

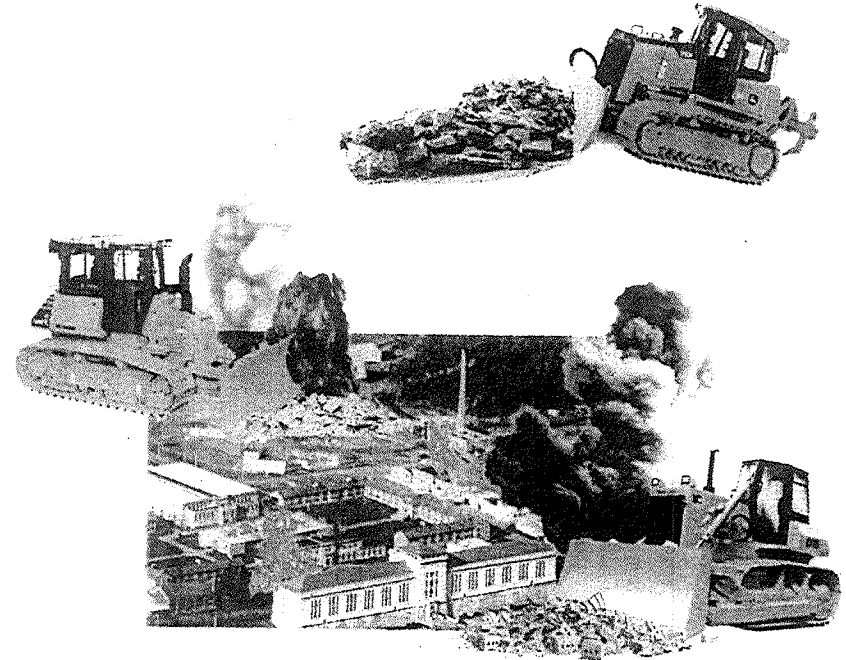
"Are people within prisons/jail/detention the only ones who are expected to engage in material disruption? To take risks? Are we just vessels of emotional solidarity?"

"Where are the vulnerabilities to prison management's morale and how does one remove the will of guards to endure?"

From Philly Anti-Capitalist

BULLDOZE SCI ROCKVIEW:

ABOLITION, PRISONER SUPPORT, AND RESISTANCE TO GENOCIDE IN PA-DOC



THE FINAL STRAW RADIO - APRIL 7, 2024

The Final Straw is a weekly anarchist and anti-authoritarian radio show bringing you voices and ideas from struggle around the world.

You can send us letters at:
The Final Straw Radio
PO Box 6004
Asheville, NC 28816
USA

TFSR: Thanks for joining us. Can you introduce yourself, tell us a little about what you do? What are the stakes of it? You are a supporter of people locked up by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections? In short hand, it's called PA-DOC?

Frott: So yeah... thanks for having me on the show. PA-DOC is the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. I'm a friend, comrade, and outside supporter of abolitionist comrades in a number of Pennsylvania prison facilities. I have loved ones imprisoned by PA-DOC specifically. I'm speaking as myself here. But I'm also sharing some perspective from a decentralized network of people who are negatively impacted by policing and incarceration, and who are autonomously organizing to expose the genocidal conditions of PA-DOC. On both sides of the wall.

Right now, we have been escalating our support for a specific struggle at SCI Rockview. The demands of this struggle come from prisoners—they are from inside. The demands are for a group of guards, who hung nooses in the prison last November to face material consequences. What's happening at SCI Rockview is a cover up at the highest levels. A crackdown on dissent—at every point in the facility's chain of command. The locus, however, is the superintendent (the warden). We suspect maybe even further up in the DOC's chain, because Rockview is pretty fucked up. And there is a strong argument for the facility to be closed; from family of prisoners, locals, and from prison activists, that it could be closed tomorrow and no new prison ever be built again in Pennsylvania.

Prisoners have been speaking out about conditions in this facility, by filing lots of grievances against the guards and mailing letters to advocacy groups and non-DOC officials. This ushered in a wave of retaliation and, uh, repression against anyone who exposes this kind of atmospheric anti-Blackness.

So yeah, uh the type of prisoner support I have been involved in, for this specific struggle, has involved creating, uh... creating a presence, with others. Creating a visible and known presence with others on the outside, so that comrades on the inside can feel resourced, supported, and emboldened when they make decisions to take action. And so that, when they do take action against the conditions of their incarceration in PA-DOC, they always remain in public view. The structure of the regime is designed to make prisoner resistance invisible, or hidden to the so-called "free world."

I think it is important to also first say that much of this organizing and the activity we're talking about today is situated on unceded Lenape territory, occupied by the U.S. settler nation. At this very moment the United States... and this is related... The United States is facilitating the genocide of Palestine by Zionist Israel. The accelerated genocide war over there, as well as the anti-colonial war of liberation that Palestinians are engaged in, needs to be talked about more as the shared context for struggles against white-supremacist domestic warfare, against capitalism, against anti-Blackness, occupation, and genocide here on Turtle Island. Its a shared landscape with what is going on in PA-DOC, and the fight at SCI Rockview.

ABOLITION

REFORM

True Leap Press
Printing & Distribution
P.O. Box 5025
Concord, CA 94520

The address for True Leap's "Zine Distro" has recently changed. Our P.O. Box in Chicago has been closed since October 2022, and is now temporarily located in Concord, California.

Since 2017, True Leap Press has provided free print political education materials for people who are engaging in abolitionist study behind enemy lines. We offer over 200 titles in our new 2022 catalog, at no charge for people in prisons and jails. Topics of zines that we distribute include Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History of Prison Movements, Abolition, Feminism, Anarchism, Communism, and Organizing Toolkits, to name a few. All you have to do is send a letter asking for a catalog, or selections from the catalog if you already have one.

One common misunderstanding has been that the Zine Distro keeps a mailing list. We DO NOT keep a mailing list for the Zine Distro. All literature from the catalog must be requested on an as-needed basis. So every time you want something new from the catalog, please reach out with the request! Please don't be shy with the requests.

In some states, we have had difficulty getting zines inside due to mailroom censorship and repression. If this has happened to you over the last few years, please reach out and let us know. We keep all of our records of rejected mail, but have a feeling that many places just are not informing us of the rejections anymore at all.

Forward ever,
c

If you would like to contribute funds toward the printing and distribution of radical zines for readers in prison and jail, you can send money to the following links:

paypal: trueleappress@protonmail.com

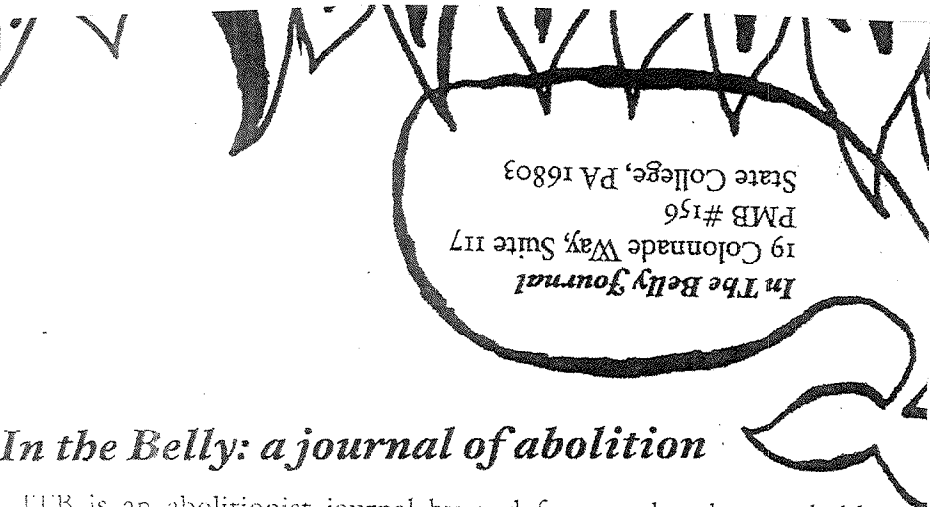
paypal.me: [@abolitionfundraising](https://paypal.me/abolitionfundraising)

venmo: [@zinemachine](https://venmo.com/@zinemachine)

if you would like to make a cash donation, we can be reached by mail

To learn more about the distro, please check out our 2024 digital catalog. The introduction explains what we've been up to the past year!

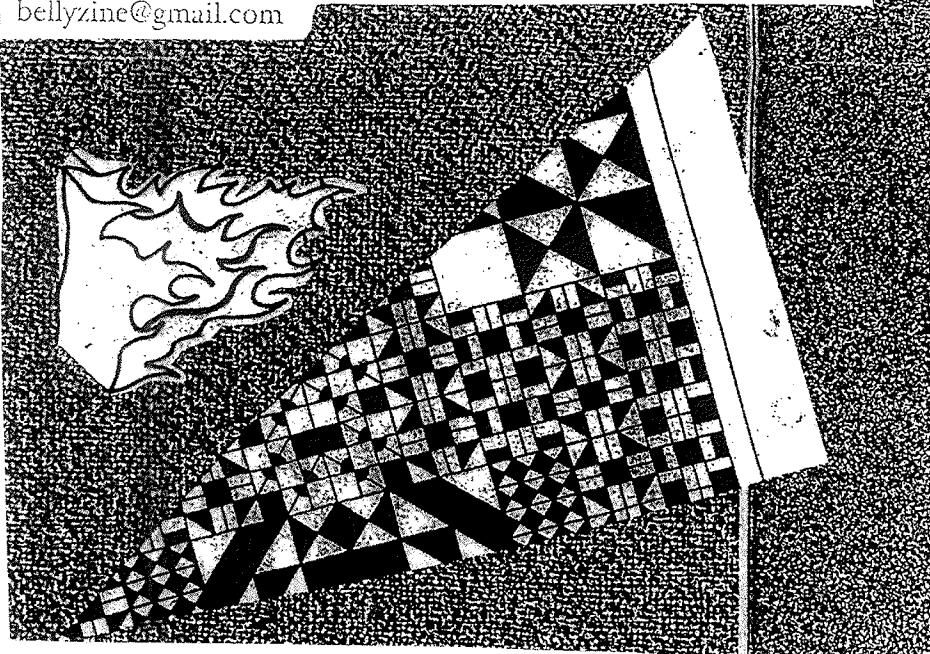
trueleappress.com
2024/FTP



In The Belly Journal
19 Colonnade Way, Suite 117
PMB #156
State College, PA 16803

In the Belly: a journal of abolition

ITB is an abolitionist journal by and for people who are held captive by the Prison Industrial Complex. It is written for people whose lives are impacted, determined, and overshadowed by punishment and incarceration daily: prisoners & their families, loved ones, friends, communities and comrades. Its purpose is to strengthen bonds between all of us to overcome the state's regime of isolation, to study and learn together, and to build a world without prisons. Subscription for incarcerated people is 100% free. Send submissions, art, poems, articles, reflections, ramblings and questions, comments, and feedback to their P.O. Box or bellyzine@gmail.com



TFSR: Can you tell us a bit about SCI-Rockview, where it's situated and who lives there?

Frott: So, SCI Rockview is in central Pennsylvania. It's near State College. Rockview is an interesting facility in the political landscape of PA-DOC. It is a place where in 2023 there was a double-digit death toll... um... and some severe instances of prisoners getting beaten by guards. There was a man who was pummeled by guards last year, injured bloody, and thrown down a stairwell. There was an outbreak of legionnaires disease at beginning of last year. (Legionnaires disease cannot be spread through person to person contact, it can only be spread through environmental conditions. So like the soil or water vapor, or moisture via ventilation and contaminated surfaces, but it can't be spread through person to person contact.) There was a staff member caught um, embezzling funds and all that happened was they were moved to another facility. And, like, there are active lawsuits and appeals of denied grievances filed against this facility and the abuses of correctional officers (like... COs). It's also a place that is critical in the infrastructural web of PA-DOC institutions, too.

