

## **PART'S PERSPECTIVE:**

# **PRISON NATION, PRISON PLANET**

By Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-L.A./People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

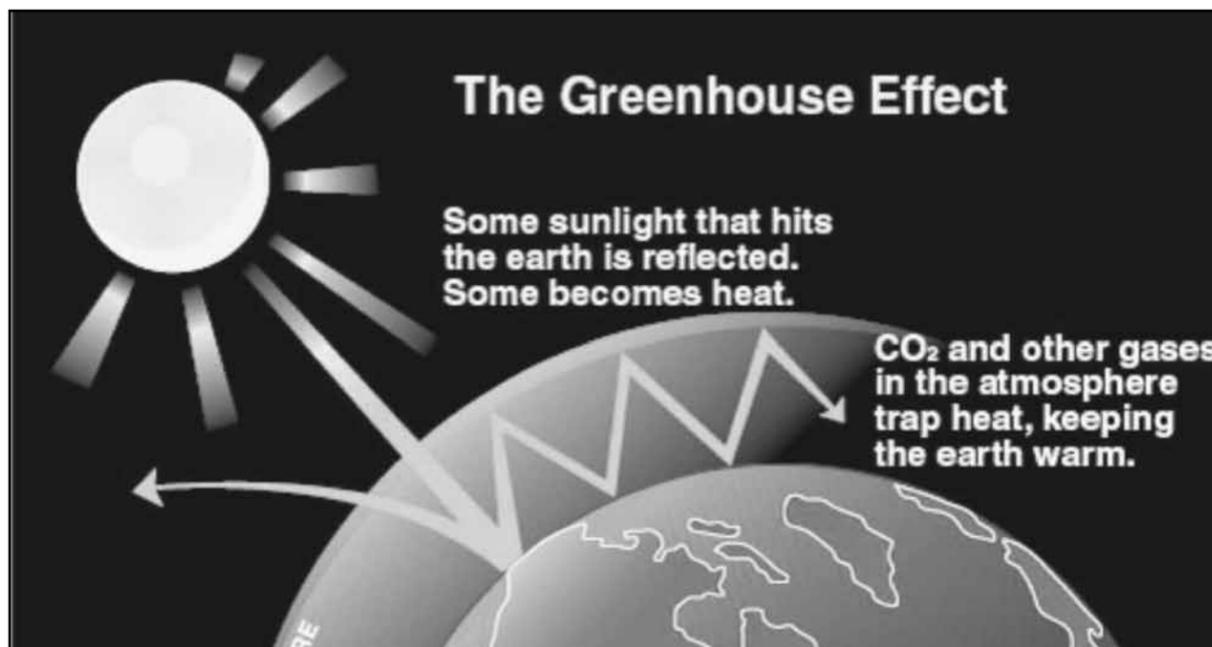
Dostoevsky said you could judge the degree of civilization of a society by going inside its prisons. But that was in an earlier, simpler time. Today, imprisonment and the carceral state and social order have grown to encompass all of society. We live in a prison nation, a prison-house of nations, and a prison planet.

Greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, are imprisoning the life-giving radiation of the sun, heating the planet to and beyond the point of habitability, causing mass extinctions and undermining even the basis for the very industrial and extractivist activities that are causing the crisis. Rivers in France are too warm to cool nuclear power plants; water levels are too low to allow barges to transport coal in Germany; heat and drought are destroying crops in China; wild-fires and floods are plaguing the US.

The irrational “logic” of capitalism, and the fear and paranoia of racism and colonialism, are imprisoning the minds of rulers and the ruled alike, who are trapped in socially, economically, and ecologically self-destructive behaviors that appear inescapable.

Whereas people sentenced to house arrest or released to probation with ankle monitors to track their movements would do anything to be free of the constant surveillance, and prisoners in control units or even general population chafe at the censorship and control of their communications, millions of ordinary people are tethered to “smart” devices, that similarly track their every move, whim, communication and purchase, as if they cannot conceive of life without them. They are addicted to their chains.

As Huey P. Newton, minister of defense of the Black Panther Party said upon his release from incarceration, those of us outside the walls are only in medium or minimum security, not free. And if all of society is a prison, as in Gaza, then those inside the walls, political prisoners and social or economic prisoners alike, are increasingly locked into prisons-within-prisons, with increasingly onerous restrictions on communication, education and personal transformation.



It's long past time to break the shackles of mental slavery, to overcome the fear and the identification with the oppressor that imprison us. The system wants us to believe, as Margaret Thatcher proclaimed, that There Is No Alternative.

But in our heart of hearts, we know that another world is possible and necessary. The survival, resistance and resilience of indigenous people and their example of stewardship of and reverence for the land, water and air let us know that the plague of colonialism and capitalism had a beginning and will have an end. The more we can free our minds and hearts of fear, racism, greed and hate, the sooner we can hasten the liberation that is necessary for our survival and that of all the other species our current way of life is endangering.

## **SIGN UP FOR THE ARA E-NEWS**

<https://antiracist.org/subscribe-to-our-e-newsletter/>

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic caused the shutdown of many venues and events where we would ordinarily distribute copies of the print edition of *Turning The Tide*, ARA-LA/PART has been producing and circulating the *ARA E-News*, generally speaking on a weekly basis, other commitments permitting.

Here are some sample items from the last few issues, earlier in August:

### **Rest in Power, Albert Woodfox**

There are many other still-incarcerated political prisoners facing critical health issues, or in some cases near death. We must redouble our efforts to free Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal and others.

Dr. Mutulu Shakur turns 72 for example on August 8, during Black August. Learn more about the Free Mutulu NOW Campaign and how to get involved, visit

<https://linktr.ee/FreeMutuluNow>

Also be sure to check out

<https://mutulushakur.com/>

And sign the petition to free Ruchell Cinque Magee, held unjustly for over half a century – the sole prisoner survivor of the Marin County Courthouse Rebellion:

<https://chng.it/JqztjZ4QcH>

### **Racist right violence likely to increase as midterm elections near**

<https://acleddata.com/2022/05/03/far-right-violence-and-the-midterm-elections-early-warning-signs-to-monitor-ahead-of-the-vote/>

#### **Excerpt:**

Many of the same far-right groups and networks involved in the Capitol attack have adapted their activity to fit the new environment.

These adaptations have manifested in multiple ways: the landscape of actors has become more defined; demonstration engagement has shifted, with a focus on protests that allow for the co-option of new supporters; some actors, like the Proud Boys, have increased their use of violence; armed protests have proliferated, particularly at legislative facilities; contentious counter-demonstration trends have intensified; offline propaganda and vigilantism is on the rise, especially motivated by white supremacy and white nationalism; and preparatory actions have surged, including recruitment drives and training exercises.

### **Right Wing Set to Take Power in Italy**

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2022/08/18/italian-election-could-reshape-romes-defense-spending-momentum/>

#### **Excerpt:**

The three-way coalition teaming Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy, Matteo Salvini's League party and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia is expected to win elections on Sept. 25 following the collapse of a national unity government headed by Mario Draghi.

[*ARA Note:* The League (formerly Northern League) and Forza are both neo-fascist parties; Berlusconi is the former premier and a media mogul and multi-millionaire who is back despite repeated scandals. *Brothers of Italy* is also a far-right “populist” party, largest single voting bloc at 23%; Meloni served in Berlusconi's cabinet.]

