

Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

41 West St., Boston, MA 02111

October 2018

www.nlgmass.org

Vol. 41, No. 5

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BOARD MEETING

October 17, 6:00 pm

41 West St., 7th Fl.
Boston

Life in Prison

Every October we publish a *Mass Dissent* Prisoner Issue, focused on highlighting the thoughts, writings, and strategy of our National Lawyers Guild members in prison. This year is especially poignant as we saw a 19-day nationwide prisoner strike coming to a close as we go to press. This was the rekindling of a movement led by our comrades behind bars and their closest supporters demanding an end to abusive confinement, the slavery of prison labor, and the race based technologies of mass incarceration.

We have seen the widespread use of prisoner-led actions, using hunger strikes, work stoppages, and other acts of resistance to the operation of the mass incarceration system. These tactics have transcended the walls that the government continues to build and enforce; we are also seeing a groundswell of resistance within the immigration detention centers alongside the state prisons and county jails.

The NLG has nationally been supporting this prisoner-led resistance, and also supports the resistance on the outside. We have been Legal Observing for protests at prisons and detention centers across the country; reconnecting migrant families that were ripped apart by ICE when they traveled to the U.S. seeking a better, safer life; and we have been representing activists taking direct action outside the buildings that cage other humans. This year our Mass NLG chapter represented organizers arrested for protesting at the South Bay House of Corrections, the Plymouth Country House of Corrections, and has provided support to prisoners and former prisoners who were targeted for their leadership in the struggles for justice.

We stand in solidarity with and support for prisoners! We stand for prison abolition! And this month we help the voices of our incarcerated members to rise up.

- Josh Raisler Cohn -

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Mass Dissent (ISSN 0887-8536) is published every other month (February, April, June, September, October, December) by the National Lawyers Guild-Mass. Chapter, 41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111. Second-class postage paid at Boston, MA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Mass Dissent*, NLG, 41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111.

Join a Guild Committee

Street Law Clinic Project: The Street Law Clinic project provides workshops for Massachusetts organizations that address legal needs of various communities. Legal education workshops on 4th Amendment Rights (Stop & Search), Landlord/Tenant Disputes, Workers' Rights, Civil Disobedience Defense, Bankruptcy Law, Foreclosure Prevention Law, and Immigration Law are held at community organizations, youth centers, labor unions, shelters, and pre-release centers. If you are an NLG attorney, law student, or legal worker interested in leading a workshop, please contact the project at 617-227-7335 or nlgmass-slc@igc.org.

Lawyer Referral Service Panel (LRS): Members of the panel provide legal services at reasonable rates. Referral Service Committee members: Benjamin Dowling, Sebastian Korth, Douglas Lovenberg, and Jonathan Messinger. For more information, contact the LRS Coordinator at 617-227-7008 or nlgmass-lrs@igc.org.

Foreclosure Prevention Task Force: Created in June 2008, the Task Force's goal is threefold: (1) advocate for policies that address issues facing homeowners and tenants of foreclosed houses, (2) provide legal assistance to these homeowners and tenants, *and* (3) conduct legal clinics for them. If you are interested in working with the Task Force, please call the office at 617-227-7335.

Mass Defense Committee: Consists of two sub-committees: (1) "Legal Observers" (students, lawyers, activists) who are trained to serve as legal observers at political demonstrations *and* (2) "Mass Defense Team" (criminal defense attorneys) who represent activists arrested for political activism. To get involved, please contact the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

Litigation Committee: Established in 2010, the Committee brings civil lawsuits against large institutions (such as government agencies, law enforcement, banks, financial institutions, and/or large corporations) that engage in repressive or predatory actions that affect large numbers of people and perpetuate social, racial and/or economic injustice or inequality. To get involved, please contact the NLG office.

NLG National Immigration Project: Works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, documented and undocumented. The Project works in coalitions with community groups to organize support for immigrants' rights in the face of right-wing political attacks. For more information contact the NLG National Immigration Project at 617-227-9727.

