

Prison Justice Network *newsletter* Winter 2019

unceded Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo lands (Surrey, BC)



Prison Justice: The Walls That Close In symposium by
KPU Prison Justice Club <https://facebook.com/kpuprisonjustice>
March 27 (1-4pm) Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey
12666 72 Avenue room FIR 128

“Hear from formerly incarcerated individuals about their experiences within prison walls as well as from KPU criminologists about the issues with prisons and the need for prison reform!”
Light Refreshments Will Be Served.
RSVP and/or contact us at kpuprisonjustice@gmail.com

Triangle Trade: Camille Turner, Jérôme Havre, and Cauleen Smith
until March 24 (Tuesday-Sunday) Surrey Art Gallery, 13758 88th Avenue, Surrey
“A short film that examines specific relationships between black identity, land, and belonging. “The puppets live on an archipelago of islands and resemble the collaborating artists who worked on the film.” “Their reflections address both potential futures and alternate histories. ... an important conversation and vivid imagery that speaks to our current cultural climate marked by incidences of xenophobia and racism” <https://surrey.ca/culture-recreation/28245.aspx>

Stark Raven produces a radio program on the air for 30 years “first Monday of each month”
April 1, May 6, June 3 (7-8pm) Vancouver Co-op Radio
100.5FM stream <http://coopradio.org> Starchoice #845
“featuring in-depth interviews, news and analysis”
“Issues we Cover: Canadian prison conditions, detention & the war on terror, alternatives to prison, psychiatric survivor movements, criminalization of migration & poverty, privatization, security certificates, government policy, political prisoners, policing, the death penalty, the personal & political impacts of incarceration, prisoner’s writings.”
c/o Vancouver Co-operative Radio, 110-360 Columbia St.,
Vancouver, BC Coast Salish Territory V6A 4J1
<http://prisonjustice.ca/stark-raven>



Prisoner Letter Writing “First Saturday of every month!”
<http://spartacusbooks.net/events>
April 6, May 4, June 1 (3-5pm) Spartacus Books, 3378 Findlay Street, Vancouver, BC V5N 4E7
“Come to Spartacus Books to write a letter to a prisoner pen-pal. We can help you find a pen-pal if you've never had one before. We also have stamps, envelopes, and guidelines for how to write a letter. As always, there's free coffee and tea.” facebook.com/events/296491164409741

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CALLS

Sign the petition by Justice for Soleiman "We want to see charges laid against those responsible for Soleiman's death. Help us by calling for accountability and transparency."

<https://change.org/p/justice-for-soleiman-faqiri>

<https://justiceforsoli.com>

"Soleiman Faqiri was a 30-year-old Canadian-Muslim man struggling with mental health who was killed while in custody at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario on December 15, 2016.

"According to a surveillance video and internal report, Soleiman died after guards at the provincial facility pepper-sprayed and beat him. As a result of the vicious beating, Soleiman sustained fifty bruises and a blow to the head. His hands were bound behind his back when he was being pepper sprayed. Soleiman was then forced into handcuffs and leg shackles and returned to a cell in solitary confinement, which the United Nations notes can constitute torture when prolonged and used against those suffering with mental health.

"Soleiman was one of five siblings and the family came to Canada from Afghanistan when he was a young boy. Soleiman's family describes him as a kind, gentle soul who meant the world to his friends and family. Even while he suffered from schizophrenia, he always had a warm smile and a kind word to share. Soleiman needed a bed and a doctor, instead he got fists and cuffs.

"An initial police investigation exonerated any guards from wrongdoing and no charges were laid, even though thirty guards were in his cell. The Ontario provincial government is refusing to provide the family with access to the full investigative file.

"Now in 2019, after a year-long investigation by CBC's The Fifth Estate that has uncovered 1,500 pages of never-before-seen documents, his family are on a West Coast speaking tour to Vancouver and Victoria in order to build support for the demand that the government open a new investigation by an external police force and to seek justice for Soleiman"

Write to Immigrant Detainee by End Immigration Detention Network: send letters of support inside the prison walls to a detainee from Nigeria being held in Ontario who has spoken up against the immigration detention system and has consented to receiving mail: **Akin Akinsuyi**, Toronto East Detention Centre, 55 Civic Road, Scarborough, ON M1L 2K9

“Prisons are notorious for censoring mail, especially mail with perceived political or ‘anti-social’ content. There is no guarantee that messages will make it inside. However, prisoners say that receiving mail is an incredible way for them to feel supported by and connected to the outside world. So let’s try! Keep messages simple, direct, and ‘clean’ (no cuss words).”

