

Prisoners Solidarity Committee

Demonstrate Nov. 5 outside Monroe County Jail — Save the lives of the Auburn 6!

Who are the Auburn 6? Remember the brutal massacre carried out by Rockefeller and his henchmen at Attica? Remember how the fascist authorities killed their own guards in order to have an excuse that would allow them to murder defenseless prisoners? Well these same authorities are now attempting to railroad six Black brothers who have been indicted for leading the rebellion that occurred in Auburn prison Nov. 4, 1970. These brothers, like the brothers in Attica and all prisoners, men and women, have been condemned to a living death. The Auburn 6, as their fellow prisoners have come to call them, have been beaten, gassed, maced, water hosed while held in strip cells and locked up 24 hours a day without recreation or time outside lock up. They are refused visits with their loved ones, their letters are censored or torn up before their eyes and their legal correspondence, which is supposed to be private, is tampered with. At court appearances they are denied their counsel of choice. At prison administrative hearings they are told they have no right to be represented by counsel. They are subjected to humiliating and degrading strip searches (made to strip naked and spread their cheeks) just as their ancestors were examined on the auction block four hundred years before. They are brought to court in leg-irons, body chains, and handcuffs, like slaves.

But after so much torture and pain, these liberation fighters (which is what they really are) are continuing to fight back against the daily and growing harassment, continuing to call out for help in fighting the Nazi-like prison authorities.



Auburn, like Attica a maximum security prison, has a population of 1700 men. Guards openly sell drugs and pornographic materials at extortionate prices.

Last Nov. 2 on Black Solidarity Day, the brothers there refused to work (prisoners in Auburn work an 8 hour day and get from 25 to 40 cents per day) and instead decided to go to the yard and hold an open meeting, which the authorities were forced to condone because of widespread support among the population. The meeting was held in the tradition of Black liberation meetings across the nation: The prisoners raised handmade flags of Black liberation and provided an honor guard for the speakers. After the speakers, the microphone was opened to all. Obviously, the guards did not like what they heard.

Fourteen brothers were put in confinement because of the work stoppage and rally. After so many injustices, this was the last straw. The entire prison population rose up, seized the major buildings, and held 35 hostages for seven hours.

The immediate demands, in addition to freeing the fourteen, were better clothing, protection from reprisals by the guards, revision of the rules of letter writing, additional Black social programs, a more competent psychiatric staff, lower commissary prices, higher spending privileges, more parole board hearings, better food, and a more extensive law library. As you can see, many of these very same demands were later raised again at Attica and other rebellions around the country.

The superintendent, although looking for scapegoats, had to admit that the rebellion was started by at least "400" militants." However, the authorities have now indicted six men for "robbery" and "assault." Supposedly the keys of the cellblock were forcibly stolen during the rebellion.

The six men are: Kareem C'Allah (Robert Clark); Leon, Writer for the People (Charles Leon Hill); Mori (Russell Prout), Sharean (Michael

FREE the AUBURN SIX

SEE BACK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON DEMONSTRATION AND COURT APPEARANCES OF THE SIX

Lewis); Aki El Alim (Earl Moody) and Hassan Sharrief El-Shabazz (Harold Johnson). Since their indictments, 2 of the six have "maxed out" (completed their sentences in full-which for both was 5 years). these are Sharean and Kareem. Bail for the charges growing out of the Auburn rebellion was set at \$2,500 each (cash). The \$5,000 necessary to get them out was raised by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism with the assistance of collectives from the up-state region of N.Y. and progressive minded workers and students. Another one of the six, Hassan, had his original case overturned and was granted a new trial. Bail for his original case plus the bail stemming from the rebellion was set at \$5,000. This amount was also raised and Hassan is also out.

The first prison reports claim that Leon "On Nov. 2nd made inflammatory speeches urging assembled inmates to take militant action against the institution." These same reports say that on Nov. 4th Kareem, Mori, Sharean, and Aki "moved officers" into the yard and "escorted" them to be "placed as hostages," first "frisking" the hacks and then "releasing keep-locked inmates" including Hassan.

The guards allege that Leon "... while keep-locked had in his possession molotov cocktails, threatened to throw them through the window, advocated burning ... Accepted illegal release from B-Block ... 2" The accounts go on and on. The truth of the matter is that six brave brothers that stood up to the fascist guards and resisted and fought to improve concentration camp conditions are now being used as the scapegoats for the injustices of the prison system of oppression and exploitation. When the hostages were released, it was with the "promise" from the prison authorities that there would be no reprisals against the prisoners and that they would look into the grievances of the men. But after the hostages were released the administration let loose with a new reign of terror. Two hundred and fifty brothers were thrown into solitary. State police and local police went into Auburn brutalizing prisoners with axe handles and leaving some to lie in their own blood for hours at a time without medical attention.

To help break the curtain of silence around Auburn and fight the isolation of the prison walls, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of YAWF set up a transportation pool for relatives of the prisoners. During one of the chartered bus visits, Virginia Dorset, the sister of Sharean, asked the guards if she could visit more than the allotted time of one hour because she had not seen her brother in 3 years. The answer was that her brother Sharean was gassed and beaten — see article on page 4. The PSC also retained counsel for the 6 so that a federal suit could be instituted against the authorities for beatings the six had received in court before judge Saperstein while being arraigned. Of course, when this "relief" hearing was finally heard, scores of guards were paraded stating that prisoners are never beaten. The District Attorney at the hearing stated that obviously the inmates' claim of constant harassment and beating is unfounded, for they are all six still alive.

The Auburn 6 were finally transferred to different prisons throughout state and a change of venue was finally granted to Monroe county in Rochester. All six ultimately were housed at Monroe County Jail where three have been bailed out. Their case is receiving much attention from the ruling class. A super-fascist judge (Lyon Smith) has been specially appointed to deal with their case.

The Auburn trial is due to begin the week beginning February 7. Sharean is the first to be railroaded. The Six and the PSC are asking all progressive people in N.Y. state to intervene and save the lives of the six. They have suffered enough cruel and unusual punishment. Hasn't Attica proved that torture, punishment and death cannot "rehabilitate" anyone?

Demonstrate Feb. 5 outside Monroe County Jail and fill the courtroom during the coming trial. Save the lives of the Auburn Six.

Inside a nazi court with the Auburn prisoners

by EMILY HANLON

"You can't stop a nation!" Aki El Alim proclaimed as he stood proudly, defiantly before Cayuga County Judge Gerald Sapperstein. Aki El Alim was strong. His courage and militancy seemed to burst forth from the very manacles that bound his hands and feet.

This was the arraignment of six Black prisoners held at Auburn. Filtering into the courtroom came the chants of "Stop the racist frameups! Free the Auburn Six!"

Outside were almost 200 Third World and white revolutionary youth who had descended on the snow-bound Cayuga County Court. Youth Against War & Fascism organized the demonstration to support the six prisoners arraigned on criminal charges stemming from a November 4 prison rebellion.

When the bus arrived at 9:30 a.m., we immediately opened orange YAWF banners and flags and started chanting. At first the pigs would not allow anyone in the courtroom—a clear denial of the prisoners' constitutional rights. But the picket line grew and grew; those from YAWF, the Inmates Liberation Front section of the Young Lords Party, and the Bail Fund from NYC were joined by supporters from Auburn State, the Black Student Union from Oneonta State, the Red Star Collective, the Puerto Rican Organization and the Black Voice from Syracuse. Suddenly, the court changed its mind and let five people in, after searching them. Before the arraignment was over, we would see the greatest courage and the greatest cruelty—manacled prisoners, insisting on their rights, were beaten to the ground before our very eyes.

Two of the imprisoned brothers were sitting outside the courtroom. "All Power to the People! Right on!" they greeted us. It was the first time they had seen anyone from the outside since the rebellion.

"The proper channels..."

The first prisoner, Charles Hill, was brought in, his chained hands carrying stacks of legal papers, books and letters that had been censored. He, like all the other brothers, had a statement that the judge refused to let him read. All the prisoners were strong and militant. They had obviously carefully prepared and were learned in law. It was clear why the authorities had singled out these highly political, eloquent men.

Judge Sapperstein, a fat pig, began with a patronizing speech about his loyalty to the constitution. "I know nothing about you," he told Charles Hill. "I have no pre-conceived notion... I assume that you are innocent until proven guilty... blah, blah, blah..."

