Midwest Books to Prisoners
prison abolition, prisoner support
March 2010 Update
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**MWBTP Status Report**

Midwest Books to Prisoners (MWBTP) sends reading materials to those incarcerated. It was formed in June of 2004 and is all volunteer and collectively run. Books to Prisoners (BTP) is part of a larger national network of similar groups. MWBTP feels that by sending books we educate, entertain and empower a population that otherwise is disregarded by mainstream society.

Since last summer we have shipped off books and zines to hundreds of prisoners in Illinois and neighboring states in the Midwest. We have corresponded with comrades of ours behind bars and are putting their writings, poetry, and artwork on the internet and in print. We have participated in demonstrations against police brutality, tabled at shows with zines and food to raise funds, written letters to political prisoners, and held book packing parties when there is money available to respond to requests.

We have just under a year’s worth of requests otherwise is disregarded by mainstream society.

We launched a new website that has information and updates about the MWBTP project and to give voice to our comrades behind bars. The website and zine feature writings, poetry, and artwork from prisoners we correspond with.

If you are a prisoner, we will help you publish your work. Send us your materials to our PO box. We will print letters, articles, poetry, artwork, pictures in our next zine and post it on the website.

Also on the MWBTP website is a PDF collection of zines distributed by the South Chicago Anarchist Black Cross. We are in the process of digitizing these rare zines so that they may be preserved and redistributed. Many of these works are put together by political prisoners and prisoners of war. These zines are in double sided PDF format ideal for other Prisoner Rights and Abolition organizations to reprint and distribute.

Contact us:

midwestbooks@yahoo.com
http://www.myspace.com/midwestbooks
http://www.midwestbookstoprisoners.org

Mailing Address:
Midwest Books To Prisoners
1321 N. Milwaukee Ave PMB 460
Chicago, IL 60622

We meet at Biblioteca Popular the first and third Tuesday of every month at 8pm. 1921 S. Blue Island / Chicago, IL 60608

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**New Website for MWBTP**

http://www.midwestbookstoprisoners.org

MidwestBooksToPrisoners.org

We will help you correctly package and mail out materials to your loved ones behind bars.

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PO Box 721
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Chicago Books to Women in Prison
c/o Beyondmedia Education
4001 N. Ravenswood Ave #204C
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 530-1579
chicagobwp@hotmail.com
http://www.chicagobwp.org

Chicago Copwatch
1-312-772-2COP
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http://northsidecopwatch.wordpress.com/

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Tamms Year Ten Campaign
http://www.yearten.org
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Write to Win Collective
2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.
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Phone: (773) 262-2172
Email: writetowincollective@gmail.com

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http://www.icadp.org/
332 S. Michigan Ave. Ste. 500
Chicago, IL 60604
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National Lawyers Guild Chicago
637 S. Dearborn Ave., 3rd Fl.
Chicago, IL 60605
312-913-0039
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Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois
2040 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
773-272-1822

Critical Resistance Chicago
718.676.1660
crhicago@criticalresistance.org
Yusufu@criticalresistance.org
http://www.criticalresistance.org

Other Books to Prisoner groups

UC Books to Prisoners
P.O. Box 515
Urbana IL 61803
http://www.books2prisoners.org

Wisconsin Books to Prisoners
c/o Madison Infoshop
1019 Williamson St. #B
Madison, WI 53703
http://www.rainbowbookstore.org/b2p

Books Through Bars - NYC
c/o Bluestockings Bookstore
172 Allen St
New York, NY 10002
(212) 254-3697, ext. 326
www.abconorio.org/affiliated/btb.html

Books Through Bars
4722 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-727-8170
info@booksthroughbars.org

DC Books to Prisons Project
bookstoprisoners@mutualaid.org
c/o: The Quijote Center
PO Box 5206
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Publications
Fire to the Prisons - freetotheprisons.com
325 - http://325.nostate.net
“Best of the Anarchist Tubes” - http://www.anarchistnews.org
CRASS RNC - Community RNC Arrest Support Structure - http://mc08arrestees.wordpress.com/
Earth Warriors Are OK! - http://midwestgreens-care.wordpress.com/
Denver Anarchist Black Cross
http://denverabc.wordpress.com
Prison Action News (available from Denver ABC)

Chicago Police Rogues Gallery

Richard Fiorito
This piece of work arrested hundreds of people on false DUIs in order to rack up overtime pay and in early February was let off the hook by State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez. Even though no criminal charges are being filed, nearly 40 people still have pending federal civil rights lawsuits. Many were LGBTQ and were subject to excessive use of force and homophobic slurs. In late November, activists from the Gay Liberation Network and Copwatch protested at a police board meeting demanding that Fiorito be fired but he still remains on the force doing desk duty.

Anthony Abbate
Anthony Abbate got 2 years probation for the infamous February 2007 "bar beating" where videos clearly show Abbate brutally attacking bartender Karolina Obyrcka. Abbate’s friends who watched and allow the attack to continue then tried to bribe and convince Obyrcka to not press charges. Only recently in a December 15 2009 decision did the courts finally order that he be fired from Chicago Police but to make matters even more ridiculous he has since filed lawsuits against the Chicago Police Board for 12 alleged violations in his termination, and is going to court to try to get his old job back.

