

## WHAT IS THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS FEDERATION?

The origins of the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) date prior to the Russian Revolution of 1905. It was an off-shoot of the Political Red Cross, known in its earlier stages as the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC). It was formed to organize aid for Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners and their families. In the early 1920's, the ABC organized armed resistance against political raids by the Cossack and Red armies.

In its early decades, the organization had chapters throughout Europe and North America. These chapters worked together to provide assistance to prisoners only in Russia. Soon other groups, such as the Lettish Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other areas beside Russia. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *sol-*

*idarity*, these groups worked tirelessly to provide support to those who have suffered because of the political beliefs back home.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920's until 1958, the organization worked under various other names but provided the same level of support as the other groups working as Anarchist Black Cross. The organization expanded its aid to places like Greece, Italy, and Spain.

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970's only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

### Introduction:

"Crucially important to maintaining the anarchist integrity of this organization is the fact that Branch Groups and Support Groups are freely autonomous to take on whatever initiatives they can to further the Unity of Purpose of the ABCF. So long as these initiatives do not contradict any preexisting agreements (Tactical Unity) that have been made by the ABCF, it is not necessary for all groups to approve of and/or agree with programs, projects or work of other ABCF collectives." [from the ABCF Constitution and Structure]

The following definitions are used to describe the below terms whenever they appear in the ABCF Update or any other ABCF literature.

**Political Prisoner:** A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self determination or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. [Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of PP/POW's in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

**Prisoner of War:** Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August, 1949 (General Assembly resolution 3103 {XXVIII})

### *Sending Submissions & Subscriptions to the ABCF Update*

The Update is a publication of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF). Its purpose is the promotion of the ABCF and the building of a support network for PP's/POW's. Work reports are eligible only from ABCF collectives and should consist of activities ABCF collectives are doing in support of the ABCF, PP/POW's, and rebuilding the movements they are from. Letters from PP/POW's, news or notes on PP/POW's and related items are also acceptable and are greatly encouraged.

Deadline for the Fall issue is March 27th 2005. All submissions should be sent to Los Angeles ABC. All work reports, letters, and news/notes to be printed, must be received on time and sent to Los Angeles ABC. Failure to do so will result in the articles not being printed in that specific issue.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year, bulk subscriptions (20 copies each issue) are \$25 dollars per year. Prisoners subscription is twelve .37 cent stamps per year. For subscriptions, send well hidden cash, checks/money orders made out to **Matthew Hart**.

Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross has the right to edit or alter any submission as long as it does not change the content or meaning of the article or work report. If there are any issues regarding the editing or altering of articles published in the ABCF Update, please contact the Los Angeles chapter regarding this issue.

In the 80's, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. Since then the ABC's name has been kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and has grown to support a wide variety of prison issues.

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a Federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of Political Prisoners. Various groups have since merged in numerous networks throughout the globe working on various prison issues. The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has continued its mission to focus on the aid and support of Political Prisoners. We take the position that PP/POW's demand our top priority. We strive to continue with the same dedication and solidarity to our fallen comrades as those before us have shown.

### The ABCF is:

#### PRISONER'S COMMITTEE

**OJORE LUTALO**  
#59860 / Box 861  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**ALVARO  
HERNANDEZ  
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**RAY LUC  
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**ANTHONY "JALIL"  
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#77A4283 / Box  
618  
135 State St. /  
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Auburn, NY 13024

**VERONZA  
BOWERS JR.**  
#35316-136 / Box  
819  
Coleman, FL  
33521-0819  
FCI Coleman (Med)

#### BRANCH GROUPS

**NORTHEAST  
ABC-BG**  
New Jersey  
section  
PO Box 8532  
Paterson, NJ  
07508-8532

Philadelphia section  
P.O Box 42129  
Philadelphia, PA  
19101

**CLEVELAND  
ABC-BG**  
PO Box 27376  
Cleveland, OH  
44127-0376

**JACKSONVILLE  
ABC-BG**  
PO Box 350392  
Jacksonville, FL  
32235-0392

**LOS ANGELES  
ABC-BG**  
PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA  
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#### SUPPORT GROUPS

**WINNIPEG  
ABC-SG**  
3D-91 Albert St.  
Winnipeg,  
Manitoba, R3B 1G5,  
Canada

**MONTREAL  
ABC-SG**  
P.O. Box 42053  
SUCC  
Jeanne Mance  
Montreal QC  
H2W 2T3 Canada



**POW Granddaughter is Born**

Maya Torres was born on the Grito de Lares. Her proud grandparents, Puerto Rican Political Prisoners Carlos Alberto Torres and Haydée Beltrán, can't be there to welcome her into the world. They can't go to the Miami neonatal intensive care unit to support their daughter Clarissa, where her four pounds six ounce, one month premature baby is being treated for pneumonia. They can't help Clarissa as she recuperates from the Cesarean operation. They can't babysit Maya's big sister, four and a half year old Alexandra (Munchie). They can't just pick up the phone and call their daughter, even to share long distance this moment of joy in the family's life. They don't know when they'll be able to first meet their granddaughter—they'll have to wait until both Clarissa and Maya are healthy enough to withstand the rigors of travel. While they wait, they can't get emailed digital photos of this new member of their family. And speaking of waiting, grandma Haydée won't be out of prison until 2010; grandpa Carlos, 2024; both in prison since 1980.

**State Will Not Charge Austin**

Sherman Austin's attorney, William Paparian, received a voice mail message from Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Fairtlough that stated:

"It is my understanding that all aspects of the Sherman Martin Austin case have been rejected by the LA County DA's Office"

Sherman's case is NOT over...We are still working on getting back the data.

We are confident that the future brings restitution for Sherman Austin. The U.S. GOVERNMENT demonized Sherman and used threats and coercion to convince him to sign a plea for a crime that he DID NOT COMMIT!

**Jalil Harassed**

Political Prisoner Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) # 77A4283 is being unnecessarily harassed by the prison authorities at Auburn Correctional Facility, N.Y. His mail has been held up over the past two months. This includes both his regular mail and his literature.

Everyone is asked to phone the Warden of Auburn CF, John Burge, (315) 253-8401, complain and protest the harassment of this good brother. You are also asked to forward this information to your contacts as well, asking them also to call the Warden, telling him to cease and desist the unlawful behavior of officers at his facility.

**Court To Take Lori's Case**

The Inter-American Court of Human

Rights announced that Lori Berenson's case will be the sixth and final case to be reviewed during its three-week session in San Jose, Costa Rica, that commences on November 15th. Lori's case will be discussed on November 24th and 25th. A decision from the Court may be rendered at that time, a few days after (since the Court is in session until December 4th), or the Court may postpone a decision until its next session.

The Inter-American Court will also be reviewing the case of Dr. Maria Teresa de la Cruz Flores on November 17th and 18th. She has challenged Peru's revised anti-terrorism laws that were instituted during the current Toledo administration. Lori's case has challenged Peru's anti-terrorism laws that were developed in 1992-3 during the Fujimori-Montesinos administration.

**New G. Jackson Brigade Site**

A new site has been created, dedicated to the revolutionary group once active in the Northwest region. The site has various communiques from the group as long as contact information for those once active in the organization. For those interested in checking out the site, you can find it at:

<http://www.gbjip.org/>

**Negron Needs Our Support!**

Antonio Camacho Negron, a former Puerto Rican Political Prisoner, is extremely ill and needs our support!! Antonio has injured his wrist and has severe gastrointestinal problems!! He needs to undergo a biopsy and several gastrointestinal procedures!!

Antonio is unemployed and has no health insurance to cover these upcoming expenses!!

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign is calling all our allies to give generously to the Antonio Camacho Negron Health Fund!! This is an urgent situation; please endorse your tax deductible donation to IFCO/ProLibertad and write "Antonio Camacho Negron Health Fund" in the memo section, then mail it to:

**IFCO/ProLibertad**  
402 W145th St.  
New York, NY 10031

**Update On Jeff Luers' Appeal**

Jeff's appeal is currently on hold. In June, the United States Supreme Court decided *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 US \_\_\_, 124 S Ct 2531, \_\_\_ L Ed 3d \_\_\_ (2004). The case has the potential to affect the sentences of thousands of people sentenced under Oregon's sentencing guidelines, including Jeff's. The Oregon Court of Appeals has received requests for additional briefing on *Blakely* in so many cases that it has delayed ruling on these requests until Oregon courts have a chance to figure out the impact of *Blakely* on sentencing in Oregon. The Oregon Court of Appeals and

Supreme Court are expected to begin issuing opinions in some representative cases (also called "leadcases"). After that, the Court of Appeals will decide to allow or deny additional briefing in cases like Jeff's, and his appeal will go forward from there.