"Judge," interrupted Charles Hill, "I sent you letters. I have informed you that my life is in danger each minute I am at Auburn concentration camp. They keep drugging me—macing me..."

"Just a minute," said the judge. "Is your lawyer here? You were supposed to have a lawyer today. These things must be handled through the proper channels..."

"I am my own lawyer. I demand you take off these shackles so I can get to my papers and present my motion. I move that you transfer me from Auburn prison. My life is constantly in danger by those racist, fascist Nazi..."

"Now, Mr. Hill, last week I removed your manacles and you showed me your appreciation by

creating a scene, disrupting..."

Charles Hill walked to the bench, his chains dragging behind him, his fists held high. "You speak about impartiality, judge. Who is impartial in this Nazi courtroom? Who will protect me? Will you protect me, your honor? The only thing I have to fight with is my body and I will!"

"Right on!" we yelled.

The gestapo agents moved to encircle the chained prisoner.

"I will not be intimidated," squealed the judge. "I am a law-abiding judge. But I will bind you, gag you and try you in absentia if need be."

"I want to read a motion, judge..."

"This is not the time for a motion. I am interested in one thing only, to see that you get a fair trial. Just answer my questions and we'll get along fine. Do you have a lawyer?"

"Yes."

"What is his name?"

"Charles Leon Hill."

"And where is he?"

"He is standing before you."

When the judge finally realized that the prisoner was referring to himself, he asked if he had a co-counsel. Charles told him he did, Jeff Glen; but since his mail was censored he hadn't been able to write to him.

As was to be the case with each of the six, Sapperstein denied all motions, insisting nothing could be done until a lawyer was present.

As the brother left, he raised his fists, "Power to the People," he said. "Right on!" we answered. Once he was outside the courtroom, the guards began to beat him.

"Pigs! Racist pigs!" we yelled at the fat judge, sitting back in his swivel chair, trying to relax. But the chants from the outside did not give him a moment's peace. "Jail the pigs! Free the prisoners!" rang out loud and clear.

Beaten right in court

As each of the five other prisoners were brought in, the tension in the courtroom mounted and the judge began to tighten even more. The guards, who stood ready to pounce at any time on the prisoners, were hardly able to control themselves until they could get them out of the courtroom and beat them.

Robert Clarke was brought in next. He, like three other of the brothers, refused to be called by his slave name. "My name is Kareen C' Allah, and I want it changed on the indictment."

Again the judge went through his act, demanding to hear one thing only. "Who is your lawyer?"

Kareen said he was his own lawyer with co-counsel Jeff Glen and lawyers from the Black Panther Defense.

"Case postponed until February 24. Take him away."

But Kareen stood firm. "I am my own lawyer. I have a motion to make..."

With that five guards attacked and beat the shackled man in the courtroom. Tom Soto, a member of the Third World Caucus of YAWF, stood up and yelled, "The slaveholder has no right to try the slave."

As the judge paused, the chants of the demonstrators floated in. "Dare to struggle, dare to win! Jonathan Jackson, live like him!" There was no

mistaking it. The judge started to fidget. The spirit of Jonathan Jackson was in the court today and the judge knew it.

"Your objection has been noted," Sapperstein said to Soto.

"Pigs! Racist pigs! They are beating that man. He tells you they do it every day."

"What should I do?" he replied complacently. "Let him escape?"

Aki El Alim, Russell Prout Shareen, and Hassan Sharriet El-Shabbazz followed, one at a time. Shareen picked up the leg of his thin prison pants and showed the court his knee, which was swollen to twice its size and had a huge gash on it. "This is what happened when I was taken out of court the last time."

"We have to sleep in shifts so that the guards don't take us by surprise," said Robert Sprout. "Our food is drugged so we can't resist and then they beat us."

By the time Hassan Shabbazz came in, the judge allowed him to make a partial statement in which he spoke of the history of his people's enslavement and the barbarity within Auburn prison. "There is no justice for a Black man in these racist, fascist courts. They are run by pigs and swine!"

When all Shabbazz' motions were denied, and he was led away, he raised his clenched fist and yelled, "All power to the people! Death to the fascist pigs! Right on, YAWF!"

As we had done with Shareen, we followed Shabbazz out of the court and down the hall to make sure he was not beaten by the pigs, at least while he was with his brothers and sisters from the outside.

March to Auburn jail

When we left the court, we joined the march over to the concentration camp prison. The pigs kept discreetly out of sight until we reached the 17th-century fort. Chanting "Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! — Auburn prison has got to go!" and "Free the Auburn Six," we marched around the prison for half an hour. The only faces we saw were those of the white guards, but it was clear that the chants could not help but echo through the damp, cold walls into the dungeons of Auburn—the brothers know they are no longer alone.

Everyone who came today was strengthened by the courage of the prisoners—everyone felt we must return for the next court appearance on February 24—but we must return with 500 people, and then return, and return again, with a thousand and more supporters until Cayuga Court and all of Auburn is shaken to its depths. Only through a united, militant show of strength from the outside will the brothers win one iota of justice in the courts. A victory in Auburn will mean a victory for prisoners all over the country. Only through joining together will we be able to tear the prisons down and set all the prisoners free!

Auburn authorities push the panic button

(Reprinted from the Citizen-Advertiser, Auburn, N.Y., February 6, 1971.)

Extensive precautions will be taken to ensure that no riot erupts as a result of the trial of several Auburn Prison inmates, Auburn Mayor Paul W. Lattimore said Friday.

In a telegram Friday to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, Mr. Lattimore said, "This situation has all the ingredients of another Soledad Brothers in California, the Chicago Seven, and the Bobby Seale trial."

"(We are) already aware of a bus load of agitators coming into town from New York City on Tuesday and the effort to fan the fires with more support," he continued.

Four Auburn prison inmates are scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday on charges stemming from the Nov. 4 disturbance at the prison.

In a statement Friday, Mr. Lattimore said he had talked Thursday with the City Council, City Manager Bruce L. Clifford, Police Chief John Costello, and Sheriff Robert Sponable concerning possible outbreaks of violence in connection with the trial.

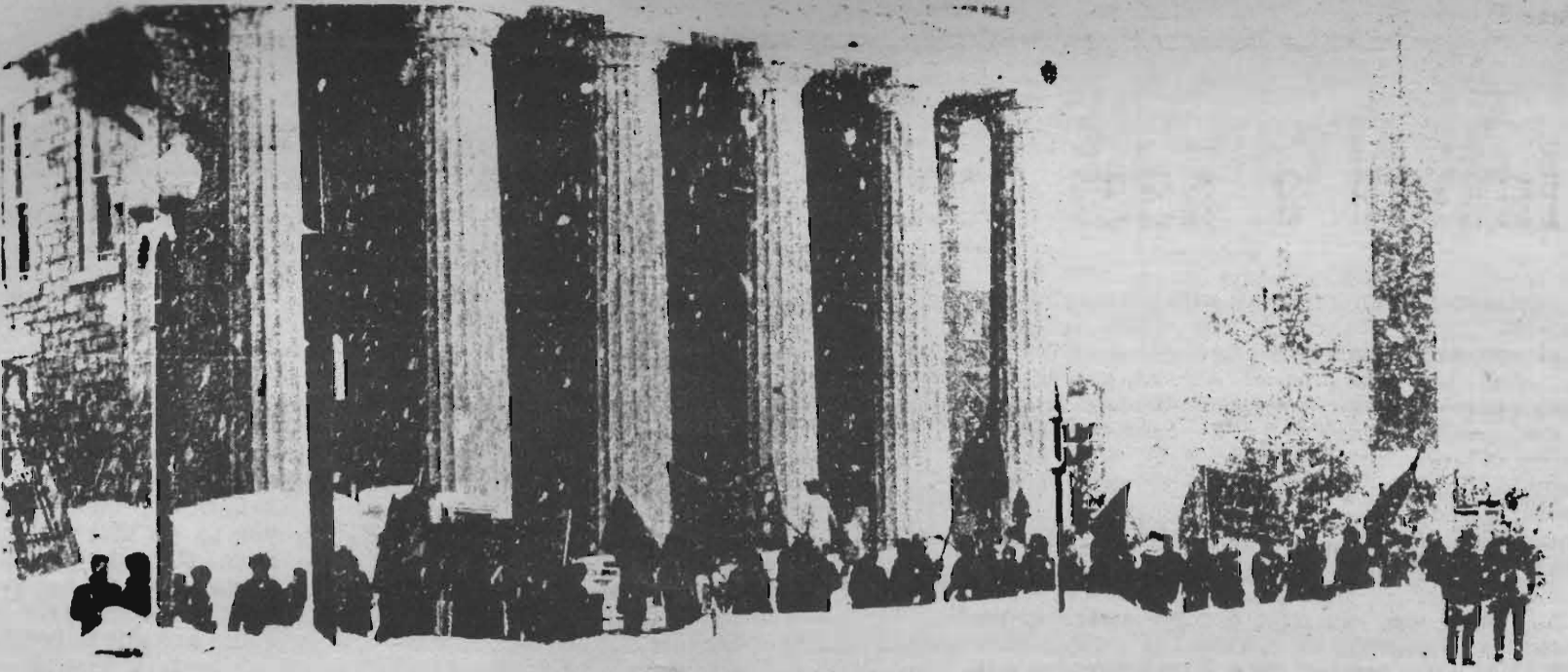
"You just can't sit back and not be prepared," he said.

