PRISONS:
FORTRESSES OF REPRESSION

DEMONSTRATE:
Saturday, April 19

Demonstrations will take place at:

Marion, Illinois: Marion Federal Prison
Chicago: 312-427-2538, 312-278-6708 / Detroit: 313-883-3212 / St. Louis: 314-531-3045

Lexington, Kentucky: Lexington Federal Prison
Chicago: 312-427-2538, 312-278-6708

New York City: Metropolitan Corr. Center
New York: 212-222-9640 / Boston: 617-876-9034 / Hartford: Box 6075, Hartford, CT 06106
Rally at 11:00 am at Brooklyn House of Detention, march to MCC, then rally at City Hall Park

Tuscon, Arizona: Metropolitan Corr. Center
Los Angeles: 213-234-5522 / San Francisco: 415-561-9055

San Francisco, California: San Quentin State Prison
Los Angeles: 213-234-5522 / San Francisco: 415-561-9055

Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico: Rio Piedras State Prison
Puerto Rico: Cucre, Apto. 20190, Rio Piedras, PR 00928

Sponsored by: National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters &
National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

FIGHT POLITICAL REPRESSION
A CALL TO ACTION

INTRODUCTION

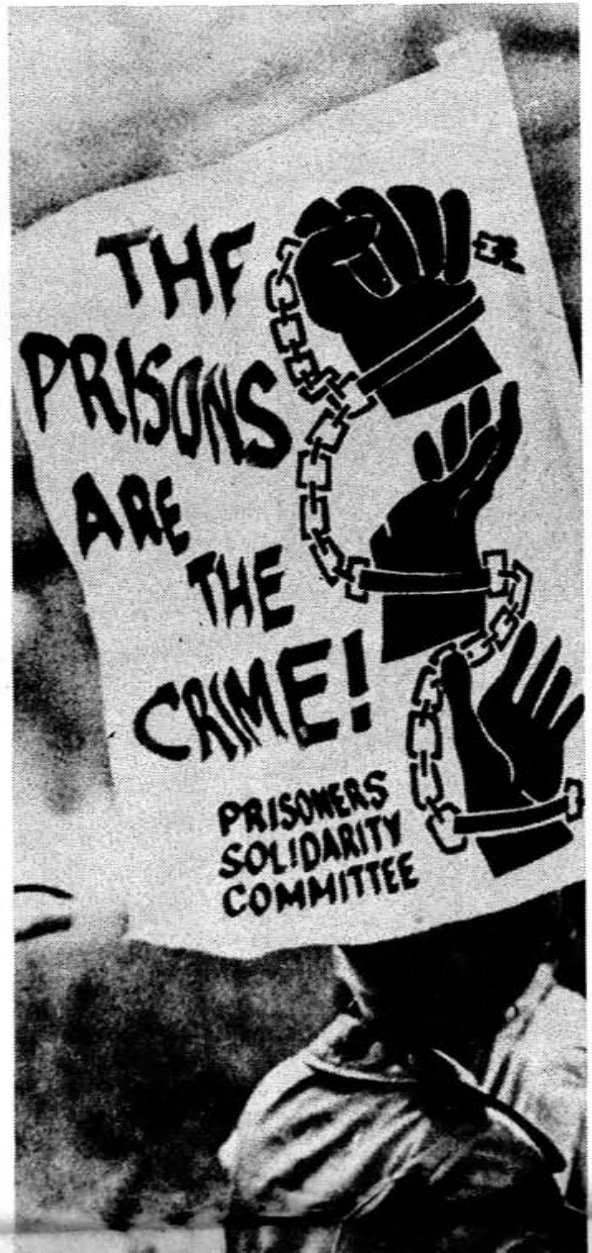
Paralleling the growing crisis of the economic structure of the US has been the increasing focus on the problem of crime during the past two decades. By mid-1960, the US, embroiled in a costly war in Southeast Asia (part of the growing wars of national liberation which began to restrict US markets), and faced with stiff economic competition from its allies, confronting an ever more militant Black liberation movement, declared crime to be the number one domestic problem. And so, in 1965 (the same year Malcolm X was murdered), President Johnson launched his war on crime program because in his words, "we must arrest and reverse this trend toward lawlessness," because "crime has become a malignant enemy in America's midst." Congress responded to this alarming call by adopting the **Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act.**

The adoption of this law ushered in a new form of crime control; not only would the war on crime be fought by legislation, presidential commissions, policy research by academicians, but a new strategy of domestic control would be instituted. Ever since then, millions of dollars have been poured into this war which under the misnomer of criminal justice system has profoundly affected almost every facet of life in America—from the major corporations and the highest levels of government, to every living room in America. A criminal justice-industrial complex has even emerged. Everyone from the Justice Department to the Neighborhood Beat representative program (read a spy-on-your-neighbor-network) has been mobilized to fight crime. Thus, a whole infrastructure of population control has begun to take shape. Therefore, in some respects, the character of prison and jails in America is being profoundly altered.

