

!ROCK!

★ Working to Extend Democracy to All ★

★ Volume 1, Number 2 ★

★ April 2012 ★

PELICAN BAY HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Formal Response to the CDCR's Security Threat Group Prevention, Identification and Management Strategy proposal

Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement

1. Preface
2. P.B.H.R.M. co-proposal

Preface:

The PBSP-SHU short corridor prisoner representatives have read, carefully considered, and hereby oppose the CDCR's March 1, 2012, the Security Threat Group Prevention, Identification and Management Strategy proposal (hereinafter proposal), based on the following reasons. Additionally, we do hereby present our counter proposal (attached hereto).

I: Summary of issues

Beginning in May of 2-11, the PBSP-SHU short corridor prisoners collective presented CDCR with a 'Formal Notice' of intent to go on a peaceful protest hunger strike beginning July 1, 2011, in order to expose for force policy changes regarding our subjection to 25 years of torturous human rights abuse in California SHU and Ad Seg. units. The Formal Notice included a list of "five core demands" and a "Formal Complaint" summarizing the facts and circumstances leading up, and supporting the basis for putting our lives on the line to stop the torture of our families and us.

During negotiations conducted in late July, August, and October of 2011 top CDCR administrators several times admitted, to PBSP-SHU representatives and to our mediation team, that the five core demands made by prisoners were reasonable. The CDCR made repeated assurances

that the Five Core Demands would be addressed via meaningful substantive changes, responsive to the specific demands as soon as possible. The five core demands are summarized here for the purpose of clarity.

1 Eliminate group punishments.

Instead, practice individual accountability. When an individual prisoner breaks a rule, the prison often punishes a whole group of prisoners of the same race. This policy has been applied to keep prisoners in the SHU indefinitely and to make conditions increasingly harsh.

2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria.

Prisoners are accused of being active or inactive participants of prison gangs using false or highly dubious evidence, and are then sent to long-term isolation (SHU). They can escape these tortuous conditions only if they "debrief," that is, provide information on gang activity. Debriefing produces false information (wrongly landing other prisoners in SHU, in an endless cycle) and can endanger the lives of debriefing prisoners and their families.

3. Comply with the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement.

This bipartisan commission specifically recommended to "make segregation a last resort" and "end conditions of isolation." Yet as of May 18, 2011, California kept 3,259 prisoners in SHUs and hundreds

more in Administrative Segregation waiting for a SHU cell to open up. Some prisoners have been kept in isolation for more than thirty years.

4. Provide adequate and nutritious food.

Prisoners report unsanitary conditions and small quantities of food that do not conform to prison regulations. There is no accountability or independent quality control of meals.

5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU inmates.

The hunger strikers are pressing for opportunities "to engage in self-help treatment, education, religious and other productive activities..." Currently these opportunities are routinely denied, even if the prisoners want to pay for correspondence courses themselves. Examples of privileges the prisoners want are: one phone call per week, and permission to have sweat-suits and watch caps. (Often warm clothing is denied, though the cells and exercise cage can be bitterly cold.) All of the privileges mentioned in the demands are already allowed at other Super Max prisons (in the federal prison system and other states). All of the privileges mentioned in the demands are already allowed at other Super Max prisons (in the federal prison system and other states).

With respect to core demands #1,2,3, and 5, Policy and Practice of basis for indefinite SHU isolation averages(s) available for gaining one's release therefrom, and the progressively punitive nature of SHU/Ad

Seg conditions, it's important to remember, many SHU prisoners have been held indefinitely, and subject to sensory deprivation, and every other abuse imaginable, that occurs in such hidden hell holes, for between ten to forty years and counting, solely bases on what CDCR-OCS refers to as their "intelligence system" i.e., debriefer allegations and innocent associational activity without ever actually being charged and found guilty of committing a criminal gang-related act.

Thus, the parties understood CDCR's intelligence system for indefinite SHU placement was one of the major issues of concern to the class of SHU prisoners and their families, subjected to such long term isolation and abuse, without being charged and found guilty of committing a criminal act by credible evidence, and after the due process such formal charges would require. The parties all understood that major, meaning, and fundamental, change away from the above referenced "intelligence" based system ... to a "behavioral" based system. A system defined as one in which a prisoner who engaged in "criminal gang activity" that is supported by "credible evidence" will be subject to sanctions (Per CDCR, Title 15, §§ 3312-3315, et seq., i.e., rule violation reports, referral for prosecution, determinate SHU term, and corresponding loss of privileges—after receiving due process and being found guilty of the criminal act alleged. On March 9, 2012, CDCR issued a press statement and presented their proposed gang management policy changes (the Proposal) in response to our peaceful protest activity and related five demands and negotiation process referenced above.

