

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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SOME BRIEFS

TOWARD ABOLISHING JUVENILE LIFE WITHOUT

The latest word we have is as of June 1, 2011, the California state senate voted 21 to 16 to approve SB 9. Under this act, youth sentenced to Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) could petition a court to review their case after doing between 10 and 25 years in prison if certain criteria are met. The court would review the case and decide if a lower sentence should be imposed.

Not all youth would get a new sentencing hearing, and those who did would have no guarantee of getting a lesser sentence. Even if re-sentenced, those prisoners must still face a parole board and must convince them that they merit parole.

California currently has over 300 people in prison with JLWOP sentences. There are over 2,500 JLWOP prisoners nationwide.

For at least 60% of youth, JLWOP was their first criminal conviction. Most are male and people of color. If the actions they are convicted of were committed with adults, the youth often receive longer sentences than the adult. There are currently 39 states in which JLWOP sentences are legal and in some states, it is mandatory for certain criminal convictions.

TOWARD ENDING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Amnesty International (AI) launched a global campaign calling for the United States to end the almost 40 years each in solitary confinement of Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, the two remaining imprisoned of the Angola 3. AI stated: "We are not aware of any other case in the USA where individuals have been subjected to such restricted human contact for such a prolonged period of time." Held in Closed Cell Restriction (CCR) since a highly questionable 1972 murder conviction of a guard, they were originally arrested for armed robbery. Woodfox and Wallace are suing Louisiana for cruel and unusual punishment. At: AI of USA, 5 Penn Plaza, New York NY 10001.

TOWARD RESTORING HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

"Comrades, Organizers, Friends:

On Wednesday, November 2, 2011 in Los Angeles, formerly incarcerated and convicted people from all over the United States will convene to discuss and ratify a National Agenda to restore our civil and human rights. We believe that unity of purpose will allow us to build political power. Many of us are already working on similar campaigns to achieve the same demands. After November 2, we hope to organize and mobilize other people who have suffered at the hands of the criminal justice system to stand up for our rights around the country. After November 2, we plan to mount unified national campaigns to register voters, to end all forms of discriminate based on arrest or conviction records, to support the human rights of people locked up in cages, and to serve our families and communities.

Please register now so we can plan for food and reserve housing in advance. There is no registration fee deadline. Our conference will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a. on Wednesday, November 2, the convening starting at 9 am in Freedom Hall at the Watts Labor Community Action Center, 10850 South Central Avenue.
<http://unprison.com/2011/06/06/registration-now--open-for-ficpm-national-conference-nov-2nd/>

TOWARD FAIRER PRISON PHONE RATES

The **Prison Phone Justice** campaign (PrisonPhoneJustice.org) supports federal oversight of and rate caps on interstate prison phone services, as well as closer regulation on the state level. Most states profit enormously--a total of over \$152 million a year nationwide--from prison phone kickbacks, which result in higher rates. Yet eight states have already banned prison phone kickbacks entirely: NE, NM, NY, RI, MI, SC, CA and HI. There are rate reductions in NH, KS and AR. Currently however, up to 60% of the price prison calls are not based on cost

Justicia de la libertad condicional

De los 166,000 prisioneros en California, aproximadamente el 20% (33,200) tienen sentencias de cadena perpetua con posibilidad de obtener libertad condicional, aun así 20,000 prisioneros tienen un retardo ya de años en sus fechas de elegibilidad. En el 2009, sólo 193 personas de mile elegibles recibieron libertad condicional. En enero 2011, la Corte Suprema de la EE.UU. tomó una decisión muy alarmante, donde declararon que los prisioneros no tienen derecho constitucional para la obtener libertad condicional, una señal de que en el futuro podría ser más difícil poder conseguir ordenes judiciales.

Pero Michigan ha reducido su población carcelaria pos casi un 10% al soltar prisioneros en la fecha de us liberación y proveyendo un programa de re-incursión. ¡La justa y más efectiva solución financiera, es la de liberar a los prisioneros que son elegibles!

La repetidas negaciones del estado de California al negar la liberación condicional a prisioneros con condenas cadena perpetua contribuye al sobrecupo de las prisiones, los males financieros del estado, y la injusticia de un sistema legal disfuncional.

Un grupos trabajando para cambios positivos en California es Alianza de Apoyo a la Vida. La misión es: "exponer el costo real, en términos monetarios y humanos, de la parcialidad de la política del consejo de liberatad condicional en cuanto a la negación de liberación en la vasta mayoría de los casos en los que prisioneros son elegibles. Nuestro estado ya no puede permitir en la venganza como política pública." (www.lifesupportalliance.org)).

Copies of the Newsletter will be included in all correspondence we send. To receive our monthly issues regularly, 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. This is especially important for those in California and Texas.

Also, please note that the ONLY address to use to be able to reach us continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504.

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.realcostofprisons.org/coalition.html> It is an outstanding site!

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

A reminder: None of us at the CPR are lawyers or legal workers.

VOICES FROM INSIDE, IN SOLIDARITY

Greetings to all who support freedom, justice, and equality. We here at Corcoran CA SHU stand in solidarity with, and in full support of the July 1st hunger strike and the 5 action points as laid out by the Pelican Bay Collective.

What many are unaware of is that facility 4B here in Corcoran SHU is designated to house validated prisoners in indefinite SHU confinement and has an identical ultra-super max isolation unit short corridor modeled after corridor D in Pelican Bay, and we have no contact with any prisoners or staff outside of this section here.

What is of note here, and something that should concern aa, is the increasing use of behavioral control (torture units) and human experimental techniques against prisoners not only in California, but across the nation. The purpose of this "treatment" is to stop prisoners from standing in opposition to inhumane prison conditions and to prevent them from exercising their basic human rights.

It is important for all to know the Pelican Bay Collective is not alone in this struggle and that the broader the participation and support for this hunger strike, and other such efforts, the greater the potential that our sacrifice now will mean a more humane world for us in the future.

Our indefinite isolation here is both inhumane and illegal and the proponents of the prison industrial complex are hoping that their campaign to dehumanize us has succeeded to the degree that you don't care and will allow the torture to continue in your name. It is our belief that they have woefully underestimated the decency, principles, and humanity of the people. Join us in opposing this injustice

In Illinois on March 9, 2011, the governor signed legislation effectively abolishing the "death penalty" and granted 15 of us commutation to LWOP. The law will go into effect July 1, 2011.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

For AICAP, The Estate of Alphonse Bruno Fedrigucci - AICAP, c/o HMB Inc - Dept 51, Toronto, Canada M5R 2E3 (postage: \$.98/oz)

SOME TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

\$ 11.5 billion per year for estates
\$ 8.9 billion mortgage interest deducts
\$ 6.7 billion estate planning techniques
\$ 5.2 billion unlimited itemized deducts
\$ 4.1 billion breaks for offshore ops
\$ 2.3 billion hedge fund managers