

PRISONERS' STRUGGLES

NATIONAL INDIAN PRISONER SUPPORT NETWORK CONFERENCE

Impelled by continuous and frequent violations of religious freedom and other serious practices directed toward Native American prisoners, the National Indian Prisoner Support Network was founded at a meeting convened by the American Indian Movement in Minneapolis (August 1990).

Participants included: Elder Larry Cloud-Morgan, Clyde Bellecourt, Chuck Robertson, Vernon Bellecourt, Doug Hall, Karen Northcott, Don Ragona, Ron Leith, and Mark Aquash. Carol Rae Jones representing Red Hawk, Ginger Wright of the Native American Prisoners' Rehabilitation Research Project, representatives from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the International Indian Treaty Council, Heart of the Earth Survival School Prisoner Program, and others.

The National Indian Prisoner Support Network's first project is for affiliates to collect descriptions of situations encountered by prisoners, visitors and others and copies of any grievances filed in prisons. This material will be held locally with duplicates sent to the national project for further analysis.

Anyone with information useful to the project or who wishes to receive additional information should contact:

**Carol Jones
Red Hawk Society
P.O. Box 2184
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE

Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck, Tim Blunk, and Alan Berkman are the six activists named in the Resistance Conspiracy Case. The indictment charges them with conspiring together and with unnamed others "to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means."

The indictment alleges that the six were associated with a network of underground groups that claimed responsibility for a series of bombings of government and military buildings in 1983-85. The bombing of the U.S. Capitol following the invasion of Grenada is one of the acts specifically charged. According to statements issued by their support committee, each bombing was preceded by a warning call and no one was injured. If convicted, each of the six defendants could receive 40-45 years in prison.

Because the prosecution does not know who actually did the bombings, they want to convict the Resistance Conspiracy six by showing they shared a 'common purpose'. When 'common purpose' was used by the South African government against anti-apartheid activists, it was condemned by the world community, including the U.S. government. It should be condemned here as well.

For more information write to:

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Emergency Committee to Defend
the Human and Legal Rights
of Political Prisoners

***POLITICAL PRISONER NEEDS
URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION***

Alan Berkman, one of six defendants in the Resistance Conspiracy Case (see previous notice) is struggling to get proper medical treatment which has been denied by his captors. Berkman, a doctor himself, is experiencing a return of Hodgkins Disease (a form of cancer) which he developed after his arrest. At the time he was being held in preventive detention at a facility unequipped to treat his condition. It was only after outside pressure and a court decision that he was transferred to a cancer treatment centre where he underwent abdominal surgery. After many problems and setbacks the cancer went into remission.

Since then Alan has fought to get proper medical follow-ups and testing. On March 19, 1990 he received tests which indicate that the cancer might be re-occurring. Despite this no efforts have been made for him to receive proper treatment.

Alan Berkman's support committee asks you to write a letter to the following addresses demanding that Alan be sent to either the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. or the Lombardi Cancer Center in Georgetown, MD.

David Road, Administrator
D.C. Central Detention Facility
1901 D. St. SE
Washington, D.C. 2000

Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 1st St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20534

WHAT IS U.S.P. MARION?

Located in Southern Illinois, Marion Prison was opened in 1963 to replace Alcatraz. Marion is the highest maximum security prison in the country and the only U.S. prison ever to be condemned by Amnesty International for "violating the UN's Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners." Despite this international condemnation, Marion has become an experimental laboratory and trend setter for the entire Federal Bureau of Prisons (BPO).

Since 1983, Marion Prison has been in a state of permanent "lockdown." A typical lockdown may last several days to a week. However, at Marion the lockdown has been made permanent, and the entire prison has been transformed into a 'Control Unit'. The objective is to maintain absolute physical and psychological control over their prisoners. For example, prisoners are locked in their cells for 22 1/2 hours a day. All programs are virtually non-existent. Prisoners are forbidden to socialize with each other or to participate in group religious services. Those who 'misbehave' are tied spread-eagle and naked on their concrete slab beds.

Despite Bureau of Prisons' claims to the contrary, the purpose of Marion is to control dissidents. Many are sent to Marion because they have written 'too many' law suits, participated in work stoppages, or pursued their religious beliefs.

Marion is an outrage. People must assure that the government cannot maintain this brutal institution which dehumanizes those it incarcerates.

For further information about Marion and the inhumane Marion lockdown contact:

Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
343 South Dearborn, Rm 1607
Chicago, Ill. 60604
(312) 663-5046

**SUPPORT THESE ON-GOING
PRISON STRUGGLES**

The ***Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*** receives announcements about many prisoners struggles. Space does not allow us to describe them all. We encourage you to write to the organising committees for more information

JUSTICE GROUP

Contact: Stony Mountain Penitentiary
P.O. Box 4500
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3W8.

LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Contact: P.O. Box 583
Lawrence, Kansas
66044, U.S.A.

or 43 Chandler Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
M1G 1Z1

MARK CURTIS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

Contact: P.O. Box 1048
Des Moines, Iowa
50311, U.S.A.

MATSQUI PRISONERS' JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Contact: Erle MacCauley
Matsqui Federal Prison
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2S 4P3

***NATIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS
REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECT.***

Contact: The Iron House
1242 First Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio
45205, U.S.A.

SAUVE — COMEAU DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

Contact: Carol Crosby
33 Hexham Drive
Scarborough, Ontario
M1R 1J5

***SAVE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL:
DEATH ROW POLITICAL PRISONER.***

Contact: Partisan Defence Committee
P.O. Box 99
Canal Street Station
New York, NY
10013, U.S.A.