

LORTON GROUPS, PEOPLE, and EVENTS (also FOIA LEADS)

Groups:

Lorton Lifers

Con-sultants

Inner Voices

Ceasefire: Don't Smoke the Brothers / Ceasefire: Don't Smoke the Brothers & Sisters

Prisoners Against Rape

National Organization Against Racists and Political Repression

Jews for Urban Justice

Prisoners Solidarity Committee

RAP

ALERTS Communitarian Newsletter (Revolutionary Newsletter) - stands for "Associated Library and Educational Research Team for Survival"

Founded on June 2, 1971

July 28, 1971, ALERTS expanded to include a newsletter

"ALERTS STANDS OPPOSED TO "BOOK WORSHIP" AND "IVORY TOWERISM" FOR VIABLE EDUCATION. THROUGH A VERY LENGTHY PROCESS OF TRIAL AND ERROR , WE HAVE COME TO VIEW THE ONLY MEANINGFUL EDUCATION AS ONE THAT INSTILLS SELF-RESPECT, COLLECTIVISM, AND FULL SELF DETERMINATION

wow opposing book worship and ivory towerism

reminds me a lot of carter g woodson and miseducation

Inspired by San Quentin Group in San Jose: Self-Advancement Through Education (SATE): "tribute to our brothers and sisters in San Quentin who on February 27, 1971 announced the formation of a Third World organization called...." see Mazungumzo Volume 2, Number 1

SOURCE

Spark

The Black Youth Prison Workshop

Committee of mothers (1968)

The Friends of Lorton Inc (1971)

Federation of Lorton Communities

Lorton People's Government Association

Lorton Office of Resident Concerns

Cultural Awareness Group (aura of spirit)

Yango Sawyer was active in this group

Chairman of the club was Leroy Kelly in Feb 1978

Worked with The Organization of African and Afro-American Students at American University (OASAATAU)

Perry Van Better and Band (Lorton rock group)

Lifers for Prison Reform (Dexter Forbes and Joseph Joyner)

Lorton Federation of Civic Associations

Our Place DC (private nonprofit women's center)

Transgenders Against Discrimination in the District

DC CURE

The Capitol Hill Neighborhood Prison Task Force

Incarcerated Veterans' Assistance Organization (founded 1974) - (IVAO) The first known office of Veteran's Affairs within the US Penal System, operated by incarcerated veterans. See Midnight Special Aug-Sept 1975

In 1975, changed its name to Prison Organization for Veterans' Affairs

(POVA) The Family (Yango Sawyer)

Legal Assistance for Inmates by Jail House Lawyers

Off Our Backs - DC Feminist Paper

Hanafi Movement - split from Nation of Islam (see 1977 hostage takeover and 1973 murder of Hamaas Abdul Khaalis's family)

Lorton Prisoners Union (Voice of the Union)

Kings and Queens of Motivation

Kokayi Family (miliant black org)

FBI Alexandria Field Office has

a file on ALERTS

Individuals:

Tyrone X

Mr. Hardy

Rhozier "Roach" T Brown

Ernest "Doolum" Johnson

J. Edgar Hoover comments on Lorton

Al-Malik Farrakhan

Tyrone Parker

Yango Sawyer (witness to DC jail revolution)

Sydney Davis

Roland Shelby "Breezy"

Karin Mawatt

William T. X. Fullwood (Black Muslim at Lorton Youth Center)

Lucious X Brown (Malcolm X's predecessor)

Thomas X Howard Jr. (NOI minister at Lorton)

Also Thomas 18X of Temple No. 4

William Nardini (DC Department of Corrections Research Director, criminologist)

Joseph X Watson 1963 legal case

Eddie W. X. Smith 1963 legal case

Thomas Reed (Christmas 1974 rebellion)

Dexter Anton Forbes (jailhouse lawyer in the late 1970s)

Calvin Smith (set up by FBI to provide excuse to clampdown on furlough program) Herbert Sijin Rashid (imam in late 1970s) Mikal Huda Ba'th (imam)

James Jenkins chairman of the people's Government Association)

Benjamin Murdock (Public Relations for ALERTS)

Transferred to Marion and wrote for their Black Pride Newsletter as

Akbar Ali Salman/ aka Vincent walker (ALERTS)

Kenneth B. Du Vall (ALERTS)

Bro. Ronald Brount (ALERTS - left ALERTS in July 1971 to spread "Demotic Legion Of Maate")