PRISONS: A WEAPON OF GENOCIDAL WARFARE

Since the initiation of the war on crime, America's growing prison population has literally made it a nation of prison houses. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics *Bulletin* (April, 1985), the total number of prisoners in state and federal prisons and jails at the end of 1984 was 463,866. During the year, 26,628 prisoners were added to the prison rolls. The increase in 1984 brings the total growth in the prison population since 1980 to more than 134,000 inmates—a rise of 40 percent in the four year period.

However, it is important to note that the largest number of inmates are Blacks/New Afrikans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans. The imprisonment rate for Black/New Afrikans in the US is much higher than for any other segment of population in the society. While 90 of every 100,000 whites are [illegible] 567 of every 100,000 Black/New Afrikans go to prison.



for war to stave off the lingering and growing economic crisis which it entered two decades ago, resistance is inevitable; so is government repression (increasingly manifested in a strategy of new state repression based on the theoretical framework of counterinsurgency). Today US prisons hold almost 200 political prisoners (some, who basing their case on international law, assert Prisoner of War status), members of the Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Mexican and Native American struggles, as well as draft resisters, white anti-imperialists, Irish nationals, anti-militarism activists and progressive Christians. In implementing counterinsurgency policies within the prisons, the Bureau of Prisons is carrying out the denial system program, which seeks to isolate these political prisoners from their communities and families (continuous transfers from one prison to another, in some cases thousands of miles apart), restricted correspondence and visits, censorship of political literature, the control of movement within the prison (central monitoring-maximum security levels), and the denial of adequate medical care.

Some of these political prisoners have been jailed for exercising their human rights to silence by refusing to testify before grand juries investigating their respective movements.

A more vicious and sophisticated program which seeks to psychologically destroy those accused of violent acts against the US state is the use of the maxi-maxi units to house these anti-imperialists so as to break their spirit of resistance.

Already in Marion Prison in Illinois, this development is in full gear. Marion, now under a two-year lockdown, is the most maximum security prison in the country; it is the experimental trendsetter for the whole federal prison system. It is there that the Bureau of Prisons established the Control Unit—a prison within a prison—where prisoners have been subjected to intense sensory deprivation, indefinite solitary confinement, and forced drugging. As predicted from its inception, the Control Unit has produced in prisoners the feelings of intense rage and helplessness that are inevitably expressed in violence—either against themselves or against others. Already a number of revolutionaries of the national liberation struggles within the US have been subjected to the Control Unit, including New Afrikan Freedom Fighters Sekou Odinga and Sundiata Acoli.

Already the women's prison in Alderson, West Virginia, has attempted to transform Davis Hall into a Control Unit. Puerto Rican POWs Haydee Torres and Lucy Rodriguez were held in the Unit for several months, until a massive protest forced their transfer and the unit to close.

But the Bureau of Prisons has now turned its attention to building a full-fledged maximum-maximum security prison in Lexington, Kentucky. There it is constructing a special unit to hold 16 women in the basement of a high security building, totally separated from the rest of the prison. Captured resistance

population in the society. While 50 of every 100,000 whites are sentenced, 567 of every 100,000 Black/New Afrikans go to prison. (The highest proportion in the world—not even South Africa matches this reality.) Black/New Afrikan people are imprisoned over six times more frequently than whites.

The imprisonment of huge numbers of New Afrikans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicanos and Native Americans has been just another form of genocidal warfare by the US government.

