other Tips for getting through the process and developing a well rounded application:

Get a report of past misconducts and explain the incident, the punishment and how you adapted and changed your behavior. Some misconducts are not on the computer, especially ones that are several decades old. Don't sweat those.

Include photos of your family and the place where you expect to live.

Write an abbreviated timeline of your life. Use bullet points. Include all family members too. Birth, schools, jobs, marriages, children, parents, significant events, arrest, etc...

For your Supplemental Pages, type everything on separate pages, they are easier to read. If you have outside help, the application can be scanned into a computer and typed. Otherwise, type it. One sentence per line. Don't double up. OR If you have access to a tablet, type it up. Then your outside team can just cut and paste. So much quicker!

Do not get hung up on factual information: Section 4C and 4D.

The DOC can work on that. When your application is sent to Steven Burk, The Interagency Liaison in the Bureau of Treatment Services for the DOC his office will contact you if there are any errors and they will fix it with you or for you with your consent.

Letters of Support---

A Support Letter shows real support while on parole: housing, money, job, transportation, clothes, etc...

A letter of Recommendation explains why a person believes you are no longer a threat to public safety and have been rehabilitated. They can express other things like looking forward to spending time with you, showing you how to navigate the free world, etc..

If you have scientific research or data, news articles supporting low risk of reoffending include it in an addendum or separate page. I would not stress the economic factor of incarceration, since the victims don't really care about that.

If you have a website or Facebook page or any positive online articles, include the web address.

If there were any odd comments about your sentence by the judge, include that. This pertains to very old cases.

The application and filing fee can be gotten for free. Ask your counselor for the form. The application fee is \$8 and the filing fee is \$25.

At this writing, you are still required to submit 5 copies of your entire application. It can be costly, but don't let that deter you. Submit only 1 copy to the DOC at first! Then if everything is correct, you will be instructed to submit the remaining copies or possibly not. This may change.

Include a personal cover letter to the BOP. Thank them for reviewing your application.

Asking Friends and Family for Letters? Here is a Sample Support Letter: THIS CAN BE CUT FOR SPACE

This letter is written from the perspective of someone serving JWLOP seeking a resentencing hearing but you can adapt it for your own parole or commutation situation. The questions are very useful to help your loved ones on the outside craft an effective letter.

Re: ( Your name) Resentencing Hearing For Juvenile Lifer OR (your name) Commutation Support Letter

Dear

My attorney and I have been focusing on the presentation for the Resentencing Hearing I am awaiting that could possibly make MD parole eligible in the near future. I would like to know if you would be interested in writing a letter of support, a character witness letter to the court on my behalf. Also, would you be interested in attending my resentencing hearing when it is scheduled?

If you are open to this the letter should be addressed to The Honorable Judge of the Court and include the following - RE: (my name) Juvenile Lifer Resentencing Hearing, your return address.

The letter should state the following:

1. Briefly touch on who you are, your background, employment, degrees, etc.
2. How we came in contact with each other.
3. Your thoughts on my maturity and rehabilitation.
4. Your thoughts on my remorse for the offense I am convicted of.
5. Your thoughts on my chances for successful reentry into society, employment and participation in society upon my release.
6. Any willingness you would have in assisting in my reentry to society i.e. references, referrals, etc. when I am released.

When you are finished with the letter please send it to my attorney at the address listed below. Please also keep a copy for yourself. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Thank You,  
Include Attorney Name and Address:



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

### **BAIL BILL HB-280**

Just saw news report on PA House passing a new bill to deduct court costs, fines & fees from inmates. It now goes to the PA Senate.

New law would take 25% out of inmate pay & 50% (!) out of money loved ones send in!

This ridiculous law is a solution looking for a problem. It ignores several facts and it results in a tax on INMATE FAMILIES, not inmates. These same Reps. would cry "usury" if a company charged inmate families 50% to send money.

Fact 1- Most inmates do not have jobs within the prison. There just ain't enough. This means that those w/ good friends & family have to rely on them for help. GLP (which is like workfare) is about \$15.00 a month.

Fact 2 - Crime in prison is primarily driven by need for \$\$ . Many inmates already have to pay 20-50% of their monies to satisfy fees. The push several years ago to make it easier to collect, has directly led to more extortion, robbery/theft, drug dealing, prostitution, medication hoarding (for sale), and the violence that comes with it.

