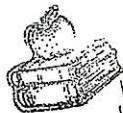


NO
MATTER
HOW LONG IT TAKES
REAL CHANGES WILL COME,
AND THE GREATEST PERSONAL REWARD
LIES IN OUR INVOLVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS,
EVEN IF IT MAY APPEAR THAT NOTHING SIGNIFICANT
OR OF IMPACT REALLY HAPPENED
DURING OUR TIMES.
BUT IT DID,
BECAUSE
EVERY SINCERE EFFORT
IS AS SPECIAL AS EVERY HUMAN LIFE.

HUGO PINELL



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Information Guide

-2020-

Free for Prisoners

LP

CP 20



NINE PERSPECTIVES FOR PRISON ABOLITIONISTS

From 1973:
 Perspective 1: Imprisonment is morally reprehensible and indefensible and must be abolished. In an enlightened free society, prison cannot endure or it will prevail. Abolition is a long range goal; an ideal. The eradication of any oppressive system is not an easy task. But it is realizable, like the abolition of slavery or any liberation, so long as there is the will to engage in the struggle.

Perspective 2: The message of abolition requires "honest" language and new definitions. Language is related to power. We do not permit those in power to control our vocabulary. Using "system language" to call prisoners "inmates" or punishment "treatment," denies prisoners the reality of their experience and makes us captives of the old system. Our own language and definitions empower us to define the prison realistically.

Perspective 3: Abolitionists believe reconciliation, not punishment, is a proper response to criminal acts. The present criminal (in)justice systems focus on someone to punish, caring little about the criminal's need or the victim's loss. The abolitionist response seeks to restore both the criminal and the victim to full humanity, to lives of integrity and dignity in the community. Abolitionists advocate the least amount of coercion and intervention in an individual's life and the maximum amount of care and services to all people in the society.

Perspective 4: Abolitionists work with prisoners but always remain "nonmembers" of the established prison system. Abolitionists learn how to walk the narrow line between relating to prisoners inside the system and remaining independent and "outside" that system. We resist the compelling psychological pressures to be "accepted" by people in the prison system. We are willing to risk pressing for changes that are beneficial to and desired by prisoners. In relating to those in power, we differentiate between the *personhood* of system man-

agers (which we respect) and their role in perpetuating an oppressive system.

Perspective 5: Abolitionists are "allies" of prisoners rather than traditional "helpers." We have forged a new definition of what is truly helpful to the caged, keeping in mind both the prisoner's perspective and the requirements of abolition. New insights into old, culture-laden views of the "helping relationship" strengthen our roles as allies of prisoners.

Perspective 6: Abolitionists realize that the empowerment of prisoners and ex-prisoners is crucial to prison system change. Most people have the potential to determine their own needs in terms of survival, resources and programs. We support self-determination of prisoners and programs which place more power in the hands of those directly affected by the prison experience.

Perspective 7: Abolitionists view power as available to each of us for challenging and abolishing the prison system. We believe that citizens are the source of institutional power. By giving support to—or withholding support from—specific policies and practices, patterns of power can be altered.

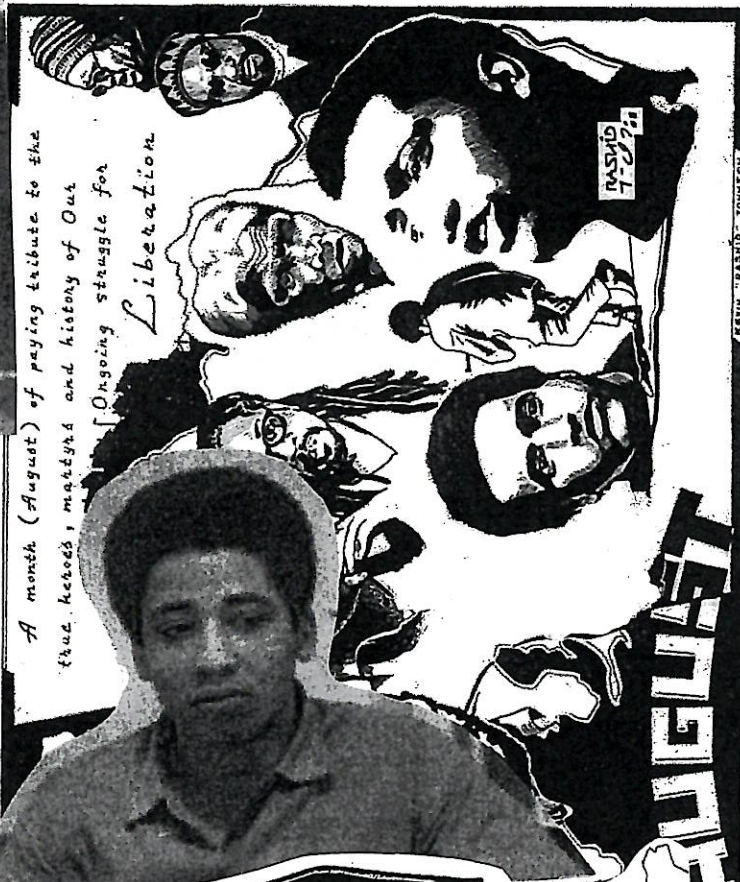
Perspective 8: Abolitionists believe that crime is mainly a consequence of the structure of society. We devote ourselves to a community change approach. We would drastically limit the role of the criminal (in)justice systems. We advocate public solutions to public problems—greater resources and services for all people.

