

PRISONERS' STRUGGLES

A Call for Memorials, Writing and Artwork by Imprisoned People and their Loved Ones *Mourning Our Losses*

Mourning Our Losses (MOL) was launched by a volunteer group of educators, artists and organizers committed to the release of those incarcerated nationwide. In April 2020, we began hosting individual memorials to dignify and honour the lives of our brothers and sisters who were dying from COVID-19 in jails, prisons, and detention centers across the United States. Today, we continue to grow this platform for grief, healing, community, and reflection for *all* those affected by the death of a loved one due to poor conditions, medical negligence, violence, and mental health crises inside – the natural by-products of mass incarceration.

We are a team driven by our own prison experiences. Our crowd-sourced memorial site and all that we do depends upon our ties to you, our siblings still inside. Our goal is to inform public, national conversations about the dangers of mass incarceration by sharing the stories of those lost. In doing this, we let the public know that we are *all* people – not numbers, criminals or “inmates”. We do not use that type of dehumanizing language in the memorials we post. We do not speak negatively about anyone or talk about the crime for which they were convicted (at all!). No one deserves to suffer at the hands of the prison industry and *no one* deserves to die inside.

YOU CAN HELP US

You may send us a memorial for a loved one who died, related creative writing, photos and/or artwork (which we may not be able to return safely). When you send your submissions in, be sure to include the name the person went by and your name as you would like it to appear on the memorial or let us know if you would like to remain anonymous. Also let us know whether you give us permission to edit spelling errors and whether we can contact you via electronic mail (JPay, Securus, GTL, etc.) to follow-up. Write to us at:

Mourning Our Losses
c/o Texas After Violence Project
P.O. Box 15005
Austin, Texas 78761
USA

We encourage you to share our website – mourningourlosses.org – with your friends and family on the outside. Memorials can be submitted on the site using the “Submit” button. We can also be reached via email at mourningourlosses@gmail.com.