

SOLID BLACK FIST

Across the wires! Freedom Fighters' news!



Issue 6

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution declared that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Letter from the Editor

Brothers and Sisters,

The success of your actions during the past three weeks has been incredible and widely spread beyond any of organizers initial expectations. I am sending you praises from Seattle for your hard work and continued resistance. You all have been able to organize effectively across the borders of 17 states, breaking the barriers of communication in over 3 dozen prisons while also showing solidarity with prisoners overseas in Canada, Palestine and Greece.

In addition to forming strong bonds of solidarity across statelines and overseas you all have been able to garnish support across the wall. During the strike's kickoff there were solidarity actions in at least 21 cities across the United States and over the weeks of the strike there were over 100 noise demos, letter writing nights, pickets, rallies, marches, film showings, panel discussions, seminars and countless other types of creative events in solidarity with incarcerated strikers

Along with all of this, media requests were off the charts as I am still receiving requests for interviews about the strike. I have never felt more honored and grateful to represent a group. People are eager about next steps to supporting prisoners, we've already gotten over 16,000 signatures and letters sent to members of Congress demanding basic human rights for incarcerated people in the US. While this is the last edition of SBF resistance continues. It is not too late for those that send in 20 stamps in support, I look forward to sending your custom poster in the mail at the end of the month.

In solidarity,
Amani Sawari (@SawariMi)
sawarimi.org

Inside this Issue:

- Letter from the Editor (1)
- JLS National Demands (2)
- New Confirmed Prison Action (3)
- US inmates mark end of prison strike with push to regain voting rights (5)
- Solidarity Letter from Palestinian Prisoners (6)
- Solidarity Letter from Greece (8)
- Endorsements from Organizations in Solidarity (9)
- Messages from Endorsers & Reader Submission Info (11)





Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration and state prisons:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
 2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
 3. Rescission of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
 4. Rescission of the Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to death by incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
 5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in Southern states.
 6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and Brown humans.
 7. No denial of access to rehabilitation programs for imprisoned humans at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
 8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
 9. Reinstatement of Pell grant eligibility to prisoners in all US states and territories.
 10. Recognition of voting rights for all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees and so-called “ex-felons.” Their votes must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!
-

We all agree to spread this strike throughout the prisons of Amerikkka! From Aug. 21 to Sept. 9, 2018, men and women in prisons across the nation will strike in the following manner:

1. Work Strikes: Prisoners will not report to assigned jobs. Each place of detention will determine how long its strike will last. Some of these strikes may translate into a local list of demands designed to improve conditions and reduce harm within the prison.
 2. Sit-ins: In certain prisons, men and women will engage in peaceful sit-in protests.
 3. Boycotts: All spending should be halted. We ask those outside the walls not to make financial judgments for those inside. Men and women on the inside will inform you if they are participating in this boycott. We support the call of the Free Alabama Movement Campaign to “Redistribute the Pain” 2018, as Bennu Hannibal Ra-Sun, formerly known as Melvin Ray, has laid out – with the exception of refusing visitation. See these principles described here: <https://redistributethepain.wordpress.com/>.
 4. Hunger Strikes: Men and women shall refuse to eat.
-

How you can help:

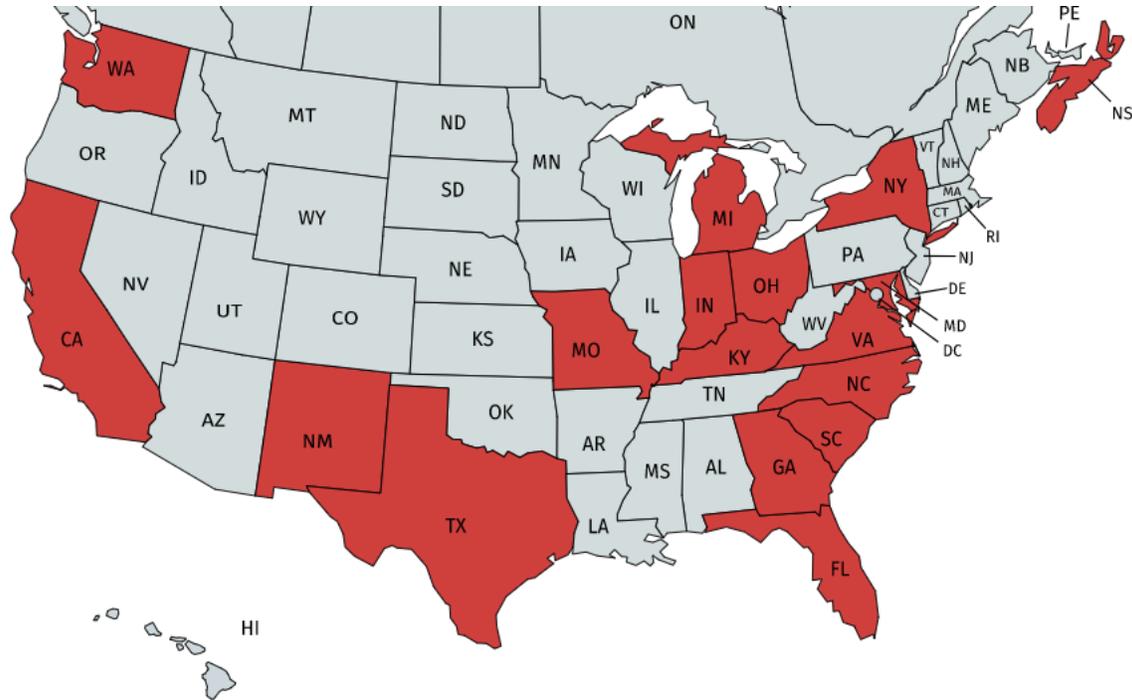
- Make the nation take a look at our demands. Demand action on our demands by contacting your local, state and federal political representatives with these demands. Ask them where they stand.
 - Spread the strike and word of the strike in every place of detention.
 - Contact a supporting local organization to see how you can be supportive. If you are unsure of who to connect with, email millionsforprisonersmarch@gmail.com.
 - Be prepared by making contact with people in prison, family members of prisoners and prisoner support organizations in your state to assist in notifying the public and media on strike conditions.
 - Assist in our announced initiatives to have the votes of people in jail and prison counted in elections.
 - Add your name to the petition: Demand basic human rights for incarcerated people [here](#)
-

