

TIME/CUT

Indiana Prison Newsletter

Issue 18 • Spring 2026

**Resistance in ICE
detention**

**Strikes in Alabama
& Arizona**

Prison Mail Policy

Iman Jamil al-Amin

Anti-Flock

& more



TIME/CUT

is a quarterly publication for Indiana prisoners and their families and friends. It includes news, analysis, and resources from inside and outside the walls and around the world. The articles in the publication do not necessarily reflect on its contributors, creators, readers, distributors, or readers. Its contents are for informational purposes only. TIME/cut does not provide financial or legal assistance or romantic arrangements.

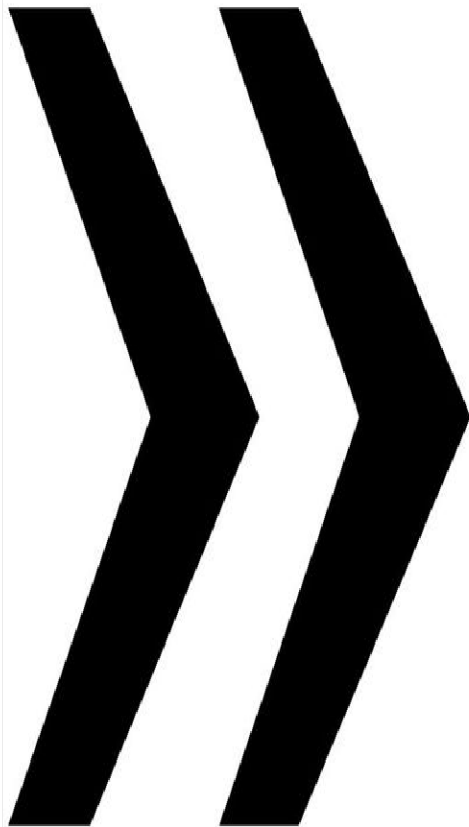
The following are welcome as submissions, contributions, and responses to TIME/cut: reports of conditions inside, book reviews, poetry and artwork, tips for surviving and navigating prison, advice for mental and physical health, educational history, and offerings toward collective organizing and getting free. Please state explicitly if you would like your writings to be considered for publication and if you'd like your name published with it. This publication depends on participation of those incarcerated in Indiana and their loved ones. TIME/cut may choose not to publish some contributions due to limitations of space or the nature of the content. Send submissions to:

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TIME/cut is free to all prisoners in Indiana. If someone passed this newsletter along to you and you're not already on the mailing list, write to us to add your name to the list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, write us for that too. If family and friends on the outside are interested in receiving and engaging with TIME/cut, send them our address or direct them to Timecut.noblogs.org. Thanks for reading and writing!

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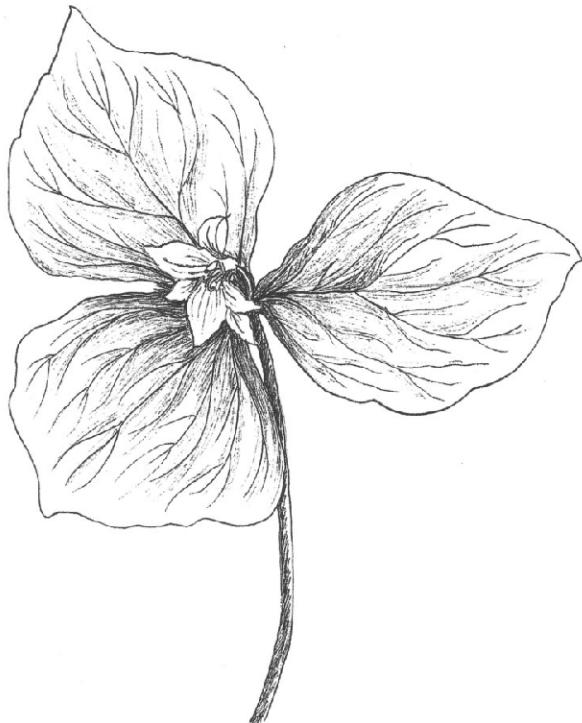


Write to us! We are working on making RMN more intentional, more thorough, and more curated. One of our main goals here is to be more conversational with and among prisoners: more original content and more ongoing discussions and analysis. Each issue will have some prompts, some invitations for engagement. To this end, the questions we have for you all this time are:

- ✍ *In what ways do you get information from outside?*
- ✍ *What helps you feel more connected to family and friends and the outside world?*
- ✍ *What methods of connection would you like to see between people who are locked up and communities in the free(er) world?*

solution to TIME/cut #17's crossword, "Locked Up"

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Burning Inside: What Prison Heat Does to a Menopausal Body

by Kwaneta Harris, Oct 2025
from ScalawagMagazine.org

They never tell you that menopause behind bars is a special kind of hell. That the inferno building inside your chest will meet triple-digit Texas heat and create something that feels like slow torture, designed by people who have forgotten you are human.

I'll never forget my first hot flash. It hit me during count time. I was standing in formation, sweat suddenly pouring down my face like I'd been doused with scalding water from the inside-out. My uniform clung to my skin, heart hammering against my ribs as if trying to escape this oven of a body. The guards sneered, "What's wrong with you?" as if my biology was a personal affront to their authority.

A typical day starts at 3 a.m. with my body jolting awake from another hot flash that'd been building like a storm inside of me. On the way to the bathroom, I grab a bowl of water I keep sitting on the floor. As I empty my bladder, I pour the bowl of water over my head, desperate for any relief from the fire consuming me from within. Soon after, we're herded to the chow hall for a 15-minute-long breakfast at 3:30 a.m.

Upon returning to my dorm, the sweat is back and already pouring down my face in the stifling cell where we sleep packed together like cargo. Over 100 bodies in an unventilated space without air conditioning. I watch others around me, an older person pressing wet toilet paper against their neck because the medical staff said hot flashes weren't "real emergencies." Another person sitting up, rocking and complaining of heat exhaustion, and begging for cold water as guards debate whether she is "faking it."

Most of us learn to suffer in silence because visibility makes us targets. When the guards get angry with us, they turn the heating system on. It's their secret weapon—invisible, deniable, and devastating. The temperature climbs until the air shimmers and breathing becomes work. The brain fog rolls in thick as cotton, making simple thoughts feel like swimming through mud. I forget words mid-sentence, lose track of conversation, feel my mind dissolving in the heat.


But nighttime is when the real battle begins. Night sweats poke through my thin plastic mattress until I'm lying in my own private swamp. Bright lights that never turn off burn through my closed eyelids. So I tie a thick, itchy sock around my eyes like a blindfold and pray for the coolness of darkness that never comes.

Sleep deprivation compounds everything: the pain sharper, the confusion deeper, the heat more unbearable when your body has no chance to recover. I drift off around midnight only to

wake again drenched in sweat, and the cycle begins anew.

My constant companion is dehydration, a gnawing dryness everywhere. It feels like I've been gargling and douching with sand. We depend entirely on staff for drinking water: no fountains, no bottles, nothing but the lukewarm trickle from our cell sink. When the staff wants to punish us, they turn the water valve off completely. I've watched people drink from toilets to avoid collapse from thirst. A disciplinary infraction awaits anyone caught leaving the chow hall with ice. This relentless thirst becomes another form of punishment layered onto an already unbearable existence.

The cruelest irony is that I'm a nurse. Was a nurse. Now, I'm treated as just another number, another body breaking down in ways everyone refuses to acknowledge. In here, I am simultaneously a healer and patient in a system that erases both identities, reducing me to a problem to be managed rather than a person cared for.

They want us to disappear into compliance, but our bodies betray us with their needs, their changes, and their refusal to be invisible. Initially, I didn't realize I was sentenced to be cooked alive as my menopausal symptoms worsened. My body has become both the crime and the punishment in a place designed to break spirits along with flesh. 

They Escalate, We Escalate A Short History of the Fight against ICE in the Twin Cities from Crimethinc.org, Feb 2026

In the following analysis, participants in the resistance to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement assault on the Twin Cities chart the course of the movement from 2025 to the present day, exploring why it gained momentum despite escalating repression.

The surge of federal mercenaries to the Twin Cities is not over. Even if it is true, as federal authorities allege, that less than 500 federal agents remain (not counting Homeland Security Investigations agents), that is still several times the number of ICE agents that were deployed to the Twin Cities before 2026. One of the classic strategies of fascism is to ramp up violence to the maximum level, then back off the most extreme measures in order to accustom people to a more repressive status quo.

Nonetheless, the administration's original objective was to normalize sending thousands of mercenaries to terrorize entire cities into submission. In that regard, the people of the Twin Cities achieved a victory, undermining the perceived legitimacy of the federal forces and forcing them to change tactics.

The people of the Twin Cities did not turn the tide against the occupation by force of arms, but by out-mobilizing ICE. Yet this does not mean that physically fighting the occupiers has played no role in the outcome.

A mass mobilization across the entire society forced the federal government to begin to withdraw. Well over 30,000 people have participated in the rapid response networks in some way,

1
utilizing a wide range of tactics. Many thousands of these people dedicated their lives to the resistance and patrolled the streets every day for over two months. Many thousands more have participated in clandestine mutual aid networks to bring food, supplies, and rent relief to undocumented families forced into hiding. One in four adults in Minnesota participated in the general strike of January 23 in some way, and an estimated 8% of all Minnesotans refused to work that day. Signs reading “Everyone welcome except ICE” appeared in the windows of practically every business in South Minneapolis.

The scale of the resistance prompted Stephen Miller to remark,

“You only have to read their own words and hear their own words and judge their own conduct to understand that this is clearly an insurgency against the federal government.”

In the negotiations in Hanoi a week before the fall of Saigon in 1975, an American general reportedly told a North Vietnamese commanding officer, “You know, you never beat us on the battlefield.”

The North Vietnamese commander replied, “That may be so, but it is also irrelevant.”

The Twin Cities could offer the same retort to our enemy today. Insurgencies win by continuously wearing down a more powerful opponent. We win by not losing.

While the vast majority of patrollers used car horns, cell phone cameras, and whistles as their weapons, it would be incorrect to characterize the resistance as strictly nonviolent. An unknown number of brave people threw their bodies between ICE and our vulnerable neighbors. Some of them slashed the tires and smashed out the windows of ICE vehicles, pelted ICE agents with snowballs, and rescued arrestees from their clutches.

According to “Border Czar” Tom Homan, in January alone, nearly 160 people were arrested for impeding or assaulting federal agents. In the course of that month, ICE and Border Patrol shot one person every week, killing Renee Good and Alex Pretti and injuring Julio Sosa Celis. Undeterred, the people rose in rebellion in greater and greater numbers after each shooting: on January 7, by fighting federal agents at Roosevelt Middle School, storming the doors of a federal courthouse, and barricading off the site of Renee’s murder; on January 14, by chasing off federal agents from the Northside and looting three of their cars; and on January 24, after the murder of Alex Pretti, by erecting barricades in Whittier and fighting off both ICE and local police, compelling them to withdraw.