Across the country, there have recently been waves of prison revolts by the New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Mexicano, and Native American prison population to protest the inhumane and barbarous conditions which they are subjected to on a daily basis. With a ready supply of prison guards who vent their racist and white supremacist mentality on people of color, the US government has effectively been able to replace the plantation overseers and plantations of the chattel slavery era with prison guards and prisons. The prison system therefore represents just another form of repression, perhaps the ultimate repression. As the prison population skyrockets as a result of the US government's systematic program to build concentration camps to control and subjugate people of color, prisoners are forced to live like slaves packed on slaveships in overcrowded and filthy quarters with no opportunity to develop their physical, psychological and emotional well-being. Rat-infested food unfit for human consumption forces many prisoners to forego eating the meagre food rations allotted to them creating serious health and nutrition problems. Educational, vocational and recreational programs are nearly nonexistent and Native Americans and Muslim prisoners are harrassed and denied an opportunity to practice their religious beliefs and rites.

The concessions made by the prison system in the late 1960's and early 1970's have proven to be as illusionary as the other human rights "gains" of that era.

AMERICA'S FUTURE CONCENTRATION CAMPS

If the spiraling prison population growth continues at the present rate, within the next decade there will be over 1,000,000 people in prison; principally people of color. Given the cutbacks of social programs as America's answer to its economic woes (a growing deficit, an unfavorable balance of trade with Japan, and the ever expanding foreign debt of developing nations), the government cannot continue the same rate of social expenses for its war on crime, particularly the growing costs of prisons. Presently it costs more to imprison a person for one year than to send him/her to Harvard. New formulas are being experimented with; so the prisons for profits options are now being implemented. Within the next generation we may well see factories, foundaries, textile plants springing forth in and around prisons. These industries will guarantee the necessary industrial production still needed in the post-industrial society; yielding super profits due to the super-exploitative slave wages.

Of course, we must understand the above development within the greater context of the plans for population control, particularly aimed at what the trilateralist Samuel Huntington has called in his book, *Crisis in Democracy*, the "ungovernable" sectors (read Black/New Afrikans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Native Americans). Included among these programs is the process of spatial deconcentration (a process whereby the ghettos

are being deconcentrated and its population dispersed along corridors that end in the outskirts of the cities, far away from the financial and commercial centers). At the same time, tax free enterprise zones will be established there to insure superprofits with wages below the minimum level.

If in the outskirts of America's cities, future bantustans a la South Africa will emerge, then surely from America's prisons will rise the future concentration camps.

MAXI-MAXI UNITS: AMERICA'S INTERNMENT CENTERS—MARION & LEXINGTON

As conditions worsen for Third World people and all poor people within the US borders, and as the government prepares

hold 16 women in the basement of a high security building, totally separated from the rest of the prison. Captured resistance fighter and white anti-imperialist Susan Rosenberg has already been designated to Lexington's "Maxi-Maxi" Unit.

A CALL TO ACTION

Given the fact that prisons reflect the general structure of society, and given the fact that—since the institution of the war on crime two decades ago—prisons are playing an increasingly important role in the general strategy of population control. Prisons are safety valves to the economic woes of the society, centers of superprofits as a result of slave wages, and internment camps for the most politically conscious elements of the society and of the national liberation movements. The National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War call upon all progressive people to join their efforts to expose these trends and developments.

DATES ON MARION PRISON HISTORY (A VERY INCOMPLETE HISTORY)

1859: Alcatraz opens as US Army disciplinary military barracks.

1909: Alcatraz converts to military prison.

1934: Alcatraz becomes federal prison—the "end of the line".

1963: Alcatraz closes and Marion opens.

July 1972: Control unit opens as result of peaceful stoppage.

December 1973: Lawyers file suit in federal court challenging conditions of control unit and instances of guard violence.

1975: National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers forms.

April 1978: Federal court rules control unit constitutional and box car unconstitutional (use of box car still continues). Boxcars are cells 6½' (wide) x 8' (deep) x 8½' (high) with 40-60 watt bulb. 72 prisoners are in control unit and 46 box cars are in control unit.

1979: Marion becomes Level IV prison (most maximum security).

1980: Three work stoppages occur, the last one in September. Work stoppage in September centers around: 1) freedom of religious practice; 2) better food and medical care; 3) end to use of box cars and control unit; 4) end to guard brutality. Work stoppage unanimous and peaceful—the largest strike in the history of the prison system.

October 1980: Marion Prisoners' Rights Project attorneys banned from prison (because of alleged involvement in the strike from false statements by prisoner informants like Jack Abbot).

1963-81: 5 suicides occur at Marion; 3 by prisoners in solitary confinement; during same period 16 inmates and 1 guard killed.

1981: Prison industry permanently closes.

May 1982: Court orders prison to let MPRP attorneys into Marion.

