



### Hunger Strikes Continue to Spread Like Wildfire

Building momentum after last year's nationwide prison strike and a spate of uprisings in the closing weeks of last year, 2019 has seen a surge in the use of hunger strikes as a broadly-applied tactic for challenging prison officials, rendering abuse visible, and demanding immediate changes to prison conditions. Recent actions of the sort can be seen challenging the capitalist-police state's authority in several locations including, "February 15, 2019: Hunger Strike at Suffolk County House of Corrections, Massachusetts; February 9, 2019: Hunger Strike at Yuba County Jail, California; February 2, 2019: Hunger Strike at Tabor Correctional Institution; February 1, 2019: Food Strike at Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Washington; January 25, 2019: Hunger Strike at Western Women's Correctional Facility, New Mexico; January 20, 2019: January 14, 2019: Hunger Strike at Metropolitan Correctional Center, New York; January 9, 2019: Hunger Strike at California State Prison, Corcoran, California; January 2, 2019: Hunger Strike at Polk Correctional Institution, North Carolina; January 1, 2019 (exact date unknown): Hunger Strike at El Paso Processing Center, Texas." An interesting thing to consider alongside these more well-publicized actions are the likely hundreds if not thousands more people around the country involving themselves in smaller acts of food and "nutrition" refusal, some times as individuals or in groups as small as two. Another important point to emphasize is how prisoner hungerstrikes are not just performative actions used to achieve a short term objectives. The principled self-deprivation of food and nutrition is foremost experienced as a "life or death" struggle. In many instances such acts of refusal symbolize the prisoner's last chance to die with dignity in the face of utter dehumanization and state-enforced social death.

### Haitian Prisoners Escape Captivity in a Joyous Blast of Freedom

78 inmates held in a prison in southern Haiti escaped from captivity. The detainees reportedly made their escape from Aquin prison while police were distracted by the massive anti-government protests sweeping the country by storm. A reminder that these violent structures of captivity will fall down: Freedom will come. We cannot tolerate this fascist system any longer.

### New Project Maps Prisoner Resistance

Perilous Chronicle (<http://perilouschronicle.com>) is a new digital research project that seeks to document all acts of prisoner unrest across the US and Canada from 2010 through the present. The site already reports on over 200 instances of prisoner unrest over that time period and we are always looking to add additional events. If you have information that you would like to contribute to the project, you can reach them at [perilouschronicle@protonmail.com](mailto:perilouschronicle@protonmail.com) or send us a letter to P.O. Box 381, Tucson, AZ 85702. If you have information about prison resistance that meets the criteria for their site, please write to them with as much information and documentation as possible. Please note that outgoing mail may be monitored and do not send information that may be incriminating to yourself or others. Perilous is a volunteer-run collective and is unable to guarantee a response to your letter.

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# ABOLITION IN MARCH 2019 ACTION

# RESISTANCE



### New York Jail fight Heats Up!

Despite widespread popular opposition to jail expansion by New Yorkers most impacted by the PIC, mayor Bill de Blasio still continues to promote his plan for four new "borough-based" jails. He has done so under the guise of "closing" the horrific Rikers Island, which is alleged to be replaced by these four new jails. Despicable, right? In response, abolitionists are arguing that Rikers be shut down immediately and NO NEW JAILS should be built. In fact, a dynamic citywide coalition of community organizers are demanding the city government end its desired jail expansion altogether. Over the last several months, such activists and neighborhood leaders have come together in numerous convergences, disrupting townhall meetings, holding press conferences, and engaging in on-the-ground campaign building against de Blasio's racist penal-expansionist policies. The No New Jails NY movement is arguing that the city invest instead in providing life-affirming services and the reduction of policing and carceral infrastructure. Also in NYC, the Metropolitan Detention Center (Brooklyn) has been the site of contestation and major outside protests, after a series of widely publicized abuses and instances of neglect, jail administrators hiding prisoners at freezing, death-inducing temperatures. These abuses have been framed by many abolitionists as an entry point into creating larger public conversation about how such violence is inherent to the site of imprisonment in general, and MDC is a microscopic example of a larger systemic problem.

## Cynthia Brown Granted Clemency, result of 10-year struggle

After 15 years of incarceration for defending her life, Cynthia Brown is finally released. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam commuted her sentence following ongoing public support for her freedom. She was "free'd" on August 7, 2019 is now on parole for another ten years. Survived and Punished's Mariame Kaba says "I think some things that people probably know intuitively is that black children don't get to be children. There's a kind of adultification of children, particularly black children and children of color. So, Cynthia, at 16, wasn't seen as a young person; she was seen as an adult already, basically. And they put her on trial as an adult... she ends up in a situation where she has got to figure out if she's going to, you know, take — potentially put herself at risk of dying or if she's going to take action. She chooses to take action. She's punished for it. So, she's punished, basically, for survival." Brown's fight for freedom and the struggle that remains for thousands of incarcerated survivors is paramount for abolitionist to learn from. Strong defense committees are an effective tool for resisting the prison regime and growing abolitionist consciousness through diligent publicity.



## Historic Victory in Los Angeles, Jail Plans Rendered Obsolete

A statewide coalition of activists and community organizations just won a decade-long struggle to oppose the construction of a new jail in Los Angeles, California. The plans were announced in February 2019, and the win has sent vibrations of energy throughout the outside movement. Prison activist communities should be taking the lessons of this coalition and applying them to struggles against jail and prison construction in other regions where statewide organization for solidarity is necessary.

