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1972
NRBL

The Honorable Secretary-General of the United Nations
Secretariat of the United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

We have the honor to request your aid and support on a most urgent matter of continuing gross violations of international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation, by the Government of the United States of America. Because of violations of these types, George Jackson was slain at San Quentin Prison, California, on 21 August 1971, and untold others have been killed, maimed, or otherwise damaged. In the name of humanity, we appeal to the international community to examine and to respond to the barbarity of the American prison system.

Enclosed please find two copies of our

COMMUNICATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

BY

**MS. GEORGIA JACKSON (MOTHER OF SLAIN PRISONER
GEORGE JACKSON), THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
BLACK LAWYERS, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMISSION
FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE, AND THE COALITION OF
PRISONERS' REPRESENTATIVES ON BEHALF OF
PRISONERS HELD IN THE UNITED STATES**

TO

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES,
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,**

THAT

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS VIOLATED THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PRISONERS HELD IN THE UNITED
STATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF BLACK PRISONERS,
AND IS THEREFORE IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS.**

This communication is based on reliable, direct knowledge and reliable second-hand knowledge that enables us to present clear evidence of these violations. We would be grateful if our communication could be submitted at the earliest moment to the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and thence to the full Commission on Human Rights, and all other concerned organs of the United Nations, for all possible investigation and action.

Further, Mr. Secretary-General, we wish this letter to serve as formal notification that no material or names in this communication need be kept confidential but may be circulated throughout the general United Nations community.

Please accept our thanks, Mr. Secretary-General, for all possible assistance on your part to remedy these gross violations of international law and fundamental human rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Georgia Jackson

National Conference of
Black Lawyers
Edward C. Bell
W. Haywood Burns
Henry J. Richardson III

United Church of Christ Com-
mission for Racial Justice
Irv Joyner

National Youth Congress
Fred Meely

Congress of African People
Balozi Zayd Muhammad

Coalition of Prisoners'
Representatives

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AUTHORS

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**THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE
SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES, THE COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ALL OTHER ORGANS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.**

1) An investigation by the Commission of the plight of all prisoners in the United States, especially Black prisoners, is required by the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights covenants. Their plight poses crucial questions of principle on the observance of fundamental human rights and the abolition of racial discrimination.

2) The prison operations and policies of the Government of the United States form a pattern of gross violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all prisoners and especially of Black prisoners. These violations are consistently present throughout the entire country, are long-standing, and are clearly attested by the evidence herein. The Charter, the applicable Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council, and SubCommission Resolution 1 (XXIV) all establish the policy that human rights violations *in any country from all available evidence* should be investigated by the Commission. That is the situation here.

3) We have direct and reliable knowledge from clear evidence of all violations reported herein. This Communication is not an abuse of the right to submit communications to the United Nations, does not prejudice the functions of any UN specialized agency, but does uphold the Charter, and investigations of these violations are in harmony with Article 2(7) thereof. That Article is consistently interpreted in response to the fundamental principles of human rights in the international community. The

General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs have widely enquired into violations of fundamental human rights of the kind presented here, and may continue to do so.

**ALL DOMESTIC REMEDIES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED;
NOR HAVE THESE VIOLATIONS BEEN REMEDIED UNDER
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.**

1) Prisoners have no effective judicial remedy, quasi-judicial-administrative remedy, or legislative remedy. Numerous attempts to effect judicial remedies through the use of civil rights suits and Habeas Corpus petitions protesting inhumane conditions and treatment have been filed in the Courts of the United States. These civil actions have failed to be effective and conditions in American prisons remain largely unchanged. Indeed, an overwhelming majority of Habeas Corpus petitions are routinely and arbitrarily denied by these Courts without any objective investigation into their allegations.

2) Civil actions are also ineffective and futile because many inmates are poor and cannot afford legal assistance for the preparation of their cases. Others who wish to prepare their own pleadings lack the requisite skill to do so. Also, prison officials hamper the bringing of lawsuits by interfering with an inmate's limited access to legal counsel, and by destroying, losing or misplacing his legal documents. Civil rights actions and Habeas Corpus petitions are further ineffective and futile due to the excessive delay in the decision-making process of overburdened courts.