Petition Link: <https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/letters/sign-and-send-the-petition-demand-basic-human-rights-for-incarcerated-people?detail=actionLL>

16,000+ signatures so far!

New Confirmed Prison Action, reports from the National Prison Strike's Final Days

by Amani Sawari September 10, 2018 | sawarimi.org



New confirmed prison action reports

(full list & details below)

- **Missouri:** at least one prisoner on a hunger strike at **Leavenworth (USP)**.
- **New York:** strike activity at **Coxsackie Correctional Facility**, strike activity and boycotts at **Eastern Correctional Facility**.
- **Ohio:** at least one block engaged in a [3 day fast on first days of the strike and a commissary boycott throughout](#) at **Ohio State Penitentiary**, plus a work stoppage in late July in response to [preemptive repression](#) by staff.
- Texas: More prisoners involved in the hunger strike at **Michael Unit**.

Statement from prison strike media team

September 9th has passed, but it is up to the people in each prison who are participating in boycotts, hunger strikes, work strikes or sit-ins to determine the right day and time to close out their actions — from the outset, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and national organizers have endorsed local strikers to set their own end dates, or strike indefinitely.

With ongoing communication repression (including heightened censorship of mail, lockdowns, and constant searches and seizures of prisoner property), there is undoubtedly a great deal of information on strike activity that has not yet traveled outside. As organizers have said from the beginning of this process, there is a wall of silence around prisons in the US, which should itself be of great concern for the human rights of those held inside. Actions to further restrict and surveill contact with prisoners, such as [Pennsylvania](#) and [Maryland's](#) “drug elimination

efforts” which curtail access to reading materials under the false pretext of guard safety, would be a huge loss for the already extremely limited freedoms of US prisoners.

Repression against strikers by prison authorities continues to be fought with [phone zaps](#) and [letter-writing campaigns](#): reporting on these issues will directly prevent harm to inside organizers, particularly as coverage of the strike itself winds down. The next step for Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is the endorsement of a [campaign to pressure politicians to enact legislative change](#); both JLS and IWOC will be taking stock of the strike with their members over the coming weeks to consider what other future actions will be necessary to build a movement strong enough to push for the rights of incarcerated peoples. For now, the most urgent tasks for anyone following the strike are to continue to push the demands inside and out, highlight ongoing or previously-unreported strike activity, and work to prevent or limit retaliation against strikers wherever possible.

Incarcerated organizers never believed that their demands would be met a negotiating table during the past three weeks; it has been a huge success of the 2018 prison strike that the 10 points have been pushed into the national and international consciousness. The work of spreading and fighting for these demands will continue on all fronts until they are actualized, and then beyond that onto what JLS aptly calls “the dismantling process,” as we build a movement toward abolition.



Des Moines, IA



Seattle, WA



Houston, TX



Columbia, SC



Oakland, CA



San Francisco, CA

US inmates mark end of prison strike with push to regain voting rights

by [Ed Pilkington](#) September 9, 2018 | [amp.theguardian.com](#)



After 19 days of protest in prisons across the US, organisers see restoring the right to vote as a means of forwarding prison reform

Inmates within America's overflowing prisons are marking the end of a 19-day national prison strike on Sunday with a new push to regain the vote for up to 6 million Americans who have been stripped of their democratic rights. The strike was formally brought to a close on the anniversary of the 1971 uprising at [Attica prison](#) in upstate New York. Though details of the protest have been sketchy since it was [launched](#) on 21 August, hunger strikes, boycotts of facilities and refusal to carry out work duties have been [reported in many states](#), from Florida and South Carolina to Washington. [US inmates claim retaliation by prison officials as result of multi-state strike](#)

Now that the strike has ended, organisers hope its momentum can be sustained as they attempt to fulfill their demands including the restoration of the vote. Not only does the US have the world's largest incarcerated population – 2.3 million are behind bars – it also harbors at state level some of the harshest felony disenfranchisement laws in the world.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 34 states bar citizens from voting based on past convictions. Kentucky, Florida and Iowa cast anyone with a felony out of the democratic process for life.

Prisoners are beginning to coalesce around the push to regain the vote as a means of forwarding the cause of prison reform. The effort is led by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a loose network of imprisoned women and men who were at the forefront of the national prison strike.

When the strike was launched, its organisers put out 10 demands. The 10th was that "voting rights of all confined citizens ... must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count."