Perspective 9: Abolitionists believe that it is only in a caring community that corporate and individual redemption can take place. We view the dominant culture as more in need of "correction" than the prisoner. The caring communities have yet to be built.

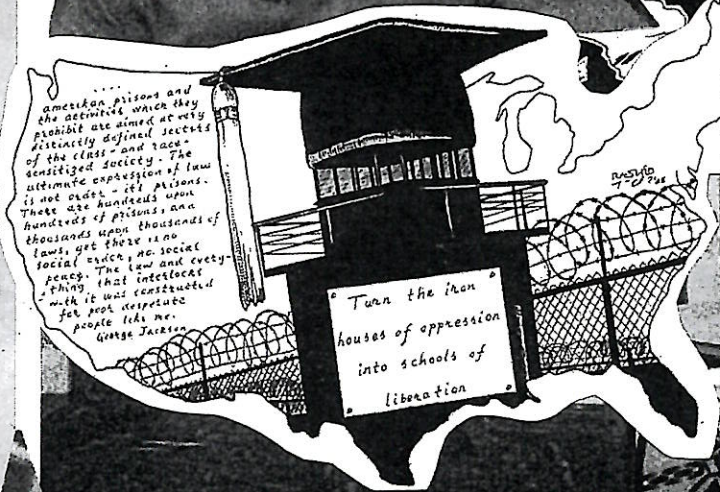


FUCK THE PRISON

A month (August) of paying tribute to the true heroes, martyrs and history of our Ongoing struggle for Liberation



