

# PPWC UpDate

– The Political Prisoners of War Coalition –

• February / March •

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## UpDate

### Special Note from Ali Khalid Abdullah:

Here is another *PPWC UpDate* and we forward it with the hopes that what we send will encourage and inspire our readers to reflect upon the contents of the package, open up new vision, raise collective consciousness and promote healthy and meaningful ACTION! For without meaningful action there can be no change.

As always, we appreciate your support and patience, and we look forward to our continuing work together as we build on the philosophy of "each one teach one."

For those of you who are reading the *PPWC UpDate* for the first time, we hope you will give critical thought to its content and join us as members. For those who have read our *UpDates* in the past, we hope our information has given you the desire to become members so that we can make a difference in the world for ALL oppressed and repressed peoples the world over.

In the trenches...

## Planning Ahead

The Political Prisoners of War Coalition (PPWC) was created initially to enhance the work of prisoners who are politically active and want to work for political/social change, and who want to develop positive means for enforcing such change. It is the view of PPWC founder, Ali Khalid Abdullah, that prisoners can be very powerful and resourceful when relating to the larger political struggle if they can muster the support of the larger constituency to advance both prisoners' struggles and the overall people's struggle. PPWC is not limited to advancing

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### *PPWC Statement*

- **PPWC** believes in the right of human beings to live lives free from all form of oppression.
- **PPWC** believes in the people having the autonomy to govern their lives, as long as they don't hurt or harm others.
- **PPWC** believes in the total destruction of racism, sexism, homophobia, class and the division of labor.
- **PPWC** adopts the philosophy of MUTUAL AID, FREE ASSOCIATION and COOPERATION.
- **PPWC** believes in supporting Political Prisoners, Prisoners of War, and Social Politicized Prisoners.
- **PPWC** believes in the need to support worthy causes that will enrich the lives of All People, no matter where in the world they may be.
- **PPWC** believes in fair labor and believes that all workers are to enjoy the fruits of their labor.
- **PPWC** believes in ending capitalism, imperialism, apartheid-ism, and other types of exploitation that are the root causes of war and social ills.

*We base these beliefs on*  
**HUMANITARIANISM FOR ALL!**

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While we try to keep our editing to a minimum, we do reserve the right to edit your submissions. Please know that we think the quality of the materials you have sent us for this UpDate is outstanding! Also, please accept our apologies if we failed to include something of yours that we promised: we want to correct our errors whenever possible.

If you like the work we're doing and like the direction PPWC is going in, then do become an active member. We want this thing to grow... And remember, the work we do requires not only your talents but also your dollars. While our publications are free to prisoners, we always appreciate whatever you can give – stamps are appreciated. We also hope you'll think about starting a PPWC chapter... and we welcome both your questions about PPWC and your ideas. Finally, to obtain Ali's other zines, contact Anthony Rayson, our Midwest Distributor. Distributors' addresses are listed on page 26.

## – Reports from our Members –

### MICHIGAN...

In our October/November 1999 *UpDate* we mentioned that the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) had implemented plans to take away the remainder of personal clothing from all prisoners in Michigan. This is due to a Court Order in the Class Action Lawsuit Cain v. MDOC that's been in the Michigan courts for over ten years. Since our last reporting of this issue, the MDOC has not acted, due to an injunction by the attorneys on behalf of the prisoners. However, this case is still being litigated and we will keep you posted as to its outcome. Meanwhile, Michigan continues to work overtime to repress prisoners. Right now, the powers that be are implementing measures to limit, or deny, prisoners having ready access to reporters and to prevent them from being able to appeal parole board decisions. We will keep you posted.

In the October/November 1999 *UpDate* we made it known that comrad Ali Khalid Abdullah (founder of PPWC) was soon to go before the Parole Board and we forwarded petitions with our *UpDate* calling on you to make copies, circulate and return them to the Information Center or send directly to comrad Ali. We were hoping to obtain 5,000 signatures. As of this date Ali reports that he has received only a few petitions and only seven letters in support of his parole. Needless to say, this man is crushed by the unbelievable lack of support. He is scheduled to see the parole board on February 29, 2000. We'll let you know what happens.

Thomas X Coleman at the Huron Valley Men's Facility has shown interest in PPWC and has reported to comrad Cynthia at the PPWC Information Center that he is moving ahead with developing a PPWC chapter. We salute Thomas X for his initiative and look forward to his progress with PPWC.

Comrad Jahaun O. McKinley has been transferred from the Carson City Correctional Facility to another facility. His address is: Jahaun Omad McKinley #217058, 4010 Cooper St., Jackson, MI 49209 USA. He has done much to spread the word of PPWC in Michigan. Following his suggestion, a sistah at the Scotts Correctional Facility requested PPWC materials from Ali, saying "I am interested in learning about PPWC. Jay (Jahaun) has told me that

I need political maturity. I write this with eagerness to learn." This is very encouraging as we seek to include all our incarcerated sistahs' voices in our work and expose the hardships they are undergoing – which aren't widely known.

### ILLINOIS...

From a letter from Anthony Rayson, our hard-working PPWC Midwest Coordinator:

"Greetings, brothers and sisters, inside and out!

I would like to report on recent developments and upcoming events.

"Last October 22nd, Gale Ahrens and I represented PPWC during the Stop Police Brutality rally and march in Chicago. We carried our PPWC signs, passed out a wealth of literature, did interviews and made new contacts amidst a sea of police. It was nice to see so many fine folks dressed in black and arrayed against the blue meanies of Chicago. In the front of the march were caskets and pall bearers representing those citizens recently murdered by the Chicago police. The youth were the honor guards for this... a very moving and fitting statement.

"We submitted declarations to be read – from Ali Khalid Abdullah, (founder of PPWC), Herman Wallace & Cinque Woodfox, (of the Angola 3), and Janine Africa from MOVE. October 22nd had been about police brutality directed at civilians on the outside, but we are getting them to look inside the gulags. The rally organizers have asked me to compile a list of prisoners murdered while in prison – by guards, "doctors" and executioners. It will be very difficult to compile such a list. I think we should start by recognizing those who were deliberately and ritualistically put to death by the state in their ghoulish execution "ceremonies." From there we can add the names of brothers and sisters who were beaten, given AIDS, set upon by prisoners directed by guards, shot to death, etc. Those prisoners who were gunned down during revolts such as those at Attica deserve special honor. So, please send information to me about all of these brothers and sisters killed by the gulag system. Thank you.

"On November 27th, Gale and I delivered a powerful presentation on prison abolition of the College of Complexes ("the playground for people who think"). You can ask for a copy of my address, which you may or may not receive. (It must be pretty good because about half of the copies are denied entry by the prison censors. In this country, "free speech" applies only to harmless nonsense.)

"We are networking with other prisoner support groups who have expressed enthusiasm for the work

of PPWC. These include the Winnipeg ABC-SG; Out of Control – Lesbian Committee to Support Political Prisoners; the Sojourner Truth School; Books Through Bars; the George Jackson Books to Prisoners Project; Criminology 101; the Crossroads Support Network; Claustrophobia; Off! Magazine; Prison Legal News and others. We are exchanging contact ads in our publications, working on projects together and spreading each others' literature around. PPWC is becoming more recognized as a serious, articulate and important prisoner voice. We have but scratched the surface of our work.

"I am also doing a presentation at the College of Complexes on February 19th, specifically about PPWC. I believe Gale will once again be a part of this. She has been out of town for a few weeks, but is back now and ready to take on the beast! She has her own court fight coming up, in which she will defend herself.

"On December 8th, we hooked up with Mike Lee, who is part of Raze the Walls! – in Seattle. He's moving to South Carolina to work on a prisoner campaign down there. He filled us in on the Battle of Seattle and had a wealth of information and suggestions on how to attack the court system to help defendants and prisoners. Hopefully, Gale and Mike can collaborate on a zine on how most effectively to battle in court – as your own lawyer.

"Interest in PPWC has picked up throughout the gulag system. Brother Jerome White-Bey and his comrades of the Missouri Prison Labor Union (MPLU) are putting together a zine with the help of supporters in California. I will help them finish it and distribute it. Also, Tony Ducat #268662, NECC, P. O. Box 5000, Mountain City, TN 37685 and his comrades are starting a PPWC chapter with his sister, Theresa Gravit, 215 Bratton, Dyersburg, TN 38042 serving as secretary. Harold H. Thompson #93992, N.W.C.C. Site 1, Route 1, Box 600, Tiptonville, TN 38079-9712 had a lot to do with Tony's political education, as they had bunked together a while back. And Richard M. Flood B-56680, P. O. Box 2000, Tamms, IL 62980 has come aboard as an enthusiastic PPWC member. Richard is a highly intelligent activist, who may be released sometime this year after serving twenty years, many in the Tamms supermax dungeon, because of his activism. I look forward to working with him in the Chicago area upon his release.

