

STATEMENT FROM "RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE" DEFENDANTS

JULY, 1988

On May 11, 1988, we were indicted for seeking "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means." The indictment charges us with conspiracy and with aiding and abetting the bombings of a number of military and governmental buildings—resulting in property damage, but no injuries to anyone.

What are the policies and practices referred to?

- The U.S. practice of slaughtering thousands of Nicaraguan civilians through the proxy contra army.
- The U.S. invasion of Grenada, the first Black socialist non-aligned nation in this hemisphere.
- The U.S. policy of establishing brutal dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Chile that murder their own people to make their countries safe for U.S. investment.
- 90 years of U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico.
- The U.S. policy of aiding and abetting the racist governments of Israel and South Africa.
- The centuries-old practice of racial genocide and oppression of Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian and Native American peoples here, and of promoting racism and racist violence.
- The U.S. government's denial that Prisoners of War and political prisoners are held in U.S. jails, targeted for isolation and destruction.

Do we want to change these policies and practices?

Wholeheartedly. They violate every tenet of international law and human decency. They cause death, destruction, poverty and suffering for millions. It is a disgrace that we, the people of the U.S., allow our government to pursue them. To do nothing is to become tacit accomplices in these crimes and practices.

Each of us charged in this indictment has committed our life to fighting for social justice here and to extending solidarity to national liberation movements around the world. Each one of us has been involved in supporting the just struggle of the Vietnamese people, in fighting against the Ku Klux Klan and racist

violence, in supporting the struggle for Black liberation/New Afrikan independence and for Puerto Rican independence. We have participated in and supported the movement for women's liberation, and sought an end to gay and lesbian oppression. We have been anti-imperialist activists and organizers for many years.

This has been our life's work, and it has brought us into continuing conflict with the U.S. government. It has also linked us with the millions of people around the world who struggle for freedom and against exploitation. Fighting against poverty and oppression, and inspired by a vision of collective and personal liberation, people from South Africa to Palestine to Central America to the ghettos of the U.S. are struggling to change the conditions of their lives. With them we say, "No Justice, No Peace."

The U.S. government fears the growth of the anti-imperialist movement that we've helped to build over the past 20 years. We have been targeted by the F.B.I. for continuing harassment, surveillance and imprisonment.

Each of us has been an anti-imperialist political prisoner for more than three years. We have been condemned to sentences as long as 70 years. Laura Whitehorn is now the longest-held political prisoner in "preventive detention." We have battled cancer, psychological torture, and isolation, buried in the worst prisons in the U.S. along with hundreds of Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Native American and Northamerican political prisoners and Prisoners of War.

We are neither terrorists nor criminals. We are guilty of *no* criminal activity.

Now we face these new charges. They were brought more than three years and 14 prosecutions after the last of us was arrested. The charges are couched in language that targets our politics and associations. The government makes no claim to know who actually did the bombings. The Reagan administration wants to stage a show trial that will not only have a chilling effect on activists here, but will also divert attention from the North/Pointexter trials going on down the hall from ours.

We will fight this politically motivated indictment, but we expect no justice. We are each held in solitary confinement, unable to meet together or with our lawyers to prepare a defense. We, accused of acts of resistance against state terrorism by the U.S. government, acts which themselves caused no casualties, are labeled "terrorists," forced to come to court draped in shackles, and displayed behind a bullet-proof plexiglass partition. North and Pointexter, whose actions merit a trial for war crimes and crimes

against humanity, are called heroes by politicians, and come to court draped in the blessings of Ronald Reagan and with the benefit of millions of dollars from right-wing backers.

The government is relentless in its pursuit of those whose love and concern extend across national and racial barriers, and whose commitment leads them to active resistance. That is why the Sanctuary and Plowshares movements have been targeted by the Reagan administration. That is why a group of Puerto Rican *independentistas* are now facing charges in Hartford, Connecticut. That is why a group of working class anti-imperialist activists currently face sedition charges in Springfield, Massachusetts. That is why a New Afrikan Freedom Fighter, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, and one of us, Marilyn Buck, were recently tried in New York.

If political prisoners can be treated as less than human—as outside the bounds of human decency—how will other sectors of the political community be treated when their voices become too loud?

The Reagan administration wants our prosecution to serve as a warning to those who demand justice and human rights.