The Draghi government has imploded and as polls point to a clear victory next month for the right-wing parties, they issued a 15 point manifesto this month which commits to pushing up spending to reach the target of two percent of GDP set down by NATO. The manifesto says the parties will “respect the commitments made to the Atlantic Alliance, including in regard to adjusting defense spending.”

The question is, therefore, whether the coalition will abide by July's existing forecast for a dip [in military spending] next year, made by the outgoing government, or push on with a hike, as per its manifesto.

# "FIRST DO NO GOOD": THE HYPOCRITICAL OATH OF PRISON MEDICAL CARE

By Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

## THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH VERSUS THE HYPOCRITICAL OATH

The Hippocratic Oath, often reduced to the four words "First do no harm," is one of the oldest professional pledges in Western society. Still preserved and taken by medical professionals in various forms today, it is a commitment to provide patients with healing care, to protect their privacy, and so on.

In the profit-driven medical industries of capitalist society the pledge amounts to little more than rhetoric, but even worse is the context of U.S. prisons (the world's largest prison system) where its purpose is turned in its head to one of "First do no good."

The grossness of medical neglect and abuse in Amerikan prisons would likely shock many in society, and is such a common condition that almost any case of prisoners' medical treatment can be given as proof of this inhumane reality. In fact I need look no further for a random example than the prisoner housed in the cell right next to me here at Virginia's Nottoway Correctional (sic!) Center.

### UNTREATED BROKEN BONES AND LOST VISION---THE PRODUCT OF PRISON MEDICAL CARE

My neighbor is Jaxon Chavez Reyes, #1527438. Jaxon has had not one, but two recent serious injuries needing medical care, which was essentially not given. As a result he has suffered a now permanently broken jaw and partial blindness in his left eye.

His first injury, a broken jaw, happened on June 27, 2022 while he was playing soccer. Jaxon immediately submitted emergency complaints of needing medical care, and was seen by the prison dentist who examined him and declared she could not treat him. He was sent to an outside hospital for x-rays that confirmed his jaw was broken, but he was returned to the prison without treatment.

It took him and other prisoners complaining that he needed care for his jaw for him to be sent out and admitted to another hospital on July 12, 2022, where he was belatedly scheduled to receive surgery to repair his jaw on July 15, 2022. However, on July 14th, THE DAY BEFORE his scheduled surgery, prison officials removed him from the hospital and returned him to prison without treatment.

When he and other prisoners continued protesting

## PEOPLE INCARCERATED IN NON-AIR-CONDITIONED PRISONS ARE SUFFERING AMID THE NATION-WIDE HEAT WAVE

Posted on July 23, 2022 by nevercrossapicketline in Writings from Uhuru

By Uhuru B. Rowe

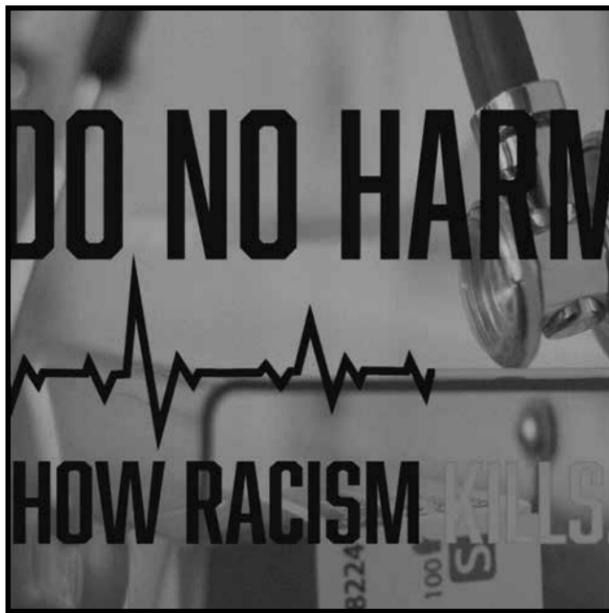
Re-written August 3, 2022

Have you ever opened the door to a hot oven and felt dizzy and overwhelmed from the intensity of the heat hitting you in the face? That is how it feels for people incarcerated at Augusta, Nottoway, and Buckingham Correctional Centers every summer, but especially during the current heat wave sweeping the country.

But get this: prison staff at these facilities do not experience excessive heat conditions because the areas in which they work and frequent — the control booths, school areas, medical department, education department, administration offices, etc. — are all equipped with air conditioning (AC).

While the US and other parts of the world, like Western Europe, are experiencing unprecedented deadly heat waves, people trapped in prisons, jails, and detention centers not equipped with AC in the areas where they housed are suffering exponentially from these sweltering conditions.

For instance, if it is 100 degrees for those of you on the outside, the temperature is always several degrees higher for those of us confined in prisons not equipped with AC. With the lack of AC, poor ventilation, substandard medical care, unsafe drinking water, big



his denial and need of care, he was taken back to the hospital TWO WEEKS LATER on August 1, 2022; where doctors told him it was by then too late to treat his broken jaw, since the delays and interruptions in care by the prison and its medical staff caused his jaw to progress too far in healing in its broken state, so that now he has been left with an untreated, permanently deformed, and painful jaw.

Jaxon's second untreated injury is even more egregious, and stems from the disregard and inhumane treatments prisoners suffer as slave laborers. Jaxon works in the prison's kitchen for only a nominal payment of a few cents per hour. Although he is forced to work with hazardous chemicals and under other dangerous conditions, he and the other prisoner workers receive no protective equipment or gear, and receive no safety or health instructions or precautions, as is given workers in society.

On July 5, 2022, a concentrated chemical degreaser called Native Green was sprayed into his left eye, causing severe irritation, burning, and redness. The warning label on this chemical warns that skin and eye protection should be worn by anyone working with the agent, and a poison control center and emergency care should be immediately consulted should skin or eye contact occur. Also immediate flushing of the affected areas.

When the chemical got into his eye Jaxon immediately sought emergency medical help, but was told by the prison medical staff it was not an emergency, and he was left to merely rinse his own eye with water. Nothing was done to treat his eye or even determine what

the chemical was that got in it.

It wasn't until his eye became blood red, he lost vision in it, and several other prisoners went with him to the medical department to demand care for him that he was sent out to a hospital several days later; where doctors immediately questioned why the prison's medical staff waited so long to get him to a hospital.

At the hospital he had to wait several hours for the prison to find out and inform the doctors what the chemical was that contaminated his eye. Then came efforts to treat his eye, which yet again was by then too little too late. As a result Jaxon is now partially blind in his left eye.

### THIS IS NOT MEDICAL CARE -- IT'S MEDICAL 'PROFESSIONALS' THAT DON'T CARE

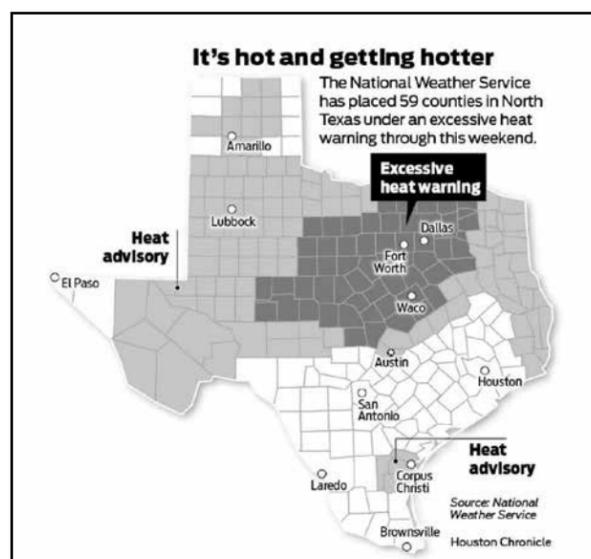
Jaxon's experiences came at the hands of the same prison medical department and staff that has left me with untreated cancer for nearly a year, and untested for over six months after they knew that cancer specific blood tests showed that I likely had cancer. They have been deliberately allowing needless delays in testing and care that will assure the spread and growth of my cancer so that it will almost certainly prove fatal.

