

## COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

Dear Friend,

The enclosed letter from Daniel Berrigan, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Morton Sobell says all that needs to be said about the upcoming demonstration at Marion and Lexington. We would just like to add a few specific suggestions about how you can help.

First, come with us. Buses will leave Chicago about mid-Friday, April 18th, and possibly in the early evening of April 18th. We will travel to Carbon-dale, have a rally that night with those coming from other cities, and get a good nights rest. Saturday morning we will demonstrate at Marion Prison, then caravan to Lexington, Kentucky and demonstrate there. We should arrive back in Chicago about midnight Saturday. If you are at all interested in coming with us, or want more information, please get in touch with us so that we can fill in the details for you.

Second, we desperately need money. It will cost about \$60.00 per person to travel on the bus and to eat very humbly. Many Black and Puerto Rican people are eager to come to the demonstration but for several, money is the limiting factor. Please consider funding a person or two or more. Donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to Citizens Alert and mailed to the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, 407 S. Dearborn, Room 370, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

Third, we would appreciate the chance to talk to any group of people - large, small, formal, or informal about the demonstration. If you know of such an opportunity, please contact us.

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I will come to the demonstration.  Enclosed is a check for \$60.00 for the trip.

Enclosed is \$  for  other people to attend the demonstration.

Name:

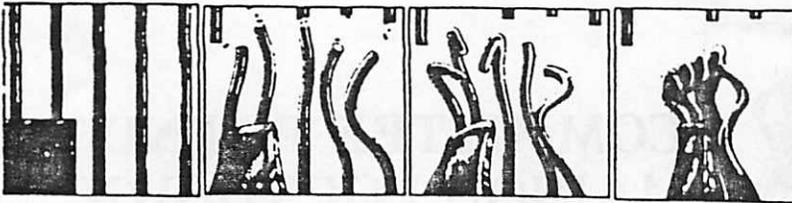
Address:

Telephone:

I would like more information about the demonstration.

I would like to have a house meeting to hear about Marion and Lexington prisons.

**COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN**  
**407 South Dearborn, Room 370, Chicago, IL 60605 312-427-2539**



1986

## COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

Dear Friend,

On April 1st, as you've probably heard, the Committee To End The Marion Lockdown, is having an evening of political discussion about the issues surrounding the April 19th demonstration. We, of course, would like you to attend. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at Wellington Avenue Church with the following agenda:

- 7:00 - 7:10 Sign in.
- 7:10 - 7:30 Committee To End The Marion Lockdown statement on a) prisons and society and b) relationship of this action to political work in Chicago.
- 7:30 - 8:00 Open discussion.
- 8:00 - 8:45 Small group discussions.
- 8:45 - 9:15 Discussion of demonstration logistics; sign-up; financial accounting.

We will be starting promptly.

As you can see by the last item on the agenda, we are hoping that by the end of the evening, people will have decided whether or not they're coming on the demonstration, will inform us of that decision and will pay for all or at least part of their seat that night.

Looking forward to seeing you April 1st.

THE COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

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*An Open Letter to Our Friends,*

In 1962 Alcatraz Prison, where two of us served a total of 13 years, was closed. In that same year, Marion Prison, where one of us served 6 years, was opened. Since then, Marion, the most maximum of all maximum security prisons, with its Control Unit, has been used as an instrument of torture and brutality for those imprisoned there and, like Alcatraz, as an end-of-the-line threat against all prisoners throughout the United States. It is the trendsetter for prisons in this country. It is no coincidence that several of the most important political prisoners in this country have been incarcerated at Marion - Leonard Peltier, Imari Obadele, Sundiata Acoli, Sekou Odinga, Rafael Cancel Miranda, and others.

In October of 1983, the brutality of Marion increased even further as the entire prison was locked down, keeping prisoners locked in their cells for at least 23 hours a day. Such a condition was still prevailing two years later in October of 1985 when the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) staged a national one day conference to "educate and agitate" for an end to the lockdown and the abolishment of all Control Units.

The conference was an important event. In this period of reaction and only minimal attention to repression and national oppression, over 300 people (from as far away as Puerto Rico, New York, California, and Alabama) met for 12 hours in workshops, to view films and slide shows, and to exchange an extensive amount of literature about repression, prisons, and political prisoners.

The conference built a fine spirit of solidarity among its participants and, in Rafael's words, a determination to "do something!" Now, CEML is taking up the collective challenge that it was issued that day and is doing something - something bold, something imaginative, something necessary, and something difficult - something that cannot be done without your support.

Leading Black/New Afrikan and Puerto Rican forces are calling for a demonstration at Marion and at Lexington Prison, the new Marion for women, on April 19. Plans call for a bus caravan on Friday, April 18 to southern Illinois, a demonstration Saturday morning at Marion, a continuation of the caravan to Lexington, and a demonstration there Saturday afternoon. The CEML is working to support this call and to make the demonstration a success.

The three of us participated in different ways in the 1985 Marion conference; and together we have served over 50 years in the worst prisons in the United States. We can tell you from a perspective of first hand experience that the demonstrations of April 19 are absolutely essential to prisoners across the country, to the anti-repression struggle in general, and to the battles for national liberation being waged within the borders of the United States. In short, we can think of few political tasks more relevant that will be occurring in the next couple of months.

Please attend the demonstration. Please provide financial support to the organizing efforts.

For Freedom,



Daniel Berrigan



Rafael Cancel Miranda



Morton Sobell