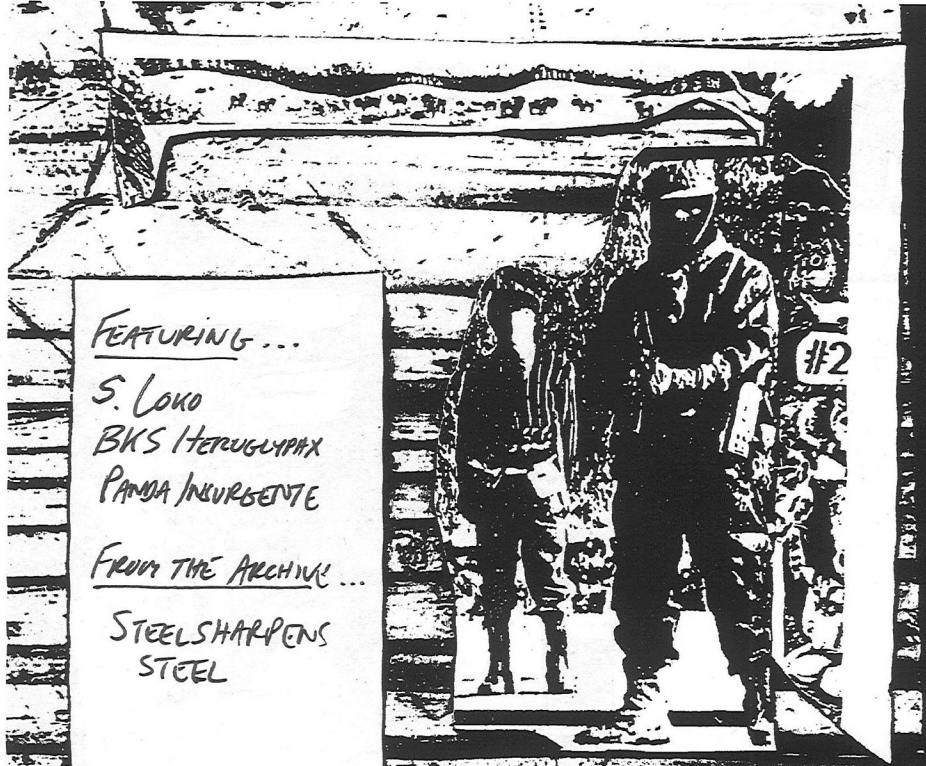


INSURREXINL MIXTAPE



FEATURING...

S. LOKO
BKS HETEROGLYPHX
PANDA INSURGENTE

FROM THE ARCHIVE...

STEELSHARPENS
STEEL

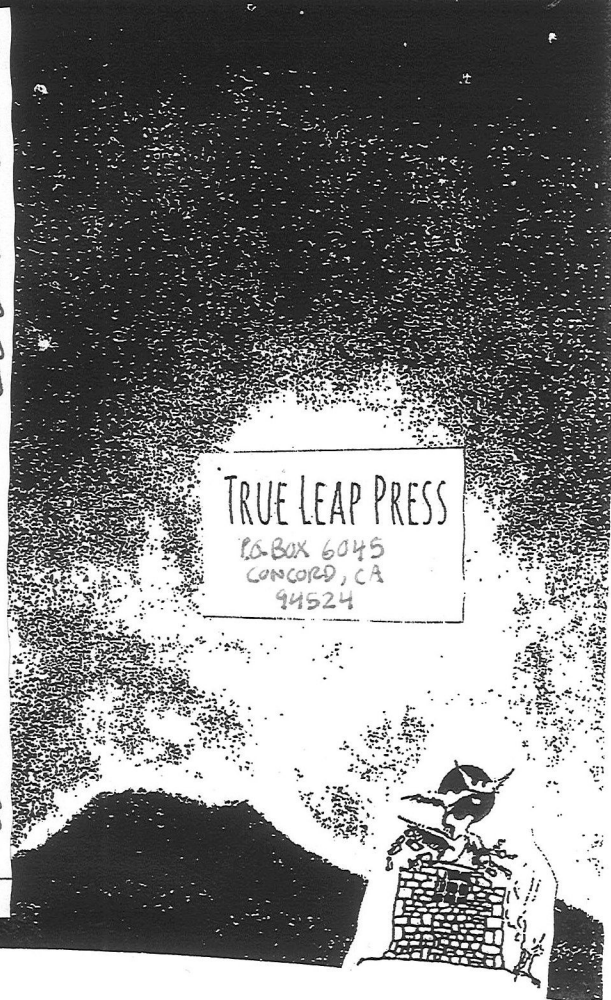
WINTER 2023

True Leap Press Zine Distrib
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Concord, CA 94524



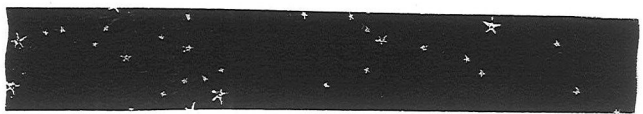
IS13.1.2.C2D-Radically Written and likely to cause violence

Talks about standing up against law enforcement and encouraging offenders to get on board with abolition groups.



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"PRACTICE IS CONCRETE, HARDER THAN
CRYSTAL-DREAM CONCEPTS"
- MARILYN BUCK

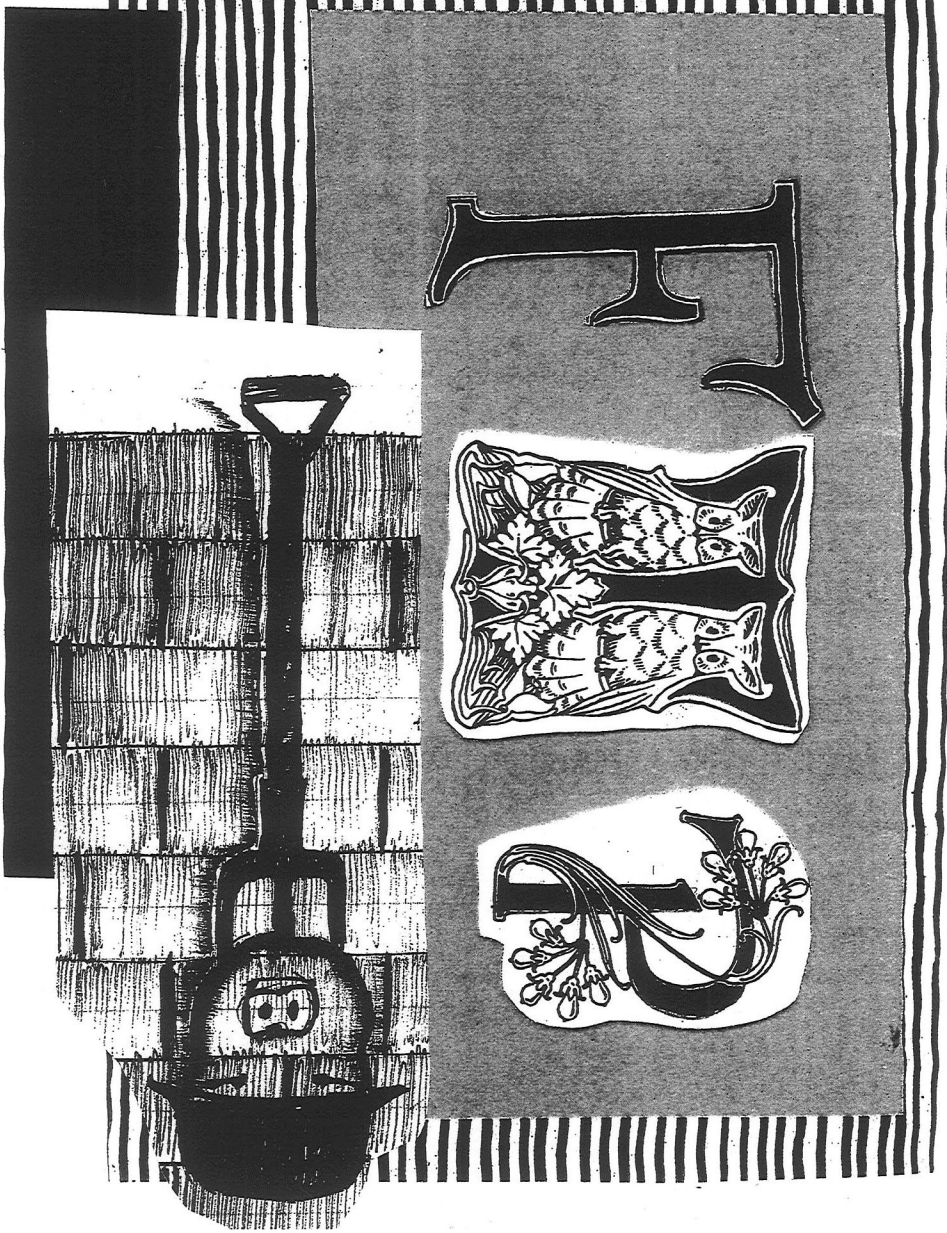


FREE TO PRISONERS ANTI-CAPITALIST
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FTP