I'm curious if the House consulted Sec. Wetzel on the impact. I know they didn't bother to consider the fact that this will hurt OUR people. Are the people you know aware of this?

This isn't law yet, so I think it can be fought. Could you reach out to the local politicians we know? For the Reps. I'd say WFT? I'd ask Sen. Costa & others for a position & if they'd have a town hall before a vote.

All this is Reps. knowing they can pick on us to enhance street credit.

Fact 3 - is that we're ALREADY doing time. If Reps. were serious about us paying, they'd pass bills to help us get jobs (X the box) & garnish wages outside, not pennies from the penniless. | I believe in principle of \$ restitution. But most \$ do not go directly to victims (like stolen iphone) but to counties. Price for crime is jail. There is no real justification for this! Simple? is how would you feel if you sent an inmate \$ and HALF got garnished? Boooo!

Michale Anderson #BH9234, SCI Houtzdale, Juvenile Lifer

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"The Adolescent Acts of Those Trapped Within the 19 to 24 Year Old Demographic"**

By Sean Carlos Burke

It has been named Neuroscience, and it has been relied upon in the landmark decisions of Roper v. Simmons, Miller v. Alabama, Graham v. Florida, and most recently Montgomery v. Louisiana. These rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court have essentially made it unconstitutional for a juvenile offender to receive a life sentence. Except in the most heinous of instances. However, as presented by Dr. E. Ruben Gur (the leading NeuroPsychologist in the field) "the brain does not stop developing until an individual reaches his mid twenties." This opinion has been supported by Professor Laurence Steinburg of Temple University, and B.J. Casey Director of The Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychology at Cornell University's Weill Medical College.

With these facts in mind, the relief which has been afforded to juveniles who committed their crimes while under the age of 18. Should according to the case studies presented of Neuroscience and its effects, be afforded to those who committed these same crimes but were between the age of 19 to 24 years. As Professor Elizabeth Scott of Columbia Univ. has been quoted "People are not magically different on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday." See Newsweek of 4/29/2016 (Neuroscience Is Changing the Debate Over What Role Age Should Play in the Courts).

In my case the victim was shot one time and three of us were sentenced to lengthy prison terms. A Fourth was acquitted of all charges. I was 11 weeks into my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday when the crime was committed and I was not the shooter. The evidence proved I was not the shooter, but under the laws of conspiracy I was found guilty of first degree murder. The Jury Deadlocked in the determination of Life or Death, which mandated that I receive a mandatory sentence of life without the possibility of parole, pursuant to Pennsylvania Statutory Law Prior to this case, I had NO ADULT CONVICTIONS. I was a High School graduate, and was contemplating a career pursuit of joining the Marine Corps.

Four minutes, in just four minutes my life would change forever. I would become a fugitive from justice based off of the decision of another person who pulled a trigger. In any case none of

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

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us had reached the level of brain development which would have enabled any of us to make a rational mature decision. According to the evidence substantiated by case studies in the field of Neuroscience.

If the lack of brain development according to the case findings in the neuroscience studies, proves the adolescent brain can not be held responsible for its acts which would require a sentence equivalent to a throw away the key ideology. Then what must we do for the 19 to 24 year old demographic who were mentally just as adolescent as their juvenile counter parts?

This question is the quandary we now find our jurists loathe to determine. If the studies substantiate that the individual who is say 16 at the time of his acts, and another is 21. But their brains are still underdeveloped according to the findings of neuroscience. How can their punishments not be one in the same? Yes there is a five year age gap between an 16 and 21, but brain development is the issue to be determined, age has been shown according to neuroscience to be a non factor, at least if your under the age of 25. The courts can not rely upon neuroscience in one instance and be loathe to follow it in another. The development of sciences's technology leads us where it leads us.

And if that road leads us to 19 to 24 year old adolescents having their Mandatory Life sentences overturned, then society as well as the jurists of our legal system must rally to its call.

Comments May be submitted to:  
Mr. Sean Burke # BN4840  
Box-A (SCI-Rockview)  
Bellefonte, Pa 16823

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Greetings Loved One

I'm writing in reference to your attitude. I have supported you from the cradle. When you fell as a teen and, and again as an adult, I was there for you. Times have changed. I no longer work 9-5. As a retiree, my "personal income" took a nose dive, yet I still supported you. Through the years, I have suffered many health challenges and must pay medical bills. I cannot continue to ask someone else to take that position while I shirk being responsible for myself. I sent you money and explained why it would be the last time. I explained, books and quarterly packages would

cease as well. You are not alone. You have your Mom, children, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

I know it's hard for you, trust and believe it's hard for me as well. Time moves on, nothing is constant except change. Even though I haven't heard from you, you could have at least called to say thank you for the money I sent this month. I will continue to support you in other ways. I love you, you are my blood.