From the daily skirmishes at the sites of abductions to the

riots that engulfed entire neighborhoods, these clashes played a crucial role in the development of the resistance. Without these incidents, the daily rapid response chats, the hyperlocal neighborhood groups, the late-night hotel noise demos, and even the mass work stoppages might not have cohered into a movement capable of grinding down the resolve of the federal government. The reasons for this are social, not military.

Rather than looking at these moments as random occurrences of stochastic turbulence, extracurricular activities that punctuated the ongoing deep organizing with sensational headlines, we understand every engagement with enemy forces as part of an ongoing arc of escalation. Every escalation from ICE drove our own escalations in a feedback loop. Every time people fought back, that opened up a new range of possibilities and we stepped through a portal into a new phase of resistance.

Each clash with ICE propelled the movement forward in three ways:

- by building momentum and activating new participants,
- by turning up the “temperature,” and
- by forcing the state to change its tactics.

To show how this took place, we will briefly review the development of the movement from its origins.

In the Twin Cities, the first significant confrontation with ICE took place on June 3 at Taqueria Las Cuatro Milpas. The next day, people confronted ICE agents as they carried out raids in Chicago and Grand Rapids—and two days after that, the clashes began in Los Angeles that rapidly built to the first uprising of Trump’s second term.

Afterwards, while Trump deployed the National Guard to Los Angeles and went on to target Chicago and other cities with surges of federal agents, the administration did not immediately escalate ICE activity in the Twin Cities.

An organization called Monarca, launched in 2024, began holding legal observer trainings for people who wanted to track the movements of ICE. A similar group named MPLS Whistles emerged in October ahead of a press conference featuring Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.

The first indications that Operation Metro Surge was on the way occurred on November 18, when ICE attempted to raid the Bro-Tex paper factory in Saint Paul. They abducted two workers, pepper-sprayed onlookers, and shoved demonstrators out of the street as a crowd spontaneously formed and attempted to block their vehicles. As the mercenaries fled, somebody smashed out the back window of an ICE van.

Word of the raid and the response spread like wildfire. A week later, on November 25, another ICE raid took place, this time on the east side of Saint Paul in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood. They took two more people. This time, word spread all over

the cities and a larger crowd—over a hundred people—came out to stop them. The energy of the smaller clash a week prior had primed the population. This time, some people showed up in respirators and helmets. Federal agents escalated their repressive tactics, shooting pepper balls and sponge rounds from shotguns. One protester was injured by agents who cracked their head against the pavement.

As in June, DHS personnel tried to claim after the fact that the raid was not immigration-related, but nobody believed them. As we will discuss below, this is presumably a disinformation tactic intended to “keep the temperature down,” a priority that Republicans and Democrats share.

The two big November confrontations forced federal agents to change their strategy to hasty snatch-and-grabs. This shift showed the limitations of the first iteration of the rapid response networks, in which organizations like Monarca would verify reports and then circulate them. The rapid response networks that were cohering on Signal and Whatsapp solved this problem by decentralizing, cutting out the bottlenecks.

A week later, ICE invaded the Twin Cities. The stories on the news said they were targeting Somali immigrants. Waves of fear spread through every immigrant community. Some people stopped showing up to work.

ICE abducted twelve people in the first three days of December before the Department of Homeland Security formally announced Operation Metro Surge on December 4. Soon after, over 300 ICE agents were occupying our streets. Stories began to circulate about house raids in the suburbs. Organizers started calling face-to-face meetings to set up neighborhood defense groups. Proper anti-ICE patrols got underway. The first patrollers took to euphemistically calling ourselves “commuters.”

In the course of the first two weeks of the occupation, a holding pattern set in. ICE would jump out of their cars in pairs and snatch someone. Sometimes, if we were lucky, a crowd would form. People would get out their phones and blow their whistles and cuss at them. The agents would pepper-spray someone and leave with an abductee.

On the handful of occasions when we could stop abductions by sheer numbers, we did—for example, when ICE raided a construction site in Chanhassen in dangerously cold temperatures and two workers got frostbite from being trapped on a roof while a crowd faced down the feds. But for the most part, most of us were relatively passive observers in this period. Most of the abductions succeeded.

On December 15, that began to change. Two ICE agents attempted to kidnap a pregnant woman at the corner of 29th and Pillsbury. Agent Brenden Cuni slammed her to the ground and shoved his knee into her back. This was also the first time we positively identified an ICE agent after seeing him in the

field. People began throwing snowballs and big chunks of ice at the agents from all sides.

As the thermal temperature dropped in the second half of December, the political temperature ratcheted up. It became commonplace to see ICE brutalizing people. December 22 marked the first time they fired live ammunition at us, when they shot at a man in Saint Paul after ramming his car. Reports circulated about ICE shooting out one observer’s tires. Another was arrested in a parking lot near the Whipple federal building (the staging area for practically all ICE activity in the area) and charged with “stalking.” They started brake-checking drivers who followed them, or boxing us in. They began attempting to carry out the abductions more quickly and violently. Their violence became more theatrical. The occupation created a new status quo.

For a couple of suspiciously calm days before January 6, it appeared that the abductions in Minneapolis might finally be slowing down. Then DHS announced a surge of 2000 more ICE and Border Patrol agents. Suddenly, the streets were overrun with them. Whereas before, you needed a car if you wanted to “commute,” now there were so many agents that foot patrols around certain hotspots became effective. The abductions became more indiscriminate. We saw agents grabbing people at bus stops and using facial recognition software on random people on the sidewalk. The same day that the surge began, ICE sent detained Minneapolis resident Victor Manuel Diaz to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he died—or else was murdered—only a week later.

One day into the surge, on January 7, ICE agent Jonathan Ross murdered Renee Good. Dozens of federal agents gathered at the site of her murder to threaten the crowd. Considering what the agents had just done, the crowd’s immediate reaction was conservative and restrained. People blocked the street and chanted at the accomplices in the killing. Unprovoked, Border Patrol “Bor-Tac” officers Michael Sveum and Edgar Vazquez opened fire with chemical weapons, touching off skirmishes at 34th and Portland in which some people threw snowballs at federal agents as they retreated.

Two hours later, a fight broke out at Roosevelt Middle School, where people successfully stopped ICE agents from abducting an immigrant worker by swarming them in front of the building. That night, locals barricaded off 34th and Portland Avenue, the scene of the murder. Ten thousand people turned out to stand vigil for Renee Good.

On the morning of January 8, the day after the murder of Renee Good, people organized by a AFL-CIO “direct action trainer” carried out the first attempt to blockade the Whipple building. The crowd was fairly tame, but officers tear-gassed them nonetheless. As the protesters were only using soft blockade tactics, they were not able to withstand the assault.

"Survival As Resistance"

by Leonard Williams

Across

1. Carrot or turnip, essentially
5. Tennis pro who was No. 1 for 101 weeks
11. Buddhist temple in Southeast Asia
14. Lake bordering Ontario
15. "Why should I care?"
16. Bauxite, for aluminum
17. *Seek legal reviews
19. LBJ successor
20. Fellas
21. Paddled in a sound
23. Nobel Peace Prize co-winner in 1978
24. Included on a memo or email
26. Something forbidden, to a child
27. Self-satisfied
28. Provo inst.
29. "Wanna bet?"
30. Ready to eat
31. Condition than causes fatigue
34. Prof.'s helpers
35. *Enjoy literature or become informed
38. Defensive weapons system: Abbr.
41. Rather flexible
42. California wine county
46. Bivalve molluscs
48. Salonga who won a Tony for "Miss Saigon"
49. Snowman loved by Disney fans
50. Tool used to make a sand mandala
51. With facility and skill
53. Really cheap booze
54. Subtitle of Bob Marley biopic
56. Absinthe flavoring
57. Secrecy contract, for short
58. *Prep for a slam, perhaps
62. "___ Blues" (tune on "The White Album")
63. Big cat hybrids
64. Game before a final
65. Actor in "Rocky III" and "The A-Team"
66. Sister ___ ("We Are Family")
67. Jumbo suffix

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65				66							67			

Down

1. Foul caller, briefly
2. Practice of folding paper into 3-D

3. Ready to shine at the Arnold Sports Festival
4. High schooler
5. Symbols of Egyptian royalty
6. The Reps, not the Dems
7. Shock and ___
8. Cold drink to have with a burger
9. Pair it with a soup or a sandwich
10. "The ___ Bitsy Spider"
11. *Build strength and endurance
12. Asian republic whose capital is Yerevan
13. Connective tissues
18. Stat for a passer
22. Year, in Portuguese
23. 12-Down, during the Cold War
24. Lauper who provided music and lyrics for "Kinky Boots"
25. It's used to make a break
28. God in the ancient Near East
29. Himalayan source of milk
32. "___, ___, ___" (ABBA song)
33. Letter between theta and kappa
36. Mini-albums
37. Mount Baker, re other peaks
38. SCUBA or LASER
39. More in need of hot sauce, perhaps
40. *Sculpt or paint
43. High-profile celeb
44. Sicilian city
45. Org. of craft unions that merged with the CIO
47. Blanc of "Looney Tunes" fame
51. April in Paris
52. Typically blah color
53. ___-Caps (chocolate candy)
55. Members of parliament?
56. Recess in a cathedral
59. Feel-good TV's Lasso
60. Rowing machine
61. Yang counterpart

After Renee’s murder, a new status quo emerged. ICE ramped up its terror to new heights. It became common for them to smash out people’s car windows. They detained more observers. They started using tear gas in minor confrontations in which it would have been unusual for regular cops to deploy it. Two Target employees who were citizens were beaten and arrested for filming federal agents. ICE released people from custody in the middle of the night in sub-zero temperatures in public parks. Liberal conspiracy theories became popular alleging that Trump was trying to use this violence to provoke us into a reaction. Rapid response chats ballooned in size.

On January 11, Greg Bovino conspicuously took a Border Patrol convoy up and down University Avenue, harassing people in crowded areas. At a Speedway gas station in Saint Paul, they beat and choked Orbin Mauricio Enriquez Serrano unconscious, and punched and tackled observers while they carried away his body. Two days later, a hundred people turned out to confront ICE when they raided a house in Powderhorn; ICE tear-gassed them. Clashes broke out at the Whipple building later on the night of January 13, when protesters and DHS police exchanged fireworks for CS gas and flashbangs.

We saw an inflection point on January 14, when an ICE agent shot Julio Sosa-Celis through his own front door in north Minneapolis. Black and brown young people from the working-class Northside neighborhood came out by the hundreds and battled federal agents alongside activists. For three hours, MPD supported ICE as they fired tear gas and rubber bullets. People responded with bottles, rocks, and firecrackers.