Our collective encourages any-and-all forms of revolt and insurrection against global anti-blackness, white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, and heteropatriarchy. We also aim to facilitate the growth of a progressive political consciousness that is deliberately anti-patriotic and against all forms of U.S. nationalism.

We support the intellectual struggle and advocate for the building of mass-based projects for anti-racist, anti-capitalist, and anti-patriarchal political education.



prisoners to and from chow, even making them remove their shoes. "They were looking for staples and chunks of paperclips, the stuff we used to jam the locks," explained one guerrilla. "But what we did, we hid the staples in our mouths and re-doubled our lock-jamming right under their noses." When D2A sabotaged the drink dispensers, causing water to pour out onto the floor of

the chow hall, maintenance put a lock on the handle. That same day, D2A jammed the lock, making it impossible to fill the dispenser. When they cut off the lock to fill it, D2A sabotaged it again, causing water to spill everywhere.

Guerrillas cut the mouse off of three staff computers and placed them in a manila envelope addressed to the warden with a note inside. It said, "Three blind mice... Three blind mice... --D2A." They used prayer-oil bottles filled with salt water to fry several other computers. They jammed all the locks that had been replaced, then jammed them again.

"Even though there were very few of us, we were in all three blocks, so we had access to all the offices. With just six people, you could jam every lock down every single hallway. The commissary was always starting late because their door was jammed. That made the commissary lady, a real tyrant, have to work late past her shift," said one guerrilla. "Also, we started using the black gunk from the windows and doors and putting it on the staples we jammed into locks. That way, when staff put their key in, that black gunk would lodge the staple in there and make a real mess. They had to replace all the locks. That had to be expensive."

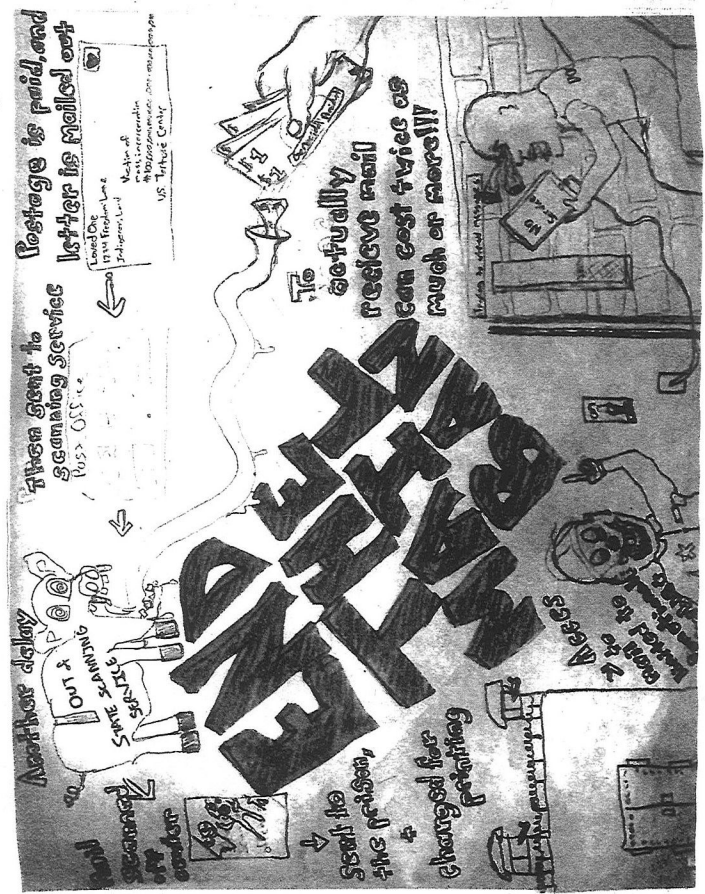
Very shortly, the food greatly improved and the food portions increased. "Really, we only wanted what we were entitled to," a guerrilla said. "They had been skimping on us for a long time, robbing us of our food. We weren't getting portions as required by policy. Then we came along, and we started getting fed right."

Then, a posting was placed on the bulletin boards in the housing units: The director of the department had changed policy regarding state pay. Rather than allowing for collection of court costs to reduce prisoners to only \$10 per month, prisoners could retain \$15. For the majority of prisoners, this constituted a pay raise.

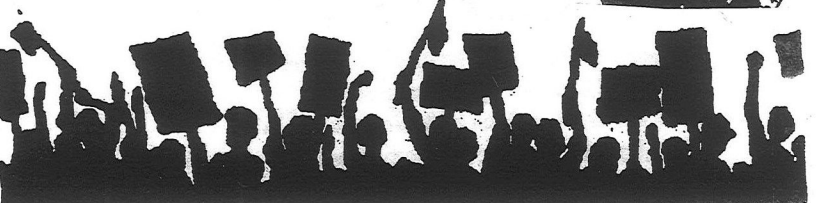
"It seems like too much of a coincidence to think that this policy change occurring during the D2A campaign had nothing to do with our demands," a guerrilla commented. "They would never admit it, but that was a response to what we were doing. Guaranteed."

INSURREXNL MIXTAPE IS AN
 INSURGENT MASH UP AND
 COMPILATION OF INCINDIERY
 WRITINGS, ARTWORK, AND
 POETRY FROM THE DUNGEONS
 OF THE AMERIKAN GULAG
 ARCHIPELAGO.

Push-Pull-Strive



INSURRYANI MIXTAPE



The Conditions Factory decided to create a separate, underground organization: Death 2 Authority (D2A).

"It was significant that the name was Death 2 Authority rather than Death 2 the Authorities," said a guerrilla. "It wasn't a matter of death to a warden or to an administrator, but death to the institution of authority. You can't just get rid of a person in authority, you have to get rid of authority period."

In order to confuse the enemy as to their numbers, they designated themselves as Column 4. "Columns one through three didn't exist, but prison administrators had no way to know that," one guerrilla explained.

"There was only six of us, and we never numbered more than ten, but the administration was convinced there was fifty or a hundred of us."

They began their actions in March 2008, sending a communique to the warden and to the major, telling them they would not get control of their prison back until D2A's demands were met. Some of the demands, like better food and larger portions, were demands the prison could—and did—meet. But others, such as increasing state pay, were policy decisions that had to be addressed by the department itself. "We knew that," said one guerrilla. "We did that on purpose. We knew Toledo couldn't meet demands without getting central office involved, and for that to happen, central office would have to know there was an underground guerrilla resistance happening at the prison. So, we figured the demand wouldn't be met and we could go right on resisting. That was really the plan all along anyhow."

The same day that the warden received the first D2A communique (no fingerprints, disguised handwriting), guerrillas jammed the locks of the commissary, the unit managers' offices, the case managers' offices, the education supervisor's office, and several locks in the kitchen. Potatoes were jammed into the chow-hall drains, causing the pan-room sink water to flood the entire kitchen and officers' dining hall. The symbol for D2A was scrawled on a wall in the hallway.

So as to not draw attention to the problem, administrators had the locksmith work on third shift, unjamming and replacing the locks. This prevented other prisoners from seeing just how disruptive lock-jamming really was.