Kenneth Marshall (ALERTS, wrote on education)

Brother George Walker (ALERTS, wrote on)

Charles E. Moore (ALERTS, wrote on death penalty and abolition, jailhouse lawyers resolution)

Rahim Malik Al Shifa, aka R. B. Stewart (ALERTS)

George Matthews (ALERTS - wrote on class consciousness/Marx)

Chip Cannon (ALERTS)

Larry Cannon (ALERTS)

Bro. John V. Norris (Founder of ALERTS)

Rashid Al-Amin/ aka Charles Canty (Correspondence Secretary for ALERTS, wrote on the need for political education)

Bill Hinchliff (advisor for ALERTS)

James Jenkins (ALERTS)

Bro. Ariel Osiris Ra/ aka Haywood T. Kirkland (Founder of ALERTS, left ALERTS in July 1971 to spread "Demotic Legion Of Maate") (Vietnam Veteran whose real life experiences inspired movie Dead Presidents)/ Ari Setsu Merretazon

[Ari Sesu Merretazon, interviewed by Jason A. Higgins, Part 1](#) (2023)

[Ari Sesu Merretazon, interviewed by Jason A. Higgins, Part 2](#) (2023)

He is passionate about Black Veteran prisoners (southern prisons treated black veterans the worst)

"War is prison" - in *Bloods*

Incarcerated Veterans' Assistance Organization (1:11:42) - "Twenty-five percent of the population in Lorton Reformatory at that time 1969 through 76 were veterans. Vietnam Veterans"

[Ari Sesu Merretazon, Interviewed by Jason A. Higgins, Part 3](#) testified

in front of congress/the senate in 1979

39:31 - Joined Philadelphia Chapter of N'Cobra (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) in 2005. Became committed to reparations.

[Ari Sesu Merretazon, interviewed by Jason A. Higgins, part 4](#)

36:00 - Washington Post story in 1975 about his organizing. He was released to meet with President Carter.

Lavance Green (ALERTS) released

from prison in 2021

"Red Top" (ALERTS)

Gary T Alston aka Jacque (ALERTS) wrote What It Means to be in ALERTS
and Revolution Begins in the Mind Poet of "Man"

Raymond (Rageen) Brooks (ALERTS Staff and published in Midnight Special, filed class action suit in 1975)

William (Bill Bill) Brown (ALERTS)

Donald Battle (ALERTS, Wrote on Angela Davis)

Albert Lyons (ALERTS Staff)

Brother George T. Gulbreath (ALERTS - wrote on Islam, religious unity, black unity)

Comrade William Fuller (ALERTS and PAR- Prisoners Against Rape - wrote on "Revolution is the only solution")

Comrade Nathaniel Wright, III (ALERTS and filed class action suit in 1975)

Garvey Moses (ALERTS)

Larry E. Moss (ALERTS)

Moss v. Clark, Civ. A. No. 88-0361-AM. October 21, 1988.

"Petitioner Lawrence Moss, a D.C. Code offender incarcerated in the federal prison system, is one of those who complains of this disparate treatment. Specifically, he challenges the constitutionality of the District of Columbia Good

Time Credits Act of 1986. D.C. Code § 24-428, et seq. (1987) (hereinafter "the Act"). By its terms, the Act applies only to District of Columbia violators housed in District of Columbia facilities. To that inmate category, the Act provides good time and educational credits that reduce the time to parole eligibility and mandatory parole release. Moss asserts that his placement in the federal system by the Attorney General denies him due process and equal protection of the laws because it renders him ineligible for the more generous good time credits available to the D.C. Code offenders incarcerated in District of Columbia facilities." related to good time paper!

Wayne Morris-Bey (thoughts on Marcus Garvey and Lorton in 1993 article)

Reginald Ross (miseducation and ethnic cleansing of dc in 1993 article)

Earline Budd (transgender activist)

John Boone (Lorton Superintendent in charge of psychiatric treatment unit that started in 1971)

Charles Phillips (legal activist at Lorton transferred to Spokane)

Ron Dellums (Oakland Congressman who worked with Ari Merretazon) Federal prosecutors

Henry Hudson of Virginia and Joseph diGenova of DC (investigated 1986 uprising)

Burnetta Coles (potentially a dc women's imprisoned?)

