

Abolish Rockefeller's Prison Committee

Immediate Implementation of the Prisoner's Demands

We are speaking here today as representatives of the Women's Bail Fund, a group of women who, over the past 14 months, have raised bail for 150 sisters detained in the Correctional Facility for Women on Rikers Island.

This committee is a fraud because it is a tool of those people who appointed it, because it dupes the public and co-opts the prisoners' demands, and because, as they sit here today the crimes committed against prisoners are continuing.

How can prison reform be initiated by a committee appointed by state politicians and Rockefeller, with Attica's blood still on his hands? These men are responsible for the prison conditions which the prisoners rebel against and these conditions still exist today. These are the same men who have cut the welfare allowances so that women have to steal to feed their children. These are the very men who allow drugs to flow freely to keep poor people powerless. How can we allow these men, who have murdered 43 brothers at Attica, to determine prison reform?

Why does this committee have to exist? Prisoners have staked their lives in prison rebellions as a last resort to make known the crimes and oppressive conditions of the prisons. Attica! Tombs! Rikers! Auburn! Clinton! None of their demands have been implemented. Instead the prisoners have been harassed, assaulted, placed in solitary confinement, lost their good time, have been murdered!! for calling for human dignity. These crimes we have just listed are continuing every day in all prisons.

We demand that this select committee be abolished! In its place, we call for a tribunal of prisoners and people from their communities that can put an end to the State's crimes of assault, torture, and murder of prisoners.

We demand the immediate implementation of the demands of prisoners.

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