

GI SPECIAL SOLIDARITY APPEAL:

Stanley Howard, Organizer Of Prisoners Against The War, Needs Your Help NOW

During the fall of 2005, acting inside Statesville Prison in Joliet, Illinois, Stanley Howard brought together a group of inmates to found Prisoners Against The War, the first such organization in U.S. history. [The original announcement is reproduced at the end of this appeal.]

This is an appeal to bring pressure to get him out of prison.

In September his case goes before the governor of Illinois, Rod Blagojevich, who has the power to order his release.

The deadline for getting in the petition and letters below is on Sept. 21.

There are three pieces of information below about this:

- 1. The petition.**
- 2. A sample letter asking the governor of Illinois to release him.**
- 3. A letter from Stanley Howard in opposition to the war, calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq.**

After you read what Prisoners Against The War have to say, decide whether or not you wish to help him by printing out and circulating the petition, and sending your letter to the governor of Illinois.

The Petition:

Free Stanley Howard

**Pardoned by Governor Ryan
18 yrs wrongfully convicted on Death-Row
Tortured by Chicago Police**



We, the undersigned, are requesting mercy on behalf of Stanley Howard and believe that public officials should utilize the authority vested in them to reconsider his sentence. We understand that Stanley is one of the men recently pardoned by outgoing Governor George Ryan, and that he spent 17 horrifying years facing execution on Illinois' Death Row for a crime he did not commit—a conviction determined to have been obtained by a single unsure witness and a tainted confession extracted by brutal torture by officers working under fired Commander Jon Burge. Stanley has endured unthinkable mental and physical hardship that no one should ever doubt is the equivalent of serving double the time he was expected to complete, if not more, had he not been on death row. We therefore ask for your mercy and that you please reduce Stanley's sentence to time considered served.

Signature **Address** **Email/Phone** **Yes, I want get involved**

Send the petition to:

**Mr. Stanley Howard
N71620
PO Box 112
Joliet, Ill. 60434**

The Letter To The Governor Asking For Release:

Concerning the following letter to the governor, Stanley Howard writes:

“If you want to write a letter addressed to the Governor of Illinois, Rod Blagojevich, please send it to me and I’ll include them in my fight for Time Served.

“I’m sending a model letter to give you some ideas, but you can write anything you like; just make sure the letter is signed, dated and addressed properly (the governor’s address is not needed.”

Send the letter to:

**Mr. Stanley Howard
N71620
PO Box 112
Joliet, Ill. 60434**

[Example Of Letter To Governor Blagojevich]

Dear Honorable Rod Blagojevich:

I am requesting mercy on behalf of Stanley Howard by utilizing the authority vested in you to reconsider his sentence by granting him clemency.

I understand that Stanley is one of the men pardoned by outgoing Governor Ryan, for a conviction he spent 16 horrifying years facing execution on Illinois’ Death Row – a conviction determined to have been obtained by a single unsure witness and a false confession obtained by brutal torture by officers working under fired Commander Jon Burge.

I am fully informed of the charges he remains accused and/or convicted of and is appealing, and pray you will consider his mitigating factors, pursuit of an education (receiving a GED and self-taught paralegal & writing skills), and that he has spent the last 22 years of his 43 years of life incarcerated and becoming a loving person – 16 of which were spent suffering while facing the ultimate nightmare – being executed for a crime he did not commit.

This unthinkable mental and physical hardship is no doubt the equivalent of serving double the time he was expected to complete, if not more, had he not been on Death Row doing time for the crime he stands accused and/or convicted of.

Stanley appealed his hardship claims to the Courts asking for mercy by having his sentence reduced to time considered served. The Appellate Court ruled, “while we do not disagree that [Stanley] may have unjustly suffered for 16 years.... Clemency is the historic remedy employed to prevent a miscarriage of justice where the judicial process has been exhausted.”

I pray that you will consider these factors and mercifully agree that it will not negate nor undermine the seriousness of the charges to have his sentence reduced to time served, by acknowledging “the Doors to Justice swings both ways.”

Stanley will be released into a stable environment complete with residence and employment. The conditions of his release will be that of any parolee in his situation – to continue monitoring his transition back into society and insure that he is being a positive and productive member of the community.

I pray that you will honor this request for mercy to reflect the horrifying and unthinkable years he spent unjustly on Death Row, and to allow him to be with his family, friends and Loved Ones.

Respectfully,

[Send the letter to:

**[Mr. Stanley Howard
N 71620
PO Box 112
Joliet, Ill. 60434
USA**

PRISONERS AGAINST THE WAR SAYS: BRING THEM HOME NOW!

7.31.06

The newly elected, U.S. appointed, Iraqi Prime Minister Noun al-Maliki recently spoke before the U.S. Congress that I was fortunate to catch on television.

He proudly highlighted the progress Iraq has made in moving towards democracy, while expressing his appreciation for all the sacrifices the American people has and are making to help his country.

I started daydreaming somewhere in the midst of his speech, and a clear image of an U.S. official writing that speech appeared right before my eyes – along with the senseless and rising death toll on both sides of the Iraq war.

As soon as I snapped out of the daydream, my belief of an U.S. speech writer was confirmed when al-Maliki stated “that the war in Iraq was apart of the overall war on terrorism,” because that’s the same propaganda the White House has been pounding into the American psyche after the so called “weapons of mass destruction” was revealed as an intentional lie.

I immediately began to wonder: where is this speech going; what is the real motive for al-Maliki’s visit; and, what do he really want?

