

End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

By Keith 'Malik' Washington, Deputy Chairman, New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter), Texas Region

Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything but cry over their condition. But when they get mad, they bring about change.
– Malcolm X

Revolutionary Greetings!

In Texas we know that we are being exploited, mistreated, degraded, and abused. Many prisoners in Texas are content with the modern day slave plantation system which is managed and operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. However, many prisoners are not content; in fact they are frustrated and angry. The strategies utilized by prisoners in other states that have similar conditions to Texas, don't necessarily apply here. More accurately stated, we cannot do what others have done because we have not reached the level of solidarity and political development prisoners in other states such as California have reached!

This is not to belittle or degrade my fellow prisoners in Texas; I'm just stating facts! The hunger strike and work stoppage in California forced prison officials to re-assess the oppressive policies which have led to the inhumane treatment. Many human beings are trapped in Pelican Bay and numerous other solitary confinement units in California. Solitary confinement is torture whether it is utilized by CDCR or TDCJ! Abolition of this form of punishment is the only correct solution.

The question which has plagued prisoner rights activists such as myself is: 'what is the best strategy for Texas?' How do we initiate a movement that will be embraced by Texas prisoners and their families alike? Texas is a family oriented state. You cannot proceed with a serious initiative without including family members who will lobby the state legislature and speak to the media on behalf of their loved ones. I was very impressed with the support that California prisoner and Pelican Bay Freedom Fighter Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa received from his sister. Every time I opened the *S.F. Bay View* there she was – at protests, speaking to the media/legislators, truly awesome!!

The Slave State

I strongly support abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex; I would like to see an End to Mass Incarceration. I am a multi-racial new Afrikan/Black mixed with Arab and Latino. It is our populations that have been hurt the most by the so-called "War on Drugs." Texas is the most racist and oppressive state in Amerika.

Texas did not want to recognize the emancipation of Black slaves in Amerika; that is why Juneteenth was created, to celebrate Texas' 2-year-late recognition of Federal Law! You see, Texas has a history of ignoring the humyn and civil rights of disadvantaged minorities. If Texas can usurp or circumvent Federal law or the U.S. Constitution in order to oppress Black, Latino/a, or even poor whites, it will! The uniforms that Texas Department of Criminal Justice employees wear are patterned after Confederate soldier uniforms! This is the Truth!

Texas wants to remind you constantly that it supported and still supports the subjugation of New Afrikans. When prisoners are taken to the "Field" to pick cotton, green beans, and corn among other crops, TDCJ officers sit on horses with cowboy hats on, and holding shotguns screaming at you "you better get your cut, Washington, or I'm writing you a case!" I am not lying! This is the reality here in Texas.

The current conditions in Texas dictate that we must address our treatment as slaves and the inability of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to recognize our Good Time and Work Credits. We want these credits directly applied to our sentence so we can return to our families and communities. What Texas has engaged in is a form of sophisticated deception.

The main individuals being deceived are our family members. Most of us (prisoners) are well aware of the deceptive practices perpetrated by the Parole Board. Their actions are promoted, sanctioned, and condoned by the Legislature and the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

The slave model in Texas is perpetrated by what TDCJ calls TCI or Texas Correctional Industries. On 'paper' TCI is set up as a non-profit which provides job skills and on the job training for prisoners who work in various factory and light industrial jobs throughout Texas. The model is deceptive and TDCJ spends a lot of time and resources giving the general public the impression that rehabilitation is its focus.

However, once a person starts digging and researching the financial records and transactions being made, you'll uncover something else! You see, I spent time as an accountant working in the office of the now defunct Stiles Unit Metal Fabrication Plant located in Beaumont, Texas. What I discovered is that TDCJ and Texas is making a huge profit on the backs of prisoners who provide Free Labor!! Palms are constantly greased; back-door deals are being made in order to keep investors, corporate representatives, and independent contractors happy. It is all a very elaborate system.

The Senior Wardens of these prisons in Texas act as CEOs ensuring a constant flow of slave laborers to run "The Factory." It may be a tire plant, meatpacking plant, furniture factory, textile factory, computer recovery plant, mattress factory, or metal fabrication plant. Profits certainly are being generated but prisoners in Texas don't get paid!! Why is that?

Prison officials and legislators say TCI is providing valuable job skills and training for free. All right then, if that is the case, why won't the Parole Board recognize the Good Time and Work Time credits of all Texas prisoners? Anyone who has worked in one of these factories knows you can't be a "bad actor" to work in the Factory. If I'm being to be forced to work for free, I want to get back to



TX prisoner collapses from heat -- Danny Lyons photo/Phaedon

my family as soon as possible so my family can benefit from my new job skills!! But that is not how the slave model is set up. No! It is not working like that.

I have met numerous men who have toiled in these various factories for years, some even decades, yet here they remain, still working for free and the work conditions continue to get worse. Some prisoners work 8 to 12 hour shifts at various factories throughout Texas; many like to drink coffee or work out during breaks in order to relieve stress. TDCJ officers who are assigned to "The Factory" make it a point to be extra harsh in their management style because they know these factory jobs are preferred by prisoners. I mean you're stuck here! Texas doesn't give a damn about you and they certainly aren't interested in paroling you, so if you had a choice between working like Kunta-Kinte in the field or in a factory job, which would you choose?? Prisoners in Texas are caught between a rock and a hard place!

The Texas Philosophy

For those who are well versed in Texas history, you will know that Texas was founded on the precept of White Supremacy!

The current Governor of Texas Greg Abbott subscribes to a eugenic type of thinking in which Black and Brown people are inferior to whites, and this thinking justifies our current enslavement and inhumane treatment. Alexander Stephens, the vice-president of the Confederate States during the U.S. Civil War, best described the philosophy of Texans like Governor Abbott and Brad Livingston, the Executive Director of TDCJ, when he said in an 1861 speech:

"The Confederacy cornerstone rests upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and moral condition."

This is what we are up against in Texas!

Our Philosophy & Strategy

In Texas as throughout Amerika the so-called low class "negro" comes in various colors, shapes, sizes, and genders!! There are white, black, latino/a, asian, and arab "negros" – trapped inside Texas prisons. Original Black Panther Comrade Fred Hampton best illustrated this point when he entered a white bar in the late 60s to recruit white people to take part in socialist change!

I want you to understand exactly where I am coming from so there won't be any confusion. So I ask you to read and analyze this quote from Comrade Fred Hampton; it comes from a speech he made in 1969:

"We got to face some facts. That the masses are poor, that the masses belong to what you call the lower class, and when I talk about the masses, I'm talking about the white masses, I'm taking about the Black masses, and the Brown masses and the yellow masses too. We've got to face the fact that some people say you fight fire best with fire, but we say you put fire out best with water. We say you don't fight racism with racism, we're gonna fight racism with solidarity. We say you don't fight capitalism with no Black capitalism; you fight capitalism with socialism..."

This quote embodies the Theory, Philosophy, and Revolutionary Practice of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party (Prison Chapter). Of course we love and respect New Afrikan/Black people, but we shun this uber black nationalism which is embraced by "other" groups passing themselves off as Panthers! You can't brutally attack an elder in this MOVEMENT and say you are representing the best interests of the people! No! That's not Pantherism – but I digress. Let's stay on point!

