

\$2

ABCF

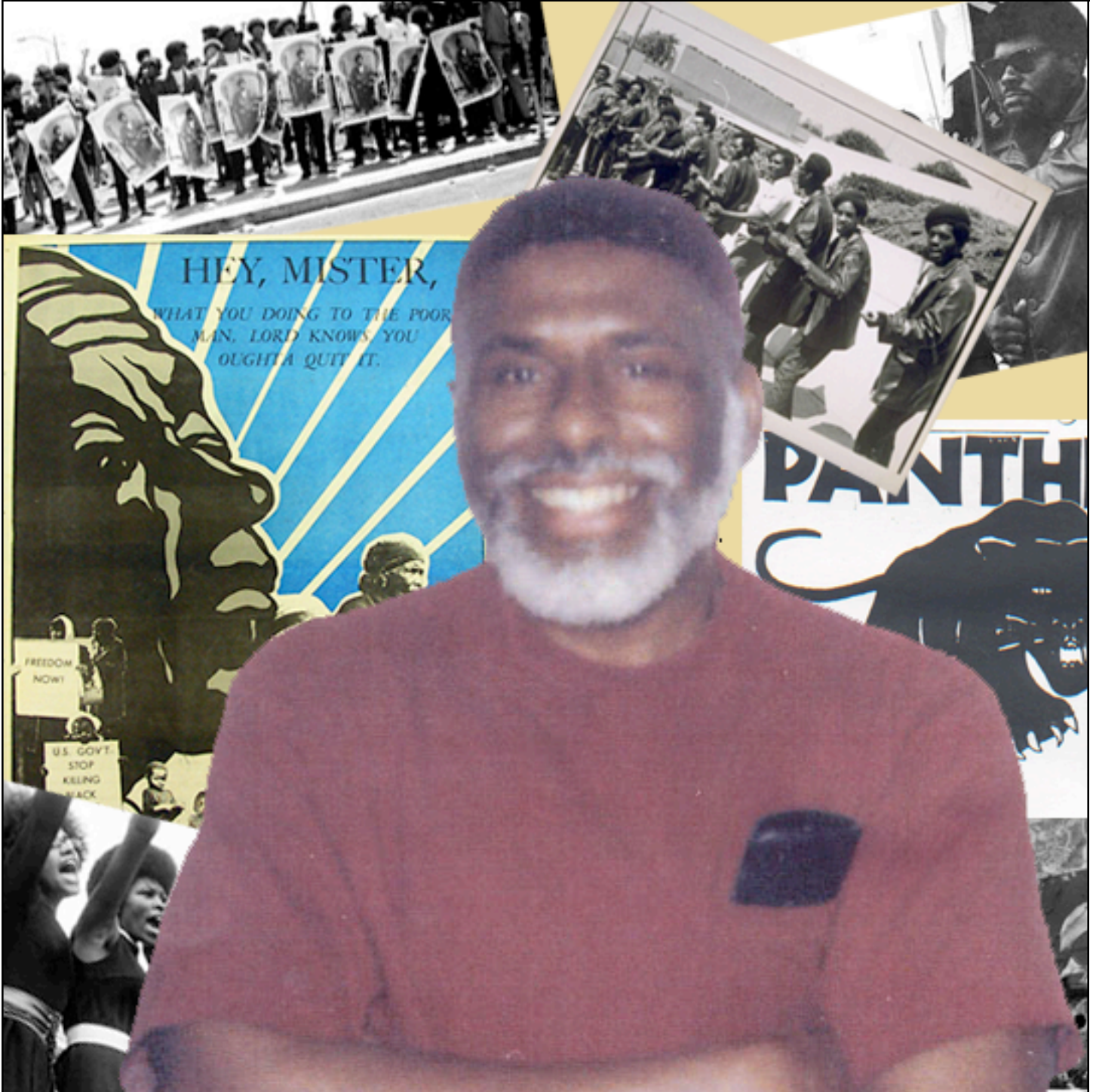
UPDATE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ABCF



Fall/Win 2008 *"Any movement that does not support their political internees is a sham movement."* - O. Lutalo Issue #51

Bashir Hameed: A Fallen Comrade Remembered



What is the Anarchist Black Cross Federation?

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) began shortly after the 1905 Russian Revolution. It formed after breaking from the Political Red Cross, due to the group's refusal to support Anarchist and Social Revolutionary Political Prisoners. The new group, naming itself the Anarchist Red Cross (ARC), began to provide aid to those Political Prisoners who were refused support by the PRC.

In the early decades, the organization had chapters throughout Europe and North America. These chapters worked together to provide assistance to prisoners only in Russia. Soon other groups, such as the Latvian Anarchist Red Cross, emerged to provide aid in other Eastern European countries. Armed with the ideas of *mutual aid* and *solidarity*, these groups worked tirelessly to

provide support to those who were suffering because of their political beliefs.

In 1919, the organization's name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross. Through the 1920s and until 1958, the organization worked under various other names but provided the same level of support as the other groups working as Anarchist Black Cross.

After 1936, the ABC expanded its aid to places such as Greece, Italy and Spain.

In 1958, the organization collapsed but reemerged in 1967 in London, England. Once again ABC chapters spread throughout the globe providing support for imprisoned comrades. Sadly, by the end of the 1970s only a handful of ABC chapters still existed.

In the 80s, however, the ABC began to gain popularity again in the US and Europe. For years, the ABC's name was kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the globe and supporting a wide variety of prison issues.

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.

Various groups have since merged in numerous networks throughout the globe working on various prison issues. The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has continued its mission to focus on the aid and support of Political Prisoners. We take the position that PP/POWs demand our top priority. We strive to continue with the same dedication and solidarity to our fallen comrades as those before us have shown.

Introduction:

"Crucially important to maintaining the anarchist integrity of this organization is the fact that Branch Groups and Support Groups are freely autonomous to take on whatever initiatives they can to further the Unity of Purpose of the ABCF. So long as these initiatives do not contradict any preexisting agreements (Tactical Unity) that have been made by the ABCF, it is not necessary for all groups to approve of and/or agree with programs, projects or work of other ABCF collectives." [from the ABCF Constitution and Structure]

The following definitions are used to describe the below terms whenever they appear in the ABCF Update or any other ABCF literature.

Political Prisoner (PP): A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self determination or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. [Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of PP/POWs in U.S. Prisons and Jails, Dec. '90]

Prisoner of War (POW): Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August, 1949 (General Assembly resolution 3103)

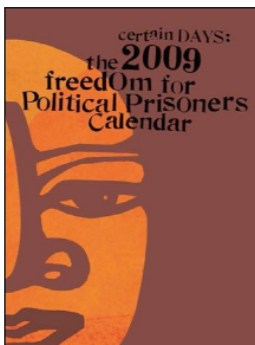
Certain Days 2009 Calendar

42 GORGEOUS FULL-COLOR PAGES OF ART AND WRITINGS! A GREAT FUNDRAISER FOR GROUPS! AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING! AND A MEANINGFUL GIFT!

Certain Days - a QPIRG Concordia working group
QPIRG Concordia

1500 de Maisonneuve Ouest, suite 204
514-848-7583 fax: 514-848-7584

qipirgconcordia.org - qpirg@qipirgconcordia.org



The ABCF is:

Prisoner Committee

BILL DUNNE
#10916-086
Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

SEKOU KAMBUI
(W. TURK)
#113058 / Box 56
SCC (B1-21)
Elmore, AL 36025

OJORE LUTALO
#59860 / Box 861
Trenton, NJ 08625

JAAN LAAMAN
#W41414
BOX 100
South Walpole, MA
02071

MALIKI LATINE
#81-A-4469
Box 51
Comstock, NY
12821

Federation Chapters

ARCATA ABC
PO Box 380
Arcata, CA 95518

NJ ABC
No Current Address

JAX ABC
PO Box 350392
Jacksonville, FL 32235

NYC ABC
PO Box 110034
Brooklyn, NY 11211

LOS ANGELES ABC
PO Box 11223
Whittier, CA 90603

PHILLY ABC
PO Box 42129
Philadelphia, PA 19101

MONTREAL ABC
PO Box 42053
Succ. Jeanne Mance
Montreal QC
H2W 2T3 Canada

TORONTO ABC
PO Box 97048
RPO Roncescalles Ave
Toronto, Ontario
M6R 3B3 Canada

www.abcf.net

ISSUE #51 FALL/WINTER 2008



Daniel McGowan Moved

Daniel McGowan seems to be on the move yet again. Currently he is at the following address, but please be advised it can change at a moments notice:

Daniel McGowan 63794-053
Columbia County Jail
403 Jackson Street
Portage, WI 53901

Ruchell Magee Moved

Ruchell Cinque Magee was recently transferred to a new location. His new address is"

Ruchell Cinque Magee
A92051 C-2 107L
CSATF/ State Prison Corcoran
P.O. Box 5242
Corcoran, CA 93212

Alberto Torres Hearing Date

Carlos Albert Torres' parole hearing will be during the week of January 19th. This is two months earlier than was originally anticipated.