We are subjected to extreme suffering and permanent injury, and even murder by medical neglect, at the hands of an indifferent and negligent medical bureaucracy that simply doesn't care. Many of these prison medical officials are people who cannot find work in society because of lack of professional ethics or concern for patients. In prison jobs they are free to commit the grossest malpractice because the people of color and poor people who are the disproportionate targets of U.S. mass imprisonment are demonized in the public eye, as we have been throughout Amerikan history, so that the public remains indifferent and blinded to our exploitation and brutality at the hands of this profit-driven system.

This is the basis of the hypocritical standard of harm we suffer at the hands of the prison medical industry. An industry that, like the public medical industry, must be dismantled and replaced with one that is people-and not profit-centered.

**Dare to Struggle - Dare to Win!**

**All Power to the People!**



slabs of concrete that trap heat, antiquated sewage systems that regularly back up and spew raw sewage into the cells and housing units, and the persistence of COVID-19 which is still spreading and infecting people at these facilities, all of these conditions on top of record high temperatures create unbearable conditions that are tantamount to the kind of cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the eighth amendment to the US constitution. Sick and elderly people confined under these conditions suffer the most.

So, is there a need for an intersecting movement for prison abolition? The short answer is "Yes," because when environmentalists talk about how climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and how the impact of this is felt most by people in third world countries least responsible for climate pollution, the ways in which climate change impacts people in confinement are often left out of conversations about climate justice. This is a blind spot that will cause incarcerated and detained people to suffer and die in silence and invisibility during future heat waves.

Of course, I believe prisons in general should be abolished and demolished, but right now, due to the immediacy of the current situation, we need prison abolitionists and climate justice activists to unite, and once united, collectively raise your voices to bring awareness to this issue and demand change to prevent the needless suffering and death of incarcerated human beings amid record high temperatures due to global warming.

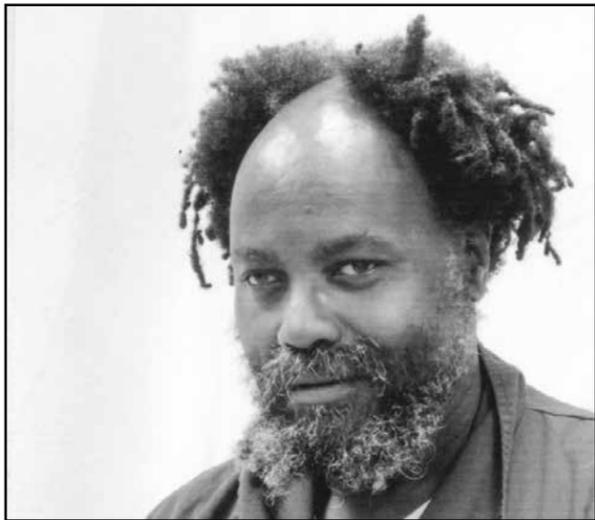
One way you can do this is by signing and sharing this online petition to close Nottoway, Buckingham, and Augusta Correctional Centers:

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-close-nottoway-buckingham-and-augusta-correctional-centers>

This petition can be used to raise awareness about this public health crisis and as the foundation for a state-wide campaign to shut these prisons down.

# Albert Woodfox, Angola Three Warrior Passes

by Mumia Abu-Jamal  
08/09/22



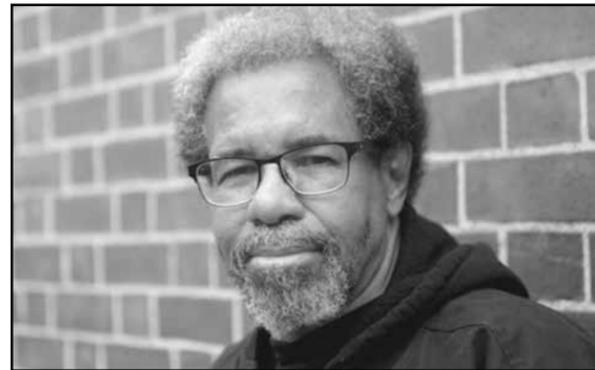
Who has not heard of the Angola Three? Three young Black prisoners who were falsely accused of killing a prison guard in 1972, in the infamous Louisiana maximum-security prison sited at a former slave plantation, and named for the place where the African captives came from: Angola.

On Thursday, August 4th, attorneys for Albert Woodfox announced his passing at the age of 75.

For over 43 years, Woodfox and several other Black men were held in brutal solitary confinement, one of the longest-held solitary prisoners on Earth. 43 years, seven days a week, 23 hours a day. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture has stated that any time above 13 days constitutes torture and a violation of international law. 13 days, 43 years.

How did Woodfox survive? He cites the teachings of the Black Panther Party; books by Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X, and Marcus Garvey; and lastly, the daily work they did for decades of calling down the tier to quiz guys on Black history, on math, and spelling bees. In an interview in *The Guardian*, Woodfox said, “Our cells were meant to be death chambers, but we turned them into schools, into debate halls.” By keeping their minds alive, they kept the beast of madness at bay.

After a bitter court fight, Woodfox was freed in 2016, and he returned to the remnants of his family. His daughter, Brenda, and her children and grandchildren, greeted his return. He wrote a book entitled *Solitary* and spoke at colleges around the world about his time in Angola.



Albert Woodfox - Rest in Power

In his last six years of freedom, he thought more and more of his mother, Ruby Mable Hamlin, who died while he was in Angola. He called her his true hero. She was, he said, “functionally illiterate.” But he added, “I never saw a look of defeat in her face no matter how hard things got. I grew into my mother’s wisdom. I carry it within me.” Albert Woodfox returns to his ancestors.

In love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.

## Mumia Abu-Jamal Remains the Voice of the Voiceless

After 40 years of incarceration the “voice of the voiceless” remains a focus of international attention

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire, Black August Series No. 2

During the late 1960s, Mumia Abu-Jamal became a youth activist in the city of Philadelphia where a succession of racist police chiefs engaged in widespread abuse against the African American community.

Philadelphia has a centuries-long history of African self-organization dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries when the Free African Society, African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and other institutions were formed by Richard Allen, Sarah Allen and Absalom Jones.

During mid-19th century, the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society provided avenues for men and women to build support for the Underground Railroad and the movement to completely eradicate involuntary servitude in the antebellum border and deep southern states. By the 1960s, the city became known as one of the first municipalities where African Americans would rise up in rebellion on the north side during the late August 1964.

Max Stanford (later known as Muhammad Ahmed), a co-founder of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) in 1962, was from Philadelphia. RAM preceded the Black Panther Party (BPP) and sought to form an alliance with Malcolm X (also known as El Hajj Malik Shabazz), a leading spokesman for the Nation of Islam and later the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). RAM advocated for the development of a revolutionary movement in the U.S. and consequently became a target of the Justice Department.

In 1969, Mumia joined the Black Panther Party at the age of 15 when the organization was deemed by the then Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) J. Edgar Hoover as the “greatest threat to national security” in the United States. The Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) had a special division which was designed to monitor, disrupt, imprison and kill various leaders and members of African American organizations from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the BPP as well as a host of other tendencies. Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) since the mid-to-late 1970s indicate that the BPP was a principal target of the U.S. government and local police agencies.