3) Quasi-judicial-administrative remedies within United States prisons are ineffective and futile. The prison parole boards determine dates of parole and disciplinary action in the event of an infraction of prison rules. Typically, prisoners are not permitted legal counsel at parole or disciplinary board hearings. Nor may they cross-examine the guards responsible for bringing charges against them. Parole boards in effect exercise absolute, arbitrary and unreviewable control over the prisoners' lives.

4) Legislative reform is not, strictly speaking, a component of exhaustion of domestic remedies. In any case, prisoners are stripped of all political power including the right to vote for legislators. Their powerlessness prevents effective lobbying in state or national legislatures. Prison reform bills introduced into state legislatures have consistently been defeated, as recently happened to two California penal reform bills. In October, 1971, the Federal House of Representatives held hearings on prisoners' rights in California, but no reform legislation resulted. Finally, prison budgets as presently allocated by state legislatures are grossly inadequate. For example, in New York State, \$22 million, most of which had been earmarked for rehabilitation programs, was cut this year from the state prison budget, notwithstanding the recent Attica rebellion, and the demonstrated need for prison changes.

5) In addition to exhausting judicial, administrative and legislative remedies, prisoners have also written tens of thousands of letters of complaint to legislators, judges and members of the press. Prisoners have made relevant demands, and scores of strikes and demonstrations in protest of prison conditions. The satisfaction of the prisoners' demands are easily provided for by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Nevertheless, prisoners' complaints and demands, in addition to

all attempted remedies of legal process, have not produced an appreciable betterment of their treatment or of the conditions under which they live.

PRISONERS' HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ARE BEING CONTINUOUSLY VIOLATED BY SPECIFIC POLICIES AND ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

I. *At every level of official intervention, from law-making to arrest through parole and pardon, there is systematic discrimination against the poor and ethnic minorities in criminal proceedings across the United States.*

1. Simultaneously, as the degree of disadvantage increases, aggravating the vulnerability to abuses by the criminal justice system, there is a progressive denial of avenues and instrumentalities for the redress of grievances.

A. The disadvantaged, by reason of their poverty, are systematically penalized by inability to raise bail and to retain private counsel.

(1) Inability to make bail, with the resulting penalty of incarceration pending trials, is one of the foundations of the vicious system of "plea-bargaining"—without which the courts could not presently function. At present, approximately 90% of all persons charged with criminal offenses take a plea of guilty. If as few as 5% of these rejected the guilty plea, choosing instead to stand trial, the criminal justice system would break

down. It is unarguably clear, therefore, that the criminal justice system, as presently organized, *requires* these inequities as a condition of its operation.

(2) For these persons the status of accusation is punished the same as for the convicted—there is no meaningful distinction in any facet of their respective incarceration.

B. Standardized scales of fines—the same fines for the same offenses—applied without relation to differential income—automatically favor the well-to-do and penalize the poor.

2. Racism, endemic in the United States, is fostered, magnified, and exploited at all stages of criminal proceedings.

A. In states where sentencing is performed by a judge, blacks and browns are consistently denied probation more frequently than whites, and sentenced to longer terms than the whites who are remanded to custody.

(1) Racism is systematically exploited to control the inmate population. The pre-existing breach between the races is manipulated to channel the hostilities generated by the inhumane conditions in penal institutions away from the correctional personnel and institution. Otherwise such conditions would not allow the institutions to survive in their present forms.

II. *It is uniformly true across the country, that the accused and convicted are treated as a subspecies of humanity. This policy of dehumanization, ostensibly for the sake of security, not lack of finances or facilities, is the single, largest barrier to inmate rehabilitation.*

1. Prison facilities are constructed not so much with rehabilitation in mind, but rather to insure the integrity of the prison. Classification of institutions is *not* based so much on specialized treatment offered, but by thickness of concrete and steel, and the armament of the guards.
2. Prisons in the United States typically are isolated in rural communities, many miles from urban areas from which the vast majority of their inmates come. From this flows factors which prevent inmate reformation and rehabilitation:
 - a) it is difficult or impossible for relatives and friends to visit a prisoner; b) the staff of the prison, living in a rural community and usually recruited from it, has a life-experience different from the inmate's, furthering the inevitable lack of communication; and c) there is no ready access to the well-equipped hospitals, universities and other institutions with resources which are imperatives in the process of effective rehabilitation.