Peace and Love

\*\*\*\*\*

Greetings,

I am a history buff and truly believe as King Solomon stated ". . . nothing new under the sun." History repeats itself. I pay attention to the past and present to develop the landscape of the future.

Currently I am reading Ida B. Wells, 'A Sword Amongst Lions' and 'The Anti-Lynching of the 19th and 20th Century' by Paula J. Giddings. The public lynching of the 19th and 20th Century is no different than the police officers who publicly transition from judge, jury and executor of young Black men around the country. The juxta position of the two are very similar.

Either way SCI-Forest is amongst the worse operated state prison in PA. As a result Forest leads in staff assaults and inmates alike. On several occasions staff will release men from the RHU for fighting one another and they will find themselves on the same block, let alone the same cell, makes no sense. Whether it is a stabbing or fist fight the entire block is locked down and yard suspended for up to three days for the entire side of the prison.

The law library is sub-par with limited space. One must request attendance two weeks in advance and only doing so on Wednesday nights. We only have nine computers to research the law. Many of the books are outdated.

Education opportunities are scarce. As for jobs, the main job is working in the kitchen. A menial job to say the least. Therefore there is an extensive waiting list for other jobs which are rarely afforded. As a result men loose hope and desire to do better. They settle for medication via; pill line, illegal drugs, alcohol, and gambling.

There is no tangible source of rehabilitation or concern by staff. Many are rural republicans who had little experience

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# The Babylon System -

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

*On February 1st, 2017, prisoners at Vaughn Correctional Center in Delaware took over a section of the prison in protest of rampant human rights abuses at the facility. Since the uprising, many people incarcerated there have been reporting ongoing brutality from the guards in the month since – including the use of shock shields and severe beat-downs by correctional officers of shackled and cuffed prisoners.*

*The prisoners at James T. Vaughn have written an extensive list of requests, in the form of an open public letter to the Warden and Delaware Department of Corrections. It is their wish that this document be released to the media. These are changes that they believe are necessary to create a safer, more humane, and more secure environment for both prisoners and staff at this facility.*

**To:** Warden Parker, James T. Vaughn Correction Center

**From:** Thomas Gordon #455684

**Date:** March 8, 2017

**Re:** Human Rights

*It is imperative upon those of us who fight monsters to do everything in our power to not become one in the process.*

~Anon

*To those of you who deny us our human rights in order to feel secure, you deserve neither humanity nor security.*

~Anon

What happened in C-Building was both tragic and inevitable. Only those who were blind or naïve can claim that they did not see that incident coming. It was not sparked by any one event, but by a series of events, that with time began to slowly boil over.

Due to the conditions of this prison and the treatment of those held within it, it was only a matter of time before we (as I stand in solidarity with them) were forced to take actions into our own hands. Our attempts at diplomacy were ignored, our pleas for help fell on deaf ears. There was no other way for you to know our struggle, for you to acknowledge our plight. What had to be done was done.

No one wants for this type of incident to happen again. No one wanted this to happen in the first place. We *all* have a duty and a moral obligation to insure that what occurred never occurs again. To do that we must first realistically address the issues that brought us to this point.

We, as inmates, know that when we are incarcerated, we lose certain “civil” rights. What we do not lose and what should not be taken away from us are our “human” rights. Under no circumstances should we be treated as less than human beings, nor shall we be expected to settle for such treatment.

We do not want the keys to the prison. What we want is fairness, impartiality, transparency, and humane treatment. Below you will find a list of our fair requests that will help you all in your goal of making this a safer, more secure, and more humane prison. I hope that you consider all of these points sincerely.

On behalf of my brothers in the struggle.

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Spring 2017 (ISSUE #31)

## For a Safer, More Secure, and More Humane Prison

On Behalf of the Prisoners at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center  
March 8, 2017 - Smyrna, Delaware

Below you will find a list of our fair and reasonable requests that will help you in your goal of making the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center a safer, more secure, and more humane prison.

We hope that you consider all of these points sincerely.