II: CDCR's Proposal Is Not Acceptable

The PBSP-SHU short corridor prisoner reps have read and carefully considered CDCR's March 2012 proposal and we hereby summarize our opposition to the proposal. This rejection is based upon the CDCR's failure to act in good faith, as demonstrated by the mockery made of our agreements (referenced in above section I), including Secretary Cat's delegation of the policy change process to the Office of Correctional Safety (OCS), who resorted to the same twenty-five years plus fear tactics of California prison gangs being the "worst of the worst" in order to propagate, manipulate, and promote their own underlying agenda, which is to increase

the power, staffing, and money of the OCS office within CDCR. (See, e.g., Proposal, P.5, at last paragraph; "the continuing evolution of our existing intelligence network..."). It should be noted that the OCS is the gang intelligence/goon squad in charge of SSU/IGI units within CDCR. This propagandist-manipulative abuse of state power—includes the ongoing use of long-term sensory deprivation, designed to coerce prisoners to become state informants, while also making a ton of money from such SHU/AD Seg torture units.

The Proposal seeks to manipulate the law makers and the tax payers into allowing CDCR-OCS to significantly expand on the use of these SHU/Ad Seg units, via the creation of new criteria and classes of what they term Security Threat Groups (STG) involved in "criminal gang behavior" (See Proposal in general).

The CDCR-OCS is asking the law makers and tax payers to allow them to continue to violate thousands of prisoners human rights, including the use of torture with impunity bases on false propaganda scare tactics exemplified below.

The Proposal (and related CDCR press statement) begins with propaganda claiming California prison gangs are "the most sophisticated and violent in the nation—connected to major criminal activity in the community, and having influence on nearly every prison system within the United States" (Proposal pgs. 2,3,5 and Press Statement of March 9, 2012). They also claim their current torture practices, those utilized for over 25 years, "have been successful in reducing the impact of sophisticated gang members have in CDCR facilities" ... "by removing them from the general prison population" (Proposal, p.2 at paragraph 2, 3). These are the same manipulative tactics used by OCS for twenty-five years. They've gotten away with it at a cost of hundreds of millions of tax payers' dollars, and with the destruction/severe physical-psychological damage long term subjection to torture units has caused thousands of prisoners and their loved ones outside prison. And all of this in the face of the facts and evidence to prove CDCR-OCS propagandist-manipulative statements are false. In spite of being subject to 25 to 40 years of extreme security surveillance by alleged gang expert special agents the majority of the prisoners classified a prison gang members have never been charged or found guilty of any criminal gang related acts! Moreover, a statistical study of the

CDCR's practice during the twenty-five year period prior to imposition of the current policy of placing all prison gang affiliates in SHU and comparing this data with the current 25 year SHU policy will prove that CDCR general population prisoners have been significantly more violent and out of control since the current policy has been in place.

CDCR-OCS are directly at fault for this 25-years of madness that continues to take place in this state's general population facilities, including staff manipulating prisoners against each other to further the staff's agenda (a lot of riots or other violence is useful in supporting demands for extra hazard pay, overtime, etc.).

CDCR-OCS's gang management policy of the last 25 years is a one hundred percent failure, and their march 2012 proposed changes are not acceptable because they seek to increase the use of torture units and do not change the many of dealing with those classified as prison gang members at all, which is a blatant violation of the parties agreement(s) during the negotiation process last year. This is shown by reference to the following examples:

A. The Proposal wants to change the classification of "prison gang member" into "security threat group I" member (STG-I member), while continuing the current policy and practice of keeping these alleged gang members in SHU indefinitely, using the same alleged "evidence" that's been used for the past 25 years. The Proposal specifies that "... STG I members will remain in SHU indefinitely, until they successfully complete the debriefing process ... or the 'step-down program' consisting of a minimum of four years to complete all four steps." Notably, it states, "...STG-I members will remain in SHU and will not be able to gain release to the general prison population via step down program based on IGI's confirmation of participation in criminal gang behavior." Confirmation requires "either (1) a guilty finding in a serious rule violation report and/or (2) any document that clearly describes the gang behavior and is referred to the institution I.G.I. for confirmation." Number 2 is in reference to "documentation" consisting of statements from confidential inmate informants/debriefers, staff's alleged observations, and other forms of innocent associational type behavior (See Proposal, at page 7, 17-25,3). This is the exact same process CDCR-OCS has used and abused for 25 years. This changes nothing for the prisoners classified

as prison gang members, which is a majority of those in PBSP short corridor, most of whom have been in SHU for between 10 and 40 years already—without ever being formally charged and found guilty of a criminal gang act.