We say as long as this government tramples on the rights, the lives, and the dignity of human beings here or anywhere else in the world, there will always be resistance. That is not a criminal conspiracy—it is a movement of solidarity and resistance, of love and hope.

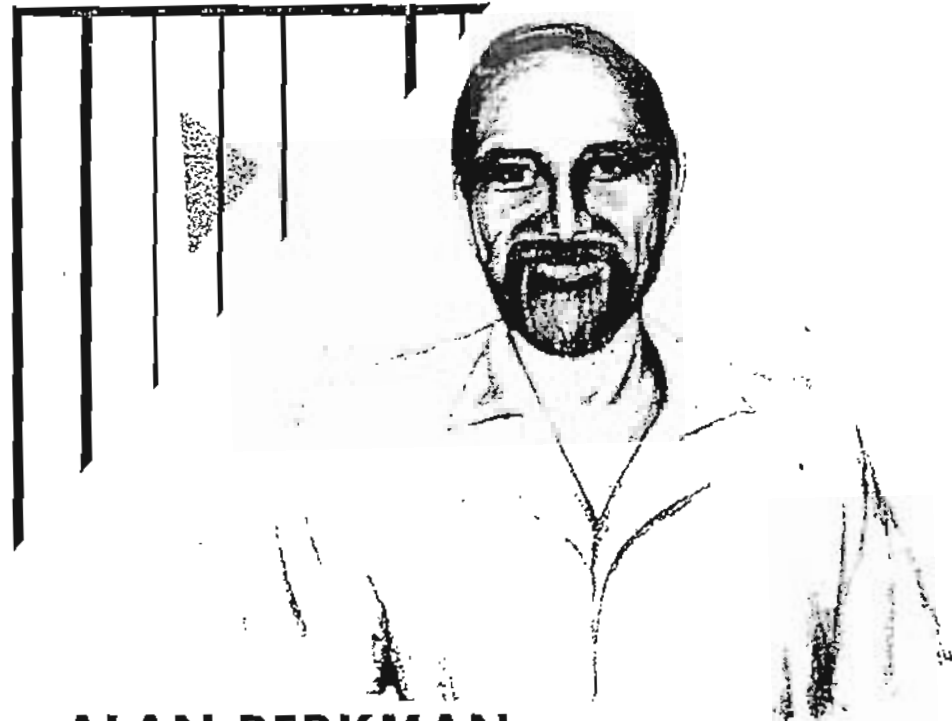
NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!

*“the state can have no case
there is no case
against freedom”*

—Thulani Davis

From anti-imperialist political prisoners:

Alan Berkman	Marilyn Buck	Susan Rosenberg
Timothy Blunk	Linda Evans	Laura Whitehorn



ALAN BERKMAN

Born September 4, 1945, Middletown, N.Y. Physician. Married with two children. In 1960s active in the student anti-war movement and the civil rights movement. Used medical skills and political experience to build solidarity with the Black Liberation and Black Power movements and the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, as well as international liberation struggles such as those in southern Africa. As a physician, served in oppressed communities in New York, Alabama and Boston and visited numerous political prisoners to expose human rights abuses. Went to provide support and medical care during the Native American occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973.

1982—Imprisoned for nine months as a grand jury resister for refusing to collaborate with an investigation of the Black liberation movement. Indicted for providing medical care clandestinely to a wounded revolutionary after a shoot-out with the police. Went underground before the trial.

1985—Captured by the FBI in Philadelphia. Accused by the FBI of acts claimed by the Armed Resistance Movement and the Red Guerrilla Resistance. Held in preventive detention for two years until trials in 1987, despite a newly diagnosed cancer requiring specialized care. Convicted of weapons possession, bail jumping and an expropriation and sentenced to a total of 12 years.



TIM BLUNK

Born May 21, 1957. Grew up in New Jersey. Mother is a teacher/musician; father, a Presbyterian minister. Graduated Hampshire College. Student activist in Western Massachusetts during the late 70's, working in solidarity with Southern African, Palestinian and Black liberation movements and campus human rights struggles.

1979—traveled to Cuba and Central America. Organized resistance to Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist violence in the Northeast. In New York City, employed as a day care teacher; worked in solidarity with Puerto Rican independence movement.

1981—arrested and beaten by police in anti-apartheid direct action against South African Springbok rugby team's U.S. tour. Served one year.

