

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Vol. 36-I, No. 1

PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504-1911

January 2012

STRUGGLE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS GOES ON

ADMINISTRATION SEGREGATION UNIT PETITION

Our constitutional rights under the First, Fifth, and 14th Amendments are being violated by Corcoran officials and therefore we California prisoners petition to demand the following:

- 1] That inmates here in Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) be allowed to possess TVs and/or radios. We are daily being subjected to sensory deprivation which imposes a substantial risk of serious harm to our mental health.
- 2] That we are provided access to an adequate law library and/or legal assistance. The ASU law library's contents do not comply with CCR Title 15 sec.3121 and DOM sec.53060. There is only one computer that contains the only essential law books in the law library, which is supposed to be shared by 200 inmates.
- 3] That inmates not be further punished upon completion of their SHU terms supposedly "pending transfer."
- 4] That we be afforded adequate and timely medical care
- 5] That we be afforded due process in our 115 hearings.
- 6] That we be allowed phone access. The denial of phone access is depriving many of us of the only way to keep in contact with our families and loved ones.
- 7] That we be provided with adequate laundry exchange. There are weeks when laundry exchange is not run.
- 8] That our canteen food items be given to us in their packaging. Food items are being placed in paper bags before they're given to us. This attracts insects and the food soon becomes stale.
- 9] That we be afforded educational and rehabilitative programs and/or opportunities.
- 10] That we receive the same privileges as SHU inmates. They include: TVs, educational courses, clothing items, photo ducats, art supplies and exercise equipment.
- 11] That no reprisals be taken for the employment of our right to petition, which is protected by the Constitution.

PELICAN BAY SHORT CORRIDOR (PBSC) UPDATE

A Shout-out of respect and solidarity from the PBSC collective to all similarly situated prisoners subject to continuing torturous conditions of confinement in these barbaric SHU & Ad/Seg units across this country and around the world....

Beginning in early 2011 we again sought to education people about the ongoing torture prevalent in these solitary confinement units. We pointed out that the administrative grievance process is a sham and the court system has turned a blind eye to blatantly illegal practices. This leaves us with no other meaningful avenue for obtaining relief and forcing change but the collective, peaceful protest of hunger strike action. We believed this was the only way for us to expose such outrageous abuse of state power to the world and to gain the outside support needed to help force real change.

We requested support and received more than we ever expected--in the form of letters, rallies, and hunger strike participants--more than 18,000 similarly situated prisoners and some people on the outside! United in peaceful action, we have the power to force changes.

This fight is far from over. The second hunger strike action was suspended in mid-October in response to top CDCR administrators' presentation that substantive changes would be finalized within 60 days for comment. As of the end of December 2011, CDCR hasn't produced anything. People need to remain focused and continue to apply pressure on DCR.

If we don't see real substantive changes within the next 6 months we'll have to reevaluate our position. All of us understand what our main objective is an end to long term torture in these isolation units. It is our fundamental right to be treated humanely! We can no longer accept state sanctioned torture of ourselves and our loved ones. We remain unified in our resistance!

CRIME OF THE MONTH

Kudos to our government for successfully eliminating the rule of law! The National Defense Authorization Act officially makes the U.S. a totalitarian state. Strong language you say? But get this: now, merely on the authority of whoever is president (or any one he anoints with this power), any person, anywhere in the world, can be imprisoned indefinitely without charge or trial. And yes, Virginia, this does include U.S. citizens.

This legislation allows the U.S. military to detain and interrogate U.S. citizens and non citizens and to deny them legal rights heretofore covered by the U.S. Constitution. The bill passed with overwhelming support (86-13 in the Senate, 322-96 in the House). The U.S. legacy of the 2000s is one of flouting international law, and unconscionable detention practices including torture both at home and abroad.

But don't worry. The president has declared he will implement these provisions in a way that "upholds the values on which this country is founded." Would those be, for example, the genocidal vales our forebears upheld by slaughtering the Nation American population? Or those that the current president upholds when he orders killer drones to destroy scores of individuals around the globe, also without benefit of trial?

Our Crime of the Month is the lack of sufficient opposition to this human rights travesty of Constitutional law.

Copies of the Newsletter will be included in all correspondence we send out. To receive the Newsletter monthly, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address)--up to 12 at one time.

Please continue to send us address changes and renewal requests, in order to receive the year-end holiday card/new calendar.

Also, please note that the only address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO BOX 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. And remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS.

Many, many thanks to the *Real Cost of Prisons Project* for making our Newsletter available on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: <http://www.realcostofprisonsproject.org/coalition.html>. It is a GREAT site!

We continue to depend on our readers' contributions to be able to go on with our work. Thank you so much for your support!

TO INCARCERATED FOREIGNERS

If you are a foreign citizen/national who has applied for a transfer from a U.S. state or federal correctional facility in order to do the rest of your time in a prison in your home country and you were denied, due to your being a lifer or serving an indeterminate sentence, contact the Alliance of Incarcerated Canadians in American Prisons (A.I.C.A.P.) at: The Estate of Alphonse Bruno Fedrigucci--AICAP, c/o NMB INC - Dept 51, Toronto Canada M5R 2E3. A.I.C.A.P. needs to hear from all foreigners in order to move forward with litigation against both state and federal institutions. You need not be a Canadian. Send copies of your transfer denials.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY

February 4, 2012, is the next International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier, currently being held at USP Coleman I in Florida, 33521. For more information, and to register your local action go to: www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/04FebSolidarity.html

JUST DETENTION INTERNATIONAL--JDI RAPE IS NOT PART OF THE PENALTY

Just Detention International's (formerly *Stop Prison Rape*) work is carried out in the framework of international human rights laws and norms. The sexual assault of detainees, whether committed by prison staff or by other prisoners, is recognized internationally as a form of torture. Contact: JSI, 3325 Wilshire Blvd --Suite 340, Los Angeles CA 90010.

Incremento de salario en Nuevo México

Basado en una semana de 40 horas laboradas, una persona en ganado el mínimo y quien reciba un aumento de 37 centavos por hora en Santa Fe NM, recibirá \$14.80 adicional por semana, o unos \$770 más por año.

Santa Fe NM cuenta con uno de los salarios mínimos más altos en los Estados Unidos, cerca al de San Francisco CA, quien ya anunció que sus trabajadores ganarán más de \$10 la hora comenzando el año nuevo. El salario básico también incrementará a nivel estatal en Arizona, Colorado y otros seis estados para el 2012.

El pago mínimo de Nuevo México sigue en \$7.50; el salario federal mínimo es de \$7.25 la hora.

El presidente municipal de Santa Fe NM cree que impacto más grande será para los trabajadores de tiendas y supermercados como Walmart, Target y Albertsons.