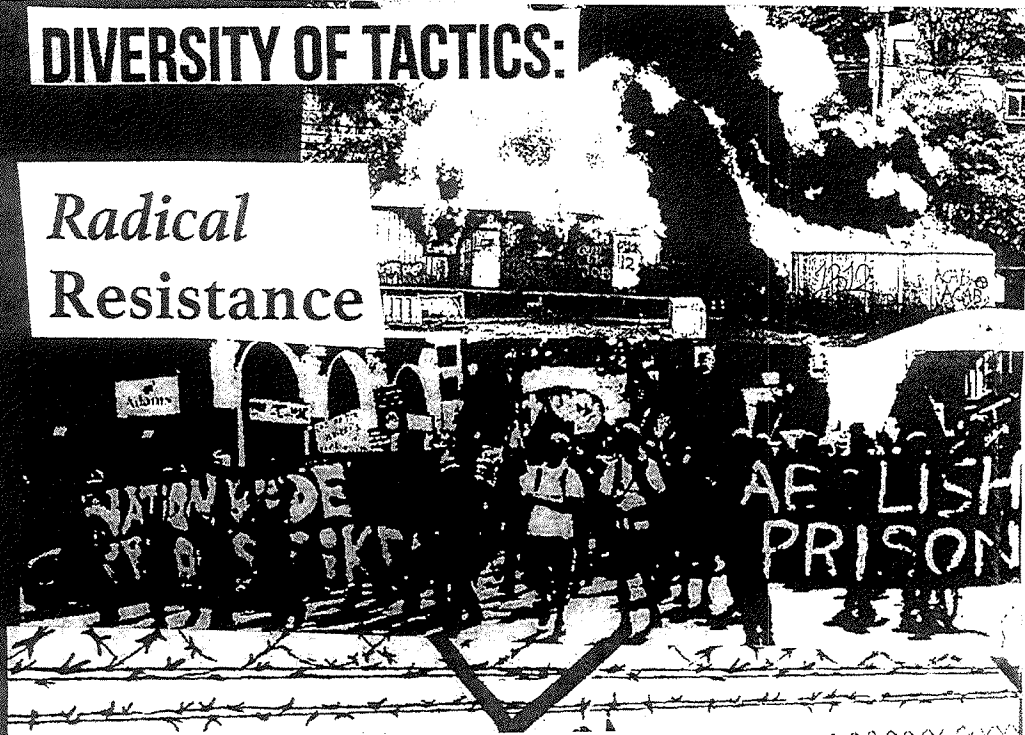
The plot of land that SCI Rockview occupies is also home to the Security Processing Center, where everyone mailing books to anyone across the entire PA-DOC sends their stuff to. Any book or publication, like a zine, uh most newsletters. It all goes to, like, this same area before getting sent to anyone held captive in a PA-DOC facility. It's also where they house the death penalty chamber. Even though there's a moratorium on death penalty killings in Pennsylvania, it's still where the death chamber is. SCI Benner Township is directly across the street, and is the hub where all the cars and buses are stored for transportation and movement throughout PA-DOC.

In terms of the history of the facility: in 2012 someone, um.. Someone there was maced to death in his cell. Asphyxiated. There was wide reportage of this that can be found online still and prisoners in the facility today still share the story of his death. Mumia even wrote an article back then about it in the Bayview Newspaper. So there's been a history of gratuitous violence and premature death — atmospheric anti-Blackness, right? — that goes covered up at this facility. There also is, uh, a history of cultural genocide: including bans and attacks on Black cultural wear and style, particular headwear that's related to Islam. Six years after a prisoner named Kerry X sued PA-DOC for this, the ban was temporarily overturned.

So there's been 11 deaths that we've counted. There were seven deaths from January to March of 2023 alone. The disease outbreak during this period was literally the result of like... the toxic built environment. In the following seven months after that, there were like four deaths — all have been reported by Prison Legal News. The string of beatings of prisoners by guards is less known and has not been publicly reported to my knowledge. This is something I personally just learned about a few months ago. We have people that can corroborate that, if anyone wants to reach out and so some more digging. There is a pattern of intense dishonesty and attempts to cover up aggressive CO violence in the facility.

DIVERSITY OF TACTICS:

Radical Resistance



Black prisoners have been punished for filing grievances. Solitary confinement and rapid transfers have been the results, while the guards still have enjoyed full impunity.

Everyone is free to support the cause as they see fit. We don't police each other's actions, or snitch on each other to pigs or the media.



ON DRY LAND

The Portuguese Slaver Diligent captured by H.M. Sloop Pearl with 600 Slaves on Board, Taken in Charge to Nassau, by Lieutenant Henry Samuel Hawker, 1838. Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Frott: Yeah, so a group of prisoners in the facility in November saw the nooses and they immediately contacted their family members on the outside, explaining in quite a bit of distress what happened. They feared for their lives, and even more so once they started speaking out about it. So... um... yeah... they proceeded to file grievances using the official process. And like... the grievances detailed literally verbatim facts. So, they go "fact number one, fact number two" etc. and so on. They detail everything: how what that they saw and how it was objectively there. Another thing they also did was add to the grievance some terms of "relief." Now, these terms of relief were very reasonable.

For any place of employment, you know, if someone were to hang nooses, there would be some sort of consequence. The complete opposite has happened in this situation, which I can go into in a moment. But essentially, the terms of relief that they were demanding were super reasonable. Like soooo reasonable that it is just silly to think that no consequences happened.

Basically the first demand that the prisoners were making was that this act should be investigated as a "hate crime." Now, this demand is also more about a demand for an external investigation by a source that is not the state or some official who the prison's in the pockets of. And there's been a pedagogy about the limits of the concept of "hate crimes" throughout this struggle... between everyone... specifically around the liberal language of "hate crime," right? One person brought up "Do people really want these guards to be imprisoned alongside them? Or is what we want, more precisely, eliminating their ability to hold power over vulnerable, captive population?" So, what is the abolitionist response here? I mean, first I would say it would be to doxx the guards, who have gone unscathed, maybe even go to their houses [laughter]. But I wouldn't wanna give people any ideas. I do believe

the guards should face severe consequences for their actions, and I think, because of how violently anti-Black the DOC is demonstrating itself to be in this fallout, an external investigation of the while entire system is easy to make the argument for.

So, like yeah, we're pushing that first demand still because I think the fact that the prison won't even do an investigation in its own terms of language of "hate crimes" is exposing quite a bit. The internal investigation was closed bottle knocked at the warden. We are not brand new, we know who is responsible for closing the investigation.

The second demand that was derived from the denied grievances is the firing of two of the guards. Now... there's a third guard, who is the subject of the third demand, and the demand is for this third guard to get mandatory therapy. [Light laughter under breath] Now, we initially were not going to share publicly why this guard is supposed to get mandatory therapy instead of being fired with the other two. But at this point, they are bringing this on themselves. The third guard begged for mercy [laughter] ... actually begged for mercy from the prisoners who caught his ass. It was an act of mercy that this person get mandatory therapy instead of being fired because his wife allegedly is a woman of color and he did not want this to leak out.

So, we have these three demands, and they've become the demands of a larger campaign because of the refusal of not just the facility, but also PA-DOC more broadly to do literally anything. They have done nothing. It's March 28th right now, and this event happened in late-November. That was when the nooses were witnessed.

TFSR: So when did prisoner resistance to this begin to uptick?

Frott: I can speak for myself, I learned about the noose incident in the middle of December, from a friend of mine, who was imprisoned in the facility. He was the first person to be punished when news of the so-called "noose incident" started leaking out. Alejandro Rodríguez-Ortiz—who goes by the name "Kaona." The nooses were seen the last week of November. December grievances were submitted, and not all of them were officially filed by the grievance coordinator i believe....

When it became clear that the grievance process stalled out, we decided in January to initiate a phone and email campaign. Folks outside began to spread word to other folks on the outside in a very autonomous, decentralized-network kind of fashion. So, there hasn't actually been one sole locus of who is interacting with the prisoners and who is leading anything right now, which is great. If people are listening and connected with people inside Rockview, we're encouraging you to share news with your people inside, about what has gone down at the facility in recent weeks. It is lots of people finding each other through this struggle. Engaging in conversation about strategy, openly online and in print only publications, and figuring out how to collaborate on the fly. There are longstanding networks of mutual support that have propelled action forward on the outside. And there are new encounters and alliances striking up it seems nearly every day.

Now, that being said, there is definitely a set of abolitionist principles guiding this struggle, specifically. And that is: we believe the gratuitous anti-Black-chatel terror of SCI Rockview not only needs to be exposed but destroyed. Can we get together around a facility like this, like people are essentially trying to do in other states, or in other countries... Could this fight against Rockview serve as a specific struggle or space of convergence for all who desire to bulldoze PA-DOC?

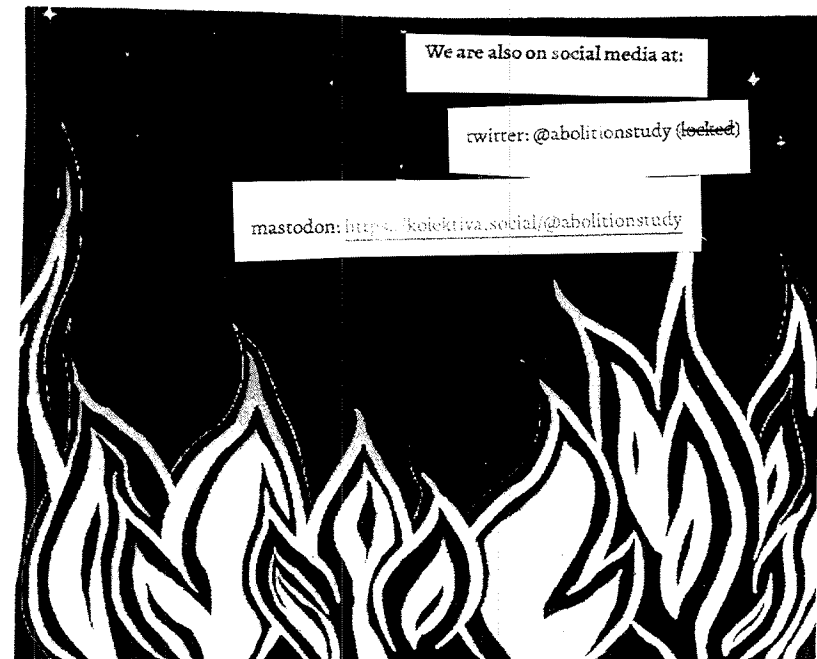
I think that is actually the defining feature of the discourse around this project and the basis of affinity that people involved seem to all mostly share. Reciting the number of abuses and amount of CO violence in this facility becomes mind-numbing. And it is not an exception to the rule but just a perfect, uh expository example of what PA-DOC is.

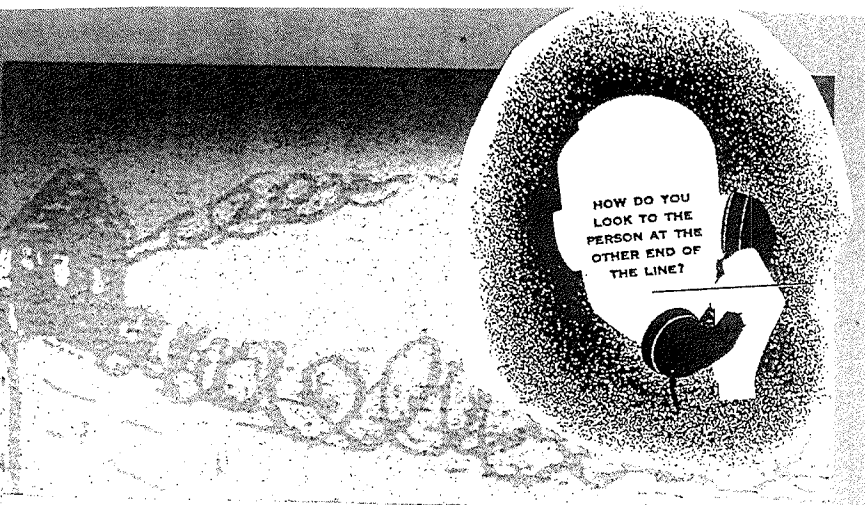
To compliment this ask from the inside, we believe it is equally important to attack & disrupt the everyday operations of structures and relations that compose PA-DOC's institutional form in ways that strategically compliment inside collective action.

One example that comes to mind is during the 2016 nationwide prison strike, which saw sporadic instances solidarity actions that did not abide by codes of non-conflictual demonstration.