Leon Keenan ("administrator of the maximum security facility and a reputed member of the Ku Klux Klan" - according to Black Panther newsletter, jan 4, 1975)

Ernest Brown (placed in adseg for 10 months in 1995, he fought in court) Charles

Wise-Bey (seems like a prisoner in max security, often goes by initials C.W.B., wrote

"Untold Truth about Lorton" in May 1974)

Charles Rodgers, Corrections Department Deputy Chief in 70s (said he would shoot 180 rioting dc jail inmates - sounds exactly like attica)

Ann Cunningham - Lorton staff member loved by incarcerated loved ones. Moved to Bureau of Rehabilitation

Kenneth Hardy - DC Dept of Corrections - did he actually care about the inmates and their dignity? Sounds like incarcerated loved ones cared about the effort he put in for them. Dr. Alyce Gullattee - See March 1974 d.c. gazette, she gave speech on prison abolition and being careful around reformism which "would be another form of escalated oppression, sadistic, and inhumane:" Was at Attica revolt!! Was a Howard Professor

Horace Wilson (IVAO)

Marshall Contee (IVAO)

Bobby Patterson (IVAO)

Andre Springs (IVAO)

Curtis Crawford (IVAO)

Martin Vincent (Lorton Prisoners Union)

James Cade (Lorton Prisoners Union)

Bobby Lee Barnes (Kings and Queens of Motivation)
Savatar Saadi Springs (Kings and Queens of Motivation)
Tyrone Davis (ALERTS)
Jeffrey Glen (ALERTS)
Seitu B. Kokayi Mohammad (Kokayi Family)
Antoban Betseria Kokayi (Kokayi Family)
James Lee Butler (identified as Red Man, indigenous brother)
William "Billy" Holland (IGC and jailhouse
lawyer) Released March 15, 1973
liberated a typewriter

CLR James

taught at Lorton

Check out his DC teaching papers at Columbia!

Note who the Weather Underground (in Prairie Fire note as political prisoners: Raymond Brooks, Nathaniel Wright, III, Nathaniel Smith, William Prather, Tyrone Davis, Benjamin Murdock, Gary Alston, Albe Lyon, Larry Cannon)

Events:

July 1933 Disturbances at Lorton Reformatory

1959 Legal Action by Black Muslims (58 put in solitary confinement) 1968

Riot

September 25, 1972 five day inmate strike (1800 inmates on strike)

ALERTS called this the Lorton Commune

October 11, 1972 DC Jail Revolution/Siege/Riot

Work stoppage of 1973, august to october

See ALERTS V.2,N5, for accurate coverage and unionization discussion See

Alerts v. 4 n. 1

August 28, 1974 DC Women prison/jail rebellion

December 25, 1974 Lorton maximum security rebellion and takeover

See Midnight Special May 1975 - Unity and Solidarity - comrade exiled for involvement? A brother's life was taken, they took 9 pigs hostage.

Earl Coleman, Tyrone Nobles, Clifton Bullock and Ronald Tibbs tried to escape - Tibbs was shot and killed

14 buildings set in Fires on July 10, 1986

Operation Clean Sweep (1991): Anti-drug initiative under Mayor Berry. In 18 months, cops made 46,000 arrests, one in 14 dc residents arrested.

1995 work and food strike (1,300 inmates in medium security)

Other:

Relationship between Lorton and Attica and Lorton and San Quentin "Petition for Redress of Grievance"

Time and Tide

Poop Sheet

Lorton Report

Laws & Lawsuits:

Fulwood v. Clemmer, 206 F. Supp. 370 (1962)

District Court for the District of Columbia held that allowing some religious groups to hold religious services while denying that right to petitioners and other Muslims constituted a violation of the Order of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia requiring prison officials to make facilities available without regard to race or religion.

Edwards v. Sard, 1966

In this case the plaintiffs, two Negro inmates of Lorton Reformatory, a correctional institution operated by the Government of the District of Columbia, complain that they have been discriminated against in the dormitory assignments made at the institution. They seek injunctive relief against these alleged abuses.