Eddie, a prisoner who has served 13 years of an 18-year sentence for armed robbery in South Carolina, said that when he is released in 2023 he will be effectively ostracized.

"I will pay taxes but I won't be able to vote," he said.

Speaking on a clandestine phone from his prison cell, Eddie, who asked not to give his proper name to avoid reprisals from authorities, said disenfranchisement condemned prisoners to the status of second-class citizenship.

“It lets me know that I’m not truly a citizen,” he said. “I will have no say in the political process or the direction of the nation.”

Eddie is one of the organisers of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak involved in coordinating strike action. He said that in his prison most activity had focused on boycotting facilities that generate cash for the prison service, such as commissaries and vending machines in the visitors’ room.

There had also been widespread refusal to work in his and other South Carolina penal institutions. The striking inmates see the obligation of performing prison work for minimal or no pay as a 21st century form of slavery.

In response, Eddie said, South Carolina maximum security prisons had been held in a state of lockdown throughout the strike.

“They have suspended all recreation so that we are in our cells literally 24/7,” he said. “They turn back our mail, threaten anyone found to be associated with the strike with solitary, and they’ve painted windows in our cells black so we have no idea whether it’s night or day.”

Such intimidation failed, he said, to dampen spirits or dissuade inmates as they plan future actions. Of those, one of the key efforts he said will now be around voting rights.

Other retaliatory moves have been reported against prominent prisoner activists and strike organisers. Kevin Rashid Johnson, who wrote an opinion piece for the Guardian at the beginning of the prison strike, has been summoned to appear on Monday in front of the authorities in Sussex state prison in Waverly, Virginia, where he is currently being held in solitary confinement.

Johnson has been told that he faces transfer to a different penitentiary, following a pattern in which he has been moved around the country from prison to prison, from Virginia to Oregon, Texas, Florida and back to Virginia.

“This is a form of retaliation,” his attorney, Dustin McDaniel, said. “The authorities object to the way he exposes injustices inside the system and that he does political education work with other prisoners, and so they move him around to try to neutralise him.”

While strike leaders are primed for further retaliatory measures, they are also developing the campaign to restore voting rights. Janos Marton of the American Civil Liberties Union Campaign for Smart Justice, which aims to cut the US jail and prison population in half, said a renewed focus on felony disenfranchisement was one of the main achievements likely to flow from the past 19 days of actions.

“Organising across states for the strike has mobilized prisoners as a unified voice to an extent we have never seen before,” he said.

Marton added: “The most tangible impact of that amplified voice after the strike ends is a specific effort over voting rights.”

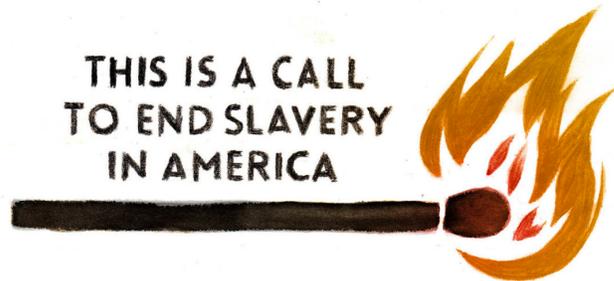
The issue of the removal of the vote from millions of prisoners is likely to be a hot button issue during the midterm elections in November. In Florida, voters will be asked as a constitutional amendment whether they want voting rights to be restored to people with felony convictions who have fully served their sentences and completed parole or probation.

Florida is traditionally one of the most finely balanced and important swing states, with the potential to decide presidential elections. Donald Trump won there in 2016 with a majority over Hillary Clinton of just 113,000 votes. If voting rights were restored, some 1.5 million Floridians would be brought back on the voting rolls.

In other states, Republican officials have been aggressively applying disenfranchisement laws to the extent of sending former inmates back to prison simply for trying to vote.

In Texas, Crystal Mason faces returning to federal penitentiary on 13 September for 10 months after she cast a provisional ballot in the 2016 presidential election. She was not aware at the time that as a former felon, she was prohibited from voting.

**THIS IS A CALL
TO END SLAVERY
IN AMERICA**



Solidarity Overseas

Message of Solidarity to the US National Prison Strikers



We write today as imprisoned Palestinians of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held in Israeli jails for our participation in struggle for the liberation of our land and people from colonialism and occupation. Today, we extend our solidarity to the prisoners in the jails of the United States participating in the national prison strike beginning on August 21, fighting exploitation, racism and capitalism from within the heart of imperialist prisons.

We begin by expressing our mourning for George Jackson, the imprisoned revolutionary and martyr of the Black Liberation struggle. The strike is beginning on the 47th anniversary of his martyrdom, an event that was recognized in Palestine and around the world at the time as an assassination of a true voice of struggle by the U.S. ruling class. As Palestinian prisoners, we also know that George Jackson was an internationalist and that the works of Palestinian poet Samih al-Qasem – addressing imprisonment and resistance – were found in his cell after his assassination. Today, we write to you to once again forge that connection of struggle, despite our different circumstances

The prison strike is a struggle of oppressed and exploited workers, first and foremost, confronting the unmasked brutality of capitalism behind bars. Around the world, prisoners have only protected their human rights and won victories through struggle. We know that you are demanding improved conditions, the right to fight in court for your rights and an end to excessive, lifelong sentences. You are also demanding an end to the new form of slavery found in U.S. prisons, where prison workers are paid pennies to produce goods and perform services for some of the country's largest corporations.