<http://endimmigrationdetention.com>



Sign petition

by **Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee**

<http://twitter.com/dmscelpaso>

“to end abuse in El Paso region immigration detention, and create a clear and fair process that detained immigrants can follow to win parole and be freed”

<https://action.mijente.net/petitions/release-the-el-paso-hunger-strikers>

c/o **Alliance for Global Justice**

225 East 26th Street, Suite 1

Tucson, AZ USA 85713-2925

launch an investigation against the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility by Friends and family campaign to free political prisoner Khalfani Malik Khaldun khalfanikhaldun.wordpress.com

Racial discrimination: Activist prisoners who exercise their rights to file grievances “are targeted, labeled as snitches, or our cells searched and trashed in retaliation”. “*San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper* has been confiscated. This newspaper has been termed ‘Black supremacy thought,’ racist and security threat group material. Ignored is its celebrating and promoting love, empowerment and culture and encouraging economic rebuilding of the poor Black community.” “On the flipside ... White nationalist books and newspapers... are not labelled as ‘White supremacist’ or related to security threat groups. The White prisoners are allowed to possess these materials... This is an undeniable truth that fosters biases.”

Program discrimination: “facility staff in positions of power have and will prevent some of us from becoming participants”

Abuse of power and using positions to retaliate: “Examples of abuse of job position, harassment and unprofessional retaliation exist every day in Wabash Valley Correctional Facility.”

Nepotism is perpetuated and promoted: “environment of Prejudice, and Staff Nepotism”

Targeting, harassment, unprofessional conduct and prejudice: “the Restricted Movement Housing Unit ... officers operate on a code of conduct that is not in compliance with any policy or law I know of.”

Criminal behavior by staff, violations of code of ethics, conduct unbecoming of staff, fraternization: "These violations continue to persist under the watchful eyes of their superiors. The officers engage in selective games of fraternization with various prisoners, by providing information to them on negative gossip circulating about other prisoners. This is intentionally done to keep us divided as a prisoner class. Having us at odds with one another this way has proven to keep our eyes off the real violations that permeate this prison environment."
Abuses in the selection and use of administrative restrictive status housing units: "Many of us who are currently in the G-Housing Unit and on Restricted Movement Status are here unjustly, because the criteria don't apply to those of us who have good conduct records."

NEWS

2018 Montreal New Year's Eve Noise Demo

"150 people gathered ... outside prisons in the Montreal area to set off fireworks, wish people in prison a Happy New Year, and show our opposition to prisons, borders, and the industries and governments that sustain them."

"Dozens of people stood in their cell windows waving and shouting back to us" "at Leclerc, a provincial prison for women ... we noticed lights flickering on and off in the windows of the prison!" "Federal Training Centre Minimum ... a few people had come out of the buildings to stand in the yard despite the cold and they waved and yelled to us from across the fence"

"MCs reminded us of the hunger strike against the government's 'alternatives to detention' plan that imprisoned migrants in Ontario carried out in September of this year. This plan includes introducing an electronic monitoring program and contracting the John Howard Society and the Salvation Army to create 'parole-type' programs for migrants. We think it's all a way to control and monitor more and more migrants who come to this country, who are often fleeing situations of violence that Canadian imperialism helped create. ...

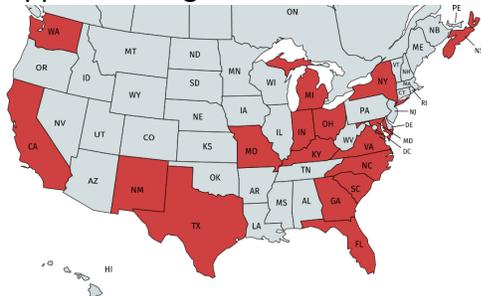
"For a world without borders or prisons!"

<https://mtlcounterinfo.org>

Prison volunteers face new, longer security checks January 9 *Globe and Mail* Lisa Steacy

"A year ago, the Correctional Service of Canada issued a directive requiring volunteers to obtain 'reliability status.' In order to enter a prison, volunteers are now subject to the same screening and scrutiny as staff. This includes fingerprinting and a credit check, in addition to the prior requirements of a criminal record check, application and orientation class."

"Joint Effort ... has been trying to either get an exception to the requirement for reliability status or to get the directive reversed. So far, they have been unsuccessful and they have stopped sending volunteers."