They were segregating Black prisoners post Brown v Board (1954) - event past 1963

"This Court is convinced that the defendant and his staff have not abused their discretion and that no racial discrimination is being practiced at Lorton today. Although the race of an inmate is a factor — in some cases the determinative factor — in making dormitory assignments, this is so only because prison officials believe that anything approaching total numerical integration would be highly dangerous, given the conditions of racial unrest which exist at Lorton, and that the racial conflicts which would result from such integration would be likely to decrease instead of increase the intermingling of races there." this goes into the

divide and conquer rhetoric

UNITED STATES of America v. Billie A. BRYANT, Appellant. UNITED STATES of America v. Benjamin MURDOCK, Appellant. Nos. 23746, 23783 (Decided April 21, 1972) Bryant murdered two FBI officers in self-defense after he escaped from Lorton and he answered the door saying he was "Freeman"

I think this is the same Benjamin Murdock from ALERTS but unsure

<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/billie-austin-bryant>

UNITED STATES of America v. Gordon ALEXANDER, Appellant. UNITED STATES of America v. Benjamin MURDOCK, Appellant. Nos. 23190, 23783. (Decided April 21, 1972, ammended 1973)

Alexander and Murdock drew guns on the group, and that shots were fired that left two of the Marines dead and another and the woman seriously wounded. At a joint trial by jury in February, 1969, Alexander and Murdock were each found guilty of carrying a dangerous weapon, and of four counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. Murdock, in addition, was found guilty of two counts of second-degree murder. A separate hearing for Murdock on the issue of insanity was held in November, 1969, at the close of which the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts. Appellants received consecutive sentences as to several counts, totalling five to twenty-three years for Alexander, and twenty years to life for Murdock

See Rotten Social Background in this case and other legal articles on it "Murdock relied primarily on the testimony of Dr. Williams, a board-certified psychiatrist, and professor at Howard University Medical School. Dr. Williams had examined Murdock on two occasions during his confinement in St. Elizabeths Hospital. According to the testimony of Dr. Williams, Murdock was strongly delusional, though not hallucinating or psychotic; **he was greatly preoccupied with the unfair treatment of Negroes in this country, and the idea that racial war was inevitable.** He showed compulsiveness in his behavior, emotional immaturity, and some psychopathic traits. Since his emotional difficulties were closely tied to his sense of racial oppression, it is probable that when the Marine in the Little Tavern called him a "black bastard" Murdock had an irresistible impulse to shoot.⁹⁴ His emotional disorder had its roots in his childhood, in the Watts section of Los Angeles; particularly important was the fact that his father had deserted his mother, and he grew up in a large family with little money and little love or attention."

Relates to drapetomania - mental illness of refusing to live in bondage

See Black Rage Defense against the Law by Paul Harris

See Black Power! Volume 1, Number 13

"On June 4, 1968, three Black Brothers from San Jose, Calif, were arrested in Washington D, C, on murder charges of two white marines, The Brothers had come to D, C, on the Poor People's March, and even though the killing of the Marines was clearly done in self-defense, Brothers Hodari (Benjamin Murdock), Cornelius Frazier, and Gordon Alexander were indicted on charges of first-degree murder,"

Created a Black Militant Legal Fund

Lester D. MILHOUSE et al., Appellant, v. Edward H. LEVI, United States Attorney General, et al. No. 75-1844.

Appellants, inmates of the Lorton Reformatory, a part of the District of Columbia Corrections System, and others,¹ filed this action in the District Court challenging an order issued by the Attorney General of the United States on October 1, 1974 which

curtailed furlough privileges previously available to certain inmates. The District Court found the Attorney General to be statutorily authorized to promulgate the contested order, but concluded that he had done so in violation of the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 553(b).² Having so concluded, the District Court dismissed the action as to all but the Attorney General and the United States Department of Justice. This appeal followed

Inmates, DC Jail v. Jackson, 416 F. Supp. 119 (D.D.C. 1976)

While the Court believes that the conditions and practices at the District of Columbia Jail on their face are "so bad as to be shocking to the conscience of **reasonably civilized people**", *Holt, supra*, it finds further support for this position in the analogous cases of *Jones*, *James*, *Costello*, and *Pugh*. Each deals with the abridgment of constitutional rights of sentenced prisoners.

think about this juxtaposition of civilization and cruel and unjust punishment. There is a separation, legally and linguistically, of civilized and non-civilized people, thus distinguishing race and colonialism as intertwined referents for each other.

It is apparent, therefore, that the conditions in which inmates are housed at the D. C. Jail constitute cruel and unusual punishment in the sense currently contemplated in American society. These conditions simply are not to be tolerated in a civilized society, much less in our national capital. These are conditions which turn men into animals, conditions which degrade and dehumanize. In some senses the punishment they inflict is more painful and enduring than the stocks or the rack, long since discarded as barbaric or primitive. Imprisonment in conditions such as these absolutely guarantees that the inmates will never be able to return to civilized society, will never feel any stake in playing by its rules.