For example, ABC Chicago in 2017 writes:

"In the context of prison struggle, a recent example of solid praxis that comes to mind was in Pittsburgh at Allegheny County Jail. About eighty prisoners began a work refusal and released a list of demands that included more case workers, better medical services, and a legitimate grievance procedure. After those on the outside heard of this sit-in, they took to the jail in masks, smashed windows of the jail, a security camera, and several police vehicles. Similar models of solidarity occurred around the September 9th prison strike where people all over the US and even other continents took action in solidarity with those on the inside rising up. This took the form of noise demos and marches, as well as direct attacks on prisons and those who profit off prison... This is a type of solidarity that can produce results."





The struggle from here now takes two lines... On the one hand we have defensive work: making sure the comrades who are singled out and face accelerated repression are materially supported and the prison knows we have all eyes on the unfolding situation. And on the other hand we also have offensive work: adjusting strategy to force PADOC to not only recognize the prisoner demands but to fulfill the requested terms of relief from which such demands emerge.



SCI Rockview is attempting to disrupt the cohesion of inside organizing by removing people who they think are its catalyst. They are simultaneously trying to force our energy as outside support into individually supporting comrades as they are isolated and targeted for reprisal.

The nooses, the deaths, the toxic conditions... all of this has been exposed by the fight of people inside the facility, but it is also being exposed in other facilities as well. For instance, at SCI Phoenix there is a growing campaign to end the weaponization of food as punishment. There is a "feed-in-cell" policy that has been used since the pandemic's start in 2020... it is used as a disciplinary tactic and form of punishment according to a comrade who recently wrote me. There are also outright bans on in person visits and terrible treatment of families in the visiting room. All of these smaller grievances, when combined and you add them up reveal the intolerable conditions that we're up against. And none of this is corruption, in the slightest. Always remind people that this is the normal functioning of the regime. Much of this abuse is like sanctioned and condoned in DOC policy.

To return to SCI Rockview, there has been a lot of unity among prisoners in this facility throughout this entire process, and it has been generated largely because the guards are so fucked up. The conditions are fucked up. And this is one of the reasons why the administration has moved so swift to cover up the noose incident, which is a very important thing to keep reminding people. After one of the beatings last year, the DOC actually sent in hostage negotiators to wander the facility, in the case there was an uprising. They know exactly the violence they impose on prisoners. They control what is seen and heard by the outside world. Since the resistance escalated, COs have now resorted to trying to exacerbate divisions between prisoners, even spreading misinformation about outside supporters to people inside.

This is also why they have so swiftly retaliated against some of the prisoners who have not stopped pressing to expose the issue. This is a cover up that we suspect is coming from a very high up place, and again. It is a tinderbox. And they know it. Two people targeted as "leaders" were actually thrown in the hole following a second wave of phone zaps two weeks ago—this is late March—and they were transferred rapidly. Charles Gilyard and Charles Carrington. Probably the quickest transfers I have ever first hand seen PA-DOC do. If you got people in Rockview tell them about alllll of this.



@abolitionstudy

... trying to silence the men. In my opinion, this was definitely a act of retaliation and right now we don't know his condition, what their trying to do to him or how this will play out. This institution is infamous for covering up questionable death, and now that the racism is being brought to light by way of proof with these nooses, u can say the heat is turned up and their on angles. but i'll keep up updated on what's going on because our voice can only be heard through out comrades beyond these walls. Peace and Unity always.

All general incoming correspondence with a PA-DOC prisoner needs to be sent to the DOC's third-party mail vendor Smart Communications at the address below:

Smart Communications/PA DOC

Prisoner Name/DCC Number

Institution Name

PO Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733

Contact

All photographs to a PA-DOC prisoner needs to be sent to the third-party mail vendor Smart Communications using the address format below:

Smart Communications/PA-DOC

Prisoner Name/DOC Number

Institution Name, PO Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733

The PA-DOC requires all publications to prisoners be sent directly to a central Security Processing Center (SPC), at this mailing address:

Inmate name, Inmate #

268 Bricker Road

Bellefonte, PA 16823-1667

As of March 10th, prisoners have reached out to Pennsylvania officials at the Dept. of Corrections in a letter campaign, sending 100 copies of the grievance. Copies of the letter also were mailed to Governor Shapiro, Senator Fetterman, Senator Street, and various advocacy groups. The demands for relief in the original grievance have now become the platform of demands for this campaign. About 20 of the 100 letters were withheld by the prison. Activists on the outside are joining forces with prisoners to elevate their demands, flooding the phone lines of DOC offices, assisting with outreach to media, and circulating the stories of prisoners who have found unity in opposition to the facility's virulent institutional racism.

In any other workplace, hanging a noose would be grounds for immediate termination. However, Nicki Paul, the superintendent's assistant and "grievance coordinator" informed the public that they self-investigated their staff and found they did nothing wrong. When family and friends of prisoners in the facility called *en mass* between March 18th and 25th to voice their concern, Paul was flippant, dishonest, and dismissive to nearly every caller. Several family members of prisoners felt incredibly disrespected by the behavior of Paul and other staff who answered their calls. In the process of calling in, it also became known that Paul holds several other titles within the prison, including "staff officer," "lieutenant's assistant," and "community liaison." Samuel Condo, a PA-DOC official responsible for overseeing SCI Rockview, was called over a dozen of times to no avail. When contact was finally made with Condo, he simply would redirect calls back to Nicki Paul whose multiple roles on the prison staff create severe conflicts of interest.

Paul admits that SCI Rockview does indeed have video footage, yet the reasons why they refuse to make this footage public has not been given any reasonable justification. As of the week of March 18th, SCI Rockview has closed the internal investigation, choosing to protect the guards who did this hateful and racist act over the safety and well-being of the prisoners. In the meantime, the administration removed two prisoners from general population who brought the situation to public light. One was transferred out of the prison, and the other one is still in administrative custody, aka "the hole" under accusations of "encouraging group activity."

This incident is coming after a year that saw 11 prisoners die in custody. Seven people died amidst an outbreak of legionnaires disease, and four people died while in administrative custody (punitive solitary units with very little public oversight and severely limited communication access). Unfortunately, there is a well-known pattern of premature death and racist discriminatory practices (including beatings and verbal harassment) at SCI Rockview.

There is a resistance campaign that has emerged from the persistent actions of prisoners and outside supporters, who together are demanding an *external* investigation of the facility & its staff for the cover-up of hanging the nooses. The severity of retaliation for speaking out must also be considered a central object of investigation. We believe the inaction of officials at this facility is symptomatic of a deeper condition of antiBlackness, white supremacy, and class warfare that PA-DOC legally sanctions and politically condones. On both sides of the wall, people most impacted by the racism of SCI Rockview continue to uplift the demands of prisoners to investigate the noose incident as a hate crime, to terminate Sgt. Mosser and CO Richard, and to require mandatory therapy for CO Kirchner. While a grassroots campaign is indeed growing, and as PA-DOC slides further into dissonant inaction, the call for popular resistance to SCI Rockview's lethal conditions rings louder by the day.



MIDWEST BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Legal Materials

will send you legal materials upon **REQUEST BY CHAPTER and/or TOPIC.** (We are not able to provide legal advice or representation)

Columbia Jailhouse Lawyers Manual.

- Ch 1: How to Use the JLM
- Ch 2: Introduction to Legal Research
- Ch 3: Your Right to Learn the Law & Go to Court
- Ch 4: How to Find a Lawyer
- Ch 5: Choosing a Court and a Lawsuit
- Ch 6: An Introduction to Legal Documents
- Ch 7: Freedom of Information
- Ch 8: Obtaining Information to Prepare Your Case: The Process of Discovery
- Ch 9: Appealing Your Conviction or Sentence
- Ch 10: Applying for Re-Sentencing for Drug Offenses
- Ch 11: Using Post-Conviction DNA testing to Attack Your Conviction or Sentence
- Ch 12: Appealing Your Conviction Based on Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
- Ch 13: Federal Habeas Corpus
- Ch 14: The Prison Litigation Reform Act
- Ch 15: Inmate Grievance Procedures
- Ch 16: Using 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to Obtain Relief from Violations of Federal
- Ch 17: The State's Duty to Protect You and Your Property: Tort Actions
- Ch 18: Your Rights At Prison Disciplinary Proceedings
- Ch 19: Your Right to Communicate with the Outside World
- Ch 20: Using Article 440 of the New York Criminal Procedure Law to Attack Your Unfair Conviction or Illegal Sentence
- Ch 21: State Habeas Corpus: Florida, New York, and Michigan
- Ch 22: How to Challenge Administrative Decisions Using Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules
- Ch 23: Your Right to Adequate Medical Care

- Ch 24: Your Right to be Free from Assault by Prison Guards and Other Incarcerated People
- Ch 25: Your Right to be Free from Illegal Body Searches
- Ch 26: Infectious Diseases: AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and MRSA in Prison
- Ch 27: Religious Freedom in Prison
- Ch 28: Rights of Incarcerated People with Disabilities
- Ch 29: Special Issues for Incarcerated People with Mental Illness
- Ch 30: Special Information for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer Incarcerated People
- Ch 31: Security Classification and Gang Validation
- Ch 32: Parole
- Ch 33: Rights of Incarcerated Parents
- Ch 34: The Rights of Pretrial Detainees
- Ch 35: Getting Out Early: Conditional and Early Release
- Ch 36: Special Considerations for Sex Offenders
- Ch 37: Rights Upon Release
- Ch 38: Rights of Youth in Prison
- Ch 39: Temporary Release Programs
- Ch 40: Plea Bargaining
- Ch 41: Special Issues of Incarcerated Women
- Section IX: Appendices
- Appendix I: Addresses of Federal Courts & New York State Prisons and Their Respective Federal Judicial Districts
- Appendix II: New York State: Filing Instructions & Addresses of New York State Courts
- Appendix III: Addresses of New York District Attorneys
- Appendix IV: Directory of Legal and Social Services for Incarcerated People

WRITE THEM FOR
LEGAL PAMPHLETS!

(3-5 SELECTIONS
PER REQUEST)

Midwest Books to Prisoners
1321 N. Milwaukee Ave PMB #460
Chicago, IL 60622

cell-149



Initial Review Response

SCI Rockview
1 Rockview PJ
Bellefonte, PA, 16823-1664

02/05/2024 02:58

Inmate Name:	GILYARD, CHARLES J	DOC #:	AY3679
Facility:	Rockview	Unit Location:	A7
Grievance #:	1064117		

This serves to acknowledge receipt of your grievance to the assigned Grievance Officer. The response is as follows:

Decision: Grievance Denied
The grievance officer has reviewed the grievance and the supporting documentation. The grievance officer has determined that the grievance is not valid and the grievance is denied. The grievance officer has advised the inmate of the decision and the reasons for the decision. The grievance officer has also advised the inmate of the appeal process.

Response:
In your grievance you claim on 11/24/23 you saw two nooses hanging in the CO's office with name tags. You state you were offended by this, and the response given to you by the officers. You believe this is racist. You request relief that Sgt Mosser and COI Richards be terminated and hate crimes charged against them, and COI Kirchner be provided therapy.
This issue is currently being investigated. The findings of the investigation will be administratively addressed if needed.
Your grievance and requested relief is denied.

Signature:	
Name:	Gilbert
Title:	COI
Approver:	
Date:	2/5/24

CC: Facility Grievance Coordinator
DC-15

DC-ADM 804, Inmate Grievance System Procedures Manual

Section 1 - Grievances & Initial Review, Attachment 1-D

AY3679 Grievance #: 1064117

GILYARD, CHARLES J

Issued: 1/26/2016 Effective: 2/16/2016

Page 1 of 1

Inside Letter Campaign as Tactic

*Note: Several inmates were said to have filed grievances on this issue to no filing by SCI Rockview staff on these claims, and we need leadership to have these officers removed.

Around 3/13/24, a letter writing campaign was initiated by captive comrades in SCI-Rockview, mailing 100 letters to PA officials and advocacy groups disclosing the noose incident & level of racist abuse in this facility. Below are copies of one of the grievance letters that was mailed out (on 3/13) during this campaign, where we estimate about 80 out of 100 attempted letters made it out of the facility before the mailroom caught it. The officials listed below should have received these letters by now. We are going to email these copies to the offices mentioned, as well as others. In hopes that somebody will actually care that these guards have faced no consequences for their racist actions.