We respectfully request:

1. **Human Rights. Everything on this list can be placed under this one category. We want human rights, decent treatment, respect as men, and to be treated fairly.**
2. **Food. We would like to be properly fed and to receive bigger portions at all meals.** We would like an end to the “heart healthy diet” and for all foods to be removed from the menu when it is clear that the majority of prisoners do not eat it. The Delaware Department of Corrections throws away a ton of food on a daily basis. There is no reason that not only could our portions be bigger but that the prison could pass out seconds and thirds as well. We therefore request: 1) larger portions; 2) an end to the “heart healthy diet”; 3) “seconds and thirds call” at the chow hall until any food that would be thrown away is eaten, with each tier rotating on days to eat last; and 4) an end to using food as punishment by attempting to starve people into submission, especially in the Solitary Housing Unit (SHU).
3. **Access to Programs. There are extremely limited program options for the inmates in this prison,** to the point that if you are not a drug addict or a sex offender there is really nothing for you. We want better programming opportunities for all prisoners. We also want an end to the sham practice of handing out “program packets” to the individuals housed in the SHU and Maximum Security (MAX). All prisoners should be afforded the opportunity to receive adequate programming. An area shall be set aside (such as the visiting room and Bldg. 20 holding cells for the inmates in MAX/SHU) for them to receive such programming from a counselor or other party approved to run such programs or groups.
4. **Education. Education should be afforded to all inmates no matter what their classification status.** Even if it is provided through “In House Mail” courses for those inmates housed in the SHU/MAX. The Department of Corrections should hire the teachers needed to ensure that this gets done. Education, just like programming, should not be a privilege to be stripped away. It should be our right.
5. **Visits. The Delaware DOC should afford inmates with more opportunities to have visits with their families and loved ones and should eliminate hurdles placed in the way of our support groups** who come to show us their love by visiting us. To do this, James T. Vaughn Correctional Center should: 1) offer visiting schedules equal to or greater than those offered at Sussex Correctional Institute (SCI); 2) Tear down the wall in the visiting room, which is there to cause not only a physical separation, but a psychological separation as well; and 3) allow inmates to hold the hands of their visitors above tables and to give longer hugs. Our family and loved ones are our greatest deterrent against both prison re-entry and prison misconduct, so why would you hinder us from having ample contact with them? JTVCC should follow SCI’s example in this department as they do a better job at running visits fairly and humanely.
6. **Better Pay. All inmates employed by JTVCC should be given a pay increase of at least 5 dollars a month.** It is still slave labor, but this will at least allow even the lowest paying job to get more than

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24 soups, 2 bars of soap, and a writing tablet a month. Inmate workers should also be paid “overtime” equal to that in the real world, which is “time and a half.”

7. **Fair and Impartial Disciplinary Hearings.** The entire disciplinary process at JTVCC is old and outdated. Furthermore, it is widely known that Lt. Savage is incapable of conducting fair and impartial hearings. Not only should Lt. Savage be removed from this position, but the way hearings are conducted should be changed completely. We believe that disciplinary hearings should be conducted by a “board” of 3-5 DOC staff of the rank of Lieutenant or higher along, with 1 mental health clinician and 1 DOC Counselor. All parties should hear all of the evidence for and against the inmate and then make a joint decision with any dissenting opinions written down along with the majority’s ruling for the inmate. Appeals should also be run in the same manner, except that the board of DOC staff should have at least a rank of Staff Lieutenant, along with 1 Captain and the Warden or his/her designee.

8. **A Fair and Impartial Grievance Process.** JTVCC has a hidden policy to hinder inmates from receiving remedies for issues and incidents that should be grievable, by deeming such grievances as “non-grievable” when filed or returning them “unprocessed.” This practice *has* to stop! Our grievance process is our only in-house recourse for a lot of issues and it should work smoothly. In order to do this:

- a. “Requests” should be allowed to be processed by the grievance office and should not be returned as “unprocessed.” Currently, any grievance that staff doesn’t want to go through is thrown out as a “request.” Deeming grievances “non-grievable” or “unprocessed” due to them being “requests” is the most abused process in the JTVCC’s grievance policy.

It actually even goes against the written language of the grievance since for remedies you are clearly asked “Action requested by grievant”. Your grievance should not be deemed non-grievable nor returned unprocessed simply because you make a “request”. This has to stop.

