

From the Desk of Prison Radio

WHEN WE LOVE, WE WIN!

March 23rd

Dear Friend,

Prison Radio works to protect free speech, liberate incarcerated voices, and defend the 1st Amendment. Our correspondents report from the front lines of racial capitalism and mass incarceration, and we amplify their voices.

Prison Regulations Kick in, Prison Radio Steps Up

A war on books has commenced inside the State Correctional Institute at Mahanoy. Death by Incarceration (DBI), aka the slow death row, aka LWOP (Life Without Possibility of Parole) has always tried to restrict nourishment: fresh air, healthy meals, and food for the mind: books. During 29 years on death row Mumia was allowed only 10 books, he often had to choose between keeping Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* and Vincent Harding's *There is a River*.

Per Policy DC-Adm 815 Personal Property

B. Accumulation of Items – Cell Content Limitations:

1. An inmate in general population is permitted storage space equal to four records center boxes. This space may consist of four records center boxes or one footlocker and two records center boxes. In a cell with a built-in, or freestanding storage cabinet, the inmate is permitted to use that space and either two records center boxes or one footlocker.

Now, Mumia, a scholar in the middle of writing his dissertation on Franz Fanon, was just told nearly all of his source material had to go. New restrictions at SCI Mahanoy limit personal material to four record center boxes. Yesterday 9 boxes of Mumia's library, each 30 lbs, arrived at our office in Pennsylvania. A half dozen more are on the way. We are creating a library in our office and will provide Mumia with a list of all his research materials and books so we can mail him the materials as needed. Dozens of interns and volunteers (including a huge Swarthmore crew) are showing up to catalog the books and articles.



Interns filling the bookshelves with Mumia's book library. Sarah Reyes's portrait of Mumia Abu Jamal, Dennis Solo McKeithan, and Marvin Shaka Walker featured in the book of collected art "La plume et le poing" The Pen and the fist by Collectif Français "Libérons Mumia"



Drew T., Intern, at "the liberation loft"



Prison Radio's office in Philadelphia PA.

Mumia is in the homestretch and will soon be finishing his dissertation.

Prison Radio is committed to Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom. We are accompanying him on his journey to liberation by visiting, listening to his needs, and publishing his books and radio essays.

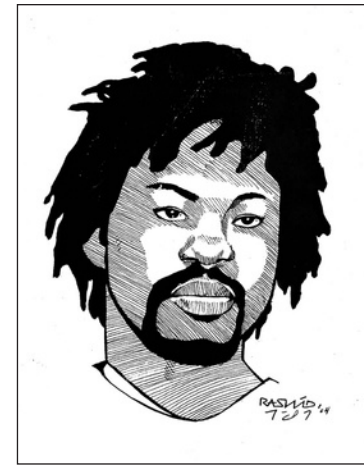


PRISON RADIO
A project of the Redwood Justice Fund

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prisonradio.org • 415-648-4505 • info@prisonradio.org



Virginia’s Red Onion Voices Rise
 Senior correspondent Kevin Rashid Johnson, who was just transferred to Kean State Prison, has had his phone calls taken away for 45 days following his continued reporting on protests inside Virginia’s prisons. This is a direct attack against his reporting, and a result of his February 28 commentary with Prison Radio exposing the ongoing self-immolation crisis.



At Red Onion administrators are actively silencing prisoners, blocking their emails, destroying mail, and threatening anyone who dares speak to the outside world. For the full report read “When Fire is the Only Way Out” by Jennifer Black and Noel Hanrahan in *Inquest: A Decarceral Brainstorm*, the Institute to End Mass Incarceration and Harvard Law School.

Our investigation, correspondents’ reports, and subsequent media coverage forced Virginia Governor Glen Youngkin to acknowledge the crisis. The Virginia state legislature held a public safety hearing where they grilled DOC head Chatwick Dotson and the Office of Inspector General. An investigation of Red Onion is purportedly underway. It is important to note, that those most affected by the prison’s conditions folks held at Red Onion, were not given a voice at the hearing.



Prison Radio new album, *On Red Onion* released on Bandcamp

This album allows people — and radio stations — to easily access these breaking reports on the violent and racist conditions in VA’s infamous supermax; reports that would otherwise be lost from the public discourse. Our correspondents have been reporting from Red Onion for years. You have made it possible to publish these stories.

Prison Radio is organized to bring the voices of those behind prison walls out onto the airwaves, to amplify their self-determination. We all benefit from their insights, leadership, and example of study and resilience. Mumia Abu-Jamal, our lead correspondent, has been our colleague since 1992. He is the author of 14 books, with a new one on the way with Marc Lamont Hill, on the brilliant Classroom and the Cell podcast.

