

FAMILY ORGANIZED PRISON RALLIES REPORTBACKS!!!

Families and advocates with Loved Ones inside are getting organized and bringing the struggle against prison injustice to outside the gates of the prisons! Please share this with your bunkies, cellies, and loved ones on the outside. Let them know that you are not alone, and they are not alone either!! Family led by WE ARE THEIR VOICES & UNITE AGAINST CDCR CORRUPTION. INSIDE, OUTSIDE, ALL ON THE SAME SIDE!!

Corcoran, CSATF, KVSP, and NKSP

On Thursday, August 6, 2020 multiple families gathered around 8am that day with speeches and chants in front of CSATF. It was already over 90 degrees but we all marched together along the long front road. Then we drove down to be in front of E-Yard and rallied hard out there. We did the same outside Old Corcoran as well as Kern Valley State Prison and North Kern State Prison. Everyone took care of each other, with sandwiches and cold water that nourished us and kept up the energy.

One person brought balloons that represented the loved ones of all the

family members who came to the rally that day. After sharing a prayer, we released the balloons while saying "Free Them All!" We rallied outside 4 prisons that day. It is very striking that with several of those prisons operating at anywhere from 120%-140% capacity, that the populations we represented that day is over 10,000 people. Those are 10,000 people that deserve to be home with their families or inside a sober living situation that helps them rehabilitate, or one of the multiple programs that exist.



Taken 8/14 at another joint rally outside the NC Juvenile Center!

Solano SP and CMF Vacaville

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020 a historic gathering of families and multiple Ex-Incarcerated Freedom eSolano State Prison. There were Fighters came together outsiders giving testimonies. First off families gathered to speak about what their families are going through. COVID-19 hardships aren't even the half of it. People spoke on medical delays and neglect and inadequate food. Not only that but the injustices in enhancements & oversentencing that led to lengthy incarceration sentences. The ex-incarcerated men talked about their journey to Freedom and how most of them self-educated and self-rehabilitated! They truly showed that having the support of family, advocates, as well as men's groups formed inside prison to be united against the system and it's pressures was foundational to rehab and healing! Outside CMF as soon as our caravan showed up the prison guards closed the gates. So we made noise outside. People in the neighborhood came out of their homes, and several cars stopped and asked questions about the rally. Everyone who came through was in overwhelming support. They agreed that the ongoing neglect and abuses

inside the CA prison system totally unacceptable, and that the shooting range that can be heard from the street is a terrible thing. Soon it will end, and with all of us fighting back together with love and support, WE WILL WIN!

Mule Creek

About 25 people gathered on Saturday, August 15 outside Mule Creek state prison to protest ongoing conditions there. Mule creek has 36 active cases of Covid-19 reported in the last two weeks. Nine staff have tested positive, four of whom have been returned to work according to the Ledger Dispatch. The wives who came out this morning brought a righteous fury with them. Many were from other prisons, but standing in solidarity because everyone who's fighting with this system is in it together. They are tired of not being allowed visits, and tired of the guards putting their families at risk. Everyone who wanted to get to tell their story on mic. It was a hot day, but people powered through because they had a car shuttling cold water and supplies as well as people to restrooms. Taking care of each other is what keeps these rallies going, often in over 100 degree heat and in the wind. Many of the wives learned as we were protesting that their visits were being messed with. "CDCr IS VIOLENT, WE WILL NOT BE SILENT." People are dedicated to continuing to push, to get connected, and to get organized.



Outside CTF Soledad and PVSP Aug 8

Central California Women's Facility CCWF (Chowchilla)

A powerful and supportive atmosphere surrounded the participants at the Family led rally outside CCWF on a smoky Saturday morning on August 22, 2020. It is always hot and dusty outside CDCR facilities, and people proclaimed "no matter how bad it is out here, we need to be out there for our people!!!" Participants in the rally lined the barb-wire fence with pictures of loved ones and messages against CDCr abuses that too often go unchecked and underreported. That is why these groups coming together is so important - to make sure these abuses can't continue! The overall message was for mass release of all prisoners, but the CCWF rally was the first rally hosted by these groups that specifically highlighted issues that women prisoners face. While we cannot include all of the amazing speeches here are a few highlights: Several formerly incarcerated women spoke. They continuously spoke of the need to stand with the sisters inside, and how hard it was when they left knowing their good friends - who had become like family - were still inside. They proclaimed - they will not stop advocating until all women are free!!!!



