

the

INCARCERATED WORKERS

a project of the incarcerated workers organizing committee of the industrial workers of the world

We Must Leave the Crops in the Field

Anthony Robinson Jr.

“One of the greatest obstacles to the achievement of liberation is that oppressive reality absorbs those within it and thereby acts to submerge human beings consciousness. Functionally, oppression is domesticating.” – Pedagogy of The Oppressed: Paulo Freire

The mass of prisoners have become domesticated by the rules and regulations that purport to govern them, but actually are implemented carry out the results of their enslavement.

As a prisoner class, it is our labor that carries out the cause and effect of not only the inordinate sentences we are given in the kangaroo courts of America, but the perpetration of laws and policies that keeps us in prison and bargains on our return to prison via high recidivism rates.

The “prison industrial complex” through the multifaceted contradictions socially constructed into the regulating tendencies of its agenda (inflicted upon prisoners’ consciousness) acts as the agency which keeps him domesticated towards his own demise.

“I must intervene in teaching the peasants that their hunger is socially constructed and work with them to help



identify those responsible for this social construction, which is, in my view, a crime against humanity.” –Paulo Freire

The prison finds himself in the same reality-your hunger, your oppression, your imprisonment: is socially constructed; and identifying those who are responsible invites the most humbling rebellion into our lives as we look into the mirror of reality and realize that it is the mass of prisoners who are responsible for their hunger. A hunger that roars throughout the belly of the beast and is perpetuated rather than satisfied by the toil of the prisoner, which is offered to the “prison

Quick Sand Injustices

Santana Williams

Quick Sand Injustices are the kind of problems the female prisoners are having to succumb to on a daily basis here at Central MS Correction Facility. These injustices are sinking the population of African American Prisoners deeper into the corrupt injustices which we are already facing. How can anyone win a game of spades when the trump cards are missing? Solidarity confinement is being used to inflict cruel and unusual punishment upon our fellow women prisoners. The Warden is sinking these women down into a bottomless pit in hopes that his corrupt decisions will enable these women to undergo psychological torture due to allegations from vindictive, manipulative enemies. There is so much corruption taking prison officials to the point where the convicts are monopolizing any way they see fit. These women’s dignity is annihilated so badly to the point where most just want to give up. Solitary confinement standard operation procedure (SOP) policies are being unlawfully broken by these prison officials. The superintendent and commissioner is intentionally overlooking it. Cover ups for mishandled situations, circumstances beyond institutional intelligence prison snitches, and poor disciplinary decisions are the major contributing factors to these quick sand injustices. Every-time an SOP policy is deliberately violated obviously the administration

Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee Statement of Purpose

July 31, 2014

1. To further the revolutionary goals of incarcerated people and the IWW through mutual organizing of a worldwide union for emancipation from the prison system.
2. To build class solidarity amongst members of the working class by connecting the struggle of people in prison, jails, and immigrant and juvenile detention centers to workers struggles locally and worldwide.
3. To strategically and tactically support prisoners locally and worldwide, incorporating an analysis of white supremacy, patriarchy, prison culture, and capitalism.
4. To actively struggle to end the criminalization, exploitation, and enslavement of working class people, which disproportionately targets people of color, immigrants, people with low income, LGBTQ people, young people, dissidents, and those with mental illness.
5. To amplify the voices of working class people in prison, especially those engaging in collective action or who put their own lives at risk to improve the conditions of all.

FELLOW WORKERS:



Remember!

WE ARE IN HERE FOR YOU; YOU ARE OUT THERE FOR US

JOIN THE IWW

The Incarcerated Worker is a publication of the Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World. Join the rank-and-file union that's organizing prisoners internationally! Send name, ID #, and address to:

IWW IWOC
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141-4304

CONTRIBUTE TO THE IW

The Incarcerated Worker features writings of prisoners, welcoming contributions of writing and art particularly from a revolutionary labor perspective, all subject to editing for space and for content. Contributions should be sent to:

Kent Books to Prisoners
CSI Box X
KSU Student Center
Kent, OH 44242

Editorial Policy

Collectively, we may not know exactly what we're looking for, but we'll know it when we see it. And we may not know what we're *not* looking for, but we'll definitely get plenty of it.

We have to decide: Do we want to produce quality that will inspire and move people and contribute to a goal, or do we want to be a forum for terrible material no one else will print?

I opt for the first. So, I suggest our editorial policy should be fluid and evolving and organic, case by case, issue to issue. In other words, no real policy at all.

—Editor FW Sean Swain

Due to limited printing capacity, content should be kept shorter than 5 pages.

Send your self-addressed stamped envelopes with requests for back issues, so we can save on postage.

Remember to share and spread things around so we can all grow!

However, this fluid policy is subject to change at the democratic will of incarcerated workers like YOU! Fellow workers in Missouri prisons suggested a rotation of contributing authors. Authors shall be set in rotation each issue, so each gets a turn to share their voice.

The more articles you send the more we can put in rotation. The articles should teach and motivate each other. The paper's goal is solidarity through communal knowledge; each one teach one!

—Outside Editor, Mike L.



Kent Books to Prisoners provides prisoners with books and other reading material on request.

Kent Books to Prisoners
CSI Box X
KSU Student Center
Kent, OH 44242

Prison Books Collective provides a catalog of political pamphlets, and any of the pamphlets contained within, free to prisoners. Prisoners in MS, AL, and NC are eligible to request and receive books. <http://www.prisonbooks.info>

**Prison Books Collective
Publishing & Distribution**
PO Box 625
Carrboro, NC 27510

Kent Books to Prisoners and Prison Books Collective are not affiliated with the IWW.

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IWOC PO Boxes:

A note from your delegate: Hello everyone! IWOC is growing by leaps and bounds over the past few months. For faster and better responses to your letters, please write to the PO Box in your state and country. If you do not see your state listed here, write to the Kansas City PO Box. We are already looking forward to September 9th. Keep an eye out for more info on that in the coming months!

Arkansas:
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TIMELINE: Recent Events

November

16: A 9 day hunger strike by Lucasville Uprising prisoner, Bomani, ends in victory! He won his demand for access to his books and music. His comrade and fellow Lucasville Uprising prisoner Jason Robb joined the strike in solidarity on the 4th day.

December

1: German prisoner's union goes on strike in December! In Butzbach prison in Hessa, a strike of prisoners erupted in December 2015. Between 15 and 20 went on hunger strike for 11 days, and 200 out of 540 inmates refused their meal on the first day of the strike. The strike was supported by the Network for Support of Inmate Workers, composed of activists and academics. More than 120 academics and trade unionists from Germany, India, Brazil and South Africa declared support for the prisoners' demands on the first day of the strike. The strike received considerable attention from the media, but the demands were not met by the regional state of Hessa. The network organized two demonstrations close to Butzbach prison during the strike. Some of the strike organizers included fellow IWW member Oliver Rast, a political prisoner held captive for alleged involvement in the Militant Gruppe (Militant Group), a left/anarchist urban guerilla group.

January

8: Incarcerated workers at Regina jail in Canada start a hunger strike in response to the disgusting privatized food that is being served to them. Most of the inmates in the strike are Aboriginal, which make over a quarter of Canada's prison population. Strikers reported that all in the jail were participating except a select few for diabetic reasons.

14: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing the state of West Virginia for denying incarcerated

workers adequate amounts of clean water after a chemical spill polluted the Elk River. The spill was caused by the coal company Freedom Industry and incarcerated workers who were exposed complained of health problems.

22: An International Trans. Prisoner Solidarity Day was called for by Marius Mason, IWW member and Earth Liberation Front prisoner held in Texas. Comrades and supporters organized rallies and events all across the globe!

February

1: Delaware Supreme Court freezes all 39 death penalty cases, until it rules a final decision on the constitutionality of the policy.

4: During the Flint, MI water crisis, inmates of Genesee County Jail were blocked from any information regarding the state of emergency declared in regards to lead contaminated water. Thus, the inmates of Genesee County Jail continued to shower, cook, drink, and eat in the lead contaminated waters while the National Guard delivered bottled water to the residence outside.

5: Trans. Prisoners win right to hormones in Texas! A change in Texas prison system policy means transgender inmates who hadn't started hormone therapy before incarceration can do so behind bars if they go through a thorough process to confirm the diagnosis. This is a major battle won for our trans. fellow incarcerated workers!

