

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

30p or a donation *Bulletin*

Free to prisoners

What is the ABC?

THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

The ABC is an international anarchist prisoners support organisation. There are active ABC groups in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, USA, Ireland, Australia, Greece, England, and Scotland.

The ruling class who control this system have made certain laws to preserve their control. Prisons are there to isolate people when all other methods fail. Many prisoners are inside for breaking their laws in order to survive, others for political or social action against this society. We seek the abolition of all prisons as part of a social revolution, to be replaced by justice that comes from our class and communities. We support prisoners not because we feel that by supporting them we will destroy prisons - we feel that prisons will only be destroyed by revolution, so we work towards revolution and in doing so support revolutionaries who are captured.

Our aim is to give practical support to Anarchist/ Revolutionary and class struggle prisoners as well as being involved in general prison struggles and supporting 'social' prisoners in our own locales.



Our work includes letter writing, visiting prisoners, campaigning in support of prisoners demands, highlighting prisoner's cases, picketing prisons and embassies.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

The E.R.N. is a structure set up in 1989 by the ABC to help prisoners as quickly as possible. For example if a prisoner is being roughed up by screws, denied medical treatment e.t.c. people in the network get the news by phone, which allows us to organise actions immediately to support/publicise the prisoners' plight. The E.R.N. being activated has produced phone blockades of prisons and embassies, leafletting or direct action depending on what has been appropriate. The E.R.N. has proved to be a thorn in the side of prison authorities, who will abuse prisoners as long as they can get away with it unnoticed. In 1990 two Greek prisoners were freed after international action, having been on hunger strike after being framed by the police.

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John Perroti

JOHN PERROTI was originally sent to prison when he was 19 for a \$7 robbery. He is now 36. He has had further time added to his sentence as a result of his activities as a self-taught "Jailhouse lawyer" and prison organising.

The prison system in America has grown into a multi-billion dollar industry, motivated by profit. Over the last decade the prison population has trebled to over 700,000 adult prisoners. The prisoners themselves are forced to work at slave wages; as little as 10 cents an hour, are fed on unsubstantial, unsanitary food, degraded, harassed, beaten down both physically and mentally and are given no future except the prospect of probable re-incarceration.

Figures for 1986 show that the state of Ohio employed 3000 prisoners in over 30 businesses and earned a 4-7% profit on \$23 million in sales, while prisoners got pay rates of a maximum of 31 cents an hour. It is against this background of private corporations taking over prisons and using the prison population as a cheap labour pool that John has worked as an organiser for the Industrial Workers of the World, in an attempt to get prison conditions improved. This activism has brought the worst excesses of the system down onto John. In 1984 9 guards attempted to kill him a month after they had murdered a fellow prisoner Jimmy Haines. On this occasion John got another conviction for "aggravated assault" on one of the guards. In 1988 a 12-15 year sentence was added for an alleged attack on another prisoner, when John was at the time locked in solitary confinement and despite the actual attacker confessing during the "trial". The only witness to the supposed attack, a known prison collaborator was immediately paroled after testifying against John, while his story was totally inconsistent and discredited in court. The judge openly assisted the prosecution, denied all defence motions and made faces, rolled his eyes and shook his head when any defence witnesses testified.

As well as additions to his sentence and attempts on his life John Perroti has been a regular target for beatings, being blasted with high pressure hoses and being "Maced" with aerosol CS gas. He has also spent over



7 years of the last 9 in solitary confinement. The J1 Supermax Control Unit at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where John was held until last year was based on the notorious Marion Federal Prison, condemned by Amnesty International and the use of "boxcar" sensory deprivation cells, prolonged isolation and the above mentioned abuses represents a concerted "behaviour modification" programme aimed at breaking the spirit and personality of the prisoners.

In february 1990 John Perroti along with Eric "Sudan" Swafford and Michael Day; the "Lucasville 3", organised a hunger strike to protest at the brutality and repression of the prison regime. One third of the inmates of S. O. C. F (over 700 men) refused food on the first day in solidarity and further support came from prisoners throughout the system and supporters worldwide. John and Sudan Swafford were immediately transferred out of the prison to the Lebanon Correctional Institution in an attempt to defuse the situation but on 10th March the strike ended with the Ohio governor ordering a complete investigation of all the strikers demands.

Though forcing the "investigation" was a partial victory the regime at Lebanon continues to be miserable. John has been kept in a cell block identical to the Stammheim model in West Germany; white walls and bedding/clothing which causes psychological trauma, no set rules-they are made and enforced arbitrarily. He is handcuffed, belly chained and leg-ironed whenever removed from his cell and has several escorts, security guards and sometimes a video camera taping his removal. Visits are once a month

from 1-6 hours and are non-contact in a small wooden and plexiglass booth where talk is through a phone which is bugged. So the "behaviour modification" treatment continues and recently John's mail and visits have been severely restricted.

