

From the Desk of Prison Radio

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

You can hear the rumbling. A change is coming.

“The moment we choose love, we move toward freedom,
to act in ways to liberate ourselves and others”

—bell hooks

There are times in our lives when freedom is tangible. This is one of those moments. Justice is rising here and now for Mumia, for Marvin, and for the women at **Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV)**: Melaney Byrd, Krystal Clark, Naykima Hill, Sharon Hinojosa, Aurniece Jackson, Stacey Anderson, and Bria Blackmon.

Because of your support, Prison Radio stands with them.
Together, we are determined and powerful.

“Courage is the most
important value”

—Maya Angelou

We will not allow the state to disappear
our loved ones or to silence their love,
resistance, and humanity.

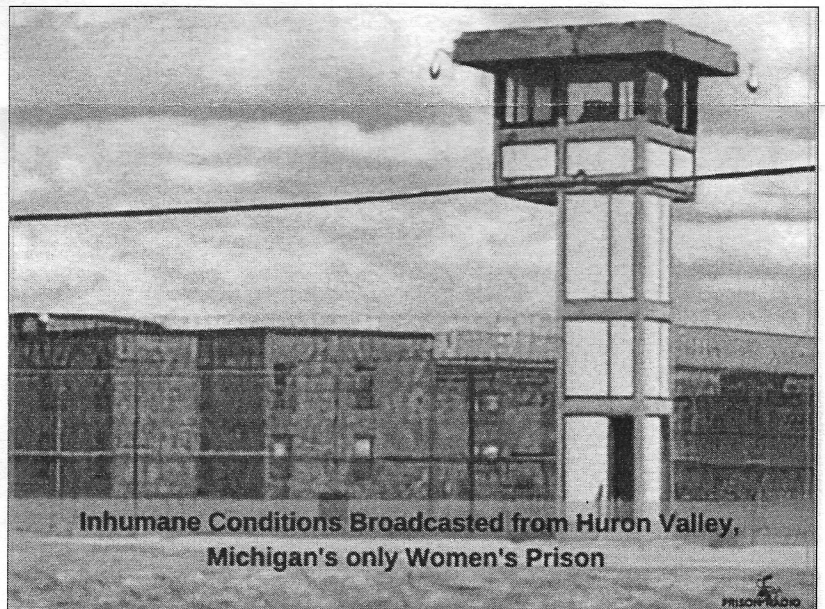
Prison Radio has been receiving urgent calls from the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti, Michigan, for the past several months. These women have risked retaliation from the prison to document physical and sexual violence, coercion, intimidation, corruption, overcrowding, mold, dirty water, lack of heat, and widespread medical neglect.

Their determination and the horrific conditions they described drove Prison Radio to write an open letter to Michigan abolitionist organizers documenting reports of abuse and corruption at Huron Valley. Local organizers responded immediately and powerfully, initiating a statewide mobilization, two on-site protests, and investigation by legislators into these illegal conditions.

COVID-19 has spread like wildfire through WHV, and the prison’s response has merely been to corral COVID-positive prisoners together without any medical care, according to our correspondents. The COVID Prison Project in Michigan published data revealing a COVID-19 case rate of 893 per 1,000 prisoners in Michigan



January 26th demonstration outside Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV) in Ypsilanti, Michigan.



prisons, the nation's second-highest rate of COVID infections among state prisons. Two former WHV staff members have told us that when they blew the whistle on the abuse they witnessed, they were fired.

