

C. 4/1986

# A Report on The Marion/Lexington Demonstration

## AT MARION & LEXINGTON PRISONS

# DEMONSTRATE APRIL 19

by the Committee to End  
the Marion Lockdown

407 S. Dearborn, Room 370  
Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 427-2539

On April 19, we will go to the gates of Marion  
Prison in Marion, Illinois to protest its inhumane  
lockdown. For 2-1/2 years, the prisoners  
have been subjected to isolation, beatings  
with family and other people.

**THE COMMITTEE TO END THE  
MARION LOCKDOWN**

Presents



**A CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION AND  
ACTION ON THE SECOND  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
MARION PRISON LOCKDOWN**

## PRISONS: FORTRESSES OF REPRESSION



### DEMONSTRATE: Saturday, April 19

Demonstrations will take place at:  
Marion, Illinois: Marion Federal Prison  
Chicago 312-427-2538 / Detroit 313-883-3212 / St. Louis 314-531-3045  
Lexington, Kentucky: Lexington Federal Prison  
Chicago 312-427-2538 / Lexington 606-278-6708

New York City: Metropolitan Corr. Center  
New York 212-722-9640 / Boston 617-876-9034 / Hartford: Box 6075, Hartford, CT 06106  
Rally at 11:00 am at Brooklyn House of Detention, march to MCC, then rally at City Hall Park  
Tucson, Arizona: Metropolitan Corr. Center  
Los Angeles 213-234-5522 / San Francisco 415-561-9055  
San Francisco, California: San Quentin State Prison  
Los Angeles 213-234-5522 / San Francisco 415-561-9055  
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico: Rio Piedras State Prison  
Puerto Rico, Culebra, A.D. 20190, Rio Piedras, PR 00928  
Organized by: National Committee to Defend New African Freedom Fighters &  
National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

PEOPLE'S CHURCH  
941 W. Lawrence Ave.  
Chicago, IL

Saturday, October 26, 1985  
noon to 10:00 pm

(312) 663-5046

## Introduction

Many of you know that on April 19, 1986 a bus caravan left Chicago to demonstrate at federal prisons in Lexington, Kentucky and Marion Illinois to protest the 21/2 year-long lockdown at Marion, the creation of a Marion-like maximum security unit for women at Lexington, the incarceration of political prisoners and prisoners of war, and the racist and oppressive nature of the prison system in general. Although the demonstrations were close to 300 strong, many of our friends were not able to be with us. We are writing this report to let our friends who could not come with us know how the demonstrations went, to bring all of us up to date about related demonstrations in other cities, to report on media coverage in Marion and Lexington, and to briefly suggest where this process of dealing with Marion, Lexington, and the rest of the U.S. prison system might be going in the future.

## The Beginning of the CEML

In July of 1985, several of us got together to discuss what could be done about Marion Prison, which, in October of 1985, would reach two years of lockdown. Besides the specific issues of the monstrous brutality of Marion, we were concerned with other issues as well. Some of us in that initial meeting had been politically active in the late 60's and early 70's, with memories of Attica and George Jackson and all the other prison struggles burned into our political souls. In addition to these remembrances were some new observations. First, that perhaps 20 New Afrikan political prisoners and prisoners of war have been incarcerated in the last five years, as have a similar number of Puerto Ricans in the same category. In addition, North Americans had begun to go to prison at a startling rate, indicating a new commitment to the struggle. Now, perhaps 20 anti-militarist activists and 20 white revolutionary political prisoners have been incarcerated, again in the last five years. All of this, along with concerns about the shape of a newly emerging movement, and human and spiritual concerns, gave us motivation to do something about Marion. This was the beginning of the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown.

## The Conference

Our first attempt to organize around these issues was a day-long conference in Chicago on October 26, 1985, to mark the second anniversary of the imposition of the lockdown at Marion. Close to 300 people attended to hear Rafael Cancel Miranda, Imari Obadele, Father Daniel Berrigan, Raul Salinas, Akil al Jundi, Jose Lopez, Michael Deutsch and other distinguished speakers address the specifics of Marion and the general role of prisons in our society. Third World support for the conference was enormous. In addition to providing speakers from all over the U.S. and Puerto Rico, New Afrikan/Black and Puerto Rican people attended in large numbers and contributed a great deal of literature, and the Leonard Peltier Support Committee prepared one of the finest conference dinners imaginable. At the end of the conference, many people were asking what they could do to change things, eager to implement Rafael Cancel Miranda's urging that we do something, and not just discuss the situation.

## The Call for the Demonstration

Soon after the conference, The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and the National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters informed the CEML they were planning a joint demonstration at Marion and Lexington on April 19 and asked for our participation. We immediately agreed.

The CEML decided this would be an important opportunity not only to support the logistics of the demonstration but to organize around the issues that had motivated us to hold the conference in the first place. We knew this would be difficult, not only because we would have to convince North Americans to attend this 30 hour demonstration, but because we would have to produce literature, hold many meetings, and provide much of the financial support.

As our first step, we enlarged the committee by appealing to many of the people who had helped us with the conference. Every person we approached agreed to help - some joined the committee and others made it clear that while they could not work regularly on the demo, they would be willing and eager to help whenever they could. We quickly put out a leaflet and then planned a fundraiser, the spaghetti dinner at which we would also show "Brother from Another Planet."

As the date for the dinner approached, we worked frantically to complete our Call to the demonstration (just as the Third World organizations were working on their Call). During several nites of the week before the dinner we worked well past midnight to have the Call ready - and we succeeded, with help from our friends at C & D Printshop. The dinner was very successful. About 130 people attended after we had estimated 75 and hoped for 100, the food turned out well, the film was enjoyed by all and we cleared about \$400. A few weeks later we had a "walk/run" that raised about \$300. So, we were proceeding well but close to \$10,000 was needed to pay for the buses and all the other expenses. Appeals to our friends proved very productive. Many who would not be able to attend the demo paid for seats for other people (at \$60 a seat) and several who were going and who would pay for their own seats also contributed still more for others to go.

But this still was almost the beginning. We knew that the mobilization would not succeed unless we connected ourselves with people in both areas. With this in mind, we made two trips to Marion/Carbondale and two trips to Lexington and Louisville. During all these trips we met wonderful people who worked with us and helped us in many ways, and who are now good friends. We would have been lost without them.

Marion/Carbondale local ministers, lawyers, university professors, and students helped coordinate the logistics, media, and documentation of the demonstration - including an excellent hour-long videotape. They successfully organized a forum in advance of the demo, attended by close to 100 people who heard representatives from the New Afrikan/Black and Puerto Rican movements as well as one of the lawyers representing Marion prisoners and a local minister with a long commitment to the prisoners at Marion.

In Lexington we met with individuals involved in the Pledge of Resistance, other Central America Solidarity Groups, women's groups and gay groups. The women's group, Tapestry, took on the media work and, as a result, we were interviewed on t.v. and two radio stations prior to the demonstration, and received excellent media coverage on the day of the demonstration.

Throughout all our work ran the theme of organizing in a manner that was consistent with the political line that had been established for these demonstrations. The Third World organizations calling for the demonstrations are revolutionary organizations; organizations that not only call for a new society but that also call for a dismantling of the U.S. Empire into its constituent parts of the New Afrikan, Mexican, Native American, and Puerto Rican nations. Furthermore, many of their heroes and heroines allegedly belong to organizations like the BLA and the FALN that use violence to accomplish their political goals. These politics of liberation/armed struggle are different from most that circulate through the white movement these days. The question of how we could faithfully communicate these politics to people not familiar with them, or with the grounds upon which they were constructed, was always with us.

