Looking out the prison window
on the quiet late night cold
Imagining the cold sharp air
on my face
Fill my lungs and count the miles
ahead

and between
our LIBERATION
Comrade, Sister
with the strong hands of the people
the soul of a worker
the loyalty of a sister
the tenderness of a mother
your teachings are clear
your example, matter of fact
to pull the weeds of
Liberalism
self doubt, disunity
and plant the seeds
of Liberation
wherever the Field may be.

Poem by Pat Gross-Lavassuer ’85
For Carol Saucier-Manning

Free for prisoners
Anti-copyright
It has been a long time coming for a solid inside communiqué from our press. I apologize a million times over. As the lead on this prison distro initiative, I should be more open and consistent with how our process as an organization is developing. Furthermore, since things are finally rolling with the zine-to-prisoner distro now fully operative, it’s important that some updates on what we provide are shared. True Leap Press is a radical publishing collective currently based in Chicago. We distribute political education materials free-of-charge through social media and our blog, and sell our books throughout the city and at various events to support our various projects.

Over the last two years we slowly—and not without growing pains—have began building different networks and infrastructure for circulating such educational materials at no cost to imprisoned people throughout the country. In the following catalog you’ll find a variety of different subjects and topics, as well as some more specific authors and titles that we offer for mail order. All that is required is a written letter noting interest in any of the listings of the catalog. If possible donations are always welcome. (We only accept stamps as donation at this time.) (We also are open for inside volunteers to run literature, if that’s something you’re into, just let me know.)

In several states, we have been building relationships with inside activists who are leading reading and study groups in the gulags of California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and South Carolina. Our journal Propter Nos has already been used for two years as a tool for building connections between different tendencies of the prisons struggle, with receipt of its inclusion in rotation amongst prisoners in over a dozen states.

Our new catalog offers a variety of options for folks to choose from and use in self-organized study groups. There is a wide diversity in terms of both content and opinion, but all of our materials are shared with the intention of revolutionary consciousness raising and grassroots abolitionist movement-building. We are fundamentally anti-racist, anti-capitalist, and anti-patriarchy. As an organization we are committed to supporting the intellectual flourishing of global insurrections against anti-Blackness, white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, colonialism, and racial capitalism. Primarily we do this by providing high quality Black and radical anti-racist critical theory and analysis for organizers and all interested readers, primarily in the form of our flag-ship journal, our new catalog/newsletter, our digital platforms, public events (such as convenings and talks), and the distribution of DIY zines.

Yours in struggle,
Casey

Dear U.S.A. (Union of South Africa?):
LET MY PEOPLE GO!!!
He Peoples tiny

True Leap Press & Distribution
P.O. Box 408197
Chicago IL. 60640
Since January 2019, Propter Nos III has been released and circulating online for free, as well as making the rounds inside. We have a backlog of people from our prior mailing list who have yet to receive the latest issue, so fret not, if you have ever requested the journal over the years, you will receive the newest issue before the summer.

There are currently several study groups using our materials around the country inside prisons. Pennsylvania is one of the first places you'll hopefully see this thing circulating. The distro is collaborating with Stevie Wilson at SCI-Smithfield to get this program up and running.

We also are now distributing our zines, as well as ABC zine distro's work, through Chicago Books to Women in prison mail system. This way we can expand out readership locked up.

Finally, some of our members will be participating in the Chicago Zine fest festivities, including tabling, readings, and speaking on panels. One of our members will be reading the writings of imprisoned authors for the keynote panel of the event, and we will be tabling and raising donations throughout the entire weekend. This is in May. We are hoping to generate a good buzz from this.

Publication Description

Referring to the collective sense of "We" that inspires the mobilization and identity formation of a People, the Latin phrase "Propter Nos" is the title we chose for our first publication. This is because we believe that one of the central tasks of building consciousness amongst colonized, imprisoned, working class, and poor peoples is to build spaces where a core set of political principles can be cultivated amidst the contradictions and antagonisms inherent to revolutionary movement building.