NLG Military Law Task Force: Provides legal advice and assistance to those in the military and to others, especially members of the GIRights Hotline, who are counseling military personnel on their rights. It also provides legal support and helps find local legal referrals when needed. For advice and information, GI's can call 877-447-4487. To get involved, please contact Neil Berman (njberman2@juno.com) or Marguerite Helen (mugsm@mindspring.com).

GUILD NEWS

NLG HAPPY HOUR

You are invited to the "NLG Presents - Think & Drink" Happy Hour - a quarterly event held on the **2nd Wednesday of January, April, September, and November (or June)**. A report from the most recent Happy Hour is on page 4. If you have ideas for a presentation or would like to be a speaker, please call the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

NLG CONVENTION

This year's NLG Convention will be in **Portland, OR**, from **Wednesday, October 31 to Sunday, November 4**. The Convention will be held at **Benson Hotel**, and the program is filled with exciting and inspiring workshops, CLEs, panels, presentations, and social events. For more information or to register please go to www.nlg.org.

NLG LO APPRECIATION

Join the NLG-Mass Chapter on **Monday, October 1, 6:00-9:00 pm, at The Hub Pub (18 Province St., Boston)** in showing our appreciation for the NLG Legal Observers and their amazing services to the radical movement! There will be appetizers, pool tables, and skee-ball!

NLG HOLIDAY PARTY

NLG members and friends are invited to the NLG Holiday Party on **Friday, December 7, at 6:00pm**. Once again we'll be hosted by **Shapiro Weissberg & Garin**, at **90 Canal St., 5th Fl., Boston**. Great company! Great food! Great wine! And many great attractions!

Street Law Clinic Report

The following clinics and trainings were conducted for members of Boston area organizations and agencies:

August 2: *Direct Action* training for ICE Watch program in Lowell by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

August 23: *Legal Observing* at two actions in Boston organized by and in support of Deeper Than Water that is working toward abolition of prisons, by **Rebecca Amdemariam, Hila Bernstein, Zach Coto, Daniel Finn, and Jude Glaubman**.

September 19: *Legal Observer* training for students at Harvard Law School, by **Carl Williams**.

September 21: *Legal Observer* training for students at Northeastern University School of Law, by **Melinda Drew**.

NLG Happy Hour

WHAT'S GOING ON IN CATALONIA?

an evening with

Ester Serra-Luque

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Red Hat Cafe (9 Bowdoin St., Boston)

The little coverage given by U.S. media to Catalonia is mostly about "separatism," and tax benefits in the context of political elites.

Come and learn about the Catalan anti-fascist, self-determination movement, and the role radical lawyers play in supporting civil disobedience and in defending political prisoners.

ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The December issue of *Mass Dissent* will **review the Mass Chapter's work in 2018**.

If you are interested in submitting an article, essay, analysis, or art work (cartoons, pictures) related to the topic, please e-mail your work to nlgmass-director@igc.org.

The deadline for articles is November 10.

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD MASS CHAPTER PRESENTS:

LAW FOR THE PEOPLE

A SERIES OF TEACH-INS ACROSS BOSTON LAW SCHOOLS



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

IMMIGRATION LAW FOR THE PEOPLE - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 6:30-8:30PM BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL - EAST WING 120
STOP & SEARCH RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 6:00-8:00PM BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - REDSTONE BUILDING, ROOM 410
HOUSING LAW FOR THE PEOPLE - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6:00-8:00PM HARVARD LAW SCHOOL - WASSERSTEIN HALL (WCC) ROOM 2012
WORKERS' RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE - LATE JANUARY, 2019 (DATE & TIME TBA) NORTHEASTERN SCHOOL OF LAW - (PRECISE LOCATION TBA)

NLG Happy Hour

On September 12, the NLG-Mass Chapter hosted a Happy Hour event at the Red Hat Café, featuring a discussion on "Challenging Abusive Policing Practices." Speakers **Fatema Ahmed**, Deputy Director of the Muslim Justice League, and **Janhavi Madabushi**, Education and Outreach Coordinator of the Asian American Resource Workshop, facilitated the creation of #BosCops Collective, a cooperative group of organizations and individuals who combat the abusive policing and hyper-surveillance of local Muslim communities in Boston. Fatema and Janhavi led a fruitful conversation about the collaboration between Boston Police and Islamophobic federal Countering Violence Extremism programs, how to reclaim surveillance technology, and how to engage local communities to enact real change.



