

Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March

NO SHACKLES

Vol 1.7

Letter from the Editor

Brothers and Sisters,

We are less than six months away from the Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March in Washington D.C. This demonstration is our opportunity to come together as a community and call out the human rights violation that is United States' mass industrial complex. As we prepare for the march we urge readers to be active in their solidarity in a number of ways that are outlined within the JLS Political Insight Column and the March Update Local Representative Section. These actions include studying the 13th Amendment, refraining from spending money that supports the prison industrial complex, and wearing a Black wrist band on the left wrist. We all must be intentional about our support for the march in order to increase participation within our community. The more informed we are about our actions, spending, eating and consumption in relation to prison slavery; the more prepared we are to fight against this system. We validate our participation in the movement with our actions and through collective work we are able to lead others. At this point in the movement we have organized a strong foundation and now it's time to cast our net wide so that more people can become aware of the role they play in mass incarceration. The majority of Americans, although aware of the fact that mass incarceration is a huge issue, are unaware of how heavily they play a role in supporting the system. Whether their role is indirect, for example buying a coffee from a franchise that profits from prison labor; or direct such as lobbying as a part of ALEC to create policies for higher sentencing; every American plays a role in legalized slavery. We must be conscious of that role and put ourselves on the fighting end rather than continuing to be complicit. Remember, to be silent is to be on the side of the oppressor.

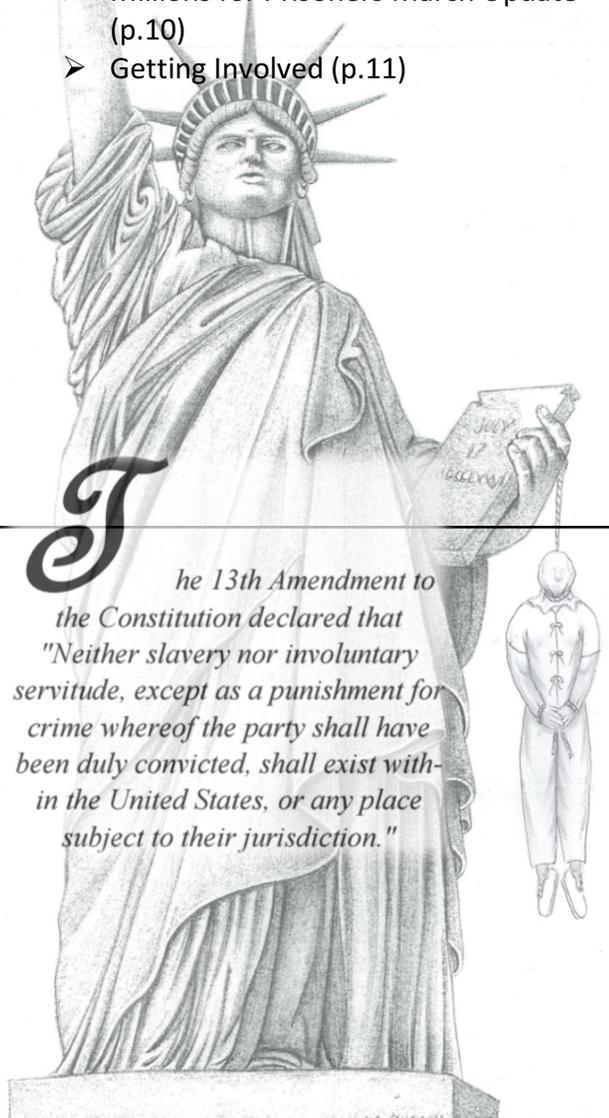
In solidarity,
Amani Sawari (@SawariMi)



iamWE Prison Advocacy Network

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The 13th Amendment to the Constitution declared that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

JLS Political Insight Column

By Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

Millions for Prisoners Human Rights core demands for action:

- A. We DEMAND the 13th amendment ENSLAVEMENT CLAUSE of the United States Constitution be amended to abolish LEGALIZED slavery in America.
 - B. We DEMAND a Congressional hearing on the 13th Amendment ENSLAVEMENT CLAUSE being recognized as in violation of international law, the general principles of human rights and its direct links to:
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1. Private entities exploiting prison labor
 2. Companies overcharging prisoners for goods and services
 3. Private entities contracted by states/federal government to build and operate prisons. This would also include immigration detentions
 4. Racial disparities in America's prison population and sentencing
 5. Policing: the disproportionate (unaccountable) killings by police in the black and brown communities
 6. Felony Disenfranchisement laws
 7. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 34,000 detention quotas
 8. Producing the world largest prison population
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Expressing Solidarity with the Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March

