

### A Letter from Marion Prisoners

We, the ~~undersigned~~ <sup>hereon</sup> signed, extend greetings + solidarity to the People's Tribunal + commend its efforts to expose the criminality of U.S. government repression at its Marion + Lexington prisons. On this 4th anniversary of the imposition of the infamous lockdown of USP Marion, it is especially appropriate to create consciousness of the maximum restriction, lockdown, control unit mania that has already spawned similar dungeons at FCI Lexington + in several states, with more in the works.

Though brutality by staff at Marion has not returned to the level of the reign of terror immediately following the lockdown, it remains an ever-present threat whose use has been increasing of late, + overall conditions have been slowly deteriorating. So it goes with the repressive character of the American Gulag Archipelago generally; growing use of "intensive management" units; burgeoning prison populations + longer sentences; increasingly reactionary rules + rulings + their legitimization; ever larger police + prison apparatus; expanded targeting of people for political reasons; etc., etc.

The components of this trend are not the isolated problems of prisoners. Years of counterproductive maltreatment, deprivation, + negative socialization cannot be expected to produce nice neighbors. Nor does the bureaucracy care about the costs, individual or social, of its tools of repression as long as they are actively or passively suppressing resistance to the bankrupt forms of freedom it foists on the people while denying them the content. Moreover, the physical + psychological abuse of prisoners at Marion -- + elsewhere in the Gulag -- provides the forces of repression with valuable lessons in social manipulation + control. The rotten fruit of this social experimentation has already found its way beyond the walls. The situation at Marion + Lexington is another illustration that the prison movement is just one more element of **The struggle.**

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