As prisoners in Texas we have to grab the bull by the horns and take control of our own destiny. Free world supporters can't do this for us. They can help but ultimately the grassroots organizing and effort must be done by us!

First, we must educate our family and friends in reference to the nature of the problem. We must show them the deception and illusion of this imaginary pay and fraudulent Good Time and Work Time credit system.

Truthfully, all Texas prisoners have to do is send their family and friends a print-out of their Time slip. There are thousands of men and wimmin trapped inside Texas prisons. They possess time slips which clearly show accrued Flat-Time, Good Time, and Work Time credit percentages which equal one hundred percent of their current sentence or more.

Texas has built a system which has systematically weakened and destroyed inner city and urban communities. These communities have been targeted by The State and Corporate entities for gentrification. The inhabitants of these communities are predominantly black and brown. In Houston, Texas we have even seen a school superintendent get in on "the action." HISD superintendent Terry Grier did all he could to weaken the schools in Houston that service black and brown inner city youth. And when you deny people adequate access to quality education opportunities, you create conditions which push them into the waiting arms of the criminal justice system! Mr. Grier has announced his resignation. Let's hope Houston chooses an HISD superintendent who will have a vested interest in our success!

So in a nutshell, TDCJ and the Board of Pardons and Paroles work in concert with capitalists in order to sabotage the self-determination of certain communities of color!! What this amounts to is a not so subtle program of Social Control.

We Want Freedom!

What we are asking is that Texas Prisoners have their families visit our Facebook pages and websites in order to see the information we have posted there which explains the issue in easy to understand terms and language. We have phone numbers of key Texas legislators available. What we are proposing is that prisoners encourage their family and friends to contact these Legislators and urge them to craft legislation which will fix this fraudulent slave system.

The bottom line is this:

- 1) We want our Good Time and Work Time credits counted! – stop telling us you're counting it when you aren't.
- 2) We want to be paid for our labor!
- 3) We want our right to vote restored.

Stop fudging the census numbers of the rural communities in which these prisons are located making it "look like" we are citizens when in reality we are slaves! Texas is "gaming the system," making areas look like they have more constituents than they really have. What benefits do we get?? We've seen these games before!! Texas loves to play with re-districting maps and the votes of disadvantaged minorities. Many people don't see the connection between the Texas Slave Plantation System and the manipulation of the vote – I see it!

Solidarity is needed now!

There are approximately 150,000 prisoners housed in Texas prisons. If half of us can convince our loved ones to contact Texas Representatives and Senators in relation to this issue, we can make a significant impact. We need to start discussing this in the Day rooms, on the rec yard, or while we are slaving in the fields or in these factories. It is going to take all of us wimmin and men! I'm not going to talk this issue to death; I've never been much of a "rapper" – I'm about that Action! Are you about that Action?

See "End Prison Slavery." p. 7

Twenty-five years ago in *Turning The Tide*: From Vol. 4 #1, Jan-Feb. 1991:

Neo-nazi Tom Metzger, his son John, and their organization WAR -- White Aryan Resistance -- were socked with a multi-million dollar judgment by a civil jury in Portland OR, which found them liable for inciting the death of Ethiopian refugee Mulugeta Seraw at the hands of several of their nazi bonehead followers.

But in southern California, Metzger is still a racist menace not to be ignored. His followers staged a fund-raising rally in an Orange County park in November. About 30 neo-nazis were met by counter-demonstrators, even after changing the site of their get-together at the last minute. Wyatt Kaldenberg, an ex-leftist follower of Metzger's, is also raising funds for the white supremacist's appeal of the Portland verdict. Paul Smith, a "former" nazi-skin, has put "Race and Reason," Metzger's talk show, on a cable-TV system in Torrance, and plans to run all 80 segments.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, Carl Straight, a frequent



guest on *Race and Reason* and one of Metzger's hard-core followers for years, has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating the pipe-bombing of the S.D. Federal Building in October. The White Fighting Machine which took credit for the bombing, demanding that Metzger's Portland

trial be stopped, hate crimes laws be dropped, and the border be sealed.

Metzger is trying to extract political mileage from his Portland defeat, proclaiming himself a martyr of free speech. He appeared on "Harvey in the Lion's Den" on Channel 2, spouting this line with a couple of dozen nazi-bonehead followers, including Geremi Rineman, who was shot and partially paralyzed in a racial altercation in the San Fernando Valley several months ago.

Metzger's legal problems are far from over. He, Richard Butler of the Aryan Nations in Idaho, and several co-defendants are facing trial in LA on charges arising from a triple cross-burning carried out by WAR, the KKK, the Nazis and Aryan Nations more than 7 years ago. The case was kicked out of court twice by judges impressed by Metzger's free speech claims, but that decision has been overturned on appeal -- too late to save the lives of the people, including Jewish talk show host Alan Berg and a Missouri state trooper, killed by several of the co-defendants after they became federal fugitives.

Metzger is scheduled for a hearing in the LA Superior Court, Dept. 105, on January 11, at which time a new date will probably be set for trial on the cross burning, which took place in Sunland in Dec. 1983.

Twenty years ago in *Turning the Tide*: From Vol. 9 #1, Feb. 1996:

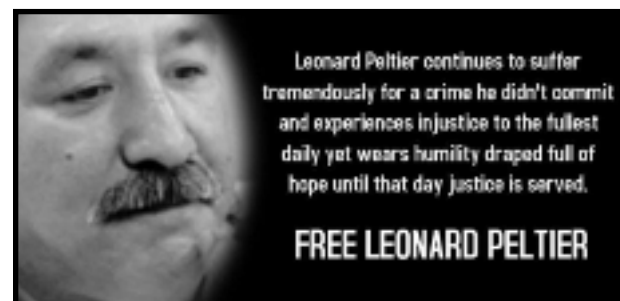
The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is proud to make available:

The FBI Files

For the first time in the case of Leonard Peltier, the documentation from the FBI that shows Peltier's innocence is now available to the public. Through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit in 1981, the FBI released thousands of their reports in the investigation of the "Resmurs" (reservation murders) case. In this comprehensive and professionally bound booklet of over 100 pages, the FBI's own documents are examined and exposed for the illegal tactics they have used against the

American Indian Movement (AIM), and against Leonard Peltier in particular.

Along with this compilation of FOIA documents is an important case study of what led up to the shoot-out on June 26, 1975, various letters of support from invaluable political sources, samples of submissions to the Court of Appeals and the Parole Commission, a statement from Leonard Peltier, and most importantly, what you can do to help free Leonard Peltier. Please contribute to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and help educate the masses by placing your order below. The FBI Files: \$5.00 per booklet. (\$3.00 each for orders over ten).



**Save the date: February 6, 2016
Free Peltier Cultural/Political Event, L.A.**

Fifteen years ago in *Turning the Tide*: From Vol. 13 #4, Winter 2001:

PART's PERSPECTIVE:

ABOLISH THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY!

George the Second, pResident-Select, takes office as the 1st US president of the 21st Century under an unprecedented cloud. Despite his media-maintained mantle of 'inevitability,' "Dubya" came in 2nd to Gore across the country and even in the actual vote in Florida.

