

A Communique Regarding the
Juneteenth Freedom Initiative

Greetings,

The forthcoming message is sent to you in the hopes of your participation and commitment to the Juneteenth Freedom Initiative in particular, and to the establishment of a more consolidated, unified, and effective Texas Prison Movement.

What is the J.F.I.?

The Juneteenth Freedom Initiative is a campaign to boycott, and rally around Juneteenth, utilizing various issues which perpetuate continued prison slavery, and sub-human treatment, as well the targeted mass-incarceration of oppressed nationalities (domestic and abroad) to mobilize a broad coalition of activists on both sides of the walls.

This campaign is being initiated from the inside, as We believe most actions surrounding the prison industrial slave complex should be. Texas T.E.A.M.O.N.E. , a prisoner's organization, has spear-headed this campaign, and it has already been joined and supported by other organizations, and people behind the walls(Tx.Liberation Collective) and the streets, primarily in other states(Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement, MIM(prisons)

However, it is of paramount importance to the success of this campaign, that Texas abolitionists; prison reformers, and other revolutionary parisans unite with, and actively support this initiative.

The premise of this action proceeds from the point that in the wake of social unrest the current U.S. white house regime, in an effort to pacify a sector of the populace, did indeed make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

While Juneteenth is a celebration of the 'ending' of slavery in the U.S. it is factual to state that slavery on this continent has to the present day gone on without cease. INstead slavery has been transformed, and We can not let the narrative of a now state sanctioned 'holiday' gloss over the fact that the U.S. in general and Texas in particular took systemic measures to insure the continued arrested development of so called minority communities. The state did benefit drastically in the socio-economic sphere by the exploitation of a captive workforce until it no longer needed this captured workforce, at which time those sectors of society that had previously been targeted captures became members of a surplus population, one that the state has now found purposeful, and meaningful roles for, which are encapsulated in the contemporary TDCJ, and its perpetuation of mass-incarceration and the subsequent under-development of specific communities, families, and individuals caught up in an inter-generational cycle of institutionalization.

Targeted Issues:

In the current landscape of the Texas Prison Movement, reform orientated groups and individuals who, because of their relatively conservative visions, have gained an ear and influence with prison administrators at the highest levels, along with legislators. A class contradiction has express itself by way of these groups and persons, failing to act in the furtherance of the interests of the Texas Prison masses. Instead such people have saw to it that policy changes and law changes which primarily effect those of us behind bars, are solely the result of outside elements, their thinking, and their interests. In short, there has been a lack of communication between different secotors, and this is not any one groups fault.

One issue has been the lack of an organized body of politically conscious and socially progressive prisoners that can provide a vision and program for the prisoners by the prisoners. That time has now ended. With the establishment and expansion of Texas T.E.A.M.O.N.E. We're organizing the most capable elements behind the walls to brainstorm and effectively introduce programs that will resolve the issues that face us today.

• We believe that the foundational issue which perpetuates mass-incarceration is the powerless-ness of those in the lumpen sub-class. This powerless-ness is too often a lifelong experience. Therefore the fundamental task at hand is to cultivate new values, and new people through creative programs that instill self-esteem, love and respect for people, respect for ideas, dedication, dependability, discipline, self-reliance, accountability, and the care and development of ones body and mind. WE CAN BEGIN BY MENDING THESE INADEQUACIES BY ALTERING OUR RELATIONS WITHIN THE BROAD TEXAS PRISON MOVEMENT LANDSCAPE; I.E. ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT PRISONER-LED SOLUTIONS TO MASS INCARCERTATION AND PRISON INHUMANITY.

•Prison Issues: The following issues deal with prison policies and operations which we're fixated on in this J.F.I.

- the abolition of longterm and indefinite solitary confinement as practiced by TDCJ's RHU.
- illegal monopoly buisness practices which target the economic security of prisoner families and communities, which perpetuates economic underdevelopment in these communities.
- Excessive censorship, and illegal mail tampering, and the socio-political nature of this repression.
- The institutional move toward digitalization under the false premise of drug influx coming thorough mail. We assert that the majority of drugs and contraband are bought in by prison officials and these operations are often sanctioned by the highest of officials at the unit level to help pacify the inmate populace, and perpetuate behaviors that keep mass-incarceration from being threatened.
- The failure of TDCJ to operate in a manner that will uphold their mission statement: to promote, and act in the interest of public safety. TDCJ doesn't allow vast amounts of the captured population to take part in any sort of productive programming, and are in direct violation of Tx.Gov.Code§ 501.009-Volunteer Organizations-.
- Compensation for inmate labor.
- Arbitrary review commitees at various levels: Parole board, state clasification, restrictive Housing commitee, disciplinary hearings, and directive review commitee; We call for transparency and the establishment of concrete criteria for inmates to be judged by; also an outside community oversight commitee made up of concerned citizens and family members that can be sure effective measures are taking place.
- Allow an outside, independent investigative agency to take the responsibility of overseeing and investigating inmate, and citizen complaints on TDCJ, supplanting an ineffective and corrupt grievance and ombudsman system.
- systemic failure to abide by CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety measures.
- Accountability and transparency regarding physical abuses in TDCJ prisons.