October 1983: After 2 guards are killed, all prisoners are locked in their cells for 23½ a day. 2 prisoners are charged with the killing, but rampant beatings and harassment by goon squad takes place throughout the prison. Prisoners are subjected to forced rectal probes. Visitation and telephone calls are totally banned. When resumed, prisoners are denied contact visits. Educational and religious services are stopped. THIS LOCKDOWN CONTINUES TODAY.

June 1984: Lawyers for prisoners' class action suit filed challenging lockdown, beatings and inhumane prison conditions. US magistrate finds that lockdown and prison conditions are "constitutional." District judge refuses to decide case for months thereby preventing further appellate review.

TREATMENT OF NEW AFRIKAN PRISONERS OF WAR & POLITICAL PRISONERS

1971: New Afrikan Prisoners of War, the RNA 11, 8 men and 3 women, are imprisoned in the notorious Patchman Prison in Mississippi and are subjected to physical assaults, psychological torture and constant harassment by prison guards. Some prisoners are forced to live on Death Row and are denied basic clothing such as shoes; social and legal visitation. A female POW, pregnant at the time of her arrest, is denied medical attention and proper diet.

1972: Political Prisoners Ahmed Obafemi and Tarik Sune Beyatta are subjected to harassment and abuse from prison officials. Placed on Death Row of Florida prison to serve 10 year sentence.

Sekou Odinga

1973-1979: Assata Shakur is imprisoned in the all-male unit at various state prisons in sensory deprivation cells with 24 hour burning neon lights. Sister Assata is denied necessary medical treatment after she is wounded during her arrest and is later denied medical care and proper diet during her pregnancy. She is denied social and legal visits and telephone calls.

1979: Sundiata Acoli is secretly kidnapped by US government and transferred from New Jersey State Prison to Marion, even though he is a New Jersey state prisoner. Sundiata Acoli is forced to live under prison conditions amounting to solitary confinement for over 9 years. He is assaulted.

Sundiata Acoli

1981: Sam Brown is beaten and his neck is broken by agents of the FBI Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) and prison officials and is denied proper medical attention.

1981: Sekou Odinga is severely tortured by FBI, JTTF and other law enforcement officials to near the point of death. Torture tactics included grounding out his toenails, putting cigarettes out on his body, and flushing his head in the toilet. He is hospitalized for 3 months and then forced to leave, still weakened.

1981: Amnesty International formally classified physical brutality as torture.

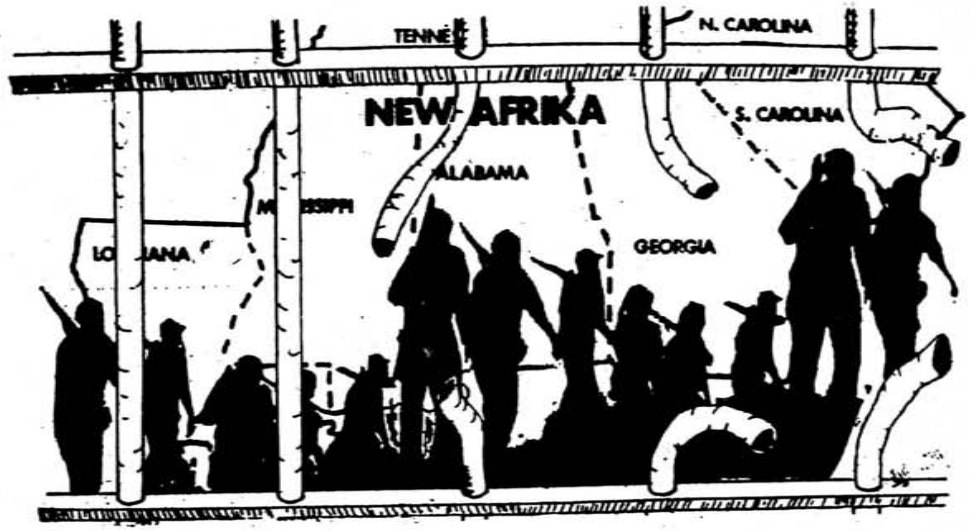
1981: Kuwasi Balagoon is beaten by Rockland County, New York, prison officials.

1981: Bashir Hameed (fka James Dixon York) is brutally beaten while in police custody. Abdul Majid would also be beaten months later when he was arrested.

1983: Sundiata Acoli is placed in 23½ hour lockdown at Marion. He is denied legal and social visits and telephone privileges.