Cooperation among law enforcement officials

(Continued on next page)



WW photo/Dick Wheaton



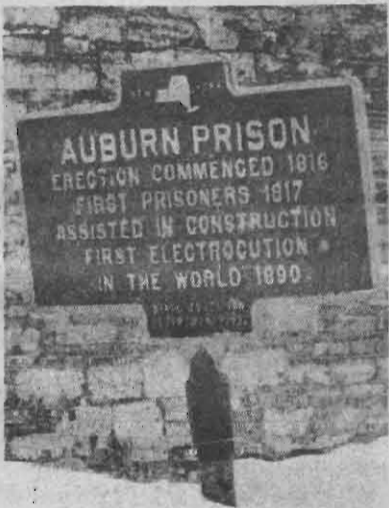
Over 100 demonstrators brave snow to picket courthouse where legal lynching is taking place.

What the censors destroyed!

Prisoner's mother tells stark details of jailers' violence

February 8—Workers World Party today learned what the real conditions, the real inhumanities, have been at Auburn Prison since the eight-hour rebellion that rocked that concentration camp on November 4. One of the prisoner's mothers, after visiting her son for the first time in over a year, described for us the brutality with which the prison authorities retaliated after the 35 hostages had been released.

It was still dark when two members of the Third World Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) drove to the Bronx to pick up the prisoner's mother. I will call her Camilla Rodriguez, but that is not her real name.



Camilla was frightened, almost afraid to go — it had been over a year since she had seen her son. And, although the two YAWF members had talked to her before, it was clear that she still couldn't understand why they cared about her — why they cared about her son — why anyone would care about them.

It is almost impossible for most of the families of the Auburn prisoners, the great majority of whom live in New York City and are Black and Puerto Rican, to afford the journey to see their husbands, sons or brothers more than once every few months and sometimes only once a year. The relatives are subjected to all the humiliation and harassment that the prison guards can conjure up. And when they do come, it is also possible that they might not be allowed to see the prisoner at all. Women who are not "legally" married to a prisoner cannot get permission to visit.

Prisoners strike on Black Solidarity Day

The spark that set off the rebellion at Auburn was the placing in solitary confinement of 14 Black brothers as reprisal for a general work stoppage on Black Solidarity Day. The demands of the prisoners, in addition to the freeing of the 14, were better clothing, protection from reprisals by the guards, revision of the rules on letter writing, additional Black social programs, a more competent psychiatric staff, lower commissary prices, higher spending privileges, more Parole Board hearings, better food and a more extensive law library. None of these demands have been met.

Although the entire prison population of 1700 men took part in the rebellion, 80 have been singled out and are being held in "punitive segregation." All but two are Black and Puerto Rican.

Six of the prisoners have been indicted on criminal charges of assault, attempted assault and robbery — supposedly for stealing the keys to the cell block during the rebellion. The other 74 have been charged with infraction of internal prison rules. All of the 80 prisoners have lost up to a year of good time.

Camilla's son described his cell as a "cubby hole" where there is not enough room to stretch out. The men are in "strip cells" — one of the most infamous of prison barbarities, where the only furniture is a ragged, roach-infested cot that is brought in at 10pm and taken away at 6am. Camilla thought that the prisoners do not have blankets since she had already sent one to her son and he had asked her for more.

Guards and the KKK

Throughout the visit, which lasted over an hour, a guard stood by Camilla's son, listening to every word they spoke. A screen separated the prisoners from their relatives. However, this did not stop the revolutionary brother from branding the guard as a "KKKer" and calling him a "racist Nazi."

Camilla's son, who clearly did not want to reveal the most brutal sadism of the guards to his mother, told her that during the rebellion the guards used unbridled violence. Mace and tear gas were used along with clubs and ax handles. The brother said that when the gas became very heavy, he hid his face in a mattress to keep from choking. But a guard tore the mattress away and slammed him against a wall. His back was badly injured, and despite repeated requests for medical aid, he has not yet seen a doctor. Camilla's son related the story of another brother who was beaten unconscious — his head swelled to twice its size. For three days the brother lay in his cell. Finally a doctor was sent.

It was clear that the commitment of "no reprisals" that the prison authorities made after the November 4 rebellion had not been kept in the least. Instead, the unbearable conditions became even more inhumane and the brutality increased daily. On December 20, about half the prisoners in lock-up staged a peaceful sit-in as a protest against the repression. The guards, who were wallowing in their new-found freedom of sadism since the first rebellion, went wild, beating the prisoners and attacking them with tear gas and mace.

During the second rebellion, Camilla's son told her that he was in his cell with a guard the entire time, so he couldn't possibly have participated in it. Yet, charges were pressed against him anyway.

"I won't be pushed around any more"

Before Camilla left, she told her son "not to fight any more." But, she said, he had answered proudly, "I couldn't do that. I won't be pushed around any more, even if it means I'll never see you again."

It is clear that these militant brothers are not going to give in to the barbarities, most of which we can only guess at. The prison authorities are so desperate to intimidate them and break their spirit that there are even two guards standing watch over the exercise yard with M-16 rifles, like they use in Vietnam. The guards have orders to "shoot-to-kill" anyone who goes into the yard!

Despite their best efforts, more evidence keeps pouring into the prison authorities that the terrorism used against the prisoners is not working. For example, when the six so-called "leaders" of the rebellions went to be arraigned on February 3, on charges of robbery and assault, they defiantly refused to be arraigned!

The six had been denied their right to counsel. The judge apparently thought that he could ram through the indictments anyway. However, when the judge read the frameup charges, the prisoners — manacled together, physically under the complete power of the prison authorities and the courts — denounced the judge and the prison authorities as racist and fascist. They quoted that section of the law which guarantees prisoners the right to an attorney. They refused a court-appointed lawyer; and, demanding that theirs was a political case and that they were political prisoners, they said, "We will talk only to our YAWF lawyer, Jeff Glen."

Auburn once a haven for runaway slaves

Before the YAWF members and Camilla left Auburn, they went to look at the courthouse. There they discovered a great irony. In the courthouse is a plaque "From the Citizens of Auburn," dedicating the courthouse — the symbol of racist oppression, the vehicle by which the ruling class enslaves the poor — to the great, revolutionary Black leader, Harriet Tubman!

How ironic, indeed, is it that Auburn, once a major stop on Harriet Tubman's underground railroad which led thousands of Black slaves to freedom, should now, for all practical purposes, live off the jobs and businesses generated by the prison — the prison which condemns 1700 of Harriet Tubman's brothers to a living hell.

But perhaps it is not so ironic after all, for it has been from slavery and imprisonment that leaders like Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X and Bobby Seale have risen to lead the struggle that will tear down, not only the prisons, but the capitalist system that builds them.

— Auburn

(Continued from preceding page)

was the key to maintaining peace during the trials, he said. In his telegram to Gov. Rockefeller, he stated: "(I) have advised our chief of police to have extremely close cooperation and coordination with the Cayuga County Sheriff Department and your state police."

Mr. Lattimore charged the busload of agitators mentioned in his telegram "aren't people coming in to observe the proceedings, they're coming in to raise hell."

The demonstrators, he said, will try to make the inmates' cases "political trials," instead of "legal trials."

The city might have difficulty handling demonstrators if an outbreak occurred, he said. "If they decide to raise hell and we arrest them, and they refuse bail, where are we going to put them?" he asked.