B. The Proposal fails to make meaningful, substantive changes responsive to core demands 1, 2, and 3, (and does so unsatisfactorily re: Core Demand #5, e.g. mockery of our request for weekly phone calls, no contact visits for step 3 and four, etc., etc.). We see no point in having four steps—each requiring a minimum of one year to complete. And the vague wording regarding the rest of the Proposal leaves much room for abuse and manipulation—which CDCR-OCS staff have a long history of doing. All of which makes CDCR-OCS proposal unacceptable.

III: PBSP-SHU Short Corridor Prisoner Representatives

Based on CDCR's lack of good faith in the process of changing their illegal policies and practices regarding the use and abuse of long-term isolation/torture, and for the reasons briefly summarized above, together with our belief that the CDCR-OCS proposal is so blatantly out-of-step with what was agreed during negotiations between July through October of 2011, as to constitute an intentional stall tactic designed to prolong our subjection to those torturous conditions.

Therefore, we hereby respectfully present our attached counter proposal—to be implemented without further delay.

Dated _____

*Respectfully Submitted by (Negotiators)
Names at the end of PBHRM.*

Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement (Proposal)

Modern-Management Control Unit (MMCUC)

This proposal starts by looking at concrete programs that have been implemented by CDCR and functioned effectively, and by examining how they can be immediately adapted to the present-day PBSP and all 180 prison structures.

In the 1970s and 1980s the Max-B management control unit programs, such as Chino, DVI, and San Quentin Max-B, afforded as much programming as the Gen-

eral Population (GP) prisoners had, and held individual prisoners accountable, who failed to program within the MCU setting.

Today (2012) there are still some small Max-B type programs functioning in a few CDCR facilities under different names, but segregated with the same objectives.

The new 180 design prison complexes are perfectly structured for the necessary control setting and for meeting all the security requirements needed to make this modern (Max-B MCU) type of unit(s) more durable and cost-effective to operate for the California tax payers.

PBSP "B" Control Program

PBSP "B" facility control/behavior program (facility) for the general population prototype can be implemented as a pilot program, and used at other 180 design prison complexes. PBSP "B" facility can serve a dual purpose of allowing for a short period of decompression time for validated SHU/Ad Seg prisoners who have served decades in super-max SHUs. This applies to prisoners who have not received any serious CDCR-RVR 115s for any individual behavioral misconduct, demonstrating factually reliable evidence of the prisoner currently engaging in criminal gang activity that shall and can be prosecuted as a criminal offense within California's state or federal courts.

The second purpose of this M-MCU program shall allow validated prisoners to successfully complete the 90 day step program; this is a three phase program for re-entry back in the general population of a prison setting, within the new modern structural environment of the 180 design prisons like the old MCU program (similar to what existed in the mid-1970s and 1080s at Chino, DVI, San Quentin Max-B units, and old Folsom state prison—i.e., restricted housing units).

PBSP "B" Facility is an Ideal Institution for the (Max-B, MCU) Program for release to the (G.P.), because it is in a level IV Maximum Security Prison, with an existing Policy Requiring that inactive affiliates be housed on close B status within a level IV-prison setting, for a period of observation that shall be no longer than 12 months.

Upon completion of that observation period, the prisoner shall be transferred to another control/behavior unit (CBU) Facility to G.P. in the absence of real safety needs (i.e. a specific conduct/behavior act), the prisoner may be housed in a facility consistent with his classification score.

PBSP "B" Facility is comprised of eight (8) housing units with one main exercise yard, that is divided into three (3) smaller separate yards, and approximately twenty cells per. Section (i.e. A, B, and C) for building one (1) and building two (2) is a repeat of building one. Each housing unit has three separate housing sections, with an approximate capacity of forty prisoners in each section. Thus, each housing unit has room for approximately 120 prisoners, and a facility capacity of 900 prisoners. Additionally, each housing unit has a separate concrete wall enclosed yard, with a capacity of twenty (20) to forty (40) prisoners, during their (prisoners) exercise periods. There are generally two (2) or three (3), exercising periods each day. Prisoners can effectively be segregated to fit security and safety standards, like what existed under the past management control units. All segregated programming can be operated by a schedule of Group A, Group B, and Group C.