True Leap Press believes that establishing a clearinghouse for the formulation of a vision of mass insurgency among differently situated communities of struggle is a necessary (and urgent) task in the present moment of white nationalist resurgence and patriotic liberal counterrevolution. We therefore obstinately oppose the mythology of U.S. exceptionalism and white manifest destiny, and do not presume that American liberal democracy is an inherent "good." Instead, we hope PROPTER NOS will serve as a forum for works that invigorate a different sense of common political consciousness, one rooted in the historical experiences of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Queer movements mobilizing against the white capitalist civilization and nation-building project of the United States.

Any inquiries or requests for materials can be directed to the following addresses:

True Leap Press & Distribution
P.O. Box 408197
Chicago IL, 60640

Our catalog and several other original works can also be requested free of charge from:

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood IL, 60430

Chicago Books to Women in Prison
4511 N. Hermitage Ave.
Chicago IL, 60640
Some Further Updates!

In September 2018, we hosted a great event in Chicago (Back of the Yards) with Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin speaking at the Breathing Room, an event co-sponsored by People’s Response Team, Or Does It Explode: Black, Brown, and Indigenous Crew, and Black Lives Matter Chicago.

In other news, last January, we co-hosted a small gathering at La Catrina Cafe in Pilsen for the release of The Abolitionist newspaper’s recent inside/outside solidarity issue (Issue #31: “Tearing Down the Walls from Both Sides”).

The event brought together members of Black and Pink’s Chicago chapter, Love and Protect, Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project, Mom’s United Against Violence and Incarceration, South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, and Chicago Books to Women in Prison, as well as friends, family, students and other community folk. People visited with each other, made donations, and listened to each group speak a bit about their work.

Keeping it simple this year. To order zines please send us a letter stating either of the following:

Choose a topic from the “TOPICS” listings that you wish to learn more about and we will send you related zines....

or...

...list the title or numbers from the “Zines & Other Works” list that you would like to read and we will mail them...

*** 3 picks max. each order, you can list two additional in case we are out of a selection ***

TOPICS

Black Studies
Ethnic Studies
Native Studies
Marxism
Feminism
Gender, Sexuality, & Queer Politics
Disability Justice
Prison Abolition
Radical Prisoner Activism

Self-Care
Accountability
Community Organizing
Black and Brown Solidarity
History of the Prison-Industrial Complex
Anarchism
Security Culture
Resources
Zines & Other Works Available

1. Angela Davis, Are Prisons Obsolete?
2. Angela Davis, From the Prison of Slavery to the Slavery of Prison: Fredrick Douglas and the Convict Lease System
3. Sylvia Wynter, Slave Revolts as the First Form of Labor Struggle
4. Sylvia Wynter, We Know Where We Come From: Black Culture from Myall to Marely
5. Frantz Fanon, Excerpts from Black Skin White Mask
6. Frantz Fanon, Excerpts from The Wretched of the Earth
7. Saidiya Hartman & Frank Wilderson, The Position of Unthought
8. Frank B. Wilderson III. The Prison Slave as Hegemony's Silent Scandal
9. 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance
10. Luana Ross, Inventing the Savage: the Social Construction of Native American Criminality
11. Tiffany King, We Cannot Free the Land Unless We Abolish the Prison
12. Tom Big Warrior, They Only Call It Fascism When it Happens to White People
13. Andrea Smith, Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy
14. Liz Appel, White Supremacy in the Movement to Abolish the Prison Industrial Complex
15. Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Globalization and U.S. Prison Growth: From Military Keynesianism to Post-Keynesian Militarism
16. Dylan Rodriguez, Forced Passages
18. Angela Davis, Political Prisoners, Prisons and Black Liberation
19. Angela Davis, Lessons: From Attica to Soledad
20. Betina Aptheker, The Social Functions of the Prison in the United States
22. George Jackson, Soledad Brother
23. George Jackson, Blood in My Eye
25. Martin Sostre, The Trials of Martin Sostre
27. The Untold Story of W.L. Nolen
28. The W.L. Nolen Mentorship Program Guidebook
29. Sundiata Acoli, An Updated History of the Black/New Afrikan Prison Struggle
30. Assata Shakur, Message From Somewhere in the World
31. Assata Shakur, Excerpts from Assata: An Autobiography
32. Safiya Bukhari, Coming of Age: A Black Revolutionary
33. Liz Samuels, Improvising on Reality: The Roots of Prison Abolition
35. Marylin Buck, Prisoners, Social Control, and Political Prisoners
36. Chinosole, ed. Schooling the Generations in the Politics of Prison
37. ABC Zine Distro / TLP – Abolitionist Keywords and Definitions

