

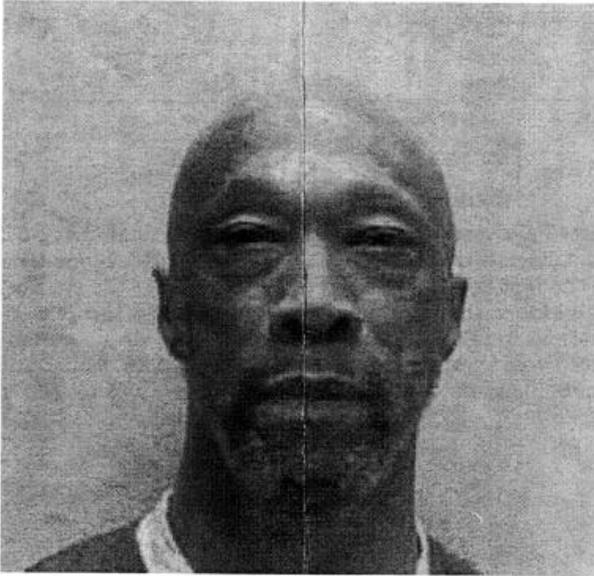
VOICES OF THE LUCASVILLE UPRISING VOLUME 3



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EVIDENCE DESIGNED AND DENIED



Written by Mosi O Paki.

After the uprising of April 11, 1993, ended, at Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, Mosi Paki was placed in solitary confinement without a charge until February 1996. He was then given a “ticket”(rule violation), by the Rules Infraction Board. As a result of that administrative act, Mosi has been in solitary confinement for 18 years and counting.

Mosi Paki (A210081), along with a number of other individuals was railroaded with charges arising from the siege of the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, on April 11, 1993, and has been in solitary confinement since that time. For 13 of those years, Mosi has been housed in Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP) Supermax Prison in Youngstown, because he has refused to submit to the lies designed against him. Although others were

charged along with Mosi, he alone was railroaded in a prison court called the Rules Infraction Board (RIB).

Chain of Events

I, Mosi Paki was 45 years old when I was housed in LI-16 a single man cell - when the April 11, 1993 siege of L-Block took place. LI was the last block taken over. We were told to leave our cells and go into L-side corridor where I and numerous other prisoners remained for 10-11 days during the siege, which ended April 21, 1993. I was then transferred, along with 128 other inmates to Mansfield Correctional Institution where I was locked in solitary confinement without a charge until February 17, 1996.

Design

I was then taken to Corrections Medical Center (CMC) in Columbus and charged with a ticket (rule violation) for complicity in the death of the only guard killed in the SOCF siege. As a result of this bogus charge, I was subjected to two days of interrogation (February 17-18, 1996) by members of the Rules Infraction Board - lasting eight hours each day. The normal duration of a RIB is 15 - 30 minutes. The RIB panel relied on coerced lies of inmates Kenneth Law and Sherman Sims involving me in the guard's death. I was railroaded and given an Administrative Control (AC). I was then transferred from CMC to Lebanon Correctional Institution in Lebanon.

Evidence

On July 17, 1996, I received an affidavit from Sherman Sims recanting his coerced testimony about my involvement in the guard's death. Also, on July 27, 1996, I received Kenneth Law's affidavit recanting his false statements regarding my involvement in the guard's death. In August 2003, I received from Attorney Lynd, the sworn statement of Patrick M. Fardal, Chief Forensic Pathologist whose testimony totally disproved statements of both

Law and Sims in the 1996 RIB files. On February 24, 2004, I received from Attorney Lynd a memorandum from Special Prosecutor, Mark E. Piepmeier naming Kenneth Law and another inmate as the only two participants in the guard's death. Since collecting this evidence I've presented it to OSP Warden Assistant, Linda G-abour, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Chief Counsel, Greg Trout and Prison Director, Terry Collins.

Denial

They have all refused my release despite evidence proving my innocence against the deign to railroad and convict me administratively by using coerced lies. They have refused to hear or look at the truthful statements of my witnesses and the evidence proving my innocence. This Evidence Designed and Denial has gotten me a 12 year "flop" from the Adult Parole Board, which is two year beyond the Parole Board's guidelines of a 10 year maximum flop.