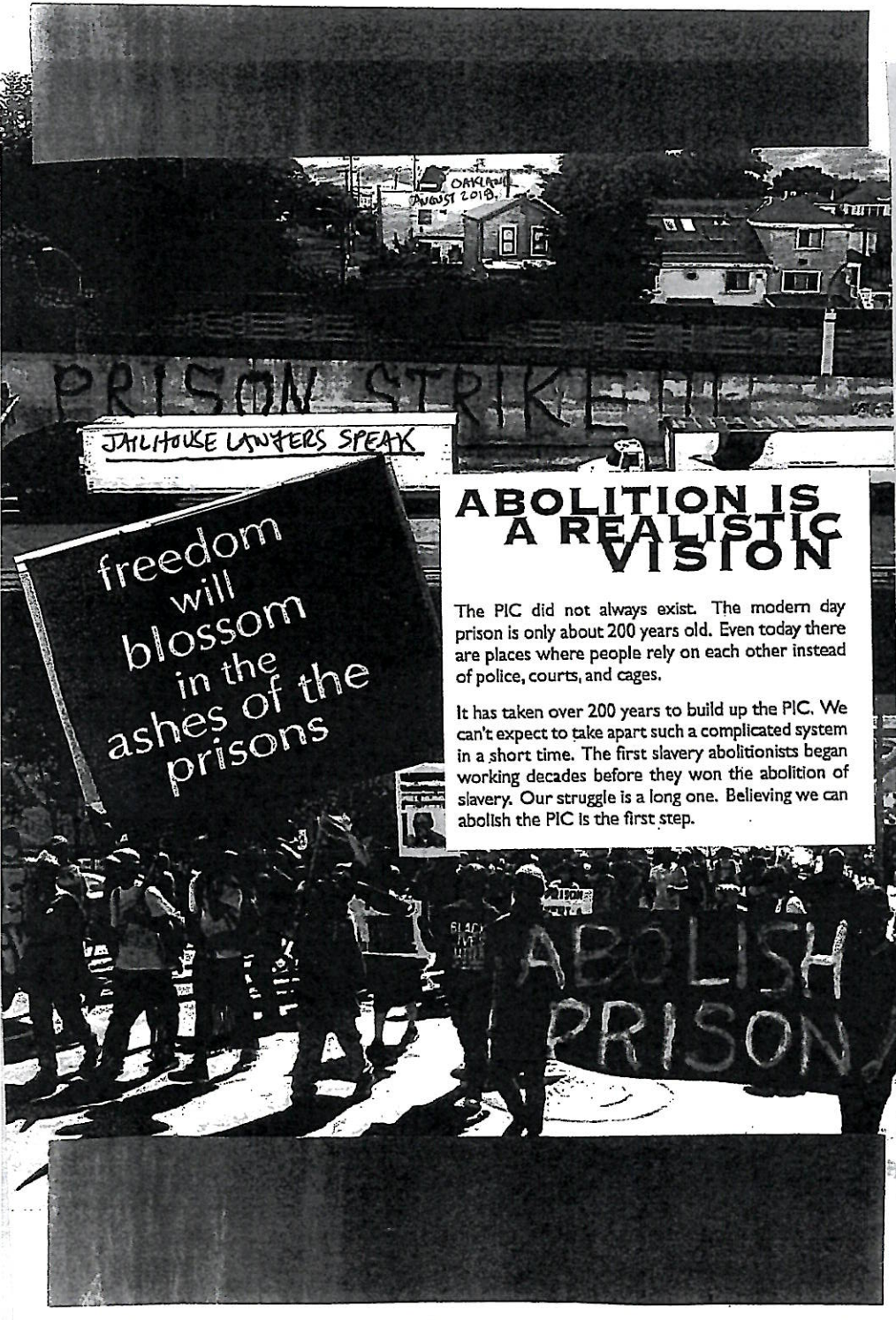
LENGHTH



PRISONER LED

ALL HOUSE LAWYERS SPEAK

KEVIN RASHID-JONES ON



Revolutionary greetings to all freedom fighters, abolitionists, and supporters for prisoners' human rights.

On a Southern U.S. plantation (prison), Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (J.L.S.) was founded by a group of revolutionary-minded jailhouse lawyers who united as a cadre by collectively reading the writings of George Lester Jackson. This original group of comrades make up the practicing central committee. Today J.L.S. is a national collective of imprisoned persons—members of the oppressed prisoner class—who fight for human rights and the abolition of the prison-industrial slave complex by providing other prisoners with access to legal education, resources, and assistance.

Our focus is on challenging the legal regime that dehumanizes prisoners and to educate fellow members of our oppressed class about the law and its racial violence. We aim to educate and engage the public at large about the human rights violations of prisoners held captive in the United States settler colony, while in turn working in solidarity with prisoners around the world.

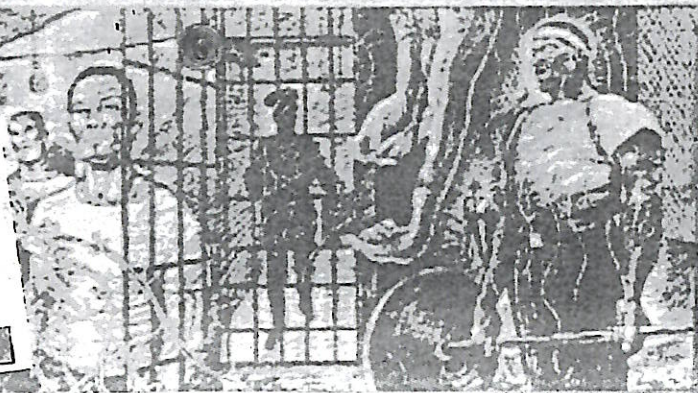


We respect, encourage, and wholeheartedly condone the acceptance of using a diversity of tactics to shrink the U.S. regime of imprisonment, following the ideal of Malcolm X: "By any means necessary."

We are freedom fighters that believe in that the existing models of how this fascist society is organized through criminalizing, policing, and punishing people—centrally through methods of imprisonment and racial terror—must be dismantled. This can only logically be done by prisoners speaking out, and acting up.

*Prisoners must use their own VOICE
and ORGANIZING SKILLS to
connect with the world for change.*

**TEARING
DOWN THE
WALLS
FROM
BOTH SIDES**



WHO WERE THE FIRST ABOLITIONISTS?

We take the name "abolitionist" purposefully from those who called for the abolition of slavery in the 1800's. Abolitionists believed that slavery could not be fixed or reformed. It needed to be abolished. As PIC abolitionists today, we also do not believe that reforms can make the PIC just or effective. Our goal is not to improve the system; it is to shrink the system into non-existence.

WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY?