Joseph Frugoli
18 year veteran Chicago Police Detective Frugoli was driving drunk when he slammed into a car on the highway killing two people. He was arrested while walking away from the accident but was released on bond soon afterwards despite over 75 friends and family members of the deceased protesting outside Cook County Courthouse demanding justice. The two people in the other car were Fausto Manzera and Andrew Cazares who were infamous graffiti artists Afroe and Evol. Frugoli faces criminal charges but the Fraternal Order of Police are providing legal defense and had the nerve to organize a benefit event to raise money for Frugoli’s defense.
Obama directs Illinois, the Home of Torture, to host Guantánamo Bay detainees

It’s been more than a year since Obama promised that he would close the controversial Guantánamo Bay prison. Although he admitted it hasn’t been closed by the deadline he set, he has his eyes on relocating over a hundred of the detainees to a facility in Thomson IL that would be made “more secure than a federal supermax” prison.

It is not surprising that Obama would want to set up the next Guantánamo Bay in his home state of Illinois. That’s because Illinois has a long and sordid history of torture and police brutality and therefore already knows how to effectively brutalize it’s prisoner population.

Many Illinois prisoners have been locked up for over a decade at Tamms Supremax prison which keeps people in their cells over 23 hours a day in their cells. Federal prison USP Marion also has a “Communication Management Unit” (CMU) which was a designation created as part of Bush’s “War on Terrorism” which keeps prisoners locked down away from general population and strictly monitors all outside communication. Although the majority of these prisoners have been locked up for ‘terrorist’ charges, even animal rights activist Daniel McGowan has been designated to the USP Marion CMU.

And let’s never forget the Jon Burge torture squad in Chicago who during the 70s tortured and brutalized over 100 black men into signing false confessions resulting in decades of prison time. Only recently was Burge finally indicted for these crimes and are people finally being released.

So what remains for the Guantánamo Bay detainees? Legally you can’t hold detainees in the US indefinitely unless they are charged and here to face trial - something they have been avoiding by holding them in Guantánamo Bay in the first place. So far very few detainees have been convicted with crimes while several hundred have been held for many years only to eventually be released without even being charged.

Obama’s declaration that he will “close” Guantánamo by moving detainees to supermax prison in Illinois falls short of what is really needed - justice for the wrongfully imprisoned and an end to torture practices from Illinois to Iraq.

Sensitive Document

My bosses have been watching you for a very long time. Well, since you were born, really, just like everyone else, but really, really following you for quite a while. Their guards were raised with the first police station you ever set on fire but it was once you were able to make the cleanup crews for the banks you laid waste to understand why you did it that we saw you had to be stopped.

You have the same kind of effect on me too. Every single thing you do makes perfect sense, which is why this is so hard. They tell me you’re an enemy of the state who could destroy everything our society holds dear and I know they’re right, but I’m OK with that. I just want you to know that if I ran this agency you’d have nothing to worry about.

I’ve never gotten like this with the people I’ve been assigned to. I’ve brought down folks who’ve done far less than you have, feeling just as much as an assembly line worker feeding another box into a tape machine. But you’ve got something they don’t. I knew it when I first saw you crying talking about prisons, checkpoints, and coal mines. You’re angry as hell, but only because you’re full of love. Now, everyone else I’ve put my lips and handcuffs on is only mad at “capitalism”, “racism”, “sexism” or “the system” because their friends got tired of them complaining about their parents or exs, so they needed something new to hate. But this is all real to you. You have as much at stake as anyone, and there’s no fight like a fight for your life, god, you make me happy.

I actually joined the agency for the same reason you cut down our power lines. I didn’t want anyone to get hurt. I wanted everyone to be happy. I just chose a different team and I kinda wish I hadn’t because when you say you’re trying to work for the good of all life, I know I can’t say the same. You were so honest with me that I could never lie to you either. When you asked me if I was a cop, I told you the truth. It was your mistake not to ask if I was kidding, and I kind of wish you had. I could tell my supervisor you caught on and that’d be that, and I wouldn’t have to stick around to see exactly who it was that I was throwing to the judges or maybe... you’d still want to give this a try. Maybe it’d explain some things- why I never showed you where I worked. Why I could always afford anniversary presents or smoke bombs, why no one had ever heard of me before we met and why I was never willing to watch a Hitchcock movie with you. Maybe I could be bait that made the trap worth it. You could gaze right at me, nothing but trust in your eyes once you worked out an escape route in case of emergency.

I could sleep against you, my hand on your back, my fingertips on a pressure point in case of change of late night orders. Or maybe you could’ve tried to turn me around. I don’t know if you would’ve, but it would’ve been fun. The only thing that kept me from doing that already is that I take pride in my work, and I don’t like to leave jobs halfway finished. And just like there are lipstick monguls who love bunnies and principals who love kids, I can record every word you’ve ever said to me and still know you are the sweetest person I’ve ever met and the best thing to come my way.