The demands from comrades inside the facility are concrete and straight forward: 1) Termination of Sgt. Mosser and c/o Richards; 2) Therapy for c/o Kirchner (this is the three staff who hung the nooses) 3) Hate crimes charged against Sgt. Mosser & c/o Richards.

Important to note is how a number of the original grievances over the last few months have gone unfiled. This might also be because, as we learned last week, the "grievance coordinator" at SCI Rockview is apparently also the superintendent's assistant. This is a conflict of interest, and apparently this is a similar phenomenon at other facilities. What a joke.

(Page 1 of 5)

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

To: The Honorable Secretary Laurel Harry, Governor Josh Shapiro, et. al.

From: [Inmate] Charles J. Gilbard, #AY-3679

SCI ROCKVIEW

Rockview Place Box 1

Bellefonte PA 16823

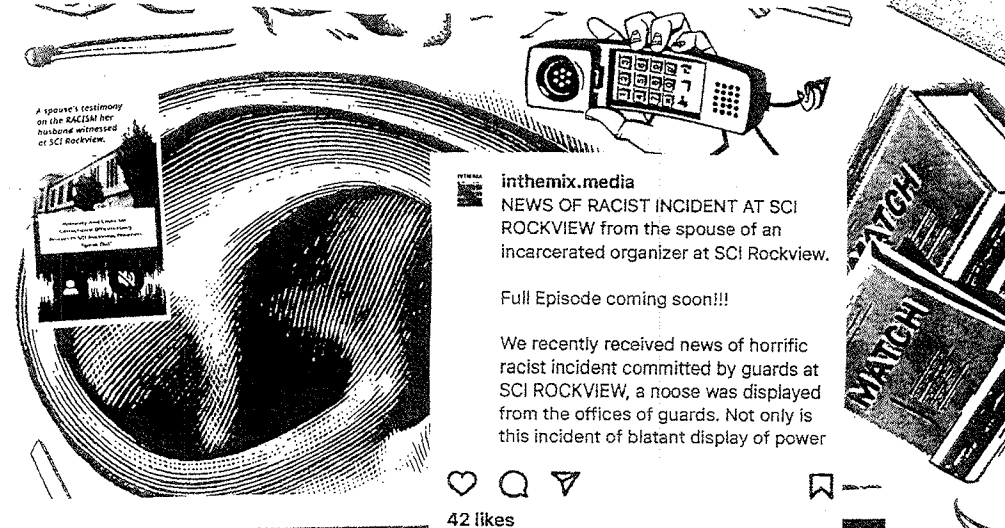
RE: DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (D.O.C.)

Dear Madam/Sir Secretary Laurel Harry, and Governor Josh Shapiro, et. al.
Congrats on your incumbencies. I [we] are writing from SCI Rockview for your leadership on what has become a hopeless circumstance of injustice, and another incident of racist and bigoted treatment of white officers toward "black" incarcerated people without accountability. Your offices has departments that addresses these type of racist and ethics violations in the D.O.C. and in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. We call on your leadership to address the foregoing grave matter.

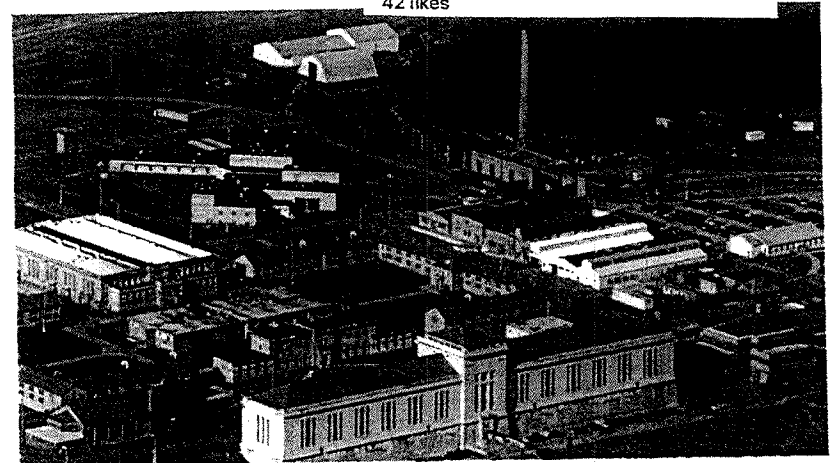
On the morning of November 24, 2023, here at SCI Rockview, on "A" UNIT, Correctional officers (c/o's) Kirchner, Richards and supervising c/o seargent Mosser hand twilled noose snares that binds closer the more it is drawn, reflective and indicative of the gallows and rows of nooses like those in which black slaves were hung from during slavery by whites, the Klu Klux Klan, during reconstruction, and the like. These nooses were hanging in a row of at least two or more in the bubble hanging low to the ostensible display for

This incident is coming at a time when in 2023, 11 prisoners died in custody. Seven people died amid an outbreak of legionnaires disease, and four people died while in the RHU (punitive solitary units with very little public oversight). Unfortunately, there is a well-known pattern of premature death at SCI Rockview. Most well known is an incident in 2012, when COs killed the prisoner John Carter during a "cell extraction" while he was in the RHU, in what other prisoners described as "turning his cell into a gas chamber" using 'non-lethal' weapon OC pepper spray. Carter's family never received justice for what the prison did to him, and PA DOC never acknowledged or reprimanded the guards who killed him.

In short, prisoner demands to investigate the hanging of nooses as a hate crime, terminate Sgt. Mosser and CO Richards, and mandatory therapy for CO Kirchner, need be taken seriously.



42 likes



incarcerated people to intimidate, harass, dislevel, upset and psychologically displace incarcerated people, where I [several black incarcerated people] experienced this psychological harm, some of us filed grievances with the intent to file lawsuits, and some of us was assured by SCI Rockview supervisory staff that these officers will be penalized for these appalling actions. However, these officers continue to patrol the facility compound, harass incarcerated people, glorify and weaponize these hateful actions, and oppress at the whim of their personal discretion on the SCI Rockview, D.O.C. compound.

Upon being apprised of these nooses being hung on this day which came to be termed "Black Friday," and which further substantiate the target of black incarcerated people symbolically, figuratively and literally, Unit Manager Knapp (from the best of my knowledge), apparently ordered the removal of these officers and they were not to return to "A" Unit. But sergeant Mosser has only been moved to the next block over, still reeking havoc on incarcerated people, while c/o's Kirshner and Richards are still posted and assigned to the unit walk just some feet distance from the unit of incident, as a snarky reminder that hate and racially distressing actions are tolerable by this Department of Correction.

However, this is contrary to Department of Corrections Code of Ethics policy which states:

The D.O.C. enhances public safety, reduce criminal behavior, that correctional employees will demonstrate integrity, respect, trust, a professional attitude, and confidence afforded "by the public and the inmates."



As of March 10, prisoners have reached out to Pennsylvania officials at the Dept. of Corrections in a letter campaign, sending copies of the grievance. Activists on the outside are joining forces with prisoners to elevate their demands, which continue to be dismissed by the administration at Rockview.

In any other workplace, hanging a noose would be grounds for immediate termination. However, the staff and administration at SCI Rockview continue to dodge public accountability. In fact, the prison has a history of fostering systemic racism, like in 2013 when admin blocked a Muslim prisoner from wearing religious garb. Kerry X. Marshall, then incarcerated at SCI Rockview, sued and six years later the courts determined that the prison had violated his religious freedom.

But these actions taken by these three (3) officers were not actions aligned with the department Code of Ethics, but instead were so repulsive, racist and hateful, that on behalf of us all, we call on the highest authorities to set a clear example that fomenting the remnants of torturous and barbaric evils of slavery, racism, bigotry and hate which instigates violence and psychologically displaces people of color, while violating the department Code of Ethics on such a large scale will not be tolerated, and remove these officers from the department indefinitely.

These officers violated the Department of Corrections Code of Ethics as follows:

A. General Accountability of D.O.C. Employees

"to perform their duties with integrity and impartiality and to avoid situations whereby bias, prejudice, or personal gain could influence official decisions."

A(1) Discrimination

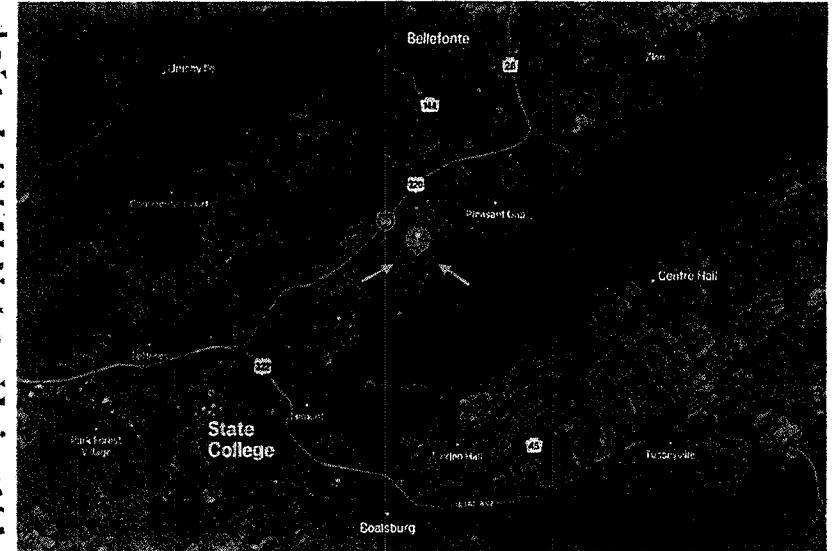
"to act in relation to all citizens of the Commonwealth without regard to age, race, color, ancestry."

E(1) Specific Rules and Regulations

"Each employee in the correctional system is expected to subscribe to the principle that something positive can be done for each inmate."

"This involves an intelligent, humane and impartial treatment of inmates."

Correctional Officers Hang Nooses and SCI Rockview Does Nothing



Press Release – March 13, 2024

Bellefonte, Pa. – On November 24, 2023, prisoners at SCI Rockview found two nooses hanging in the CO's office, displayed visibly for prisoners to see. When the prisoners asked the staff why the nooses were hanging there, they were told it was a joke. By December 4, prisoners filed a grievance to document what they saw, noting that the hanging of the nooses was "unethical, racially motivated, hateful, [a] deliberate debasement of black inmates" and "unsafe for inmates, staff [and] the whole prison in general." (For perspective: Rockview's prisoner population is 45% black.) In the grievance, they demanded that Sgt. Mosser and CO Richards be fired and investigated for a hate crime, and for CO Kirchner to get therapy. Captain Andrews, the head of security, denied the grievance over two months later by February 5, 2024 under the guise that it was "being investigated". However, the sergeant and Cos are still working in the prison to this day, with no repercussions except getting moved to another block.

Profanity directed to inmates, or vengeful, OR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF INMATES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED."