### The Demonstration

We left the Puerto Rican Cultural Center on Friday nite, April 18, at about 11:00 P.M. with four buses loaded to the last seat. We traveled all through the night and arrived at Lexington Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M., Lexington time. Two members of the CEML had gone on ahead to interact with our contacts in Lexington and with the media there. They also prepared a breakfast for us that consisted of two enormous urns of coffee and had purchased 200 doughnuts - to complement the 200 bagels and cream cheese we had brought along. As we prepared to march, the bus from Detroit arrived.

Had we marched to the prison gate we would have remained a mile from the prison buildings. By meeting in a public park adjacent to prison grounds and walking the half mile up a hill and across a stream, we were able to get to within 100 yards of the prison buildings. The march was a glorious sight: About 300 of us marched two abreast with dozens of banners and placards proclaiming our politics, which also boomed over three large soundsystems we carried on our shoulders.

The speeches at the rally site, yards from the prison buildings and inches, across a waist high fence, from the prison custodians who were watching and photographing us, were very exciting. Jose Lopez, representing the Puerto Rican struggle, started by reading a message of solidarity from Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, Ida

Luz Rodriguez. (This message is attached at the end of this report.) He then offered a clear and concise analysis how prisons serve as repressive institutions and work at the center of the government's counterinsurgency program. Lopez also announced that the attention to the control units had forced the Lexington prison officials to admit publicly for the first time that they were in fact constructing the control unit - 16 cells underground, literal dungeons. He also stated: "As long as we have freedom fighters in prison, and as long as the US government builds control units, we will be here, returning every time with more and more people to say no to their plans." Chokwe Lumumba, representing the New Afrikans, began by reading a message to the demonstration from New Afrikan Prisoner of War, Kuwasi Balagoon (attached). Next he explained that it was the system that needed rehabilitation and not individuals. Lumumba said "The system is criminal and criminal generating and has to be dismantled, just like an old rotting house on a decaying foundation. There is no hope for reform." Nancy Kurshan spoke on behalf of the CEML. She too started with a message of solidarity, this one from North American political prisoners incarcerated at several U.S. prisons. (attached). Kurshan then said that we were there to disrupt the complacency of other white people and to drive a wedge in the white supremacist solidarity that was sweeping the U.S. During the speeches, a half dozen media representatives covered our every word. As we were leaving one of them asked Lopez where we got the money to pay for this demonstration. Lopez turned to the crowd and asked them who had paid for the demonstration. In one unrehearsed voice the answer came back from 300 voices: "We did!" Lopez noted, however, that had Libya or the Soviet Union offered to pay for more buses, we would have happily accepted the money and filled the park with more Puerto Ricans than Lexington had ever seen in its entire history. With this parting affirmation we returned to our buses and continued on our caravan to Marion, and the most maximum security prison of all.

We arrived at Marion at about 4 P.M. and were joined there by our friends from Southern Illinois and St. Louis. We got out of our buses about 3/4 of a mile from the prison gates, shaped our marching style, and marched to the prison gates. There we formed a spirited picket line for two hours, marching to the beats of drums, militant speeches, and the press conferences that Lopez and Lumumba gave to the many media representatives who were present. Many other people came forward to speak including a man just released from another maximum security prison, and one of the lawyers from Carbondale who have been doing much of the legal work in an effort to close the lockdown. In addition, several statements were read from Marion prisoners.

Before leaving Southern Illinois we headed for a spaghetti dinner sponsored by a local organization which protests utility rate hikes. We then reboarded the buses and headed home, arriving in Chicago at about 3:00 A.M. Sunday morning.

#### **Publicity from the Demonstration**

We received surprisingly good coverage from the traditional media. There were several radio reports in all the cities, some t.v. in Lexington and Southern Illinois and substantial newspaper reporting, including the Chicago Defender. The left press was completely disappointing. Not one representative from any left press came to the demonstration, despite notification and invitation. After the demonstration we phoned them, sent them photographs, and even wrote an article for the Guardian. In the end, the coverage was still limited. In These Times distorted an interview we gave them, the Guardian did not print any of the pictures and took out all of the politics from the article that we wrote for them. All of the printed articles that appeared are included at the end of this report.

#### **Demonstrations in Other Cities**

In Puerto Rico a spirited demonstration of over 300 people picketed in front of Oso Blanco prison in Rio Piedras. Among the many distinguished speakers addressing the demonstrators were national hero Rafael Cancel Miranda and former political prisoner Pablo Marcano Garcia.

In New York over 300 people rallied at the Brooklyn House of Detention where New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Abdul Majid is being held. A militant march then followed, stopping at the Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn where recently released Puerto Rican Grand Jury resister Julio Rosado spoke. The march continued on, across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan where the Puerto Rican

Independence 16 and many North American political prisoners, including the Ohio 7, are being held. The rally was addressed by representatives of the New Afrikan and Puerto Rican movements, and by members of the sanctuary and North American anti-imperialist movements.

In Tucson, 40 people rallied at the Metropolitan Correctional Center where Rev. Jose Torres spoke. As a result of the demonstration, the prison was forced to allow local media to interview Puerto Rican POW Alejandrina Torres. (A clipping describing that interview is attached.) In apparent retaliation for this activity, prison officials forced Alejandrina and her husband to have their visit in the bathroom. The demonstration, did, however, have a positive effect in ending the isolation of Alejandrina and anti-imperialist political prisoner Susan Rosenberg who have been imprisoned in Tucson for over six months.

At San Quentin, just outside San Francisco, over 100 people marched to the gates of the prison in one of the most dynamic demonstrations in recent years. The march was spearheaded by the National Afrikan Peoples Organization, and about 20 other groups endorsed the action including the African Peoples Socialist Party, the Prison Committee of the Lawyers Guild, and Marcus Books. People chanted "We're on a long march to break down the prison gates" and called for the release of New Afrikan patriot Geronimo Pratt, who was imprisoned 16 years ago on frame-up charges directed against him and other members of the Black Panther Party as part of the government's COINTELPRO program.

#### What Did We Accomplish?

1. For four months we were able to speak to many North Americans about an unusual but crucial set of politics. In fact those of us who worked in and around CEML view the politics of the Third World movements as essential to any progressive or revolutionary movement that will emerge among white people. Many of us have worked for the liberation and freedom of Nicaragua without ever considering the liberation of Puerto Rico, New Afrika, occupied Mexico, and the lands of Native Americans. Many of us have worked for Nelson Mandela without even being aware of Sundiata Acoli or Alejandrina Torres. We must become better allies of the movements of Third World forces within the borders of the United States. We feel this demonstration was a good first step in that direction.
2. The demonstration was called for by Third World revolutionary forces that we respect and that we hope will succeed. Providing material support for this endeavor was an important political act.
3. The publicity we received was substantial and important. As Jose Lopez pointed out, the custodians of Lexington were forced to admit publicly for the first time that they were indeed constructing the Control Unit there.
4. The local work that we did was important. We met many wonderful people who helped us build the demo and who we will work with in the future. If the Control Unit does indeed open in Lexington, this will be especially important. Good people who will visit the women political prisoners incarcerated there, who will interact with the media in a responsible manner, and who will help us logistically comprise an invaluable resource. In addition, the many wonderful Carbondale people who have been struggling in virtual isolation really appreciated our presence. And in turn we could never have done this without them. We look forward to a long and full working relationship with our friends in Southern Illinois. One of them wrote to us the week after the demo: "I can't tell you how impressed I was by the organization. And what a rush it was to have those buses roll up. The scene of all those dynamic people, so many of them people of color, chanting and marching on that country road in front of that ugly exhibit of state power, is one I will cherish."
5. Did we impact in any specific way on the prisons? Only time will tell.