I’m trying to stall things as long as I can because I don’t want this to be over yet. But once the doors get kicked in and this wonderful and terrible job is finally out of my hands, I hope your handcuffs break. I hope you get loose when no one’s looking and if they catch up to you, I hope you fight dirty enough to win. And if you’re killed, by the law or yourself, I hope you’re wrong about heaven because if someone deserves that place it’s you. And when I trade my badge for a Polynesian island, which is coming sooner that I ever thought before, I’ll make you a cake for your birthday and bake a drill inside it. And when I can’t afford presents any longer, I’ll dig you a tunnel for our anniversary and give you a flashlight to see with, instructions to follow and a hand to hold as we escape together, if you can ever trust me again.

The Mud Stencil "End Torture in Illinois" campaign was the latest tactical art action by Tamms Year Ten, and one of its most vivid and accessible yet. A coalition of more than seventy groups through-out Illinois, from mental-health alliances to human-rights Advocacies and faith-based committees, Tamms Year Ten was founded last year on the occasion of the prison’s tenth anniversary with the goal of urging the governor of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Corrections to either close or convert the prison, following national trends; to establish transparency and standards at the facility; and at the very least to follow the original legislative intent for the supermax, which was only meant for short-term use.  http://www.yearten.org
RNC: A Look Back

In a world with only two categories for answers, one right and one wrong. There doesn’t seem to be room for much interpretation. I was going to bring molotov cocktails to the RNC. End of story...? Nobody, no reporter, no cop(pig), not even my own mom asked me ‘why’. I guess it didn’t really matter.

It’s funny, the elastic room for stretching reason. To protesters or the lefties, saying “it was for self defense” makes me a paranoid but well intentioned idiot kid. But, “I hate cops” makes me a villain. Hmm.

Just how serious are both sides taking the goals of the action in question? I don’t consider Crowder, McKay or myself Martyrs.

We were young, we were angry and we knew what the protesters didn’t want to admit to themselves. Peaceful protest is not nor will it ever be respected in the country as it exists today. No discussion or words can change this fact. Deal with it the way you want to.

For some it’s a reason to quit. Others see it as a challenge. Whatever the conclusion you reach, the search for a better way never gets any easier.

There’s only two things needed, either a sense of responsibility about the place your children will inherit, or an unquestionable thirst for freedom. Both are creatively destructive, and vice versa. I believe if there’s anything we shouldn’t be it’s ignorant. Fear and hatred for authority are instruments of the machine that binds us.

The RNC was a flex of their flabby power; they had radiation weapons and live ammo but didn’t feel the need to use them, instead they herded the cattle onto a bridge and easily restrained them. Democracy in action, what’s to be learned; nobody asked why. If why no longer matters to them, why should it matter to anyone else?

Even if we could find the words to justify what we believe to them (which over time I believe I have) we’d probably still find ourselves incompatible with control.

Free after Decades: Tortured and Innocent Death Row and Life Without Parole Prisoners

On October 22nd 2008 Jon Burge was charged by the feds for obstruction of justice and perjury in relation to a civil suit regarding the torture allegations against him. Judge Joan Lefkow has approved postponing Burge’s trial to May 10th 2010 while Burge is in Florida. The local Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) voted to pay for Burge’s defense in his upcoming federal trial.

Recent case developments and work by the People’s Law Office has resulted in successes for several of Burge’s torture victims including the July 2009 release of Marvin Reeves, Ronald Kitchen and Mark Clements. And most recently in January 2009, Michael Tillman, also tortured by Burge, was released after over 23 years. The People’s Law Office has a chronological list of hundreds of torture victims from 1972 to 1991 tortured by Jon Burge and his detectives.

Jon Burge was military police in Vietnam serving the Ninth Military Police Company where he may have learned techniques of torture. Burge was honorably discharged in 1969, became Chicago Police in 1970, and climbed the ranks to become a CPD Detective in 1972 when he was only 24 years old.

Free Aaron Patterson

Current mailing address as of 1/1/2010:
Aaron Patterson #21664-424
USP Hazelton / PO Box 2000 Bruceton Mills WV

“Political prisoner Aaron Patterson was tortured by Chicago police, and brought up on trumped up charges in 1986 when he was framed for a double homicide. In 2003, after Gov. Ryan of Illinois acknowledged the torturing tactics of the Chicago Police Department under the leadership of Lt. Jon Burge and tenure of now - Mayor Richard Daley, Patterson and 3 other prisoners were released, a moratorium was put on the death penalty, and restitution was deemed to be paid.

After exposing the Daley Machines direct involvement in these trumped up torture cases, from the platform of running for State Representative, Aaron Patterson was given another trumped up drug and gun case, and given 30 years. On August 14th 2007 Aaron Patterson was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison. Read Aaron Patterson’s federal sentencing transcripts and interview of Aaron Patterson by Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee at these websites:

Civil and Human Rights Violations at Cook County Jail

“We find that CCJ fails to adequately protect inmates from bodily harm and serious risk of harm from staff and other inmates; fails to provide inmates with adequate medical and mental health care; fails to provide adequate suicide prevention; fails to provide adequate fire safety precautions; and fails to provide safe and sanitary environmental conditions.”