III. *Jail and prison authorities have a virtually unbridled administrative discretion over the conditions of confinement. Among the more glaring abuses of this discretion are the following:*

1. In the name of discipline, demeaning conformity is required of inmates, deliberately attempting to remove every shred of individuality, while concomitantly denying them any meaningful choice or control over their lives.
2. When accused of a breach of prison discipline, the inmate typically does not have the right to assistance by counsel, does not have the right to cross-examine witnesses against him or to call witnesses in his own behalf. Under these conditions, accusation approaches a virtual guarantee of conviction.

- A. Among the typical sanctions imposed at disciplinary hearings are confinement on restricted diet in bare ("strip") cells for weeks or months, under solitary conditions; loss of "good time," loss of commissary privileges, loss of visiting and mail privileges.
 - B. Often there is no disciplinary hearing before punishment, rather sanctions are imposed on the "offending" inmate through the punitive withholding of prescribed medication, corporal punishment at the hands of guards or the inmate is compromised such that other inmates will beat, maim, or even kill him.
 - (1) Recently, inmates have been placed in "administrative segregation" without even being accused of specific offenses. The official reason given for such action generally refers to "potentially" dangerous actions by "suspected" trouble-makers or "agitators."
 - (2) Frequently, inmates suffer punitive deprivations and loss of life for merely requesting that their human rights be respected.
 - C. A further consequence of accusation is almost inevitably a deferment in the date of release or parole. In effect, the inmate is continuously punished for a single uninvestigated and uncorroborated accusation: first, by suffering additional hardships via in-house discipline, and subsequently, a deferred release or parole.
3. There is recognized, albeit *sub silentio*, that there is a group of inmates who are severely mentally disturbed. These persons are frequently locked in maximum security sections of prisons bereft of remedial psychiatric

treatment. If they become a custodial problem they are maced or tear-gassed into a state of unconsciousness. From this core of individuals "volunteers" are selected for medical and psychiatric experimentation.

4. Prisoners are denied normal association with members of the opposite sex. In effect, loss of liberty is construed to entail surrender of any opportunity for the healthy satisfaction of sexual needs. Persons so denied are condemned either to abstinence and its resultant frustrations, or to various forms of deviant sexuality. Under these conditions, prisoners are often exposed to the fact or threat of sexual assault by inmates of the same sex. Tragically, these threats are most severe in the cases of younger or weaker offenders. The fact of sexual deprivation converts the prison environment into one which is antithetical to mental health.

IV. *Few, if any, effectively rehabilitative work, educational or treatment programs exist in the overwhelming majority of penal institutions. In fact, the inmate is denied access to resocialization.*

1. In many prisons the inmates manufacture virtually everything that is used to operate the institution, e.g., from tooth powder to dining room tables, all of which accrues to the fiscal benefit of the governing states. However, whereas, the minimum wage, as prescribed by the Federal Government for civilians is \$1.65 per hour, the inmate receives virtually nothing—\$.10 per day, or \$.02 to \$.16 per hour depending on the jurisdiction. In essence, inmates are slaves.
2. The prevailing patterns in education and training are dominated by the lack of facilities and a conformist mentality.

- A. Few prison administrators allow inmates to pursue a full academic education. Even correspondence courses are discouraged in some places.
- B. The inmates who are deemed sufficiently "rehabilitated" to undertake vocational training are often subjected to the cruelest kind of hoax. They are trained on equipment that is outdated and in skills that are not sought in the civilian marketplace. Hence, upon release the ex-offender may be less qualified to cope with his civilian community than when he was imprisoned.
3. Medical, psychiatric and dental care are typically so deficient as to impose the danger of chronic poor health as an intrinsic condition of confinement.
- V. *The circumstances under which parole is granted or denied are typically so capricious, vaguely formulated and uncommunicable as to constitute a denial of due process. Under these circumstances, the parole process becomes an adjunct of prison discipline.*
 1. The indeterminate sentence, under these circumstances, becomes an instrument of psychological torture, meeting every condition of cruel and unusual punishment.
 2. Once granted, parole may be revoked under circumstances as capricious, arbitrary and vaguely defined as the conditions under which it was originally granted. The threat of revocation under such circumstances fills the parolee's mind with uncertainty, anxiety and bitterness—in effect, continuing his punishment after release.
 3. Loss of vital civil rights of voting, running for office, the making of contracts, along with a wide variety of other restrictions (varying from one jurisdiction to another)

