

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

A PUBLICATION BY AND FOR CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

To our friends, comrades, and co-organizers: Long time no talk. Since our special issue in late September we have been tied up responding to the enormous COVID-19 outbreaks that took place across the system during the winter. Words can't really express what these few months have brought. You've been in our thoughts. We hope this finds you well and healthy with better things on the horizon. With this issue we are hoping to look at the coming months with sober & critical eyes, and we want to be having those conversations with all of you. We are looking at places where building is happening. We want to know what you think, where you're at, what you see coming down the pipe, and how we can all be ready for it. Please write!

Content from the Inside

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC @ OAKLAND CALIFORNIA

Members of the Coronavirus Intervention Statement, authored by JLS, CA.

Corcoran Co. have been on solitary confinement to quarters with zero access to the medical faculty, re-entry facility prep, departmental grievance systems and constitutional protections. Cdcr, SATF Delta facility has engaged in antagonising hostilities between leaders and both staff and inmate populations.

Leaders have been in solitary confinement to quarters since December 19 2020, as a result of their noncompliance demonstration with state public healthcare/ coronavirus vaccination-testing protocols. Non-compliance firstly took the form of a month long hunger strike which took place throughout November, and resulted in elevated media attention to the massive outbreaks occurring in SATF and across the CDCr system. Secondly, strikers maintain ongoing resistance including:

- Refusing double cell housing Assignments (Reserved based on circumstance for Younger leaders who are short to be paroled),
- Refusing to stand for count, Refusing to turn lights on for count,

- Refusing to report to work assignment,
- Refusing to Cooperate with cdcr Code-of- Silence (This includes letting Nurses/ Officers slide from appeals against them for not wearing covid-19 mask)
- Refusing to support institutional charity events,
- Refusing to cut our fingernails (Black magic cursing the department and particular abusive staff),
- Refusing to rush anywhere waisting the facilities program time,
- Refusing to abstain from obstructing staffs observation into cell quarters (We blocking our windows, causing the cell to be pitch black) Black magic
- Refusing to remove our sunglasses and spiritual headgear (Fez, Tam-turban, Kuffi-crown) At any appointment or hearing,
- Refusing to label out going mail to the conveyance of staff.

Finally, our refusal to comply with testing and vaccination procedures, because strikers are advocates against the Use of Force of any kind by cdcr staff inside these Social isolation camps/ Death chambers. This would include forced probing ops. disguised as healthcare. Leaders here are psychic shaman priest and we distrust the state's medicine.

Though we struggle for the rights for prisoners to be Tested and Treated, we advocate that it be Voluntary, in interest that there be zero penalty or punishment/ discrimination, forced on prisoners."

With respect to the COVID outbreaks in these facilities, how can prisoners trust California staff members to test or vaccinate appropriately, when they are the ones who are responsible for exposing the population. It takes a lot of trust for some of us to enter into their new healthcare system byway of coronavirus. And this is Trust that cdcr can not get unless it immediately releases leaders from its captivity.

And the true motive for targeting leaders at satf delta, is that the California Department of Justice is representing cdcr @ SATF on the Habeas Corpus petition leaders filed against constitutional violations of 'Cruel and Unusual Punishment, where living conditions for prisoners in the housing unit that prisoners livcan be more concerned with being exposed to black mold than coronavirus.

SATF Delta has operated under substandard housing for so long. Everybody knows about the failed roofing systems of SATF but little to nothing is being done to protect prisoners' health. As the outside rain waters, and whatever is contaminating the waters, leaks heavy into the living quarters of prisoners. This condition turns cell quarters into a freezer in the winter and spring and even in these conditions the institution let's its air condition units rip so hard that prisoners have greater chance of getting sick from the manufactured climate than the organic climate change.