I humbly seek and need your assistance - letters, pro bono attorneys and or by circulating this brochure along with your voices in society, to hold the ODRC responsible for, abuse of tax dollars, corruption and "No Touch Torture" for the past 18 years and counting - against myself, Mosi Paki and numerous others.

In Solidarity
Mosi

WRITE TO MOSI PAKI:
Mosi O Paki
210-081
LorCI
2075 Avon-Belden Rd
Grafton, OH 44044

HUSH



Poem by Greg Curry written following
the May Day Hunger Strike at OSP,
May 2012.

I tried to love without my heart, didn't get far, but how would you
know?

I ate something, drank something, took something (today),
felt good (today).

I'll try not to eat, drink or take anything (tomorrow)
that should feel good (tomorrow).

Since when did silence mean I have nothing to say?

Because there's no perspiration, it doesn't mean I'm not sweating.

You think because you see no tears, that I don't cry.

You're moving really fast, or am I moving really slow?

How long can you keep that pace?

Where is this place you're in a rush to?

You claim it's a beautiful, popular place.

Oh! I want to go also.

Must I improve my pace? Is admittance subject to a race?

Can I get it without beating you (there)?
Is this place limited to just a few,
or is it important to know someone (there)?

You look familiar, but no,
I'm sure I've never seen you before.
You sound familiar, but no,
I'm sure I've never heard you before.
Yes, I recall (the thought) more clearly now.
That is you eating, drinking, and talking really loud and fast.
I'm confused because I see tears, but you're not crying.
While speaking from the heart and working up a sweat like a
preacher, you're convinced...

Yes, maybe I should of remained silent since I have nothing to
say.

WE HOLD THE POWER

Written by Greg Curry, April 2012.

I was convicted of riot-related prison charges stemming from the
April 11, 1993, prison uprising that happened at the Southern Ohio
Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, Ohio.

Since I've been incarcerated in Ohio, I've been transferred from
prison to prison and the constant scenario in each prison, on each
security level, is they are full of poor folks, and most of them are
Black and Brown people from urban areas where employment
opportunities are sparse. In fact, almost all of them are in prison for
an attempt at “making a way out of no way.”

Society will, however, have hard-working citizens focus on a
desperate people's method— theft, robbery, burglary, selling drugs,
and so forth—instead of focusing on the much-needed discourse

which focuses on the capitalistic structure that has been the driving force behind most of the ills that have been plaguing this so-called GREAT NATION.

No one thinks prison is a career path. It's not a goal of any sane person, nor is returning to prison multiple times. So, in my opinion, any proper analysis must be done in the context of, how can a united, dedicated and concerned group of revolutionary thinking people shut down this movement that disregards humans and fails to prepare them for reentry back into society. I have witnessed numerous prisoners preparing to leave prison, holding God in one hand and hope in another, and swearing they were going home to be model citizens. However, they quickly become aware of society's priority (money) on day one upon their release. From the bus ride home to room and board to clothing and the essentials that accompany their release, they come into the shocking realization that their immediate needs drive an unprepared, unsupported person to decide to take a chance or, as I stated earlier, "to make a way out of no way." Of course, if they are unsuccessful, they will return to prison or be killed.

On the other hand, if they get lucky and continue to financially prosper, it will not be easy for them to terminate their criminal behavior. Why not? The short answer is, crime is habit forming just as all aspects of capitalism are habit forming. Never should we be lulled into thinking capitalism only affects our collective financial lives. To the contrary, our thinking, our worship, our health, our actions—all the way down to the number of years we live—are affected by this beast: capitalism.

I believe that not only will friends of justice, freedom and equality (socialists) have to wake people up, but prisoners, especially those of us in super-max prisons, also have to play our part in waking up the masses so that the mind and body are accessible to positive growth. But everywhere, among believers and activists in society, there must be a number of houses, gardens, bakeries, study halls and schools that can absorb like-minded prisoners returning to society. Moreover, there must

be training facilities to develop and help pioneers to travel across America and spread our words and deeds.

All have to be ready and willing to do things we have not done before in order to achieve that which we have yet to achieve. Most of us quietly recognize the low number of Black and Latino/a people at Socialist events or Occupy turnouts, but until visible members of these groups can attest to A BETTER WAY for others, then our work is undone.