16: A man in TX was arrested by US marshals after defaulting on loans he had taken out for college in 1987.

20: Black Panther and prisoner organizer, Albert Woodfox, released! He is the last of the Angola 3 to be released. The Angola 3 were 3 Black Panthers who were framed and convicted for the murder of a C.O., this was said to be done in retaliation for the 3's prisoner organizing activity. Comrade Woodfox had spent 43 years

in solitary confinement before a federal judge ordered his release.

23: Russell Maroon Shoats, a former Black Panther and Black Liberation Army veteran files lawsuit against PA prison system. After 22 years in solitary confinement, Maroon and his team of lawyers have been granted a jury trial by a federal judge. This affects him as an individual, but it is also the 1st federal court challenge against long-term solitary confinement.

March

11: Our beloved brother Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen We Langa (David Rice), ex-Black Panther & political prisoner of 45 years, died in his prison cell last Friday, March 11 at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Sixty-eight years old, Mondo was a Black Panther in Omaha sentenced to life as an innocent man.

11-14: Uprising at Holman Prison, Alabama!!! Hostilities in Holman started on Friday (3/11/16). After there was a stabbing among inmates, the warden came in to talk to the incarcerated workers. The warden was stabbed, and this led to a mass riot. The incarcerated workers in general population took control of the gen. pop. area and started to burn down the guard towers. "We're tired of this shit, there's only one way to deal with it: tear the prison down" one of the participants stated. The prison was stormed by police special tactical forces on Monday (3/14/16). More info to come as we get word from the brave Holman Rebels and the Free Alabama Movement!

23: A press release from incarcerated workers affiliated with the IWW stated that a labor stoppage would begin on April 4th 2016. The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) begins getting to work on organizing on the outside.

24: The US Department of Justice released new guidelines Thursday prohibiting corrections agencies from plac-



TIMELINE: Recent Events (cont.)

ing transgender inmates into men's or women's units solely based on their anatomy at birth. This strikes another victory for our fellow incarcerated workers who identify as transgendered.

30: Incarcerated workers in Kinross Correctional Facility, MI held a hunger strike on March 20-21 to protest the terrible food and inhumane conditions. The following Sunday through Monday, Chippewa Correctional Facility incarcerated workers refused to show up for meals. Michigan prison administration officials stated that both protests were characterized by extremely high participation rates among

inmates, which disturbed Michigan Corrections Organization officials and also got the attention of the prisons' administration.

April

4: Texas strike begins with 7 prisons joining in on the labor stoppages. Mass lockdowns and repressions were reported, but 4 still remain on full strike several days after the first day of strike. IWOC on the outside kept up public pressure and media outreach, but there were few additional updates on the strike since communication was cut by the prison administration. The strike

received international attention including reporting by Russia Today. We'll keep you posted on the outcome of the strike!

More to come: The Free Alabama Movement (FAM) declares the upcoming May Day (May 1st) to be a day of action! A nationwide day of labor strikes set on September the 9th by FAM, IWOC/IWW, and support by the National Lawyers Guild!



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Amendment 5	281	47	
Resolution A	249	90	
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Resolution C	297	46	
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2015 Election Results!!!

The New Underground Railroad Movement *Anthony Robinson Jr.*

The New Underground Railroad Movement is a grassroots inside/outside organization that recognizes that the institutionalization of mass incarceration is the greatest civil Rights and social issue we are faced with today. The New Underground Railroad Movement is dedicated to shutting down the 'prison industrial complex' through tactical, organizational and grassroots work strikes, boycotts, and class Conscious Empowerment...



“ If Martin Luther King Jr. is right that the arc of history is long, but it bends towards justice, a new movement will arise; and if civil rights organizations fail to keep up with the times, they will be pushed to the side as another generation of advocates comes to the fore. Hopefully the new generation will be led by those who know best the brutality of the new caste system—a group with greater vision, courage, and determination than the old guard can muster, trapped as they may be in an outdated paradigm. Those of us who hope to be their allies should not be surprised, if and when this day comes, that when those who have been locked up and locked out finally have the chance to speak and truly be heard, what we hear is rage. The rage may frighten us; it may remind us of riots, uprisings, and buildings aflame. We may be tempted to control it, or douse it with buckets of doubt, dismay, and disbelief. But we should do no such thing. Instead, when a young man who was born in the ghetto and who knows little of life beyond the walls of his prison cell and the invisible cage that has become his life, turns to us in bewilderment and rage, we should do nothing more than look him in the eye and tell him the truth.” —Michelle Alexander

The New Underground Railroad Movement is that Truth! ‘Our Motto is: “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”’ The New Underground Railroad Movement was born out of the premise that the prisoner must be involved in his own liberation. If the prisoner is not involved in the transformation process of his oppressive reality; if he is not involved in the praxis of developing an inquiry of his own humanity—in order to first recognize his chains, then break free of them—then the prisoner is submerged deeper in the reality of his oppression by failing to be recognized for his role as an active participant in his Freedom.

Submerged into the dynamics of incarceration and imprisonment, the prisoner adopts the guidelines of the systems that exploit him: due to conforming to his

environment out of fear of the consequences, but mostly due to the fact that he has not been involved in the guidelines of the transformation process of his freedom. Therefore, the prisoner must not only see and carry out his role in the transformation of his chains, but must be recognized as playing a pivotal role in the abolition of the prison industrial complex. The prisoner must be his own example in the struggle for his liberation. And any individual, group, or organization whose work involves abolition of any part/effect of the prison industrial ‘ complex cannot deal with the prisoner, in ideology or practice, as mere subjects waiting to be saved or answered for but must work in solidarity with prisoners; understanding that it is only in dealing with the day to day realities that prisoners face articulated from the prisoners praxis of experiences, that the true and sustaining solutions are to be found and sought for.

All work done on behalf of prisoners must start with the prisoner’s needs, and the ascertaining of the prisoners needs must start with a dialogue that grants the prisoner the opportunity to deal critically and creatively with his reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their chains. A person learns to swim in the water, not in a library. As well, the prisoner will not become free by reading about work organizations are initiating on his behalf; he or she must get in the water!

“ History suggests that it is crucial to the success of social Movements that the people on whose behalf the Movement speaks and acts need to themselves have a seat at the table when Movement decisions are made and the character and culture of the Movement is developed.” The New Jim Crow Study Guide/Call to Action.

The New Underground Railroad Movement earnestly recognizes this as crucial to the success and empowerment of all organizations and Movements whose goals, agendas, and mission work involves the transformation of the prison industrial complex and the restorative justice

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Opposing Piece From an Unidentified Incarcerated Citizen in Holman Prison, March 18, 2016 | Originally posted on STOPJUDICIALCORRUPTION

The uprising at Holman prison in Atmore Alabama continues, despite prison being on lockdown status. Seventy prisoners have barricaded themselves in a part of the prison early this morning, just two days after the Correctional Emergency Response Teams (CERT) regained control of the prison after a riot involving hundreds of prisoners on Friday night.