1984: Sekou Odinga is placed in Marion straight from being sentenced in court.

1985-86: Mohaman Geuka Koti is deprived of proper medical care for an acute muscular disorder that threatens him with blindness. Also, the religious rights of Koti and other Muslim prisoners are routinely disrespected.



Edwin Cortes, Alejandrina Torres, Alberto Rodriguez

1983: Guillermo Morales captured and tortured by the Federal Judicial Police in Puebla, Mexico with the cooperation, and in the presence of, FBI and New York police agents.

1983: Alejandrina Torres, Edwin Cortes, Alberto Rodriguez and Jose Luis Rodriguez arrested and ransomed on $5 and $10 million dollar bond. They are held in unprecedented harsh conditions

grown to size of 5-month-old fetus. Held incommunicado for 5 days. Under the guise of security, she was shackled to her bed at all times and forced to bathe while wearing leg irons. Armed guards were posted inside and outside her room 24 hours a day, depriving her of any privacy.

TREATMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN ANTI-IMPERIALIST

TREATMENT OF PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR & POLITICAL PRISONERS

1978: Guillermo Morales, seriously injured in a bomb blast, taken into custody and denied appropriate medical treatment. FBI later testifies that his severed fingers were not surgically reattached because of their decision to keep them in order to run lab tests.

1979: Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, active member of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, (LSP), arrested for protesting against the US Navy's presence in Vieques and sentenced to six months in jail. Exiled to Tallahasse, Florida, federal prison, where he was found dead in his cell one day after receiving visit from friends who found him in good spirits and health.

1980: Luis Rosa and Alicia Rodriguez, also arrested in Evanston, isolated from general population, monitored via windows by prison guards and physically and verbally abused by Judge Bailey; also beaten in open court in Chicago by Cook County Sheriff's bailiffs. Alicia brought to court bound and gagged for secret proceeding. Six guards restrain and gag her, forcing a handkerchief into her mouth then taping it shut (leaving her breathless), pulled her hair and punched her.

1980-1984: Maria Haydee Torres, suffering from pelvic inflammatory disease and in constant pain, is denied seriously needed medical treatment, which results in her becoming sterile.

1980-1984: Luis Rosa subject to over fourteen (14) transfers from prison to prison in Illinois and thrown in segregation on more than twenty (20) different occasions. On one such occasion, Rosa was forcibly photographed 38 times in one day.

1980-1984: Carlos A. Torres transferred seven times. On many occasions placed in special unit, locked up 24 hours a day. Arrived at Talladega, Alabama, Federal Correctional Center, placed in segregation and told that all his correspondence (both incoming and outgoing) had to be in the english language or would be returned. Instructed to speak english in all his telephone conversations even though his family in Puerto Rico does not speak english—told that if he does not comply, his conversations will be terminated.

for pre-trial detainees (24 hour lock-up with no visits). Mrs. Torres is held in all male unit and subjected to sexual harassment. Cortes and A. Rodriguez are held in sensory deprivation for 10 months, without so much as an accusation of violating prison rules.

1984: Alejandrina Torres attacked by male lieutenant, who subjected her to humiliating search and then assaulted her, resulting in permanent injury to her arm.

1984: Maria Haydee Torres and Ida Luz Rodriguez held for over 10 months in special behavior modification unit named Davis Hall in Alderson federal prison, without having been accused of violating any rule. This unit was closed by the courts in 1979 and was reopened for them.

1985: Dylcia Pagan Morales, Maria Haydee Torres, Ida Luz Rodriguez and Alejandrina Torres, serving sentences of 35 years to life, held at pre-trial detention centers; specifically designed for short term detention. Denied fresh air, exercise, participation in programs and adequate diet for medical conditions.

1986: Alicia Rodriguez transported by Sheriff's Police to Pontiac, Illinois (St. James Hospital) for operation to remove fibrocystic tumor that has

"We believe our prison conditions are just part and parcel of an over-all strategy arrived at criminalizing and repressing all who resist class oppression, imperialism and its genocidal wars waged in defense of its interest."
—Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Ida Luz Rodriguez

1980-1985: Carmen Valentin under constant surveillance by guards including during shower and toilet use. Forced to shower with male guard present. Has had her mail interfered with and political publications censored.

1981-1984: Ida Luz Rodriguez held in segregation twice for demanding right to correspond with her husband, Oscar Lopez Rivera, incarcerated in Leavenworth, Kansas.

