

If we don't fight this depraved system; the cells being occupied by us will be used to house our younger relatives. I know; that in your heart; you don't want this depraved racist system to go on taking more lives. Don't be afraid to be single cell status. In solitude; you will find - your true self, the time to mediate, contemplate, study, work out, and evolve.

The struggle must go on, and as plenty of people have said: "no-body else is going to fight our battle." We have to drop our fear and break the chains that bind us. There is really not much else that can be done to us. We are already servants of the state for life. What can be worse than that? Sure, the dogs of war may retaliate, but so be it. Zapate once said: "I rather die fighting, than to live on my knees."

Finally, i want to share a quote from one of my favorite books: "... The neurotic personally, resentful and fearful of the growing pains of the soul, tends to seek- refuge in self deception and thus frequently convinces itself that growth is really unnecessary, for things are quite satisfactory just as they are present." [Psychology with a soul by jean hard pg#]

This quote applies to most of the usa's enslaved population. We seek refuge in the gangs, - drugs and alcohol. We believe that things are all right; because, we have our (legally obtained) tablets and TV's, and (illegally obtained) cell phones and drugs. But, let's not forget one simple thing: "even, if the cage is made of gold; it is still a damned cage."

-Lucio Cabañas, May 10, 2017

Feedback Letter

Dear IWOC Comrades,

Thanks for the IWOC Oakland newsletter, "Keep the Fires Burning," Issue 1, Winter 2018: I'm writing in response to a couple of references to "God" in the newsletter...

I'd like to give a little guidance to these comrades if I may - IWW and IWOC is based on the idea of anarchist-communism or anarcho-syndicalism, which is anti-religious, as expressed in the common slogan "No God's, No Masters" So, I think in the future issues of the newsletter any references or promotion of God concepts should be omitted as not being in agreement with anarchist principles or "Points of Unity."

As for the concept of a "University" to be organized, I would like to point to two such examples already in existence- IWOC-NYC Inside/Outside Study Group, and the Kuwasi Balagoon Liberation School.

For total liberation!

JG

Editors' Reply

Thanks for your response J! And thank you for bringing that bit of context and history about the Unions with which we work and affiliate. Indeed IWOC is a subcommittee of the Industrial Workers of the World Union (IWW) which is a radical union that began over

100 years ago. While the mantra "no god's, no masters" has always been closely associated with the IWW, the union itself has no official stance on religion. The same goes for our local chapter here in Oakland. The vast majority of us happen not to be particularly religious, however we work closely with interfaith groups, house churches, and other religious or otherwise spiritual organizations. Revolutionary power manifests in a variety of ways and many revolutionaries throughout history have been staunchly religious. For many the injustices that we all seek to abolish are affronts to the divine.

Thank you also for sharing those examples of revolutionary mutual education. One of our chapter's point of unity in part stipulates that "We retain our own principles, judgment, and decision-making power. This is mutual political development. We are comrades in a struggle that grows and evolves on both sides of the wall." In fact that is one of the goals of this newsletter in particular, to open up multiple lines of dialogue, and create a platform for mutually educating one another.

Solidarity Always, -E

Your Writing and Feedback Needed

To our friends, comrades, and co-organizers,

Thank you for your patience through the summer as we waited for submissions to come in, and became tied up with a wide variety of other organizing work. And thank you so much to the folks who have contributed art and writing so far. Your contributions are and will continue to be the only things which make this publication possible. We hope to include many more pieces in the future, and to expand the breadth of the paper with your guidance.

To that end we are anxious to hear any and all of your thoughts about the editorial process, the newsletter as a whole, its title, or a piece of writing in particular. Please do not hesitate to send feedback. We hope for this to be a platform for analysis, collaboration, accountability, and mutual building, as well as an ongoing discussion over the walls. (When sending feedback please indicated whether you'd like it published or not)

As "editors" we try our best to publish the pieces we receive as they are. This includes not making judgments on spelling, grammar, or punctuation use (if you want us to spell/grammar check your work we can, just ask when you send in your submission). We think the pieces here, as well as many others we've received thus far, are thought-provoking and deserve to be read by you all.

Inside Outside, All on the Same Side,
IWOC-Oakland

Send feedback, inquires, responses, and additional original work to:
IWOC Oakland
ATTN: Newsletter
PO Box 6305
Oakland, CA 94603

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

A PUBLICATION BY AND FOR
CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

ISSUE 2 | Fall 2018

Alert Memorandum

Date: November 17, 2017

To: All California Prisoners

From: A.F., Condemned Prisoner at California State Prison...