A 2007 investigation by the United States Attorney Office Civil Rights Division revealed dozens of cases of civil and human rights violations at Cook County Jail. A full report was sent to Todd Stroger (Cook County Board President) and Thomas Dart (Cook County Sheriff) and can also be read online: “Cook_County_Jail_Findings_Letter.pdf” at: http://tinyurl.com/cookcountyjail

The Civil Rights for Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) gives the Department of Justice authority to investigate and seek remedies to practices in correctional facilities which violate the constitutional rights of the incarcerated.

The report also documents a dysfunctional grievance procedure. Each of the approximately 40 Correctional Rehabilitative Workers (CRWs) if evenly distributed throughout the population of the jail would have a caseload of over 200 people each. Inmate grievance forms are not available in the majority of the units and are only available in English.

The Cook County Sheriff’s Office has responded with a letter riddled with denial and excuses:

“...the report often relies on inflammatory language and draws conclusions based on anecdotes and hearsay from inmates. The CRIPA report’s allegations of systemic violations of civil rights at the jail are categorically rejected by the Sheriff’s Office...”

• THE BAD NEWS: It will be the end of civilization as we know it.
• THE GOOD NEWS: It was never worth a shit anyway.

“But Who Will Flip The Burgers...?”

Some folks can’t imagine life without somebody bossing them around for 16 hours a day. They think that if government is gone, we’ll all be terrorized by gangs and subjected to violence by lawless thugs, bullies will kick us out of our homes and monsters will eat our children.

Look, gangs rob us now. They wear suits and carry briefcases. We’re subject to constant violence by lawless thugs in flak jackets and uniforms who carry guns and drive cop cars so they can “oppress and enslave.” The ruthless predators kicking us out of our homes are called “bankers.” The monsters eating our children worked at Pentagon for the last decade?

What the fuck?

Other folks panic and run in circles, convinced the sky will fall without government. Who will pick up the garbage? Who will teach the kids? Where will the food come from? Those are all valid questions. Each community will have to answer them. If you’re waiting on an answer from me—gets some chips and beer; you’ll be waiting a while. My advice is, if you’re hungry, eat. Food grows on trees. It flies, it swims, it crawls, it runs, it comes out of the ground. If you’re tired, sleep. Getting rained on? Build shelter. If you need security and interaction and social connection, form community.

We’ve been doing this for 4 million fucking years. Are you a human being or a population statistic?

So, look. What’s the worst-case scenario? Let’s imagine we try this experiment and it fails; you don’t enjoy working only 3 hours a day to meet your needs. All this time with family and friends is too peaceful. You can always abandon this plantation. They’ll run away to join us the way kids run off to join the circus. And that would be the end of civilization as we know it.

The next revolution won’t be televised but it can’t be stopped... …Unless you stay home.

Freedom, Love & Rage, Sean Swain Zapatista Candidate Ohio Governor, 2010

Sean Swain has been held captive by the State of Ohio since 1991. His writings include FREE-DOM: The Insight, Rage and Fury of Political Prisoner Sean Swain which is a compilation of a number of previously published works, BOMB THREAT: The Revolutionary Politics of Liberation, which represented his campaign platform when he ran for Governor of Ohio in 2006; THE TRUTH IS DANGEROUS, his statement to the 2008 Philadelphia Stopmax conference; and LAST ACT OF THE CIRCUS ANIMALS: A Story for Children of All Ages, co written with Travis Washington.

His writings are online at www.seanswain.org and midwestbooktoprisoners.org/seanswain
Sean Swain runs for Governor of Ohio in 2010 from Prison

TREASON WE CAN BELIEVE IN...

Isn’t it time we had an Anarchist homeland? I’m down for that. And I’m not talking about “change.” Don’t confuse me with Obama. He ripped-off a bunch of pseudo-socialist ideas from my 2006 campaign and got everybody believing in “change.” No, I’m not talking about rocking the boat—I’m talking about sinking the motherfucker.

BALLOTS, BULLETS, AND BOMBS...BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER...

We don’t need government. What has it done for you? It takes your money and bosses you around and then hands the cash it stole from you to the greedy bastards who force you to drag stones up the side of their pyramid for 16 hours a day or else go hungry. What a fuckin’ dream.

Democracy isn’t shit, I know. You choose your own slavemaster. Not cool. But just imagine if you could turn your ballot into a bullet and blow the government’s brains out, once and for all. Imagine if all the down-sized and out-sourced and fed-up and walked-on from all over the country—everybody tired of taking shit—all got together in one place at one time and hijacked one election...

A NEEDLE IN THE VEINS OF THE BODY POLITIC

I’m running for Governor of Ohio from prison in 2010 as a Zapatista Party candidate. I don’t want to be Ohio’s NEXT governor; I want to be Ohio’s LAST governor. And I’m not counting the stone-dragging zombies who hug their chains and mindlessly follow the fascist program to write-in my name on the ballot. That’s not gonna happen.

I’m counting on you...and millions like you from all over who want to be free, who want to escape the plantation. Ohio has the fastest shrinking popuation, so all we have to do is what we did in Chicago in ‘68, what we did in Seattle to fight the WTO, what we did in Boulder and St. Paul in ‘08...only we stick around. Abbie Hoffman said, “The ground you’re standing on is liberated territory. Defend it.” Imagine millions of us defending the ground we’re standing on...in Ohio.