- b. “Staff issues” should be grievable issues as well. The current policy of having inmates write the Staff Lt. or the Warden is a flawed policy since neither the Warden nor the Staff Lt. ever respond to such writings. Staff issues should be allowed to be grieved and any grievances against staff alleging “misuse of force” or “prisoner abuse” should be investigated by an Internal Affairs Officer. The DOC should hire the appropriate officers to ensure that this is done.
  - c. All grievances alleging misuse of force or prisoner abuse should be deemed an “Emergency Grievance” and should be treated as such. You cannot expect safety and security for yourselves when we are being denied the same.
  - d. Internal Affairs should keep officer files detailing allegations of misuse of force or prisoner abuse against inmates when alleged against said officer. These files shall include all such grievances against an officer, no matter the outcome of the grievance investigation. This is needed in order to show a pattern of abuse and excessive force. There are several officers who are widely known by both inmates and staff to regularly use excessive force and abuse inmates. These officers should be disciplined by the DOC when it is readily apparent that they have a pattern for such behavior.
9. **Transparency.** Once a year, the DOC should publish a “pie-chart” in the prisoner newspaper detailing how the money allocated to the prison is being spent. It should also include a separate chart detailing how the money earned in commissary is being spent. We believe that we have a right to know these things. This issue is highly important to us.
10. **Mental Health.** The abuse, mistreatment and punishment of individuals seeking mental health treatment needs to stop, along with the Mental Health Director Lezley Sexton’s allowance and support of such actions. Lezley Sexton and DOC’s policy of using medication as a punishment also needs to

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stop. The treatment of mental health prisoners and prisoners seeking mental health treatment in this prison has been nothing less than cruel and appalling! This has to stop.

**11. New Appointment of personnel. We are calling for the appointment of a new Commissioner, Warden and Deputy Warden.** A lot of us watched this prison take a turn for the worse under the authority of the now acting Commissioner Perry Phelps. We believe that a lot of our in-house grievances began with his appointment as Warden. He is therefore unfit to change a system that he destroyed. To allow him to continue carrying on would be the equivalent of allowing a wolf to herd the sheep. Deputy Warden Scarborough should also be replaced. He is also a part of the problem, and indeed one of the main reasons, that inmates seeking mental health support are mistreated and punished. It is widely known that those are his personal policies. We also call for the ouster of the acting warden if he is unwilling to institute the fair changes listed herein, as such an unwillingness can only lead to more problems.

**12. Regular Rotation of Staff. We are asking that staff be rotated to new buildings and new duties every 3-6 months.** This allows us all a chance to have a break from each other and to give any possible tensions a chance to cool down before they boil over. This will also allow the DOC the opportunity to “follow the paper trail” of certain Correctional Officers who have a pattern of mistreatment and abuse towards inmates and therefore will give the DOC the chance to place such staff on duties away from any prisoners before things get messy.

**13. “Stingers.” Stingers should be sold on commissary as they are in most other jails or boiling water should be provided to all inmates,** including those housed in MAX/SHU, by increasing the temperature of the hot water in our cell/building sinks so that it is adequate enough to cook food and heat coffee. If “stingers” are not sold on commissary, then they should be reduced to a Class 2 Infraction.

**14. Access to shaving supplies. Inmates in all housing areas should be afforded razors twice a week in order to shave.** There are many inmates in this prison who shave or need to shave regularly for religious and sanitary purposes. Those of us who choose to shave should be allowed to do so. This is a policy that was once allowed but was then stopped by then Warden Phelps. We should be allowed state-issued razors two times a week and better shaving razors should once again be sold on commissary. The DOC doesn’t stop double/triple celling inmates because the practice leads to fights, so they should not stop selling and providing razors because they lead to one or two people getting cut. Instead, those incidents should be dealt with on a case by case basis, not by acts of mass punishment. We want razors back for all inmates no matter their classification.

**15. Vendor Packages.** At least two vendors should be allowed into the prison for the purpose of allowing inmates to purchase one 60-pound package a year ranging from food, electronics, sneakers, hygiene, etc. Inmates should also be allowed one 30-pound package consisting of only foodstuffs for the months of November and December. The DOC can approve different weights and allowable items for different classification levels. By allowing two vendors it will ensure that no one vendor can monopolize the market and hike the prices for inmates and their families.