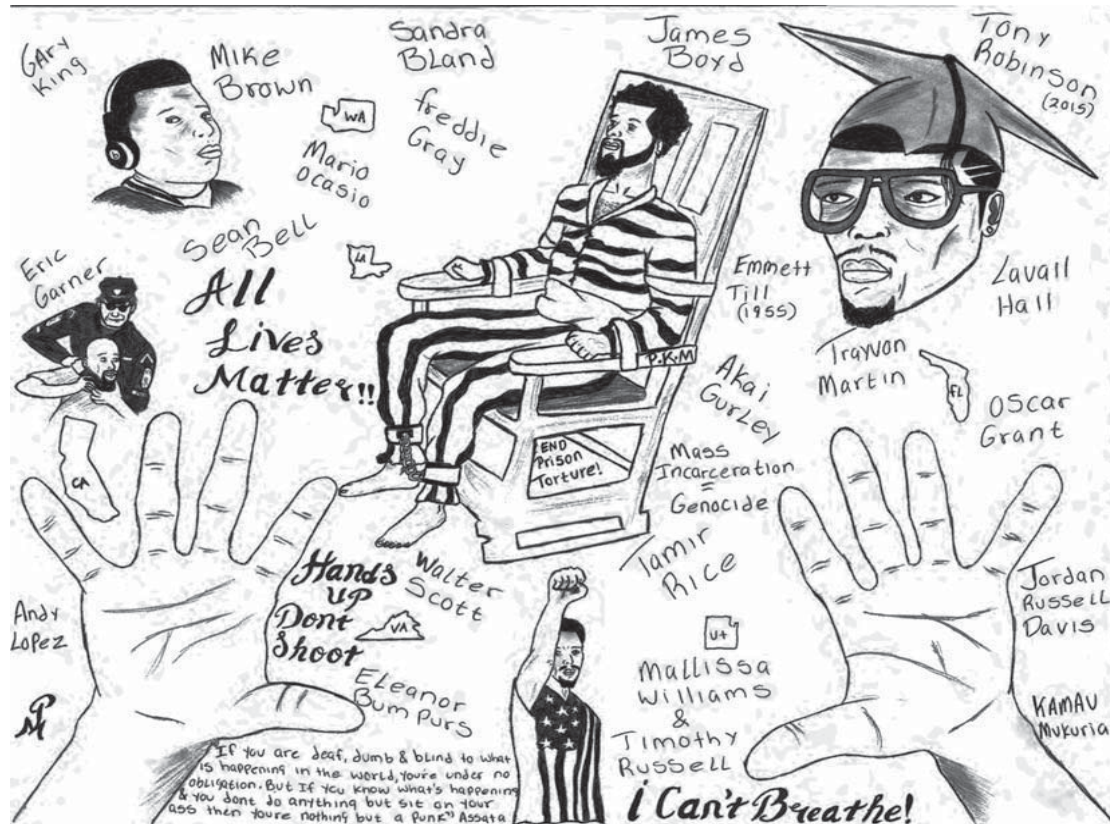
An anonymous prisoner describing himself as a mediator who hopes to quell the riot says that prisoners are fed up with unsanitary and inhumane living conditions and double occupancy overcrowding. Alabama's prison system is dysfunctional and has been the subject of controversy for years leading up to these chain of events. Last summer the federal government was considering intervening and taking over the ADOC after a budget shortfall and a series of both violent incidents and massive non-violent prisoner protests. The State of Alabama avoided the shame of a federal takeover by pulling funding from schools, a move that prisoners say reveals the state's priorities. "They don't want people to get an education and lift themselves up because then they'll lose their source of free labor" one member of the Free Alabama Movement (FAM) stated at the time.

According to the Equal Justice Initiative, the murder rate in Alabama prisons set a new record last year. The ADOC is failing in its most basic responsibility of keeping their captives safe. Meanwhile, other prisoners are rising above the fray to organize principled and

effective direct action protests. In January 2014, FAM organized a historic non-violent work stoppage, refusing to perform tasks they say amount to slave labor, without which the prisons could not operate. Holman was the first prison to start that protest, and in response, the administration threw those it identified or suspected of leading the protest into solitary confinement for years.

The response to recent events at Holman from the Free Alabama Movement echo John F Kennedy's adage that "those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." One of the men confined to solitary in Holman since Jan of 2014 (and thus separated from the unrest in the general population) said this: "We've appealed to the courts. We've appealed to the Legislature. We've appealed peacefully and nonviolently. So, I can only see this past weekend's events as a continuation of the prisoners' plea for Help. Warehousing Overcrowded Dormitories are unsanitary and unsafe. Oppression breeds Resistance."

The ADOC's response, on the other hand, has been consistent: botched attempts to impose greater controls and retribution onto the prisoners. Friday night is typical. When prisoners were seen fighting, a correctional officer deployed such excessive pepper spray to break up the fight that the combatants eventually turned on him. The Warden then came and escalated the conflict until he also was attacked. At this point, the staff fled the building, and hours later the CERT squad had to come in to regain control of their institution.



What followed was a weekend of intense prisoner shake-downs, where the prison was put on lockdown status, and guards came through, cell by cell, destroying prisoner property and tossing their cells to find contraband. At least five prisoners were sent to isolation and threatened with additional charges. This morning, despite the warden's best hard-case efforts to lock down and control the institution, another prisoner was stabbed and in response, 70 committed prison rebels gained access to and barricaded themselves inside another part of the prison.

According to WKRC news out of Mobile Alabama, their source said to today's events were "as spirited and violent as the one that took place

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The New Underground Railroad *continued*

of Human Rights. As a Prisoner Class We need a seat at the table. The New Underground Railroad Movement seeks to establish a chapter in every prison/county jail in America and invites prisoner as well as the Groups/Organizations who work on behalf of Prisoners Rights and Freedom to join us in organizing and carrying out the praxis of our liberation and the abolishment of the "prison industrial complex".

The New Underground Railroad Move-

ment GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

-To promote the development and organization of our common praxis as a prisoner/worker class with the understanding that the prisoner cannot be truly rehabilitated unless he is allowed to create his world through his labor, not be exploited by it.

-Work that is not free ceases to be a fulfilling pursuit and becomes an effective means of dehumanization."- Paulo Freire

To promote and develop the understanding that as a prisoner class, it is our labor that carries out the cause and effect of not only the inordinate sentences we are given in the unjust courts of America, but the perpetration of laws and policies that keeps us in prison and bargains on our return to prison via high recidivism.

-To promote and develop the under-

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Quick Sand Justice *continued*

is creating their own rules and since there isn't anyone overriding these cruel practices MDOC has become run down with age old scandalous self appointed owners of a multi million dollar ran agency. Now if these prison snitches, with their ulterior motives, write a letter against their enemy(ies) (thus shooting them in a cross fire) just like magic, a captain or warden will have that complaint style lie chalked up as (what should be factual) evidence to transfer the alleged female into solitary confinement for so called investigation. A terrible injustice because why investigate by lock-

ing an accused prisoner down without any concrete evidence. It is totally illegitimate. Then these prison officials are saying a maximum security unit such as a Women's Max is a permanent housing unit. Nowhere in the SOP's does this such statement appear. These women have no rule violation report (RVE) nor incident report. This kind of malicious, destructive practice suggests obvious integral controversy. Even if the prisoners file a grievance through the administrative remedy program (ARP) it is going to fall into the same hands which are dealing treach-

erously and dishonestly with us in the first place. In these cases solitary confinement becomes a pit of entrapment and these prisoners want nothing more than to be released. Mostly these women usually fall into the share of psychological torture and do anywhere from 20-90 days for nothing. Now that is a helluvah investigation. The human spirit becomes subjected to a no way out thought pattern for short term to long term prisoners. The emphasis for this inhumane treatment lies upon the fact that these African American Women not having the legal support necessary to fire back at the prison officials bullies. These prison officials are imposing

unethical decisions based on the powerlessness of the prisoners. This is a horrific lifestyle to have to live on edge every day not knowing when that turn is going to come for you to remain a statistic on the race based lockdown. The motive is to keep an image displayed that supports the idea that African American Women in prison are negative, unproductive, violent, or hostile offenders. You have pt 2 of this quick sand injustice where the political prisoners, activists, and advocates create involvement that collectively builds reform program and fight non violently against these prison officials

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The New Underground Railroad *continued*

standing that the “criminal justice system” is a commercial instrument and is concerned about capital investments gained by warehousing prisoners for profit; and working with individuals and organizations to wake up the masses and seek solutions where we are no longer exploited by this system. -To promote and develop the understanding that we could have a real impact if we organize around our labor contribution. The prison industrial

complex cannot afford to lose our labor and the economic support given by citizens who buy prison made products or do business with companies allied to the prison industrial complex. Cut off the economics in order to change the policies!