**Letter From Bobby Dixon**

It's a shame that folks preach a lot about loving their neighbor, forgiving one another, and that everyone is created equal; the shame is that they don't practice what they preach. Racism abounds even in the prisons where felons have already been judged. Racism exists in leaps and bounds here.

I appeal and cry out to all my BPP members in USA not to allow our youth's lives to be in vain, to suffer in prison, or to die at the hands of the pigs. We must save our children! It's my request that Political Prisoners / Prisoners of War reach out to all of the youth in prison and the outside world. Remember, the young people and the children are our future.

I welcome all response from the people and all my comrades, sisters, and brothers. So please answer soon. Power to the people with one love, always in revolution of the mind.

*From comrade*  
*Bobby M. Dixon*  
*BPP (Black Panther Party)*

**Bowen Needs Help**

Black Liberation Army Political Prisoner JoJo Bowen asks if anyone can help him out with some cash. He's been working on a legal writ around his long term solitary confinement for the past 5 years and he could use some help with the costs. If anyone can spare anything no matter how small, it would be appreciated. Send it in the form of a US Postal Money Order to:

**Joseph Bowen**  
AM-4272  
1 Kelley Dr.  
Coal Township, Pa 1866-1021

**New Issue of 4strugglemag**

Issue #3 Out Now! Writings by Political Prisoners and edited by Jaan Laaman. Available online at: [www.4strugglemag.org](http://www.4strugglemag.org).

The Winter 2005 issue includes:

- Election Reaction,
- Black History,
- Jericho and Police State

We are also happy to introduce a new feature on our website: the 4strugglemag message board... ([www.4strugglemag.org/board](http://www.4strugglemag.org/board))



# Judge Rules Against Ciaran Ferry

Denver, Colorado - On November 8, 2004, Judge Nottingham, sitting in the United States District Court of Colorado, has ruled against Ciaran Ferry pursuant to his petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus case. After waiting for over a year and a half for Judge Nottingham to rule on the legality of Ciaran's treatment, the Judge ruled in favor of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ciaran had argued that the actions of the DHS in refusing him a hearing on his "green card" application was a denial of his constitutional right to due process, and that his detention was unlawful. Ciaran maintains that, compared to hundreds of thousands of arriving aliens like himself, he has been treated in a capricious and arbitrary fashion. Most importantly, Ciaran challenged the DHS to prove, in a court of law, its assertion that he was a "danger to the safety and security of the United States." The Court found that, as an entrant under the Visa Waiver Program ("VWP"), Ciaran had waived all constitutional rights to due process, regardless of how he was treated by the DHS, and that the DHS had no case to answer.

In its decision, the Court freely admitted that:

- 1.) Ciaran Ferry was "granted an early release as part of the Good Friday Accord";
- 2.) He lawfully "entered the United States on the Bureau of Inspections and Customs Enforcement's Visa Waiver Pilot Program"
- 3.) He candidly disclosed on his "green card" application "that he was a member of the Irish Republican Army from 1992 to 1993, and that he was imprisoned for political offenses relating to the conflict in Ireland."
- 4.) ICE agents arrested Ciaran "without a warrant," and informed him that they were arresting him for "having overstayed his visa."
- 5.) ICE placed Ciaran in the "Special

Handling Unit" of the Federal Corrections Institute - a facility "usually reserved for dangerous criminals and those most at risk for escape."

6.) The next day, on January 31, 2003, agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation visited Ciaran at FCI and "failed to recite the Miranda warnings prior to their questioning of him, and they questioned him despite the fact that they knew he was represented by counsel."

7.) FCI did not permit the Petitioner to use the phone for his first twenty-four hours in detention to call his attorney.

According to a statement issued by one of Ciaran Ferry's Attorneys, Eamonn Dornan,

"the bottom line is that according to the ruling, Ciaran Ferry and all immigrants who enter under the Visa Waiver Program ("VWP"), have no entitlement to due process rights. This is in stark contrast to recent Supreme Court rulings granting such rights to enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay."

"According to Nottingham, anyone who enters under the VWP relinquishes his/her "constitutional rights" including the right to due process and to a bond hearing, regardless of whether or not the VWP entrant is married to a US citizen."

"In our argument, it is irrelevant that Ciaran had entered under the VWP scheme. Ciaran had clear and unfettered due process rights streaming from his status as the spouse of a US citizen. The heart and soul of our constitution provides that due process forbids the government from "arbitrarily causing an alien who has entered the country to be taken into custody and deported without giving him all opportunity to be heard upon the questions involving his right to be and remain in the United States."

"This is the first time this issue has ever been raised in a US court", said attorney Eamonn Dornan, "and this will have a

resounding effect on every VWP alien, most of whom are from Western democracies, and their US citizen spouses."

Jarl Anderson, Director of the Ciaran Ferry Legal Defense Fund, said,

"This is negligence and cowardice on the part of Judge Nottingham and confirms that the rule of law has been replaced by the rule of fear. Ciaran Ferry could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but instead sacrificed his liberties to establish the constitutional right of all immigrants, not just Irish, to due process. The justice system has failed him and is paving the way for executive abuse of power and individual liberty. Nottingham is washing his hands of Ciaran Ferry like Pontius Pilot and wiping them on the Constitution."

Heaven Ferry stated, "We are deeply saddened by this turn of events. We've waited for over a year and a half for this decision only to find that Judge Nottingham was not prepared or even slightly inclined to give my husband justice. In all fairness, he could have made his ruling in April 2003. If this is indicative of the US Justice system, it's pretty frightening for all of us".

Ciaran's legal team will appeal this decision and is approaching the Department of Homeland Security officials asking that Ciaran Ferry be released from Denver County Jail to live with his family while the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decides his request to live in America."

Deanna Turner, Coordinator of the Irish Deportees of America Committee, visited Ciaran in jail 2 weeks ago, said,

"We can only imagine what is going through Ciaran's mind at the thought of spending another Christmas illegally behind bars. His 3 year old daughter, Fiona, desperately wants her father to be with her when she opens up her Christmas presents and plays in the snow. The thought of just spending cherished time with his wife and family gets him through this awful ordeal."

## America's Guantanamo Gulag

by *Mumia Abu-Jamal*

On the island of Cuba, stands an outpost of American imperial power -- Guantanamo Naval Base.

There, hundreds of men, drawn from all over the world, are entombed in what one British court has called a "legal black hole."

Michael Ratner, an American lawyer who has argued in the U.S. Supreme Court for several people encaged there, has written that Guantanamo is an American interrogation camp, similar to those erected by

the Germans during World War II, and outlawed by the Geneva Conventions. In a recent book on the prison camp, Ratner wrote that Guantanamo is a place designed to be beyond the law:

We have gone back to a pre-Magna Carta medieval system, not a system of laws, but of executive fiat, where the king -- or in this case, the president -- simply decides, on any particular day: "I'm going to throw you into some prison. You are not going to have access to a lawyer or any-

body else, or even know if there are charges against you, or if you will ever be released from this prison." Guantanamo has become our Devil's Island, our Chateau d'If from The Count of Monte Cristo. [From Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray, \*Guantanamo: What the World Should Know\* (White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publ., 2004), p. 6]

If people were shocked by the recent events at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, one need only look at



Guantanamo for its inspiration. For, the leadership of Abu Ghraib was exported from Guantanamo to Abu Ghraib with a specific, sinister mission: to 'Gitmoize' Abu Ghraib; that is, to treat the people detained there as they had been treated at Guantanamo.

So, the torture of people; the nakedness of people; the brutal beatings of people; the humiliation of people -- all of these things were done to Muslim and Arab nationals at Guantanamo.

But, according to Ratner, there was another, insidious method to their brutal madness. Those detained at Guantanamo; they were captured for the purpose of turning them, using state terror to transform these people into snitches to be seeded back into Muslim communities and countries, for the U.S. intelligence agencies. Ratner writes:

This is exactly what the British did with IRA prisoners. Just as is being done in

Guantanamo, they refused to give out the names of detainees for "security reasons" and kept them in detention for long periods of time. During that period, many of them were turned into undercover agents for British intelligence. What is going on in Guantanamo is not just about interrogation, not just about keeping allegedly dangerous people off the battlefield, but about recruiting Muslim informants to go around the Islamic world, to go back to their countries of origin and get information back to the United States, essentially to spy for the United States. [p. 48]

Americans are taking innocent men, putting them in cages, treating them like beasts, \*for years\*, knowingly, for the purpose of using them against their home communities and countries.

