

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504

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ABOUT POVERTY

IN THIS PLACE

Within
the dark bowels
of this prison, the walls rise
twenty feet, blocking out the sun.
Creating a cement and steel tomb for the
living,
whose life of hell is never done. No quiet
or solitude,
yet always alone, trying to keep sanity in
place--a hard
task for any person who has to wear a mask
to cover
all emotion. Within the dark bowels of
this prison,
the animal instinct needed to survive
exists
in each prisoner's heart and mind,
as he continues his lone fight
to stay alive.

Robert C. Fuentes, RIP
from *Extracts from Pelican Bay*, 1995
[Thanks to Bato: In Solidarity]

Commissary Updates

December 2018, Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility, Las Cruces NM -- "In 2014 the NMCD accepted a bid given by the Keefe group to take control over the canteen (commissary). All items bought through them by NMCD inmates, mainly food and drink, and restricted the purchase of such items from any other source--which allowed the Keefe group to monopolize the NMCD and its inmates. (Since 2014), nearly every item sold has doubled in price and with no other option or source to purchase from, the Keefe group can and probably will, continue to raise prices in comparison to other vendors....I've heard, but have no proof, that the institution receives a percentage of what the Keefe group makes through these sales."

January 2019, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (GEO Group) Santa Rosa NM -- "We were paying a little over seven dollars for a box of Banquet chicken, now we will be paying almost ten dollars that that same box. Commissary is blaming the increase on their supplier, Affiliated Foods..."

Have More, Get More

Recent academic research has, no kidding, validated all the things that we know to be true. Job growth is no panacea for impoverished urban neighborhoods. Upward economic mobility appears to hinge, at least in large part, on having a college degree, two parent households, and RACIAL EQUALITY. Since what is now often referred to as the Great Recession of ten years ago, in the lowest income 20% of zip codes, populations have dwindled and there has been almost no recovery from the recession. Places that have a lot of job growth don't tend to be places that are the most comfortable to grow up in.

Studies have found that ethnicity is pivotal to economic mobility. We call it racism. For example, upward economic mobility varies a great deal among people of different ethnic backgrounds who live in the same neighborhoods in places as widely separated as Los Angeles and Houston, among others. Upward mobility worsened in neighborhoods with a high concentration of African-Americans. Which, as we know, are not created by accident, but rather by government and business policy.

And upward economic movement was greater for those from neighborhoods with many two parent families. Also for those from neighborhoods with higher-priced housing. In other words, those who have, get. So, mobility is also generally better in neighborhoods where a high proportion of adults are working.

There is often disparity between residents of and workers in neighborhoods. Jobs appear to have gone to people who live in other, more prosperous neighborhoods or to those who commute from the surrounding suburbs.

And so the example of Los Alamos NM. New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the country. Los Alamos County is the richest in the country. The government bomb lab in Los Alamos employed 11,743 people in 2018. Of them 45% live in Los Alamos County, 21% in Santa Fe County and 16% in Rio Arriba County--one of the poorer counties in NM.

Tras Venezuela, EUA apunta a Cuba en esfuerzo por remodelar Latinoamérica

El periódico The Wall Street Journal (TWSJ) informa que el esfuerzo por destituir al presidente de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, es solo el primer paso del gobierno del presidente trump para remodelar Latinoamérica, y Cuba es su siguiente objetivo. Según el informe, Estados Unidos planea anunciar nuevas medidas contra Cuba en las próximas semanas, incluyendo nuevas sanciones y el restablecimiento de la designación de Cuba como un estado defensor del terrorismo. La medida podría comprometer severamente las inversiones extranjeras en el país. Según TWSJ, Estados Unidos planea apuntar luego a Nicaragua. En noviembre, el asesor de seguridad nacional John Bolton calificó a las tres naciones de una "troika de la tiranía". La última semana de enero, el vicepresidente Mike Pence afirmó que a trump "no le entusiasman" las intervenciones estadounidenses en el extranjero, "excepto en este hemisferio".

The Black Alliance for Peace opposes the illegal and immoral attempts by the United States and their Organization of American States (OAS) allies to interfere in the internal affairs of Venezuela.

To receive the CPR Newsletter by postal mail monthly, send us up to 12 self-addressed, stamped envelopes--with the CPR return address.

Keep sending us address changes and renewal requests in order for us to maintain our *only* permanent mailing list--the one for our January holiday day/new calendar, as accurately as possible.

Also, note that the correct address to be sure to reach us at is: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. Some resource address listings are incorrect in this regard.

And still: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS; for our protection, please do *not* mark envelopes addressed to us as "Legal Mail."

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for posting our Newsletter on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: www.realcostofprisonsproject.org--this is a GREAT site! Thank you for all your support!

**During this month, February,
next month and every month:**

*** * * BLACK LIVES MATTER * * ***

MORE GRAVE INJUSTICES OF OUR TIME CONTINUED

The Birmingham Alabama Civil Rights Institute recently revoked its presentation of the Reverend Fred L. Shuttleworth Award to Angela Davis, a native of Birmingham, as we reported last month. We are pleased to report that that decision was reversed on January 25th, when Institute's Board voted to reaffirm Davis as the recipient of the Award. We do not yet know how this will be observed.

The reconsideration came after a public outcry, including a letter signed by more than 300 prominent civil rights supporters working in a variety of fields which was made public within 48 hours of the Award recall. It stated in part: "We share the view that the Israeli Occupation is wrong, and that the repressive, discriminatory and often violent policies of the Israeli government vis-à-vis the Palestinian population are wrong and indefensible." Davis herself commented in part: "The rescinding of this invitation and the cancellation of the event where I was scheduled to speak was thus not primarily an attack against me, but rather against the very spirit of the indivisibility of justice."

Michelle Alexander, the author of "The New Jim Crow," commented in her article in The New York Times: "We must condemn Israel's actions--unrelenting violations of international law, continued occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, home demolitions and land confiscations." And Alexander also noted that: "Those who speak publicly in support of the liberation of the Palestinian people still risk condemnation and backlash....I am certain that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King (who was widely criticized when came out against the U.S. war in Vietnam in 1967) said on that occasion 'My conscience leaves me no other choice'-- would applaud Birmingham for its zealous defense of Angela Davis's solidarity with Palestinian people...In this new year, I aim to speak with greater courage and conviction about injustices beyond our borders, particularly those that are funded by our government."

Call Out to Florida Prisoners & Loved Ones

Julie Jones, the head of the Florida prison system from 2015 to just recently, is coming to New Mexico as the Secretary of Corrections under the new NM governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. She is being presented as a "reformer." The Florida prison system has 10 times the budget and number of prisoners as does New Mexico. We wonder why she is coming. More importantly, we wonder what she did re the prison system in Florida. Please write us!