(Above) Janhavi Madabushi & Fatema Ahmed (1st & 2nd from left) during the Happy Hour. (Photos by Kayla Degala-Paraiso)

National Prisoner Strike Update

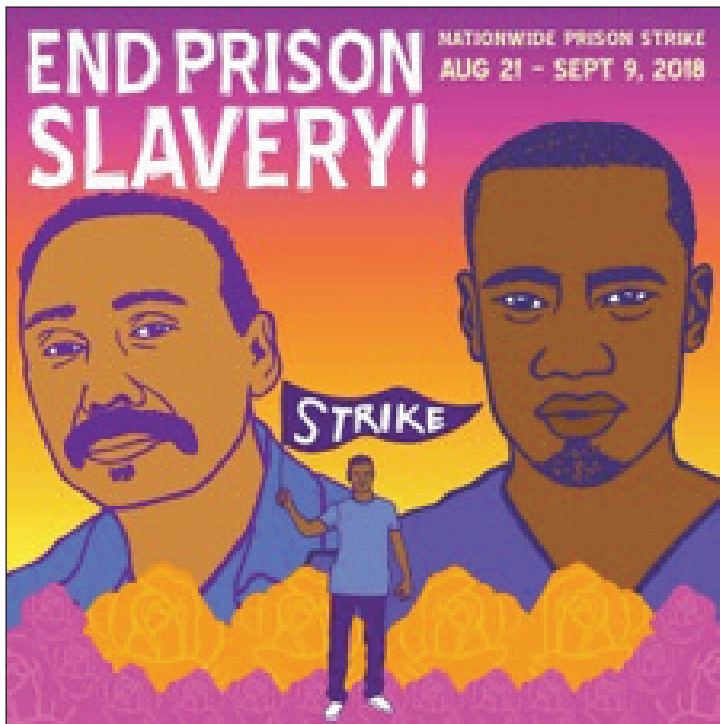
by Josh Raisler Cohn

Across the country, prisoners are organizing the largest nationwide coordinated prisoner action in many years. The strike was planned for August 21-September 9, which marked the anniversaries of the murder of George Jackson in a California prison in 1971, and the prisoner uprising at Attica and the government's bloody and murderous response to it.

During this time, prisoners across the U.S. planned to refuse to work and, in some cases, refuse to eat to draw attention to horrific prison conditions, exploitative labor practices in American prisons, and the broader injustices that have led to our current system of mass incarceration — from racist police practices to unjust sentencing laws to the lack of support people experience when they come home from prison.

There are 10 specific policy demands being made by the strike:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
4. The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
5. An immediate end to the racial over-charging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and Brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and Brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. Pell grants must be reinstated in all U.S. states and territories.
10. The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count.



According to Amani Sawari, a spokesperson for the protests, "Prisoners want to be valued as contributors to our society. Every single field and industry is affected on some level by prisons, from our license plates to the fast food that we eat to the stores that we shop at. So we really need to recognize how we are supporting the prison industrial complex through the dollars that we spend."

There was a similar effort in 2016, when strikes happened in prisons in at least 12 different states. In 2016, it was reported that 24,000 prisoners participated in the strike. This year, strikes were

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Penny Wise - Pound Foolish?

by Daniel L. Holland

There was a time, not too long ago, where, at the Massachusetts Correctional Facility at Norfolk, there was a focus on educating the inmate population about the benefits of exercise, weight loss and health food choices. But with budget cuts and changes to the prisoner diet, we are sadly reminded by the daily medical codes called out for prisoner with chest pain that these days may be far behind us. One could mistakenly assume that the concept of correction in this Commonwealth would include promoting and teaching healthy food choices. Or, at the very least, that not making healthy choices could lead to heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic ailments.