Subject: TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE MONITORING

A counterintelligence technical survey was recently conducted which confirmed the unlawful use of technical surveillance monitoring systems within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

To begin, a counterintelligence technical survey is a survey for the purpose of ascertaining whether cells, law libraries, attorney visiting rooms and other locations where confidential information is disseminated are free of technical surveillance monitoring systems. Based on information and belief, the technical surveillance monitoring systems are an essential intelligence information gathering element of the CDCR's Security Threat Group (STG) Identification, Prevention, and Management Policy. The open-source intelligence information that substantiates this alert memorandum includes the following:

1) The CDCR's Division of Juvenile Justice installs microphones to monitor sound through its institutions; In re Arias 42 Cal.3d 667; 725 P.2d; 230 Cal.Rptr. 505; 1986 Cal.LEXIS 273.

2) The CDCR is equipping its prisons with "hidden" security cameras; California intenta erradicar el uso de celulares en la prisiones, San Quentin News, June 2017, Page 14. According to Associated Press article by Don Thompson (reporter).

The CDCR learned a lesson from In re Arias and the microphones are now hidden along with the cameras through its institutions. The California county jails have the same hidden technical surveillance monitoring systems through technology transfer. In summary, this alerting them to the unlawful use of technical surveillance monitoring systems within the CDCR and putting them on notice for action. All California prisoners must determine the security countermeasures required to protect against unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, confidential information.

The Untold Stories of Incarceration

*They shut down the yard today,
while on the ground dead prisoners lay,
The smell of gas still lingers in the air...
It's in your hair, it's everywhere,
A scent you're forced to bare...*

*You can feel the tension, not to mention,
the hostility all around...
As we observe, without a word
the blood as it sucks up the ground...*

*We've grown to learn, soon they will return,
regardless of your participation
we all must face, this harsh disgrace,
and this unfair situation...*

*I already knew, a peaceful demonstration wouldn't do,
for a system that refuse to change, even a court
order to stop the slaughter...
dead bodies still remain...*

*Tonight some love one will shed a tear,
once they realize their greatest fear,
a sad penalty they must pay, when told how
their love ones were dragged away...*

*The thoughts of their love ones, who died in vain,
their precious blood running down the drains...*

*The underlying reason will never be told,
you ever known a politician who didn't sell his soul???*

*None will answer the call of honesty,
to do so, what would it be???
no longer the eyes be solely on me...*

*We all have faltered and stumbled
along the way, mine years ago,
their's this very day...*

*And if need, I shall say no
I'm simply a caged snake,
what of the protected Boa...*

*If one is capable of holding on,
be assured it won't be long...*

*The people will soon realize,
it's all being recorded in God's eyes...
and just as Rome fell long ago, so too
will the unprotected Boa...*

-Mr. P

Racism

Racism, is used to justify and facilitate the exploitation of peoples, and it's based on the false belief that humanity is divided into a plurality of races that stand in relation to each other as inferior or superior based on physical and/or cultural differences. There are no races, only people, groups of people, united and distinguished by common history (social development), habits, interests, etc. Sometimes we call all of this ideology. To be anti-racist is, first of all, not to hold the false belief in an alleged plurality of races, to be against racism is to combat all beliefs and practices that facilitate the exploitation of peoples, particularly when such exploitation is supported by the social construction of race.

Any attempt to destroy racism without an explicit link to the struggle against capitalism ultimately serves only to reinforce racist ideology and to shield capitalism from attack. On the other hand, an attempt to combat capitalism without an explicit link to anti-racist discourse and struggle allows capitalism to use belief in race held by oppressed peoples, and appeal to the racism of citizens of the oppressive state, thus undermining all revolutionary initiative.

-by Ajamu Watu

Amerika Be Dope

Whether in prison or out in society, drugs constitute a major problem. In particular, for our Chican@ and Black communities, drugs represent a deceiving allure for our youth, power, status, authority, advancement, the all-mighty-dollah_the "Amerikan Dream." In reality drugs are just another trap to maintain our communities in an oppressed state unable to progress_

Opioids have been used by humans for thousands of years both medicinally and recreationally, with many periods of epidemic addiction. Use began with opium from poppies. Morphine was isolated in 1806. By the early 1900's heroin was promoted as a cure for morphine addiction in the U.S., before being made illegal in 1924. There was a lull in heroin use during the 1980's, when cocaine and crack overshadowed it. Various prescriptions pain killers began to come back into vogue in the 1990's after the "just say no" mentality was wearing off. Since then, use and abuse has been on a steady rise, feeding a new surge in the use of heroin as a cheaper alternative. This rise in the economic centers of the U.S. is directly linked to capitalism. This steady rise in opioid abuse has been staggering, and is causing a disproportionate amount of the deaths from drug overdoses. About 10% of opioid addicts worldwide are in the U.S., despite only being less than 5% of the world's population. At the same time only about 1% or people in the U.S. are abusing opioids _ This epidemic disproportionately effects Euro-Amerikans. Trump linked his campaign to build a wall along the Mexican border to the battle against the epidemic, despite the fact that prescription pain killers are at the root of it. This is consistent with the Amerikan Government's solution for drug problems created by imperialism. For the crack epidemic of the 1980's Amerika responded with mass incarceration of New Afrikan men as the solution. As opioid addiction continues a steady rise, Trump offers further militarization of the border_