reduces the status of the parolee and felon to that of a second-class citizen or, worse, to that of a civil exile within his own society. Under these circumstances punishment may be interminable, continuing for the remainder of the released offender's life.

VI. *Because it operates under only nominal control by the elected officials of government, the typical prison system is essentially a police-state establishment, a state-within-a-state, whose officials, largely immune from check or accountability, are free to commit, have committed, and continue to commit crimes and barbarities against the lives, the dignity and the humanity of their captives.* All of the foregoing is the subject of reliable attestation and, with the evidence on political prisoners, confirms violations of the fundamental rights of prisoners, including:

The right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

The right to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person;

The right to be imprisoned in a penitentiary system whose essential aim for the prisoners is their reformation and social rehabilitation;

The right, without distinction or discrimination as to race, to equal protection of the law;

The right to be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing

due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society;

and in particular violations of:

The United Nations Charter (Articles 55 and 56); the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16(1), 17(2), 18, 25, 29(2)); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Articles 1(1), 1(4), 2(1)(a, b, c, d, e), 2(2), 3, 4(c), 5(a), 5(b), 5(d) (vii), 5(e)(i, iv, v, and vi), (6)); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 1(1), 2(3) (a, b, c), 3, 5(2), 6(1, 2), 7, 8(1, 2, 3(a, b)), 9, 10, 14(1), 14(2), 14(3)(b, c, d, e), 14(6), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19(1), 22(1, 2), 26, 27); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Articles 1(1), 2(1), 5(2), 6(2), 7(a)(i), 8(2), 12(1) and (2)(d), 13(1), 13(2)(b, d)); and generally of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

PERSONS ARE HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHICH VIOLATES THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND IS A DENIAL OF JUSTICE

Within the overall problem of prisoners in the United States there is the special situation of the political prisoner, whose im-

prisonment is related to his or her political beliefs and/or activities; or a prisoner who while imprisoned is made the subject of special punitive treatment by reason of his or her political beliefs and/or activities. The existence of political trials in the United States has been recognized recently in a concurring opinion of a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, the nation's highest court (*Illinois v. Allen*, 397 U.S. 337, 351 [1970]) (Douglas concurring).

Our concern here is for those individuals and groups whose beliefs and programs aim to ameliorate the oppressed condition of minorities in this country—particularly those whose activities address the deprivation of the most fundamental human rights, such as rights to life, decent housing, education, employment, medical care, food, clothing, and political freedom. In short, those who are being persecuted, prosecuted and imprisoned for pursuing objectives set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

There are several forms taken by this political persecution leading to imprisonment, including state power being directed against individuals or groups, attempting to carry out programs of economic, cultural or social development. Among the many recent examples are the attacks upon Fred Ahmed Evans, a Cleveland (Ohio) black activist who, with his followers, was engaged in a program of community education and self-help; the arrest and imprisonment of Martin Sostre, a Buffalo (New York) black man who operated a community bookstore from which he criticized the American social system; the arrest and prosecution of Prof. Angela Y. Davis, a philosophy instructor who was leading a campaign against U.S. prison conditions and the U.S. role in Southeast Asia; the arrest of 11 Black Muslims in Baton Rouge (Louisiana) who were attempting to organize local

citizens; attacks on Black Muslim mosques and Black Panther Party headquarters, including the assassination of Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago (Illinois).