Bush's coup clings to a fig-leaf of legality by virtue of the approval of 5 Justices appointed or elevated by Reagan-Bush or Bush-Quayle. In Chile or the Philippines, such a coup would require bloody repression to enforce and martial law to maintain. Even in France or Germany, it would be met with massive protest and civil strife. Yet,

in the US, the predominant response has been 'relief' that the uncertainty is over.

Bush's mass base is in the old Confederacy and he won through the massive disenfranchisement of Black voters. Fittingly, he serves due to the Electoral College mechanism designed to placate the slave-owning states. But he also 'won' because in the campaign and the post-electoral contest, Gore and the Dems were more afraid of waking up the voters or rocking the boat than they were of allowing Bush and the GOP to take power. Bush relies on the complacency of even most Democrats, and the larger body who don't vote. His reign, like those of more 'legitimate' presidents, rests on people who 'buy in' to our own op-

pression.

What has this 'civics lesson from hell' taught us about the true nature of US government and society? [We] have learned that our votes don't count, may not be counted, and that under the Constitution, there is no "right to vote." Not only this time, but every time, the campaign and election are a spectacle, a farce whose winner is pre-ordained, so that whoever wins, the rulers win.

The sausage-maker who sees what goes into the casing would never eat a link. Hopefully, this exposure of the everyday criminality and subterfuge that passes for democracy will deepen our distaste until the entire state apparatus, not the head of state, is called into question.

Ten years ago in *Turning The Tide*: from Vol. 19 #1, Jan-Feb. 2006:

On Peak Oil, Climate Change and Fascism part 1

by Gerry Bellow

World demand for oil increases every year. China and India are industrializing. They want oil. China's rapidly growing economy needs more oil every day. Every country in the world that hopes to expand its economy will also need more oil. The whole world is hooked, blasting the tar into its veins like some crazy teen pop star. If we burned every SUV on this over-fed continent this very instant, world demand for oil would still increase.

Every food item is oil dependent. The tractors that tilled the land and harvested it are run on oil. The pesticides and fertilizers that were dumped on it in mighty gouts are made of oil. The trucks that brought the food to you and brought the fertilizers and pesticides to the fields run on oil. The energy to refrigerate it comes from oil. You will buy it, put it in your trunk and burn oil getting it home and burn oil refrigerating it and burn oil (or natural gas) cooking it. Take a bite. Ten times as much energy was put into producing your next spoonful of rice then you will derive from eating it. That mode of food production that brings rice cheaply to your face is not sustainable and no amount of imperialist land grabbing can make it last forever.

...We can't produce food at the rate we are now without dumping oil by the barrel on our crops. The so-called "green revolution" is entirely dependant on cheap oil. When cheap oil runs out so does cheap food.

Who controls food production here? And I mean controls. Control does not mean you "own" the patent on the seeds or the fertilizer. It doesn't mean you control the highways or the trucks that move the pesticides and crops.... We usually associate control ultimately with military might. Whose troops exactly are all over the farm belt? There are 100 tanks sitting in Kansas at Ft Riley along with 7000

troops. The National Guard has smaller assets scattered about the state. There are 105 counties in Kansas. A pair of armored vehicles and 130 troops does not constitute control of more than 4 city blocks. Kansas is the only state in the farm belt with regular army formations stationed in it!

Who controls the food in Kansas? The people who grow it do. Without their consent you couldn't plant grain. If they resist you couldn't harvest or ship it. They are not going to do business on unfavorable terms. And it's a logistical impossibility to use force to make them. Did I mention that they are armed?

The farm belt has always been a vast angry well of white men with the potential for fascism to draw on. The government and global capital are no longer interested in subsidizing them. Yet they see themselves at the center of the mythic American dream. Combine their déclassé resentment with a new value on food and they WILL exert power to regain their (mythic and self-assumed) place at the idealized center of America. Did I mention that they are armed?

The last nasty side effect of oil technology is climate change. Burning all this carbon is changing the climate. I don't care if the president doesn't believe in global warming. Global climate change will affect the world's ability to produce food. People need food. And when they don't have it they will do anything to get it. That's the same from New York to New Guinea.

We have had the nastiest set of hurricanes in history this year. They completely destroyed a major metropolitan area and wiped out a number of smaller cities. Beaumont TX? Gone. Biloxi MS? Damaged. Lafayette LA? Hurt. They are still finding bodies in New Orleans 4 months later. Whole small communities and suburbs were literally wiped off the map -- and that's in an advanced, industrial country. This year's hurricane season caused more physical destruction to the territory of the United States than all wars save the Civil War combined. And this season was not an aberration; it was a beginning of a trend.

Five years ago in *Turning The Tide*: from Volume 24 #1, Jan-March 2011:

**TO THE AFRIKAN INTERCOMMUNALIST
YOUTH - TO THEIR FATHERS -
WE WILL NOW CRITICIZE THE UNJUST
WITH THE WEAPON!**

**Statement from the Central Committee of the BRLP:
All Power to the People!**

Revolutionary Greetings! Due to the Black revolutionary consciousness that is surging around the country, the Black Riders Liberation Party has organized a powerful nationwide prison chapter. New recruits from all over the country are setting up branches for the prison chapter in the spirit of George Jackson and his brother/alter-ego Jonathan Jackson. Each branch is organized by state. We have received numerous requests from people on the streets around the country to set up



chapters, especially on the East Coast. Also, the Northern California chapter of the Black Riders was officially opened during the struggle to seek justice for Oscar Grant with a Feed the People program amongst the rebellious masses

in Oakland. We openly admit that the requirements to be a member of Black Riders requires strict discipline but we encourage others to take up the banner of freedom and bang on the system with a strong, structured revolutionary organization. There must be no other course but to fight it out. Every political and military position must be held to the last Black man and Black woman. There must be no retreat and no surrender. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end. We call on all Black people who still believe in freedom to join us or support us with their minds, bodies, and souls. There is a great war to be won and we will win it together. The Black man and Black woman, once properly politically educated, culturally inspired, and physically trained, is the greatest human fighting machine the world has ever known!

ANTI-COLONIAL RESPONSE NEEDED TO OREGON MILITIA OCCUPATION

In a video posted to Facebook, Ammon Bundy, a son of Cliven Bundy, who led an armed stand-off with federal forces over his illegal grazing on federal land in Nevada, stated: “We have basically taken over the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. And this will become a base place for patriots from all over the country to come and be housed here and to live here. And we’re planning on staying here for several years.” He called his group “the point of the spear,” and asked like-minded militants to “bring your arms.”

Ryan Bundy, second of three sons involved, told The Oregonian the militia’s demands: release the Hammonds (two local men re-sentenced to 5 years under federal mandatory minimums as part of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act for two arsons on federal land) and cede the surrounding federal lands to local control. “The best possible outcome is that the ranchers that have been kicked out of the area... will come back and reclaim their land, and the wildlife refuge will be shut down forever and the federal government will relinquish such control,” Ryan Bundy said. He added, “What we’re doing is not rebellious. What we’re doing is in accordance with the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land.” The Bundy brothers have been encouraged in their armed “resistance” to federal authority by the earlier concessions to their father and his armed actions in NV to resist federal efforts to confiscate his cattle, illegally grazing on “federal” land (actually also stolen Native land) in Nevada without paying fees. The Feds returned his cattle and have never charged Bundy for the previous thefts or for the armed actions.