The **Prison Strike of 2018** (August 21-September 9), spread, including to Burnside, NS. "Work stoppages, prison yard protests, commissary boycotts and other actions demanded humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform and the end of modern day slavery." <http://incarceratedworkers.org>

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee IWW

PO Box 180195, Chicago, IL USA 60618 iwoc@iww.org

PUBLICATIONS

Cell Count by PASAN “community-based prisoner health and harm reduction organization”
“popular publication inside among many prisoners, regardless of health status. There is a [focus] on HIV and HCV [Hepatitis C]... Cell Count is also a space for people to express frustration and anger towards the general experience of being incarcerated, as well as philosophical, emotional, spiritual and artistic pieces”

“free for people living with HIV, prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families in Canada. For everyone else, becoming a member of PASAN at a suggested donation of \$20/year and have the option of subscribing to printed issues of Cell Count. PDF versions can be emailed to you at a suggested donation of \$5/year. If you are interested in submitting art, poetry, articles, tips, suggestions, feedback, etc. please write to the editor at sena@pasan.org or send us mail at 526 Richmond St E, Toronto, ON M5A 1R3.” <http://pasan.org/cell-count.html>

Penal Press - A History of Prison From Within <http://penalpress.com>
“Written and produced by prisoners” open-access archive
includes **Out of Bounds** quarterly magazine produced and distributed by prisoners at William Head Institution in Victoria <http://penalpress.com/en/name/out-of-bounds>
Melissa Munn, Okanagan College, 7000 College Way, Vernon, BC V1B 2N5

Chronicle of prisoner unrest across Turtle Island 2010-present <http://perilouschronicle.com>
“Understaffing, budget cuts, labor struggles with guard unions, overcrowding, and shifting public opinion are leading to various proposals for overhauling prison systems. We seek to gather information about prisoner resistance activities that may inform the changing face of incarceration by spreading a greater understanding of how prisoners respond to their confinement and the conditions thereof.”

Voices: Indigenous Women on the Front Lines Speak <https://voicesfrontlines.com>
“Each Zine is available as a sliding scale digital copy or hard copy. All proceeds go to support the land defenders in this series. Also, if you purchase one of the limited edition copper etching prints you receive the zine that accompanies it for free!” voicesfrontlines@gmail.com

comics by Emmanuel ‘Mandu Ra’ Johnson available from Prison Action Network
P.O. BOX 6355, Albany, NY USA 12206 <http://prisonaction.blogspot.com>



above from *San Francisco Bay View* National Black Newspaper 2017 <https://sfbayview.com>

The Opening Statement of those who are supposed to remain silent is a “quarterly political analysis newsletter featuring the writings of Michigan prisoners” <http://michiganabolition.org>
Michigan Abolition and Prisoner Solidarity P.O. Box 4811 East Lansing, MI USA 48826

INSPIRATIONS



“**Joint Effort** is a women in prison abolitionist group involved in solidarity work with women prisoners in the Lower Mainland.

“Joint Effort started as a sub committee of the BC Federation of Women and has been volunteering at the women’s prison since 1980. The group consists of women who work to create contacts between women in prison and various community organizations outside the prison. “On the ‘inside’ our work consists of organizing discussion groups, various workshops and music, theatre and sports events. We work with the Inmate’s Committee and the Native Sisterhood to support their activities in any way that we can. In our weekly visits we try to create a space where women from ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ can communicate around issues of mutual interest, where respect and confidentiality are practiced and where a woman can speak her mind and be supported.

“On the ‘outside’, Joint Effort is involved in providing public information about the situation of women in prison as well as lobbying the government on various issues.