If the powers that be want to deny

lucasvilleamnesty.org



WRITE TO GREG:

Greg Curry

213-159

Ohio State Penitentiary

878 Coitsville-Hubbard rd

Youngstown, OH 44505-4635

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS AND COUNTING!



Written by George Skatzes, in the voice of his sister.

Twenty eight years and counting! I am truly at my wit's end!
Please let me explain! Please hear me out!
A long twenty-eight years ago my brother was indicted for aggravated murder in Logan County, Ohio. (Case Number 83-CR-3). (Bellafontaine, Ohio). Needless to say, but he was convicted and sentenced to a life term in prison. (15 years to life).
My brother was convicted of aggravated murder and sentenced to life in prison on the lying word of a man that was doing 37 to 130
8

years for armed robbery and kidnapping. It is clear that he wanted to get out of prison, and he would do anything to achieve his goal.

The only thing they had to back up, i.e., corroborate this man's lying word was his wife! Their testimony was conflicting! However, it was still good enough to convict! There was no independent objective evidence, nor was there any physical evidence to link my brother to the crime. (Nothing!)

If you are interested in learning more about this case, please read George Skatzes, 'My Day in Court.' When George was convicted everybody really believed the appeals court would correct such an injustice. Oh how naive we were! As it turns out the courts in this land are not about justice! The only thing they are interested in is proving they are never wrong! Never! The system will protect the system!

After his direct appeal of this conviction George was on his own! He acted in a pro se fashion taking his case all the way to the US Supreme Court. Not one court in this land would even consider this case on its merits! Come to find out, when one fights the justice system in a pro se capacity the courts don't even consider the case, no matter how serious the injustice may be.

In Sister Helen Prejean's great book, "The Death of Innocents", there is just so much good information to enlighten one as to how their justice system really works.

On page 9, Sister Helen wrote the following, "Now I know that 95 percent of the justice an accused person can expect to get in the criminal justice system must happen at trial. Because once the "raw stuff" of forensic evidence, eyewitness accounts, police reports, expert witnesses, and alibis is presented and decided upon by a jury, chances are no court will ever allow it to be looked at again."

That is just the way it is. One being innocent doesn't really matter in this justice system! Remember, they are never wrong!

I know for a fact after George's case was turned down in court after court, he lost all hope! He lost his very will to live! This is such a painful experience to watch one go through!

Let us fast forward to April 11, 1993. George has told me many times that this day was pretty well the worst day of his life. As many of you may know, April 11, 1993 was the first day of the Lucasville Prison Uprising. Nine inmates and one correction officer were murdered.

George acted as a spokesman for the inmate body. He saved lives in that uprising and many people acknowledge this fact, they would have testified to such had they been called upon to do so. As it turned out you wouldn't hear much about all the good George done in that uprising in the trial.

After the uprising ended, three groups were transferred to the Mansfield Prison: the Muslims, the Aryan Brotherhood, and the Black Gangster Disciples. About one month after the ending of the uprising and the transfer of prisoners to Mansfield, the pressure tactics began! At any cost they were out to get somebody, anybody for the murder of the correction officer. (Read motion for disclosure of exculpatory and impeaching information, enclosed).

Three of the alleged leaders of the uprising were transferred to the Chillicothe Correctional Institution. They were placed in the North hole. The North hole is total 100% isolated from the whole world!

George was one of the three alleged leaders they transferred to Chillicothe, they could not have visits, commissary, nothing! This was nothing less than a serious pressure tactic to get these people to break!

To better explain the situation, please read George's letter to Jeffrey F. Kelleher, attorney at law. Re: visits from the Highway Patrol, (a lot), April 14, 1994. (enclosed)

What it boils down to, the Highway Patrol wanted George to snitch! He would not do so, and he was charged with three capital murder cases. (See the Indictment, enclosed.)

In an effort to make this writing as simple as possible, there is just so much to all this, I will list the charges and the evidence used to convict. Note: I am only listing the murder charges in this writing. (The Indictment has all the info on the kidnapping and specifications.)

1. The aggravated murder of Corrections Officer Robert Vallandingham. Found guilty and sentenced to 30 years to life. Evidence to convict? There was no evidence, nothing! I can not see how they convicted George for this crime!