"Their biggest fear was that other prisoners would join in," a guerrilla observed. "They wanted no attention drawn to what was going on."

Immediately, the administration reacted. They lined corrections officers in the hallway to shake down

comfortable

They began writing projects and sent the finished project to free-world Anarchists who printed off copies of their work. They called themselves The Conditions Factory, based on a quote by George Jackson ("where the conditions for revolution are not present, they must be manufactured..."). They manufactured the conditions for revolution-- in The Conditions Factory. As they studied more and more, some of the participants became proclaimed Anarchists. They saw that no one could be free so long as the State existed. But how could a handful of prisoners in Toledo do anything to resist the State?

The study group began to address that question. They brain-stormed. They wrote up their own resistance manual.

The manual covered a wide range of topics. It began with organizing, how to hold meetings. Then they discussed methods of resistance they could undertake against the prison. Sabotage included cutting phone cords with toenail clippers, stealing paperwork from staff, jamming locks with paperclips or staples. Theft of resources included stealing food from the chowhall, throwing away cups and spoons, and punching holes in the milk bags to let milk run down the drain to force the enemy to purchase more resources.

Third, they developed a strategy for what to do when going to the hole. They felt it was best to prepare for getting caught so that, if and when it happened, it would not be such a shocking ordeal. They brain-stormed ways in which resisters in population could support comrades in the hole. They exchanged pre-written letters to supporters and friends so that, if anyone was caught, he would know that friends and family would soon receive letters and know how to make phone calls and support him through his ordeal. They made arrangements to get envelopes and paper and coded messages to prisoners in the hole.

Once the manual was finished, each of them read it. It was time to get started.

"One thing we had to face is, in prison, there's a great deal of skepticism that any kind of resistance can happen, and even if it happens, it won't change anything," one guerrilla observed. "So what we were doing, whether we knew it or not, was really ground-breaking. We didn't see it that way, but it was."

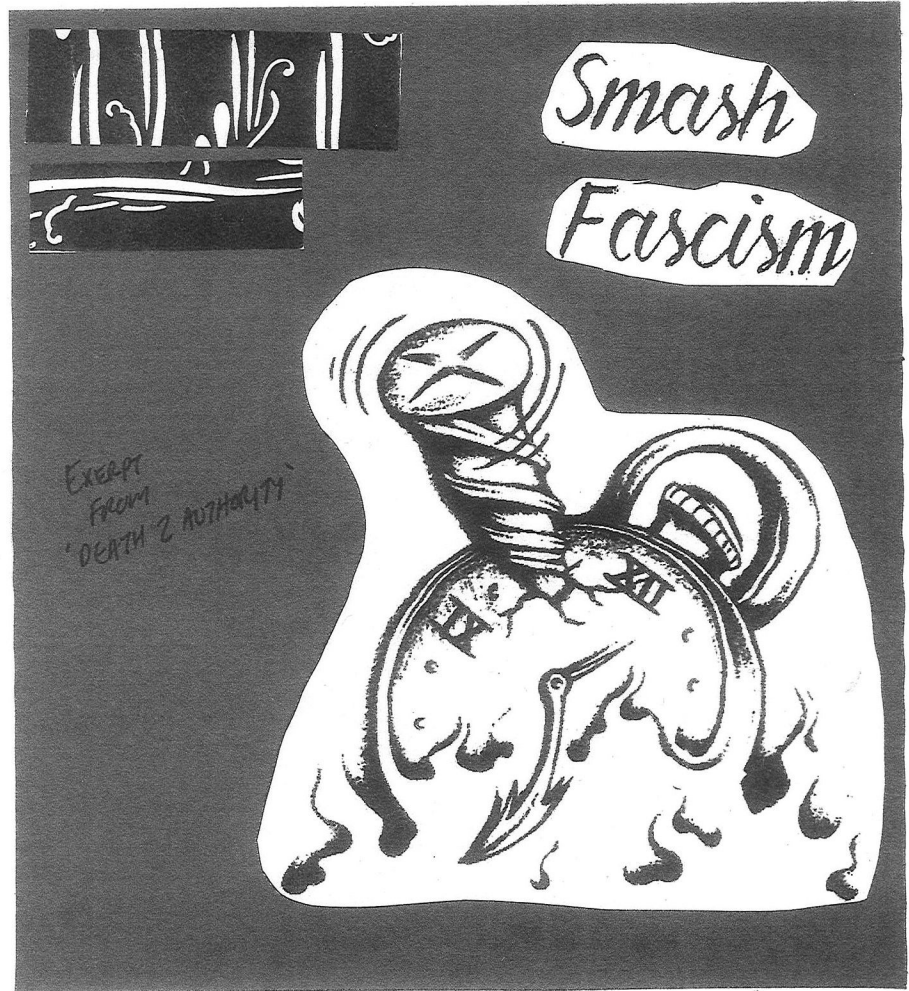
They are used to us getting all angry,
Threatening them, and cursing them out,
Telling them how much time we got,
or don't got, just running our mouth,
'bout how much we don't give a fuck,
how we're getting out,
and we'll be back to fuck them up.
They are super used to hearing that kind of talk
they are used to us getting out,
and forgetting about them hurting us,
not keeping our word,
they know we live far away, in cities,
they know, we will not get on that road.

Worst of all,
they know that nothing will happen to them,
they have unlimited impunity,
guaranteed by the plutocrat system.
they know that their state propaganda machine,
has turned society against us
killed us softly, with their words
telling our story, in their way, calumnious,
making us appear worthless, absurd.
they know we have no voice,
no one will hear us scream from back here,
no one gives a fuck about us,
in their eye, we are human terds.
they are comfortable.

Just as it was done to our enslaved ancestors,
whom were dehumanized, turned into objects,
Personal Property, and Portrayed as animals, on Paper,
Just as the wambian was made to be perceived
as the first Sinner, the first deceiver,
The downfall of humanity
Cursed by some god of Patriarch misogyny,
The work of Patriarch misogynous men,
with their anti-wambian ink pens.
That's how the world was turned against her,
The same way, the Planet was turned against us,
From Afrika, to here in the Amerikkkas,
to justify our being raped, robbed and murdered.

We are on our own here, and they know it.
So they stand outside our cells, gas in hand;
laughing at us, their cartoons speaking louder than N-words.
While we're on the inside, going bananas.
The playing field is not levelled,
and they know, that they are on its Privileged end.
No matter what wrong they do to us,
they will be viewed as right, godsend.
they know we have no Political Power, no Solidarity
no matter how hard we claim to so-called unite.
We are totally isolated, alienated, Ostracised,
and dehumanized, we have no rights,
That they are bound to respect,
We are still Dred Scotts in their sight.
They are comfortable.

-SKS- Heruglyphix



It started simple enough. A couple guys in A-block wanted to form a reading and discussion group. They sat down in the day-room with four others and wrote letters for free literature to books-to-prisoners groups, including a couple of ABCs. With the materials they received, they began a discussion. The first book: ABCs of Anarchism by Alexander Berkman. The second book was George Jackson's Blood in My Eye.

In order to deal with snooping staff and snitches, participants in the discussion group brought bibles to the meetings and, whenever anyone approached, they pretended to have a bible study. In reality, they discussed whether government was their enemy; and what they could do about that enemy.