Why was the BPP considered so dangerous by the leading law-enforcement agency inside the country? In order to provide answers to this question it must be remembered that between 1955 and 1970, the African American people led a struggle for civil rights and self-determination which impacted broad segments of the population in the U.S. helping to spawn movements within other oppressed communities.

The Black Panther Party was first formed in Lowndes County Alabama in 1965. Its origins grew out of the organizing work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), whose field organizer, Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Ture) was deployed to the area in the aftermath of the Selma

to Montgomery march in late March of the same year. Working in conjunction with local activists, an independent political party was formed known as the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO). The group utilized the black panther as its symbol while rejecting both the Republican and Democratic Party.

In subsequent months, there were other Black Panther organizations formed in several cities including Detroit, Cleveland, New York City and other urban areas. In Oakland, California during October of 1966, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

This movement represented an emerging phase of the Black liberation struggle where there were calls for armed self-defense, mass rebellion and the political takeovers of major municipalities by those who had been excluded from the reins of official power. Thousands of African American youth flocked to the Black Panther Party viewing the organization as a symbol of uncompromising resistance to racism, national oppression and economic exploitation.

### Mumia and the BPP

Although the BPP was projected in the national corporate media as gun toting militants willing to use weapons against the police when they were threatening the Party and the community, most of the work of the organization revolved around distribution of its weekly newspaper, the establishment of free breakfast programs for children, community health clinics for the people in the most oppressed areas of the African American community while building alliances with revolutionary forces among other sectors of the population including, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Asians, Native Americans and whites committed to fundamental change within U.S. society.

Mumia noted the diversity of programmatic work during his tenure in the BPP of the late 1960s and early 1970s in his book entitled “We Want Freedom”: “As the Breakfast program succeeded so did the Party, and its popularity fueled our growth across the country. Along with the growth of the Party came an increase in the number of community programs undertaken by the Party. By 1971, the Party had embarked on ten distinctive community programs, described by Newton as survival programs. What did he mean by this term? We called them survival programs pending revolution. They were designed to help the people survive until their consciousness is raised, which is only the first step in the revolution to produce a new America.... During a flood the raft is a life-saving device, but it is only a means of getting to higher ground. So, too, with survival programs, which are emergency services. In themselves they do not change social conditions, but they are life-saving vehicles until conditions change.” (<https://www.commonnotions.org/blog/tag/Mumia+Abu-Jamal>)

On December 4, 1969, the Chicago police under the aegis of the Illinois State’s Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan and the Chicago field office of the FBI, raided the

residence of BPP members on the city’s west side. Two Panther leaders, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed while several other occupants of the house were wounded.

These police actions along with hundreds of other attacks on BPP chapters across the country resulted in the deaths of many Panther members and the arrests and framing of hundreds of cadres. Numerous BPP members were driven into exile as others were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

### The Voice of the Voiceless from the Streets to Death Row

On December 9, 1981, Mumia was arrested in Philadelphia and charged with the murder of white police officer Daniel Faulkner. He was railroaded through the courts and convicted on July 3, 1982. The following year, Mumia was sentenced to die by capital punishment. He remained on death row until 2011 after an international campaign to save his life proved successful.

However, his death sentence was commuted to life in prison without parole. Mumia and his supporters have maintained that he is not guilty of the crime of killing a police officer.

After his sojourn in the BPP, Mumia utilized his writing and journalist skills learned in the Party to become a formidable media personality in Philadelphia. He was a fierce critic of police brutality and a defender of the revolutionary MOVE organization which emerged during the 1970s in the city.

Mumia was a co-founder of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in the 1970s. He worked as a radio broadcaster and writer exposing the misconduct of the police surrounding the attack on the MOVE residence in August 1978. In 1979, he interviewed reggae superstar Bob Marley when he visited Philadelphia for a concert performance.

While behind bars Mumia has become an even more prolific writer and broadcast journalist. He issues weekly commentaries through Prison Radio where he discusses a myriad of topics including African American history, international affairs, political economy, the deplorable conditions existing among the more than two million people incarcerated in the U.S. along with police misconduct. (<https://www.prisonradio.org/correspondent/mumia-abu-jamal/>)

A renewed campaign entitled “Love Not Phear” held demonstrations around the U.S. and the world during the weekend of July 3 marking the 40th anniversary of his unjust conviction in 1982. Love Not Phear says that it is committed to the liberation of all political prisoners including Mumia Abu-Jamal.

An entry on their website emphasizes that: “The landscape has changed over the last 40 years, a time frame that also marks the years Mumia has been incarcerated. The fight for the release of political prisoners requires a recalibration in order to challenge police corruption and racism as they have evolved in this new landscape. We cannot deny the racism, corruption, and misconduct that permeated the so-called ‘Halls of Justice’ during Mumia’s arrest and unjust kangaroo court trial. The people today know the truth” (<https://lovenotphear.com/>)

## Incarceration is Expensive

# What Prisoners Make – and Spend – Behind Bars

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2022/08/04/prison-money-diaries-what-people-really-make-and-spend-behind-bars>

### Excerpt:

People in prison get “three hots and a cot,” right? So, what do they need money for? A lot, it turns out. Prisons typically provide the bare minimum when it comes to food, clothes, shoes, and hygiene supplies. Some states provide items such as toothpaste, soap and limited amounts of letter-writing supplies only to the “indigent,” or those who have little to no money. Other goods that many would consider necessities — deodorant, shampoo, sneakers, thermal clothes for winter — are often only available to people who can afford them.

But earning enough from a prison job is nearly impossible: The average prison wage maxes out at 52 cents per hour, according to a new ACLU analysis, and many people make pennies per hour. That means that basics, like a \$3 tube of toothpaste, can take days of work to afford. If you get paid, that is. In at least six states — Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas — prisoners aren’t paid at all for their labor.

To make up for their paltry wages, people in prison often take part in a thriving underground economy of side hustles, bartering stamps or commissary items for everything from hand-drawn greeting cards to makeshift home cooking to legal help. In recent months, The Marshall Project has corresponded with dozens of incarcerated people about the money they make, the money they spend and the lengths to which they go to secure basic needs and comforts.

We asked several people to log their transactions for us; they also sent receipts and monthly account statements for commissary purchases. Along with that information, we gathered commissary catalogs and conducted email and phone interviews about their official prison jobs and side hustles. Most are serving long sentences for serious crimes; some have spent decades behind bars. Read their stories to learn how they navigate and survive, often through sheer determination and ingenuity, the harsh reality of prison economics.

### Ricardo Ferrell, 64

**JOB:** Prisoner observation aide, helping to monitor incarcerated men under suicide watch. Also a reading and writing tutor.

**LOCATION:** Gus Harrison Correctional Facility, Adrian, Michigan

**MONTHLY INCOME:** \$250-\$350

I was carefully selected to be a POA, which means prisoner observation aide, after applying for it. There was rigorous screening and training. Prior to the prisoners doing this job, correctional officers had to do it. We’re getting paid \$3.34 per four-hour session. So we’re saving them money. Also, a prisoner on suicide watch would be more apt to speak with a fellow prisoner than a CO or a mental health professional. As soon as we’re at the door, they’re revealing what’s going on.