All this is being exposed by the campaign to 'END TOXIC PRISONS, CA.' Shout out to the supporters of ABOSOL. The comrades been moving in the shadows, evading the cops who watch for ways to shortstop the movement. Know that mother earth really functions with we, the indigenous aboriginals and asiatic populations. The whether fights with us by all four ways. Earthquakes bring black outs, Rain waters breed floods that strip the land and making for sliding conditions. Snow sits them down, and Sunlight makes fire storms, fed by wind, and freaky workers at the power and electricity company. Be wise and save your self. The leaders of the strike all have a connection with Maat and have went silent, and are going dark.

CALIFORNIA IS SEAL AT MARK X

Electronic sign

JUSTICE

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On Kamala Harris

By X, Incarcerated at Lancaster

Beware of Kamala Harris! I was convicted for armed robberies in San Francisco County and spent time in 850 Bryant in the mid & late 90's when she was working in the district attorney's office in Frisco and she was pushing "3-strikes" cases

on everyone. She was vicious and brutal and has personally ruined thousands of lives pushing for mandatory minimum sentences... now she's "acting" like a "liberal democrat"... beware, she's a wolf in sheep's clothing. But she's "a politician" 1st & foremost, therefore, a chameleon who will switch positions on major topics anytime it benefits her career. As long as we can utilize her to achieve our objectives, that's truly all that matters.

Content from the Outside

Protesters Converge on Corrections Secretary's Home and Several Prisons in California's Central Valley: December 14, 2020

By Ryan Fatica (excerpt)

In the midst of a massive COVID-19 outbreak throughout the California prison system and after a month-long hunger strike at one facility, supporters and family members of prisoners converged on several Valley-area prisons Sunday before staging a demonstration in front of the home of Corrections Secretary Kathleen Allison. The groups were protesting California's management of the pandemic in the state's prisons as the death toll rises. Protesters gathered outside of the California Substance and Treatment Facility (SATF) in Corcoran, California, home to one of the state's largest outbreaks. Earlier this month, 3 prisoners staged a month-long hunger strike at the facility in protest of the CDCR's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Protesters gathered at or drove by a total of 5 state prisons, according to members of Oakland Abolition and Solidarity, one of the prisoner advocacy groups that organized the event. Following the demonstration at SATF, the protest moved to the street in front of Secretary Allison's home. There, family members spoke of the toll of the virus on their loved ones and placed candles in the shape of a broken heart on Allison's doorstep, one for each prisoner in her custody killed by the virus.

Bay Bridge Shutdown Reportback

On January 31, people took over the San Francisco Bay Bridge to send a message: Mass Releases Now! On that Sunday, people rallied at a local park and then left in a 100-car caravan to block the San Francisco Bay Bridge by driving around 5 MPH, clogging inbound traffic and making the news with their demands. Three people got traffic tickets but the organizers are fundraising to cover the costs.

Images from Protest at CDCr Secretary Kathleen Allison's Home, December 14, 2020



Candles placed on Kathleen Allison's doorstep



Protestors in front of Kathleen Allison's house

CTF Action Reportback

In mid-December, around 30 folks from all corners of California gathered on a cold, windy morning at the entrance of CTF-Soledad, where CDCr had unsurprisingly failed to manage the spread of COVID, reporting over 700 active cases and 6 deaths at the time of the protest. Present at the demonstration were a number of organizations—We Are Their Voices, Oakland Abolition & Solidarity, No Justice Under Capitalism, the Brown Berets—as well as a range of generations, from tireless toddlers to wizened grandmothers. We began by taking turns with the megaphone, giving voice to our sorrow and anger about the utter negligence of the system, the inadequacy of video “visits,” the history of gladiator fights, and the need for immediate mass releases. Someone locked up in CTF was able to call his wife and share with the group how much he and others inside appreciated our presence. Next, we walked onto the highway overpass next to the prison, hung our signs of solidarity from the bridge, blasted some Aretha Franklin and Lauryn Hill, and solicited honks from the hundreds of cars passing underneath. Then we waited another hour, chatting amongst ourselves and eating lunch, until the shift-change at CTF so that we could let some guards and staff know how we felt about their abuse, neglect, and violence. As they drove in and out of the parking lot, we shouted at them to put on their masks, reflect on their complicity, and “get a real job!”