¹Judicial/ Legislative

Issues:

The following issues deal with judical and legislative policies or lack thereof which perpetuates the targeted Mass-incarceration < subsequent arrested development of oppressed nationalities and peoples:

- The Law of Parties; in other states known as the 'Felony Murder Rule', which has began to be repealed in other parts of the country.

- The rubber stamping of grand jury indictments in urbanized counties; Harris, Dallas, Bexar, to name a few.
- Measure utilized to insure the lack of ethnic diversity in jury pools/ selections; i.e. the practice of targeting specific gentrified, ethnically pale, and politically conservative zip codes; Harris, Dallas, Travis, and Bexar counties.
 - Laws, and legislative measures which perpetuate inhumane treatment of inmates, and our ineptitude in fighting these treatments:
 - Prison Litigation Reform Act; A Clinton era legislation which places unreasonable limitations, and burdens on imprisoned civil litigants. This measure was put in place to quell the progress of prison conditions as they were being sought through pro se litigation.
 - Laws, Judicial practices and legislative measures which perpetuate mass-incarceration and Death By Incarceration(DBI) :
 - Law of Parties
 - Life Without Parole
 - Unilateral sentence enhancement laws that often do not align with a particular case.
 - A lack of goodtime/ worktime compenation for all prisoners
 - A lack of objective criteria to be met by thosw who're parole eligible/ the farce of the 'individualized Treatment Plan'.
 - A lack of mandatory parole; prisoners shall be mandated to serve a set amount of time their sentences, and this along with the ability or lack thereof to complete/ meet the objective criteria mentioned above, shall dictate ones release from, or stay in, prison.
 - A lack of criteria for and practice of compassionate releases or commutation of sentences.
 - Governmental indifference in regards to environmental oppression on TDCJ unit grounds and surrounding communities.
 - Death Penalty
 - Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act; another Clinton era federal legislation which places unreasonable burden of imprisoned litigants who're seeking redress on possibly faulty convictions. This act allows prisoners a one year time frame to appeal a conviction. This is unreasonable in light of the fact that most prisoners are ignorant in regards to the law, and a large amount are funtionally illiterate, thus one years time for one to learn to read and write adequately, and also learn to navigate the legal system, the latter of which takes law students the better part of a decade to understand, in one year is overly burdensome. The subsequent effect being that thousands of prisoners are languishing behind bars under faulty convictions, and communities and families are left in a state of neglect.

Solutions Or Things to DO:

With the foregoing pages we've attempted to stress the importance of prisoner's empowerment, leadership, creativity, and insight in any process of prison progression or reform. As an organization we're and suggest others become, highly selective in the prison reforms we support. A requirement must be the participation of the inmate populace in the remaking of prison policies, and legislative/ judicial proceedings.

With few exceptions we will not support any level of prison reform, or criminal justice reform in the state of Texas that isn't initiated, or seeks the input of inmates. Who knows the needs of the prison better than those forced to reside there?

As an organization we present the following as possible solutions to mass-incarceration in Texas, inhumane treatment, and political repression:

- We're asking prisoner's families and supporters and progressive elements to lobby your local representatives, particularly in the urban communities where the inmate population largely derives from, for bills to be authored and passed, concerning the following:
- We seek legislation which will make illegal any conviction whereby a jury did not include a member of the defending parties own racial group, and/or self identified sex/ gender.
- We seek legislation which will provide each inmate with a minimum Mandatory Release Data(MMRD)
- We seek legislation which will match up with numerous scientific studies which suggest that brain development and decision making skills do not reach their apex until a person is twenty-four; and those who were under the age of twenty-four at the time of their conviction should be released if and when they've served past their minimum release date; those serving life without parole sentences should be re-sentenced.
- We seek legislation for an Elderly Release Law; Those over fifty-five years of age are no longer a threat to society
- We seek legislation for compassionate Release; those who're terminally ill shall be released if they were not sentenced to die in prison.
- We seek legislation what will prevent the dying off of family lineages due to incarceration of the only surviving male in a particular family; Our communities and nationalities are slowly dying off due to this functioning genocide, which is cruel and unusual punishment.
- We seek legislation that will allow only the trigger person or factual murderer found and determined by a trial court, can be guilty of murder; This will eliminate the Law of Parties which has too many people incarcerated for too much time, and takes focus away from actual guilt and innocence and adopts a lynch mob mentality.

