

**DEMANDS**



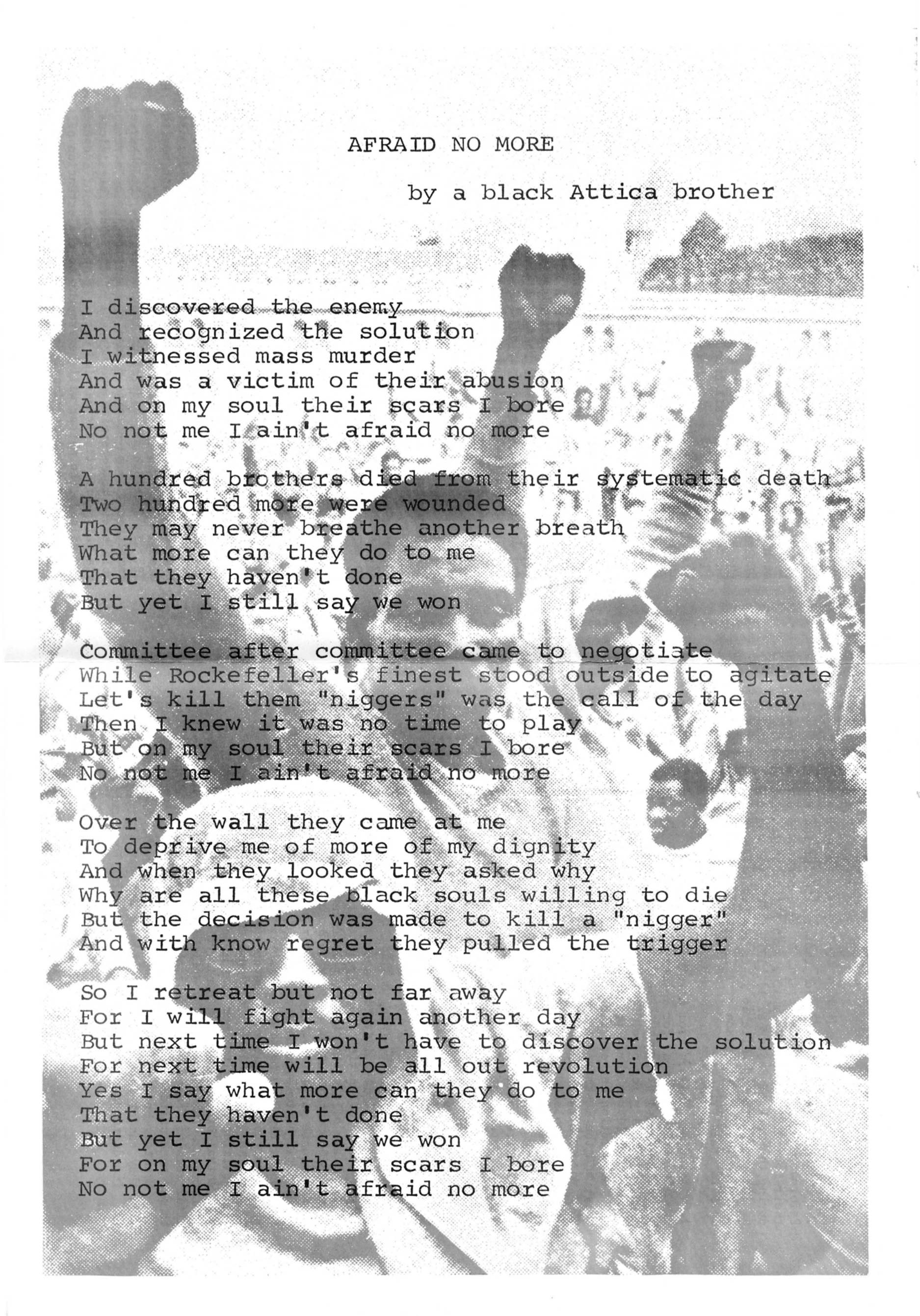
**ALDERSON**

**ATTICA**

Most of the following twenty-eight demands were originally raised in May 1971 by the inmates of the State Prison at Attica, New York. It was the lack of response from the prison administration which led to the inmates' uprising the following September 9-13.

