

# Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504-1911

November 2011

## Steps Against Juvenile Life Without Parole

## Campaign to End the New Jim Crow In Solidarity with Occupy Movement



The shameful actions of the United States cover many different areas of daily life. Two of the worst among them concern the operation of our police, court, and penal system. There are at least 80,000 people held in some form of solitary confinement in this country. And there are over 2,000 people, underage at the time of the crime they have been convicted of, with the sentence of Life Without the Possibility of Parole. Only the United States and Israel impose this punishment, in violation of numerous international treaties and covenants.

The Massachusetts legislature is currently considering bills (S.672 and H.1346) that would eliminate such sentences for those convicted of murder as minors. This proposed juvenile justice reform would directly affect the 59 convicted of murder while underage currently locked up for life in Massachusetts prisons. If enacted, the legislation would empower the state parole board to consider such people for parole under certain very strict and limited conditions.

Another positive possibility could come from the U.S. Supreme Court which in early November agreed to hear together two cases on the issue of whether sentencing young teenagers involved in killings to die in prison violates the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The cases to be considered (Jackson v. Hobbs, No. 10-9647 out of Arkansas from 1999, and Miller v. Alabama, No. 10-9646, from 2003) concern those who were 14 or younger when they were involved in murders. There are about 70 such people imprisoned. The legal arguments will be about the rarity of such sanctions and the inability to present mitigating circumstances.

The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow stands in solidarity with Occupy Oakland and denounces the brutal attack by the police on their encampment. Oakland is predominantly a city of people of color, and this assault reached new levels of violence. The attack was aimed at those most victimized by the racial and economic violence in a city devastated by police brutality, foreclosures and unemployment. The raid underscored the depths of repression meted out against the poor and people of color. We condemn this racist violence and pledge our solidarity and support with our sisters and brothers.

We stand in support of the Occupy Movement everywhere. The 1% has long prioritized building prisons, criminalizing people of color and policing our neighborhoods over the kinds of investments that sustain our communities: jobs, housing and social programs. Nearly \$70 billion is spent each year to keep people in cages and in the grip of the prison and parole systems, institutions that only perpetuate economic injustice through the collateral consequences of a felony conviction and the new Jim Crow. A society where the majority of those behind bars, where the disproportionate number of those unemployed, hungry and without fundamental rights are people of color, speaks for itself: this is a world we are struggling to transform.

The 99% are the incarcerated and the formerly-incarcerated, the victims of racism and the police, the unemployed and the evicted. We ALL stand to win when these injustices are uprooted. The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow is in solidarity with the Occupy Movement everywhere and joins the resistance to the 1% who aim to destroy our lives.

[so far we only have their e-mail address: endnewjimcrow.com -- we'll keep trying.Ed]

## CRIME OF THE MONTH

Street crimes are said to cost \$3.8 billion a year. But corporate crime costs much, much more. Fraud in the corporate health care system alone is said to cost \$100 billion to \$400 billion per year. The savings and loan fraud of the 1980s cost \$300 billion to \$500 billion. The bank bailout from three years ago cost \$800 billion in just one day.

Statistics tell us that there are about 16,000 people in the United States murdered every year. Compare this to the 56,000 who die every year on the job or from occupational diseases such as black lung and asbestosis. And, in addition, the tens of thousands of others who fall victim to the silent violence of pollution, contaminated foods, hazardous consumer products, and hospital malpractice.

These deaths are often the result of, at best, extreme recklessness. Yet, they are rarely prosecuted as homicides or as criminal legal violations. The large corporations that commit such acts don't get prosecuted because they can influence laws through campaign donations and other bribes, and can get laws passed that make their dangerous activities legal. For every company convicted of health care fraud, there are hundreds of others who get away with ripping off Medicare and Medicaid.

U.S. courts may now consider corporations as persons. But they are never poor or of color as most of those imprisoned are. Corporate capitalism is our crime this month. And the U.S. legal system is one of the perpetrators.

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Copies of the Newsletter will be included in all correspondence we send out. To receive our monthly issues regularly, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address) -- up to 12 at one time.

Please continue to send us address changes and renewal requests, in order to receive the year-end holiday card/new calendar.

Also, please note that the only address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. And remember: NONE OF US ARE LAWYERS OR LEGAL WORKERS.

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making our Newsletter available on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: <http://www.realcostofprisonsproject.org/coalition.html>. This is a GREAT site!

We continue to depend on our readers' contributions to be able to go on with our work. Thank you so much for your support!

DEDICATED TO TROY ANTHONY DAVIS  
MURDERED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

"As long as we refuse to give up, we haven't failed. We'll be doing what Troy would have wanted us to do."

--Marina Correia, Troy's sister  
STOP ALL DEATH PENALTIES--EXECUTIONS &  
LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

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### EDUCATION BEHIND BARS NEWSLETTER

A forum to provide prison education news, research updates, commentary, observations on effective teaching methods and specific experiences. Published bimonthly; submissions accepted from incarcerated and non-incarcerated people. Contact: PO Box 69, Berryville AR 72616.

### PEN PALS FOR LWOP PRISONERS

There are about 10 LWOP prisoners who have requested pen pals from the Campaign to End the Death Penalty (National office: PO Box 25730, Chicago IL 60625). We would like to get them pen pals right away.

### THE SAN QUENTIN NEWS NEEDS HELP

The San Quentin News prisoner-produced newspaper reporting and editing is done by prisoners. The prison print shop was closed in 2010 and since then printing has been outsourced and paid for by donations to the non-profit Prison Media Project. To continue the paper, new support is needed. Contact: San Quentin News, San Quentin CA 94964, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com)

### Sab26.11.2011Ultimas Noticias-EGIPTO

A dos dias de las parlamentarias, se avisora un gobierno de unidad: Mientras miles de personas mantienen la protesta que hace una semana iniciaron en la Plaza Tahrir para exigir la renuncia de la Junta Militar gobernante desde la caida de Hosni Mubarak, el nuevo primer ministro egipcio, Kamal al Ganzuri, y el lider del Consejo Supremo de las Fuerzas Armadas, Hussein Tantawi, mantuvieron un encuentro con los postulantes presidenciales Amro Musa y Mohamed al Baradei para asumir un nuevo gobierno de unidad

### 3RD YEAR OF MULTI-YEAR RESIST' GRANT!!!

We at the Coalition for Prisoners' Rights/Prison Project of Santa Fe are pleased and proud to have received in October not only the third year of our third, three-year grant from RESIST, but also a long awaited visit with three of their staff members. It was great to be able to welcome them to our community and to introduce them to some of our allies and friends. Thanks you so much for coming to see us and for your on-going support!!! Contact info, new applicants welcomed: 259 Elm Street, Somerville MA 02144, 617-623-5110.