

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls

Shine The Light

Dark are the cells where the locked-down young men face chains and fists and the ear-pounding din, where minds fight the madness in slavery pens and there is no light - no, there is no light.

Cold are the jails where the women on ice - pressed in by the walls to pay a blood price - resist, all alone, the heart-crushing vise and there is no light - no, there is no light.

Hidden in hells of America's shame Their skin's their sentence, their tongue is their crime - while Moloch* lays siege to their souls and their names - but there is no light - no, there is no light.

The sun has gone down, and chill is the night - Now they turn to you: will there be a light?

Toby O'Ryan

The above poem was inspired by letters from prisoners to REVOLUTION on how much the paper, and in particular the writings of Bob Avakian, mean to them - and especially by the fact that there are still scores of prisoners who cannot receive REVOLUTION because the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund lacks the necessary funds for their subscriptions.

*Moloch - a legendary god in the Old Testament who demanded the sacrifice of children, he was later used as a symbol of the American system in Allen Ginsberg's classic poem, "Howl."



Photo: AP



Left: Youth in a juvenile facility, Bordentown, New Jersey. Above: A woman in Otter Creek Correctional Facility in Wheelwright, Kentucky.

Coming soon in early November...
Special Issue of Revolution on Prisons and Prisoners

To our readers:

Watch out and prepare for the upcoming issue of *Revolution* focused on prisons and prisoners. In a recent letter addressed to "my sisters and brothers behind the prison walls," Joe Veale wrote:

"The revolution needs YOU. Needs you to consciously and actively join the struggle to initiate a new wave of communist revolution in the world that is being led by Bob Avakian, the Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party..." (See online at revcom.us/a/173/joe_veale-en.html)

We call on our readers, including those in prisons, to start thinking about and strategizing with others about how to get the special issue out far and wide—inside and outside the prisons. Prisoners: send in correspondence for printing in *Revolution*, posted online at revcom.us, and/or read aloud in classrooms, on the streets, and elsewhere. And, very importantly, raise funds for the printing and distribution of this issue.

Chicago Benefit Supports Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

The Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund is building off a successful benefit event held October 11 in the Chicago area. Some 70 people packed the performance space at Boocoo Cultural Center and Café in Evanston, as middle-class people mixed it up with people from the south side of Chicago, including the family of Corey Harris, the 17-year-old baseball and basketball star at Dyett High School who was killed by an off-duty cop on September 11.

Ted Sirota's Rebel Souls opened the evening with a piece for Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer and activist murdered by the Nigerian government, and they were later joined by hip-hop artist Diverse for an improv session.

The highlight of the evening was dramatic readings from letters by prisoners to PRLF, read by professional actors Corey Cantrell, Yadira Correa, Mildred Langford, Ernest Perry, David Shapiro and Austin Talley.

In one letter, a prisoner wrote: "I have been trying to get deeper into the theoretical and philosophical questions as regards communist application. I like to study so many different fields of science, all of it basically. I'm just amazed at the whole realm of science, especially how everything is interconnected... You guys have a gold mine on your hands. Bob Avakian is no joke. It must be all those years of struggle that allows him to put down his orientation so lively. He has what it takes to indulge millions. Would love to rap with him."

A Black woman in the audience remarked, "This is amazing. The prisoners are so smart and thoughtful and write so well. These are our people saying these beautiful things. It gives me hope."

Read more online at revcom.us

Donate to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

The Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund (PRLF) is an educational literature fund that fills requests from U.S. prisoners for revolutionary literature. The main requests received by PRLF from those behind bars are for complementary subscriptions in Spanish and English to the weekly newspaper *Revolution** and for revolutionary and other books, including ones highlighted in the newspaper. Through providing this literature, PRLF provides an educational opportunity for prisoners to engage with world events and key political, cultural, and philosophical questions of the day from a unique revolutionary perspective, including discussions of morality, religion, science, and the arts. Every week prisoners can delve into the urgent and lively news and debate about unfolding political and social struggles, and can critically think about and dissect the current state of society as well as search for an alternative.

PRLF is a project of the International Humanities Center, a non-profit public charity exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code (www.IHCenter.org). Checks should be made payable to IHCenter/PRLF and mailed to:

International Humanities Center
860 Via de la Paz, Suite B-1
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund
1321 N. Milwaukee, #407
Chicago, IL 60622

or



Prisoners in a U.S. prison with a copy of Revolution newspaper.

To volunteer or reach PRLF, please write us at the Chicago address, call us at (773) 793-8637, or e-mail us at prlf_fund@yahoo.com.
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