More recently the media and prison officials have spread rumours about John being involved in an "Aryan Brotherhood", allegedly controlling drugs, gambling and prostitution at the prison and also that he was a terrorist. This misinformation and lies allows them to justify keeping him in isolation and their efforts to silence him. It also detracts from the real issues of prison struggle and resistance that John Perroti has been victimised for.

We understand John Perroti cut his wrists on the 20th february. He is now recovering though still in isolation. It was the 19th day of hunger strike -12 months since his last hunger strike. He was visited by the prison psychiatrist just before his attempt and was said to be "close to going over the edge". He had despaired of his "fasts for justice" which had got nowhere. A visit by a friend was refused on 22nd january on the allegation that he had assaulted a guard - in fact, he had been clubbed by the guard. No way could his protests be heard. He had been in isolation for 22 months (the last year in Lebanon).

Send letters of protest to:
The Governor of Ohio,
Governor Richard Celeste,
Governors Mansion,
Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Warden William Dallman,
Lebanon Correctional Facility,
PO BOX 56, Ohio 45036 U. S. A
(tel 513 9321211).

Donations to
The John Perroti Defence Fund,
P/H C1, 11 Forth St,
Edinburgh EH1.

Letters of support to
John Perroti,
167-712, Lebanon Correctional Institution,
PO BOX 56, Lebanon, Ohio
45036 U. S. A.

REMEMBER WE'RE STILL HERE

"Here we remain, yesterday's urban
guerillas, abandoned in captivity"

Ojore N. Lutalo is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War locked down in Trenton, New Jersey, for actions carried out in the fight for Black liberation.

In his own words, Ojore is "serving a parole violation sentence (we received 14 to 17 years) stemming from a 1977 conviction for expropriating monies from a capitalist state bank (in order to finance our activities) and engaging the political police in a gun battle in December 1975 in order to effect our departure from the bank, and to ensure the success of the military operation..."

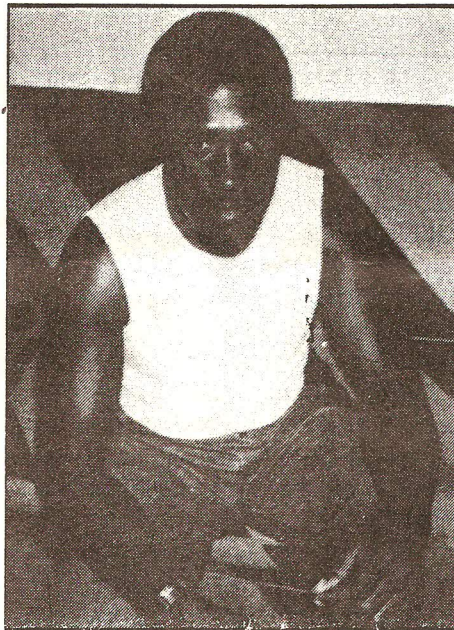
"After my parole violation term terminated in December 1987, I started serving a fourty year sentence with a twenty-year parole ineligibility (I was paroled in 1980, and I have been back in captivity since April 20, 1982) that I received in 1982 for having a gun-fight with a drug dealer. The overall strategy behind assaulting drug dealers is to secure monies to finance one's activities, and to rid the oppressed communities of drug dealers."

Ojore was originally arrested with New Afrikan P.O.W. Kojo Bomani Sababu, and was struggling with comrade Andaliwa Clark up until the point that Andaliwa was killed in action within the confines of New Jersey's infamous Trenton State Prison after he shot two of the prison's security guards in the repressive Management Control Unit (MCU) on January 19th, 1976 when they attempted to stop him from escaping from captivity. Ojore was a comrade of the late Kuwasi Balagoon, a New Afrikan anarchist P.O.W. "I've been involved in the struggle, the war against the fascist state since 1970. I've been an anarchist since 1975 without any regrets. Prior to my involvement in the struggle, I was just another apolitical lumpen (bandit) here in Amerika.

"I was ... influenced and highly motivated by the Black Liberation Army (BLA) here in Amerika. These sisters and brothers were New Afrikans just like me from the streets of the ghettos who took the initiative militarily, to start assassinating members of the state's security forces who were murdering Black people in our communities. From the inception of all revolutions, I feel that the people need armed combat units to check

OJORE N. LUTALO

New Afrikan Prisoner of War



state sponsored acts of terrorism by the government's security forces. In addition, I feel that these armed combat units are necessary to show the people that fascist acts of state-sponsored terrorism ... will be responded to militarily. In 1975 I became disillusioned with Marxism and became an anarchist (thanks to Kuwasi Balagoon) due to the inactiveness and ineffectiveness of marxism in our communities along with the repressive bureaucracy that comes with marxism. People aren't going to commit themselves to a life and death struggle just because of grand ideas someone might have floating around in their heads. I feel people will commit themselves to struggle if they can see progress being made similar to the progress of the anarchist collectives in Spain during the era of the fascist Bahamonde...."