Modern Management Control Facility (MMCF/G.P.) Has Three Phases:

- Phase I: Initial Placement into (MMCF) from the (SHU) shall be for a minimum of 30 days, with no group programming, no designated work group participation allowed non-contact visits.
- Phase II: Programming within a prisoners particular classification assigned to group A, B, or C. Eating in Dining Hall. Phase II Placement shall be for a minimum of 60 days, with contact visits.
- Phase III: The successful completion of 90 days (MMCF/GP) Programming, meaning a prisoner has full access to one of the main exercise yards with his assigned group.

In Phase I, the classification committee will designate the assigned work group; phase II work group A1, A2, B privilege Group B; Phase II work group A1, A2, B privileged work group.

1. Classification should be every 90 days
2. Telephone access: One call per month
3. Contact visits
4. Educational programs
5. Canteen items not to exceed one month's draw of assigned privilege group
6. Conjugal visits
7. Feeding in units dining halls
8. Transfer C.A.T. Programs
9. Prisoners should be able to another institution with a (MMCF) to G.P. after one year, in order to be closer to family.

Additional Requirements and Sup-

port for our Proposal

A. IGI, OCS should discontinue the arbitrary, unfair practice of relying on allegations from confidential informant/debriefers to keep prisoners in SHU and/or from advancing out of SHU, unless such allegations are supported by credible evidence, and thereby result in issuance of a CDCR-115 rule violation report, and required due process thereafter whom himself been denied inactive status.

B. Discontinue relying on innocent associational activity, such as: roster list, group petitions, address books, poems, drawings, portraits literatures, published books, manuscripts, signing of birthday cards, signing of condolence cards, legal work, chrono's for talking, envelopes with a validated prisoners name on it, etc; unless IGI can disclose undisputed evidence during inactive review, that the prisoner under review has written to another on a roster list who is promoting current gang activity; written to another validated prisoner's address, who is promoting current gang activity. The same proof of evidence shall apply to poems, drawings, cards literature, etc; showing the prisoner how his written material has promoted "current gang activity", gang violence, etc!

It is known that there are IGI and ISU and OCS officials, that are deliberately (during the inactive reviews), misinterpreting what constitutes current gang activity; as well as, relying on flimsy information that contains no credible evidence or documentation about the prisoner who is under review, showing him to be planning, organizing, threatening, soliciting or committing any criminal gang acts. (If there was credible evidence supporting this a CDCR 115 RVR is required).

The reason for this erroneous practice is because there is an attitude to use the inactive review as a means to continue denying specific validated members a release from SHU to the mainstream General Population (G.P.).

Documented evidence clearly demonstrates the opposition (e.g. OCS) is not in favor of giving better programming opportunities to SHU prisoners, like those afforded to the General Population prisoners. Prisoners have loudly and clearly called for the end to group punishment and for a focus on individual behavior instead. They have voiced their willingness to accept individual accountability for individual conduct. They (prisoners) will get that under this plan, and individual who fails to re-

main in compliance with the PBSP "B" facility (MMCF) structural setting will return to the (SHU/adseg).

The current long term (SHU) prisoners have already fulfilled a step-down program during the decades spent in supermax/SHU's. They should not have to do more to earn their release into a PBSP "B" facility (MMCF) program setting (like what existed in the mid-1970's and 1980's in what was called management control units within the (SHU-structure) The security level today in the 180 level IV prison is much more controlled and therefore suitable, for a (MMCF) to be easily implemented and effectively operated.

This document is in direct relation to the (P.B.H.R.M) to address the illegal warehousing of prisoners held in California Torture Chambers (i.e. solitary confinement, SHU, and indefinite isolation), which is stated in the "Five (5) Core Demands", that M. Cate CDCR Secretary, Undersecretary S. Kernan (former) and undersecretary Terri McDonald (current) have all agreed that we (the prisoners held within indefinite isolation (i.e. SHU) should have had coming, and we shall be afforded all of the Prisoners "Five (5) Core Demands."; which is supported by the California Governor E. Brown. These demands are all reasonable.

Prisoners currently held under the indeterminate (SHU) term, shall be relocated into this (PBSP "B" Facility-MMCF), and shall be authorized to receive the same personal property items for prisoners assigned to the BMU see Title 15, CCR 3334(e) (g).