ICE withdrew first, abandoning at least three vehicles. MPD fled shortly afterwards. The youth of Northside tagged and smashed up their cars, stole a gun safe from one trunk, and turned the scene into a lively block party. Witnesses livestreamed as people rifled through the ICE vehicles, pulling out sensitive documents and “challenge coins” distributed to the mercenaries for perpetrating harm against communities. Federal agents did not return until hours later.

For many in Twin Cities, January 14 felt like a turning point. It represented the stirring of a sleeping giant: the same social force that had produced the George Floyd rebellion rising to put its unmistakable stamp on the struggle against ICE.

After the riot in Northside, the number of detainees flown out of Minnesota reportedly dropped from 204 detainees flown out that day to only 114 the following day (January 15), and only 77 on January 16. The number never again reached anything like the levels seen between January 6 and January 15. The “drawdown” in the number of federal agents occupying the Twin Cities did not begin until February, but the riot of January 14 immediately put a cap on how many people the agents could abduct because it forced them to act more cautiously.

It was direct action—not the decisions of officials of either

political party—that turned the tide. The changes in official policy came later, acknowledging a reality imposed by courageous grassroots action.

Things reached a crescendo on January 23, when 300,000 people went on strike against the occupation.

The next day, six CBP agents murdered Alex Pretti in cold blood, in broad daylight. A call went out for observers. Out of all the riots we’ve experienced, the street fighting in Whittier was notable for how rapidly it broke out. The most impressive part was that without any planning, all of the participants knew what to do at once. Barricades dotted Nicollet, Blaisdell, and 26th Street. People set dumpsters on fire. The pallets at one warehouse were all repurposed as barricade materials. Federal agents fired an astonishing amount of tear gas to cover their retreat before fleeing onto the 35W highway.

Three days later, Greg Bovino had been relieved of command and the state government was angling to make a deal for some sort of détente. That same day, Governor Tim Walz said,

“The politics for the White House is they cannot afford to see tear gas on the streets and they certainly can’t afford to see another incident like we saw on Saturday morning.”

Today, nearly four weeks have passed since Alex’s murder and the events in Whittier. Border czar Tom Homan allegedly withdrew 700 agents from the Twin Cities after those events, although he and the other representatives of the federal government have given us no reason to take them at their word.

Above all, the “drawdown” represents a strategic shift intended to pacify people. The state government has given ICE access to all county jails. ICE may have become less visible, and they may be terrorizing the suburbs more intensely than the city centers, but they are still here—their motor pool is still full at Whipple and they’re still kidnapping people every day. Local organizers are calling for a week of action from February 25 to March 1 to keep the pressure on at a moment when the regime is trying to release it.

We can derive three tentative conclusions from this sequence of events:

The introduction of militant tactics did not diminish popular support for the resistance. On the contrary, the rapid response infrastructure has continued to grow and develop in each phase of the struggle. There were 3000 commuters in December; as of mid-February, some 30,000 have participated. The state has failed to convince the public to accept a dichotomy between “good protesters” and “bad protesters.” The movement remains extraordinarily popular.

“Disturbing the peace” is a form of leverage for the movement in and of itself. What forced the federal government to retreat

was not only the direct surveillance and confrontation of ICE agents by commuters; it was also the general threat to public order posed by a movement of thousands of people in constant real-time communication that sometimes bleeds over into neighborhood rebellions, such as the ones that took place in Northside and Whittier in response to the shooting on January 14 and the murder of Alex Pretti on January 24. When they started negotiating, Walz and Trump both agreed that it was crucial to “turn down the temperature.” Insofar as that priority unifies the fascists within the Republican party and the false opposition represented by the Democratic establishment, it indicates how a grassroots social movement might pursue its own interests in a way that cannot be co-opted by either of the dominant forces in government.

The old mechanisms of repression no longer work. This is why the state is resorting to brute force. The powers that be are no longer interested in practicing the kind of counterinsurgency that involves winning hearts and minds. They’re making a bid to govern by terror alone. This is historically an indicator of a weak state, one that no longer possesses legitimacy in the eyes of those it governs.

In other words—a government living on borrowed time. 

Leftover ramen, too few Qurans: A ‘humiliating’ Ramadan inside ICE detention centers
by Nargis Rahman and Ulaa Kuziez, Mar 2026
from ReligionNews.com

It was early in Ramadan, and a group of Muslim detainees in a Folkston, Georgia, immigrant detention center set up a makeshift dinner table. Using clean trash bags as a tablecloth and prayer mats as seats, they broke their fast on small portions of ramen noodles and brown rice, microwaved with water and sardine sauce, topped with fish and spice packets.

“We gathered our leftovers to see what we can put together,” said Yaakub Ira Vijandre, a Muslim Filipino American who has been in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody for five months. Sometimes the guards don’t pass out enough pre-dawn breakfasts, and the detainees share that too. Only by befriending Muslim cooks at the center who share extra food after their shifts does Vijandre feel fed after his 14-hour fast.

The iftar meal that breaks the Ramadan fast is traditionally an occasion for abundance and communal gathering. But Muslim detainees, such as Vijandre, are struggling to observe the holy month with inadequate access to nutritious halal food, no Qurans in their language and limited visits from chaplains.


In one Michigan facility, detainees reported using bedsheets as prayer mats. “In ICE facilities, a lot of how you observe Ramadan just depends entirely on the goodwill of individual officers,” said Maria Kari, a lawyer who represents Vijandre and other Muslim detainees. “You are basically at the mercy

of staff.”

ICE is legally required to accommodate religious practice, as long as it doesn’t threaten the “safety, security and orderly operation” of the facility. That includes accommodations for a special diet as well as access to religious garments and books. But in detention centers in Georgia, Michigan and Texas, many Muslim detainees report it isn’t happening.

In a written statement, an ICE spokesperson said, “Every ICE facility that holds individuals for more than 72 hours is required to have a chaplain or religious services coordinator responsible for coordinating worship, prayer, and spiritual support.” The agency did not respond to the specific allegations of religious accommodations violations.

“Being a practicing Muslim in ICE detention is one of the most humiliating experiences,” said Kari.

There are no official statistics on the number of Muslims held in detention facilities, but the Austin chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, estimates that 5% of detainees in Texas facilities are Muslim. (Texas has about 18,600 detainees, the highest number of any U.S. state. 

Americans are destroying Flock surveillance cameras
by Zack Whittaker, Feb 2026
TechCrunch.com

Brian Merchant, writing for Blood in the Machine, reports that people across the United States are dismantling and destroying Flock surveillance cameras, amid rising public anger that the license plate readers aid U.S. immigration authorities and deportations.

Flock is the Atlanta-based surveillance startup valued at \$7.5 billion a year ago and a maker of license plate readers. It has faced criticism for allowing federal authorities access to its massive network of nationwide license plate readers and databases at a time when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is increasingly relying on data to raid communities as part of the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown.

Flock cameras allow authorities to track where people go and when by taking photos of their license plates from thousands of cameras located across the United States. Flock claims it doesn’t share data with ICE directly, but reports show that local police have shared their own access to Flock cameras and its databases with federal authorities.

While some communities are calling on their cities to end their contracts with Flock, others are taking matters into their own hands.

Merchant reports instances of broken and smashed Flock

cameras in La Mesa, California, just weeks after the city council approved the continuation of Flock cameras deployed in the city, despite a clear majority of attendees favoring their shutdown. A local report cited strong opposition to the surveillance technology, with residents raising privacy concerns.

Other cases of vandalism have stretched from California and Connecticut to Illinois and Virginia. In Oregon, six license plate-scanning cameras on poles were cut down and at least one spray-painted. A note left at the base of the severed poles said, “Hahaha get wrecked ya surveilling fucks,” reports Merchant.

According to DeFlock, a project aimed at mapping license plate readers, there are close to 80,000 cameras across the United States. Dozens of cities have so far rejected the use of Flock’s cameras, and some police departments have since blocked federal authorities from using their resources.

A Flock spokesperson did not say, when reached by TechCrunch, if the company keeps track of how many cameras have been destroyed since being deployed. 🍀

Anti-ICE Protesters Convicted on Terrorism Charges for Wearing All Black
by Matt Sledge, Mar 2026
TheIntercept.com

A federal jury handed prosecutors a mixed victory in the trial of nine protesters for their roles during or after a chaotic demonstration outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility last July, convicting eight defendants of terrorism charges but sparing some of them on attempted murder counts.

The widely watched trial could serve as a bellwether as President Donald Trump’s administration seeks to crack down on left-wing groups — and the convictions could encourage prosecutors to bring more such charges. A top FBI official said in December that the agency is now treating “antifa” as a major domestic terror threat.

In a statement posted online, a support group for the defendants said, “Everything about this trial from beginning to end has proven what we have said all along: this is a sham trial, built on political persecution and ideological attacks coming from the top.”

The Trump administration celebrated the verdict.

“Antifa is a domestic terrorist organization that has been allowed to flourish in Democrat-led cities — not under President Trump,” said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. “Today’s verdict on terrorism charges will not be the last as the Trump administration systematically dismantles Antifa and finally halts their violence on America’s streets.”

The court case centered on a nighttime July 4, 2025, protest outside ICE’s Prairieland Detention Facility that started with demonstrators shooting fireworks and spray-painting cars in the parking lot.

Signal messages obtained by the government showed that the demonstrators believed that less confrontational protests against ICE — such as one that had occurred earlier in the day at the same facility — were ineffective. Some of the protesters had brought guns, which is legal in Texas. A police officer responding to the scene was shot in the neck by one of the protesters, Benjamin Song, who had brought an AR-15 with a trigger modified for a higher rate of fire.

The defendants said the protest was a peaceful demonstration meant to show solidarity, pointing to the megaphone that one member of the group brought to shout slogans to detainees. Prosecutors pointed to the guns, ballistic vests, and trauma first-aid kits they brought as evidence of malicious intent.

Song was convicted of one count of attempted murder for shooting the officer, but acquitted on two other counts of attempting to shoot at two correctional officers. Song was also found guilty of discharging a firearm during a violent crime. Four other people accused of attempted murder counts were acquitted on those charges. Song faces up to life in prison.

In a significant victory for the government, jurors convicted eight defendants on material support for terrorism charges for wearing black clothes to the late-night demonstration. That use of “black bloc” clothing was an antifa tactic that assisted in the shooting of the officer, prosecutors said during their closing arguments.

The defendants convicted of providing material support to terrorists were Song, Autumn Hill, Zachary Evetts, Savanna Batten, Megan Morris, Maricela Rueda, Elizabeth Soto, and Ines Soto. They face up to 15 years in prison on that count.

The same defendants were also convicted of riot and two explosives charges related to the fireworks. Hill, Evetts, Morris, and Rueda were acquitted on attempted murder charges that would have carried sentences up to life imprisonment.

