

CROSSROAD

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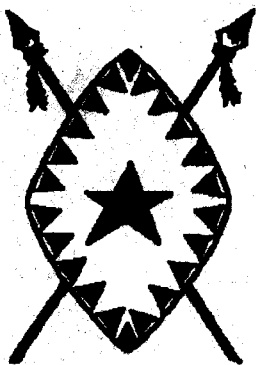
STATE OF EMERGENCY!!

Another sistah has been
battered in our community ...
How long will We allow this
TERROR to continue?



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SPEAR & SHIELD PUBLICATIONS
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(Donation)

New Afrikan Creed

1. i believe in the spirituality, humanity and genius of Black people, and in our new pursuit of these values.
2. i believe in the family and the community, and in the community as a family, and i will work to make this concept a reality.
3. i believe in the community as more important than the individual.
4. i believe in constant struggle for liberation and to build a better world. i believe in collective struggle and cooperation with my brothers and sisters.
5. i believe that the fundamental reason for our present condition is that We, as a people, lack the power to control our own destinies.
6. i believe that the fundamental way to gain that power and end oppression, is to build a sovereign Black nation.
7. i believe that all the Black people in America, upon this land, have lived for a long time, which We have worked and built our lives on, and which We have a right to live on, is land that belongs to us as a people.
8. i believe in the Movement's Doctrine: that we will hold a referendum upon this land, and hold a plebiscite, to tell the world by a vote that we want our land independent, and that, after the vote, We must be ready to defend our land, and the nation beyond contradiction.
9. Therefore, i pledge to struggle without ceasing until we have won sovereignty. i pledge to struggle without fail until we have built a better world than the world has yet known.
10. i will give my life, what is necessary; i will give my mind, my strength, and my wealth because that is necessary.
11. i will follow my elected leaders and help them to lead.
12. i will love my brothers and sisters as myself.
13. i will steal nothing from my brothers and sisters, misuse no brother or sister, inform on no brother or sister, and do no harm to my people.
14. i will keep myself clean, and i will be a light set on a hill, a true representative of what We are building.
15. i will be patient and uplifting with the deaf, dumb and blind, and i will seek by word and deed to heal the Black family, to bring into the Movement and into the Community mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters left by the wayside.

Now, freely and of my own will, i pledge this Creed, for the sake of freedom for my people and a better world, on pain of disgrace and banishment if i prove false. For i am no longer deaf, dumb or blind. i am, by inspiration of the ancestors and grace of the Creator — a New Afrikan.



The Salaam Institute

To The Community:

The Salaam Institute is a community-based, non-profit organization based at the grassroots level. It's purpose is to teach people basic trades in the areas of construction and related skills and trades of the industry, which, at the grassroots level, are unheard of in terms of having the opportunity to learn a viable trade that will enable one to compete on the basis of know-how.

Skills are the Key. If We're to challenge the existing institutions (Amerika), We must build our own institutions to reflect our culture and or history (past, present & future). In order to do this, We must have skills to build an economy that We control regardless to where We are. It must start now, not in some fancy future skill ability. Skills must be developed by doing, studying and being regular and consistent on the job. Skills will help us put this enormous Black economy into motion for self, a system pooled together despite our differences, to create an economic power that the world has yet to know. Let's develop our war chest (knowledge) and go for self. No one is stopping us but us, a lack of unity. Everyone is using our resources except us. Let's stop looking to others to undo our unfortunate past, which they created. They' going to give back our stolen economy without a fight and history shows that We're not going to do that, so let's build on what We have got - our ability, our will to survive and develop skills to live and build. The skill bank must be a total institution in itself. It must operate with other parts of the government (RNA), but it's so important to our existence as a people, that it must be able to operate alone, if necessary, because without training, education and jobs, this Movement is going nowhere fast. We must have people who are skilled in as many areas as possible. Getting our people ready to compete and survive in the 21st century is our total responsibility as so-called leaders. In most cases We won't be paid, but that doesn't relieve us of our obligation to teach, train and educate our people so that We can get off Welfare, up off our knees and stop us from being political pawns (Black leaders, ministers, educators, workers & plain sell-outs). If We do the above, there will be no need for our people to wear those slave titles anymore.

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"Know Your Rights" Seminar For Youth

A half-day seminar for African-American Youth, grades 7-12, was presented by the Chicago Illinois Chapter of The Links, Inc., on Saturday, May 18 at Malcolm X College (1900 West Van Buren). About 200 youth came to this informal conference, which offered interactive discussions to encourage youth to look at their *rights of passage* through the lens of employment, political, health, and general rights.

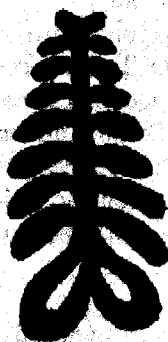
Attorney William Hooks spoke to the attendees on the criminal "just us" system, and the struggle against being caught up in it. He emphasized that people should concentrate on the badge number and other identifying features of officers when they come into contact with them. He also stressed the need to watch police closely during a search, and if an attempt is made to plant contraband to ask clearly, "Did you leave something?", or "i think you forgot something". Of course, all of this should be done in a tactful manner, always being mindful of kkkop's volatile psychology and tendency to 'power trip'.

The employment market and social security system was then touched on. Many young people are coming into the employment game and see deductions on their check, but don't understand what they're for, e.g. - many thought that when they leave a job, they would get the money that had been deducted for social security.

The health care and political systems were covered also. Lunch was provided and many door prizes were given to the youth at the end of the seminar. This event was a good example of adults and professional people attempting to express to youth their concern and support. "The purpose of this seminar is to provide an opportunity for African-American Youth to meet and exchange ideas with professionals in their community, and to gain some valuable contacts for the future," said Dr. Billie Wright Adams, chair of the seminar.

"We hope that these young people will have fun meeting other teens with similar interests."

The Links is an organization of over 10,000 women with chapters throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Nassau, Bahamas, and Frankfurt, Germany. "We are an organization dedicated to providing service and support to members of underserved communities," says Gladys Smith, chapter president.



