



the BLACK ROSE

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Indiana SHU Prisoners Protest Lockdown Measures

INDIANA - In the last week of July, prisoners in the Wabash Valley Secure Housing Unit in Indiana staged a rowdy protest against unit conditions. Since the beginning of a lockdown after a violent incident on the 16th, prisoners at the Secure Housing Unit at Wabash Valley had been denied access to water for bathing, sanitation, and cleaning their cells.

In response, prisoners flooded the range and began a campaign of noise disturbance. Guards reacted by cutting off all water and electricity to the SHU. Prisoners then threw a t-shirt over the security camera on the range and bombarded the guard pod with feces and piss thrown from their cells, declaring, "If we have to live in filth, so do you." Electricity and water were turned back on at 4 am, after many hours without either. Their demands for sanitation and clean water were finally addressed later that evening.

As a condition of coming off this brutal lockdown, prison officials have instituted an intervention by the Internal Affairs Security Threat Group officers to subject the entire prison to interrogations and forced debriefing, including photographing of tattoos and forced declarations of organizational allegiances. The prison officials have said that they won't come off lockdown until everyone has been subjected to these measures.

An outside Anarchist Solidarity Initiative out of Bloomington, IN called for "active and subversive solidarity with the prisoners, to be practiced by whoever feels affinity with their struggles." The group organized a series of national call-in days in the beginning of August to help pressure prison officials, stating that, "Struggles in prison can't sustain themselves if, on the outside, they only encounter the deadening silence of social submission,"

California Prisoners End Massive Hunger Strike

CALIFORNIA - After four weeks of fasting, prisoners at the Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit in California finally resumed eating in late July. They did so after negotiations with prison officials that met some of the prisoners' minor demands. Though most of prisoners' major demands have gone unmet, including an end to the hated "debriefing" policy (forcing people to snitch to get off solitary), hunger strikers called for an end to the

strike under the threat of force-feeding and the possibility of death of several medically compromised strikers.

From all accounts, the struggle continued at other facilities throughout the State, including Corcoran, where hundreds and maybe thousands of prisoners were still out on strike as of late July.

The California hunger strike was the most widespread use of that tactic in the history of the US, spreading to at least 6,600 prisoners in 11 different facilities at its peak. Prisoners and their supporters on the outside are currently regrouping, and have vowed to continue their struggle against solitary confinement in California.

English Cities Erupt After Police Murder

ENGLAND - On August 8th, rioting broke out in London several days after the police murder of an unarmed black man named Mark Duggan. Police initially tried to spin the killing as self-defense, claiming Duggan was armed and fired at them, but reports later exposed that both shots were fired from police weapons.

After police beat a 16-year old woman at a small, peaceful protest of the killing in Tottenham, the crowd dispersed and broke out in riots. Thousands of people threw stones

anarchist affinity group claimed a fire attack on a police cruiser in solidarity with rioters from North London.

The riots at first consisted largely of black youth, but eventually drew participation from poor whites as well. Bystanders reported that the focus shifted primarily to looting, but that random bystanders and small shops were sometimes attacked as well. This was exploited by the mainstream press and politicians to call for harsh crackdowns and rally support from various segments of the British population. Police have largely relied on anonymous informants and CCTV surveillance footage to arrest over 1500 people on various charges. The rebellion had subsided by August 12th.

In the words of one UK anarchist labor group commenting on the historic riots, "The political masters are playing a dangerous game. They want to spin these riots as nothing but 'mindless' thuggery. But people have been watching the streets of various cities become the platform for change over the last six months, from Tunis to Cairo, from Damascus to Madrid. Our rulers certainly do not want to see these riots turn into that - a massive display of public defiance and civil unrest against the existing system."

Last of the San Francisco 8 Charges Dropped

CALIFORNIA - Judge Philip Moscone signed and filed an order dismissing the final charge against Francisco Torres late Thursday, August 18, 2011.

Previously the conspiracy charge against Francisco Torres was dropped and all charges against five were dropped (Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Hank Jones, Richard O'Neal and Harold Taylor). Jalil Muntaqim and Herman Bell pleaded no contest/guilty to reduced charge of conspiracy / manslaughter with no prison sentence. This left a single charge against Torres.

After 40 years, the government's case against eight former Black Panther Party members and supporters has almost completely unraveled. The eight were arrested January 23, 2007 in

California, New York, and Florida on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer.

Similar charges had been brought in 1975, but a California judge tossed out the charges, finding that they were based on statements made by three of the men after police in New Orleans tortured them for several days employing electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation.



at police, began looting stores, and set fires. The uprising quickly spread from Tottenham to other districts like Hackney, and eventually to other cities, including Birmingham, Salford, Liverpool, Nottingham, Leicester, Manchester, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Gloucester, Chatham, Oxford, and Bristol. In Nottingham no less than five police stations were attacked at various points, but in most places the rioters dispersed when sizeable numbers of police appeared, to melt away and resume looting elsewhere. In Bristol an

NORTH CAROLINA

NC Prisoner's Hunger Strike Ends Successfully

POLKTON, NC - On July 15th, North Carolina prisoner and anarchist James Graham began a hunger strike at Lanesboro CI in solidarity with the thousands of striking prisoners across California. For over a year Graham has been isolated in solitary conditions similar to those being protested by the prisoners of Pelican Bay, where California's hunger strike began.