39. Rachel Herzing, Black Liberation and the Abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex
40. Perspectives on Critical Resistance at Ten Years
41. Anthony Rayson, The Police Are Trained Killers
42. Critical Resistance, What is Abolition?
43. Andrea J. Richie, Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color
44. Heniberto Sharky Garica, The Future is Now: Anti-Imperialist Art and Writing from the Underside of Civil Society
45. George Ciccariello-Maher, Every Crook Can Govern: Prison Strikes as a Window to the New World
46. Anthony Rayson, Women are in Prison
47. Victoria Law, The Invisibility of Women Prisoners’ Resistance

48. Cassandra Shaylor, It’s Like Living in a Black Hole: Women of Color and Solidarity Confinement in the Prison Industrial Complex
49. Julia Chinyere Oparah, Ceiling Black Bodies: Black Women and the Global Prison Industrial Complex
50. Julia Chinyere Oparah, Maroon Abolitionists: Black Gender-Oppressed Activists in the Anti-Prison Movement in the U.S. and Canada
51. S. Lamble, Transforming Carceral Logics: 10 Reasons to Dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex through Queer/Trans Analysis and Action
52. Laura Whitehorn, Linda Evans, and Susan Rosenberg, Dykes and Fags Want to Know…: A Written Interview With Lesbian Political Prisoner
53. Out of the Closet and Into the Libraries: A Collection of Radical Queer Moments
54. Kimberly Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins: On Intersectionality
55. Patricia Hadden, A Critical Historical Essay for Black Women
56. Statement of The Combahee River Collective

57. Bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody
58. Cheryl Clarke, Lesbianism: an Act of Resistance
59. Audre Lorde, Uses of the Erotic: the Erotic as Power
60. Audre Lorde, Transformation of Silence into Action
61. Why Misogynists Make Great Informants: Gender Violence on the Left
62. Social Detox: Antisexist Resources for Men
63. The Critical Resistance-INCITE! Statement on Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex

64. Che Gossett, Abolitionist Imaginings: A Conversation with Bo Brown, Reina Gossett, and Dylan Rodriguez
65. Stevie Wilson, Print Media and Prison Activism / Lessons for Outside Activists
66. Stevie Wilson, Ain’t I A Prisoner, Too?
67. Kevin Gardner, Never Surrender
68. Mariame Kaba, Who’s Left: Prison Abolition (comic)
69. Mariame Kaba, Why Protest?

70. Mariame Kaba, No Selves to Defend: A Legacy of Criminalizing Women of Color for Self Defense
71. Survived and Punished, Defense Campaign Toolkit
72. Basic Principles of Anarchism
73. Lucy Parsons, Principles of Anarchism
74. Emma Goldman, Anarchism: What Does it Really Stand For
75. Alexander Berkman, ABC’s of Anarchism
76. Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin, Anarchism and the Black Revolution
77. Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin, The Progressive Plantation: the Internal Racism of the North American Left
78. Brown and Proud Press, Confronting Anti-Blackness within Our Communities
79. Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin and JoNina Abron-Ervin, Building a Community-Based Anti-Fascist Movement
80. Tom Knoche and Lorenzo Kom’boa Ervin, Organizing Communities: building anarchist grassroots movements
81. Insurrectionary Mutual Aid
82. Jason Adams, Non-Western Anarchisms: Rethinking the Global Context

83. Frank Talk: The White Radical as Missionary
84. Anarchism and Revolution in Africa
85. Black Autonomous Movements: New Dynamics in Black Liberation
86. Hibachi Lamar, The Deprived and Depraved
87. Sean Swain, Application of Anarchist Theory to the Modern Day Prison Struggle
88. IWW, A Workers Guide to Direct Action
89. Gay Shame, We Need Direct Action Divas (newspaper-style zine)
90. ABC Boston, Attacking Prisons at the Point of Production
91. Anonymously authored, Death 2 Authority
92. Anonymously authored, Real Solidarity in Action