We also salute your struggle against racism. U.S. settler colonialism and imperialism practices its vicious racism both internally and externally, and the prison system reflects that reality. Black communities, Latino communities, Arab communities are under attack, facing mass incarceration and a system that seeks to imprison and exploit rather than support and nurture youth and elders.

Today, prison workers are some of the most exploited workers in the United States, and the same ruling class that profits from the confiscation of Palestinian land and resources and from the bombing of children in Yemen also profits from the forced labor of prisoners. Your struggle is a workers' struggle that is part of our global conflict against the vicious exploitation that our peoples face today. This struggle inside the prisons highlights the deep connections between racism and capitalism and how the struggle against them both can never be de-linked.

The boycott campaign that is part of your strike also emphasizes the critical role of boycott in confronting exploitation and oppression. While our circumstances and lives may vary greatly from one another in many ways, we too face economic exploitation through a "canteen" system that seeks to profit from our imprisonment as Palestinians. We know that prison profiteers in the United States also profit from prison canteens, phone calls and other purchases, and we salute your campaign of boycott. This is the same reason why we call on people around the world to join the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel. We cannot and must not be the consumers of those who profit from our misery and oppression.

As you enter your strike, we salute all of you and your struggle, and we urge all who are not already committed to join in the strike. We extend a special revolutionary salute to the imprisoned strugglers of the Black Liberation Movement and other liberation movements, including Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose consistent internationalism and principled struggle is known and resonates around the world. We demand the freedom of these freedom fighters in U.S. jails, from Leonard Peltier to Mutulu Shakur.

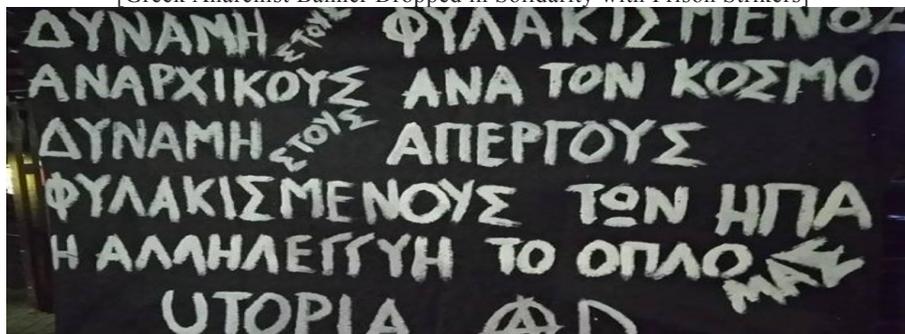
We know from our experience that it is through struggle and confrontation that true freedom can be realized. Your strike is being launched within the heart of U.S. imperialism, the greatest danger faced by our Palestinian people and the people of the world. We know that your victory will also be a victory for Palestine – just as our victories in Palestine will be a victory for all of the struggles against imperialism, racism and oppression in the United States and globally.

With revolutionary greetings,
The Palestinian prisoners of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine inside Israeli jails
The Palestinian liberated prisoners of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

20 August 2018

[From A Wing In Greece to Lee Correctional: Solidarity With the #PrisonStrike](#)

[Greek Anarchist Banner Dropped in Solidarity with Prison Strikers]



A statement of solidarity from Greek prisoners to those in the US participating in the ongoing #PrisonStrike.

In light of what happened at the “Lee Correctional Institution” prison in the state of South Carolina, U.S.A., which resulted in the tragic death of 7 inmates and 17 seriously injured, an act that is the full responsibility of the prison, the warden and the guards, who knew they were placing members of rival gangs in the same wing, and who are proud about their cowardly result. We, the prisoners of the A’ wing offer our solidarity to all South Carolina imprisoned fighters and all the prisoners of America, and declare our support for the current prison strike; affirming a common opposition to the dirty manipulations of the wardens and the guards which have resulted in the death of our incarcerated brothers.

On January 13, 1970, Nollen and 2 other black prisoners at Soledad prison, were shot and murdered by a guard while they were fighting with white racist prisoners, members of the “Aryan Brotherhood.” Four days later, a guard was beaten to death and thrown from the third floor of the wing. For this action that was considered as an act of retaliation, George Jackson and 2 other black prisoners were accused. The 3 of them became known as “Soledad Brothers” and were facing the death penalty. On August 7, 1970, 17-years-old Jonathan Jackson armed with a machine gun, captured the courtroom in Marin of California, releasing three black prisoners of San Quentin prison and taking the judge, the prosecutor and three jury members as hostages. Jonathan Jackson’s goal was to trade the judges with “Soledad Brothers,” and ask for their safe transport to Cuba. Upon leaving the court, the police opened fire, killing Jackson, the judge, and two of the prisoners.

We will never forgive or forget the corrupted prison system of “Lee Correctional Institution” prison in the state of South Carolina, U.S.A., that led to death 7 of our detained as well as 17 seriously injured. To those who are racist and support murder and torture against Black, Portuguese, and Latin people, we commit ourselves that they will always find us in their way, no matter what. The South Carolina prison pigs, such as all states of U.S.A., must know that for the slaughter they caused on this day that they will pay for this.