#### Where Do We Go From Here?

When Jose Lopez was asked what he thought the demonstration had accomplished, he stated that we had raised the issues in such a way that they could not be ignored and that we had started a *process* that would continue to deal with Marion, Lexington, and the rest of the prison system. We agree. While the exact definition of that process has not yet been established, those of us who went on this mobilization were deeply touched by the experience, and vow we will continue to try to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

# Daily Egyptian

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Monday, April 21, 1986, Vol. 72, No. 142, 24 P



Staff Photo by Scott O

About 300 people protested lockdown conditions at Marion Federal Penitentiary Saturday. They were on their way to

Lexington, Ky., to protest the formation of a maximum security operation, similar to Marion conditions, but for women inmates.

## Groups protest lockdown

By Darci Allen  
Staff Writer

"Marion lockdown, we say no, control units have got to go!" was the cry of more than 250 protesters at the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion during a demonstration Saturday.

Protesters from Chicago and Detroit poured from five chartered busses late Saturday afternoon to march to the prison's main gates, where a rally was held. The gates were heavily guarded and a

The protest was organized by the New Afrikan People's Organization and the National Liberation Movement of Puerto Rico.

The penitentiary, which houses prisoners considered to be the hardest to handle in the federal and state correctional systems, has been on lockdown status since October 1983 when two guards were killed by inmates.

Melinda Powers, member of the Chicago-based Committee

to end the "inhumane conditions at Marion."

"We object to the way prisoners in every prison are treated," Powers said.

The demonstration at Marion was only one of five held Saturday. Others took place at the federal prison in Lexington, Ky., the metropolitan correctional centers in New York City and Tuscon, San Quentin State Prison in San Francisco and the State Prison of Rio Piedras

Marion, bongo drums, maracas and tambourines played while protesters walked in a circle and chanted slogans such as "The terrorist in the world to Ronald Reagan of the and "Meltdown the down."

"We want to educate you on the issue of control units," said Jose Lopez, chairman of the National Liberation Movement of Puerto Rico. "The denial system is

## MARION, from Page 1

---

control units, which is based on behavior modification, came from a secret conference held in 1978 in Puerto Rico, Lopez said. The system is based on isolation, particularly toward political prisoners, he said.

"They are isolated from their supporters, isolated from their families, isolated even from other prisoners ... and it says in the documents from the secret conference, to drive them to commit suicide," Lopez said.

Lopez said the protesters

were there to "stand behind the people who dared to struggle, who dared to win."

Lopez motioned to the guards and said, "These men are paid to stop us at this gate. There's nothing that is going to stop us because ultimately, what is going to happen in this country as we look at prisons and the explosions in prisons, nothing is going to stop the ever-growing movements within the prisons themselves to stop the inhuman treatment of prisoners in these prisons."

Chowke Lumumba, chair-

man of the New Afrikan People's Organization, called the guards "clones" and said they were trying to "stop our babies from walking through these prison gates."

"The spirit of people is greater than man's technology," he said.

Prisons are wholesale concentration camps, Lumumba said. They are being used as a tool to repress and incarcerate freedom fighters, he added.

"We look at a totally lawless nation that has been totally


lawless throughout its existence, has not yet paid us back for slavery," said Lumumba, a black lawyer from Chicago, "not relinquished its occupation of Puerto Rico yet.

"We see that the United States regime is not only unpopular here amongst our people, but that virtually every country around the world has problems with the kind of banditry the United States is involved in," Chowke said.

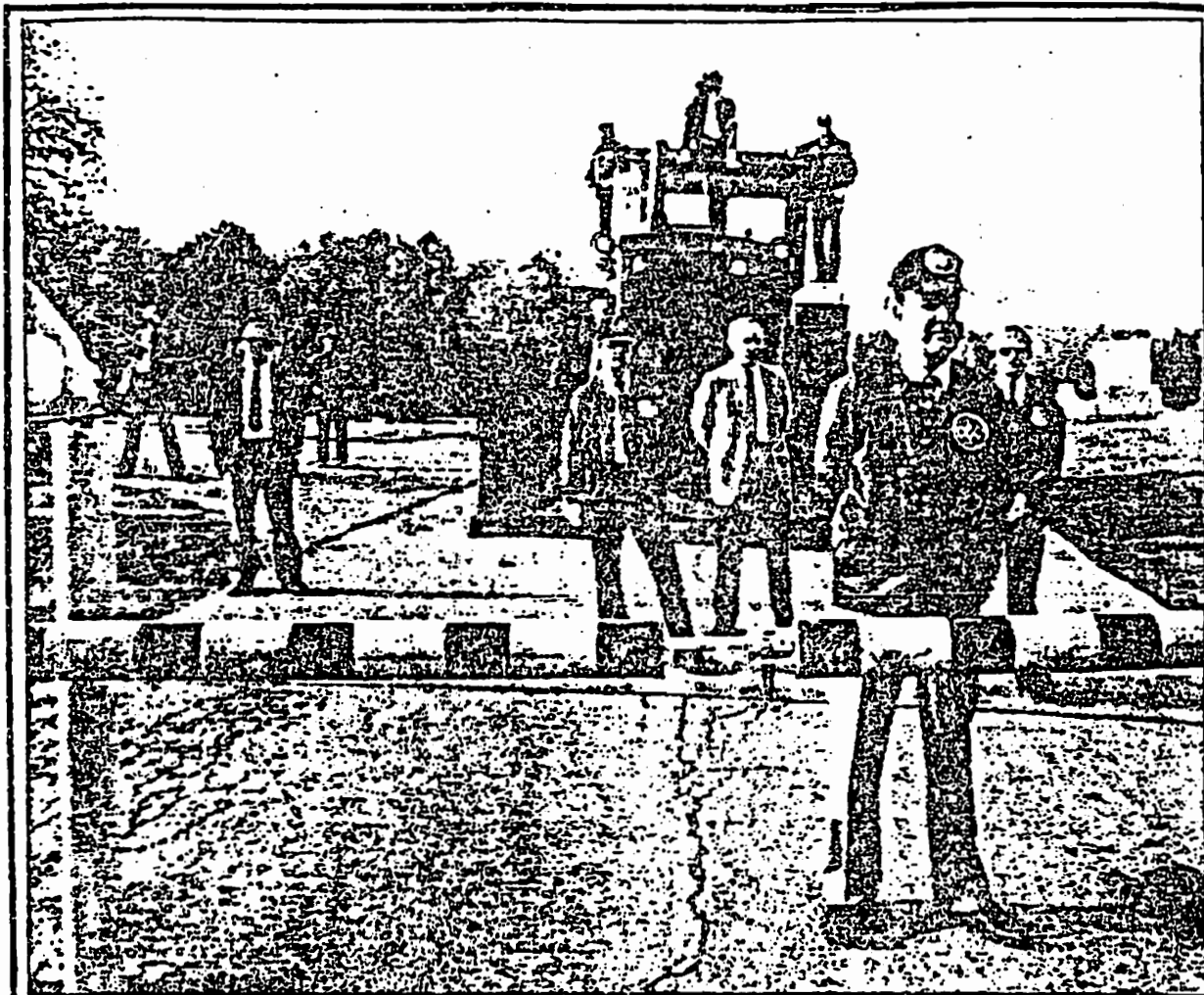
Chowke said he and his organization are aware that the United States has a problem with crime.

"The problem of crime has to be solved at its roots," he said, adding that to do this the structure of society has to be changed.

"When we get to the point when all that has been stolen from us has been returned, then we can talk about a social system that will stop crime," he said.