1. Provide adequate food, water and shelter for all inmates.
2. Inmates shall be permitted to return to their cells or to other suitable accommodations or shelter under their power. The observer committee shall monitor the implementation of this operation.
3. Grant complete administrative amnesty to all persons associated with this matter. By administrative amnesty the state agrees:
  - a) Not to take any adverse parole actions, administrative proceedings, physical punishment or other type of harassment, such as holding inmates incommunicado, segregating inmates, or keeping them in isolation or in 24-hour lockup.
  - b) The state will grant legal amnesty in regard to all civil actions that could arise from this matter.
  - c) It is agreed that the State of New York and all its departments divisions and subdivisions, including the State Department of Corrections and the Attica Correctional Facility and its employees and agents, shall not file or initiate any criminal complaint or act as complainant in any criminal action of any kind or nature relating to property, property damage or property-related crimes arising out of the incidents at the Attica Correctional facility during September 9,10 and 11, 1971.
4. Recommend the application of the New York State Minimum Wage Law standards to all work done by inmates. Every effort will be made to make the records of payments available to all inmates.
5. Establish by Oct. 1, a permanent ombudsman service for the facility, staffed by appropriate persons from the neighboring communities.
6. Allow all New York State prisoners to be politically active without intimidation or reprisal.
7. Allow true religious freedom.
8. End all censorship of newspapers, magazines and other publications from publishers, unless it is determined by qualified authority, which includes the ombudsman, that the literature in question presents a clear and present danger to the safety and security of the institution. Institution spot-censoring only of letters.
9. Allow all inmates at their own expense to communicate with anyone they please.
10. Institute realistic effect rehabilitation programs for all inmates according to their offense and personal needs.
11. Modernize the inmate education system, including the establishment of a Latin library.

12. Provide an effective narcotics treatment program for all prisoners requesting such treatment.
13. Provide or allow adequate legal assistance to all inmates requesting it, or permit them to use inmate legal assistance of their choice in any proceeding whatsoever. In all such proceedings inmates shall be entitled to appropriate due process of law.
14. Reduce cell time, increase recreation time and provide better recreation facilities and equipment, hopefully by Nov. 1, 1971.
15. Provide a healthy diet reduce the number of pork dishes, increase fresh fruit daily.
16. Provide adequate medical treatment for every inmate. Engage either a Spanish-speaking doctor or interpreters who will accompany Spanish-speaking inmates to medical interviews.
17. Institute a program for the recruitment and employment of a significant number of black and Spanish-speaking officers.
18. Establish an inmate grievance commission, comprised of one elected inmate from each company, which is authorized to speak to the administration concerning grievances and develop other procedures for inmate participation in the operation and decision-making processes of the institution.
19. Investigate the alleged expropriation of inmate funds and the use of profits from the metal and other shops.
20. The State Commissioner of Correctional Service will recommend that the penal law be changed to cease administrative resentencing of inmates returned for parole violation.
21. Recommend that Menenchino hearings be held promptly and fairly. (This concerns the right of prisoners to be represented legally on parole-violation changes.)
22. Recommend necessary legislation and more adequate funds to expand work relief programs.
23. End approved lists for correspondents and visitors.
24. Remove visitation screens as soon as possible.
25. Institute a 30-day maximum for segregation arising out of any one offense. Every effort should be geared toward restoring the individual to regular housing as soon as possible, consistent with safety regulations.
26. Paroled inmates shall not be charged with parole violations for moving traffic violations of driving without a license unconnected with any other crimes.
27. Permit access to outside dentists and doctors at the inmates' own expense within the institution where possible and consistent with scheduling problems, medical diagnosis and health needs.
28. It is expressly understood that members of the observer committee will be permitted into the institution on a reasonable basis to determine whether all of the above provisions are being effectively carried out. If questions of adequacy are raised, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Correctional Services for clearance.