The start and end dates of the strike were selected to present the history of struggles in U.S.A. for the abolition of slavery and liberation of Black people. On August 21, 1831, an African-American named Nat Turner participated with other slaves in a major revolt that freed slaves from plantations and executed slave owners. On September 9, 1971, the rebellion in Attica prison began. The 1,200 prisoners captured 3 wings of Attica prison until the 13th of September, holding 38 prison guards as hostages, demanding amnesty, the release of all political prisoners in U.S.A., and the abolition of torture.

Freedom to all imprisoned fighters of Lee Correctional Institution prison and all prisons of America!

Larissa Prison, Greece

-127 prisoners of the A' wing

Endorsements, Organizations in Solidarity

#CLOSEmsdf WI		Dirty Hands Collective	Durango, CO
#DeeperThanWater Coalition	Massachusetts	Divest Gainesville	Florida
2 Woke Gurls Podcast	Texas	Divest UF	Florida
82 Tabs	Washington	DSA – Peninsula	San Mateo County, California
A Journal of Insurgent Politics	US, Canada, Europe	DSA Boston	Massachusetts – Boston
AAD	Texas	DSA Central Brooklyn Chapter	New York- Brooklyn
ABO Comix	California	DSA Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky	Cincinnati, OH
abolisha	Germany	DSA National Climate & Environmental Justice Working Group	Massachusetts
Abolish ICE San Francisco	California	DSA Refoundation Caucus	United States
Abolition: Journal of Insurgent Politics	National	DSA SF	San Francisco, CA
Abram Blu	NY	Earth First! Journal	Lake Worth, Florida
AF3IRM	USA	Earthseed Seattle	Washington
Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign	National	East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy	CA
Akron Food Not Bombs	Ohio	East Bay Prisoner Support	Oakland, CA
Alan Singer	NY	Emily Dezurick-Badran	San Francisco, CA
ALL OF US OR NONE CENTRAL ILLINOIS	Illinois – Peoria	Employee Rights Center	CA
American Homeless Society	Nationwide	Enough Is Enough	New York – Rochester
American Indian Community House	New York	Fearless Beauty New York	
Amy Wingo	Illinois	Fem Newsmagazine	California
Anarchist Black Cross Federation	International	Fierce Allies	California
Animal Liberation Prisoner Support Toronto	Toronto	Food Chain Workers Alliance	New York
Anthony Rella PLLC	Washington	Food Empowerment Project	California
Anti Police-Terror Project	California	Food Not Bombs	WA
Anti-Eviction Mapping Project	CALIFORNIA	For the People – STL	Saint Louis, Missouri
Antigravity Magazine	New Orleans, LA	Fossil Free AU	Washington, DC
Arizona Palestine Solidarity Alliance	Arizona	francesca gullo	New York
ASA Critical Prison Studies Caucus	North America	FRE63P	Montana
Asheville Prison Books	North Carolina	Free the Lamb Ministries, Inc	Florida
Ashlee Reyes	Los Angeles	FreeAnons Society	Florida
Asians4BlackLives Portland	Oregon	Freie Arbeiterinnen – und Arbeiter- Union (FAU-ICL)	Germany
Atlanta Anarchist Black Cross	Georgia- Atlanta	Friendly Fire Collective	Philidelphia
Austin Anarchist Black Cross	Texas	Gainesville IWOC	Florida – Gainesville
Autonomous Actions Against Prisons	Washington	Gainesville Redneck Revolt	FL
Bay Area National Prison Strike Solidarity Committee	California – Oakland	Game Workers Unite International	International
Better Eating International	Washington DC	Genepi	France
Black and Pink Milwaukee	Wisconsin	George Jackson University	Natioanal
Black and Pink Seattle-Tacoma	Seattle, WA	Georgetown Solidarity Committee	Washington DC
Black Queer & Intersectional Columbus (BQIC) Ohio		Germany's Incarcerated Workers' Union (GG/BO)	Germany
Black Rose/Rosa Negra Anarchist Federation	National	Ghost Town Prisoner Support	California – Oakland
Black Socialists of America	National	Give UsFree	South Carolina
BLMChicago	Illinois – Chicago	Goselin4AG	Hartford, Connecticut
Bloc the Juvi	Washington – Seattle	Graduate Employees' Organization, IFT/AFT Local 6300	Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
Blue Ridge Anarchist Black Cross	North Carolina – Asheville	Grand Rapid Response to ICE	Michigan – Grand Rapids