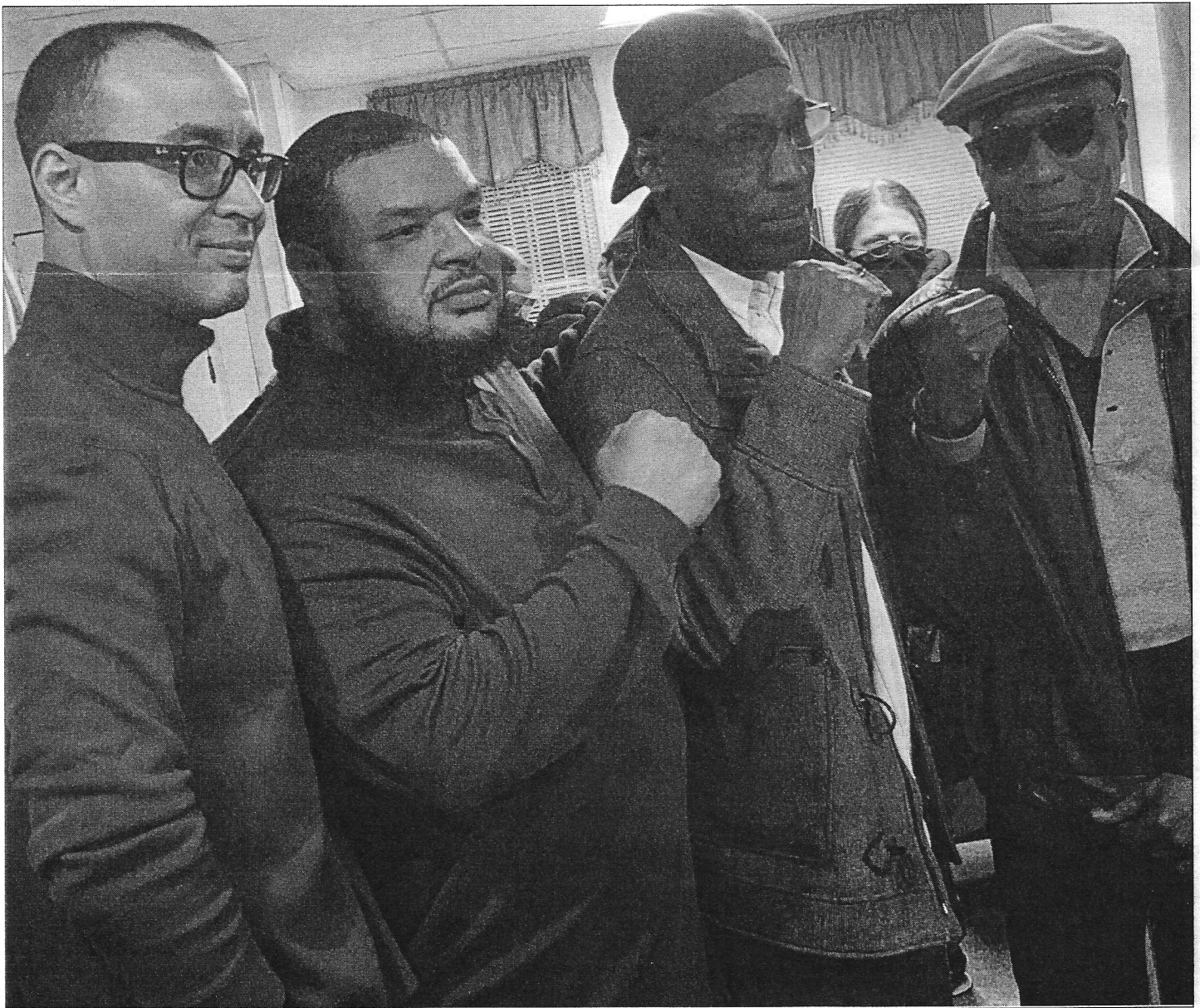
Please send the enclosed postcard to Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. Listen to the voices of these women at prisonradio.org

We are on the eve of abolition.

We are bringing the voices of our loved ones to life.

And we are bringing them home.