A few years ago, it was commonplace to see health seminars and other such programs offered to the prison population. The topics and programs varied, ranging from dental care, eye care, joint and back pain, to heart disease, diabetes, etc. There was a large focus on diet and exercise where doctors, nurses, and dietitians spoke. We were taught about the many benefits of fiber, antioxidants, and fruits and veggies. We were also taught about the horrors of trans fats, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated oils, and the dangers of a diet high in carbs and saturated fats. There was actually a program nicknamed “fat camp” where, following lectures, men were weighed and their progress was tracked. Perhaps this was because someone realized that a small investment in such programs (and prisons enforcing 100% adherence to the

dietitian approved menu/diet/recipes) outweighed the long-term costs and the burden placed on society by men leaving prison with chronic ailments associated with obesity and an unhealthy diet.

Moving ahead, such health programs/seminars simply no longer exist, and cheap “alternatives” have been incorporated into the prisoners’ diet three to four times a week. These alternatives include ice cream, potato chips, or (fat-laden) mac & cheese. First, it should be pointed out that the diet for the general population has been deemed a “heart healthy” diet by a department dietitian and it is supposed to satisfy the needs of the general population, including pre-diabetics, those with hypertension, etc. Those with diabetes, which there are too many, are offered a therapeutic diet which is prescribed by the medical department. About 3% of the Department Of Correction (DOC) budget is allotted for prisoner food. A prisoner can be fed for under \$2/day when the approved menu and recipes are followed. The menu, which is listed on the DOC’s website, is the same that is used in each facility. There are corresponding data work sheets which break down and calculate the calorie and nutritional daily requirements of each meal. The recipes cannot be any more specific as they are described down to the brand, quality, and amount of ingredients to be used. The Food Services Policy 103 DOC 760 clearly details the obligations of the Commissioner, Superintendents, State Food Services Director, dietitians, and finally the facility Food Services Director (FSD) with respect to providing nutritionally adequate meals. So one has to ask; how are such unhealthy

foods being served to a population living an overly sedentary lifestyle in confinement?

First, there is no oversight or enforcement after the department dietitian approves the menu for the year. This enables the FSD to replace approved foods with sub-par products, i.e. processed turkey and meatballs instead of what a dietitian factored into a person’s nutritional needs. Secondly, there are no clear substitution guidelines per policy. But, according to answers given in prisoner grievances, these changes are not substitutions – but alternatives – and a person has the right to request the healthy menu item, which is almost never available. Furthermore, responses explain that these alternatives are agreed upon by the FSD and a small group of prisoners. If I did not know any better I would opt for soda, cake, and ice cream for every meal. Unfortunately it appears a large majority of prisoners do not know better, and the DOC has shut down the access we used to have to better information!

Well, apparently the alternative to following policy and menu recipes, designed to be nutritionally adequate, is to keep everyone Fat and Happy while they are here. Then, release everyone with a Mass Health Card and let society continue to foot the bill for the costs of diabetes, heart disease, etc. Save pennies, add pounds, and waste dollars!

Daniel L. Holland is incarcerated at MCI-Norfolk. This article was proofread and edited by George Magrath (MCI-Norfolk).

The Massachusetts Department of Correction Policy of Tracking/Data Mining Family and Friends

by William Duclos

Through multiple policy, regulation, and contract changes, the Massachusetts Department Of Correction (DOC) has engaged in a process of data mining and tracking family and friends' information. These changes have resulted in cutting off many prisoners from their support on the outside. These tracking methods constitute violations of Constitutional Rights of those who try to stay in contact and provide positive influence and support to the incarcerated.

Tracking Methods

- **Money:** Gifts of money require the sender's phone number, date of birth and address which must be sent to St. Louis for processing. This information is stored and retained by the vendor Keefe/Access Corp. and is accessible to DOC for whatever purpose they see fit. No warrant or due process required.

- **Phone Calls:** Phone conversations are held and stored by Securus Technologies of Carrollton, Texas. The new service shows the geographical location of a person on a call. When a family member or friend is contacted, they have to submit to this tracking, and the possible selling of their information; otherwise they simply might not be permitted to speak with the prisoner. Many family members who are aware of this system simply do not accept the calls, and later in letter they let the prisoner know why they refused the call.

