All of Us or None is an organizing movement started by people who have been in prison in order to challenge the pervasive discrimination that formerly incarcerated people, people in prison, and our family members face. Our goal is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison industrial complex. Through our grassroots organizing, we are building a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.

Our All of Us or None newspaper is a multi-faceted venture linking those of us who have been locked up, those who are locked up, as well as our families and allies in this struggle. As we envision a monthly paper that speaks to our concerns and hears our cries, we want to ensure that the voices of our people inside are heard and the inside artists are recognized for their contributions to this movement. Your articles and poetry are important to us and your art is a valuable tool as we work together to dismantle the injustices in the Prison Industrial Complex. Please submit any articles, poetry and artwork to the following address: AOUON Editor, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608

For the last 23 years, people in prison and supporters throughout Turtle Island have participated in the annual event known as Running Down the Walls often simultaneously in many cities and prisons at once. This non-competitive 5K run/ jog/walk/roll hosted by the Anarchist Black Cross raises awareness and funds for comrades inside, including Dr. Mutulu Shakur.

RDTW 2022 will take place in several locations between September 10th & 18th!
As members of All of Us or None, we pledge:

• To demand the right to speak in our own voices
• To treat each other with respect and not allow differences to divide us
• To accept responsibility for any acts that may have caused harm to our families, our communities or ourselves
• To fight all forms of discrimination
• To help build the economic stability of formerly-incarcerated people
• To claim and take care of our own children and our families
• To support community struggles to stop using prisons as the answer to social problems
• To play an active role in making our communities safe for everyone

Submit your art and/or news articles for publication.

Nominate a formerly incarcerated person for the Coming Home section or submit your own story about reentry.

Nominations and submissions may be sent to:

AOUON Newspaper Editor
C/o Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

EMANCIPATE
RELEASE
ACQUITTAL
RESTORE
VINDICATE
DISCHARGE
EXONERATE
CONVALESCE
Clemency
EXPUNGEMENT
APPEAL
COMMUTATION
EXEMPTION
PARDON
REVIVIFY

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Mailbag

MY AIM FOR CHANGE, IS TO SEE THINGS FOR WHAT THEY ARE, NOT FOR WHAT THEY SHOULD BE (RIGHT OR WRONG). SOMETIMES THE BEST DEFENSE IS TO BECOME WATER (GO WITH THE FLOW), TO TRY TOO SHINE LIGHT ON THOSE BLINDED BY EGOS (THE SYSTEM & SOCIETY WE LIVE IN) WHO HAS NO REAL CONCEPT OF LIGHT (KNOWLEDGE), WILL ONLY SEE ME IN THE DARK BOX OF PERCEPTION THAT THEY SEE THE WORLD THAT’S INFERIOR TO THEM IN THEIR MINDS.

TOO FIGHT AGAINST THIS IS LIKE THE UNIVERSE TRYING TO STOP A SOLAR ECLIPSE, IT JUST WANT HAPPEN!!! I MUST STROKE THE EGO OF THOSE IN HIGH PHYSICAL POWER, BUT LOW MENTAL POWER, NOT BECAUSE I’M WEAK ONLY BECAUSE THAT’S THE BEST DEFENSE IN A SYSTEM WHERE RIGHT IS WRONG & WRONG IS RIGHT. I MUST UNDERSTAND IT’S NOT ABOUT BEING RIGHT ITS ABOUT DOING RIGHT. DOING THE BEST I CAN WITH THE LITTLE I GOT FOR MYSELF, MY MENTAL DIS_ORDER & MY FREEDOM !

WRITTEN BY: BRUCE M. DIXON
Soledad
Chapter Connections

AOUN Sacramento/Oakland

Black August Recognition

By Henry Ortiz & Tina Chris

On August 28, 2022, AOUN’s Sacramento and Oakland Chapters co-hosted the community of East Palo Alto for a Black August “Community Healers” circle at Jack Farrell Park, where just a few months prior the scene of deadly shooting. The Black August event was a festive environment which consisted of tabled, motivational speeches, free food, original music performed by Disciples of Justice consisted of formerly incarcerated people, including All Of Us Or None (C-Fight/Freedom) National Anthem, co-written members Henry Ortiz and Aijai Anderson. The event was coordinated by Fiani Johnson, Founder of The Araminta Ross Foundation and the community of East Palo. The collaborative is an ongoing effort, following in the footsteps of freedom-fighting elders including Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) and revolutionist who has been on the front lines fighting for freedom of incarcerated people almost 50 years.