Evidence proves, CDCR (SHU/Adseg) sensory deprivation from Solitary Confinement (conditioning causes) harm to prisoners... this illegal torture must end.

The science of sensory deprivation was theoretically structured in the federal prison in Marion, Illinois in the 1970's. It was the first known behavior modification program in the United States. There were no pre-conditional snitching (debriefing) requirements connected to being released from said program. In California, at Pelican Bay State Prison Security Housing Unit - SHU), under the region of the Prison Intelligence Units (PIU)= SSU, ISU, LEIU, IGI and OCS (which is a qualitative fact of a high intensity (enhanced) sensory deprivation program that was implemented in December 1989, against a targeted class of prisoner between the years of 1990 and 2011). Hundreds of targeted prisoners in the principal ethnicity groups of New Afrikans (Black), Northern Mexican,

White and Southern Mexican, Hereafter (N.A./N.M./W. & S.M.) Were tortured into debriefing. The facts of sensory deprivation being a form of torture, is linked its application and the results. For the sake of argument, the American Medical Association Encyclopedia, Page 1103, defines "Sensory Deprivation" as a form of torture. The experimenting with sensory deprivation in California has far succeeded the federal behavioral modification program. Long term solitary confinement by itself is an irrational, and unjustifiable instrument of corrections; and when the State of California allowed the prison-industrial complex (PIC) to implement such sensory deprivation for over five (5) years, they (CDCR) have recklessly modified the genetic features of what are human beings social characteristics, and by suppressing a humans natural social behavior, it changes the thought process of the targeted prisoners by removing objective reality once deprivation sets-in, the second signal system (subjective reality) of the targeted prisoners thoughts will supersede the first signal system, which than produces: Irrationalism, Cannibalism, Racism, Chauvinism, Terrorism, Conformism and Obscurantism. The process of deprivation passes through three (3) phases 1) Judgment, 2) Awareness, and 3) Fatigue. Once the three (3) phases are tapped into the physiological basis for the targeted prisoners, association and loyalties becomes short-circuited. The targeted prisoners of deprivation believes they're no longer accountable for their behavior and actions.

Sensory deprivation has a secondary phenomenon, which are social deprivation, cultural deprivation, ethical deprivation and emotional deprivation. No sane targeted prisoners can escape this type of deprivation that comes from long term interment in super-max control unit. The science of



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deprivation has been perfected by the handlers to operate with devastating force.

The techniques of torture by deprivation are used by United States Military Intelligence and the Political Police Interrogators, to break down the will Power of the targeted prisoners. They (CDCR) have conducted a war of attrition against the mind and body of thousands of prisoners over a prolong period of time. There's a misconception that "mental" torture not being as brutal and barbaric as physical torture. Military Intelligence Experts will attest to the fact that mental torture is more effective than physical torture especially inside the prison theater. #1) Physical torture produces short range returns #2) Mental torture produces long range returns.

Admittedly, from the overview of sensory deprivation, there is no separation between physical torture and mental torture. Torture is two a (2) – edged sword and can be an effective way towards (1) exacting punishment, or (2) revenge; and of course the objective being to obtain a confession, or information from the subject, we know that (PBSP-SHU) was architecturally deprivation impact. Its features are:

1) The cage pods have no windows the targeted prisoners will go decades without ever seeing the natural physical scenery (i.e. trees, mountain, grass, dirt, plants, birds or wildlife) of the objective world.

2) The cage pods have several strategic secret type of capabilities that are used for disposal of human beings, incineration, refrigeration and or gas chamber), the degree of hotness (heat of combustion) and coldness (freezing point) or gaseous asphyxiate.

3) Ventilation shaft designed to circulate, stale and noxious air from cage to cage, poor air quality

4) High intensity impulse noise trapped in a vacuum.

The prison intelligence unit (PIU) has an established profile of every targeted prisoners socio-psychological characteristics (Dictatorial attitude, level of self-discipline, personality, group orientation, dominance, submissiveness, paranoid, sociability non-compatibilities). The (PIU) establish the racial- ethic social ecology make up of every eight (8) cell-pod. It is essential to the intensities of deprivations that the social polarity atmosphere influence the phenomena effects. It does play a significant role in the bringing about the deterioration of the targeted prisoners. No targeted prisoners can escape the transformation of

objective reality into subjective reality of self-preservation. The external world must become immaterial in the targeted prisoner minds if they are to survive the War of Attrition.