-To promote and develop the understanding to all prisoners that: We have to start being honest with ourselves about our

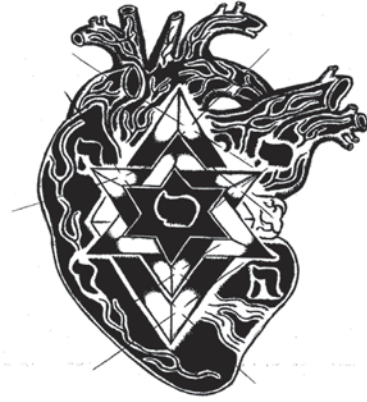
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Quick Sand Justice *continued*

with the power of the pen and speaking out against these harsh injustices face-to-face in an effort to help solve the root of the dehumanizing tactics. When that face-to-face confrontation is surfaced in order to confront this opposition against us which we face too often there we go and anybody else who stand unthreatened by reprisals sinking down deeper into the dungeon of solitary confinement. A label of Security Threat Group (STG) is put on the Prisoner(s) and according to policy a STG Intelligence Coordinator and the STG Committee will make an evaluation to determine whether or not to deny release (SOP#19-01-03 174-198). All in the name of Freedom. The struggles even more greater when educating, motivating, and unifying our fellow sisters becomes a fearful thing to do. It discourages the women and the problem of unity becomes more widespread. Our human rights are so limited it takes a show enough soldier to stay out on these type of enemies lines. It costs a stay in solitary confinement to exemplify empowerment at CMCF for African American women prisoners. Then for those who back down they back down because they are threatened by these prison official bullies and everybody's mind isn't built to undergo these levels of cruel and unusual punishment. We do it because we are the lambs willing to be a sacrifice for the servicing of our people. Finally pt. 3 of the quick sand injustices

is for the many men and women in segregated or restricted housing for mentally ill, major violations (RVR”S) like C5-C11, and death row prisoners who don't have much of a choice other than to reach out with stability of mind and ability of hand to write and pray for a better opportunity at reaching to the top pressing on up out these pits. Tonight I sit up writing this article after spending 12 plus months on long term segregation for an alleged C8 (assaultive action resulting in serious bodily harm). The SOP#19-01-01 states that if the District Attorney doesn't present the violation to the grand jury in 30 days the prison officials will have and additional 10 days to dispose of the RVR. The DA didn't pick up the charge, but the prison still operated against the SOP policy. This has been a terrible burden and injustice upon myself and any other prisoner who has to deal with the same incident. These are the obstacles that the women of CMCF have faced within the past year. It's awful having water poured on your head when you are already drowning. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder quoted unquote “unchangeable factors that a person cannot control or on the possibility of a future crime that has not taken place” these are the circumstances which criminal sentences should not be based on. (para-

BLACK



2013

2013

FOREVER

phrased)

On the issue of death row prisoners many who are struggling to die a peaceful death (so to say) because death penalty states want to use the ineffective midazolam opposed to sodium thiopental. My life represents the sacrifice for the quick sand injustices but when do these injustices wash away.

A CALL TO ACTION

BY: SANTANA WILLIAMS # 80801

CMCF/ Womens Max 113 zone/
Cell#450

P.O. Box 88550

Pearl, MS 39288

God chose me to walk through the fire barefoot with no heels. He desired not the burnt offering, but the sacrifices of a natural born soldier who didn't stop to observe her wounds nor to cry or dry her weeping eye blood, sweat, and tears streaming down a two edged sword. The word disciplined me for the struggle so fit for the battle on the front line I caused others to fall in line there is a war raging on the battle field and we are behind enemy lines.



We Must Leave the Crops in the Field continued

industrial complex” like slaves sacrificed to some Pagan God of old.

What we as a “Prisoner Class” must understand is: each prison facility produces \$250,000 to \$500,000 net worth of prison labor per month by the way of the many domesticating jobs that maintain the facility: from inmate porters, painters, plumbers, cooks, line servers, gardeners, dish washers, tutors, etc.

With the prison inmate making .13-.35 an hour for positions that range from \$10.50-\$35.00 per hour; it is clear that the prison industrial complex utilizes the apparatus of its authoritative agency and socially constructed domestication to convince the inmates worker to “stay in his place” within the contexts of his own labor and to agree and be grateful for pennies for his sweat, even when he knows his work is valued at dollars.

For me it is always mystifying to see the inmate worker putting every ounce of his energy into work that maintains the status quo of his class as “inmate workers” but won’t dedicate 16 ounces of energy towards work that confronts the reality of his own liberation i.e. researching case laws, earning a degree, organizing his class, interpreting his value, etc.

Why would we as a prisoner class ever want to do work that helps corporations like CCA pass audits? Which utilize the certification of such audits to invest in more prison building and legislation that keeps us in prison.

“A particular problem is the duality of the oppressed (prisoner class): they are contradictory, divided beings, shaped by and existing in a concrete situation of oppression and violence.” -Pedagogy of The Oppressed

The majority of out of state prisoners seem

to be the most demoralized and voluntarily enslaved lump of clay in the lot. The contradictions that the mass of out of state prisoners seek: doping over doing, aiding the administration over the convict, gaming over educating, loitering over legalizing; these are the contradictions that shape the CCA environments and have enabled over 7,500 California “inmate workers” to be shipped out of state and readily exploited



by corporations lined up in the collective bargaining for the prisoner’s soul.

It is interesting how this same mass of prisoners expect to share in the spoils of battles fought for prisoners’ rights. This same mass of prisoners are jolted out of their slumber, lined up in the aisles of their uncertainties, hands shaped into begging bowls, hoping that propositions like 47 fall into their laps freeing them of their chains. This absurdity

places the mass of prisoners into a catatonic state that paralyzes any chance they have of freedom for the simple fact; as Hegel testifies:

“It is solely by risking life that freedom is obtained...the individual who has not staked his or her life may, no doubt, be recognized as a person (or in case of the prisoner-a slave) but he or she has not attained the truth of this recognition as an independent self conscious being (a free man).”

-The Phenomenology of Mind
The attorney general of California in her speech against proposition 47 gave the inmate worker a glimpse at their value to the system when she posed a question as the basis of her argument for why thousands of non-violent offenders shouldn’t be released from prison: “who will do the work and fill the jobs?” This was a momentous shift from the usual propaganda of letting out “violent offenders” who will commit crimes, etc. because they were focusing on a class that couldn’t be labeled “violent” they were forced to partially unveil the value of the “inmate worker” to the prison industrial complex.

This gives the prisoner class a momentous opportunity and obligation to recognize the value of our labor to the system and to use that value as a collective bargaining chip; and to demand a restructuring of the prison system, based first and foremost on the recognition that we are human

and because of that soul fact, Incarcerated Lives Matter!

“The oppressed must be their own example in the struggle for their redemption.”-Freire
We have an opportunity to be paid an honest and fair wage: an hourly wage where at the end of the month we make enough to pay for our basic food and hygiene needs for the following month until the next pay period.

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Job Opportunity: Prison Branch Builder - Traveling Organizer

IWW Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee

Open until filled: First Review June 1st, 2016



The IWW's Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee is incarcerated people and their allies organizing to transform prison conditions and end mass incarceration. We work in solidarity with all human beings behind bars. Our purpose is to organize prison labor to make the current prison system unprofitable, unmanageable, and unattractive. We stand for revolutionary democracy in the free world as well.

The IWOC began two years ago when the IWW was approached for organizing support by the Free Alabama Movement, and has since grown to 800 members in 36 US states, with recent upsurges in Texas, Alabama, Virginia, as well as in Europe. The IWW is a revolutionary, dues funded labor organization, and our growth has been entirely powered by volunteer organizers, inside and out.

However, as our membership in prisons has exploded numerically, we now intend to hire at least one (1) or ideally two (2) full time organizers by the end of 2016 to do the following:

Job Duties:

- Connect and support organizers in prison to assist the creation of inside branches inside prison and coordinating inside-outside support
- Connect and support with families and outside allies to grow powerful outside chapters
- Travel to: grow or strengthen IWOC groups, coordinate outside support for prison strikes and other inside actions, and speak to the media when necessary

Qualifications:

- Has served time. An ideal candidate will already have organized inside in some capacity, with outside experience too.
- Self starter, hard worker, willingness to learn and ask for help when needed
- Commitment to growing a bottom-up, working class movement to end capitalism and prisons, organizing prison labor and outside workers to end these systems, and deep belief in the revolutionary power of liberation struggles: poor, black, brown, indigenous, women's, queer, etc.
- Ability to speak in a way that inspires and motivates change, and illustrates the unnecessary horror that is the prison system
- Comfortable meeting new people, going to new places, staying in someone else's house, etc
- Ability to support new organizers, particularly people who have been in prison and their families, grow into strong, politically educated movement leaders
- Experience with work against prisons, campaign strategy, direct

action, media, etc, is a plus

By hiring date, any candidate must be a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

A current campaign is underway in the US Deep South, so experience organizing in this region would be of added value
The ability to live well on the salary provided so as to not need another job during the course of employment

Salary and Work Week:

\$20,000 plus health care and other benefits
30+ hours a week, 7 weeks vacation at times of your choice
1 year contract, with the expectation that this will likely only be a one year position

How to Apply

Applications should include the following:
Letter explaining what you bring to this position and why you want the job
List of relevant experiences and/or resume
Three (3) references with phone numbers

Final applications or questions can be sent to iwoc@riseup.net. We welcome your input, questions, ideas, and are also happy to take questions at our group hotline 816-866-3808.