**16. Cleaning Supplies. Inmates should not be denied cleaning supplies.** There is no reason that DOC should not want first, a clean prison, and second, for the inmates to practice cleanliness. However, DOC staff frequently deny inmates the material to properly clean the tier, the showers, and our cells. This needs to stop! Right now 18C tier is completely filthy. No one can remember the last time the showers have been cleaned. The tiers and cells are covered in filth and scum. Back on January 2, 2009, a nonviolent protest was staged on this issue alone. Since then nothing has changed. The showers on this tier should be deep cleaned no less than three times per week and inmates should be given full cleaning supplies at least three times per week consisting of: 1) a dust broom; 2) a toilet brush; 3) a sponge; 4) a cleaning rag; 5) a bucket; 6) soap balls; 7) Comet; 8) a mop; and 9) a mop bucket. These supplies should be readily available on *all* tiers.

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- 17. Goodtime.** We would like an increase of earned goodtime credits from 5 days a month to 10 days a month. Additionally, all inmates should receive “goodtime” credits for participating in work, school, or programming no matter what their classification status.
- 18. Recreation.** We would like the “rec” schedule to go back to the “pre-riot” schedule for all buildings.
- 19. Library.** All inmates should be afforded access to the Library no matter their classification status.
- 20. Indigent Supplies.** All indigent supplies should also include lotion and deodorant.
- 21. Investigation into post-riot actions on the part of staff.** There should be a full investigation into the actions of DOC staff after the riot. This must include all of the alleged mistreatments and abuse/assaults of inmates during the mass shakedowns in buildings 23, W, etc. This investigation should be conducted by an independent organization outside of the DOC.
- 22. Reassignments / Transfers of Staff.** We request the transfer of or reassignment of duties for all the DOC staff listed below, who have an extensive history of abusing and mistreating prisoners.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. *Captian Wiley | 12. Sgt. Fredrick   |
| 2. *Lt. Drace     | 13. Cpl. Jensen   |
| 3. *Sgt. Payton   | 14. *C/O Green (on the 8am-4pm shift)                           |
| 4. *Sgt. Gill     | 15. *C/O Linsey   |
| 5. *Sgt. Beckles  | 16. *Sgt. Barromia (assigned to Bldg 18, on the 12am-8am shift) |
| 6. *Sgt. May      | 17. *Sgt. Chalice   |
| 7. *Sgt. Forkum   | 18. Sgt. Dejesus  |
| 8. *C/O Arabia    | 19. *Lt. Tyson  |
| 9. Lt. Ratcliffe  | 20. Staff Lt. Reynolds  |
| 10. *Lt. Savage   |   |
| 11. Lt. Wallace   |   |

This list is not all encompassing. We picked the worst of the worst Correctional Officers (COs), some of whose actions cannot and will not be forgiven. These staff have stars next to their names. If they cannot be disciplined by the DOC, then we will be forced to once again take actions into our own hands. We will no longer settle for being kicked while we are down. This is your opportunity to prove to both your staff and to us inmates that you will not settle for the blatant abuse and mistreatment of any prisoner. Our lives matter as well.

We hope that you give a lot of thought to these 22 requests. These issues are all very important to us. Please feel free to take your time. We have patience, a lot of time, and most importantly nothing to lose.

On behalf of my brothers in the struggle,

Thomas Gordon  
SBI #455684

# IF WE ARE YOUR FAMILY

## A poem by Henry Smalls

*For Reds, Loney, and all the others among us  
whom have departed.*

1/21/17

It wasn't supposed to end this way. Plan "A" was a preferable and viable script. To reside both in the comfort of home and loved ones during your most critical time would be the natural order of things. However, if we are now your family . . . then so be it. If time, distance, and circumstances have propelled us into the role of surrogate family . . . then we embrace that privilege. If at this particular time, and in this peculiar place we're chosen to perform the necessary and uneasy business of finality . . . then so be it. If we are your family, the we are willing to temporarily empty ourselves or irritations and issues so that we may faithfully administer what is paramount to you . . . so be it. Your ethnicity is of no consequence, your socio-economic background has no relevance, and your past mistakes have no factor in the equation, because finality . . . does not discriminate. The fragility and uncertainty of life urge us to perform compassionate duties usually reserved for those deemed worthy of compassion . . . but so be it. If we are your family then your pain is our pain and your tears are out tears, and we will do our very best to ease the pain, and dry the tears. If we are your family then we will not abandon you in your ultimate time of need. If we are your family at this particular time, and in this most peculiar place . . . then so be it.



Art Class - Three Men by William H. Johnson



# THE MOVEMENT MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

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