This just couldn’t be an appreciation speech.

Before I could even finish my thought, al-Maliki dropped the bomb on me by asking for more help (money and Troops) at a time when the U.S. was seemingly reducing the number of Troops in Iraq.

Prime Minister al-Maliki came to the U.S. because the cowards in Washington, especially the Bush administration, could not stand before the American people in the middle of these mid-term elections and tell the American people that instead of reducing the number of Troops in Iraq (like all polls support), they were going to send 1 000s of more Troops in harms way.

The cowards used al-Maliki like a chess piece to continue flimflamming the American people into supporting this war, while majority of the people are demanding a complete withdraw.

This war was a failed policy before it even begun, and having our Troops in the middle of this sectarian violence without a clear enemy, reason or plan is foolish and obviously too dangerous.

Therefore, irregardless of al-Maliki’s orchestrated visit and pleads for more Troops,

Prisoners Against the War see no reason to continue down this senseless and most deadly path.

P.A.W. still support The Troops by demanding to BRING THEM HOME NOW!

**By: Stanley Howard
Reg. # N-71 620
Statesville C. C.
P.O. Box 112
Joliet, IL 60434**

Announcement Of The Formation Of Prisoners Against The War; January 8, 2006

GI Special: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 1.8.06

Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

GI SPECIAL 4A1:



<http://www.prairiefire.org/graphics/pp.gif>

Introducing:

Prisoners Against The War

This announcement follows a meeting between members of the Military Project Organizing Committee and Stanley Howard at Statesville Prison, Joliet, Illinois, on 12.29.05, at which time permission was given to GI Special to make known to the public the existence of and statements by members of a new organization, Prisoners Against The War.

(Thanks go to the Campaign To End The Death Penalty, <http://www.nodeathpenalty.org/>, for assistance in making the meeting happen.)

In the week leading up to the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday, GI Special will lead with statements written by members of Prisoners Against The War.

Organized by Stanley Howard and five other imprisoned members of the Military Project, Prisoners Against The War breaks new ground.

There has been no organization like this in recent American history. That may be an understatement, since no record of a similar organization has been found at any point in American history.

Prisoners Against The War hopes to inspire other prisoners, both in civilian and military prisons, to organize their own chapters, and spread the movement nationwide.

They report many prisoners have relatives serving in the armed forces. Other prisoners are Vietnam Veterans. To the extent allowed by prison regulations, they circulate GI Special and Traveling Soldier. They will see these issues of GI Special, and provide support to family members on the outside resisting the war.

A variety of social critics have argued that the prisons and armed forces of a given society express most nakedly the underlying class nature of the society.

An organization bringing together civilian and military prisoners can open a new window on that reality, not least by destroying the myth spread by politicians and other servants of the rich and homicidal that prisoners are mere things without humanity or redeeming social value.

For how to contact Prisoners Against The War, see information below. T

PRISONERS AGAINST THE WAR

BY: Stanley Howard, Statesville C.C., Joliet, Illinois

The Prisoners of Statesville Correctional Center in Joliet, Illinois, extends our deepest and sincere condolences to the Families and Loved Ones of those lost in the Iraq and Afghanistan war.

To show we support the troops and that we stand firmly in solidarity with the Military Project and the countless of other people, groups and organizations determined to Bring Them Home Now, we came together and formed the "Prisoners Against The War."

Being an ex-Death Row prisoner who spent 16 horrible years as an innocent man on Illinois' Death Row before being pardoned by then-Gov. George Ryan (Jan 2003), I knew President George W. Bush as the "Texecutioner" who showed no value or respect for human life.

He viciously and unsympathetically ordered over 150 people to be poisoned to death as Governor of Texas.

So when he led a military offensive aimed at ousting Saddam Hussein as President of Iraq, done under the pretext that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, I knew then that that was a lie and whatever his agenda was, it was only going to cause a lot more deaths.

I expressed my feelings about this in my "Keeping it Real" column in the New Abolitionist (May 2003), the newsletter of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty:

"I'm not subscribing to their propaganda: 'They just hate Americans and no one knows why.' I'm not buying into this wacky patriotic frenzy whipped up after 9/11 that enables Bush to proclaim, 'either you're with us, or you're with them' mentality.

We need to stop this senseless cycle of violence by stopping these arm chair warmongers from sending our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers onto battlefields to kill each other, when these same leaders cannot come together to combat starvation, AIDS, global warming, pollution, racism and etc."

It's said that we study history to stop repeating the errors of the past. And if that is true, then we as a civilized people living in the 21st century must come to grips with what the history of war has taught us: war causes nothing but death and destruction, and pain and suffering.

Moreover, its easy for these armchair chiefs/warmongers to declare war with the assurance that they nor their Loved Ones would never set foot on the battlefield.

It's now a proven fact that Saddam had no WMDs nor was he attempting to reinstitute his nuclear program, and it' s a shame that thousands of our human family members has died and are dying because of this well orchestrated lie.

The war continues even though the truth was exposed, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who helped perpetrate the WMD lie was recently quoted as estimating that, "the American military could quite possibly be in Iraq for 10 to 15 years."

This estimate is unacceptable, ridiculous and a sign of stupidity.

And even though Bush says we should honor our Fallen Heroes by staying and completing the mission, Prisoners Against The War asserts that since the mission, Bush's mission, was exposed to be an international crime, we're going to honor our Fallen Heroes and those still in harms way by ending this war and Bringing Them Home Now.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/; <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>