Rueda and her husband, Daniel Sanchez Estrada, were convicted of conspiracy to conceal documents. That charge centered on Sanchez’s movement of boxes containing radical pamphlets after her arrest. Sanchez was also convicted of corruptly concealing a document.

The prosecution of the Prairieland defendants represented the federal government’s first use of the material support charge against alleged antifa members accused of domestic terrorism.

The verdict came after 10 days of testimony inside a Fort Worth courtroom packed with family members of the defendants, law

enforcement officials, and journalists.

Prosecutors called the wounded police officer and detention center guards to describe what it was like on the receiving end of a barrage of bullets, as well as four cooperating defendants who pleaded guilty before trial.

Another significant witness was a researcher at a right-wing think tank who said the tactics used by the demonstrators that night, including “black bloc” clothing and the encrypted messaging app Signal — the latter of which the witness said he also used — were typical of antifa. 🌿

New Prison Mail Policies Threaten Newsletters by and for Incarcerated People

**by Tamanika Ferguson, Nov 2025
from TruthOut.org**

On September 3, Illinois prison officials moved — by emergency rule — to replace most physical mail with scanned copies, though a key legislative panel has already pushed back. At the same time, New York is installing mail scanners in prisons, raising alarms about privacy and attorney-client privilege. Texas has already shifted to “digital mail,” where letters are scanned and delivered on tablets or as photocopies. Though billed as a way to reduce contraband, these “paperless” policies constrict how people read, write, and organize behind prison walls.

Protecting incarcerated people’s access to physical mail and inside-led print publishing is a feminist public safety issue. These letters and publications sustain dignity, care, legal literacy, and organizing. This is perhaps most clearly exemplified by *The Fire Inside*, a physical newsletter written by, for, and about people in women’s prisons that digitized, heavily surveilled systems would otherwise stifle or erase. And as PEN America has documented, prisons now block “staggering numbers” of books and other reading materials for arbitrary reasons, from content to even the color of wrapping paper. In that environment, a physical newsletter written by, for, and about people in women’s prisons is exactly the kind of publication digitized, heavily surveilled systems can stifle or erase.

Launched nearly three decades ago by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), *The Fire Inside* doubles as a living archive and a classroom — where incarcerated women and gender-expansive people teach what resistance, care, and coalition look like across the razor wire. “No One Gets Free Alone,” a core principle of CCWP and prison abolition, isn’t just a slogan — it’s the idea that freedom is collective work: sharing legal know-how, care, and resources through networks that keep people safe.

This is why the newsletter matters beyond its pages. The ability to write, read, and share ideas is constantly contested —

mail gets delayed, censored, or paywalled — so keeping that flow alive is part of the fight. Civil-liberties researchers have documented staggering prison book bans and the rapid growth of pay-to-use e-messaging that leave out prisoners who can’t or won’t pay for those messages. Against that tide, *The Fire Inside* shows what happens when people insist on thinking together anyway.

The newsletter offers a prime example of collective analysis and everyday organizing. In one issue, Ellen Richardson describes waking up “every morning fighting a dragon with a teaspoon.” She isn’t being dramatic. She is naming the grind of a place built to exhaust people — denied meds, delayed mail, endless forms. Her excerpt traces what fighting with a “teaspoon” looks like in practice: walking a neighbor through a medical request, sharing a template for a grievance, showing a new arrival how to document harassment so it sticks.

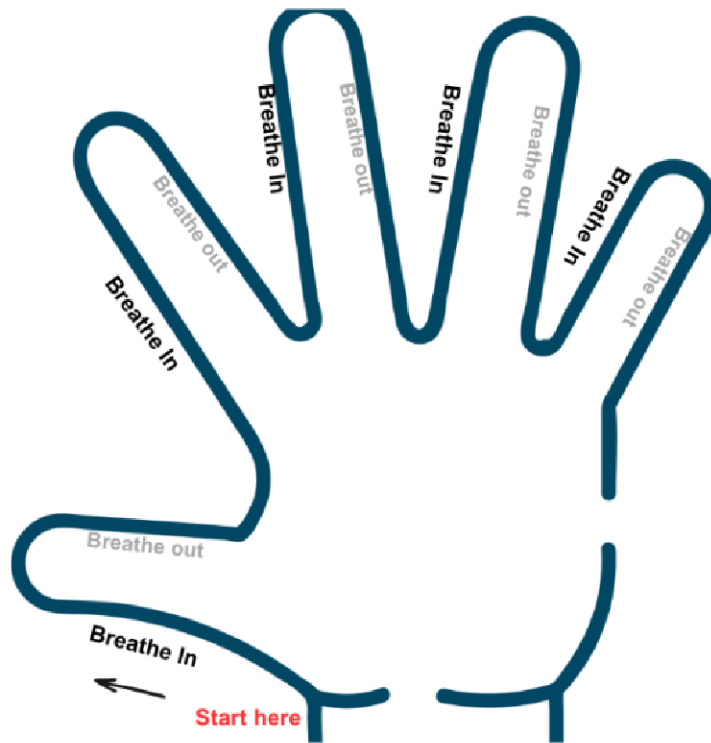
None of it reads as grand strategy, but that’s the point. The work is small, steady, and collective. In Ellen’s hands, survival skills become political education — refusing the daily attempts to erase people and building power person-to-person.

There is a clear through-line that connect these pages. In the 1990s, Charisse “Happy” Shumate began organizing the way most sustained work starts: by helping women document what was happening to their bodies and what the prison refused to do about it. Inside, women remember her first for how she showed up: warm, smiling, and determined to stand up for people she didn’t even know. As Mary Shields put it, once she met Shumate in the battered women’s group, “she will stand up for you.” When women kept getting turned away from medical or left “laying outside of medical crying, begging for help,” Shumate didn’t just file her own complaints — she taught other women how to write theirs, and she won them. She told people, “We got to get some help... from the outside,” and then she did exactly that, recruiting women inside to work together and bringing in outside advocates to push the *Shumate v. Wilson* fight on medical neglect. That mix of tenderness and strategy — checking on women who stayed to themselves, helping them name abuse, showing them how to write it up, and connecting it to allies beyond the walls — is the model the newsletter later carried forward.

Shumate’s ground-level work grew into coordinated complaints and, eventually, the lawsuit that named medical neglect and demanded standards of care. In her own account in *The Fire Inside* of taking on that role, Shumate was frank about the cost — retaliation, being labeled a troublemaker — and about why she did it anyway: Leadership from inside was necessary because no one else would make the case with the same precision or urgency. Read alongside the women who organized with her, it’s not a story of solitary heroism but of relay — step-by-step practices copied, taught, and passed person to person despite constant surveillance and risk, so the knowledge wouldn’t be lost.

Caring For Mental Health

CALM YOURSELF WITH A 5 FINGER BREATHING BRAIN BREAK



Slowly trace the outside of your hand with the index finger, breathing in when you trace up on a finger and breathing out when you trace down on a finger.

You can do this using your own hand anytime & anywhere!

“ The evidence clearly shows there is something you can do—no matter where you are or what the circumstances are. Take a few slow, deep breaths.

A systematic review published last year in the journal *Scientific Reports* found that participants who engaged in slow-paced breathing exercises had lower levels of stress, self-reported anxiety, and symptoms of depression compared to those who didn't do the exercises.

There is also evidence that deep breathing helps to reduce pain levels and lower blood pressure for those with cardiovascular disease. ”

-Psychology Today

Cooking in Lock-Up Spring Rolls

Ingredients

(makes 6)

6 tortillas

2 cups coleslaw

cold water

1/3 cup Asian Style Sweet Chili Sauce

1/2 tsp black pepper

Instructions

Rinse coleslaw thoroughly by mixing cold water with coleslaw in a plastic bag, and shake it up. Strain it by squeezing coleslaw in bottom of bag, forcing water to the top to dump it out. Refill with water and repeat 3 to 4 times or until water is clear.

Stir in Asian sauce and black pepper. Set in preheated stinger for 20 minutes. Allow to cool. Scoop 2 spoons of filling onto nearest edge of tortilla. Tightly roll it 2 times. Fold in sides. Complete roll. Set in stinger on open foil chip bag with lip side of roll facing down.

Cook for 30 minutes on each side, or longer if you want them crispier.

TIP

Add finely chopped bacon, spicy summer sausage or precooked egg to filling.

The archive also records how gender policing and homophobia shape punishment in “women’s” facilities, which can otherwise be difficult to identify and report upon. A trans advocate describes a guard’s gendered harassment as “forced feminization,” exposing how institutional power punishes anyone who fails to conform to stereotypes of womanhood. Decades earlier, Shumate called out staff for labeling and targeting queer women. Taken together, these testimonies show how prisons are engines of gendered and sexual violence — evidence that safety cannot be built through cages.

In interviews I conducted with longtime contributors, I heard directly about the importance of this writing as a way to organize. Jane Dorotik, who wrote for *The Fire Inside* during her 19 years at the California Institution for Women (CIW), described writing as a way to humanize a system bent on erasure and to pass along concrete tools. For example, in her 2008 essay “Living on the Inside,” Dorotik spells out everyday survival strategies — from tracking medical requests to sharing grievance templates — showing how first-person writing can become infrastructure for others.

Kelly Savage-Rodriguez, a formerly incarcerated organizer with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, names this practice: “If you’re going to reach one, teach one.” In our interview, she described how that ethic looks day to day: passing scripts for medical requests, sharing grievance checklists, and showing newcomers how to navigate the system so the knowledge keeps moving.

Through writing, analysis moves from one person to a unit, across the yard, and into statewide organizing. For example, a run of *The Fire Inside* columns on medical neglect at CIW didn’t just document harm; writers pooled step-by-step grievance language and contact lists that CCWP turned into coordinated filing campaigns and outside call-in days — moving from one woman’s column to a unit-wide push and then to statewide pressure on health care officials. That pressure helped bring outside attention to the suicide and medical care crisis at CIW and pushed the state to increase monitoring and intervention for women at high risk of self-harm.


Likewise, profiles and first-person essays from people serving life without parole fed the #DropLWOP clemency effort. Inside writers mapped the steps for supporting petitions and outside allies amplified them. That infrastructure helped power commutations for several women, including Kelly Savage-Rodriguez, and continues to scaffold statewide organizing.

The *Fire Inside* newsletter shows that abolition feminism isn’t some far-off goal, it’s about helping people survive now while building a better future. It means putting the people most affected at the center, treating care as a strategy — not a side issue — and judging success by whether people’s dignity actually grows. It’s a reminder that if you don’t change who has power, reform can cause new harms. Reforms shaped by

incarcerated people, though, can drive real change.

At the same time, these mail-scanning and e-messaging policies aren’t neutral. They give prisons and their private vendors two things at once: tighter control over what people can read, write, and keep — which makes it easier to block dissenting or organizing materials — and a new revenue stream through contracts, per-message “stamps,” and paid access to scanned mail. Groups like Prison Policy Initiative and PEN America have warned that digitizing mail often means people pay more for less privacy — their letters are scanned, stored, and sometimes shared, but they still don’t get the original. In other words, this isn’t just about “security.” It’s about suppressing inside-led political education and opening up another profit channel for the prison-industrial complex through technology contracts.