1982-1984: Felix Rosa, the only political prisoner in Illinois, is subjected to frequent photographing by officials and is also attacked and maced by guards trying to forcibly photograph him.

1983: Alberto Rodriguez held in solitary confinement unit for 10½ months. Psychologists have called them sensory deprivation units. His cell, a 6 x 10 concrete box, is painted white with a solid steel door which has a slot opened only for feeding. After 10 months, a federal judge is forced to order prison officials to place him and Edwin Cortes in general population.

Ida Luz Rodriguez

POLITICAL PRISONERS

1981: Judy Clark, Kathy Boudin and Eve Rosahn held in solitary confinement at MCC, New York City, completely isolated from one another and from all other prisoners. They are allowed only no-contact visits with immediate family members. This means that Judy and Kathy can visit with their infant children (both 1 year old) but are forbidden from touching them. Their legal visits are restricted and interfered with. When Kathy Boudin wins a law suit fighting these conditions, she and Judy Clark are transferred to a special isolation unit built within Woodbourne Correctional Facility, upstate New York, along with David Gilbert and Solomon Brown.

1985: Ray Levasseur, Patricia Gros, Jaan Laaman, Barbara Curzi-Laaman and Richard Williams (the Ohio 5) are attacked by 25 US Marshals during a court hearing in Brooklyn, where they are being arraigned on charges of carrying out 11 bombings of US military and corporate targets as the United Freedom Front. Marshals kick, punch and stun-gun them repeatedly, while saying things like: "We wish we were in South Africa so we could deal with you right."

1985: Thomas Manning and Carol Manning, comrades of the Ohio 5 (now the Ohio 7) are captured in Norfolk, Virginia. Their three children (ages 12, 4, and 3) are held in an unknown location, while their parents, relatives and lawyers are forbidden from communicating with them. The children are interrogated for 3 months by the FBI and New Jersey State Police. The children are only released to relatives after a national campaign and a hunger strike by their parents forces the government to concede.

1985: Dr. Alan Berkman injures his leg and then diagnoses himself as having cancer. He is systematically denied medical care.

1985: Laura Whitehorn, arrested in Baltimore in May, 1985, is transferred out of the Baltimore County Jail where she has been held since her arrest. She is moved to 3 different prisons in 3 weeks, each time held in solitary confinement, on the grounds that she is a "security risk." Laura is threatened by the U.S. Marshals on each trip. She is held in preventive detention (denied bail) even though she faces minor charges.

"Don't be shocked when I say that I was in prison. You're still in prison. That's what America means: prison.
—Malcolm X

WE DEMAND:

END THE MARION LOCKDOWN; CLOSE THE MARION CONTROL UNIT; IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER NEW AFRIKAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS SEKOU ODINGA AND SUNDIATA ACOLI

1. Marion Federal Maximum Security Prison is notorious for its blatant abuse of prisoners through the use of Behavioral Control Units. Prisoners are maintained totally separated from the rest of the general prison population, locked in isolation cells for 23½ hours a day. All contact with the outside world (i.e. mail, literature, etc.) is closely monitored and visits are conducted through glass partitions. These conditions which deny prisoners access to fresh air, sunshine, exercise and human interaction, constitute sensory deprivation designed to completely disorient and dehumanize the prisoner.

Two years ago, Marion became one big Control Unit when the entire prison population was put under 23½ hour lockdown. New Afrikan freedom fighters Sekou Odinga and Sundiata Acoli are currently held at Marion. To the state they represent the same threat as did Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, Malcolm X and Fred Hampton. Their incarceration in Marion is designed to impose the worst possible conditions in order to break their spirit and crush their will to struggle.

STOP THE CONTROL UNIT AT LEXINGTON

2. Lexington Federal Prison in Kentucky is in the process of building a Control Unit which will house 16 women. Any prison can, in fact, create Control Unit conditions (sensory deprivation); a prison designated as minimum security can confine a prisoner to a segregation cell 23½ hours a day for the duration of their imprisonment. Many prisoners of war and political prisoners held in the Metropolitan Correctional Centers and other prisons designated as minimum or medium security have been confined for 23½ hours a day under the worst conditions. Puerto Rican Prisoners of War Edwin Cortes and Alberto Rodriguez were kept in those conditions at the Chicago Metropolitan Correctional Center for a period of two years.

