

# WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS in the United States?

Join us for an  
informative workshop on  
**Women political prisoners**  
as part of the  
**Ladyfest Midwest**  
women's festival  
**August 18th**  
**saturday @ 4pm**  
the Autonomous Zone  
3204-6 West Division St.  
sponsored by the Anarchist Black  
Cross Cleveland Branch Group  
and a coalition of Chicago activists

For more info  
on the festival  
see:

[www.ladyfestmidwest.org](http://www.ladyfestmidwest.org)



The women pictured to the right are a few of the people imprisoned by the United States for political reasons. They are dedicated activists who have fought for justice.

They are incarcerated in U.S. federal and state prisons because of their political beliefs, their political work, and organizational affiliations (such as Janet, Janine and Debbie Africa's membership in the MOVE organization). These activists were arrested, tried in criminal courts, and given exorbitant sentences, to punish them for their politics, not their actions. They have suffered human rights violations, and yet, they continue the struggle from within prison.

Some of these prisoners became activists in the 1960s and 1970s. During this period many Native people, Puerto Ricans, Mexicanos, and black people, seeing themselves as colonized nations within the United States, took up the struggle for self-determination. North American Marilyn Buck and Italian Silvia Baraldini, both former members of Students for a Democratic Society, were inspired by these movements and became anti-imperialist allies of them.

As a result of their politics, Silvia and Marilyn were among those targeted by illegal government counterintelligence initiatives, such as **COINTELPRO**, the F.B.I.'s classified offensive against liberation movements. COINTELPRO was discovered in March, 1971, when secret files were removed from an F.B.I. office. Freedom of Information requests, lawsuits, and former agents' public confessions helped to expose schemes to "misdirect, discredit, disrupt and otherwise neutralize" activists and organizations through infiltration, harassment, intimidation, and arrest. Former assistant F.B.I. Director William C. Sullivan told the Senate Select Committee: "This is a rough, tough, dirty business, ...No holds were barred." The "dirty business" included everything from unauthorized bugging and wiretapping, and warrantless break-ins to assassinations (as in the case of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton).

The continued police attacks against MOVE, culminating in the May 13, 1985 firebombing of their house in Philadelphia, are well documented. On March 13, 1998, MOVE political prisoner, Merle Austin Africa died in prison. Yet the surviving MOVE prisoners remain committed to their principles

We celebrate the release of Puerto Rican independentistas Carmen Valentin, Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodriguez, Ida Luz Rodriguez, and Alejandrina Torres, of North American anti-imperialists Laura Whitehorn, Linda Evans, and Susan Rosenberg, and the transfer of Silvia Baraldini to her native Italy, yet we know that close to 100 women and men remain in U.S. prisons because they have dared to struggle for the liberation of oppressed peoples. When we support these political prisoners, we defend our own right to struggle for justice.



**Janine Africa**



**Debbie Africa**



**Janet Africa**

All at:  
SCI Cambridge  
Springs, 451  
Fullerton Ave,  
Cambridge  
Springs, PA  
16403-1238



**Marilyn Buck**  
#00482-285  
5701 - 8th. St.  
Camp Parks,  
Unit B  
Dublin, CA 94568



**Silvia Baraldini**  
Via Bartolo  
Longo 92  
00156,  
Roma, Italy



Laura Whitehorn: free!



Alicia Rodriguez and Ida Luz Rodriguez: free!



Assata Shakur: free!

# we can free our political prisoners!

Many political prisoners have spent decades in prison for advocating an end to U.S. colonial rule of Puerto Rico. Sometimes the State seems all powerful. However we should never lose sight of what we can win when we work together. The Puerto Rican people have freed two generations of women political prisoners from U.S. prisons. Lolita Lebron was freed in 1979 after spending 25 years in prison. In September 1999, five female independentistas were freed after almost twenty years in prison. Today New Afrikan former political prisoner Assata Shakur lives freely in Cuba despite the best efforts of the state to have her killed or imprisoned. We can win! Join the struggle!

# educate yourself about political repression!

From the Palmer raids of the 1920s to HUAAC and the McCarthyism of the 1950s to the F.B.I.'s infamous counterintelligence offensive against the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, the United States has used law enforcement as a weapon against political dissent. A good place to begin learning this history is with the following books: "Agents of Repression: The FBI's Secret Wars

Against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement" and "The COINTELPRO Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Domestic Dissent" both by Ward Churchill and James Vanderwall and published by South End Press • 7 Brookline Street #1, Cambridge, MA 02139-4146 • (617) 547-4002 • southend@igc.org • www.southendpress.org/ •

# international conference!

In March of 2002 an unprecedented international convocation on behalf of U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war will take place in Havana, Cuba.

"Tear Down the Walls" will be sponsored by a broad coalition of U.S.-based groups including the Hands Off Assata Campaign, the Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project, the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Jericho Amnesty Movement, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the National Boricua Human Rights Network, the United Church of Christ, the Anarchist Black Cross Federation, and Prairie Fire Organizing Committee and it will be hosted by the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL). More info: Tear Down the Walls • P.O. Box 3585, Oakland, CA 94609 • (510) 539-0050 • teardownthewalls@lycos.com • www.thejerichomovement.com/teardownthewalls/ •



Carmen Valentin: free!