

WORK TO ABOLISH ALL CONTROL UNITS

COMMEMORATE 10 YEARS OF THE LOCKDOWN AT USP MARION



*left, Rafael in USP Marion, 1978
below, Rafael speaking on behalf of
political prisoners, 1991*



Rafael Cancel Miranda, a Puerto Rican National hero, served 25 years in US prisons for attacking Congress in 1954 along with three other Nationalists. He served six years at Alcatraz and eight more at the US Penitentiary at Marion. In fact, Rafael was one of the leaders of the strike at Marion which precipitated the lockdown, and then was one of the first group of people imprisoned in the control unit when it was established in 1972. He is eloquent, passionate, and to this day, a tireless participant in the struggle to free his people from US colonialism.

Safiya Bukhari-Alston was a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. After her capture in 1974 she served over eight years in prison for her political actions. She remains a dedicated revolutionary and advocate for political prisoners. She currently is the Director of Administration for Brooklyn Legal Services.



right, Safiya at a prison workshop, 1991

COME HEAR RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA & SAFIYA BUKHARI-ALSTON

Sunday, October 17, 1993, 3 pm

Broadway United Methodist Church
3338 N. Broadway

Parking available in rear

Wheelchair accessible • Childcare available

\$5 contribution requested, if you can

Sponsors: National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War,
Prison Action Committee,
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
P.O. Box 578172; Chicago, IL 60657-8172; (312) 235-0070

In 1963 the United States Penitentiary (USP) on Alcatraz island was closed and USP Marion, in southern Illinois, was opened. Over the next decade Marion became more and more repressive. In 1972, in the wake of the Attica Rebellion and a strike at Marion, one of the longest work stoppages in US prison history, one wing of Marion was turned into a Control Unit. A decade later, on October 27, 1983, TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, all of Marion was locked down and turned into a Control Unit prison.

Soon it became clear that the lockdown, a temporary measure used at some other prisons, was designed to become permanent at Marion. As activists began to argue with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) that the lockdown was inhuman, the BOP responded that it was needed and that if Congress would allow the lockdown, this would free up the rest of the prison system. Critics in turn argued that the opposite would be the case — that Marion would serve as an anchor and pull the entire prison system in an even more repressive direction.



Unfortunately we were correct and now Control Unit prisons are springing up across the country. Indiana has one at Westville and is building another; others exist in California (at Pelican Bay), in New York, Michigan, Iowa, New Jersey, etc. Just two months ago Jim Edgar announced that Illinois would construct a control unit prison to be called the "Super-Max." In addition, the BOP is constructing a new "high-tech" replacement for Marion (which apparently is not destructive enough) at Florence, Colorado, in the midst of a uranium toxic waste dump.

In addition to the intense racism and incredible brutality of Control Unit prisons, they have always caged some of the most unrepentant strugglers for freedom and dissidents who refuse to collapse in the face of prison repression. Some of those imprisoned at Marion reads like a "who's who" of those who have lead the pursuit of a new, human society — Leonard Peltier, the internationally known leader of the American Indian Movement; Sundiata Acoli, Imari Obadele, and Sekou Odinga, leaders of the Black liberation movement; Oscar Lopez-Rivera, a Puerto Rican independentista and Prisoner of War; and white anti-imperialists like Tim Blunk, Bill Dunne and Ray Levasseur.

We invite you to join with us to commemorate this historic event. This program will initiate a week of activities against control unit prisons throughout the Midwest, culminating in a national demonstration at Florence, Colorado, the planned site for the replacement for Marion. Attend the program. Get Involved. Fight against the brutality of Control Unit prisons.