Independent Inmate Initiatives:

One of the major issues that hold us back as Texas inmate organizers is the lack of liberatory spaces. Spaces that are reasonably divorced from the constant prison culture. The history of Texas prison's educational and vocational offerings date back to the mid nineteenth century, at which time the chaplincy department was placed in charge of all educational programming. As time passed and the Windham school district was founded, it also provided limited institutionalized education. However, today more than ever we need spaces, programs, seminars, and unions led and operated by the incarcerated. The continued monopoly that the chaplian department hold on instructional institutions prohibits, and limits this necessity.

Therefore, while We work to remove that obstacle each inmate leader who has the opportunity to read this communique, shall look to build at their locale the following independent institutions:

- A people's Liberation Library w/ accompanied study group sessions.
- A campaign to 'Eliminate Illiteracy'; which consists of teaching peers the basic functions of reading & writing.
- Tutoring sessions; this shall include teaching of law, GED, vocational/ college instruction.
- Youth Engagement Program; consists of building up at risk youth through correspondence with politicized/ political prisoners, while also involving outside volunteers in an assesment of community programs that will re-build pro-social ideas and behaviors in at risk youth.
- Organizing of a consolidated Tx prisoner's worker's union, specialized commitees focused on particular issues dealing with mass-incarceration and repressive conditions(Lifers, Environmental, wimmin, LGBTQ, etc)

Texas inmates who're sincere in their pursuit of these and other goals shall contact Texas T.E.A.M.O.N.E. We are able to provide tools necessary to establish the above independent institutions. Those seeking to establish study groups should mail us the names ans numbers of each participant in the group so that We may mail each one materials.

The Vision: The J.F.I. is only the beginning of a well thought out tri-layered plan to raise the struggle of the Texas inmate populace in general and those active partisans therein in particular, to higher levels of organization and struggles.

On Juneteenth 2022, We want each of you who're sympathetic to this cause to boycott, rally, and strike on the days approaching that day and on that day. This initial action is meant to bring attention to Our proposed issues and solutions. Also to rally supporters and comrades on both sides of the wall together in struggle, to consolidate the Tx prison class and movement.

However, more important is the next phase. After Juneteenth We plan to present Our arguements in petition format to the Department of Justice Special Litigations Divison. We will give them ample time to respond, and conduct a proper federal investigation into TDCJ's practices and policies. In the likely event Our petition falls on deaf ears in the federal arena, we will already plan ahead for a similar petition to be delivered to the United Nations. In the petition We will connect statistical data, along with real life testimonials written by the prisoners themselves on the various issues listed within this communique. We will compile the data as documentary evidence on the basis of bolstering the recent guilty verdict of the We still Charge Genocide International Tribunal 2021

Wherein mass incarceration, solitary confinement, and malicious and repressive treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war, among other factors, were ruled to be vital tools of the U.S.'s campaign of Genocide for the last few centuries on the Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples of North America.

The above will allow for a raised legitimacy to the demands for independence and self-determination, for de-colonization, and also may provide more detailed basis for internal struggles such as the fight against solitary confinement in TDCJ as practiced by their RHU.

What Can You Do:

If you are an inmate, or an outside organization that compiles data on the conditions inside TDCJ, We would like you to contact us. Inmates should be sure to include any relevant documentary evidence to a particular issue such as grievances, court records, photos, etc.

Outside supporters should organize outside the state capital building on Juneteenth 2022. Contact Our outside supporters at Our twitter page @txTEAMONE

Those who can not attend the rally should begin contacting their local elected officials lobbying for proposed inmate solutions.

Help us organize the outside organization, Anti-Imperialist Prisoner's Support- Tx Chapter. Contact us via snail mail more details.

DARE TO INVENT THE FUTURE!!!!!
COMBAT GENOCIDE COMBAT NEO-COLONIAL VIOLENCE!!

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