LET’S RIP OUT “THE HEART OF IT ALL”...

One mass migration, one election. If everybody registers to vote in Ohio and writes in my name on the ballot for governor, we can get this party started. And it shouldn’t be hard. There are millions of us.

Once I get elected governor of Ohio, here’s the plan:

• All prisoners are pardoned and the prisons are emptied.

• The national guard is recalled from the Oil Wars under a state of emergency and then decommissioned. The guns, tanks, bombs, and planes are returned to the people. After all, you bought them.

• No budget passed by the legislature gets signed. No state agency or program gets funded. Government grinds to a halt. No troops, no cops, no courts, no schools. You’re left in charge of you. Organize your own communities and develop ways of living that work for you. Good luck.

• In the absence of government, corporate dictators will panic and flee. Bankers will stuff their pockets and run for the border. Fuck ‘em. In their absence, there will be a hell of a sale at WalMart. Everything 100% off.

• To preclude intervention by the federal government, we will have take all federal property—roads and courthouses, etc.—and deposit them on the other side of the state line in a big pile with a note to the U.S. government telling them they can have their stuff back.

• If we ratify the Constitution of the Ohio Zapatista Autonomous Zone, the State of Ohio will cease to exist. Good riddance to bad rubbish. We’ll be free, just like the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico. And if anybody attempts to rob us of our freedom, we will have the duty, just like our Mexican counterparts, to defend our way of life.

• We’ll be in charge of ourselves. We’ll rely on 4 million years of non-hierarchical and tribal living experience that we amassed before some idiot imposed this miserable pyramid scheme on us. It will be like we’re on vacation...for the rest of our lives. And if anyone tries to come here and make us go back to dragging stones, we’ll just send him home in a box.

• Pretty soon, the other states will leave us alone and their people will run off to join us like kids joining the circus.

Governor Quinn Kills Early Release Program, Implements More Restrictive Good Time Credit Calculations

In 2009 the Illinois Department of Corrections were implementing rules where prisoners would be eligible to earn good-conduct credit up to six months as soon as they entered prison. The program would relax prison overcrowding and save money due to the Illinois budget crisis.

After supposed public backlash, Governor Quinn was quick to denounce and cancel the program. In January of 2010 Quinn signed a new law that was even more restrictive than before. Prisoners must serve at least 60 days in state custody before being eligible for good time. Additionally IDOC has to notify prosecutors 14 days before releasing a prisoner early due to earned good time credits. Even worse a corrections chief must submit a written rationale for why prisoners deserve the good time credit making it more difficult to earn good time in the IDOC.

We reject the false perception that convicted criminals are inherently violent and a danger to society. Only 230 of the 1745 released prisoners had violent crimes or weapons charges. Many people are wrongly convicted and/or have been charged with non-violent crimes. In the end, the Illinois prison system is not designed for rehabilitation and reintegration into society but to punish and exploit people who fall victim to the grasp of the IDOC.

We demand the IDOC relax it’s good time credit calculations and start letting people off with fairer sentences.

H1N1 Vaccinations in Prison

A lot of prisons are encouraging inmates to get the vaccination for the swine flu. Here is a few things to think about before getting it.

H1N1 also known as the “swine flu” is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. Spread of the 2009 H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. In June, it was announced a Level 6 global alert. It was intended to help the world prepare for an imminent lethal viral attack not seen in decades which still hasn’t happened. A vaccine was quickly made without the time to be safely tested. Their manic effort to vaccinate everyone is deeply suspicious. Not forgetting the money factor, expected to be $7.03 billion in 2011. The regular flu was much more common and dangerous than the swine flu and yet no pandemic had been declared over the seasonal flu.

Family physicians all over the world refuse to prescribe the vaccine for their patients, claiming that the risks of the vaccine outweigh its benefits and there is not enough evidence that it is safe.

Take a look at what is inside the vaccine. Thimerosal (contributes to autism and other brain development disorders), aluminum hydroxide (causes adverse neuropathy symptoms), amphotericin B (anti-fungal well-known for its severe and potentially lethal side effects) and mercury (neurotoxin) just to name a few. All of these chemicals can cause serious health problems. Some of the problems won’t be evident for years to come. 11,160 Americans died from the swine flu and out of that around 2,200 people were vaccinated. Along with many more who suffered side-effects. Does this sound safe to you? Think before you decide to get the vaccination.
Chicago Copwatch

Copwatch works towards police accountability and community empowerment by going out on Copwatch shifts and documenting police interactions with people.

Copwatch also hold “Know Your Rights” forums to educate the public about their legal and human rights when interacting with the police, and some groups organize events to highlight problems of police abuse in their communities.

1-312-772-2COP  contact@chicagocopwatch.org
http://www.chicagocopwatch.org
http://northsidecopwatch.wordpress.com/

On June 26th 2009 the Fraternal Order of Police held a reunion of riot cops from the 1968 Democratic National Convention to “Honour and recognize their contributions to maintaining order and for taking a stand against anarchy”. Chicago Copwatch and other organizations came out to protest the blatant celebration of police brutality.

