

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

A PUBLICATION BY AND FOR CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

ALL OF YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AS THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC CONTINUES TO DEVELOP QUICKLY. WE WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT WE ARE STAYING ACTIVE AND UNDETERRED. IF YOU'D LIKE TO REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN YOUR FACILITY PLEASE WRITE TO US (*see address on last page; address to "IWOC Oakland, Attn: COVID-19"*) OR CALL OUR REGULAR PHONE NUMBER: (510) 368-3426.

[*As always, we are not able to offer legal support or individualized advocacy.]

Content from the Inside

Who's cooking your PB&J?

**Writing by Allah Saturn of IWOC, NCICO
Lt. of Civilization**

As an employee for the PIA Peanut Butter and Jelly here at CSAT-F/State Prison of Corcoran. I've Been observing the methods of operations, at the only Peanut Butter Factory in the state. Being employed for about 2 months now, I've witnessed WHO and HOW they make the Peanut Butter and Jelly. To Be honest it's disturbing. The Factory has very poor ventilation. If it wasn't for a few prisoners that spoke out to administrative officials to bring in swamp coolers. It is comparable to an over heated oven with two Garage doors as the only Functioning source of air circulation.

Some of the machines in the Factory are broken down and NEED to be repaired or replaced, But instead of doing either of the two, management runs the machines on parts that don't belong to the machines at all. EVERYDAY the machines break down. Management is lazy, overly lazy in my opinion, they know that there's improvements needed to be made But don't do anything about it.

An incident in the Factory, where the Peanut Butter side couldn't run because the prisoners that over look the kettles burnt the Peanut Butter that was turning inside the kettle. The Burnt Peanut Butter was caught by the machine operator overlooking the machine that packages the Peanut Butter. When the Burnt Product was caught, they pumped what was left in the machine and the kettle. After emptying the kettle and machine they ran vegetable oil through the pipes. The same machine operator that caught the Burnt Peanut Butter spoke on the notion that on the streets if the same situation happen in a Jiff Factory, Jiff workers would have sanitized the pies, machines and kettles. Plus workers

would have shut down the Factory until everything has died. Most of the time prisoners cleaning jobs are Rushed due to the management attempt to push as much product out as possible in return the suffers from poor process Peanut butter and Jelly.

Workers are fellow prisoners who are just doing all that they can to keep this job, that gives them nothing compared to what they would be receiving in the so-called Free society

The highest paying wage is \$1 and the starting wage as \$0.36. Knowing that the same job that individuals are doing here in Prison, people in society are receiving wages that start at \$13 and/or more an hour for the same job, Really pisses me off!! Its evident that this Peanut Butter packaging job is a reformed way of slavery. Another incident occurred when a dock worker, who is an ex-white supremacist, overdosed in the bathroom on Heroin. The Rumor in the Factory was that prisoner officials and medical staff claimed it as a heart attack. It was a close call for all of the individuals who daily shoot-up in the bathroom than proceed to maintaining the machines that make and package Peanut Butter and Jelly for California's Prison Population.

After listening and observing what goes on in this Factory at CSAT-F/State Prison of Corcoran, It had my mind drift to how this nation, The United States of Amerikkka is maintained and ran. The individuals who are at the top of this pyramid are lazy and corrupted to the point where what happens to those are under their rule, For as long as their agenda and/or quota is met, nothing else matters. The employees are just as incompetent as their lazy ass government, "They love the devil because the devil gives them nothing." The head of this oppressor nation knows just as much as the employees know that the system needs reconstruction, But the only thing everyone gets is these reforms, which is just placing part that'll need to be replaced eventually. The ones who can voice these issues are either shunned or somehow silenced so that the ones who are content with giving and receiving nothing can continue with operations. Plus, those who see the corruption say nothing for fear that the same consequences may Fall onto them, as the ones who had spoken up against the incompetence.

Until enough California Prisoners get to the point of where we are not going to stand for what's going on any longer and act in the Best Forms of productive action of change, we'll still be under this Broken down system with lazy and incompetent management and workers. So For Food of thought. Who's cooking your Peanut Butter and Jelly?