We cannot allow Rashid's voice — and the voices of those incarcerated at Red Onion — to be silenced. They have put everything on the line to tell the truth. Let's show them they are not alone. We are committed to the freedom of all those who are incarcerated. We will not rest until all of our correspondents are free.

This is why Prison Radio exists.

We are just coming out of winter 2025, and the work we propose remains critical. We have already released over sixty-four commentaries.

Leonard Peltier is Free!

Our commitment to Native Sovereignty runs deep. We have worked for decades alongside native groups to support justice for Leonard Peltier. Arthur Simmons (Hualapai) is on our board of directors. John Trudell was a close advisor. In 2014 we partnered with the Water Protectors Legal Collective and hosted the Commissary and Reentry fund for No Dakota Access Pipeline prisoners. In 2020 we began working with Thalia Carroll-Cachimuel of the NDN Collective on Leonard's freedom. And in the last year we co-wrote Op Eds with Saleem Holbrook Executive Director of the Abolitionist Law Center to support Leonard's freedom. We want to thank Leonard for standing with us as we litigated and won our historic civil rights lawsuit against the FBI, the Oakland Police and the ATF for violating our founder, Earth First organizer Judi Bari's 1st Amendment Rights.

Action Items: Tell VA Governor Youngkin to Sign SB1409 into Law! SB1409 is a crucial bill that limits the use of solitary confinement.

Send the enclosed postcard

☎ Call: 804-786-2211

Demand an investigation into the conditions at Red Onion!

Corrine Louden, Chief Deputy Inspector General

☎ Call: 804-625-3251

✉ Email:

corrine.louden@osig.virginia.gov

P.O. Box 1151, Richmond VA 23218



Leonard Peltier wrote this note supporting The Redwood Justice Fund in 2000.



NDN Collective Nick Tilsen with Leonard Peltier.

© NDN/ANGEL WHITE EYES



Night Rider hangs in Prison Radio's office, reminding us of the path to freedom.

© ORIGINAL PAINTING BY LEONARD PELTIER "NIGHT RIDER"

But we can't do this alone.

Will you become a monthly donor today? Your support ensures that Rashid and others like him can continue to expose these abuses, demand justice, and fight for freedom.

We must bring people home. We are in a race against time.

This work is exhilarating and takes material support.

Please make a gift today of \$150, \$35, \$500 or gift stock or a part of your estate. Please stand with Prison Radio, as we listen, heal, and resolve to move beyond incarceration. The first step is freedom. The next step is abolition. You make this journey possible.

Here is what your gifts will do:

- \$50 covers our weekly correspondence with correspondents online and via mail
- \$100 will fund a week of our special recording phone line
- \$250 will allow us to publish action alerts to organize resistance to crises
- \$300 pays the expenses for one prison visit
- \$500 funds editing and publishing one commentary (and we publish over 250 a year!)

Thank you for working with us towards these critical goals. Our collective efforts are the only way forward. Our correspondents inside will be free when we are free.

With Love, Not Phear,

When We Love We Win!

When We Survive We Win!

When We Fight We Win!

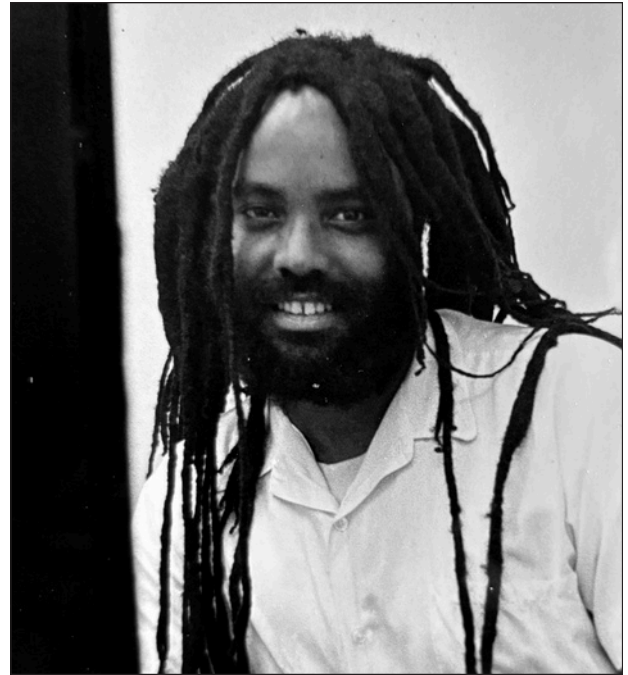
Cuando luchamos ganamos, When We Fight, We Win



Jennifer Beach & Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. PI.