Solidarity Actions: The organizers of the Millions for Prisoners March ask prisoners to do the following throughout the month of August to show solidarity and develop our collective political education upon the issues that impact us as incarcerated people:

- Fast from sunrise to sunset
 - Daily prayer or meditation
 - Daily exercise regimen
 - Study and self-educate, paying particular attention to the 13th Amendment & ways to challenge the systems that uphold legalized prison slavery
 - Refrain (and ask your family to refrain) from spending money within the prison system on any level including commissary, food items, phone cards and other items
 - Refrain from smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages
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- In honor of Black August and the Millions for Prisoners March, please wear a black arm band or wrist band (i.e. shoelace) around left wrist.
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Why Do We Refrain from Spending Money?

The prison industrial complex is a system of control maintained by certain conditions within the system. A recent study by the Prison Policy Initiative demonstrated that prisoners and their families pay \$2.9 billion a year on commissary goods and telephone calls. In fact, in recent years there has been a greater margin of profit on those services than there has been on private-run prisons themselves.

If prisoners and their families can refrain from spending money on services sold by prisons and their profiteers for just the month of August, it would cost the system nearly \$250 million. The lobbies that support mass imprisonment are the businesses that profit off of the system. The phone companies, the companies that contract with prisons for prison labor, the companies that process commissary payments, the companies that provide healthcare services to prisons, the companies that provide food services to prisons, all profit off of the prison industrial complex. Without profits, these companies will lose their financial incentive to support mass imprisonment and prison slavery.

Breaking Down the Deceptions of The 13th Amendment

By Max Parthas | <http://www.blacktalkradionetwork.com/>
January 23, 2017

Critical thinking ahead.

“The 13th amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States, passed the Senate on April 8, 1864, and the House on January 31, 1865. On February 1, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln approved the Joint Resolution of Congress submitting the proposed amendment to the state legislatures. The necessary number of states ratified it by December 6, 1865. The 13th amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except <<**OK STOP HERE**. Look back at the last word. Understand what it means. This is the exception to the rule. **CONTINUE**>> as a punishment for crime<< **STOP AGAIN**. if you are convicted of a crime you are the exception to the abolition rule. Period. **CONTINUE**>> whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, <<**STOP**. So to be considered a slave all you need is a conviction. in 2015 “97 percent of federal cases and 94 percent of state cases ended in plea bargains, with defendants pleading guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence. Courtroom trials, the stuff of television dramas, almost never take



place.” **CONTINUE>>** shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” << To be clear, **NONE** of those proclamations applied to the exception.

In 1863 President Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” <<**STOP**. Think about that. As President Obama explained It only applied to states in rebellion. Like telling a terrorist that guns are legally banned. **CONTINUE>>** Nonetheless, the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation. Lincoln recognized that the Emancipation Proclamation would have to be followed by a constitutional amendment in order to guarantee the abolishment of slavery. <<**STOP**. So the plan was wrapped up in a constitutional amendment. There were 3 which came into being. **Continue>>**

The 13th amendment was passed at the end of the Civil War before the Southern states had been restored to the Union and should have easily passed the Congress. Although the Senate passed it in April 1864, the House did not. At that point, Lincoln took an active role to ensure passage through congress. He insisted that passage of the 13th amendment be added to the Republican Party platform for the upcoming Presidential elections. His efforts met with success when the House passed the bill in January 1865 with a vote of 119–56.

With the adoption of the 13th amendment, the United States found a final <<**STOP**. *Final* is not allowed as a description while an exception exists. Propaganda. **CONTINUE>>>** constitutional solution to the issue of slavery. The 13th amendment, along with the *14th* and *15th*, is one of the trio of Civil War amendments that greatly expanded the civil rights of Americans.

Commentary.

Everything we have today regarding freedom and rights as blacks in America is because of those 3 amendments above. We know now that a transfer of property rights happened. From plantation owner to state and federal prisons. The 13th amendment had a clear allowance for the continuation of slavery and that allowance has manifested into what we practice through our justice system today. It was based on rotten roots of betrayal and compromise among slavers with the ownership of the labor, freedom and future of people of color as the bargaining tool and ultimate prize. We even turned the tide by fighting the war. And then we became POW’s in perpetuity.