Today, Tonight and Tomorrow

Moor Power to the Peoples, and Folks!!!

Untitled

at one time did i once believe blind the many of things
thoughts the many by dreams the much
count the multitudes of fools i have been amongst the raving
mad men i am
see nothing quite such as it was the past

damned there be hither unto
damned far removed
ever the damning here-after
never-mind the damning of who

the opinions of man make god jolly-good humour
else be no good god at (all?)
under ever fable and shadowy silhouette the ides of may
do true
too fall

without which not nothing rises
not no sine qua non at all
stand no thing the mighty, nor lie quite the tall
see all thee high be low ye shall fall

-messiah

some days i just wonder if any of it is worth anything at all.
i've got some dope here, and i am pretty certain i know i'm
not going to use it. it would just be a temporary fix. i feel as
if i've learned all i'm meant to. so, why keep living; just to
do it all again? i'm generally not the nihilistic type, but i feel
as if it's all in vain and just due to repeat. after all, "There is
NOTHING new under the sun."

what is there left to do of lasting value?
what is the only thing any can truly rely on?
i used to (think) "God." but never actually believed it.

i've already saved the world.
the world likes things a certain way.
that's crazy.

Letters on NDPF

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend a welcome to all prisoners first and foremost irrespective of your politics and/or circumstances. I note that prisoncrats are doing everything that they can think of to try to undermine the prisoner-on-prisoner ethnic and/or tribal violence void resulting from "The Agreement to End Hostilities" that came into being after prisoners of most racial/gang/tribal identification realized that we are capable of assisting and working together towards a common goal.

In 2011, this writer was in the Corcoran Security Housing Unit and was a participant in the hunger strike even though he wasn't a member of what the CDCR designates as an STG or other claimed disruptive group. This writer's claim to fame is not being a passive subjugated sheep—basically what I refer to as a herd animal—and this is not meant as disrespect to anyone, as conscious prisoners recognize.

Prisoncrats hate the fact that we as men (and others) were able to settle our immediate quarrels to come together and launch the hunger strike that prisoncrats are still today trying to figure out how oppressed prisoners, who have agent provocateurs and quislings seeded amongst the masses, could still come together and form a united front realizing our true circumstances.

There were even set forth five core demands which the CDCR claimed to recognize and were working to correct. The fact of the matter is that the only thing that has been corrected is a CDCR regime-change in Sacramento, leaving the most important core demand of "accountability of staff" unaddressed. To keep the population pacified, a lot of older soldiers were let out of the SHU. So prisoncrats created a new situation to distract prisoner attention as demonstrated by the Non-Designated Program Facilities (NDPF) that correctional counselors refer to as "SNY" and play on the Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) designation.

Anyone with an inkling of common sense knows that the CDCR frankly exercised its customary stupidity by encouraging the mass expansion of their protective housing program that they renamed "Sensitive Needs Yard" because some prisoners felt a loss of machismo or manhood when housed with the most detested criminals whose morality and ethics are considered abnormal and are prone to being involved in some nonsense, making it likely that things happen.

Yes, I am trying to be diplomatic because it is known that there are factual feelings and emotions that rest on some chests. The blending of General Population (GP) and Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) prisoners automatically creates conflicts since prisoners of whatever ilk do not easily forget being wronged by another prisoner while many prisoners sadly do not take the same position against those that to date are not being held accountable for their actions, which, in many sad cases, created the circumstances for some to submit to the SNY cross.

This writer has seen most if not all of the dumb stuff that goes on in these confines and knows that prisoncrats are in a sort of damage control to re-establish their form of status quo of prisoners conflicting with each other rather than with the real enemy that foments the real violence within these confines. This writer, to be quite frank, is one that doesn't forget and sees things the same way he did when he was introduced to the CDCR in 1980. When one is in prison, there is no such thing as safety—singularly or in numbers—as anyone can be had. But that does not mean that prisoners should be doing the bidding of the captors.