For More Information, contact:

Sandra Dougherty, (312) 779-4446 or Darrell Parrish,
(312) 326-3390

Anti-Fertility "Vaccines"

Research on Anti-fertility "Vaccines"

Research on new contraceptives is mainly guided by the perception that population growth in countries of the South has to be stopped. Northern countries see population growth in the South as a threat to their security. To cut down birth rates, new contraceptives have been developed which are long-acting and which, once administered, cannot be controlled by women themselves. They are designed to be easily administered and a large scale to women in Third World countries.

For 20 years contraceptive researchers all over the world have competed to develop a "vaccination against pregnancy. Research teams have been set up for example by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Council (USA), the National Institute of Immunology (India), and others. The majority of the funding comes from the North.

Anti-fertility "vaccines" have a completely new mode of action. Unlike vaccines against diseases, they do not prepare the body to react against harmful germs. Instead, they cause an immunological disorder. They reprogram the body's self protection and force it to attack substances that are part of the reproductive process. To emphasize the difference between vaccination against disease and vaccination against pregnancy, women's health activists put the term between quotation marks. They do not share the view that pregnancy is a disease that has to be fought immunologically.

Different kinds of anti-fertility "vaccines" are being researched. The most advanced and the most "promising" type for researchers is a "vaccination" against the female pregnancy-hormone hCG. This vaccination triggers an immune reaction against the natural hCG and is supposed to prevent pregnancy for at least one year. The contraceptive's action cannot be stopped in case adverse effects occur or women want to discontinue it for other reasons.

Anti-fertility "vaccines" are not yet on the market, but extensive clinical trials have taken place. To date, about 400 persons, mostly women, have undergone clinical trials in Australia, India, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Chile and other countries. In India further clinical trials are expected to start in 1996, involving up to a thousand women. The WHO plans to restart clinical trials in Sweden on about two hundred women.

Call for a stop

In 1993, a worldwide campaign was launched by women's health activists from several countries to stop the development of anti-fertility "vaccines" ~ A further aim of this campaign is to redirect research to the needs of women and men for safe, reliable and user-controlled contraceptives.

A Call for a Stop of Research on Anti-fertility "vaccines" was sent as an open letter to research and funding

institutions in November 1993. Within a few months, 370 groups and organizations and many individuals from 35 countries endorsed this call. There is a wide variety of endorsers ranging from women's health and women's rights groups to alternative development policy groups, workers' unions, student associations, university groups and others from all parts of the world.

International postcard-action: Stop Research on Anti-fertility "Vaccines" - Send a postcard

The Human Reproduction Program (HRP) of the World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the main research institutes involved in research on Anti-fertility "vaccines." The manager of the Task Force which is responsible for this research is David Griffin. He and his colleagues are convinced that anti-fertility "vaccines" might well suit women's needs and ought to be researched further. We think it is important that all those women and men who do not share this opinion inform him that they do not believe the potential risks are worth it. These include the potential for abuse in population control programs. Hence we started an international postcard-action: send a postcard to David Griffin, and tell him that we do not want anti-fertility "vaccines." We call on you to join this action.

Who initiated the postcard-action?

Thirty women who met during an international action meeting in June 1995 in Ottawa, Canada. We are women from fifteen different countries from all parts of the world who came together to share our concerns about this kind of contraceptive research and to develop strategies and actions to stop this and to take a radically new course.

How?

As easy as mailing a postcard, directed to Mr. Griffin at the WHO, telling him that you are not in favor of the development of anti-fertility "vaccines." You can use the prepared card or make your own design. We would like to keep track of the number of cards sent, so we would appreciate it if you send the second card to the Coordination Office of the Campaign. You can also use this second card to indicate that you are interested in receiving more information or becoming more actively involved in the campaign.

For More Information, Contact:

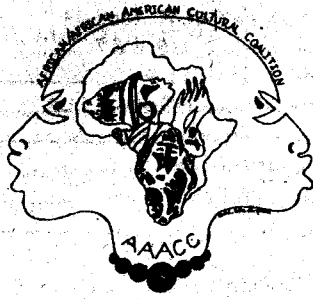
Stop Anti-fertility "Vaccines", International Campaign,
Coordinating Office
c/o WGNRR, NZ Voorburgwal 32, NL - 1012 RZ
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Stop Anti-fertility "Vaccines"
International Campaign
against Population Control

ANTI-FERTILITY

The African/African American Cultural Coalition



The purpose of AAACC is to establish and maintain an African/African American Awareness in the area of culture, music, art and history within the Stateville Correctional Center; create a bond and understanding between other ethnic groups; be an effective solution to the problems existing among African Americans within the Stateville Correctional Center and in the African American Community; foster and encourage educational, social and political programs that address African American problems; support charitable organizations; promote and encourage physical fitness and athletic competition; and be responsible civically, culturally and financially to ourselves and free society.

The basic goals and objectives of the AAACC at the present time are to establish the following

1. African/African American Awareness Program.
2. A Prisoner Information Advisory Program.
3. Self Esteem/Life Management Skill Program.
4. A Father And Son Reunification Program.
5. An African Study Group Program.
6. A Youth Encounter Program.
7. A Community Tour Program.
8. A Legal Training Program.
9. A Community Support Group Program For C-Numbers.
10. Seek A 500 Unit Building Through HUD For Prisoners Who Are Released From Prison.

For more information:

African/African American Cultural Coalition
Inner City Youth Foundation, 4500 S. Michigan,
Chicago, IL 60653 • 312-536-8146

...To Make This Concept Live

As a member of the Spear & Shield Collective, i am motivated "to establish and strengthen principled relations with other Conscious New Afrikan individuals and organizations, and to extend the influence and leadership of the New Afrikan Independence Movement among the New Afrikan people..."

As a Conscious New Afrikan, i am also bound and inspired by the New Afrikan Creed, to: believe in the family and the Community, and to believe in the Community as a family, and to make these concepts live. i am also bound to believe in the community as more important than the individual.

Sitting inside a prison cell as i have for twenty-five years, i find that my efforts to make these concepts live are not as easily realized as i would like them to be. Recent discussions with Conscious Citizens who live outside the walls have made it clear that the difficulty is not caused by one's location, but by something more likened to lack of will.

