

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

A PUBLICATION BY AND FOR CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We want to publish your writings! We've recently seen a drop in the number of pieces submitted to KTFB for us to run. While many of these were wonderful, and we published some of them, we want ya'll to send us more! This newsletter is meant to be a platform for prisoners to develop their own ideas among each other. We on the outside only hold small parts of the answers.

Some ideas we're especially looking for are analysis of things that are happening inside in this moment, stories of collective struggle, input for abolitionist groups and organizers on the outside, ideas about strategy, speculation on the future, perspectives from those on the margins, constructive critiques, poetry, and political art.

One big news item that we are seeking more input on is the way that correctional staff is responding to statewide vaccine mandates for COs. We are hearing reports from several facilities of increased lockdowns and decreased access to programming. This is being attributed to various actions on the part of COs including outright refusal to show up for work. In other words, taking out their frustration over vaccine mandates on prisoners. We are eager to hear how this trend is impacting you and others at your facility so that we can deepen our analysis of the situation.

We are keeping you all in our thoughts this holiday season, we hope to hear from ya'll soon.

Content from the Inside

S.E. V.E.N Points of Solidarity

By Ras'safidi of ABOSOL

Serve
Service is Salvation.

Folks within the modern social isolation camps need those who are in solidarity with the ideas of Prison Abolitionism to embrace a model of service similar to organizations like the early Black Panther Party. (BPP) From Chicago, IL. to Oakland, CA. Serve The People Programs have saved members of the Community who could not serve themselves. Leaderships from within the belly of the beast, and outside it, must embrace an enthusiastic approach of service, beginning with the need for individuals to Practice the Principle, Word Is Bond. This shall produce P.E.A.C.E. { Proper Education Always Correcting Errors }

Educate
Education is Principle.

Abolitionism of Prisons involves a practice solution to the cause of criminal behaviors that lead peoples to being imprisoned. Slavery being that criminal behavior, which leads to a system that requires peoples being imprisoned, we must educate against it appropriately. And the most appropriate way to Truthfully, without shame and without Fear of retaliation.

Leaders from within and outside of prisons need sources of anti-slavery/capitalism magazines, newspapers, books, music that is produced by themselves. That they may reinforce the self-determination study cells and community refinement crews that maintain autonomous education.

Visualize
Visionaries make it happen.

Slavery kidnapps not only the physical body but it also steals the mind. It steals the freedom of imagination. It destroys

the creative forces of Inner-visioning. Those in solidarity with the Prison Abolitionist Movement (P.A.M) must lift up the inside leaders of abolitionist struggles with prison administrators, these so-called prisoners are visionaries. The condition of prisons is the serve they serve as social isolation camps structured to restrict & deny socialization systems to those imprisoned. Anti-censorship had to be embraced, that they be FREE.

Equalization

Equality is un-Apolgetically fought for.

The Prison Abolitionist Movement will require the heart of those set Free from captivity to enter into positions of leadership amongst the grassroots organizations in the Public, in order that leaders outside prison have that inside scoop of what is to be done to affectively transform the circumstances and destroy the slave systems.

Network

Network is the best work.

With all the different radial groups organizing to destroy the prison system and end slavery of a corporate type, there are too many complaints from leaders within that these groups are not seriously committed to the vision. Existing outside groups need to do away with their petty beefs and hang ups for the sake of consolidating forces and resources. Inside leaderships suffer because their outside parties refuse to work together. This must cease. The underground railroad is a network of many different families, tribes, crews, units, clicks and sets. Without Unity there can be no Freedom to Free.

?????? (freedom)

By komrade underground

I look up to the stars,
To Only See The Sky falling.
I listen, in my mind,
And I Hear The Wind Calling...
(freedom...)
Awake to Realize,
That was just my Dreams Telling lies
Oh, How I Agonize
I Slip Into Dispair..
For these Eyes have not seen stars,
In How Many Years?!
Tears, Begin To Build Up...
Fears Begin to fill up...
My mind
Will I ever Have my Time?
(freedom...)
Will I ever be able to write these,
Rhymes in freedom.....

Behind Steel Doors, is where they tell me I belong
Along with, leg shackles & Handcuffs -
"To Help me right my wrongs"
Shock Therapy - systematic abuse,
Make sure they keep it in my mind -
That I will never be of use....