SOME OTHER ZINES AVAILABLE FROM TRUE LEAP PRESS

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In the Belly: an abolitionist journal Vol. 3 – (2021)*

In the Belly: an abolitionist journal Roundtable on The Imprisoned Black Radical Tradition (2021)

In the Belly: an abolitionist journal Poetry Issue No. 1 (2021)*

Chicago Books to Women in Prison Order Form

First Amendment Rights Primer on Prison Censorship

Anarchist Guide for Understanding Gestapo Swine

Interrogation Mind Games – Harold Thompson*

Handbook Surviving Solitary Confinement – Khalfani Malik Khaldun*

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Jailhouse Lawyers Speak: Information Guide (2020)*

Steel Sharpens Steel #2: Starting Up Study Groups in Prison – Cayote*

Death 2 Authority*

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Meeting Facilitation: The No-Magic Method

Starting an Anarchist Black Cross Group: A Guide (2018)

COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet (prison mailer)

Mapping Our Madness – The Icarus Project

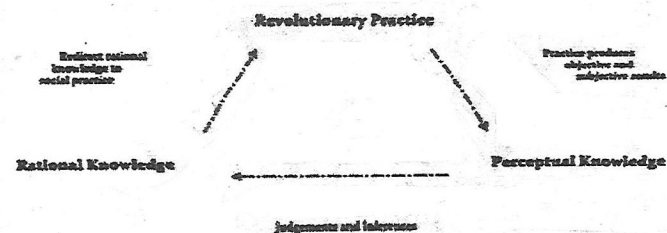
Friends Make the Best Medicine – The Icarus Project

Starting Up Study Groups

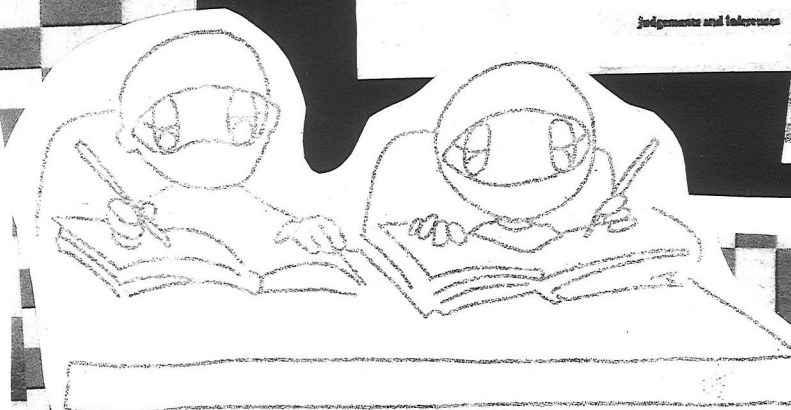
For me, it is imperative to provide literature and to heighten the level of consciousness in the dark, dreary depths of these graveyards, because I feel that once you have become conscious life begins to take on a new meaning, with new purpose and direction. I feel that people who are conscious are *read*, because conscious people are the ones who usually strive to make real changes, and aim to achieve real goals, always seeking solutions, because they are serious about life. They've come into this new consciousness and they begin to formulate a new respect for humanity, for the struggle, for women, and they start to appreciate life and love and nature and everything in ways they've never appreciated them before. The conscious people are the true decision-makers, rather than relying on others to call their shots for them, they're capable of making prudent choices on their own. Conscious people are the ones who "know", and they're the ones who act on their knowledge, and the ones who think, study and reflect. It's always a beautiful, wonderful thing when the wheels are turning upstairs, and you can believe that conscious people's wheels are always turning.



While professionals analyze our situation in the struggle attempting to understand it, we *live* it. We're not part of the privileged class that has the luxury to educate themselves—those who can drop time to write about (no my bad—the time to “articulate”) contradictions. For the most part, we the Bandannas understand our fucked-up situation can be thanked to the Suits and Ties up on the roof of those mega-city sky scrapers. Yet once you introduce revolutionary knowledge to a Bandanna, it is almost inevitable they become a comrade of the international struggle, a reincarnated being that understands how dual power comes, in part, from a diversity of tactics, and possibly in some instances the barrel of a gun. Abolitionist does not mean pacific. Now transformed into this new conscious, principled, and commune-minded being, this new Human, the Bandana being typically immerses themselves in the process of transforming their fellow Bandana's consciousness. Peep the diagram below:

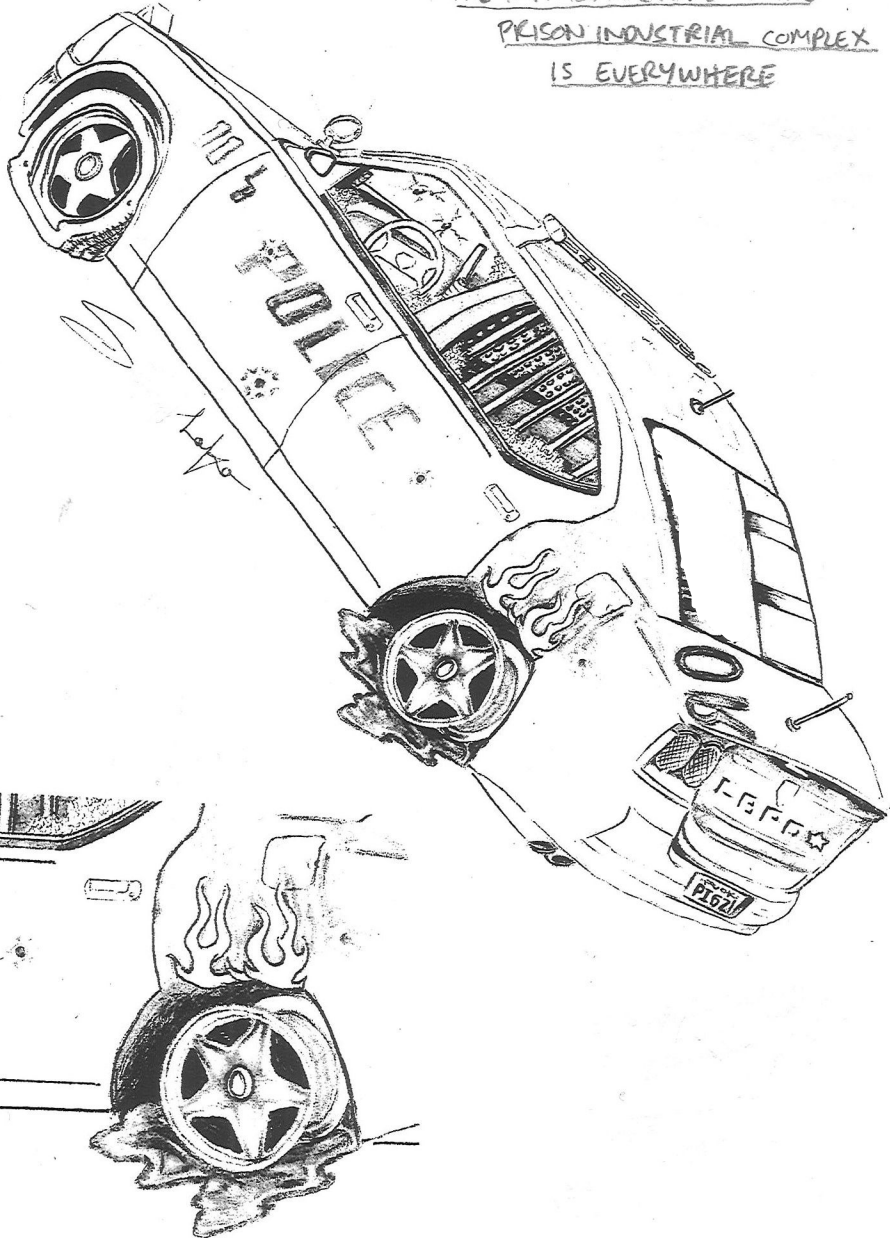


Smelal Naka
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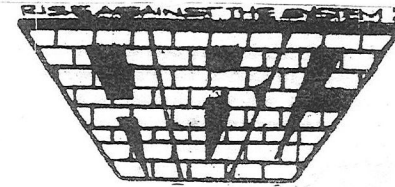


Direct Action: Direct action means that instead of relying on someone else to act for you (such as a politician) act for yourself. It is any action which people themselves decide upon and organize themselves that is based on their own collective strength and does not rely on getting intermediates to act for them. Examples of direct action include strikes, boycotts, sabotage, insurrections and civil disobedience. Direct action can also be liberatory because it puts power in the hands of ordinary people; instead of relying on someone else to do something - we do it ourselves.