Co-Directors Prison Radio

P.S. Thank you for considering a gift. Many people choose to give from their assets — stocks, gifts from their IRA, bequests, cryptocurrency, and grants from their Donor-Advised Funds to see even larger tax savings.



© JENNIFER BEACH/PRISON RADIO

Jennifer Beach's photo of Mumia July 14th 1992
Huntingdon State Prison.



© PRISON RADIO

Jennifer Beach, Mumia Abu-Jamal and Noel Hanrahan,
in February 2025, 33 years after our July 1992 recording
session.



Prison Radio is an independent multimedia production studio producing content for radio, television, and films for 33 years. We stream our high-quality audio material to add the voices of people most impacted by the prison industrial complex. Tax ID no 68-0334309; PO Box 411074; SF CA 94141; info@prisonradio.org.

“Know this: throughout it all. I have never felt alone. To the eye, I was alone in solitary confinement, on death row, but the eye cannot really see all that is, for behind brick and steel, I felt your love, sometimes like a wave, sometimes like a whisper, but always there, ever present.”



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Innocent!

OVER 43 YEARS IMPRISONED

EMORY



PRISON RADIO

804.625.3251 ⁿ CORRINE.LOUDEN@OSIG.VIRGINIA.GOV

Dear Deputy Louden,

The people of VA, Governor Youngkin, and the state legislature demand answers to the crisis at Red Onion State Prison. SB 456 passed in April 2024. *NY Times* and the *Virginia Mercury* are reporting. Prisoners and their families must be heard. The culture of retaliation and repression must be addressed. This is an investigation of the conditions and criminal neglect. Your “results” can not be simply fixing a complaint form on the website. Your office can not wait for “permission” or an “MOU” from the DOC to begin this investigation.

SIGNED

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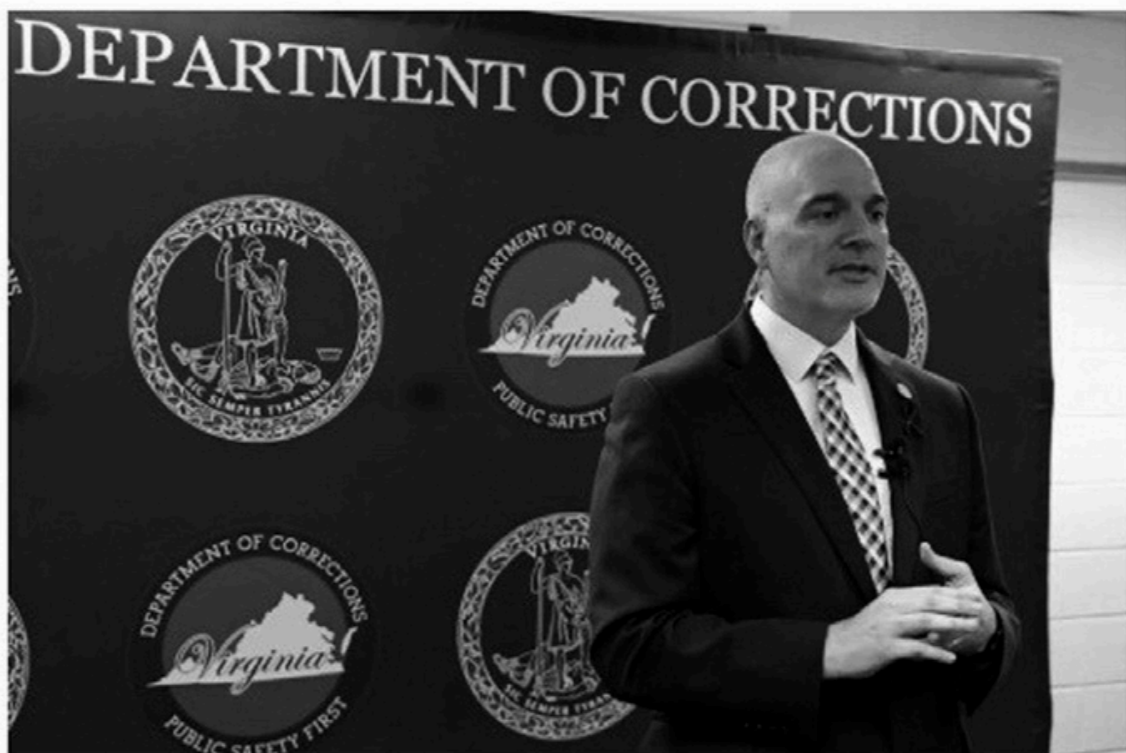
Corrine Louden
Deputy General Office
of Inspector General Virginia
PO Box 1151
Richmond, VA 23218

Virginia Lawmakers Want to Know Why 6 Inmates Have Burned Themselves

The state's top prison official criticized reports that the self-burnings at Red Onion State Prison, which has had a history of complaints, were in protest of poor conditions.