To Society & Civilization,

Since my creation,

I've been subjected to a -

Dehumanization.

Parentz that were Racist -

Teachers that were impatient ,

To my generation...

Or maybe it was that,

My generalization of life didn't fit.

Pain would only subside,

To nights, Taking a Hit.

Rights to Human Kind,

Never seem to Exist...

A "love" that was unkind,

Is where I would submit.

A childhood that was Blind,

Or maybe, never was lived...

freedom ?!

I don't think I've ever known freedom...

I think..

With every passing season,

They would make up a Reason...

To lock me up or toss me,

Into a mental cell...

"ADHD" lead to Pills I would

Eventually sell...

Bcuz they never told me how these "pills"

Would make me eventually feel....

Trapped! In Hell!

That some thing was wrong with my Brain!

Made me feel like,

I was a Wild Animal,

That they needed to Tame...

Made me feel like,

That I needed to refrain,

From the way that I thought...

That I brought every lifes problem,

That it was all my fault...

So my freedom (!?) as a child,

Was lost in the course.

Forced to choose sides,

In a Horrid Divorce...

Learn that love was only worth,

As much as the child support...

.... freedom?!?!?

National Shut 'Em Down Call to Action Reportback

By The Numbers

AT LEAST

12

pieces of graffiti

AT LEAST

32

banners made
and displayed

AT LEAST

28

actions, including
noise demos, tabling,
rallies, temporary
building takeovers
and film screenings

OVER

6,000

stickers sent out from Oakland
across the country on peoples'
request, and an untold number
of stickers were put up, posters
wheatpasted, and signs posted

Individual Reportbacks



A massive piece of graffiti reading "PRISON STRIKE!!!" that went up in early August in West Oakland. The letters were 20ft high and visible from BART, the commuter train from Oakland to San Francisco.



A banner dropped above the 580 freeway in Oakland during rush hour the Friday morning before the weekend of August 21st. Red and black letters on a white banner read "ABOLISH PRISONS #SHUTEMDOWN2021"



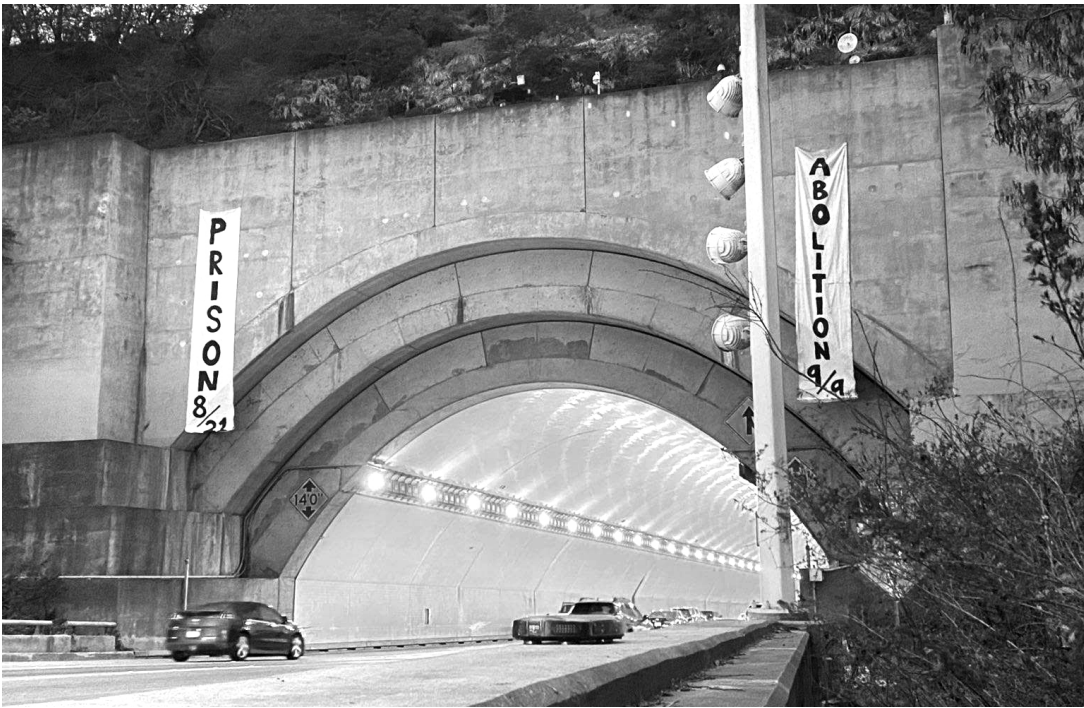
Red letters with a white outline on a black background. The banner reads, "ABOLITION NOW." Hanging over the 980 freeway near downtown Oakland



