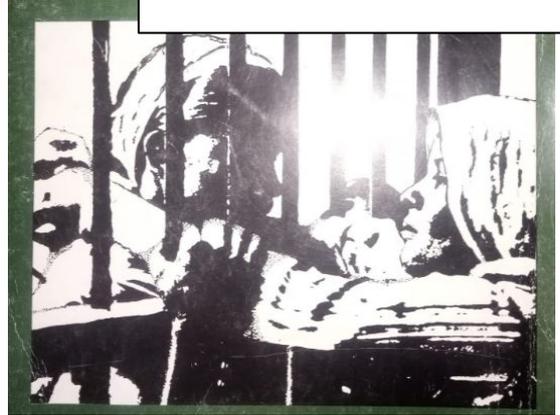




BLACK AUGUST

UTD RRC



About RRC (Red Rose Collective)

- Formerly known as UTD YDSA
- Marxist-Leninist-Maoist

Recent Focuses:

- Consistency in Anti-Imperialism
- Working w/ other (student) orgs to hold the each other accountable and create an organizing space free of sexual predators and rape apologists
- Political education

Upcoming RRC Activities

- Book club (Starting next week)
- Winter concert
- Teach-ins (Palestine from a Marxist Lens, African anti-imperialism, Kashmir, West Asian Geopolitics)

And more!

What do you want to see from us?

- Discussion of a specific topic?
- Certain types of events?

Why now, at the end of August?

While the month of August is coming to an end, solidarity with political prisoners, study, and struggle lasts all year

Also prevalent, currently is Intl Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Political Prisoners (23 until 30 August)

- While we aren't anarchists, solidarity goes beyond political affiliation

TX has the most incarcerated people in the U\$ and the 2nd largest death penalty rate in the U\$

- almost 2 million people are incarcerated in amerika rn, 219,000 are in texas (10% of all incarcerated ppl in amerika)

History of Black August

Started by the Black Guerilla Family in San Quentin State Prison in 1979 to commemorate the deaths of brothers George and Jonathan Jackson. Black August is a month of reflection, discipline and political education to honor the lives of Black freedom fighters killed by the state

- The Black Guerilla Family is a Marxist Leninist org founded by George Jackson (They're still active within the Cali prison system)

Has been observed by incarcerated people for decades through, fasting, physical training, and reading revolutionary texts.

Black August is a time to improve our politics, connect across prison walls, and recommit to the liberation of all oppressed people. It calls on us to recognize the prison as a site of radical possibility where organizing happens under constant surveillance and resistance can cost everything.

Because our "movement," for lack of a better word, has deteriorated to the point that the majority of our organizing is done through demonstrations, rallies, conferences, and press conferences, **the only way we feel we can talk about the issue of political prisoners is when we drag them out for show-and-tell or when we need to legitimize what we are doing.** This raises the question, "Are we serious about struggle, or are we just profiling?" If we're not serious, then we need to let our political prisoners off the hook and tell them, "Do what you think is best for you." If we are serious then we need to stop ego-tripping, stop profiling, stop rabble-rousing, and get down to the serious work of organizing. Talk is cheap, action is supreme.

- Safiya Bukhari, *The War Before*

George Jackson

- Incarcerated as a child
- While in prison was exposed to Marxism and Maoism by W.L. Nolen.
- Wrote two major books, Blood in my Eye and Soledad Brother, which focused on topics of revolutionary violence and guerilla warfare
- Founded the black guerilla family to protect incarcerated black people, with the long term goals of overthrowing the US government and promoting Marxism-Leninism-Maoism
- correctly applied marxist principles to Amerikan material conditions
- add more

In prison, commitment to revolution has a special meaning and a special price. To be identified as a revolutionary by the prison authorities means an almost permanent denial of parole, separation from the other prisoners, solitary confinement (usually in maximum security wings of the prison), transfers from one prison to another, beatings, bad food. It brings down on you the entire punitive and repressive force of a completely totalitarian system.

- Gregory Armstrong, Preface to *Blood in my Eye*

Fight Train Study Fast

- Carcerality is based on surveillance and isolation
- These actions are acts of resistance inside the dehumanizing prison system
- Help us prepare for the struggle ahead
- Political education (study) helps guide our practices
- Recently the ties between the Palestinian liberation and the black liberation movement have been emphasized
- As people who are not incarcerated the most effective way we can deepen our understanding of the prison struggle is to write to political prisoners

Study (Ext.)

"Read theory"

What is theory? Systematic frameworks developed through collecting/analyzing evidence

Revolutionary theory has been and continues to be developed through analysis of revolutions, social development, material conditions, etc

Praxis is testing theory through material action to see if it needs to be updated, good theory is defined by its ability to push society towards revolution

No effective praxis without understanding theory bc theory has already been tested and proven, we don't have to come up w something new all the time bc we have many revolutionaries who have fought/died to gain their knowledge

Discussion Time

Further Reading

Blood in My Eye - George Jackson

Soledad Brother - George Jackson

Assata - Assata Shakur

Revolutionary Suicide - Huey Newton

Wretched of the Earth - Frantz Fanon

The War Before - Safiya Bukhari

Revolution in These Times - Dhoruba Bin Wahad

Tip of the Spear - Orisanmi Burton

Solitary - Albert Woodfox

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