Bourgeois society takes an individualistic view of the world. When

it comes to drugs, the focus is on the individual we talk about how they failed and succumbed to drugs because of their weakness or mistakes as an individual_while individuals ultimately take responsibility for their actions, it is only by understanding society at a group level, using dialectical materialism to study the political economy of our world, that we can address problems on a scale that will make a real impact. Even at the individual level, it's more effective to help people make connections to the root causes of their problems, not supposed personality flaws, and empower them to fight those causes if we want lasting change_

For the capitalist, you selling drugs is preferable to you fighting the system of oppression. You consuming drugs is more desired because you're escaping reality. Whether you sell or do drugs, you remove yourself from the necessary revolution and only contribute to the oppression visited upon our communities.

The fact that often it's the state agents themselves who flood the prison with drugs is proof enough that the dope trade is actually a weapon of the state. Just as the state floods the ghettos and barrios with dope. The dope dealers are simply pawns used by imperialism. The flooding of the ghettos with crack cocaine is the biggest, starkest example of this.

We must start by educating the user and changing the culture so that drug usage is frowned upon. It looks like 2018 is the start of a new chapter in U.S. history now that marijuana is legal in most states_ we shall see the impact this brings to culture and movement in the near future_ Amerika Be Dope_

-by Sharky Loko. This essay was written as discipline for being in the hole under false charges of distribution.

CDCr's Breaking Point

CDCr can't exist without a yearly new flow of fresh bodies and blood, to replace those that have passed on or have been released on parole. Without a doubt CDCr is a machinery of death, because it not only kills those, under their supervision. But it also releases unrehabilitated slaves to an unsuspecting community that will pay the price with blood.

I have seen, how quickly CDCr replaces a dead or paroled slave. An empty bed doesn't remain - empty for over 24 hours. By the end of the day, that bed will be occupied by a new slave. Now, let's consider the following proposition: "What if suddenly all of the slaves start to refuse to be doubled celled." CDCr won't accept this challenge to its authority. Why? The answer is quite simple: For each empty bed; CDCr would lose about \$50 to \$70 thousand dollars a year. So, when one is in the biz of making a buck no matter what; an empty bed is not an option.

The callousness, cold blood, and complete disregard for the slaves' safety and lives is seen by the known statistics. Every year hundreds if not thousands of cases of violence involving cellies occurred. The incidents go from something, as insignificant as a fist fight; to straight out murders, attempts to murders, and rapes. Yet, despite this evidence; CDCr demands that all the slaves be doubled celled. Those of us that refuse to be used as cannon fodder are sent the hole. In other

words, one either gets on board with the state sponsored - violence, or risks going to an isolation cell and be locked up 24/7. (The loss of property goes without saying.)

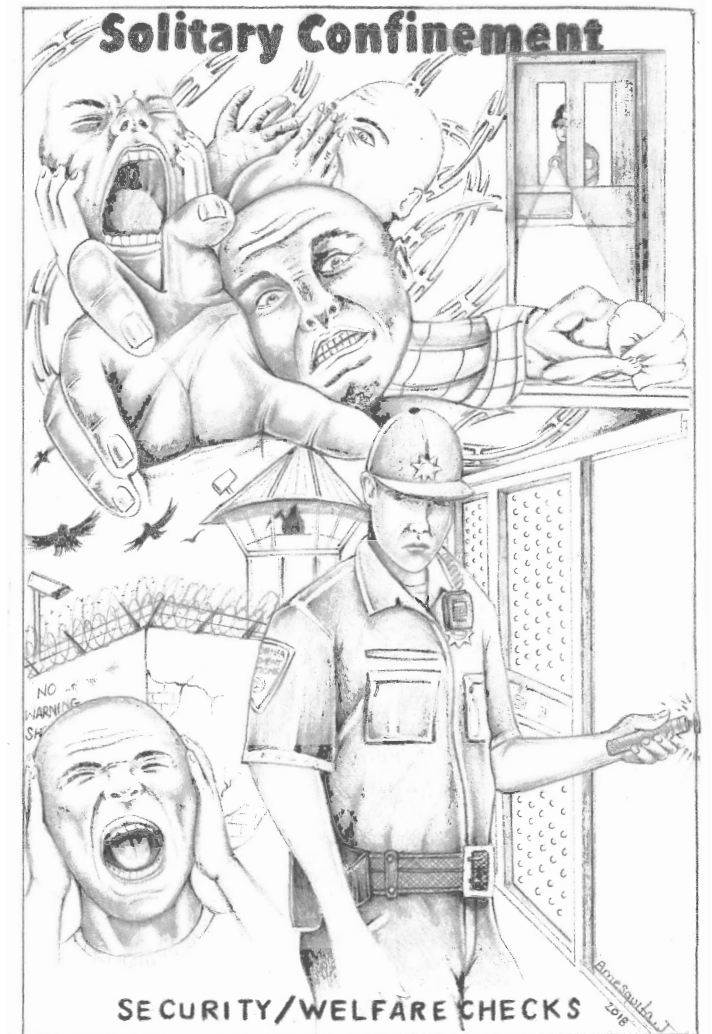
For some unknown reason; the established prison gangs also demand; that its members of - indoctrinated soldiers accept a celly. So, prison gangs help to keep the CDCr's status quo. (i.e. overcrowded facilities and no rehabilitation.) I know that CDCr doesn't have the infrastructure to provide each slave the luxury to be single cell status and live in security, and peace. Its very existence depends on the per policy - generated violence among cell mates. Each murder, attempt to murder, rape, assault, battery, fight... etc - equals CDC 115s incident reports that will be used to maintain the fallacy of the slaves being the worst of the worst. Sure, the fat cats forget to mention that: "The slaves are violent because they are denied every opportunity to evolve, educate, and rehabilitate." If, that were not enough; then comes another type of more sophisticated fat cats The Board of Parole Hearing Commissioners handpicked from the Governor's closest freind\$. These characters will use these incident reports to legally, validate to keep the slaves locked up, until they die.