Red banner with black letters dropped over the 580 freeway in East Oakland. "En el Espíritu de la Abolición" (In the spirit of Abolition)

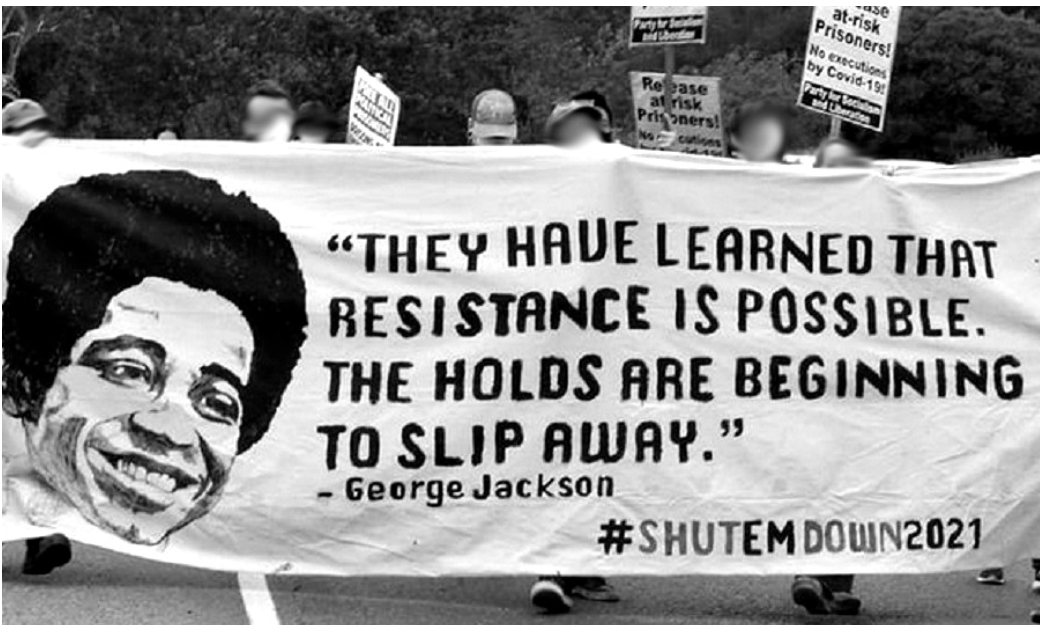


Banner hanging over the 580 freeway in Oakland reads "Prisoners Call for Solidarity" in both red and black letters



Two banners are draped down each side of the bay bridge tunnel between Oakland and San Francisco. They were seen just before rush hour on Friday August 20th. Together they read “PRISON ABOLITION 8/21-9/9”

On August 21st, the 50th anniversary of George Jackson’s assassination at San Quentin, about 40 people marched from the Larkspur ferry building to the west gate of San Quentin. The protestors blocked an entire direction of the busy Sir Francis Drake Blvd. At the gate several speakers held it down for about an hour. People from in and outside the walls commemorated George Jackson and other prison organizers.



Protestors hold a banner that reads: “They have learned that resistance is possible. The holds are beginning to slip away.” -George Jackson #SHUTEMDOWN2021



