

SOLID BLACK FIST

Across the wires! Freedom Fighters news!



Issue 1

T

he 13th Amendment to the Constitution declared that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Letter from the Editor

Brothers and Sisters,

17 states to date, that is how many states we have confirmed will be participating in the National Prison strike this year beginning August 21 – September 9. We are striking in response to preventable violence that occurred as a result of administrative negligence in South Carolina's Lee County Prison. Many mainstream media outlets will do their best to downplay the intensity of this strike so we will keep a record of our own progress as evidence of our actions. In this newsletter we will update participants and advocates as well as foster a community of those who are passionate about seeing a transformative change in this county's criminal justice system through the shifting of political power into the hands of the incarcerated and formally incarcerated individuals whose lives depend on that change. Our committee has a desire for every participant and advocate to know that they are not alone in their fight for freedom. There are people, groups, organizations, businesses and even entire regions of states behind you. Now is the time to strike hard while the world is watching and we are with you. Across the wires we bring you freedom fighter news.

In solidarity,
Amani Sawari (@SawariMi)

Inside this Issue:

- Letter from the Editor (1)
- Announcement & National Demands (2)
- Moral Militancy (3)
- Rallies on Malcolm X's Birthday Highlight Conditions in Prison (5)
- Prison Strike Message Floated Over Lakefront with Helium Balloons (9)
- Endorsements from Organizations in Solidarity (10)
- Reader Submission Info (p.11)



Announcement & National Demands

May 2018 | www.sawarimi.org

Men and women incarcerated in prisons across the nation [declare](#) a nationwide strike in response to the riot in Lee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in South Carolina. Seven comrades lost their lives during a senseless uprising that could have been avoided had the prison not been so overcrowded from the greed wrought by mass incarceration, and a lack of respect for human life that is embedded in our nation's penal ideology. These men and women are demanding humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform and the end of modern day slavery.

These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
4. The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
10. The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

We all agree to spread this strike throughout the prisons of AmeriSS\$a! From August 21st to September 9th, 2018, men and women in prisons across the nation will strike in the following manner:

1. Work Strikes: Prisoners will not report to assigned jobs. Each place of detention will determine how long its strike will last. Some of these strikes may translate into a local list of demands designed to improve conditions and reduce harm within the prison.
2. Sit-ins : In certain prisons, men and women will engage in peaceful sit – in protests.
3. Boycotts: All spending should be halted. We ask those outside the walls not to make financial judgments for those inside. Men and women on the inside will inform you if they are participating in this boycott.
4. Hunger Strikes: Men and women shall refuse to eat.

We support the call of Free Alabama Movement Campaign to "Redistribute the Pain" 2018 as Bennu Hannibal Ra – Sun, formerly known as Melvin Ray has laid out (with the exception of refusing visitation). See these principles described here:

<https://redistributethepain.wordpress.com/>

How You Can Help

Make the nation take a look at our demands. Demand action on our demands by contacting your local, state, and federal political representatives with these demands. Ask them where they stand.

Spread the strike and word of the strike in every place of detention.

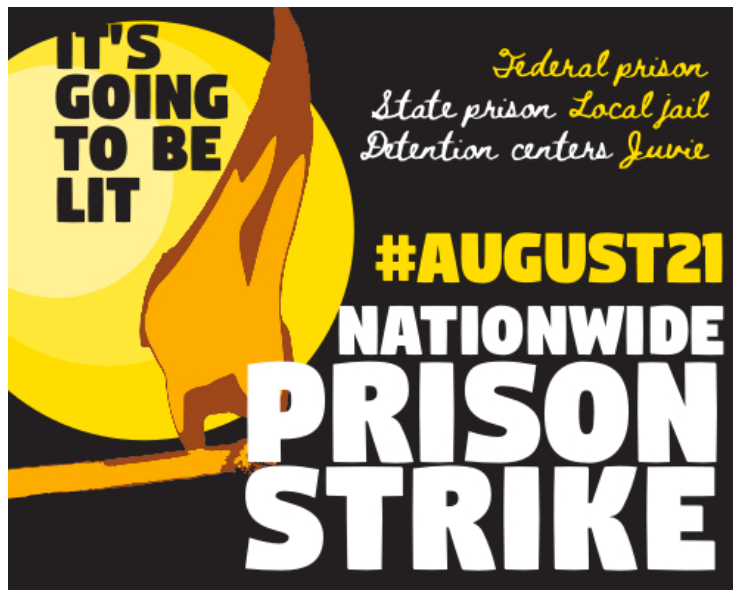
Contact a supporting local organization to see how you can be supportive. If you are unsure of who to connect with, email millionsforprisonersmarch@gmail.com

Be prepared by making contact with people in prison, family members of prisoners, and prisoner support organizations in your state to assist in notifying the public and media on strike conditions.