People’s Blotter

21 of July, 2009
At least two dozen people have filed federal civil lawsuits against Chicago police officer Richard Fiorito for making false DUI arrests and harassing gays and people with disabilities.

8 of October, 2009
Dolton cop Christopher Lloyd, 38, was caught on camera allegedly breaking a 15-year-old special needs student's nose for failing to tuck in his shirt, also has been charged with killing a man in a case of disputed self-defense and is now in an Indiana jail on an unrelated rape charge.

29 of October, 2009
The Chicago Police Department is now nearly 2,000 officers short of its authorized strength of 13,500, counting vacancies, medical leave and limited duty, records show.

The department is dealing with 596 vacancies and a wave of retirements. In all, the Police Department is 1,967 officers a day short of its authorized strength.

25 of November, 2009
Chicago police officers who allegedly forced a Pitt student to pose on his knees during a G-20 Summit protest received a formal reprimand from their commanding officers for the Abu Ghraib-like photo...

8 of December, 2009
An 82-year-old man who allegedly punched a CTA bus driver during a fare dispute was then Tased and arrested by Chicago Police in Chinatown. He allegedly began biting and kicking the police, and was tased, and susiquently hospitalized.

18 of December 2009
Chase Bank has donated more than $2 million dollars to pay for security cameras for the city's public high schools. Ninety state of the art cameras will be placed at 40 schools.

22 of December, 2009
Off-duty police officer Edward Stapinski from Lockport, Illinois was charged with DUI and reckless homicide after causing a three-car crash resulted in the death of a Man Wong, a Vietnamese immigrant who was returning home from work.
In 2006 there was an estimated 1.3 million women in prison across the U.S., and that number is continuing to rise. The average annual increase of incarcerated women is 4.6% per capita compared to the 3% increase per year with men. Statistics show that in the Midwest there are 50 incarcerated women to every 100,000 residential citizens, the third highest regionally in the U.S. In the southern U.S., there are 75 incarcerated women to every 100,000 residential citizens and the western states, statistics are 66 to 100,000.(1) On any given day Cook County jails up to 1,200 women. 82% of these cases are non-violent; i.e. prostitution, drug offense and fraud. Unfortunately, the same percentage of those non-violent offenders in Illinois are mothers. As for violent offenders, 93.5% of these women killed or assaulted a sexually and/or physically abusive partner, normally a man.(4) According to statistics from the IDOC (Illinois Dept. of Corrections), in 2008, women made up 6.2% of those incarcerated in Cook County, 2/3 of these women are people of color and over 20% of women reported being homeless several months before being incarcerated.(3) Due to mental illness, drug and/or alcohol addiction, physical and sexual abuse etc. women cost more yearly to be imprisoned because of higher medical expenses, although 80% of incarcerated women also need drug treatment and only 20% actually receive any treatment at all. Children of these incarcerated women are imprisoned as well, as they are placed in group homes, with foster parents, etc. This type of housing costs millions per year as well. Prisons are also generally a male dominated, male oriented environment, over 72.4% of U.S prison employees are men. More than 50% of cases of sexual misconduct in state are reported against women although women make up 10%of the prison population, on the street 93% of sexual assault victims are women. Although programs and services are limited in general for all prisoners, there are far less programs for women.(1)(5)

sources:
(3) FY08 DOC National Report 2008
(5) www.feministing.com

ALSO CHECK OUT:
Chicago Books to Women in Prison c/o Beyondmedia Education 4001 N. Ravenswood Ave #204C Chicago, IL 60613 (773) 530-1579 chicagobwp@hotmail.com http://www.chicagobwp.org
"A Draft Proposal for an Anarchist Black Cross Network"

Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin

The stated purpose of the ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS NETWORK is to actively assist prisoners in their fight to obtain their civil and human rights, and to aid them in their struggle against the State/Class penal and judicial system. The prison system is the armed fist of the State, and is a system for State slavery. It is not really for "criminals" or other "social deviants," and it does not exist for the "protection of society."

It is for State social control and political repression. Thus it must be opposed at every turn and ultimately destroyed altogether. The abolition of prisons, the system of Laws, and the Capitalist State is the ultimate objective of every true Anarchist, yet there seems to be no clear agreement by the Anarchist movement to put active effort to that anti-authoritarian desire. We must organize our resources to support all political/class war prisoners if we truly wish to be their ally, and we must give something more than lip service.

• Organizing against the enemy legal and penal system is both offensive and defensive. It is carried on with individuals, groups and among the masses in the community. We must inform the people on a large scale of the atrocities and inhumanity of the prisons, the righteousness of our struggle, and the necessity of their full and support. We must organize our communities to attack the prison system as a moral and social abomination, and we must fight to free all political/class war prisoners.

Defensive work involves meeting the needs of the prisoners: whether those needs stem from the daily oppression of the prisons, police, courts, or the intensive repression by State/Class authorities of prisoner organizers. The prison support group meets these needs in two primary ways:

by educating the community about the class/racist nature of the prisons and the legal system and how to fight against it;
by forming outside support groups on a local and national basis in order to ensure prisoners’ defense and survival from enemy attack and from inhuman prison conditions. There should be Anarchist Black Cross Groups all over the continent.

