

## Editor's Preface

*Bob Gaucher*

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**T**he *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons* is pleased to publish this timely volume and would like to thank all the people who contributed to it. We would especially like to thank Howard Davidson and Rashad Shabazz for composing this issue, and Zain Hirji, who manned the correspondence and contributed administrative direction throughout its production.

The contributions of the writers attest to the immediacy of the many questions that have arisen concerning “political prisoners and detainees,” across the globe. The insecurity narratives of the neo-conservative politics and state institutions of control that grip much of the West, would have us believe that the attacks of September 11, 2001, constitute a breach with the past that has moved us to a new reality, exemplified by the need for a war on terror. Indeed in U.S.A., with its global imperialist entanglements, the public and private narratives appear to assume that a new world order has emerged. The benefits of this conclusion for established criminal justice and carceral industries are considerable. Roll backs of human and civil rights, the suspension of the rule of law, abrogation of the United Nations’ Minimum Rules of Imprisonment, career advancement, and profit for industrial players, all serve established interests of the prison-industrial complex. The scope and rapidity of the post September 11, 2001 expansion of carceral power has been legitimated through this “new normalcy” narrative.

The writers in this volume expose the **pre September 11, 2001** context and its relevance to the present controversies over political internment, and the attendant mistreatment, torture, and destruction of the carceral subject. Rather than departing from past practices, state institutional responses are driven by existing industrial interests and realized in the expansion and development of existing forms and models of surveillance and punitive control. These writers from the U.S.A., Palestine, and Northern Ireland, demonstrate, that today is but a heightened moment in the ongoing intensification and elaboration of the *master pattern* of state surveillance and control (Cohen, 1985). Simply more of the same; almost a celebration, an unleashing of a widely shared carceral mind set, that state and media narratives have created through their decades long “war on drugs” and “war on crime”. This relationship will remain a theme for the next two issues of the **JPP**.

The arrangements at the University of Ottawa Press worked quite well until Ruth Bradley St. Cyr resigned as Director of the Press, in December, 2005. The Press has since experienced organizational difficulties and our status is now unclear. I have changed addresses and contact numbers as was necessary. Zain Hirji stepped in and managed the JPP throughout the past winter, and his construction of our website ([www.jpp.org](http://www.jpp.org)) is admired and appreciated. Zain is returning to the music scene and we wish him and his band international success. It was a pleasure to work with Ruth and Zain, and their contributions will be missed.