The Redwood Justice Fund is supporting my work as an attorney and private investigator as I collaborate with the Abolitionist Law Center investigating prosecutorial and police misconduct. My investigation was a key part of the work that resulted in Arthur Cetewayo Johnson's release this past August. abolitionistlawcenter.org



Saleem Holbrook, Exective Director of Abolitionist Law Center and Straight Ahead 27 years; Sergio Hyland, Staff ALC, 18 years; John "JT" Thompson Staff ALC 37 years; Arthur Johnson; 50 years (37 in solitary)

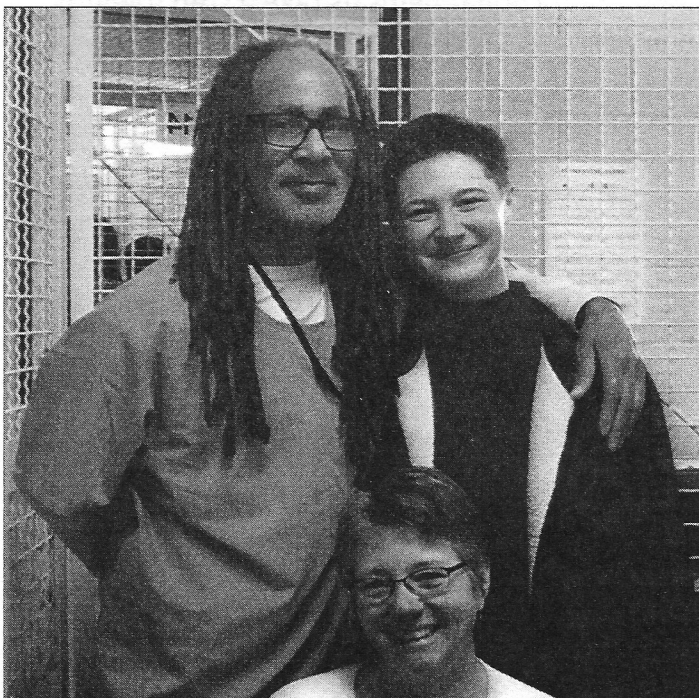


This work takes resources, and every gift matters. Your \$5 or \$500 gets us up that mountain. If you have the opportunity to give a larger gift: GREAT. We value and thank everyone who is on this journey to freedom with us.
prisonradio.org/donate/

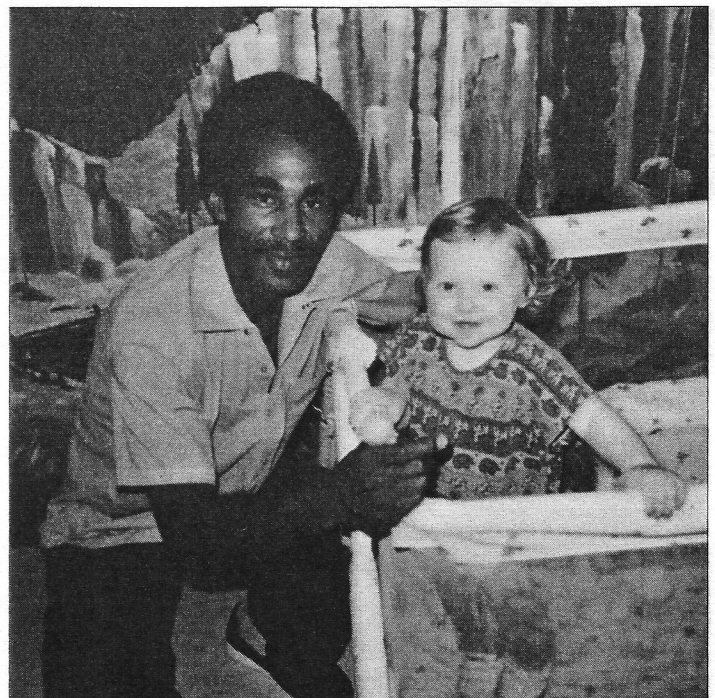
Prison Radio Correspondent and *Movement Magazine* Editor Sergio Hyland (left) with Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. P.I. at his release party.