If I work two sessions, that’s \$6.68 per day. Almost nothing else in the Department of Corrections pays like this. Plus, during Covid, they gave us hazard pay — \$2 extra per day. Last July, I made \$334. The two primary things I spend on are: my phone credit account and commissary store purchases. The food at the chow hall is terrible and of poor quality — it’s not fit for a dog, seriously.

Recently, the commissary prices have been significantly raised. For example, an 8-ounce bag of Maxwell House coffee increased from \$8.45 to \$10.01. A jar of mayonnaise almost doubled in price, from \$3.61 to \$6.12.



In classic colonial economic patterns, prisons provide low quality food at high prices.

The same crunch being felt by ordinary folks in society is magnified for those inside because of the low wages paid for prison labor.

But if you save like I do, then you can have a nice little nest egg when you get out of here. I have \$3,100 in my account. To do my job, I got up at 5:00 yesterday morning. Washed up. Did my other work assignment real quick. When you take this job, it still allows you to have a dual assignment. I also tutor guys on the unit with their reading and writing.

Then, at 6:30, I went over to segregation. They strip-search us before we go over there. They give us these pink shirts with “POA” on them. I’m relieving somebody that’s already been there. He’ll bring me up to speed, and I pick up where the guy left off.

When I first sit down, I do a silent prayer for the individual in the cell. And every 15 minutes I document what the person is doing. I might say, ‘He got up and used the toilet, and then he laid back down.’ I try to engage them in conversation if they want to talk. The vast majority of guys on suicide watch like to talk.

I get them to laugh. I try to talk to them about what’s going on. Most of these guys are going to get out of here in no time. They’ve got paroles. They’re going home in less than a year. I tell those guys, ‘Look, here’s my situation. My mother got murdered while I was in here. I’ve been here 41 years. I got a bunch of buddies that never made it out. They died before they could make it out.’ What I’m trying to tell them is, ‘You’ve got everything in the world going for you, man, why harm yourself?’ I find the job to be therapeutic. I had a close friend that came real close to killing themselves. Not only do I help these individuals, by doing this, I’m helping myself. I’m in here for taking someone else’s life. Now I’m saving people’s lives. That’s how I look at it.

### Valerie Stanton, 47

**JOB:** Stylist and party planner

**LOCATION:** Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, Wetumpka, Alabama

**MONTHLY INCOME:** Officially, \$0. Unofficially, \$50-60 worth of commissary items and food.

I am the lead stylist/trainer/inventory support specialist in our prison’s salon, which is called “Badd ‘n Boojee.” Although I do not charge people for appointments, several of my regulars tend to bless me with commissary

items as a tip in appreciation for not being put on the 6 to 8-week waiting list. I try to show my appreciation by sliding them into the salon when I can. I sometimes do hair on the weekend in the dorm, for special occasions and visits only, in which I charge from \$3.00 to \$6.00 worth of commissary items, depending on the style or cut. Doing hair is also how I pay for my laundry to be done twice per week. I am also very creative and make unique gift bags/boxes for people as well as greeting cards, banners, photo albums, and birthday/special occasion decorations. There are only two paid jobs at Tutwiler: one is the Alabama Correctional Industries Clothing Factory, a.k.a. “the honorary slave camp.” When I worked there for almost four years, the starting pay was only 15 cents per hour. You can earn up to a whopping 10 cents per hour yearly raise, depending upon how much butt you kiss or how much slave labor you provide the company. The other is the ADOC Commissary, where you either work in the canteen, the snack line, or both for only \$3.00 per day. In addition to doing hair, I sometimes cook for others in order to provide a meal for myself. Oftentimes, they will provide all the ingredients for me to cook, and I get a plate as payment for my services. I’ve also planned and catered birthday parties for \$10 a plate, plus all the leftover ingredients. Recently we had a birthday party with 28 people, and we made a menu of rib sandwiches, baked beans, macaroni and cheese and cold pasta salad. I’ll issue out a list of things people have to order from the commissary or the snack line. The barbecue rib sandwiches cost about \$4.80. We cut those in half, so we only needed 14. For baked beans, we needed buckets of chili from the snack line, which cost \$2.30 each. The cups of barbecue sauce, packs of sugar and onions we had to borrow from the kitchen. Brown sugar we had to borrow from the kitchen. Macaroni noodles and butter were borrowed from the kitchen. Well, not really “borrowed.” “Re-allocated.” We remove it from the kitchen, and it goes to the people. They’ll also hire me to make decorations: banners, ceiling hangers, tablecloths, placemats. These can run anywhere from \$15 to \$40, depending on what they want. I can get poster board and colored pencils from the commissary. One time we did a Gucci theme. One time, the girl loved Sprite, so we made everything green. Occasionally, when I swallow my pride and break down and ask them, my family sends me money. It is a hardship for my only daughter, who is 23 and has a one-year-old son. So I never ask my daughter for anything, except to maybe add a few dollars to my phone every now and then, so I can check on her and my grandson. Which is why I go as long as I can, hustling to get the things I need before I break down and ask anybody for anything. You learn to do whatever you can to get by.

## 100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 34+ 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 guarantee four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we’ve dubbed “100X100.”

We are still 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 about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at <http://gofundme.com/eugzgg>. Help it go viral!

*Turning the Tide* doesn’t print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps. 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 \$1000 and climbing. If you can’t donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will resume publishing every other month in 2023. 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 about 20% of our goal. LA area 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:

[https://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la) and donate, or use paypal to [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com) if you prefer. 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.**

# The Work and Us: Prison Labor Survey

## Introduction

Are you incarcerated? Do you work? If so, why? Do you want to work? In general, is labor a major issue behind the walls? Simple questions. Rarely asked. Instead, many people beyond the walls speculate and project issues and concerns onto the imprisoned population. Why not ask us? Many imprisoned people choose to work and have reasons for doing so.

There are many misconceptions about labor behind the walls. Some would have the public believe that we are all working – the truth is that most imprisoned people don't work. For example, a report was published that said Pennsylvania, where I am imprisoned, has over 30,000 workers. How did the authors of the report come up with this number? They asked the prison officials. But if you ask imprisoned people, they will tell you a different story. At any prison in Pennsylvania, the number of people working is always lower than the number of people eligible to work, sometimes much lower. But the only way to know this and other facts related to labor behind the walls is to ask imprisoned people. And that is what we intend to do.

Instead of relying upon the state to tell us about imprisoned folx and labor, we are asking imprisoned folx themselves. We are going to the source. Only imprisoned people can tell us if they are actually working and why. Only imprisoned people can tell us how they are really being compensated. Only imprisoned people can tell us what changes they want to see regarding labor. Only imprisoned people can tell us if and how labor behind the walls should be prioritized in the struggle against the prison industrial complex.

Our goal is to help build a more inclusive labor movement with the stories and ideas of imprisoned workers. We aim to share what we learn through this questionnaire with imprisoned folx, outside organizers, and the public to facilitate a different conversation about labor behind bars. A conversation rooted in the experiences of those on the inside, not one based on DOC statistics.

## Instructions and Consent to Participate

If you respond on a separate sheet of paper or by email, please include the question numbers next to your answers. Try your best to answer the multiple choice questions by selecting from the options provided. If you would like to provide additional information about a multiple choice question, refer to the question number in your comments if you can. For the open ended questions, feel free to write as much as you want. At the end of the questionnaire, there is an open ended question for you to add anything you want to share.

If there are any questions you don't want to answer, feel free to skip them. You don't have to answer every question or provide personal information in order to participate. Our main priority is your comfort and safety.