“We are their voices” has showed up strongly as part of at least three actions in support of George Gascon, the new progressive DA of LA County who has faced a barrage of hostility from right wing and pro police press across the state.

Our Perspective on the Von Staich Decision

In June and July of 2020, San Quentin suffered an outbreak of COVID-19 that ultimately killed 28 people and one guard. This outbreak is confirmed to have been started when CDCr transferred people carrying COVID-19 from CIM Chino to San Quentin. Some who were transferred hadn’t been tested for COVID-19 for up to three weeks beforehand. The outbreak at San Quentin was the third major outbreak in the California prison system, after which the outbreaks started happening in facilities all over the state.

On October 10, two months after the outbreak had subsided, the California Appeals Court ordered San Quentin to reduce its population by half in a decision titled *In re Von Staich*. The ruling was ostensibly to keep people inside San Quentin safe from COVID-19. We would also like to note that San Quentin was fined by Cal-OSHA because staff were not provided with the proper training or equipment during the pandemic, while there was no OSHA scrutiny or outrage for incarcerated workers.

As a result of the Von Staich decision, throughout the fall, long after the San Quentin outbreak had passed, CDCr was forcibly transferring people at San Quentin to other facilities, many of which were experiencing outbreaks at the time. In just one example, on December 14, 26 people were transferred from San Quentin to Corcoran. At the time, San Quentin had only one active case while Corcoran had 72 active cases. Corcoran was in the beginning of an outbreak that ultimately peaked at 256 active cases on January 6, three weeks later. This was all in order to comply with *In re Von Staich*.

Amongst people locked in central valley facilities with minimal and piecemeal access to critical information, these transfers created deep suspicion and fear of the people being transferred, when in fact they were often the most at risk. In addition, according to two attorneys, a significant portion of their clients at San Quentin dropped their legal bids to be released for fear of being transferred.

We know that prisoners on both ends of these transfers were fighting back. People at San Quentin were refusing to get on buses, and some at Corcoran were protesting the transfers arriving. After people at San Quentin pushed back, CDCr created a waiver (an amended “Refusal of Examination and/or Recommended Plan of Treatment” form or “CDCR form 7225-COVID-19”). In other words, they coerced or forced prisoners who were refusing to be transferred to sign a form releasing CDCr of responsibility for all sickness and death that may occur as a result of rejecting the “treatment plan” of being transferred to a facility experiencing an outbreak.

Many organizations and advocates for prisoners interpreted the Von Staich ruling as a victory and a possible path toward mass releases. Thus far, San Quentin’s population has been reduced by about 400 people between October and February, and the facility is at about 84% capacity, down from 95% in October. We have been unable to reliably determine where people leaving San Quentin have been sent, whether they were released or transferred, and how many of the people remaining were forced to sign the waiver. People being transferred rather than released was predicted by critical observers including our group when the case was set in motion in August.

This ruling was not a victory. It is tragically obvious that the decision was too little too late for those impacted by the summer outbreak in San Quentin, but more to the point it actively harmed prisoners. It shuffled people around so that it appeared like there was progress, thereby distracting momentum from pushing toward real releases. It allowed CDCr to flip the narrative by making people at San Quentin appear responsible for their own deaths at the hands of the system, even to the point of being forced to accept legal responsibility for hazardous conditions that they have no control over. Furthermore, the threat of transfers quelled the legal push

from some people inside San Quentin for their own releases. It pitted prisoners against each-other, obscuring who is responsible for COVID-19 entering prisons. This is what reform often looks like.

What do you think?

Stimulus Payment Update

We are sending out this update because we are receiving a lot of questions about economic impact payments. If you sent a letter just asking about this information, we read your letter and elected to not respond individually once we had this in the works because of limited capacity.

As a general rule, we will no longer be responding to individual tax information requests (though we may make exceptions when it seems appropriate). We are not knowledgeable about this subject, nor are we interested in or able to become the go-to people about tax info. It is more work than we can handle and is not where our focus lies - being in solidarity with prisoners in struggle.