"I have received an excellent article from Karen Harding #00644-CC5, FMC Carswell, P. O. Box 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127 entitled "Cruel and Unusual," which details the dreadful conditions at

her women's hospital prison in Texas. This will be in the upcoming *In the Trenches...* which will be out the end of February. Also, information about the group T.U.F.F. (Together United For Freedom), which is a group launched by Sterling Shepard #648874, P. O. Box 16, Eastham Unit, Lovelady, TX 75851. It concerns the plight of prisoners sentenced to long prison terms who have seen the laws changed so that their "crimes" are no longer punishable offenses, or minimally so, yet they languish for decades in these pits. I'm working on a separate zine with him and others on this also.

"We are working more closely with Books Through Bars in Philadelphia. Scott is going to help me distribute *Chain Reaction* and I am interesting them in PPWC material too. Nicole Meyenberg, who does the terrific zine *Excarcerate*, P. O. Box 30924, Philadelphia, PA 19104 was recently mugged at gun point, but is OK and back in the struggle. Breen Casey 3229 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, who does *Disgusted Life* zine, which features the work of Ali Khalid Abdullah, has formed a collective and they will be putting out a new zine soon. We are also working with the Sojourner Truth Farm School, P. O. Box 311, Poolesville, MD 20837; the Crossroad Support Network, 3420 West 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60629; Out of Control – Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners, 3543 18th St., P. O. Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110; Claustrophobia out of Baltimore; the Winnipeg ABC-SG and others. A group called LRNA (League of Revolutionaries for a New America), P. O. Box 477113, Chicago, IL 60647 has expressed enthusiasm for PPWC work and has asked to reprint my prison abolition address in their organ, the *People's Tribune. News and Letters* has a new location at 36 S. Wabash Ave, Room 1440, Chicago, IL 60603. They send their warm regards too, brothers and sisters! In the next *In the Trenches...* we will list all of these contacts and many more.

"Moving on, I have also been solidifying the South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, carry all PPWC publications, plus many other serious educational materials. I am adding new zines all the time, including one called *A Souljahz Thoughts* by Bubba-B!... POWER Forward, Comrades! Anthony"

Comrad Ali received words from comrad Peter of *News & Letters* in Chicago. *News & Letters*, (November 1999, p. 7), printed a support article for him in their paper calling on support for his parole hearing and legal defense. Comrads of *News & Letters*, a Marxist-Humanist Group, have shown much appreciation for PPWC.

## MISSOURI...

In a letter to Cynthia at the Info Center, Yero T. Chaka, (aka Bruce Cummings), writes that "Prison 'slave labor' has become a buzzword for corporations/ It is a symbol of wildly free labor throughout the country and the world – and in every aspect of economic life, trade, foreign investment, even finance. Among both Democrats and Republicans the battle cry is the same – liberalize and privatize. Uninhibited prison labor across the borders will make everyone rich.

"Our grassroots sources have generally stood in opposition to this brave new world. We have and are opposing virtually all aspects of corporate prison takeover for slave labor. To justify our position as being invested on our fellow prisoners/workers, we are struggling to establish the Missouri Prison Labor Union (MPLU). What takes place in Missouri (and most other states) should have critics in the labor community questioning whether prisoner workers are getting protected by the Constitution... The line between prison labor exploitation and indentured servitude is something we have to pay careful attention to...

"Therefore, the Missouri prisoners and their supporters (you all – the people) have established the MPLU to provide Missouri prisoners with a much needed political forum from which to promote principles of social justice, consistent with human rights. While the primary focus of the MPLU is prison labor, we also understand the need for direct support and intervention by the people working with prisoners. These efforts have come under intense fire by the Missouri Department of Corrections, which has also placed many of our board members (including me) in transit and locked away in dungeons throughout the state of Missouri!

"Still, our efforts will bring about revolutionary change and set the course for unionizing our labor force in spite of the odds! The struggle continues..."

The letter continues, saying, "It is so very important that we establish a prison labor union. We prisoners represent captive labor! We are Amerikkka's prisoners as a corporate workforce. But the attraction of prison labor goes far beyond low wages. The prison labor system kills the statutory protections that come with progressive policies, which unions have fought so hard for over 100 years. The prison labor debate that is now unfolding will offer a preview of the policy choices facing states across the

nation as they confront what is fast becoming a significant threat to the job prospects of working Amerikkans!"

Further along in the same letter Yero reminds us of the strangle hold corporations have on our national economy and the effects of this on our Black communities: "In 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced interim guidelines for investigating Title VI complaints, and asked for public comments. The largest group to file comments, comprising more than 32 percent of all submissions, were individual corporations and industrial associations such as the Chemical Manufacturers Association, which represent the nation's biggest polluters. Communities of color are literally locked in a battle with corporations and even more disappointing, with the local and state governments, over the establishment of federal policies that supposedly ensure the right to clean air, water and land. In this country, these communities have been unfairly burdened with environmental pollution. Their rights to clean air, water and soil are consistently violated by government policy and corporate activity. Examples of environmental racism range from the destruction of sacred Native American tribal lands to the location of industrial manufacturing facilities in predominately low-income communities of color. We must pay close attention to the 'global picture!'"

If you would like to write to Yero, his address is:  
Yero T. Chaka  
aka Bruce Cummings #36911  
Jefferson City Correctional Center  
P. O. Box 900 (5C-East, Cage #224  
Jefferson City, MO 65102 USA

Meanwhile, comrad Jerome White-Bey, esteemed head of the Missouri Prison Labor Union (MPLU), is still being held in solitary confinement for his active work to educate prisoners and non-prisoners alike. The MPLU is putting together a newsletter called *OFF THE HOOK*. For more information on this, contact: Jerome White-Bey #37479, Potosi Correctional Center, Rt. 2, Box 2222 (1A-01), Mineral Point, MO 63660 USA.

Comrad Shango Mutulu-Bey has sent comrad Ali a powerful pamphlet entitled "The New Afrikan Dilemma" which is very good reading. This pamphlet is available from the PPWC's Information Center or you can contact Comrad Shango Mutulu Bey at: J.C.C.C., #151986, P. O. Box 900, Jefferson

City, MO 65102 USA. [Note: Our comrades in the Missouri death kkkamps have shown great support and interest in PPWC. Since there are too many comrades to name here, we do want to acknowledge ALL of them in Missouri and their fine dedication to the struggle.]

#### **CALIFORNIA....**

Comrad Abdul Olugbala Shakur and Sharifa A. Shakur of The New Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101 have done a great job with this organization in raising the consciousness of New Afrikans specifically and all people generally who are sincere about eradicating the political injustices done to New Afrikan people. These two comrades have joined hands with PPWC in efforts to reach more people and build our networks in solidarity. It should be noted that comrad Ali Khalid Abdullah is also the National Spokesperson and Public Relations Director for the New Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101 and hopes that all of you will show your support to this worthy organization and give your donations to help its operations. Comrad Ali made a special notice of his involvement with the New Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101 within the pamphlet he's recently put out called "PPWC Goals, Aims & Objectives." If you want excellent materials on New Afrikan issues, write for Abdul's many publications at: The New Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101, P. O. Box 135, Daly City, CA 94016-1305 USA.

E-mail: [abdulshakur@bminternet.com](mailto:abdulshakur@bminternet.com)

[Newafrikka@aol.com](mailto:Newafrikka@aol.com)

Web site: [www.blackpantherparty.com](http://www.blackpantherparty.com)

#### **TENNESSEE...**

Tony Ducat and David McBride have started a PPWC chapter in TN. What follows is their Chapter Report, submitted by comrad Tony:

##### PPWC Chapter Facilitators' Board:

Chapter Facilitator – Tony Ducat  
Secretary – Theresa Gravitt

Committees: No committees have been founded for this PPWC chapter at this time.

Chapter Facilitators' Agenda: Develop a membership committee so that other needed committees can be founded.

##### Tennessee death kkkamp conditions:

1. Showers have been reduced to three per week because they say Tennessee is experi-

- encing water shortage.
2. Recreation has been reduced to five days per week instead of seven days as permitted by FEDERAL law.
  3. Phone access has been reduced to 20 minutes per day per prisoner. Reason unknown.

Comment: These complaints may be small to some people, but it's all we got, and they're slowly but continually taking all we do have. Committees will be formed within this chapter and one of them will deal with prisoners and our issues.

### **NORTH CAROLINA...**

News From Dave Coker, our PPWC distributor in Greensboro, NC (along with Chris Newsom), is that the majority of workers at the the health food co-op where Chris works have joined the IWW. Workers began organizing after management unilaterally slashed health benefits and became indignant when confronted on the issues. Dave writes that while loss of health insurance was the catalyst for organizing, there had been a gradual erosion of workers' rights and benefits over the last several months.

They finally confronted management with their union affiliation and three demands: (1) benefits issued to all employees who are scheduled 30 hours or more a week; (2) worker representation at management meetings; and, (3) staff meetings to be held on a quarterly basis. The proposal also stated that "The entire staff at Deep Roots has become confused, angry and tired of the Management Team's policy changes that affect only the workers and not the managers themselves."