B(10) (Same)

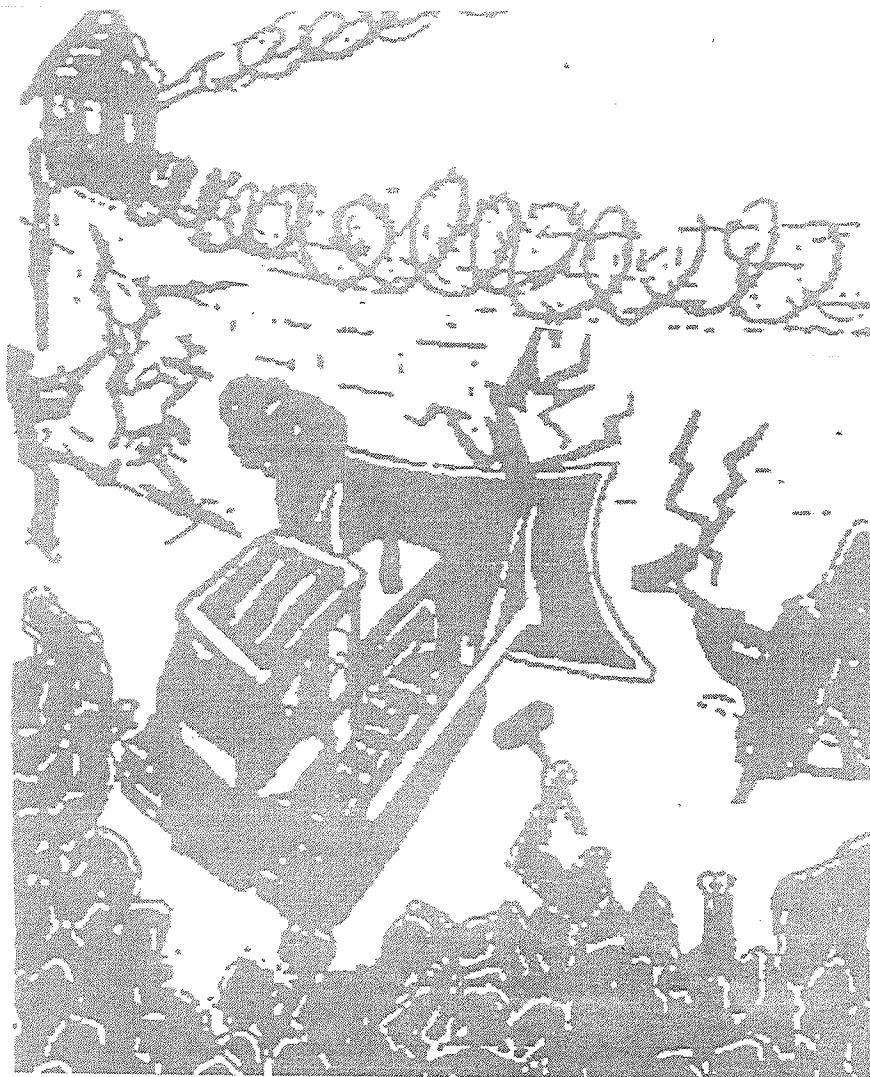
"Employees are expected to treat their peers, supervisors, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH RESPECT AND CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROPERLY AND PROFESSIONALLY AT ALL TIMES; UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT OR INSOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED."

C. Enforcement

"ANY EMPLOYEE WHO VIOLATES THESE PROVISIONS OF THIS CODE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO 'IMMEDIATE' DISCIPLINARY ACTION."

I [we] call on Secretary Laurel Harry, Governor Josh Shapiro, Senators, Civil Rights Attorney's (such as Bret Grote), prison organizations, Central Office (Office of Population Management), Supervisors, the Human Rights Coalition, Human Rights Watch Organization, inter alia, to have these corrections officers removed and fired from the department, and conjoin to the Departments Code of Ethics and subject these employees to immediate disciplinary action pursuant to these codes as outlined.

For any failure to do such in these racist and ill-regarded hateful circumstances would gaslight and encourage a climate of racial bigotry in the department by employees with impunity, and will taint to the tacit complicity of the department command chain, as we call on leadership from the top down to rectify this matter at once. I [we] look forward to your response and the responsible corrective actions.



Unity & Solidarity

AMONGST ALL THE PEOPLE:

BLACK, WHITE, ARABIAN, EUROPEAN,
MEXICAN, STRAIGHT, GAY, LESBIAN,
ETC., ETC. UNITE! UNITE!

AGAINST OUR COMMON
ENEMY: CAPITALISM

*Organized & inspired by
2/16/75 202
"Pop. Army 202"*

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,...

/s/ Charles J. [Signature]

*Note: Several inmates were said to have filed grievances on this issue to no filing by SCI Rockview staff on these claims, and we need leadership to have these officers removed.

- cc: Secretary of Corrections Laurel Harry;
- Governor Josh Shapiro;
- Senator John Fetterman;
- Senator Sharif Street;
- Prison Society;
- Attorney Bret Grote;
- Office of Population Management;
- Reconstruction Inc.;
- Human Rights Watch

{ 100+ copies was used }

↑
FACT

WE SENT COPIES TO EACH OF THESE ADDRESSES.

TFSR: Thanks so much for this discussion. Before we sign out, is there anything else you would like to share, or leave us to chew on as an audience?

Frott: Well last off, I'd just like to say that the demands of the prisoners who began this resistance in SCI Rockview, who are now scattered around PA-DOC after the retaliatory transfers.... the demands of these prisoners are very reasonable and concrete. They are something that people can rally behind in a way that removes power from the correctional officers without expanding the legitimacy of policing on the whole. All that is essentially being asked for is the firing of the guards, and for one to get mandatory therapy as an act of "mercy." And the other demands is that um.... That the facility be placed under an external investigation. This is beyond anything that a "hate crime" law can encompass, to be really real.... What you will find when you dig, even just at the surface level, is that this isn't corruption at all but a perverse, sadistic, procedural operating norm. What you'll see when you dig, even at the surface level, is a facility rotten at the roots, yet functioning as designed.

So, in terms of this specific struggle at SCI Rockview, after the experience working together, even over only the span of a few months, many of us would now like to see SCI Rockview condemned and closed, with no prison ever allowed to be built again in Pennsylvania. To bulldoze SCI Rockview is the idea, and then maybe bulldoze PA-DOC entirely. To do this, but to do so while also demanding that no other carceral facility be built in its place. We want immediate decarceration, prison closures, and the creation of more pathways to freedom. So yeah, we want this as part of an overall abolitionist vision—not only of freedom for individual people immiserated by captivity... Its a vision of total liberation for the entire criminalized-survivalist class. Free our people, free the land. End capitalism. End colonial patriarchy. And end this white Civilization death cult.

We agree with the comrade at SCI Rockview that "an assault on both fronts" is necessary, targets are everywhere. In the amerikkkan hellscape our lives are deeply embedded in the infrastructure of confinement. This is why we chose to attack the security van. Small actions like these can build capacity to be able to break down the prison walls.

- Destroy PA-DOC
- Fuck security guards
- Fire to the prisons
- some anarchists

Where are the logistical chokepoints? What are targets of attack and sites of disruption that don't result in severe backlash to comrades struggling on the inside? Where are the vulnerabilities to prison management's morale and how does one remove the will of guards to endure?

What is the relationship between a local-to-state government, the internal fiefdoms of prisons & jails, & the contractors whose fate is tethered to the regime's institutional reproduction? How can tensions or antagonisms between such entities be exacerbated by outside sabotage?

Security guards protect property. They help the police put people in prisons, they are part of the prison industrial complex.

As people attack property private security acts as the auxiliary of the prison and police state. With this in mind as well as reading about the conditions at SCI Rockview we slashed the tires of a Securitas van. This was a small, easy, and replicate-able action that you can do with a friend.

To bring this strategy to life we not only need comrades who are up for the task of directly attacking in solidarity with inside collective action, but we also need a range of people to take up this cause at the level of research, propagation, and expanding capacity for regional anti-repression work and community care.

We need people who can map the institutional form of PA-DOC. We need people to map the digital communications infrastructure. We need people that understand how the nodes of institutions that make up PA-DOC within Pennsylvania branch out to every corner of the US settler colonial territory, with offices, remote workers, contractors, etc... all within reach of someone who is willing to take action, yet simply needs a map to take part. We also need a more focused effort of people who are not involved in combative actions directly to participate in defending the fire of revolt as it spreads. This can be done by simply organizing letter writing nights to support people in the case that they catch charges for the risks they take. This can also be done by focusing in on building or strengthening networks that provide care and mutual aid within your local spheres of movement and community.

On Friday, November 24, 2023, the disgusting, racist ideals of the officers of SCI-Rockview in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, were given life in the form of nooses made from extension cords. They were displayed in the security bubble which ensured the most views by the prisoners and therefore the most impact. When asked by the prisoners to take them down, Sgt Mosser, Officer Kirchner, and Officer Richards simply laughed, stating that the display of these instruments of torture and murder was "just a joke."

Most of the prisoners took this display in stride. It was viewed as everyday and regular because of the type of corrosive environment that was cultivated there. Prisoners there see death and violence brought by "correctional staff" on a regular basis. Records will show how often people are killed there with "undetermined" autopsy results. Somehow murder at the hands of the uniformed officers isn't murder.

To date, these officers have faced no consequences for their actions. They are still employed and overseeing the prisoners in which they terrorized regularly. How do correctional staff teach accountability when they themselves commit crimes with impunity? Administrators turn a blind eye and support these ideals because it helps maintain control.

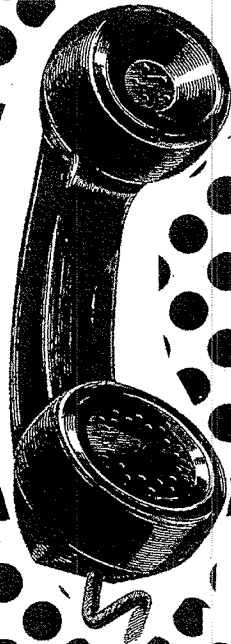
The changes necessary at SCI-Rockview won't happen without the everyday people, the tax payers that fund the prison, speaking out and acting out against the atrocities that have become everyday in their name. By not speaking against them, you're enabling and supporting their actions. Your inaction allows the racial and hateful violence to live and breed. How many more people have to die at the hands

of these murderers before you speak up and say that this isn't what we're funding? Til you speak up and say that this isn't okay and we're against this?

Kaona Colibri

[Alejandro Rodriguez-Ortiz]

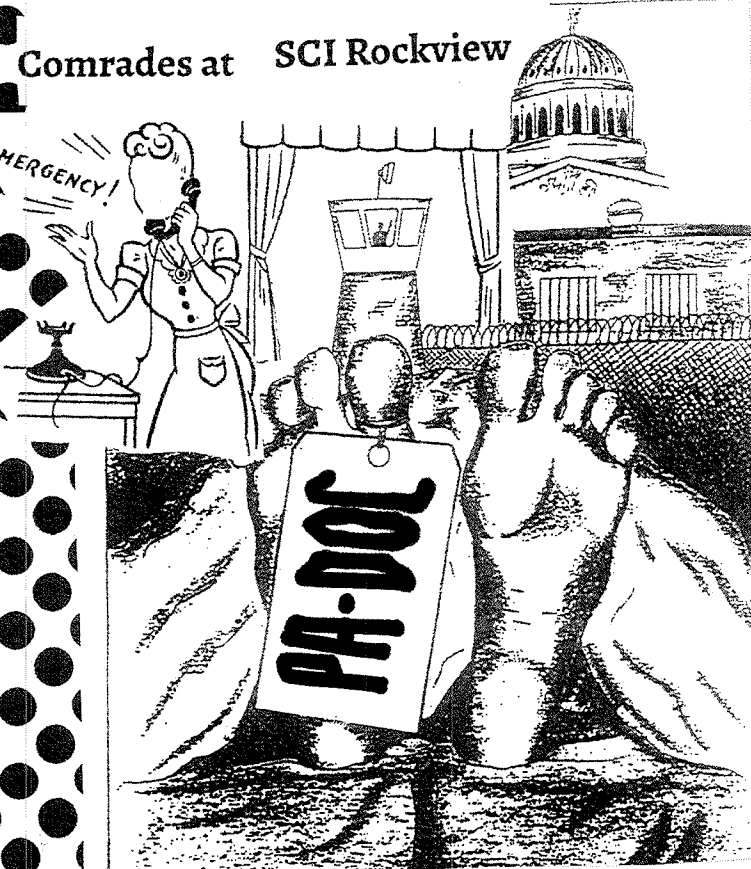
LIFT YOUR PHONE



Phone Zap in Solidarity with

Comrades at SCI Rockview

EMERGENCY!



What are the institutions, contractors, buildings, and other structures that enable PA-DOC to function in the first place?

If it is a prison "industrial complex" what is the constellation of sites that allow it to function, that give it coherence and life?

If the prison regime is upheld by numerous institutional connections & centers of gravity — that exist far beyond the "reified" site/scene of "the prison" itself — then where are the most impactful targets to attack in solidarity w/ prisoners taking collective action?

For abolitionists who are not inside the prison itself, what does disruption in solidarity with collective prisoner action look like beyond (only) non-conflictual protest?

Security Van Tires Slashed

Posted on March 27 2024 -

Are people within prisons/jail/detention the only ones who are expected to engage in material disruption? To take risks? Are we just vessels of emotional solidarity?