Offensive work means directly challenging the existence of prisons and this work also involves actively campaigning against prison conditions, and propagandizing the actual cases of political/class war prisoners (i.e. prisoners jailed for specific political reasons and those who have become politically aware of the reasons for their oppression while in prison, as well as victims of frame-ups) to the largest possible audience.

We must do this in order to expose, embarrass, isolate, confuse and demoralize the enemy’s legal and penal system, and also to win community people over to support prisoners’ struggles.

Some of our protest activities include this 15 point program:

• Organizing Political Prisoner Defense Committees on behalf of prisoners framed or railroaded through the Capitalist courts for their political and social beliefs or prison organizing. For a prisoner in the hands of the State on political frame-up charges, the Defense Committee is the most effective instrument to fight for their freedom!

• Holding protest rallies, marches and street demonstrations in support of prisoners’ rights and against the repressive actions of State/Class authorities. Such protests can be held in and around prisons, Departments of “Corrections,” Courthouses (where political prisoners’ cases are being tried or prisoners’ rights lawsuits are being heard), at the White House, US Congress, State Legislatures, Governors’ Mansions and other symbols of class rule and prisoner oppression.

• Writing press releases and holding news conferences for the Black, alternative and radical news media (and sometimes the Capitalist news media) appearing on television and radio news and/or talk shows to discuss prisoners. Priority should also be given to starting a Prisoners’ newsletter or newspaper with an Anarchist focus . In fact, the old BLACK FLAG, formerly the organ of the anarchist Black Cross Group in London, England (which has stopped publishing), should be started up again. (I remember what the HAPOTOC newsletter and the Black

Writing to Prisoners in Illinois

Cook County Jail (CCJ)
Cook County Jail at 26th and California is over 165 years old, holds about 9800 people, has over 3000 correctional officers, and is the target of multiple civil rights lawsuits. Mailing restrictions according to Cook County Sheriff's website: only "PAPERBACK BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS ARE LIMITED TO 3 PER MAILING". Look up prisoner information at Cook County Jail: http://www2.cookcountysheriff.org/search/.

Illinois Department of Corrections
IDOC is the state institution that manages IL prisons where people do time after conviction: Mailing restrictions vary from prison to prison. Look up IDOC prisoners at: http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/search/default.asp
IDOC runs 28 “correctional” institutions as well as other work camps and transitional facilities, “IDOC’s recommended very heart of the scheme is an Assistant United States Attorney pulling all the strings and breaking all the rules.

Willie Boyd has diligently fought to expose the layers of corruption that exist. Government agents are startled to see his systematic persistence has peeled back layers of corruption through the “Freedom of Information Act”.

An Ongoing Battle
There is no denying the facts as they are now documented. The government has targeted Mr. Boyd. The documentation reveals that ATF agents and government attorneys will stop at nothing to coverup what is being exposed.

For more information on Willie Boyd’s struggle for freedom see the website at http://www.governmentalmiscarriage.org

This is a real first look at the anatomy of a frame. This is an ongoing battle and continues as of this publication. Therefore, you are privileged to see what the government will do next in its attempts to subvert justice and deny what the public can “now” see.

Most of what you are about to read now is criminal, on the part of law enforcement, and reflects activities that are prevalent among some personnel from the agencies involved.

Willie Boyd’s story is real and he is currently serving 23 years for a crime he never committed. Just as DNA has freed many innocent men, so should the following documentation, here, and true facts should negate the injustice that has been done.

For more information on Willie Boyd’s struggle for freedom see the website at http://www.governmentalmiscarriage.org

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
The BOP imprisons over 200,000 people who have been convicted of federal crimes. They maintain 144 prisons of various security levels in every state across the country. The BOP also runs MCC Chicago, the jail for prisoners going to federal court, located downtown at the intersection of Clark and Van Buren Streets. You can look up a prisoner’s location, number, and release date at http://www.bop.gov.

Other States
http://www.theinmatelocator.com has links to inmate search websites for other states.
“Conviction Through Corruption”

WRITE TO WILLIE BOYD:
Willie Boyd: # 184898-044
FCI Greenville
P.O. Box 5000, 3-B
Greenville, IL 62246

William Humphrey
Phone: (314) 383-5339
Address: 133 North Oaks
Plaza / St. Louis, MO 63121

WEBSITE: governmentmisconduct.org

“My name is Willie Boyd and I’m serving a 23-year sentence in federal prison”.

I’m a great grandfather and the father of 5 kids -- three are teenage girls -- who have struggled during the past 12 years since their father has been falsely incarcerated.

Featured on this site is a Complaint and supporting appendices that proves I have been framed by vindictive law enforcement officers (State & Federal), and persecuted by an overzealous Assistant United States Attorney Gary Gaertner and ATF Agent James Green, who have directed others to commit illegal acts and have conspired to cover up the wrongdoing. The conspiracy is fully exposed in the accompanying Complaint and Appendices.

