

August 15, 1990

Dear Friends--

Greetings of solidarity.

We are writing to tell you our case is ending. We have reached a plea agreement with the government that we believe is the best resolution for all of us. (See enclosed article on plea.) At the end of October we will be sentenced by Judge Harold Greene in U.S. District Court. Our sentencing is the main subject of this letter. The plea is scheduled to take place on September 7, at 9:45 a.m.--we urge those of you who live in the Washington, D.C. area to attend if possible.

First of all, we want to thank you for your solidarity. It makes the difference between a successful struggle and a defeat. The support for Alan, the money and material aid, the demonstrations, the inclusion of U.S. political prisoners and Prisoners of War in your work, the educating and networking, the visiting and writing, and the opening of your lives to us has played a key role in overcoming the government's isolation and definition of us as "terrorists." Our experience here has enriched our lives, and we know at the deepest levels that "Solidarity is the tenderness of the people." The struggle against this case has advanced anti-repression work, and support for all political prisoners.

The October sentencing is the culmination of this case. In the sentencing, the government's political agenda is most overt. It is here that those who resist U.S. war crimes and U.S. state terrorism are defined as dangerous, as terrorists, and criminal enemies of the state. The government will attempt to teach a lesson by imposing maximum punishment. This is the most focussed moment of our confrontation with the government, and it is here that we must bring to bear our moral and political power in the form of your support.

What happens at sentencing?

The government will argue that the sentences imposed be the stiffest possible. The maximum is 15 years for Marilyn and Linda, and 20 years for Laura. They will argue that the 15 years be added on to Marilyn's 70-year and Linda's 35-year sentences. For Laura, they will argue for every possible day. In their argument to the judge they will attempt to dehumanize, depoliticize, and criminalize us and the resistance of which we are a part. They will deny that we are political prisoners. We will argue for minimum sentences, and for concurrent sentences for Linda and Marilyn. We will also argue against designation by the BOP (Bureau of Prisons) to control units and isolation.

Your action makes a difference--Sign and circulate the Sentencing Petition.

This sentencing campaign is our last as the Resistance Conspiracy case. Throughout the course of this case we have fought criminalization. The U.S. government cannot be allowed to limit dissent

and militant action by prosecuting us and others for resistance to its criminal policies and practices. This system and those who rule it are the real criminals--not us, nor our movement.

We ask that you sign the enclosed petition to Judge Greene. We ask that you get 12 signatures and send them to the Emergency Committee (P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038) by October 15. At the sentencing, we hope to be able to present 5000 or more signatures from all over the country that request our release and our return to our communities as soon as possible. This petition will give us concrete support to counter the government's sentencing arguments with our own.

The other elements of this campaign include the submission of letters from family and friends supporting our release; letters from jurists opposing the disproportionate sentences given to left-wing political prisoners; human rights activists attending the proceedings. After our sentencing in October, we will be separated. The case will end but the struggle continues. There will be a myriad of ways that work will go on to free Prisoners of War and political prisoners.

One way is to expose the lengthy sentences Prisoners of War and political prisoners are given, and the vindictive manipulation of parole. Almost all political prisoners are denied parole and forced to do their entire sentences in unusually harsh conditions. Out of 150 political prisoners and POW's (by our estimates), at least 30 will be eligible for either Federal or state parole in the middle 1990's. Over the next period, we hope sentencing/parole support work will become part of the political prisoner support work. We urge you to find out how to participate as these campaigns for release develop.

Immediate Struggles for Human Rights and Justice

There are 4 human rights campaigns we want to bring to your attention and urge you to actively participate in.

**STOP PENNSYLVANIA FROM EXECUTING POLITICAL PRISONER
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

We believe the case of Mumia is the most urgent of all the political prisoner struggles in the U.S. today. He faces the death penalty. The Governor of Pennsylvania recently signed the first death warrant for execution since the reinstatement of the death penalty in that state. Mumia is high on the list. There is not much time, his appeals are rapidly being exhausted, and he will be executed without massive protest. Mumia is a MOVE supporter, a former Black Panther, and former president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists. Mumia was known as the "Voice of the Voiceless." He was targetted by the Philadelphia police for his support of MOVE, attacked by the police, and then convicted of murder by an all-white jury. At his sentencing, the government argued for death based on his previous membership in the Black Panther Party. If the state murders Mumia, it will be the first politically-motivated execution since the Rosenbergs. For more information, contact the New Afrikan Network, Box 90604, Washington, D.C. 20090 or the Tribunal Offices, 24 E. 116th St., New York, NY 10029.

**HUMANITARIAN RELEASE FOR ALAN BERKMAN

The fight for Alan's release is critical for him to survive the chemotherapy treatment he is undergoing for Hodgkin's Disease (lymphatic cancer). This disease demands a particularly aggressive chemotherapy program, which has resulted in a severe deterioration of his health. His condition will continue to be precarious, due in part to his incarceration. The U.S. Parole Commission has denied his first release request, but legal remedies have not been exhausted, and another parole hearing will likely occur soon. This campaign will intensify over the next few months. We need him out! (See enclosed)

**REPATRIATE SILVIA BARALDINI TO ITALY

A committee has been formed to demand that the U.S. Justice Department uphold its treaty agreements and release Silvia to the Italian government. Silvia is an anti-imperialist political prisoner, and an Italian citizen. After her conviction for support for the Black Liberation Army and participation in the liberation of Assata Shakur from prison, she was sentenced to 40 years in prison. The Italian government wants her released to them, where they will in turn release her. The Justice Department has refused because they do not think 8 years in U.S. prisons (including 2 at the infamous High Security Unit at Lexington) is enough punishment. For more information, contact the Committee for the Return of Silvia Baraldini to Italy, c/o Out of Control, Box 30, 3543--18th Street, San Francisco, California 94110.

**BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF WAR

On December 7-10, 1990, at Hunter College in New York City, the first International Tribunal on Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War will be held before a panel of renowned international jurists. Co-sponsored by Hunter's Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies, this activity is being convened by a broad grouping of human rights activists and organizations from the religious and progressive communities. The Tribunal will focus on exposing the violations of human rights of U.S. political prisoners and POW's committed by the U.S. government. The testimony and judgment of the Tribunal will serve as a catalyst to link the issue of political prisoners here with the release of political prisoners all over the world. We hope you will support and attend activities designed to publicize and build for the Tribunal, such as a literary reading by many noted authors which will occur at the New York Ethical Culture Society on October 24 or 25 in Manhattan. Most importantly, we urge you to attend the Tribunal itself; it will provide a unique opportunity for education and organizing around political prisoners/POW's. For information, contact Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon, Tribunal Office, 24 E. 116th St., New York, NY 10029.

THANK YOU.

We know we will hear from you.

We know the work will continue.

We are optimistic that the people are developing new strategies for effective resistance in the 1990's.

We remain dedicated to resisting. RESISTING injustice, intervention, genocide, white supremacy, exploitation, women's oppression, and homophobia IS NOT A CRIME. No Justice, No Peace!