This case is substantially identical to *Campbell v. McGruder*, 416 F. Supp. 100, CA No. 1462-71, decided by this Court November 5, 1975.

Under DC Code 24-425 (1981), persons convicted of crimes in the District of Columbia are committed to the custody of the Attorney General, who may "order the transfer of any such prison from one institution to another if, in his judgement, it shall be for the well-being of the prisoner or relieve overcrowding or unhealthful conditions in the institution where such prisoner is confined, or for other reasons"

See *Jimmy J. Vaughn versus US DC Court of Appeals*, July 31, 1990 - He was transferred from Lorton to Texas and back to Lorton

On August 4, 1986, the prisoners at the Occoquan Facilities of the District of Columbia's Lorton Correctional Complex filed this class action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia. The plaintiffs sued the District of Columbia government officials responsible for these medium security facilities in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The plaintiffs alleged that overcrowding at the facility violated their Eighth Amendment rights, and that the District of Columbia repeatedly failed to meet the standard of decent and humane prison conditions.

Inmates cited deficiencies in areas not limited to medical services, safety, and food preparation, and that when considered alone or in combination abridged their constitutional rights. After review of the available facts and applicable standards, the

District Court held that "overcrowding and systemically deficient conditions constituted cruel and unusual punishment justifying equitable relief." *Occoquan v. Barry*, 650 F. Supp. 619 (D.D.C. 1986).

Imposing a population cap on the Occoquan facilities, argued the Court, would be the most effective means of addressing the complaints while not interfering with the administration of the facilities in question.

Green v. District of Columbia (1991): In 1990, prisoners who were transferred out of state to ease the overcrowding in the District's prisons brought a class-action lawsuit against the District. The court ordered the District to ensure that such prisoners have access to a law library, pens and writing paper, legal telephone calls and access to a photocopy machine. In 1992, the District was held in Contempt for failing to provide the services and a settlement was ultimately reached.

Women's Prisoners of the District of Columbia Dep't of Corrections v. District of Columbia (1994): The plaintiffs alleged that Lorton's female inmates were sexually harassed and assaulted, denied appropriate medical care, kept in unsanitary conditions, and allowed to participate in fewer educational and recreational programs than men.

Best v. Kelly, 1994, drug program called unfoldment was terminated.

Pryor-EI v. Kelly, 1995, Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants' actions have exposed him to unreasonable levels of Environmental Tobacco Smoke ("ETS") in violation of the Eighth Amendment bar against cruel and unusual punishment and District of Columbia law. Second, Plaintiff alleges that he was denied his Due Process rights when certain personal property of his was shipped to his home at his expense by prison officials, who, in turn, allegedly failed to provide him with an inventory of the items shipped.

Warren vs. District of Columbia, Morris Warren says that during his confinement there between August 1997 and September 1999, he was subjected to "unsuitable and inappropriate housing for D.C. prisoners." in Youngstown Prison. Court said he could not provide evidence that DC knew this was happening.

KEY LINKS & WEBSITES

[Black Power in Washington, D.C. 1961-1998](#) BY George Derek Musgrove

[The Black Power Movement, 1966-76](#) [The](#)

[Lorton Experience](#)

"In May 1996 the first shipment of prisoners went to a CCA in Youngstown Ohio," Oscar says. The prison run by Corrections Corp of America experienced problems from the jump. Two inmates were stabbed to death, 40 assaults were reported, six prisoners escaped in a 1998 breakout and inmates won a \$1.65 million class action lawsuit that accused guards of excessive force. These were hardened convicts from Lorton. They knew the score and the routine. The CCA prison was closed as DC prisoners were shipped into the federal system.

"Lorton sits on some valuable ground on top of hills and the locals wanted their land so they could build shopping malls and other merchantable ventures." Oscar says hitting it on the head.

Oscar a penitentiary veteran who did time there back in the 90s.

“I would prefer Lorton,” Dingus says. “So that I could see my family more often.” And Oscar says, “If I could choose to do two years here or eight years in Lorton I would prefer Lorton. Everything was convenient and simple. I would’ve been home five years ago if I were down Lorton. The reason is the feds are hitting me with their guidelines.”

FILMS:

In Lorton's Darkroom (2016)

Lorton: Prison of Terror (2022)

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