Management has replied by saying that there will be no policy changes until a new General Manager can be instated at the store. For the time being, health coverage has been retained. While this continues to be an uphill battle, IWW will be at the side of the workers as they push forward to create and maintain shop democracy. Letters of support may be sent to the Greensboro IWW, 10093 Greensboro NC 27404 or e-mailed to: gborawobs@usa.net

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Comrad Ali has been contacted by Mangwiro Acholam on behalf of brotha Lionel Lewis Rogers and Sistah Shirley Rogers, New Afrikans confined in prison on charges of first degree murder, sexual

assault and burglary. The victim is an 88 year old white womyn. He is also accused of three counts of sexual assault on a 10 year old Black girl. However, there are serious questions about this case that smell of racism and cover-up. Dr. Dorothy B. Farden of the Sojourner Truth Form School in Maryland is working with brotha Lionel and sistah Shirley and so is brotha Mangwiro Acholam. Information about their cases is available and can be obtained from writing: Mangwiro Acholam, P. O. Box 146, Garysburg, NC 27831 USA or by writing Dorothy B. Farden, SJTF School, P. O. Box 311, Poolesville, Md. 20837 USA or the Greensboro PPWC Distribution Center, c/o Dave Coker /Chris Newsom, P. O. Box 10093, Greensboro, NC 27404 USA.

### **LET US HELP THE TRUTH SHINE!**

### **LOUISIANA...**

PPWC comrades Albert Woodfox, Herman Wallace and Robert King Wilkerson (The Angola 3) have continued to fight for justice, not only to win freedom completely, but to also win freedom from being locked down 23 hours a day for the past 28 years. However, we are told that the ACLU is working with them and there is hope that they will obtain a new trial. These men are ex-Black Panthers who've served their people and the community well, both outside of prison and inside prison. They haven't abandoned the cause... the need to raise consciousness.

From Herman "Hooks" Wallace these words:

"We are prepared to seriously challenge the years of solitary. I think we're on to something and could very well make a breakthrough for many of the guys on years of lockdown... As I said before, the time is ripe for raising hell and we will continue to do our part, pushing this pit to a level where the masses of people can see it. Did you know that this penitentiary consists of 20 wardens? I remember when there were but 2 wardens here and now there are 20!!! Why? They are ripping off the tax payers. What is so crazy is the fact that the people don't understand what is happening to them. Bourgeois politics down here run supreme – no opposition and that is why the Klan bastards stay in power... Extend my revolutionary regards to everyone at PPWC!"

The Angola 3 need our support. You may contact them directly (individually):

- Albert Woodfox #72148, Camp Tu/CCR B-4, LA. State Prison, Angola, LA 70712, USA
- Herman Wallace #76759, CAMP J/GAR 3-R-13, LA State Prison, Angola, LA 707812 USA
- Robert King Wilkerson #80966, Camp J/Cuda 2-L-8, Angola, LA 70712 USA

Or you may reach them & donate funds at:

- Angola 3 Support Committee  
P. O. Box 15644  
New Orleans, LA 70175, USA.  
Phone: (504) 227-5946  
Web site: [www.prisonactivist.org/angolatwo](http://www.prisonactivist.org/angolatwo)

### **TEXAS..**

Comrad Chris Plummer (anarchist) has been in close contact with comrad Ali. In a recent letter to Ali he stated, "... i am trying to get stuff sent to kipkiorny schools"...[This is in Kenya.]. He adds, "If you know folks who have access to extra clothes and such, they can use them... John has nine children...from 21 to 1 years of age... One of his daughters is crippled and i am trying to raise enough money to buy a good industrial sewing machine for her to open her own shop... It will cost about \$500 in the end." This, comrads, is solidarity. This is true love and caring. Chris Plummer, though locked down himself, is trying to help a brotha and his family in Kenya. **WE NEED & MUST DO OUR PART.** For more information and the address to where you can help this family in Kenya contact: Chris Plummer #677345, Rt. 2, Box 4400, Gatesville, TX 76597 USA. Comrad Ali also warmly thanks comrad Chris for helping with his financial contribution. **NEVER SAY WHAT YOU CAN'T DO BECAUSE YOU'RE IN PRISON OR POOR... HERE IS AN EXAMPLE TO SAY DIFFER!**

PPWC has put out a pamphlet for one Bahiya Shakur (Amelia Johnson), a New Afrikan sistah locked up in a Texas prison for the alleged murder of her husband. We heard of her story from one of the Angola 3... Herman "Hooks" Wallace. Details of her case are summarized in our pamphlet with information on how to contact her. Contact any of the PPWC Distributors for this pamphlet.

Comrad Ali has been corresponding with Kevin Glover, an anarchist prisoner in Texas who put out the d.i.y. zine Chain Reaction, which PPWC comrad Anthony Rayson helps him with. To find out more, write: Kevin Glover #526379, Huntsville Unit, P. O. Box 32, Huntsville, TX 77342-0099 USA.

### **NEW JERSEY...**

American Friends Service Committee Director Bonnie Kerness is preparing to attend a conference on Human Rights at the Cleveland State University. Bonnie is a long-winded fighter for prisoner rights and the rights of New Afrikans. To know more of the Human Rights Conference and to obtain Bonnie's speeches contact her at: American Friends Service Committee, c/o Bonnie Kerness, 972 Broad Street, 6th Fl., Newark, NJ 07012 USA.  
e-mail: [bkerness@afsc.org](mailto:bkerness@afsc.org)

### **MARYLAND...**

The Sojourner Truth Farm School and Center for Human Growth is a bright light of hope for young people in Maryland, especially our Black youth who "have all too often internalized negative attitudes towards the farm because of the history of slavery and who today suffer the most from urban America's plight of unemployment, poor housing, burdened schools, health hazards, gun and drug trafficking – all problems brought about by adults, not the youth." The Sojourner Farm School is working to turn the tide. (Be sure to read their pamphlet enclosed in this PPWC packet.)

### **FRANCE...**

Our comrads in the ABC Dijon/Maloka have translated our pamphlet of Bahiya Shakur (Amelia Johnson) and Maurice H. Carter. They have also been distributing our materials along with comrad Ali's booklet which the ABC-Gent in Belgium produced and they translated into French. Recently they have also sent to the PPWC Information Center a generous donation to help PPWC's operations. We appreciate their work with us. They can be contacted at ABC Dijon/Maloka, BP536, 21014 Dijon, Cedex, France.

### **POLAND...**

Once again we have received words from our comrads in Poland. Comrad Soja sent Ali some leaflets that were rejected by the prison officials who claimed that the material "talks against the government." We were told that anarchist activity in Poland has slowed down. But the Anarchist Federation, in Poland started publishing a magazine called "A-Tak," and they are going to publish A-Infos from Poland again. These comrads are also in serious support of brotha Mumia Abu Jamal, and our Polish political prisoners (whom we've featured in previous UpDates). You can contact them and get their magazine WARHEAD by writing: Tomaz Sajewicz, Box 129, 15-662 Biatystok 26, Poland.

**Poland, cont.**

E-mail: sojaz@friko-4.onet.Pl

E-mail: Rozbrat@friko2.onet.Pl

**GERMANY...**

Comrad Thomas Meyer-Falk has informed Ali that he plans to develop a PPWC chapter in Germany and organize the prisoners there. He says, "...I agree with the Principle & Points of PPWC. I'll try to organize a German chapter of PPWC." He also plans to translate the PPWC Declaration into German to fit their situation. This is very good! Show your solidarity by writing and sending materials to: Thomas Meyer-Falk, c/o JVA-7.3117, Schonbornstr. 32, D-76646 Bruchsal, Germany.

**AUSTRIA...**

Comrad Ali received a letter from a fellow anarchist in Austria named Peter Kolb. He is with the anarchist Black Cross (ABC), Innsbruck, in Austria. They are also working closely with the ABC Gent in Belgium and the ABC Dijon in France. Peter plans to translate comrad Ali's book into German. He also is in support of comrad Mark Barnsley. The ABC Innsbruck brings out their own ABC bulletin in German called Entfesselt, which means "Freed from the Chains." They have an info shop and do a lot of solidarity work. Contact: LOM – Postlagernd, 6024 Innsbruck, Austria.

**CANADA...**

Patrick McGuire of the Winnipeg ABC has contacted PPWC's Midwest Coordinator, Anthony Rayson, and purchased copies of In the Trenches..., sent \$25 for PPWC operations and \$25 for Ali's personal needs, in spite of the fact that they, the Winnipeg ABC, are in need of donations for their own operations. We are not only encouraged by this generosity but we send our Clenched Fist Salute for their solidarity. Comrad Patrick has also offered to begin distributing PPWC materials. Thanks Patrick and Winnipeg comrades. Contact: Patrick McGuire, Winnipeg ABC-Box 64028, RPO Moise Pl., Winnipeg, MB, R2K 4K2, Canada.