We will, however, continue to try to add important updates to our newsletters (which go out about four times a year). We have included the 2020 1040 form on the assumption that it might be needed for stimulus payments that might come.

We recommend filing your 2020 1040 form at this time but we don't recommend filing any unnecessary forms. **The tax deadline is currently April 15.** The IRS is on high alert for fraud at the moment. Even though none of the recommendations we're giving are fraudulent, filing multiple forms in rapid succession or any unnecessary forms is more likely to ping as fraud and significantly delay you receiving the money you are owed. We also recommend trying to figure out what happened to the payments if you didn't receive one or either of them, as this may be due to issues not on the end of the IRS, such as issues on the prisons' end, and may also ping as fraud.

A third stimulus payment of \$1400 per person (including adult and child dependents) was passed on March 11. We are unsure when the money will be sent out, likely it will be soon. As far as we know, it will be sent out **based on your 2019 1040 form** (the one we sent out in October of 2020). If you already filed your 2020 1040 form, the payment may be based on that instead if it was processed in time. Again, we won't be able to answer individual information requests. We are sorry.

You should have received your first two payments from the IRS already, if you were going to receive them. If you filed your 2019 1040 form in time, that should have covered all three stimulus payments.

If you were going to receive the second stimulus payment, it would have been issued by January 15, 2021, and would have come in the form of a debit card instead of a check if you don't have bank information on file. Even if you did file in time, the IRS stopped issuing them after January 15 *even if the issue was on their end.* That said, there may have been delays due to the postal and prison systems. If you never received your first and/or second stimulus payments, **you will have to file a 2020 federal tax return (1040 form) and claim both stimulus checks as the Recovery Rebate Credit (instructions below).**

If you were able to file your 2019 tax return (1040 form) in time but *did not qualify* for the second stimulus based off of *eligibility*, you can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit if you are eligible based on your 2020 tax return. Some of the second stimulus payment's eligibility rules differ from the first. For example, if you were claimed as a dependent on someone else's 2019 tax return, you were not eligible for stimulus payments. However, if that changed in 2020 and you meet the other eligibility requirements, you can claim the credit on your 2020 tax return.

You can also claim your stimulus payment(s) as a Recovery Rebate Credit if:

- Your second stimulus check was sent to a bank account that is closed or no longer active.
- Your second stimulus was sent to you in the form of a debit card but the prison won't let you have it.
- You received a letter saying your second stimulus payment was collected to cover 2007 taxes, as that was a mistake.

You **can't** claim the payments as a Recovery Rebate Credit if they were taken for **child support payments, restitutions, or other debts**, unless that was a mistake.

You can file a *simplified paper tax return (1040 form)* **if all are true:**

- You haven't filed a tax return for 2020
- You aren't required to file a tax return for 2020, 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

THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ARE FOR IF YOU HAD NO INCOME IN 2020 (NOTE: STIMULUS PAYMENTS DO NOT COUNT AS INCOME).

1. Check the filing status that applies to you in 2020 (“single,” “married”).
2. Answer other general questions, such as name, social security number, virtual currency use, etc.
3. Check whether you can be claimed as a dependant in 2020.
4. In the Income and Tax sections (Lines 1-11) Enter:
 - Enter \$1 on lines 2b, 9, and 11.
 - Enter the standard deduction amount on line 12 and 14 (\$12,400 if you’re single, see form)
 - Enter \$0.00 on line 15.
 - Leave every other line in this section blank
5. If you **do not** need to claim the first or second stimulus payments because you either already received them or weren’t eligible, **you don’t need to do anything else. Skip step 6 below and go to step 7.**
6. If you **do** need to claim the first or second stimulus payments because you didn’t already receive them in full and are eligible, enter the amount you’re claiming on lines 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35a:
 - Enter \$1800.00 if you’re claiming the first and second payments in full
 - Enter \$1200.00 if you’re claiming only the first payment in full
 - Enter \$600.00 if you’re claiming only the second payment in full
 - If you received only a part of a payment, enter whatever part you didn’t receive but **should have received**
7. Enter bank account information on lines 35b-35d if you have access to one (recommended), otherwise a check will be mailed
8. Sign and mail the return to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Fresno, CA 93888-0002

Editor Note:

We want to hear from you!