Boatwright Transportation, LLCMichigan		Grand Rapids Democratic Socialists of America Michigan	
Boise DSA	Boise, Idaho	Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization	Ca
Book'Em	Pittsburge, PA	Green Party of Allegheny County	PA
BQIC – Black Queer & Intersectional Columbus		Green Party of Connecticut	Connecticut
Brand New Congress	NC	Green Party of Monmouth County	Monmouth County NJ
Brattleboro Solidarity	Brattleboro, VT	Guerilla Mainframe	Texas
Break the ChainVirginia		GW Feminist Student Union	Washington, DC
Breakaway Social Center	Chicago, IL	Hampton Institute	New York
Breaking Barriers Mentoring Inc.	Madison, WI	Handyman Services Unlimited	Belize
Bristol County for Correctional Justice	Dartmouth, MA	Harlem Restoration Project, Inc.	New York
Brooklyn Defender Services	NY	Harrisburg DSA	PA
BYP100	Washington, DC	Harvard Law School National Lawyers Guild	Massechussets – Cambridge
California Prison Focus	California – Oakland	HCGP POC Caucus	TX
Carolina Youth Action Project	SC	Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf Communities – HEARD	National
Causa Justa :: Just Cause	California	Homies Unidos Inc	California
Center for a Stateless Society	international	Houston DSA EcoSocialists	Texas- Houston
Center for Education Policy & Advocacy (CEPA)	Massachusetts	HU Resist	Washington, DC
Central Iowa DSA	Iowa	Humanities Behind Bars	VA
Central Ohio IWOC	Ohio	Huron Valley DSA	MI
Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners calendar	North America	iamWE Prisoner Advocacy Network	
CFS	IL	National organization w/ branches in several states	
Charleston DSA	South Carolina – Charleston	Illinois Coalition Against Torture	Illinois
Chattanooga Democratic Socialists of America	Tennessee	Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)	National
Chiamaka Nwadike	Los Angeles California	Indivisible East Bay	East Bay – CA
Chicago Animal Save	Illinois	Indivisible Midlands	South Carolina
Chicago Community Bond FundIllinois		Indivisible SF	California – San Francisco
Chinese Progressive Association	California	Industrial Workers of the World North America	
Christians for Socialism	Illinois	International Action Center	New York City, NY
Christians for Socialism	Ontario/Michigan	International Confederation of Labor-ICL/Confederación Internacional del Trabajo-CIT	International
CINDY SHEEHAN'S SOAPBOX	CALIFORNIA	International Forum	Denmark
cineSPEAK	Philadelphia, PA	International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee	Oklahoma
Civic Media Center	Florida – Gainesville	International Socialist Organization – San Diego	California
Clark	Illinois	Internationalist Students' Front at George Washigton University	Washington, DC
Columbus DSA Columbus, OH		IWW General Defense Committee	North America wide
CONFEDERACIÓN GENERAL DEL TRABAJO	SPAIN	IWW Leipzig	Germany
Connecticut Prison Book Connection	Connecticut	IWW - LAGMB	California
Corrections Accountability Project at the Urban Justice Center	NY	Jacob Breck	MD
Council of Africana Scholars	NJ	Janet Drew	ME
CWRU Radical Student Union	Cleveland OH	Jennifer R.	CA
DACC	Massachusetts	Jeremy Strange	Utah
DC IWOC	Washington, DC	Jewish Voice for Peace GWU	Washington, DC
degrowUS	Illinois	Jimmie JohnsonMississippi	
Democratic Socialists of America	Indiana	Joan M Vanore	IN
Democratic Socialists of America – Los AngelesCalifornia		Joint Effort	Vancouver, BC
Democratic Socialists of America – New Orleans	Louisiana	Justice First	Washington, DC
Democratic Socialists of America – Orange County	California	Justice For All	Vermont
Democratic Socialists of America North New Jersey	New Jersey	Justice for Palestinians	San Jose, CA
Democratic Socialists of America San Francisco	California – San Francisco	Kansas City IWOC	MO
Denver GMB of the IWW	Colorado	Karen Mitchell	Colorado
Denver Green Party	Denver, CO	KC Heart of America Green Party	Missouri
Denver IWOC	Colorado – Denver	Kent Books to Prisoners (KB2P)	Ohio
Direct Action Coordinating Committee – Amherst College	Massachusetts		

