

1991

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CONTROL UNIT PRISONS: ALL OUT TO MARION!

In 1972 one wing of the United States Penitentiary at Marion was locked down. Prisoners there, who had been engaged in the longest prison strike in U.S. history, were isolated and locked into cells for 23 hours a day. Thus was formed the first wing of a control unit prison. On October 27, 1983 all of USP Marion was placed on permanent lockdown — thus introducing a new concept into the U.S. “criminal” “justice” system — the Control Unit Prison.

Since then control unit prisons have proliferated all across the U.S. — with about 40 states now running their own terror prisons. In 1993 the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) announced that USP Marion, apparently not brutal enough for the prisoncrats and the U.S. government, would be replaced by a new, “state of the art” control unit prison in Florence, CO. When protesters argued that there was no need for even one control unit prison, let alone two, the BOP stated that when the new prison at Florence opened USP Marion would be returned to being a “usual” maximum security prison, and taken off lockdown.

As usual, the BOP and the U.S. government lied — USP remains a control unit prison, and in fact according to those imprisoned there before Florence opened, Marion has become even worse, even more repressive. For example, Oscar Lopez Rivera, a Puerto Rican prisoner of war and political prisoner, who did time at Marion, was transferred to Florence when it was opened, and has since been transferred back to Marion, writes:

“The program now in effect at Marion is the same one that Amnesty International, religious leaders, politicians, and experts in the field of sensory deprivation condemned more than a decade ago. Why do the jailers, who had nothing done to ameliorate these conditions, now try to say that the mission and security level have changed?”

The situation is intolerable. The BOP has lied, the government has lied, and the 500 prisoners at Marion continue to be brutalized — just as before, if not worse. On October 25, 14 years almost to the day of making Marion a control unit prison, activists from across the mid-west will demonstrate at Marion to protest the conditions there. We will demand an end to the lockdown and an end to all control units everywhere. One month later, activists will do the same at the gates of the new control unit in Florence. Join us as we struggle for a human society rather than a society of prison houses and control units. Join us as we urge an end to the Marion Lockdown.



Buses and cars will leave from
1671 N. Claremont
at 6:00 am, on
Saturday,
October 25

We will return at about 10:00 pm.

Reservations Must Be Made In Advance

For more Information contact:

Committee to End the Marion Lockdown

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National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners

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Co-Sponsors: Anarchist Black Cross, Citizens Alert, CROSSROAD Support Network, 8th Day Center for Justice, Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience, National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons, National Lawyers Guild-Chicago Chapter, the Not On the Guest List Coalition, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, and the Prison Action Committee.

Demonstrate