In the parking lot of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that the militants stormed and took over, a man who claimed to be a bodyguard for the leaders said, preposterously, that they are facing worse resistance than Black Lives Matter, according to a report on the Huffington Post. “The Black Lives Matter movement, they can go and protest, close freeways down and all that stuff, and they don’t get any backlash, not on the level that we’re getting,” said the man, who identified himself as “Fluffy Unicorn.” He admitted that police have used force against Black Lives Matter protesters, but claimed that “their level of protesting is different; we’re not obstructing schools.” (In fact, the local school district canceled classes because of the threat of violence due to the occupation of the federal wildlife preserve cabin.)

The land in question, of course, was stolen at gunpoint in the first place by other armed white settlers from the indigenous Paiute people. The state of Oregon, on stolen Native land, was admitted to the Union as a state under a constitution that reserved it exclusively for white people. The fundamental response to this must be an anti-colonial one.

Native writer and activist Jacqueline Keeler explained on Democracy Now!: “This is the 137th anniversary of when 500 Paiutes were loaded onto wagons and walked, under heavy armed guard, from the lands where the Bundys are right now holding it and to the Yakama Reservation in Washington state, some 300 miles, knee-deep in snow. And they were forced to march, shackled two by two,” she said.

Keeler also discussed how the lands were stolen: “With incursions from white settlers, they basically pressured the federal government to open it up to settlement. And so, in 1876, President Grant did that. And then, after there was an



uprising with the Bannock Indian War in 1878, due to issues of starvation and deprivation in the middle of winter again, the Bannock and the Paiute rose up, and then that’s when they were force-marched out of the area and lost most of the land. They were allowed to return

five years later, but they didn’t have a land base. So they were working for local ranchers—until 1928, when the Egan Land Company gave the Burns Paiute 10 acres of land just outside the city. The land was an old city dump, which the Indians cleaned and drilled a well to make ready for houses.”

The chair of the federally recognized Burns Paiute Tribe, Charlotte Rodrique, said the Paiute never voluntarily gave up their land. “There was never an agreement that we were giving up this land. We were dragged out of here,” Rodrique told Reuters. Selena Sam, a member of the tribe’s council, told Reuters: “The government has become increasingly bureaucratic about allowing the tribe to catch trout, bass and perch in the rivers lacing the mountains and hunt elk and deer in the woods.”

Nana Baakan Agyiriwah makes an apt comparison between the muted, hands-off response to the armed white militia and the treatment of MOVE in Philadelphia. “While the MOVE Organization was not officially declared a terrorist organization, they were indeed treated like they were Enemies of the State. I am from the area and was there when it happened. MOVE people were/are a “back to nature” group of Africans [and others] whose leader’s name was John Africa. They felt that the government was vile and used vile language to express their contempt for it. They were mostly self sufficient, planted their own food and were vegetarians and wore dread locks.

“A group of them moved onto Osage Ave. in West Philadelphia. Because they’d been threatened, jailed and tortured by the police for their way of life, they continued

to express their discontent with the local, national and global government. In 1985, the Philadelphia PD dropped a bomb on the house. Their house was so well fortified that the police after firing multiple rounds could not penetrate the walls. Their bomb ignited a fire that caused the MOVE members, men, women and children, to die in the blaze. Because it was allowed to burn, the entire block was destroyed, and the mostly Black homeowners, displaced and/or homeless.” Similar comparisons can be drawn to the military assault on Black Panther Party offices nationally by police forces militarized by the FBI’s COINTELPRO domestic war strategy against the Black freedom movement.

The response to this “double standard” should not be to demand equal violent repression by the state, but to expose and de-legitimize the state and other armed white supremacist formations. If we oppose mandatory minimums for drug offenders, and believe that the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, pushed by Bill Clinton, allows for gross miscarriages of justice to stand (it “effectively” eliminated habeas corpus rights that had been in existence since the Magna Carta), then the left should not be supporting harsh treatment of the Hammonds under its provisions, or calling for SWAT teams to attack the “militia.” Neither should Obama’s crocodile tears convince us his “gun safety” measures are well-meaning attempts to save lives. To the extent that militia impunity indicates that an incipient “dual power” situation of state incapacity is taking hold, we need to think about how to turn it to the advantage of decolonization.

Mexican Paramilitary Group that Killed 120 Indigenous Reappears

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Mexican-Paramilitary-Group-that-Killed-120-Indigenous-Reappears-20151228-0011.html>

The Peace and Justice paramilitary group, accused of being supported by local government, is responsible for killing 122 and displacing 4,000 in Chiapas.

A Mexican paramilitary group that killed or forcibly disappeared 122 indigenous people between 1995 and 2000 is on the rise again in the southern state of Chiapas with suspected links to local politicians, the Mexican daily La Jornada reported Monday.

In a statement, activists in Chiapas accused Edgar Leopoldo Gomez, president of the Tila municipality, of supporting “in his service” the resurgence of the Peace and Justice paramilitary group with the goal of “controlling” local indigenous residents.

The statement was issued by the Tila Ejido Supporters of the Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle, a Zapatista declaration of revolutionary movements’ vision for Mexico.

“In Chiapas, reports of re-start of Peace and Justice paramilitaries.”

The group also accused other Tila municipal officials of supporting the rise in paramilitary activity.

Aside from being behind the deaths or disappearances of over 120 indigenous people, the Peace and Justice paramilitary group also has forcibly displaced some 4,000 Ch’ol and Tzeltal indigenous residents in northern Chiapas.

According to the activists’ statement, paramilitary perpetrators of historical human rights abuses have long enjoyed impunity for their crimes.

The group accused municipal officials of wanting to bring back the “blood and fire” of paramilitary activity in support of local officials’ interests and of using municipal communication resources to organize the Peace and Justice group.



The accusations come after Tila residents marched earlier this month to protest municipal officials after many activists received threats and suffered arbitrary action by authorities, La Jornada reported.

The statement also comes after hundreds of indigenous people held a demonstration last week in the small Chiapas village of Acteal to mark the 18th anniversary of the slaughter of 45 people including pregnant women and children. Activists and survivors have labelled the massacre a “state-sanctioned crime” and accused the government of supporting the paramilitary group behind the attack.

“18 years ago, death came to Acteal.”

According to the local human rights organization known as Frayba, which focuses on the rights of Indigenous communities in Chiapas, paramilitary violence toward indigenous people in the region has been

part of low-scale warfare between the Mexican military and the EZLN or Zapatista resistance movement.

Tila residents fear an armed paramilitary attack against their community, according to the activists’ statement.

The group accused different levels of government in Mexico of “hiding behind” paramilitary groups that carry out their dirty work.

Tila residents also called upon all social organizations to be watchful for what could happen in Chiapas in the face of the paramilitary resurgence.