We all want safe communities. The question is how do we build safe communities? Is it by locking up and policing more and more people? Or is it by dealing with the causes of the harm that is called "crime" in our communities?

Even the worst kinds of harm do not happen without a reason. Putting people in cages does not solve any of the problems that lead to harm, like harmful drug use, poverty, violence, or mental illness. By separating people from their home communities, and isolating them in abusive and violent environments, these problems can even get worse. We take seriously the harms that happen between people. We believe that in order to reduce harm we must change the social and economic conditions in which those harms take place.

Studies have shown that states with more prisons and prisoners do not have lower crime rates than other states. The PIC claims to be about safety and order. In reality, the PIC makes the lives of most people—especially the poor and people of color—less safe and more disordered. For example, poor people and people of color are often targeted by the cops based on the way they look. And even in instances where people call the cops to solve problems, the cops are often more disruptive than the original problem. We cannot build strong communities when people are constantly being taken out of them.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

We do not have all the answers. But, we do know that people in other parts of the world rely on prisons and police far less than the U.S. does, and suffer from far less harm. We also know that communities where people have housing, food, education and jobs have the lowest crime rates. The best way to reduce harm is by building safe, healthy communities where people have their basic needs met.

For example, providing drug users with health care and harm reduction strategies instead of locking them in cages helps reduce the harm that drug use might cause. When public funding is directed into policing and prisons, budget cuts for social programs, including women's shelters, welfare and public housing are the side effect. These cutbacks leave women less able to escape violent relationships. Focusing more energy on creating safe and stable conditions instead of policing and imprisonment reduces harm.

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WHAT CAN I DO TODAY?

Today, there are small steps that will move us toward abolition, such as:

- Instead of supporting construction of a new prison to make the horrible conditions that most prisoners live in a little better, we can push for alternatives that reduce the number of people locked in cages.
- Instead of calling the police everytime there is a conflict in our neighborhoods, we can establish community forums and mediation practices to deal with harm and conflict.
- We can build safer and healthy communities by working to eliminate barriers to housing and jobs faced by people coming home from prison to help them stay out of the system.

3. *The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.*

4. *The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human*

shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.

5. *An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.*

6. *An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.*

7. *No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.*

8. *State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.*

9. *Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.*

10. *The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count.*

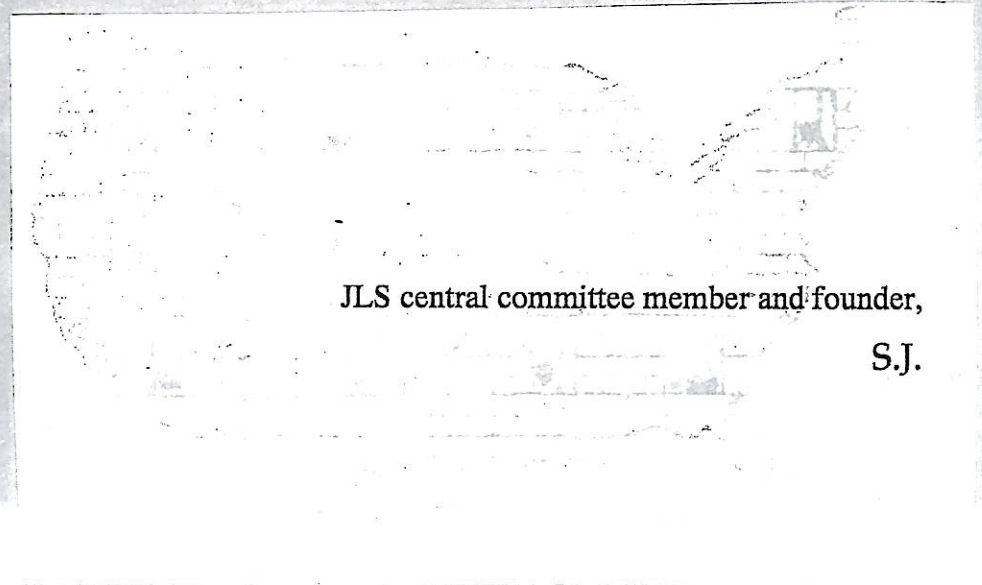
Today these demands are our platform. They grew out of a long struggle that has been ongoing in the prisons since

seeking, the abolition of genocidal carceral domination and oppression, and the fulfillment of social revolution. There is no such thing as the "worst" state or federal prison. Why? Because they are all prisons, sites of human incarceration, with differences only by degree. Our unity is national and fight is increasingly becoming international. Know your opposition.

Dare 2 struggle, dare to win!

Uhuru sasa (Freedom Now).

Carry it on!