▶ Listen to this article · 4:30 min [Learn more](#)

🎁 Share full article



Chadwick Dotson, director of the Virginia Department of Corrections, denied that Red Onion State Prison inmates who had burned themselves had done so to protest conditions there. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*



By [Amanda Holpuch](#)

Dec. 1, 2024

At least six inmates at a Virginia prison burned themselves using “improvised devices” in recent months, prompting renewed concerns about conditions for incarcerated people there and a call

4 Yes Noelle, I believe that people living in prison deserve to be heard!

Please Give!

\$35

\$75

\$125 Receive *Beneath the Mountain: Anti Prison Reader*
(City Lights 2024) Edited by Mumia Abu-Jamal & Jennifer Black

\$1,000 Prison Radio Freedom Circle

Other \$ _____



Listen to our correspondents from all over the country at prisonradio.org

This donation is in honor or memory of _____

Please use my gift for the MAJ-Medical & Legal Defense Fund

Make checks payable to:

Prison Radio/Redwood Justice Fund, a California 501c3 non profit #68-0334309.

For more information on stocks, IRA distributions and planned giving contact Noel Hanrahan, Esq. 415.793.7958.

Build a legacy!



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Keep me updated on the latest information:

PHONE EMAIL

Yes, make my gift of \$ _____ monthly to sustain Prison Radio's work!

Thank you for amplifying prisoners' voices

to freedom!
support of Prison Radio can move
mountains. Join us on the path
Your gift, your action, and your
—Mumia Abu-Jamal
w/ Noel Hanrahan, Esq. P.I.

“

”



Your
Stamp
Helps Too!

Thank you!

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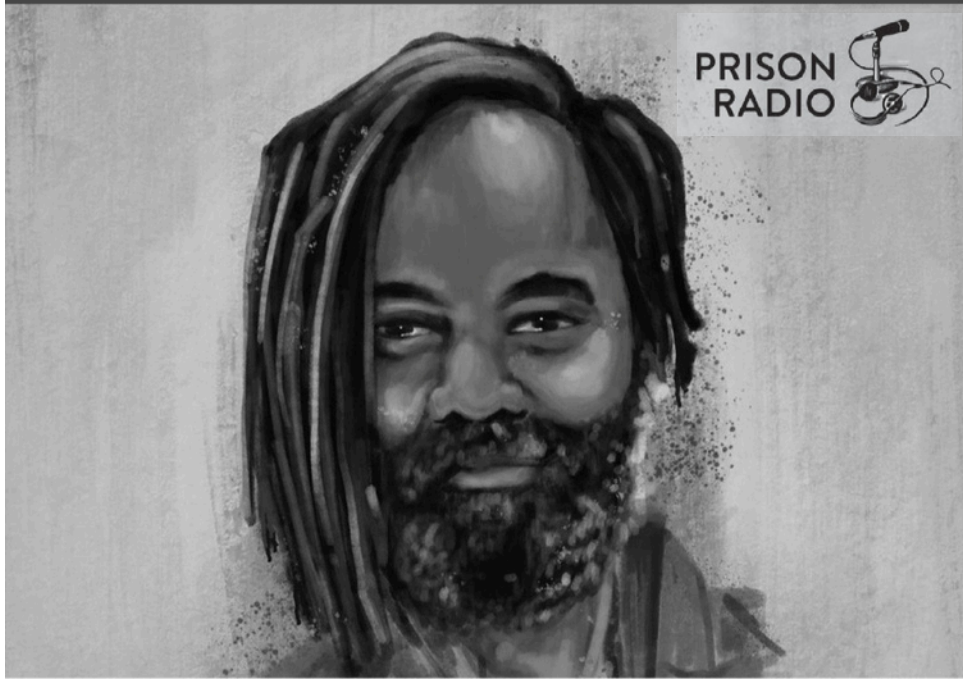
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Emory
Douglas
Mumia
Sticker
Inside

Donate to Mumia Abu-Jamal's Legal & Medical Defense Fund Official 2025



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bit.ly/mumia-fund