**UNITED KINGDOM...**

Comrad Ian Jones of London has informed comrad Ali that he plans to run in the London Marathon on April 16th to help raise money for PPWC and Maurice Carter's defense fund. [We featured Maurice Carter's case in our Oct./Nov. 1999 UpDate]. Ian is looking for "sponsorship money" for this marathon run. He is asking all who are willing help him to write to him at: Ian Jones, 23

Ladywell Rd., London SE13, 7UT, U.K.

**IRELAND...**

Comrad Ali has been in correspondence with John Black of Ireland who runs the Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign. (Barnsley is an anarchist confined in the U.K. for defending himself against Nazis' attack). John Black has offered to distribute info regarding PPWC in Ireland and through their international contacts. We are encouraged by this for it shows PPWC is reaching the masses and that we're moving positively forward. Comrad Ali wrote a support article for comrad Mark Barnsley that the Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign is including in a book. To get involved with this project and to know more of what is happening in Ireland, contact: Ireland Support Group, c/o John Black, P. O. Box 1290, Belfast, BT12 7BW, Ireland. E-mail: barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com

**SPAIN...**

Miguel A. Lorca and his anarchist comrades in Spain network with prisoners and prisoner-supporters around the world. In their literature they carefully analyze the official State position that there are "good anarchists" and "bad anarchists" – the former being the go-along anarchists who don't make problems and enjoy State authorization and the latter being those who "deserve" incarceration for their "crimes." This official version neglects the realities of police brutality and abusive prisoner treatment, and, besides, disregards anarchists' claims that their purpose is to re-appropriate funds due them for past State abuses and that whatever funds they get are used to aid jailed comrades. Too often the State confuses "justice" with its own harsh "injustices" and acts accordingly.

Miguel has been sending us materials in both English and Spanish...and suggests that we include in each of our mailings at least one piece in Spanish. A worthy goal! He is spreading our materials around and wants our readers to know that he would like help in contacting free radio broadcasters everywhere to trade experimental and political radio programs. Contact: Miguel Angel Lorca, Apdo: 28041, 28080 Madrid, Spain.

On a related note, comrad Jose Ma Salaberria, of a group called the Xabier Cerezo, contacted comrad Ali expressing support for revolutionary prisoners, especially anarchists. This group is from the Basque country and fights against racism, fascism and other oppressions. They have offered to trans-

late and distribute PPWC materials. We are encouraged by this. The Xabier Cerezo publishes a local bulletin and organizes events to change the conditions of prisoners. They even have a free radio program. They've expressed a desire to maintain correspondence with comrad Ali, the PPWC Collective and all Political Prisoners in Amerikkka. Contact: Apartado 365, 20100 Olereta (Gipuzkoa), Spain.

Comrad Ali has also received a letter from Inma Martin Soto who read his article "Now is the Time to Act" in a magazine called "El Refractor" from Madrid. Inma is also in contact with comrades Harold Thompson and Mark Barnsley. Inma is with the Ateneu Libertari, "La Malea," which is an info-café with a library and a lot of magazines, books, etc., and where info is distributed. We welcome this comrad and look forward to networking with him – for our struggles are the same. Contact: Inma Martin Soto, Apdo: 177, 12500 Vinaros (Castello), Spain.

As always, we realize that we weren't possibly able to mention everyone and everything we've been doing, nor would it be advantageous for us to do so.

Nevertheless, we hope what we've shared will show you that PPWC is SERIOUS and that we are NOT in this struggle to lose but to WIN, and the only way we can win is by fighting together in UNITY! We also hope you recognize that we do appreciate all of you and the support you give to us either individually or collectively.

However, we must make a serious note here... when anyone offers to distribute PPWC materials, we look forward to this being done and trust you will honor your word that this will be done. Our *UpDate* and attached materials are important. Too much time, energy and expense have been put into the *UpDate* for it not to be delivered as promised in a prompt time frame. Our last *UpDate* (Oct./Nov. 1999) we find did not get delivered to many of our comrades and for that WE apologize! Our intention is never to disrespect you or damage our name, integrity or the principles PPWC stands upon. We ask that you bear with us for prior delays and we ask (again) that all PPWC Distributors please honor your words in distributing PPWC materials in a timely fashion.

In the trenches... fighting for real political change, not reformation! Ali Khalid Abdullah

## Are most black people free?

Are most black people free,  
but yet in bondage of the mind or of another?  
Many are afraid to delve  
for fear they might not live to know the answer,  
because most black people's dreams and promises are unfulfilled.  
Is our black life meant to be spent on this assumption,  
optimistic today and down tomorrow?  
Most black people think it would be better  
to let things slide, but for how long?  
"I dare to even ask."  
Our thoughts are forever turbulent in different ways.  
Think positive and everything'll be all right –  
that's what most of us say.  
But I am afraid my blood is not easily cooled.  
Are most black people free?

Bro. Abdul Ghaffuur

**Planning Ahead:** cont. from page 1

prisoners only but is inclusive of all people who believe in justice, liberty, and freedom for all and who respect the lives of others and are against any form of oppression or repression of this world's peoples.

With this in mind, we have proposed an agenda for PPWC that we would like to achieve. Though we recognize there are many issues that could be added to those listed below, we also realize it is not appropriate for us to attempt to achieve too many goals at this time. We must, instead, focus on the issues we feel are reflective of the needs of prisoners and non-prisoners alike.

Therefore, we hope you will agree with the proposed agenda and work with us. Your participation and hard work in regard to this agenda will advance PPWC and all people who believe in the ideas and goals we espouse. Having said this, we encourage each chapter, affiliate, supporter and member of PPWC to develop agendas according to the needs of the people you wish to work with. Our purpose is, after all, to support the basic needs of people who are disadvantaged because of discriminatory practices.

**PPWC PROPOSED AGENDA NEEDS:**

1. Developing committees that will deal and work exclusively with prisoners and their issues, i.e., prison labor, health care, visitations, phones, litigation, etc.;
2. Developing a committee that will focus on the needs of youth;
3. Developing a committee that will monitor and document all police and law enforcement abuses, etc.;
4. Developing a Membership Committee;
5. Developing a Special Projects Committee;
6. Developing a Public Relations Committee;
7. Developing a Newsletter Committee.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Supporting politically active prisoners and prisoners wrongfully incarcerated;
2. Informing the general public about prison life and the impact it has on prisoners, i.e., control units, super maximum facilities, etc.;
3. Seeking ways to advance political and social change in meaningful ways conducive to achieving justice, liberation and freedom without oppression and repression;
4. Seeking ways to support our communities and counter the abuses administered by elected public officials, police and the judicial system;
5. Lobbying against adverse legislation via letter campaigns, demonstrations and other effective means;
6. Developing a strong membership that is proactive and serves the needs of the people;
7. Propagating our mission and winning the public's opinion and support;
8. Developing projects that will help promote PPWC and serve the people;
9. Establishing and maintaining a good rapport with all groups and organizations that are in accord with PPWC's Declaration and Principles & Points, both within and outside the prison system, thus advancing constructive change for "the people" and their needs.

We encourage parties who work with PPWC to develop independent chapters and set up agendas and advance the principles of PPWC for the servicing of the people. We encourage you, our individual members and supporters, to be actively aggressive in your pursuits and intent on informing the people about your activities as PPWC members and supporters. This is important because your work will help to build PPWC and make it strong.

Developing PPWC to what it is today has been a long and hard struggle for PPWC founder, Ali Khalid Abdullah. He is but one man and one person. He cannot maintain the operations, functions and activities of PPWC without your support. It takes all of our collective participation and aggressive efforts to see that this organization (which is more and more being recognized as unique in its structure, positive in its vision and meaningful in its values and goals) operates and maintains itself. This proposal, this notice, is meant to generate your ideas and motivate you to take responsible action. All parties who wish to develop PPWC Chapters or wish to be supporters or members of PPWC, please contact Cynthia Ritsher, PPWC Information Center, Lincoln, MA 01773 USA.