Rather than digitizing or restricting communications from within prisons, we should publish the analysis already coming from inside. We need to promote systems that let people learn from each other — like newsletters that circulate across facilities, inside-out education programs, or resource packets that offer step-by-step guides for medical advocacy and legal rights. Libraries, study groups, and correspondence courses make it possible for knowledge to move across years and institutions, building continuity where the system tries to impose isolation. Just as important, resisting censorship means challenging blanket book bans, protecting access to original mail, and auditing mailroom rejections so political writing and community analysis can still get through.

As Illinois, New York, and Texas illustrate, these choices are being made right now. Nobody gets free alone — but when we read and organize with the women and gender-expansive people who keep writing across the razor wire, we get closer together. 

Indiana’s Anti-Trans Attorney General is Preparing to Revoke Trans People’s Documents

by Aleksandra Vaca, Mar 2026

[Transitics.substack.com](https://transitics.substack.com)

Last week, the trans community was rattled when Kansas began revoking the IDs and birth certificates of trans people in compliance with what has proven to be the most extreme anti-trans law passed by Republicans to date. Up until this point, no state had resorted to taking trans people’s IDs when implementing new restrictions, with the handful that did so prior to Kansas instead opting to revert gender markers whenever documents are renewed. And that’s with good reason: retroactively compiling a list of trans residents is an expensive and time-consuming process; this alone was responsible for halting a similar attempt in Texas.

However, as *Transitics* revealed last Thursday, Kansas already had a list, which it built by internally flagging trans people’s

documents whenever they were changed. As a result of this, the state was able to quickly and easily revoke trans IDs by simply filtering its records for the flag. In fact, the only costs that arose from this ordeal were because of a need to mail the revocation notices and develop guidance.

Following this, Transitics asked employees in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and West Virginia—which, like Kansas, handle gender changes administratively and were, with the exception of North Dakota, forced by courts to implement progressive policies—about whether or not their states were also tracking trans people’s document changes.

Fortunately, all of them emphasized that gender marker amendments are not flagged in their systems. West Virginia, for example, keeps handwritten notes, and I was told that simply identifying trans people’s birth certificates would necessitate a manual review of every certificate in the state. Meanwhile, Montana outright seals the old certificates.

Nevertheless, the same cannot be said about Indiana, the fifth state that Transitics contacted as part of this investigation. Last December, Transitics broke the story that Indiana, by holding onto and not processing birth certificate gender amendment requests, has effectively been compiling a non-exhaustive list of trans people in the state. And because certain counties are still amending trans people’s birth certificates within their own birth records systems—which are separate from the state’s—those unprocessed requests are indeed accumulating. Moreover, the memo concerning this policy also states that any requests that had already been received by the time it was implemented would be sent to the attorney general for review.

So far, Indiana has refused to acknowledge this publicly and has ignored emails specifically asking about the policy. Furthermore, when Transitics filed a public records request demanding the state’s Department of Health produce a policy detailing what it does with trans people’s unprocessed amendments, the DOH claimed no such policy existed and denied the request.

But speaking to a supervisor at the DOH who oversees amendment processing, Transitics has learned that the DOH is holding onto trans people’s amendment requests indefinitely and, prior to last year, internally flagged trans people’s certificates when they were amended. Like Kansas, records can be filtered for this flag, something the state utilized in court when it provided the exact number of certificates that had been amended for gender identity reasons: 1,558.

While this is obviously concerning, it pales in comparison to what the Department of Health has been doing with the requests it’s received: as it turns out, the department has been instructed to forward all trans people’s amendment requests to the Office of the Attorney General, Todd Rokita, while it “awaits guidance.”

Except in the year since Indiana Governor Braun signed Executive Order 25-36, which directly led to the new birth certificate policy, that guidance has never arrived. Instead, Rokita’s office has continued accumulating these requests, and like the Department of Health, it has also refused to disclose what it is doing with the data when directly asked.

During that time, Rokita has further moved to restrict trans people’s documents. In July 2025, he announced that he was intervening in seven gender change court cases—including one that had concluded the previous year—in order to “protect the integrity” of Indiana birth certificates. In court, the state framed these interventions as “litigating the validity of the trial court orders commanding IDOH to amend birth certificates.” And Rokita has made clear the ruling he’s hoping for: in the initial declaration, Rokita asserted that, under Indiana law, trans people are “falsifying records” when they change their birth certificates.

But he doesn’t just care about birth certificates. In September, Rokita’s office was the only party to file an amicus brief in the trans passport case, *Orr v. Trump*, which he used to argue that trans people don’t deserve accurate IDs—or any legal protections, for that matter—while urging the court to uphold Trump’s policy.

Then, after the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles finalized its policy banning most gender marker changes on driver’s licenses, Rokita reacted by implying that IDs that don’t “reflect reality” are also “falsified records.” Speaking to BMV employees, Transitics was able to confirm that the BMV also internally flagged gender marker changes—termed “gender reassignment”—when they were still possible and thus, like Kansas, can also produce a list of all the trans people in the state that have changed their IDs.

And this is where the problems arise. As has been previously established, there are only two conditions a state needs to meet in order to revoke trans people’s IDs and birth certificates: first, the state has to want to take trans people’s documents, and second, the state must either spend heavily to create a list of trans people or already have one. Florida and Texas met the first condition but not the second, and as a result, no mass revocations took place.

Meanwhile, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach wished to rectify his court loss over IDs—the first condition—and because the state could already produce the list—the second requirement—he was able to push the extreme revocation plan through the legislature. Todd Rokita also meets both conditions: he calls trans people’s documents “falsified” while both making a list of trans people himself and having the ability to easily procure a broader one from the BMV and DOH.

It’s true that Kobach needed the legislature to act, but that wasn’t for any legal reasons. Rather, it was political, as an attorney

general can only enforce their opinions by either going to court or having the government comply in advance. And in Kansas, the executive branch and courts are both controlled primarily by Democrats—meaning Kobach’s safest bet was through the friendlier state legislature.

But this analysis doesn’t apply when the executive branch is receptive to the idea. For example, Texas AG Ken Paxton successfully banned gender marker changes in the state by convincing the agencies in question to implement policies in line with his opinion asserting that court orders changing someone’s gender are invalid. However, because Texas lacks the ability to find out which documents it’d need to revoke, this only applies to new issuances.

Similarly, if Rokita were to release an opinion demanding all trans people’s documents be revoked by formally declaring them “falsified,” he likely would not have trouble implementing it. Already, the Department of Health voluntarily sends him information on trans people, and on top of that, both the DOH and BMV have willingly blocked gender marker changes. And generating the necessary list wouldn’t even cost them. Furthermore, the state’s Republican-controlled courts have increasingly upheld restrictions on trans people’s IDs in recent years.

However, should Rokita go in this direction, the risks to the state’s trans community would be high: under Indiana law, “knowingly or intentionally making a false statement, concealing a material fact, or otherwise committing fraud” when applying for a driver’s license is classified as a Level 6 felony, punishable by up to 2.5 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. But considering that retroactively enforcing this would pose a significant legal question and greatly increase the legal harms trans people would face (which would make courts more sympathetic), Rokita almost certainly won’t push his luck.

Thus, given the evidence, it’s likely not a question of if Rokita will move to revoke trans people’s documents, but rather a question of when. After all, he’s established that he wants to do it, and he’s established that he can. That said, it’s unknown what will prompt him to pull the trigger. Maybe he’s waiting for a favorable court ruling in one of the gender change cases he intervened in. Or perhaps he will wait until after the midterms to use it as a springboard for a potential 2028 gubernatorial or Senate run. He might just be waiting for the moment it can get him the most media attention.

Because one thing is clear: Todd Rokita is laying the groundwork that will allow him to take trans people’s documents. That doesn’t happen by accident. 🌿

Incarcerated Women in Arizona Go on Hunger Strike for Better Conditions
by Victoria Law, Mar 2026
from TheAppeal.org

On February 1, Shajiyah X Iman called her adoptive mother “Gina” and told her about a planned hunger strike at Arizona’s Perryville prison for women. (“Gina” asked that The Appeal not publish her legal name to protect the family’s privacy.)

Iman told her that she and other women were outraged when an officer assaulted a 20-year-old woman during a routine search of her cell.

“Slicing up her sheet and body slamming her onto her bed and holding her down with the back of his arm on the back of her neck, her whole face pressed into the bed, crying and screaming for him to stop! After he was done, he slapped the handcuffs on her and yanked her up roughly off the bed,” Iman described in a message to the outside.

The incident was the final straw for Iman and others who had grown frustrated by prison officials’ failure to address poor conditions and staff misconduct. The following day, Iman helped the young woman draft a grievance. The women also began a hunger strike. She and four others drafted what they called “21 Polite Requests.” While Perryville has been plagued by ongoing issues around poor medical and mental health care, which has resulted in a federal court appointing outside oversight, the women’s requests also focused on other daily living conditions, including increased wages, reforms to the disciplinary and grievance procedures, and an end to humiliating strip searches.

For the next 18 days, Iman and others at Perryville refused food. More than 200 women may have participated at its peak. Four days into the strike, prison officials placed Iman on suicide watch and later transferred her to a mental health unit, where she remained for 20 days. On day 17, the warden and other administrators met with Iman and agreed to revise some policies, including reconsidering prison strip-search policies, and said that other revisions were already underway. They also said that Iman could meet with a member of the state’s external oversight committee.

The Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry (ADCRR) denied that any hunger strike occurred in a statement to The Appeal. Iman, Carimbocas, and others incarcerated at Perryville, and outside loved ones are adamant that what they did was no unfounded rumor.

Iman explained that she and others wanted to act. “We were angry and really wanted to do something,” she told The Appeal. They discussed options. “We understand that we have to stop reacting violently to the violence they put on us. We tried to find a non-violent peaceful alternative that could make more change than the damage he caused,” she said.

Bayyinah Muhammad first connected with Iman six or seven years earlier. At the time, Muhammad was a receptionist at the Islamic Community Center of Tempe, where she answered

requests for information and other resources from people who had recently converted to Islam in Arizona prisons.

Since then, Muhammad and Iman have maintained a weekly correspondence. Muhammad recalled that Iman told her that she was starting a hunger strike to protest not only the officer's attack, but ongoing conditions as well.

In a February 2 electronic message, Iman told Muhammad, "Our hunger strike now has 75 women. [DOC] central office has our Polite Requests."

Two days later, Muhammad received a message from Crystal Carimbocas, Iman's cellmate, confirming the mass hunger strike.