1984—arrested with Susan Rosenberg. They took political position of captured members of anti-imperialist clandestine resistance, using "necessity defense" based upon international law; convicted of possession of weapons, explosives and false identification. Both received unprecedented sentences of 58 years. Began serving sentence at USP Leavenworth; started M.A. program in political economy through University of Kansas.

1986—sent to maximum security federal penitentiary at Marion when accused by FBI of escape conspiracy with Puerto Rican POW Oscar Lopez Rivera and New Afrikan POW Kojo Bomani Sababu. Active in organizing efforts to end Marion lockdown and close the Control Units. Working to encourage publication/exposure of artistic and cultural work by POWs and political prisoners in the U.S.

MARILYN BUCK

Marilyn Buck was born in Texas, a segregated state, in 1947. She is the daughter of a nurse and an Episcopal priest who was active in the Civil Rights struggle in the 1960s. Her political and social awareness was heightened by her frustration at the limitations placed on her as a woman. It was this sense of inequality which enabled her to understand that racism and domination was an integral part of U.S. society that could not be changed through voting. She became active in protests against the war and racism. In 1967 she left Texas to attend a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) Teacher-Organizer training course in Chicago. She remained to act as a co-editor of *New Left Notes*, the SDS national newspaper. She also participated with other women in SDS in insuring that the issue of women's liberation become part of the SDS national program.



The Vietnamese struggle against U.S. aggression to regain their national sovereignty, the Cuban revolution and the example of Che Guevara, and the demands for power and liberation by the colonized and oppressed peoples inside the U.S. shaped the political and social consciousness and reality of the late 1960s. SDS became an anti-imperialist organization, supporting all just struggles for national liberation, women's liberation and social/economic justice. Marilyn was a part of this process.

To her, information about people struggling for their liberation and justice is vital to educating and awakening the people of the U.S. After leaving the national office of SDS, she joined San Francisco, a radical film making and propaganda collective. Although she did some film work, she was mainly involved in using films as an organizing aid, at community meetings, high school student groups, worker's committees and even in the streets. Seeing the reality of people struggling for their homelands, to educate their people, to gain control of their own labor and human dignity gave the viewers a sense of the power of collective organization and the will of a people who are not afraid to fight for freedom and justice. Marilyn also found courage and inspiration from watching people, particularly women, who took a step to their own liberation as they sought to liberate and build their nations.

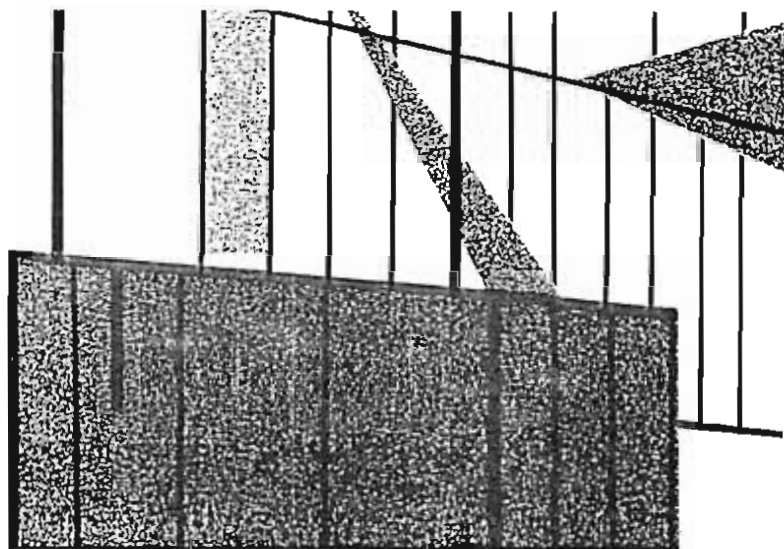
She also participated in international solidarity groups in support of the Vietnamese, the Palestinians and the Iranian struggle against the Shah, and became increasingly involved in supporting the Native American, Mexicano and Black Liberation struggles. As an anti-imperialist activist and an advocate of socialism, she, along with many thousands, was identified in the FBI Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) files. Because of her continual support for Black liberation and an end to racism, she became a target of COINTELPRO. The FBI accused her of being a member of the Black Liberation Army (BLA) and, in 1973, she was arrested and convicted of buying two boxes of handgun ammunition. She was sentenced to 10 years, the longest sentence ever given for such an offense.