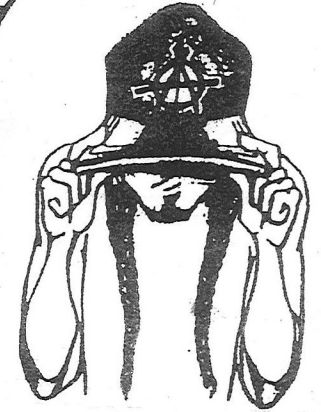
THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE
PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
IS EVERYWHERE



STEEL SHARPENS STEEL



Prison Chapter



**STARTING
UP
STUDY
GROUPS
IN
PRISON**

How to Get a Study Group Going

There are many ways to get study groups going, you just have to be creative and figure out the best methods that work for you and your comrades under the existing conditions, and you have to have the necessary reading materials, books, newsletters, newspapers and literature on hand.

Here is an example of a basic format on how to get a study program going for you and your comrades (see below). There are many different ways to do it, like I said, but this is just one idea that I know works. Basically, what you do is you and your 'rade(s) or study partner(s) are going to pick a subject, like "anarchism", or "solidarity", for example. You guys are to write the definition and a couple of sentences about that subject, but each sentence would consist of like 30 words. Then you guys will write a paragraph, or a page, or even an essay (whatever you decide) on what "anarchism", or "solidarity" (or both) means to you and how you can apply it in your everyday lives. And then after that, you guys will write a summary on what you've learned from this endeavor (study session). Here's an example:

DEFINITIONS AND SENTENCES

- ANARCHISM: (Definition(s))
A (sentence)
B (sentence)
- SOLIDARITY: (Definition(s))
A (sentence)
B (sentence)

(There will be like 30 words)

- Anarchism: (what it means to me and how can I apply it to my everyday life)
- Write a summary of what you've read and of what you learned from this endeavor (session).

Another thing to do is to give your 'rades, or study partners, an essay assignment to write with like 20 questions pertaining to what you've studied. So in the case of your studies on anarchism, you would make tests for your comrades (or have them make tests for themselves), 20 questions or so about what they're reading, etc.

Another good way to get a type of study program going, is a thing that I like to call "steel sharpens steel". Which is basically an exchange of dialogue with you and one study partner, through a series of "kites". Basically, a topic will be chosen, like say for example "raising consciousness", or "the definition of real", or "solidarity", or whatever topic you guys feel needs to be discussed in length, and then each 'rade will write a kite to the other, taking turns discussing that topic in length. And if you have the resources to do it, when you guys are done, you can even have these kites typed up, or transcribed, and Xeroxed copied so that you can pass these out to your other comrades, so they can read them and study them like literature, or you can even have them turned into zines. It's just a way to get an important exchange of dialogue going with a comrade, where each of you is vibing off of each other in a way that you are both learning and growing from that positive exchange, and it's also a way for you to create your own underground literature, that only you and your 'rades will read, or if you want, you can make it something that everybody you deem worthy can read and learn from. These are just little "steel sharpens steel" zines. That's what I call them, but you can call them what you want, it's basically just raw, uncut, guerrilla thought and talk at its finest!

Another thing to do, after you and your 'rades have studied certain subjects for a certain amount of time, get a little trivia game going where you guys quiz each other, to see how much knowledge you've retained. This will definitely keep you sharp and on your intellectual toes!

There are different ways to organize study groups and to conduct study sessions and to have open dialogue and debates going, anything to keep you sharp and intellectually stimulated is good. This is all about elevating yourself, it's about progression and growth, trying to better your position in life, and trying to make things better for your comrades too.

Three Levels of Prison Organizing

I think that there are three levels of political organizing here in California prisons. The first, to achieve unity, respect, and understanding amongst the oppressed. Second, to build the political consciousness of the people. Third, to mobilize the people towards emancipation thru radical sets of politics. Right now, we are at work on level two.

The first level of struggle is one of peace and unity. In prisons here in Cali, this was exercised throughout the hunger strikes. But didn't really make an impact until the ones in 2011. Which is when the "Agreement to End Hostilities" came into effect. Due to the influence that prisoners have out there, we can expect that what happens in prisons is then practiced on the street amongst the barrios-neighborhoods. To achieve peace and unity amongst the oppressed and therefore spreading this practice to the rest of the public.

Second, is the level of knowledge and growth, where we convert the prisons into some type of school, an educational campus so that all that come in can study, learn and become part of a teacher-student/student-teacher method and way of life, as opposed to the banking system of education practiced in capitalist society. This will revolutionize the incarcerated masses, whom will then take this new set of politics to the neighborhoods-barrios to which they return, transforming the ghettos.

Third and finally, is the level of mobilization. Once level 1-2 have been accomplished, level 3 is the key to revolutionary emancipation. The land stolen from the people will be returned to the people. The masses will own the means of production. Institutions from the people for the people will be in every hood. New table of laws for the masses will be set by the oppressed. This will come only after ending imperialism, and, as we know, imperialism will not hand over power. It is up to us to take it. To achieve this, we must practice this line not only locally, but at an international level to bring independence to all. This last level is a battle and only through practice we'll know what we're up against here at home and how to defeat it.

What Anarchism Really Stands For

Anarchy comes from the Greek and literally means "no rulers." Anarchists are anti-authoritarians who seek to abolish domination. It is important to differentiate between different two types of authority: legitimate (or rational) authority and illegitimate (or irrational) authority. In other words, there's a difference between being an authority and having authority. Being an authority means that a person is recognized as competent for any particular task based on her or his knowledge and individual skills. It is socially acknowledged expertise. Legitimate authorities are experts who are particularly knowledgeable, skilful or wise in any particular area. It may be in our best interests to follow their recommendations, but they have no power to force us to do so, nor should they. Legitimate authority is this kind of authority, the authority of an expert.

Having authority is a social relationship based on status and power derived from a hierarchical position within a group. It means dividing society/the group into the order givers and the order takers. The order givers, the authorities, tell the order takers what to do and they must obey. This is illegitimate authority. A boss, for example, is an illegitimate authority because employees must obey his orders. When something is described as "authoritarian" it usually means that it uses illegitimate authority.

Hierarchy is essentially institutionalised authority. It is a pyramidal structured organisation consisting of a series of grades, ranks or offices of increasing power, prestige, and/or remuneration. Those with lower ranks must obey those with higher ranks. Hierarchies maintain control by coercion - the threat of negative sanctions (physical, economic, social, etc.) against those who don't obey. Hierarchical organisations are, by definition, organisations that are run by elites. Those on the top, the elite, have more power than those on the bottom. Hierarchical authority is the authority that is inherent in any hierarchy. This is the same thing as illegitimate (or irrational) authority - that is, relations of command and obedience. Another name for this is domination.

Anarchism is extreme scepticism of authority. The basic idea is to abolish domination in favour of a society based on voluntary co-operation.

Common Questions and Objections

What Would You Replace The State With?

Nothing. Would you replace a tumor?

There have been many different visions of what an anarchist society would look like. Any vision that abolishes the things anarchists are opposed to and is consistent with the earlier stated principles of anarchism is compatible with anarchy. There are, however, many institutions that have been proposed by anarchists to run a non-hierarchical society. Most of these are not based on idle speculation but by looking at how actually existing anarchist societies have worked.

BUILD

Taking notes and memorizing them is always important and will definitely keep you sharp and refined. It's good to be a note-taker. You have to keep your sword sharpened at all times, 'cuz you never know when you'll have to pull it out to cut someone's head off, or better yet, to teach others and to help uplift them. Taking notes and trying to memorize those notes is a good way to keep your sword sharpened. Just always remember, knowledge is nothing when it's idle. What makes a person intelligent is knowing how to put all that knowledge to use, and use it to make good things happen. That doesn't only make you intelligent, but it makes you dangerous!

To get study groups going, everybody has to be serious and committed to elevating themselves and their comrades. You can even make a little list of "do's and don'ts" and if a 'rade does something he's not surprised to do, or fails to do something he is supposed to do, he will have to do some type of writing assignment, like hand-write a copy of a piece of literature, or a chapter out of a book or something, and give his hand-written copy of that piece of literature, or chapter out of a book, or whatever, to one of the members of the study group who needs that particular piece of literature. There are all kinds of things you

can do and come up with, as long as it's all productive and designed to uplift and benefit everybody in the study group, that's all that matters. Once your wheels start spinning, you'll figure out creative ways to get study groups and sessions going.