Kent State YDSA	OH		
Knoxville Radical Library	Tennessee		
Leaders Igniting Transformation	Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
Let Fish Live	OR		
LGBTQ for racial Justice	New York		
Liberated Lens Film Collective	California		
Liberation Project	PA		
Liberation Through Reading	Maryland		
Libertarian Socialist Caucus of the Democratic Socialists of America		National	
Libertarian Socialist Caucus, Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America	DC	Washington,	
Lisa Sargent	TX		
M.e.Ch.a de SDCC	California		
MA DSA Worcester	Worcester, MA		
Madeleine Leveille- Green Party	Candidate 35th district of Connecticut	Clinton, CT	
Madison Socialist Alternative	Ohio – Cincinnati		
Malcolm X Center	South Carolina		
Mano Amiga	Texas		
Max Johnson	DC		
Medina Orthwein LLP	CA		
Memoria Anarquista	International		
Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC)		New York – NYC	
Michael Cohen	NY		
Michigan Abolition and Prisoner Solidarity (MAPS)		Michigan	
Mid-Missouri John Brown Gun Club		Columbia, Missouri	
Middle Tennessee Democratic Socialists of America		Tennessee	
Mijente	National		
Millennials Are Killing Capitalism		North Carolina/Philidelphia	
Millions for Prisoners Human Rights Coalition		National	
Millions for Prisoners NM Chapter		New Mexico	
Milwaukee DSA	Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
Milwaukee IWOC	Wisconsin – Milwaukee		
Mom Radio	Georgia/New York		
Montgomery County Democratic Socialists of America		Maryland	
Mortarotti Industries	DC		
Mothers Against Police Brutality	TX		
Movement for People's Democracy		New York	
Movement for a People's Party	California		
Mundo Obrero / Workers World Party		Pennsylvania/National	
Nancy Alvarez Writes	Oregon		
National Afrosocialists & Socialists of Colour Caucus (AFROSOC) of DSA		New York	
National Black Food and Justice Alliance		National	
National Brown Berets	California – Los Angeles		
National Lawyers Guild	National		
Nebraska Left Coalition	Nebraska		
New Abolitionists Radio	North Carolina		
New Sanctuary Coalition	New York		
New York City Jericho Movement		New York – Bronx	
North Carolina Green Party	North Carolina		
NYC Anarchist Bookfair	New York		
NYC Shut It Down	New York		
NYC-DSA	New York City		
Oakland Parents Together	CA		
OCDSA Executive Committee	California		
Omaha DSA	Omaha, Nebraska		
On The Count Radio	NY		
Operation Outreach OG1	TX		
Otay Allies	CA		
Ounce Strategy California			
Our revolution	MI		
Ozivefueshe Dimowo	Tennessee		
Palestinians and Jews Decolonize		California	
Partisan Defense Committee	New York		
Party for Socialism and Liberation		NY/National	
Party of Communists USA	New York		
Peace and Freedom Party	California		
Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County		California	
Peace Club	Ohio		
People and Power Assembly (PPA) Queens	Queens	New York – NYC	
People Uprooting Prison Society		Vermont	
Peoples Power Assemblies	National		
Permaculture Action Network		continental organization of BioRegional Crews	
Pitt Prison Outreach	PA		
Pittsburgh Industrial Workers of the World		Pittsburgh, PA	
Popular Resistance	Washington, DC		
Princeton Graduate Students United		New Jersey	
Prison Abolition Collective	MA		
Prison Abolitionists of Nassau Inciting Change (PANIC)		National	
Prison Action Milwaukee, Inc. (PAM)	Wisconsin		
Prison Book Program	Massachusetts		
Prison Reform Movement	National		
Prison Watch Network	Michigan, Arizona, Nevada, Amsterdam		
Prisoner Advocacy Network	Berkeley, CA		
Prisoner Correspondence Project		Montreal QC Canada	
Protect Our Stolen Treasures	South Carolina		
Queer and Trans People of Color Agency	TX		
Queer Palestinian Empowerment Network (QPEN)		Internatoinal	
Queer Radicals	Washington, DC		
Queer Socialists Working Group		National	
Quiet Corner Democratic Socialists of America		Connecticut	
Quixote Center	Maryland		
Radio Radical Boricua	Puerto Rico		
Rainier Valley Food Bank	Washington		
ReEntry412	PA		
Rehumanize International	PA		
Rethink	Louisiana		
Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement		New York – NYC	
Rhode Island Socialists		Rhode Island, USA	
Richmond IWW		Richmond, Virginia	
Rid Racism Milwaukee		Milwaukee, WI	
Rutgers Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Organization		New Jersey	
Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network		South Carolina	
San Diego Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party of California		California – San Diego	
San Francisco Bay View		California – San Francisco	
Sarah Smith for US Congress		WA	
Seattle DSA		Seattle, WA	
Seattle Industrial Workers of the World		Washington – Seattle	
Seattle Solidarity Network (SeaSol)		Seattle, WA	
SENS-UAW		NY	
SFV 2nd Chance Scholarship Foundation		CA	
Showing Up for Racial Justice		California – Santa Barbra	
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)- Westchester County Chapter			NY
Silicon Valley chapter of Democratic Socialists of America			Silicon Valley
Sivalingam For Representative		New Hampshire	
Smart Start		South Carolina	
Snohomish IWW (of the Whatcom-Skagit GMB)			Washington
Socialist Organization of North Georgia		Georgia	
Socialist Rifle Association		National organization w/ branches in several states	
Socialist Party USA		National	
Solidarity & Defense		Michigan	
Southern Coalition for Social Justice			North Carolina
Southern Maine DSA		Maine	
Spartacist League		United States	
Stand For Our Families (SCDC)			South Carolina
Stand Earth		California	
Steel City John Brown Gun Club			Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh
STEM Strikes the War Machine Illinois			
stephanie bernal		California	
Stinney Distro			
Stop Police Terror Project		DC	Washington, DC
Students Against Mass Incarceration at the University of California, San Diego			San Diego, CA
Students for a National Health Program			national
Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of South Carolina			South Carolina
Students for Prison Education and Reform (SPEAR) – Princeton			New Jersey
Support Marius Mason			Michigan
SURJ Bay Area		CA	
SURJ Southern Maine/Seacoast ME/NH			
Susanne Welch		New York	
SustainUS			Michigan
Teachers for Social Justice			IL
Tennessee Prison Books Project			Nashville, TN
The American Party of Labor			National
The Church of the Latter-Day Dude			Georgia
The Decolonization Project			California
The Forge Newspaper			Knoxville, Tennessee
The Incarcerated Nation			The incarcerated nation corp
The Joseph Spencer Pratt Group			Foundation and Advocacy Group
The Kite Newsletter			Washington
The New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter			Texas
The People's Consortium			Georgia
The Sanctuary at Shepardfields			CONNECTICUT
The Terrence Sterling Campaign for Community Safety			DC
Together We Will Long Island			New York
True Leap Publishing Collective			Illionois
Twoloe			California
UAW			CA
UAW Local 4121			WA
Unitarian Universalist Justice			Ohio
UNITE HERE Local 2			San Fransico, California
United Auto Workers, Local 2865			California
United Panther Movement			Texas
United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) Local #27			Ohio
University of Colorado at Boulder Young Democratic Socialists of America (CU YDSA)			Colorado
Utah Against Police brutality			Utah
Uva students united			Virginia – Charlottesville
Valley Justice Coalition			Virginia
Vegans for Peace UNC-CH			North Carolina
Voices in Movement			Mexico City, Mexico
Wallowa Co. United....			Oregon
Wanda's Picks Radio			California
War Resisters League			New York – NYC
Watermargin Cooperative			New York
Well on Wheels			Connecticut
WESPAC Foundation			NY
Western NY Peace Center/Prison Task Force			Buffalo, NY
WISDOM			Wisconsin
Women Who Never Give Up, Inc			New Jersey
Woodstock Farm Sanctuary			NY
Workers World Party			National
Workers' Solidarity Alliance			National
Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Association			MA
YDSA at Ohio State University			OH
YOGA FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND HARMONY WITH THE PLANET!			NY
Young Democratic Socialists of America @ Virginia Commonwealth University			Virginia
Young Democratic Socialists of America at the George Washington University (YDSA GW)			Washington, DC
Young Democratic Socialists of Princeton			New Jersey