Mexican Anarchist Freed

After 7 years, 3 months, and 21 days behind bars in Mexico City, Carlos Alberto Estrada Arroyo has finally been released. He was released on Friday, September 5th. Carlos is an anarchist who was framed on false charges of robbery. It is believed that he was framed because of his participation in local student strike and other community actions.

Olga Nevskaya is Freed

Olga Nevskaya, the last imprisoned defendant of the group, the New Revolutionary Alternative (NRA), has been released after 6 years of imprisonment. The NRA is an anarchist organization devoted to insurrectionary struggle in Russia. The group surfaced in 1996 in protest of the Chechen War and has targeted conscription centers, military and police stations. In 2003, Nevskaya and two other women were convicted for the actions carried out by the NRA.

Sherman Austin's New Baby

At 1:12 am on Saturday, November 15th, Sherman Austin (Former anarchist political prisoner) and his partner had a baby boy. The baby weighed 8 lbs.14 oz. and was named Akinyemi Huehuetlahtoa, a name that is both west african and indigenous and means "fated/destined to be a warrior" and "speaks like a drum." It is no doubt that Sherman will be an excellent dad. Sherman certainly has his hands busy raising our future revolutionary warrior.

Harold Thompson Passes On

1942 - 2008

Anarchist prisoner and jailhouse lawyer, Harold Thompson, passed away on Monday, November 10th. According to his website he passed away after suffering a heart attack. Those who knew and supported Thompson will surely miss his spirit and determination.

**Herman Wallace Hospitalized**

Herman Wallace, incarcerated member of the Angola 3, was hospitalized for a short time on 11/28 after passing out during a visit. Wallace is reported to be doing fine but the community still has a watchful eye on his health.

Chubbuck Has New Address

According to the BOP website Chubbuck's address has changed. His new address.

Byron Shane Chubbuck
#07909-051
501 Capital Circle, NE
Tallahassee, FL 32301

RNC: Man Sentenced for Act

A 26-year-old man from Washington state who slashed tires on a delegate bus during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul was sentenced on December 12th to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Joseph M. Robinson pleaded guilty Sept. 19 in Ramsey County District Court to first-degree damage to property. He was among 18 adults and one juvenile charged with felonies in connection with the Sept. 1-4 convention and was the first to plead guilty. He was given credit for the 23 days he has spent in custody.

RNC: 29 Charges Dropped

St. Paul's city attorney's office dropped charges against 29 protesters arrested during the RNC. The cases consisted of 15 gross misdemeanor riot cases and 14 misdemeanors involving unlawful assembly.

The office is still processing 650 cases stemming from the RNC. Of those, 171 have gotten prosecutors, are being reviewed or have been settled. Twenty-seven have been resolved with a guilty plea and/or fine; 72 cases have been declined or dismissed; 10 have warrants; and 62 are in process.

The 400 or so arrests from the last day of the convention have yet to be dealt with. Support networks have been formed to assist the cases and trials.

RNC: DePalma Pleads Guilty

In October, Matt DePalma, a Michigan anarchist, has pleaded guilty in federal court to possessing Molotov cocktails.

DePalma had made at least five Molotov cocktails by the time he was arrested on August 28 in a Minneapolis apartment. He had allegedly told an FBI informant he planned to attack the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, where the convention was held.

He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

RNC: McKay and Crowder

The case targeting two RNC protesters, David McKay and Bradley Crowder, has been postponed.

The two were allegedly part of an Austin, Texas-based group that planned to use Molotov cocktails to destroy property or injure police during the convention.

Authorities gathered information by infiltrating an Austin area affinity group as far back as Feb. 2007.

On August 21, 2008, St. Paul police broke into a U-haul trailer rented by the Austin activists without a warrants where they discovered homemade shields, helmets and batons. Police also uncovered eight Molotov cocktails at the crashpad being used by the activists.

While the makeshift riot gear was deemed inadmissible, the cocktails will remain admissible. They face a maximum ten years in prison. No trial date has been set.

RNC 8: New Charges Added

Lawyers for the RNC 8 have received a letter indicating that the charges against the eight have been amended. Besides the original charges of "conspiracy to riot in the second degree in furtherance of terrorism" they have also added three new charges:

1. Conspiracy to riot in the second degree (without terrorism enhancement)
2. Conspiracy to damage property in furtherance of terrorism)
3. Conspiracy to damage property (without terrorism enhancement)

Arcata ABCF Support Group Application

This is a formal proposal for support group status within the ABCF:

In June of this year we joined LA ABCF and began doing work for the Free Chip Fitzgerald campaign. We helped table at the Summer Solidarity Festival and organize for Running Down the Walls. It was also at this time we began writing to Ojore Lutalo and Marshall Eddie Conway. At the very end of August we moved to Arcata in Humboldt County and established a P.O. Box for the formation of Arcata ABCF-SG. Since moving here we have been working closely with the small but tightly knit radical population of people of color. This is a group Ashanti Alston has worked with closely in the last few years. We were able to attend and table at the CR10 conference and establish excellent contacts. We have



several individuals interested in the work we do, in particular people from the Black Student Union at Humboldt State University. We wish to engage with the Indigenous populations up here that have been actively resisting genocide and resource theft from the government and corporations like Pacificorp. We also plan on visiting Hugo "Dahariki" Pinell, one of the San Quentin Six, who is caged at Pelican Bay State Prison. We will continue sparking interest, recruiting members and organizing support for political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In solidarity,
Noelle and Sonny
Arcata ABCF-SG
PO Box 380
Arcata, CA 95518

Note: All groups at the October FC meeting approved Arcata ABC as a ABCF Support Group.

"Angola 3" Member to Be Released On Bail After 37 Years

Conviction Overturned, Judge Rules Albert Woodfox Must be Free During Appeals or Re-trial

Lawyers: Ruling Brings Hope for Remaining Prisoner, Also Spent 36 Years in Solitary for Guard's Murder

Albert Woodfox, who has spent 37 years in prison at Angola Penitentiary, must be released on bail, according to a ruling issued on November 25 by United States District Judge James Brady. On September 25th, Judge Brady overturned Woodfox's conviction for the 1972 murder of prison guard Brent Miller. Though the State has announced its intention to appeal that decision, until such an appeal is successful, according to today's ruling, there is no conviction on which to hold Woodfox.

In his decision, Judge Brady wrote:

"[Woodfox] is a frail, sickly, middle aged man who has had an exemplary conduct record for over the last twenty years. At the hearing before this Court on October 14, 2008, testimony was adduced that if released Mr. Woodfox would live with his niece and her family in a gated subdivision in Slidell, Louisiana. Mr. Woodfox has withdrawn that request because of fear of harm to his niece and her family by neighbors in the community. This change was brought about by counsel representing the State of Louisiana contacting the subdivision home owners association and providing them with information regarding Mr. Woodfox. The Court is not totally privy to what information was given to the association but from the documents filed it is apparent that the association was not told Mr. Woodfox is frail, sickly, and has had a clean conduct record for more than twenty

years...this Court GRANTS Mr. Woodfox's motion for release pending the State's appeal."

Herman Wallace, who was also convicted in the murder, remains in prison at Angola. He has an appeal pending with the Supreme Court of Louisiana, which is similar in content to Woodfox's successful appeal. The two men were wrongly convicted based largely on the testimony of a fellow prisoner, Hezekiah Brown, a serial rapist who was promised and received a pardon in exchange for his testimony against them. Brown was the sole professed eyewitness to the murder, and none of the physical evidence put Herman or Albert at the crime scene.

Woodfox's legal team is now working with the court to reach an agreement on a suitable release location and plan for Woodfox; once they agree to a plan, Woodfox will be able to leave Angola. The lawyers anticipate the process to take several more days.

Woodfox and Wallace were each held in solitary confinement from the time of the murder until last March, after a federal court concluded that their suit alleging that such confinement for three decades constitutes cruel and unusual punishment could go forward. A third man, Robert King Wilkerson, was held in solitary at Angola at the same time for a different crime; he was released in 2001 after showing that he had been wrongfully convicted. The three are known as the "Angola 3." All black men, they had been organizing nonviolently for an end to gang-enforced sex slavery and for better conditions inside the prison. Angola at the time was known as the "bloodiest

prison in the US."

"This is a major victory in a case where justice is long overdue. Albert went into Angola in his twenties, and he's walking out in his 60s. There is no conviction against him now, and the state should not take another day of his life," said Chris Aberle, Woodfox's lawyer.