This content was originally published by teleSUR at the following address:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Mexican-Paramilitary-Group-that-Killed-120-Indigenous-Reappears-20151228-0011.html>



KNOW YOUR ENEMY



LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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Ref #: 15.1

October 21, 2011

Mr. Robert Ambroselli
Director, Adult Parole Operations
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, California 94283-0001

Dear Mr. Ambroselli:

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is writing you to express its concerns regarding the parole status of parolee Mischa Culton CDC No. G029455. The LAPD has become aware that Mr. Culton is trying to show that the Black Riders Liberation Party is not a gang and that he should be allowed to associate with its members.

The LAPD has had numerous encounters with members of the Black Riders Liberation Party. They have assaulted our officers, and Mr. Culton's leadership of the Black Riders Liberation Party is not a simple association or exercise of the 1st Amendment, but an organized effort to kill, harass, and/or injure police officers.

The LAPD would like to remind the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that Mr. Culton is on parole status for attempted possession of a machine gun in violation of Penal Code Section 12020(a) P.C. Enclosed are three documents to demonstrate the mentality of this gang and its hostility towards law enforcement.

It is requested that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations maintain Mr. Culton's parole status and prohibit him from associating with the Black Riders Liberation Party or any other gang member as he is recruiting for his violent ideology.

Very truly yours,

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

Enclosures

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The LAPD, COINTELPRO, and Pig Chief/Chief Pig Charlie Beck

In 2011, while the LAPD was preparing to attack and disperse Occupy L.A. from its occupation surrounding City Hall, the authorities tried to violate the parole of General T.A.C.O. of the Black Riders Liberation Party, just as they did during the L.A. trial of Johannes Mehserle, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) pig who shot and killed Oscar Grant in Oakland.

The state and their pig enforcers feared the influence of the revolutionary stance and example of the Black Riders and their leadership around the necessity of self-defense.

While T.A.C.O. was locked up, dozens of supporters from the Black community, from Occupy the Hood and from the Occupy L.A. encampment came out to the parole court in downtown to support him and demand his freedom.

At the same time, LA Pig Chief or chief pig Charlie Beck wrote a memo, shown on the left, exposing the undying enmity of the LAPD towards Black freedom fighters, and the pigs' effort to characterize T.A.C.O. in particular as a dangerous terrorist and threat to the police.

Beck's efforts failed and T.A.C.O. was ordered released back onto parole -- a victory for the people -- although he was forced to wear an electronic shackle around his ankle -- 21st Century slave shackles for a political prisoner.

The pigs also failed to keep T.A.C.O. locked up after the Oscar Grant murder trial, although they staged a preemptive raid on the Black Riders the night before the slap-on-the-wrist verdict on murdering pig Mehserle was to be announced, hoping to provoke a confrontation in which they could assassinate him.

The Black Riders have defeated repeated attempts to incarcerate its leadership, and will continue to do so, because to be attacked by the enemy is only the natural consequence of opposing white supremacist pig oppressors, capitalist exploiters and the slaveocracy.

The Charlie Beck memo shows that COINTELPRO is still alive and well, even though they may have dropped the name, and still aimed at destroying Black freedom fighters.

PART's Perspective:

IMPERIALISM RELEASING THE DOGS OF WAR

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror*

It's impossible to discuss the rising danger of more naked fascism in the US (currently being widely debated regarding the candidacy of Donald Trump) without recognizing the connection between fascism and war, particularly imperial war.

The continuing conditions of economic, social and environmental crisis that are the breeding grounds for fascist "solutions" and scape-goating are also the conditions that impel empires towards war as a means of finding new sources of wealth to loot, and new ideological weapons to cement their basis of support.

It's important to understand that Trump's bashing of Muslim and Mexican migrants, just like the recent electoral gains of the National Front in France, are connected to the US imperial and proxy wars in North Africa (Libya, Mali) and southwest and central Asia (Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan), and its aggressive counter-insurgency efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean (electoral coups in Haiti, Honduras, and Venezuela, destabilization in Brazil and military intervention via the so-called "drug war" in Mexico and Colombia).

Similarly, the criminalization of dissent and militarization of police in the US cannot be separated from the attempt to shore up its global domination against threats from China, Russia and Iran, and to further hollow out the sham of one-dollar, one-vote "democracy," through mechanisms like to Trans Pacific Partnership. Continued capitalism/colonialism in the US increasingly means economic misery and marginalization for Black, indigenous, Asian, and even alienated white people inside the borders of the imperial homeland. Under the guise of 'reform' and 'accountability', the cops are being increasingly integrated into the national security/surveillance state apparatus, getting training from settler-colonial and imperial partners like Israel, and weapons from the Pentagon.

Retail fascists may offer anti-establishment or even anti-capitalist rhetoric, or envision new coercive ways to control the population and create "folkish" cohesion among the settlers; but the methods of fascism have always been an integral part of the social and political order of the US because of the particularities of settler colonialism. Unlike Germany, which had to perfect its fascist methods of extermination against African populations in "German South West Africa" before unleashing them on Jews, Roma, Slavs and their own workers, the US has always had internally colonized and enslaved peoples to control by any means necessary and to motivate its eugenicist white supremacy. Climate-driven triage of "undesirable" populations has already occurred in New Orleans, accompanied by privatization of public schools and housing.

The war drums that are beating against Iran, Korea again, and the Pentagon planning for military confrontation and conflict with Russia and China form the essential backdrop for the unleashing of fascist forces and repressive measures today, just as a century ago, the "progressive" Wilson administration helped relaunch the Ku Klux Klan, and the US government carried out the Palmer Raids with the locking up and deportation of anarchists, reds and immigrants; just as the Cold War, heating up in Korea and Vietnam produced McCarthyism and COINTELPRO. Anti-racists and anti-capitalists must prepare ourselves by sinking roots of resistance, and by connecting the struggles for peace and racial justice to the effort to liberate the planet once and for all from the scourge of capitalism and colonialism.

Crisis of Capitalism and Colonialism in Puerto Rico

Much as was the case when the struggles to free Puerto Rican political prisoners and POWs coincided with the effort to drive the US Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, the effort to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera, incarcerated for more than 34 years, is reaching a crescendo just as the crisis of capitalism and colonialism in Puerto Rico threatens to disrupt and destabilize US rule in the island nation that has been a direct, militarily occupied colony of the US since the so-called "Spanish-American War" of 1898.

Lopez Rivera, now the longest-held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico, has become a unifying symbol of Puerto Rican identity and nationality across the historic disagreements over status that have divided political parties there. As we went to press, candidates for "governor: from all the various political parties in Puerto Rico, as well as the independent candidates, joined in a video-taped call to Barack Obama, to release Lopez Rivera on "Three Kings Day," January 6, his 73rd birthday. They included two independent candidates, Manuel Cidre and Alexandra Lágaro, as well as David Bernier from the pro-"commonwealth" Popular Democrats (aligned with the US Democratic Party historically), Pedro Pierluisi and Ricardo Rosello of the pro-statehood New Progressives (historically close to the US Republicans), and two more left candidates, María de Lourdes Santiago of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (affiliated with the Socialist International) and Rafael Bernabe of the Workers Party took part in the film made by the non-profit Caserío Films.