Marvin Pete Walker Jr. (aka Shaka Nantambu) has spent 42 years — his entire adult life — on East Block/Death Row at San Quentin State Prison. Today, as I write this, we are preparing for his new trial in Santa Clara County. I am serving as co-counsel on the case and Prison Radio is preparing to bring him home.

Shaka has recorded two new pieces for Prison Radio in the last few weeks. One essay honors his longtime attorney, David Phillips, and the other a guard who saved his life when he was trying to reach a hospital for treatment for Covid. We have raised \$75K for Shaka's defense fund and are seeking to match this amount as we move towards trial. Please consider a gift to the legal and re-entry fund for Marvin Shaka Walker, Jr. bit.ly/shakadonate



Marvin "Shaka" Pete Walker Jr. (standing, left) with Miranda Hanrahan-Beach (standing, right), and Jennifer Beach (seated) at San Quentin Visiting Room.



Marvin "Shaka" Pete Walker Jr. and his godbaby, Miranda Hanrahan-Beach, in 1997.



From left to right: Investigator Mike Africa Jr.; Mumia Abu-Jamal; and Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. P.I., in the SCI Mahanoy visiting room.

I am visiting Mumia Abu-Jamal at SCI Mahanoy every two weeks. These visits are critical to monitor his health, keep the information flowing, and break his isolation. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections recently closed the prisons to regular visits, making legal visits his only lifeline. Prison Radio hired Mike Africa Jr. as an investigator and Jamal Hart Jr. as a technical advisor and paralegal. Monitoring his health and planning for his release are critical components of Love Not Phear and Prison Radio's work to support Mumia, our most prolific correspondent.

A new Post Conviction Relief Application (PCRA) has been filed on behalf of Mumia. Long-suppressed evidence of the bribing of witnesses and the illegal striking of Black people from the jury — evidence concealed by every former district attorney of Philadelphia since 1982 — will be heard in court this spring.

I can feel the echo of a steel door opening. I know that we are directly challenging the status quo.

We rely on you to keep the phone on, the website up, and our lifeline to prisoners steady.

Take a moment to listen and to support our work. Consider a gift of \$250, \$50, \$35 or even \$1,000 dollars. Every dollar helps us take a step towards abolition.

When we Fight We Win,

Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. P.I. and
Jennifer Beach

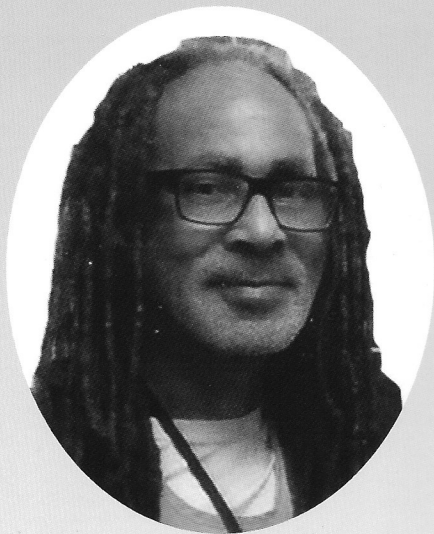
Prison Radio/Redwood Justice Fund



Prison Radio is a project of the Redwood Justice Fund (RJF) which is a California 501(c)(3) (California tax id no. 680334309) not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the defense of the environment and of civil and human rights secured by law. For more information on how to give, and planned giving, contact Noelle Hanrahan at 415-706-5222.

Visit prisonradio.org. Subscribe to our podcasts and social media platforms.

**Marvin
Pete
Walker Jr.
belongs
with
his
family.**



It is time for him to be released.

Marvin (aka Shaka Nantambu) was 19 when he was charged with murder. In 1980 an all white jury sentenced him to death. He is now 62. Mr. Walker has lived his whole adult life on death row in San Quentin State prison. It is time for him to be released.

A **federal court** overturned his conviction in July of 2020 because the original prosecution had removed African-Americans from the Santa Clara County jury. It is a violation of our Constitution to remove jurors based on their race. The federal court order required that Mr. Walker be retried or released. He remains on San Quentin's death row awaiting pretrial motions and hearings although he is not convicted of any crime.

