

be important for keeping track of abuse and future litigation. Regional coordinators of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons are:

Christie Donner, Midwest. Rocky Mountain Peace Center, 1523 6th St., Boulder, CO 80302, telephone: (303) 449-2543. Region includes Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Kansas.

Corey Weinstein, West. P.O. Box 2218, Berkeley, CA 94702. Region includes Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Hawai'i, Alaska, California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Colin Starger, East. P.O. Box 569, New York, NY 10163, telephone: (212) 677-8290. Region includes New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont.

Political Action Committee

Members meet, plan, and carry out activities that will forward our stated purposes. Emphasis is placed on building the capacity for effective protest, publicity, emergency response, or direct action. Prisoners in control unit prisons are encouraged to participate.

For more information on this committee, call: Nozomi Ikuta at (216) 736-3263, Edelle Corring at (303) 444-6523, or Kom'Boa Ervin at (404) 524-2147.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We are currently making connections with groups and individuals across the United States who are interested in helping us monitor and oppose control units. The following are several ways people can get in touch:

Emergency Response Network

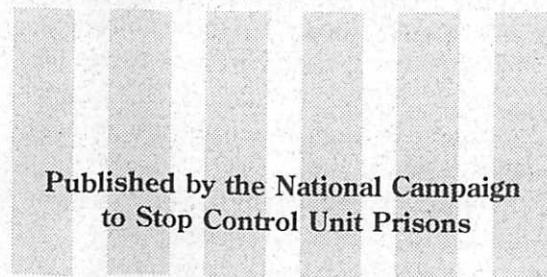
This consists of a telephone tree and e-mail. For more information, contact: Nancy Kirshan, Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, P.O. Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657.

National Coordination

Bonnie Kerness of the American Friends Service Committee is the national coordinator responsible for organizing and internal mailings. She may be reached at AFSC, 972 Broad St., Sixth Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, telephone: (201) 643-3192.

Mailings

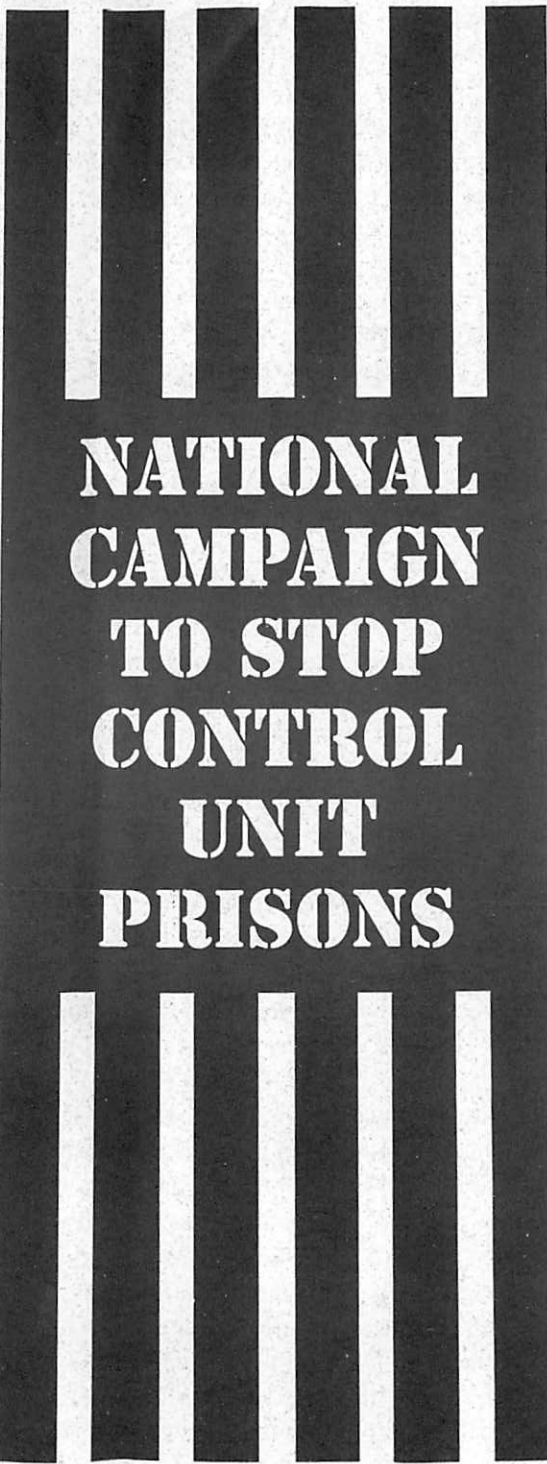
Pat Clark of the American Friends Service Committee is responsible for national mailings. She may be reached at AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, telephone: (215) 241-7130.