On February 6, Carimbocas reached out again to Muhammad. Iman had a tele-visit with the prison psychologist. She informed her that she was on a hunger strike and directed her to the website with their 21 polite requests. Later that evening, prison officials moved her to suicide watch. She spent two days there before they moved her to a different mental health unit.

In both settings, Iman had no access to her prison tablet, which she relies on to make calls, send electronic messages, and receive digitized postal mail. Her only contact with the outside world was one five-minute phone call each week to her mother.

On February 19, Carimbocas sent a message to The Appeal confirming that she was still on hunger strike 17 days after it had started. "The Polite Requests are legit, fair and it serves justice to all people residing in here," she wrote. "It gives hope to those that ... someone is listening, that someone wants to make a change and we are all here coming together and providing that change for that someone to hear and communicate with us. That someone is The Director."

In an email to The Appeal, the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry stated that there was no hunger strike and that the accusations against that staff member are false. "ADCRR staff have been in regular communication with one particular incarcerated individual at ASPC-Perryville and working to address their particular needs and concerns, but unfortunately, that has not stopped unfounded rumors from reaching you," the media relations spokesperson wrote.

Prison historian Dan Berger noted that it's not uncommon for officials to dismiss and deny that a hunger strike—or any other type of organized disturbance—is occurring. "The public relations strategy of the prison is to deny the testimony of the people who are incarcerated," he told The Appeal. "Because they control access to the institution, they too often win out."

The Appeal heard from several outside friends and family members, as well as women at Perryville, all of whom insist that a mass hunger strike occurred. Two other women confirmed

their participation to The Appeal, while another woman shared messages from seven other participants.

"I have been here at Perryville for seven years and the conditions, the way of support, the way of operations is very poor. There needs to be change," wrote one woman about her reasons for joining the strike.

Others echoed the need for change; all said they were hungry, but also motivated and determined to fight for better conditions.

"Before joining the hunger strike, I had a different opinion—that everyone in there was evil," another woman told The Appeal. "On the contrary, most have big hearts and are good women who made mistakes, were deceived, and used...The worst part is that many of them will never be reunited with their families, they will never know freedom. That's why I went on hunger strike: to support my fellow women, so that those who will never leave can have an easier life, so that they are valued, supported, loved, and respected."

The ADCRR did not respond to The Appeal's requests for clarification on hunger strikes. But according to their online prison policies, an incarcerated person is considered on hunger strike if staff observe that they have refused food for 72 or more hours.

Staff must report the hunger strike. Medical and mental health staff must assess the person. If they determine that the person is capable of decision-making, they are moved to a single-occupant cell and should be provided with regularly scheduled meals and an adequate supply of drinking water. Any food bought from the commissary is confiscated for the duration of the strike. Health services staff are required to monitor the person's weight, intake, output, and vital signs every 24 hours.

Prison policy also states that a hunger striker "shall be informed of the medical consequences of the hunger strike and shall be asked to sign a Refusal to Submit to Treatment form acknowledging understanding the consequences." Iman said that prison staff would not allow her to refuse or sign any forms.

Carimbocas said that she and other women informed staff that they were on a hunger strike. They said that they were not assessed by medical or mental health staff or offered any forms.

Behind bars, Berger told The Appeal, "hunger strikes are a tool of resistance."

The largest and most publicized prison hunger strikes in the United States occurred across multiple California prisons. In 2011 and again in 2013, people incarcerated at Pelican Bay State Prison, California's super-max prison, launched three mass hunger strikes to protest the state's use of indefinite solitary confinement for those alleged to be gang affiliates. The strike spread, encompassing men's and women's prisons

across California as well as private out-of-state prisons that held California prisoners. Coupled with a class-action lawsuit, the strikes won changes to long-standing policy, releasing 1,600 from extreme solitary confinement, including hundreds who had isolated for more than a decade. The ongoing strikes and ensuing publicity also reframed the issue of solitary confinement from being a punishment necessary for the “worst of the worst” to being a form of torture.

Prison hunger strikes have also taken place with far less attention or results. In 2009, thousands in four different jails in Phoenix, Arizona, went on hunger strike to protest the quality of food. In June 2014, more than 200 people detained at ICE’s Eloy Detention Center went on hunger strike demanding investigations into recent deaths as well as improved medical and mental health care.

Hunger strikes have also been undertaken by smaller groups—and sometimes individuals. In 2014, nine women in a Phoenix jail embarked upon a hunger strike to protest the low quality and often spoiled food. Men in a neighboring jail went on a solidarity hunger strike. In 2025, four men at the new ICE camp at the notorious Angola State Prison went on hunger strike to demand basic necessities, such as toilet paper, sufficient hygiene products, ample clean water, and adequate medical care.

Hunger strikers face multiple risks, including medical debilitation and possible death, as well as physical assaults from staff. A report by Physicians for Human Rights found that ICE officials respond to hunger strikes with brute force, including pepper spray, beatings, rubber bullets, and lockdowns, as well as force feeding. Hunger strikers in non-immigrant jails and prisons face these same risks.

“It’s a tactic of desperation because it means that the system has foreclosed or prevented other means of seeking change,” said Berger. 🌿

Detainees held at Texas ICE facility protest living conditions and treatment by Nawaz, Adams, and Huot-Marchand, Jan 2026 from PBS.org

Two Democratic members of Congress visited the ICE family detention center in Dilley, Texas, where five-year-old Liam Ramos is being detained, along with many other children and families. Over the weekend, hundreds inside the facility protested their conditions and treatment in a display of defiance. Amna Nawaz spoke with immigration attorney Eric Lee, who was at the center that day.

Amna Nawaz: Two Democratic members of Congress visited the ICE family detention center in Dilley, Texas, today, where 5-year-old Liam Ramos is being detained, along with many other children and families..

Letter from a child held captive at Dilley from ProPublica.org

Hi, My name is Susej F
and I am 9 years old. I am from Venezuela.
I have been 50 days in
Dilley Immigration
Processing Center.
And I want to go to my Country.
But I miss my school and my friends I
feel bad since when I came here to this
Place, because I have been here too long.
I have been 2 years and 6 months in united
states, and I was happy with my friends in
The school but now I need to leave. I miss
my family in my Country so now I want
to go to Venezuela. But my mom do not
want to leave because she wants
a better future for me.

Seen how people like me, immigrants
are been treated changes my perspective
about the U.S. My mom and I came to
The U.S looking for a good and safe place
to live, and my mom was looking for a
Good job.

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX): His father said that Liam has been very depressed since he’s been at Dilley, that he hasn’t been eating well. I was concerned with, you see how he appears in that photo with his energy. He seemed lethargic.

Amna Nawaz: Over the weekend, hundreds of detainees inside the facility protested their conditions and treatment in this remarkable display of defiance.

Immigration attorney Eric Lee was at the center that day, and I spoke with him earlier.

Eric Lee, welcome to the “News Hour.” Thank you for joining us.

Eric Lee, Immigration Attorney: Thanks for having me. Hi.

Amna Nawaz: So I want to ask you about that day and those protests that you witnessed in a moment.

But I want to start with the news today, because you shared earlier that ICE put the entire Dilley facility on lockdown today. What does that mean when that kind of a place goes on lockdown? And what do you know about why that went into place?

Eric Lee: Well, it's because of the demonstration that took place today in Dilley.

We also know that, last night, guards burst into one of the women's dormitories, ordered everybody out of the room, stopped people who were in the middle of prayers, and rummaged through everybody's personal belongings to find any evidence of signs or participation in the planned protest for today.

So there's no question that this was a significant attack on the First Amendment rights of all of the people in this facility. What it's looked like today, from what we have been hearing from many detained families, is that people are not allowed to leave their rooms. They were escorted to the lunch area for meals.

And so this is the reaction of the Trump administration to individuals expressing their free speech rights, both inside these facilities and outside these facilities.

Amna Nawaz: So, this weekend -- I want to get to a piece of video that you recorded, because I understand you were at the facility meeting with clients. You saw firsthand some of these images that we saw going viral, getting a lot of media attention and headlines.

And you recorded this piece of video on Saturday. Just take a listen.

Eric Lee: Can you hear that? They're shouting: "Let us out, let us out."

Amna Nawaz: Eric, tell us more about what you saw, what you heard that day. And what prompted the protest in the first place?

Eric Lee: Well, I was visiting a family that I represent. Their name is El Gamal. There's six of them. There's a mother and her five children, two 5-year-old twins who have spent almost 20 percent of their lives at this facility, a 9-year-old, a 16-year-old, an 18-year-old who has since Saturday been separated from her family and denied visitation rights as a result, retribution for her decision to speak out previously about conditions in this facility.

The protest, as I understand, was triggered by the fact that people inside saw the size of the general strike and the massive demonstration that took place in Minneapolis on Friday, and they were -- they wanted to join this growing movement from below, a movement of the American population against the Trump administration's effort.

Amna Nawaz: You mentioned the El Gamal family that you represent. We should note their father was convicted of domestic terrorism. The family says they knew nothing about that. And, as you mentioned, they have now been detained for months.

Why are they being held? Are they being charged with something? What's the government's plan for them?

Eric Lee: The government has detained this family solely because of something that somebody else did. That offends every basic democratic principle upon which this country was founded 250 years ago this year.

The individual responsibility is required for civil and other forms of incarceration in this country. This family, an immigration judge has determined that they did not know and that they could not have known what their husband/father was planning. They have publicly denounced the attack that took place in Boulder.

The Trump administration from the very beginning has been punishing this family in a cruel and sadistic way, 5-year-old children, not because they did anything wrong, but because of somebody to whom they were related did. And that is not how things are supposed to work in this country. That's how things work in police states, where the regime punishes people because of their associations.

And it's extremely concerning that this is being done to this young family. All they need is to get out. They have a supportive community in Colorado ready to welcome them home. An immigration judge denied them bond last week because the children and the mom lack sufficient property and assets, among other things.

How does a 5-year-old have property? He made that decision about each individual child. That's what's happening in the American immigration system. That's what immigration attorneys unfortunately see every day. To the American people, it's worse than you think.

Amna Nawaz: You shared online a photo drawn by what I understand is the youngest child in the El Gamal family. You posted it online. It shows the family behind bars and the caption: "Let us go."

So, from your perspective, Eric, if immigration judges are denying bond here, if this is the system as it's working right now, what's the recourse for a family like this or others?

Eric Lee: I think, in the medium and long term and actually even in the short term, it's the development of this mass movement of the population of this country standing up, stepping forward.

Change and reform isn't possible within the framework of the present political establishment. Press conferences by politicians are great, but they go away after the midterms, things stay the same. Dilley was founded by Obama and kept open by Biden for three years.

What's required is this mass movement from below which we're beginning to see in this country. That has to continue to find independent expression. And I think that the fact that these children are risking everything -- they could be separated from their families. They could be deported in retribution for participating.

If they're standing up and speaking out, then that is a message to the population of the country and the world.