2. The aggravated murder of inmate Earl Elder. Found guilty and sentenced to death.

Evidence to convict? The lying words of two inmates, one of which was involved in this murder, but never charged! He is now walking the streets a free man! The other inmates that testified against George in the Elder murder, he admitted to his involvement in this murder, but he was paid for his testimony with a lesser sentence. The testimony by these two inmates, their word, and their word alone put a man on death row! There was no physical evidence what-so-ever to link George Skatzes to this murder!

Now the interesting fact about the murder of Earl Elder. Another inmate, one that was man enough to step up and confess to his involvement in the death of Earl Elder, made it very clear that George was nowhere around, and he had nothing to do with the murder of Earl Elder! The court found this man guilty and sentenced him to life. All this took place years after George's conviction.

Several other inmates made statements to the powers that be that George Skatzes had no involvement in the death of Earl Elder, he

was nowhere around when Earl was killed. They would have testified to this fact had they been called upon to do so! The trial lawyer did not call them to testify! To put icing on the cake, the testimony by the inmates in the Earl Elder murder was contradicted and undermined by the testimony of the forensic pathologist. The inmate that confessed to the murder of Earl Elder stated he used a knife made from a piece of broken glass. This is consistent with the forensic pathologist's finding of a piece of glass in one of the lethal wounds. Yet all this means nothing to the courts! George was found guilty and that is that! Justice?

This is something to take notice of: In the trial of George for the murder of Earl Elder one inmate testified that George ordered him to murder Earl Elder. The state's theory as to what happened to Earl Elder was pretty well set in concrete, no variation! One inmate testified in step with the state's theory, another inmate somewhat testified the same way. There was a bit of difference in their testimony as to certain facts, but that really doesn't matter. Mr. Prosecutor explained it away. That makes the difference ok!

The way one inmate testified to keep in step with the state's theory was George (allegedly) order him to kill Earl Elder. This inmate stated that he allegedly went into the cell and stabbed Earl Elder several times, per George's alleged order. This inmate also stated that after he left the cell, after allegedly stabbing Earl Elder, Earl Elder was still alive! Of course this means this inmate did not cause the death of Earl Elder!

The second inmate, the inmate the state used to corroborate the first inmate's testimony, testified he witnessed another inmate go in the cell and stab Earl Elder, causing his death!

So, if, I said if all of the above were true, which I say it sure is not true, according to the Ohio Jury Instructions* (this is the law of the land), the most George would be guilty of is attempted murder, this would surely make the death penalty in the Earl Elder Case illegal for George!

See the Innocence of George Skatzes and Ohio Jury Instructions, enclosed.

To sum the Earl Elder case up, you have the following,

1. Several inmates that would have testified to the truth, George Skatzes had nothing to do with the death of Earl Elder!.
2. Another inmate confessed to the murder of Earl Elder, and he stated George Skatzes had nothing to do with it. The court accepted this and sentenced this man to life in prison. (Accepted his confession only did nothing about George's conviction! Nothing to right a wrong for conviction!
3. The Ohio Jury Instructions surely apply in this case!

Even with all this, the death penalty against George Skatzes still stands! Is this justice? Did I happen to mention the fact that the courts are never wrong? Never! There is no such a thing as justice!

The case of David Sommers, George Skatzes is on death row for this murder. The evidence to convict? (Evidence?) Inmate testimony only! Again, there is no physical evidence to link George to the crime. It is worth making a note here, the inmates that testified in this case against George are self-admitted participates in the murder! Their testimony against George was bought and paid for! They received a lighter sentence!

For a fact, the one inmate took himself out of the crime and put George in!

As in all of this inmate testimony, there is no independent objective evidence, and no physical evidence to link George to this crime. It is so very hard for me to understand how a person can be sentenced to death only on the word of inmate testimony, self-admitted participates in the crime.

Just to sum the murder of David Sommers up, the coroner testified that the cause of death was one massive blow to the head with a blunt instrument.

In George's trial Mr. Prosecutor made the claim that George is the very person that inflicted that one massive blow to David Sommer's head causing his death.

Another inmate was also charged with the murder of David Sommers. In this inmate's trial, Mr. Prosecutor made the claim that this inmate was the person that struck the massive blow to David Sommer's head causing his death.

Now we have two people convicted for causing the death of David Sommers by dealing a single massive blow to his head. Two people convicted for the very same act? Object is, of course to convict at any cost!