# Local



Southern Illinoisan photos by JOE JINES

## Anti-lockdown march

Approximately 400 members of various anti-prison groups joined in the Marion Prisoners Task Force's march the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion late Saturday afternoon, creating what participant David Baker of Murphysboro described as the most militant display he had ever seen there protesting lockdown conditions. The marchers' reception also had a militant flavor, Baker said, with a National Guard earthmover (above) stationed directly behind a barricade, flanked by personnel with video cameras and several units from the Illinois State Police and the Williamson County Sheriff's Department. A military helicopter hovered overhead. Marchers (right) included representatives from the New Africa Freedom Fighters, the Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and a member of the Irish Republican Army. Several marchers attended a rally earlier Saturday at Lexington, Ky., to protest the construction of a control unit for women prisoners of the federal prison system.





Photo by

Demonstrators gathered yesterday at Masterson Station Park to protest the Federal Correctional Institution addition

# 300 protest women's prison unit

By Sheila M. Poole  
Herald Leader staff writer

About 300 people, some from as far away as Chicago and Detroit, held a demonstration yesterday near the federal prison in Lexington to protest the addition of a high-security unit for women inmates at the Leestown Road institution.

The protesters, carrying red, black and green flags, placards and banners charging that the unit would house "political prisoners," arrived by bus just before 9 a.m. at Masterson Station Park.

"Lexington control unit. We say no Control unit has got to go," was the chant as the protesters marched through the park to the fence of the Federal Correctional institution, where they held a brief rally.

Prison security guards lined one side of the fence, and leaders of the demonstration repeatedly called attention to several men in vehicles whom they identified as "FBI."

"They have cameras so they can harass us later," said Chokwe Lumumba, chairman of the New African Peoples Organization of Detroit.

One reason for the march was to call attention to the opening of the

unit, said Ginny Daley, one of about eight Fayette Countians at the protest.

"If the people of Lexington knew what was going on, they'd be a lot more concerned," Ms. Daley said.

Last year, FCI said it was renovating a four-story building to provide space for 116 women inmates. It will have three floors for inmates who require intermediate levels of security and a 16-bed, ground-floor unit for high-security inmates.

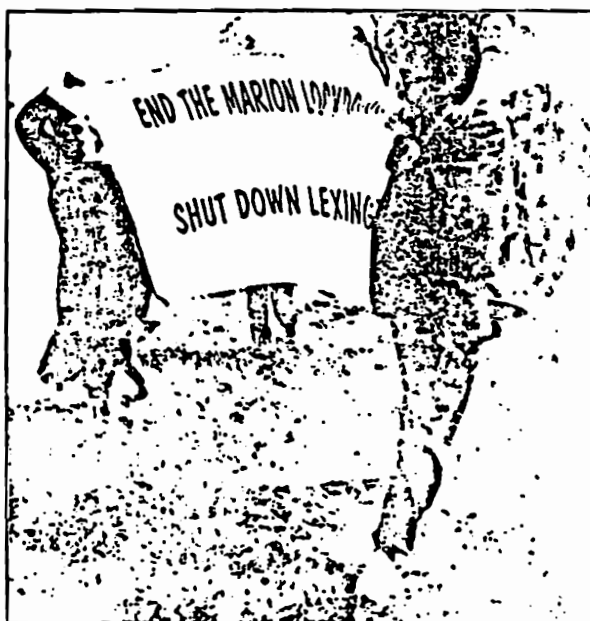
The renovation will help relieve overcrowding, FCI spokesman Dan Dove said. It began last August and is expected to be completed this summer.

The first prisoners are due to arrive by the end of summer. They will be transferred from prisons in Alderson, W.Va., and Pitsanton, Calif., Dove said. Their placement will be based on their criminal offense and institutional behavior.

"Some inmates require more supervision than others," Dove said.

Protesters charged that the new unit would deprive prisoners of their basic rights and that the women would be isolated and denied religious

(Turn to 300 PROTEST, B10)



Chicago protesters carry banner against Marion fac

# addition of new unit at prison

From Page B1

freedom and visits with relatives.

They charged that the high-security unit would be modeled after a control unit at the federal prison in Marion, Ill. But FCI Lexington officials dismissed that charge and said that the new unit was not modeled on the Marion facility.

Dove said inmates in the new unit would have privileges like those of the other inmates.

Ms. Daley said the protesters were concerned about the treatment of the prisoners. "We're also concerned about the fact that prison officials won't admit what kind of prisoners will be here.

Protesters, including members of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, also charged that the unit would be used for what they called "political prisoners."

They identified Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres as two of the women who would be sent to Lexington.

Rosenberg, 29, was sentenced last year in Newark, N.J., to 58 years in prison for the illegal possession of guns, explosives and thousands of false identifications. She also faced charges stemming from her alleged role as the getaway car driver in the 1981 Brink's armored car robbery in Nyack, N.Y., which left two policemen and an armored-car guard dead.

Torres, 46, was convicted of seditious conspiracy last year in U.S. District Court in Chicago. She and three other defendants admitted to being members of the FALN, a Puerto Rican terrorist group.

But Dove, the FCI spokesman, said that federal corrections officials had not identified the prisoners who will be transferred to Lexington. "To my knowledge there have been no designations," he said.

Dove said the presence of the high-security unit would not change FCI Lexington's minimum-security designation.

FCI in Lexington has 1,550 inmates, 550 of whom are women

LEX HERALD LEADER APR 20.

# Self-proclaimed Puerto Rican 'revolutionary' says her imprisonment in Tucson is political

By Pam Izakowitz  
The Arizona Daily Star

A self-proclaimed revolutionary fighting for Puerto Rican independence is 2,500 miles from her native land, but she says she will continue the struggle from her cell in a Tucson prison.

Alejandrina Torres, 46, was sentenced last year to 35 years for seditious conspiracy, unlawful storage of explosives, violent threats, and transporting a stolen car.

"The struggle can continue outside because it's not composed of me," Torres said in a recent interview. "I'm just a minute part of an ongoing struggle. Considering those who have given their lives, I will not let 35 years go by. I will do what I can within my limitations."

The U.S. government had accused her of being a member of FALN, a terrorist Puerto Rican independence group that has claimed responsibility for dozens of bombings in the United States, some of them fatal.

Torres declined to specify how she plans to contribute to the movement to make the island of 3.4 million people independent. It has been a U.S. possession since the Spanish-American War and a commonwealth since 1952.

But she recently drew attention to her own situation, and to her cause, by claiming she is a political prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution on South Wilmot Road, where she has been held since October.

Torres said she is confined to a "control unit" within the prison that she never leaves except for visits. She said that her exercise area is limited to a closed-in cage, that her mail is censored and that she is under constant surveillance.

Her incarceration recently was protested by 35 people from San Francisco and by her husband from Chicago — most of them members of the National Committee to Free Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners — who peacefully gathered outside the federal prison.

The 45-minute demonstration was re-



Ron Medvescek, The Arizona Daily Star

## Alejandrina Torres: "Minute part of an on-going struggle"

corded on videotape by prison officials who said they wanted a record of the protest.

Group members said Torres is one of 200 political prisoners in federal custody subjected to inhumane conditions designed to break their spirits and limit

their contact with other prisoners and the outside world.

Prison officials in Tucson and Washington say Torres is treated like all other prisoners.

They said Torres is one of nine women  
See PUERTO RICO, Page 4B

# Puerto Rican 'revolutionary' calls imprisonment political

Continued from Page 1B

imprisoned in a temporary unit in Tucson. She is scheduled to be transferred to a new maximum-security woman's prison in Lexington, Ky., in late August.

Prison officials have declined to say why Torres was sent to Tucson instead of a prison closer to Chicago.