This is the face of American democracy that will be reflected in the eyes of hundreds, and then thousands, and perhaps millions of Muslims. This is the reason that the

so-called 'War on Terror' is a fraud; it is a war, but a war against reason. It is a mad war, designed by madmen, based on false evidence, and one which threatens to, once again, splash back against the nation that spawned it in global blowback.

We have seen blowback before. It is the grim and bitter lesson that should have prevailed in the gritty smoke of Sept. 11th. Young men, many of them trained by the CIA, and paid by the Saudis, to vanquish the then-'evil empire' of the Soviets in Afghanistan, succeeded in driving Russians from their lands, and flush with victory, turned their sights to those that trained them. They had driven one superpower to its knees; why not another?

Guantanamo, to quote British judges in the \*Abassi\* case, has become, despite a recent US Supreme Court decision, a "legal black hole." ...And like black holes, it threatens to swallow everything around it.

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## Michael Moore Apologizes for Mumia Remark

by Jeff Mackler

Author/director Michael Moore stopped at Philadelphia's Temple University in late October to address a crowd of several thousand students while on tour, stumping for "lesser-evil," pro-war John Kerry. Moore opened by inviting to the stage and paying homage to the mother of the first National Guardsman killed in a U.S. war since 1945. The overwhelmingly antiwar crowd responded with applause as the honoree graciously and proudly signaled her appreciation. She was followed by a Marine who had recently returned from Iraq. The disillusioned soldier reported on the horrors perpetuated by the U.S. military on the Iraqi people. He too was enthusiastically welcomed.

Soon after a final introductory speaker, the applause again subsided and a strong voice was heard from the crowd, "What about Mumia Abu-Jamal?" The question was presented by a young supporter of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, (ICFFMAJ).

The reference was to Moore's statement in his 2003 book, "Dude, Where's My Country?" On page 183 Moore falsely and without substantiation asserts in a section entitled "How to talk to your conservative brother-in-law" that Mumia "did indeed kill the cop," referring to the 1981 murder of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner.

Mumia's frame-up for Faulkner's murder by corrupt Philadelphia police and prosecutors has been repudiated by organizations ranging from Amnesty International and U.S. trade unions to the European Parliament and the presidents of France and South Africa. Hundreds of thousands have marched for his freedom

around the world.

Moore has since apologized for what he now considers to be a mistaken and errant remark. He did so several months ago, mildly, on Amy Goodman's Pacific Radio talk show, "Democracy Now!" He followed correctly by refraining from repeating the lie in the paperback edition of his book.

However, supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the innocent Pennsylvania death-row inmate, political prisoner, and award-winning journalist, believe that, given Moore's prominence, the damage done to Mumia's fight for his life and freedom resulting from the false charge in his best-selling book far outweigh the positive action he took in his less publicized retraction.

The Mumia supporter who questioned Moore was followed by other Mumia activists, who marched down the auditorium's center aisle with a huge poster of Mumia. Moore immediately responded with an open and frank apology. He told the audience that he was mistaken and his remark was without foundation. He said that Mumia had not received a fair trial.

Moore challenged those present to respond by stating that he was certain that they were in agreement. His request was received from a rather surprised crowd with a strong round of applause that drowned out the handful of catcallers, who shouted that Mumia was a "cop killer".

The meeting was preceded by the wide distribution of a leaflet authored by the ICFFMAJ, scoring Moore and explaining the details of the case. The leaflet, signed by several members of the newly-formed National Task Force to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, requested that Moore meet with

Mumia and his attorney Robert R. Bryan at Waynesburgprison, where Mumia has been incarcerated for the past 22 years.

The successful intervention was prepared by ICFFMAJ leader Pam Africa, the central organizer of Mumia's national and international defense effort. Africa was seated in the front and center row of the meeting hall next to Moore's honored guest, prepared to challenge Moore had he failed to retract his false charge against Mumia.

### Message From Jaan Laaman

To all my friends and all concerned people who have helped me recently when I was thrown into segregation at Walpole state prison because an antiwar and social justice rally was held outside the prison on August 1st:

Hi, I am glad to let you know that on October 1st, I was finally released from segregation into general population after nine weeks of being held on a bogus investigation about the DNC rally that was held outside Walpole state prison on August 1st, I was let out of segregation without any charges. There is no question that all your letters and phonecalls to this prison asking about me, were important and helpful. I want to personally thank everyone for being concerned about me and helping me.

In this present moment of war and injustice, there is so much for us to do. I am going to keep on struggling and I hope that you do too.

*Revolutionary love and hope,*

*Jaan*

*October 5th 2004*



# Veronza Bowers Will Soon Be Free

Dear Friends,

I just got off the phone with Veronza and am very pleased to inform you that the recommendation for Mandatory Parole made at his December 21st hearing was approved by the United States Parole Commission in Washington, D.C. Veronza will be released from federal prison no later than February 21, 2005 after serving more than 30 years of incarceration. Alan Chaset, the lead attorney on our teams, is working hard to secure an earlier release date once the administrative details and paper work are completed. I will keep you posted.

While this is wonderful news, past experience has taught me that circumstances can change very quickly and unexpectedly when dealing the USPC and Bureau of Prisons bureaucracies. As you may recall, last time Veronza was due to be released, his parole was rescinded less than 18 hours prior to emerging from prison gates as his daughter and three sisters waited outside to greet him. While Kayo and I plan to be at the prison this time, I will not celebrate until the hug I have for him is delivered.

Veronza asked me to thank all of you

from the bottom of his heart for your help and unyielding support. He will write a personal letter tonight which I will pass on to you when it is received. If you have any words for Veronza, please send them to me and I will deliver them in person.

In closing, I would like to say that my experience as a friend and advocate for Veronza over the past 17 years has taught me much. Here is one man's story-or nightmare, if you will-that forces me to think about the more than two million Americans presently locked

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## Richard Has Been Transferred

Friends,

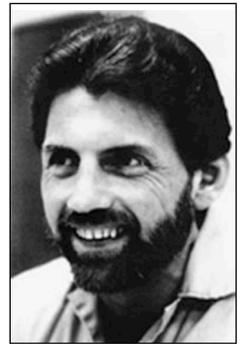
Revolutionary greetings from the friends and family of political prisoner Richard Williams! This is Netdaha writing with a medical and transfer status up-date on dad. We're happy to say there are no new serious problems or developments with his heart since the latest up-date. After experiencing and reporting pains late this summer though, Richard had a testicle and its stem removed earlier this month. A biopsy revealed that he has seminoma, or a partial invasion of cells by cancer. He is in need of further treatment to make sure that the cancer is gone, but he is lucky in the sense that the cancer seems isolated, has not invaded his lymph nodes and that, as cancers go, it is fairly easy to treat. Richard is feeling well and is in high spirits. The question now is whether the B.O.P. sees that he gets the needed treatment.

As some may have heard, it is planned that Richard be transferred out of U.S.P. Lompoc to U.S.P. Victorville; Richard is not being singled out in this regard. Since finding the cancer, prison doctors have recommended a three-month transfer to a prison medical facility in Rochester, Minnesota for treatment. That means a best-case scenario is a transfer to Rochester, then back to Lompoc, before being moved to Victorville. A "best case sce-

nario" and the B.O.P. are mutually exclusive, so we shall see. We'll keep the pressure on and keep people informed. Dad was brought to an outside hospital for the surgery, and was informed that he has stage 2 Diabetes—apparently kept secret by the prison's medical apparatus. But now we know, and can fight for treatment of that as well. Again, Richard is a warrior and feels strong as he mends.

Before signing off we want to send our love and support, and encourage you to send the same, to Lynne Stewart and her defense committee as they struggle to keep her free from Ashcroft-style injustice. The government watching us is a given. We watch back, to make more difficult the State's job of twisting reason, truth and justice unrecognizable. Support Lynne and her co-defendants, stay strong and struggle on!!

*Venceremos!*  
*Netdaha*



## Letter From Richard Williams

Dear Friends,

I wanted to thank everyone for your caring and support. I've received lots of mail here plus some forwards from Lompoc. I've got the picture of my nephews and the medical info from Diane and Matef. Thank you for the cards and words that you sent Betty L. and the news and info I got from Julia L. I got so much mail all at one time, it is impossible for me to answer all of the letters- so this statement will have to do for now.