We’re interested in any and all feedback you have. Thank you to those who have contributed art and writings so far, you’re what make this possible. Our aim is for this to be a platform for analysis, collaboration, accountability, and mutual building and discussion over walls.

We try to publish the pieces we receive as they are, so we make 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 per our editorial principles. Space is often very limited, but even if we aren’t able to publish your letter, it can get important conversations started.

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 Oakland Abolition & Solidarity. Please send any stories, feedback, inquiries, responses, artwork, or anything else you’d like to share to:

Oakland Abolition and Solidarity
ATTN Newsletter
P.O. Box 12594
Oakland, CA 94604

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 your 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

Form fields for personal information: Your first name and middle initial, Last name, Your social security number, Spouse's social security number, Home address, Apt. no., City, town, or post office, State, ZIP code, Foreign country name, Foreign province/state/county, Foreign postal code.

At any time during 2020, did you receive, sell, send, exchange, or otherwise acquire any financial interest in any virtual currency? [] Yes [] No

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, 1956 [] Are blind Spouse: [] Was born before January 2, 1956 [] Is blind

Table for Dependents with columns: (1) First name, Last name, (2) Social security number, (3) Relationship to you, (4) Child tax credit, Credit for other dependents.

Main tax calculation table with rows 1-15: 1 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2; 2a Tax-exempt interest; 3a Qualified dividends; 4a IRA distributions; 5a Pensions and annuities; 6a Social security benefits; 7 Capital gain or (loss); 8 Other income from Schedule 1, line 9; 9 Add lines 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7, and 8. This is your total income; 10 Adjustments to income; 11 Subtract line 10c from line 9. This is your adjusted gross income; 12 Standard deduction or itemized deductions; 13 Qualified business income deduction; 14 Add lines 12 and 13; 15 Taxable income.

16	Tax (see instructions). Check if any from Form(s): 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8814 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4972 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	16
17	Amount from Schedule 2, line 3	17
18	Add lines 16 and 17	18
19	Child tax credit or credit for other dependents	19
20	Amount from Schedule 3, line 7	20
21	Add lines 19 and 20	21
22	Subtract line 21 from line 18. If zero or less, enter -0-	22
23	Other taxes, including self-employment tax, from Schedule 2, line 10	23
24	Add lines 22 and 23. This is your total tax	24
25	Federal income tax withheld from:	
a	Form(s) W-2	25a
b	Form(s) 1099	25b
c	Other forms (see instructions)	25c
d	Add lines 25a through 25c	25d
26	2020 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2019 return	26
27	Earned income credit (EIC)	27
28	Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812	28
29	American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8	29
30	Recovery rebate credit. See instructions	30
31	Amount from Schedule 3, line 13	31
32	Add lines 27 through 31. These are your total other payments and refundable credits	32
33	Add lines 25d, 26, and 32. These are your total payments	33

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

Refund

Direct deposit? See instructions.

34	If line 33 is more than line 24, subtract line 24 from line 33. This is the amount you overpaid	34
35a	Amount of line 34 you want refunded to you . If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	35a
b	Routing number	c Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings
d	Account number	
36	Amount of line 34 you want applied to your 2021 estimated tax	36

Amount You Owe

For details on how to pay, see instructions.

37	Subtract line 33 from line 24. This is the amount you owe now Note: Schedule H and Schedule SE filers, line 37 may not represent all of the taxes you owe for 2020. See Schedule 3, line 12e, and its instructions for details.	37
38	Estimated tax penalty (see instructions)	38

Third Party Designee

Do you want to allow another person 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"/> Self-employed
Firm's name	Firm's address			Phone no.
Firm's EIN				