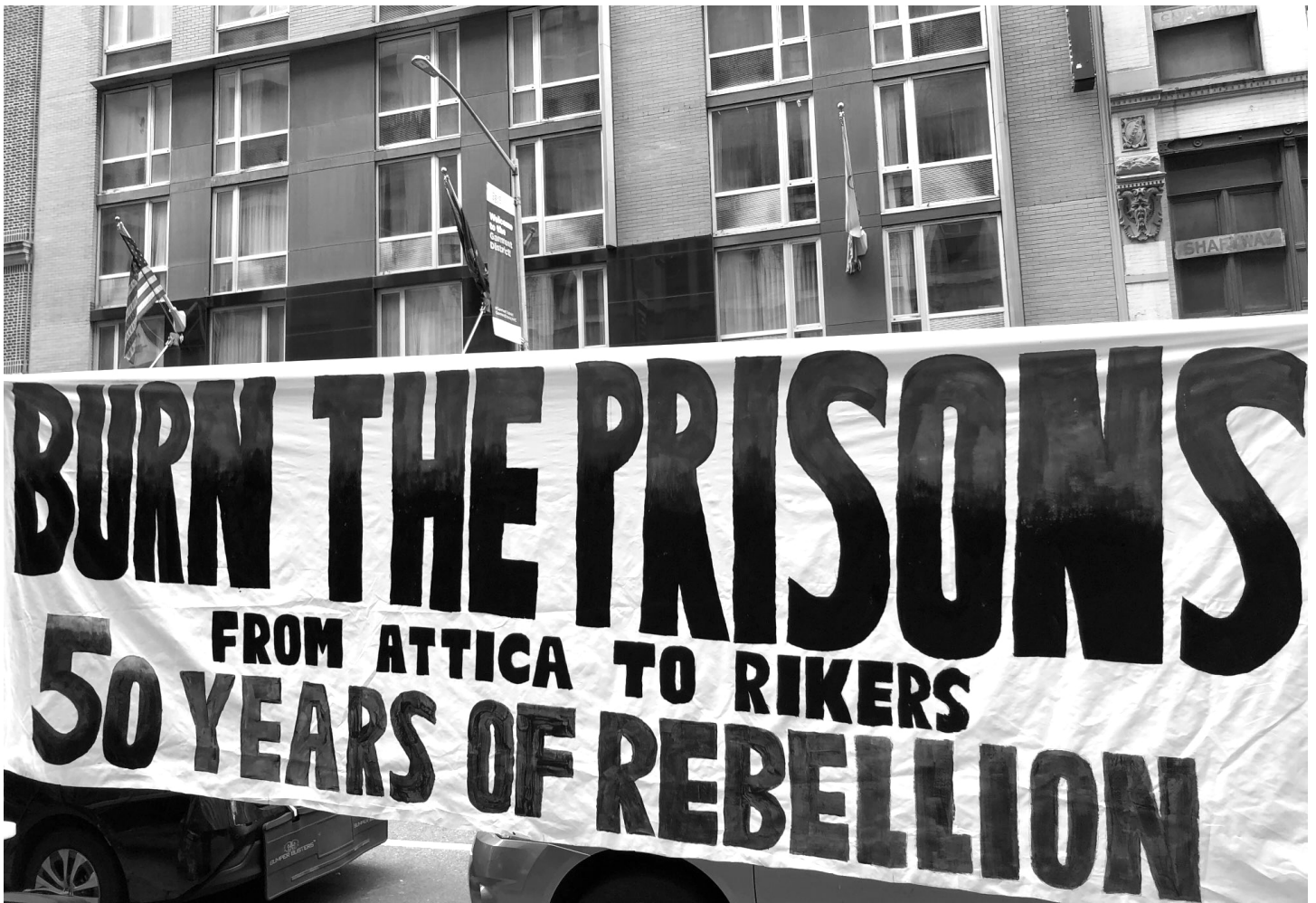
In these two pictures, protesters were taking over the street around the Alachua county jail in north-central Florida on August 21. About 100 people marched to the jail chanting “there’s blood on their hands” and “Black women matter” while holding up signs like “protect Black babies” and “jails kill.” This was especially in solidarity with Erica Thompson, a 25-year-old Alachua County resident who lost her child Aug. 9 after her cries for help were ignored and she was forced to give birth inside her jail cell. In the second picture, a protestor holds up a sign reading “DEFUND ABOLISH ALACHUA COUNTY JAIL”