As with the Elder murder, there were several inmates who would have come into George's trial and testify to the fact that he had nothing to do with the Sommers murder! Again, the trial lawyer did not call upon any of these witnesses to testify. My opinion this cost George his life. As with the Elder case, see the innocence of George Skatzes. Enclosed.

To sum these convictions up, we have a man convicted and sentenced to death on the word, only the word of jailhouse snitches. Their word alone without any independent and objective corroborating evidence. So much for the thought that inmate snitches' testimony is considered unreliable! They say that a heightened reliability is required where death is the penalty! Don't believe that! Let this case serve as proof that the sufficiency of evidence to convict, even when death is the penalty, is very low, almost zero in fact! The inmate testimony on both of these murder cases, Elder, and Sommers, is refuted by the testimony of the coroner! If there is any justice, any fairness in these courts, they will throw these cases out! A conviction such as this, one that lacks any sort of sufficient evidence cannot stand!

To add a little fuel to the fire in the Sommer's case, see the opinion from the Court of Appeals for MONTgomery County, Ohio,

rendered on the 10th day of October, 2008. Enclosed. On page 16, it reads, there was no way to prove who had inflicted the fatal head injury. Even with such an admission from the Court of Appeals, the conviction of George Skatzes still stands, as he rots on death row! Unreal!

To give a little sample as to how this injustice i.e. snitch system works, see the excerpt from the [illegible] testimony in George's trial. Enclosed. Please see page 2851, I will help you if you help me. This is nothing less than testimony bought and paid for. Such is enough to convict, even in a death penalty case!

If what you have read so far is not enough to get your blood pressure up, please see the pages from the Lavelle testimony in George's trial. Enclosed. Pages 4047, and 5751. Lavelle was pretty well the state's number one star witness.

Mr. Prosecutor stated on record, page 4047, "the state told him (Lavelle) you are either going to be my witness or I'm going to come back and try to kill you." Talk about putting the pressure on to get a good snitching, lying inmate to say what you want him to say!

See page 57851 of Lavelle's testimony. This will serve as proof that what I wrote out on April 14, 1999, my letter to Jeffrey F Kellefer, Attorney at Law is 100% true! This is also enclosed. What will it take to get their Injustices cleaned up? See the page from the petition dated 12/6/06.

See number 46, Sharon O'Hara-Bruce, a criminal defense attorney in Michigan. I have to believe most people would find the way Mr. Prosecutor put what he did to Lavelle to get him to testify, on record. Very hard to believe. Mr. Prosecutor was Bold! Very Bold! Also see 47, Anonymous, this man, Mr. Prosecutor overstepped his bounds, and it is high time we make some noise about all this. See the motion to dismiss Capital Indictment enclosed.

It has to be plain for one to see that this is a case of arbitrary selective Prosecution, for death penalty. Again, the one question remains, how can a conviction and death sentence stand when in fact it has to be nothing less than illegal?

This case is now in the first stage of the federal court. Will this court serve justice or will it be as all the courts in the state of Ohio and just lie about the facts, twist the truth only to uphold this wrongful conviction?

It is my opinion that the courts will not do their job and serve justice unless we the people force them to do so!

I am a layperson when it comes to fighting this injustice system. In all my life I have never been involved with the law or trying to fight for justice. It is at this time that I am truly at my wits' end. I have to do something to help my brother! There is no doubt what-so-ever in my mind that he is innocent of these crimes!

Knowing now how the system works I realize it is possible for the courts to drag this case out for years and years! George is 65 years old now. And it is not easy to go visit him only to see him deteriorate right before my eyes. I never considered George as a weak person, but how much can he stand? What will he be like in another 5-10 years? How would any of us handle being locked up for the past 28 years for crimes we did not commit? George hardly comes out of his cell. He will come out about once a month to use the phone. Spending 24x7 in that cell can not be good! However, I do understand somewhat as to how he feels. He feels very much so out of his element. That I can really understand. This hell on earth has to end for him, sooner rather than later!

When we visit George it is very plain for me to see that he puts on a front like all is well, he is fine and all, but I see through that! Deep down I know he is dying inside! He has never bounced back from his days in Lucasville when every court in this land turned

him down. He really lost his will to live and I believe in his heart he has a death wish!