The mother of two daughters, ages 14 and 19, Torres migrated to New York City from Puerto Rico in 1950 at the age of 10.

In 1963, she moved to Chicago. After marrying the Rev. José Torres, she helped found the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, a neighborhood center in Chicago in 1972.

Gradually, she became more involved with factions of the independence movement that believe in armed struggle. She was a secretary at the University of Illinois Medical Center before her arrest.

"It was a conscious decision on my part," she said. "I adopted the strategy of clandestine militancy."

In August, Torres and three men were found guilty of plotting to bomb a Marine training center and an Army Reserve center in Chicago on July 4, 1983.

They also were accused of planning to rob a public transit money collector to finance their activities, and of maintaining houses where weapons and blasting materials were stockpiled.

The four were found guilty of weapons and explosive violations, and Torres was convicted of possessing a stolen car. The three men were convicted of planning the robbery for the FALN. Torres was acquitted of that charge.

The FALN — Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional, or Armed Forces of National Liberation — seeks independence through armed resistance for Puerto Rico from the

lent group, formed in the mid-1970s, has claimed responsibility for more than 100 bombings in Chicago, New York, Washington and Puerto Rico, killing five people and injuring dozens of others.

Torres will neither confirm nor deny membership in the FALN.

"I am a Puerto Rican revolutionary fighting for the independence of Puerto Rico, in whatever name," she said.

During her trial, Torres told the jury she was a prisoner of war and refused to recognize the authority of the federal courts or take part in the proceedings.

"Our appeals are in the international courts. We will never receive justice in the U.S. courts," Torres said. "It's not easy to go before your enemy and expect justice."

Numerous independence movements have sprung up in Puerto Rico since the island was taken over by the United States from Spain in 1898. Some have resorted to violence.

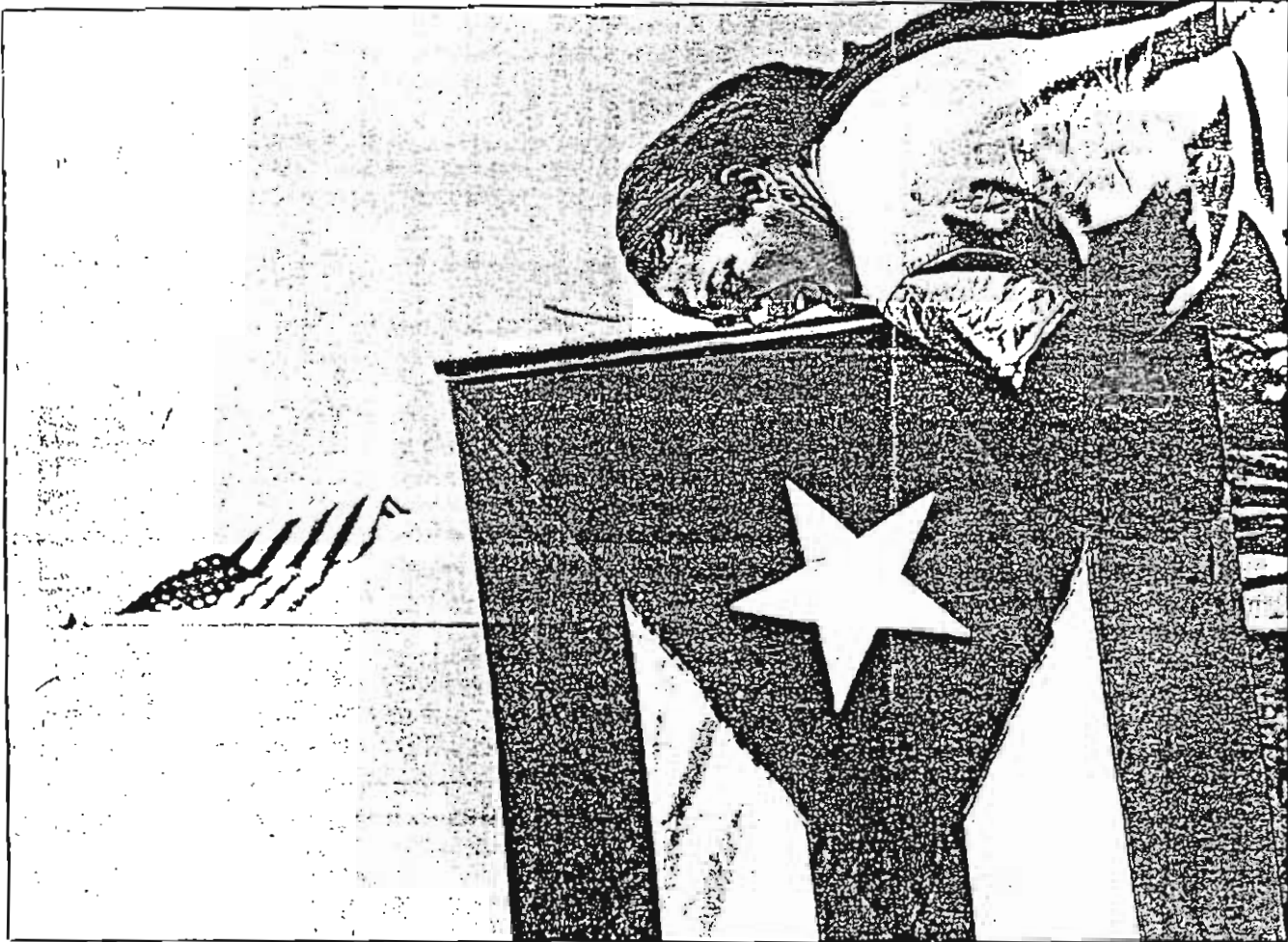
In 1950, advocates of independence tried to assassinate President Truman. In 1954, a group opened fire in the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.

Although Puerto Ricans are afforded U.S. citizenship, they do not vote for president or vice president. Because Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth, it has the power to draft its own constitution.

But, objected Torres: "Everything is subject to consent and approval by Congress."

Torres said the independence movement has mass appeal in Puerto Rico and among the 2.5 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States.

But a professor of Puerto Rican studies at City University of New York disagreed. The professor said independence is regarded with suspicion by many, and most don't want to



Jackie Bell, The Arizona Daily Star

A protester outside will not bond prisoner Puerto Rican flag

## Rap new prison unit for women

LEXINGTON, Ky. (UPI) — Demonstrators from as far away as Chicago and Detroit gathered in Lexington over the weekend to protest the opening of a high-security federal prison unit for women that they said would be used to house political prisoners.

They also charged that women would be isolated and denied religious freedom at the facility and would not be allowed visits with relatives.

Officials at the Federal Correctional Institution denied the charges, saying the addition of the 116-bed unit was to relieve overcrowding at prisons across the country.

The first prisoners are set to arrive by the end of the summer. They will be transferred from facilities in Alderson, W.Va., and Pleasanton, Calif.

The nearly 300 protestors, including members of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, said the unit would be used to hold what they termed as "political prisoners".

Chokwe Lumumba, chairman of the New Afrikan Peoples Organization of Detroit, said that Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres were two of the women they wanted to prevent from being sent to the prison.

Rosenberg, 29, was sentenced last year in Newark, N.J., to 58 years in prison for possession of guns, explosives and thousands of false identifications. Torres, 46, was convicted of seditious conspiracy last year in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

---

**PROTESTS ACROSS  
U.S. TARGET  
CONTROL UNITS**

"We have succeeded in our immediate objective. We have exposed the Marion Control Unit and the current construction of a control unit for women political prisoners at Lexington federal prison. We forced officials at Lexington to admit publicly, for the first time, that they were indeed building this unit. . . . In Puerto Rico, in New York City, in Tucson and throughout the Midwest, we have started a process," said José Lopez, national coordinator of the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional, summarizing a series of April 19 demonstrations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The demonstrations were called by the National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and was cosponsored by dozens of organizations. The main themes of the demonstrations were that prisons are fortresses of repression, that all control units must be stopped and that Marion and Lexington prisons must be shut down.