In addition to acting in solidarity with California's prison rebels, Graham also used his strike to address a number of immediate issues surrounding living conditions on lock-up at Lanesboro. Less than a week after submitting his demands along with an announcement of his strike, most of his requests were addressed. Below is a list of the demands accompanied by the results of the strike:

-Provide toilet brushes, so that prisoners can adequately clean their toilets on lock-up during weekly clean-up.

Results: On 7/19, the Unit Manager and Assistant Unit Manager came personally to show me we now have toilet brushes to clean our toilets.

-Provide shower mats outside the shower, to prevent injury by slipping.

Results: On 7/22, the Asst. Unit Manager passed out shower mats to go outside the showers on every block.

-Provide Adequate Food/Medical Soft Diet. We want wholesome nutritional food served in sanitary conditions. Also, I requested personally to be put on a soft vegan diet due to a medical condition.

Results: On 7/20, I was finally placed on a soft vegan diet after being denied and lied to by saying, "There is no such thing..." Also, prisoners have been saying that portions have increased.

-Fix Prisoner's Nightlights.

Results: On 7/18, maintenance men came to every block and replaced every prisoner's bulbs that were out.

-Provide Adequate Medical Care. We want nurses to execute prompt response to sick-calls and medical emergencies and to perform daily seg checks.

Results: On 7/21, they finally called prisoners for sick-calls that had been waiting for over a month. They still haven't been performing daily seg checks to check on the well-being of lock-up prisoners.

Raleigh: Death Row Prisoners Stage Cafeteria Protest

RALEIGH, NC - On July 14th, 2011, a group of ten to fifteen death row prisoners at Central Prison in Raleigh staged a peaceful group protest in their cafeteria in reaction to the brutal beating of another death row inmate, William Bowie. Bowie was handcuffed with his hands behind his back and then beaten by one Sergeant Soucier in front of 25-30 prisoners.

During the protest, prisoners stood up in the cafeteria and gave speeches against the abuse. The following day, officials placed the men on administrative segregation (solitary confinement) as punishment for the protest.

One prisoner was quoted as saying, "Rather than discipline one of their own, the Central Prison authorities would exact retaliation against those who seek the dignity and respect to which they are entitled under NC administrative codes."

This protest comes off the back of related protests in US prisons. Recently thousands of prisoners in California entered the fourth week of a massive hunger strike, which had spread to over a third of the state's facilities, in protest of the torture and isolation of long-term solitary confinement. Prisoners in Indiana's Wabash Valley Segregated Housing Unit also engaged in group protest last week. Last December in Georgia, the largest prison labor strike in US history, coordinated across vast divisions of race, gender, and religion, spread to over 6 facilities in opposition to a variety of policies including forced work with no pay.

Collective Action Ousts Snitch at Bertie CI

WINDSOR, NC - On July 12th, a small action by a multiracial group of 9 prisoners at Bertie CI in Windsor, NC succeeded in forcing the warden to remove a known snitch from their block. The snitch was known for giving information to guards that caused the whole block to be searched on multiple occasions.

The group action consisted of refusing to leave the recreation yard for four hours. Guards and administration initially responded by putting on riot gear and threatening to attack the prisoners, but eventually acquiesced and made the snitch move to a different section of the prison. The prisoners then ended their protest and came inside.

The prisoners in D-Block were written up eventually for the "willful disobedience of any lawful order of a prison official," but according to one participant, "the point is that unity breaks these cowards' backs every time."

NC Shows Solidarity with West Coast Struggles against Prison and Policing

NORTH CAROLINA - July and August saw a series of solidarity demonstrations at jails and prisons in central North Carolina. On July 24th, August 7th, and August 14th, at Guilford County Jail in Greensboro, the Durham Jail, and Central Prison in Raleigh, respectively, large crews of anarchists and other anti-prison activists gathered to support the hunger strike spreading virally throughout California prisons and those comrades recently brutalized by cops in Seattle, and also to draw attention to NC prisoners' struggles.

The noisy demonstrations brought folks carrying drums, pots and pans, banners, and signs to the facilities during visitation hours, so that friends and families could learn of the strike and carry word of it to loved ones on the inside. Family members also were given information on how prisoners could access radical prisoner support efforts like the Chapel Hill Prison Books Collective.

At the Durham Jail in particular, where the half a dozen floors of cells were in the immediate vicinity of the protest, the response was immediate. Prisoners began banging on their cells' plexiglass windows, and dozens quickly crafted small signs to hold up against the windows, declaring things like, "Fuck Cops," "We love this!" and the traditional anarchist circle-a.

A bilingual handbill distributed during the demonstrations read,

"We are here to support the efforts of these strikers, and the struggle of all prisoners to free themselves from the brutality and isolation of prison. We also want to draw attention to other acts of state repression on the West Coast. This past weekend 26 Seattle anarchists were arrested, seven attacked and critically injured by police armed with shovels in their own home. Only a matter of days earlier, police in the Bay Area murdered an unarmed African-American teenager for not paying a \$2 metro fare. Both of these incidents have elicited acts of solidarity and counter-attacks.

It goes without saying that the brutality of the police and the torture of prisons are inextricably linked. In both cases, the function of these institutions is not to reduce crime but to perpetuate a long history of slavery and exploitation. If prisons are to be understood as warehouses for the poor, then the police are the bosses of the unemployed. As such we wish for nothing but their destruction."

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!

Prisoners will be a large source of the news and updates for this bulletin. If you have any reportbacks or news from your facility, including reportbacks, relevant personal accounts, communiques, news, or proposals, please submit them to:

News Bulletin
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