-Reviewed Work: One Dies, Get Another: Convict Leasing in the American South, 1866-1928 by Matthew J. Mancini-

The 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868, and granted citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States,” which included former slaves recently freed.

But remember that anyone convicted of a crime was not considered a slave recently freed. They would be the exception which led to the industrial revolution upon the backs of



incarcerated black prison laborers in mines and on railroads. People whose only crime was being black while black was illegal.

-Reviewed Work: Slavery By Another Name: The Convict Lease System

“In the United States, the Black Codes were laws passed by Southern states in 1865 and 1866, after the Civil War. These laws had the intent and the effect of restricting African Americans’ freedom, and of compelling them to work in a labor economy based on low wages or debt.”

“These codes were all repealed in 1866 when Reconstruction began. But after the failure of Reconstruction in 1877, and the removal of black men from political offices, Southern states again enacted a series of laws intended to circumscribe the lives of African Americans.”

So the 13th amendment didn’t just negate abolition it also negated the 14th amendment as a slave can not be a citizen. Ted Cruz who was born in Canada can vote. A convict cannot vote without special conditions. And what about voting anyway? What does that say?

“The 15th Amendment to the Constitution ratified on February 3, 1870, granted African American men the right to vote by declaring that the “right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Is this the case today for convicts? No.

“More than 5.85 million adults who’ve been convicted of a felony aren’t welcome at polling places, according to data through 2010 compiled by The Sentencing Project. That’s 600,000 more than in 2004, the last time the nonprofit group crunched the numbers.”

This was 6 year ago. in 2015 nearly 14 million went through our jails. 2.4 million sat in prisons. As many as 800,000+ of them are veterans. Every year 3/4 of a million go in and out of prisons. Nearly every time losing a right guaranteed by the constitution. They lose those rights because they have become property of the state. And exceptions to the abolition rule as described in the 13th amendment.

Originally published 1/21/2016

Max Parthas of New Abolitionists Radio

Millions for Prisoners March on Washington August 19th 2017



Scrambles Eggs, Tortillas and Salsa

By Matthew Hahn | hahnscratch.com

February 25, 2017

Mike was sentenced to fifty years to life for stealing \$200 from a convenience store. Mike was a Jehovah's witness. Mike was my cellie. And Mike was sick.

When I first moved into the cell with Mike, I wasn't sure what to think. He was old, at least he looked it. He walked with a cane and slept with a CPAP strapped to his face. Other than his apnea, Mike didn't really know what was wrong with him and the prison doctors certainly didn't know either. What he did know was that it was getting progressively harder for him to walk each day.

When I moved in, Mike had already been waiting six months for the "emergency" transfer he so desperately needed which would house him in a medical facility where he might get better treatment. A bed had been made available at a medical prison a few months earlier, but the transfer had been cancelled. Something to do with not taking patients who'd previously been treated for depression with medication.

So, Mike got dramatically worse each and every week I lived with him. He was slow and mobile when we first met. He would make the exhausting trek from the cell to the chow hall to the pill line and back to the cell twice each day. He would make the journey out to Greystone Chapel every Saturday afternoon. The rest of the time he spent in our four foot by nine-foot broom closet lying on his bed, reading his Bible, writing home to his wife, or watching television.

Two months later, Mike was no longer mobile. He couldn't walk. I brought him breakfast, lunch, and dinner on a tray from the chow hall beneath the suspicious gaze of the guards who were convinced I was actually trying to double up on meals. I fetched the nurse to make sure he got his meds, and the cops just thought I was trying to get the pills for myself.

Mike continued to get worse. He cried to himself on his bunk because he was in so much pain. He often fell down trying to get to the toilet at night. I would catch him when I could but I wasn't always there, in time or at all. I'll never forget the look of shame on his face when he opened his first pack of adult diapers. Day by day, I felt like Mike was slipping away and I felt powerless to do anything about it.

The fellas on the yard told me that I needed to move out of that cell for my own well-being. You see, if Mike died while I was living with him, the guards would assume that there was foul play; I would go to the hole until an autopsy cleared me of any potential murder beef. I would lose my job in the welding shop. My classification hearing would get delayed which meant my actual release date could end up being further out.