George has told me many times that he feels he will die in his rat trap cell alone! He really believes the courts will drag this case out for the next ten years or so. That is how they do it! They will never admit they are wrong! All in all, if the truth had to be told, this system destroyed his life! They murdered him without firing a shot!

On our visits and through letters we always try to keep it positive, keep some hope in his heart. George has asked many times, what am I going to do coming out of here at the age of 70 plus? Just what kind of shape will I be in after 30 some years in prison? These are the questions he asked! Guess one could try to walk a mile in his shoes.

Fighting a serious depression, not being able to function, write letters, etc., this is nothing less than torture for him. He is forever fighting with himself over this. Sounds crazy, huh?

This is an excerpt from the book *Feeling Good* by David Burns. Pages 84 and 85.

If you have the hunch that you or someone else likes being depressed and doing nothing, then remind yourself that depression is the most agonizing form of human suffering.

George sent this to me. He only wants people to understand him.

I so want to help my brother as well as all others that have been wrongfully convicted. we have to stop this sort of thing! I am just so lost as what to do! I am very willing to do anything to help!

This is my heart-felt plea, people please let us join forces and make these courts follow their own laws! I am asking for help, support to right this wrong! I believe in people power!

I am open for suggestions! Please let me hear from you! Together we can change this system! When only the lying word of jailhouse snitches can put a person on death row, or convict a person of any crime there is something wrong with this system!

Thank you for hearing me out! I can only hope we can join hands to bring about change in this system.

*Ohio Jury Instructions: 409.56 Other Causes, intervening causes
3. Independent Intervening causes of death. If the defendant inflicted an injury not likely to produce death, and if the sole and only cause of death was (natural cause) (fatal injury inflicted by another person), the defendant who inflicted the original injury is not responsible for the death.

*Other cited source materials can be found online at
<http://justiceforgeorgeskatzes.webs.com/>

Write to George:
George Skatzes
Chillicothe CI 173501
P. O. Box 5500
15802 State Route 104 North
Chillicothe, OH 45601

REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS!



Written by Siddique Abdullah Hasan, April 2012.

I fervently pray this communication will find you in good health and spirits, and, equally important, open-minded. As for myself, I'm still in the trenches and remain committed to the struggle to fight against oppression, persecution and economic exploitation. As you already know, all around the globe people are fighting for their liberation and to remove the shackles of economic, political and social oppression/exploitation that they've been experiencing at the hands of the 1%: the powers that be. This year is expected to be an explosive one—in fact, some recognizable groups and persons have already went as far as calling for a revolution in the United States, while others only want the economic situation to go back to where it was prior to the recession.

If there's going to be a real revolution, then come what may and let the wind blow wherever. However, I wish to remind you, myself and all concerned that, for there to be a revolution, there must be revolutionary consciousness. Yes, revolution is a conscious, scientifically planned process used by oppressed and exploited Peoples to change their political, economic, social condition. And from what I've been reading, seeing and debating with others, the masses are waking up and smelling the coffee. The real issue or question becomes, where do prisoners stand on this important development in our history? Over the decades I've heard many prisoners say they're "revolutionaries"; however, I've often had to remind them that to be a revolutionary is to be an agent of change, which is virtually impossible if one doesn't know what needs to be changed.

I think we all can agree that the prison-industrial complex (PIC) needs to be changed. Personally, I think it needs to be abolished, plain and simple. In case you were not aware, February 20, 2012, was Occupy for Prisoners Day, i.e., a National Day of Action called by Occupy Oakland. All across the United States people were protesting the draconian conditions that effect prisoners. Occupy Columbus supported prisoners at OSP and throughout Ohio.

In protest against the corruption of the worldwide marketplace, which has led to illegal foreclosures, mass unemployment, low wages, high taxes and a penalization of all those who do not own the '99%' of the world's resources, on December 19, 2011, Occupy Los Angeles General Assembly consented upon the following statement:

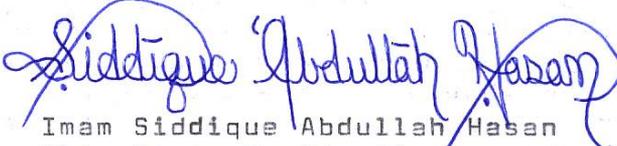
Occupy LA [OLA] supports in principle a General Strike on May 1, 2012, for migrant rights, jobs for all, a moratorium on foreclosures, and peace — and to recognize housing, education and health care as human rights, and calls for the building of a broad coalition to make that a reality.