Mr. Walker's 1980 trial was a classic miscarriage of justice. Not only were all the African-Americans removed from the jury but the prosecutor also used perjured testimony from a jailhouse informant. Throughout the entire trial the judge had Mr. Walker shackled. The police encouraged several witnesses to change and contradict their

original statements. This testimony was then used to convince the jury to convict Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker was a young man when he was arrested. Over his decades on death row he has earned the trust and respect of everyone he has encountered. His brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews are waiting to welcome him back into their lives. They should not have to spend another holiday apart.

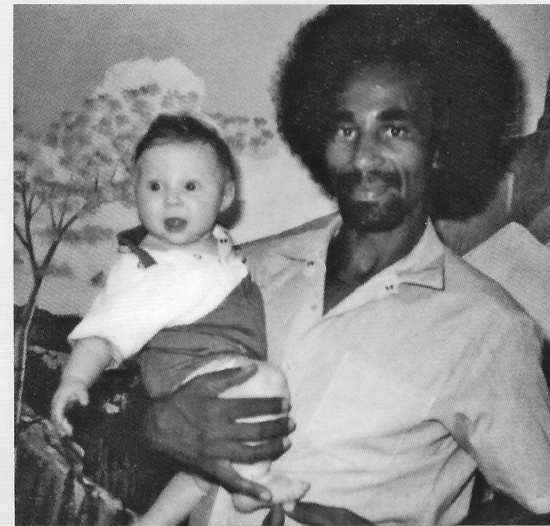
Many lawyers have represented Mr. Walker and their efforts are commendable, he is alive because of their work: David Phillips, David Ismay, Douglas Young and Tom Mayhew (Farella Braun + Martel LLP), Nanci Clarence (Clarence, Dyer & Cohen), and their committed staff.

Mr. Walker is now represented by Daniel Olmos and Trisha Luciano of the firm Nolan, Barton and Olmos and co-counsel Noelle Hanrahan of the Redwood Justice Fund.

As we prepare for Mr. Walker's new trial we ask you to join us.



Marvin (Shaka) holding niece Dashawna, Dynekka, Vernelle, Debra 1989



Miranda Hanrahan-Beach is Shaka's god daughter and she has been visiting him on death row for 24 years

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- bit.ly/shakadonate
- For more information about Marvin Pete Walker Jr.'s case visit bit.ly/shakacorrespondent



*Status conference at the San Jose Courtroom for Shaka Nantambu
(Marvin Walker Jr.) August 11, 2021. Back: Rodney, Robert, and Johnnie Walker
Front: Marlene Walker, Debra Jefferson, and Miranda Hanrahan-Beach*

PRISON RADIO

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Protestors rallying against horrid conditions at Huron Valley, Michigan on January 16th, 2022.

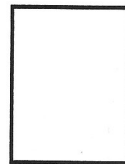
Dear Ms. Washington,

We are concerned about reports of dangerous and inhumane conditions for women held at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

We call on your department to make immediate changes to address the situation including:

- Immediately address complaints related to inhumane conditions such as extensive mold and lack of heat, hot water, yard access, and access to cleaning and hygiene supplies
- Ensure adequate COVID protection such as providing high-quality, well-fitting masks and regular testing
- Ensure women have adequate movement within unit
- Suspend issuing misconducts in cases not involving serious bodily injury during this stressful time
- Cease the practice of double-bunking in 10x10 cells
- Expand access to phone and video call time and eliminate fees for these services that maintain connection to family and improve post-release outcomes
- Initiate decarceration process to identify women who could safely return to their communities now for parole, clemency, or compassionate release.

Name _____



To: Director Heidi Washington
Michigan Department of Corrections
Grandview Plaza
206 E Michigan Ave
P.O. Box 3003
Lansing, MI 43909



Front Photo by Emily Mills, 2022