The fact is that our captors will utilize any and all resources at their disposal to corrupt or pay off their flunkies for a time and then toss them to the dogs. When people refuse to be bought off, the next thing you know bogus jackets are placed on the prisoner. Other prisoners already have their minds made up to believe gossip and rumors, and instead of seeking actual evidence that contradicts the premise, they prefer to stick to one's initial judgement. Such selective thinking is rampant in these confines where too many prisoners never question prisoncrats' motivations. Instead, they take things at face value, insisting that they are right instead of objective checks and balances.

Prisoners have for years helped attorneys to become rich litigating class action complaints in which the CDCR is simply told to fix it but its never really fixed because all the entrenched prisoncrats who have a belief that they are above the law and are not held accountable. They pass this on to the rookie pigs who simply perpetuate the problems. This is not to say that all CDCR employees are bad. But the fact that they see other staff commit misconduct, and, contrary to their duty as set forth in the Peace Officers Code of Ethics and their oath of office, fail to perform their duty, sadly makes them just as bad in that sense.

This writer is all for litigation. In fact, if he could obtain the five-volume Rutter Group "Federal Civil Procedures Before Trial" for reference and document preparation, it would be helpful for one who seems to always end up in the hole because prisoncrats hate the fact that this writer has no problem with going on the judicial attack. What J.W. is seeking (a defense fund) this writer cannot provide, but this writer does know what tools he needs to again get the attention of prisoncrats in a way that they must respect.

It's not about conquering the dragon. It's about cutting the arms and legs off of the dragon lawfully by prisoners who do not intend to compromise their ethics for a sack lunch, as the old saying goes. I am indigent and remain as such so that I can utilize all the resources I am entitled under the law, yet access to a library is limited purposefully and so one has to obtain good comprehensive civil procedure reference material as long as it's readable, it covers the whole gambit, and I can continue to do my part for the struggle.

In solidarity and struggle,

John Q. Convict. PLS-CCLS

Please put in print Thank you, Asante, Gracias

Dear IWOC,

With all due respect to your process but for several years now I've been receiving your periodicals beginning with my last long stint in the SHU and I must respectfully honest (and blunt) with my critique of certain prisoner (slave) issues you print, in particular this latest life or death test CDCR is embarking upon by the acronym NDPF... Now first off, I overstand the fact that any caged slave is still a caged slave no matter what part of the institutional plantation he/she may reside on, that fact doesn't escape me, however, for someone like myself whose spent many years in the SHU section of the plantation due to my sacrifice in what I believe in as well as my past foolish and willing participation in reactionary activities, I have to say that in the case of these prisoners (slaves) who are currently crying "foul ball" at CDCR's decision to remove the security blanket (SNY status) they've grown accustomed to, is a very big "AH HA" moment to many of us in the prisoner/convict (slave) class... this feeling is largely due to the fact that our class is fully aware that those prisoners (slaves) who once willingly aided and abetted along side CDCR officials, namely, IGI, ISU, and eagerly betrayed, informed on, sabotaged other fellow slaves in a vain attempt to escape whatever foolish predicament their asses were in due to their own actions.. Now all of a sudden these same slaves fear for their lives because of what CDCR has decided to do in relation to attempting to correct a labeling system that was broken to begin with... How ironic of those slaves to now be consumed with an "IZM" of righteous indignation aimed at the same "massa" (CDCR) with whom they once worked in unison with on a mission to destroy his fellow slave.. Many of those slaves were responsible for some of the most despicable forms of disrespect aimed at his fellow slave behind doors while in the SHU, and now they crying wolf? These slaves (many of them) daily mission were to antagonize and torment the lives of sound minded convicts, oftentimes consciously being encouraged to do so by their captors (c/o's) and now the idea of having their safety blanket status (SNY) pulled from underneath have them finding an outlet (IWOC) to voice their concern? Aint that a "you know what." I understand (IWOC) take no sides and only set out to get the story out, I get it, but I can NEVER, under no circumstances, find any pity for a slave who played a part in hundreds of fellow slaves being locked away feloniously for decades in the SHU with no hope of getting out unless they died, paroled, or became another turncoat slave like the sort CDCR has now turned against and decided to play Russian roulette with their lives... to them slaves I have no sympathy whatsoever for, and my feelings for you is none, get over it.. You know the massa was the Devil when you first aided him, don't be mad at him now, your fault.