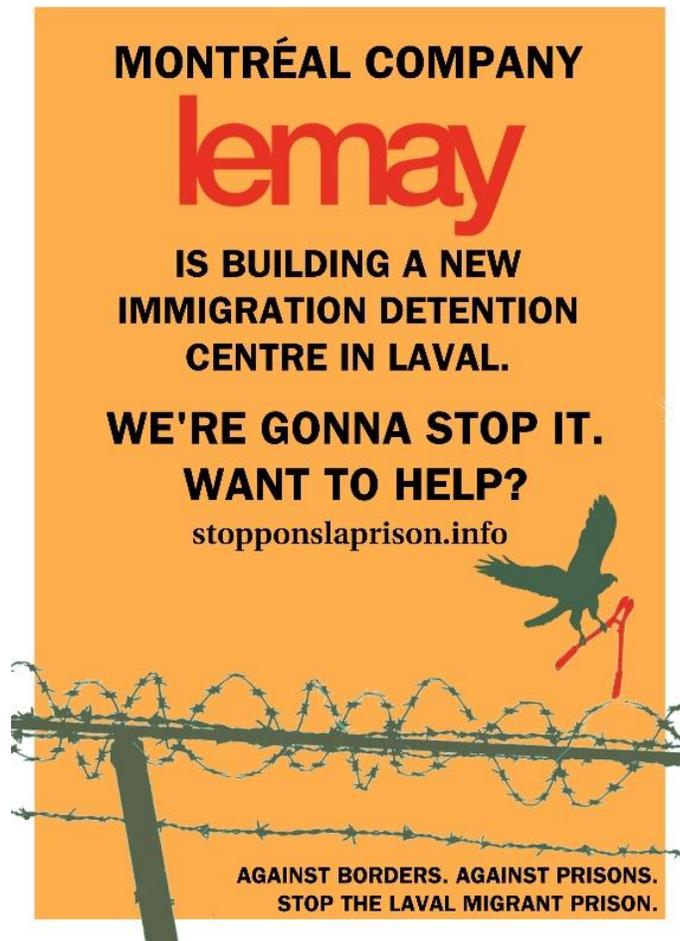
“Joint Effort is an independent group that is not associated with the prison or the church. We are unpaid workers and the group does not receive any government or institutional funding.

PO Box 78005, 1755 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC Coast Salish Territory V5N 5W1
jointeffort@prisonjustice.ca <http://prisonjustice.ca/joint-effort>



PASAN is a community-based prisoner health and harm reduction organization that provides support, education and advocacy to prisoners and ex-prisoners across Canada.

526 Richmond Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1R3 Toll Free 1-866-224-9978 <http://pasan.org>



Stop the Laval migrant prison “In 2016 the federal government announced the construction of a new migrant detention center in Laval.

“This prison, which is anticipated to hold up to 158 migrants, is intended to be built on Correctional Service of Canada grounds, right beside Leclerc prison, and is slated to open in 2021. While the Liberal government is attempting to spin this project as a more humane way to detain migrants, we call it what it is — a prison, and know that this is simply prettier window dressing on a violent system of imprisonment and deportation, one that keeps people locked in cages while tearing apart families and communities. We want a world without prisons or colonial borders, a world where people, not states, can decide how they can move and where they can stay. Stopping the construction of the Laval Immigration Detention Centre is one step in the struggle to tear down migrant prisons everywhere.

“Block new prisons from being built and shut down the old ones!” <https://stopponslaprison.info>

Afronautic Research Lab performance and social practice art, by Camille Turner and Karen Turner, recently visited the Vancouver Public Library as a special project of the Or Gallery (555 Hamilton Street, Vancouver V6B 2R1 <http://orgallery.org>)

“The Afronauts, are descendants of the Dogon people of Mali. They left earth 10,000 years ago and have returned home to save the planet. Tackling one issue at a time, they invite citizen researchers to join them in their Afronautic Research Lab. Currently, they are confronting Canada’s historical amnesia. They do this by unveiling 18th century newspapers and inviting visitors to contemplate the ads posted by Canadian slave owners.”

<http://camilleturner.com/project/afronautic-research-lab>

Black Prisoners' Caucus — of Seattle's **Village of Hope**, a Black community hub which has for years included a Healing Circle welcoming of former prisoners — “has a long history of positive relationships with community and faith based organizations, businesses and individuals. The BPC community network extends across many counties in Washington State, as well as, nationally and internationally. We have co-sponsored a number of community and prison based activities over the years with our partners.” c/o Village of Hope, PO Box 46485, Seattle, WA USA

Some prisoners continue with the Caucus in **T.E.A.C.H. (Taking Education and Creating History)**: “The idea of using college course in Arts, Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences as a tool for prison reform can be seen as progressive, but when the same classes are being taught by prisoners to the inmate population as a way of creating a liberating learning community that is committed to reform, it becomes more that progressive it becomes revolutionary!” (Kimonti Carter, 2017) <http://blackprisonerscaucus.org/teach>
T.E.A.C.H., Clallam Bay Corrections Center, 1830 Eagle Crest Way, Clallam Bay, WA USA 98326



Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee Seattle

“worldwide union for emancipation from the prison system”
(prisoner-led section of the Industrial Workers of the World union)

“we are seeking those in need of support on the inside and those feeling drawn to support prisoners on the outside” “prisoners are the most intimately familiar with the criminal justice system which is why we follow their lead in supporting their initiatives”
1122 East Pike Street, #1142, Seattle, WA USA 98122-3934
seattleiwoc@gmail.com <https://seattleiwoc.net>



“The **Human Rights Coalition** ... was formed, to aid and support prisoners’ families in coping with the stress and hardships created by having a loved one incarcerated, as well as to challenge the punitive retributive nature of the penal system; and, to work to transform that to a model of rehabilitation and successful reintegration to society.”