Ojore is presently locked down in a Management Control Unit (MCU) in Trenton. "I'm encased in a cage of steel and concrete surrounded by high prison walls topped with gun towers and rows of razor wire while being watched by sadistic fascist pigs. Nevertheless, I'm not complaining because I have accepted revolution which is armed struggle for me, and I have come to terms with the prospects of death and captivity The vast majority of the Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners now being interned here in the concentration camps of North Amerika aren't receiving any assistance (eg: being liberated, assistance in liberating ourselves, financial assistance needed to obtain food packages, winter clothing, reading material and postage stamps) from the so-called progressive revolutionary organizations, groups and individuals here in Amerika. With our talents, we have been abandoned here in the state's numerous concentration camps and Management Control Units by those out there in what we call minimum custody..."

"We don't need moral support because we have purpose. We don't need anyone to tell us to stay strong because we are going to remain steady anyway because we have come to terms with the prospects of death and captivity."

SOLIDARITY

The Toronto Anarchist Black Cross is organizing ongoing assistance to Ojore. You can help purchase the needed material support by donating money to the ABC and specifying it for Ojore's material aid campaign. All donations will go directly to purchasing his material needs. Consider making regular donations to the campaign. Money can be sent to the Black Cross earmarked for Ojore at P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7, Canada.

You can write to Ojore directly at:

Ojore N. Lutalo
59860 M.C.U.
CN - 861
Trenton, New Jersey
USA 08625



Martin Foran Dying for Justice

MARTIN FORAN is a 45 year old Irishman, convicted and imprisoned in 1985 for a robbery that he didn't commit, a victim of the corrupt West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (WMSCS). Martin had already been sentenced to 10 years in 1978 on dubious robbery charges, serving 6 years before being released in february 1984. Seven months later he was again chosen for a frame up by the WMSCS.

There is considerable evidence available to prove Martin's innocence in both cases -until now this has been ignored. Last year, West Yorkshire police, who are investigating the WMSCS, visited Martin in prison, where they agreed that he had been framed. They have discovered that vital evidence relating to Martin's arrest and 'confession' statements have been lost, destroyed or fabricated in the cover-up by the squad. Martin was arrested and interrogated by some of the same officers who framed the Birmingham Six - further victims of the squad's anti-Irish racism.

Martin has become seriously ill in prison, resulting in him having to have a colostomy. He also developed a discharge from his left eye and as with problems relating to his colostomy this was left untreated. The Home Office has consistently claimed that Martin is receiving adequate medical care and even dared to claim that Martin is 'satisfied' with his treatment. However, regular photos of Martin's condition taken

by his solicitor and testimony of an independent consultant contradict these absurd claims. More recently Dr. Flood, Martin's doctor at Durham Prison who consistently denied him medical care, has been forced to resign following a series of allegations of negligence.

On top of this Martin has been systematically brutalised by prison staff. On one occasion he was kicked unconscious by 3 hospital prison officers. In a court action against these officers Martin was awarded compensation, yet he has still to receive the money. 'World in Action' have expressed an interest in covering this incident in a programme but such media interest is notoriously fickle and it remains to be seen whether the programme will go ahead.

Over a year after the W. Yorkshire police began their inquiry into the WMSCS they had still only dealt with 9 out of 90 complaints under investigation and in frustration at the delay Martin went on hunger-strike last november, coming off in the first week of January.

Since then Martin has been seen by another specialist and is awaiting medical treatment in march. Previously Martin had been given the choice of permanent discomfort and the likely gradual worsening of his condition or an operation which could quite possibly have killed him. A 'new' operation with more chance of success is now on offer.

With the Guilford Four and the Birmingham Six having been cleared and freed a precedent has been established that no one should be convicted on uncorroborated confession, on which Martin's imprisonment rests. Also on January 16th John Edwards, another victim of the WMSCS was released, being the 3rd man found guilty of armed robbery to have his conviction quashed as 'unsafe and unsatisfactory' since the squad was disbanded 18 months ago.

Following a well attended press conference in Dublin where Valerie Foran handed in a petition to the British Embassy, Desmond O'malley the Irish Republic's Minister for Industry and Commerce raised his concern with government colleague Gerry Collins the minister for Foreign Affairs. He said he was convinced that not only is Martin's conviction unsafe but that he should be released on humanitarian grounds alone and get proper medical treatment for his serious condition.

We believe that Martin should be released immediately and given the medical attention that he needs. The members of the WMSCS, for the numerous instances of false conviction they have perpetrated against innocent people, are the real guilty party, yet on june 28th last year four of the dismissed officers were reinstated and many others are likely to get off scot-free. The so-called system of 'justice' in this country is corrupt.

The latest news on Martin's operation is that it should still be going ahead, though money is needed to secure it. Martin and Valerie have made an appeal for money towards this cost. Make cheques out to Valerie Foran and send c/o CONVICTION, Send letters of support to Martin; noCS1796, HM Prison Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH15YD.

Protest to the Home Office (for what it's worth).

For further information or to make a donation; Martin Foran Support Fund/Group (London) BCM Foran, London WC1N 3XX.

Conviction, P.O. Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF

**FREEDOM NOW FOR MARTIN
FORAN!**



Martin's supporters picketing the Home Office