You can respond by mail by sending it to P.O. Box 1196, New Haven, CT 06505. If you would prefer to respond to the survey via email, please send us an invite code at [TheWorkAndUs@gmail.com](mailto:TheWorkAndUs@gmail.com).

## Questions

- Do you have a job?
  - Yes. If yes, what is your job title?: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- If you have a job, how many jobs do you have?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you required to work?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you want a job?
  - Yes
  - No
- Why do you work? Check all that apply. If you don't work, why would you work?
  - Boredom
  - Forced
  - Money
  - Skills
  - Good time
  - Access / Legs / Movement
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the negative consequences for not working? Check all that apply.
  - Loss of recreation time / access to day room or yard time
  - Restricted access to commissary
  - Worse housing units
  - Solitary confinement
  - No income
  - No skills development
  - Doesn't look good for parole
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Does your job keep the prison running?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you have a correctional industries job?
  - Yes
  - No
  - If yes, is it a private industry or prison industry job? \_\_\_\_\_
- What type of job do you have? Check all that apply.
  - Food service / kitchen
  - Laundry
  - Maintenance
  - Electrician
  - HVAC
  - Welding / Carpentry
  - Painting
  - Door crew
  - Janitorial
  - Yard
  - Clerk
  - Library
  - Manufacturing / Correctional Industries
  - Block / tier work
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the primary ways someone gets a job? Check all that apply.
  - Apply
  - Assigned without application process
  - Based on who you know / relationship with guards
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- On a scale of 1-5, how much do the following factors affect your ability to get a job (if you wanted one?) Mark 0 if not at all.
  - Age: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Race: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gender identity: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Sexual orientation: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Relationships with guards: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Relationships with other incarcerated people: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Disability status: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Skill: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Time left in sentence: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Offense: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- How long did it take you to get a job? Fill in numerical answer for one line.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ days
  - \_\_\_\_\_ weeks
  - \_\_\_\_\_ months
  - \_\_\_\_\_ years
  - Depends on the job
- What are common reasons someone is fired from a job assignment? Check all that apply.
  - Stealing
  - Breaking the rules
  - Problems with other prisoners
  - Problems with staff
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the day to day difficulties of your job? Please describe.
- How are workers compensated in your facility? Check all that apply.
  - Wages
  - Good time / earn time
  - No compensation
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- If workers are compensated with wages, what's the pay scale?
- If workers are compensated with good time / earn time, how much time do you get off your sentence per hours worked?
- Are you being paid for all of the hours you work?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you receive overtime pay?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you receive idle pay if you are not working?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you pay for copays for medical services?
  - Yes
  - No
  - If yes, how much does a medical visit cost in your facility? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is there a hierarchy of jobs? (i.e. Are some jobs considered better in the eyes of prisoners?)
- How do you feel about jobs that keep the prison running? (i.e. non-industry jobs like doors and locks, kitchen, groundskeeping, etc.)?
- Do you talk about your wages and work with other imprisoned people?
- Are there any efforts to organize among imprisoned folx about labor issues in your facility?
- Do you see yourself as part of a larger labor movement?
- What would you ask outside allies to fight for regarding prison labor?
- Is there anything else you would like to share about jobs or working in prison?
- Background Information (All optional)
  - Name (Feel free to use your first name only, pseudonym, or remain anonymous):
  - Age:
  - Gender:
  - Sexual orientation:
  - Disability status:
  - Race:
  - Length of current sentence:
  - Time served on current sentence:

## URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to about 1700 prisoners around CA and the US. Rates have increased due to postage & printing.

### PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

[ ] \$24 a year individual [ ] \$36 institution/international [ ] \$50 sustainer

payable only to **Anti-Racist Action**  
at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postage alone for this issue comes to \$1000 and has increased twice in a year. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. 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 consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. 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](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com)

# Transwomen Critique on Prison Movement, TTT

To: Turning The Tide  
From: The 3-6 Movement  
July 2022

This is our formal response to your decision not to publish our political discussion entitled "The Disinherited." Your response was received via postcard on 6-22-22, undated but postmarked 16 June 2022.

We were specific that our discussion was within the context of ideological struggle as a method of attaining to common ground and unity within the California prison movement. Ideological struggle has been key and decisive in the success of every authentic revolutionary movement since the Bolsheviks. Among other things, ideological struggle clarifies in a concrete way what is progressive in a given instance and what is not, what is revolutionary and what is not.

Criticism/self-criticism is another means of ensuring what is what politically and the unity around the outcome.

These are fundamental principles of genuine revolutionary struggle that every revolutionary organization should be familiar with, elementary. Therefore, we question your motive in declining to put these principles into action by publishing our ideological struggle concerning political aspects of the prison movement in California that need to be struggled with.

We contend that within the California prison movement, reactionaries within the men's maximum security prisons are falsely presenting themselves as a progressive and unitary force, when in fact they are regressive and create disunity among the oppressed prison class -- unknown to the public and within the broader prison movement -- which we presented testimony of; that they have a kill-policy towards transwomen in prison while claiming to be a "human rights movement." And further, that transwomen in the men's maximum security prisons in California are subjected to sexism, hate and violence of the pseudo "human rights movement."

This is our legitimate political criticism that deserves and needs to be publicly aired and resolved among cadre by means of ideological struggle and debate within the prison movement. Your publication does extensive coverage of the prison movement and is an appropriate forum for this.

Once upon a time, one of your cadre named Novick was publicly critiqued about a certain matter, that he had acted reactionary in some way, of which you gave full-court-press coverage regarding the criticism and the



*Transwomen in men's prisons face great risks.*

discussions and his own presentation in his defense. It was a legitimate political concern of political interest within revolutionary movement, a debate that went back and forth and was ultimately resolved via the ensuing discussion where the concerned parties had their say, and unity accomplished.

In that event, you did not decline to publish the debate surrounding the political accusations or criticism of Novick as something that would create disunity within the revolutionary ranks, as you have done in the matter of our critique of PHRM.

We feel that, in comparison, you have taken this position with us out of a bias against us as transwomen, that transsexual females are not and cannot be political and revolutionary, and as a conscious or subconscious expression of male supremacy and aspects of patriarchy, that females must be silent and kept in their place.

These are reactionary and counterrevolutionary notions and politics that create and promote disunity among progressive movement and within revolutionary ranks.

We encourage you to reconsider your decision not to publish our political critique of PHRM and to publish it in the interest of ideological struggle as a weapon of clarification and unity within genuine political struggle and revolutionary movement.

Suyakami, 3-6 Movement Founder/Leader

Eva Reeves #WB1126  
CCWF 512-3-3L  
PO Box 1508  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

## LA PATRIA ES UNA!

for social justice, self-determination and NATIONAL liberation  
por la justicia social, la auto-determinacion y liberacion NACIONAL

La Lucha de RESISTENCIA continua!

Companeras y camaradas.. hope everyone is well and being safe.. QUE TODOS ESTEN BIEN Y CUIDANDOSE!

6 Agosto 5 August 1969: The FUERZAS DE LIBERACION NACIONAL a clandestine armed revolutionary organization, today the Partido Fuerzas de Liberacion Nacional, was formed in Northern Mexico. It is still active today.

Las FUERZAS DE LIBERACION NACIONAL, un organizacion armada clandestina fue fundada en el Norte de Mexico. Hoy es Partido Fuerzas de Liberacion Nacional, sigue activo hasta estas fechas.

August 8 de Agosto de 1898: Emiliano Zapata Salazar was born on this day in Anenecuilco in Mexico. He became a General of the Ejercito Libertador del Sur during the first Mexican revolution of 1910. He was assassinated in an ambush in Chinameca in 1919. He lives in our hearts and in our struggles!!