Note that we are an all volunteer run-organization so may actually be more reachable after business hours, etc.



Opposing Piece From an Unidentified Incarcerated Citizen in Holman Prison continued

on Friday” he said to expect casualties. WKJR also reported that “Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn [head of ADOC] praised the work of the warden, officers and response teams” after Friday night. They included interviews with community members in Atmore, the city closest to Holman prison, who said the prison need more guards and more funding. This is typical of a prison system’s response to prisoner protest or rebellion. There is no accountability for the administrators or staff.

Prison, more than any other space in America, is where government agencies exercise great and invasive power over people. Prison administrators are given broad control of people’s movement,

communication, diets, intimate relationships, toilet and sanitary needs. This is a space of the most disproportionate power in American society, and yet when things go bad, the people who hold the vast majority of the power refuse to take responsibility. Failure to operate safe, stable institutions is often rewarded with greater funding and support when things go wrong.

This needs to change. We need to recognize that those who hold the keys to the cages must be held accountable for what happens inside their facilities, especially in cases like Alabama’s DOC where prisoners have pursued every avenue to demonstrate grievances and bring a peaceful change but were rewarded with retribution.

Warden Carter Davenport has failed miserably in his duty to run this institution. He should not be allowed to operate a correctional facility any longer. If Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn cannot recognize this, and continues to praise Davenport’s failure, that begs the question as to why he is operating the Alabama Prison system. Of course, these men will likely respond that they need more money, more guards, more free reign in the operation of the prison.

This is not a solution. The culture in Holman prison is toxic. A notebook surfaced over

the weekend, written by a correctional officer H Coates, which sheds some light on the culture of control in Holman prison. Coates writes: “I get the feeling sometimes to shoot them all and not feel bad about it. Annoying insects that should be killed off the face of the earth and finally judged for their sins once and for all (sic).” Davenport and Dunn want to solve the problems in Holman and ADOC by hiring more officers like Coates.

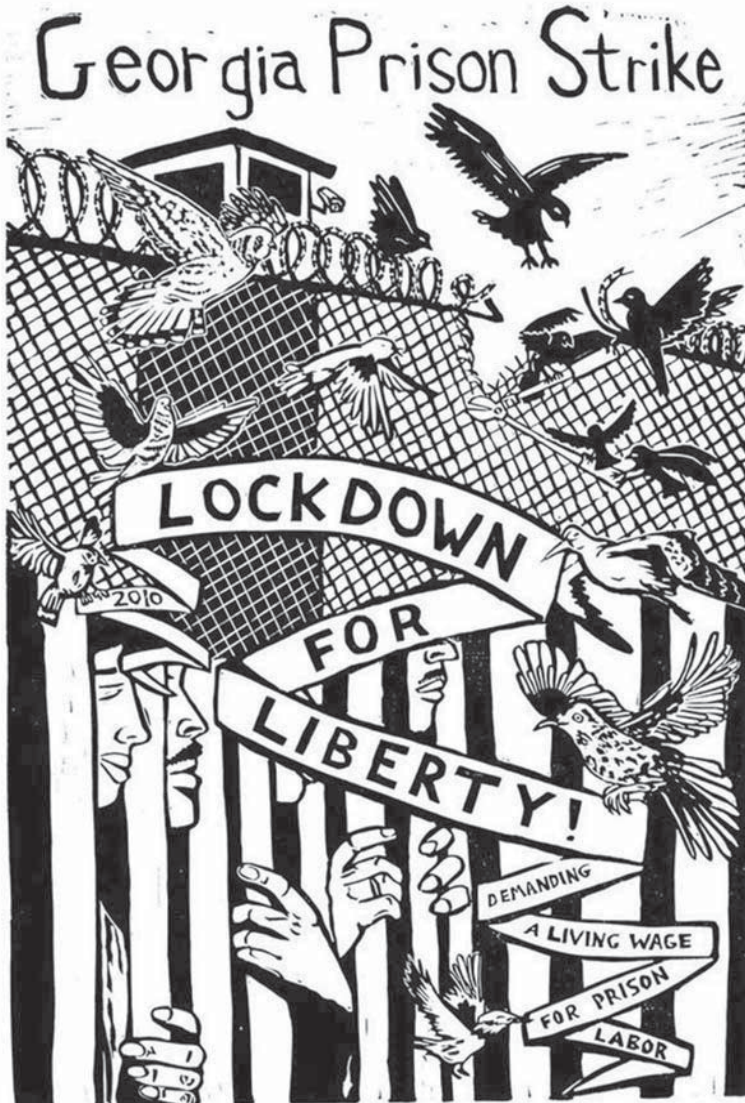
Meanwhile, the prisoners have laid out an alternative path. Free Alabama Movement wants real pay for work done by inmates, they want an end to free slave labor and torture. Free Alabama Movement has outlined reforms in a language lawmakers can understand and it has been published in the Free Alabama Movements “Freedom Bill” online at FreeAlabamaMovement.com.

The Freedom Bill is an expression of their belief in rehabilitation and education. They believe in shutting down the school to prison pipeline, in paying anyone who works a living wage for their labor, regardless of which side of the prison walls they find themselves on. They believe in preparing people for re-entry and healing communities stricken with poverty and unemployment. They believe that these reforms will end mass incarceration, saving money and truly addressing crime and inequality in this country.

Some might say the Free Alabama Movement’s vision is unrealistic, but compare it to Carter Davenport or Jeff Dunn’s vision. Those two envision an ADOC that necessitates not only slavery to operate, but also peaceful cooperation from those whom they enslave and torture. The unrest in Holman prison underlines the utter absurdity of that vision.”



Sept 9, 2016 ~ Get Ready!!



The Free Virginia Movement

Our Purpose:
The Free Virginia Movement is an Inside-Out, multiracial statewide movement founded and organized by people incarcerated in Virginia prisons affiliated with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Union and sentenced under the so-called “no parole” or “85%” law.

The function and purpose of the FVM is to organize all “no parole” prisoners into one bloc or cohesive unit so that we can effectively oppose & challenge excessive sentences, long-term incarceration & mass incarceration as a result of the abolition of parole & truth-in-sentencing laws enacted by the VA General Assembly back in 1994; and unjust, inhuman & oppressive prison conditions which endangers/jeopardizes our spiritual, mental & emotional health & well-being, and which runs counter to (hinders) our growth and rehabilitative efforts in the VA Dept. of (In)Corrections.

Our Organizing Strategy:
The FVM seeks to bring the entire VA prisoner-class sentenced under the “no parole” or “85%” law & outside Human Rights & Prison Advocacy Groups together across Racial, Gender, Ideological, Religious & Geographical lines—thereby creating a cross-denominational United

Front unlike anything ever seen in the VA prison system.

At every stage of the struggle we have petitioned the courts, filed grievances & patiently waited for the VA State Government to take corrective action in the most humble method. But just like the institution of Chattel Slavery, mass incarceration is in essence an economic system which uses human beings as its nuts & bolts. Therefore, our new approach must be economically based. As such, in the event our concerns continue to fall on deaf ears while the VA State Government, the VA Dept. of InCorrections & private corporations like JPay, Keefe Commissary, Global Tel Link, etc. continues to benefit from our exploitation & prolonged confinement, we agree that it will be necessary to engage in a statewide, proactive, peaceful & nonviolent collective work strike/stoppage, hunger strike, boycott, etc. to compel the VA State Government & the VA Dept. of InCorrections to be more receptive to our concerns & demands listed below. The accumulation of wealth & the oppression & social control of New Afrikans, poor people & other people of color is the motive behind mass incarceration here in VA. Therefore, an economic response (work strike/stoppage) and other forms of strikes & demonstrations will be our most effective strategy.