Although the gates of Lexington prison were closed, the 300 demonstrators, from Chicago, Detroit and elsewhere, were able to get to within 100 yards of the prison by marching across a large public park adjacent to the prison grounds.

---

After the Lexington rally, the caravan of demonstrators traveled to Marion, Ill., the site of the U.S.'s most maximum security prison. They gathered at the gates of the prison that currently holds New Afrikan freedom fighters Sekou Odinga and Sundiata Acoli. The caravan was joined by demonstrators from St. Louis and Carbondale, Ill., a university town just outside Marion. Demonstrators formed a militant picketline just inches away from an armed phalanx of prison guards and local police.

At a press conference outside Marion prison, José Lopez pointed out that by 2000 there will be one million prisoners in the U.S. and they will be overwhelmingly people of color. Black activist Chokwe Lumumba said, "We cannot aim at rehabilitating prisoners. This is a system that causes crime; it is the system that must be rehabilitated. It can no more be reformed than can a rotting house with a decaying foundation."

In New York City, about 500 people marched from the Brooklyn House of Detention to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, stopping traffic on the Manhattan Bridge. Hundreds more gathered at Oso Blanco Prison in Rio Piedras, P.R., protesting control units and proposed new repressive legislation. Finally, in Tucson, Ariz., some 40 people demonstrated in support of Puerto Rican prisoner of war Alejandrina Torres and U.S. political prisoner Susan Rosenberg, both incarcerated in a mini-control unit there. Both women are scheduled to be sent to the Lexington Control Unit as soon as it is completed.

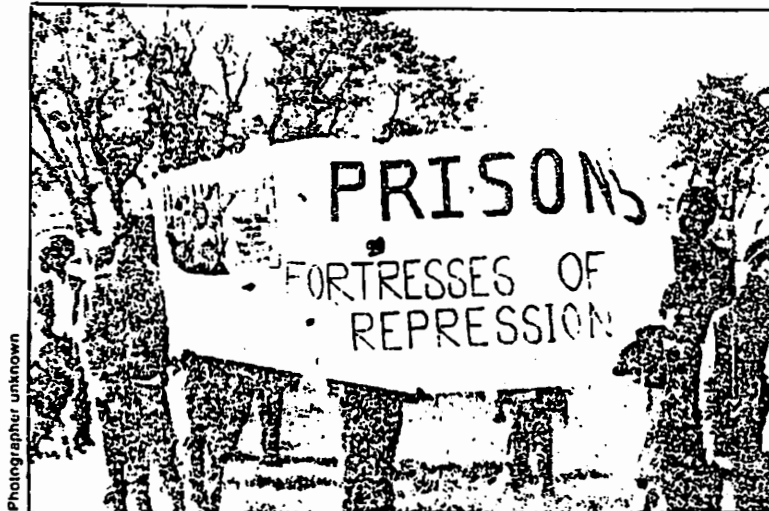
In These Times  
A130-516186

## Fear and loathing in Marion federal prison

What were you doing on Oct. 27, 1983? Now think of all that has happened in the two and a half years since then, and compare that to the lives of prisoners in the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion, Ill. There, the 50 or so prisoners in the facility's "control unit" have been locked in their cells 23 hours out of 24, while other inmates have left their cells a grand 12 hours a week, about an hour and a half each day.

The issue of the so-called "lockdown," which was brought to public attention by recent protests at Marion and its soon-to-be-opened counterpart at Lexington, Ky., has been pursued vigorously both in Congress and the courts by prison groups and the American Civil Liberties Union. So far the results have been negligible. And prison officials acknowledge that they have no plans for easing inmate restrictions soon.

"Generally, [the prison officials] take a position that they're not accountable to anybody," says Jan Susler, an attorney for the Marion Prisoner's Rights Project and an organizer of the April 19 protest. More than 200 protesters outside the two prisons called not only for improved conditions inside, but also for recognition of the rights of those they term political prisoners. These inmates, who belong to one or another political movement and were convicted of felonies supposedly aimed at promoting political change, include Black Afrikan and Puerto Rican nationalists, as well as members of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Protest organizers say these prisoners receive particularly harsh treatment in the federal



*How much "freedom" do prisoners deserve?*

system, a contention that is bolstered by findings in a landmark 1978 federal court case, *Bono vs. Saxbe*.

The lockdown at Marion began after two guards and an inmate were killed and two other guards seriously injured within a five-day period that followed escalating tension between inmates and prison administrators. Prison watchdog groups say that in the wake of the violence a systematic assault on prisoners began, with beatings conducted by Marion guards and by guards imported from other federal penitentiaries, including the paramilitary "A-team" from the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan. Prison officials acknowledge that outside guards, the "A-team" included, were brought in, but deny that any systematic beatings took place. The matter is still pending in federal court.

At any rate, prison officials do support the notion that Marion is the "most maximum" prison in the federal system. It was, after all, built to replace Alcatraz. They say prisoners incarcerated there are simply

too dangerous ("disruptive," in prison lexicon) to be allowed outside their cells. Prison groups argue, however, that as many as 80 percent of the inmates do not even meet the government's own criteria for being "disruptive," and could serve their sentences elsewhere under better conditions. Noting that most prisoners in the U.S. are members of ethnic minorities, they argue further that prisons are merely dumping grounds for problems caused by economic and political repression.

The controversy surrounding Marion will continue. More than anything else, Marion points up the need for clear federal regulations regarding the treatment of prisoners. Observers say that, as the situation now exists, there are no real restrictions on the treatment of prison inmates aside from sanitary conditions and living space requirements. Officials at both Marion and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, meanwhile, acknowledge that Marion meets only the most minimal requirements.

—M. Floyd Hall

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE FROM KUWASI BALAGOON  
April 19, 1986

This message leaves me in good health and strong spirits, especially as it is to people who have assembled to support Prisoners of War and political prisoners, and therefore, self-determination for the captive nations within the empire. This is a rough time to be in jail as the North Euro-Americans are closing their ranks - flying larger banners of racism with the likes of Bernhard Goetz in the subways and the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The imperialists are making an attempt at manipulating the outside world and bullying New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Native and Mexicano colonies within its borders into submission. The seemingly endless grand jury subpoenas and leaks to the media that Farakan is being investigated by the Justice Department is part of a strategy to coerce Third World people within the confines of this empire into rejecting self-determination and generating hysteria in the oppressor nation. To this end recognizing Prisoners of War and political prisoners, to an important extent, counters the enemy's strategy. However, we should be mindful and deliberate in addressing not only Prisoners of War and political prisoners recently interned, but all who have stood up throughout the years, sometimes with little support, irregardless of whether they defended Pine Ridge or Overtown.

Also we should be mindful and deliberate of conditions of all of our sisters and brothers behind bars, and not only the conditions affecting Prisoners of War and political prisoners. Prison is a tool used for the subduing of our captive nations. Scores of brothers have been killed in Texas prisons alone by fascist gangs, like the Aryan Brotherhood, with the complicity of kamp guards. Parcham, Mississippi is in the grip of a TB epidemic. How many of us have gone to the chair in Florida? This is genocide! And what our prisoners are going through elsewhere in the empire for demanding that their humanity be recognized!