Amna Nawaz: Immigration attorney Eric Lee joining us tonight. Eric, thank you for your time. We appreciate it.

Eric Lee: Thank you. 

Women rally in Tulkarem for Palestinian female prisoners on International Women's Day english.palinfo.com, Mar 2026

Dozens of Palestinian women staged a sit-in on Tuesday outside the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, expressing solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, particularly women held in Israeli prisons.

The protest was organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women to mark International Women's Day, observed annually on 8 March.

In a statement, union president Nada Tuweir affirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to end the Israeli occupation, stressing that the struggle of Palestinian women forms an essential part of the broader fight for national liberation, justice and equality.

Tuweir said this year's International Women's Day comes amid escalating challenges faced by Palestinian women due to the continuing Israeli occupation and its policies of killing, forced displacement, settlement expansion and land confiscation.

She also highlighted the worsening economic and social conditions affecting women, particularly those who are displaced, widowed or part of the labor force struggling to support their families.

"Palestinian women are not merely marginal victims of war," Tuweir said. "They are a central pillar of community resilience and active partners in the national struggle and in building peace."

She called for greater empowerment of women and for ensuring their full and fair participation in decision-making positions at all levels.

Tuweir also urged the international community to protect the rights of Palestinian women, guarantee their access to international platforms without restrictions, and take serious action toward ending the occupation and achieving a just peace based on justice and freedom.


She emphasized the importance of adopting economic and social policies that strengthen women's resilience and provide protection and support to the most vulnerable groups.

The union also called for integrating women into relief and reconstruction efforts and expanding their role in political and economic life, describing the empowerment of Palestinian women as a key component of the broader national liberation project and the building of a society founded on justice and equality.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Prisoner Society said that International Women's Day comes as Israeli occupation forces continue to hold 72 Palestinian women in their prisons, most of them in Damon prison.

According to the organization, the detainees include three minors and 32 mothers with a total of 130 children.

The group said 17 of the women are being held under administrative detention without trial, while five have received prison sentences of varying lengths. The longest sentence, 16 years, was handed to prisoner Shatila Ayad.

Another 50 women remain in detention without final verdicts, including 16 arrested on charges of what Israeli authorities describe as "incitement," though rights groups estimate the real number of detainees could be higher. 

Remembering Imam Jamil al-Amin [excerpt] by Troutman & Harrison, Dec 2025 from ScalawagMagazine.org

From the South and beyond, we mourn the passing of Black Revolutionary and Islamic faith leader, Imam Jamil Abdullah al-Amin, who transitioned in federal prison custody on November 23, 2025 at the age of 82.

Al-Amin's political journey began at age 15, when he organized a student walkout at Southern High School in Baton Rouge in solidarity with Civil Rights organizing efforts at Southern University. In the summers of 1962 and 1963, he began organizing with the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the following summer, he volunteered during the Mississippi Freedom Summer. He continued to organize with

Plant Profile: Skunk Cabbage

The isolation of prison extends beyond separating humans. It also separates the imprisoned from most of the rest of the world, from nature, from animals, from plants: all things that are vital to our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. But for those who are allowed time out in the yard, there remain small opportunities for exploration and encounter. Here is a brief profile of a plant that you are, this time, unlikely to find growing at the prison. But, if you grew up in the upper midwest or northeast, you might remember this strange little plant from your childhood.

Common name: Skunk Cabbage

Myaamia name: šikaakwinši (The first part of the word, šikaakw-, comes from the word for skunk, which is also the source of the the name place name Chicago!)

Scientific name: *Symplocarpus foetidus*

How to identify: Skunk cabbage is a very unusual plant. It likes lowlands with either standing water or soggy soils; it cannot tolerate drying out. It likes a cooler climate, so is more common on the northern half of the state. It has 2 very distinct phases. The first is the flowering stage, which happens in February and March and consists of 2 main parts: the spathe is the purplish hood-like part and the spadix is the yellowish knob inside the spathe. The flowers are actually the small yellow spots on the spadix. The names referring to skunk come from the odor it emits as the stamens (male plant parts bearing pollen) mature. Skunkie is known to be thermogenic, meaning it can generate its own heat. This melts the snow around it, so it can poke out, and helps spread its scent which attracts its pollinators. The spathe is only a few inches tall and can be hard to spot until you know what you're looking for. Once you see them, they really stand out! Next to the spathe you can see little green cones popping out of the mud. These are the beginnings of leaves. The second phase is the leafage. The large, bright green leaves are basal only (all coming straight out of the ground with no central stem) and can be a few feet tall. The tiny spathe and spadix, now overshadowed, slowly wither away underneath. It is nearly unrecognizable at the same plant that popped up in the beginning of the year. While the above-ground parts die back each year, the root persists. Skunk cabbage is very long-lived and each year the roots contract in such a way to pull the stem a little further underground. So if you go digging for the root, you may find several inches of white/pale green stem before getting to the spray of thick, fibrous roots holding it in place in the mucky soil, like so many strong fingers grasping and pulling.

Encountering Skunk Cabbage: For many of us, the medicine of skunk cabbage is just the contemplation of the unusual, the unexpected, and the very-different-from-us. A plant that seems to have animal qualities – the consumption of oxygen, creating its own heat, the smell of rotting meat – calls into question the lines we've drawn between different kinds of life. It reminds us that what we see in any given moment is just one snapshot in a much more complicated and rich story and that transformation is not only possible but inevitable.

Skunk cabbage also offers medicine in the more traditional way. Mostly it is the root that is used. Skunkie is a common food for bears right after they come out of hibernation and so it is a "bear medicine." Bear medicines tend to be warming and stimulating, helping to get things moving after a period of rest. Here, it has a particular affinity for the lungs, helping to clear them out. Just as the plant navigates the cold, thick mud of its environment, it helps clear stagnant, viscous fluid from the lungs. It also has a long history of being made into a paste and applied for spasm and pain.



References: Northern Appalachia School



Source: *The Smithsonian*. Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) and H. Rap Brown (Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin), photographed by James E. Hinton, Jr.

SNCC in the South, becoming a key organizer in the 1966 Greene County Alabama Freedom Vote campaign.

Al-Amin succeeded Kwame Ture (fmr. Stokely Carmichael)—a close friend and Pan-African revolutionary—as SNCC Chairman, serving from May 1967 to June 1968. Their successive tenures as chairmen radicalized SNCC, previously a nonviolent organization under Chairman John Lewis, prompting its renaming as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and pushing both SNCC and the larger Black Liberation movement to endorse militant Black Power politics that favored self-defense as an essential means towards gaining political power. In the afterlife of the Civil Rights Movement’s crescendo—specifically the 1964 Freedom Summer Campaign marked by Fannie Lou Hamer’s DNC speech, the shortcomings of the larger Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party campaign and legal rights-oriented organizing strategy, and the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner—the movement entered a period of political crisis in which the prior nonviolent tactics fell short in terms of intervening the scale of mob terror and state violence still wielded against Black communities and their allies. It was in this climate that Brown and Carmichael met the insurgency of the late sixties and its urban riots with a more “by any and all means necessary” approach to Black political struggle.

In alignment with the Black Power turn, SNCC formed a short-lived strategic alliance and attempted merger with the Black Panther Party. Al-Amin later served as the Black Panther Party’s Minister of Justice, raising his national profile as a Black Power movement leader.

In 1969, he published his seminal text, the political memoir *Die N*gger Die!* His militant oration and endorsement of organizing strategies sought to merge the southern Black freedom struggle with the anti-poverty and racism movements coalescing in northern urban centers. Al-Amin’s politic affirmed the 1960s urban race rebellions as legitimate tactics for freedom struggle, which made him a police target subject to surveillance by the

FBI’s COINTELPRO program.

After taking his shahada in the Rikers Island jail, and serving a five year sentence in Attica prison from 1971-76, al-Amin relocated to Atlanta, becoming a respected Imam and community leader in the West End. On March 14, 2002, he was wrongfully convicted of shooting two sheriffs, killing one and injuring another. Despite evidence that the charges were bogus—including an admission of guilt from Otis Jackson—and the Imam was indeed innocent, he served a life sentence for the March 2000 incident, positioning him among the longest held political prisoners in the U.S.

Imam Jamil al-Amin died due to the medical neglect characteristic of the violence of the American carceral system. Despite the Free Jamil al-Amin campaign’s efforts to mobilize the masses against his continued imprisonment on false charges, and to boost demands that the incarcerated elder have access to the care required, the continued captivity and negligence resulted in his death.

His case remains under review by the Fulton County District Attorney’s Conviction Integrity Unit. At the time of his death, freedom was in sight for al-Amin, who was awaiting the judge and district attorney’s decision to grant him a new trial based on a legal motion that brought forth newly discovered evidence and constitutional violations before the court. The coalition formed to support his just acquittal and freedom is still raising funds to support his posthumous exoneration. Please consider donating to their cause.

The following reflections hold these tensions between the legacy of our Black Liberation Struggle veterans—many of whom like Imam al-Amin are or lived more than half of their lives as political captives and exiles—and the Abolition Movement’s political stagnancy around freeing them and all imprisoned captives.🌿

Man dies in ICE custody at Miami County detention facility from WNDU.com, Feb 2026


MIAMI COUNTY, Ind. (WNDU) - A 59-year-old man in ICE custody died at a detention facility in Miami County.

According to our sister station WTHR, the man was found unresponsive in his cell Monday morning.

Officials identified the man as Lorth Sim from Cambodia. He reportedly entered the United States as a refugee and became a permanent resident in 1986.

According to officials, Sim had a criminal record and was arrested in December and placed in ICE custody.

His cause of death is under investigation.

“ICE is committed to ensuring that all those in custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments,” a press release from ICE read, in part. “Comprehensive medical care is provided from the moment individuals arrive and throughout the entirety of their stay.” 

2025-2026 Indiana Legislative Session

The Redemption Ministries News editors have selected a handful of the new laws created in Indiana this year that may be of interest to those incarcerated here. For many of you, they will effect your family and friends on the outside, as well as the world you're released in to when you get out. Unsurprisingly, they are not changing it for the better.

References ALCU-IN.org

Senate Enrolled Act 91/ Public Law 144

This bill is about needle exchanges, the harm reduction practice of getting clean rigs (as well as many other supplies) to drug users to protect both them and public health. The law allowing needle exchanges to exist in Indiana was up for renewal and, in the process, new rules were added, further restricting how needle exchanges can operate. The governor did not sign this bill, but it passed into law without him. SEA 91 says that needle exchanges cannot set up a fixed site within 1000 ft of a school, day care center, or place of religious worship. Crucially, the law says that participants in needle exchanges must now show valid identification and show that they reside in specific counties. What exactly counts as a valid ID and what information (if any) is expected to be collected and stored is unclear. Obviously the requirement to show ID for a criminalized activity will discourage many from getting safe syringes. The bill also requires needle exchanges to now be a one-for-one, meaning participants can only get one new syringe for each used/old/collected one they bring in. This will mean people will not get as many as they need. Both of these rules will result in people sharing and reusing more needles and more people getting diseases and infections that could have been avoided. Clearly this law was not written by people who think of drug users as people deserving of care. Nor do they care about public health at large. All the research shows that open syringe exchanges and all the adjacent services and supplies reduce the spread of disease in our communities.