Our Goals (What We Want):
The Reinstatement of parole for all incarcerated people currently serving a sentence under the so-called no parole (85%) law by repealing VA Code §§ 53.1-165.1 & 53.1-202.3, & re-institute parole eligibility under VA Code § 53.1-201. The above restoration of Parole & Good Conduct Allowance must be retroactively applied to ALL incarcerated people currently serving sentences under the no parole (85%) law.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 19.2-303 so that ALL people currently incarcerated in the VA Dept. of InCorrections can petition the Court that heard their case for a suspension/reduction/modification of the unnerved portion of the sentence after 1) serving a base minimum of twenty (20) consecutive years in prison and, 2) after the completion of an Education/Rehabilitation/Reentry Preparedness Program.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 19.2-303 must be retroactively applied to ALL people currently incarcerated in the VA Dept. of InCorrections.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 19.2-298.01 (B) & (F) so that the sentencing court must provide an adequate written explanation when it sentences a de-

continued on page 14

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Greetings Fellow Worker,
I hope this message finds you in good spirits and in good health! We would like to hear from everyone at least twice twice a year to verify your membership so that you may vote in the annual referendum and continue receiving the newsletter. You may include this along with a letter to us and multiple people are welcome to send these slips in together in a single envelope to save on postage.

Please tear off this portion of this page and mail it back to us at IWOC, PO Box 414304, KC, MO, 64141 or if you want to keep your newsletter intact, you can just write the information on a separate sheet of paper.

In Solidarity
IWOC Date _____

Your Name _____ DOC # _____

Your IWW Membership Number _____

Emergency Contact #1 Name (friend or family on the outside) _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____ and Email _____



The Free Virginia Movement continued

pendant outside the sentencing guidelines to allow for meaningful appellate review of said sentence. This will promote the perception of fair sentencing and to provide an appellate remedy when courts impose sentences that are ten (10) years or more outside the sentencing guidelines. The Amendment & Reenactment of A Code § 19.2-298.01 (B) & (F) must be retroactively applied to all people currently serving time under the no parole (85%) law.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 53.1-40.01 so that the qualifying age for consideration of early geriatric release is 1) the age of 55 or older & who has served at least five years of the sentence imposed or 2) the age of 50 or older & who has served at least ten years of the sentence imposed. The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 53.01-40.01 must be retroactively applied to all people currently incarcerated in the VA Dept. of InCorrections.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 53.1-43.1 which allows the VA Dept. of InCorrections to profit off peoples incarceration by investing the interests gained from inmates' funds in bonds & federally-insured investments. ALL income, profits, etc. gained as a result of

these investments MUST ONLY be used for the benefit of inmates (i.e., education, rehabilitation, recreation) and not the VA Dept. of (In) Corrections or the VA State Government.

The Amendment & Reenactment of VA Code § 53.1-43.1 so that in addition to any inmate who has been sentenced to be executed or is serving a life sentence, any inmate who is serving a de facto "numerical" life term of fifty (50) years or more under the no parole (85%) law, shall be exempt from the withholding & depositing ten (10) percent of his/her incoming funds into a savings/trust account.

The abolition of any VA DOC policy, practice or procedure which endangers our spiritual, physical, mental & emotional health & well-being & which hinders & runs counter to inmates' rehabilitative efforts, including but not limited to: (1) VA DOC's Operating Procedure (OP) 601.6(IV)(c)(14) which prohibits inmates from completing more than one Career & Technical Education Program; (2) VA DOC's Operating Procedure (OP) 601.6(IV)(c)(9) which discriminates against inmates with lengthy sentences who desire to enroll in a Career & Technical Education Program by placing said

inmates on a separate "long list" where it may take years to enroll in any program; (3) VA DOC's "cost saving" practice of assigning one inmate to multiple job (work) assignments which hinders other inmates from being assigned to a job (work) assignment "to learn job skills & develop good work habits & attitudes that [we] can apply to jobs after [we] are released," quoting VA DOC's OP 841.2(IV)(B)(4); (4) VA DOC's racially & politically motivated practice of censoring/disapproving books, newspapers, magazines, etc. which are geared towards an African-American, Leftist, Radical & Progressive audience; (5) VA DOC's "cost saving" practice denying Hepatitis-C-positive inmates FULL access to FDA-approved drugs like Sovaldi, Harvoni, Veikra-Tak, etc., which are known to cure people of Hepatitis C in as little as eight (8) weeks; (6) VA DOC's "cost saving" practice of regularly feeding/serving inmates cheap soy, processed & other synthetic meats which are known by the FDA to contain carcinogens which causes various cancers if consumed on a regular (prolonged) basis; (7) VA DOC's counter-rehabilitative and "cost-saving" practice of not providing practical up-to-date technology-based educational & career programs. VA DOC's current educational & career programs are like relics of the

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Emergency Contact #2 Name (friend or family on the outside) _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____ and Email _____

May we contact your emergency person regarding local prisoner support efforts? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to remain a member of the IWW? Yes _____ No _____ I need more information _____

Have you received a new member packet? (You should have received the Constitution and One Big Union)

Yes _____ No _____ I don't know, send me one if I am a member _____

If you have an organization that you would like to have listed on our web site as a supporter of IWW/IWOC,



please state the name of the organization _____ and your

position in it _____ and we will list it on our supporters page.

Comments: _____



The Free Virginia Movement continued

past when compared to programs offered to American citizens out in society. VA prisons must move towards a technological educational & career programming system, and to not do so, is a disservice to VA inmates and the communities we'll eventually return to. Therefore, educational & career (vocational) training must be up-to-date and resemble as closely as possible that of education & career (vocational) training offered to the average American citizen so as to prepare inmates for the conditions of normal occupational life.

Why the Free Virginia Movement Violent Offender Incarceration & Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grants and the birth of the Abolition of Parole (85%) Law in Virginia

A federally law known as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 included a provision called the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing incentive grants (VOITIS) which provided grants (funding) to state and local correctional systems to expand their capacity to incarcerate violent offenders and to impose longer and more determinate sentences. VOITIS, codified into federal law as Title 42 US Code Sections 13701, 13702, 13703, and 13704, was sponsored and introduced into the US Congress by former Representative Jack Brooks (TX-9) and signed into law the following year by then-President Bill Clinton. Before states could qualify for VOITIS grants, they were required to pass (adopt) Truth-in-Sentencing legislation which effectively abolished parole and mandated prisoners convicted of a class 1 felony to "serve not less than 85 percent of the sentence imposed..." (Title 42 US Code Section 13704).

Lacking the funds necessary to build more prisons to account for its expanding prison



population, VOITIS provided Virginia with the inspiration to abolish parole for crimes committed on or after January 1, 1995. This legislation (House Bill No. 5001) was sponsored and introduced into the 1994 General Assembly Session by then-Republican Governor Allen during the 1994 Special Session. It must be noted that this legislation was heavily favored by the democrats who controlled both the House and the Senate in 1994.

House Bill No. 5001 was codified into law as Virginia Code Annotated (V.A. Code) Section 53.1-165.1. Consequently, the amount of good time prisoners could earn to reduce their period of incarceration for good behavior was reduced from a maximum of thirty days credit for each thirty days served per V.A. Code 531.1-201 (before parole was abolished) to a maximum of four and one-half days credits for each thirty days served under V.A. Code 53.1-202 (after parole was abolished). Prior to the abolition of parole and dramatic reduction in good time credits, Virginia's prison population was approximately 18,000. As of 2013, the prison population had ballooned to almost 40,000.

Between 1996 and 1998, twenty-eight states that enacted truth-in-sentencing legislation collectively received over \$680 million in VOITIS grants, according to the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

Fifteen out of twenty-seven states that

received VOITIS grants in 1997 indicated that these grants were either a key or partial factor (motivation) in their enactment of truth-in-sentencing legislation which required prisoners to serve 85% of their sentences, including Virginia.

Between 1996 and 1998, Virginia alone received a total of \$11,201,786 in VOITIS grants which partly funded the construction of two maximum- and two super-maximum-security prisons: Sussex-1 State Prison, Sussex-2 State Prison, Red Onion State Prison, and Wallens Ridge State Prison. All four of these "state-of-the-art" prisons began accepting warm bodies in 1997 and 1998, many of them contracted from out of state.

Because of tough-on-crime policies like Three Strikes, Mandatory Minimums, Truth-in-Sentencing, and the Abolition of Parole, the overall U.S. prison population has increased 700% between 1970 and 2010. As a result, the U.S. now holds the distinction of having the largest prison population (2.5 million) in the world.

In Virginia, African-Americans make up only 20% of the state population, but 60% of the prison population, and almost all prisoners come from poor or working-class communities.

