

PRISONER SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The Defenestrator / PO Box 30922 / Philadelphia, PA / 19104 / USA.

Mutual Aid Legal Aid / PO Box 95616 / Seattle, WA / 98145-2616 / USA.

*Northwest Anarchist Prisoners Support Network and Northwest American-English
~~English Prisoners Support Network~~* / PO Box 11331 / Eugene, OR / 97440 / USA

Political Prisoners of War Coalition / PO Box 554 / Lincoln, MA / 01773 / USA

Houston ABC / 1302 Waugh Dr. #433 / Houston, TX / 77019 / USA.

South Chicago ABC 'Zine Distro / PO Box 721 / Homewood, IL 60430 / USA.

Books To Prisoners c/o Left Bank Distrn. / 1004 Turner Way-East / Seattle, WA / 98112 / USA

Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine (prisoners' vegan diet info) /
5100 Wisconsin Ave. NW / Suite # 404 / Washington, DC / 20016 / USA.
e-mail: nutrition@perm.org

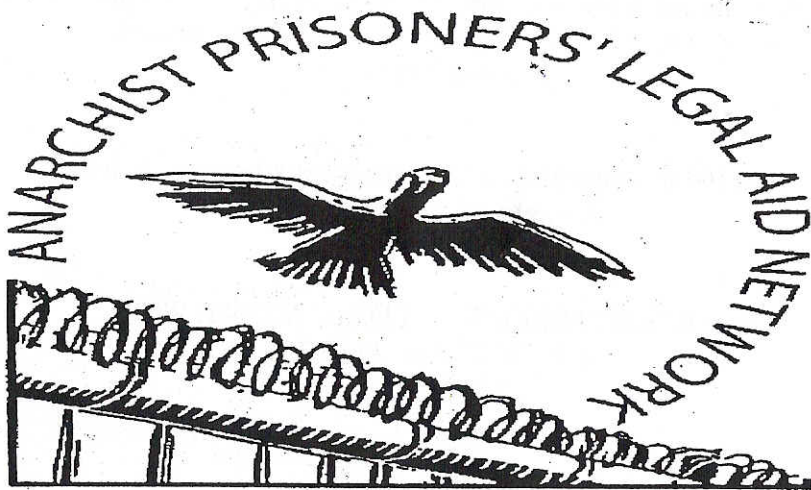
Vegan Prisoners Support Group / PO Box 194 / Enfield, Middlesex / EN1 3HD / UK.

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group / BCM 1160 / London / WC1N 3XX / UK.

Earth Liberation Prisoners c/o Cornerstone Resource Center / 16 Sholebroke Ave. /
Chapeltown, Leeds / LS7 3HB / UK.
e-mail: earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com

ABC Innsbruck c/o LOM / Postlagernd / 6024 Innsbruck / Austria.

ABC Dijon c/o Maloka / PO Box 536 / 21014 Dijon Cedex / France.



818 SW 3rd Ave PMB 354 / Portland, OR / 97204 / USA
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ANARCHIST PRISONER PENAL PROGRAM



As resistance to capitalism and government escalates, the number of people involved in the struggle that will be abducted, kidnapped, beaten, framed, jailed and most likely murdered by the authorities will also rise. Because they are contained behind prison walls does not mean they should be forgotten or counted out-of-commission. It is imperative to support them in their isolation and their continued struggles on the inside.

Most simply stated, jail can be lonely and it helps to know others are thinking about you. It can also help their situation by authorities knowing that people are watching and aware.

It can be intimidating writing a prisoner for the first time. This pamphlet is just a guide to help those interested in supporting internees, but there is no formal set of rules. Prisons' regulations vary and prisoners' needs and desires are vast and differing.

- First, abandon and forget all the stereotypes and preconceived notions you may have of people in jail.
- You may want to use a PO Box. This creates a consistent mailing address (in case of traveling or moving) and prevents your home address from being hand delivered to the authorities.
- Some prisons will not accept mail without a return address or some sort of a last name so be sure to include them on the envelope.
- Date all correspondence. Mail tampering and delays do happen. Write your return address on the letter because sometimes envelopes are discarded before the mail is given to the inmate.
- List enclosures on envelope. You should assume all mail is monitored so listing enclosed items may help get them through quicker, help in their being returned to you if denied or assist the prisoner in litigation for mail censorship if they choose to pursue the issue.
- Use standard paper and envelopes. As your relationship develops you can experiment with envelope art or fancy paper if you wish, but for starters, don't give the authorities any reason to reject the mail.
- Again, assume all correspondence is monitored. Do not say anything compromising your safety or, more importantly, the safety of the inmate. Guards may take retribution for what you write out on the prisoner—mentally and/or physically.
- Do not draw symbols that may improperly be construed as "gang related." This is particularly true of anarchy symbols since more and more frequently anarchists and their sympathizers are being labeled as gang members and as a "security threat group" (STG), which can lead to greater isolation, brutality and placement in white supremacy units where their lives would be endangered.
- Ask if they can receive stamps or envelopes and what the restrictions are for mailing those supplies into the prison. Inmates may receive an abundance of mail and/or lack sufficient funds or stamps to reply to everyone. Be patient and if the prisoner can receive mail supplies, send them when able. Be sure to find out the proper procedure first as the rules can change drastically between prisons.

If writing a complete stranger is difficult at first, don't worry. It gets easier the more you do it and as a relationship develops.

Basically, use common sense when writing. Do not make promises you cannot keep and do not get a prisoner's hopes up to just let them down. They psychologically suffer enough being locked in a cage.

Be careful with financial relationships—money can create tense situations or even power structures. Be aware about the harsh conditions of prison. You may find certain things you are told disturbing. Again, be honest about this with the prisoner and then it can probably be rectified. As with anything, do not be guilty into doing something you are uncomfortable with.

Explaining how you can support or help them (i.e. pen pal. contacts and resources you have, sending news clippings or papers, useful talents, etc...) may be more useful than asking what the prisoner needs. Some prisoners want to keep updated on the resistance through news sources you may be able to provide, but some may want to lay low and finish their time so as not to be so targeted. Ask or let them tell you what they would like from a pen pal. You shouldn't assume inmates do not want to hear about your personal or daily life. It may be the only taste of the outside world they get.

Remember, they are in there for us. We are out here for them!

The APLAN Anarchist Prisoner Penpal Program is a work in progress to help keep radical internees from feeling left out and isolated. Hopefully, some services can be provided to them as well. APLAN is a very young network with a monthly newsletter and a rapidly expanding mailing list. Any support is appreciated. When writing please send stamps or some money to cover postage if possible. All proceeds go directly towards the network or inmates needs.

For a list of anarchist/radical inmates who wish to have penpals, contact APLAN.

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