Nace Emiliano ZAPATA Salazar en Anenecuilco, Mexico. Fue General del Ejercito Libertador del Sur. Fue asesinado en un ambosca en Chinameca en 1919. !!ZAPATA VIVE EN NUESTROS CORAZONES Y LUCHA!!

13 Agosto/August 13 1521: La Ciudad de TENOCHTITLAN (hoy Cd. de Mexico) fue entregada a los invasores Espanoles despues de una guerra de dos anos y despues de que TENOCHTITLAN fue situada por dos meses. La reswistencia empezo en este dia y continua.. !!VIVA CUAUHTEMOC!!

TENOCHTITLAN (today Mexico City) was handed over to the invading Spaniards after a two year war and after it had been under siege for two months. The resistance began on this day and continues until today. !!VIVA CUAUHTEMOC!!

The Morena Party of Pres. AMLO recently held internal elections on July 30th and 31st for its national party leadership. It has been criticized for continuing the old practices of the PRI. Including the theft of ballots, buying of votes, herding voters to the polling places. Pres. AMLO has recognized that this occurred but minimized it by saying it was only in a few polling stations. As a companero wrote to us, this represents PRIMOR, the alliance of the PRI and Morena.

Los dias 30 y 31 de Julio del presente, el partido Morena tuvo elecciones internas para elegir consejos nacionales. Sufrio de las mismas practicas del pasado como robo,

quema de balotas, compra de votos y acarreo. Pres. AMLO lo reconocio, pero trato de minimizarlo diciendo que nomas fue en algunas casillas. Como nos escribio un companero esto representa el Primor. Osea una alianza entre el PRI y Morena.

[www.rbelion.org/morena-elecciones-cultura-democratica-y-legalidad](http://www.rbelion.org/morena-elecciones-cultura-democratica-y-legalidad)  
Mexican President AMLO has announced that he will shortly issue a decree whereby the Guardia Nacional will come under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense (SEDENA). The Guardia Nacional is a militarized national police. This decree is coming under increasing criticism as it continues the militarization of Mexico.

Pres. AMLO va dar un decreto en la cual la Guardia Nacional pasara a la jurisdiccion de la Secretaria de Defensa (SEDENA). Este decreto continua la militarizacion del pais y ya esta recibiendo varias criticas.

[www.aristequinoticias/08/08/integrar-la-gn-al-ejercito-es-la-militarizacion-y-un-acto-de-un-dictador-dicen-lideres-del-pri-pan-prd](http://www.aristequinoticias/08/08/integrar-la-gn-al-ejercito-es-la-militarizacion-y-un-acto-de-un-dictador-dicen-lideres-del-pri-pan-prd)

### CON PRESOS POLITICOS Y DESAPARECIDOS, NO HAY TRANSFORMACION!

#### WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED, THERE IS NO TRANSFORMATION!

KENIA HERNANDEZ, an indigenous defender of women's rights and political prisoners and coordinator of the COLECTIVO LIBERTARIO ZAPATA VIVE, was convicted by the courts of Morelia for an alleged armed robbery. KENIA is a member of the Movimiento Nacional por la libertad de Presos Politicos. KENIA had been previously arrested for obstruction of means of communication (blocking of a highway) and of taking cash from a tollbooth.

KENIA HERNANDEZ, mujer indigena, defensora de los derechos de la mujer y de los presos politicos. coordinadora del COLECTIVO LIBERTARIO ZAPATA VIVE, fue sentenciada recientemente por robo con violencia por el estado de Morelos, Esto mientras estaba detenida por la obstrccion de vias de comunicacion y por tomar dinero de una caseta. KENIA es miembro del Movimiento Nacional por la Liberacion de Presos Politicos.

The Mexican Supreme Court has ordered the Mexican government to create a search committee to locate the two disappeared members of the EPR. The order also requires that the armed forces open the military installations to search for these revolutionaries.

### Turning The Tide Editor's Response:

We appreciate Suyakami's response in regards to our earlier communication about the decision not to publish their original criticism on the grounds that it was very sweeping, and did not specify particular offenses, or individuals who could respond to the charges. While we stand by that decision, we are printing this letter, with its criticism of TTT, which does give some sense of the general criticism the 3-6 Movement is making of the prison struggle and prison solidarity movement in California.

The critique and sanctions levelled against T.A.C.O. for violations of revolutionary standards and abuses against the people, and the subsequent critique and sanctions against the editor (and by extension) TTT for remaining silent and continuing to present material from T.A.C.O., were specific, well-documented and supported by an identified committee and tribunal. The response was eventually self-criticism (not defense) and acceptance of the criticism leveled at Novick, and adherence to the sanctions imposed against T.A.C.O. We continue to try to overcome the damage we were responsible for and to establish a more principled basis for solidarity relationships.

In the current instance, however, little or no evidence or testimony has been presented to back up sweeping allegations, nor do we have the capacity of independent investigation similar to what the Committee and Tribunal carried out in that case. So we do not believe our decision not to publish was based on bias against transwomen or a belief that transsexual females cannot be political or revolutionary. ARA-LA/PART has had a point of unity for many, many years against sexism, homophobia and transphobia, and we have published material from and worked with transgender and other LGBTQ+ people and organizations, including at times within our own ranks.

There is no denying, however, that sexism and anti-gay, anti-trans sentiments and actions have been and continue to be a negative force within our movements, and within prisons. So we are printing this critique of us, in hopes that it will lead to a wider and self-critical discussion of particulars of how these errors are manifesting themselves in the prisoners' rights movement on the inside, the prison solidarity movement on the outside, and within the thinking and practice of all people professing to seek revolutionary transformation and abolition of the current systems of policing and incarceration.

For more about the dire situation of transwomen in men's prisons, see: <https://www.them.us/story/the-dire-realities-of-being-a-trans-woman-in-a-mens-prison>

## On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org) that go back more than 15 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning), and [facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity](https://facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity).

You can follow @ara\_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at [ara-la.tumblr.com](http://ara-la.tumblr.com).

# African Peoples Socialist Party & International Peoples Democratic Uhuru Movement Attacked in Armed FBI Raid with Flashbangs & Break-In

by Isheka N. Harrison

Black activists from the African People's Socialist Party and Uhuru Movement were searched and handcuffed by armed agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in St. Petersburg, Florida, and St. Louis Missouri on July 29 for allegedly conspiring with a Russian national to interfere in the 2016 elections.

In an unsealed indictment, the U.S. Department of Justice accused APSP Founder and Chairman Omali Yeshitela, his wife Ona Zené Yeshitela and other members of the Uhuru Movement of working with Aleksandr Viktorovich Ionov of Moscow to spread pro-Russian propaganda and sway local elections.

The DOJ's head of national security Matthew Olsen said Ionov "allegedly orchestrated a brazen influence campaign, turning U.S. political groups and U.S. citizens into instruments of the Russian government."

The Uhuru Movement's leaders say the claims are baseless and defended themselves against the accusations.

"They have accused us of taking money from Russia," Omali said at a press conference in St. Louis on Friday, July 29. "We've never taken a penny from the Russian government. ... The U.S. government is attempting to use us, the African People Socialist Party and Uhuru Movement, as pawns."

In St. Petersburg, Uhuru member Akile Anai said the FBI used police to lure her from her home under false pretenses. Anai, the party's director of agitation and propaganda, said officers came to her house and stated her car had been burglarized. When she came outside, the FBI searched her vehicle and seized her laptop and cellphone, Anai added.