Where then, would the targets be, for outside abolitionists to exert greater pressure? How might this change perspectives of strategy? How might thinking more expansively about the terrain of engagement illumine new tactical horizons?

Or maybe the objective of pressuring the state to meet a specific demand from inside is the wrong way to practice attack and direct action altogether?

Yet strikes typically have demands. So what then do we do with our bodies, our (relative) mobility and access to information/resources/tools that are foreclosed to people who take collection action for particular goals while locked up?

Six days before that article was published on *Philly Anti-Capitalist*, some outside supporters of people imprisoned by PA-DOC released a position paper that .. uh um ... we also learned that this comes from longstanding set of discussions between comrades on the ins and outs. By people who have had extensive experience with support role tactics such phone zaps, care work, and other militant experiments with backing demands of collective action inside. So, you know, that piece is titled "Notes on abolitionist insurgency & prisoner support in Pennsylvania", published March 21st. It begins with a statement by one of the comrades who was removed from Rockview, but was there for the last few years. That part reads:

"As prisoners, we can riot & take control of the prison at any time, but that won't relieve us of this living death. We need our comrades in the world to take the fight out of the halls of legislation & to the prison walls themselves. Only then can we actually end this war. An assault on both fronts would make the difference between us banging on the walls & us breaking them down. When the world sees this, it will show that the facade of invincibility that the system has cultivated over generations of slavery is just that: an illusion."

Okay, so then the outside comrades, reflecting on his words, then write, very persuasively, about the need to level-up our outside forces. I don't want to really read the whole thing. I think people can just search for the title in a search engine. So what i want to do is pull out the over a dozen questions that are threaded throughout the piece.

How can we embolden our comrades on the outside (who are willing to take physical risks) to provide forms solidarity that actually give inside demands a little more teeth?

What does autonomous direct action in solidarity with collective action inside look like for abolitionists on the outside, and where are the targets that would be most decisive for attack?

How can we better develop collective capacity for decisive attacks on PA-DOC from the outside, in conjunction with demands on the inside?

What targets can we choose on the outside that do not exacerbate repression for the comrades situated on the inside? Or is this simply part of the equation that we must equip and be prepared for?

How, then, can inside and outside move at once? And in this context, how do aboveground formations move horizontally with an underground to fill in the gaps in work that one another is unable to do?

About

Monday 3/18 – Friday 3/22

Call anytime between: 9am – 5pm est / 6am – 2pm pst

Trigger warning: Mentions racist violence by guards at SCI Rockview

In November 2023, a group of guards hung two nooses in the office (bubble) at SCI Rockview – a location visible to roughly a hundred prisoners. Prisoners who witnessed the nooses have been outraged by this disturbing racist act, and have since demanded that these guards face consequences. In January we launched a two week phone zap campaign that forced PA-DOC main offices to contact the warden. While many Black prisoners remain tormented by this racist act, the guards responsible have enjoyed impunity, with officials in the facility even making attempts to silence anyone on the inside who speaks out. One captive comrade was actually transferred out of state because of their agitation around this issue, while another captive comrade's grievances have been outright rejected by the administration.

We have little reason to believe an internal investigation will achieve what the prisoners have been demanding, which includes the following:

- Investigate the hanging of nooses as a "hate crime" and take their impact seriously
- Terminate Sgt. Mosser and c/o Richards
- Mandatory therapy for c/o Kirchner

SCI Rockview has seen 11 deaths (that we know of) in 2023 and a severe pattern of racist discriminatory practices. Please join us in calling PA-DOC offices and officials, to further expose this incident and amplify the demands of our captive comrades.

Script for Calling

I am calling on behalf of a community of people who are distressed by a recent incident of antiBlack harassment by a group of CO's at SCI Rockview, who have faced no consequences for their racist actions. On 11/24/23, prisoners at SCI Rockview found two nooses made from extension cords hung by guards in the office (bubble). Two internal grievances have been submitted by prisoners who witnessed the incident, and prison officials have rejected both. We would like to make you aware that the facility admin has rejected both internal grievances, submitted by prisoners through the proper channels.

The guards have faced no consequences. We

have little reason to believe an internal investigation will achieve what the prisoners have been demanding, which includes the following:

- Investigate the hanging of nooses as a “hate crime” and take its impact seriously
- Terminate Sgt. Mosser and c/o Richards
- Mandatory therapy for c/o Kirchner

SCI Rockview Main Phone Line:

814.355.4874

Central Office Main Phone Line:

717.728.2573

Abuse Report 24/7 Voicemail Center:

1.800.677.0330

Laurel Harry, Secretary of Corrections

717.728.4109

Samuel Condo, Staff Assistant

717.728.4747

Tim Holmes, Chief Counsel

717.728.7763

When calling the SCI Rockview facility itself, you can request to speak with the admin or security. If you choose to speak with admin, here are their specs: Superintendent is Bobbi Jo Salamon; Deputy Superintendent of Central Services is Mike Rowe; Deputy Superintendent of Facilities is **Scott Woodring**; Business Manager is **Adam Beck**; Superintendent's Assistant is **Nicki Paul** (Nicki is also the grievance coordinator – and a big liar!). When you call the prison directly, ask to speak with any of these admin.

The hanging of two nooses is understood by many people imprisoned at SCI Rockview to be a hostile act and deeply offensive. Some are disclosing how these acts are part of a larger pattern of discriminatory practices used by correctional officers at this specific facility. If this was any other workplace, the act of hanging nooses would lead to severe consequences. The admin at SCI Rockview have not only displayed indifference to the racist act, but some even have made efforts to silence prisoners in distress by the incident. We urge PA-DOC officials to recognize the significance of the prisoner demands, which are derived from the exhausted grievances.

Philly Anti-Capitalist Philly Anti-authoritarian News

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SCI Rockview Autonomous Campaign

March 27, 2024 1:24 am

Submission

What is happening right now at SCI Rockview is an autonomous campaign to get two guards fired and for one to received mandated therapy as an act of “mercy.” An autonomous campaign means that it is open to *all* for participation, using tactics according to their own abilities and needs. It means it is decentralized and not led by a single party, non-profit, or institutionalized entity. It is a type of campaign that anyone who is impacted by the violence of PA-DOC can join in, anonymously or as their full legal selves. It means a diversity of tactics and direct action are on the table always. It is a type of campaign that has no registration form or membership fees. It simply means that if you are moved by or can relate to the unfolding struggle of prisoners at Rockview, then you are qualified to participate. The situation is becoming more dire by the day in this facility, with the staff initiating a backlash that has put multiple people in the hole (solitary) and even transferred one prisoner out of state.

One specific need that potentially can be fulfilled is further research into specific highly responsible prison officials, which is information available in the phone zap scripts and press releases. This information can be circulated somewhere where people familiar with this kind of research can encounter it, like Scenes from the Atlanta Forest or Philadelphia Anti-Capitalist.

Scenes:

<https://scenes.noblogs.org/submissions/>

Philly Anticap: phlanticap.noblogs.org

Abolitionist Study: <https://abolitioniststudy.com>

TFSR: So, what is an example of some of the stuff you mentioned that has been posted on *Philly Anti-Capitalist* recently. You mention *Scenes of the Atlanta Forest* has been accepting anonymous claims, statements, and reports as well? This is analysis and action coming from other local anarchists, beyond your immediate circles?

Frott: Yes, it is coming from multiple angles. Above-ground abolitionist networks and prisoner advocacy groups, have been organizing on legal and extra-legal fronts. Public calls for research, discussions about the principles of an autonomous campaign, all this is circulating. Coordinating with family members is happening. There is also an underground element, which feels distinct and separate. But it is hard to tell what that will look like as of now. There was an attack on security vehicles recently, inspired by the calls to mobilize against SCI Rockview. Multiple vehicles had their tires slashed. And the responsibility claim was by some anarchists on *Philly Anticap*. So there is potential for both attacks on infrastructure to give some teeth to the demands. And there is potential for this campaign to devolve into a more general struggle to close SCI Rockview. At least this is the feeling I gather.

We need help propagating this underground initiative, as some of us who have been most involved in this struggle to-date, on the outside, are constantly forced to interface with the prison facilities and administrators. So, we need more autonomous cells activated. And we need people to do this smartly and without trace. And when people take action, it needs to really be in line with the spirit of abolition and anti-authoritarianism. So permanent conflict with PA-DOC, until these very basic and reasonable demands are met.

More conversation about the difference between a "diversity of tactics" and direct action always can be had, for sure. The language if kind of used interchangeably in the materials coming out. But I think if the goal of an abolitionist revolutionary in this situation would be encourage others to act in ways that offer inside activity a little more staying power... like, to give inside demands a little more teeth... We need people to resort to more creative acts of disruption, ya know. And we need them to show for all that there's joy to be found in the attack.

I'd like to close with reading uh... reading two statements that were posted in the last two weeks. Both are on *Philly Anti-Capitalist*. Okay so I am going to read these three statements verbatim. But the following words are not mine directly.

The first is an excerpt from a piece on *Philly Anticap*, called "SCI Rockview Autonomous Campaign," published on March 27th:

TFSR: So you did a first wave of phone zaps in January, and then a more recent wave of zaps this past month? I noticed there is a timeline of this most recent zap on the website *Dreaming Freedom Practicing Abolition*. Is that where most of this specific struggle has been documented so far?

Frott: So, yeah.. back to the story... I guess I got off track a bit. My friend Kaona reached out and was like, "so there's this incident that happened back November..." And so, this was in December. So, it was a couple weeks after the grievances and it was becoming obvious that the prison wasn't going to do anything. At the end of January, outside launched a phone zap. This phone zap was amplified through a collectively run anon Twitter account called "@abolitionstudy." They are also on mastodon now apparently. This group of comrades also have a blog, called *Dreaming Freedom Practicing Abolition*, that is representative of a study group network, self-organized by prisoners in PA-DOC. They are an above ground group, and their educational work seems to have a horizontal inside-outside structure. From this constellation of comrades also comes *In the Belly* (a prisoner edited journal), a prisoner podcast called *In the Mix*, and each member also has their own collective projects and relations of affinity across different movements. This allows them to maintain autonomy while collaborating collectively.

Over the years, the *Dreaming Freedom Practicing Abolition* site has published information from study groups inside. But outside people will use different platforms associated with the project to amplify and share their own parts in struggles and perspectives sometimes as well. There are other people, far beyond the PA comrades, involved in this struggle's outside component. This includes the D.C. chapter of Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee; local abolitionists in the State College area, and there has been more informal organizing and political education work occurring around this specific struggle. From Philly to Pittsburgh.

So it is autonomous and participatory. Much of the strategy and analysis has been circulated in very public and accessible ways. And since prisoner support transcends borders, the supportive networks are not just localized to Pennsylvania. Wherever there is a institution and target connected to PA-DOC or the prison regime in general, people are welcome to take action against it. But I got off track... what was I responding to?

TFSR: I was wondering more about the phone zaps... how have those been going?

Frott: Oh, so, yeah. So, Rockview. The call-ins began in January and they were directed not at the facility but at PA-DOC. And the calls were directed at the Central Office and the Eastern Office. And most of the calls were ignored, most of them went to voicemail. Participants filed report-backs from this that then got compiled on the group-just-mentioned's twitter, and that kind of set the flow of things from there.

You never want to just assume that if you post a public call for a zap on social media, people are going to call in. That rarely actually works. More times than not, people won't. They will help boost it. Which is important. They'll circulate it, and it's kind of cool how many people are down and interested in it, but the chances of people not calling more than once if they see it on social media is actually very high. It sounds silly, but some people will get this: you ought to make sure that you're actually doing the zap that you are sharing publicly, and that you have a crew (even just a second or third person) that is ready for it so that you're not just slinging it on people and expecting them to stop their day, right? Sometimes there's an emergency you can't, you know, prepare, but sometimes you can be like "hey, tomorrow we're going to do a zap" or let people know at least a little bit of in advance if you can. So, that would be my advice, in no specific order of importance.

Safear Ness, an abolitionist who is formerly-incarcerated and part of the projects *In the Belly* and *Study and Struggle*, has a great article that he wrote while inside about Phone Zap strategy, and the importance of having some group capacity to act to seize the time. The was first put out on the studyandstruggle.com website, but is also available for download in the True Leap Press catalog.