Groups and individuals who have raised questions concerning their rights to self-determination and otherwise to political status and have organized to achieve their political objectives are systematically harassed and imprisoned. The recent arrest and imprisonment of citizens of the Republic of New Africa, and the imposition of treason charges against them by the state of Mississippi exemplifies this trend. A similar case is that of Carlos Feliciano, advocate of Puerto Rican independence, arrested and preventively detained on exorbitant bail in a New York jail for well over a year. Such persons not only view their persecution as political, but often see themselves as "prisoners of war," as do also some persons who have been driven to attempt to escape the barbarities of American prisons. Ruchell Magee of California, for example, relies upon legal precedent to sanction the attempt of an enslaved man to reach freedom. Action by the state against such groups and individuals is often accompanied by a use of excessive force, extreme brutality, and a wholesale invasion of the private homes or offices of those involved. Persons or groups of unpopular or controversial political persuasion are often pursued through the use of *agent provocateurs*, informants, electronic and other surveillance. In political cases of this nature, arrest is then usually followed by prohibitively high bail—a form of political ransom.

There are also political prisoners who may not have been engaged in political activity or been arrested for a politically related offense, but whose political outlook and activity once imprisoned may occasion special repressive treatment by the state. This often takes the form of suppression of political thought,

expression and organization; segregation from the general prison population; prolonged imprisonment in solitary confinement; physical beatings; denial of parole rights; or denial of medical attention. A tragic but excellent example of what is done to a prisoner who, though his arrest may not be directly political in nature, engages in political activity once imprisoned, is found in the life and death of George L. Jackson who, as an outspoken and brilliant leader for prison change and social change became too much of a threat to things as they are, and was eliminated. The tragedy of Attica in which more than 40 persons were shot down and killed by the state and scores more injured is also illustrative here, though the "political demands" made there, in large part, reflect only what is already expected of nations under the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIOLATES
INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH RESPECT TO THE HUMAN
RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF PRISONERS
UNDER THE FOREGOING EVIDENCE.**

1) The Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners define the minimum standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people including prisoners. They were the basis of the Commission's investigation of the plight of prisoners in South Africa.

2) The United States is obligated under Article 56 of the Charter and general principles of international law not to violate those standards by omission or commission. Specifically the Universal Declaration has been incorporated into international law as the keystone of the human rights structure, as confirmed by wide international expectations, important commentators, and opinions in the International Court of Justice, and is thereby binding on all States. The United States has consistently and publicly declared its own adherence to those standards, inside and outside the United Nations.

3) The other Covenants and Conventions are derivative of and were promulgated to implement the Charter and the Declaration, and their substantive provisions—expressing major expectations on human rights—have been accordingly incorporated into international law binding on the United States, notwithstanding that the United States is not yet a formal Party to any of them. The United States has signed the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and accordingly is obligated to take no action either by omission or commission in violation of its substance. This it has not done.

4) The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners state minimum standards of human rights, fundamental freedoms and justice for all prisoners. Approved and urged for State adoption by ECOSOC Res. 663 C(XXIV) (1957), they define the minimum criteria suitable to the United Nations, and incorporate the Universal Declaration into national correctional systems. They have binding force on the United States, additionally, from General Assembly Res. 2858 (XXVI) of 20th December 1971 which expressly recommended their implementation by national legislation of member states. Notwithstanding, Article 2(7), Articles 1(3) and 2(2) together with 55 and 56 of

the Charter obligate the United States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The intimate relationship of the Rules to upholding human rights in any country is clear. At the very least the United States is bound to do nothing to undermine the Rules, and to refrain from consistently ignoring and violating them. On the basis of its general obligation to uphold human rights, the United States is further obligated to all prisoners under the Rules. It has not met these obligations.

5) Further, the United States is bound by a minimum standard of justice in international law to which all men are entitled, irrespective of nationality. This standard has been invoked by international tribunals, by foreign states protecting their nationals within the United States, and by the United States protecting its nationals abroad. It antedates and incorporates the foregoing Conventions and Rules, and establishes minimum criteria of justice for criminal process and imprisonment that are based on "ordinary standards of civilization." The standard is *not* limited by comparisons with treatment normally received by the nationals of the United States, but is an *international* standard of justice which establishes criteria for the treatment by a State of its prisoners, their conditions of incarceration and trial, and the behavior of officials towards them; it recognizes a concept of selfhood and dignity for the prisoner. Compensation has frequently been paid by states for "denials of justice" in these situations. This minimum international standard of justice is binding on states relative to the treatment of their own prisoners.