During the last six (6) months of 2011, the California prisoners was compelled to get involved with two (2) peaceful non-violent hunger strikers, to get this Country President Obama and Governor Brown of California, and CDCR Secretary M. Cate know, that this country (U.S.A.) and the State of California do infact torture State Prisoners, and later drive some to the State of Sensory Deprivation through the Personal of Prison Intelligence units/military Intelligence agents and Political Police Tormentors... Now, over the Past nine (9) months, July 2011 to March 2012, we (Prisoners) have lost three (3) fellow prisoners, whom we shall honor them for their courageous struggle for our (PBHRM) call for Justice and Humanity.

In Memory Of:

1.....Johnny Owen Vick – PBSP Adseg

2.....Hozel Alanzo Blanchard – Calipat Adseg

3.Christian Gomez – CSP-COR Adseg

These are just recent men (Human Beings) who were subjected to the inhumane treatment in solitary confinement who dedicated their lives to our struggle to be liberated from these torture chambers. We dedicate to them our commitment to continue our struggle.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa – Dewberry C-35671

Arturo Castellanos – C-17275

Todd Ashker – C-58191

Antonio Guillen – P-81948

Date: 3-19-2019

Additional speakers will include:

- Hans Bennett, Independent journalist and co-founder of Journalists for Mumia
- Terry Kupers, Institute Professor at The Wright Institute in Berkeley, California
- Manuel La Fontaine, Northern California Regional Organizer for All of Us or None
- Aaron Mirmalek, Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee Oakland
- Kiilu Nyasha, Independent journalist and former member of the Black Panther Party
- Tahtanerriah Sessoms-Howell, Youth Organizer for All of Us Or None
- Luis "Bato" Talamantez, California Prison Focus and one of the San Quentin 6
- Azadeh Zohrabi, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal
- And more (Full speaker bios below).

In addition, two short films will be featured: The Gray Box: A Multimedia Investigation, by Susan Greene, The Dart Society, and Cruel and Unusual Punishment, by Claire Schoen, for the AFSC Stopmax Campaign.

[Event notes: Hastings is on the corner of Hyde and McAllister, two blocks from the Civic Center BART station. The Hyde Street side entrance is wheelchair accessible. Refreshments will be served and signed books will be for sale. This event is free and open to the public.

Donations for prisoner support will be gratefully accepted.]

End of Press Release

NON SCIENTIFIC POLL

I think the comrades inside would agree that the lose network of communities on the streets have done a wonderful job of amplifying the voice of prisoners. We out here have not always been on the same page, but we've always been in the same book—all moving in the direction of amplifying that voice. It would be nice to take a poll like the Gallop folks do, but they pick who they're going to talk to and I suppose I would too (we all come from different villages and are interested in the positions of people more like ourselves). Anyway, the next best thing to a biased poll would be to measure the message history of the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity group on Yahoo. It's not so exact but it will give you an idea of the level of activity.

Message History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	114	91	122									
2011					3	140	632	217	474	503	172	72

THE OUTER LIMITS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT: A PUBLIC FORUM TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

[This piece was copied from a website supporting the Angola Three. <http://angola3news.blogspot.com/2012/03/outer-limits-of-solitary-confinement.html>]

Press Release

Saturday, March 24, 2012

The Outer Limits of Solitary Confinement: A Public Forum to Support the California Prisoner Hunger Strike

Release Date: March 24, 2012

Contact: Marina Drummer

International Coalition to Free the Angola Three

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(707) 486-6806

www.angola3.org

www.angola3news.com

The Outer Limits of Solitary Confinement:

A Public Forum to Support the California Prisoner Hunger Strike

Friday, April 6, 2012, 6pm - 8pm

UC Hastings College of the Law

Louis B. Mayer Lounge

198 McAllister Street

San Francisco

(San Francisco) --This free San Francisco event organized by the International Coalition to Free the Angola 3 will mark 40



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years of solitary confinement for Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3, by exploring the expansion and overuse of solitary confinement, and mobilizing support for the Amnesty International Petition to remove them from solitary confinement and support for the California Hunger Strikers. Includes Keynote with Angola 3's Robert H. King, 2 films and additional speakers.

The International Coalition to Free the Angola Three is presenting a free public forum and film screening entitled "The Outer Limits of Solitary Confinement," at UC Hastings College of the Law, Louis B. Mayer Lounge, 198 McAllister Street, San Francisco, on Friday, April 6, 2012, from 6pm - 8pm, and co-hosted by the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal and the Hastings chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

The International Coalition to Free the Angola 3 stands in solidarity with the courageous prisoners that recently initiated hunger strikes throughout California prisons. The event will examine how the torture and wrongful convictions of the Angola 3 are part of a much larger problem throughout US prisons. With presentations from several speakers involved with supporting the hunger strikers, the audience will be presented with many ways in which they too can lend their support in the fight against solitary confinement and other forms of torture in California prisons.