I used to be single cell status for a couple of years (2014 - 2016); I recieved no CDC 115s; and I was able to live peacefully and safely. This changed in 2017; I am now forced to be doubled celled. In those two years of single cell status I cost the CDCr over a \$100 thousand dls. So, now; I am liable for every type of contraband (cell phones, drugs, alcohol, etc...) that my celly will hide in the cell. (There goes any hope of ever being released!!!) This is what passes for rehabilitation in the richest and most democratic country in the whole world. Against such odds and losing hand that we have been served, something has to be done. So, what I am suggesting is that each slave starts his individual CDC 6.02 (inmate grievance) and exhaust it all the way to Sacramento. In it; the main objective is to be granted single cell status. Once it is denied; then we can go to the corrupt judicial system and draw the picture for them to see our predicament in CDCr biz enterprise. In the courts the goal is the same: Request an order from the judge(s) to CDCr to grant single cell status to those that wish to live alone. (For all of the above set reasons.) I know, that sometimes; we get to have a good, nice celly. But, what happens; when you get the one, that has beastly propensities; is violent and represents a danger to your safety. Either, one can be the next CDCr's statistic of a homicide inside the cell.

So, start by getting the proper forms: A CDC 6.02 and attachment, and a CDCr 22 form. In the first box, right below the name, go ahead and write: "Living/Housing Policy challenge." In the describe problem:

Under Title XV (***) 3084.1 Right to Appeal; CDCr has a current living and housing policy that is affecting my wellbeing and saftey. Under this policy; I am forced to be doubled celled with incompatible cellies. And if I refuse such living arrangements; I will be written down for disobeying an order. However, by accepting to live in these conditions; i set myself up for failure. How? When violence erupts among i and my celly; i can be hurt, or worse killed. If, I survive; I will be written down a CDC 115 incident report. This report will be then used by the bph to deny my parole or for the administration to extend my prison stay. So, I am damned either way. This is not rehabilitation and serves no penological purpose; by

law; CDCr is to provide a safe and secure living environment. Moreover, now I am liable for all contraband found in the cell. (Even, when I am not even aware of its existence!) It is a matter of time for this policy to affect me. I should not have to wait to be killed, harmed, or found guilty for somebody else's contraband to challenge such a poorly thought living policy. Action requested: 1. - That time limits be met to respond to this grievance. 2. - That no reprisals be taken against me for exercising my right to appeal. 3. - That, I'll be granted single cell status in order to live peacefully and safely. 4. - That if my request is denied; I'll be no hold responsible for nothing found in a cell being shared with another inmate.



JA's excellent drawing depicts the torturous effects of solitary confinement and 'welfare checks' -2018

(Note: don't forget to sign and date each of the two cdc 6.02s forms. In the CDC 22 Form; in the box next to hours from, to write: topic: cdc 6.02 Receipt request. On the reason for interview: write this - next, forward the whole cdc 6.02 And the cdcr 22 form to the appeals office coordinator. (Don't forget to request your receipt of your cdcr 22 form; when mailing out the piece of mail.)

Comrades it is our duty to be in the struggle at every chance we get. The moment, that we get too comfortable in our slavery conditions we are dead. (cont. on back page)