## Hundreds of Palestinian Prisoners Launch Protest and Hunger Strike

Approximately 1,200 Palestinians imprisoned in the Zionist Ofer Prison launched an open-ended hunger strike in February, in protest against the occupation's abusive violations and harassment, Shehab News Agency reported. 150 Palestinian prisoners were wounded when Israel's Special Military Police took siege of Ofer Prison, leaving six prisoners with fractures, 40 wounded, with others suffering injuries from rubber bullets and tear gas. In response to the settler state's crackdown, prisoners have continuously been refusing to eat and rejecting offers by administrators unless prisoners (and their advocates) were represented in the meetings. In other news, Palestinian revolutionary, Khalida Jarrar has been released after 20 months in an Zionist prison. Jarrar, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) continues to speak out about the cruel methods that Israeli forces use to police Palestinian prisoners daily.

## End Money Bond Movement Going Strong in Several States

Chicago and New York are two key states in the struggle to end cash bail, but a nationwide movement has been at it and increasing in numbers for some time. Chicago anti-prison activists, in the closing months of 2018, held several consecutive demonstrations including an action occupation of the lobby room at Cook County courthouse. New York activists on the other hand have been actively working to frame their campaigns in terms of a non-reformist reform demand, as the potential that ending such bail practices hold includes the freeing of hundreds of captives.



## Uprisings Continue to Shake U.S. Prison Administrations

Prisoner direct action revolts have been confirmed in numerous locations so far this year, with over seven noted including, March 11, 2019 Uprising at Maui Community Correctional Center, Hawaii; March 8, 2019: Uprising at Crawford County Detention Center, Arkansas; March 4, 2019. Uprising at The Hills Youth and Family Services, Minnesota; January 30, 2019: Attack on Guards at Elmira Correctional Facility, New York; January 20, 2019: Uprising at Lee County

Juvenile Detention Center, Iowa; January 6, 2019: Attack on Guard at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran.

## A Momentous National Struggle for Prisoner Voting Rights is in The Works

The anonymous and steady growing Jailhouse Lawyers Speak network (shorthand JLS) is building momentum in its grassroots-supported Right 2 Vote campaign. There organizing is importantly "strategic." While the group is abolitionist in its long-term vision, they organize among a coalition of organizations ranging from liberal reformist to radical grassroots action orgs who are fighting for the legal right of imprisoned peoples to participate in electoral politics. While some might try to argue that this is a reformist struggle at base, it goes without question that the efforts to give our loved ones in prisons and jails the right to vote enables a new base for local interventions in the municipal machinery of the prison industrial complex. It is what Ruthie Gilmore would call a "non-reformist reform" initiative that furthers the longer-term project PIC abolition. It is also national struggle that for many years has been led by other national organization of imprisoned and formerly-imprisoned community organizers, most certainly All of Us Or None.



## Update on Vaughn Uprising Trials in Delaware

In Delaware, 2017, prisoners at Vaughn Correctional Building C took over the facility and held several guards & a counselor hostage while demanding improvements to poor and abusive living conditions. The courts have recently dropped charges against most of the remaining defendants in the Vaughn murder trials. Prosecutors will proceed with charges against three of the nine inmates left to stand trial after securing just one murder conviction so far. Solidarity to the remaining defendants. All power to the people!



## Queens DA Accountability Coalition Waging Strong Resistance

Bill Perry writes, "Dozens of justice reform advocates spent much of Martin Luther King Jr. Day rallying on the steps in front of the Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens Monday. Braving freezing temperatures, a new coalition of grassroots organizations and advocates from around the five boroughs announced on Jan. 21 the launch the Queens for DA Accountability Coalition in order to fight for decarceration and radical reforms in Queens, now that Queens District Attorney Richard Brown has announced he won't seek re-election to an eighth term in office. Queens is the fourth-largest county in the United States, with the largest immigrant population, and activists point to Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's shocking upset in last June's Democratic Primary — when she defeated incumbent Congressman Joseph Crowley, the 4th ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives — as a historic grassroots win to build on." (QNS) Queens for DA Accountability is a network of community activists centering black and brown, TGNC, immigrant/migrant, indigenous and other communities most violently impacted by the PIC. The decarceration of Queens, NY is hoped to be achieved by holding its District Attorney and other elected officials accountable to the demands of the people, reducing immediate harm while also fighting to dismantle the broader carceral state.



## More Abolitionists Needed for the Fight in Dwight

About an hour and a half's drive from Chicago, anti-prison activists and abolitionist organizers are congregating in Dwight on a more frequent basis to challenge the proposed construction of a ICE immigration detention facility. Advocates from across the Midwest spoke out in mass contestation of the proposed construction, which will likely be the home of criminalized migrants targeted and abducted throughout the Great Lakes and upper prairie states. While the town has decided to move ahead with construction, demonstrators vowed that they will not stop until the facility plans are rescinded. This means that future actions may be on the horizon in this rural area, where outside activists may even have to put their physical bodies on the line, like the #NODAPL water protectors, and take over the land that is annexed and allotted for construction. There are opportunities for abolitionists to connect several other campaigns against racist state violence given the likely rise in upcoming actions, so folks with the #AbolishICE, #SanctuaryNOW, post-#NoCopAcademy, and #AbolishGangDatabase campaigns can grow alliances by connecting the dots with this proposed expansion of the PIC in Dwight.