"In 37 years, Albert never gave up hope that someday he would walk out the gates of Angola. We continue to hope that Herman will join him soon. Neither of these men should have spent a day in Angola for this crime," said Nick Trenticosta, also a lawyer in the case.

The case has attracted attention on the state and national level. Last spring, US House Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers (D-MI) visited the men, along with Louisiana House Judiciary Committee Chair Cedric Richmond (D-101). Richmond has announced his intention to hold hearings on the case, and Conyers continues to monitor developments.

The state had sought a stay of Judge Brady's ruling ordering a new trial until the appeal process plays out. Judge Brady granted that request. The State must now either win its appeals, or will need to either release or retry Woodfox within 120 days of the end of its appeals.

Judge Brady held an initial bail hearing on October 14th; he postponed issuing a decision at that time to allow for additional depositions to be taken from Angola Warden Burl Cain and from a doctor who had examined Woodfox and his medical records. The State has now conducted both of those depositions.

Detective Jack Swanson withheld stolen dynamite arrests from jury in 'Omaha Two' bombing

by Michael Richardson (a freelance writer from Boston)

The jury that convicted Black Panther leaders Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) for the August 17, 1970 bombing murder of Omaha police officer Larry Minard never knew that three men had been arrested several weeks earlier in the city with a cache of stolen dynamite in their car.

Nor did the jury know the complaining witness about the seized dynamite was the same detective who later allegedly found dynamite at the home of Mondo we Langa. Nor did the jury know that charges for illegal possession of explosives would quietly be dropped against the three men caught with the dynamite within a week of the conclusion of the April 1971 murder trial against the Panther leaders.

Jack Swanson, a sergeant in the detective division of the Omaha Police, was the star police witness against the two Panthers at trial with his claim of discovery of dynamite in the basement of Mondo we Langa's residence. Swanson's claim was supported by fellow detective Jack Pheffer who testified he first saw the dynamite when Swanson carried it up the stairs from Mondo's basement. Pheffer has since contradicted his own trial testimony and now claims under oath that he, not Swanson, found dynamite.

The jury also never knew that the case they were hearing was a part of Operation COINTELPRO, a clandestine operation within the Federal Bureau of Investigation directed by J. Edgar Hoover to "disrupt" the Black Panther Party and other domestic political groups he considered dangerous. Hoover had ordered the withholding of a FBI

crime lab report on the tape recording of the phone call that lured Minard to his death according to a written notation on a secret COINTELPRO memo made by lab director Ivan Willard Conrad.

The court files of the three men Luther Golden Payne, Lamont Mitchell and Conrad Deland Gray reveal little detail of the July arrests and there is no mention of the plea negotiations that resulted in dismissed charges. All three men were still in custody at the time of the bombing that took Minard's life and could not have directly participated in the deadly ambush. However, the dynamite was believed by police to be the source of the explosive in the bomb according to little-known testimony before the U.S House Committee on Internal Security.

The committee was the successor to the infamous U.S. House Committee on Un-American Activities and was busy trying to justify its controversial existence with an investigation into the Black Panthers. Although much of the testimony was on the national party structure and distribution of the party newsletter, one committee member, Rep. William J. Scherle from Council Bluffs, Iowa, lived just across the Missouri River from Omaha and turned the committee hearing room into his own soapbox against the Omaha Panthers. Scherle's interest led to the testimony of an Omaha Police captain, Murdock Platner, about both the Minard bombing and the dynamite seized by Swanson in July, information kept confidential in Omaha.

Captain Platner's story, given under oath in Washington D.C., was never reported in Omaha and kept from the jury during the murder trial. Platner testified about several other bombings that had occurred in Omaha and throughout the Midwest in the summer of 1970 when his Congressional questioners turned to the dynamite seized by Swanson and the dynamite used in the Minard killing.

"Investigation revealed this bomb consisted of three 2x16 inch sticks of dynamite, a battery, a blasting cap and was triggered by a clothespin type switch. The string attached to the wedge was passed through a hole in the suitcase when the bomb was detonated."

"A 16-year old Black Panther [Duane Peak] was arrested for the murder and implicated the Deputy Chairman, Edward Poindexter, and Deputy Minister of Information, David Rice [Mondo we Langa], of the NCCF party, who were arrested and have been ordered to stand trial in district court for murder. Dynamite similar to that stolen from the Quick Supply in Des Moines



Edward Poindexter

was found in the home of one of the above. It is believed it is part of the supply from which the bombs were made."

"On July 28, 1970, three young Negroes, one who is an ex-Panther, were arrested with 41 2x16-inch sticks of dynamite in the car. This is also similar to the dynamite taken in burglary in Des Moines of Quick Supply."

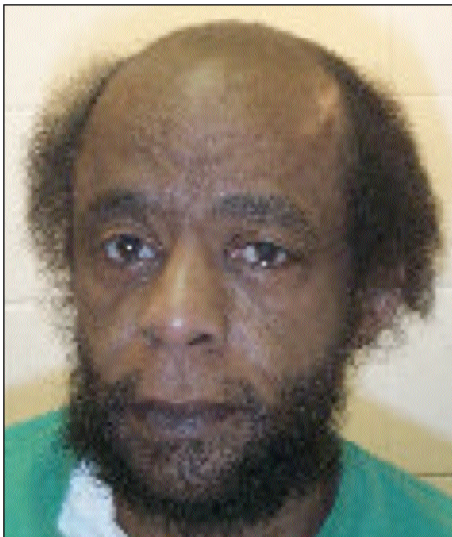
"I could not tell you what type of dynamite it was that exploded. I can tell you this, that one of the suspects in this, Duane Peak, a 16-year old boy who was arrested, testified in a preliminary hearing...he testified that David Rice brought a suitcase filled with dynamite to his house or to somebody's house, I am not for sure just which place; that they removed all the dynamite from the suitcase except three sticks; made the bomb, the triggering device, and so on, and put it together; and then packed the suitcase with newspapers and that he left with this suitcase."

"Now I am a little hesitant to go into the rest of this because there is a trial yet to be held. I don't know what I should say."

But Platner had already said too much, mis-stating Peak's preliminary hearing testimony where Peak testified he was given the dynamite by 23-year old Raleigh House. Platner, familiar with House, told Scherle's committee that "Rawleigh Bryant House" was a "Negro male" and the deputy minister of finance of the Omaha Panther group.

Raleigh House, the named supplier of dynamite used in the Minard bombing according to Peak, had a curious get-out-of-jail-free luck that netted him only a single

Continued on page 13



Mondo we Langa (aka D. Rice)

Ojore's Release Not So Certain as Hoped

Long time New Afrikan Anarchist Political Prisoner, Ojore N. Lutalo was set to max out after 26 years of imprisonment at New Jersey State Prison. And while supporters received the date of December 25th as his release date, celebrations have currently been put on hold.

News has been sent that he may not be released as soon as we had hoped. Currently the NJ DOC site has his max date as October 23, 2009.

Supporters believe this may be an attempt to exclude his good time/work credits he has earned despite his NJ Superior Court victory in 2007 over this very issue. The case overturned a charge the prison convicted him of in 2005. This charge/conviction took away around a year of good time/work credits. This process is still ongoing and we will update people with any changes.

In the meantime, the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) is initiating a fundraising drive to support Ojore, once he is released, in order for him to transition back to the streets. Money is needed to help Ojore secure housing, food and clothing. This financial assistance will allow Ojore to make the transition more smoothly, knowing that money and hous-

ing isn't an immediate pressing matter, giving him the needed time to readjust to the streets, that he hasn't seen or experienced since 1982.

As many former prisoners and their supporters know, coming back home after a doing a long stretch in prison is difficult and without a support base it will be even more difficult. The ABCF, anarchists and many PP/POW activists who have maintained contact and supported Ojore over the years, have benefited immensely from the example that he's set as what it means to be a revolutionary. His untiring advice/criticism to us has helped many of us and our organizations grow politically and deepen, not only our commitment to the struggle to free political prisoners and prisoners of war, but to that of building a revolutionary movement.

We encourage all activists to organize fundraisers or donate whatever they can towards Ojore's release fund.

All funds, by check or money order, payable to TIM FASNACHT, can be sent to:

Philadelphia ABCF
P.O Box 42129
Philadelphia, Pa 19101



SF8 Defendant to Make Court Appearance on Bogus Drug Charge

Harold Taylor was arrested last December in Florida on a baseless charge of "attempted purchase of cocaine." Several people were swept up in a neighborhood sweep and sting operation at that time. Harold's case has coincidentally received unusual attention by the Florida court which is now fast-tracking his prosecution after many months of inactivity. He is scheduled to go to trial on October 23rd at 8:30 am at the Bay County Courthouse - 300 East 4th Street in Panama City, Florida. As you can read in the letter from his San Francisco lawyer that follows, this prosecution is a result of a new judge and prosecutor taking over, not upon any substantial or new evidence.