The keynote speaker will be Robert H. King, of the Angola 3, who was released in 2001 when his conviction was overturned, after 29 years of continuous solitary confinement. King says today that "being in prison, in solitary was terrible. It was a nightmare. My soul still cries from all that I witnessed and endured. It does more than cry- it mourns, continuously."

Since his release, Robert H. King has worked tirelessly to support the other two members of the Angola 3, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who have been in solitary confinement since April 17, 1972. This coming April 17, which marks the 40th anniversary of their solitary confinement, King will be joined by Amnesty International and other supporters at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge

to present Amnesty International's petition to Governor Bobby Jindal demanding that Wallace and Woodfox be immediately released from solitary confinement. Read more about Amnesty International's Angola 3 campaign, here.

At the UC Hastings event, King will talk about the Amnesty International petition demanding transfer from solitary and the broader struggle to release Wallace and Woodfox from prison altogether. Interviewed in a recent video by Amnesty International, King says about Wallace and Woodfox: "All evidence shows that they were targeted simply for being members of the Black Panther Party. There is really no evidence, forensic, physical, or otherwise, linking them to the crime. When I think about the ten years in which I've had time to be out here, that is ten more years that they are there."

In their investigative report, Amnesty International similarly concluded that "no physical evidence links Woodfox and Wallace to the murder." Even further: "potentially favorable DNA evidence was lost. The convictions were based on questionable inmate testimony...it seems prison officials bribed the main eyewitness into giving statements against the men. Even the widow of the prison guard has expressed skepticism, saying in 2008, 'If they did not do this - and I believe that they didn't - they have been living a nightmare for 36 years!'"

Hunger Strike..... Continued on page 5



(Photo of the Angola 3. From left to right: Herman Wallace, Robert H. King, and Albert Woodfox.)

AN EVENT FLYER

The Outer Limits of Solitary Confinement

Film Screening And Public Forum In Support Of The California Prisoner Hunger Strikers