4134 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA USA 19104
<http://hrcoalition.org>

“**Planting Justice** began a partnership with the **Sogorea Te' Land Trust** that will ultimately facilitate the transfer of Ohlone land back into native stewardship in the first project of its kind in the San Francisco Bay Area.” “The 2 acres in Sobrante Park, deep East Oakland, is in the process of being transformed into an urban food production hub and plant nursery staffed almost entirely by people who are formerly incarcerated and Sobrante Park community leaders.” 319 105th Avenue, Oakland, CA USA 94603 plantingjustice.org/nursery-sogorea-te

Prison Lives Matter struggles for the right to vote of people incarcerated and for lawmakers’ accountability to communities! text 864 447-3090 <http://prisonerlivesmatter.org>

Survived & Punished “includes survivors, organizers, victim advocates, legal advocates and attorneys, policy experts, scholars, and currently and formerly incarcerated people. Survived & Punished organizes to de-criminalize efforts to survive domestic and sexual violence, support and free criminalized survivors, and abolish gender violence, policing, prisons, and deportations.” California, Chicago, & New York 510 995-6084 <http://survivedandpunished.org>



Survived & Punished stand against prisons in support of the campaign to Free Bresha Meadows 2017 in Ohio

“In The Spirit Of Nelson Mandela” campaign for the International Commission of Jurists to visit the united states and investigate human rights violations of political prisoners/prisoners of war and demand their immediate release.

led by **Jericho Amnesty Movement** P.O. Box 2164, Chesterfield, VA USA 23832
<http://thejerichomovement.com> and the **Northeast Political Prisoners Coalition**
<https://twitter.com/NEPPC1>



People’s Prison Defense Committee, created last year by prisoner Joshua Hatch: “We are the defenders not only of the legal rights of our society’s imprisoned and dispossessed, but also of their human right to opportunity, freedom, rehabilitation and re-entry.”

P.O. Box 273 Colonial Beach, VA USA 22443
<https://facebook.com/PeoplesPrisonDefenseCommitteePPDC>
influenced by **George Jackson University**
1725 Ellington Drive, Fort Worth, TX USA 76112
<https://georgejacksonuniversity.com>

Lucasville Amnesty “The Lucasville Uprising was a rebellion against oppressive and racist policies at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, Ohio. Nine inmates and one guard died during the uprising in April of 1993. Today, many people are serving time or condemned to death by the state of Ohio in relation to the uprising. We demand amnesty for all of these inmates. The conditions at SOCF were (and still are) intolerable and unconscionable.”
<http://lucasvilleamnesty.org>

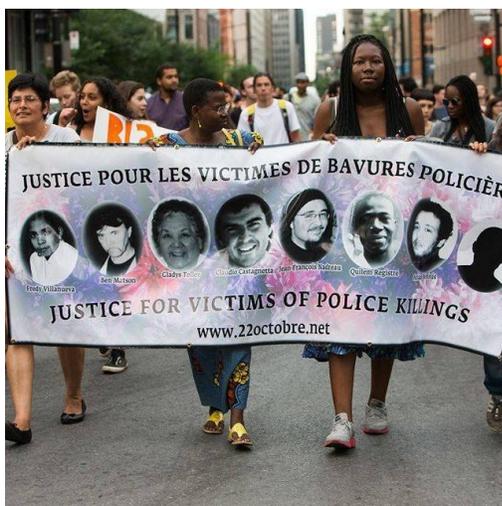


**“CAAAV
Organizing Asian
Communities**
works to build
grassroots
community
power across
diverse poor and
working class
Asian immigrant
and refugee
communities in
New York City.”

55 Hester Street,
New York, NY
USA 10002

<https://caaav.org>

*Protest against
police murder of
Eric Garner 2014
August 23 Staten
Island, New York*



October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality,
Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation
since 1996 in New York City (“collective outrage,
creativity, and resistance in response to the crimes of
this system”)

<http://october22.org>

*in Montreal with Justice for Victims of Police Killings
such as this 2017 July 31 manifestation*

<http://22octobre.wordpress.com>

Lifers With Optimistic Progress is changing perceptions of lifers and benefitting communities
with knowledge amassed during incarceration P.O. Box 661233, Sacramento, CA USA 95866
<https://liferswithoptimisticprogress.wordpress.com>