# Revolutionary Sovereignty

– To You from the Underground –

Abdul Olugbala Shakur

My name is Abdul, known as the infamous spokesman from the foul pits of AmeriKKKa's prison system. i am only considered infamous because the rhythm of my pen is uncensored, openly defiant and artistically incorrigible. i demand and defend my creative sovereignty; i resist being restricted within the narrow corridors of labels and categories. i ask all who attempt to enslave the rhythm of my pen: Is my pen obligated to the forces that exist outside of my creative sovereignty? Must my artistic expression mimic that which i do not feel? Or must i slave on the plantation of mainstream creative enslavement? The rhythm of my pen is an insurgent of my cultural reality: it is the revolution erupting within the bowels of mainstream conformity! The rage in my pen has overthrown the dictator's mentalities of artistic expression. My raging spirit has transcended the very boundaries which presently constrain my physical existence. They say that i am in prison, but my pen has guided me around the world. i have seen things that others are blind to, for my eyes are compelled by the forces within. i am the rain, the cloud and the fire. i am that Black Tempest of the night and i invite you into my whirlwind so we can dance upon the clouds of true liberation!

i speak not in metaphors or elaborate euphemism; i am only tuned in with the natural flow of humanity's great poetic virginity; i am her Black Soldier, her protector of virtues. i am the seer of your radical dreams of resistance. Close your eyes and surrender yourself to the darkness, the remnant of quietude, for i am only visible and spiritually comprehensible to the mind's eyes! i am the relic of past revolutions, the very manifestation of rage, that uncontrollable stream of lava! Don't deny me my humanity; tell me you feel the heat of my pen, the venom of my poisonous rhythm;. Dip into its searing pools of revolutionary passion and allow the songs of insurrection to penetrate your womb of patriotism. Allow me to impregnate you with the seed of revolt, and nine months from now your inner being will be swollen with the birth of Truth and Justice as your bosom fills with the passion for True Black Liberation and Power!

e-mail: [Abdul\\_Shakur@Bminternet.com](mailto:Abdul_Shakur@Bminternet.com)  
[www.blackpantherparty.com](http://www.blackpantherparty.com)

## **IS IT BECAUSE...**

Why our black Americans don't trust our black political leaders... is it because the white generation brainwashed most of us not to trust our very own who could stand on that black throne; is it because the white generation planted in our heads that we all suppose to be dead; is it because we accept these conditions and take it out on one another, even our mother, sister, or brother; is it because most of us are taught to blame and show no shame and hate for our own mistakes; is it because of our black condition, most of us just giving up on hope and killing or selling our brothers and sisters dope and falling into the white modern generation plantation and still not realizing the black generation quotation?

It's not too late to change our black thinking of the boss, or Is it because?

Respectfully,  
Bro. Abdul Ghaffuur  
(a real political prisoner of Chicage, IL and Indiana)

Bro. Abdul (aka Paul Titus Shields #964646) can be reached at  
P. O. Box 557, Location C-7-101, Westville, IN 46391 USA

## How It Is in Here

### Ammon-RA Sumrall

At a little after 8 am today, word came through the vent that a dude who used to live in the dorm behind ours (M-1) was now downstairs in cell #20. It was said that he didn't have any property in his cell, not even a mattress or a pair of pants; only a pair of boxing shorts kept him from being totally naked.

Shortly after being appraised of his friend's predicament, #27 began to protest in this dorm (M-2), by demanding to see the O.I.C. (officer in charge) and calling for the immediate return of his comrade's property. However, the O.I.C. didn't come as requested, because he was in M-1 helping the plantation's "goon squad" conduct a shakedown for M-1, and also removing all of the TVs from M-1.

At approximately 9:30 am, eight officers in riot gear approached the cell #27 lives in. A few words were exchanged between #27 and the group of officers. Then a voice yelled, "Open 27!" As the cell door opened, several officers rushed inside the cell with their Plexiglas shields, and the first thing i heard was a loud "BAM" sound – the sound of the shield hitting human flesh – and subsequent sounds of scuffling.

The officers eventually took #27 out of the cell handcuffed and shackled. His face looked bruised, and i believe he'd been beaten in the face because he vowed to remember the "sneak shot" a particular officer got in while he was on the ground handcuffed.

Up till that point, the dorm had been loud with innumerable guys talking "war talk" to the officers and to each other. But after #27 was jumped on and put in the shower, only a few inmates continued talking tough – and that communication was directed at each other.

The "goon squad" returned to M-2 around 10:30 am, fully dressed in riot gear, with their night sticks at the ready. The Sgt. of the goon squad led his subordinates to cell #8, where he and the occupant of that cell exchanged words. Moments later the Sgt. yelled "Open!" and the same sounds of Plexiglas shields colliding against human flesh were heard. The guys who live near cell #8 screamed "Get off that man!" and "Stop hittin' him." It

sounded as if #8 was being thoroughly beaten but i couldn't actually tell what was going on until i saw the back of his bloodied skull as the goon squad took him out of the dormitory.

Just looking at #8's bloodied skull made me believe they seriously injured him, 'cause he was bleeding too bad. Moreover, the guys who saw most of the incident, as it carried on outside of the cell, said one or two goon squad members struck #8 in the head with handcuffs and night sticks. But as of now, none of us knows how bad #8 was hurt, 'cause he's been at the "free world" hospital since this morning. It's now 12 noon.

The goon squad returned to M-2 at 11:25 am, and immediately went to cell #31. They escorted the prisoner out of the cell and down the hall without altercation. #31 was put in the shower. But when they approached #34, the Sgt. over the goon squad yelled "Open 34!" And again the sounds of Plexiglas colliding against flesh, and subsequent scuffling was heard.

Minutes later, i saw two goons walking the bloody #34 down the staircase, to the infirmary, where he would get a number of stitches and band-aids to dress wounds on his head, back, legs, and arms. #34 and #27 were eventually placed back in their respective cells, only to discover all of their property confiscated, just as the property in their friend's cell #20 was confiscated.

Lunch was served at 12:30 pm. We customarily have the benefit of drinking tea or kool-aid with our food. After everyone has finished eating, the officers collect the trays and help the dorm slave (i.e., an inmate who works for free) clean up the dormitory before everyone performs his afternoon tasks. This is how the officers have operated since i've been in M-2. However today, they flipped the script.

The officers who served us our trays didn't give us anything to drink. They didn't collect the trays, and neither did they attempt to clean the dormitory or give me the diet snack i'm medically prescribed to receive for malnourishment. However, what we did receive was another visit from the goon squad at 1:20 pm.

The victim of the 1:20 pm beat-down was cell #12. His experience was similar to the others of

this morning – seven to ten officers dressed in riot gear, running into one man's cell to bust his head and take his property.

A couple of officers brought #12 back from the infirmary at 1:50 pm. And yes, his head was wrapped up...

i began writing the rough draft of this document at 1:30 pm, 'cause i wanted to capture the emotions of everyone present in this violent atmosphere while each incident was occurring. i deemed it important to preserve the facts of such an experience as they emanated, or shortly thereafter, because i felt our lives were in jeopardy with the goon squad randomly beating guys down.

Yet, i removed everything from my bunk so i could lie down and rest my strained back for a few minutes. Little did i know my position on the bunk would feel so comfortable that i would drift off to sleep. When i awoke, it was almost 2:30 pm. Truthfully, i didn't intend to get up then, but i couldn't sleep any longer due to the inmates downstairs yelling threats to each other. So, i decided to stay up and take a bird bath.

Before i could get the toothbrush good in my mouth, i heard the dorm slave yell, "The C.E.R.T. TEAM [i.e., goon squad] is outside." i looked at my watch, which read 2:40 pm. Someone down the hall hollered, "Here they come with more fighting shit!" But the dorm slave appraised us of the fact that the squad didn't have their riot gear on, so naturally we knew they came to shake down the dorm.

As the goons commenced to shake down the cells on the first range, i immediately began to look for places to hide my reading materials, such as the "EMERGE" magazines, Colin Powell's autobiography, Dr. Welsing's "Isis Papers," and a few legal books – 'cause the administrators of this plantation don't want Brothas to have knowledge.

Ironically, i didn't have to worry about the goons stealing my property, because, at 3:30 pm, they jumped on the youngest dude in the dorm, a 20 year old who lived in cell #15. They beat him down, took him to the infirmary, brought him back, and went home for the day...

By my estimation, the inhabitants of M-2 experienced a 6-hour beat-down today. The violence seemingly began as a result of #27 inquiring

about his friend's property (#20), which prison officials evidently found unacceptable. Interestingly, officers feel they have the right to abuse their authority, and on top of that, they arrogantly expect the masses of prisoners to cover their eyes, mouths and ears, like the monkeys who saw, heard, nor spoke evil. One may wonder how did the situation ever get like this. Personally, i believe prison officials use divide and conquer strategies to oppress us as a collective...

If officers felt the majority of prisoners would stand against them on any issue, the officers and administrators would compromise their position or abandon it altogether. Conversely, when they detect discord amongst prisoners – as they did today with guys arguing with each other as their supposed friends got beat down – prison officials will manipulate that discord and create divide-and-conquer strategies to do as they please...

Discord is prevalent among the masses of inmates. For example, a lot of guys feel it's permissible to work for free in the general sense, even if the job may entail "shakin' spoons" (i.e., inmates putting low portions of food on trays at the behest of officers or on their own initiative). Despite the obvious injustice of being underfed by people similarly situated as oneself, the majority of inmates silently tolerate this injustice because we are ignorant, selfish, and disorganized as a whole.

For it is ignorance, selfishness and disorganization that keep prisoners divided, and oppressive police on our necks! Too many inmates are unwilling to accept the fact that their "It's all about me." attitude provides no room for prisoner unity and cooperation! Too many are unwilling to admit their petty requests to prison official for TVs, more cookies and chips from the commissary, and gym shoes, etc., drown out the minority's demands for conjugal visits, wages for labor, opportunities for quality education, good-time credit, and the right to exercise voting beliefs! And equally important, too many shy away from being reproachful toward friends who counterproductive actions for the prisoners' cause! So, in essence, we have negative anarchy causing us to be divided, and prison officials know this!