I was taken out of Lompoc at 3 am, Monday, 11/8, for my flight here, which was about what I expected. The night before I left I was told I'd be allowed to shower, eat, and bring my property to R+D at 7:30, Monday. This was done intentionally so that the 2:30 roust would take me by surprise. I spent the next 8 hours in a small Lear Jet, unable to move or relieve myself. But I

wasn't beaten up so it was a relatively uneventful trip.

As to my health, I contracted Hepatitis A few months ago in Lompoc. It has awoken the dormant Hep C I've had for 27 years. So I am having some problems with that. My Diabetes will be easily controlled by diet and exercise, as my blood sugar is only slightly elevated. No Insulin is needed. The cancer I had/have is apparently no more serious than I was led to believe at Lompoc. Extensive tests are being done to make sure there are no more active cancer cells, as there are no active tumors. This place is very new and modern and clean. The health care workers here, for the most part, are sincere and caring. The food is good and the staff is fairly courteous. There are a lot of sick and dying people here. Physically, I'm feeling very well and feel no affects from the cancer. The prognosis for a good resolu-

tion of my problem is excellent.

I am glad to be on the east coast. I'll miss Diane, Matef, Kano and Seku who would come to see me every month in Lompoc, and also my son Richard who I got to see shortly before I left. For now I'll take advantage of the close proximity of my extended family here to visit. I can't tell you how happy I was to hear that Ray Luc was released on parole and to read the words that he wrote to us all. Again much thanks to Netdah and Brook for getting this info out to you. Know that my body and spirit remain strong and I send my love to you all.

*Venceremos!*

**Richard Williams**  
#10377-016  
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Butner, NC 27509-1600



# Words from Ray...



***Both these statements were sent to the ABCF from Ray Luc Levasseur after he was released from prison. Ray was in prison for his involvement in the United Freedom Front and spent twenty years in prison for his actions against U.S. Imperialism. We wish him luck with his new found freedom.***

Dear friends,

On August 6th I was transferred from the U.S. penitentiary at Atlanta to a pre-release center in Portland, Maine. On November 4th I was released from the federal bureau of prisons custody. After 20 years confinement I've finally come home.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have supported me during this excruciating ordeal. Some of you have been around since the first day of my capture in 1984. Others became involved during the court trials attempting to criminalize actions taken in support of struggles from Central America to South America. Some of you came through during the lockdown years at Marion and ADX – prisons continually violating the spirit and law of human rights. Others joined in during the quest for parole. Be it cards, letters, phone calls, books, literature, funds, political event, providing various kinds of support – each of you contributed in some way to my survival, enabling me to reach the dawn of new life.

My release after 20 years of imprisonment for political offenses demonstrates

that political prisoners can be brought home. Do not forget those left behind. Mumia is still on death row. The MOVE prisoners have endured over 25 years of unjust imprisonment. Mutulu Shakur, Oscar Lopez, Marilyn Buck and many others are weighed down inordinately long sentences. A new generation of political prisoners need support – from younger activists like Jeff “free” Luers to immigrants detained in the extended post 911 repression.

I make special mention of my codefendants – Tom Manning, Richard Williams, and Jaan Lamaan. Of the 8 of us charged with United Freedom Front actions, they are the only 3 still remaining in prison. That’s “freedom,” as in what these comrades fought for on behalf of others. They deserve respect and support. All our political prisoners need to be brought home.

One does not pass through 2 decades in America’s maximum-security cells without feeling it’s effects. The voices still reverberate from those I knew that died in prison. The sun is shining but shadows around me bear decades of physical and emotional pain. I can remember the hunger strikes and

beatings, the sickening sounds of violence and the creeping silence of box car cells. I know the medical neglect suffered by some of our prisoners. I remember a world apart within which the spirit of political prisoners remains unbroken, and the circle of life survives the house of the dead. America’s political prisoners are among the most principled people its ever been my honor to know.

I was never a victim, I am a survivor of wars fought for and against U.S. imperialism. I believe that our political prisoners stand on the side of history that will vindicate our actions to alleviate the suffering of those most used and abused by a system that prioritizes profit over human needs. However, I am an anti-imperialist whose military role has ended.

I am now home with my wife Jamila and close to my family, including daughters, grandchildren, and mother. From my heart I thank you all, for what you gave helped in some way to make this return home possible.

*Love and respect  
Ray Luc Levasseur*

Gathered together the evening of August 5 were the most politically conscious brothers in the compound – who fast, study and push themselves physically to honor those who have made significant sacrifices on the road to Black Liberation. Black August. The event was within hours of my release and I was asked to speak. What words might there be from one who’s done two decades in the gulag by way of Marion and ADX? Big Black had died days earlier, so I began by saying there can be no talk of Black August without honoring and carrying forward the spirit of Frank Big Black Smith. The brother epitomized the strength and courage that ran through the Attica rebellion. He survived torture and indignities no one should ever be subjected to. From the carnage of Attica he emerged with a commitment to bring the light of truth to bear on the fact Attica was a watershed moment on the road to freedom. And he emerged with a compassion that led him to fight tirelessly over decades on behalf of the Attica survivors and their families. Black would bring my kids to visit me in prison because he listened to his heart and

knew the needs of the down-pressed. He should continue to be honored, Black August and beyond.

Brothers asked me what advice I might share with them after 20 years of box car cells, the Marion shuffle, holes in every joint I been in, etc. I know what worked for me, but one size does not fit all. I share the bedrock of it. You must keep the faith. Have faith in the creator and the circle of life. Keep in your family – however way your family is defined. Keep faith in yourself. Don’t let your spirit devoured by cynicism. And try to keep your strength and conditioning at a high level. The following morning Mutulu and I broke bread together shortly before I left – leaving him, being the most painful part of moving on.

A few hours later I walked out from behind forty foot walls – unshackled for the first time in 20 years. A dozen steps and I was in my sweet woman’s arms. She who had never lost faith in me. Before sunset we were a thousand miles away. At a family reunion several weeks later were gathered the youngest – great granddaughter (2) to the oldest – great grandmother (83) – and

the released captive – the first time ever we’d all been together in the same place.

An old friend not seen in thirty years said seeing me unexpectedly freed on the evening news was like watching someone rise from the dead. I prefer to think of it as an affirmation of life. A testament that political prisoners can and will be freed. I told Mutulu his day will also come. Keep the faith. Death is part of life and we’ve lost good comrades – Zayd, Mtyari, Nuh, Merle. And we’ve also seen brothers and sisters released; Rafael, Lolita, Geronimo, Dhoruba, Alicia, Laura – all unbroken spirits who kept their essential humanity and passion to break the chains of oppression. Take heart with my release. There are those who oppose my release and wish me dead in prison, but I prevailed, I came home, I believe that all our political prisoners are coming home. I believe so because I believe in the righteousness of our cause and the struggle brings results. Keep hauling up the mourning – it’s the best way to live.

*Ray Luc Levasseur  
August 2004*



# Cottrell Found Guilty on 8 of 9 Counts in SUV Attacks

On November 19, 2004 a jury found a Caltech graduate student, William Cottrell, guilty in eight of nine counts for the ELF attacks on four San Gabriel Valley automobile dealerships.

Cottrell was found not guilty of using a destructive device to commit arson, which had a 35-life sentence possibility.

The other counts carry 5-year terms.

Cottrell admitted to spray-painting Earth Liberation Front slogans on SUVs during the August 2003 spree, but said he was unaware that the two people with him, Tyler Johnson and Michie Oe intended to throw Molotov cocktails.

The fires did about \$2.5 million in damage.

Oe and Johnson are now being sought by the authorities .

Cottrell's lawyers attributed his odd behavior in testifying to Asperger's syndrome, a social disorder characterized by inappropriate responses to questions and a tendency to take things too literally.

The defense had hoped to argue that the syndrome made Cottrell an easy dupe and prevented him from extricating himself from the spree after Johnson started setting fires. But Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gary Klausner ruled the condition is irrelevant.



## Lessons From the Snitching of Billy Cottrell

by Jeff Luers

November 17, 2004 will be remembered as another sad day for the Earth Liberation Front and the radical activist community. On trial for the ELF action of torching SUVs in Southern California, William 'Billy' Cottrell took the witness stand in his defense.

Accused of more than \$2.3 million dollars of property damage, I can imagine the fear Billy felt facing decades in prison. Many activists, past and present, remember that feeling all too well. For some it was our finest moment, if also most painful, as we stood before the state proud and unwavering.