Another feature is "Threads" which allows law enforcement to "analyze communications data". Once again, no warrant or due process. The DOC has a cash incentive to sell out the people of Massachusetts; the DOC will be receiving an estimated \$325,000 from Securus each month, which is close to \$4 million/year.

- **Visitation:** The new regulation for visiting processing has decreased contact with family and friends, even by the DOC's own count. The process to have visitors approved sometimes takes four months or more. Sensitive information has been lost by DOC personnel in this processing. People who have been visiting prisoners for years are

birth, place of birth, prior employment, past victimization, medical documentation and various CORI information. There is current litigation about these restrictions being waged by Prisoner Legal Services.

- **Mail:** All mail now is being photocopied. This includes newspaper clippings and holiday cards. There has been no regulation change, just a memo. There is no word of where there mail is being held, or if it is being destroyed. Family and friends' pictures are being mixed up in this process and prisoners are receiving other prisoners' pictures, cards and information. Why is this being done? Is this information being maintained for

People are forced to consent to a systematic collection of data and tracking under a threat of being cut off from being able to visit people in prison at all. This goes against one of the alleged "core" principles of the DOC "Family Reunification" goals.

now being denied access to visit, without being offered any explanation why, even when they uphold all institution's rules. Information being required under M.G.L. 127 sec 36, 37 includes: mother's maiden name, date of

DOC purposes? No one knows and the DOC will not state their reasons and intentions.

People are forced to consent to a systematic collection of data and tracking under a threat of

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Why Is Psychological Torture not a Qualifier For Money Damages?

by James Riva

People convicted of crimes are hated by much of society. We criminals steal things from hardworking people. We criminals sell harmful drugs to their adolescent children. We criminal commit violence upon innocent people. That is the story that much of society tells themselves, and then they are able to ignore what is done to us, the criminals.

The case law against cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment of the United States Constitution is sparse on the subject of psychological torture. The case law under Article 26 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights, which prohibit cruel or unusual punishment, is even more sparse.

Without any clear precedent to make psychological torture a qualified for damages, an action may be dismissed by the defendant (Department of Correction, local House of Corrections, etc) just by transferring the plaintiff prisoner to another equally bad prison with equally bad corrections officers. This essentially allows the bad conduct to forever escape scrutiny by the courts and the public.

The damage that can be

caused by a small group of corrections officers working in concert to “crank” their prisoner victim can be extensive and devastating. Suppose four or five malevolent officers target the prisoner by writing bad reports on him/her, resulting in a negative psychological evaluation, resulting in negative parole assessment. Suppose the same four or five malevolent officers team up

I have even seen instances where malevolent officers got hold of sensitive information from a prisoner’s psychological records and use it to torment their target prisoner.

The courts in all their wisdom have declines thus far to allow for money damages for psychological torture. Instead they insist on actual significant physical injury to qualify for money. This triad

permits terrible abuses to go unresolved like a sore that never heals, merely by transferring the prisoner and allowing the corrections officers involved to size up their next target prisoner—a significant and commonplace problem. That evades judicial scrutiny and nonetheless inflicts

significant harms all the way up to suicide in some tragic cases.

If the United Nations has (albeit weakly enforced) regulations against psychological torture of military prisoners, why are prisoners in the United States foreclosed from receiving damages from the same?

If the United Nations has (albeit weakly enforced) regulations against psychological torture of military prisoners, why are prisoners in the United States foreclosed from receiving damages from the same?

to verbally harangue the target prisoner until he/she verbally explodes on one or more of them. The result? Negative housing assignments to “the hole”, or a forced increase of psychiatric medications (if the target prisoner has a mental health history or a negative parole assessment). There will be privileges denied, access to classes denied, more time spent in worse confinement conditions, and sometimes reduced visits and communication with loved ones.

James Riva is incarcerated at OCCC in Bridgewater, MA.

A Dishonorable Alliance

by John J. Sullivan

Once upon a time, I was watching a TV favorite, “The People’s Court”, featuring Judge Marilyn Milian. On that day’s docket was the usual array of fender benders and doggie duels. But one case in particular managed to divert my rapt attention away from the fetching judge. I was that day utterly astonished when one defendant identified herself as a former corrections officer who had recently been released after two years in a New York slammer.