Nunn’s passion for the fight was inspired from his 50-years sentence in the early 80s. Nunn has made it known, he will be retiring in two years, as he wants to enjoy his golden years, now in his 70s. As a founding member of the AOUN movement, birthed from LSPC, Nunn has helped catalyze AOUN into a nationwide movement with over 10,000 members in over 30 states, which has been going strong for over 20 years now, with no signs of slowing down. AOUN will continue grow, recruiting multiple generations of formerly incarcerated people, their families, loved ones and allies. AOUN’s fight for the civil rights of those impacted by incarceration has extended to East Palo Alto, Nunn’s old stomping ground, and is one of many California communities that was drastically impacted as the murder capital during the early 90s.

The community healing circle was led by Ortiz, where he was sure to make space for acknowledging the pain and impact of systemic racism, prison slave labor, and prayers for the people that still suffer inside prison walls. The circle allowed space for the whole group to engage in a conversation on the impact of community violence and systemic oppression. The event also had “Black August” elders — former political prisoners — present, and phone calls from gentle outside acknowledging the brokenness of our communities resulting from over 400 years of oppression, racism, and enslavement. Collectively, the healing circle engaged in conversations about the crucial and usual punishment sentencing practices in California, CPS systems that take children from vulnerable parents, and fighting against life without parole through people like Paul Bocanegra from Re-Evolution who was an LWP himself. Bocanegra is currently campaigning for a seat on the Board of Supervisors in San Mateo County. The circle also talked about keeping families united and addressing the pain that ICE and police brutality have caused in communities like EPA. The struggle to heal communities continues to no surprise. Honoring those killed at the park due to community gun violence is a must, and we want to encourage all people in every community — regardless of the systemic issues that try to divide us — to squash the beams and heal the wounds.

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Legal Advocacy

Fair Wages for Incarcerated People

Far too often bills that affect the lives and livelihood of current and formerly incarcerated people are proposed in the legislature and far too often the resulting legislation is so watered down that it doesn’t even resemble the original idea and intent of the bill. The following fact sheet is what SPC distributed during our recent Quest for Democracy Day to the participants advocating for change at the State Capitol.

Senate Bill 1371 (Bradford): Wages for Incarcerated Persons

Summary:

Existing law allows for incarcerated people to be employed in various jobs. It also puts the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDPR) and the Prison Industry Authority in charge of the wages for employed incarcerated people.

This bill would require the Secretary of CDPR to increase the wages for employed incarcerated people over a 5-year period. The goal of the wage increase is to adequately allow incarcerated people to afford quarterly packages, purchase educational materials, and maintain family connections.

Background/Problem:

Existing law states that CDPR “shall require of every able-bodied prisoner imprisoned in any state prison as many hours of faithful labor in each day and every day during his or her term of imprisonment” as the director orders. Both the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution allow for that labor to be unpaid. The 13th amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime.

In CDPR, incarcerated people cannot refuse a job assignment and may be disciplined for refusing or being absent from work. Refusal to work can also lead to reduced privileges, including limitations on visits, phone calls, canteen purchases, and access to the recreation yard and entertainment. Incarcerated people may be assigned to a job instead of rehabilitative programs without their consent.

Current wage levels for incarcerated people in CDPR are as chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>(Lead Person)</th>
<th>(Special Skill)</th>
<th>(Sem-Skilled)</th>
<th>(Laborer)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>$0.32-$0.37</td>
<td>$0.19-$0.32</td>
<td>$0.15-$0.24</td>
<td>$0.08-$0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>$0.56</td>
<td>$0.29-$0.48</td>
<td>$0.23-$0.36</td>
<td>$0.12-$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>$0.56</td>
<td>$0.29-$0.48</td>
<td>$0.23-$0.36</td>
<td>$0.12-$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>$0.56</td>
<td>$0.29-$0.48</td>
<td>$0.23-$0.36</td>
<td>$0.12-$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>$0.56</td>
<td>$0.29-$0.48</td>
<td>$0.23-$0.36</td>
<td>$0.12-$0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed Solution:

According to Senator Bradford: “This bill aims to provide incarcerated people with a fair wage that can help people find independence, pay more towards restitution, afford certain items, have the means to stay in contact with family, and prepare for successful reentry, thereby decreasing recidivism rates and promoting public safety.”

The meaning of the scheduled increase of section (a) of new pc 2700.5 will depend entirely on the Regulations that follow. We should try to be vigilant in finding out in a timely manner whenever the notice of rule-making happens and make a public comment.

As you may know, the passed version of SB 1371 is watered down. The original call for fair wages in Feb was cut; then max canteen level (from March) was cut, replaced in May by a vague “quarterly package” etc.

The original call for fair wages in Feb was cut; then max canteen level (from March) was cut, replaced in May by a vague “quarterly package” etc.