The backdrop for such unanimity is the impending inability of the Puerto Rican government to meet its financial obligations, primarily to hedge funds that hold hundreds of millions of dollars of Puerto Rican triple-tax-exempt bonds. The hedge funds extracted agreements, in buying up several recent issues of Puerto Rican government bonds that (in addition to high interest rates for the risky but highly profitable debt) the hedge funds would be first in line for collection in the case of any default. They are seeking in federal court to enforce these onerous provisions, ahead of other debtors (including Puerto Rican savers, investors and government employees, whose salaries and pensions are threatened as a result).

Puerto Rico attempted to pass its own law authorized an organized court-supervised bankruptcy proceedings. But in response to that effort, courts have issued preliminary rulings saying that Puerto Rico is prohibited from such measures under the laws enacted to "legalize" and enforce the US takeover of the island from Spain. And in response to a similar effort to prosecute economic malefactors for frauds perpetrated in Puerto Rico after they had been tried in the US, the Obama administration has gone to court saying that such a prosecution would be "double jeopardy," because -- unlike a state, which has a separate sovereignty (and could have a separate prosecution) -- Puerto Rico is not a sovereign entity but a creature of and subject to the control of the US Congress and government. No law passed by Puerto Rico has power unless approved by Congress. In response, the current governor has filed a case with the United Nations saying that this position conflicts with US claims that Puerto Rico was no longer to "non-self-governing" provisions of the UN Charter providing for international oversight of a decolonization process. The US had claimed, since the 1950s, that Puerto Rico's "Commonwealth" status had resolved the colonial contradiction -- now clearly exposed as a lie by the legal and financial maneuvers by the US Dept. of Justice and the hedge fund financiers.

It is this potentially explosive situation and the upcoming US elections that impel the effort to free Lopez Rivera. Puerto Rican voters in Florida are already punishing Marco Rubio, who backed away from a pledge to support bankruptcy for the island to avoid the looting of its pensions and a fire sale on government resources to pay off the creditors. Join the call to free Oscar Lopez Rivera now! For more information, see <http://boricuahumanrights.org>



Black Riders -- New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense



BLACK POWER MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

On December 13, 2015, a Black Power meeting was held in South Central L.A. to educate and train the leader of our new Chicago Chapter - Captain Ausar Sargon - who came to L.A to be taught the correct procedures to conduct the Watch-A-Pig Program and patrol the police in the aftermath of the police murder of Laquan McDonald in Chicago. Captain Ausar Sargon, shown above meeting with General T.A.C.O., participated in the demonstrations there in Chicago, after the police murder of Laquan, and wanted to intensify the struggle. Laquan McDonald was only 17 years old and was shot 16 times by a white racist pig named Jason Van Dyke.

We began the Watch-A-Pig Program in 1997, armed with law booklets, video cameras, paramilitary camouflage fatigues, black berets, black steel toe boots, bats, machetes, knives, Black karate skills, and any other legal weapon we could get a hold of. We launched the first patrols of the police, armed with weapons, since the Original Black Panther Party started in 1966! We all felt a compelling urge to finally risk our lives for something positive instead of something negative. Without a doubt we had to overcome the life threatening reality associated with the patrols. It took an extreme love for our people to have the heart and courage to police the police. We began to monitor police radio calls, jumping out there observing arrests at a legal distance as they questioned Black People, and began to educate our people about their armed self-defense rights.

Black Power! All Power to the People!

You can reach Black Riders Liberation Party - New Generation Black Panther Party for Self Defense, at P.O. Box 8297, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Blackriders1996@gmail.com or by calling 602-842-2757 (BRLP; also on facebook.com/Black-Riders-Liberation-Party, on Twitter: @blackriders1996, or on Instagram, Blackriders1996. The BRLP has been setting up new chapters rapidly around the U.S and is building a nationwide prison chapter.

JOIN NOW!



THE BLACK RIDERS CREED

(When your time comes to die for Black and oppressed people, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death! Sing your song and die like a hero going home!)

I AM A BLACK RIDER!!
I am a soldier and a member of a team!!
I am a servant of the people, and live with revolutionary values!!
I will always place the mission First!!
I will never accept defeat!!
I will never quit!!!!
I am disciplined physically, mentally tough, trained and proficient in the way of a warrior!!
I always maintain my arms, equipment, and self!!
I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the party and the people!! I am a black Freedom Fighter.
I am a BLACK RIDER!!



Mobile Unit X

Mobile Unit X is our Black Power Van. It is one of the main vehicles that we use to operate the Watch-A-Pig Program and patrol the police in L.A. It also doubles over as a Mobile Command Center for Black Riders-New Generation Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. At different times it has also been used to transport Black children back and forth to our George Jackson Freedom School. It is equipped with high tech walkie-talkies, video cameras, scanners, a lap top computer, binoculars, TASERS, and other technical equipment needed to fight against pig terrorism and educate our people about the need for security against the pigs with an advanced four-wheeled security system. 2016 marks the 20 year anniversary of Black Riders, which was created in 1996. This vehicle has been a major weapon in our arsenal to win freedom from white supremacy, capitalism, and Amerikkkan Imperialism. **Black Power! All Power to the People!**

FREE HERMAN BELL

Herman Bell has been to the New York state parole board six times and has been denied each time. His next parole board appearance will be in early February 2016. Each time, the board - always made of up former law enforcement personnel and former prosecutors -- reviews his very impressive record, the Bachelor's and Master's college degrees he has attained since being locked up, his job offers, his numerous letters of support from family, friends, and community members from many walks of life.

They have before them evidence of all the ways Herman has helped so many people throughout the course of his confinement and is still leading a positive and progressive life despite being locked up now over four decades. And then they deny him parole based on their opinion that to release him would "deprecate" the serious nature of his charge of conviction. Is this rationale not, in effect, an illegal re-sentencing to life-without-the-possibility-of-parole?

When one goes to trial, there is a prosecutor, one's defense attorney, a judge, and a jury. When one goes to the parole board, there is only the prosecution. **More info at frehermanbell.org.**

Here's how you can help:

Herman has taken responsibility for his part in the Black Liberation Movement's resistance to racist authority. He has paid a great price - 42 years of imprisonment, thus far. He is going to the New York state parole board for the seventh time in February 2016 and deserves to be paroled, to come home to his family and community.

1 - Please write your letter to the parole board on professional letterhead.

2 - Please indicate how you know Herman, or if you don't know him personally, how you know of him. Your letter should be addressed to: "To Whom It May Concern" or "Dear Parole Commissioner". The subject line should be "Herman Bell, 79C-0262."

3 - Please sign your letter and mail to Herman's attorney: Robert J. Boyle, 277 Broadway, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10007.

To sign a petition in support of Herman's parole, go to:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/677/086/596/in-support-of-parole-for-herman-bell-79c0262/>



Excerpts from:

A Message from Herman Bell

Fall 2015

Hi, I've been told it's good that you should hear my voice, hear something direct from me. So where to begin, what to say?

I've been locked in a prison cell for 42 years; have spent more time in prison than I have on the streets. I need your support to get me out so I can go home. I'm as ordinary as your neighbor next door. No different than you are. I have a wife, children, and two lovely school-age granddaughters. I value hard work, fair treatment, social justice, transparency and accountability. You can say I'm a "people's" person. I believe strongly that people should help people, that "to each according to his or her needs and from each according to his or her ability."