Friends,

It is clear from the arrest and all the surrounding circumstances that the charge against Harold in Florida is totally baseless. A thorough search of his person and his van resulted in NO seizure of any substances, legal or illegal. Further, NO allegation is even made that any money was produced. Harold was swept up in a sting operation in which numerous individuals were arrested. All except Harold were alleged to have actually made a purchase. None of them were with him when he was arrested. He has NO drug history!! In short, Harold was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He had gone to this neighborhood to thank some of the people that had written letters of support for him when he was seeking release on bail in San Francisco.

News of his arrest spread quickly and he was bailed out shortly after he appeared in a Florida court.

Just days earlier he had appeared on "Democracy Now" with host Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez, and attended a press conference held by the World Council of Churches at Riverside Church announcing international support for the SF8 launched by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other Nobel Laureates.

Harold has every intention of fighting the charges in San Francisco and Florida. In light of the torture he suffered in New Orleans in 1973, his strength and character in the face of this latest ordeal are amazing. The stress this has caused for him and his family is overwhelming.

Randy Montesano,
Harold Taylor's attorney in the San Francisco 8 case

NYC ABCF Report from 10/10

In the Summer of 2007, New York City Anarchist Black Cross (NYC ABCF-SG) initiated a series of summits with the intention of bringing together all political prisoner support groups in the metropolitan area. Eventually encompassing over 10 groups, the coalition chose to focus their first energies on commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Jericho Movement. October 10th was chosen as the date for a march on the United Nations to demand freedom for political prisoners and prisoners of war, and to draw international attention to their plight.

For the next several months, the groups made connections with a diverse range of organizations in order to get their endorsements and participation in 10/10. NYC ABCF and other members of the coalition tapped both personal and political relationships to make as broad a base of support as possible. This effort also served to get organizations to prioritize political prisoners and prisoners of war where they hadn't been before. Additionally, bridges were built between movements that hadn't previously worked with each other. While the focus for 10/10 was mostly regional, it was an international event with folks traveling from Canada and Denmark.

As organizing became more grounded and groups & individuals not initially a part of the coalition became more involved in the organizing for 10/10, the focus became broader, into something both international and local. The coalition decided that having a delegation meet with dignitaries in the United Nations was useful, but needed to be complemented with a com-

munity-based component. To that end, it was decided that a second event, on October 11th, should be organized. Ten-ten became a weekend of resistance, with October 10th including the delegation to the United Nations, a march, and an evening concert/fund raiser and the 11th including a rally and street march. Eventually it became evident that it made the most sense for NYC ABCF to bottom-line organizing the rally and street march on October 10th.

On Friday, October 10th over 200 folks gathered at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, directly across from the United Nations in midtown Manhattan. Organizations and individuals showed up energized and with their flags, banners, and posters to draw attention to political prisoners and prisoners of war. Included in this mix were 45 folks holding letters that spelled out "freedom for political prisoners and prisoners of war." After a short and spirited rally and simultaneous picket, groups poured into the street. 200 strong and with no permit, midtown Manhattan traffic was snarled as the group held entire streets and avenues, covering about 25 blocks and ending at Madison Square Park. Bike scouts radioed to a base unit inside the march to report police movements, which were minimal. As the march neared its end, two NYPD cruisers attempted to slow and stop the group, to no avail. A smaller group was waiting at the park to welcome the marchers and had information tables and a sound system set up. At the rally following the march, former political prisoners spoke to the importance support played in keep-

ing them connected to their communities. Statements from current political prisoners were also read.

Whereas NYC ABCF took responsibility for the bulk of the organizing for 10/10, we played a more supportive role on 10/11, which took place in Harlem and targeted African-Americans and Puerto Ricans from those communities. The exception to this was NYC ABCF's role of providing child care for this days events. 10/11 included two spirited rallies, the first at the Harlem State Office Building and the second at Morningside Park. Between these rallies was a permitted street march that drew in folks from the neighborhood and helped remind folks that members of their communities are in prison for political beliefs and actions.

The October 10th weekend of resistance helped recharge a movement that does not get to celebrate that many victories. Marching, unpermitted, through New York City's streets brought people from disparate movements together and reminded us of the power we have when we come together. Seeing New Afrikans, animals rights activists, anarchists, former Black Panthers, New Black Panther Party members, former political prisoners, and militants & revolutionaries of varying stripes marching together (while understanding that there are overlaps across those movements as well) was powerful and a strong first project for this coalition to have undertaken. Certainly more will come from this coalition and you will be among the first to hear about it.



ABCF Represented



Freed PP/POWs Attending the March



Sara (Trnto) Speaking out!

Tribute to Comrade Bashir Hameed



On the evening of August 30 2008, BLA POW, Bashir Hameed, passed away. Over the last year, aided by the consistent denial of adequate medical care, Bashir's health had been slowly deteriorating. While public pressure seemed to have had some success getting the prison administration to provide the medical care, it seems the care did not come quickly enough to improve Hameed's health. Bashir Hameed was born and raised in New Jersey. In 1968, Bashir Hameed joined the Black



Panther Party while residing in Oakland CA. Once he returned to New Jersey, he became Deputy Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter of BPP. Bro. Bashir Hameed was currently serving a sentence of 25 years to life.

For those who may not know: FBI documents obtained during the 70's reveal that during this time Bashir Hameed [born James D. York on 1940-12-01 – 30 August 2008] was a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army.

He became a COINTELPRO target. He was charged and convicted of the murder and the attempted murder of two police officers in April 1981. This conviction came as a direct result of his political activity. Bashir Hameed and his co-defendant, Abdul Majid, aka Anthony LaBorde, were tried three times.

There first trial ended in a hung jury divided along racial lines, The second trial was declared a mistrial by the judge immediately after the jury rendered a decision that acquitted Bashir on the murder charge. At a third trial, they were eventually convicted for murder.

ABCF's Statement on Bashir Hameed's Passing

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation regrets to report that Freedom Fighter Bashir Hameed (AKA James York) passed away on the evening of August 30th 2008. We extend our sympathy to his family, friends, and comrades, in and outside of the walls.

A service was held on the morning September 4th, 2008 at Dar Ul Islam of Elizabeth and was well attended by family, friends, and by people from various Black Liberation, Muslim, and Political-Prisoner/POW support communities which had been touched by his life and work. The Imam explained that the first tenet of Islam is to take care of one's well-being. Bashir, like other freedom fighters, took that principle to mean taking care of other people as well. He saw his own life as inextricably connected with the lives and well-being of other people, especially the oppressed.

After a simple service, the community proceeded to the nearby cemetery. Appropriately enough Bashir Hameed was buried with care through the collective work of family and community members, taking turns and passing the shovels to one another. Some folks gathered afterward to share food and then take turns sharing memories of the man's life. Family members shared memories of his guidance to

them in the telephone conversations that made him present in their lives during the long incarceration. Long-time political organizers remembered the guidance and collaboration they received from him over the decades.

On September 22nd the New Black Panther Party held a New Jersey Peoples' Tribute to Bashir Hameed at Waset Kommuniversity at 271 So. 9th Street in Newark, New Jersey with speakers from the New Black Panther Party as well as the original Black Panther Party.

A Political Memorial to Bashir Hameed, held by the Jericho Movement and others, will take place on December 13, 2008 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the House of the Lord Church, 415 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, NY.

During the spring and summer, Bashir Hameed had been physically suffering and was continuously denied any kind of medical attention or care. After he continued to suffer medical neglect through the month of May despite support and agitation, the ABCF was able to assist the Hameed/York family and comrades from Malcolm X



Comrades Gathered at Brother Bashir Hameed's Resting Place

Commemoration Committee, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and Jericho Movement by coordinating call-in days during the month of June to supplement the existing campaign targeting NY Governor Paterson and others and demanding immediate medical attention as well as a transfer back to Sullivan Correctional Facility. By early July, though he was never transferred out of Great Meadow, Hameed was receiving the requested care and testing thanks to consistent agitation from his family and supporters. Bashir Hameed and his wife and family sent words of appreciation out to the community and get well cards came into the prison in response. In August, Bashir Hameed was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Again supporters

sent get-well cards and waited. Others visited as often as they could.

In September 2008 NYC ABCF received a card from the family saying, "Thank you for all of your help during my brother's struggle. He is 'free' now."