With respect,

Jabasi Taifa (BEAST)

Criminal Justice Reform a National Priority After 2018 Prison Strike

This past summer and on Aug 18, 2019 multiple presidential candidates have rolled out comprehensive plans to reform America's desperately ineffective overcrowded criminal justice system. For decades, prisoners, their families, allies, and advocating organizations have been pleading with officials to make criminal justice reform a national priority and until the present race there hasn't been a presidential candidate willing to make transformative reforms a part of their platform.

Joe Biden's plan included eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenders and the death penalty pushing many offenders to alternative forms of rehabilitation. He further proposed decriminalizing marijuana use and allotting \$300 billion to police depts. But don't forget though, he supported tough on crime bills in the past such as the comprehensive control act of 1984 that authorized police seizure of innocent people's property and the anti-drug use act of 1968 that set radicalized disparities on sentences for crack and cocaine that was followed by the anti-drug abuse act of 1988 that dramatically lengthened prisoners sentences. Then Biden's bill of 1994 which allocated more money to building more prisons without including prisoners' conditions of confinement, and imposing tougher sentences.

However, Bernie Sanders proposed that all prison phone calls and video calls would be free which would put predatory companies like JPAY and GTL out of business and strengthen those family bonds that assist prisoners in their rehabilitation. Additionally, incarcerated individuals often suffer labor exploitation or employment discrimination. Bernie's plan would address this by mandating that prisoners be paid living wages for their work while incarcerated, putting an end to prison slavery as we know it today which again strengthens rehabilitation and family bonds by providing a means for a prisoner to maintain and support his family while in prison. Sanders also proposes restricting the use of immunity by police and correctional employees when citizens or prisoners are killed during altercations. He wants to abolish 85% laws and mandatory minimums. The abolition of mandatory minimums would allow prisoners to earn time off their sentences for their efforts in rehabilitation and would not require that every person be judged today not based off who they were decades ago, but who they wish to become. Bernie's plan proposes to benefit all prisoners while Biden focuses on non-violent offenders. Bernie's plan includes the elimination of solitary confinement which has proven to be a form of torture. Most notably, Bernie's plan includes the establishment of a prisoner Bill of Rights. For centuries as the inhabitants of the New Jim Crow, according to the 13th Amendment, prisoners are regarded as slaves by our government.

By assigning prisoners with inalienable rights like the right to vote and to take judicial proceedings against abuse, prisoners' rights of citizenship are strengthened and they are protected as citizens while serving out their sentences. We need a president who will serve those citizens who were run over and slaughtered by Biden's bills and the Obama administration, rather than being the candidate to provide such relief to his victims of over-sentencing, over-charging, and overcrowding. Bernie stepped in by answering the call to prisoners' "POW movement." Thousands of individuals risked their lives this time last year, during the historic month of Black August; hundreds of thousands of prisoners participated in the National Prison Strike that spanned across the nation in 17 states the touched the entire world from Palestinian prisoners held captive in Israel to prisoners at Larissa Prison in Greece which was led by prisoners Randy Watterson, Todd Martin, and Jace Buras on Aug 20, 2018 at Hyde Correctional Institution in Swan Quarter, North Carolina ending on September 9, 2018.

The world is watching America. The end of the mass incarceration era must begin with the decarceration era. This is an official shout out and reminder to all of my brothers and sisters confined in state and federal prisons and jails of our upcoming "new sufferage movement" in 2020. This movement of all movements is calling for all prisoners to join hands in solidarity and peace to refuse all work details until prisoners receive some form of executive relief. This movement is about putting an end to felony disenfranchisement, solitary confinement, 85% mandatory minimums, slavery, and life sentences. This movement seeks to establish fair wages for prisoner labor, parole opportunities for everyone, and meaningful rehabilitation opportunities.

It's not about violence because violence because violence and destruction of property or injury to others will only reinforce correctional officials and tough on crime bureaucrats proposition for the correctional employees. If prisoners peacefully exercise their limited constitutionally protected First Amendment right to peaceful assembly by first writing millions of grievances against our state and federal governments followed by this mass work stoppage, we can and will change the harsh unconstitutional policies that have kept prisoners silenced and domesticated for too long. In 2020, it's your choice whether you want to spend your life behind bars or in your homes with your family. So get involved! Get organized! Support the "new sufferage movement" and become a citizen again.