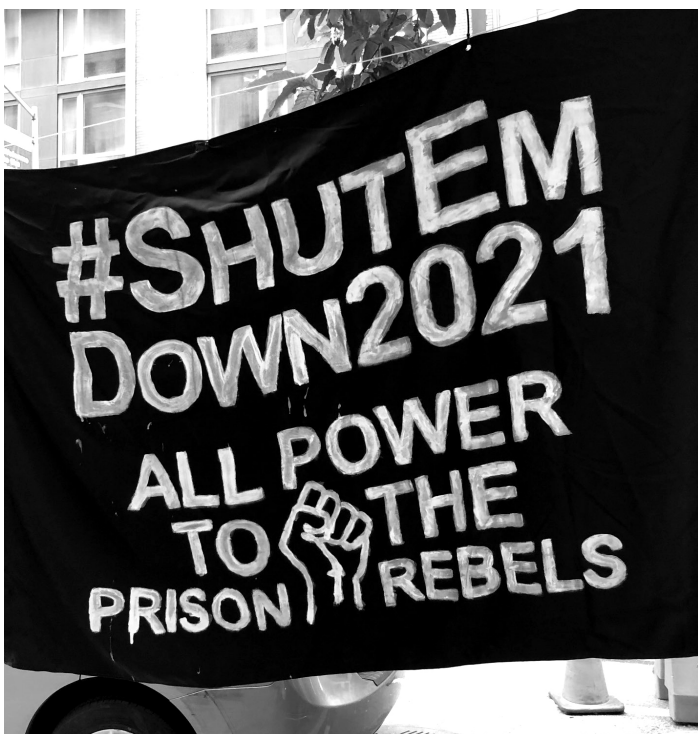
Protestors hung a banner that read “CHINGA LA MIGRA” outside of the North West Detention Center in Washington state on August 21 during a 40-person rally against migrant detention and for prison abolition.



At a second rally on September 9th outside of the North West Detention Center. A beautiful banner of a broken hourglass being taken over by flowers read “TIME TO FREE THEM ALL LIBEREN A TODOS.” Next to it was a banner that read “SHUT DOWN THE NWDC.”



Banners held at a rally in New York City reading "BURN THE PRISONS FROM ATTICA TO RIKERS 50 YEARS OF REBELLION" and "#SHUTEMDOWN2021 ALL POWER TO THE PRISON REBELS" with the Black Power fist.



Graffiti reading "ABOLISH PRISONS" with the symbol for anarchism. Unknown location, submitted anonymously online for the Shut Em Down demos.



Two large banners reading “REMEMBER ATTICA” dropped down the entrance to the bay bridge tunnel at Yerba Buena island between Oakland and San Francisco to greet hundreds of commuters. Taken early on the morning of September 9, 2021, these banners marks the 50th anniversary of the Attica uprising



A banner dropped above the I-80 in Berkeley on September 9th. Black letters on a white banner reads, “FREE ‘EM ALL” with the hashtag in red letters #SHUTEMDOWN2021

Rally at CTF Soledad

About 20 people held a small rally outside of CTF Soledad in the late summer heat on September 11th. Almost everyone was holding a sign, many homemade. This banner was one of a couple that people hung on the fences of the prison. The pictured banner read “CLOSE PRISONS BUILD COMMUNITY #SHUTEMDOWN2021” while another just off frame read “CLOSE ALL CA PRISONS.”

This rally was specifically in support of the 200 Black prisoners at Soledad who were victims of a dead-of-night raid in July of 2020. Many signs specifically condemned racist gang validation.. A lawsuit over the raid has since been brought against CDCr, which reads:

“In what can only be described as one of the most eye-popping racist attacks in recent civil rights history, on July 20, 2020, the warden of the California Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, Calif., executed a 3 a.m. raid, dubbed

“Operation Akili,” with the intent to injure, infect, terrorize, provoke and humiliate a large number of sleeping African American inmates.

Not satisfied to merely engage in the KKK-style assault, CDCr agents at the same time elected to weaponize the COVID-19 virus by intentionally exposing a mass number of the inmates to each other and to the guards who had just assaulted them without any protection or social distancing.

This predictably and by design became a “superspreader” event, ultimately resulting in some 2,700 subsequent cases of COVID-19 infection traceable to it, including 17 deaths at this prison.”

Image from the September 11 rally at CTF Soledad. Sign with black and red writing reads “CLOSE PRISONS BUILD COMMUNITY #SHUTEMDOWN2021”



EDITOR NOTE

**Please submit your thoughts, writings, and feedback!
We always appreciate hearing from you.**

We try to publish the pieces we receive as they are, so we make little to no changes unless you ask us to edit your work. If you are able to, please consider submitting your writing through JPay, we'll add you to one of our accounts on request. We also anonymize all submissions from the inside per our editorial principles. Space is often limited, but even if we aren't able to publish your letter, it may spark important conversations.

We think the pieces here are thought-provoking and deserve to be read, though they may not always directly reflect the views of Oakland Abolition & Solidarity. Please send any stories, feedback, inquiries, responses, artwork, or anything else you'd like to share to:

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