Newspaper Coverage
There are several articles in the St. Louis Post Dispatch concerning recent illegal actions by St. Louis police officers including: framing people, submitting fabricated information in Search Warrant application, stealing money, taking citizens vehicles (aka Police Towing Scandal), stealing World Series tickets (from the Property Room), and the secret Six Million Dollar Slush Fund (money taken from Citizens), where the St. Louis Police had been taking mostly black people’s money without issuing a forfeit notice.

The Towing Scandal brought down the Chief of Police Joseph Mokwa and two St. Louis police officers, Vincent Carr and Leo Liston, have plead guilty to corruption. St. Louis police officer Bobby Garrett has been indicted on ten counts, including planting evidence and false arrest. Bobby Garrett also framed me.

Get the Word Out.
We would like people to contact the U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Missouri, Hal Goldsmith, investigative reporters such as Robert Patrick, your local U.S. Senator, U.S. Congresspersons, Oprah, anyone with a voice to get the story out. We are asking people to Twitter and text your friends to get this website url passed along. Let’s stop this kind of corruption. www.governmentmisconduct.org

Culture of Corruption
We hear about them often enough, but rarely are corrupt law enforcement officials caught virtually red-handed. In essence, the foregone is a revealing insight into the anatomy of “A Frame”.

When State and Government Law Enforcement conspire and cover-up facts, evidence, and illegibilities perpetuated by both agencies, what emerges is a “culture of corruption”. Undeniably clear, this is a factual glimpse of what the public never sees. A psychiatrically unbalanced informant, rogue police officers under indictment for planting evidence, US Marshals illegally entering residences with keys taken from evidence vaults and federal agents concealing “secret” files. And at the flag did to publicize and politicize my case when I was in prison.)

- Securing Anarchist and other revolutionary materials for prisoners to read, and fight for their right to receive this literature if prison officials try to ban or prohibit such literature for any reason. Sending the prison officials and other State/Class authorities all over the continent a flood of telegrams, letters and petitions about the mistreatment of prisoners, and especially political prisoners and prison activists (who are ‘dangerous’ in the eyes of the prison officials). Let them know that there is someone who is watching their every move and that the prisoners are not alone!

- Organize a TELEPHONE BRIGADE to continually call “corrections” and other authorities about the treatment of prisoners. This is especially important if there is an enemy attack upon a political prisoner or an ongoing prison protest. Organize a Legal Defense Fund to raise funds for legal fees and to secure the services of an attorney, where necessary, to assist prisoners with criminal or disciplinary cases growing out of their prison organizing or the harassment by prison officials.

- Organizing and/or participating in coalitions with poor people’s movements, prison support, Black, Women’s rights, Gay, Church, Left-wing, and other diverse groups, so as to win them over and to integrate the prison struggle into the general movement for social change in North America.

- Assist prisoners in getting parole, probation or a pardon by securing them a place to stay, a job, some references or names on a petition demanding their freedom when they become eligible for parole or are seeking executive clemency. It may be necessary to hold demonstrations and other protest actions to compel the release of certain prisoners whom officials are continuing to hold even though they should have been legally released.

- Organize a Correspondence Committee of people to write to prisoners and find out about prison conditions and to show their solidarity and human concern. Also to write protest letters to prison officials, politicians, the news media, prison support groups, professional or legal organizations and other persons, about prison conditions. Also have the ABC’s to function as an Observer Committee to go into the prisons, visit the prisoners, investigate their complaints, question the officials and monitor the prison for violation of prisoners’ rights.

- Work against the death penalty and expose it as an instrument of racial genocide and class and political repression. Never forget the Haymarket martyrs, Sacco and Vanzetti, and so many others put to death “legally” by the State, as well as those like Mumia Abu-Jamal, who have been sentenced to death. Expose the fallacy of the Capitalist system of cops, laws and prisons being for the protection of society or as a social necessity. We should hold community forums on crime, the prison system, racism and Capitalism, to expose the system itself as the crime, and to show that there is another way to social peace and harmony: the Anarchist way.

- Set up Black Cross Amnesty Committees all over the Continent to demand the freedom and amnesty of political/class war prisoners, and the abolition of prisons. Especially demand the immediate release of prisoners who have served unnecessarily lengthy sentences. Demand the immediate closing of all Control Units in federal and state prisons. We should have mass marches at the prisons, in front of politicians offices, and at the “corrections” offices. We should make the issue of Control Units in North American prisons an international human rights issue, and in addition work to try to free all such prisoners on a strict timetable.

- Those outside the prison support movement (and especially in underground units) must be willing to engage in armed support actions. Where the lives of political/class war prisoners are in immediate jeopardy, they must be forcibly liberated. This is an extreme measure for extreme conditions of repression. It cannot be taken lightly and without full understanding of the consequences. But because of the State’s bloody war against innocent victims it must be considered and done.

“Politics is war, and war is politics”.

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WWW.GOVERNMENTMISCONDUCT.ORG

Address:
P.O. Box 5000, 3-B
FCI Greenville
Greenville, IL 62246

Plaza / St. Louis, MO 63121

Amnesty [illegible] Cross

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· All book orders are prepaid, there is no charge to prisoners.
· We like to receive stamps, ideas for our project, updates on your prison, artwork.
· It is easier for us to fill requests for general topics than for specific authors/titles.

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Chicago, IL 60622