The fence outside of Chowchilla covered in signs.

A representative from the Free Wendy campaign was there, speaking about the impacts of criminalization of survivors of domestic abuse. Law enforcement and the justice system need to stop criminalizing domestic violence victims. Wendy is a victim of domestic violence and sexual abuse. She was within her legal right to defend herself against her attacker, and now she is being prosecuted for it. People who have been abused understand the lasting PTSD that this abuse can cause! There are so many people inside prisons both women and men who are survivors of trauma and who have some sort of PTSD. The crowd agreed - that if community care was a priority in our society, there wouldn't be a need for these prisons!

Additionally, One of the organizers said - that especially for "It could have been any of us, it could have been you, it could have been me" She was referring to Wendy's case specifically, but she definitely was trying to also get across that we could all for any reason have been or still be on the other side of the wall! Two additional visitors were frequent visitors to the rally: California Highway Patrol officers. They kept trying to make us get out of the road, they said that their pay was cut recently and that they're short staffed in that county. It was pretty disgusting that they even mentioned their sob stories when there were obviously so many people coming for far and wide to protest the abuses at the prison.

Family Rally Outside Avenal State Prison

A spirit of warmth and mutual support carried the rally outside Avenal State Prison on August 21st. Even though it was only about a dozen individuals, due to health concerns related to just meeting for the first time. Because the group was small however, it allowed for fellowship: not just listening to speeches, we talking about important topics. People dont all have the same opinions but were broaching the topics and working together for what we agree on: ending mistreatment of the people locked inside, the prison slavery, the neglect, murder by covid, and torture by incarceration.

There were several people there who had family members who had contracted COVID while inside prison. It was heart-wrenching to hear them tell their family members stories. It was empowering to see people boldly confront the officers who came to continuously give the crowd one rule or another, always seemingly contradictory: from "don't cross the state property line" to "stay out of the road" which would basically give us nowhere to go. At this rally people in the crowd also tried to get a meeting with the Public Information Officer Lt. Campbell, who cowardly did not show their face to the crowd. It is obvious to the families that no matter how many calls they give CDCr will always give people the runaround or some fake or inadequate answer. Despite these frustrations we will continue to be persistent in our efforts.



OTHER SUMMER ACTIONS!!

Below is a short list of some of the moments we found most significant from the summer of uprising against the US police state that began with the murder of George Floyd. These are just a few, pulled from hundreds of actions that have taken place in every major US city and beyond. This information was compiled from various news reports and is protected under the first amendment.

Oakland, CA

On 7/25, protestors attacked the Alameda County Superior Court, smashing windows, breaking in, and lighting it on fire. On 8/26, the courthouse was attacked again, and the plywood that was still covering the broken windows was used to set it once again on fire. Many people expressed joy over not having to go to court that week. This courthouse was the same that Huey Newton was tried at in 1968.

San Jose, CA

Over 100 prisoners in Santa Clara County jails were on a hunger strike that started on August 14th to stand in solidarity with protestors on the outside and to bring awareness to the racism, police brutality, and lack of accountability inside. Strikers laid out issues they saw in the jails and presented immediate solutions to them, such as less unnecessary lockdowns, better responses to requests and grievances, and an end to the unnecessary reduction in phone access during the pandemic. By day eight, officials agreed to meet some of the demands and the hunger strike was suspended pending follow through on the part of the jail.

San Quentin, CA:

Around 20 COVID-positive prisoners in San Quentin State Prison launched a hunger strike on June 29th to protest the unsafe conditions in the prison that were allowing the COVID-19 virus to rapidly spread across the prison and the way COVID-positive prisoners were being treated. It ended on July 7th when a prison official met with

the one remaining hunger striker and agreed to meet some of the demands.

Seattle, WA:

On 6/8, in the face of eight days of ongoing protests around the precinct and clashes with police, the police fled from the East Precinct. The area around the abandoned precinct was declared an autonomous police-free zone, originally called CHAZ (the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone), which held the area for three weeks. On 7/25, during a massive protest, the construction site for a new juvenile detention center in the area was burned, and on 7/29 the courthouse and the police headquarters were attacked.