Prison officials recognized disunity in the inmate class a long time ago. They saw inmates from South and North Georgia go to war against each other to determine which group was the

"countriest" of the two; they saw inmates with life sentences sit around card tables gambling all day and all night for cookies and cakes (as if they were in Las Vegas); they saw inmates chasing homosexuals, gettin' high off pills and homemade liquor, and just having a ball in prison as if this was paradise to them...

Prison officials observed inmates sitting transfixed while watching senseless TV shows (e.g., soap operas, wrestling, daytime talk shows); they witnessed a group of guys act like buffoons at a gathering administrators had the audacity to term a BLACK HISTORY talent show – the inmate participants were break dancing, wrestling, and playing "it!"; they heard inmates disrespectfully address each other as "pussy niggas," "hoes," and "bitches." And they also heard inmates speak with childish enthusiasm as they gloated over receiving tapes, cakes, and candy in Christmas packages. And sadly, they time after time see only a few prisoners utilize both general and law libraries to their benefit.

Indeed, prison officials knew long ago that the masses of inmates were vulnerable for economic exploitation and physical subjugation due to inmates' behavior. This is why officials have been straightforward when enacting demeaning mandates that ultimately make an inmate say "I'm inferior." For example: inmates are required to stand immaculately

before correctional employees, in an upright position as if they are "Oscar" trophies! In addition, plantation officials' egos have grown so large as of late that they've compelled inmates to address them as "Sirs" and Mams," and they also command inmates to stop whatever it is they may be doing, and stare into space when they encounter certain police.

Of course, prisoners who refuse to participate in the administration's demeaning, bullshit programs experience all sorts and types of retaliation, from beatings to the suspension of "privileges." Nevertheless, dignified prisoners endure... Yet, it must be noted that today's situation wouldn't be as it is had the majority of inmates stood together and resisted prison officials' demeaning mandates when they were first presented.

The oppressors need to know that we, as a collective, abhor their barbaric actions and deem them unacceptable. For if we continue to stand fragmented, each man going for himself, all of us can be singled out and subjected to beatings and experience theft of our property, just as the guys did earlier today during the 6-HOUR BEAT DOWN — Ammon-RA

You may reach Ammon-RA Sumrall #304127, 1006A Highway 147, Reidsville, GA 330499 USA

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## ON THE MOVE:

Things are ok here for now for us, but there's a situation going on at home with our sister, Alberta, and her three year old baby, our little brother.

Her Ex-husband, John Gilbride, who is not a MOVE member, left them both in the middle of the night almost two years ago and he is now trying to take her baby away from her. John Gilbride has been trying to get full custody of their baby, knowing full well his mother is more than capable of taking care of him. The court know this too: there is documented proof presented in court that the baby is secure, stable, well love and cared for by his mother. Yet the New Jersey court are dragging its feet in its ruling to leave the baby with his mother. This is pretty much an automatic procedure with custody battles. But in this case, the court not only refuses to make a ruling in the mother's favor: it has now stepped up tactics in a desperate attempt to steal our little brother from his mother.

We found out that Gilbride's lawyer, Sheryl Rentz, is knee deep in this conspiracy with John, as if she has a personal involvement in this situation. She is trying to prove that Alberta is not the baby's natural mother, which is absurd, when Alberta has a birth certificate and absolute documents.

The MOVE organization ain't gonna stand by and let this system threaten our baby brother and sister. This system has murdered 11 of our MOVE family, including five children on May 13, 1985, under the deceptive disguise of complaints from neighbors. This is what they use to bomb our family till death, even though it was really the Philadelphia, PA government that wanted MOVE exterminated. They are now trying to use this legal phony inconsequential lie as their reason, as an

excuse, to go into the MOVE house and kidnap our baby, just as they did in 1995. MOVE ain't keeping this quiet one more day. Move intends to expose this man, John Gilbride, his attorney, and the officials who are using him as the tool to try to destroy another MOVE child! The bottom line is this system don't want MOVE children to exist because MOVE children being raised up under the teaching of John Africa are strong and influential. Every opportunity they get they seize on it to ultimately try to destroy MOVE children. Police commissioner Gregore Sambor admitted that they killed MOVE children because they saw them as just as much a threat as the adults, and our children are stronger than us so that should tell you enough about how they feel about our MOVE children.

Right now this United States government is refusing to turn over the Cuban baby, Elien Gonzales, to his birth father, yet this New Jersey/Pennsylvania government is planning on taking a baby from his natural mother and giving him to the birth father here in the U.S. This is a crystallized contradiction. It's a blatant inconsistency because all that's at the root of both these issues is politics. This government don't give a damn about the welfare of a child, the security of a baby, all they care about is misusing these children for their political gain, misusing these babies to deliberately destroy MOVE children and that's the bottom line.

If anybody wants to help, they can contact our family on the street at 4504 Kingsessing Avenue or P. O. Box 19709, Philadelopa, PA 19143. **HANDS OFF OUR CHILDREN!** Phone (215) 476-8812.

Debbie, Janine and Janet for the MOVE 9

## Are Reparations the Key to Black Autonomy?

Jahaun McKinley

Modern day progressive movements' pursuit toward national autonomy have been based on the premise of receiving reparations. Reparations on their own would compensate the descendants of the Afrikan slave trade for the sweat, blood and tears their ancestors suffered under forced labor, rape and de-culturation. It is also assumed that this re-compensation will provide us with the financial means to purchase and develop lands which are necessary as the base of all independent Nations.

The first reparations bill entered into the Congressional Record was by Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, on March 11, 1867. The bill introduced is the one many of you are familiar with: the 40 acres and a mule. This was approximately two years after our so-called Emancipation. The President at the time was Andrew Johnson, who vetoed this bill due to pressure from the Southern states which had only two years before lost the Civil War that had basically divided Amerika. One may assume that Andrew Johnson was probably more concerned with unifying and repairing the damage done to the states than he was with the concerns and financial re-compensation of what the Amerikan government had historically considered three-fifths a man. The last bill of reparations was introduced and entered into Congress by Congressman John Conyers of Detroit.

This was ten years ago. The President at the time, influenced by "Reganomics," was not concerned with any bill dealing with reparations, nor was Congress. They were busy building a more technologically advanced U.S. imperialist military and making cocaine deals with Manuel Noreaga (through CIA connections) to distribute to the Black Colonies (by way of Anglo greed, which could benefit from the effects of poverty). They were busy supplying weapons with the profits of drug money to the Nicaraguan contras. Both of these bills of reparations in part requested that some form of financial recompensation be paid to the Black Colonies as a result of the inhumane

conditions of slavery created by the European Conquistadors of Amerika. The second bill introduced was basically concerning the interest that would have been accumulated off the original 40 acres and a mule proposal. These figures are astronomical and obviously Congress thought so too – because they have failed to respond to this ten year old proposal. I have heard all the theories about why we as a people should accept reparations. I remain unconvinced that this is the key towards our national autonomy. I am anti-reparations for several reasons which I will explain.

During our chattel slavery years, millions of lives (at least those recorded) fell victim to the most indecent, barbaric and immoral political system ever created and imposed on a people. The Jews cry of the atrocities they suffered at the hands of Nazi Germany, but they were never denied their cultural customs or the right to practice their religion freely. No other people in the history of the world, except those of Afrikan ancestry, were ever told they were not human beings. You can not place a price, a monetary value, on the lives that were lost. You can not place a price on the slave mentality that was created for the process of de-culturation and de-spiritualization that resulted in us being denied the knowledge of self and the One True God and the affects of the totality that these phenomena on generations that followed. What price would be sufficient in restoring the mentality of the Afrikan King and Queen who were destroyed by the system of slavery, and the invaluable knowledge of self which could have been used as prevention to us from their self-destructive behavior? Our culture was priceless. This is why they stole it. Our mentality was invaluable. This is why they sought to destroy it.

Even if you could place a price tag on these invaluable properties, who would determine the value and what would they compare it to? What monetary value could anyone give to the lost lives whose spirit animate our current revolutionary actions for movement – not for money? There are not enough trees to produce enough paper to print money on which would compensate me (just me) for the brave hearts who were murdered or committed suicide because they refused to submit to the indecencies of slavery. There is not a mentality in the world which could think of a monetary number sufficient for the land that was taken on the continent of Afrika after our abduction. All these European nations are rich because of imperialism and the pillage of Afrika.

No amount of money could restore that. No amount of money could restore the history that was lost and there is no such number a scientist could come up with – because in my opinion economists have not dealt with such astronomical numbers.