My location in a prison cell means that i will find it difficult to "socialize" with other Conscious New Afrikans outside the walls. But, why do Conscious Citizens residing in Chicago find it so difficult to socialize with each other? Why do New Afrikans in D.C., who happen to work with the MXGM, find it hard to socialize with other New Afrikans in D.C. who happen to work with the PG or with NANPP/POW? Why do New Afrikans in Birmingham find it difficult to socialize with the families of imprisoned Conscious Citizens? i wonder if i'm being clear. Is there a need to list more particular examples? Who, out there, has examples of your own?

i suggest that, in this respect, We all (all Conscious Citizens) begin to regard the entire NAIM as the "community" that We must regard as more important than our individual organizations. Believing in the NAIM as our family is a concept that each of us should work to make live.

If the Movement is a chain, its weak link is represented by the lack of simple association between Conscious Citizens. ----- **ReBuild!** ----- Yaki

New Afrikan Nation Day '96 Resolution on PP/POW's

The following resolution was passed on march 30, 1996 at Malcolm X College, Chicago:

"We call on all New Afrikan Nation Day '96 participating organizations and individuals to exchange contact information and pledge to maintain contact with political prisoners and prisoners of war in their area. Announcements, News, & other updates should be forwarded to the CROSSROAD Support Network."

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The struggle of Afrikans in the U.S. to regain their independence has always been characterized by two major trends. One trend has struggled against racial discrimination and for equal participation in U.S. society, accepting capitalist hegemony. The other trend has struggled against their national oppression by the U.S., and to establish an independent, socialist state.

The existence of these trends is a matter of historical record. Despite the efforts of the U.S. to suppress the struggle for Afrikan independence, the movement has a strong contemporary expression among all sectors of the Afrikan population, especially among Afrikan youth. A recent study conducted among Afrikan college students by Professor Luke Tripp showed that 34 percent of the students favored an independent Afrikan state.

CROSSROAD (CR) is devoted to New Afrikan Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. **CR** also covers theoretical issues and daily struggles in Afrikan communities. For its daily operation, as well as its goal of continued growth and improvement, **CR** depends on the help of its supporters and subscribers.

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Spring Activities of the Midwest Region of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons

Background

In December of 1994 more than 50 anti-control unit activists traveled to Philadelphia from across the United States, determined to coordinate activities that were taking place throughout the country to oppose control unit prisons. The result of that two-day meeting was the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons. After almost a year of informal discussions, a second national meeting was held in Chicago in October of 1995. There we settled on a seven-month plan that would culminate in coordinated regional activities in opposition to control unit prisons in the Spring of 1996.

After this vision was established, those of us in the mid-west region began to plan for the spring. For those organizations which had been involved in this type of work for a long time, such as the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners (National Committee) and the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML), the main question was how to expand the work and involve other sympathetic and interested people and organizations. We talked with many people, and eventually the coalition that would represent the midwest region was formed. Organizations that were represented included the CROSSROAD Support Network, the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers, Prisoners of Conscience Project, the Prison Action Coalition, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, the Aaron Patterson Defense Committee, 8th Day Center for Justice, the Autonomous Zone, and several other individuals, in addition to the National Committee and CEML. Plans were made to hold an educational program on Saturday, April 20 and a demonstration on Saturday, May 4.

In preparation for the activities, the midwest region collected descriptions of planned activities from the various regions throughout the country and published them in *Abolish!*, the newsletter of the National Campaign. The purpose of *Abolish!* was to allow the different regions to organize around their individual plans while placing these plans into a national, coordinated context.

April 20 Program

The program for April 20 was an all-day affair. The morning consisted of five simultaneous workshops: Women in Prison, Control Unit Prisons, Prison

Industry, Political Prisoners, and the Death Penalty. Although we expected only a few people to attend the morning workshops, over 100 came and distributed themselves rather evenly among the five groups. After lunch, another 60 people joined us as we heard the keynote speaker, Marc Mauer, Assistant Director of the Sentencing Project. Marc, who has authored many studies about the insanity of the imprisonment binge and the racist implications of this process, spoke eloquently on these topics and other related ones.

After Marc's talk, a panel of "eminent people" were introduced with the notion that they would hear testimony from people who had been involved with the criminal justice system, and then would make a brief statement about what they thought of the system. The panel included several prominent members of the Chicago activist community, including two assistant principals in the Chicago public school system (from Englewood Academy, one of the largest Black high schools in the city, and from Roberto Clemente High School, the largest Puerto Rican high school), the Democratic nominee (and a certain winner) for one of Chicago's congressional seats, a state representative, a prominent physician, a labor activist, and a journalist from one of Chicago's two major newspapers.

This panel then heard testimony from 19 witnesses, including political prisoners who wrote, videotaped, or audio-taped messages; an ex-death row prisoner who was found innocent and released, the mother of a framed prisoner on death row, a prisoner who had done 15 years in Indiana prisons, several community activists, three women who had been incarcerated and spoke of how they were brutalized in prison, a physician who runs the biggest women and children's AIDS program in the city, and many others. When the three hours of testimony were complete, the panelists came forward and eloquently lent their support to the testimony that had been put forward. Several people noted that at the end of the long day, they felt like they had been put through an emotional wringer but that, at the same time, they had learned a great deal and felt encouraged to act.

May 4 Activities

On May 4 about 80 people from Chicago met at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center at 6 am and boarded two buses. We then traveled for about four hours to the Wabash Valley Secured Housing Unit in Carlisle — Indiana's second control unit prison, and site of terrible brutality. A severe rain storm was sweeping the area at

the very moment we stepped off the buses to demonstrate. Undeterred, and partly protected from the storm by plastic trash bags that we had brought along for just such an occasion, we picketed on the road right in front of the prison, just under the gun towers, for about an hour, followed by two speeches. One was by S.A. Tinnin-Bey, who had done 15 years in three different Indiana prisons. He related the story of his participation in a march in the yard of Pendleton Penitentiary, conducted in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners in Indiana's first control unit prison (the Westville Maximum Control Complex). The marchers there were in turn repressed by a long prison-wide lockdown. The other talk was by Charles Carney of 8th Day Center for Justice. Charles was one of the organizers of the day and had been visiting several prisoners in the Wabash torture unit.

We then left Wabash and moved onto the next site, the United States Penitentiary at Terre Haute. USP Terre Haute currently cages Puerto Rican POW Eddie Cortes and is the site of the federal death row. Along the way, we stopped at a food plaza and met, by design, three more cars that had come from Chicago, a car from Indiana, one from St. Louis, and a van with six students from Antioch College in Ohio. With our numbers now well over 100, we caravanned to Terre Haute. By now the sun had come out and we were energized by the drying out process — as our shoes stopped squeaking and our clothes became lighter. After picketing for about an hour across the road from the prison grounds (extended negotiations with the state troopers, local police, and prisoncrats did not get us any closer than the half-mile distance to the prison), we heard from several speakers.