You see, I am not a criminal in the strict sense of the word. I never posed a danger to civil society. I never sought personal gain from my political actions; never robbed, never threatened, coerced, nor intimidated anyone in civil society. I never sold drugs. But I did, as did others, militantly resist the unrelenting structural violence of white racist domination and control that has afflicted the Black community since Black people were brought here as slaves.

Accordingly, in early February 2016, I will appear once again before the New York State Parole Board, my 7th. I'm eligible for parole release every 2 years. I've done the time on a 25-to-life sentence. I have satisfied all structural requirements over these long years and have had no serious disciplinary issues. Yet each time I appear before the Board, I'm denied parole "due to the nature of my offense;" the assassination of two NYC policemen.

The nature of my sentence of conviction arose from the immense social turmoil of the '60s and '70s and the f.b.i.'s infamous counter-insurgent program known as

COINTELPRO that sought through diverse and insidious means to destroy the Black Panther Party founded in Oakland, CA in 1965, that I was a member of.

This government program sought to deny Black political and economic self-empowerment. Destruction of the B.P.P., in the words of then f.b.i. director Hoover "by any means necessary," was paramount to this design. Nationally, Cointelpro enlisted the aid of local and state police agencies in this campaign. It was a push to maintain the levers of racist political power in this country that has dominated and controlled the lives of Black people through terror, bloodshed, lashing and lynching since its founding. (The rage and sorrow of Black people had sat in the darkness far too long.) And we pushed back in defense of our community: against that tradition of domination and control that has persistently fed off Black people in this country longer than they have been freed. It was an unapologetic direct attack on and resistance to the racist power structure in this country that has so historically maltreated and shamelessly exploited Black people as though it were a national birthright. It gratified some and astonished others. And as unfortunate and regrettable as it often is in civil conflict, violence and bloodshed on both sides are bound to occur.

You may find my sentence of conviction inexcusable. You may likewise find the government's actions during those times inexcusable too. We Panthers were imprisoned. F.b.i., state, and local police agents and their provocateurs went unindicted for their unprovoked attacks on the Black community.

"Slavery by Another Name," a book by American author Douglas Blackmon, says of America: "We formed in molds twisted by the gifts we received at the expense of others. It is not our 'fault.' But it is undeniably our inheritance." Current f.b.i. director Comey admits that "the history of law enforcement in this country was not only part of the architecture of oppression but also a brutal tool of that system."

This history, these events, are what I'm up against whenever I go before the Parole Board. The NY police union (PBA) have a close connection with the NY tabloids and each time before I go to the Board, newspaper articles opposing my release is a front page story and online the PBA circulates a petition opposing my release, creating the impression of groundswell opposition to my release, when it's just the PBA.

You can write the New York State Parole Board and tell them how you feel. By writing the Parole Board supporting my release (because I've done the time, have satisfied all legal requirements, and deserve to be released) does in no way mean that you advocate, support, or intend to mimic what I did yourself. It simply mean you think I've done enough time and should be allowed to go home.

Thank you -- Herman

End Sleep Deprivation Torture in Pelican Bay SHU

Please help stop the sleep deprivation torture being waged against the men in Pelican Bay SHU (solitary confinement). Since August 2, 2015, they have been awakened every 20-30 minutes, 48 times a day, due to so-called "security/welfare checks."

The architecture of the Pelican Bay SHU (PB SHU) amplifies the loud noise of the checks including pod doors opening and slamming closed, chains and locks rattling, guards' boots stomping, metal rods clanging on cell doors, and the beeping of the electronic monitoring system at each cell door. In addition, sometimes guards shine their flashlights into people's eyes.

As of the new year, January 1, 2016, it has been 152 days that these men have been tortured by sleep deprivation.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) claims the 30 minute checks are intended to prevent suicide. But we know that interrupted sleep can cause interrupted sleep can cause serious mental and physical health problems. John R. Martinez, in solitary for 15 years and in Pelican Bay SHU for over a decade, wrote in late August: "...there is a reasonable probability that life-threatening injuries and/or even death is inevitable, as medical symptoms are only worsening but not being treated." People locked up in PB SHU report health problems including:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| severe stress | weight loss | dizziness |
| faintness | nausea | headaches |
| eye problems | stomach and bowel problems | |
| depression | fast heart rates | |

John's mother, Dolores Canales, co-founder of California Families Against Solitary Confinement and the Family Unity Network, said: "I visited my son in the Pelican Bay SHU on 12 September and he is going crazy from not being able to sleep. I've never seen him like this.

He couldn't think, and he fell asleep while I was talking with him from across the glass partition." John was in that state in September after 5 and a half weeks of sleep deprivation. It has now been 5 months since the checks started on August 2, 2015. This is extremely cruel and dangerous.

The 1,000 to 1,200 men inside Pelican Bay SHU need all of us to act to get CDCR to stop the checks now! The checks are causing sleep deprivation, which is torture. These checks serve no welfare or security purpose; they only harm the prisoners, mentally and physically.

Take action now! Here are some ways that you and your organization(s) can get involved:

(1) Make calls to stop the 30-minute checks:

CDCR Secretary's Office: 916-323-6001
CDCR Director of Adult Divisions, Kelly Harrington (he): 916-445-7688

Senator Loni Hancock, Chair of Senate Public Safety Committee: 916-651-4009

Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair of Assembly Public Safety Committee: 916-319-2020

Suggested script for calls: Begin with your name and what city and state you live in. Please tell all of them: "Stop the so-called 'welfare' checks in the SHU at Pelican Bay State Prison. Sleep deprivation is torture."

(2) Join/support our next major statewide action on February 1st in Sacramento! We are planning a huge action, including people from all over the state of California, outside CDCR headquarters, if the checks have not stopped by then! We need help doing outreach, getting people to attend, and arranging rideshares from the SF and Monterey Bay Areas and Southern California. Stay tuned for a Facebook event page.

(3) Spread the word! More people need to know about



this sleep deprivation! Share the SF Bay View article, the American Public Health Association (APHA) letter opposing the checks, and this video. (Video, by Liberated Lens, of our Emergency Protest at CDCR in Sacramento on Nov. 30, 2015, the 119th day of sleep deprivation torture.) Get more information on our website and Facebook page.

(4) Send us testimony from men who have experienced the Pelican Bay SHU sleep deprivation and from their family members and loved ones. To contribute their words or letters, email pshsreachingout@gmail.com.

We look forward to working with you to stop the torture of sleep deprivation.

In solidarity and joint struggle,
Committee to Stop the Sleep Deprivation,
Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition
<https://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com/voices-from-inside/sleep-deprivation-in-pelican-bay-shu/letter-to-organizations-and-individuals-january-2016/>

URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to nearly 2000 prisoners around CA and the US.

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

\$20 a year/\$30 inst./\$50 sustainer, payable only to Anti-Racist Action (can't process checks to *Turning the Tide*), P.O. Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Postage alone for this issue comes to nearly \$1000. We added an extra issue of *Turning the Tide* last year, but we couldn't mail the 5th issue to prisoners. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please order a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign below - please forward on social media. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA.