Tough-on-crime policies like those mentioned above represents a gross social and racial injustice embedded within America's

continued on page 17

We Must Leave the Crops in the Feild continued

We have an opportunity to demand fair and up to date education and rehabilitative programs with certificates that are valued in the larger society: enabling us to get out and make positive and constructive transitions into our communities. We have an opportunity to be provided decent and nutritious meals that will not only be healthy, but will taste like something meant for human consumption. If slaves, during chattel slavery, were provided with 5,000 calories a day for their labor, how is it that the “inmate worker” can’t be provided 3,000 calories per day for his labor? We have an opportunity to be seen and treated as human being and demand that the code of regulations, policies, and the law recognize that Incarcerated Lives Matter! This recognition should not be more lip service or written as a parchment barrier with no weight of law; but should be exacting in its consequences of fines, penalties, and termination for any peace officer, counselor, warden, or employee found to allow or perpetrate violence upon any member of the prisoner class; violence as defined from the following perspective: “Any situation in which ‘A’ (the prison industrial complex) objectively exploits ‘B’ (the prisoner class) or hinders his and her pursuit of self affirmation as a responsible person is one of oppression. Such a situation in itself constitutes violence, even when sweetened by false generosity, because it interferes with the individuals’ ontological and historical vocation to be more fully human. With the establishment

of a relationship of oppression, violence has already begun. Violence is initiated by those who oppress, who exploit, who fail to recognize others as persons (Incarcerated Lives Matter!)” –Freire

The struggle begins with men’s recognition that they have been destroyed. The “inmate worker” through neglect of confronting his value-has destroyed himself by engaging in work that deprives him of his vocation to be more fully human, and instead keeps him in the category of a domesticated dependant.

We have an opportunity to confront ourselves realistically, to have a stake in a real opportunity for freedom. We have an opportunity to measure our value by putting down the hoe, putting down the broom, by putting down the domesticated labor and picking up the labor of our humanity. We must leave the crops in the Field! The only way we can have an impact the system is to make their oppression of us a financial burden that diminishes their profits rather than increases them. One month of lost “inmate labor” throughout CCA/CDCR alone will cost them over 3 million dollars; due to them having to either contract with outside laborers, pay and fill positions utilizing Cos, teachers, and whoever other staff to do the work.

I am calling for the organization of a work labor strike of all prisoners, in all job positions; don’t fight fires, don’t report to education, kitchen, yard crew, porters,

painters, clerks, plumbers, etc. If they use profits from your labor to write laws to keep you in prison, what does it profit you to work for them? If they intend for you to rot away in the cell then let their crops rot away in the fields! If they cannot see you, they will not free you... Make them see the value of your labor by putting away your labor-at least for two weeks, or until they raise the inmate pay for a fair wage according to the value of the work they see fit...

In Solidarity We Stand,
Anthony Robinson Jr.
#276046

TUCSON C.I.
ASPC-T SANTA RITA Unit
10000 South Wilmot
Tucson, AZ 85734

Editor’s note: Anthony if you read this I hope I got your address right. I lost your original envelope with your current address on it when I moved out of Akron, OH. Please feel free to contact me with any corrections and thanks for the fantastic essays!

2ed Note: Anthony is the author of both “The New Underground Railroad Movement” and “We Must Leave The Crops In The Field”, both featured in this issue of “The Incarcerated Worker”. He is also the author of “Incarcerated Tears Book of Poems Vol.1”.



The New Underground Railroad *continued*

conditions and the fact that we aren’t doing anything about it. Giving money to a lawyer is a pipedream. Being a mental slave to ignorance, which causes one to be dependent upon a lawyer or a judge to administer justice for a constitutional violation is hype.

-To promote and develop the understanding that it is counter-productive to rehabilitative efforts to continue to label prisoners according to their crime ten, fifteen, twenty years later; and that there should be some up to date process to measure a prisoners rehabilitation or lack thereof.

-To promote and develop a Prisoners Bill of Rights wherein Education, Re-Entry Preparedness, and Rehabilitation are the priority-not free labor. These systems can’t function without our labor.

When we take our labor back, only then will prisoners get back to the corrections and Rehabilitation that we deserve.

We Believe: The premise of the prison system and inherent promise to the people of society is that there will be a viable program and effort to rehabilitate those incarcerated individuals and enable them to re-integrate into society in productive ways. We Believe: That prisons have become “profit motive” institutions which warehouse prisoners as “investments” and through a lack of rehabilitation ensures a return on their investment through high recidivism rates.

We Believe: “The lawmaker comes to need the outlaw, and in needing him, he creates him.” The people can’t rely on those who

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The Free Virginia Movement continued

system of legal jurisprudence, and working-class are left to foot the bill for mass incarceration.

Economic Impact
As of 2014, the VA Dept. of (In) Corrections' annual operating budget has grown to over \$1 billion, which is paid with tax dollars, as well as with capital generated from the cheap slave labor of prisoners who toil in Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE)-operated sweatshops, disciplinary fines, kickbacks from Keefe Commissary Group, Global Tel Link, JPay, etc., and interests gained from inmate Savings Accounts.

It costs almost \$30,000 a year to keep long-term, rehabilitated prisoners locked up for crimes we committed in our youth.

A question that we want answered is: If Virginia stopped receiving VOITIS grants in 2007, and VOITIS grants were a key (or partial) factor in Virginia's decision to abolish parole and implement Truth-in-Sentencing laws, why are prisoners convicted and sentenced under the so-called "no parole" (85%) law still required to serve 85% of our sentences?

The abolition of parole has not prevented, reduced, or deterred crime any more than it did prior to 1995 but has succeeded only in increasing the prison population and the VA Dept. of (In) Corrections' annual budget to one of the highest in the country, while confining long-term, rehabilitated prisoners for decades with no realistic opportunity for release.

On June 24, 2015, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe sought to correct these problems when he signed Executive Order #44, creating the Parole Review Commission to "address five significant priorities related to Parole Reform:"

Conduct a Review of Previous Goals and Subsequent Outcomes. The Commission



shall review whether abolishing parole achieved the intended goals of preventing new felony offenses, reducing crime, and reducing recidivism. The Commission's analysis shall include, at a minimum, a qualitative analysis of pre- and post-1995 trends in crime rates, incarceration rates, sentence lengths, and recidivism rates. Examine the Cost of Parole Reform/Abolition. The Commission shall conduct an analysis of the fiscal impact abolishing parole has had on the Commonwealth, as well as an analysis of the societal costs on communities and families from longer incarceration.

Evaluate the Best Practices of Other States. The Commission shall research and evaluate what policies and practices have proven successful or unsuccessful in other states, and explore the application of the most successful approaches in the Commonwealth.

Recommend Other Mediation Strategies. The Commission shall examine what

other approaches could be used to achieve similar results in terms of preventing new felony offenses, reducing crime, and reducing recidivism. Virginia must pursue cost-saving, evidence-based, and multifaceted approaches to reducing crime while also improving outcomes for offenders, families, and communities.

Provide Recommendations to Address Public Safety Challenges. The Commission shall provide its recommendations on how Virginia may best position itself to address the public safety challenges resulting from changes to parole. These final recommendations shall include any proposed legislative or executive branch necessary, as well as any potential private sector engagement.

Per this Executive Order, the Commission was required to provide an interim report to Governor McAuliffe no later than November 2, 2015, with a final report due by

The Free Virginia Movement *continued*

December 4, 2015.

Seeing that several public meetings were held by the Commission where the ideas, opinions, and concerns of families and friends of prisons and other concerned citizens in favor of parole reinstatement/reform repeatedly fell on the deaf ears of Commission members; Seeing that the Commission has recommended not to reinstate parole because state Republicans who appointed the Commission were openly hostile to the idea of parole reinstatement and have vowed that parole will never be reinstated so long as they (Republicans) constitute the majority in the Virginia General Assembly; Seeing that Republicans will constitute the majority in the Virginia General Assembly for the foreseeable future; And as a result, seeing that mass incarceration, overcrowded and understaffed prisons, draconian truth-in-sentencing sentences, no parole, long-term incarceration with no realistic chance of release, cutbacks to rehabilitative programs, and VA Dept. of (In)Corrections' policies and procedures which aggravate the suffering inherent in our incarceration will persist, it is time we unite and organize peacefully and non-violently inside of these prisons to bring about substantive change via boycotts, sit-downs, and/or work/hunger strikes. WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS!