As a political prisoner she was designated as a "high security prisoner" by the U.S. government and was subjected to extraordinary measures in the name of security. After nearly 2 years in which she was kept in county jails which are notorious for inhumane conditions, she was sent to the control unit and behavior modification program at the Federal Women's Prison at Alderson, West Virginia, where she remained for more than a year. Once she was released into the general prison population, she met

Lolita Lebron, one of the 5 Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners, from whom she gained a great deal about struggle and the sacrifices necessary. She also became a licensed medical technician. In 1977 after more than 4 years in prison, and repeated parole denials she was granted a furlough, from which she did not return.

In 1979, Assata Shakur was freed from prison. Marilyn became a "suspect" as soon as the FBI believed that white Northamericans might have been involved. Then in 1981, after an unsuccessful expropriation (robbery) of a Brinks armored car, the FBI, in its role as the political police, mounted a broad sweep against the New Afrikan Independence Movement and Northamerican anti-imperialist allies. Marilyn was targetted and pursued. In 1985 she was captured. In 1987, she and Dr. Mutulu Shakur, a New Afrikan freedom fighter, were tried under a RICO conspiracy law, charged with the alleged political actions of the BLA, including the liberation of Assata Shakur and several expropriations. She was sentenced to 50 years to be served after completing a 20 year sentence. She is now awaiting trial in Washington, D.C. where she is one of seven anti-imperialists charged with conspiracy to alter and influence U.S. policy by means of violence against U.S. political and military institutions.

Despite the ever intensifying political repression, Marilyn continues to believe that the process of national liberation and the building of socialism is the hope for the future of all our children. We must Dare to struggle, Dare to Win!





SUSAN ROSENBERG

Susan has been one of the three women political prisoners imprisoned in the Lexington Small Group Isolation Unit, the first explicitly political prison in the U.S. She was born on October 5, 1955 in New York City. She has been an activist all of her adult life. While still in high school, she worked with and was greatly influenced by the Young Lords Party and the Black Panther Party. She was active in the anti-Vietnam war and women's movements. In 1976 she traveled to Cuba to build a day care center, as part of the Venceremos Brigade in solidarity with the Cuban revolution. She worked throughout the 1970s in solidarity with national liberation struggles—the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the Black Liberation Struggle and other world-wide movements for liberation. Susan is a Doctor of Acupuncture who studied with Black acupuncturists at the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America (BAAANA), a community health center in Harlem, New York, dedicated to fighting the drug plague and providing health care through acupuncture and Chinese medicine.