Perhaps, the truest test of our warrior spirit can be found in the courtroom. Undoubtedly, our movement's defining moment will be how steadfast we stand when facing the full repression of the state.

After Billy's arrest, we wrote me. His naiveté at the situation he was in shocked me. We discussed what he was facing and I warned him to avoid doing media before trial. Billy shared his fears and heartache with me as well as his gratitude for all the support he was receiving from people. In his last letter, Billy told me how much of an inspiration other warriors and I had been to him.

As Billy took the stand that day, I can't help but wonder if the sick feeling in his stomach was fear of imprisonment or if it was nausea at his betrayal. Billy testified that his friend lit the fire against his wishes. He stated that he was coerced into going along with them because he owed one person \$200.

Despite all of his bravado to his supporters, the media and me, Billy tucked his tail and pissed down his leg. Sadly, this is not the first instance of betrayal. To date, the majority of ELF and ELF-style actions to go before the courts have had a defendant turn traitor. This fact devastates

my heart, as it should every activist and revolutionary.

Illegal direct action is a dangerous path. The action itself is only a small part of the equation. Physical resistance once embarked upon is not a path easily abandoned. If it is a path you choose, you should be expecting to serve prison time or worse. If you cannot face the possibility of prison or you know you cannot accept the consequences with integrity and honor, do not pick up the matchbook.

***"The problem is one of our creating. This movement glorifies and romanticizes hardcore action. Crying out for salvation from would be heroes; writing stories and singing songs of faceless individuals who sab the dozers, raid the labs and who burned down Vail."***

The blame, however, does not solely lie with the weakness of individuals under pressure. The problem is one of our creating. This movement glorifies and romanticizes hardcore action. Crying out for salvation from would be heroes; writing stories and singing songs of faceless individuals who sab the dozers, raid the labs and who burned down Vail.

Honoring our warriors is good. But, the illusion fades when you are sitting in a jail cell. The once seemingly powerful movement bolstered by its own self-praise no longer appears so strong. The romanticized ideal of action and change remains. Yet, no revolutionary energy is directed at freeing our comrades.

That is our failure as a movement. If we expect our warriors to stand strong in front of the judge and jury with heads high

and eyes burning with defiance, we must become realistic about what it means to be a revolutionary movement. We have to support those who have sacrificed their freedom with radical actions equal or mightier than their own.

For our movement to become more than a counter-culture, we have to stop mystifying direct action. We have to recognize direct action for what it is—a necessity. The support of the movement to its captured warriors must go beyond admiration and respect. It must extend into action and agitation for their release. We must never abandon our own. By any means necessary, we must see them free. Otherwise, we can expect more people to bow before the power of the state.

How do we go from romanticizing action to taking it? How do we go from accepting loss to preventing it? These are the obstacles in our path. If we cannot overcome them, then we are not trying hard enough.

There are always going to be Billy Cottrells. There just doesn't have to be more of them than there are true warriors. There is a hero in all of us—one just waiting to be given a voice. Find the courage to follow your heart and the pride to hold your head high and stand your ground. Because with that, this movement will go from a facade to a force.



# French Arrest Anarchists For Babysitting!

It seems that the French Justice system will never cease to amaze.

In the latest effort to 'crack down' on terrorism, the French authorities have detained two activists and libertarians who are members of the (French) Anarchistic Union.

According to 'La Coordination Anti-Repressive de Bretagne' (CARB) on Tuesday, November 30th, 2004, Thyde Rosell and Jean-Marc Raynaud, were arrested by the Division Nationale Anti-

Terroriste ( D.N.A.T).

Apparently their crime is that they provided shelter and support to a 3 year old (who is now aged 8) whose parents are involved with the Basque Nationalist movement. The child is the son of Mikel Albizu and his partner, Soledad Iparraguirre Geneche, who are allegedly activists of the ETA organization and were arrested on October 3rd of this year.

CARB have called for the release of Thyde Rosell and Jean-Marc Raynaud

and criticized the methods of the D.N.A.T

In February of this year the Celtic League called on the Council of Europe to ensure that Special Police units were properly accountable and suggested that in the rush to counter a perceived greater threat from terrorism the rights of the individual were being trampled.

In cracking down on people sheltering children the Special Police in France have plunged to an all time low.

## INLA Fox Soon to be Released

'Border Fox' Dessie O'Hare is expected to be released permanently from jail next year. He is currently out on temporary release and is due to return to Castlereah Jail tomorrow.

But the move is being seen as another step in the Government's plan to set him free as a qualifying prisoner under the Good Friday Agreement.

O'Hare was sentenced to 40 years for leading the INLA gang which kidnapped Dublin dentist John O'Grady in 1987 and he was a prime suspect for an estimated 27 murders in a bloody 30-year career in terrorism.

One of the most wanted men on the island was given permission to leave Castlereah for five days last Wednesday.

It is the second time this year he has

been out on temporary release. In July he was allowed out for a few days.

Last November he was granted his first taste of freedom for 16 years when he was allowed out for a weekend stay at Glencree Reconciliation Centre, although he was later reprimanded for posing for photographs in the grounds.

Earlier last year, O'Hare was also carpeted by the prison authorities after he gave an interview to a newspaper.

O'Hare's prospects of freedom were boosted by the High Court ruling that he qualified under the Good Friday early release scheme and he has been waiting patiently while his case is being reviewed by the Release of Prisoners Commission.

The 48-year-old former terrorist gang leader, from Keady, Co Armagh, was trans-

ferred from Portlaoise Jail in late 2002 to the Grove bungalow complex at Castlereah.

His fate over the next 12 months is likely to be partly determined by the outcome of the current North talks with the British and Irish governments, and the North parties.



## 8 Years Isolation - an Interim Evaluation

by German Political Prisoner, Thomas Meyer-Falk

In October, 1996, following a bank robbery, I was provisionally arrested by the police and placed in isolation custody in Stuttgart-Stammheim [prison]. On the basis of several judgements I should complete nearly 17 years (to be exact 16 years 9 months and 3 weeks) of custodial sentences and upon their completion (in 2013) not be let free at all, but taken into preventive custody (details of what preventive custody [deutsch: Sicherungsvewahrung] is: [www.freedom-for-thomas.de](http://www.freedom-for-thomas.de)). That means I can be incarcerated indefinitely according to the will of the Justice Department.

I am a so-called redskin (R.A.S.H. = Red and Anarchist Skinhead) and a person of plain words, wherefore the above-mentioned further convictions. Thus, to a court, the description of a fellow judge as "picturebook example of a fascistoid judge" was worth seven years imprisonment. Even asking as to physical health was punished, as a murder threat supposedly lay hidden in it.

Neither before the courts nor in prison have I recognized it as necessary to pretend false regrets, rather more do I represent my personal and political views unchanged and consistently. Which also includes under no circumstances 'co-operating' with the Justice Department. A few years ago I was informed by the prison that a substantial relaxation of solitary confinement conditions would only come into question should I first enter a trust - establishing dialogue with the prison administration and secondly "forswear violence", in particular, promise neither to incite fellow inmates nor to plan a rebellion or breakout.

In the mean time I have sat in jail under conditions of solitary confinement for almost eight years (only in 1998, as I was for a short while deported to Bavaria, were the conditions briefly relaxed), that means 24 hours a day alone (with the one exception that I see prison officers, when meals or mail are brought). In recent years the daily

hour in the jail yard, actually meant to be spent alone as well, has been relaxed in that another inmate in solitary can come into the yard. Behind that lies less the humanity of the justice system than a practical constraint: there are too many prisoners in isolation and were they all to get their yard-hour, the jail would have to lay on individual yards to allow them all their exercise.

I would not like to express myself about everyday harassment here, details can be gathered from my homepage.

How is it for me, after almost eight years? I am most bothered by the inability to act, which is dictated by circumstances. Instead of being able to join the struggle out there, in these times of upheaval and increasing repression, I sit behind bars. But, however, what I gather from outside from letters, radio and newspapers strengthens me in not giving up confronting the ruling system.

In that surely also lies a potential danger



of eventual embitterment, or of losing touch with reality; the more thankful am I then, though it is not always easy if I am brought back by criticism to the basis of facts. In the solidarity of friends and sympathizers, practiced through letters, I experience daily that I am not alone, not forgotten. As I am in correspondence with a few prisoners I can say that they see it just so:

These letters from outside are quite, quite important!