Bashir Hameed was born and raised in New Jersey. In 1968, Bashir Hameed joined the Black Panther Party while residing in Oakland CA. Once he returned to New Jersey, he became Deputy Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter of BPP. FBI documents obtained during the 70's reveal that during this time Bashir became a COINTELPRO target. He was charged and convicted of the murder and the attempted murder of two police officers in April 1981. This conviction came as a direct

result of his political activity. Bashir Hameed and his co-defendant, Abdul Majid were tried three times. Their first trial ended in a hung jury divided along racial lines. The second trial was declared a mistrial by the judge immediately after the jury rendered a decision that acquitted Bashir on the murder charge. At a third trial, they were eventually convicted for murder. Bashir received a sentence of 25 years. During his time behind bars he never stopped organizing towards community empowerment both inside the prison and through his family and comrades outside. He is present in the ongoing struggle and will not be forgotten. (this paragraph adapted from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement webpage)

Russell Shoats on Bashir Hameed's Passing

For over 40 years, Bashir Hameed, dedicated his life to the struggle for Black Liberation and the uplifting of humanity in general. As a former member of both the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, and later a long held political prisoner, he NEVER tired in giving his all.

Every day across the globe thousands die without ever having struck a blow against oppression.

Not Bashir! For decades he remained a lion against those who strive to keep us oppressed. An example of the type of dedication that will one day seize the masses of downtrodden and propel them to sweep away all manner of injustice

Until then, we will remember the Martyr Bashir Hameed and draw strength and courage from the selfless example he set.

LONG LIVE THE MARTYR BASHIR HAMEED!

Russell Maroon Shoatz

Marie Mason Accepts Plea Agreement

On September 8, 2008, Marie Mason, an IWW member and environmental activist, accepted a plea bargain offered by the federal authorities.

Mason was arrested in March 2008 and charged with four felony offenses, which were related to two 1999 actions of eco-sabotage in which no one was hurt. Mason's arrest was based on information provided by Frank Ambrose, Mason's former husband, who unbeknownst to her had been cooperating with authorities for a number of years, and who entered his own plea bargain in March of 2008.

Mason has been an activist in the environmental and labor movement for 25 years, and has resisted cooperating with authorities in a number grand juries. Since her arrest, Mason and her lawyer have been pushing for a non-cooperating agreement of the kind that other "Green Scare" arrestees have been able to get from west coast prosecutors.

However, federal prosecutors in Michigan have refused to offer her a similar deal. The only plea-bargain offered was for 15-20 years but which required her to implicate other activists by name. Additionally it was stipulated that if Mason did not accept this offer by Friday, September 5, prosecutors were going to ask for Life at the trial, and also indict her on new charges relating to two other eco-sab-

otage actions. Mason refused this offer since it required her providing information against other activists and prepared to go to trial.

On September 5, two hours before the deadline, federal prosecutors relented and offered a new deal, which required Mason only to name Frank Ambrose in her plea bargain. No information that Ambrose had not already provided was required from her. Additionally, the plea bargain included clauses that do not require her to perform any debriefs (as other non-cooperating Green Scare arrestees did) and did not require any additional testimony.

Mason consulted with several different attorneys concerning this offer, including Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene, Oregon. Their conclusion was that, despite the fact that Mason would be required to name Ambrose in her deal, no activists would be hurt by this agreement, including Ambrose himself. The likely reason that Mason is required to name Ambrose is because one of the four charges against Mason is "conspiracy", and another person is required to be named for the charge.

After holding out for six months and preparing to go to trial rather than compromise other activists, this is not the deal that Mason would like to accept, but it is the only option that federal authorities have

offered. Because of the cooperation of her former husband Ambrose, there is no expectation that Mason would win a jury trial. Part of this decision is also the long sentences handed to the very few Green Scare arrestees who have gone to trial, such as Eric McDavid, as is the intense financial and emotional strain that this process is taking on Mason's immediate family.

Mason thanks her supporters for all their efforts. She understands that some of them will be unhappy with her decision to accept a plea bargain which names only Frank Ambrose, even though no additional information is provided about him which he has not already divulged by him, and that her own predicament is because of his choice to cooperate with authorities.

However, after holding out for six months in hope of a full non-cooperating plea, and preparing to go to trial despite the impact it will have on her family and her future, she has decided to accept this offer.

In the spirit of full transparency, the plea bargain will be made public shortly.

(Mason will be sentence on February 5, 2009)

Marie is currently held at the address listed below. Please send her a letter.

Marie Jeanette Mason
Newaygo County Jail
P.O. Box 845
White Cloud, MI 49349

Victory for Zolo Agona Azania

On the eve of his third death penalty trial the State of Indiana finally abandoned their 27-year campaign to execute Zolo Azania. Dismissing all the death penalty charges, the State agreed to have Zolo sentenced on his 1982 murder and robbery conviction. Under the sentence imposed, with good time credit, Zolo will now be released from prison in 7 years. He will be immediately released from death row. Also, under the terms of the agreement he will be allowed to challenge his 1982 convictions in federal habeas proceedings.

This is a real victory for all Zolo's supporters and all of those who oppose the death penalty.

Below is a statement released by Zolo:

I am glad that the State has finally offered me this opportunity to plan a life on the outside. I can use that freedom to work for justice for others, and, of course, to establish a way of sustaining my life on my own.

I feel that God has given me many gifts; and with these gifts then I would be able to take care of myself and do good for others. I have matured in many ways over these

stressful 27 plus years. I see things quite differently now than in that early stage of my life.

I still resolutely maintain my innocence. By this agreement the State gives up the death penalty request. My next course of action will be to go on into the federal court system to expose the many injustices. I will continue to contest my innocence in the murder. I am angry over the numerous ways that I've been mistreated by the judicial sanction system. I was illegally placed in this untenable position by the Indiana Supreme Court when they took back my dismissal of the case for fast and speedy trial violation, and authorized the prosecution to retry me for the death penalty for the third time! Nonetheless, I will continue to contest my innocence in this murder. I am angry over the numerous ways I've been mistreated by the system that some call justice—a term of relativity. Therefore, the protracted struggle continues!

Thank you.

Zolo Agona Azania #4969

P.O. Box 41

Michigan City, Indiana 46361-0041



Independentistas Face Continued Harassment

The independentista organizations that comprise the Table of Solidarity Against Repression denounce the ongoing persecution by the FBI and other repressive agencies of the United States government against compañeros who struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico. The pattern of harassment of independentistas since the assassination of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos on September 23, 2005 has not stopped, but rather, has increased.

Early morning on October 28, 2008, several vehicles full of FBI agents penetrated the neighborhood where the well known independentista Norberto Cintrón Fiallo lives, and waited until he left his house for work. During most of the morning, four vehicles follow the compañero while he carried out his work as an investigator for the Legal Assistance Society. The compañero detected them and headed toward the central offices of his employer in Río Piedras. From there he phoned his attorneys and several media outlets. The four FBI vehicles parked strategically around the offices of the Legal Assistance Society and stayed there, surveilling the area around the building, until mid-afternoon.

The Table of Solidarity denounces this new act of repression against an independentista which, in this case, follows an established pattern against compañero Norberto Cintrón Fiallo for more than 30

years. This pattern has included, among other things, the fabrication of cases, surveillance, searches, and imprisonment for his refusal to accept the jurisdiction of the federal Grand Jury.

The Table of Solidarity Against Repression states that compañero Norberto Cintrón Fiallo is not alone. He has and will have our solidarity and support in every sense of the word. We call upon our people, who have also received the impact of interventions from this same repressive agency of the intervening government in our homeland, to stand in solidarity with compañero Norberto, who has dedicated his life and struggle for the well being of and justice for the Puerto Rican people.

The Table of Solidarity reminds you that we must not let the FBI provoke us. Instructions are not to be intimidated, not to answer questions, to remain silent, to phone your attorney as soon as possible, and don't fall prey to provocation. Every act of persecution by the repressive agencies of the U.S. should be denounced. The people must be on the alert to mobilize and denounce every attack against compañeros and compañeras who struggle for true sovereignty and freedom of Puerto Rico. Be aware of the agents' movements. Make note of the license plate numbers of their vehicles and call the news media. We must all protect ourselves from this monster who interferes in our homeland to defend the

political interests of the powerful.

The Table of Solidarity Against Repression formed in December of 2007 to support three young Puerto Rican residents of New York who were subpoenaed to a federal Grand Jury to testify in an investigation of the Popular Boricua Army-Macheteros. Since then it has continued to meet, doing unitary work and work in solidarity against repression, and with the participation of a broad sector of the independence movement. Since December of 2007, the Table has organized several activities to protest and to inform the people about repression, especially about the anti-democratic institution of the Grand Jury.

The Table of Solidarity Against Repression invites independentista, socialist, community, environmental and union organizations and our people to unite in the activities of solidarity with compañeros and compañeras who are persecuted for our work for our homeland and in massive repudiation of the repressive agencies. We say no to repression, no to the Grand Jury, and we will allow not even one more political prisoner.