However, he assured the governor that the rights of all concerned will be protected. In his telegram he said, "the prescribed court procedures will prevail within the court and law and order will prevail outside the court."

This, he indicated, does not mean that any demonstrators will be coddled. The rights of the demonstrators "will be protected as well as those of everyone else in the community," he said, but "they will be granted no special privileges."

Sharean of Auburn 6 reveals Attica terror

Following is an interview with Sharean Justice Tel-star hiem. Sharean is one of the Auburn 6, a group of six Black prisoners who were framed up after the rebellion at Auburn prison last November 4. After spending several months in the special housing unit at Auburn and in segregation, Sharean was transferred to Attica and was there during the uprising in September. He was recently bailed out by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee after having spent five years in New York's concentration camp system.

PSC: When did you first become aware of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee?

SHAREAN: The second time I went to court was the first time I found out about the Prisoners Solidarity Committee. They were demonstrating outside of the courtroom. When they (the guards) brought us around in a van, I saw the red banners—it was totally beautiful. It just made me feel stronger. I felt like I was just obligated to support our supporters.

What really made it beautiful to me was how the comrades spoke out in court when the judge denied us due process of law. The PSC comrades would get up and tell the judge, "This is wrong; why don't you disqualify yourself," etc. I have never had an experience like that before. I figured I would go to court and be railroaded. But this really inspired me. It was so important to know the comrades were behind us in that remote area. (Auburn prison is in a small town in upstate New York—ed.)

PSC: You were brutally beaten and teargassed in Auburn after the PSC brought a busload of relatives to visit last April. Could you tell us about that?

SHAREAN: On April 18, the pig came over to my cell and said I had a visitor. I got dressed and went down to see my two sisters. I told them that the pigs had only given us one hour and I didn't agree with that because I hadn't seen my sisters in quite a long time. So (when the time was up) I went out to speak to the lieutenant. I explained to him that I hadn't seen my sisters in years and that I would like a little more time. He said, Lewis (Sharean's slave name is Michael Lewis—ed.), we can't do anything about it. I told him I wasn't going to leave. He said, "Lewis, visiting hours are up."

So I said I wanted to say good-bye to my sisters. As I turned this lieutenant grabbed me around the neck and they had about 15 officers grab me and throw me on the ground. They put shackles on my ankles, a restraining belt and handcuffs and they began punching and kicking me. As this was going on they were saying, "Why don't you report this to the federal judge?" (The Auburn 6 were suing the guards for brutality in federal court—ed.) Then they carried me up to segregation; they maced me, punched me, and threw me in a cell. About two hours later they took me back to my regular cell. I told them I wasn't going to lock in until I saw the warden and got an explanation of why I wasn't able to have a decent visit with my sister."

TEARGASSED FOR 17 HOURS

They said, "Lewis, if you don't lock in we have ways of putting you in there." Then the sergeant opened up the gate in back of segregation and threw a tear gas grenade in. It exploded. I tried to get the first one he threw. The second one he threw I grabbed to throw down the toilet, but it exploded in my face. The gas was so vicious I had to run into my cell to get away from the smoke. Then they threw a grenade through my ventilator so the tear gas was coming from both sides and there was no place I could go. I had a towel around my face but I could hardly breathe. I tried to holler out and ask the other brothers how they were, but I couldn't say anything. I laid there and laid there on the floor for 17 hours. I believe their intention was to kill me.

PSC: Would you describe what it was like in Attica during the rebellion?

SHAREAN: Well, I was taking a shower one day, it was September 9. All of a sudden, I heard the escape whistle blowing, so I figured somebody made a dash for liberation. As time went on, I found out that the inmates had seized the majority



SHAREAN

of the concentration camp. And I said "Right on!" to that! The pigs cut off the radio so that in segregation we couldn't get news of the rebellion. They just played continuous music.

On the morning of the 13th, I was watching out my window and saw about 200 state troopers going around the bend in back of segregation. They had shotguns across their chests and they were laughing and joking. I assumed they had already gotten the order to storm the prison. I guess they were just overjoyed at the opportunity to shoot the people down. About five minutes later, I heard a National Guard helicopter start warming up its motor outside the wall.

About five minutes later the helicopter left the ground and began to circle. Then I didn't see it any more. But I assumed it went down to D Block. Then I heard a lot of gunfire and I could hear very clearly another helicopter announcing, "Surrender with your hands over your head, you will not be harmed," over and over. (I heard later on that at that time they were just beating people to death while they were saying, "you will not be harmed.")

WITNESSED ATTICA BEATINGS

A little while after that, I heard that they were going to bring inmates up to segregation. The guys had to walk from D Block all the way over to the receiving center (which is segregation) in the nude. The pigs all grabbed their sticks and lined up on the stairwell leading up to segregation. I heard the first individual they brought up hollering and I heard a lot of sticks coming into contact with the body. I found it somewhat hard to control the impulses of my emotions.

I could hear the pigs downstairs say "run." Then the inmate had to run up the stairs with their hands behind their head, in the nude. And the police would start beating them. They would knock them down the stairs and the brothers would have to get up and go right through it again. I heard the pigs say, "Come on, nigger, get up there, get up there." It was intensifying. The pigs were totally savage. All that day I heard them bringing inmates up. "We got another one coming," they would yell and all line up. When they finally began to bring the inmates into the north side, where I was, I could see the brothers as they went past my cell.

I recognized the voices of a few comrades I knew hollering, "Stop, you're killing me." And the pig would say "You're not dead yet!" They would say, "Black is beautiful, especially when blood is running out of it!"

At this time they brought an inmate down whose hand was hanging off. He also had shotgun pellets in his eye. He was laying on the floor of his cell; I could see blood dripping out of his cell next to mine. He told me he was shot but didn't want to go to the hospital. "They're gonna kill me on the way and say that I died from these wounds." I said, "You're losing a lot of blood, brother. Your best bet is to go to the hospital."

He said, "I realize that brother, but I know they're gonna kill me on the way. I don't mind dying for the cause, man, but I don't want to die when I can't defend myself."

He finally agree to go. I called the pigs, but before they took him away I said, "Listen, I remember your face, your face, your face, I remember everybody's face here. This man is not critically wounded. He's not gonna die. I want you to get him to the hospital safely. I am a witness that the man is living and I get out in September—you know what I mean." I don't know what happened to the brother, but I listened to the radio and at that time I didn't hear that he had died.

THE STRUGGLE INTENSIFYING

PSC: How do you think the prisoners feel about the rebellion now?

SHAREAN: The brothers don't regret what happened. They regretted that a lot of comrades were assassinated, but they did not regret the education that the uprising gave the people on the outside. It showed the people how the fascist system is, what Rockefeller or any branch of the government would do in cases like this. I believe the people learned a whole lot from the Attica rebellion. And I sincerely believe that the Attica rebellion will definitely intensify the struggle in the concentration camps everywhere.

Finally, I'd just like to say, right on to the struggle. Freedom will be ours in the very near future. And I will be doing everything in my power to see to it.

Power to the people!

