

TEXAS PRISONCRATS BAN "DEFYING THE TOMB"

DEFYING THE TOMB, by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, New Afrikan Black Panther Party Minister of Defense, sent to Chicano political prisoner Alvaro Luna Hernandez by Seattle's Inside Out Books, was banned from Texas prisons. Alvaro protested this censorship and demonstrated not only the incompetence of the prison mailroom authorities, but also showed the exaggerated and discriminatory nature of the decision to ban. Because of Alvaro's protests of the ban, and his criticisms of the flagrant violations of the human rights of all prisoners in the "control unit" where Alvaro is being caged, the unit mailroom supervisor G. Vandiver threatend to "put on a negative mail list" Alvaro's mail correspondents and supporters, in retaliation for Alvaro protesting First Amendment violations and the ongoing brutal conditions and mistreatment of prisoners in this "control unit." These brutal prison conditions had been previously declared unconstitutional by a federal judge in the case of Ruiz v. Johnson, 37 F.Supp. 2d 855 (S.D. Tex. Houston Division) on March 1, 1999, but nothing has changed since then. The only thing that has changed is the names of the victims added to a long list of prisoners who have been driven to suicide due to the psychologically repressive conditions of long term isolation in solitary confinement, described by experts as the most repressive in the nation, and described constituting "torture" by the federal judge in the case, specially of the great number of mentally ill prisoners held under these horrific conditions that violate all huamn rights standards and laws. See, Ruiz, 37 F.Supp. 2d at 940.

Censorship of this publication is not an "isolated incident." It is part of a larger fascist program of political repression orchestrated by the political police of Homeland Security that targets "radical prisoners" and the suppression of ideas in literature, hated by prisoncrats, that speaks truth to corrupt power. Prisoncrats fear slaves will re-educate themselves, create prisoner unity, discover their humanity and true class interests and make a united stand in defense of their human rights, much like the Attica prisoners did in September 1971 and the Georgia prisoners recently did, in the fascist juggernaut of the Amerikan Gulag Prison Industrial Complex, that imprisons over 2.3 million people and reaps super profits to the ruling corporate class state from mass incarceration, mostly of the poor and people of color. Political prisoners like Alvaro, who are at the forefront of the NEW PRISON MOVEMENT in this country, are being targeted for specialized repression, for he fears not the oppressors, and dares to struggle and seize the time. See www.freealvaro.net. These attacks on the basic rights of politically conscious freedom fighters like Alvaro is connected to the government policies of a new COINTELPRO program of repression in breeding a culture of fear, mistrust and division of communities, with a government informant and snitch mentality that is aimed at fostering mass hysteria with its Islamophobias in efforts to divide unity, monitor serious, militant grassroots leadership, isolate our freedom fighters from our communities, and cripple popular movement organizations, in the streets and in the prison cellblock.

WE ALL MUST RESPOND! If we fail to see the forest because of the trees, or bury our heads in the sand, we are only paving the way for more fascist repression in the streets and in prison. ALVARO, and all of our freedom fighters, pows, political prisoners, deserve our support and solidarity. THEY FOUGHT FOR US. WE MUST FIGHT FOR THEM!

Please make phone calls to the Hughes Unit, (254) 865-6663, and to Texas prison officials (1-800-535-0281) listed below and to other human rights groups and protest this censorship and the brutal prison conditions and human rights violations in the "control unit" at the Hughes Unit in Gatesville, Texas.

Letters of support and solidarity can be mailed to ALVARO at:

-ALVARO LUNA HERNANDEZ
TDCJ NO. 255735, Hughes Unit
Rt. 2, Box 4400
Gatesville, TX 76597-0001

TEXAS PRISON OFFICIALS AT:

-MR. EDWARD SMITH
Senior Warden, Hughes Unit
Rt. 2, Box 4400
Gatesville, TX 76597-0001
(254) 865-6663

-TDCJ INSPECTOR GENERAL
P.O. Box 4003
Huntsville, TX 77342
(932) 437-8035
e-mail:ombudsman@tdcj.state.tx.us

-MR. BRAD LIVINGSTON
Executive Director TDCJ
3009A Highway 30 West
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 436-4271
www.tdcj.state.tx.us

-REAGAN DUNCAN
Program Supervisor II
Access to Courts Dept.
2405 Ave., Suite J
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 437-5374

-MR. JOHN WHITMIRE
Texas State Senator
Chair, Prison Corrections Committee
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068
(512) 463-0100
www.senate.state.tx.us

TO THE ACLU AT:

-ACLU NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT
915 15th Street, NW, 7th Fl.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 393-4930
www.aclu.org/prisons

TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT:

-SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR
UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
United Nations Building
UN Plaza
New York, NY 10007
www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat.htm

COMMITTEE TO FREE ALVARO LUNA HERNANDEZ
P.O. BOX 7187
AUSTIN, TX 78713
(512) 320-0511

e-mail: twitchon@hotmail.com

PERSONS INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE
MAY CONTACT US IN AUSTIN, TX. ABOVE.