TABLE OF SOLIDARITY AGAINST REPRESSION

Contact:

Liliana Laboy 787 406-1838

WAKE UP, BORICUA, DEFEND YOUR OWN PEOPLE!

Tarnac 9 - Raids Lead to Arrests of Anarchists

On Tuesday, November 11, French police and members of the anti-terrorist brigades engaged in raids in several cities, arresting at least 10 anarchists. The raids took place in response to a series of sabotage attacks on the country's high-speed rail network. Those arrested are accused of being part of an anarchist cell, known as "anarchist-autonomous gang."

The government has claimed that it has been investigating an "ultra-left anarchist movement" for several months and acted following the weekend's disruption of train services.

Those arrested are accused in taking part in acts of sabotage where steel rods were jammed across overhead power cables on three high-speed lines between Paris and London, Brussels and the French regions. They are also accused of a separate incident that took place in the southwest of the country, where a high-speed train rammed a pair of concrete blocks placed on the lines.

The government raised concern over the growing relationship taking place within the anarchist movement, stating those

arrested had links to anarchists in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and other non-European countries.

While 10 anarchists are being held, police admit that more than 20 had initially been detained in raids conducted in Paris, Tarnac and the northern city of Rouen.

One of the towns, Tarnac, has become in recent years a sort of "libertarian" community made up of young anarchists and autonomists from all over France.

Four days after the arrests, 9 anarchists were accused of criminal conspiracy with

terrorist intentions. The only evidence against the accused known thus far consists of train schedules and a ladder.

One of the nine, Julien Coupat, is accused of being the leader of the anarchist gang. Coupat is a young philosopher, who once helped published *Tiqqun*. Recent news reports have not only connected Coupat with the attacks in France but also the army recruitment center attacks in New York.

According to the *Telegraph*, published in the UK, Coupat and his girlfriend Yldune L., were stopped allegedly trying to enter Canada from the US illegally in January of 2008. It was claimed that they were carrying anarchist text in English and photos of an army recruitment center in New York. While they left before the attack on the recruitment center in New York's Time Square in March, they supposedly were spotted at an anarchist meeting in New York. This is the alleged connection to the incident!

The raids and targeting of Coupat were initiated, according to the *Telegraph* by a tip off from the FBI.



FREQUENTLY USED

Acronyms/ Terms

ABCF: Anarchist Black Cross Federation - anti-authoritarian federation of ABC groups who support and defend PP/POWs.

ABC-BG: Branch Group - ABCF group with more responsibilities than a SG.

ABC-SG: Support Group - ABCF group with fewer responsibilities than a BG.

AIM: American Indian Movement - above ground revolutionary organization of Native Americans.

Anarchism: Free or libertarian socialism. Anarchists are opposed to government, the state, and capitalism. Therefore, simply speaking, anarchism is a no government form of socialism. Types of anarchists include: Anarcho-Communist, Anarcho-Syndicalist, Autonomist, Collectivist, Individualists, and Mutualists.

BLA: Black Liberation Army - revolutionary Black clandestine formation formed to defend the Black community and the BPP, inactive since the '80s.

BPP: Black Panther Party - above ground Black revolutionary group seeking Black political power, disbanded in the mid-'70s.

FALN: *english translation:* Armed Forces of National Liberation - revolutionary clandestine group fighting for Puerto Rican independence.

FC: Federation Council - decision-making body of the ABCF.

MOVE: Not an acronym, the name of an organization based in Philadelphia whose members are committed to the teachings of John Africa. Their belief is in "life."

PC: Prisoner's Committee - rotating body of 5 PP/POWs on the ABCF's FC.

PP/POWs: Political Prisoners and/or Prisoners of War.

(See page 1.)

Self-Defense: The legal act of protecting one's life or the life of another with the idea/purpose of self-determination and independence. Armed self-defense is relative to the ABCF, specifically in the U.S., in that as the organization grows, so too grows the need to protect ourselves from the armed aggressor of the state, right wing, and other ideological opponents. (Firearms training as preparation for self-defense are legal activities within the confines of the U.S.)

Self Determination: The right by virtue of which all peoples are entitled freely to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence.

SDS: Students for a Democratic Society - left student group founded in the '60s.

The Update: This is a quarterly publication of the ABCF.

WUO: Weather Underground Organization - first the Weathermen, later known as the WUO, evolved out of the SDS as an underground formation of primarily white anti-imperialist revolutionaries from the student movement.

(The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) produces the Revolutionary Political Dictionary with these and other expanded definitions of political terms. Available from Los Angeles ABC for \$1 and two 41 cents stamps.)

Anything We Do is a Threat to the System

by *Joaquin Cienfuegos*

On November 16, 2008, the planning meeting for the Los Angeles Bookfair was raided by police. The reason stated for the raid was that a beer run has taken place down the street. Several people including Joaquin Cienfuegos, a local anarchist were arrested. Cienfuegos has been the target of ongoing police harassment for his work in copwatch and because of his close ties with the Black Writers Liberation Party, who were also present at the planning meeting. Below is Cienfuegos' account of the raid and his arrest.

"It's a war between city blocks and cops." -Psycho Realm

I was released on Tuesday November 18th after spending about 3 days in police custody for "resisting/obstructing police." First I want to start by apologizing, because I feel like the police caught us off guard on Sunday November 16, and I personally could have been more prepared or should not have put myself in that type of situation. This political repression was made clear to me when the arresting officers were cracking jokes to the "watch commander" about how they had "shut down an anarchist party."

The event was a fundraiser for the first ever Los Angeles Anarchist Bookfair (www.anarchistbookfair.com), the Revolutionary Autonomous Communities' Defense Fund, and to support a traveling revolutionary hip hop group from New York called the X-Vandals, held at a warehouse space collectively rented out to artists from Los Angeles. Part of the problem is that this space is isolated in an industrial part of the city with no traffic, so it made it is easy for the police to surround us there. Their intentions were clear, they wanted to shut down the event, and according to several accounts, it seemed like they had specific targets for arrest. Their main excuse was that some youth allegedly stole beer from a liquor store, but they were also asking people to show them proof that we weren't "trespassing." They were also saying that they needed to go in because they "smelled something."

The police had been patrolling and watching the event. People say they thought there might have been undercover police there as well. I was walking outside to talk to some of the artists who needed directions and I was waiting for some sound equipment. Inside we had a DJ spinning some hip-hop, but we hadn't even started the show. The police pulled up and ask me to go talk to them. People who were outside were walking into the show. The police asked to speak to the person in charge of the event, I walk in to find someone to talk to them. I was telling someone to find one of the people in charge of the space when the police kick the door open and tell me to go over to them, they then grabbed me and pull me to the outside.

They try to push my head into some steel bars outside while they put handcuffs on me, but I held my head back, so I wouldn't get my head smashed. At this point there were over 10 cop cars filling 6th street, and a helicopter circling the warehouse, which included more than 15 cops (high ranking officers as well).

Someone talked to the police from behind the door. People stuck out some cameras from the doorway to film my wrongful arrest and detention. While the arresting officers Cervantes and Cho were yelling at me and putting their hands into my pockets, I told them I did not consent to my pockets being searched. Cho (39259) told me I didn't have a choice, and that they didn't need a warrant to go into the warehouse, that we were trespassing. They draw their guns and grabbed one of my comrades who was filming, and continue to try to push the door to the warehouse open. They told me I was being arrested for 148 (A) (1) PC Resisting/Obstructing a Police Investigation. One of the arresting officers, Cervantes was upset because I was letting them know that they were breaking an entry and told me that we didn't know the law, and pushed me into a police car.

The Black Riders Liberation Party came out from inside along with other people who just wanted to leave the scene, and told the police that they did not do anything and that they wanted to leave. The police then put handcuffs on Comrades Nadia and Kambui and started to put everyone from inside the warehouse onto the wall. They also spotted two people on the rooftop of the warehouse and arrested them as well, along with Nadia, Kambui, Ulises from Los Angeles Food Not Bombs who tried talking to the police about the space, and one young person who was id'd for allegedly stealing some beer from a liquor store.

We were taken to Central Division on 6th and Wall in Downtown L.A., where we were booked, and taken to Parker Center. The white artists bailed out that same night. My main concerns were the Riders who I felt were targeted because they wanted to get them back into the system to do some time for their organizing. They are now out on bail and pending their court case on December 6th at Bouchet St. Court. Our

charges were reduced to infractions (equivalent to a ticket) "disturbing the peace." When I talked to the public defender he told me the police didn't have a case and the police report didn't make sense and was full of holes and lies. We pleaded No Contest, to be released that day, and fines were waived due to time served. What upset me was the waste of time, and I felt bad for all the people who were arrested on Sunday as well. I'll repeat what I told the pigs Cervantes and Cho, "this isn't over."