Portland, OR:

There have been over 100 days of continuous protests happening almost every night. Notably, on 5/29, the Justice Center, which contains the police headquarters and the county jail, was broken into and set on fire. On 5/31, the federal courthouse was attacked. The Justice Center was attacked again on 6/29. The Portland Police Association building was attacked on 6/30, and then broken into and set on fire on 7/18. The federal courthouse and city hall was attacked by a huge crowd on 7/20. On 8/19, the ICE building was attacked.

Bend, OR:

On 8/12, an unmarked ICE bus that was taking away two people from the community was spontaneously blocked by a large number of people for 12 hours until federal agents were able

to arrive and tear gas the crowd, driving people away.

Lane County, OR:

15-20 people imprisoned inside Lane County Jail have been on hunger strike at different points over the past 11 weeks in response to conditions inside the jail. As of this being written they are still on strike, entering the 11th week, having started on 6/22. On 7/1 protestors outside of the jail made noise and tore down and burned the flag in front of the jail in solidarity with those on hunger strike inside.

Minneapolis, MN:

In response to the murder of local George Floyd, protestors laid siege to the third police precinct. After many days, on 5/28 the precinct was burned to the ground. Notably, all the buildings surrounding the precinct were destroyed and their goods redistributed, with the exception of Moon Palace Books, which had refused to let the police

In addition to these actions, crowds of people across the country toppled dozens of statues of oppressors-racists, colonizers, slave owners, and imperialists. Examples include, Robert E. Lee, Christopher Columbus, and Thomas Jefferson. Many more were removed by municipalities for fear of being targeted. Write us for a list of all of them.

There have also been over 132 protest actions inside U.S. prisons since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The list was too long to print here. To receive the full list, please write us back at PO Box 12594, Oakland, CA, 94604. The total recorded number of all participants in these actions was 3,939 as of July 25th. This list was compiled by Perilous Chronicle, which has been documenting prisoner actions. Their mailing address is: Perilous Chronicle P.O. Box 381 Tuscon, AZ 85702

SPECIAL REQUEST: We are interested in keeping track of CDCr-ICE collaborations that have been happening recently, so if you know of any please write us!

Who We Are & What We Do

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity is an inside/outside organizing project with the goal of building power against prisons and the colonial system that they uphold. We are a small, dedicated group of people who emphasize collective prisoner power and expanding bonds of solidarity over, under and through prison walls.

stage out of their parking lot, had a large “abolish the police” banner, and was unharmed.

Fayetteville, NC:

On 5/30, the Market House, a building that was historically used as a slave market in the 1800s, was broken into and set on fire by a crowd of people.

Richmond, VA:

On 5/30, protestors set the United Daughters of the Confederacy headquarters on fire and spray painted confederate memorials.

Kenosha, WI:

After police shot Kenosha resident Jacob Blake in the back seven times at point-blank range after he was trying to help de-escalate a conflict, massive protests broke out on 8/24 resulting in the probation and parole office being burned by the crowd.

We want to take this short opportunity to remind folks what we do day to day, what we are able to offer, and how those things fit with our long term goals.

We hope that you'll reach out to start a conversation. Ultimately we want to build meaningful bonds of trust and communication that enable us to take on the system in ways big and small. To that end, we offer the following resources that we think can help build power inside, and that we hope to be a bridge toward talking and strategizing more deeply.

What we offer:

- *Monitoring of conditions:* We keep track of how things are inside as much as possible, sometimes using our social media reach to expose them, always keeping close track of what people report.
- *Phone zaps:* We are able to organize large groups of people to call officials en mass, called "phone zaps," to put pressure on institutions and lessen repression/support our comrades inside.
- *Newsletter:* Keep The Fires Burning is an inside/outside newsletter that we produce roughly four times a year. If you're receiving this, you're on our mailing list; please write us if you're not and would like to be. You may also submit writing or art for the next issue.
- *Literature:* We offer a literature catalogue to request from for the purpose of mutual political education. The texts that we offer are those that we think can increase everyone's politicization and empowerment.
- *Misc. resources:* Recommendations for penpal programs, guides to legal and other resources, frank political analysis of what things look like from the outside, etc.