Most societies and groups challenge the authority of Kapitalism and its exploitative motives. If we admonish people about the system of Kapitalism and all its treacherous tactics devised to gain profits, why would we knowingly accept this blood-stained money to build righteousness? The New Afrikan Republic must be built on the premise of righteousness, and righteousness must become the absence of exploitation – its means and funds. In accepting reparations, we are only accepting tainted money that has been extracted as profits by exploitative means from the black, brown and poor white colonies. It would be fatuous for us to believe that Amerika or, rightfully, Amerika's economic and political ruling class, would give money other than those illicit funds they gained through over-taxation from our communities, which helped to build and keep the Kapitalist machine running. The machine that enslaved us in the name of free enterprise. To believe that Amerika has any good money is "non compos mentis" (crazy). If the money received from reparations is not your own exploited funds, they are the funds that were subjected to similar conditions of slavery to keep Amerika rich in the name of Kapitalism. Kapitalist giants invaded those countries they have deliberately isolated economically and erected factories for the people to work in under sub-human conditions and unfair labor wages. The Kapitalist giants understand that the Amerikan labor force is demanding too much in the form of wages so they take their corporations overseas into territories that the United Snakes government has already illegally obtained through diplomatic political reconstruction, having worked the people of all ages into premature death for menial labor wages similar to slavery via prison. PURPOSE – the lesser a company pays for labor, the more it gains in profits. Have we become so unconcerned with the morale of humanity that we could care less where the money for reparations would come from so long as we get it?

My argument against reparations is two-fold and very simplistic. Acceptance of reparations assumes that we lack the ingenuity to raise the money collectively to establish our own national sovereignty. Even though we fail to own no more than 1% of the private owned businesses in Amerika, what we

spend as a nation is enough to fund the nation. We continue to build Amerika as we get ourselves in debt by spending above our means. If you choose to live outside your means, constitute some of that money towards the building and construction of the New Afrikan Republic. The nations which have received reparations...the money has not come free of strings.

When we examine the reparations paid within the borders of the U.S., our case must begin with the Native Amerikans. The Amerikan government took the native land, colonized and isolated people away from society (on reservations), and gave them money for the atrocities they deliberately inflicted on these unsuspecting people. The money utilized by the Native Amerikans went toward building casinos. Casinos pay a percentage to the Gaming Commission which is part of the state government. In so many years the federal government will have received their reparations money back by way of state governments' percentage off the casinos through the Gaming Commission, which equals NO REPARATIONS.

Examine reparations outside the U. S. border. Amerika has paid reparations (but they call it reconstruction) to countries only to then have Amerikan corporations firmly planted in the soil of these reconstructed lands. One can only assume that these overseas Amerikan corporations pay a small percentage to the Amerikan government to ensure the safety of their companies. This is why we have armed forces stationed in these countries – to protect corporate profits. What would we do with such a large amount of money? Amerika will not put itself in a position of total financial loss. To spend these funds within the borders of the U.S. would actually not be reparations but a loan with no interest! Amerika will not allow any institutions contrary to their Anglo-Amerikan laws and Judeo-Christian theology to exist within its borders. Especially if it appears as such. Amerika has been attempting to proselytize the world to its culture and way of life. It is beyond rational thought to conceive that the Amerikan government will fund (either through reparations or any other financial means) any institutions which would not support westernized philosophy, both political and economic. Can we actually entertain the thought of existing within the U.S. border without U.S. influence? Can we actually entertain the thought that Amerikan patriots will allow us to co-exist?

We have to place our sincere aspirations for a New

Afrikan Republic into some other financial vehicle other than the notion of receiving reparations. You are assuming that the Amerikan government has somehow changed the genetic structure of its mentality towards non-European people. You are assuming that the Amerikan government suddenly feels sorry or has compassion for enslaving our people – which resulted in them becoming the most powerful nation in the world. It took over 300-odd years for the "land of the free and home of the brave" to make an apology. What is the force of irrational thought that makes one believe that this continuous slave government will give money to pay for a phenomenon they are not altogether sorry for? If you feel that someone or a group of someones owes you something financially for the deliberate systemic destruction of your people, trace your family roots. Trace your roots not in an attempt to get back to Afrika but back to the slave plantation. Find out whether or not your former master has descendants today who continue to reap benefits from money made by the blood, sweat and tears of your ancestors during slavery, and submit your proposal for reparations to them.

I intend to find those families whose families had my family on their grounds, working them sub-humanly, unjustifiably, and I intend to make them directly responsible for the demise of my people. Expose them, to say the least. I will not be a part of or support a petition which I know will exploit and starve other unfortunate, unsuspecting people and subject them to the same oppressive acts I continue to recover from 300 years later. Our liberation will be bitter-sweet if we allow Amerika to kill others to pay for the deaths they committed against us.

POWER!!

Jahuan X McKinley #217058  
P. O. Box 5000  
Carson City, MI 48811-5000

## Understanding Reparations as a Tool towards Black Autonomy

Ali Khalid Abdullah

### Introduction

In reading comrad Jahaun X McKinley's article, "Are Reparations the Key towards Black Autonomy?," I found it imperative to take this question and digest it and respond to it. Not for the mere sake of responding, but to make some points which may have been overlooked or not fully explored. I want to use this argument as a basis for beginning the necessary and serious dialogue regarding REPARATIONS and for further expounding on points made by comrad Jahaun. It is my hope that this subject will be further argued and discussed among the New Afrikan people so that we can reach a point of action versus inaction on it.

### Argument

The idea of reparations is that they might financially compensate for an injustice done – either to a person or a group of people, in this case New Afrikans, who are descendants of Afrikan slaves and the slave system that lasted well over 400 years in Amerikkka. As comrad Jahaun X pointed out in his article, the first reparations bill entered into Congress on March 11, 1867 by Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania was vetoed by President Andrew Johnson, due to pressure from the Southern States which had lost the Civil War to the North two years before. They wanted nothing to be given to "their" ex-slaves, especially since they – the Southern Confederate states generally and ex-slave owners specifically – had nothing much left themselves after the war and were intent on rebuilding. The New Afrikan/black colonies of apartheid Amerikkka, however, continued to remain severely economically deprived, impoverished and systematically disenfranchised; black people continued to be treated as fourth-rate citizens subject to lynchings, rapes, robbery, water-hosings, whippings, inhumane prison conditions and other unfair and unjust practices.

As Jahaun X mentioned, a new reparations bill was re-introduced by Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, which has remained unattended and ignored for the past ten years by an indifferent Senate and House as well as the President of the United States of Amerikkka. Nevertheless, it is essential that the New Afrikan/Black colony receive reparations.

Amerikkka and the European nations became financially and economically wealthy off the backs of Afrikans, not only taking from the land and resources of Afrika, but, in the process, willfully destroying our cultural and religious heritage – our customs, values and beliefs, our very names, even our children, by taking them away from their mothers and selling them, thus causing the total destruction of family units. Comrad Jahaun X feels that "...there are not enough trees to produce enough paper to print money on which would compensate... for the brave hearts who were murdered or committed suicide because they refused to submit to the indecencies of slavery." He goes on to state that "...no amount of money could restore the history that was lost"... and "...there is no such a number that a scientist could come up with... Where would this money come from?"

The point, the main point in regards to reparations, is that crimes and acts wrongfully committed should be paid for. Reparations aren't a bribe. However, I do concur that there isn't enough money available to pay for the wrongs and crimes committed against the New Afrikan people; but I also disagree with Jahaun X when he says we should not accept or try to obtain reparations or monetary compensation – because, I believe, that money could be used for our legitimate needs. Just because there aren't "enough trees" doesn't mean we should defiantly refuse compensation. That money is owed regardless, and it could be put to good use and serve our purposes and interests well. We must be practical in our thinking and use our wisdom and recognize our condition as it exists TODAY and seize the opportunity to recoup, if not all, at least some reparations. Comrad George Jackson stated in his book, *Blood in My Eye*, that "building consciousness and revolutionary culture against the repressive, natural defense reflexes of the system means taking realistic day-to-day issues like hunger, the need for clothing and housing, joblessness..." to help the people.; Being repatriated would help us in reducing some of these needs, while at the same time using what we can to begin our own industries and other ventures.

Comrad Jahaun X questioned where the money would come from to pay the reparations if they were paid. It would seem to me that the money would come from the very families that have monopolized the wealth and restricted the equal and fair distribution of it. It would come from the kapitalist corporations

and be distributed in an equitable manner to help some of the pressing needs comrad George Jackson referred to, and the rest would be used to develop the New Afrikan infrastructure with facilities, manufacturing equipment, and so on.

The argument shouldn't be that the money given in reparations is "blood money," or money from third world exploitations and over taxation. If we take this view, then everything – all money or that which it is backed by – is tainted in blood and stained with mothers' tears for the loss of beloved sons and daughters. Nor should the argument rest upon some "holy ideal" that receiving reparations from Amerikkka is akin to receiving "unrighteous" money, as comrad Jahaun X pointed out in his argument. On the contrary, what is given in terms of monetary reparations has nothing whatsoever to do with righteousness, but has everything to do with doing what is right – because the Afrikan slaves and the neo-New Afrikan slave labor were the backbone of the development of kapitalist wealth. All these workers are due just compensation. Accepting reparations from Amerikkka (or any unjust society or group of people who caused human suffering and carnage) is necessary compensation, the only one short of carrying out mass murder. Further, demanding and receiving reparations is not, in any stretch of the imagination, supporting kapitalism or its effects. Receiving JUSTICE from those who have wronged you is not saying you FORGIVE. We must not become confused in our thinking when we speak of reparations and think of them with a welfare mentality or as a "pay off" allowing for more oppression, exploitation and injustice.