Assist in our announced initiatives to have the votes of people in jail and prison counted in elections.

For the Media: Inquiries should be directed to

prisonstrikemedia@gmail.com



JLS Speaks, Stop Dehumanization Business and Abolish ICE

Solidarity with those detained (children women and men) by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the families you are forcibly kept from. You are held in those for-profit gulags, whose names are to maintain a rotten nationalist-racist-capitalistic social order. The August 21st National prison strikes called for strikes and boycotts in and against those so called immigration detentions for reason, to acknowledge for the world that our struggles are not separate.

The prison industrial slave complex is a massive dehumanization business. With the ongoing rages against the detentions, we now feel justified in our call for National strikes and outside protests against these places (immigration, federal, state, and jails) that for the most part are warehouses of human bodies.

Those occupying the so-called immigration detentions must not allow a small concession by a policy change to make you go away. You hold the keys to change. A full demand to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement should be the only resolution on the table. Otherwise the same problems will persist. Strike now and strike hard while the momentum is going. August 21, thousands of prisoners in other places of detention will be joining at all costs. We will keep the beam on the so-called immigration enforcement.

No let up.

Educate, organize, mobilize! Resist!

Abolish ice!"

-Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

Moral Militancy

By Devon J. Crawford, Anthony Davis, Jr., and Stephen A. Green
June 2018 | www.stephenagreen.com



We are called to action because we are deeply disturbed by the moral crisis in America that has been engendered by institutionalized racism, reckless capitalism, and the deification of the militarized state. In this era of globalization and unprecedented inequality, the citizens of this country – many of whom are members of the denominations and faith communities we serve – have lost gainful employment and have not been trained for the emerging digital economy. Instead, coy politicians promise that obsolete factory jobs and manufacturing industries – which pillage our natural resources and erode our ecosystem – will be revitalized. In this moment, following the historic presidency of Barack Hussein Obama, we have seen the evils of racism, sexism, misogyny, xenophobia, and white supremacy on full display in colleges, universities, commercial airliners, political rallies, public parks, neighborhoods, and across the expanse of our national and international community. In this moment, we are witnessing the legacy of slavery perpetuated in the prison industrial complex. In this moment, the Black Church is witnessing the insufficiency of the prosperity gospel to speak to the tragedy of state sanctioned murder and government malfeasance. The moral crisis in America has its roots in the problems of race, power, and imperialism that have plagued our country since 1619 when Africans were violently imported into America as chattel.

As millennial ministers, thought leaders, activists, and scholars, we recognize our responsibility to challenge the moral failures of America and inaugurate radical revolution of values. In his speech “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence,” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that a revolution of values requires an ecumenical loyalty to humankind, not things. A revolution of values requires us to work to eradicate poverty by raising the minimum wage, rebuilding our national infrastructure, harnessing clean energy to power our cities, and massively training a new generation of entrepreneurs in the digital economy. A revolution of values does not demonize differences in race, class, culture, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Instead, we embrace difference knowing that the greatest innovations in our country have been produced by those who are different

from the status quo and dominant class. Further, we embrace difference because we cannot have peace with God if we do not have peace with God's people. We cannot be who we ought to be as long as the boundaries of race, class, culture, religion, gender, and sexual orientation continue to segregate our communities. Therefore, given the historic implications of this moment, we commit to embody a practical theology of courageous action, which harnesses the power of love and soul force, to fight the triplet evils of racism, capitalism, and war. This theology – steeped in the philosophy and social ethics of nonviolence– speaks to the mood of Black people who seek to connect courageous action to their theological commitments. This theology compels us to become discontent by the inadequacy of existing political, social, economic, and religious institutions that devalue Black humanity. Furthermore, a practical theology of courageous action compels us to practice radical nonviolent direct action, moral militancy. In a society that is drunk on violence and war, nonviolent direct action must be the means of establishing a new economic, political, theological, and social order grounded in love and justice. The humanity in our movements and campaigns will expose the inhumanity of the criminal justice, health care, judicial, immigration, and economic systems in America. Our call is rooted in Jesus' prophetic mandate found in Luke 4:18 to preach Good News to poor people, set the prisoners free, give sight to the blind, heal the heartbroken, and proclaim the year of God's freedom.

