

Who Are the REAL Criminals???

These people?



Mass arrests on 162nd St. in New York's Washington Heights, part of the "War on Drugs."

Take a look at the people in these photos. They are among the millions in this country, especially young Black men, who have been targeted by the "war on drugs." From 1980 to 2006, the number of prisoners in the U.S. increased 450%, to 2.3 million. Today, the U.S. has more people in prison than any other country in the world. About 40 percent of those prisoners are African-American, although they make up 13% of the overall U.S. population. Black people are incarcerated at a rate that is six times higher than that for whites.

This "war on drugs" has never been about responding to a "rise in

crime"—crime rates have actually gone down over the last three decades. This has been about control and suppression. The rulers of this system—the U.S. capitalist-imperialists—deliberately launched the "war on drugs" in response to the mass upsurges among Black people in the 1960s, which shook the system and had a huge impact throughout society. At the same time, globalization and de-industrialization devastated the inner cities. And millions of Black people, especially the youth, who could no longer be profitably employed were seen by this system as an unwanted, volatile "surplus" that has to be controlled.

The systematic oppression of Black and other people of color has been a part of the very glue that has held U.S. society together from its very beginning – even as this oppression has gone through different changes in form and been enforced in different ways. In the context of the upsurges of the '60s and the major changes in the economy, the rulers of this system needed the subjugation of Black people more than ever. But they could no longer do this in the naked, openly racist forms it had in the old Jim Crow. Now we have what has been called "The new Jim Crow" of police brutality and murder and the mass incarceration of hundreds of thousands of Black people.

Beginning on July 1, hundreds of prisoners in the maximum security units in several California prisons went on a hunger strike, putting their lives on the line to demand a stop to the horrifying, inhumane conditions of torture. They demanded to be treated like human beings, and their courageous action challenged everyone to respond with their own humanity.

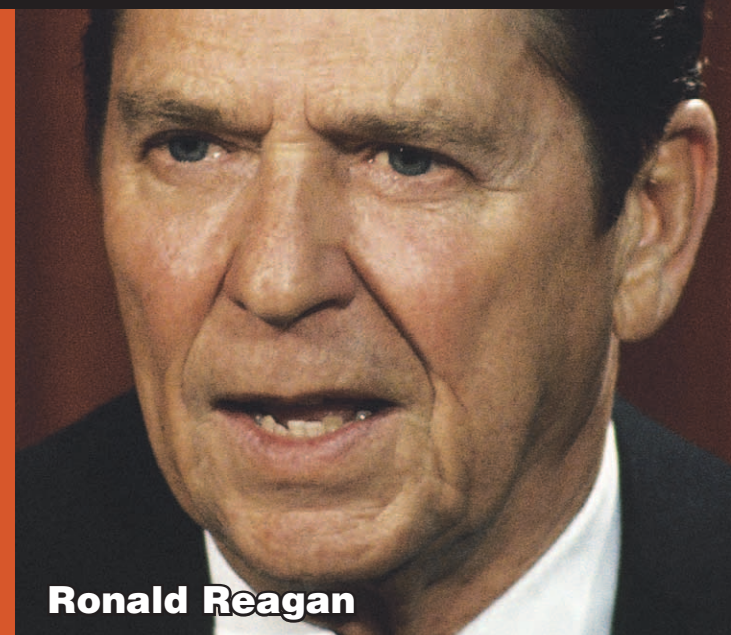
Who are the REAL criminals? Those who have no future under this system except jail, the "underground economy," or the military? Or those who oversee the system that created this situation?

* For more, see the special issue of *Revolution*, "The Oppression of Black People, the Crimes of This System, and the Revolution We Need," online at revcom.us/a/144/BNQ-en.html. Check out coverage of the prisoners' hunger strike at revcom.us/s/pelicanbay-hungerstrike-en.html.



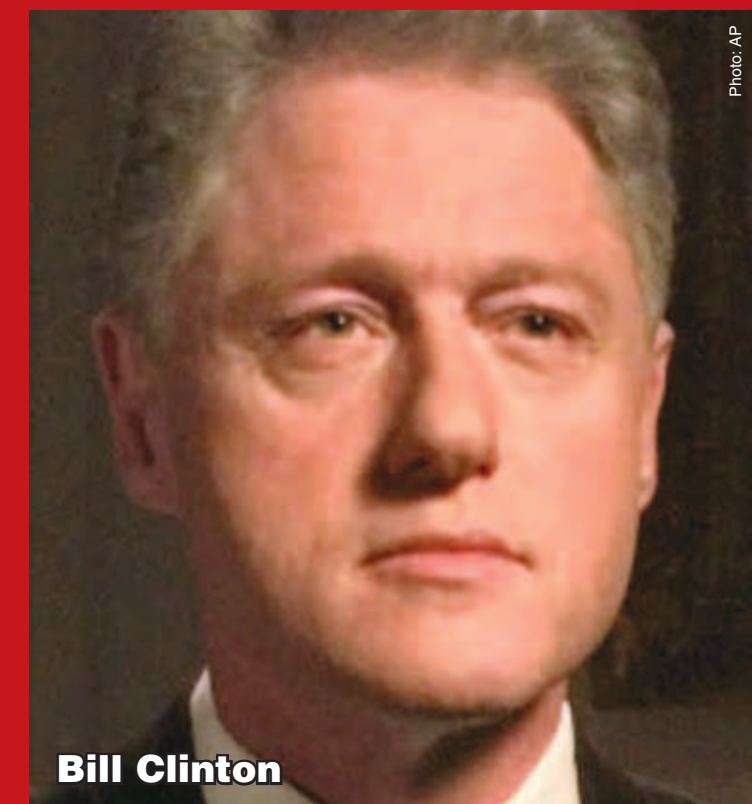
Leon Browne, 21, of Los Angeles, at California State Prison.