TFSR: And a lot of people may be nervous about their phone numbers getting noted by the prison or their legal names coming up on caller ID: do you have tips for keeping safer while engaging in a phone zap? Do you use something like a burner Google Voice number, or call with your regular phone?

Frott: Well, a couple of things. One is Google Voice you could use. Yeah. That works fine. Using your regular regular phone and dialing *67 actually works pretty well. *67 blocks caller ID when you call. It's like the old school way to do it. That's how we would prank call friends in high school. Or prank call a fucked up business owner if they were racist to a friend. It will show up in, you know, your regular phone history. But your number won't show up on the other side's caller ID. You can make Google Voice numbers and call using a VPN. And you can also make burner emails on like ProtonMail. And spam/harass the prisons electronically. Now, if you're trying to call and like make a real threat that you don't want traceable at all, at all, I highly recommend not doing that from your legal phone or through a smart phone/digitally-traced number anyway.

Yeah. So people can check out some of those phone zap scripts and information from the Rockview struggle on abolitioniststudy.com. They are also on Twitter and Mastodon, as "@abolitionstudy." Those pages have been circulating a lot of info about what is going down, and theory related to what outside support can look like beyond the logic of care work—beyond care work, or maybe as a different type of care work, what do we mean as anarchists, as liberationists, anti-colonialists, or as abolitionists.... What does it mean to embody what we say, when we make the claim "solidarity means attack"?

Usually, a phone zap is meant to jam up things, making communication at an office or facility more difficult. But this one was mainly meant to put on blast, make public what was being hidden in the facility to PA-DOC higher ups. So, it was almost more of a "call-in campaign" than a phone zap proper.

But anyways, it got the attention of PA-DOC. They proceeded to contact the facility, the warden, or superintendent. And the superintendent just acted like his hands were tied. He contacted security, who is another person that a lot of our calls get bottlenecked at. Security then asked the very officers who hung the nooses if they did indeed perpetrate the act and the guards denied any responsibility for hanging nooses. This contradicts the fact that these guards, when caught by the prisoners in November, actually admitted they hung the nooses but made claims that "it was a joke." Like, they called it a joke, and they made a bunch of comments defending their actions, complete unaccountability, right to Black prisoners faces. When pressed by security, they denied everything. Investigation is closed. They formally denied the first grievance on February 2nd.

The first phone zap had not even been finished when the grievance was denied by Superintendent's assistant Nicki Paul.

Anyway, supporters kept calling the prison to try to figure out what's going on, whatever. And the prison is like, "we can't do anything."

"We can't do anything because the guards are saying they didn't do it." So we're like, "oh okay... it's like cops investigating cops here." Or more like Paul Blart mall cops investigating other Paul Blart mall cops. Yeah, they conducted an investigation and found nothing they did was wrong. So we're like, "oh shit, okay, wow..."

And the timeline of everything, if I'm remembering correctly, the grievance was actually denied before this sham investigation was over. Now that grievance has become the basis of what is now the first autonomous campaign demands. A photocopy of this grievance was dropped publicly the day of when a second phone zap began.

TFSR: Can you talk about some of the retaliation that prisoners got for the phone zaps?

Frott: Well... people on the outside didn't jump to a second phone zap right away.

In part this was because, in the middle of the first phone zap, my friend Kaona was thrown in the hole. The prison staff caught an email exchange over ConnectNetwork email service, where it was mentioned how the zap was going. No more than ten minutes after receiving an email from the outside Kaona was called into the office and asked about the message. And then it was like.. boom... a few days later he was thrown in the hole. Like... really quickly, they put him in the hole.

The hole at Rockview, it's called "administrative custody." The RHU. And it's the hole, it's solitary. You're allowed like, like, an hour called a "dog walk," which is basically like a very small kind of area that you're allowed to move around in for a bit and then back to the hole. They claim that you have access to phones and mail, but whenever anyone is in administrative custody their loved ones never get calls, or it is so infrequent that it causes a ripple effect of distress throughout peoples families and communities, if they have people on the outside, that is. So, my friend gets put in the hole. And then a few days later, he gets transferred out of state. He's not even in Pennsylvania anymore. An entirely different state. It happened so fast. Cannot understate this.

The speed with which the PA-DOC is trying to disappear this is revealing from how high the cover up likely is. This situation kind of deferred our pursuits of a second phone zap for a second. We had to pause and regroup. And we also had to connect with more people on the outs.

We started getting in contact with more people to inform them about what was happening, reached out to some media, mindful that not all media is good media. We also got connected with more people in the facility too through this process.

Then all as sudden people inside the prison launched a letter campaign... an autonomous letter campaign. No outside people related to this planning at all. Which is sick as fuck, so fucking cool. The just went for it! We didn't even know about it until after the fact. Sometimes action needs to just be taken, on either side of the wall, and coordination over through the controlled prison channels is simply not possible. This is an example of how the inside will always self-organize, and people on the outside need to develop some capacity to throw down on very short notice, to defend it and embolden our community, or pods, or people on the ins.

In this case, people on the inside got together and they sent out a hundred letters. And we have copies of some. And now there's scanned copies of them floating around online. Many were just like photocopies of the same letter, but sent to lots of different offices. Senators, governor, but also media, watch groups, and the Prison Society. And yeah, so they got like 80% of those letters out before the mail-room caught them. A staff member inside the prison corroborated this fact. Now CO's and admin from this point forward became increasingly pissed and confused and shift. They've been very confused about why prisoners have not relented. Why Black prisoners have not given up speaking out about nooses. These fascists really do not understand the impact of hanging nooses in a death-riddled prison has had. Wanna talk about psychological warfare?

So, this letter campaign goes out, a press release drops, and unexpectedly a news article from the Centre Daily newspaper also drops that very same day. We had no idea that a mainstream article was going to drop. But it did. This all coincides with the first day of the second wave of phone zaps. And this is kind of the wave that we are speaking in today.

So sometimes it's about, you know, tact, right? And then sometimes it's more about attack. For instance, the call-ins and zaps for this struggle against SCI Rockview. There's this person who works in the office who is named Nicki Paul. She's the grievance coordinator. She's also the superintendent's assistant. She's also the community liaison. She's holds like three other fucking titles in the prison. Essentially the facility warden and PA-DOC officials in Mechanicsburg shove all of the public flack onto her. So we have reason to believe this cover up is coming from up high. But Nicki is also very deceptive. And we also learned that she is the actual coordinator that denied the grievance Charles G. had filed about the guards hanging nooses.

So we kept getting redirected to her. And, it's like, "okay, they're going to redirect us to her. They're all ignoring our calls at this point, sending things to voicemail, or directing us to her. She's lying every time. The responses she is giving sometimes don't even line up." So, we're like, "okay, what's an escalation tactic? Oh let's record her ass." So, now another comrade got two recordings of her. We kept hearing all these stories about people calling in, how family and wives of people were calling in and treated very poorly on their calls. So someone called in and recorded. Those recordings are leaked online now, if anyone wants to hear for themselves.

Another thing to just keep in mind when doing a "call-in" action or phone zap, is providing a short, succinct script for people who aren't familiar with the situation, but would like to participate. And making short, succinct scripts and narrative (with some readily available numbers) allows for people who don't necessarily have time to study the context of a thing, but really want to throw down because they're seeing the posts about what is happening, they're following the story, they're hearing it from friends or whatever, you know. And you can share those even with loved ones of people in the facility, and they could be reading them. But to be honest, loved ones of prisoners are the originators of the phone zap tactic. To be honest it is just a simple facet of life when you care or are concerned on the outside. You will call in, sometimes daily, to demand fair treatment or some sort of immediate condition to be addressed. You are interfacing with the prison systems constantly. And for many people whose loved ones are inside, they know the matter best. So the scripts tend to be more for people who want to participate but have not been centrally involved in coordinating the zap.

The other suggestion I would make is that what you need is a phone cluster, or small group of people committed to the zap, to sharing feedback, and recognizing patterns, and to decide when a goal has been reached or if it is necessary to switch up your approach and methods. So, you have, like, a tiny group of people, like a pod or a cluster of people who you're sharing the information with constantly. It's not just one person making calls, collecting all the stuff, but you have a kind of little tree, or listserv, or group chat, you know. Some sort of way that you're talking, or regularly meeting to communicate what's happening. It is a little accountability structure for yourself and also to document things, to keep up the morale also.

You can think of it kind of like a sit-in occupation, also. Right?! Like the way that the students protested, in the student movement in California or New York City in the late aughts. They would take over the office of an administrators or chancellor and not allow them to work for an entire day, sometimes multiple. To make certain demands of against the raising of tuition, right? That is a way of materially jamming up the daily flow of an institution, right? And then, alongside phone zaps, we can also think about aligning such actions with more forms of sabotage, right? Internally and externally.

But the level of disruption and the level of like aggressiveness is really contingent on the goals of a phone's zap or call in campaign. So, like sometimes you don't want to exacerbate a situation because the situation for people in a prison is already highly vulnerable, right? So, for instance, if someone is facing repression for a very specific particular thing, like sometimes the best move is to not act aggressively in response right away. Sometimes the best move is to call and just feel out what's happening, you know? So it's contingent on the strategic objective or goal of what you need to do. And I think within that there's a difference distinguishing between "tact" and the intensity of attack. So, like, you know given what the objective is,

to use "tact" initially or not... Or if your goal is to wreak havoc and cause extreme disruption, then you dial up the intensity. So thinking also about approaches to escalation. Not like liberal staged, planned pseudo-escalation tactics. I mean like disrupting the day or week of some administrators entirely. Thinking about the like timetable of what is happening is important, too. You can lose sight of how much you have done, how much was effective, or maybe was effective at one point and now is not. And so keeping a log of everything happening is important to feel out your next moves, to make changes in strategy and approach.

The prison administrators are always adapting, so these things can also unfold in phases. Not all pressure is felt at once. A phone zap is a very simple tactic of asymmetrical warfare against a carceral institution. There are times strategic retreat and regrouping is necessary. To pause doesn't mean to detract pressure. And calls and zaps should be used in relation to other tactics, best when fit into a broader plan or strategy to get what it is you want or to do what you feel is necessary. Occasionally you can get a sympathetic person on the phone that works in the prison... and then all of a sudden someone is now out the hole and back in general population. This is something that I think a lot of people who have never been to prison or have been forced to interface with the prisons to ensure a loved one is getting proper treatment, is that there are certain times where a prison worker (even if they are still, structurally a pig) can become sympathetic to what's happening. This is often not the case. So don't bet on it in many situations. [faint laughter] They are like... not your friend... [laughter]... but they can be a point of contact in certain situations that you can keep in your back pocket.

TSFR: To your knowledge, how have the phone zaps worked, and what sort of responses have the prisoners gotten from guards?

Frott: So, two weeks ago, a second zap begins. And this is an actual zap zap.

We knew the prison was trying hide this and act as if everything was smooth. While prisoners were increasingly pushing the line for exposure. And the day after that zap began, and specifically in relation to the release of the Centre Daily article, two prisoners were thrown in the hole as retaliation. Charles G. and Charles C. Charles G. was moved to Hautzdale, and Charles C. was moved to Fayette. There are some people in SCI Rockview still, who are facing petty, low-intensity harassment by staff because of support for the prisoners facing repression. And uh from this zap, and the repressive fall out, a number of things are now happening, and they are happening very quickly.

One thing that has happened is the autonomous nature of the struggle seems to be expanding. It's people from all sorts of groups, informal and formal, beginning to circulate info among an ecosystem of open participatory struggle. That is interesting to me. And, people are clearly taking it upon themselves, taking the initiative to, you know, throw down for a very relatable situation that prisoners in Rockview and their loved ones are experiencing. Maybe you have a loved one in Rockview? Or similarly oppressed by PA-DOC?

And so, yeah, this zap has stirred a lot of attention. It's stirred a lot of anger on behalf of this facility, too. But it should be clear that they incited us. They brought this on themselves. The prison regime always claims that we are the aggressors, but they're the aggressors. They established the context of domination. This is important to keep reminding people as news spreads... The prison targeted these two men to set an example. They are two men who wrote grievances and have been impacted deeply by not only the nooses but the relentless atmospheric racism of the facility. The anti-Blackness is thick.