We started with a message from Owusu Yaki Yakubu, a prisoner leader for more than 25 years, urging us to do organizing that responds to community needs as the best way to organize to oppose the various brutalities of the "criminal" "justice" system. This was followed by a talk by Mike Stanek, a member of CEML who had done six months at the work camp at Terre Haute for an anti-nuclear weapons action, a message from Eddie Cortes read by his sister, Magdalena Cortes, and finally an inspirational rap by Puerto Rican national hero, Rafael Cancel Miranda. Rafael traveled from Puerto Rico to Chicago to help build for the actions and to attend them. Although he did 25 years in U.S. prisons, including six at Alcatraz and eight at Marion, and although he is 66 years old, Rafael has not slowed down

by one second. His energy was contagious and his courage spurring as he read the names, one at a time, of the 15 Puerto Rican POWs and PPs, and of several others, and lead us in chanting and calling for their release.

Now it was time for the last stop of the day. We traveled just a few miles to downtown Terre Haute and stopped at the courthouse, which faces Route 41, the main highway that goes through the city. There we picketed again and were joined by a group from the Sisters of Providence community in Terre Haute. Sr. Carol Nolan spoke first, on what prisons do to those of us on the outside, passionately noting the need for us to stop the cruelty of the prison system and the death penalty. S.A. Tinnin-Bey spoke next about his experiences inside Indiana prisons and his resolve to continue to speak out. He was followed by Mary L. Johnson, one of Chicago's most prominent activists, who made an eloquent presentation laced with humor and humanitarianism while at the same time explaining the destructive and dehumanizing nature of our racist society. This was followed by a greeting from Rosa Kurshan-Emmer on behalf of the Antioch students. Rosa ended her rap with "Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!" much to the great pleasure of the demonstrators. This last demonstration was capped with an inspiring talk by Jose Lopez, the director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and a leading independentista. Jose discussed the issue of prisons in the context of colonialism and pledged that wherever they put the POWs, we would follow and would not stop until they were all free. Noting that together we had shut down Davis Hall, the control unit for women at Alderson prison, and then the control unit for women at Lexington prison, Jose made it clear that our resolve would match that of the state's.

Although all of us were exhausted, and some were still soggy from the earlier drenching, there was the spirit of a day well-spent as we headed back to our respective destinations — some to other places in Indiana, to St. Louis, the Antioch students to Ohio, and most of us to Chicago, where we arrived at about 10:00 pm to cap our 16-hour, three-demonstration day.

Conclusion

It is always hard to know what to make of such a set of activities. Both the program and the demonstration were well-attended. Many of the people who attended were new to us and were obviously drawn to these events for important political reasons. Additionally, the coalition functioned very well, better than

anything any of us could recall. In all of those long meetings and complicated interactions, and with two events only two weeks apart, there were arguments and political disagreements but this process only brought us closer. Finally, the media coverage was quite good with several television and radio spots throughout Indiana and four major newspaper articles. A prisoner at USP Terre Haute wrote to tell us that he had overheard that day some of the prisonrats lamenting the exposure that we brought to the incarceration of Eddie Cortes and the federal death row.

On the other hand, many questions were raised by these events. Those of us who have been doing this work for a while could probably recall the names of 100 people who have expressed concern over the issues of prisons and racism but who did not attend either the program or the demonstration. In addition, the activities seemed to generate few people who will actually join the work in an ongoing way.

We are all certain that this is the work to be doing now. Prisons and white supremacy are one of the junctures at which the future of this country and perhaps even the world will be decided. How to do this work effectively in the time of reaction that is today remains the open question.

For further information, contact:

Committee to End the Marion Lockdown

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<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~kastor/ceml.html>

On Control Units

One of the most telling descriptions of the purpose of control units within U.S. prisons was given by Ralph Aron, a former warden of the Marion federal penitentiary: "The purpose of the Marion Control Unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large."

Aron's words should have more impact today than when he uttered them some twenty years ago: There are more prisons in the U.S. today, and far more control units. We should ask why this is so — and as we do, we must keep Aron's words in mind: "...in the prison system and in society at large." Say it again: "...in the prison system and in society at large."

Each of you should repeat to yourselves — and to those around you — several times each day: **The U.S. uses control units to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in society at large.** (While you're at it, you should realize that there is a connection between the fulfillment of the state's purpose in building more prisons and creating more control units, and the relative absence of a revolutionary movement amidst ever-worsening objective conditions under which the masses of people are living.)

All people should be inspired to involvement in a struggle to close all control units by simply becoming aware of Aron's declaration of their purpose. However, I know that most people need more.

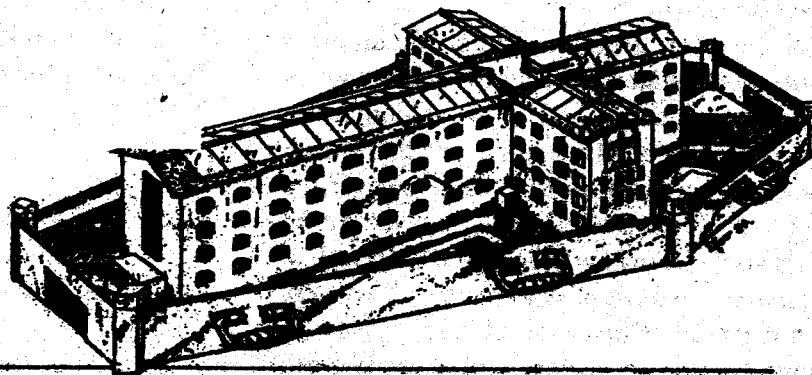
The irony is that most of those now held in control units are there because they want to provide people with this "more," i.e., whatever each person needs to spark their interest, to obtain their commitment to active struggle not only to abolish U.S. control units, but to abolish the socio-economic order which makes such units necessary.