Or These?



Ronald Reagan

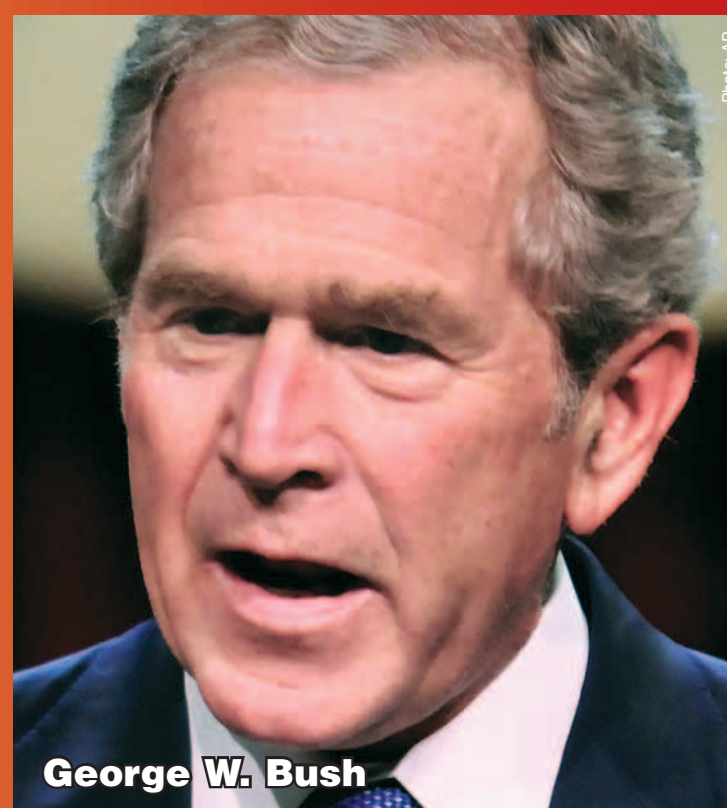
Architect of the "war on drugs" ... Sponsor of murderous wars in Central America that took the lives of several hundred thousand people ... Threatened the world with massive arsenal of nuclear bombs to exert advantage for his "gang"—U.S. imperialism ... Declared of the AIDS epidemic, "Maybe the Lord brought down this plague," a criminal stand that doomed many to early deaths ...



Bill Clinton

Doubled the number of prisons in the U.S. ... Oversaw sanctions on Iraq, which caused starvation of over 500,000 children ... Led in gutting public housing, welfare, and other social programs, condemning millions of poor in America to even deeper poverty ... Ordered the launching of cruise missiles that killed dozens in Afghanistan and destroyed a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan ... signed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act ...

These men are, or were, enforcers for a criminal system that has ruthlessly exploited billions of people all over the world and literally enslaved hundreds of millions, including small children ... that has killed countless tens of millions in horrific wars, from the genocide of Native peoples, to two world wars, and right down to the multiple unjust wars of today ... that has created the global environmental emergency threatening the very future of the planet, because of the headlong rush for profit, wealth, and power.



George W. Bush

Oversaw the open use and justification of torture and indefinite detention ... Dismissed a government agency's report on global warming as frivolous "product of bureaucracy" ... Endorsed a constitutional ban on gay marriages ... Started a war in Afghanistan that continues today, and invaded Iraq based on lies about "weapons of mass destruction" ... Deliberate abandonment of people of New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina, leading to hundreds of deaths and destruction of Black neighborhoods ...



Barack Obama

Has continued and expanded U.S. wars of aggression, now in five countries, thereby killing and maiming thousands ... Is pushing for even greater expansion of repressive laws, FBI spying powers, and persecution of government whistle-blowers ... Has claimed the prerogative to assassinate U.S. citizens labeled as "terrorists," without trial ... Advocates "common ground" with anti-abortionists, thereby legitimizing and strengthening their viciously anti-woman ideology and program ...

Support the Prisoners! Resist the Criminal System!