While nothing in this statement mentions anything about prisoners or PIC, I have asked two of my outside connections to see can they convince OLA to champion prisoners' cause / struggle in the General Strike.

Finally, it appears that on the anniversary of Occupy Wall Street (September 17, 2012), a call will be nationally issued for prisoners to engage in an indefinite work stoppage and boycott of the commissary until their issues can be equally resolved.

Keep in mind that our struggle and that of those on the outside is one and the same-- that is, the same government that is exploiting / oppressing them is also doing the same thing to us. Thus, we have to lift up our voices and join forces with our counterparts in society.

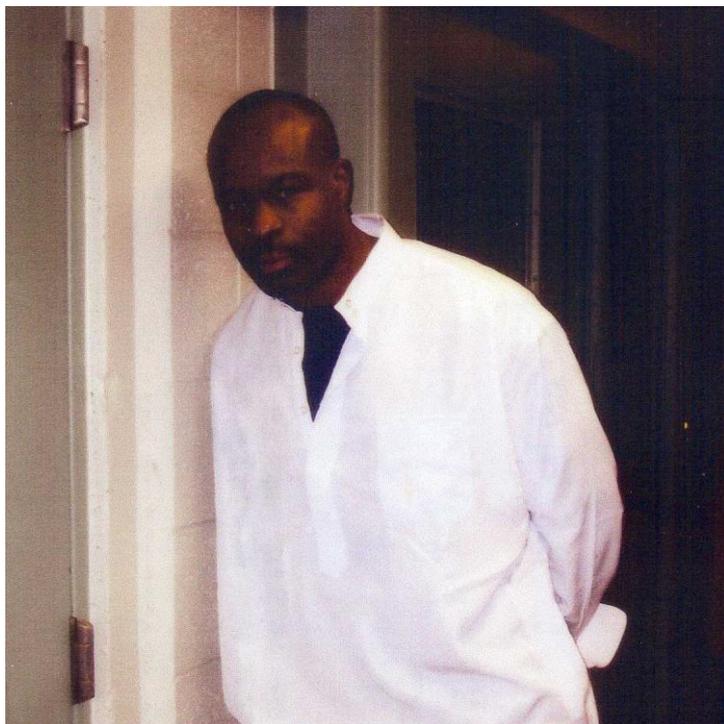
Stiff resistance,



Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan
Ohio State Penitentiary

WRITE TO HASAN:
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R150-559
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878 Coitsville-Hubbard rd
Youngstown, OH 44505-4635

LUCASVILLE: A BRIEF HISTORY



From Bomani's book, *Condemned*, which is available online at Keithlamar.org

Based on the official account, the uprising was the result of a discrepancy between the warden and Muslim inmates who refused to submit to mandatory tuberculosis testing. Apparently the serum being used to determine whether or not inmates were infected contained an alcoholic substance called phenol which, due to Islamic doctrines, Muslims were prohibited from ingesting.

In an effort to resolve this dilemma, several Muslims met with the warden to suggest alternative ways in which the tests could be given. However, for reasons I will explain later, the warden refused to listen to their suggestions and give them an ultimatum

demanding complete compliance or automatic lockdown and forced inoculation.

Faced with something of an impasse, the Muslims decided to stage what was supposed to have been a peaceful demonstration to protest against what they perceived as unfair treatment. Since it was known that alternatives (chest x-rays, urinalysis, sputum samples, etc.) were being offered to Muslims at other institutions, the Muslims at SOCF felt that protesting would force the Administration to yield in their behalf. However, after physical force was used to strip guards of their keys and weapons to release prisoners from their cells, the protest quickly erupted into what is now known as the longest prison riot in history. But that's only part of the story. In truth, what happened on April 11, 1993 was a long time coming.

In the fall of 1990, three years before the uprising, a school teacher by the name of Beverly Taylor was viciously murdered by a black inmate. Allegedly, after a botched rape attempt which turned into a hostage situation, the inmate panicked and cut Beverly Taylor's throat. This caused a tremendous uproar in the surrounding community and led to calls for the inmate to be put to death. The inmate was put on trial, but because of his diminished mental capacity was barred from receiving the death penalty. This reignited the anger in the community, who then began calling for the complete lock-down of the institution. Ultimately, a new warden was appointed.

