

July 2, 2014

Dear,

Hi. We are sending to you this new *CALL for an October Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration* so you too can "Take the Pledge" to do your part to make October 2014 the most powerful month possible. Pledge to be one of the thousands and thousands who are willing to speak up today to awaken and rally forth millions ~ all aimed at making the October 2014 Month of Resistance the beginning of the end of mass incarceration in the USA.

Join Dr. Cornel West, Carl Dix, Noam Chomsky, Media Benjamin, Henry A. Giroux, Marjorie Cohn, Pam Africa, Aleta Alston Toure, Cephus "Uncle Bobby" Johnson, Colin Dayan, Robin DG Kelley, Carl Hart, Collette Flanagan, Stephen Rohde, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Rev. Stephen Phelps and many others, by carefully reading the CALL below...

...If you agree with the CALL, take the pledge by simply getting back to us and confirming with your name and identification/affiliation, or sign on at <https://sites.google.com/site/monthofresistance/>. Then we'll follow up to strategize with you, to discuss the basic vision, to get your ideas big and small and to hear what you think needs to be done, and, importantly, to also find out what you yourself can do to make October 2014 happen on the scale it must.

2.2 million people in prison, more than 80,000 of them held in the torture of solitary confinement, more than 5 million formerly incarcerated people are denied basic rights even after they've served their sentences. 400,000 undocumented immigrants in detention yearly; over 2 million deported over the past six years. The incarceration of women has increased by 800% over the last 30 years. Youth criminalized as permanent suspects, treated as guilty until proven innocent by police and racist vigilantes. All of this disproportionately targets Blacks and Latinas/os. When you add the families and communities of all these people, it amounts to tens of millions of people living their lives caught up in the criminal "injustice" system of this country. This is unjust and illegitimate. It must be stopped, and the movement to stop it will be taking a huge leap forward in October 2014.

We encourage you to do your part to make this historic Call for October 2014 reverberate across the U.S. and around the world.

Stop Mass Incarceration Network

Email: stopmassincarcerationsocal@yahoo.com; stopmassincarceration@gmail.com

Web: www.stopmassincarceration.net; Twitter: @StopMassIncNet

Phone: [347-979-SMIN](tel:347-979-SMIN) (7646)

Initial Signatories Include:

Stop Mass Incarceration Network; **Cornel West**, author, educator, voice of conscience; **Carl Dix**, Revolutionary Communist Party; **Noam Chomsky**, Professor (ret.), MIT*; **Peter Coyote**, actor; **Colin Dayan**, Professor, Vanderbilt University; **Efia Nwangaza**, Malcolm X Center/Radio Station WMXP*; **Aleta Alston-Toure**, New Jim Crow Movement/Free Marissa Now*; **Henry A.**

Giroux, McMaster University Chair for Scholarship in the Public Interest, **Pam Africa**, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal; **Marjorie Cohn**, Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; **Cynthia McKinney**; **Carl Hart**, Professor, author of "High Price";

Cephus "Uncle Bobby" Johnson - uncle of Oscar Grant, killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police New Years Day, 2009; **Robin D.G. Kelley**, Distinguished Professor of History, UCLA*; **Stephen Rohde**, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)*; **Ulis C. Williams**, Olympic Gold Medalist, 4 x 400m Relay, 1964 Summer Games in Tokyo; **John L. Burris**, lawyer; **Marilyn S. McMahon**, California Prison Focus*; **Juanita Young**, mother of Malcolm Ferguson - killed in 2000 by NYPD; **Iris Baez**, mother of Anthony Baez - killed in 1994 by NYPD; **Dionne Smith Downs and Carey Downs**, parents of James Earl Rivera Jr. - killed in 2010 by Stockton Police; **Gloria Leiva**, mother of Dante Pomar - killed in 2004 by NYPD; **Collette Flanagan**, Founder of Mothers Against Police Brutality, mother of Clinton Allen - killed by Dallas Police in 2013; **Blase Bonpane**, Ph.D. Director, Office of the Americas*; **Marie Martin**, retired nurse and teacher, relative in solitary confinement in CA prison; **Medea Benjamin**, Co-founder, CODEPINK*; **Margarita McAuliffe**, Founder, Texas Moms United For Domestic Peace*; **Denis O'Hearn**, Professor of Sociology, Binghamton University and author of *Nothing but an Unfinished Song: Bobby Sands, the Irish Hunger Striker Who Ignited a Generation*; **Dahlia Wasfi M.D.**; **F. Luis Barrios**, professor, John Jay College, IFCO - Pastors for Peace; **Jim Vrettos**, professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*; **Marvin X**, poet, playwright, essayist; Black Bird Press News*; **Rev. Frank Wulf**, United University Church*; **Rabbi Michael Lerner**, editor *Tikkun: a quarterly Jewish and Interfaith Critique of Politics, Culture and Society*; **Rev. Jerome McCorry**, The Adam Project*; **Rev. Richard Meri Ka Ra Byrd**, KRST Unity Center*; **Rev. Darrel Meyers**, Minister (ret.) Presbyterian Church (USA)*; **Dorsey O. Blake**, Presiding Minister of the Church of All Peoples*; **Mary Ratcliff**, Editor, San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper*; **Grace Dyrness**, ICUJP*; **Rael Nidess M.D.**; **Jim Lafferty**, Executive Director, Los Angeles Chapter, National Lawyers Guild; **Rafael C. Angulo**, USC School of Social Work*; **Dread Scott**, Artist; **Manuel Olivera**, Actor; **Alaudin Ullah**, Actor; **Elizabeth Forsythe Haily**, novelist and playwright, ICUJP*; **Lynne Stewart & Ralph Poynter**; **Mike Holman**, Executive Director, Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund* **Andres Thomas Conteris**, Nonviolence International*; **Dr. James Cockroft**, Ph.D; **Rev. Jerald Stinson**; **King Downing**, Human Rights-Racial Justice Center*; **Rev. Stephen A. Phelps**, former Interim Senior Minister, The Riverside Church*, New York; **Iskander Kourkjian-Mowad**, #Justice4Cecily*; **Afua Ampoma**, Recovering and Rebuilding, Inc.; **"Cye" Harold Sheppard Jr.**, Advancing the Ancestor Coalition (ATAC)*; **Paul Von Blum**, Senior Lecturer, African-American and Communication Studies, UCLA*; **Vernellia R. Randall**, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Dayton; **Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice**; **Justice For Families**, Portland, OR; **David B. Rankin**, Esq., Rankin and Taylor, New York; **Tarak Kauff**, Veterans For Peace National Board Member*, New York; **People's Organization for Progress**, New York Chapter; **Global Kindness Revolution and Sagewriters**; **Racial Justice Now!**

Thank you, _____,

Puncture the Silence – Stop Mass Incarceration

PO Box 201542
Cleveland, OH 441120

PuncturethesilenceCLE@gmail.com

216-932-3474