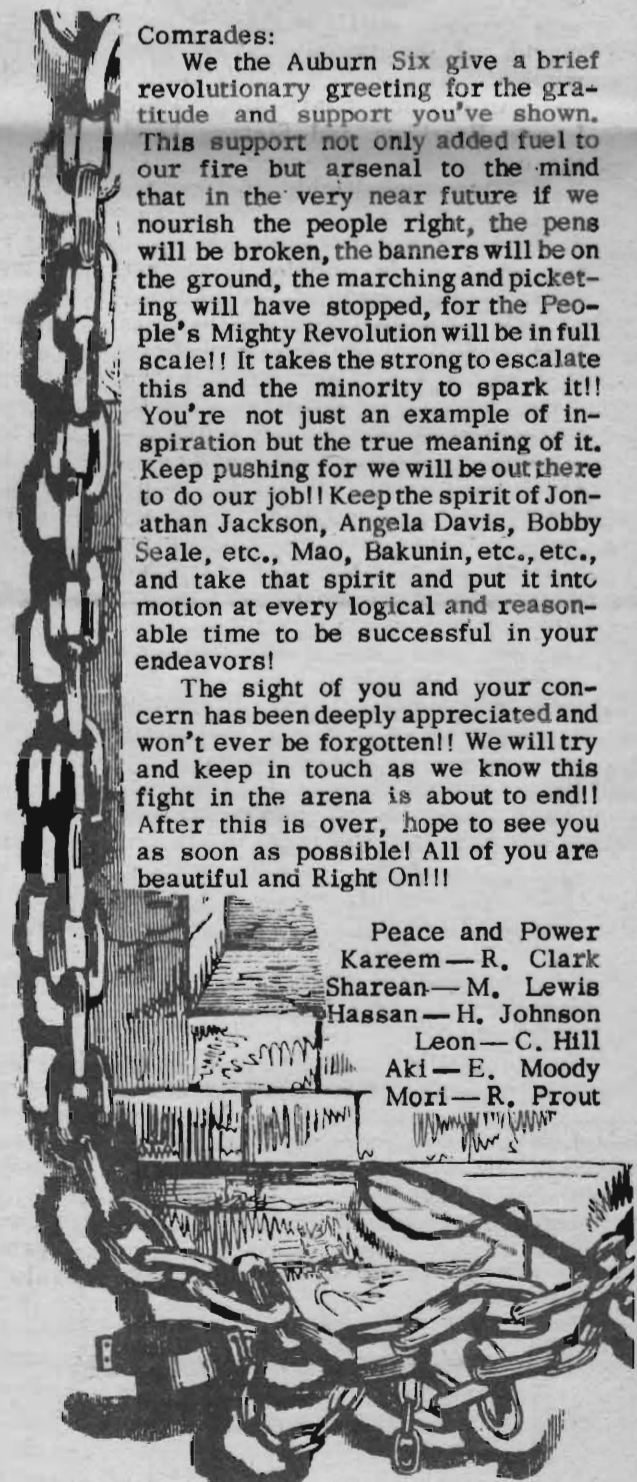
Letter from the 6

Comrades:

We the Auburn Six give a brief revolutionary greeting for the gratitude and support you've shown. This support not only added fuel to our fire but arsenal to the mind that in the very near future if we nourish the people right, the pens will be broken, the banners will be on the ground, the marching and picketing will have stopped, for the People's Mighty Revolution will be in full scale!! It takes the strong to escalate this and the minority to spark it!! You're not just an example of inspiration but the true meaning of it. Keep pushing for we will be out there to do our job!! Keep the spirit of Jonathan Jackson, Angela Davis, Bobby Seale, etc., Mao, Bakunin, etc., etc., and take that spirit and put it into motion at every logical and reasonable time to be successful in your endeavors!

The sight of you and your concern has been deeply appreciated and won't ever be forgotten!! We will try and keep in touch as we know this fight in the arena is about to end!! After this is over, hope to see you as soon as possible! All of you are beautiful and Right On!!!

Peace and Power
Kareem—R. Clark
Sharean—M. Lewis
Hassan—H. Johnson
Leon—C. Hill
Aki—E. Moody
Mori—R. Prout



Domestic prisoners of war AUBURN SIX SPEAK OUT!

August 13, 1971
War Till Victory
People Use Your Power
Right On For Freedom

Power Glen & Comrades!

It is my hope that this letter gets through as I have stated in the previous letters! Well the Pig is still up to barbaric & medieval tactics & terror & this hog of a commander (La Vallee & De Long) & their

“Verily, never will Allah change the conditions of a people until they change it themselves.” Holy Quran 13:11

Because I have been denied since birth and live in a world in which a majority of the people are oppressed, it is my duty, both as an expression of my manhood and the natural desire to improve my condition, to bring about change. Like all revolutionary forces throughout the world I seek to expose and destroy all racist and oppressive elements no matter where they exist.

If I don't smile, it is because such elements prevail; if I don't laugh, it is because others suffer beneath their power; and if I raise my voice in rage, it is so that others will awaken to the marks of the beast I wear upon my back! But though I don't smile, deep within my heart sings when I see Brothers and Sisters heed the call of the oppressed and give themselves, unselfishly, in support.

Once again I take pen in hand to express my revolutionary love for you and the people. Love that must appear suppressed because of the shackles and chains that bind and deny my freedom. Love that burns brighter each day and fights to be free to express itself. So strong is this love that flames within, no power on earth can diminish it, nor none but death extinguish it. All that I can freely express is my hate for this racist capitalistic pig. Hate that requires all my strength to control, for my time or day to deal the death blow has not yet come. Only with my freedom will this be possible. But how much longer must I wait? How much longer will it take the people to awaken to the marks of the beast they wear on their backs? When will they join our ranks and rise up against the capitalizers of racism, prejudice, and liberalism?

How can I express the burning pride I feel when I see you who are totally involved in the struggle? My blood races and I long to reach for the gun and join you in the fight to end this present madness. At such time I am almost humbled by the iron chains that bind me and make me helpless, but then I hear your cries of “Right on, free all political prisoners,” and I know that it is only moments before you come to break my chains and release me to the arms of freedom that belong to me and my comrades.

Peace be with you!
One day we will stand together!
Aki El-Alim

lackies just remain the antiquated fools they are! After the Comrades left, Oswald sent two agents down from Albany acting concerned & saying Oswald don't believe LaVallee is giving him all the facts thus would we give it to them— they were told to read it in the papers- - it's too late now!

We heard “M” tried to get in but the pigs refused her. Tell her we send our Right On to her & all the Comrades! It is our duty to always expose the enemies tyranny in every field to further enlighten the people so they become aware of the fallacies of this whole system! At the present as I said previously there is no desire to leave here to go to another concentration camp because there is a job here that has to be done! I heard Hassan should be out soon & that they are drugging Sharean's

food - trying to stagnate the giant mentally & physically -- tell him I said just keep pushing-- I heard a little about Mori & Aki-- but nothing about Leon. IS HE ALIVE! Well being that we up here in this isolated - strip cages- apart from the events which have meaning I would like to know what's happened with Angela Davis since mid June. Is she out on bail! And any other informative news also!

Well in answering could you relay the last couple of dates you recieved a letter so I can check things out because they had stopped I presume most letters to any lawyer who had represented me & that is still working on any case! Well I end this while breathing pig polluted air!
PEACE - POWER
PALANTE
Kareem



From left to right: Kareem, Aki, Mori, Hassan, Leon.

As time goes on, tension is growing within the Black race that is so very obvious to the people of today. Time and time again, we have noticed the great desire for the freedom of the Black people and also the oppression and vindictive abuse that have constantly kept the Black man far from his fullest capacity. We see in the world today that many of our Black sisters are forced into a life of prostitution, Black brothers to a life of homosexuality-- the great plan of genocide which is obviously and most definitely forced upon the Black community of the four corners of the earth.

Revolution is only to change that, to build a community of peace, love, and harmony, to alleviate all the pressures set forth by the white man's power to destroy, humiliate, and degrade some of the most beautiful people of the world, if we are only given a chance. We have been subjected to all which is stated and then far more beyond human comprehension--the repeated and constant attempts to destroy the most prominent, well-respected human race of people alive. It is a well known fact that our system spends much more time, effort, and money on material joys.

The presidential motorcade runs well over two million dollars--that unnecessary security and flamboyant need of our racist, fascist, prejudiced system-- it spends more to protect one man against the masses of people who only desire, to determine their destiny than it does on the people's needs.

Peace and Power
Mori

January 30, 1971

Right on Comrade:
“All Power to the People!” Long live the Mighty People's Revolution!
“Power! Peace! Love! Freedom!”
Again it has happened! Again the racist, fascist, imperialist, capitalist system is using its Political Machine to railroad innocent men! Again men must suffer the abuse, degradation and the racist hate of the System because the system still has not learned to accept its own blame, for the circumstances and situations that it causes.

Six Political Prisoners have been indicted for alleged crimes which are supposed to have happened during Auburn Concentration Camp Disturbances! A great political issue was made over the disturbances, but yet, nothing was mentioned about the guards who brought drugs into the Concentration Camp and sold them to inmates! No one was indicted for that! Nothing was mentioned about the brutal beating of prisoners! No one was indicted for that either! Nothing was mentioned about the rats and roaches and the inhuman living conditions! Nothing was mentioned about the rampant homosexuality, condoned by the administration! Nothing was mentioned about the abnormal existence of a prisoner's life! Nothing was mentioned about the racism! No! Nothing was mentioned and no one was indicted for all of this, but, this and much more were the causes for the Disturbances! How much are men to take? How much can a man stand?