That is in my opinion no longer the truth -- as Gov letter, we should use the opportunity to declare that this is not even the least that should be done (anything less than the minimum wage on the outside is still a bad arrangement for everyone, incarcerated and non-incarcerate workers alike); and that the forthcoming implementing reges have to be a great meaning to the statutory requirements.

A stinky reg could interpret this statute as like: say, 100 books package X 4, + 25 stamps, envelopes etc., etc, + 75 books, + zero for phone calls (after sh1000) – twenty five cents an hour. So section (b) strikes me as virtually meaningless on its own.

*The template says, “This legislation aims to provide incarcerated people with a fair wage...” That is in my opinion no longer the truth – as described above.

*The proposal states, “This legislation aims to provide incarcerated people with a fair wage...” That is in my opinion no longer the truth – as described above.
As In-custody Program Coordinator, Jesse will help coordinate the hundreds of AOUON members currently incarcerated in prisons and jails across the country. He’ll also be helping distribute the AOUON Newspaper to our inside membership – no small task considering the hundreds of envelopes involved.

“I am fired up about UNITE THE VOTE UNDER PROP 17,” said Jesse, “So we can give back to our communities...”

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children is a non-profit based in the Bay Area. For four decades we have advocated for current and formerly incarcerated persons and their families, with projects ranging from preserving family unity for the incarcerated, to reentry into work and housing, to voting rights of those in jail, to addressing the structural injustices faced at the intersections of race, gender, and disability.

For all the reasons above, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children supports SB 1371 and asks for your signature on this important legislation.

Re: SB 1371 — Request for Signature

Dear Gov. Newsom:

As a cosponsor of SB 1371, we ask you to sign into law this piece of legislation, which will raise the wages for incarcerated people working for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and the Prison Industry Authority (PIA). SB 1371 would require the Secretary of the CDPR to increase the pay scale for those working while incarcerated over a five-year period. The bill requires that this adjusted pay scale be raised to allow an incarcerated person to, among other things, afford quarterly packages, purchase educational materials, and maintain family connections. This legislation is a first step toward providing incarcerated people with a fair wage that can help people find financial independence, pay restitution obligations quicker, and have the means to stay in contact with family, as well as save money for reentry expenses, to enable successful reintegration into the economy.

Low wage earnings, combined with drastic deductions to pay off other criminal justice debt, leave people exiting prison without financial stability, which drastically increases the likelihood that someone will be unable to pay child support, restitution, or any other debt associated with the criminal justice system. The ability to save and accumulate wealth while in prison would better position incarcerated people during the first year post-release and ensure that victim restitution and other legal debts are repaid more quickly.

Moreover, the low wages of prison labor is bad for the wages of workers outside of prisons. The exploitative pay rates of prison labor exerts downward pressure on all wages, as a rudimentary tendency of labor market economics. Last but not least, the existing system of low wages in prisons is deeply unfair and contrary to human rights: anything less than equal pay for equal work is a denial of the equal rights of human beings. While the legislation of SB 1371 will not solve that problem, it is a significant first step toward an equitable and just economy.

In any event, it will be crucial to the success of this legislative reform that SB 1371 be promptly followed by meaningful implementing regulations from CDPR to comply with the new P.C. section 2700.5 (a) and (b). The implementation schedule adopted over five years must “increase” compensation in a real way that does justice to the spirit of this reform.

For all the reasons above, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children supports SB 1371 and asks for your signature on this important legislation.
Y es, I want to become a member of ALL OF US OR NONE!

Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?

Hear your wounded brothers calling.

Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?

You, on whom the blows are falling,

contribute to the All of Us or None

If you would like to send feedback or

I can address & pass along feedback

I can distribute materials & resources

I can help with membership outreach

I can organize & facilitate group meetings

Mail this form & any questions to:

AOUON
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

Name & Number: ________________________________

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Oakland, CA 94608

Institution: ________________________________

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Address: ________________________________

I can address & pass along feedback

Mail this form & any questions to:

AOUON
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

Country of Origin: ________________________________

Do you have children? YES / NO. Do you need support with family issues? YES / NO

Earliest Parole/Release Date: _____________ County of Parole/Probation: _____________

If it's bread you would be carving,

Come to us, we shall avenge you.

Comrade, only these can see you

Those in deepest darkness lying.

Weakness gives us strength to lend you.

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Kim Carter: kcarter@timeforchangefoundation.org

Richard Wallace: Chicago.IL.AOUON@gmail.com

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National AOUON Headquarters

94608

Phone: (415) 255-7036 x337

Fax: (415) 552-3150

AOUON National Organizer:

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