Sometimes these sessions can be verbal sessions, like open dialogue, or even debates, and sometimes you can switch it up and have written study sessions, like essays, articles, summaries, book reports, and things like that. You just have to make sure that there are enough reading materials to go around for everybody, do what you gotta do to make sure you and all of your comrades are stacked up with a good amount of literature, even if you guys have to make hand-written copies of entire books, or whatever it takes.

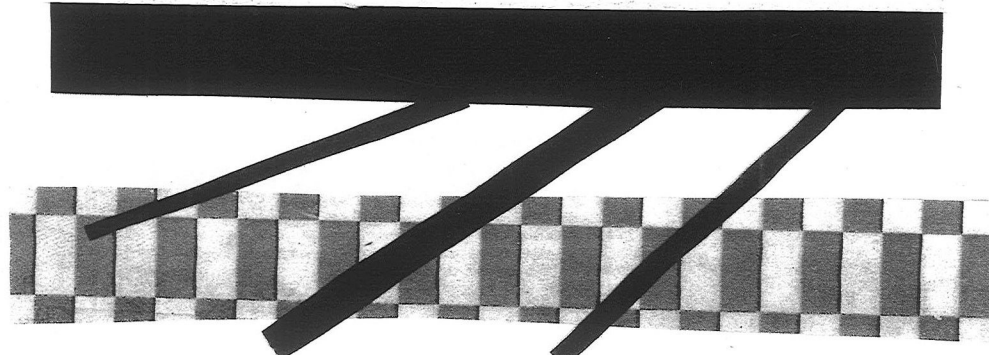
Elevation requires determination. There's no better time and place to learn new things, to grow and elevate and to get your mind right, than the time you have right here, right now, we can turn these prisons into straight revolutionary universities if we're serious about it. And if you're not serious about cultivating your mind, elevating yourself, and trying to better your position in life, then what are you serious about?

This is the pedagogy of the oppressed. This is how we take control of our own lives, turning a bad situation into a beneficial situation. This is how we lift ourselves up and rise against the system. We have to educate ourselves, change our thinking, strategize, take action. It all starts right here, it starts with elevating our thoughts. So here's a blueprint on how to get started, now that you know, do it!

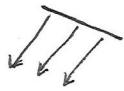
Keep the fire burning, keep your heart set on truthfulness and your mind set on organizing you and yours. Be flexible, but be ready for whatever. Chance favors a prepared mind, so prepare yourself, 'cuz you never know what's gonna happen next, you never know what type of opportunity awaits you, or what will come your way. So be ready, get your mind right and your game tight, with purpose and meaning in your life.

Solidarity and Respect
Coyote
July 22nd, 2006
Anarchist Black Cross
Nevada Prison Chapter

LET'S GET ORGANIZED. LET'S GET OURSELVES TOGETHER! STAND FOR FREEDOM, BE ABOUT ACTION! BE FOR THE PEOPLE AND KEEP THAT REVOLUTIONARY LOVE IN YOUR HEART



FTP



(A)

Also, what's amazing is how aside from the constant harassment due to my active 602'ing, my filing a 602 against a rule violation I received was used against me at my parole board hearing— claiming that I was not owning up to my actions, my "criminal mentality" was causing me to make excuses instead of taking accountability. This alone added another five years to my sentence as I was deemed "unsuitable" to re-enter society. This is exactly what we mean when we say "the seemingly contradictory actions of CDCr serve a major purpose— docility." If a 602 really amended injustices and solved issues of misconduct, prisoners wouldn't have to put their lives on the line through hunger strikes and other forms of resistance, causing them to sacrifice any chance at freedom due to the rule violations and the parole denials that follow, simply for demanding better conditions. Here in California, prior to California's 2013 mass hunger and work strikes, there was a gang validation system to place you in the SHU for a minimum of six years. However, there was no guarantee that someone's time in solitary would have an end date, leading some to be confined to the hole, with minimal contact, programming, or stimulation for decades. Not only was this practice wrong and inhumane, but due to the high number of Black, Indigenous,

and Raza individuals that get labeled as gang, or "threat group," it also serves to further racialize and criminalize communities that are already overrepresented in the prison system. Many of my comrades got validated for hunger striking because it was viewed as "gang activity;" the unity and strength of the lumpen is always criminalized, but is the only force the system truly fears— lumpen mass mobilization and direct action. These actions tend to install a sense of autonomy, power, and love for your neighbor and those around you. It is a beautiful moment when the oppressed realizes who's the oppressor and who and what our collective energy needs to be directed towards. I truly believe that just as in here where people unite under the worst of conditions, people can unite and do the same under fucked up conditions out there. We shouldn't be afraid of the fire that's already in front of us and with us all seeking emancipation. We shouldn't be afraid of the sacrifice and the struggle to come because Just as in here, people will united even if it is the worst of conditions, necessary to survive and work towards that common goal of a better future for us and the generations to come. However, for that to happen we must fuel the flame and let it all burn down to start anew from the ashes.



"Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it, in relative opacity." — Franz Fanon

LABOR, PROTEST, AND SOLIDARITY

HUNGER STRIKES

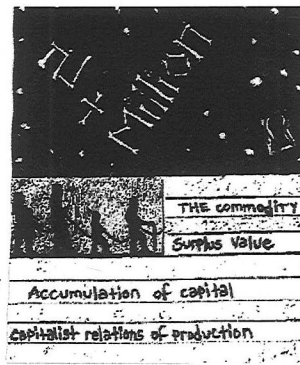
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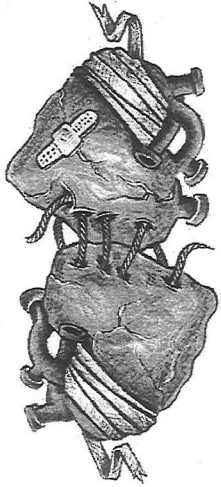
A way incarcerated people have historically and presently fought against their poor treatment and inhumane living conditions has been through strikes. It's worth reminding the reader that such action comes at extreme risk for those organizing-- risk of solitary confinement, stripping of privileges, write-ups that can prevent them from going home, and so on. I want to be explicit about this because of the importance in respecting the courage and determination of those that do organize and protest on the inside. Their behavior, which is often characterized as criminal or being a "trouble-maker," actually stems from a place of such care and love that they are willing to risk their personal safety to better the conditions of everyone on the inside. Recently in 2018, one of the more public prison strikes took place, beginning on August 21 and ending on September 9--coinciding with the death of activist George Jackson and the Attica prison riot. I say public because not only did this strike happen across the United States, with people incarcerated in other countries standing in solidarity, but also because the general public was

able to bear witness. . Protest, strikes, and videos, these public displays are necessary to make change to the conditions of prisons, with the hope that one day they will be abolished altogether. As it is, there is very little information about what goes on inside prisons-- they are meant to make people disappear, to serve as an abstract threat to the public to maintain control. The importance of taking action sheds light on the dehumanization that occurs on the inside, it forces the private to become public. They force the general public to recognize that, according to Michel Foucault, "our disregard for an incarcerated person's humanity and the violence we condone to happen to them" is something we have control over. We, as people on the outside, have the power to resist this type of dehumanization that is considered "appropriate" punishment, and stand in solidarity with incarcerated people worldwide.

REFERENCE:

Under the California Code of Regulations Title 15, Section 3084.1, members of the incarcerated population have the right to appeal any decision, condition, or action by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) or its staff by using a 602 form.





PERSPECTIVE

ALL OF US OR NONE

When it comes down to demanding one's human rights and bettering our living conditions whether it is in the form of a strike or 602, the demands tend to vary state to state. This doesn't mean our struggle ain't the same, it just means that some places are fucked up in different ways than others.

Regardless, we should always chip away at the machine while working on abolishing it.

Prisons shouldn't exist in our communities; our communities deserve better, our families deserve better, and we deserve better. I've participated in hunger and labor strikes throughout my time behind bars away from home and inside the belly of the beast. My first group hunger strike was the 2011-2013 California Prison Hunger Strikes. The mission of these actions was to shut down the SHU program and solitary confinement, calling for the release of all validated prisoners with indeterminate SHU sentences back into the general populations.

