

***There are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war (POWS) in US prisons.  
Twenty-five per cent of them are women.***

***Dylcia Pagan, Alicia Torres, Alejandrina Torres, Ida Luz Torres, and Carmen Valentin are Puerto Rican independentistas serving average prison sentences of 73 years. Most of these women were convicted of "seditious conspiracy" because of their actions to end Puerto Rico's colonial status. Under international law, colonialism is a crime and people have a right and obligation to resist it. Today there is an international campaign to pressure President Clinton to grant immediate amnesty to all the Puerto Rican independentistas.***

***Four African-American women from the MOVE organization are serving time in prison for resisting police attacks on their organization during the 1980's. In 1985 the Philadelphia police bombed the residence of MOVE, a Black revolutionary naturalist group, killing eleven women, men and children and displacing fifty Black families when their homes burned in the subsequent firestorm. Recently representatives of MOVE won \$1.5 million from the city of Philadelphia for this brutal bombing.***

***Norma Jean Croy, a Shasta indigenous woman from Northern California, remains in prison after 18 years for a crime she didn't commit. Norma didn't fire a weapon but was shot in the back by a sheriff. Five years ago, the California state government essentially admitted that there was no crime when they released her brother Hooty Croy who was her codefendant.***

***North American anti-imperialist prisoners Silvia Baraldini, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg and Laura Whitehorn are all serving disproportionately long sentences because of their activism in support of human rights and the Black and Puerto Rican liberation movements. Linda Evans is serving thirty years for purchase of weapons with false identification even though many people with this charge are only put on probation. She was recently turned down for parole even though she met all the prison system's guidelines for release. Susan Rosenberg is serving 58 years for possession of weapons and explosives, the longest sentence ever received for a possession offense. Silvia Baraldini, an Italian national, is serving 43 years on conspiracy charges including the escape of Assata Shakur. The Italian government and Silvia have applied four times for a transfer to an Italian jail which she is legally eligible for. Despite significant campaigns in Italy and the US, the Justice Department has denied the transfer due to Silvia's political beliefs and associations.***

***We cannot forget these sisters!***

***All over the world governments have released political prisoners after many years.***

***It is time for the United States to do the same.***

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