We pledge our minds, bodies, and souls to support organizers in America and across the African Diaspora who are engaged in the current movement for Black freedom and liberation. The Movement for Black Lives -- a movement started by Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, and Patrisse Cullors -- is a contemporary iteration of the Black Freedom Movement. This is a movement for rights, dignity, and privileges that have been imperiled by a presidential administration that seeks to "end the administrative state" and abandon its responsibility to the least of these. If a society's greatness must be judged based on its treatment of the most vulnerable, then America must provide equitable provisions and protections for its poor, unemployed, and uninsured citizens before it can claim greatness. The Movement for Black Lives calls America to consciousness – in other words, to #StayWoke – of the generational evils present in institutions and individuals.


Rallies on Malcolm X's Birthday Highlight Conditions in Prison

June 2018 | www.itsgoingdown.org



The following report back discusses demonstrations that occurred on May 19th, the birthday of Malcolm X, which brought attention to horrific conditions in prisons across the US.

On May 19th, 2018, people from over a dozen organizations converged on the grounds of MCI-Norfolk in the pouring rain, where Malcolm X was incarcerated between 1946-1952. This day would have been Malcolm X's



93rd birthday and saw multiple protests at prisons across the country to honor his legacy, including a protest at Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina.

The MCI-Norfolk rally was organized in response to new visitation restriction policies, new tariffs on families sending money to loved ones and the ongoing water crisis in the Massachusetts prisons. This confluence of oppressive new policies, as well as deliberate indifference to the suffering of prisoners inside has brought together multiple generations of activists in a renewed focus on prisoner rights.

It is worth noting that in advance of the rally, hours after the event page was posted to social media, several prisoners within the MA DOC were called into security offices and grilled for information about the [rally](#), as a massive phone zap campaign began for prisoners being held in solitary or not receiving adequate medical care and information on the [#DeeperThanWater campaign](#). While many were concerned about the ramifications, just as many were determined that despite state intimidation, the prison system must not be able to dictate the terms of dissent.

Background: New Policies and Fees

In late March, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections (MA DOC) implemented a new policy that limited prisoners using a pre-approved list of only 8 people that they would be able to see for the subsequent six months. At maximum security prisons the number is as low as 5. Under this new policy, large families who brought members from out of state will be turned away as will families bringing new members. This will also limit the ability of outreach and re-entry groups outside of the purview of the DOC to provide support to prisoners inside.

In response to these changes, Black and Pink National Director, Dominique Morgan, said *“What the system doesn’t say explicitly (which it should) is that the way to survive it – in its current state, is to remove your need for connection and relationship to others. Being alone gets easier when you’ve chosen to accept you are alone whether that’s true or not. That being said, what I’ve learned in a decade of reintegration to the community is that the practice of humanity – of being in relationship to others is how I’ve been able to successfully become my best self. Visitation is the representation of Love, connection and your existence which others validate by coming to see you. How do we nurture humanity in incarcerated people and reduce or eliminate their connection to the ones who love and value them the most?”*

While the new law is ostensibly aimed at curbing the dissemination of drugs through prisons, this farcical cover flies in the face of how contraband networks tend to work. Last week, a guard from MCI-Norfolk was indicted of being the source of opioids to prisoners inside. As all prisoners will tell you, guards vastly outweigh all other possible sources of contraband inside, and an attempt to pin this blame on families is more likely a cover for the advancement of the state’s deliberate attempts to cut prisoners off from their support networks.