From that wave of power exercised by the lumpen organizing inside prisons grew the Agreement to End Hostilities that has implemented "peace" amongst barrios in California with influence in all of Southern, Centro, and Northern California. This was an attempt to unite not only Chican@ nations, but also Black, Brown, First Nations, and all oppressed peoples. For years now, the California Prisons have turned into the dungeons where the lumpen build community create structure across street, militant, hood life schools of thought. I participated in the 2018 National Prison Hunger Strike in solidarity with prisoners across states, documenting my action with a telephone. By doing this, by showing direct action and rejecting the dehumanization that we endure on a daily basis, the abstract threat of the prison becomes concrete. Those on the outside can no longer maintain their passive acceptance of the system, but have to choose. There is no neutrality in the oppression of others. When I did this, I was searched every day for one week straight in an attempt to find the phone and harass me during the strike. My call to comrades led to a phone zap that put pressure on the administration to stop their retaliation against me. It worked. I'm always challenging the administration—through the 602 grievance process, documenting c/o behavior and our (lack of) accessibility to program, disobeying direct orders, and taking blows at the machinery through fucking up state property (clogging pipes, toilets, fucking up computers, sticking staples in the locks and chains, etc.).

(TO BE CONTINUED)

WORK SKILLS

SURVIVING SHU TERMS

My first inmate assignment, also known as my job, was to go to school and achieve a GED. After doing so, I was given a porter position/tier tender. For me, this was a way to get out of the cell in a place that was always locked down — High Desert State Prison. I ended up downstate in the SHU, solitary confinement, at Corcoran, where I was radicalized and became an active participant and organizer of the 2013 hunger and work strikes. When I was released from the SHU and went back to the yard, I was given a porter position again. Shortly after being assigned this position, c/o's began to see how I organized on the tiers, help people with their 602's, and advance the goals of the Agreement to End Hostilities (AEH), so suddenly the c/o's stopped letting me out for work without giving me a 115. While a 115 would have been procedure for not going to work, not giving me a rule violation was intentional so no documentation could be traced back to them. When I filed a 602 against those that would not let me go to my assignment, they threatened me with a 115. To my surprise, they decided they would rather pay me as a barber, when I

had never cut hair before, instead of having me on the tiers. I've been given RVR's and 115's before for not going to my assigned job or class, although it was never because I refused to go. Instead, it was the tower or c/o that never opened my cell. When I would get the 115 and had to appear at my hearing, my explanation as to what happened was dismissed by the officer saying, "a c/o wouldn't lie or do that," implying that it was my fault. To them, I deserved the punishment. When I spoke out against it I was told to "602 it." That phrase of 602'ing something is very common amongst c/o's to prisoners because they know that no matter what, there won't be any change, the percentage of a pig indictment through a 602 is close to none. With this, you can see how it is impossible to talk about labor in CDCR without also talking about 602's and rule violations. A 602 often feels like a process to figure out and pinpoint wrongdoing without any change, to give the illusion that something is being done about the injustices experienced by prisoners.

(RESUMED FROM PG. 10)

Now, let me go back & tell you a story about the first book that was ever banned for me. It was called "The Book of 5 Rings," an ancient Japanese self-help book written by a samurai. But was censored because the Prison Book Review Committee said it taught me how to "be a samurai" (?) which, of course, was a lie. I remember a lot of things about that moment. I remember I was 18 yr. old. I remember who I was in love with. But I also remember thinking to myself, "How were they allowed to ban books? To ban words?" It was just knowledge. Instantly, I thought, this was a conspiracy to hide knowledge? I learned that there was a "list" of banned & censored books that was really a HUGE 3-ringed binder. I spent hours then days in it, learning what books were not yet banned, so I could have my family order them. This "list" is an ever growing, almost impossible to challenge, & frustrating to look @ list. Created by the Literary Review Committee, which is actually a White Supremacist/Odnist, that prides himself for "banning *The Militant* newsletter from DOC."

Jumping forward about a year, I received a few zines (that were actually "banned" but slipped thru due to the laziness of pigs) these zines truly helped radicalize my thinking, & gave me the revolutionary perspective that helped mold me into who I am today. The 3 zines written by a dear Komrade & Hermanito I never had the chance to meet. The Komrade Jose Cruz AKA King Blaze (REST IN POWER). These zines were "The Evolution of Ghetto Style Organization," & "Riders of the Storm, 1 & 2" those zines actually lead to my first "Gang Related Activity & Paraphernalia" D.R. & 30 Dayz in the hole for possessing them.

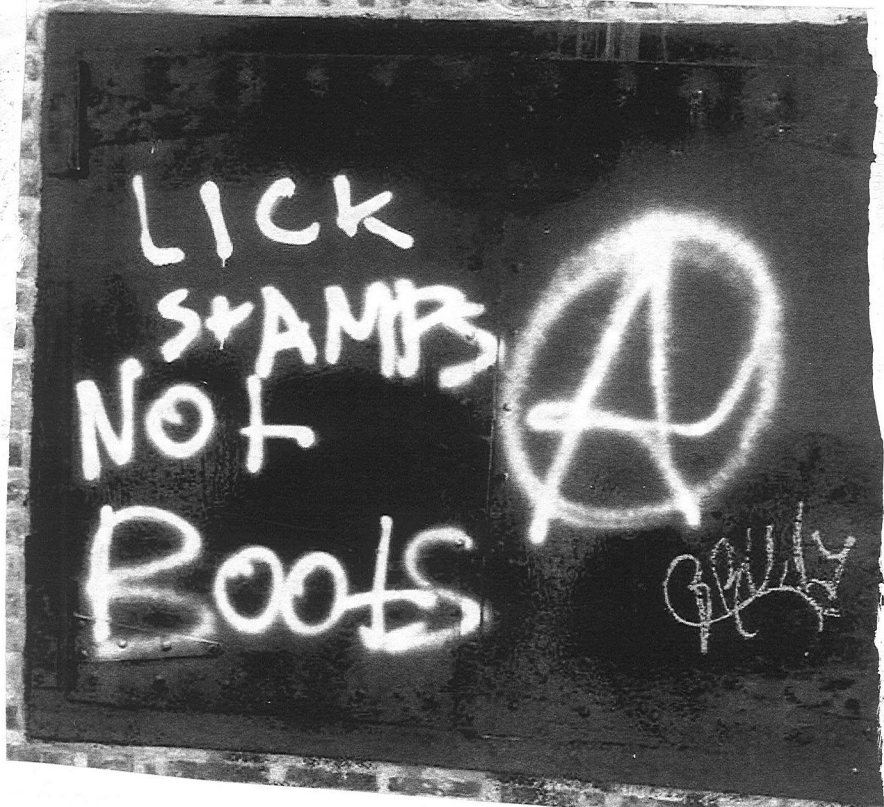
This was also the first—but far from last—experience of my poetry & writing, being stolen, censored, & banned. My letters leaving the prison started to disappear, never making them home. The letters coming in started to vanish or show up a month late. & this follows w/ many stories of me getting thrown in confinement for my writings & poetry. Now it is just the norm for me. One day I may write all of these stories, really getting into conceptualizing every fuckin event, but RN I just write.