UC HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 6PM - 8PM

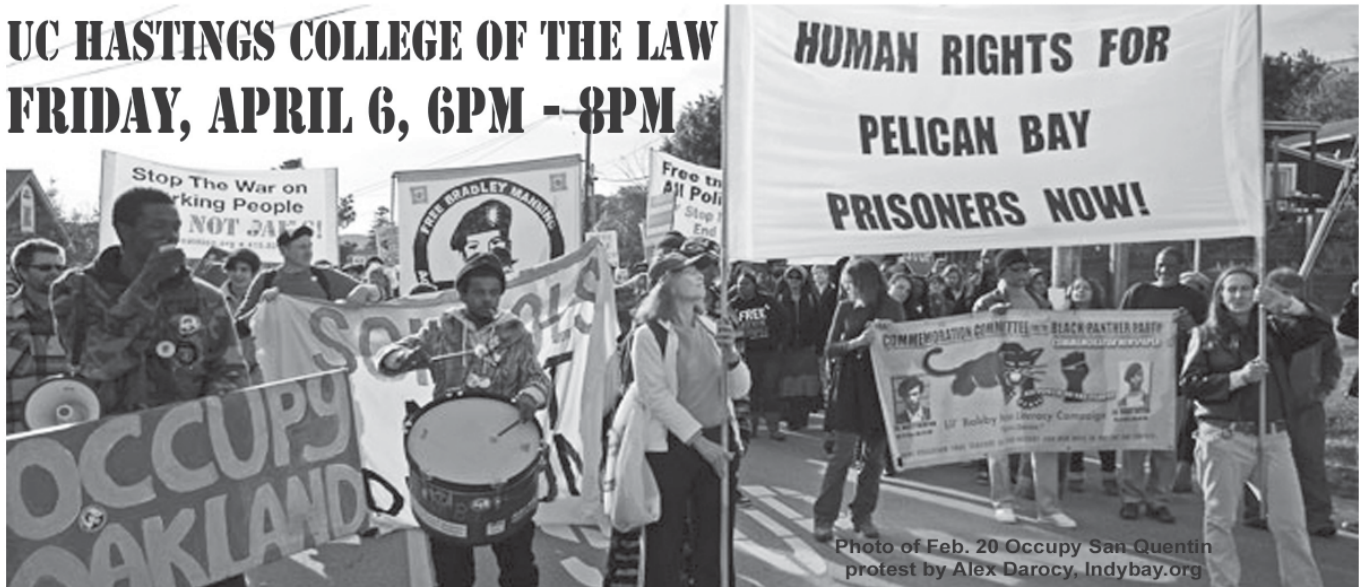


Photo of Feb. 20 Occupy San Quentin protest by Alex Darocy, Indycbay.org

Featuring Robert H. King of the Angola 3, Released After 29 Years In Solitary

Organized by the International Coalition to Free the Angola 3
Co-hosted by the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal
and the Hastings Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.



Photo of the Angola Three. From left to right: Herman Wallace, Robert H. King, and Albert Woodfox.

Robert H. King will speak about his Angola 3 comrades, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who have now been in solitary confinement for 40 years. On April 17, the 40th anniversary, King will be joined by Amnesty International and other supporters at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge to hand deliver Amnesty's petition to Governor Bobby Jindal demanding the end of solitary for Wallace and Woodfox.

We stand in solidarity with the courageous prisoners that recently initiated hunger strikes throughout California prisons. This forum will examine how the torture and wrongful convictions of the Angola 3 are part of a much larger problem throughout US prisons. With presentations from several speakers involved with supporting the hunger strikers, the audience will have the opportunity to give their support in the fight against solitary confinement and other forms of torture in California prisons.

Refreshments will be served and signed books will be for sale. This event is free and open to the public. Donations for prisoner support will be gratefully accepted.

WHERE: Louis B. Mayer Lounge, at UC Hastings, 198 McAllister St, near Civic Center BART. The Hyde St. side entrance is wheelchair accessible.

CONTACT INFO: Marina Drummer, the A3 Coalition, (707) 486-6806

Also Featuring Two Short Films, And:

HANS BENNETT

Multi-media journalist and co-founder of Journalists for Mumia

TERRY KUPERS

Institute Professor, The Wright Institute in Berkeley, California

MANUEL LA FONTAINE

Northern California Regional Organizer, All of Us or None

AARON MIRMALAK

Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, Oakland

KIILU NYASHA

San Francisco-based activist / journalist and former Black Panther

TAHTANERRIAH SESSOMS-HOWELL

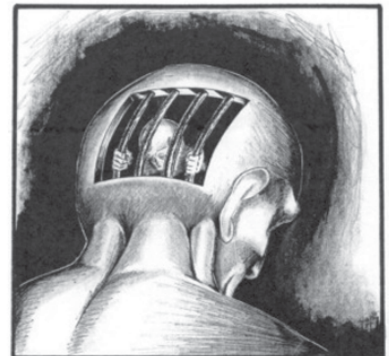
Youth Organizer, All of Us Or None

LUIS "BATO" TALAMANTEZ

California Prison Focus and one of the San Quentin 6

AZADEH ZOHRABI

Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal



Editorial Ramblings

I don't know if the previous (first) issue of *¡Roca!* was well received or not, as I just sent it out about two weeks ago and have not received a response from anyone as of yet. Also, I just finished the next issue of *Prison Focus* newspaper; it went off to the printer yesterday. By the time you read this you should have already received a copy. And today I sent the next *PHSS News* off to Oakland, where it will be printed and mailed.

The main thrust of the last issue of *¡Roca!* was about "the road ahead." We really can't ponder that road without first looking at the road behind us—at the past.

There are two good reasons to examine the past—to see if the previous progress we've traveled down the road of life contained contradictions that still need to be resolved, and, secondly, to measure our individual or collective progress in terms of resolving those contradictions. I'm told that once that step achieved the rest is pretty easy.

Excuse me for waxing political, I'll try to keep it brief. Mao Tse Tung wrote a book about contradictions, called, oddly enough, "On Contradictions." To put the content of this book into a sentence or two is to do it a great injustice, but here's what I took away from my last reading of it some 40 years

ago: There are two types of contradictions, antagonistic and non-antagonistic. Those among the people are non-antagonistic and are resolved through processes such as communication and education. Antagonistic contradictions are those between the people and the exploitive super rich, and these contradictions are resolved differently—through the process of class struggle.

Some readers may have this newsletter in their hands because, to them, what I have to say is interesting, other readers may be just be plain bored. Whatever your reason reading this, feel free to let me know how this publication can be improved upon.

Ed Mead

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