Yaki (4-9-96)

THE COFFIN

Black People Are Not Dead

by Poo Choo Song
I/A Aachen 51L-47
53359 Rheinfelden, Germany



Solidarity Message to the Midwest Caravan Against Control Units

On behalf of the Spear & Shield Collective:

We're sure that comrades in the kamps here and throughout the u.s. appreciate the sacrifices that all of you have made in order to be here today. Your presence sends them a message of solidarity, and represents a renewed commitment to struggle alongside imprisoned comrades and for a new social order here and throughout the world.

Although you know this, We'd like to remind you that the work that you've done in your communities is far more important than your presence here today. And, more important than that, is the work that you must do there tomorrow and each day thereafter — work to build solidarity and unity with other active groups, individuals, and organizations — agitation, propaganda, outreach, networking to bring into our struggles people that aren't yet active. This is the type of work that We all need to do much more of — work that will allow us to reach new people, to test ideas and theories, to substantiate our practice, and to measure our programs.

The Spear & Shield Collective has long held the position that all work around prisons represents but one front of the struggle. If We truly want to free political prisoners and prisoners of war, then We're gonna also have to struggle alongside the masses to take over the schools. If We really wanna combat the death penalty and free our comrades from Death Row, then We're also gonna have to struggle alongside the masses to combat the insurance companies, the pharmaceutical industry, and take over the hospitals and build a health care system that truly serves people and not the profit motive. If We are serious about closing all control units, then We're gonna have to focus more attention upon the construction of a truly comprehensive revolutionary mass-based movement.

We must (re) generate struggle on all other fronts *in our communities*. Our collective bears witness that such work isn't easy — it's slow, unglamorous, sometimes confusing and frustrating, and there never seem to be enough people to do the work. However, it's the kind of work that must be done — and We are the ones that must (re) learn how to do it *with the people in our communities* — most of whom are, in fact, very active, while it is We who haven't found the ways to connect ourselves to their activity, and to then begin to aid them in directing that activity along a revolutionary path.

Let's take some time to analyze actual conditions locally and internationally. In the process, let's begin to distinguish friends from real enemies. That is, let's realize that there are forces on the "left" that sometimes don't speak to each other and that don't work together, and this is childish, and We must all move beyond it.

We must begin to forge new styles of work, and shape new attitudes toward each other, the masses, and about the character of struggle at this stage — this, or simply get out of the way and let younger forces begin to test their ideas and acquire the experience that they will need in order to lead the present and future generations. Because, at the rate that We're going, We won't see national liberation and socialist revolution in our lifetimes — unless We make some quick changes.

"We didn't see all the ways in which the people were actively struggling in all spheres of daily life — We didn't see the need to intervene in these struggles, to devise ways to connect the immediate demands of the masses with the strategic aims of the movement.

"...What passes...as a movement is a small number of circles which barely talk to or work with each other. We carry on political actions which are essentially developing in isolation from our people. At the same time, the people are carrying on struggles in all areas of social life — but their struggles don't realize their potential because, in large part, they lack their 'vanguard leadership' and strategic purpose — while the would-be vanguards' political actions spend themselves within a few months, because they have no mass base, no mass audience, no mass participation!"

Close the Control Units!

Stop All Executions!

Free All Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War!

Solidarity Between All Movements!

Unity Within All Movements!

**Build Mass-Based Movements for National
Liberation and Socialist Revolution In Our
Lifetime!**

For S.S.C.
Owusu Yaki Yakubu
(Aka Atiba Shanna)
(4-29-96)

Maryland's Supermax Prison (MCAC)

Local representatives of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons held a press conference on Wednesday, May 22nd outside the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center (Supermax), 401 E. Madison Street in Baltimore at 4:00 pm to respond to the contents of the Department of Justice's **Notice of Findings of Investigation of Supermax.**

The Notice of Findings from U.S. Assistant Attorney General, Deval L. Patrick, to Governor Parris Glendening stated that "certain conditions at Supermax violate the constitutional rights of inmates". Patrick also noted that "conditions of extreme social isolation and reduced environmental stimulation; like the conditions of Supermax, violate evolving standards of humanity and decency..." The Assistant Attorney General's letter supports allegations by prisoners that they had been abused in the 'pink room'. "Inmates remained in the pink room, sometimes as long as four days, wearing only underwear and a three piece restrain (leg irons, handcuffs, and a waist chain connected to the handcuffs and holding the hands very close to the body)."

Supermaximum institutions differ from other security levels as extreme social isolation is a permanent condition. Under such inhumane conditions, which includes very limited outdoor activity and virtually no human contact, prisoners are apt to develop mental illnesses and other medical conditions. Transfers to Supermax are usually arbitrary and are used to control those who 'speak out' against the DOC through letter writing and other legal means. As indicated by the Department of Justice, prisoners seeking transfers to a lesser security-level institution are "quite literally caught in a 'Catch 22' situation", as the decision to be transferred out of the Supermax is based on "subjective judgements" of the administration.

While the DOJ investigation, conducted last spring and summer, was met with resistance, attempts to cover-up abuses resulted in the transfer of 44 prisoners from Supermax to other institutions prior to the investigators entry into Supermax. Just before the release of the DOJ letter, all death row inmates, including Flint Gregory Hunt, who is scheduled to be executed the week of June 10th (* see below - ed.), were transferred to Supermax in an attempt to create the appearance that only "the worst of the worst" are housed there.

The National Campaign will also address Gov-

ernor Parris Glendening's as well as Maryland's Department of Corrections Commissioner Richard Lanham's denial of civil rights violations at Supermax.

The endorsing organizations of the press conference included the Maryland CURE, Black Watch Grassroots Network, the Control Unit Monitoring Project - Baltimore, Artist Wit An Attitude, the Maryland Prison Renewal Committee (MPRC), Maryland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Maryland Subcommittee of the Prison Law Project - National Lawyers Guild, and the Maryland - All Peoples Congress.

For More Information:

Local Contacts: Azora Irby-Muntasir, (202) 387-7476; Shannon Murray, (410) 706-1923

National Contact: Bonnie Kerness, (201) 643-3192



"The Target." (Boston Public Library)

New Trial Won for Flint Gregory Hunt

At the end of May we issued an alert for Flint Gregory Hunt, a prisoner who was on death row in Maryland scheduled to be executed on June 10. Gregory is an active organizer inside Baltimore's Control Unit, the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center.