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**NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
TO STOP
CONTROL
UNIT
PRISONS**

PURPOSE

The National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons is engaged in collecting data, educating, fostering public awareness, and acting to put an end to human rights abuses that occur daily in control units. The campaign's goal is to shut down all control units.

HISTORY OF CONTROL UNIT PRISONS

Solitary confinement in U.S. prisons began in 1829, based on the early Quaker religious philosophy that solitary introspection would lead to penitence and reform. It soon became evident that people in isolation often suffer mental breakdown. Thus, the general practice of isolation in U.S. prisons was abandoned. However, isolation as a means of control has continued. This method has been used to break people identified by the government as "the worst of the worst." In fact, often these people have been political prisoners, jailhouse lawyers, or others who resist the control of the state.

The abuse of isolation has more recently been combined with sinister behavioral modification programs, including physical beatings, medical neglect, and psychological abuse. In 1972, the first official control unit was opened in Marion Federal Prison in Illinois. This was an experimental project undertaken to develop a program specifically designed to break individuals. In 1983, the entire prison at Marion was "locked down," an action in which all prisoners are locked in their cells 24 hours a day without human contact. Ostensibly, this was done in response to an isolated incident of violence in the prison. The lock-down was never lifted.

In 1995, a new federal, high-tech prison in

Florence, Colorado, took over the "mission" of Marion. Here people are kept in nearly total isolation for years. There is little interaction with anyone other than prison staff. Visits and phone calls from family and friends are severely restricted, as are educational, recreation, and religious services. The federal model of control has been adopted by other states, so now there are 36 control unit prisons in the United States, housing approximately 15,000 people.

But there have been successes in the fight against control units. In 1989, the women's small-group isolation prison at Lexington, Kentucky, designed specifically for women political prisoners, was closed by legal, political, and moral battles waged by a broad coalition of people. Today, there is no "official" women's control unit prison. However, women in the federal prison at Marrianna, Florida, and in many state prisons are experiencing increasingly repressive conditions. Public oversight of prisons is essentially nonexistent. Abuses of power by the prison officials are endemic. For this reason, a resistance movement is building to call for an end to human rights abuses and the use of control units as a tool of racism and political repression.

HOW WE DEFINE CONTROL UNIT

While the specific conditions in control unit prisons vary, the goal of these units is to disable prisoners through spiritual, psychological, and/or physical breakdown. This goal is accomplished through systematic programs of oppression, including:

- **Arbitrary placement** not based on pre-established standards and procedures.
- **Years of isolation** from both prison and outside communities while being housed

in solitary or small group isolation.

- **Extremely limited access to services** such as education, worship, or vocational training.

- **Physical torture** such as forced cell extractions, strap-downs, hog-tying, beating after restraint, and provocation of violence between prisoners.

- **Mental torture** such as sensory deprivation, forced idleness, verbal harassment, mail tampering, disclosure of confidential information, confessions forced under torture, and threats against family visitors.

- **Sexual intimidation and violence**, usually against women prisoners by male guards, using strip searches, verbal sexual harassment, sexual touching, and rape as a means of control.

FORMATION OF THE CAMPAIGN

The National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons is a coalition of individuals and groups inside and outside prison walls. The coalition was founded at a gathering hosted by the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia in December 1994.

STRUCTURE

The national campaign is formed as a coalition of independent groups and individuals who agree to carry out specific activities to achieve the stated purposes. To facilitate this, the activities of the campaign will be conducted by several committees, two of which are:

Monitoring Committee

Identifies and monitors Control Unit Prisons, collecting data, creating practical inside-outside bridges, and involving community members. The information collected will