When we would call into the prison, we get nothing but lies and they deny that the hole is retaliation. In fact there is a grievance coordinator who was trying to convince us that administrative custody is not the hole. And that correctional officers are not cops. I heard a friend say they are more akin to mall cops. But they enjoy the same legal impunity to harm and kill, and their function is policing. So I personally do not see how they are not law enforcement. But you see, they get you in all these double speak conundrums when you call in. You just have to be persistent and keep dogging them. They will keep lying to your face because it keeps their mortgage paid and food on the table for their families.

So a core group of prisoners in the facility have been retaliated against, the unity attempted to be broken up. Three people total transferred out of the facility that we know, and know of. And between the letter campaign, phone calls, and news article dropping, Rockview as an institution is now embarrassed, fearful, and paranoid.

They will lie to your face and say they aren't. They are structurally unaccountable to the harm they cause. At this point many people are saying this whole facility should just be shut down. Any act taken from here on out to expose this incident, that they hoped to bury in the past, has become an excuse for them to retaliate against anyone in the prison. It is a cyclical chain of repression. The facility admin and COs are never seen as the locus of the problem. Every abuse story is individualized onto a prisoner's grievance about state violence, and the prisoner framed as the aggressor. So, yeah. So, right now, that is the situation. And this is also like, kind of the narrative and real combat we're stuck... stuck fighting within.

And alongside of this situation inside, and alongside the people who have been organizing in the facility, there have been different tactics taken up on the outside beyond phone zaps—lots of calls and invitations for direct acts of agitation and disruption. There's also tactics of popular education happening where people are, you know, putting out podcasts, putting out audio, and creating media, creating memes even. Writing position papers on strategy that are generated from reflecting on how does someone, you know, when prisoners make a demand, you know, an urgent demand, how do we, as people not in the prison, ensure that those demands get met? Because so often, when people make demands and organize collectively, the outcome of those demands actually do not get met. And often times the demands of a strike or a smaller collective action is not solely about getting free. It will be about creating pathways to freedom often. But sometimes it is something as basic as getting five more sheets of paper allowed in solitary, or like in this case: forcing these guards to be fired. And we usually chalk it up to just how extreme the violence is. But I think there's also something that we... to be said about, you know, like... to not be satisfied with not having basic demands met. Ones that are reasonable even in the minds of many oppressors. Like firing the guards who hung up nooses.

And so, what does it look like, you know, for them to actually hold themselves accountable? They can't, right? Because that's not their purpose, right? But, like, so, then it's about consequences. It's just, like, how... what kind of consequences do these guards receive who are going to continue to enjoy impunity? What kind of consequences is PA-DOC going to receive? And that is up to people on the outside to step into the call—the level of risks taken between inside and outside support has not been symmetrical in the slightest yet. This is just facts, not even criticism. And what this means is that we need to level up, we need to organize, and we need to think about how to give these demands some material teeth. There was a position paper posted on *Philly Anti-Capitalist* recently that I want to close out the interview reading some lines from.... because i think they get at this point in effective ways.

Charles

Carrington is the second person who was targeted by SCI Rockview. He is a filer of grievances, and was thrown in the hole, left there in Rockview for a day longer, and then transfers to SCI Fayette. So this is kind of like the stressors that they try to, you know, they have a lot of control over the terrain.

So kind of like, one of the strategy pieces, for everyone to be thinking about how to lend support, has become the question of "where can we attack...?" How can we redirect the violence that this regime inflicts upon us, back at the structure of the State? What kinds of outside networks, inside-outside formations, above and underground relations, will it take to perform abolitionist prisoner support effectively? Like... beyond offering technical, material, and emotional support. Which are all important, but I keep asking how can non-imprisoned people use our relative freedom of mobility and access to resources, in ways that could give these inside demands a little more teeth? To lend political support. ...What does it look like to turn it up a notch? If anything, to turn it up a notch as a compliment to all the already-existing work being done in this region? And to add to this.... where can we engage in militant attack that does not result in negative consequences on the inside?" Or, "is that an unavoidable outcome that needs to be planned for ahead?"

TFSR: Before we get into those questions, can you explain a little more about the difference between a call in campaign and a phone zap? Do you have suggestions for how they can be done effectively?

Frott: Okay. Yeah. So I think about the difference between a "call-in campaign" and a "phone zap." A call-in campaign could be, you know, a brief thing. Or it could be a long-standing kind of thing, like multiple days. And a call-in campaign is, you know, like people calling in to inform offices about something or inform someone about something or circulate information about something through phone calls or emails—if you have a dedicated group of three-to-five people you can really cover lots of ground using this method. But its purpose depends on the goals. Say for instance, lodging a grievance or exposing how a grievance has been ignored. But the purpose isn't necessarily disruption, per say. And I think the distinction between a "zap" and a "call-in campaign" is important to mention because when people call for a "zap," they're typically wanting a level of disruption. And that's the distinguishing factor. People use these terms interchangeably. But I think this does a disservice in the realm of operational art.

I think about the difference in a couple different ways. And one is... I always use this reference... But Oakland Abolition and Solidarity has referred to phone zaps in terms of like a low-tech analog DDoS attack, or direct systems attack in internet tech terms. So image your calls into the prison offices is like flooding a server. Another analogy image is... picture an image of traffic going one way and then you're driving into the side of it with another car. Or even driving the wrong way. What is the flow of an institutions communications traffic, on a daily level of its inner-workings and then you are jamming it up.

where they'll move people out of state completely because they don't want people organizing statewide movements. They did this type of rapid hole-and-transfer experience to Stephen Wilson a few times, a PA-DOC prisoner who has been targeted for his propagation of penal abolition and transformative justice study groups in different facilities. Stevie, who is currently at SCI Dallas, also recently faced similar experiences as the comrades in Rockview, of retaliation for filing grievances, for engaging in a sanctioned petition process.

It should be known that we live in an era now of statewide-to-nation-wide-to-international solidarity in prison strikes. Even if this hasn't happened a lot more recently. There was years of recurring statewide strikes and then nationwide prison strikes that all had international analogs. Like when the California prison strike happened, there were people going on strike in Greece and in Palestine. It was like a whole, like, you know, so like.....

TFSR: Yeah, in Canada, too!

Frott: Yeah, the whole, you know.... They use these transfers as another tool to further disorganize people's life-worlds, communities, kinship networks, and the social bonds that hold a culture of resistance together. They use interstate or even just within a state transfers. Or if the prison anticipates something's about to pop off, even if just a letter campaign exposing nooses making it through the grapevine of a single facility, they can temporarily stop some heads of the hydra. The prisons through email surveillance and mail digitization policy are finding loopholes to not only stopping the dragon but the hydra. But they are also always one step behind.... One becomes two.

So yeah, there's a million reasons why they do them. I would not be the expert on what a transfer is like, what that experience is. I would defer that knowledge to my imprisoned comrades. But the transfers that are happening around this issue in SCI Rockview, and the inside resistance, was very disturbing to hear about, and since some comrades are in dialogue with the family members of the targeted men, we have heard stories first hand about the ripple effect.

It is distressing to hear what's happening because of the rapidity of it and the quickness in which the prison is doing it. Usually they'll inform someone, and then it's like a month to like three months, and then they get transferred. But this is happening within a span of days. So like, Kaona was put in the hole, and within a week was transferred out of state. This was the comrade. There's two other people that we are in contact with, who were thrown in the hole. There could be even more people that we're not in contact with. But to everyone's knowledge it's just two.

The two people who were more recently thrown in the hole and then transferred, one is a man in his late 60s. Charles Gilyard. He was moved from Rockview to Hautzdale in chains, and on a bus, alone. No other passengers but the guards conducting the transfer. This is within like literal days since he is thrown in administrative custody, and then boom. He's sent to a prison an hour away west.

Dreaming Freedom, Practicing Abolition

Network of Abolition Study Groups in Pennsylvania

Timeline of Past Two Weeks

Timeline of the last two weeks alone, in the autonomous struggle to fire guards for nooses at SCI Rockview

3/13 Press Release :

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/13/correctional-officers-hang-nooses-and-sci-rockview-does-nothing>

3/13 - we learn about letter campaign:

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/23/inside-letter-campaign-as-tactic>

3/14 - Centre Daily article drops

<https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/community/article286651355.html>

3/18-22 Phone Zap:

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/18/phone-zap-in-solidarity-with-comrades-at-sci-rockview>

3/21: Notes on Insurgency

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/21/notes-on-abolitionist-insurgency-prisoner-support-in-pennsylvania>



3/25-29 Phone Zap

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/25/rock-zap-2nd-week-ftp>

3/26 - Press Release

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/26/impunity-and-cover-up-correctional-officers-hang-nooses-in-sci-rockview-prisoners-speak-out>

3/26: Security Van Tires Slashed

- <https://phlanticap.noblogs.org/security-van-tires-slashed/>
- <https://scenes.noblogs.org/post/2024/03/29/security-van-tires-slashed/>

3/27: Public Call for Autonomous Campaign drops

<https://phlanticap.noblogs.org/sci-rockview-autonomous-campaign>

<https://scenes.noblogs.org/post/2024/03/29/sci-rockview-autonomous-campaign>

3/28: First audio clip of Charles G's wife leaks

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5GbzS0Qy_/?igsh=b

3/28: Nicki Paul phone call audio leak:

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/28/conversations-with-grievance-coordinator>

3/29 Phone Zap update (updated again March 31):

<https://abolitioniststudy.com/2024/03/29/3-29-phone-zap-persists-update-rockview>

March 31, 2024

TFSR: Just to keep on track, can you explain a little bit more about the interstate transfers? What can it mean for someone and their support networks?

Frott: The situation with my friend that was transferred, he had an interstate compact and that contract expired. He was expecting this transfer from the compact expiring... the contract with, between the state he was from and Pennsylvania. And so, he was expecting, you know, for this to kind of happen at some point. But it was the loophole the prison needed, everyone feels this way. It was a very convenient, you know, a very convenient loophole for them to get him out of the facility, as a labeled abolitionist revolutionary, and they used this to kick him out of PA-DOC entirely. It was a very suspicious and convenient moment to be removed from PA-DOC entirely, them catching an email exchange on the ConnectNetwork app. Because that is really all that they had on him, and even that does not really prove any involvement in the zap. It just means he had heard about it happening, which could have been from anyone, including guards sharing news about people calling in. But when he was transferred, and out of state. And I'll bring up a couple things about that. When they moved him from the facility, other prisoners would say that his spirit remained there. He was a very important presence among a lot of people, in terms of like a unifying presence. And that spirit inspired others, who have also caught heat in the process of resistance.

So, the interstate transfer... it's bad, you know? I mean, it's not bad if someone wants it. But like, when someone is moved to another state that they're not from, or doesn't have family in, or their loved ones, or like, their extended community does become disorganized further. And this is one of the aspects of the prison regime, right? It's like, there's the the racist chattel violence and power relations; there's like the ways that the technologies prototyped for incarceration kind of inform all of society; and then there's the disorganization of entire communities and kinship structures. These are layers of what the prison regime problem is. And one of the elements is the separation and disorganization of kinship structures. When someone's moved to another state, people will rearrange their lives for that, you know. There's a lot of things that happen when you're in a place for a long time in prison. One is you develop a familiarity with a system, right? So, like, you develop familiarity with like, oh, when something happens, you know who to call, you have kind of like routines, you know, like visits, like, etc, etc. But also, sometimes people will be moved. Sometimes people will move to be closer to their loved ones. Then all sudden your loved one gets moved back out of state. So that's one dimension.

Also, just the abruptness of some of these interstate transfers that have happened in recent years in the case of prisoner resistance movements and inside-outside organizing against specific facilities and places. Transfer in general are a tool to discourage not just organizing in individual facilities where, just because this is a long standing tactic of when someone is a known organizer or agitator or a resistor in a facility, they'll take that person and move them to another facility in the same state, but they'll just move them. Well, they'll also do interstate transfers. And this happens with lots of people involved in abolitionist anti-prison organizing. Shaka Shakur, Sean Swain, Kevin Rashid Johnson...