And now in the aftermath, after the Auburn Six have been indicted, it's worse! Now the beatings are

The following letter was sent out of Auburn prison through Attorney Jeff Glenn from Charles Leon Hill. He introduced himself in court February 24 as Leon Writer for the People.

February 13, 1971

Greetings to the brothers and sisters,

All power to the people. Right on! Power to the comrades. Received the telegram this evening. (He is referring to a telegram YAWF sent the prisoners telling them of a federal suit that was to be filed to sue the prison guards for beating the Auburn 6 in court, February 8.-ed.) It's boss to know you are taking care of business. It's fuel to our fire.

We are following the advice of the letter. Tonight we will institute a class to get all the facts together and get ourselves together if we are cross examined by the District Attorney on the 22nd. I will act as the District Attorney and be awful severe so there won't be any slip-ups on the 22nd of this month.

Comrades Sharon Chin (of the YAWF Third World Caucus-ed.) and the other sisters and brothers inspired us on Tuesday (the day of the YAWF demonstration in Auburn.-ed.).

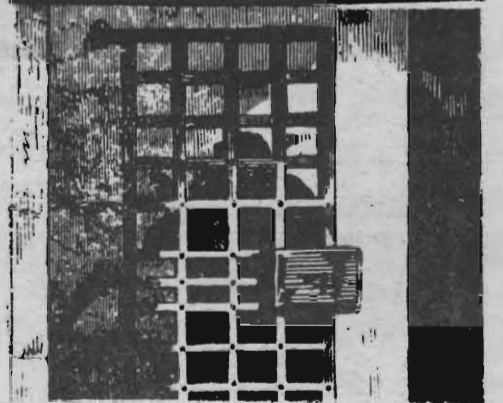
They made us know the beauty and joy of being part of the people's struggle. Who are we but the wishes of the people's expression? We have a duty to continue to be worthy of the people's concern and we live and will die to be a part of this honorable station.

These dogs refuse to give us the packages the brothers and sisters sent us. They refuse to allow us to write the YAWF even though Sharon Chin is on the court record that she is our legal assistant. We will make these fascist dogs follow the law they got their power from.

Brother Jeff, we the Auburn 6, and all the prisoners of Auburn concentration camp who dare to stand tall and defy the pig regime, stretch our hands to you in the power embrace and our hearts, souls, will, our collective passion say to you, thank you for being a brother.

The YAWF and all the comrades throughout the planet will march side by side destroying capitalism, burying racism, offing pigs, building a brave new revolutionary haven where the people, the masses, is the highest value.

Always a brother and comrade,
Charles Leon Hill, 62401
Segregation H-2



more brutal! The gassing more often! Mace is a common everyday thing! The goon squads roll every day and, in the midst of all of this the Auburn Six sit! Sit in the den of their accusers and are under constant threat of death if we do not plead guilty.

It is with this in mind and the fact that six men are being made the scapegoats of the system, that the Auburn Six ask for any assistance that you can possibly afford us!

Right on! Power! Peace! Love! Keep On Fighting For Freedom! Freedom! It's the only thing that's worth fighting for!!!

War crimes at Auburn, N.Y.

Guards use tear gas torture on prisoners in solitary

(From the Prisoner's Solidarity Committee, Youth Against War and Fascism)

Dachau's hell has been resurrected in upstate New York. Only the name's been changed -- Auburn Prison. There, on April 18, while visiting mothers and relatives could only weep in horror, racist prison officials launched beatings and a vicious tear gas attack against prisoners trapped in their cells. When the attack finally ended 16 1/2 hours later, the prisoners were left in their cells to die.

The attack was the Rockefeller state government's response to the peaceful visit of 33 relatives of the Auburn prisoners. A chartered bus, organized by the Prisoner's Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War and Fascism, arrived in Auburn with the relatives early in the morning full of hope and happy to see their imprisoned friends and loved ones. Governor Rockefeller's prison office had promised the relatives at least one hour of visiting with the prisoners. Rockefeller lied.

Instead, when the relatives arrived, they were forced to wait in the cold outside along the sidewalks for three to four hours, barred from the waiting room inside. The guards then told them that they wouldn't be

let in. It didn't work. The relatives stayed until finally the guards were forced to let them in, one by one, over a period of another 2-1/2 hrs.

One of these visitors was Virginia Dorset, five months pregnant. She wanted to see her brother, Sharean (Michael Lewis). Sharean had been singled out by the guards as the scapegoat leader of the November 4 Auburn rebellion. He had not seen his sister in over three years. While his sister asked to see the Captain of the guards to request an extension of the one-hour visiting limit, Sharean walked outside the visitor's room to ask the same of a guard. As he did, relatives in the visiting room heard a scuffle. The guards were answering his request with a beating and gassing.

Toward the latter part of the afternoon another prisoner was brought down. He informed his mother and sister that Sharean had been beaten on the way up to his cell. After Virginia was informed of the beating and tear gassing, she demanded to see her brother, if not to talk with him -- just to see that he was alive! Despite the possibility that she might get hurt, she stood firm and stated that she would not leave the prison until she had seen her brother. She spent from 9 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m. behind the walls of Auburn Concentration Camp, but she never saw her brother again.

News of the beating spread among the relatives. At 4 p.m. some of the mothers came out of the waiting room weeping, as Mrs. Hicks began to cry, "Now they'll probably beat William" (her son).

Aki (Earl Moody) never did see his relatives who had travelled hundreds of miles. The prison officials refused to allow his relatives to visit, claiming that Earl was being denied his visit because he refused to shave his beard. From 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. his relatives waited -- and waited -- while Earl was never told why he couldn't see them.

Another relative, the father of Clarence Nivens, Jr., discovered through his visit that the prison had amputated Clarence's finger against his will. As a result, Clarence is unable to move the rest of his fingers. Now the prison authorities tell him that they will release him from Auburn's house of horrors if he signs his release papers. If Clarence signs, then Auburn Prison is cleared of any responsibility for his illegal amputation. If Clarence refuses to sign, then he'll have to max out (serve his maximum term) past August and suffer the rest of his sentence behind the walls of Auburn.

Meanwhile, Sharean had been put through a living hell. Angered over his beating, he had refused to enter his cell. The guards, enraged over his defiance, threw him into the gallery to which his cell is adjoined, along with those of Kareem (Robert Clark), Hassan (Harold Johnson), and Leon (Leon Hill) and twenty-two other prisoners. Locking the gallery, the guards began rolling in exploding canisters of tear gas, attacking not only Sharean, but also Kareem, Hassan and Leon.

The guards then told them that the attack would end when Sharean re-

entered his cell. As gas filled the gallery, Sharean crawled into his cell, but the guards only intensified the attack. A total of ten canisters were exploded, gas also being sent through the ventilators. Trapped in their cells, the prisoners had to endure the gas attack for 16 1/2 hours, from 8 p.m. Sunday night until 12:30 p.m. the next afternoon.

Left to die sprawled on the floor, Sharean was finally taken to the prison hospital on demands of a visiting YAWF organizer, Maryann Weissman. He was in an oxygen tent for three hours. The prison, however, has refused to give medical aid to Hassan and Kareem, both of whom were also badly gassed. Hassan, meanwhile, is losing his voice.

Auburn Prison and Rockefeller's government attempt to discourage the relatives, many of whom had never been able to visit the prisoners before, from coming up hundreds of miles -- but their attempts have failed. Relatives who called Auburn were told that their first visit had to be made on a weekday instead of a weekend. This arbitrary rule is a conspiracy against working people who cannot afford to take off from work. Through public transportation, it costs at least \$28 for a round trip to Auburn from New York City. And some prisoners have been transferred to more isolated prisons such as Attica, Greenhaven and Dan amora at the last moment without the relatives' notification.

The relatives spent over 14 hours for the Auburn trip and yet their visits were limited to one hour, except for the Moody family who got no visit at all. Furthermore, all visits are screened and censored so that relatives and prisoners cannot talk freely. As a result of these atrocious conditions, relatives are rising up against the discrimination against non-white peoples, against poor people and against working people.

As a first step, they have called for a press conference outside the Department of Corrections to demand an end to the conspiracy against prisoners their relatives and all oppressed people.

The walls of Auburn are under siege.



Guards stage counter demonstration while...