The most up to date list of endorsements can be found online at <http://sawarimi.org/groups-organizations-in-solidarity>

Additional Organizations can register and provide their endorsement online at <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>



Messages from Endorsers:

“Dear Incarcerated Brothers and Sisters, Please receive my most sincere Congratulations and Respect for standing up for your rights. It will not be in vain. As some of you may know, I been there and done that (Atlanta Federal Penitentiary 1987). Your struggle is my struggle, and for whatever it's worth, I hereby declare to the world at large that I am joining your/our cause, starting immediately a hungry strike until we get justice.”

Aa, Handyman Services Unlimited (San Pedro Town, Belize)

“We believe that the prison industrial complex, an extension of the military complex and the post civil war constitutionalization of slavery was a compromise to protect and perpetuate white colonial imperialist white supremacy and its political and economic power. We stand in support of this strike and the 10 reasonable associated demands.” - Justice For All (VT)

“Prisons in the United States must be radically reformed to provide rehabilitation and not warehousing of humans and their enslavement. The for profit prison system must end and sentencing be reduced.” - FRE63P (MT)

“We, the Boise Democratic Socialists of America, have voted to endorse the nationwide prison strike beginning August 21st 2018 and ending September 9th 2018. We stand in solidarity with the strikers and with all those incarcerated in the United States and beyond, and we support the demands of the strikers.” – Boise DSA

“We recognize that prisons and police are tools of the American capitalist state that upholds white supremacy and therefore must be abolished if all people are to be free. Prisons are a way to dehumanize people and the terrible abuses of the system include, but are not limited to: inadequate access to medical and mental care, abuse, and lack of adequate, healthy food. We stand in support of the incarcerated workers and their demands.” - METRO DC DSA LSC (Washington D.C.)

“Silicon Valley Democratic Socialists of America endorses the National Prison Strike that begins on August 21, 2018. We stand in solidarity with those that are striking during that time. We will do what we can to support their efforts and spread the word about the strike.”

“Students for Justice in Palestine–Houston, Texas expresses total solidarity with the U.S. National Prison Strike and with the demands of the strike. We recognize that the imprisoned humans conducting the strike are on the front lines of an attack on the most fortified pillar of institutional persecution, racism and oppression in the United States: the prison system. As careful students of the history of resistance, we see a direct lineage from the legacy of power that is the prison rights movement to the courage demonstrated by the strikers now. George Jackson is still an icon of liberation today, forty-seven years after his martyrdom. Incarcerated humans in the U.S. have been systematically deprived of human rights and a voice. As Palestinian organizers, we recognize that the same U.S. ruling class that renders the occupation and genocide of Palestinians by Israel, has incarcerated black and brown humans in the institutions of brutality, slavery, and injustice we call prisons. Just as we see Palestinian voices of resistance silenced through unspeakable violence and deprivation, we see forces of destruction unleashed on the incarcerated in efforts to enforce silence. In conducting this strike, the strikers and prison organizers raise their voice to speak truth in the face of violent reprisal. The system of racist, capitalistic, social and political oppression that has created the U.S. prison system as a tool of suppression targets incarcerated humans with its most heavy blows. In attacking the very system that so oppresses them, the striking prisoners are demonstrating supreme courage. Organized resistance of the oppressed is the path to revolutionary change, an end to the violence inflicted on people of color, and, in the words of the great Angela Davis, to “changing the things [we] cannot accept.” - Students for Justice in Palestine–Houston, Texas

Submission Info: In addition to publishing content raising awareness about the strike and providing updates on related demonstration and its progress, the Solid Black Fist Newsletter also accepts work from prisoners in the form of articles, art and poetry as well as the contribution of stamps. This demonstration and its campaigns are about you and our most meaningful contributions come from the inside. For those who contribute 20 stamps or more a custom poster will be mailed at the end of September. For readers interested in submitting their work: typed and printed can be sent to the return address or emailed to prisonstrikesmedia@gmail.com; carbon copy: amanisawari@gmail.com
Official Site: <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>

Additional Copies of this Newsletter can be found at <http://sawarimi.org/npsnewsletter>

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Seattle, WA 98133

Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.

2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.

4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.

5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.

6. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.

7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.

8. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labor market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.

9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.

10. With the participation and help of the community and social institutions, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favorable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.

11. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.