In struggle,

R. A. W.

News Source: www.sawarimi.org

Aug. 18, 2019 Criminal Justice Reforms are Being Served. Who's Cooking What? Biden vs. Bernie

Content from the Outside

HAVE YOU HAD TITLE 15 ACCESS OR LIBRARY RIGHTS DENIED?

Per Title 15, Section 3124 (a)(21) there should be a Title 15 access in your language be it English or Spanish. Additionally, we have heard from prisoners all over the golden gulag system that books, both recreational or as legal resources, are limited or unavailable. If this is something you are experiencing, please write us at:

IWOC Oakland
Attn: Library Survey
PO Box 12594
Oakland, CA 94604

Oakland Update

Our crew in Oakland wishes to inform you that we are no longer a part of the IWW, and so are no longer part of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee. We are maintaining good relationships with abolitionist organizers across the country on the inside and out, and will continue working closely with IWOC locals. Thoughtful reflection has led us to the conclusion that our work is no longer pursuing a union strategy but one of direct solidarity between the inside and out facilitated by direct and frequent communication. Our values and mandate are unchanged as well as our points of unity listed below. If you only want to be in contact with IWW affiliated groups you may write us at the P.O. Box above and tell us that you only want to communicate with IWW, and to please remove you from your mailing list. If you do so, we will remove you from our mailing list, otherwise things will remain unchanged.

If you have questions or comments on this or anything else, please don't hesitate to write us. We will have a new name to announce in the very near future.

POINTS OF UNITY

- Our work, as an outside chapter, is to support prisoners in taking and building their own power. Prisoners set the agenda for their own pursuit of liberation.
- We offer critical support, not unconditional servitude. 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.
- We're up-front and clear with prisoners and the public about our politics and goals.

- We offer immediate material support and solidarity, not just symbolic actions and statements.
- We build and maintain intentional accountability relationships with other groups and individuals, to give us perspective, critique, & feedback about ourselves and our work.
- We don't allow our work to be hijacked by people who want to use us as a platform for their own gain or other purposes.
- We follow through on our commitments. Promises get kept or we don't make them. There's skin in the game and people are depending on us.
- We advocate prison abolition, not reform. If prisoners are making demands to reform the policies at their institutions, or for legislative reform that could bring them material relief, we may support those demands – but not at the expense of pursuing abolition in the long term.
- We oppose white supremacy. We consider incarceration to be, among many other things, an expression of white supremacy. We acknowledge that racism has its own nature and consequences, independent of class oppression (though often operating in conjunction with it). We challenge our white members to confront how they benefit from and exemplify the racist patterns in our society, and to fight these tendencies continually.
- We reject labels given by the state such as “guilty,” “criminal,” or “gang member.” We do not choose who we work with based on these or other simple moralistic designations. We may refuse to work with prisoners who espouse ideologies opposed to these points of unity (such as white supremacists), or who will jeopardize other prisoners' willingness to work with us (such as child molesters), but such decisions are made in the context of ongoing critical discussion.
- We are organized in a mostly horizontal fashion, with three levels of membership distinguished by extent of commitment, accountability, and actual work done. We make decisions collectively and discourage authoritarian behaviors.

Your Writing and Feedback Needed

To our friends, comrades, and co-organizers,

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 are always 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 indicate 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). If you'd like to submit written work please consider writing to us in advance in order to be added to our JPay so that we can receive typed work

We think the pieces here, as well as many others we've received, are thought-provoking and deserve to be read, though they may not reflect the views of our group in Oakland.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will also find a survey put out by our comrades at POOR Magazine.

Inside Outside, All on the Same Side

Send feedback, inquires, responses, and additional original work to:

IWOC Oakland ATTN: Newsletter
P.O. Box 12594
Oakland, CA 94604



#FUCKCDR
by Master J.C.
Supreme Allah.
Feat. M.K.G.
Supreme

Seven Moon
Productions

Strugglin Artist
Association