Lexington is of particular importance because its Control Unit is currently under construction. The building of this unit is proof of the state's conscious and deliberate plan to increase the use of Control Units. Prison officials have designated North American Political Prisoner Susan Rosenberg and Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres to be transferred to Lexington.

UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATION; IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER ALL PUERTO RICAN, NEW AFRIKAN AND NATIVE AMERIAN PRISONERS OF WAR TO THE SAME PRISON SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO PREPARE THEIR INTERNATIONAL CASES

3. Throughout the world, some of the most fascist and repressive regimes hold political prisoners together in the same facility. Prisoners are allowed to meet together to co-ordinate their defense and to seek redress of prison conditions.

Currently, 9 of 13 independence activists arrested on August 30, 1985, are held in the New York Metropolitan Correctional Center awaiting trial in Hartford, Connecticut. These arrests have come to be known as the second invasion of Puerto Rico, since over 200 FBI agents were flown to the island to execute over 38 pre-dawn raids.

Trial for the 13 is not expected to start for over one year, and in spite of the fact that 4 of the activists have been released on bond, the US government has followed a policy of preventive detention with the other 9 activists. In once case, both a wife and husband, Lucy Berrios and Juan Segarra Palmer (who have 3 children), have been denied bail even though they have clearly demonstrated that they meet the court's requirements.

The US government continues to isolate Puerto Rican political prisoners in order to demoralize them and facilitate the criminalization of their cases. For these reasons, we demand the repatriation of all Puerto Rican political prisoners.

RELEASE NORTH AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONER DR. ALAN BERKMAN SO AS TO INSURE PROPER TREATMENT TO RECOVER FROM CANCER

7. North American Politcal Prisoner Dr. Alan Berkman was diagnosed as having Hodgkins Disease in mid-November of 1985. Although this type of cancer has a good rate of cure when immediate and expert treatment is provided, prison officials have denied him proper medical attention.

Using the excuse of "security" prison officials have refused to transport Dr. Berkman to medical facilities that can provide adequate care and to change his diet as ordered by the court. Prison officials have instilled fear and hostility in medical personnel, both inside and outside the prison, by saying that he is a terrorist and an escape risk. Dr. Alan Berkman needs immediate access to physicians and medical facilities specializing in Hodgkins Disease which are not found in any prison.

REPATRIATE POLITICAL PRISONER JULIO VERAS-DELGADILLO TO HIS NATIVE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

8. Julio Veras-Delgadillo is a citizen of the Dominican Republis presently incarcerated in Petersburg, West Virginia. Veras-Delgadillo was framed in 1981, along with two other independence activists, and charged with bank robbery. He was found guilty on the testimony of a police informant, who claimed that Veras-Delgadillo was part of an armed clandestine Puerto Rican independence organization. Due to the distance and cost, his family has been unable to visit him. We demand the Julio Veras-Delgadillo be repatriated.

ALLOW PRACTICE OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE AND RITES

9. Prison officials have refused to allow prisoners to worship as their conscience dictates. Many New Afrikan and Native American prisoners practice religious principles and rites which are intrinsic to the understanding of their own existence and the forces of nature.

STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN PRISONERS OF WAR & POLITICAL PRISONERS

10. Treatment of women in US prisons is magnified and reflects the oppression imposed on women in society at large. In general, women in prison are constantly humiliated by prison guards and the administration. This humiliation ranges from being treated like a child to being abused sexually. In particular, the women POWs and political prisoners have been subjected to degrading "strip searches" by male guards and assaulted, amounting to rape. They have been placed in all-male sections, forced to bathe in front of male guards and use the bathroom while being watched by male prisoners. They have been verbally abused by both male guards and common prisoners. They have been denied adequate medical care to the point of becoming sterile. Many have been kept in isolation for a long period of time and incommunicado. Their children have been separated and interrogated to place pressure on the parents to break their will to resist.

3. Throughout the world, some of the most fascist and repressive regimes hold political prisoners together in the same facility. Prisoners are allowed to meet together to co-ordinate their defense and to seek redress of prison conditions.

Puerto Rican, New Afrikan and Native American prisoners of war have established, both in practice and in principle, that their cases belong before an international tribunal. Yet, the US government refuses to recognize their politcal status and has done everything possible to prevent their cases from reaching the international level. The right to political association is a human right, and as such, all prisoners of war should be allowed to exercise that right in order to prepare their respective cases.

IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS TO PRISONS NEAR THEIR HOMES

4. The Denial System is a tactic used to isolate prisoners from their families and supporters. This is done by transferring prisoners long distances from their families, friends and sympathizers. This makes it impossible for husbands, wives and children to maintain family relations even at a minimal level. Since in every case comparable prisons can be found near their homes, sending them great distances serves no other purpose then to completely separate them from their families. Prisoners of War and political prisoners are deliberately isolated from political, legal and moral support.

The Denial System is part of a counter-insurgency strategy. Conscious of the fact that the arrest, trial and incarceration of prisoners of war and political prisoners generates media coverage and public support, prison officials single out the prisoner for abuse and harassment. All communication between the prisoner and his or her lawyer, family and supporters are disrupted. Through this harassment and isolation, attempts are constantly made to coerce the prisoner into believing he or she has been abandoned and should turn State's witness.

END GRAND JURY REPRESSION AND POLITICAL INTERNMENT

5. Over the last ten years, federal grand juries have been used as a tool of the FBI to harass and intimidate entire communities. By issuing subpoenas to political activists who the FBI know are not going to collaborate, political leaders are incarcerated without having been charged with a crime. Puerto Rican, Mexicano, New Afrikan, Native American and North American political leaders have been targeted for political internment and jailed.

Ricardo Romero and Maria Cueto are leaders of the *Movimiento de Liberacion National-Mexicano*. The MLN-Mexicano has been at the forefront of the struggle for the reunification of Mexico with its northern territories stolen by US imperialism. Over the last ten years both Ricardo Romero and Maria Cueto have also distinguished themselves by their uncompromising support for Puerto Rican independence. As targets of grand juries investigating both the Mexicano and Puerto Rican liberation movement, Ricardo and Maria have been incarcerated twice for refusing to collaborate.

Both Ricardo and Maria are currently in federal prisons as a result of a second grand jury which charged them with criminal contempt. Although Ricardo and Maria were subpoenaed and charged along with three independence activists, Steven Guerra, Julio and Andres Rosado, they have been singled out by the state for additional harassment and repression. Having started their sentence at the same time as the other three, prison officials have now refused to release Ricardo and Maria at the designated completion of their sentence. Instead of being scheduled for release with Julio, Andres and Steven in mid-April, Ricardo and Maria have had their release date scheduled for June and July.

Since both Maria Cueto and Ricardo Romero have already served one prison sentence for non-collaboration and are currently serving a sentence for the same reason, their continued incarceration for upholding their revolutionary principles is solely punitive.

REPATRIATE ALL PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

6. Historically, imprisoned independence activists in Puerto Rico have had Puerto Rican sentiment on their side. To defuse the growth of popular support, independence activists arrested in Puerto Rico are sent to prisons in the US. Isolated from family, friends and supporters, they are placed in an unfamiliar environment where the population is indifferent to the abuses by prison officials.

PARTIAL LIST OF ENDORSERS: Movement for National Liberation—Puerto Rican; New Afrikan People's Organization, New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism; John Brown Anti-Klan Committee; Committee to Fight Repression; Prairie Fire Organizing Committee; Revolutionary Students Association, John Jay College, NY; Unitary Commitee to Fight Repression (CUCRE, PR); Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, Committee to End the Marion Lockdown; St. Louis Black Emergency Center; Clifford Wilson Senior Service Center, St. Louis; Ark of God Church, Rev. Robbie Canty, St. Louis; St. Louis Black United Front; Kansas City Black United Front; Coalition to End Police Brutality & Racism, Battle Creek, Michigan; MCBL College of Law & International Diplomacy; Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika; New Afrikan Legal Network; Malcolm X Center for Black Survival, Detroit, Los Angeles; Malcolm X Community Center Legal Clinic, Detroit; Rafael Cancel Miranda; Daniel Berrigan; Morton Sobell; Professor Bertell Ollman, Dept. of Politics, NYU; Carl Bissinger, War Resisters League*, Matt Meyer, chair, War Resisters League*; Columbia Univ. Prisoner Solidarity Project; Harlem Reclamation Project; African Activists of America; Serge Mukendi, FLNC-MNC (Congo); Community Self-Defense Program; Wespac; Andy Major, draft resister; Black & Latino Law Students Association, New York Law School; Union for Puerto Rican Students at Northeastern Univ., Chicago; Anti-Police Abuse Coalition

**Organization listed for identification only.*