The Auburn 6 testify to prison cruelties

by Sharon Chin, Prisoners Solidarity Committee of YAWF

AUBURN, N.Y., March 24 — The hearing of the Auburn 6 has now gone through its third week. Six brothers who are indicted on charges that stem from the November 4 rebellion at Auburn State Prison are filing a suit against the State because their constitutional rights have been violated. They have testified to beatings, mactings, tear gasings and extreme mental torture at the hands of the guards.

On Saturday, March 13, after the first week of the hearing, the reactionary Mayor and City Council instigated a fascist counter-demonstration against supporters of the Auburn 6 who have been organized by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism. Over 100 wives of the guards demonstrated outside of the prison while the hacks stood across the street watching and cheering them on. The wives carried signs like "Convict the Six" and "Re-

member Nov. 4!" Altogether, the hacks and their families numbered about 300.

Not intimidated by this fascist mobilization, YAWF held a demonstration in support of prisoners and prison rebellions at the same time, as scheduled. People came from Buffalo, Syracuse, Oneonta, Ithaca and Auburn to support this demonstration. In a spirited picket line, about 170 strong, chants were raised like, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Auburn Prison's gotta go!" and "Free the Six, free Angela, free Ericka, stop the war against Black America." The chants were so loud that they completely drowned out the noise from the opposition.

In true racist fashion the guards would yell, "Kill 120 Blacks! kill all Blacks!" From time to time, one of them would dash over to the YAWF picket line and try to snatch a banner from a demonstrator. The Auburn Police were there and put on the guise of keeping their guard friends from attacking the other demonstra-

tors. But the YAWF demonstration was extremely militant in the face of this fascist opposition.

During the second week of the trial the guards were on the stand. They claimed that they never beat the prisoners, never called them "nigger" and "held no grudges" against the inmates whatsoever. However, under cross-examination numerous discrepancies were exposed.

Toward the end of the week the Attorney General pulled a surprise. He called two of the prosecution witnesses, Susan Higa and myself as his witnesses. (We had earlier testified for the prisoners about the beatings we had witnessed right in the courtroom during a previous hearing on their cases. Our testimony was so strong that we were not even cross examined at that time.) He questioned us about membership in YAWF and briefly about the beatings we witnessed in Cayuga County Court on February 9.

On the stand I answered the question as to what YAWF was by saying it was an organization which fought against imperialism, racism, the war in Vietnam and the war against Black America and that we felt the struggle of prisoners was part of this war. I also said that Black people were treated unjustly outside of prison and I had no reason to believe that this unjust treatment would be anything but intensified in prison.

During the third week of testimony, many more gaps have been found in the guards' testimony. The lawyers, Lewis Steele, Jeff Glen and Liz Fisher, are doing a great job of exposing the lies, but we know that the courts are run by those who oppress the prisoners. Any victory here will not truly be a legal victory but a people's victory, a victory won by our struggle for the prisoners in the streets!

The people will free the Auburn 6 and all political prisoners!!!

relatives protest Auburn beatings

NEW YORK, April 22— The enraged parents, wives and sisters of brutalized Auburn prisoners called a press conference outside of the office of the Department of Corrections here today to protest the beating and gassing of prisoners at Auburn State prison last Sunday, April 18. The sidewalk press conference drew crowds of passersby as well as reporters to hear firsthand accounts of prison terror.

On April 18 the relatives had gone up to Auburn on a bus organized by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism. Many of them were to see their imprisoned brothers, husbands and sons for the first time in years. They were kept waiting outside the prison walls for hours on end and then only allowed to see their relatives for one hour. When one of the prisoners, Sharean (Michael Lewis), protested this treatment he was clubbed and tear gassed (see doctor's report below).

Speaking here today were the parents of Sharean; a former prisoner at Auburn concentration camp who did five years there, Abdul Malik; Attorney Lou Steel, one of the lawyers who are representing the Auburn 6 (six men being framed up on charges that grew out of a prison rebellion last November 4); and Claudette



Parents and committee members at PSC press conference: (l. to r.) Sharon Chin, Sue Higa, Mrs. Vera Prout (mother of Mori), Leone White, Frances Ray, and Claudette Moody (prisoners' sisters).

Moody, a sister of Aki (Earl Moody), one of the Auburn 6).

Mrs. Vera Prout, mother of Mori (Russell Prout), also under indictment for the prison rebellion, gave a moving speech about the mistreatment of the prisoners. "What kind of democracy do you call this," she asked angrily, "when criminals who steal hundreds of thousands of dollars, like Rockefeller, are walking around free and young Black men are imprisoned and beaten for nothing? What kind of government do we have here that beats people for nothing?"

Also speaking about the constant harassment of prisoners and their families were Brenda Hicks, Sandra Nelson, Francis Ray and Leone White, all sisters of prisoners. They related that the prisoners are not allowed to get reading material from the outside, the food is inadequate, their commissary privileges have been taken away and some are even forced to live in cells with only a bucket for water and a bucket for a toilet.

The press conference was chaired by Tom Soto of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and Sue Higa, also of the PSC, told the crowd about the continuing struggle the Committee is waging to free the prisoners of the U.S. concentration camp system.

WHY WE SAY TEAR THE PRISONS DOWN!

by Tom Soto

The following article was written by Tom Soto of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee. Tom was in Attica during the rebellion as a representative of the PSC at the prisoners' request. Since that time he has written and spoken extensively on the events at Attica (see PSC newsletters 1 and 2). The article below expresses the position of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee on prisons, political prisoners and the whole question of the U.S. system of concentration camps for the poor and oppressed.

Prisons are concentration camps for the workers and oppressed peoples. What does this mean? And how do we draw such a conclusion?

First of all, let us investigate the class and national character of the prisons. It is common knowledge that 90 percent of all those incarcerated are poor, working class people; less than 1 percent are rich. Second, 85 percent of all the prisoners in American jails are non-white peoples—Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, etc. Why is there such a stupendous imbalance with respect to the racial (national) composition of the prisons? This is so because within the confines of what are called the "United States" there does not exist "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," but there exist several nations.

It is an objective deducible fact that there exists within the U.S. a privileged white oppressor nation dominated by the rich capitalist ruling class through its exclusive organization, the state apparatus (federal, state, and city governments). In addition, there are several oppressed nations and national minorities—the Black nation, the Chicano nation, the Puerto Rican nation, and others.

These oppressed nations in actuality are internal colonies of the imperialist system which also super-exploits the South Vietnamese, the Dominican, the Congo Kinshasan peoples and generally the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America who are under the yoke of imperialism. Of course the workers within the imperialist white nation are also exploited and oppressed, but not with the same degree of intensity, and certainly the people of the white community are not faced with fascist, racist terror as a normal way of life.

In addition, it would be objectively incorrect to conclude that every white person oppresses every non-white person. What objective conditions show is that the workers of all nationalities, which include the oppressed peoples (oppressed nations), are all exploited by the banks, corporations, bosses, landlords, and factory farms, that is, the capitalist ruling class. The instrument or organization which they use to enforce and legalize their exploitation of the poor is the government.

At their disposal they have a fascist, frame-up, kangaroo court system and bodies of armed men (the police and military) to terrorize and eliminate those who would oppose their "law and order." Therefore, when we analyze the nature and character of the prisons, we must first take note of whose prisons they are.

Are they the prisons of the workers? Are they the prisons of the oppressed peoples? Certainly not! They are the prisons of the rich, the capitalist class.

We live under an economic system that from its inception, two hundred years ago, has never provided full and equal employment! There has always been and will always be under this present system (capitalism) large masses of people with no means of livelihood.

The reason for this is that in order for the bosses to maintain and increase their level of profit, which they make from exploiting the working people, they must keep the wages of the workers as low as possible.

To do this, the capitalists deliberately create a large labor force of unemployed workers. There are millions of people available to work, who can't find jobs for the simple fact that there aren't any. Because of their extreme poverty, they will work for the lowest salaries when an opening finally turns up. (Through work-for-welfare programs, the state is now forcing workers to take sub-standard wages who might otherwise refuse). In this way, the bosses keep the wages of all workers down, because they can always replace a worker who demands too much

with a worker who will take much less because he or she is starving. What this in effect does is to pit one worker against another worker, dividing them, and further intensifying the exploitation of all workers, employed and unemployed.