Some things that we can't/won't offer:

- *Romantic relationships:* while we recognize that connection and intimacy is one of the main things that CDCr robs people of, no one in our org is available for romantic relationships or exchanges. We expect this to be understood and respected.
- *Legal help:* again, we sincerely believe that the system has wronged EVERYONE inside these cages, and we believe that everyone deserves support in fighting back. However, we are not lawyers nor are we pursuing a legal strategy. We are only able to provide a compiled list of legal resources.
- *Individual advocacy work:* In a similar vein, because of our capacity and our strategic commitments to organizing we cannot take on any form of *individual* support or advocacy.
- *Donations:* we also cannot provide individual financial support or help raising or obtaining money.

Though we will try to connect everyone who reaches out with what they are asking for, we will not be able to reply to all incoming mail as we have made a point to do in the past. That said, please reach out, and spread the word!

We want to talk and build with you toward a world without cages.
Dare to struggle, dare to win!

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity (AboSol)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE

Note: This ruling recently came down and it is unclear how it will play out. We are passing this information along rapidly so that people are able to meet the filing deadline if they think that they may qualify. To receive a copy of the ruling you can write the NLG directly at

*National Lawyers Guild c/o Santa Rita Jail Hotline
558 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA 94110.*

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill that was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020. The bill is the largest economic stimulus package in US history. One of the major things that it provided was relief to individuals, including increased unemployment benefits as well as **direct payments: \$1,200 to each individual, \$500 for each dependent child under age 17.**

Many people received these checks in the mail in June through August of this year. Some exceptions to this direct payment are people who can be claimed as “dependents” on someone else’s taxes, and people who are undocumented. Importantly, people who have **not recently filed tax returns** – including people who are incarcerated – WERE eligible to receive the direct \$1200 payment.

What is Scholl v. Mnuchin?

“On September 24, 2020, Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued an Order certifying a nationwide class of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons, and granting the plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary injunction requiring the U.S. Department of Treasury, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and the United States of America (“Defendants”) to stop withholding CARES Act stimulus funds from plaintiffs or any class member on the sole basis of their incarcerated status.

The Judge’s preliminary injunction further ordered the defendants to reconsider their prior denial of advance refund payments to any person based on incarcerated status within 30 days, whether the denial was based on a 2018 or 2019 tax return, or on claims filed through the IRS’s online “Non-Filer” portal.

A Treasury Department Inspector General report confirms that, as of early May 2020, the IRS had determined that at least 80,000 incarcerated people were eligible for payments of over \$100 million. The Judge’s order will thus result in desperately needed economic assistance of over \$100 million to be delivered to members of the Class.

Other class members who did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return are urged to file a claim with the IRS before October 15, 2020, in order to receive a payment.” – Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

What should you do if you think you or someone else qualifies?

1. Fill out IRS Form 1040 (instructions on reverse)
2. If you are interested to read the *Scholl v. Mnuchin* decision, please write to: **National Lawyers Guild c/o Santa Rita Jail Hotline (558 Capp Street San Francisco, CA 94110)** and they can send you a copy.
3. Share this information. State and federal governments have failed to act on the urgent need to reduce jail and prison populations during a historic, devastating pandemic. This stimulus package is one of the few decisive moves that the federal government *has* made to offer relief to people who are dealing with the fear and hardship caused by COVID-19. This lawsuit is intended to hold them accountable to delivering on their promise.

The filing deadline is OCTOBER 15, 2020.

You can file a *simplified paper tax return* **if all are true:**

You haven't filed a tax return for 2019

You aren't required to file a tax return for 2019, typically because your income is too low

You have a Social Security number that lets you work in the United States

You can't be claimed as someone else's dependent

Instructions

1. Write "EIP2020" on the top of your form.
2. Check the filing status that applies to you ("single," "married") *Remember: you CANNOT receive a stimulus payment if you can be claimed as a dependent.*
3. Income and Tax sections (Lines 1-11):
 - Enter \$1 on lines 2b, 7b, and 8b.
 - Enter \$0.00 on line 11b.
 - Leave every other line in this section blank.
4. Mail the return to:

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Fresno, CA 93888-0002

Filing Status Single Married filing jointly Married filing separately (MFS) Head of household (HOH) Qualifying widow(er) (QW)
 Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of spouse. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent. ▶