I attentively follow political developments at national and international levels and it is continually frustrating not to be able to get involved, for example not to even be able to go on a demonstration or to become engaged to some other extent. Much of my everyday experience in prison (spying, searches, permanent observation) is being progressively introduced "outside" as well and I ask myself whether, when I

return to freedom (when that will be is firstly an open question), I won't exchange one prison for a much greater one.

It seems to me all the more important to offer resistance, to defend autonomy, to uncover repressive structures in politics, justice system and business, to call them by their names -- and to set our resistance against them, by fighting for a free and just world!

I am an early riser, mostly I am already awake at 4 in the morning and pace in the half-dark of the cell, it is never quite dark due to the searchlights that illuminate the prison grounds, thus I wander up and down in the twilight. Through the bars of the window I see here and there the moon or twinkling venus, smell through the open window the cool of the night. Freedom surely consists not only of the possibility of being able, at more or less any time, to freely and

unhindered be somewhere else, but also in not allowing ones intellect and imagination to be locked away.

This inner freedom not even the justice system can take from you!

**Thomas Meyer-Falk** c/o JVA  
Z. 3117, Schönbornstraße 32  
76646 Bruchsal Germany



## Anarchist Arrested After Shootout

Anarchists arrested after shootout with German police, followed by repression against German anti-prison activists (21/8/04)

On the 28th of June near Aachen in the area of the German/Dutch border, police stopped a car with four people, including Spanish anarchist fugitive Gabriel Pombo da Silva. The car attempted to escape, and shots were exchanged between the police and the fleeing car. All four were eventually arrested, and are now accused of planning bank robberies, as well as the charges relating to their escape attempt. They have now been dispersed to prisons around Germany. They are Gabriel Pombo da Silva, Begoña Pombo Da Silva, Fernández Delgado and Bart De Geeter. They can receive letters sent via the prosecutors office: (Name of prisoner) C/o Staatsanwaltschaft Aachen, AZ 401JS284/04, Stifstrasse 39-43, 52062 Aachen, Germany

Then, on the morning of the 4th, August 2004, around 8am, Aachen police and the Saxony LKA (crime investigation) searched the shared flat of two anti-prison

activists in Dresden. The search, authorized by the local court in Aachen, started with the door being kicked in. Computers and mobile phones were confiscated, as well as private correspondence with prisoners. The raid happened with the excuse that both are 'suspected of conspiring to commit armed robbery' with prisoners in Aachen. Both activists have been working against the isolation of prisoners for years, by engaging in correspondence with prisoners and their relatives, as well as regularly visiting people in prison to maintain the social contact with prisoners and address the imposed isolation. Another focus of their work involves questioning the necessity of prisons.

Amongst their usual anti-repression work the two women in Dresden were trying to find solicitors for those imprisoned in Aachen. They were also corresponding with them and trying to arrange visits. As a result of this and a map of Dresden with police stations and weapon shops marked on it found during the arrests, the State prosecution in Aachen construed a robbery in the Dresden area jointly planned by the

prisoners and the Dresden activists. With this, the commitment to people in prison is slandered as a criminal action. The reasoning for the investigation is as follows: "There exist enough concrete clues to assume that those charged and arrested in Aachen could not have found out about the local situation in Dresden themselves, but that they must have received support from other people. According to police information, one of those imprisoned in Aachen as well as the women in Dresden can be considered members of the left-extremist scene. Both [women in Dresden] sought out the State prosecution in Aachen immediately after the arrests requesting visiting permission for the prisoners."

One of those involved comments on the searches as follows: "We must question a society that uses prisons and sees them as a legitimate means of repression, to make people functional citizens, and as a consequence criminalizes legal anti-repression work" Those affected will use legal means to challenge the police actions and make an issue of this.

*Rote Hilfe, Dresden group*

## Chilean Anarchist Shot by Police

On October 13, 2004, a group of encapuchados (masked-up rebels) attacked a motorcycle police contingent with fire-bombs outside of the University of Chile in Santiago. The cops opened fire on the rebels, using live rounds, and hitting an anarchist, who has been identified by the corporate media as Gustavo Fuentes. His anarchist comrades immediately rushed to the scene and confronted the officials still there. It was discovered that an ambulance was delayed, and Gustavo was left bleeding for an unnecessary period of time. The anarchists have not been able to determine which hospital Gustavo is being kept in, as he has been declared "lost". The University has also washed its hands of the confrontation, declaring that Gustavo is not a student, and most students are "non-violent".

Gustavo's anarchist comrades are planning a solidarity march, and have said that "the streets will burn".

Chile's universities are a regular staging ground for insurrectionary anarchists and other rebels, because police do not usually enter university grounds, according to social taboo.

For the past few days, anarchists have taken part in Mapuche resistance against the "Day of the Race", the Latin American version of "Columbus Day". A large Mapuche march took place on October 11, in Santiago, and encapuchados fought with police at the UFRO university in Temuco, Chile, on October 12, in another act against the celebration of Chile's colonization. Solidarity with the Mapuche struggle for the land and the liberation of Mapuche prisoners is a crucial element of the anarchist movement in Chile.



# Censorship by DOC in North Carolina

by *Eddie Hatcher*

This communicate serves to alert all publishing and public interest organizations that the new North Carolina Department of Correction (DOC) and prison systems across the South have implemented the most oppressive policy to date wherein practically every progressive, left-leaning publication and many mainstream publications have been banned from entering the prisons.

To date, those publications which have been banned are: Maxim, FHM, Green Anarchy, Burning Spear, all ABC [Anarchist Black Cross] publications, all MOVE publications, and all anarchist publications.

To date, publications which are rejected at a frequent rate, but as yet not banned completely are: Rolling Stone, AIDS/HIV publications, prison rights publications.

The current move by the North Carolina DOC and prison systems across the South is designed to gradually prohibit all publications that even

occasionally speak to prison issues, include prison commentary, and offer prisoner support or directives to those who offer support.

Moreover, the underlying goal of these systems is to eventually prohibit and outlaw completely all publications, as reading materials serve to enlighten and educate prisoners. This move by the prison system became very intense immediately after the implementation of Homeland Security and the Patriot Act.

If an effort is not made very soon to challenge these policies that are being imposed on prisoners, we will eventually be prohibited from receiving any progressive publications and more likely, the prison systems will enact rules which specify the few mainstream publications prisoners can choose from. And this short list will not include any progressive publications.

We understand that for the last two

years practically every organization has been heavily involved in the issues surrounding Iraq and the war. And it has been during this period that the state government, under the directive of the Justice Department, has had free reign to implement these widespread, oppressive acts against us. While no one was watching, we have been subjected to everything from new rules and policies intended to lock us down, to brutalities which are a breach of humanity.

These state systems have now become so oppressively powerful that a movement must meet these atrocities head-on, or we will be in constant conditions far worse than any Iraqi prison.

We sincerely ask for your help.

**Eddie Hatcher**  
#0173499  
PO Box 2405  
Marion, NC 28752

## FREQUENTLY USED

# Acronyms/ Terms

**ABCF:** Anarchist Black Cross Federation - anti-authoritarian federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POW's.

**ABC-BG:** Branch Group - ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

**ABC-SG:** Support Group - ABCF group with less responsibilities than a BG.

**AIM:** American Indian Movement - above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

**Anarchism:** Free or libertarian socialism. Anarchists are opposed to government, the state, and capitalism. Therefore, simply speaking, anarchism is a no government form of socialism. Types of anarchists include: Anarcho-Communist, Anarcho-Syndicalist, Autonomist, Collectivist, Individualists, and Mutualists.

**BLA:** Black Liberation Army - revolutionary Black clandestine formation formed to defend the Black community and the BPP, dormant since the '80s.

**BPP:** Black Panther Party - above ground Black revolutionary group seeking Black political power, disbanded in the mid-'70s.

**FALN:** *english translation:* Armed Forces of National Liberation - revolutionary clandestine group fighting for Puerto Rican independence.

**FC:** Federation Council - decision making body of the ABCF.

**MOVE:** Not an acronym, the name of an organization based in Philadelphia who are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

**PC:** Prisoner's Committee - rotating body of 5 PP/POW's on the ABCF's FC.

**PP/POW's:** Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War. (See page 1.)

**Self-Defense:** The legal act of protecting one's life or the life of another with the idea/purpose of self determination and independence. Armed self-defense is relative to the ABCF, specifically in the U.S., in that as the organization grows, so too grows the need to protect ourselves from the armed aggressor of the state, right wing, and other ideological opponents. (Firearms training as preparation for self-defense are legal activities within the confines of the U.S.)