“Building multi-billion dollar companies off of the backs of the poor and marginalized is shameful. Usually the families of incarcerated people bear this burden. The State is complicit in these monopolistic money-making schemes.” said Michael Cox, Black and Pink Boston member, *“Anyone who has been to jail knows that most of the contraband comes from corrupt guards”*

Additionally, as reported by Beryl Lipton at [MuckRock](#) and [VICE](#), this new policy comes as jails in the state have begun to experiment with completely doing away with in-person visits altogether, in favor of vastly increased pay-per-minute phone systems and new, highly expensive videoconferencing systems through third-party companies. It is not difficult to track the correlation between the exploding prison telecommunications industry and new policies that funnel money directly to them on the backs of working families. These practices have also led to [lawsuits](#), also reported by Lipton.

"Families and friends are already paying the price for their loved ones incarceration and the MA DOC is making it even more difficult for prisoners to connect with their community, support network and those who care about them," said Ayana Aubourg, organizer with Young Abolitionists, "The increased charges on money sent to people in prison exploits families and in particular women. We know that women with incarcerated loved ones carry the burden of institutional fees and other financial penalties. Both regulations are a direct attack on our communities contrary to popular belief within the MA DOC."

This Spring, the MA DOC moved away from its previous system of money orders and changed the way that families send funds to prisoners inside. The new system, which reroutes all funds through Access Corrections, extracts an enormous percentage fee, mirroring those in states like Texas and Kansas. The new system penalizes smaller deposits; a five dollar deposit would incur a 59% fee of \$2.95 if done through the website. Families without access to the internet are further penalized for doing transfers over the phone, the same five-dollar deposit would incur a \$3.95 processing fee if done over the phone. As prisons tend to do, the fees become more affordable as higher dollar amounts are deposited, although the percentage extracted from families never drops below around 6-percent. A family that can afford to send \$100 would have to pay an additional \$8, as would any dollar amount before \$200. This system vastly penalizes poor and working class families for the act of being poor, and further drives the need inside for contraband.

The Water

MCI-Norfolk is the largest prison in Massachusetts. Originally designed to house only 600, MCI-Norfolk now holds over 1,500 human beings against their will. Since 1990, the water has run from beige to black and has been the subject of lawsuits and national media attention, including an expose in the Boston Globe in June 2017. During this time, prisoners have engaged with outside organizers to provide clean drinking water via underground channels at great cost to themselves.

In typical fashion, inside organizers were subsequently thrown in solitary confinement and threatened with out of state transfers for participation. Privileges were also stripped, including access to a phone or in-person visitation. A guard recently threw one organizer into a chokehold, cutting off his air while he was shackled and thrown to the ground for helping a fellow prisoner carry a case of water to his cell. Organizers have filed a request under the state's Freedom of Information Act demanding access to training manuals that permit this particular type of force. Unsurprisingly, the DOC has refused to acknowledge receipt of this request and is currently outside of compliance with the statute's 10-day response time as required by law. A more [complete history of the water](#) can be found on the #DeeperThanWater Coalition's [website](#) (#DeeperThanWater is a coalition of local groups that has formed to take on the issue of water and health justice in the MA DOC).

TO Whom This may Concern,

I'am writing on behalf of the water that I'am forced to drink and the spoiled food I'am forced to eat here at MCI Walpole D.D.M. On [REDACTED] the water was coming out cloudy and brown and the CO.'s left us in the cells without any drinking water, also there is already [REDACTED] stuff in the water that makes it undrinkable, There has been inmates that gotten sick due to this water I myself come up with a stomach virus because of the water and the food, and [REDACTED] mines as well as others health is at risk, due to the poor water system and unhealthy food we are being served and forced to eat, we are asking and seeking change before it is to late and somebody gets a deadly virus from the things [REDACTED] we are being fed. We are being fed spoiled potatoes, none of the noddles we get served here is fresh, also the way they handle to food is unhealthy. This is a big health risk and violates my my 8, 14 Amendments. Please look into these matters and help the DOC. come up with a conclusion to these matters.

05-07-16A1044 RCVS

Thank You,

address: P.O. Box 100
5, Walpole MA, 02971 [REDACTED]



dissident poetry.
@raiseablackflag



#DeeperThanWater's @MuckRock project shows that the problem with water goes beyond MCI-Norfolk. This grievance was filed by a prisoner at MCI-Walpole to Dept. of Public Health, released under #FOIA. H. Pylori cases have also been reported on the rise. #May19 #AbolitionNow

10:12 AM - May 18, 2018



The Rally

The rally, co-sponsored by Jericho Boston, Young Abolitionists, Sisters Unchained, Stuck on Replay and Black & Pink was also joined by approximately a dozen other organizations, both local and national. The demands of the rally were to revoke the onerous new visitation restrictions across the state, repeal the fees, and immediately provide free, clean, safe, and sufficient water to all prisoners in Massachusetts.

