

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Vol. 39-qq, No. 8

PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

August 2014

FORMERLY INCARCERATED & CONVICTED PEOPLES MOVEMENT (FICPM)

For the past many years, a number of formerly-incarcerated people-led groups --such as All of Us or None and The Ordinary People's Society--have pushed for a national convening for formerly - incarcerated people, and we believe that now is the time. The national gatherings we call for now must, both in practice and perception, be organized by formerly-incarcerated people, and there must be ample space to work to resolve questions, problems and issues that have divided us in the past.

The vision of FICPM is to change the criminal justice system and find alternatives to incarceration, and work toward a society where prisons do not exist. The FICPM is committed to fight for the full restoration of civil and human rights for all people, particularly those who have been convicted by the criminal justice system and the communities they represent. The criminal justice system has rendered millions of people, and their families, into an under-caste of society, with no regard for rights or justice. We will speak in our own voices.

By coming together as one, under a national platform, we will engage in legislative activity, litigation, advocacy and mass mobilization in this struggle against systemic oppression. We will agitate, organize, educate, and mobilize. This mass movement is an extension of the work that has been led by those most affected by the prison system, yet inclusive of all people willing to mobilize for social justice and the end of Mass Incarceration.

We couldn't find a postal address on the Internet, but in addition to their substantial on-line presence, two of the FICPM Board members can be reached at: Susan Burton, A New Way of Life, PO Box 875288, Los Angeles CA 90087 and Dorsey Nunn, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, 1540 Market St,

Suite 490, San Francisco CA 94102.

The FICPM Platform, the short form of which follows, must be in conjunction with, and supported by, the pursuit of demands by formerly incarcerated and convicted people, our families, and community.

It is as true today as it was when Fredrick Douglass first uttered these words: "Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never has and it never will."

- I. We Demand an End to Mass Incarceration
- II. We Demand Equality and Opportunity for All People
- III. We Demand the Right to Vote
- IV. We Demand Respect and Dignity for our Children
- V. We Demand Community Development, Not Prison Profit
- VI. End Immigration Detention and Deportation
- VII. End Racial Profiling Inside Prison and In Our Communities
- VIII. End Extortion and Slavery in Prisons
- IX. End Sexual Harassment of People in Prison
- X. Human Contact is a Human Right
- XI. End Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- XII. We Demand Proper Medical Treatment
- XIII. End the Incarceration of Children
- XIV. Free Our Political Prisoners and Establish Religious Freedom within Prisons.

CRIME OF THE MONTH

Gaza, the open-air prison whose population lives in a state of humanitarian crisis due to Israel's illegal blockade, is under attack again. "The most moral military in the world" has slaughtered nearly 2,000 people, 80% of them civilians. Prime Minister Netanyahu demands that Hamas be punished for forcing Israel to kill 460 children in Gaza. This elevates the abusive-husband defense of "look what she made me do" to a bizarre level.

Israel claims they destroy homes, schools, hospitals and water treatment facilities because Hamas fires "rockets" (unguided projectiles which do little or no damage) from these locations. Netanyahu says it would be a "moral mistake" Not to destroy Gaza's civilian infrastructure and "would validate... Hamas' use of human shields." Welcome to the Orwellian Zionist world view.

After Israel's massacre in Gaza in 2009, Amnesty International found no evidence of Hamas using human shields. But the UN Human Rights Council did conclude that Israeli soldiers had used Palestinian children as shields.

Even UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, usually a reliable U.S. puppet, has said that Israel's attack on a UN school sheltering civilians was "a moral outrage and a criminal act." He must not have gotten Netanyahu's memo.

Our Crime of the Month is the continued massacre of the people of Gaza, aided and abetted by ongoing military support from the U.S.

To receive the Newsletter by postal mail each month, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address) -- up to 12 at one time.

Please continue to send us address changes and renewal requests, in order to be sent the yearly holiday card/ new calendar each January.

Also, please note that the *only* address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. There are some resource lists which use an incorrect address.

Remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS. Please do not mark any envelopes sent to us as "legal mail."

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

We depend on our readers' donations & thank you for your support. Mil gracias!

PAZ PARA PALESTINA, ALTO AL GENOCIDIO

Mas de 1,900 palestinos muertos, incluso de 400 niños, casi todos civiles inocentes. Las bombas del 4 ejército más poderoso del mundo no respetan edad.

Nuevamente se ha confirmado el uso de bombas de fósforo blanco sobre la población palestina, armas ilegales por sus terribles e inhumanos daños y el gobierno israelí asegura que los ataques no se detendrán, frente a un HAMAS radical dispuesto al sacrificio de su propia gente.

La población palestina ha sufrido el despojo de sus tierras, cercos económicos despiadados y la separación de sus territorios por un muro de 8 mts. de alto y casi 800 kilómetros de largo que separa familias y poblados, con puntos de control militar para restringir e inmovilizar a la población palestina. De este modo, el estado israelí ha logrado el desalojo por la fuerza de miles de palestinos, mediante la hambruna y la carencia frente a la complicidad de EUA que le suministra armas y apoyo para su programa nuclear, aunque sus declaraciones públicas sean otras Israel posee casi 400 ojivas nucleares.

Los judíos han sido víctimas de muchos crímenes a lo largo de la historia, pero lo que ahora le hace una minoría sionista radical al pueblo palestino, es un crimen de lesa humanidad que ha quedado impune. Desde el año 2000, ejército israelí ha asesinado a más de 1,500 niños palestinos, 6,000 niños heridos de gravedad y 10,000 niños detenidos, cifra que convierte el conflicto en una extrema crisis humanitaria, ante la complicidad y la apatía internacional.

Human Rights Coalition

The Human Rights Coalition is a group of prisoners' families and loved ones, ex-prisoners, prisoners and community members. It works on supporting prisoners' struggles, improving the conditions people do time under, raising awareness about prison issues, giving voice to prisoners' families (a whole section of victims never talked about), and ultimately, working to abolish the prison system.

JOIN US! NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Human Rights Coalition
1213 Race Street
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-496-9661

(collect calls cannot be accepted)

www.hrcoalition.com
info@hrcoalition.com OR
humanrightscoalition@hotmail.com

We stand on the side of hope.