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org that go back more than eight years, plus back issues of the *Black Rider African Intercommunal News Service*.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://www.facebook.com/tideturning), and [facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity](https://www.facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity). You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

BLACK LIVES MATTER-L.A. FACING REPRESSION

BLM chapters in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, and the SF Bay Area declared December 23, 2015 as Black Xmas. They took actions to impede the flow of goods and commerce with peaceful protests to call for an immediate overhaul of the justice system both locally and nationally that will demand accountability for police, removal of grand juries in cases involving police shootings, an immediate halt to militarized police units and weapons, and extensive review of racialized police practices in Black neighborhoods.

Black Xmas is here and there will be no business as usual until we get accountability for our dead, and justice for the living. Instead of buying gifts to fuel this system, Black Xmas is a day of action to reject the degradation of Black families and communities by police, politicians, and predatory companies, and declare our inherent worth. We will disrupt business as usual until city, state, and federal budgets stop funding Black death and start funding Black futures.

Whether cisgendered, trans, or queer; women or men, elders or children – our Black families refuse to live trapped between poverty and police state violence. From slavery to segregation to the rampant state violence of the 21st century, Black communities have lived too long under state repression and corporate power for too long. In solidarity with migrant, Palestinian and all oppressed people, we proclaim our humanity, reclaim our streets, and exclaim for the world to hear: Black Lives Matter.

Activists were arrested in Chicago, Minneapolis and elsewhere. Melina Abdullah says L.A.'s protesters, who shut the 405 freeway, were dealt with particularly harshly. The CHP arrested #BLMLA members and allies, including Abdullah. She was held in a "segregated unit," isolation, over Christmas Eve in LA county jail. Her bail on Christmas Day, and Kwazi nkrumah, another arrestee, got out the next day. "I had no cellmate," Abdullah told the LA Weekly. "I wasn't given paper, a pencil, nothing. Just a blanket and a pad. I wasn't able to make a phone call for 24 hours."

Nana Gyamfi, an attorney for Black Lives Matter L.A. and one of the hosts of KPFK's "Uprising" show, said the 9 activists face felonies for chalking the names of people killed by police on the blocked freeway. "There's a lot about their confinement that [was] crazy," Gyamfi says. "Everyone was in solitary confinement. The men were handcuffed and leg-shackled, with a waist chain when they were moved."

Gyamfi described the 405 protest as "really a traffic-ticket case. And really, as far as I'm concerned, the purpose [of the jailings] is to intimidate. The purpose is to bully."

BLM-LA is seeking to raise \$60,000 to cover legal fees and other defense efforts for these and other cases (Jasmine Abdullah no relation to Melina has three different cases in Pasadena courts alone). People can donate at <https://www.crowdrise.com/blmla>. There is also a campaign to get City Attorney Feuer to drop all charges by calling him at 213-978-8100.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 28 year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we print four 8-page issues a year. Now, to restore bi-monthly publication, we have launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We're looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing nearly 2000 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at <http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>.

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps; their contribution more often comes by writing articles, letters and poems or sending in drawings. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot.**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are almost \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers,

End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

...continued from page 1

If you are serious about change have your Family visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/comrademalikwashington> or <http://comrademalik.com/>

Look for campaign to: End Prison Slavery in Texas.

You see, comrades, I am not operating under any illusions. As I said at the beginning of this essay, some will be content with this slave-like existence, some won't be content. Some may go tell the "Boss man," "That guy Malik is stirrin' up trouble again Boss!" and like always the oppressors will do what they've always done – lock me up in solitary, transfer me, write bogus disciplinary reports, deny my Parole, or try to get some misguided street tribe members to assault me! I've been through all that and more! I am determined to improve our condition even if it kills me. For those of you who are sick and tired of being slaves, I ask that you help me End Prison Slavery in Texas Now!

I leave you with another quote from Comrade Fred Hampton:

"First of all, we say primarily that the priority of this struggle is class. That Marx, and Lenin, and Che Guevara, and Mao Tse-Tung and anybody else that ever said or knew or

Valentines Eve

Benefit Dance

for Turning The Tide

Saturday, February 13, 8 PM

Peace Center,

3916 S. Sepulveda, Culver City

\$10 donation

I love you more than the ruling class loves racism, sexism, and working class oppression.



Come celebrate TTT editor Michael Novick's 69th birthday with a dance party featuring 60s music - party like it's 1969! Help pay for getting *Turning The Tide* into the hands of nearly 2000 prisoners around CA and the US!

Michael Novick, founder of People Against Racist Terror/Anti-Racist Action-L.A. and editor of *Turning The Tide* since its inception in 1988, is turning 69 and well into his second half-century of anti-racist organizing and agitating. He's inviting TTT readers to come celebrate with him, and simultaneously advance the cause of 21st Century abolitionism -- abolish prisons, police, wage slavery, white supremacy and colonialism!

Come dressed to boogie (or in 60s attire; or both) and enjoy 60s rock, R & B, Motown, jazz and more. No host bar and lots of munchies. Plus a slide-show of TTT issues from the '80s, '90s, '00s, and 2010's.

and email contacts. Everything helps.

If the campaign is successful, we will begin publishing every other month in 2015. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at 10% of our goal. LA supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

<http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>

and donate. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

practiced anything about revolution, always said that a revolution is a class struggle. It was one class – the oppressed – against the other class, the oppressor. And it's got to be a universal Fact. Those that don't admit to that are those that don't want to get involved in revolution because they know as long as they're dealing with a race thing, they'll never be involved in a revolution. They can talk about numbers, they can hang you up in many, many ways...”3

So, what will it be, a life of involuntary servitude, helping to sustain this slave system, or Freedom building up your communities and supporting your Families? **We have nothing to lose but our chains!! Dare to struggle, Dare to win, All Power to the People!**

Keith 'Malik' Washington, #1487958

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TURNING THE TIDE

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ Jan. 11, 12n, End Torture-Shut Guantanamo, DTLA Fed Bldg. 323-510-7311
- ★ Jan. 14, National Day of Action to Free Herman Bell, www.FreeHermanBell.org
- ★ Jan. 24, 1p, KPFK Local Board seated, officer & director elections Peace Ctr.
- ★ Feb. 6, Political/Cultural Event to Free Leonard Peltier, TBA 323-636-7388
- ★ 100X100 Fundraising Campaign for TTT gofundme.com/eugzgg
- ★ Feb. 13, 8p, Valentines Eve Dance Party Benefit for TTT, Peace Center
- ★ Feb. 19-21, NCOR 2016, Chapel Hill NC <http://nationalconferenceonorganizedresistance.org/>

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AND THE MOVEMENTS THAT ARE PAVING A WAY INTO THE FUTURE."**

- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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Please write us every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address
label. TTT is a small project with few resources: we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals'
innocence.

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ABOLISH EVERY SLAVERY

**SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST MURDER
IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!**

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- ★ Valentines Eve Dance Party benefit for TTT
- ★ End Slavery in Texas Prisons!
- ★ 100X100 Campaign
- ★ and Much More!

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