The protest coincides with weeks of worsening water conditions inside MCI Norfolk. Prisoners report that the water has been running black and brown since May 3. Prison administrators have provided less than 4 bottles of water per prisoner each day, while dogs are given up to 6 bottles per day.

Protesters, many of whom arrived on a yellow school bus rented for the occasion, joined at Norfolk's visitor parking lot at 2:30pm, greeted by a contingent of guards, both regular and from the DOC's IPS division, responsible for internal security investigations. Also present were half a dozen squad cars and police vehicles from the Norfolk Police Department and one officer from the Massachusetts State Police. Ambiguously marked detectives were seen on the sides of the lot in plain clothes with shields around their necks.

Two officers, one with a handheld video camera and one of whom was in battle fatigues and a bulletproof vest (with his hand on his weapon the whole time) watched from the bushes behind the lot. As per usual, protesters were filmed and vehicle plates were taken. Legal observers and attorneys were on hand from the National Lawyers Guild. Previous demonstrations outside of MCI-Norfolk this past year, while substantially smaller, had been met with tactical units videotaping from multiple angles. Reporters that have tried to cover the ongoing human rights crisis have been silenced and smeared.

The rally occurred across from the administrative building where prospective visitors are required to wait to see their loved ones. In recent months, scores of family members have been turned back at this gate after long drives to deposit money or see their loved ones arbitrarily and without notice.

Auberg (quoted above) opened the rally with an overview of the problems to date, as well as the demands from the organizers. She concludes: *"..When a black man is at risk of losing his one shot of not being on life without parole anymore because his lawyer misses the deadline. Or when a grandmother is turned away from visiting her loved one at Shirley because she is unaware the the Massachusetts Department of Correction implemented a new regulation. Or when prisoners are thrown into solitary for simply trying to survive. These are all real stories untold, but they are the reason we organize spread love and fight to be free."*

As Auberg emceed the event, a variety of speakers from around the state spoke to the injustices faced by those inside and the families of those that love them. Included among them were speakers from Black Lives Matter Boston and Andrea C. James of Families for Justice as Healing spoke about the impact that these onerous new policies have on the communities most heavily impacted by the ravages of mass incarceration. Statements were shared from members inside by organizers with whom they had worked over the previous year. One speaker from Black & Pink talked about the ways in which the lockdowns initiated in response to prisoner organizing, such as that which led to the original article in the Boston Globe, were used as ground cover for the sexual assault of transgender and gender non-conforming prisoners through the use of prolonged, invasive cavity searches.

Among the speakers for the day were several former prisoners who had been held by the MA DOC and the BOP over many years. Douglas Rogers of Black & Pink shouted to the guards assembled across the street: *"I was held in solitary confinement for three years. I know what it is to not have clean drinking water. I know what it is to ask the guards for a pencil so you can write to your family. We demand that you change the policies that are inside those walls. They are human beings, not animals. Let us speak to you guards that are mistreating the less fortunate behind these walls. I hope and it's my prayer that you guys inside let you*

know that we're here, and we're not going nowhere. We don't fear, we're here and we demand that you give us justice!"

Nino Brown of Jericho Boston and the Party for Socialism and Liberation recounted how, as a public school teacher, the issue of water justice and contaminated water given to communities of color doesn't spare children, either. *"As a Boston Public School teacher, my school is only a hop skip and a jump from the water in here."*

During the apex of the rally, one prisoner who has been long targeted by the DOC for his outspokenness about the conditions inside called into the rally. Participants led a chant of Assata Shakur's [most famous quote](#), in his honor.

One former prisoner, whose case helped overturn the ability of courts to sentence juveniles to life without parole spoke powerfully to his family inside: *"I grew up inside with you. You are my family and I will not forget you,"* Greg bellowed into the microphone towards the building that houses the disciplinary segregation units. Diatchenko spent 29 years at MCI-Norfolk, during which time he acted as the head plumber.