What sparked my amazement was the fact that over these past 32 years behind bars, I had never, nay not ever, heard of a corrections officer (CO) being punished for any reason, either criminally or administratively.

My due diligence led to the conclusion that while laws are enforced even-handedly in some jurisdictions, Massachusetts ain’t one of those. For reasons I’ll delve into, the Commonwealth seems to provide corrections officers with de facto civil, criminal and administrative immunity.

One morning, I complained to a CO after he repeatedly skipped over my name on a waiting list for a unit job, hiring informants instead. As his response to me was of the negative variety, I reported the incident to the Deputy Superintendent, who ordered the CO to immediately put me on the payroll. That should have been the end of it. But it wasn’t. The CO was upset about the Deputy’s interference. The false D-Report scenario developed into a pattern over the ensuing years in this misbegotten

attempt to intimidate and control the prisoners.

As I write this, a well known prisoner convicted of sex offenses decades ago, now elderly and wheelchair bound, stands accused of exposing himself to MCIN nurses, within days of his scheduled parole release date. His advanced age, infirmity, and the suspicious timing of the allegation should hopefully put a stop to this one attempt at a false allegation.

Massachusetts has long endured as a bastion of liberal Democratic party politics, and is, consequently, pro-union. The Massachusetts Corrections Officers Federated Union (MCOFU) is a success story that has raised expectations of an unskilled and marginally educated workforce (understand that not everyone is college material and corrections can be a viable career path for the morally upright person). Yet, despite a progressive tradition in Massachusetts, the politics of most MCOFU members is frighteningly reactionary. In recent years, a symbiotic relationship has developed between the union and the Department of Corrections (DOC) and spawned a culture of dishonor.

The icing on this cake of inequity appears to be the recent elevation of Steven Kenneway, former president of MCOFU, to become the superintendent MCIS (“Holy conflict of interest, Batman!”). Does anyone believe that Kenneway is ever going to “interfere” (as did the deputy aforementioned?) But that’s his job, isn’t it?

The traditional method for prisoners to vindicate their rights

is through a civil action. On March 2, 2018, I filed one in Superior Court. Yet, after it was duly filed and docketed, it went into a holding pattern. After many months of circling the airport, I’ve still be unable to obtain summonses to serve my complaint. What I suspect is that court dockets are overwhelmed with prisoner complaints about lawlessness within the Department of Correction.

A better way to confront the growing abuse of power within the DOC might be executive action that orders employee conduct to be above reproach and consistent with statutes, policies and regulations. While this should already be the case, the Department’s actions show that they are not complying with the regulations at the current time.. Until some change is brought about, the public has no reason to believe in the integrity of our prison system or in its ability to rehabilitate incarcerated people..

John Sullivan is incarcerated at MCI in Shirley, MA.