6) This standard of justice refers not only to the duty to provide a decency of treatment to prisoners which is unable to be met by comparison with the treatment of other prisoners nationals of the same State. The affirmative duty binding on each

State towards its prisoners is met *only* when each State provides that level of treatment *enabled by the maximum of its available resources*. A failure even to approach this level by the richest country in the world—the United States—is a gross violation of prisoners' human rights and fundamental freedoms. This duty is made clear by Article 22 of the Universal Declaration, Article 2(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 2(3a, c) of the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, and Article 2(2) of the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

PRISONERS SHOULD BE GRANTED SPECIFIC RELIEF BY VARIOUS UN ORGANS

1) The SubCommission should inspect and consider this communication in its *original* form, and thereafter recommend to the full Commission that it investigate the plight of all prisoners, and especially Black prisoners, in the United States.

2) A complete investigation under Council Resolution 1503 by the full Commission of the plight of *all* prisoners in the United States is urgently required, including a thorough prior study with a report and recommendations to the Council. Such an investigation was rightfully done for the comparably serious plight of South African prisoners. The facts reported by this communication meet *all* conditions under Paragraph 6(b) of Resolution 1503 for such an Investigation. Pending completion

of the Investigation, the full Commission should *condemn*—on the basis of this Communication and its own study—the prison policies and practices of the United States as was done relative to prisoners in South Africa. On the same basis the Commission should mount a *permanent investigation* of the situation of prisoners in the United States.

3) The fundamental rights of prisoners in the United States are being violated in a manner in many ways equally gross as the violations against South African prisoners under apartheid. The Commission, the ECOSOC, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General should therefore urgently request all Member States to give *full publicity* to this Communication, including its circulation throughout the United Nations community and to foreign libraries, as has been done for complaints against apartheid and slavery. Further, the General Assembly should establish a *Special Committee on Prison Conditions in All Countries* to hold continuing jurisdiction over the situation in the United States, similar to the Special Committee on Apartheid in South Africa, with full investigative, recommendatory, publicity and decision-making authority. A similar recommendation has been made by New Zealand (a/C.3/SR.1364, at 10[1965]).

4) Further, the General Assembly on recommendation of the Commission and the Council should refer to the International Court of Justice for an Advisory Opinion the question of the extent to which a State (other than South Africa) that is in violation of the Standard Minimum Rules and/or provisions of human rights covenants on the treatment of prisoners (including the Universal Declaration), acts contrary to international law, and the legal remedies against such violations. Finally, the General Assembly should itself declare that all political prisoners should be released, special tribunals abolished, and all politically-

motivated doctrines of criminal law repealed in furtherance of political freedom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Georgia Jackson

National Conference of
Black Lawyers
Edward C. Bell
W. Haywood Burns
Henry J. Richardson III

United Church of Christ Com-
mission for Racial Justice
Irv Joyner

National Youth Congress
Fred Meely

Congress of African People
Balozi Zayd Muhammad

Coalition of Prisoners'
Representatives

a

Representatives of the following groups, as well as the individuals listed below, participated in and were responsible for the preparation of the foregoing document:

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CONGRESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS
NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS
NEW YORK CITY URBAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
NEW YORK COMMITTEE TO FREE ANGELA DAVIS
PENNSYLVANIA PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND GIRL OFFENDERS
PRISONER SUPPORT COMMITTEE, Philadelphia, Pa.
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QUINCY FIVE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, Tallahassee, Florida
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Office of Communication
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA, Council on Church and Race
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Reform
WOMEN'S BAIL FUND
YOUNG LORDS PARTY

ACCORD TO THE 1971
MORNING STAR

WELLS WITH RIVER

1971

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THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF HISTORIC
SITES
RECOMMENDS THAT THE
PROPERTY BE PLACED IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES
AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT
TO BE PRESERVED FOR THE
FUTURE
AND TO BE OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC
AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT
TO BE PRESERVED FOR THE
FUTURE
AND TO BE OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF HISTORIC
SITES
RECOMMENDS THAT THE
PROPERTY BE PLACED IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES
AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT
TO BE PRESERVED FOR THE
FUTURE
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