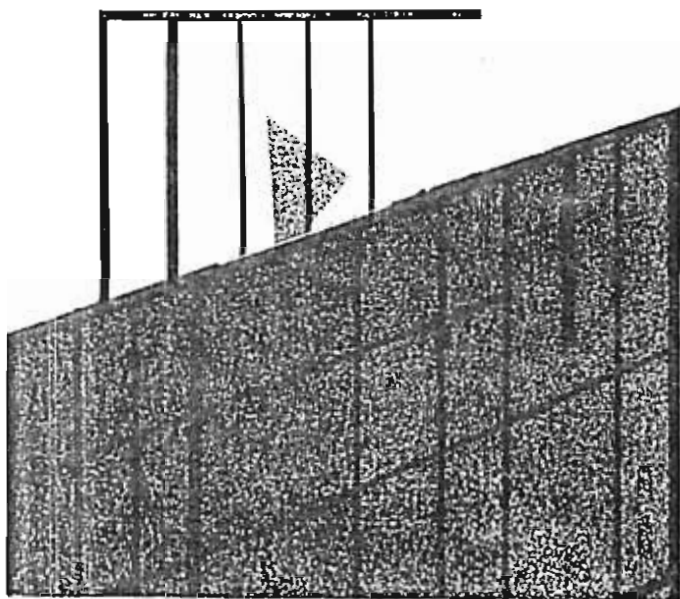
LINDA EVANS

Born May 11, 1947, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Revolutionary and anti-imperialist since 1967. SDS regional organizer against the U.S. war in Vietnam and to support the Black liberation movement. Participated in 1969 anti-war delegation to North Vietnam to receive POW's released by the Vietnamese. Political/cultural worker in guerrilla street theatre troupe, all-women's band, and women's printing/graphics collective in Texas. Active in the women's liberation movement and in the lesbian community. Organized support for struggles led by Black and Chicano/Mexicano grassroots organizations against the Ku Klux Klan, forced sterilization, and killer cops. Fought racism, white supremacy, and zionism as a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. Worked with Southern Africa, Palestinian, and Central American solidarity organizations to raise material aid for national liberation movements and to oppose apartheid and U.S. intervention. Built support for Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, and Native American POW's and political prisoners, and for the right of these nations to independence and self-determination. Began working to develop clandestine resistance movement capable of struggle on every front. Arrested May 11, 1985; convicted of harboring a fugitive and using a false name to buy 4 guns; serving a total sentence of 45 years.



Stemming from the 1979 prison liberation of Black Liberation leader Assata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard), a massive FBI Joint Terrorist Task Force investigation culminated in 1982 with the targeting of 37 activists in the Black liberation struggle and their supporters. Susan was targeted and later indicted on federal conspiracy charges. She went underground. These charges were later dropped by the government. On November 29, 1984, she was arrested with Tim Blunk, charged and convicted of possessing explosives, weapons and i.d. They were sentenced to 58 years in prison. The government's political motivation for this unjust sentence is Susan and Tim's association with the clandestine anti-imperialist resistance movement. They received sentences of unprecedented length despite the fact that they were convicted only of possession of materials and not use of them.

Susan's refusal to collaborate and change her political associations, beliefs and commitments were a stated reason for the court's refusal to lower the sentence on appeal. This refusal and her associations were the government's reasons for placing her in the Lexington isolation/control unit.



LAURA WHITEHORN

I grew up during the era of the rise and victory of national liberation struggles, so my own hatred of oppression, injustice, racism and sexism could be channeled into a productive direction: revolutionary anti-imperialism.

I've been involved in struggles for human rights for a little more than 20 years—from the Civil Rights Movement to supporting the Black Panther Party, the Black Power movement and the New Afrikan Independence Movement, to fighting the KKK and organized white supremacy, supporting the struggle for independence of Puerto Rico, to struggling for the liberation of women and full democratic rights for gay people. In Boston, I helped Black families to defend their homes against racist attack during the "anti-busing" offensive, and I helped to found the Boston/Cambridge women's school. In New York, I worked to expose illegal FBI counterintelligence (COINTELPRO) and was a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee and the Madame Binh Graphics Collective.

A visit to Viet Nam in 1975 in an anti-imperialist women's delegation confirmed my belief that socialist revolution lays the basis to fulfill human needs and creativity—including achieving peace and justice.

Over the past 20 years, the intransigence, corruption and aggression of the u.s. government has made sustained militant resistance necessary. I've struggled to be part of that, because justice is worth fighting for and the real terrorism of u.s. imperialism needs to be defeated. I've been involved in clandestine resistance because the government uses the full force of repression to destroy developing opposition.

Since my arrest in 1985, I've experienced this first-hand as a political prisoner: held in "preventive detention" without bail, kept in solitary confinement for much of the time, classified as a "special handling" prisoner, because of my political ideals and because I'm determined to live by them and fight for them.

ANTI-IMPERIALISM ★ SOCIALISM ★ WOMEN'S & GAY LIBERATION

HUMAN RIGHTS ★ SELF-DETERMINATION



INTERNATIONALISM ★ SOCIAL JUSTICE

NATIONAL LIBERATION ★ PEACE ★ SOLIDARITY ★ ANTI-RACISM

All drawings by Timothy Blunk.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Break through the isolation by writing the prisoners, and/or by putting them on your group's mailing list. Their addresses:

Alan Berkman	233-315
Tim Blunk	233-410
Marilyn Buck	233-396
Linda Evans	233-411
Susan Rosenberg	233-412
Laura Whitehorn	220-858

D.C. Jail
1901 D St., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

- Contact the following groups for more information or for speakers.

Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners Rights
P.O. Box 28181, Washington D.C. 20038-8191
202-452-5924

Emergency Committee to Defend the Human and Legal Rights of Political Prisoners
220 Fifth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Committee to Fight Repression
P.O. Box 1435, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025

- Write a check to help support the case. Make check payable to: Institute for Social Justice, Inc., earmarked for the Emergency Committee and send to above Emergency Committee address. Contributions are tax-deductible.