As a member you will have IMMEDIATE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY for concerns in your state and facility from our ranks and accomplices nationally. You will automatically be authorized to use the Jailhouse Lawyers Speak logo and name in representing yourself or committee at any time. All state and federal J.L.S. committees are free to initiate actions in line with our political principles without approval. We encourage *all* potential members of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak to organize with outside organizers in your region to agitate and disrupt the local status quo. We are not trying to save the prisons. Only ourselves and those around us in the same chains.

When you join the ranks of "open" membership, the national prison strike 10 demands are automatically a part of your platform. Promote them in the prisons, to local outside organizers, and to lawmakers.

You do not have to be a jailhouse lawyer as we are. But we do strongly encourage you to learn and know the prison rules, regulations, and any related laws about any concern you may raise. For instance, if you're organizing to challenge or change sentencing laws, you must read that particular portion of the specific law being complained about. It's important that we relay this information to as many imprisoned people as possible.

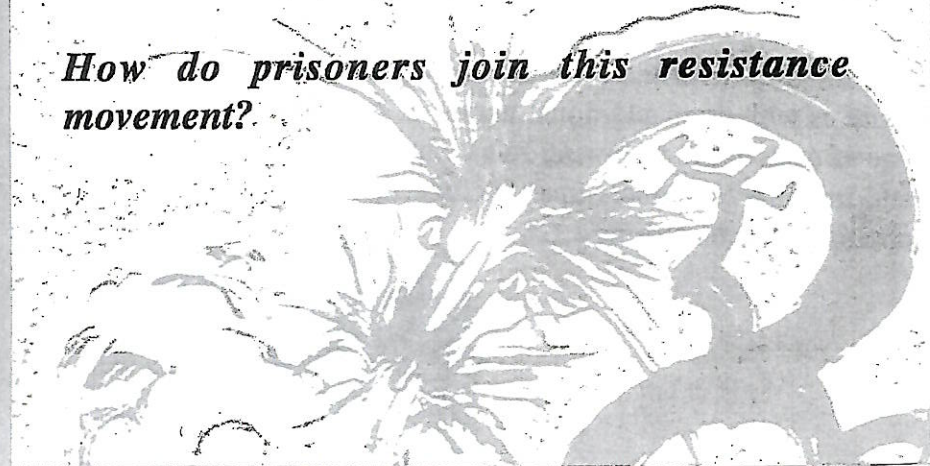
J.L.S. was formed knowing that we need a national organized network to bring about the desired result we are

the 13th Amendment officially made prisons the state and government owned slave quarters. We view these "demands" as a means to further an agenda to dismantle the prison-industrial slave complex.

J.L.S. has developed friendships and allies around the country and across the waters. They respect the demands of the prisoner class to sit at the decision-making table in the abolitionist movement. They understand and agree with the desire for our voices to be heard and once again be the leaders in our own movement. Due to this acceptance you will find our voices heard across the world, and people picking up to *act* on our call.

No one can explain what is going on in prison better than a person in prison. No one desires a radical change in sentencing laws more than a prisoner. No one wants to see the prison, jail, and detention-center walls fall more than a prisoner.

How do prisoners join this resistance movement?



We know that many people in prison are interested in connecting to the inside organizers of the national prison strike and join in the coming storm but are simply not informed on how to do so. This pamphlet should clear that up. We want as many prisoners as possible to be a part of the J.L.S. membership.

Registration

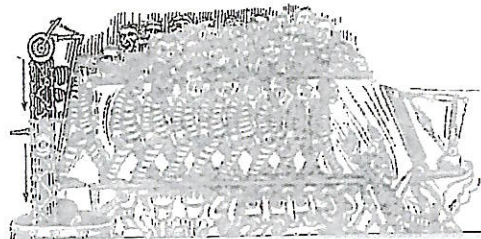
In order for an individual to register as a member of J.L.S. and receive the J.L.S. open membership card, you will need to write us at the following address with your request for membership:



*Jailhouse Lawyers Speak Open Membership Office
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141*

Committees

In order to form a committee, the person would need to write us with three additional names of who would serve in one of each of the following roles: chair, co-chair, secretary and treasurer. Members must include their position on the committee when writing J.L.S.



Open and Closed Membership

In addition to joining J.L.S. as an individual or a J.L.S. committee, there are two types of ways that you can register:

1. Traditional closed membership – identity is withheld
2. General open membership – identity not withheld

The contact address herein listed is for *general open membership only*. If you are a part of an already existing formation inside, we welcome you to join us. We are all prisoners irregardless of affiliations. Unity is the key.

“Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution.”

*—George L. Jackson,
1971*