This story of being "Censored or having books or zines, or lit or pictures & art banned is not rare inside. Me & all my homies & Komrades have experienced this constantly. This was happening way before I thought to read Che's *Guerilla Warfare* or Komrade George's *Soledad Brother*. Way before I fell in love w/ Assata or found True Kingz thru King Blaze's zines. I can go on & on to tell you all of the books that I read that were banned just because a Komrade or I owned them. But that's not the point. Something that began to stick out to me, esp. after Friday, was that all of these ppl, whether radical or revolutionary or even just too gangsta for AmeriKKKA all experienced one conspiracy or another. Whether charged with one, or killed for one. The censorship of books is more than the banning of words or thoughts. But a conspiracy from the state to vanish history. It is a way they have disappeared or censored these stories. The stories of the lives of those who have been conspired against. George & Jonathan Jackson, Assata, Che, Conspiracys, Mumia, the Afriqaz, Salfya Bulkhari, Conspiracyz. The disappeared Young Lords & murdered Black Pantherz. Conspiracyz. King Blaze, Lord Gino, K. Blood, Conspiracyz. Jeff Fort, Monster Kody, Larry Hoover, Tookie—Conspiracyz. Kwame 'Beanz' Shakur, King Solomon, Komrade Heru, all 3 being buried on the SHU right now. Conspiracyz. Maroon Shoatz, Karen Smith, Rasheed Johnson, Conspiracyz. Leonard Peltier, the guerilla educator Walter Rodney, the Macheterroz, the BLA, & the Real Underground Antifa Movementz. The hacker/hackivist & Guantanamo Bay survivorz, & those who didn't. The Indigenous Water Defenderz & Land Protectorz & so many more that I have no more room on this page to write because I'm still on strip status w/ no property writing on scrapz of paper. All conspiracyz. All have stories we will never hear because of the censorship rules & banning of books & writings on the inside. You will never get to read some of my favorite poetry & essays, & short stories & letters & communiques I have written in the last 20 yrs. & I can just imagine from the short list I just named how many of their essays & art & poetry we will never get to see, read, & experience. How many more ppl will be silenced & books & art stolen? This conspiracy that has been brought against so many inside & out, that lead to this anti-censorship & book banning campaign, the murder & broken spiritz, the forced underground & exiled. The lost communitez of OUR ppl. This campaign is more than us wanting to fight against books being banned, or writings censored. It's about the conspiracy of stories lost for ever @ the hands of the state & evil empire, that has vanished us & kills our loved ones. Before Friday's conspiracy I had 7-10 years left inside. & now IDK if I'll ever make it up out of here...

Yours in the struggle,
Panda Insurgente

THINGS THAT PRISON CENSORSHIP IS...

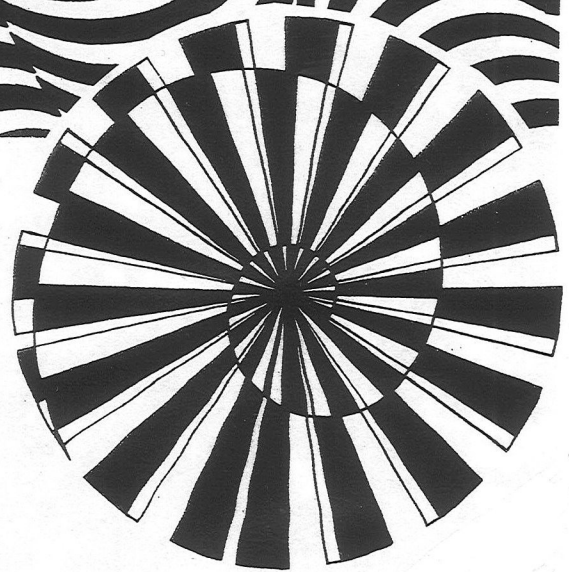
- ARBITRARY
- UNNECESSARY
- RACIST
- HOMOPHOBIC
- TRANSPHOBIC
- INVASIVE
- DEMOCRALIZING



IMPRISONMENT AND CENSORSHIP ARE CO-CONSTITUTIVE

As the state criminalized my words, I started to understand why the "freedom of speech" has always felt foreign to me. This "freedom" only exists out of the enslavement of speech and the enslavement of thoughts. My writings were chained and imprisoned just like I was. I liberated my ability to write from the oppressors. There are a few scars, but I'm alive and well. Prison has almost killed me plenty of times. Cans and cans of chemical agents. Jumped by the pigs while cuffed and shackled. Getting stabbed in a war that was created by the state. But never did I feel closer to death as when I thought the system killed my writings. Prison kills in more ways than we will ever imagine.

—Komrade Underground



To Care (verb)

To care is to give a shit

I was going to start this letter with an old story, a story about the first book that I ever did not receive because of Censorship Rules & the banning of books inside. And, I will probably get to a short version of that by the end of this. But as I think about censorship & the banning of books & of words & of thoughts & of ppl, I begin to understand this concept on another level. I start to realize that this is a conspiracy created by THE STATE.

Especially today...
So let me tell you a different story, a more recent one. A couple of days ago, Friday the 23rd of September to be exact, I was woke up @ about 7:45 AM to a banging on my door. Nothing new. However this time, there was ALOT of banging, & yelling, & about 15 pigs outside of my door. More banging & yelling. Snarling & whatever other noises a gaggle of pigs make together when trying to startle or scare. I guess they did not realize that there was a thousand pound steel door in between us, & a prisoner that gave zero fucks about what they were trying to do or say.

"I have not even brushed my teeth yet... Bastards."
But, I am, a little lost. I may or may not have been a little stoned, maybe an after breakfast Friday wake & bake... So for a moment I wondered if I was dreaming?... Almost a lifetime worth of trauma dealt to me by these pigs has caused nightmares of pigs trying to kill me for years. Not to mention, the few times they have actually tried to kill me. But I quickly realized that, "No, this is Not one of those nightmares, that 15 pigs @ my door has actually happened to me over 50 times, & that I will NEVER, EVER get use to it." After a few minutes of shit talking & a short stand-off, I see some "Real" street pigs lurking in the background. With their camos on, & I figure that now was probably the best time to smash any contraband I had. So smash I did. This followed w/ handcuffs much too tight, slamming me into the wall a bit, while being taken to the showers, & stripped. Dehumanized, demoralized. ("Spread em. again. again.") But this time instead of taking all of my property & throwing me back into an empty cell, I was chained, shackled, & Black Boxed. Then I was dragged to a white patty wagon style van, with no windows. This van was escorted by another black & white truck, a black undercover SUV & another patty wagon. Now, this was new. I had no clue where I was being taken to—just the snatched & grabbed/disappeared & censored vibe crossed my mind. About 30 minutes later we arrived @ the [redacted] County Jail, I say we because they also had a Mexican homie riding with me that I didn't really know, but he told me almost the same morning scene, happen to him. When they pulled up, they snatched him out first, thru the crack in the door I saw him being charged & booked. Then it was my turn. At this point my mind is lost, because I cannot think of my "crime" that I've committed in the last couple years while being held @ [redacted] Correctional institution. But when they read my charges: "Conspiracy to Traffick [redacted] [redacted]" everything started to feel like another nightmare. One that I've never had before. "WTF was going on?" Then one of the scum pigs w/ the ugly shit brown shoes & the shit eating grin, in a low whisper said, "Where are your comrades @ now..." This of course was followed by silence. Everything was followed by my silence. Every question, every comment, silence or lawyer... Silence or lawyer were my only replyz. "Height?"—lawyer. "Weight?" silence. & so on & so on. They were not even questioning me about any alleged "crime" but I knew from experience silence/lawyer from this moment forward. We were there a few more hours & I was racking my brain. I know the "State" has charged ppl w/ bullshit before. Just to silence them, just to censor them. I just never thought it was going to happen to me. Looking back that was one of my Most Naive Moments. My run-ins w/ the pigs has always been political, & have always been "This". Censoring—silencing... disappearing. After a couple more hours we arrived back @ the prison. I was stripped of all my clothes & property. Everything gone—again. Stolen... Censored... All of my writing & clothes, my jewelry, books, & letters. stolen... No mattress, no sheets. No soap or toiletries. MY life & thoughts—stolen. My memories & pictures—stolen. Just censored. My life for the 3rd time was censored but this time @ the highest degree.

So as I layed back on this concrete slab, I was deep in my thoughtz. "Conspiracy To Traffick..." - "Conspiracy" ... my mind was stuck on this word. This "crime" of conspiracy was created by THE STATE to hide ppl without even a crime being committed. When we think about "Conspiracies," most ppl tend to think about things like Bigfoot, UFO's, Blue Blooded Reptilians of the Empire, & the "What-Ever-Gates" that our world in the Meta tells us about. We don't think about this being a "Crime" that the state has created to vanish ppl. How Do You Prove a Conspiracy? Something that never really happened? a crime of thought? or chance? a truly victimless crime? How do I prove that this is a conspiracy against me? To vanish me? To censor me? To kill me?

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