His case points to many of the reasons that the death penalty needs to be abolished. Unable to afford to pay for legal counsel, Gregory received ineffectual and inadequate representation. In Maryland, out of 16 men on death row, 14 are New African. It was to be Maryland's second execution in 33 years.

Before the alert was spread very far, Gregory was granted a stay of execution and a new trial which will be held in the Fall. This was due in part to public pressure from the many phone calls, letters and faxes received by the governor, as well as the to support that Gregory received from public figures such as Jesse Jackson. Many thanks to all who participated in these efforts that saved Gregory's life.

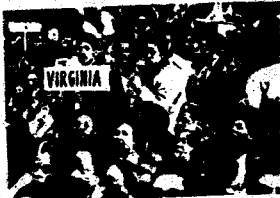
For more information about Gregory's case and the struggle against the Death Penalty in Maryland, contact:

Baltimore ABC

PO Box 22283 / Baltimore, MD 21283

WE WON'T BE PLAYING GAMES FOR THE SUMMER GAMES!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
June 30th to August 5th 1996
STAND UP FOR FREEDOM IN ATLANTA



WARNING: Disciplined, Committed and Conscious Organizers. To work for the human rights and self-determination of the Black nation, during the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta. Let the World know that we are a colonized New African nation fighting for human rights and self-determination. Take the covers off the lie of the White Power Government! Take the Black case for Genocide and Human Rights violations against the United States before the World!

To Sign Up Call The
MALCOLM X CENTER FOR SELF-DETERMINATION
(404) 288-0680

SPONSORED BY:
The Coalition for New African Human Rights and Self-Determination

COALITION GROUPS: New African Liberation Front; National Coalition of Black for Reproductive in America; Provisional Government - Republic of New Africa; Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

BROTHERS & SISTERS OF ALL FAITHS

There is a crisis in the community of Africans born in America

WE'RE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

In the spirit of our sister **IDA B. WELLS**
Born July 16, 1862

"Let our people go !!"

A Prayer Gathering
TUESDAY JULY 16, 1996 5PM-7PM

On Chicago southside, corners of
Oakwood/Drexel/39th/Cottage Grove

Be prepared to walk (1) block to the Lake as we raise our PETITIONS to the CREATOR in **ONE LOUD VOICE**

Wear something **RED**
Banners / Posters welcome

"If my people which are call by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked way; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land. 1 Chro 7:14"

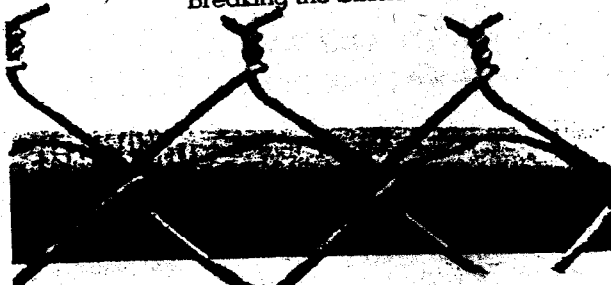
Sponsored by: Queens
Mekada (Rev. Doris Green)
Fahneeda Newman-Veal
Doris Johnson
TITI
Faraj
Nzingha (Regine Arrington)

For information call (Rev. Green)
(312) 536-6146
(ICVF)

Join the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) and the Not on the Guest List Coalition for an education & action forum:

Women In Prison

Breaking the Silence



Georgina Angelo (Baltimore, MD), former Black Panther, former prisoner, founder of MothersMen leads Loving Kids, a support group for parents in prison and their children, works on behalf of political prisoners and in the Black Panther movement

Pegeen Wynne, Chicago attorney who works on behalf of women prisoners, death penalty opponent, member of Women's Campaign Project for women jailed for killing their husbands

Friday, July 19, 1996 6:30 pm
DePaul University's Schmitt Academic Center, 2320 N. Kenmore, Room 161.
Refreshments served. \$5.00 or what you can pay. Child Care provided.
Demands concerning women in prison will be presented to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August 1996.
For more information, contact WAC, 312/915-9101 or Not On the Guest List Coalition, 312/279-6706.

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

March on the Democratic National Convention

August 27 - 4 PM
Wicker Park
Chicago, Illinois



Protest Clinton and the Democratic Party's politics of repression and brutality!

- **Stand up against the racism of the criminal "justice" system.**
One out of three Black men is in jail, on probation or parole. Instead of attacking the root causes of poverty, homelessness, and unemployment, the Democrats offer more jails, stiffer sentences—three strikes you're out!—and worse prison conditions to "solve" crime.
- **Free all political prisoners in U.S. jails.**
Over 100 women and men remain in U.S. jails for their political activities and beliefs. They should be released now.
- **Stop police brutality.**
Police brutality, including the murder of innocent people, is spreading throughout Black and Latino communities.

The Not on the Guest List Coalition is in formation. The Not includes:
Aman Patterson-Delaware Convention, A Job is a Right Campaign/Minneapolis, American Private Service Committee, American Indian Movement Grand Council, Anti-Racist Action/Minneapolis, Antonia Jones, Oscar Bradley (United in Power), Coalition for Women's Rights/Seattle, Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Jack Cohen-Joplin (The Mother Justice), Committee Against Intervention/University of Missouri-Columbia Campus, Communist Party, Committee to End the War in Lebanon, Doree Chellings Rights Day-Center for Applied Social Justice/Quebec Center, Free Mumia, Abu-Jamal/Pittsburgh, Inmate's Prisoners of Conscience, Leonard Public Defense Committee, National Committee for Nonviolent Civil Disobedience to Free Leonard Public, National Lawyers Guild, Prisoners Free Organizing Committee, (Religious) Against Police Brutality, Paul Rodriguez/Joshua Harris, Julian and Harold, St. Martin de Nuevo Catholic/Minneapolis, C.I. Taylor/Free Communist Party, N.W. Suburban Direct Action, PE Program/Quebec, Prison Action Committee, Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Women's Action Coalition (WAC), Workers World Party

For more information, please call: **312-679-6706**

The African Holocaust Memorial Project
"Lest We Forget Our Ancestors"

Puerto Rican Cultural Center: An Appeal

July 1, 1996

The African Holocaust Memorial Commission is comprised of dedicated sisters and brothers who seek to encourage Africans in America to acknowledge and learn about their past, then plan and organize to secure a glorious future for our Race.