**Self Determination:** The right by virtue of which all people's are entitled freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

**SDS:** Students for a Democratic Society - left student group founded in the '60s.

**The Update:** This is a bi-monthly publication of the ABCF.

**WUO:** Weather Underground Organization - first the Weathermen, later known as the WUO, evolved out of the SDS as an underground formation of primarily white anti-imperialist revolutionaries from the student movement.

*(The ABCF produces the Revolutionary Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Jacksonville ABC for \$1 and two 34 cents stamps.)*



**CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5**

up by our government-six million, if we include those on parole and probation. Multiply these numbers by the families, friends and loved ones touched by their incarceration. While many undoubtedly deserve to be there, I find it very disturbing to read, with increasing frequen-

cy, about those who have been falsely convicted or wrongly executed due to the color of their skin, social class or political and religious beliefs. In light of this, our success in winning Veronza's freedom is but a small, symbolic victory. To my mind, its greatest significance lies in showing us the power of a citizenry that this willing to endure and stand up,

against all odds, for the principles that underlie the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing justice and human rights for all.

All the best,  
Monty

**Update:** Bowers release has been postponed until a March 21, 2005 hearing. Once again justice has not been served for PP/POW's in the U.S.

# The Anarchist PP/POW Subsistence Program

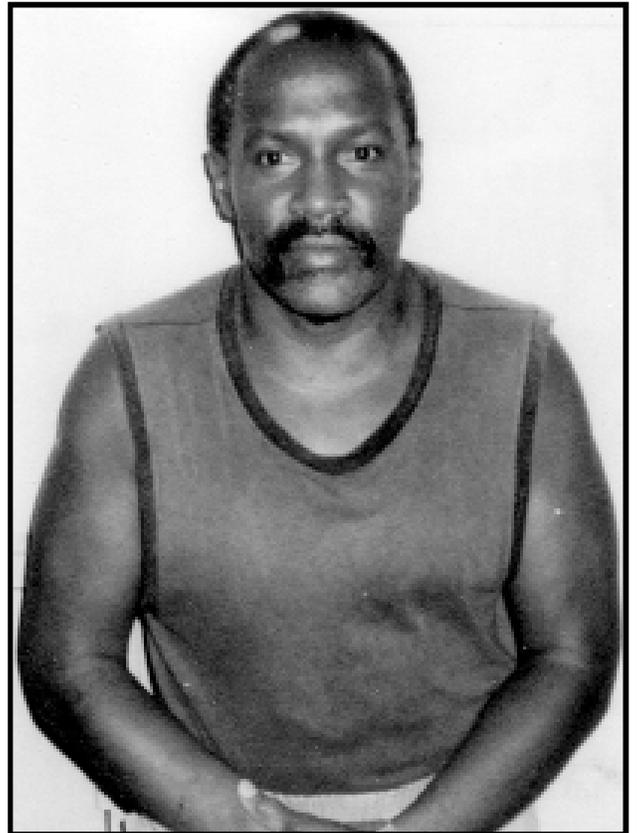
The Anarchist Subsistence Program, in contrast to the Warchest program that provides nonpartisan support for revolutionary Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POW's who come from our own anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

Presently, we are aware of less than ten 'Class War' PP/POW's in North America who identify themselves as part of the anarchist or anti-authoritarian community. From information provided to us by these political prisoners, we realize that Ojore Lutalo is in more financial need than most. Because of this and because Ojore has provided an immeasurable amount of time, guidance and focus to the collectives that make up the ABCF, the organization has made Ojore the focus of our first subsistence support campaign.

The two functions of this support

campaign include a monthly check and forty .37 cent postage stamps per month. Supporters of the Anarchist Subsistence Program send whatever funds they can to Philadelphia ABC (who facilitates the program) who in turn sends the total amount from all supporters to Ojore monthly. All U.S. supporters also take turns sending the stamps directly to Philadelphia ABC.

Listed here are the monthly check documentation and rotation of groups sending stamps. If you want to support this important program, and help us expand the number of Anarchist Subsistence Program campaigns we run, contact Philadelphia ABC. Make checks or money orders out only to: TIM FASNACHT. Funds should be sent in the last week of the month before the month the funds will be used (i.e; send March funds in the 3rd week of February).



## Stamp Rotation Schedule

### February

### Jacksonville

### March

### Cleveland

### April

### Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 37 cent stamps in the last week of the month before the month you are responsible for.

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Jax	20	60	60	60	60	105	120	140	20								
NE						100	113	80	10								
NJ	40	120	120	65	25												
Lanc	40	145	145	200	115												
Bing/CO	10	110	105	75	70												
Kent		88	203	205	223												
Winn	40	85	110	130	144	100	110	10									
LA				50	96	66		85	10								
Cleve				120	205	90.4		25									
Houston			40	5													
Brick, NJ			35														
Moncton	5	60	25	5													
Aaron				5													
Josh S.																	
Mntrl.							50	25									
Kete Foy							5										
other	5																
Total	160	773	788	810	1028	581	488	365									

All Inquires to:  
Philadelphia ABCF  
P.O Box 42129  
Philadelphia, PA 19101



# No Surrender and the Losses of 10/20/81

by David Gilbert

The warm reception for my book is most welcome. I hope the title hasn't caused any misunderstanding. "No Surrender" comes from the Nazim Hikmet poem about prison, which opens the book, on never giving up one's principles, spirit, and zest for life. I did not at all mean to refer to a military concept or in any way to glorify the shoot-out that led to my incarceration.

I feel terrible about the deaths, the wounds, the fractured lives and families that resulted from that action. I've said this (and talked more specifically about the errors I made) in the few interviews I've done over the years, but perhaps my regrets and apologies haven't been heard clearly because of all I've also had to say about the colossal violence of the social system and the brutal attacks on the Black Liberation Movement. However, my relationship to the deaths on 10/21/81 is very direct, so I need to address those losses very directly. Such a statement is especially needed because during trial, feeling very embattled and defending armed struggle as an abstract principle. I failed to publicly express regrets about the individuals

who had been killed and wounded.

I feel terrible about the loss of life and the pain and suffering for the families of the two officers and guard who were killed. [I am not mentioning them by name out of respect for the wishes of the families.] Whatever the historical context for us, these three men just happened to be on duty that day. So it must have been an especially bitter loss for their families.

In another sad repercussion three days later, longtime Black liberation activist Mtayari Sundiata was killed by police. All the losses are more anguishing because they resulted from the grievous mistakes we made.

My own family was badly hurt; they never got to make choices about the risks I would take but they suffered the consequences. Yet as hard as it's been for us, we've still been able to maintain a strong, tangible connection. The families of those who died were left with far more devastating losses: children growing up without fathers, mothers carrying on without husbands, families without a chance to share joys or ever again to hug their loved ones.

In any struggle, no matter how intense,

we must never lose our feeling for each and every human being. The only reason to become an activist is love, love for the preciousness of life and for the rainbow colors of human potential. Those same values mandate that we take the greatest care and responsibility in how we fight for social change.

I proudly stand by my broad history of struggle and by solidarity with the Black liberation movement; my actions on 10/21/81 were wrong, and I deeply apologize for their role in the tragic loss of lives.



**We apologize for the spelling and/or grammatical errors of UPDATE issue number 40. By mistake, we sent the unedited version to our printer. If you are looking for someone to blame, his name is Lane Farnham. Write him here at LA-ABCF and tell him what you think (he he)!**

-UPDATE Staff



## Join the Jericho Movement's Education Support Campaign for Aids Orphans in Afrika

Supported by political prisoners across the country, the Jericho Movement is collecting donations to purchase school supplies (pen, pencils & composition books) that will be inscribed "Compliments of Political Prisoners in the united states of america." The supplies will be shipped to selected sites in the sub-Subharan Afrika for distribution to school children who lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic that is sweeping across the continent.

*"Keeping orphans at school is crucial is critical for the future. It can provide education that can work as a safety net in the child's life. Schooling can also help to break the cycle of poverty. A study in Kenya found that 52% of the children orphaned by AIDS were not in school compared to a 2% of the non-orphans. Therefore, it is important that great efforts are made to keep orphaned children at school.."*

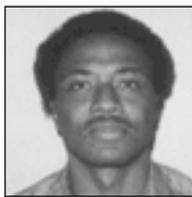
Individuals and organizations wishing to cosponsor, endorse or contribute to this campaign are asked to immediately contact Baba Herman Ferguson (iyaluua@aol.com) and Sis. Efia Nwangaza (mxgrm@aol.com), Jericho Movement, National Office, P.O. Box 3410084, Jamaica, New York 11434-3401, 718-949-3937.