I spoke with my homeboys to see if there was any way I could talk to the cops about what was happening but that was a no go. It could be misconstrued as snitching, even if well intended. I talked with my most trusted friends and they, too, thought I should take care of myself and move out. But none of these people knew Mike. To them, he was just that guy that lived with me.

I decided to stay in the cell with him. Of course, I was scared. I was scared of the idea that Mike might die in the cell with me there and I was scared of the idea of going to the hole and having my whole program fucked up. But I think I was more fearful of what it would feel like to move out, abandoning him to whatever knucklehead may end up in the cell with him. Would he bring him his food? Would he help him out? Would he tolerate the multiracial Jehovah's Witness crowd that sometimes gathered outside the cell to check on him?

So, I stayed. And one locked-down afternoon, I discovered Mike motionless and breathless in the cell with me. His arm, hanging over the edge of his bunk, hadn't moved in a couple hours. I couldn't see his face because he covered up his respirator with a towel while he slept. I shook his foot and no response. I yelled his name and nothing. Finally, I walked up to the head of his bunk and removed the towel, only to see his purple face with the CPAP strapped to it, bubbles blowing from his mouth.

"MAN DOWN!" I yelled from my cell until the cops, nurses, and gurney showed up. They used a sheet to drag his pale blue body off of the bunk, out of the cell, and onto the tier. A nurse pronounced him dead by swiping her fingers across her throat. The cop standing next to me quietly uttered, "Snap crackle pop".

I was escorted away in handcuffs and locked into a coffin-sized, plexiglass-lined cage, pending transfer to the hole. Anxiety had the best of me. I raged with all the selfishness of somebody who saw the immediate future and dreaded all of it. I struggled to find my breath and had to squeeze to the bottom of the cage where there was air.

Four anxiety-ridden hours I remained in the cage. A guard finally approached and I was set free to return to my cell. "Go pack up your cellee's shit," he told me.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because somebody brought him back to life in the ambulance. You didn't kill him because he ain't dead now. You're a lucky motherfucker," the guard said nonchalantly.

I learned later that Mike is brain dead. A vegetable. In a sick twist of fate, Mike got the emergency medical transfer he so desperately needed. He was hooked up to life-support in order to serve out the remainder of his life sentence. If he could remember anything, his last waking moment was me bringing him breakfast. Scrambled eggs, tortillas, and salsa.



New Flyers

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE.

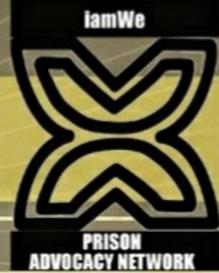
NEITHER SLAVERY NOR INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE,
EXCEPT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME
WHEREOF THE PARTY SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY CONVICTED,
SHALL EXIST WITHIN THE UNITED STATES,
OR ANY PLACE SUBJECT TO THEIR JURISDICTION.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT.

NEITHER SLAVERY NOR INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE
SHALL EXIST WITHIN THE UNITED STATES,
OR ANY PLACE SUBJECT TO THEIR JURISDICTION.

HOW CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THIS?

*Millions For Prisoners March On Washington, DC
August 19th 2017*



August 2017
Washington DC

Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March

iamWe P.O.Box 58201 Raleigh NC 27658
Join on Facebook: Millions for Prisoners March on Washington
millionsforprisonersmarch@gmail.com



MILLIONS FOR PRISONERS HUMAN RIGHTS MARCH

WASHINGTON, DC

AUGUST 19th 2017

**"Neither slavery involuntary servitude, except as a
punishment for crime whereof the party
shall have been duly convicted, shall
EXIST within the UNITED STATES, or ANY PLACE SUBJECT TO
THEIR JURISDICTION"-- 13th AMENDMENT**