The new warden's name was Arthur Tate, who was supposedly chosen as someone who could restore order. However, since it was against the law to permanently lock the penitentiary down, Warden Tate immediately came under fire and had to wrestle against the accusation that we were being coddled and catered to, which was a perception that Warden Tate despised and sought to dispel by severely limiting programs and out-of-cell time. But he could only do so much. In a very real sense, his hands were tied and the best he could do was to start enforcing a strict dress code, which

basically meant we had to keep our shirts tucked in at all times. He also had yellow “caution” lines painted on each side of the hallway floors, apparently to create the illusion of physical and psychological distance between inmates and corrections officers.

Finally, as a last resort, Warden Tate sought permission from Eric Dahlberg, South regional director, to build a high security (i.e. super max) unit inside the prison. He was convinced that this was the one and only way to address the potential threat that certain individuals posed. But since SOCF was already equipped with a high security unit consisting of twenty (20) cells which were very seldom, if ever, completely full, Warden Tate’s request was denied. In addition to that, Mr. Dahlberg’s office lacked the finances necessary to fund the building of an additional unit and, therefore, would have to convince the state legislature to provide it. They needed a riot.

In order to prove that SOCF was unable to contain the potential violence that Warden Tate predicted, they needed a disturbance that exceeded their ability to control. Thus began what became known as “operation shakedown.” Warden Tate gave his c/o’s the green light to do whatever they wanted to do, and this unleashed years of pent up rage, stemming from Beverly Taylor’s death, which expressed itself in the worst possible way.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, SOCF was known as a place where inmates were routinely beaten and killed. And when Warden Tate instituted operation shakedown, it became evident that old trends would be resumed with renewed vigor. All of a sudden, minor transgressions were met with extreme hostility, e.g. if you were caught crossing the yellow “caution” lines it could result in you being slammed head first into the wall and then rushed to the hole to face disciplinary action. And this was only the beginning.

In prison, most of the day-to-day operations are run by the prisoners themselves. Prisoners determine where you work, where you cell and how much access you have to certain areas of the

penitentiary; c/o's are there mainly to prevent anyone from escaping. When operation shakedown began, the whole complexion of the penitentiary changed. Now the only way that you could work where you wanted and cell where you wanted, you had to be in cahoots with the Administration and there was no such thing as middle-of-the-road; you either worked with the Administration or you were subject to the insanity that ensued.

Known racists were being forced to cell with black militants. Homosexuals were placed in cells with individuals who were known to be homophobic. Rules were changed on an almost daily basis, leaving us in constant confusion. And just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, Mansfield corrections, a northern Ohio penitentiary, sent 200 to 300 of its most unruly inmates to SOCF. In the midst of all this volatility, the Administration started showing ultra-violent prison movies depicting inmates stabbing, raping and killing each other.

As April approached, you could sense that it was only a matter of time before something serious was going to happen. Tension between prisoners and c/o's began to rise as the c/o's became more and more violent. In hindsight, it's hard to say what the Muslims expected when they took the keys and weapons, but when all the cells were opened, years of repressed animosity burst forward in a torrent of unbridled aggression. Warden Tate had finally gotten his riot.

WRITE TO BOMNAI:
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The Lucasville Uprising was a rebellion against oppressive and racist policies at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, OH. Nine inmates and one guard died during the uprising in April of 1993. Today, many people are serving time or condemned to death by the state of Ohio in relation to the uprising. We demand amnesty for all of these prisoners. The conditions at SOCF were (and still are) intolerable and unconscionable.

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The distributors this zine do not support the various alleged affiliations of the prisoner contributors, but strongly support their stand against government oppression, and will do what we can to amplify their voices. As shown by prisoner resistance nationally there is a need for to look past individual beliefs and alleged affiliations, to stand together. Unity takes away the power of their captors to play puppet masters and places power back to those enlightened prisoners who choose not to be puppets. These prisoners' united stand across challenging divisions and under the most trying of circumstances should be an example and inspiration to us all.

FREE ALL PRISONERS



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