Prior to an open-mic speakout that closed out the rally, long-time activist with the Jericho Movement and former political prisoner [Kazi Toure spoke to the crowd](#): *"This system feeds on the poor. Poor people and black and brown people. If there was people from Wellesley and Newton inside of there, they would have clean water. We know that these institutions are just here to keep poor people locked up."* Turning to police gathered across the street, Kazi continued *"But you know, they don't got to worry about that. Because we're growing. We're going to get bigger. We're going to reunite all these groups, and the families. And we're coming for you."*

#DeeperThanWater

Reportback from Milwaukee: Prison Strike Banner Float

By Its Going Down

July 6, 2018 | <http://itsgoingdown.org>



Report from Milwaukee about an action to spread awareness about the August 21st prison strike.

This is a report back from local abolitionists in Milwaukee organizing support for the upcoming national prison strike. Before we get into our action, let's remind ourselves of the context this action takes place in. Those of us in the so-called United States learned in school that slavery was abolished in the 1860s. Some of us grow up to learn that the truth is far more insidious. The 13th amendment, which "abolished" slavery, states that slavery shall not exist "except as punishment for a crime." Slavery wasn't abolished, it was reformed. Prisoners are forced to work for little to no money, while the prison industrial complex makes a few powerful people extremely wealthy. Prisoners have been protesting against conditions and forced labor across the

country and the state, but their plight is ignored because it occurs in the isolation of confinement. Prisoner organizers have called for a strike action from August 21st until September 9th of 2018. They issued a list of ten demands, including voting rights for prisoners, ending slavery in all its forms, and sentencing & conditions reform that “recognize[s] the humanity of imprisoned men and women.” Prisoner organizers choose August 21- September 9 because those dates memorialize a period of struggle from 1971 that started with George Jackson’s assassination in Soledad Prison and ended with the Attica Uprising.

Milwaukee’s 53206 zip code has the highest incarceration rate for black men in the world. Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in the so-called United States. The demands of the organizers in prison who called for the strike coincide with the work of local abolitionists here, and when these demands are met, they will greatly improve the lives of community members targeted by the prison system. This is why we have decided to support the prison strike.

While this action was entirely legal and fairly low risk, we chose to organize in an affinity group model. Individuals in our group have a variety of organizational affiliations, but we came together with a common goal and an understanding of security culture built around consent and mutual respect. These informal groups build our capacity for future organizing and build our own experiences. We also had a lot of fun. For those who want to learn more about the affinity group model, see <https://plainwordsbloomington.noblogs.org/post/2017/06/02/an-introduction-to-the-affinity-group/>

We seek to organize mass support of the upcoming prison strike from individuals, affinity groups, and local organizations. To this end we have called for general assemblies, the first of which will be July 9 and July 18 at 5:30PM in Garden Park at the corner of Locust and Bremen in Milwaukee. These assemblies will serve to bring individuals, affinity groups, and organizations together to share ideas and build support. We claim no authority over others and no authority will be vested in these assemblies – while we hope to find common ground that we all can use to organize support for the organizers in prison, we also support and celebrate a diversity of tactics. We call on all anarchists, abolitionists, and people who seek to abolish slavery to organize support of the upcoming strike.

You may be asking yourself “Why Balloons?” There are a couple of reasons. In planning this action, we started with the goal of building awareness and inviting the community to our general assembly. Our strategy was to do so in a way that would draw a lot of attention. Large numbers of people from impacted communities come to the lakefront for the 4th of July, these were the people we found it strategic to reach. The tactic of floating our message and walking with it was chosen for two reasons. One was that it allowed us to pass out fliers and talk to people. This is, after all, the most important part of organizing. The second reason was that it was fun. Our society seeks to oppress us at every turn and the emotional toll of organizing against oppression can drive even the most dedicated to burnout, so we believe that we should find creative ways to enjoy the work we do. This keeps our movement sustainable, creative, and gives us some good laughs.

The banner was twenty feet in length. We taped together a series of wooden dowels across the top to keep it from folding in the wind. Unfortunately, this structure was not quite rigid enough, so we recommend anyone considering a similar action to make sure the top of the banner is sufficiently rigid. With some adjustments to balloon placement, we were able to keep our banner readable. We floated it at one end of the beach, 25 feet off the ground, and walked along the beach.