END LEGALIZED SLAVERY



IAmWeUbuntu.com FB : Millions for Prisoners March on Washington



Millions for Prisoners March

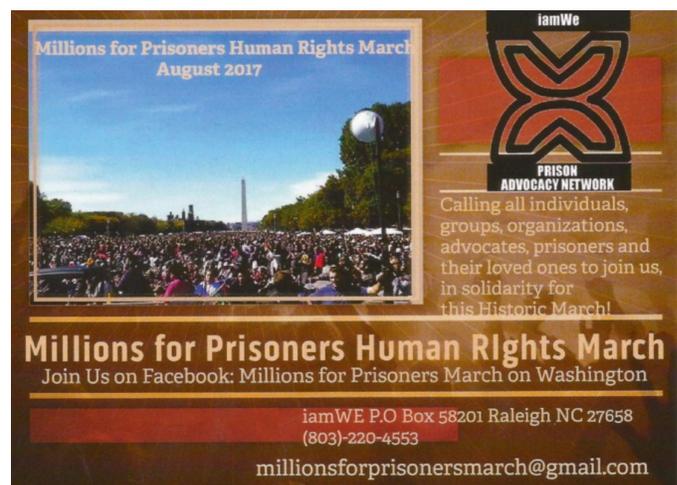
Updates

Here is a current list of local representation for the millions for prisoners' march stretching across all ends of the country from Washington State down to California and over to Florida.

- Lancaster, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Riverside, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Santa Barbra, CA
- Palmdale, CA
- Tampa Bay, FL
- Savannah, GA
- Baton Rouge, LA
- New Orleans, LA
- Omaha, NE
- Central New Jersey
- Raleigh, NC
- Lancaster, PA
- Northampton, PA
- Mid-Point South Carolina
- Houston, TX
- Fredericksburg, VA
- Richmond, VA
- Seattle, WA
- Spokane, WA
- Washington D.C

Mission Statement

WE SEEK TO UNITE ACTIVISTS, ADVOCATES, PRISONERS, EX-PRISONERS, THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PRISONS AND THE PRISON SYSTEM, AND REPLACE THEM WITH MORE HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS. OUR AIM IS TO EXPOSE THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION THAT IT TRULY IS. WE WANT TO CHALLENGE THE IDEA THAT CAGING AND CONTROLLING PEOPLE KEEPS COMMUNITIES SAFE. WE BELIEVE THAT FOR TOO LONG OUR NATION HAS RELIED UPON INCARCERATION AS A WAY TO SOLVE BROADER SOCIAL PROBLEMS, TO ITS DETRIMENT. IN AUGUST OF 2017, WE WILL MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO BRING WORLD ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUED SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IN AMERICA, ENABLED BY THE 13TH AMENDMENT AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVER INCREASING MOVEMENT AGAINST THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.



Getting Involved

The Millions for Prisoners March is a grassroots movement dependent on community investment and local organizing. We urge readers to personally take up this human rights cause by getting involved in a variety of ways including creating flyers, making videos, sharing hashtags such as #Abolishthe13th or #EndPrisonSlavery, as well as sharing Millions for Prisoners Facebook pages in order to raise awareness through social media. These are some small steps individuals can take to inform their community. We also encourage participants to spread their impact by organizing their community to mobilize to Washington D.C. For those who are unable to travel to D.C. we are ask that communities host solidarity demonstrations on the August 19th. This is a grassroots movement so we are truly relying on the people to make this happen. Below is information on how to form a local organizing committee.

Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

The Local organizing committees shall be comprised of various individuals and organizations situated in local communities throughout the country. The LOCs will provide direct interaction with members of its local community as it relates to the promotion, organization and mobilization for the Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March. The LOC will engage members of the local community, and provide education on the impacts of the 13th amendment of the U.S constitutions and other laws that contribute to mass incarceration in their communities.

Requirements:

1. Minimum of 3 participants to form a LOC- 1 member being the Local Representative
2. All participants must be in agreement to raise awareness and push the Millions for Prisoner Human Rights March agenda. Participants are responsible for connecting with organizations and recruiting new members



Submission Info: In addition to publishing content raising awareness about the march and providing updates on demonstration progress, the No Shackles Newsletter also accepts work from prisoners in the form of articles, art and poetry. This March is about you and some of our most meaningful contributions come from the inside. We also accept submissions from friends and family members of prisoners. For readers interested in submitting their work: typed and printed can be sent to the return address or emailed to <millionsforprisonersmarch@gmail.com>; carbon copy: <amanisawari@gmail.com> Submissions should be marked Attn: No Shackles Newsletter
Facebook: Millions for Prisoners March on Washington

Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.
4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.
5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and
6. Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.
7. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.
8. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.
9. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labor market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.
10. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.
11. With the participation and help of the community and social institutions, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favorable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.
12. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.

iamWE Prison Advocacy Network
P.O. Box 58201
Raleigh NC 27658