While in prison we talked to many people and we definitely had an effect on people in custody. We told everyone we talked to that we were in there because of our politics and that we were revolutionaries. Many people were surprised at the real Black and Brown unity and solidarity, but also were inspired by the work that is being done in the community, and wanted to support some of the community programs in Los Angeles. I would say 99% of people in custody were people of color, and felt they were there because of the injustice system. We have to continue to fight off these attacks on our people and our communities.

The show before it was raided was a rare mix of people, which I think is why it was shut down as well. There were punks, hip-hop heads, revolutionaries, artists, and others. The police attack serves as a learning experience for me. Anything we do is a threat to the police and to the state as a whole, so if we don't take our enemies seriously then we are going to suffer defeats constantly. We have to know when to strategically retreat and have protocols in place to deal with state repression. We have to understand that the reason they are attacking us is because they take us seriously. They also wanted to scare the youth that were there, so they won't come out to any political events. It is our responsibility to let youth and other community members know about the seriousness of these events, and defend our people as well.

This will not stop us, or intimidate us. We will continue to fight, and be strategic at all times.

As always, in struggle,
Joaquin Cienfuegos
(RAC, CWLA-GC)

NYC ABCF Report

Since we joined the Federation in January 2008, NYC ABC has been busy with many diverse projects. In solidarity with "Running Down the Walls", we coordinated a benefit bike ride with the Freegan bike workshop called "Rolling Down the Walls" which engaged activists in a leisurely 5 mile ride from our anarchist community space in Brooklyn, to St. Mark's Church in Manhattan. We also had the pleasure of coordinating, with the help of the NYC prisoner support coalition, a weekend of

marches and demonstrations in support of our warriors. The marches on October 10th and 11th had a large draw of diverse communities both from in state and out, as well as having created an ongoing delegation to the United Nations to spread the message to all sympathetic countries and non-governmental organizations. We are starting to make connections with prison reform organizations around issues of NY state and federal parole reform as well as the new Communication Management Units.

Recently, two of us were able to visit with Ojore Lutalo in Trenton, NJ. Only a window visit this time, we had an hour to discuss everything from personal politics to his upcoming fundraising weekend.

Last, but not least we are pleased to share we are now two members stronger thanks to one local recruit and one ABCF transfer from LA!

Until all are free!
-NYC ABCF

CR-10 Report from Arcata ABCF

Arcata ABCF-SG attended CR10 (the tenth annual conference of Critical Resistance, a prison abolition movement) which took place September 26-28 in Oakland.

Notable attendees included: Pam and Ramona Africa, Ashanti Alston, Angela Davis, Barbara Becnel (Tookie Williams's advocate/co-author), Lucy Rodriguez, Susan Rosenberg, Harold Taylor and Richard Brown and attorney Soffiyah Elijah, Robert King, Cynthia McKinney, Elliot Monteverde (NY Puerto Rican Grand Jury resister), Hank Jones, Linda Evans, Sundiata Acoli (via recorded message), Yuri Kochiyama, Fred Hampton Jr,

and Ronald Freeman.

Notable organizations included: Incite!, Jericho, All of us or None, Barnone, CA Prison Focus, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Human Rights Coalition, AK Press and PM Press, the New Black Panther Party, and the New Afrikan Liberation movement.

We tabled on Saturday, passing out literature and engaging many people in dialog. We exchanged contact info with Barnone and the AIM United Nations liaison.

The workshops covered topics such as building community-based alternatives, death penalty abolishment, transgender and queer justice, immigrant justice, navigating

the criminal justice system, families of prisoners, political prisoners, justice for women, regional caucuses and where to go in the next ten years.

Performances included everything from art installations, poetry, spoken word, dance and indigenous drum circle.

The workshops we attended were excellent, the performances were riveting, and the discussions sparked were informative and very motivational. About 3000 people attended over the span of the three days. The atmosphere was one of hospitality and inspiration. Overall it was a beautiful gathering of diverse people for a unified purpose.

Los Angeles ABCF Report

Since the last issue of the ABCF Update the LA chapter has some changes in our collective, which has resulted in the formation of a new ABCF chapter in Arcata, CA. We would like to take a moment to express our excitement that our friends in Arcata have continued their work in support of political prisoners. Their energy and determination will certainly show in their work. Thank you for all that you did when in LA.

Running Down the Walls

On Saturday, August 23, LA ABCF hosted Running Down the Walls in Whittier Narrows Regional Park. We had roughly twenty participants in the day's event and raised just under \$1,000 for the ABCF Warchest and the community center, El Centro. As part of the RDTW solidarity runs took place in throughout the country including Tucson, Phoenix, Arcata, Western Massachusetts and many other locations, ten in total. From our understanding a healthy amount of donations were raised throughout the country for the ABCF Warchest and other local projects. All prizes for the LA event were donated from AK Press, so special thanks to them.

Buttons and Catalog

LA ABCF has also been busy working on producing free political prisoner buttons that are available through the ABCF website. The buttons vary in subjects from specific prisoners to broader liberation movements. Buttons come in either 1-inch to 1.75 inches. Currently we have around 40 to 50 designs and are trying to design buttons for each prisoner the ABCF supports. Please contact us if you are interested in obtaining any of these items.

We are also trying to re-establish the ABCF catalog to raise funds for the organization and the prisoners we support. We will update folks as we progress in this endeavor.

Recent Raids in LA

We wanted to take a moment to address the recent raids that have taken place here in Los Angeles. For several years now the Black Riders Liberation Party and the people from Copwatch have been facing serious harassment. They have been constantly under surveillance and have been arrested and charged with trumped up charges time and time again. We know that the state will

not stop until these comrades quit, are imprisoned or worse. We stand by these comrades and encourage the rest of the community to follow suit. Please review the article written by Joaquin Cienfuegos about the harassment and arrests. We will update the community as thing progress as far as how people can support those being targeted.



1.75 inch button for Shiroaki

Continued from page 4

night in jail before being released on his own signature by Douglas County prosecutors after being arrested for conspiracy to commit murder. House never was formally charged for his role in providing dynamite to Peak and is a suspected police informant.

Upon further committee questioning, Platner returned to the dynamite discovered in July and described the bust that Swanson would later not tell the jury about. "We received information from a party that had been approached to buy dynamite. We had him buy it and he bought 10 sticks. It was 2x16-inch sticks. He came back later and said he could buy more of this dynamite. So we set up for him to buy and then we were going to move in before it was delivered. We did move in and arrested three young men in a car. In their possession they had 41 sticks of this same type of dynamite."

"Two and a half by 16-inch. This is Red Cross du Pont 50 percent strength dynamite....[W]hen these individuals were arrested in July, I called back and talked to the owner and the manager of Quick Supply and described the dynamite....He said if this was 2 by 16-inch sticks, he was almost positive it had to be their dynamite....Quick Supply ordered a thousand pounds of dynamite on a special order from the du Pont Company specifying 16 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. This, as I understand it, is an unusually large size of dynamite to be used in quarries for blasting purposes. Sergeant Gladson checked back with the manufacturer of the dynamite, and they told him that was the only shipment of that size dynamite in the year 1970."

Larry Minard, father of five young children, was buried on what would have been his 30th birthday.

Duane Peak, the confessed bomber, walked free after a couple of years of juve-

nile detention for his implication of the two Panther leaders. The anonymous caller who set the lethal trap was never identified or apprehended following J. Edgar Hoover's intervention in the case and Peak was allowed to claim he made the call without a voice analysis to substantiate his claim. Vocal expert Tom Owen has since concluded that Peak did not make the fatal call.

The four men with dynamite, Raleigh House, Luther Payne, Lamont Mitchell and Conrad Gray all ended up with their charges dismissed.

Mondo we Langa denies having any dynamite in his basement and both he and Ed Poindexter continue to deny any involvement in Minard's murder. Both men are imprisoned with life sentences at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Poindexter has a new trial request pending before the Nebraska Supreme Court over withheld evidence and conflicting police testimony. No date for a decision has been announced.

The Anarchist Subsistence Program

The Anarchist Subsistence Program seeks to provide material aid to those PP/POWs who come from our own anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

As with the Warchest, this program is designed to aid PP/POWs who receive little financial aid. However, it is unique because it exclusively assists those from the anarchist/anti-authoritarian community.

Over the last few years there has been an increase of anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs. Most of these new prisoners have support committees who raise awareness and funds on their behalf. Long held anarchist/anti-authoritarian PP/POWs have had their support overshadowed by these new cases. This program is designed to ensure that support for them remains consistent.