Our goals are to:

1. Re-establish a cultural connection with Mother Africa
2. Use historical data to communicate more accurate portrayals of African people
3. Expose the myths, lies and distortions of European history
4. Commemorate our Ancestors.

As a people, we have never collectively performed the sacred and appropriate rituals to guide the souls of our departed Ancestors to their proper resting place. Therefore, a national campaign is currently underway to implement the African Holocaust Shrine Project. In this endeavor, our foremothers and forefathers will be memorialized and ritually entombed as part of the African traditional funeral rites and customs.

The objectives for the Shrine Project include:

- * Reconciliation of the historical reality of the Ancestors with the historical memory of their born and unborn descendants
- * Healing the wounds between Africans in the diaspora and continental Africa
- * Enshrining of the Ancestors who have struggled against the MAAFA ['holocaust' - ed.] enslavement process, and
- * Establishing tombs to the Ancestors by purchasing crypts and grave sites to be dedicated as memorials to the unknown Ancestors.

Commission membership is open to the community for the serious work that remains to be done.

Meetings are held every Tuesday evening, 6-7 pm at the Center for Inner City Studies, 700 E. Oakwood Boulevard.

For more information:

African Holocaust Memorial Project
P.O. Box 190457
Chicago, IL 60619

3:21PM



Dear Friends:

This is an urgent appeal for help. The Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC), a progressive non-profit predominantly serving Chicago's Puerto Rican community, is undergoing a major financial crisis. The PRCC needs to raise the astronomical sum of \$63,000 immediately. This amount is what the Internal Revenue Service has stated the PRCC owes in penalties, interest and back taxes. To date, through appeals for reduction and abatement of interest and penalties, as well as small payments, the amount has been reduced from \$71,000.00 to the present \$63,000.00.

Now, however, the IRS is insisting on total payment.

From its inception, the PRCC has been founded on three principles: self-development, self-sufficiency and self determination. The PRCC has been a leading element in education, health, community and political struggles affecting the Puerto Rican community throughout the past twenty-five years.

The PRCC has also opened its doors to many progressive groups in need of a space to meet and discuss urgent issues. Now, this issue has become an urgent one for us.

We need your help. The PRCC is undertaking an extensive fund-raising campaign designed to retire the bank loan at the end of six months. Among the events planned in the next two months are [Candy Sale, Car Washes, Rummage Sale, Dinner/Dance, Gay/Lesbian Dance, Pasteles Sale, Raffle, Bowl-a-Rama, Recycle a Thon, & PRCC Tours with an expected income of \$15,000 - ed.]

As you can see, if all the events raise the projected amounts, we will still be far short of the total needed. This is where you can help.

Our goal is to identify 50 people who will raise \$1000.00 each over that six month period. Practically speaking, this means pledging \$167.00 for six months. Won't you consider organizing one or more of your friends to help the PRCC during this time of need?

Thanking you in advance,
 Jose E. Lopez, Executive Director
 Puerto Rican Cultural Center, 1671 N. Claremont Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60647; 312-342-8023; fax: 312-342-6609

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation Who are we? What do we do and why?

The origins of the ABC date back prior to the Russian Revolution (1917). It was originally formed as the Anarchist Red Cross in Tsarist Russian, to organize aid for Political Prisoners and their families as well as organizing self-defense against political raids by the Cossack army. During the Russian Civil War, its name changed to the Anarchist Black Cross to avoid confusion with the International Red Cross, also organizing relief in the country. It has continued, at times very sporadically, serving its purpose of organizing aid for Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW's) for the last 7 decades.

In the 80's, the ABC began to grow and for the first time a group of anarchists started an ABC group in North America. In the United States, the ABC name has been kept alive by a number of completely autonomous groups scattered throughout the country and has grown to support a wide variety of prison issues.

What is the ABCF?

In May of 1995, a small group of ABC collectives merged into a Federation whose aim was to focus on the overall support and defense of PP/POW's.

Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War are not in prison for committing social "crimes," nor are they criminals. Different PP/POW's participated in progressive and revolutionary movements in varying levels. Some on educational and community organizing, others in clandestine armed and offensive people's armies. All are in prison as a result of conscious political action, for building resistance, building and leading movements and revolution...for making change.

Many of us in some way or another are part of these very movements, part of that resistance that PP/POW's helped to build. As people continuing to struggle for change, we are obligated, and it is our duty to support those people who are in prison as a result of struggling to make change.

Though some have a wider definition of Political Prisoners, we maintain that even if the definition of a Political Prisoner was expanded to include social prisoners of conscience and widely accepted, it needs to be clear that those prisoners who went to prison as a result of political action taken on the street would still

demand our priority support. For movements to support other prisoners before we are supporting the prisoners who have gone to prison for building the very movements we now participate in is backwards and criminal.

How do we support Political Prisoners & Prisoners of War?

Making sure PP/POW's are a part of their own support is crucial and one of the greatest strengths of the Federation. We directly communicate with as many PP/POW's as we can. A large part of this communication is working together with them to find out what they need and how the members of the Federation can practically provide this support. A Prisoners' Committee made up of 5 PP/POW's who have shown the most interest in the Federations work and helping it grow give guidance, propose work and vote on work proposals made by other PP/POW's, and Federation groups. Members of the Prisoners' Committee (PC) rotate yearly.

Letting people know about PP/POW's and the urgency of defending them is the first step in building support. In this capacity organizing community support to meet the needs of our communities is one of the best ways to do so. During their free food program, Jacksonville ABC-BG discuss PP/POW's with their community and hands PP/POW information out for free. We also produce information about PP/POW's, the struggles they came from and the movements they represent. Booklets, fliers, video/audio tapes, T/sweat shirts and calendars are produced featuring these prisoners. This not only informs people about their existence and daily struggles behind bars, (where they continue the struggle), as well as heightening their visibility in our communities, but funds from this merchandise, when we sell it, is sent to those prisoners.

Which leads to another important responsibility of supporting PP/POW's. Raising material support is crucial. It is not uncommon to find that Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War are left with no financial support to pay for phone calls or postage stamps to communicate with their families, friends and supporters. Not enough money to pay for a news subscription, or buy books. No funds to get proper footwear or summer/winter clothing. If we call these prisoners our comrades, we can not allow this to continue. And we don't.