Kapitalism was the driving force and sole reason why slavery was instituted in the first place. Slavery was the vehicle used in order to achieve the labor force needed by the kapitalists. We cannot separate the two. We must be able to see the difference, or better put, the dialectics between kapitalism and slavery. Karl Marx noted that, "under capitalistic control... labor is not allowed to develop freely," and neither were Afrikans in Afrika allowed free development once Europe invaded the continent in search of resources. Certainly not the Afrikan slaves in Amerikkka (the unpaid labor force) nor the New Afrikans (descendants of slaves).

The New Afrikan people should fight vehemently for reparations. This is a legacy of rights owed. It would be more than a dishonor to our people to reject, deny or argue against reparations,

because it is their blood, sweat and tears (as well as our own) that we DEMAND be redeemed, in order to have full economic justice. A justice we have never received since we have been in this land and a justice still denied some 130 plus years after the official end of slavery per the Proclamation of Emancipation.

As for the question raised by comrad Jahaun X as to whether or not someone or a group of someones "owe" us something financially for the "deliberate systematic destruction" of our people, my answer is "YES." We are owed and we are entitled, and we should demand and fight to receive what is due us even if that fight moves from talk to severe guerrilla tactics. Or as comrad George Jackson would say, "the knife."

The importance of economic recouping (reparations) cannot be stated firmly enough because they are tied to our labor, and it was the AFRIKAN LABOR that was sought out along with the AFRIKAN LAND that gave kapitalism its engine for moving forward and the seat to sit on in power.

To place some emphasis on the argument, I'll share some points I.V. Lenin made in 1913 in regards to the backwardness of the agricultural economy in his study, *New Data on the Laws of Development of Capitalism and Agriculture*. Lenin remarked about "the striking similarity between the economic position of the American Negro and that of the former serf of the central agricultural provinces in Russia." (Read: Negro being the term used to describe New Afrikans during Lenin's time). We should note here that even in Russia in 1913 there were only fraudulent attempts to give the serf land, and it was impossible for the Russian serf to rise above the needs of the backward economy. Just as Afrikans did not get their "40 acres and a mule."

The New Afrikan people have lived under the economic yoke of disenfranchisement long enough. Without us Amerikkka and all of Europe would not be what it is today. Every people and every nation seeks to be compensated for the exploits committed by kapitalists. So then, why not NEW AFRIKANS? And why not use the reparations as a tool toward Black autonomy?

**Yero T. Chaka  
aka Bruce Cummings  
National Representative of the MPLU  
Jefferson City Correctional Center  
P. O. Box 900 2-A, #16  
Jefferson City, MO 65102**

December 27, 1999

Dear Friends:

This communiqué is on behalf of the Missouri Prison Labor Union, and we would like to ask for your support and assistance.

Our Labor Union was put in motion by the Prisoners of the Missouri Department of Corrections, because there is a need to organize Missouri prisoners into a single body to promote social justice, human rights, and the rights of the workers.

Nevertheless, most of our Board members, because of the MPLU, have been and are being subjected to constant placement in the prison Administrative Segregation Units throughout the State of Missouri.

After being officially recognized by the Secretary of the State of Missouri on or about October 5, 1998, our president, Jerome White-Bey, has been transferred from one correctional institution to another in an attempt to undermine our efforts, kill the implementation of our organization that can save the Tax Payers money and bring an end to prison "Slave Labor in the State of Missouri."

We are asking that you support our efforts by writing to:

Dora Schriro: Director  
Department of Corrections  
2729 Plaza Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65102 USA  
and  
Mel Carnahan: Governor  
216 State Capital, P. O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102 USA

It is our belief that if the people demand our recognition by the State of Missouri from Missouri Prison Administration Segregation, we can assure that the prisoners of Missouri will be more progressive toward freedom as we continue our struggle for the betterment of the workers throughout the world. We want to thank the people for their support.

We, the following MPLU members, look forward to hear from one and all who have comments or suggestions that could be helpful to our struggle that we are enduring at this present time.

Peace and Good Will,

Bruce Cummings, National Representative  
Scott Sours, Public Relations Officer  
William Light, Ass't. Public Relations Officer  
Sheik Mark Moore, Coordinator  
Lansing Ross Bey, Vice President

**– A Chosen Souljah –**  
**The Struggles of Khalfani X. Khaldun**

On November 30, 1999, my segregation sanction will have been lifted, and hopefully the Indiana Dept. of Corruption will allow me entry into general population. I was sent to this facility by prisoncrats at the Indiana Reformatory where they held me on administrative segregation as a prison high-risk security threat. They assumed I participated in a prison yard fight which included two professed White Supremacist Aryan Brotherhood members and three New Afrikan prisoners.

I'm unaware of the facility I will be transferred to. [Since this was written we have learned that Khalfani is at the Pendleton facility.] My focus has centered around internal contradictions/violations existing at MCF, while still seeking closure in the immediate resolution of this ongoing charge of murder I was internally/externally charged with 4 and 1/2 years ago. My efforts to liberate myself from these death kkkamps have almost consumed all of my energies.

We as revolutionaries are not afforded the luxury of vacations, so I have remained tenacious on all fronts. I'm happy to say that , Judge William T. Means, in this case has been compelled by a federal motion to dismiss the charge of murder under advisement. He is currently reviewing the legalities of the case, and we are expecting a ruling to be returned in our favor.

If this does occur, my release from prison will be 7/27/2000. I will be returned back to society, to be embraced by family and the entire revolutionary community, who I have committed myself to. I'm really looking forward to my freedom. Most of my life has been spent throughout Indiana's prison Death Kamps. I've embraced my path and the consistent work it entails.

This year has brought a change of events for me, but I have never once let up on my objections. Some of our internal elements have become victims of character backing, and others have allowed their egos to consume them and cloud their principled judgment. The ultimate criteria of truth is practice. I've always been a man of action, one who could be called upon to make things happen. I've been misjudged, misrepresented, clearly misunderstood, and slandered. However, never once have I missed a beat in my struggle to liberate my mind and the minds of many others.

I'm a very fortunate brother to have people out in society who believe in me. They don't believe it because I say it. They believe in me because I live what I say everyday. They care about me because I have cared about myself. So yes, my struggle has continued. I'm always glad that my actions make my enemies tremble. We are always supposed to be thorns in the sides of these prisoncrats who do their best to disrupt our struggles.

Under the umbrella of our organization, The New Afrikan Institute for Criminology 101, which I chair as Midwest Coordinator, we have launched the George Jackson Books to Prisoners Project. We are hoping to be of service to the internal revolutionary community by providing quality books and materials to further impact the social and political development on the inside. We hope to publish a small newsletter which prisoners involved in this project can contribute updates to and tell of their efforts of resistance. Also, brief essays will be periodically done. As comrade Abdul O. Shakur says, we are trying to do more than give mere lip service to what we believe in... And as George Jackson wrote in his book, *Blood in My Eye*, "Once the authorities identify us as revolutionaries and prison advocates against injustice, they will launch many forms of repression upon us." The road is not easy.

Khalfani X. Khaldun's NEW address:

Khalfani X. Khaldun

s/n Leonard McQuay #874304 23-4D

Pendleton Correctional Facility

P.O. Box 30

Pendleton, IN 46064

Visit the Khalfani X. Khaldun Website at: <http://www.si.umich.edu/~pleFr/Khalfani.mainpage.html>

Abdul O. Shakur, P.O. Box 135, Daly City, CA 94016-1305 USA

The George Jackson Books to Prisoners Project, P.O. Box 1285, Roswell, GA 30077 USA

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## **– The February / March 2000 UpDate Packet –**

**Pamphlets Now Available:** Pamphlets marked with an asterisk (\*) are included in this UpDate packet for all prisoners and supporters on our mailing list – free of charge. However, all pamphlets on this list are ready for distribution. We hope you'll send donations to the PPWC Information Center to help us cover costs...

|                                                                        |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| * The PPWC Declaration, Points & Principles...                         | \$ .50 |
| * PPWC Goals, Aims & Objectives...                                     | free   |
| I'm Charging Amerikkka with....                                        | .50    |
| * Where is the New Afrikan Leadership                                  | .50    |
| Reparations: Two Views (included in current update)                    | 1.00   |
| * Selected Writings of Ali Khalid Abdullah                             | 1.50   |
| * Amelia Johnson Needs our Support for Justice                         | .50    |
| * The Need to Support the New Afrikan Institute<br>for Criminology 101 | 1.00   |
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