

# *Seasons Greetings!*

*From your friends and family in the struggle*

Sent 12/9/2016

We hope that this winter finds you in the best spirits possible given the circumstances and that you are staying strong, active and dedicated to fight for liberation both in your personal life and for the collective well-being of all.

In August of this year we sent out letters from the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP) to let prisoners across the country know of our activities surrounding the September 9<sup>th</sup> mobilizations that occurred nationwide as part of the commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Attica uprising. For our part, we chose to highlight environmental conditions of the system, where prisoners are exposed to health hazards often due to overcrowding, sweatshop factory conditions and toxic locations.

Some of you may have seen those letters, others may not have. Unfortunately, we've learned that many of these letters were censored, even though they did not advocate for the participation of prisoners, but simply informed them of our plans for First Amendment protected demonstrations on the outside.

As a result of the censorship, we've filed several appeals in facilities where we were properly notified of our Due Process to do so. As you likely know, the system often moves slowly, if at all, and we are still awaiting responses. *(We also added new addresses to this mailing you are reading now, so this may be our first letter to you.)*

For those who replied with personal letters or documents on your cases, grievances, etc. Please know that we received many and have not been able to provide personal replies to most, but we are reviewing them with members of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) and the National Lawyers Guild.

Even after several months, information about the strike has been very difficult to confirm. For example, officials in Alabama, Michigan and Florida confirmed work stoppages on Sept. 9, while officials in other states—including Texas and South Carolina, where accounts of striking inmates has been confirmed by prisoners—deny that any work stoppage took place.

The estimate from IWOC is that more than 24,000 inmates in at least 12 states did not show up for work that day, and protests continued in some places for several weeks. In Alabama, where the national strike originated, corrections officers joined the strike by not showing up to work this weekend.

If you have a story from your experience in September that you want to share with the world outside your cage, please send it along to us. We will try to publish your accounts to the best of abilities.

**Please respond to: FTP, c/o Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601**

# *Special Note to our Friends in Florida*

Greetings,

This may be the first you are hearing from us, we hope this letter finds you well as can be expected in there. We are reaching out because we'd like to make contact with prisoners who faced retaliation from the September strikes and uprisings in FL prisons, where major news outlets have reported participation in at least 9 facilities (Columbia, Holmes, Jackson, Gulf, Franklin, Mayo, Liberty, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa), including multiple "major disturbances."

Florida was one of the first and the most active states in the September strikes, but the repercussions felt by those inside remains a mystery to most on the outside.

We know that many people have been transferred as a result of the prisoner strike. If you or someone you know has experienced retaliation resulting from things that occurred during September, please let us know so we can offer you support and public recognition if you desire this.

What occurred this fall has become a pivotal point in the effort to end mass incarceration in this country, those who had the courage to act deserve to be known and supported

Remember: you are not alone.

There is a growing movement to abolish the prisons system as we know it, just as we did away with slavery, and you, your cellmates, friends and family may be on the front lines of it.



*Sept 10, 2016 demonstration by FTP and IWW in front of FCC Coleman in Central Florida, home to the largest federal prison factory in the country*

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