Sekou Odinga  
05228-054 / Box 1000  
Marion, IL 62959  
Receives \$60 per month



Ruchell Cinque Magee #  
A92051 / 3B-05-103  
Box 3466  
Corcoran, CA 93212  
Receives \$60 per month



Herman Bell  
79C0262 / Box 2001  
Dannamora, NY 12929  
Receives \$60 per month



Ricardo Jimenez  
# 88967-024  
PO Box 1000 A-2  
Lewisburg PA 17837  
Receives \$60 per month



Richard Williams  
10377-016  
3901 Klein Blvd.  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
Receives \$60 per month



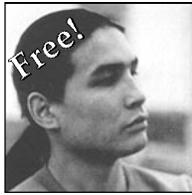
Dylcia Pagan  
# 88971-024  
5701 8th St., Camp Parks  
Dublin CA 94568  
Receives \$60 per month



Hanif Shabazz Bey  
259533 / Box 759  
Wallensridge Supermax  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  
\$60 every other month



W.J. "Wolverine" Ignace  
RRAC Matsqui / Box 400  
Abtsfrd., BC  
V2S 5X8 Canada  
\$30 every 3rd month



James OJ Pitawanakwat  
Mission Inst. / Box 60  
Mission BC V2V 4L8  
Canada  
\$30 every 3rd month



Russel Maroon Shoats  
AF-3855  
175 Progress Dr.  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
Receives \$60 per month



Sekou Kambui  
113058 / Box 56 SCC  
(B1-21)  
Elmore, AL 36025-0056  
Receives \$60 per month



Joseph Bowen  
AM-4272 / 1 Kelley Drive  
Coal Township, Pa  
17866-1021  
Receives \$30 per month



Ojore Lutalo  
59860 / PO 861  
SBI# 0000901548  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Received Emergency Funds



Jalil Muntaqim  
(Bottom) 77A4283  
Box 618 135 State St.  
Auburn, NY 13024  
Received Emergency Funds



Sundiata Acoli (Squire)  
39794-066 / Box 3000  
White Deer, PA 17887  
USP Allenwood  
Received Emergency Funds



Carmen Valentin  
# 88973-024  
5701 - 8th. St. Camp Parks  
Dublin CA 94568  
Received Emergency Funds



Jaan Laaman  
W41514 / Box 100  
South Walpole, MA 02071  
Received Emergency Funds



Thomas Manning  
10373-016 / Box 1000  
USP Leavenworth  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
Received Emergency Funds



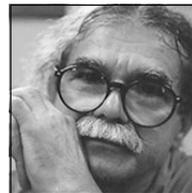
Yu Kikumura  
09008-050 / Box 8500 ADX  
Florence, CO  
81226-8500  
Received Emergency Funds



Edwin Cortes  
92153-024 / Box 1000  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Received Emergency Funds



Adolfo Matos  
88968-024  
3701 Klein Blvd  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
Received Emergency Funds



Oscar Lopez Rivera  
87651-024 / Box 33  
Terre Haute, IN 47808  
Received Emergency Funds



Jihad Abdul Mumit  
323749-138  
Box 1000  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Received Emergency Funds

# SUPPORT THE WARCHEST

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks into those PP/POW's who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POW's requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the application are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POW's called the Prisoner Committee, who makes a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an emergency fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POW's in need of one time or emergency assistance, Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much neglected comradley function. As Sekou Odinga (a POW currently receiving a monthly check) writes, **"Thanks much for the support you've been organizing, I really appreciate it. After not having any or very little support for so long, it now seems like (people) have all of a sudden realized that I am live."** Endorse this program by giving any monthly or one time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. The prisoners addresses are also printed so that endorsers may write and hold us accountable.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

ONE TIME DONATION  MONTHLY SUPPORTER

**Monthly supporters, please check one of the following:**

I'll commit to 6 months  I'll commit to 1 year  Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send cash, checks or mos  
made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:  
**Philly ABCF**  
**P.O Box 42129**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19101**  
**phillyabcf@webtv.net**  
**toll free (877)-673-2658**



# What is the Warchest?

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POW's requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the applications are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POW's called the Prisoners Committee, who makes a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an Emergency Fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POW's in need of one time or emergency assistance. Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid serving a much neglected comradely function. As Sekou Odinga (a POW currently receiving a monthly check) writes, **"Thanks much for the support you've been organizing, I really appreciate it. After not having any or very little support for so long, it now seems like (people) have all of a sudden realized that I am alive."** Endorse this program by giving any monthly or one time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. Below is the financial report which documents all money received and the prisoners it was sent to.

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- One time donation  
 monthly supporter

If you'll be a monthly supporter, please check one of the following:

- I'll commit to 6 months  
 I'll commit to 1 year

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

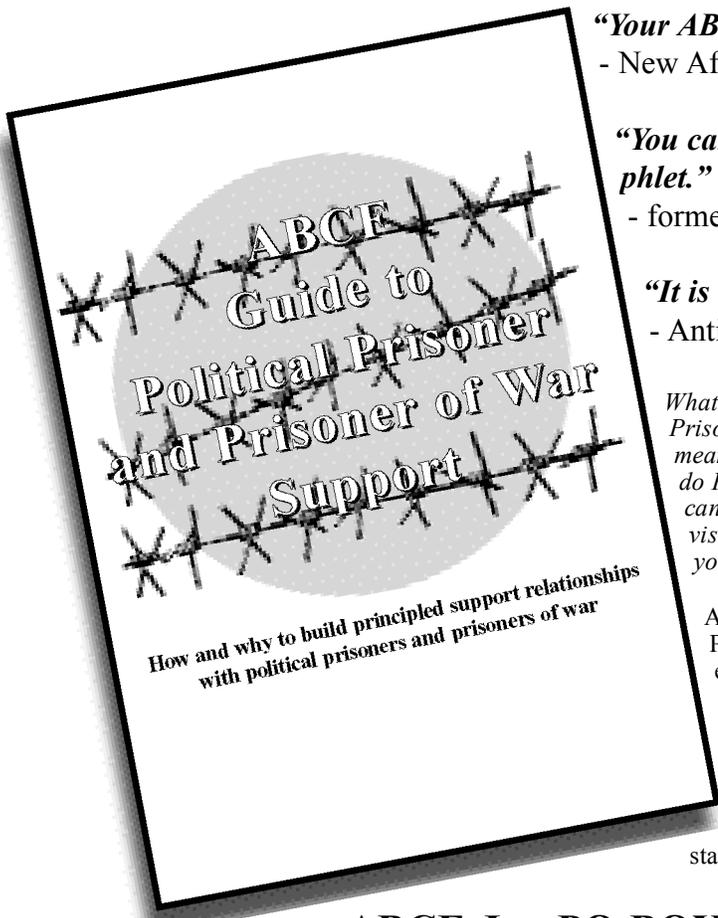
Send concealed cash, checks, or m.o.s. made out to Tim Fasnacht to:

**PHILADELPHIA  
ABCF-BG**

P.O Box 42129  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

or donate online at  
**[www.abcf.net](http://www.abcf.net)**





**“Your ABCF Guide to PP/POW Support is great, PERIOD!”**  
- New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli

**“You can see many of our concerns addressed in this pamphlet.”**  
- former Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentin

**“It is extremely well thought out and put together.”**  
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

*What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners, Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do we mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support do Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POW's get in prison? What do I need to know if I wasn't to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean 'principled support'? How do I get involved?*

A practical guide compiled with the help of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of the above questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW includes definitions that were democratically agreed upon at an international tribunal, specific procedures for obtaining documentation on PP/POW's, information on visiting, phone contact, food/clothing packages, an updated list of U.S. PP/POW's, and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

**ABCF-Jax PO BOX 350392 Jacksonville, FL 32235-0392**

LA-ABCF  
Branch Group  
PO Box 11223  
Whittier, CA 90603



**“This work is not done for glory, but because we believe in mutual aid.”**

# UPDATE

Quarterly Publication of the ABCF



Winter 2005 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement."* - O. Lutalo Issue #41



## FREEDOM FOR VERONZA BOWERS?

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Updates on Ciaran Ferry - Veronza Bowers' possible release date - America's Guantanamo Gulag - Michael Moore apologizes for remarks against Mumia, Billy Cottrell - Words from Ray Luc Levasseur - Richard Williams has been transferred - And more