Your first name and middle initial	Last name	Your social security number : : : : : : : : :
If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial	Last name	Spouse's social security number : : : : : : : : :
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.		Apt. no.
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions).		Presidential Election Campaign Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund. Checking a box below will not change your tax or refund. <input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse
Foreign country name	Foreign province/state/county	Foreign postal code
If more than four dependents, see instructions and ✓ here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Standard Deduction **Someone can claim:** You as a dependent Your spouse as a dependent
 Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

Age/Blindness **You:** Were born before January 2, 1955 Are blind **Spouse:** Was born before January 2, 1955 Is blind

(1) First name		(2) Social security number	(3) Relationship to you	(4) ✓ if qualifies for (see instructions):	
Last name				Child tax credit	Credit for other dependents
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Standard Deduction for—
 • Single or Married filing separately, \$12,200
 • Married filing jointly or Qualifying widow(er), \$24,400
 • Head of household, \$18,350
 • If you checked any box under *Standard Deduction*, see instructions.

1 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2				1	
2a Tax-exempt interest	2a		b Taxable interest. Attach Sch. B if required	2b	
3a Qualified dividends	3a		b Ordinary dividends. Attach Sch. B if required	3b	
4a IRA distributions	4a		b Taxable amount	4b	
c Pensions and annuities	4c		d Taxable amount	4d	
5a Social security benefits	5a		b Taxable amount	5b	
6 Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>				6	
7a Other income from Schedule 1, line 9				7a	
b Add lines 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 4d, 5b, 6, and 7a. This is your total income ▶				7b	
8a Adjustments to income from Schedule 1, line 22				8a	
b Subtract line 8a from line 7b. This is your adjusted gross income ▶				8b	
9 Standard deduction or itemized deductions (from Schedule A)		9			
10 Qualified business income deduction. Attach Form 8995 or Form 8995-A		10			
11a Add lines 9 and 10				11a	
b Taxable income. Subtract line 11a from line 8b. If zero or less, enter -0-				11b	

12a	Tax (see inst.) Check if any from Form(s): 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8814 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4972 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	12a	
b	Add Schedule 2, line 3, and line 12a and enter the total	12b	
13a	Child tax credit or credit for other dependents	13a	
b	Add Schedule 3, line 7, and line 13a and enter the total	13b	
14	Subtract line 13b from line 12b. If zero or less, enter -0-	14	
15	Other taxes, including self-employment tax, from Schedule 2, line 10	15	
16	Add lines 14 and 15. This is your total tax	16	
17	Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099	17	
18	Other payments and refundable credits:		
a	Earned income credit (EIC)	18a	
b	Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812	18b	
c	American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8	18c	
d	Schedule 3, line 14	18d	
e	Add lines 18a through 18d. These are your total other payments and refundable credits	18e	
19	Add lines 17 and 18e. These are your total payments	19	

• If you have a qualifying child, attach Sch. EIC.
 • If you have nontaxable combat pay, see instructions.

Refund

Direct deposit?
See instructions.

20	If line 19 is more than line 16, subtract line 16 from line 19. This is the amount you overpaid	20	
21a	Amount of line 20 you want refunded to you . If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	21a	
b	Routing number	c Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings	
d	Account number		
22	Amount of line 20 you want applied to your 2020 estimated tax	22	

Amount You Owe

23	Amount you owe. Subtract line 19 from line 16. For details on how to pay, see instructions	23	
24	Estimated tax penalty (see instructions)	24	

Third Party Designee

(Other than paid preparer)

Do you want to allow another person (other than your paid preparer) to discuss this return with the IRS? See instructions. **Yes.** Complete below. **No**

Designee's name Phone no. Personal identification number (PIN)

Sign Here

Joint return?
See instructions. Keep a copy for your records.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Your signature	Date	Your occupation	If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.) <input type="text"/>
Spouse's signature. If a joint return, both must sign.	Date	Spouse's occupation	If the IRS sent your spouse an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.) <input type="text"/>
Phone no.	Email address		

Paid Preparer Use Only

Preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	PTIN	Check if: <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Party Designee <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed
Firm's name	Phone no.		Firm's EIN	
Firm's address				