A revolutionary movement can't be built on the mere recognition of the conditions of prisoners. Our colonies must be organized to oppose colonization - to oppose the reactionary status quo by the building and maintaining of revolutionary institutions.

We need movements that will serve our people, both in terms of material work and ideological cultivation within the walls of the prison and the walls of the colonies, until these walls are utterly smashed, and we take our places in the family of free and independent nations. FREE THE LAND!

It is a profound crisis which is shaking the people of the world—a crisis with roots in the colonial and neo-colonial structures which are incapable and unwilling to solve the basic problems of nations. This crisis is characterized by massive unemployment and debt and by dangerously high levels of hunger, disease, contamination and alienation. Essentially, imperialism translates into genocidal war against humanity and life, flora and fauna. It means destruction at all levels.

But imperialism is not the only force acting on this earth. It is opposed by resistance movements which act in defense of liberty and life. It is challenged by national liberation movements like the New Peoples Army, the African National Congress, the Irish Republican Army, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Macheteros. Liberation movements are also organizing to take hold even within the illegal borders of the US as evidenced by revolutionary organizations like the Black Liberation Army, the United Freedom Front and the FALN.

It is precisely this challenge posed by popular struggles which threatens imperialist domination and therefore activates its repressive apparatus. Repression moves to destroy patriotic and progressive forces. With the US fascist at its head, imperialism uses torture, massacres, disinformation, smoke screens and pressures from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to force human beings into submission and acceptance of slavery and misery.

Repression is a concerted effort—adversary acts bringing together when necessary representatives from the highest levels of military and intelligence circles to formulate, coordinate and implement counter-insurgency. This was shown in the special counter-insurgency conference held in Puerto Rico in 1978. We cannot understand the special repression faced by political prisoners and prisoners of war without taking into consideration the international character of counter-insurgency. Captured freedom fighters the world over are subjected to illegal detention, trials and imprisonment—many in specially designed high security units. Torture, negation of our political and human identity, isolation, sensory deprivation and denial of adequate medical attention are weapons used by imperialism in all the corners of the earth—including here in the US. To add to this horrible reality, information agencies use double-speak and project the political prisoners and prisoners of war and all who resist oppression as criminals and terrorists. Meanwhile our adversary is portrayed as the protectors of freedom and progress.

Moreover, the enemy carries out its action in the name of those governed. Countless crimes are committed in your name. Can you allow this to continue? We believe the answer is No. Imperialism is our common enemy and collective conscious resistance is required for its defeat.

Progressive and revolutionary forces stand to gain by sharing experiences, ideas and resources. We all stand to gain supporting and struggling together.

The demonstrations against repression—specifically against the control units—being held in Marion, Lexington, New York, Tucson, San Francisco and Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico are heartening. They are evidence that different organizations and nationalities can combine efforts and rally around issues of common concern. Together we can take the struggle to higher levels.

Repression cannot be allowed to demoralize, weaken and divide us. On the contrary, our love and confidence must be with the people, understanding that the collective will of the people is a powerful and moving force. There lies our human response.

Ida Luz Rodríguez, POW  
Pleasanton, CA

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT TO THE APRIL 19th DEMONSTRATION FROM  
NORTH AMERICAN ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLITICAL PRISONERS

April 19, 1986

We send our solidarity and love to all the friends and comrades demonstrating today, to all the brothers at Marion, to all New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Mexicano and Native American political prisoners and Prisoners of War, to other North American political prisoners, and to all the revolutionary armed clandestine organizations in the field. We send our appreciation, too, for all the support this demonstration gives us in our struggles as North American political prisoners.

We join wholeheartedly in the campaign to end the Marion lockdown and oppose the construction of maxi-maxi units. These units are aptly named "control" units. Units to extend and tighten the control of US imperialism against Third World peoples, against oppressed nations. Units to perfect the colonialist and repressive prison system to threaten and try to destroy the will of the masses, of the oppressed nations to fight for their human rights and human dignity. Units to "modify the behavior" of the oppressed nations, to try to destroy the will to resist oppression.

These units expose the US government's program of repression and counter-insurgency. They are units to try and isolate and silence POWs and political prisoners. Units to subject revolutionary combatants to systematic, sensory deprivation and other vicious and insidious forms of torture. Units to try to rob the revolutionary struggles of some of their strongest and exemplary leadership. The units are designed to try to control the inexorable advance of the struggles of oppressed nations for national independence and self-determination. They are units to try to stem the initiation of a combative tradition of proletarian internationalism and socialist revolution within the oppressor nation.

Until the 1980s, the US government was able to isolate and to attack women political prisoners on a one-by-one basis. Women were thrown into the control unit, Davis Hall, at Alderson, a prison within a prison, or have been held, like Assata Shakur, in men's prisons. Since the capture of 5 Puerto Rican POWs six years ago, the Bureau of Prisons has begun to develop special maxi-maxi units to isolate women Prisoners of War and political prisoners from the general population. MCC-Tucson is such a unit. Puerto Rican POW Alejandrina Torres and anti-imperialist political prisoner Susan Rosenberg are held there today. A more permanent maxi-maxi unit is under construction at Lexington. Completely underground, it is modeled after Marion.

The US government has attacked many heroic women POWs and political prisoners, through sexual harassment, assault and degradation. These attacks are aimed at diffusing the powerful role and example of revolutionary women who fight for the liberation of their colonized nation and who fight against this imperialist system. The large number of women POWs and political prisoners speak to the essential role of women in our revolution. There will be no victory for oppressed nations or for socialist revolution without the full equality, liberation, and participation of women. Among us are workers, mothers, wives, lesbians, organizers, theoreticians and guerrillas, with long histories of fighting for national liberation and self-determination, and an end to class exploitation, white supremacy and women's subjugation.

The imperialists have never been able to succeed in these counter-insurgency goals-- not when they tortured Sekou Odinga in New York in 1981, not when they assassinated Angel Rodriguez Cristobal in Tallahassee in 1979. Not when they sexually attacked Alejandrina Torres in Chicago in 1984. Not when they captured Mutulu Shakur in Los Angeles earlier this year. The "control units" are a more technologically sophisticated, systematic way to do what they have failed to do before, will fail at again, but will keep trying to do in their need to maintain empire. Each capture of revolutionary Prisoners of War, each political prisoner locked up has been a blow. But the imperialist state has never been able to make these captures, trials, long sentences, or physical and psychological attacks on revolutionary prisoners add up to a real defeat, for any of the revolutionary movements, nor for the development of revolutionary armed struggle. As revolutionaries of the oppressor nation have been captured and imprisoned over the past few years, we have been able to look to the lessons and examples of New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Mexicano and Native American comrades to help us, too, to learn to turn setbacks into advances.

We have looked to the BLA, who showed us that revolutionary struggle advances in an uneven path, that in order To Build To Win, you must put ideology into practice -- that if a movement's goal is to avoid risk, sacrifice and possible set-backs, then that movement can never hope to advance against the enemy. We have looked to the FALN and all the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and armed clandestine organizations who have shown that by upholding the revolutionary principles and ideology of a movement, by an unrelenting struggle against reformism and opportunism, the capture of combatants can be turned into a weapon to build stronger support for a revolutionary strategy. We've looked to the exemplary practice of the POWs and political prisoners of all the national liberation struggles, who have never ceased to play an active role in their nations' struggles, who have resisted all attempts by the state to weaken and destroy them, or to divide them from their struggles; who have set an example of courage and creativity in fighting for their human rights and their dignity; who have never stopped fighting for their freedom; who have inspired others to take up the revolutionary struggle. They show why US counter-insurgency programs are fundamentally incapable of defeating national liberation and revolution.

We take this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to fight at every level and on every front to defeat US imperialism, in solidarity with the struggles for national liberation, independence and self-determination.