The two functions of this support campaign include a monthly financial assistance and forty 43¢ postage stamps per month. Supporters of the Anarchist Subsistence Program send whatever funds they can to Philadelphia ABCF (who facilitates the program) who in turn distributes the funds among anarchist political prisoners who participate in the

program. All U.S. supporters also take turns sending the stamps directly to Philadelphia ABCF.

Listed here are the monthly check documentation and rotation of groups sending stamps. If you want to support this important program and help us expand the number of Anarchist Subsistence Program campaigns we run, contact Philadelphia ABCF. Make checks or money orders out only to: TIM FASNACHT. Funds should be sent in the last week of the month before the month the funds will be used (i.e., send March funds in the 3rd week of February).

Stamp Schedule

Jan- Philadelphia

Feb- Los Angeles

March- Philadelphia

April- Los Angeles

Send a check or money order to Philadelphia ABCF made out to Tim Fasnacht for forty 43¢ stamps in the last week of the month before the month for which you are responsible.

Philadelphia ABCF

P.O Box 42129

Philadelphia, PA 19101

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
NY ABCF	0	0	0	20	20	0	75	0	50	25	30	30
LA ABCF	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	85	0	0	0	0
TOR. ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0
JAX	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
EZE, NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	50	0	0
RYAN, OREGON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
RYAN, AK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	180	20	50	125	85	160	80	30	30

Name: _____ Ph: _____
Street Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

ONE TIME DONATION ☐

MONTHLY SUPPORTER ☐

Monthly supporters, please check one of the following:

I'll commit to 6 months ☐ I'll commit to 1 year ☐ Amount: \$ _____

Send cash, checks or money orders made to **TIM FASNACHT** to:
Philly ABCF
P.O Box 42129
Philadelphia, PA 19101
timABCF@aol.com
toll free (877) 673-2658

\$50,000 Raised Through the Warchest Program!

SUPPORT THE ABCF WARCHEST

The ABCF has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to PP/POWs who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. PP/POWs requesting funds complete an application of financial questions. When the ABCF has collected sufficient funds to send out another monthly check, the applications are reviewed by a rotating body of PP/POWs called the Prisoner Committee, who make a judgement on which applicant is in the most financial need. There is also an emergency fund designed to immediately send checks to those PP/POWs in need of one-time or emergency assistance.

Founded in 1994, the Warchest has provided consistent and reliable financial aid, serving a much-neglected comradely function. Since its inception, the ABCF has raised over \$54,000 with just this one program. All funds raised go directly to the political prisoners, for which the program is designed. Despite our success, our comrades are still in dire need of funds. Endorse this program by giving a monthly or one-time donation to increase the number of prisoners being supported monthly. A financial report is published that documents all money received and the prisoner it was sent to. The prisoners' addresses are also printed so that endorsers may write and hold us accountable.



Send cash, checks or mos made to TIM FASNACHT to:
Philly ABCF • P.O Box 42129 • Philadelphia, PA 19101 • timABCF@aol.com

FUNDS IN	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
LA ABCF/RDTW	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	100	760	0	0	0
PHL ABCF	20	0	0	20	20	0	20	20	20	20	20	20
EZE, NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	50	0	0
TORONTO RDTW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60		0	0
TORONTO ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	40	0	0	40
JAX ABCF	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
NYC RDTW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50		0	0
NYC ABCF	0	0	0	20	20	0	201	0	0	25	30	30
RYAN/ALSKA	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
RYAN/OREGON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
PROPAGANDI	0	0	0	0	0	115	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOBART	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10		0	0
JUSTIN/CLEV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST. MASS. RDTW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143		0	0
ANON	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
RDTW/ARIZONA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243
SHARON SHOATZ/NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	0	0
TOTAL	45	0	0	40	540	190	271	120	1489	470	50	233

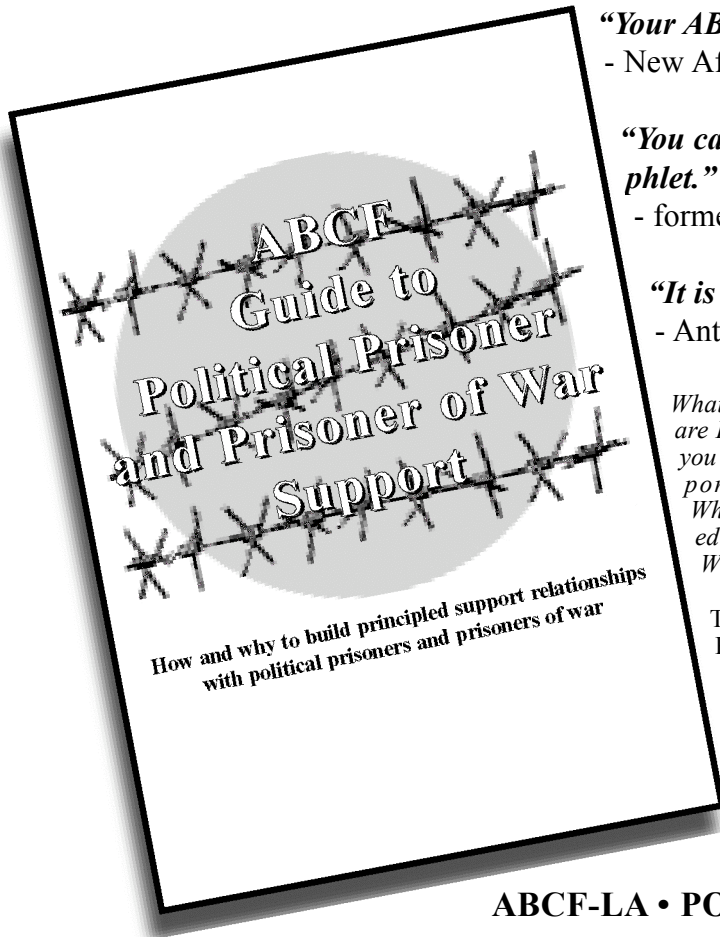
FUNDS IN	
1994	351
1995	3860
1996	4143
1997	3544
1998	7643
1999	5814
2000	3514
2001	5290
2002	2873
2003	1785
2004	UNACC*
2005	4439
2006	3268
2007	4312
2008	3448
TOTAL	54284

FUNDS OUT	Jan-08	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
SEKOU KAMBUI	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUSSELL SHOATZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
JOSEPH BOWEN	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HANIFF BEY	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
HERMAN BELL	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
SEKOU ODINGA	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
RUCHELL MAGEE	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
ALVARO HERNANDEZ	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
MALIKI LATINE	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
OJORE LUTALO	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBERT SETH HAYES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
TOTAL	300	300	300	300	400	300	300	300	300	300	350	300

FUNDS OUT	
1994	120
1995	2796
1996	4308
1997	4588
1998	6412
1999	5191
2000	4544
2001	4637
2002	4320
2003	1300
2004	UNACC*
2005	2620
2006	2880
2007	3471
2008	3750
TOTAL	50937

FUNDS REMAINING: \$3114.50

(*Funds unaccounted for due to unreported funds from Jacksonville ABCF)



“Your ABCF Guide to PP/POW Support is great, PERIOD!”

- New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli

“You can see many of our concerns addressed in this pamphlet.”

- former Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentin

“It is extremely well thought out and put together.”

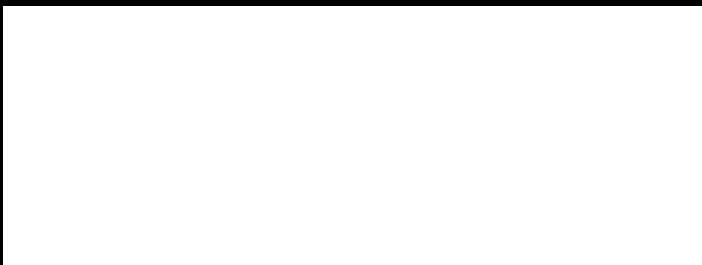
- Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning

What's the ABC? What's the ABCF? Who are Political Prisoners? Who are Prisoners of War? Where are they? Why make a criteria? What do you mean by 'documentation' and how do I get it? What kinds of support do Political Prisoners need? How should I go about my work? What can PP/POWs get in prison? What do I need to know if I want to visit? Can I bring them food packages? What about clothes? What do you mean by 'principled support'? How do I get involved?

This is a practical guide compiled by Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War themselves, based on concrete history and work experience. It will help answer all of the above questions and more. The ABCF guide to PP/POW includes definitions that were democratically agreed upon at an international tribunal, specific procedures for obtaining documentation on PP/POW's, information on visiting, phone contact, food/clothing packages, and the working policies of the ABCF in our work to support PP/POW's. Send \$1 and two stamps to:

ABCF-LA • PO Box 11223 • Whittier, CA • 90603

**LA-ABCF
Branch Group
PO Box 11223
Whittier, CA 90603**



“This work is not done for glory, but because we believe in mutual aid.”