The same tactic, to divide and conquer, is used by the bosses to divide the workers of the oppressor and the oppressed nations. The ruling capitalist class, being white, hires proportionally more white workers than non-white workers. (Non-whites have double and triple the unemployment rate of whites). In addition, the white workers are paid more than the non-white workers for the same jobs. This objectively has the effect of first, dividing the workers on the basis of nationality, and second, increasing the profits of the bosses by super-exploiting the workers of the oppressed nations!

The masses of unemployed, who consist of the Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and poor white peoples, are forced because of their ongoing poverty to commit crimes of survival. We do not support or condone robbery, muggings, blackmail, fraud, prostitution, or any other anti-social acts, but we know that if every man and woman had an education and a job with pay sufficient to meet the material needs of food, clothing, and shelter, there would be no basis for crimes and all people could be productive members of society. Therefore, the bulk of those incarcerated in the jails of the capitalist class were forced to commit their so-called crimes. They are in effect prisoners of a political system which does not offer them any legal way to survive. That is why we say that all prisoners are political prisoners.

If the poor, by their material needs, are forced to commit "crimes" to survive, should they be tried by the same capitalist parasites who force them to commit "crimes" to begin with? Do the bosses have the right to put the workers on trial? Does the ruling capitalist class have the right to try the poor for rebelling against exploitation and injustice? Does the oppressor have the right to try the oppressed? Certainly not!!! Then what is the solution to the so-called problem of the prisons?

Is the solution to incarcerate the poor, throw them into concentration camps, to be beaten, gassed, maced, forced to work at 25 cents a day, execute them as they did in Attica, Dade County, or San Quentin? Is the answer to put them in the box (solitary confinement), suspend their visiting privileges, raise their commissary prices (in those prisons where there are commissaries), transfer them to "institutions for the criminally insane" like Dannemora State Hospital, the worst of all concentration camps in New York State? The answer again is no!

There is only one solution, and that is to tear the prisons down, and free all the brothers and sisters from the hands of the greedy rich and their fascist stooges!! We say, the workers and oppressed people are the only ones who have the right and capability to truly rehabilitate the so-called criminals. The capitalist class, the oppressor nation has no right to try anyone. On the contrary, it is the working people who will ultimately try these parasites! If we were to take the position of other political tendencies, such as the so-called Communist Party, that only certain prisoners who are in jail solely for their political activities should be released, then in effect we would be saying that the Rockefellers, the Kennedys, the DuPonts, the Mellons, and the rest of the capitalist class, have a right to incarcerate the poor for crimes of survival, and we would be legitimizing the dehumanization of the rest of the brothers and sisters.

We will not give anyone up to the capitalist class. We will never legitimize the ruthless oppression meted out to the poor in the concentration camps. The poor and oppressed everywhere are struggling to take control of their own destinies. They are challenging the most repressive institutions of this society, often from inside the walls of the hellholes called prisons. The PSC stands in solidarity with these brothers and sisters, fighting the same enemy and determined to win.

All prisoners are political prisoners!
Tear the prisons down!

WHAT THE PSC DOES

by JOHN DIAZ

After the Auburn Prison rebellion last November 4, many of the brothers who were being held in segregation as punishment for the rebellion there wrote scores of letters to a lot of different organizations asking for help in exposing the brutal, inhuman treatment they were receiving, and requesting support for the struggle they were waging against the fascist prison system. Youth Against War & Fascism was the only organization that responded to the brothers' cries for help. Recognizing the need for a special group to work around the question of prisons, we formed the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, which includes prisoners and their relatives and has branches in many cities around the country.

Since its formation, the PSC has helped a great many people in a lot of different ways, and continues to do so today. For example, we help with legal aid; we send packages to the prisoners whenever we can; through lawyers we stay in contact with those incarcerated in concentration camps throughout the country; we keep the brothers and sisters informed on what's happening on the outside; we send them literature whenever possible; we mobilize people to show support for them when they go to court; we organize protests and demonstrations against the brutal, repressive and oppressive penal system; we try to mobilize support for the demands they make and the rights they are supposed to have; we help them get jobs when they are released; we raise funds for bail; and we provide transportation so that their relatives can visit them.

Our activities began around the case of the Auburn 6. These six brothers were picked out and charged with being the leaders of the rebellion at Auburn Concentration Camp. The racist authori-

ties have been trying to use these brothers as examples of what they'll do to the other prisoners if they don't stay in their place. Two of these brothers recently became eligible for bail and thanks to the untiring efforts of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, Hassan and Sharean are now out on bail.

TRANSPORTATION FUND

Since last winter, when we mobilized hundreds of people to demonstrate, time after time, in Auburn, N.Y., for the prisoners, our activities have become known to prisoners throughout the state and in many parts of the country. And when the Attica uprising occurred, the prisoners requested that the PSC be there to speak in their behalf.

One of the most pressing problems for prisoners and their families is the problem of relatives getting to see their loved ones in the prisons. For this reason, the PSC has made transportation for relatives to various prisons one of its primary activities. Many relatives are not able to see their loved ones for months and sometimes years at a time because they are too poor to make the long trip.

The fact is that the ruling class in this country has deliberately built the so-called prisons (which are nothing more than concentration camps for the poor) far from the populated areas. This is done in order to isolate the struggling brothers and sisters, who are prisoners in this society because of circumstances forced upon them by the capitalist system of oppression and exploitation.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee not only unconditionally supported the demands of the brothers in Auburn and Attica, but at the same time we raised money to charter buses to take relatives to see their loved ones. Immediately after the Attica massacre, when many relatives did not know if their people were dead or alive, the PSC took a busload of relatives to the prison. At times when we don't have enough money to charter a bus (which costs between \$450 and \$500), we use our own cars for transportation.

The problem of transportation for relatives is particularly pressing because all the brothers and sisters confined in these concentration camps are poor. Their families don't even have the money to supply them with proper legal aid, nor to send them packages, let alone visit them hundreds of miles away. And when they somehow do manage to visit, the people face the racist harassment of the prison officials, who make them wait hours before the prisoner is brought down—if he or she is brought down at all.

I have experienced all of these hassles myself because my father recently got out of prison after spending nine years of his life incarcerated. During those nine long years, I think I visited him

less than eight times and, needless to say, it wasn't because I didn't want to. But I have also seen this terrible harassment of relatives on many trips organized by the PSC. Yet, in spite of all the hassles, the prison officials can't take away the happiness felt in a mother's heart to be able to see her son, or in a wife's heart to be able to see her husband, after not being able to see them for months, or sometimes years. It really made me feel good to see how happy the relatives are to be able to visit their loved ones.

Thanks to the many friends who have donated funds, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee has been able to take relatives to Attica, Auburn, Comstock, and Green Haven prisons. Another trip to Attica is now being planned for the first week in November. A chartered bus to Clinton is also being planned for some time late in November.

There are brothers and sisters incarcerated in the concentration camps who need help in so many ways. The Prisoners Solidarity Committee will try to aid them and their families in every way possible. As long as these so-called prisons exist, the PSC will be around to help the poor people incarcerated, and eventually the PSC will be instrumental in either tearing down these prisons, or using them to incarcerate the real criminals in this society.

OTHER PSC OFFICES

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee is urgently in need of funds, for: legal expenses for the Auburn Six trial, Relatives' Transportation Fund, and general support of all prisoners.

Please send donations to:

Prisoners Solidarity Committee
58 W. 25 St.
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10010 (212 - 929-3932)

Anyone wishing to help in the work of the PSC should also contact us at the following chapters:

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
1024 Jackson Street

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
P.O. Box 8875 (617) 661-0345

CLEVELAND, OHIO
Box 2576, East Cleveland (216) 231-8456

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
2515 Woodward (313) 962-4979

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
150 E. Juneau Avenue (414) 273-3089

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
P.O. Box 972 (302) 656-8451

DEMONSTRATE FEB. 5
2PM
Washington Square Park
Clinton & Court
Rochester
march to the jail
COME TO COURT
FILL THE COURT ROOM

from behind the walls of
auburn concentration camp

prisoners call out: freedom

order pamphlet from:
PRISONERS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE of YAWF
58 West 25 Street
New York, N.Y. 10010

\$1.00

For information contact:

Rochester Prisoners Solidarity Committee
171 State St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14614
(716) 546-6429

Buffalo Prisoners Solidarity Committee
939 Main St.
Buffalo, N.Y.

(716) 882-1112

FREE THE AUBURN SIX !!