



ADDITIONAL NOTES

Some thoughts on the onus of doing prisoner support work Ojore Lutalo (2003)

This text was written during Ojore's prison term and covers real examples of the pitfalls prisoner support organisers on the outside can fall into.

"It's hard to figure how prisoners and "Militant Politics" don't appeal to people with a political bent on the outside. But that explains everything. One cannot be about Revolution - any type of Revolution - without dealing with prisoners and the prospect of going to prison yourself"

Kuwasi Balagoon (Words of The Late New Afrikan Anarchist)

(A) Commitment-Protracted: Undertaking the responsibilities of prisoner support work necessitates commitment of a protracted nature. So anybody out there in a minimum custody (the extended communities at large) should contemplate their willingness and readiness of their resolve to commit themselves to this kind of protracted work because history can attest to the numerous numbers of sisters and brothers who became involved only to "drop out" after becoming bored with the work, or the novelty of the work abated, and they moved on to something else like so many other Anarchists have done! We need to think in terms of five, ten, fifteen and twenty-year commitments. Anarchists are known for their short attention spans if a project necessitates structure!

(B) Status of Prisoner(s): Before people commit themselves to prisoner-support work, they should consider the status of the prisoner who might be a social prisoner who is totally apolitical and has no interest in becoming political, or social prisoners who became politicised during the course of their captivity and have histories of reverting back to their old ways of life once they are released from prison. Lastly, you have the prisoners who were politically active (above and underground) before their capture and subsequent internment.

Distinguishing the differences between the above status is important because Anarchist Political Prisoner "Robert Thaxton" recently wrote me a letter saying;

"When I had a relatively stable life in Austin, Texas, I started to do Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) work there (this was about a year...prior to the stat of the