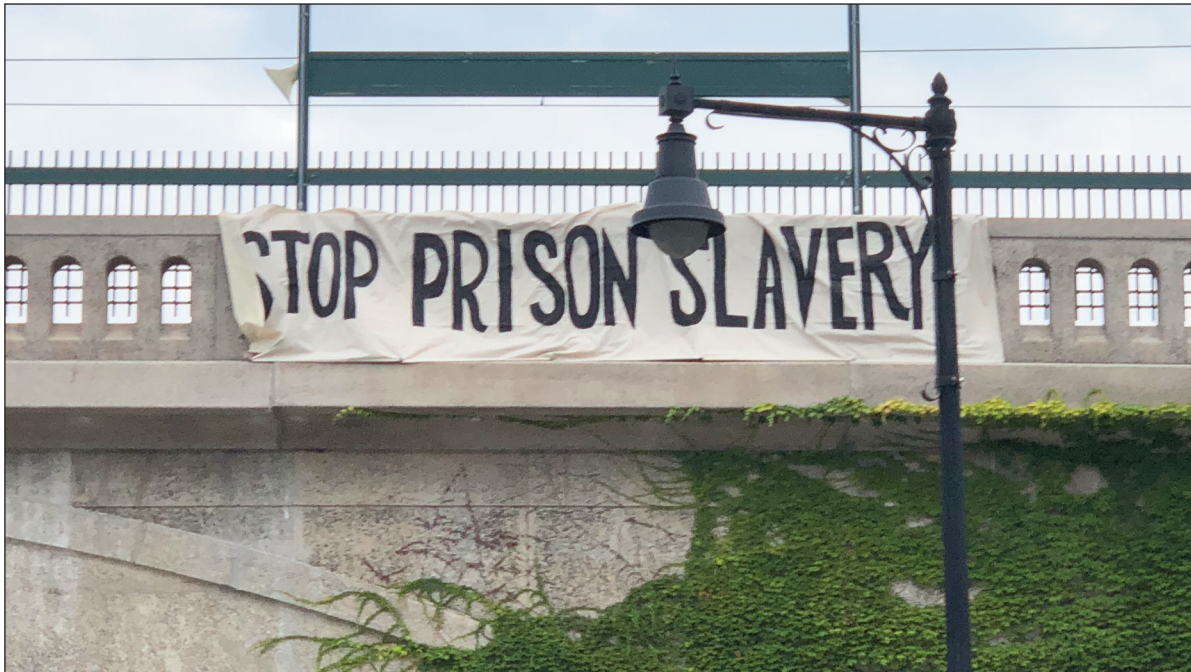
National Prisoner Strike Update

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expected in 17 states. Prisoners and advocates are seeking to raise awareness to the modern day slavery or prison labor, where incarcerated people are forced to

cating using contraband cell phones, posting to social media and bringing to public light the happenings inside prisons, access that is normally tightly regulated by prison officials who attempt to control out communi-

Muse (former prisoner who, while in prison, had articles published in past issues of *Mass Dissent*) addressed the crowd to talk about the lack of re-entry services for people coming home from prison, and the challenges that



work under threat of punishment, (transfer a worse prison, being sent to the hole, loss of visiting privileges, etc.) and are forced to work for essentially nothing. The 13th Amendment outlawed chattel slavery, but carved out an exception for involuntary servitude as part of a punishment for a crime. (One recent example of this modern day slavery is shown in the fight against massive wildfires in California, where prisoner crews were sent out into potentially lethal situations to fight fires, and were paid \$1 per hour.)

The strike has been organized by prisoners, with support from people on the outside. Many prison organizers are communi-

cation out. The prisoner-led organizing has garnered the support of more than 150 outside organizations, helping to amplify the message of the strike.

The Marshall Project, a non-profit journalism center, reported that there has been substantial corporate and independent media coverage of the strike, both with reporting on confinement conditions, labor conditions and prisoner pay, along with opinion pieces in support of the strike run in several major news outlets.

In local news, on August 21 hundreds of people gathered in protest in front of the Nashua Street Jail, the pre-trial detention center in Boston, Mass. Timothy

creates. Several people behind bars joined the rally by phone, and addressed confinement conditions, water problems in prison, and solitary confinement.

News from the strike is still developing as we go to print, but the solidarity and prisoner-led struggle for dignity and self determination is an inspiration!

Josh Raisler Cohn is a Co-Chair of the NLG-Mass Chapter. He works at Committee for Public Counsel Services as a public defender.

NLG Massachusetts Chapter Sustainers

In the spring of 2003, the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG initiated the Chapter Sustainer Program. Since its inception, the Program has been very successful and has been enthusiastically joined by the following Guild members:

Anonymous • Patricia Cantor & Jeff Petrucelly • J.W. Carney • Howard Cooper • Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer • Roger Geller & Marjorie Suisman • Lee Goldstein & Mark Stern • Benjie Hiller • Andrei Joseph & Bonnie Tenneriello • Martin Kantrovitz • Nancy Kelly & John Willshire-Carrera • David Kelston • John Mannheim • Jonthan Messinger • Hank Phillippi Ryan & Jonathan Shapiro • Allan Rodgers • Martin Rosenthal • Anne Sills & Howard Silverman • Judy Somberg

The Sustainer Program is one of the most important Chapter initiatives to secure its future existence. Please consider joining the Program.

