

## **International Campaign for Human Rights of U.S. Political Prisoners**

We will be petitioning the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, urging the International Jurists to initiate a formal investigation into human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners.

In 1977, I initiated a National Prisoners Petition Campaign to the United Nations. The campaign petitioned the United Nations to recognize the existence of U.S. political prisoners. The petition was documented as E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/75, pertaining to racism and the conditions of political prisoners in U.S. penal system.

In 1979, the International Jurists investigated the existence of U.S. political prisoners and reported their findings to the United Nations. Some of those same political prisoners interviewed in 1979 still languish in prison today. They continue to suffer racial oppression from being murdered by white supremacists (Hugo Pinell); brutal assaults by prison guards (Herman Bell); indefinitely held in solitary confinement for political speech (Kevin Rashid Johnson, Jaan Laaman); suffer medical neglect (Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Robert Seth Hayes, Tom Manning); persistent parole denials after becoming eligible for release (Veronza Bowers, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, Jalil A. Muntaqim), the list is extensive.

On August 18, 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) – Decision 1(93) in Acting under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure, issued a statement calling for the United States of America to critically denounce the “horrific events of Charlottesville of 11-12 August, 2017 leading to the death of Heather Heyer...”. The failure of the U.S. government to condemn the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and white supremacists represents the unspoken philosophy of the U.S. government since the inception of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. By virtue of the historical dynamics of this country’s racial conflicts, there have been centuries of dissent, protests, revolts and insurrections. Such protests against racial oppression have resulted in the existence of political prisoners.

In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela, we are calling for a new investigation by the International Jurists on the human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners. It is incumbent on freedom loving peoples of the world to join in this campaign to expose this incessant racial repression by U.S. white supremacist practices on U.S. political prisoners.

I am requesting the body of the United Nations, in its authority and capacity, in support of Human Rights, to vigilantly support this campaign. The Jericho Amnesty Movement, the premier U.S. political prisoner support organization, and the North East Political Prisoner Coalition will provide documents, statements, and materials to the investigative body cataloging the human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners.

The Chairperson of CERD, Anastasia Crickley, criticizing the U.S. government’s indulgence toward white supremacists, on August 23, 2017, stated: “. . . there should be no place in this world for racist white supremacist ideas or any similar ideologies that reject the core human rights principles of human dignity and equality. We are alarmed by the racist demonstrations, with overtly racist slogans, chants and salutes by white nationalist, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan, promoting white supremacy and inciting racial discrimination and hatred, We call on the U.S. Government to investigate thoroughly the phenomenon of racial discrimination targeting, in particular, people of African descent, ethnic or ethno-religious minorities, and migrants.”

Hence, by virtue of CERD's position condemning the U.S. Government's failure to denounce white supremacists in Charlottesville, we are calling for the International Jurists to conduct the same investigation urged by CERD on the human rights abuses of U.S. political prisoners.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 30, 2017

For more information on this human rights campaign contact:

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“In the Spirit of Nelson Mandela!