"We are being attacked because of our relationship with forces internationally who support the anti-colonial struggle," Anai said, according to the Washington Post. "What they are saying about Alex and this relationship with the Russian government — this is all the U.S. government's attempt to use us as pawns in a propaganda war against Russia."

Special Agent in Charge David Walker said members of the Uhuru Movement and other groups in Georgia and California all worked with Ionov to commit the crimes. "The facts and circumstances surrounding this indictment are some of the most egregious and blatant violations that we've seen by the Russian government in order to destabilize and undermine trust in American democracy," Walker said.

During their press conference, Omali said they were "forcibly detained by FBI agents ... without any meaningful explanation of what was going on."

Ona added she "heard all these flash bombs go off, " and was then confronted by "a big, old drone" that met her "coming down the stairs like it was going to attack" her.



Members and supporters of APSP, InPDUM and APSC at a press conference after the FBI raids.

Omali said he visited Russia before, but only to attend a conference.

The Uhuru movement was founded in 1972. Its political philosophy is African internationalism and the movement fights for causes like colonialism, racial justice, reparations and more on behalf of Black people.

In a press release, the Uhuru Movement described the FBI raids as "a series of violent military FBI orchestrated pre-dawn attacks at the offices and homes of leaders" of the party. Uhuru leaders said the FBI raided seven properties in total.

**ARA-LA/PART note:** We, along with numerous other anti-racist voices, including the Black Alliance for Peace, the national Jericho Movement, N'COBRA, the National Black United Front, Charles and Inez Barron, Ajamu Baraka, Kamau Franklin and many others, condemn the attack on the APSP and the Uhuru Movement. It is a blatant attempt to use anti-Russian, New Cold War propaganda, to try to legitimize an attack on the Black freedom movement, as well as to add blatant anti-Black racism to the arsenal of weapons stigmatizing Russia and China as targets of US militarism and empire.

Here's the statement from The Burning Spear:

In the early morning hours of Friday, July 29, 2022, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), aided by local police, raided the offices and homes of members of the Uhuru Movement in St. Petersburg, Florida and St. Louis, Missouri, seizing our computers, hard drives, phones, office equipment and files.

They temporarily detained APSP Chairman Omali Yeshitela, APSP Deputy Chair Ona Zené Yeshitela, APSP

AgitProp Director Akilé Anai, APSC Chairwoman Penny, and APSC members Kitty, Jesse and Amanda. **[TTT Note:** APSC is the African Peoples Solidarity Committee, an organization of European-descent people who follow the leadership of the APSP and support their political line of African Internationalism.]

The African People's Socialist Party and the Uhuru Movement [SEE: <https://apspuhuru.org/>] have been organizing for black power for over 50 years. For decades, the Uhuru House in St. Petersburg has served the city's historically black south side with self-reliance programs including a licensed community kitchen, an affordable events venue, free holiday activities for families, free HIV testing, health fairs, outdoor marketplaces for local vendors and, for the past five years, a noncommercial radio station providing local community access to the airwaves and to free professional training.

In St. Louis, the Uhuru House is home to the "Black Power Blueprint," launched following the police killing of Mike Brown in 2014 to transform the city's devastated black community on the northside with programs including a community garden, outdoor event venue, workforce housing for the formerly incarcerated, a neighborhood basketball court, a bakery cafe, a women's health center [<https://blackpowerblueprint.org/projects/african-womens-uhuru-health-center/>] and a doula training program.

Colonial capitalism is in a deepening economic and political crisis and so is striking out against the rising movement for African liberation and its vanguard leadership, the African People's Socialist Party. The Uhuru Movement is not retreating, we're building!

## Tracking the Violent Racist Right in So Cal and Elsewhere

### Proud Boy Killed after Armed Attack on FBI Office in OH

<https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/man-fired-nail-gun-fbi-building-called-violence-days-mar-lago-search-rcna42749>

**Excerpt:**

A man identified by law enforcement as Ricky Shiffer, who died in a confrontation with police after he fired a nail gun at a Cincinnati FBI building, appeared to post online in recent days about his desire to kill FBI agents shortly after former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence was searched.

Two law enforcement officials confirmed Shiffer's name. Shiffer was at the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, according to three people aiding law enforcement who saw him in photos taken from the day of the attack; however, it's unclear whether he went inside the building. Shiffer frequently posted about his attendance at the Capitol on social media.

On Truth Social, a social media platform founded by Trump's media company, Trump Media & Technology Group, Shiffer appeared to have posted a message detailing his failed attempt to gain entry to the FBI building.

### On 5th Anniversary of Murder of Heather Heyer, More UTR Nazis Exposed

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/charlottesville-rally-anniversary-ignite-the-right-database\\_n\\_62f5344ae4b095e7887e72f9](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/charlottesville-rally-anniversary-ignite-the-right-database_n_62f5344ae4b095e7887e72f9)

**Excerpt:**

Friday marks the five-year anniversary of Unite the Right, and some of those same anti-fascists have a message for all the white supremacists who went to



San Diego neo-nazi Robert Wheldon one of many recently exposed by antifa research.

Charlottesville in 2017 and haven't yet been identified: We will find you.

A coalition calling itself Ignite The Right (see <https://ignitetheright.net/>) launched a website this week featuring an extensive database of every single white supremacist who has allegedly been identified as attending the Charlottesville rally. It also includes photos of many attendees whose names, five years later, remain unknown.

It's important to note, as the Huff Post article does, that unlike the "Sedition Hunters" who are tracking down people who participated in storming the Capitol

on January 6, 2021, the Ignite The Right anti-fascist researchers are not collaborating with or relying on law enforcement.

Here's some of the latest data related researchers have turned up about local neo-fascist perpetrators in southern California:

<https://pacantifa.is/>

Excerpts:

- Louie Mario Flores Jr., 42, of West Covina, CA, is an extremely violent member of the Proud Boys, a violent street gang whose leaders are under federal indictment for their role in the January 6th insurrection.
- Michael Halahan III, 24, of Orange, CA: Neo-nazi and member of Southern California-based "active club" Crew 562. Halahan has participated in multiple racist and antisemitic provocations in Southern California alongside Crew 562 and the white supremacist hate group Goyim Defense League. Name Michael Halahan III Lives Orange, CA
- Shaun Mulville, 32, of Ventura, CA: neo-nazi and member of "White Lives Matter" California and of a Southern California-based white supremacist "active club" calling itself Legion XIV. He is also an active participant of the "White Lives Matter" telegram chat where he regularly posts racist and antisemitic comments.
- Robert Wheldon, 30, of San Diego: neo-nazi, Proud Boy, and head of "White Lives Matter" California and leader of a Southern California-based white supremacist "active club" calling itself Legion XIV. Wheldon regularly participates in white supremacist actions, including Legion XIV's March 12th, 2022 neo-nazi banner drop in Thousand Oaks.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ August 27 - Chicano Moratorium rally & commemoration Salazar Park
- ★ Sept. 2-5 Socialism Conference in Chicago
- ★ Sept. 5 - Harbor Labor Dat Parade & Rally 10 am March, 12 noon rally
- ★ Sept. 15-16 Independence Day in Mexico & Central America
- ★ October 1 - China's National Day
- ★ October 8 - Day of the heroic Guerrilla in honor of Che Guevara

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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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innocence.

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# TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 34 ★ Number 4 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ Aug.-Oct. 2022



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--Ho Chi Minh