

REFUSING TO KILL IS NOT A CRIME

CAMPAIGNS BY MILITARY REFUSERS, WHISTLEBLOWERS and PRISONERS Spring 2014

Visit www.refusingtokill.net for more details

50 young Israelis refuse to serve in the occupation army

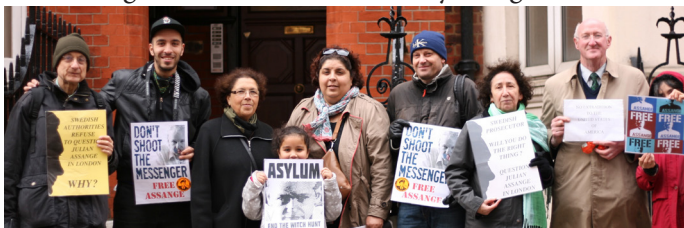
On 8 March, 50 Israeli school leavers (Shministim) notified Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu of their refusal to serve in the military. This is the largest group of Israeli draft refusers in the recent history of Israel. They also oppose the army which "*infiltrates everyday life in Israeli society too: it shapes the educational system, our workforce opportunities, while fostering racism, violence and ethnic, national and gender-based discrimination.*"



7th imprisonment for refuser Omar Saad, a Druze Palestinian compelled to serve. Write to him!

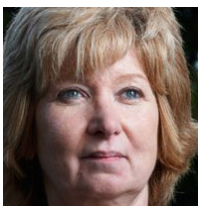
Whistleblowers need us

Currently in the UK, an early day motion in Parliament is demanding that the government stop using "terrorism" charges to silence journalists. Truth-tellers have paid a heavy price to inform us. As of 1 May, **Julian Assange**, founder of Wikileaks has been detained without charge for 1240 days, 680 at the London Ecuadorian Embassy, supported by a daily vigil. In the US, **Jeremy Hammond** was sentenced to 10 years in prison for hacking a security company spying on activists. Journalist **Barrett Brown** faced 105 years in jail (including for posting a hyperlink to a website containing hacked material), but public pressure forced the government to abandon key charges.



Every week Payday has attended the vigil for Assange

The Whistler: A new alliance of whistleblowers and supporters



While Manning, Snowden, Assange have made whistleblowers more visible, a new organisation was launched in March 2014 to help truth-tellers from the NHS, private medical care, financial and regulatory organisations, the police, the military etc. Led by Eileen Chubb (pictured) who, years ago, exposed elderly patient abuse in Bupa homes, The Whistler intends to "*hold the employers, the wealthy and powerful to account.*" The organisation has an international outlook, inviting NSA and CIA whistleblowers and Snowden's solicitor to attend a meeting in February.

Chelsea Manning Grand Marshal



On 4 February, the San Francisco Pride Board voted unanimously for Chelsea Manning to be an Honorary Grand Marshal and to ban military recruiters from SF LGBTQ Pride 2014. Serving a 35-year sentence for the disclosure of war and other crimes by the US and other governments, Chelsea is fighting for her transgender rights as a woman in detention. On 23 April, a judge approved her legal name change! Add your name to Queer Strike & Payday's letter to military authorities. While she is appealing her sentence, an international movement continues to urge Obama to grant pardon and release her immediately.

Read at www.refusingtokill.net: *Chelsea Manning Joins an Army of Whistleblowers* by Selma James and *Chelsea Manning Whistleblower on San Francisco Pride* by Queer Strike and Payday.



Edward Snowden and Wikileaks journalist Sarah Harrison. It is unsafe for her to return to the UK and now lives in Berlin.

Obama backtracking on NSA

One year after whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed the communication records of millions of US citizens have been collected by the National Security Agency (NSA) regardless of whether they are suspected of any wrongdoing, Obama was forced to say he would end this practice on 25 March. While more pressure is needed to make this a reality, for Snowden, it is still unsafe to return to the US. Add to the 1 million+ petition, initiated by David Miranda, urging the Brazilian President (whose phone was taped by the NSA!) to grant Snowden asylum. His Russian visa expired on 31 July.

More on: www.refusingtokill.net



Write to payday@paydaynet.org to join our mailing list.

California, Illinois, Washington, Indiana, Alabama, Georgia, Texas...

A wave of strikes in US prisons



CALL GA GOV. NATHAN DEAL AT 404-656-1776, THE GA DEPT OF CORRECTNS AT 404-656-4661 TO DEMAND A FULL INVESTIGATN & CALL JACKSON PRISON AT 706-387-6450 TO INQUIRE AS TO THE HEALTH & STATUS OF THESE PRISONERS. CALL NOW!

JULY 2013: 30,000 prisoners across **California** went on hunger & work strike to end long-term solitary confinement.

JANUARY 2014: Menard Correctional Center (**Illinois**) hunger strike against solitary confinement and brutal conditions •Westville Correctional Facility (**Indiana**) inmates refuse “packed lunches” and win back proper hot food •Holman Correctional facility, St. Clair Correctional and Elmore Correctional (**Alabama**) work strikes to get paid for kitchen and cleaning work.

MARCH 2014: Northwest Immigrant Detention Center (**Washington**) 750 detainees on hunger strike against deportations & for better pay (currently \$1/day); 20 were released from solitary. That strike was followed by a strike by detainees at Joe Corley Immigrant Detention Facility in Conroe (**Texas**) •Diagnostic & Classification Prison at Jackson (**Georgia**) 8 inmates on hunger strikes against sexual abuse and threats by guards (pictured).

A historic victory with international support

The prisoners hunger and work strike in California was a breakthrough. Some refused food for 60 days. They agreed to end their strike on 5 September 2013, with the promise of legislative hearings on solitary confinement in California where it is used indefinitely.

The strike was successful because prisoners united against the race divide, prisoners families were involved before, during and after the strike, and because the support was international. Margaret Prescod from the Global Women's Strike and others globalised the support, calling **Hunger for Justice** on 31 July 2013: hunger strikes and protests by supporters inside and outside the US. This prisoners campaign has since inspired a real wave of protests in prisons.



Victory: Hearings and a Bill on solitary confinement

On 25 February 2014, Senate hearings on solitary confinement in US prisons, jails and detention centers took place in Washington (although family members voices were ignored in the official report). In April, a Bill to reform the policy of solitary confinement was introduced in the in California legislature. Both were a response to the 2011 and 2013 strikes of California prisoners and other US prisons since 2010.



Hunger for Justice in London. Palestinian hunger striker Mahmoud Sarsak speaks about prisoners conditions and the 2012 hunger strike which won his and others' release from Israeli prisons.

Agreement on “cessation of hostilities” at Pelican Bay prison

In August 2012, Pelican Bay State Prison prisoners in California who have before called for three of the California prisoner hunger strikes announced: “Beginning on October 10, 2012, all hostilities between our racial groups...in SHU, Administrative segregation, General Population, and County Jails, will officially cease.” White, Black and Latino inmates signed the agreement and their action was key to the unity of later struggles. Read the full statement on our website.

International campaign gets Maroon out of solitary

Russell Maroon Shoatz was finally released into the general prison population on 20 February, thanks to the tireless campaigning of his daughter Theresa Shoatz and other family members. He spent 30 years in solitary confinement, punished because he has never stopped fighting for human rights inside and outside the walls.