YES, INCLUDE MY NAME AMONG NLG MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER SUSTAINERS!

I, _____, am making a commitment to support the Massachusetts Chapter of the Guild with an annual contribution of:
_____ \$500 (not including my membership dues)
\$ _____ (other above \$500)

As a sustainer I will receive:

- special listing in the Dinner Program;
- 1/8 page ad in the Dinner Program;
- acknowledgement in every issue of *Mass Dissent*;
- two (2) free raffle tickets for a Holiday Party raffle;
- invitation to special events.

Three ways to become a sustainer:

- contribute \$500 or more a year (in addition to dues)
- pair up with another person and pay \$250 each, or
- join the "Guild Circle" and pay \$50/month minimum.

Please mail to: NLG, Massachusetts Chapter
41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02108

Tracking & Data Mining

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being cut off from being able to visit people in prison at all. This goes against one of the alleged "core" principles of the DOC "Family Reunification" goals. The fact that free individuals have to submit to this broad data collection, sometimes knowingly and sometimes unknowingly, should raise concern for everyone.

The systematic tracking will continue to discourage people from staying in contact with the incarcerated. This will harm one of the most important factors for success upon release, which is the support of an outside network. The Massachusetts Parole Board places great weight on community support when deter-

mining it they are going to release someone on parole.

The last concerning aspect of this data grab is that family and friends are now at a higher risk of identify theft due to mishandling of information by DOC staff. Time and again, in the media, we hear about massive data breaches where people's private information is stolen or leaked. If breaches and hacking occur within large, billion-dollar corporations, who can feel safe with this sensitive information in the DOC's hands. If hacking occurs, will the DOC pay the expenses family and friends incur?

In sum, these major policy changes have all occurred in a matter of six months. The tracking of people who chose to be in

contact with prisoners will deter their desire to continue this contact, which, in turn, will have negative ramifications for prisoners - less contact with the outside world will affect their petitions for parole and will lead to lack of support upon release.

The systematic tracking and data mining violates the rights of many. These policies will affect prisoners and the society as a whole, not just while people are serving sentences in prison, but well into the future after their release.

William Duclos is incarcerated at MCI in Norfolk, MA.

Mass Dissent

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The National Lawyers Guild is...

" ... an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We seek to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization which shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests."

Preamble to the Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

MASS CHAPTER



Donate to Support the Guild!

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild's **Mass Defense Committee** provides legal representation and assistance to the **radical and progressive** movements.

We need your support.

Please help by donating to the Mass Chapter by sending this form and a check to
41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111 or visiting
www.nlgmass.org/donate.

I, _____ (name), am donating \$ _____ to the
NLG-Mass Chapter to help support Mass Defense Committee and its work,

Fill out and send to:

National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter
41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (w) _____ (h) _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAX: _____

Circle one:

☐ Lawyer ☐ Legal Worker ☐ Law Student ☐ Jailhouse Lawyer

Alumna/Alumnus of _____ Year _____

Dues (from schedule): _____

I am interested in working on the following projects:

- ☐ Street Law Clinic
☐ Mass Defense Committee
☐ Litigation Committee
☐ *Mass Dissent* (bi-monthly publication)
☐ National Immigration Project

Please Join Us!

Dues are calculated on a calendar year basis
(Jan.1-Dec.31) according to your income*:

Jailhouse Lawyers.....	Free
Law Students	\$25
up to \$15,000	\$40
over \$15,000 to \$20,000	\$50
over \$20,000 to \$25,000	\$75
over \$25,000 to \$30,000	\$100
over \$30,000 to \$40,000	\$150
over \$40,000 to \$50,000	\$200
over \$50,000 to \$60,000	\$250
over \$60,000 to \$70,000	\$300
over \$70,000 to \$80,000	\$350
over \$80,000 to \$90,000	\$400
over \$100,000	\$500

* Any **new** member who joins after September 1 will be carried over to the following year. Dues may be paid in full or in quarterly installments. Dues of \$80 cover the basic membership costs, which include publication and mailing of *Mass Dissent* (the Chapter's monthly newsletter), national and regional dues, and the office and staff.