AFRAID NO MORE

by a black Attica brother

I discovered the enemy  
And recognized the solution  
I witnessed mass murder  
And was a victim of their abusion  
And on my soul their scars I bore  
No not me I ain't afraid no more

A hundred brothers died from their systematic death  
Two hundred more were wounded  
They may never breathe another breath  
What more can they do to me  
That they haven't done  
But yet I still say we won

Committee after committee came to negotiate  
While Rockefeller's finest stood outside to agitate  
Let's kill them "niggers" was the call of the day  
Then I knew it was no time to play  
But on my soul their scars I bore  
No not me I ain't afraid no more

Over the wall they came at me  
To deprive me of more of my dignity  
And when they looked they asked why  
Why are all these black souls willing to die  
But the decision was made to kill a "nigger"  
And with know regret they pulled the trigger

So I retreat but not far away  
For I will fight again another day  
But next time I won't have to discover the solution  
For next time will be all out revolution  
Yes I say what more can they do to me  
That they haven't done  
But yet I still say we won  
For on my soul their scars I bore  
No not me I ain't afraid no more

The following are the 42 demands that inmates at the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, W. Va., presented during their four day sit-in in sympathy with Attica State prisoners during the week of September 14, 1971. Tear gas was used as inmates protested while 66 so-called "ring leaders" were moved to the Federal Prison at Ashland, Ky., to avoid transfers to state prisons.

1. Immediate answers from parole board.
2. Sufficient reasons for revocation of parole dates.
3. Reasons for progresses and expirations.
4. Possibility for parole for inmates serving flat time, primarily on narcotics charges.
5. Cooperation between the parole board, parole officers, and the institutional staff.
6. More contracts for half-way houses.
7. The establishment of work release programs in the interests of the residents, complying with policy statements W7500.2 and 7500.3 which state that work release programs may be authorized at this institution.
8. The retainment of meritorious and statutory good days upon parole or parole violation, and that you revise policy statement W7400.6 so that residents may retain these dates.
9. Employ more caseworkers.
10. The initiation of a youth program.
11. Possibility of therapeutic counseling for all residents.
12. More vocational training.
13. Educational rehabilitation should be appropriated enough funds to function properly in this institution. We are aware of a cut in budget for educational facilities from \$18,000 to \$11,000.
14. Standard pay rates to be raised.
15. The right to earn more meritorious good days.
16. Bonus days and monetary award for blood donors.
17. Opportunities to earn bonus days when resident has no lock, no disciplinaries, and outstanding work performances.
18. Revision of meritorious award and days for the hospital, the Central Dining Room, the Laundry, and other jobs not industries. The residents not eligible for recommendation after working 3 months should be allowed immediate job change to one more suitable for her.
19. Monetary bonuses to supplement those under the Youth Act when they cannot earn days.
20. Immediate days and pay for Central Dining Room and Laundry.

21. The appropriation of more M.S.A. salary.
22. No age limit to be set on M.S.A. pay for attending school.
23. The appropriation of funds for emergency furloughs (critical illnesses, family deaths, etc.).
24. The opportunity to earn furloughs according to conduct records.
25. No loss of previous meritorious days and pay upon disciplinary action for women not working in industry as well.
26. Pay only to be subtracted for days off the job.
27. We are asking for the criteria which decides when a resident goes through the step system.
28. No partiality concerning eligibility for the honor cottages.
29. The open mail policy be put into effect.
30. An updated law library complying with policy statement W2001.1 which states that inmates have reasonable access to legal materials.
31. Sufficient diet planning (pork-free, bland, salt-free, etc.).
32. Washers and dryers in all cottages.
33. To make emergency phone calls under lock-in status.
34. Freedom of choice of cottages.
35. Disinfectant for cottages, etc.
36. A hospital dining room.
37. Medical examinations should be prerequisite to job assignments, especially for the Central Dining Room.
38. Larger hospital staff and more precise examinations.
39. More complete stock on commissary and more name brand items.
40. Lower prices on commissary items.
41. Sufficient reasons for severe disciplinary punishment and that you comply with policy statement W7400.1 which states that security strip rooms are to be used only when a resident has lost control, and has to be put in isolation.
42. Right of choice of representation, complying with policy statement W2001.1 which states that inmates have reasonable access to legal counsel.

In conclusion, the overall system of prisons from court to institution is designed primarily against a selective group of people, as statistics prove. The ultimate goal is abolition of the prison system. The biggest thing we want is change in this system.