Senate Bill 1

SB1 makes changes to government assistance such as SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid (health care for low-income people). Under the guise of going after “waste, fraud, and abuse,” the law will take away essential help for people. The medicaid program is called the Healthy Indiana Plan, or HIP. The new law requires people be re-verified in their eligibility more often, every 6 months. This will cause people to lose coverage do to more administrative mistakes and for people whose income fluctuates over the year. It also adds work requirements: that people work or volunteer at least 80 hours a month to keep their coverage. These will go into affect in

January of 2027. An estimated 400,000 people in Indiana may lose their health coverage due to these changes.

As for food stamps, the asset limit for eligibility is being reduced. Previously, people could have \$5000 in the bank and still qualify. Now, it will be only \$3000 (\$4,500 for seniors or people with disabilities that the state acknowledges). The law also makes the change of counting the income of people in the household who are not eligible for SNAP towards the household's total income. This means punishing people for living with someone who is ineligible, such as people with certain drug-related felonies or people who are undocumented immigrants. The bill also adds new verification requirements for immigrants & requires applicants to disclose the immigration status of everyone in the household. These changes go into affect in July 2026.

Senate Enrolled Act 76

SEA 76 requires public institutions to comply with ICE, makes sanctuary policies or noncompliance plans (written or unwritten) illegal, and requires businesses to determine staff immigration statuses or face \$10,000 fines. Significantly, SEA 76 orders local jails to comply with all ICE detainer requests, and follow new standards and protocols regarding ICE detention, increasing the number of people detained by ICE at the local level as well as raising the risk of illegal detentions throughout the state.

It remains to be seen exactly what this will look like across the state.

ICE Detention in Indiana: In addition to Indianapolis' own Ice Detention Center, the Indianapolis Hold Room, many IDOC jails and prisons have already been cooperating with ICE on a large scale, including Clark County Jail, Clinton County Jail, Marion County Adult Detention Center, Clay County Justice Center, the Indianapolis Hold Room (now detaining people overnight for ICE) and, of course Miami Correctional, which has 1,000 beds for ICE detainees and which is where 59 year old Cambodian Lorth Sim died on February 16th. ICE has also been using certain hospitals, in particular, Eskenazi Health, Parkview Regional, and Union Hospital, for temporary, small-scale detention, a trend which will likely expand under this new law.

Senate Enrolled Act 285


SEA 285 makes it a crime to camp, sleep, or use public property for long-term shelter. It further criminalizes homelessness. It provides authority to both fine and detain people for camping and sleeping outside.

Senate Bill 277

SB 277 weakens environmental protections in Indiana by deregulating the Indiana Dept of Environmental Management. There are over 40 instances of changing language from “shall” to “may,” making actions that protect the environment optional instead of mandatory. For example, the IDEM is no longer

required to, but may, regulate emissions into the air or water.

House Enrolled Act 1343

HEA 1343, which is disguised as a routine veteran affairs bill, expands the Indiana National Guard's role into civilian law enforcement by establishing a "military police force," then grants the governor broad authority to activate it with police powers anywhere in the state. Under this legislation, if the governor activates this force, members could be authorized to make arrests, conduct searches and seizures, carry firearms, and exercise other police powers to enforce Indiana law. This major shift would blur the lines between military forces and civilian policing, contributing to a vast police state. 

"We Are Striking a Blow at the State:" The Alabama Prisoners Work Strike by Michael Kimble, Feb 2026 from ScalawagMagazine.org

When prisoners rebel and demand to be treated as human beings, we are not just fighting inhumane living conditions and shitty food. We are striking a blow at the state, which maintains the situation of slavery and super-exploitation—by which each of us are robbed of the fruits of our labor every day.

Work strikes or "shutdowns," as we like to call them down here in Alabama, are also geared toward consciousness-raising of prisoners as an oppressed class; and by refusing to work for free (which is slavery), we are asserting our power as workers and as human beings, thereby challenging the view that prisoner labor is free and exploitable.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution made slavery and involuntary servitude illegal unless one has been duly convicted of a crime and ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865, which merely removed the ownership of slaves from the province of the individual citizen to that of the state, which then became the sole owner of other human beings (or slaves).

Alabama was the last state in the South to end convict leasing in 1928. Before ending convict leasing, the state hired out prisoner labor to the lumber yards, mines, and cotton mills. In 1883, about 10 percent of Alabama's total revenue came from convict leasing. In 1898, almost 73 percent. In 1922-1926, net profits from leasing and state-run mines exceeded \$3 million.

In order to continue to exploit Black prisoner labor and profit from it, Thomas E. Kilby, the governor of Alabama, ordered the construction of the Kilby prison and even named it after himself. This new prison was to be the most advanced prison in the South, with the exception of the federal prison in Atlanta, styled as an industrial prison.

It was intended to house prisoners from the lumber yards, mines, and cotton mills, which would all eventually be moved inside the prison itself. The prisoners manufactured cotton to

make shirts that would then be sold on the market.

Just as slaves in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries challenged their dehumanization and exploitation via work stoppages and slowdowns, letting the crops rot in the fields, so too do prisoners in this day and time. Alabama has a long history of shutting shit down! In the 1970s, we had Inmates for Action (IFA), which organized a number of work stoppages to demand an improvement to their conditions.

We see work strikes as a weapon to be used to hit 'em where it hurts. There are many different strategies and tactics that prison rebels use, and work stoppages are just one of them. We organize around the knowledge that prison is slavery and super-exploitation of our labor power. Work stoppages are often violent due to the arena and conditions that prisoners are forced to maneuver in.


Prisons are, by nature, violent places. The guards are armed to the teeth with pepper spray, batons, sticks, knives, handcuffs, gas, and guns, and they use extreme violence as a mechanism of control. Moreover, organizers of work stoppages must navigate the different groups: gangs, shot-callers, influencers, and dope boys—and believe me, each of them has their own agendas.

You have to get past the "pig thinking" in some of these guys who see any challenge to their captors as merely a provocation for the guards, riot squads, and CERT teams to search and confiscate their cell phones, drugs, and weapons—and to incite further harassment and beatings.

That's how they ultimately control prisoners: through their fear of losing something. And it can get violent for those who attempt to break the strike and report to their slave jobs. These people are regarded as strike-breakers (scabs), and rightfully so.

For those out there in minimum custody, you can play a part by doing what's in your capacity to do. You can make donations and phone calls demanding that slavery, the death penalty, and life without the possibility of parole be abolished. You can take to the streets. Or you can get creative and do what the George Jackson Brigades did in the mid-1970s in support of striking prisoners.

Check out the radical histories in the U.S. and you just may find yourself. Here in Alabama prisons, we are going on a work strike starting February 8, 2026, to protest forced labor (slavery), the Habitual Offender Act (three strikes law), Life Without the Possibility of Parole, and ultimately call for the total abolition of the system of caging people.

We are exercising our agency and our right to fight back. What's wrong with that? 



won't you celebrate with me

By Lucille Clifton

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.



Physical Health

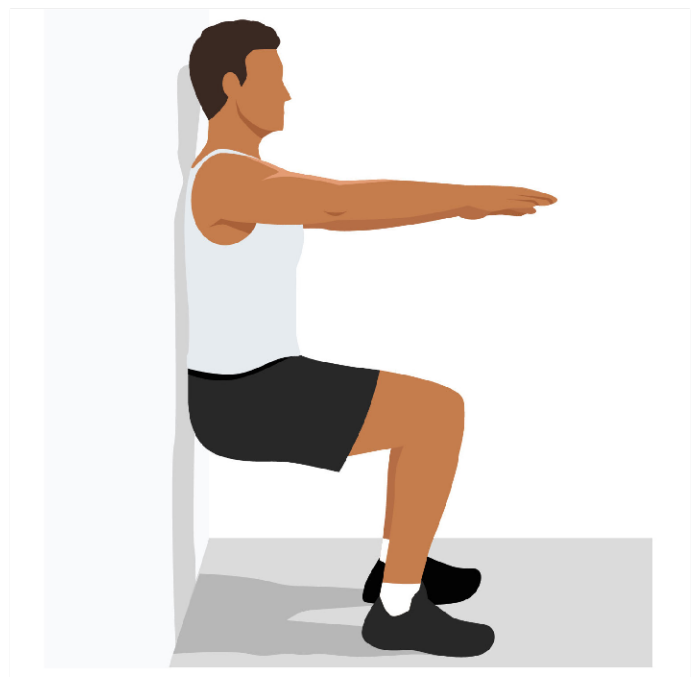
Welcome to the exercise portion of the issue! It's likely many of you have developed routines for increasing or maintaining fitness inside, but for those who are looking to build up your practice or learn new work-outs, we aim to provide some options here. We would love to hear requests for content, should you be curious about increasing strength and flexibility, or making sure you're doing a move correctly-let us know what you'd like to see.

Wall Sits

A Wall Sit is a good exercise to build stability and endurance for the core and legs, and can be made more challenging by adding weight or time.

Stand in front of a wall with your feet shoulder-width apart. Touch your back to the wall and lower your body down the wall until your thighs are horizontal with the wall. This exercise should work your core muscles and quads.

You can increase difficulty by doing this exercise with your feet together as opposed to shoulder-width apart, by doing this exercise one-legged, crossing one leg over your knee, or you can do it weighted by holding a heavy item to your core.



Writing to Prisoners

Since prisoners are often transferred between facilities, we won't print addresses that can quickly become outdated. Instead, we'll direct you to the Indiana DOC "Offender Database" on their website. You can look up their current location with their DOC# (listed on Table of Contents). We use the number because the names they use are often not the state name that the DOC lists them under. And then look up the mailing address for that facility. Correspondence and engagement with what they've written here is welcome.

Some tips for writing to prisoners: Be clear about your intentions. Share something of yourself and also be curious to learn more about them. If you're not sure where to start, reference ideas they have written about. Don't say anything sketchy or incriminating for yourself or others. Assume that everything you write is being copied and read by prison administrators. Use only blue or black ink on white, lined paper in plain, white envelopes. Keep in mind that prison is, in many ways, the epitome of toxic masculinity and saturated with problematic and harmful ideas and social norms. Prisoners often will not have the latest language or frameworks for social justice. Be generous and seek to understand their different experiences, but also don't be afraid to engage and share your own experiences. Be mindful of power disparities between people who are incarcerated and those who aren't.

If you prefer to correspond online, you can set up an account at web.connectnetwork.com



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