Sept 9, 2016 ~ Get Ready



ATTENTION MAIL ROOM: CASE CITATIONS

i, *Reagan v. Time, Inc.*, 468 U.S. 641, 648-49, 104 SCt 3262 (1984). “[T]he fact that society may find speech offensive is not sufficient reason for suppressing it. Indeed, if it is the speakers’ opinion that gives offense, that consequence is a reason for according it constitutional protection.” *Hustler Magazine, Inc v. Falwell*, 495 US 45, 46, 108 SCt 876, 882. The government may not prohibit the expres-

sion of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable, *U.S. v. Eichman*, 496 US 310, 319, 110 SCt 2404 (1990). “[A]bove all else, the First Amendment means that government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, its ideas, its subject matter, or its content.” *Police Dept. of Chicago v. Mosley*, 408 US 92, 95, 92 SCt 2286, 2290 (1972).
ii, *Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners Labor Union*, 433 US 119,97 SCt 2532

(1977)
iii, *Pell v. Procunier*, 417 US 817, 822, 94 Set 2800, 2804 (1974)
iv, *Turner v. Safely*, 482 US 78, 107 SCt 2245 (1987)
v, *Turner*, supra
vi, *Turner*, supra
vii, *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 US 563, 573, 88 SCt 1731 (1968).
viii, *Abu-Jamal v. Price*, 154 F3d 128 (3rd Cir., 1998); *X v. Blatter*, 175 F3d 378 (6th Cir. 1999)



The New Underground Railroad *continued*

create laws to undermine their power structure by truly rehabilitating prisoners.

We Believe: The people in society, and especially impoverished communities, have a right and obligation to demand that congress, and elected officials hold prisons accountable for lack of rehabilitation and high recidivism rates; through regulations, fines, and budget cuts for prisons whose policies and character displays a lack of programs and results.

We Believe: That the recycled criminality going in and out of prisons through lack of rehabilitation serves political agendas: and election opportunities for politicians, but victimizes the community and those incarcerated by dehumanizing and devaluing prisoners to reintegrate into society in productive ways.

We Believe: That the incarceration of blacks and minorities has reached such extreme levels that a prison sentence/felon label poses a much greater threat to urban families than crime itself.

We Believe: That under “ Strategic Release” prisoners should be granted parole, pardon, or clemency based on the positive impact they have had on their community and society during their incarceration-and the even greater positive impact they will have on society as a whole if released.

We Believe: that prison should be invested in social restitution programs where prisoners can provide direct restorative justice to the people and communities wronged by their past transgressions.

We Believe: Today’s prisons have undermined and dismantled social, vocational, and educational opportunities; creating a nihilism and double incarceration for those released from prison and it will take the organized efforts of us all to change this system. The New Underground Railroad Movement

How You Can Help:

Groups: If you are an organization/group Or social movement working on behalf of prisoners Rights in any way: you can help by developing a dialogue with prisoners organizing in your area to set up a curriculum around the work you are already doing, developing an inside/outside Think Tank and Board Of Execution to come up with strategies and material to develop awareness on the inside/outside. You can also set up a page advertising prisoners’ grassroots movements from the inside and a donations or how you can help link from your website.

Prisoners: If you are doing time in a prison or county jail then your role is pivotal! Your feet are already planted in the grass of this grassroots movement. We need you to understand your value in terms of social change organizing. You must develop the courage to see, speak, and hear the truth; creativity to chart the needed often unseen course; and compassion for ourselves and Our companions along the way. You must organize around your labor value and class consciousness utilizing our value of labor to the system as a collective bargaining chip via work/labor strikes to demand a restructuring of

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The New Underground Railroad
continued

the prison system. "We are the ones We've been waiting for!"

Individuals: As was done with the slaves, American prisoners are projected to the public as objects of suspicion, fear, ridicule and hate. This is done to psychologically reinforce racial bribes, stereotypes, and biases that create barriers to the recognition of prisoners' humanity. The first step for many of you will be to re-evaluate your perspective on crime and punishment and your superstitious beliefs in the justice system, determining what psychic adjustments or hallucinations you have made to accept a system more devastating than apartheid. The New Underground Railroad Movement Questionnaire will assist you in revealing any biases that may be reinforcing your subconscious support of the system. Answer the questions openly, honestly, and observantly-watching for any insights that may spring up. And once your conscience begins to demand a better vision for this country, contact us with how you are willing to help.

"I still believe that freedom is the bonus you receive for telling the Truth."-Martin Luther King Jr.

Contact Director/Coordinator: The New Underground Railroad Movement Mr. Anthony Robinson Jr. cP-67144 T.C.C.F. MC-67 415 US HWY 49 NORTH Tutwiler. MS 38963

The New Underground Railroad Movement Questionnaire

We must discuss and debate how the system of mass incarceration actually works (as opposed to how it is advertised) so that our discussions about how best to respond can be grounded in fact, not popular myth. We must be willing to search for the truth and admit the truth-about ourselves, our own biases, stereotypes, and misconceptions, and the ways in which we might actually be part



Native American

of the problem. If we muster the courage to face the truth about ourselves, our history, and our present, we have reason to hope for a radically better future.-The New Jim Crow-Call to Action

This questionnaire allows the reader to address themselves and their perspectives (biases, misconceptions, stereotypes) on mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex and face the truth about what role you are playing in the

institutionalization of mass incarceration.

- 1) True or False: There are more people incarcerated in America today than there were at the height of apartheid in south Africa?
- 2) Statistics show which crimes to be more damaging to society as a whole: property crime committed by the poor or white collar crime committed by the rich?
- 3) 70% of all crimes in America are committed by which group?
- 4) Since the 1985, what is the ratio of prisons to colleges California has built?
- 5) Approximately how much or what percent of labor/goods of the GDP in America comes from prison manufactured goods?
- 6) Should employers and housing officials ever have the right to discriminate against people with criminal records?
- 7) Did you know that the U.S. military dictates that contracts for cheap labor are sought in prisons first before society?
- 8) What impact has this tentacle of the prison industrial complex had on the free labor market in communities?
- 9) In order to finance the WWII Hitler insured soldiers, then insured prisoners and created reasons/laws to incarcerate as many people as he could; today the U.S. has adopted Hitler's pattern of bonding/insuring prisoners and locking up more people than any other country in the world. How is criminal justice being served by trading prisoners bonds and selling them as mutual funds on the stock market?
- 10) The National statistic is that 3 out of 5 African American men are in prison, on their way to prison, or have been to prison; what does it reveal about the makeup of society when a statistic predicts sending citizens to prisons?



the INCARCERATED WORKER

ATTENTION MAIL ROOM!!!

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects free speech.

Regulations that permit the government or its employees to discriminate on the basis of the content of the message cannot be tolerated under the First Amendment (i).

Further, prisoners retain free speech rights. Thought control, by means of prohibiting beliefs, would not only be undesirable but impossible (ii). Fact of confinement and needs of the penal institution impose rational limitations on prisoner free speech rights (iii), but those restrictions must have a "valid, rational connection" to "legitimate penological interests" not related to the content of ideas (iv). Regulations and practices can only be justified when the practice "furthers an important or substantial government interest unrelated to the suppression of expression" (v).

This means you cannot legally suppress the expression of ideas. Prison walls do not serve to form a barrier separating prisoners from the protections of the constitution (vi). Core political speech is most-zealously guarded and there is a public interest "in having free and unhindered debate on matters of public importance--the core value of the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment" (vii).

Thus, exclusion of printed material on the basis of its political perspective amounts to free speech retaliation and discrimination, which is illegal (viii).

If you exclude printed material for an unlawful basis, or if you simply conjure up a false pretext for its exclusion, you have broken the law. The prisoner recipient of this mail has cause for bringing a civil rights action against you and has cause

for gaining punitive damages--which means money. You and everyone who permits this action, from your supervisor to the director of the prison system, may be named in those civil actions, and you may also be subject to termination from your employment. Because this primer is included in this mailing, you will not be able to claim you did not know your actions were illegal.

For these reasons, we ask that you conform to federal law and refrain from unlawful discrimination against the enclosed materials, permitting mail service of this literature that objectively meets all legitimate criteria set forth in prison regulations.



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September 9th, 2016!! September 9th, 2016!! September 9th, 2016!! September 9th, 2016!! Get ready!!