We would also like to address a few words to the North American friends and comrades here today.

One of the best strengths of the movement we've built has been the struggle to consistently support the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, support for POWs and political prisoners of the national liberation struggles, and recognition of the role they play in advancing their nations' strategies of revolutionary armed struggle and popular Peoples War against colonialism and imperialism. The necessity has arisen also to support imprisoned white revolutionary comrades captured in the course of fighting imperialism and building revolutionary anti-imperialist armed clandestine organizations. Enthusiastic support for these comrades will build our movement's ability to fight imperialist repression and help build a revolutionary resistance movement. It will reflect our movement's serious commitment to fighting imperialism and white supremacy with revolutionary character and determination, as well as our understanding that fighting for women's liberation is an inseparable element in any revolutionary anti-imperialist strategy. Support for North American political prisoners will help to advance the consciousness of the oppressor nation anti-imperialist movement to make socialist revolution, and to fight in solidarity with national liberation.

The brothers who have endured and resisted the brutal conditions of isolation and 23½-hour lockdown at Marion for the past two years have provided all of us with an example of the strength and courage it takes to struggle for human rights against US imperialism. What a stark contrast: on the one hand the dignity, courage, endurance and strength of the brothers; on the other, the decadence and viciousness of a system that fears and imprisons the oppressed with more and more high-tech weapons of repression. Who can doubt the ultimate outcome of a struggle between these two forces?

We urge that those of you here today see this demonstration as the beginning of a concerted campaign to shut down and stop future maxi-maxi units. This is a winnable struggle if taken on in a determined, organized manner. We can learn from the successful challenge, led by the Puerto Rican Independence movement, that won the transfer of Puerto Rican POWs, Lucy Rodriguez and Haydee Torres, and the closing of the special unit within Davis Hall in Alderson; from the hunger strike and campaign that won the transfer of Native American POW Leonard Peltier from the Marion control unit; and from the relentless battle waged by all the brothers in the Marion control unit who are the front line in this battle. Just as the stakes in this battle are high, for the lives of the captive revolutionaries are at stake, the potential gains are also great: building support for political prisoners and Prisoners of War, defeating a key counter-insurgency weapon of the enemy, and showing the seriousness of our movement to defend the captive fighters. In this context, we add our support to the demands of the immediate transfer of New Afrikan POWs Sekou Odinga and Sundiata Acoli out of Marion. DARE TO STRUGGLE, DARE TO WIN!

STOP THE MARION LOCKDOWN!  
NO CONTROL UNITS!  
FREE ALL PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS!  
VICTORY TO NATIONAL LIBERATION!  
DEFEAT US IMPERIALISM!  
STOP THE US IMPERIALIST WAR AGAINST LIBYA!  
BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT!

Judy Clark  
David Gilbert  
Ohio 7  
Susan Rosenberg  
Tim Blunk  
Alan Berkman  
Laura Whitehorn  
Marilyn Buck  
Linda Evans  
Shelley Miller

LETTER FROM NORTH AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

April 19, 1986

We, the undersigned, are all North American political prisoners and prisoners of conscience (some of whom have been recently released). We are writing to express our collective condemnation of the building of maxi-maxi units within US prisons, particularly those at Marion and Lexington federal prisons. We endorse the demonstration being called for April 19th, 1986 in Marion, Illinois, Lexington, Kentucky, New York City, San Quentin, Tucson, and Puerto Rico.

We condemn these units because we understand that their purpose is to attempt to control and break those prisoners who the US government considers the biggest threat-- revolutionaries of all nationalities. We know they are especially directed against the Black/New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Mexican and Native American Prisoners of War and political prisoners. We have seen the viciousness of these units over the last 2½ years of the complete lockdown at Marion, where every prisoner is kept locked in their cells 23½ hours a day. We are also aware of the fact that the existence of these units is used to justify increased control of prisoners, that administrations consider "behavior" problems - often the most rebellious prisoners who won't accept the prison rules. We, the 19 of us, represent different aspects of the progressive movement. Some of us are pacifists, jailed because of our actions against nuclear weapons and the war machine. Some of us are grand jury resisters who refuse to collaborate with US government investigations of political movements and clandestine organizations. Some of us are anti-imperialist resistance fighters who are jailed because of our commitment to build armed clandestine organizations, to fight colonialism and war and to help bring justice to this world. Some of us are imprisoned because we support these efforts. And some of us are jailed because of our outrage at the US government's attacks on the peoples of Central America and our dedication to providing refuge to people thus attacked. Many of us are women, reflecting both the increasing contributions women are making to progressive struggles and our commitment to the liberation of women.

There are many differences among us, and yet we are united in fighting against heightening political repression. Our commitment is to the development of a free and democratic society with an end to war, colonialism, racism and sexism. We believe in justice, and not in laws used to carry out repression and inhumanity. We urge you to do everything you can to expose these units and force their closure. We unite to protect our movement.

Signed,

Liz McAlister, Plowshares prisoner, Alderson FCI  
Shelley Miller, Grand jury resister, Alderson FCI  
Anne Montgomery, Plowshares prisoner, Alderson FCI  
Lorry Thomas, Sanctuary worker, Alderson FCI  
Helen Woodson, Plowshares prisoner, Alderson FCI  
Ohio 7, Anti-imperialist political prisoners, New York MCC  
Marilyn Buck, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, New York MCC  
Susan Rosenberg, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, Tucson MCC  
Alan Berkman, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, Holmesburg Prison, Philadelphia  
Laura Whitehorn, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, Montgomery Cty. MD Detention C  
Judy Clark, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, Bedford Hills, NY Correctional Ctr.  
David Gilbert, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, Auburn, NY Correctional Facility  
Linda Evans, Anti-imperialist political prisoner, New York MCC

Warden  
U.S.P. Marion  
Marion, IL 62959

Dear Warden,

We are aware that Marion prison has been on lockdown since October of 1983, and that many acts of physical and psychological brutality have occurred and are still occurring at this most maximum security prison. We condemn your Control Unit policy which you have expanded to the whole of Marion, for its isolation, dehumanization, and proved capacity to provoke the violence you claim it is designed to stem.

We understand that, pursuant to the recent public demonstration against your policies, you refused to allow the prisoners to receive fliers announcing the demonstration. We oppose such censorship.

Finally, we are aware of Marion's history as a place for political prisoners, and its continuation of that shameful tradition with the current placement there of Sundiata Acoli and Sekou Odinga. We ask that they be placed in a normal prison setting.

End the Lockdown!

Warden  
FCI Lexington  
Box 1C00  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Warden,

We understand that you intend to open a Marion for women, with a 16 cell Control Unit in the basement of FCI Lexington. We also understand that you and other prison officials are refusing to disclose any information about conditions in this Control Unit. We know prison authorities have stated their intention to place in this unit Alejandrina Torres and Susan Rosenberg, two women in prison for political activity. We want to know that your plans are for these women and for the new Control Unit. We object to proliferating the Control Unit policy and to the specially harsh and isolating treatment of political prisoners.

No More Marions!

Norman Carlson  
Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20534

Dear Director Carlson,

We are aware that you have had Marion prison on lockdown status since October of 1983, and that you claim this expansion of the Control Unit is somehow justified. In our minds, the existence of a level six prison, the lockdown, the isolation and dehumanization and physical and psychological torture cannot be justified. That a biased federal magistrate in southern Illinois has given his blessings to such terror does not convince us. We demand that you end the lockdown and close the Control Unit, whose policy is a proven failure. We further demand that you open no more Marions, no more Control Units, including the one scheduled for women at FCI Lexington, Kentucky.

No More Marions!