

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Around the world, people are facing austerity measures, poverty, war and violence, as those in power try to dig their way out of their mess by offloading it onto the oppressed. As people rise up and resist, governments invariably resort to more and more repression, and imprisonment is used preemptively against activists and target populations who would challenge their illegitimate power. Meanwhile, here in Canada, the Conservative government is about to go on a prison-building spree to make space for the thousands who will be locked up if their new crime bill passes. At the same time, several activists have just been sentenced to prison for their part in resisting the G20 spectacle last year in Toronto, where they will join Roger Clement, Nyki Kish and other Canadian political prisoners. The following is some information about repression and political prisoners internationally and direct actions you can take to join in the struggle for freedom and justice for all.

PHILIPPINES Out of the current 356 political prisoners languishing in Philippine jails, 78 were arrested and detained under the present administration of President Aquino III. Many are charged with fabricated criminal cases to cover up their political persecution, while others are victims of repression and charged with political offenses on acts in furtherance of their political beliefs. Under the Philippine counterinsurgency program, modeled after the US programs in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are witnessing the criminalization of legitimate dissent. To find out more: <http://cap-cpc.blogspot.com/>,

<http://www.humanrightspilippines.net/>,
<http://www.karapatan.org/node/471>

PALESTINE: The use of torture and illegal detention is one of the main tools of repression and collective punishment by Israeli apartheid and colonialism. Since 1967, Palestinians in the Occupied Territories are forced to live under Israeli military law, resulting in over 100,000 Palestinian prisoners since 1967. Today there are 4937 Palestinian prisoners. Twenty-three of them are members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, 150 are children and 278 are being held without trial. Support the work of the Palestinian prisoner support and human rights association, <http://addameer.org>. Get involved to end Israeli apartheid the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign: Tadamon! Montreal: www.tadamon.ca info@tadamon.ca

COLOMBIA: There are 7200 political prisoners in Colombia, 40% combatants, and the rest trade unionists, human rights activists and members of various grassroots organizations. Charges are usually based on testimony by government informants. Most political prisoners are held in maximum-security establishments like Valledupar prison, which was built 11 years ago with funding from the U.S. and where prisoners are tortured and subjected to systematic cruelty. For more info and actions you can take, contact the Montreal based group PASC: <http://www.pasc.ca>

CALIFORNIA/U.S.A. This year over 12,000 prisoners in California participated in a hunger strike to improve conditions for those being held in long-term solitary confinement. Isolation prisons like Pelican Bay's Security Housing Unit were developed

as part of a counter-insurgency apparatus to use against rebellious populations on both sides of the walls. Jailhouse lawyers and political prisoners are amongst those who have been sent to the SHU for years. www.prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com Many of the political prisoners held in the U.S. were organizers during the mass movements of the 60s and 70s: members of the Black Panther Party, or the American Indian Movement; Puerto Ricans fighting for their homeland, or white anti-racist allies working in solidarity with oppressed peoples. Some of them have been in prison for over 35 years. More recently, the U.S. has targeted eco-activists and anarchists, among others. <http://www.certaindays.org/>

EGYPT: Following the overthrow of Mubarak in Egypt, & since the military junta took power, at least 12,000 civilians have been tried by military courts, unable to call on witnesses and with limited access to lawyers, in an attempt to terrorize those calling for justice and change. Minors are serving in adult prisons, death sentences have been handed down and torture runs rampant. Women demonstrators have been subjected to sexual assault and the military and security forces have been attacking and killing protesters with dangerous tear gasses and live ammunition. Sign this petition to free revolutionary Alaa Abd Fattah: <https://www.accessnow.org/page/s/free-ala> No Military Trials for Civilians: <http://en.nomiltrials.com/>
Organized/Endorsed by Center for Philippine Concerns, Pinay, Women of Diverse Origins Network, Immigrant Workers Center, Certain Days Political Prisoners Calendar, Tadamon, PASC, QPIRG Concordia