We do so in part through the Warchest Program. Through the Warchest, we collect monthly donations

from our own ABC groups and monthly or one time pledges from other ABC's around the country, supportive groups, and individuals. With these funds, we send out monthly checks of up to \$60 to those PP/POW's who are receiving the least financial support to our knowledge.

Still, financial support and communication are ~~but two~~ forms of direct support needed to demonstrate to their keepers PP/POW's have not been forgotten. As enemies of the state, Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War serve the hardest time. The government often attempts to lock them far away from their families, friends and supporters. We must not allow them to be isolated. When geographically possible we go into the prisons and visit PP/POW's. This also brings the harsh reality of political imprisonment much closer to supporters. It reminds us that PP/POW's are not only names and figures, pictures on our T-shirts and leaflets, but people with personalities and personal needs. And if we forget this or neglect to include it in our work to defend them, our foundations will soon become weak. **Contact us to be involved!**

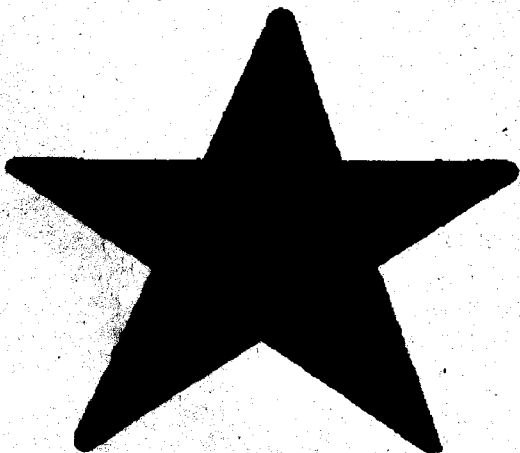


Free All
Political Prisoners

NJ ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

Post Office Box 8532
Paterson, NJ 07608-8532
(201) 357-0094

Office Address
177 Market St.
Paterson, NJ 07605



CROSSROAD Support Network, 3021 W. 63rd,
Chicago IL 60629; 312-737-8679 (voice/FAX);
e-mail: crsn@aol.com

News, Announcements, & Updates

• Brother **Sekou Odinga** lost his father recently; please send condolences to him at USP Lompoc • The *Nkrumah-Washington Learning Center* holds a fundraiser on the last Sunday of every month. The theme for the July fundraiser is "Are You A Target of the Chicago Police?"; call 312-890-0316 for more information. • The *New Afrikan Liberation Front* has undertaken three major initiatives: 1) the National Plebiscite Education Campaign for Self-Determination (NPECSD), to "build a consensus towards a national vote to determine how our people want to express our historically denied rights to self-determination"; 2) the CBC PP/POW Initiative, calling on the Congressional Black Caucus to hold hearings "concerning the COINTELPRO activities of the u.s.a. government and how they contributed to the presence of large numbers of pp/p.o.w.s in america's prisons"; and 3) The Campaign For New Afrikan Human Rights & Self-Determination, which will culminate at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, GA. For more information, contact the *New Afrikan Liberation Front*, P.O. Box 340084, Jamaica, NY 11434; e-mail: 102432.17@compuserve.com • On Thursday, June 6, ten prisoners were transferred from the Indiana State Prison (ISP) to Westville Maximum Control Complex (MCC) to "keep the peace" in advance of the scheduled June 14 execution of Ziyon Yisrayah (see CR, V6#2). The prisoners were subsequently charged with very serious charges of "conspiracy to riot," "threatening bodily harm" and other charges. These charges are completely unfounded but could still result in prisoners doing up to 10 years more on their sentences, and this time will likely be lock-down, isolation time in the "Supermax" (MCC or the SHU at Wabash Valley Correctional Institution). For more information, contact *Melissa Froiland*, 414-264-1936 or *Liz Goss*, 812-331-8614. • *Justice is Blind*, People Against Police Brutality & Injustice, is having a **Steppers Fundraiser** on Saturday August 31 from 9 to 1 am at Kennedy-King College. Donation is \$10, \$12 at the door. Call 312-298-0055 for more information. • Celebrate the triumph of the Cuban Revolution with a picnic organized by the **Venceremos Brigade** at 2125 W. Cortez (chicago). The special guest will be **Johanna Tablada De La Torre**, 3rd Secretary, Cuban Interests Section in Washington D.C. Call 312-235-2334 for more information. • The **Heartland Cafe** (7000 N. Glenwood) will host "*From Ashes To Allies*", a benefit for burned southern churches on tuesday, July 30 from 8-12 pm. Music will be provided by **The Chicago Cats**, a rock & roll/rhythm & blues band. Checks & money orders should be made payable to: The National Council of Churches/Burnings, and sent to Rebecca Severson Intergroup Consulting, 1128 W. Farwell, Chicago IL 60626; 312-338-3858.

JUSTICE is BLIND



People Against Police
Brutality & Injustice

Andre Ester Defenso Fund
P. O. Box 436925
Chicago, IL 60643-6925
(312)298-0055

• Celebrate the triumph of the Cuban Revolution with a picnic organized by the **Venceremos Brigade** at 2125 W. Cortez (chicago). The special guest will be **Johanna Tablada De La Torre**, 3rd Secretary, Cuban Interests Section in Washington D.C. Call 312-235-2334 for more information. • The **Heartland Cafe** (7000 N. Glenwood) will host "*From Ashes To Allies*", a benefit for burned southern churches on tuesday, July 30 from 8-12 pm. Music will be provided by **The Chicago Cats**, a rock & roll/rhythm & blues band. Checks & money orders should be made payable to: The National Council of Churches/Burnings, and sent to Rebecca Severson Intergroup Consulting, 1128 W. Farwell, Chicago IL 60626; 312-338-3858.

ReBuild!

- 10 women in the United States die every day from domestic violence

- 9 out of 10 women *murdered* are murdered by men,
4 out of 5 are *murdered* at home



- During the U.S.'s 17 years of involvement in the Vietnam War, 58,000 American men were killed. During the same years, 51,000 American women were *killed* by their partners

- a woman is in more danger at home than on the street

- 52% of all women *homicide* victims were *murdered* by husbands or ex-husbands

Source: Women's Action Coalition, P.O. Box 477525, Chicago IL 60647-7525 • 312-918-9161

Spear & Shield Publications
1340 West Irving Park Road
Suite 108
Chicago, Illinois 60613