Balloons of this size are difficult to find on short notice before a holiday, so our color choices were limited. If you want to do this with e.g. red and black balloons, be sure to order them in advance!

Walking along the beach, we talked to hundreds of people about the upcoming strike. Many were already on board with the idea that the carceral system serves as modern day slavery, but had never thought there was anything they could do about it. This tends to be a theme in our organizing. Affected people know the problems are there, it is not a problem of awareness. The problem is that people have been conditioned to believe there is nothing they can do about it. This is where our work as anarchists begins.

At the south end of the beach was the Milwaukee Police Department’s mobile command center. They take over a parking lot between the beach and another park for holidays, setting up a temporary base of operations while they harass the citizens on the beach. We anticipated more resistance from the police than we got, but luckily the community had organized large numbers of decentralized cop-watchers and the pigs knew they were there. Every time they came near us, bystanders who we didn’t even know walked over and started filming. We set up just North of the cops for about an hour, telling people about the strike, and they just stared at us unable to do anything about it. All of us walked away safely. The banner was tied down to a volleyball net on the beach and stayed there for hours. We came back later and took it down (might as well use it again). We handed out the giant balloons to kids on the beach. If you have never given a child a comically sized helium balloon before, I highly recommend it. I’m not sure it’s possible to see a person happier than a child with a giant balloon.

Unfortunately, actions like this one are expensive to implement. Since we are still waiting for that imaginary check from George Soros, we are asking for donations to help us cover the cost of this action and support the next one. Money can be sent by paypal to insurgent.ben@gmail.com.

We conclude this report back by reminding everyone of the call for general assemblies on July 9 and July 18, at 5:30 PM in Garden Park – at the corner of Locust and Bremen in the Riverwest neighborhood. We also call on people in all cities to take action in support of the strike. As we demonstrated here – you can take actions that generate a lot of support, and have quite a bit of fun doing it. Get creative! Where can you get a banner to? What billboards can you improve? What could your affinity group do with some wheatpaste?

In solidarity,
Some anarchists from Milwaukee.

Endorsements from Organizations in Solidarity

[New Abolitionists Radio- North Carolina](#)

Prison Abolitionists of Nassau Inciting Change (PANIC) - National
Millions for Prisoners - National

[The American Party of Labor - MO](#)

Animal Liberation Prisoner Support- Toronto
FREE THE LAMB MINISTRIES INC - FL
UVa Students United - Charlottesville, VA
Rethink - LA

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) - National
Michigan Abolition and Prisoner Solidarity (MAPS) - MI
Libertarian Socialist Caucus of the Democratic Socialists of America - National
DSA Central Brooklyn Chapter - NY

[ABO Comix- CA](#)

[The People's Consortium - GA](#)

Millions for Prisoners New Mexico Chapter - NM

[FreeAnons Society - FL](#)

Cotton Correctional Facility - Detroit, MI

[Enough Is Enough - Rochester, NY](#)

[Boston DSA - Boston, MA](#)

DC Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (DC IWOC) - Washington D.C.

Bay Area National Prison Strike Solidarity Committee - San Francisco, CA

[California Prison Focus - Oakland, CA](#)

Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement- New York City, NY/National

People and Power Assembly (PPA) Queens - New York City, NY

[Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign - National](#)

National Brown Berets – CA

GR Rapid Response to ICE - Grand Rapids, MI

Additional Organizations can register and provide their endorsement online at <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>

Submission Info: In addition to publishing content raising awareness about the strike and providing updates on demonstration progress, the Solid Black Fist Newsletter also accepts work from prisoners in the form of articles, art and poetry. This demonstration and its campaigns are about you and some of our most meaningful contributions come from the inside. We also accept submissions from friends and family members of prisoners. For readers interested in submitting their work: typed and printed can be sent to the return address or emailed to <prisonstrikemedia@gmail.com>; carbon copy: <amanisawari@gmail.com> Submissions should be marked Attn: Official Site: <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>

Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.
4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.
5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.
6. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.
7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.
8. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labor market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.
9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.
10. With the participation and help of the community and social institutions, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favorable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.
11. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.

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