

The ABCF documents all monies received in support of the Warchest and prints them in our public “Warchest Financial Report.” This bimonthly report accounts for all money received, and all money sent out. The report is sent to all people making contributions so that they can see their donation is accounted for. All PP/POW’s receiving funds have their addresses printed so that supporters may hold us accountable to our claims.

### **Organizing visitation programs with the PP/POW**

When geographically possible, most ABCF collectives contact PP/POW’s near us. If the PP/POW desires such, we visit them. Most times, they are kept in prisons far from their communities and support bases. Having supporters visit them fairly consistently breaks the isolation the prison would like PP/POW’s to experience. The ABCF also helps to organize visiting trips for supporters who live out of the area, but will visit an area a PP/POW is held in. For example, there are more PP/POW’s held in the north eastern US than anywhere else in the country. ABCF collectives in the north eastern US have often organized visits with PP/POW’s held in the north east and their supporters from Canada, the mid-west and the south. PP/POW’s we visit include, Sundiata Acoli, Ricardo Jiménez, Herman Bell, David Gilbert, Jalil Muntaqim, Ojore Lutalo, Russel Maroon Shoats and Carmen Valentín. In many cases, we are among the only regular visitors these PP/POW’s have. In some cases, we are their only regular visitors. There are some PP/POW’s in the area that receive no regular visitors. All this even though the move-

ments they come from have members and representation nearby. Unfortunately, these members fail to organize any form of subsistence programs for their prisoners. If you are interested in visiting PP/POW’s, contact us for a flier listing the PP/POW’s in the north east and their locations. If you would like to go with us on visits, contact us.

### **Organizing food package drives for the PP/POW\***

ABCF collectives bring food packages to PP/POW’s in state prison when requested. Athens ABC bring s a regular food package to PP Herman Bell, and NJ ABC bring food packages to POW Ojore Lutalo and PP Jalil Muntaqim whenever they request one. However, we would like to increase the number of prisoners and frequency of packages. Contact us to help.

### **Organizing clothing package programs for the PP/POW\***

State prisoners are allowed to receive clothing packages. As was indicated in the Emergency Funding section, warm winter clothing is often a concern for PP/POW’s, and we need to meet these and other needs. ABCF collectives have only provided minimum support in the area of clothing to prisoners. Contact us if you are willing to aid us in our efforts to provide adequate clothing for PP/POW’s.

### **Regularly obtaining news subscriptions for PP/POW’s**

ABCF collectives have often been asked to help in paying for the subscriptions to daily newspapers like the New York

Times. Subscriptions like these are extremely expensive, but an important part of the life of a PP/POW. Keeping abreast of the events of the outside is important to the PP/POW’s and these news subscriptions are the best way to meet that need. We have been able fund raise to pay for and help pay for subscriptions in the past. But it is a struggle each year when the subscription is due. Contact us to offer your support.

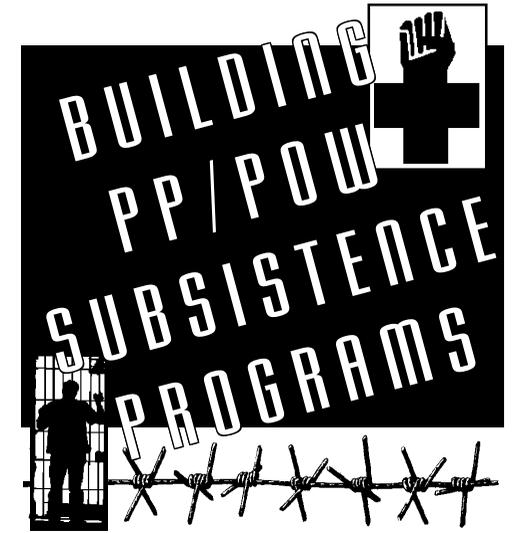
### **Obtaining requested reading material for PP/POW’s**

Political books are hard to come by in the prisons. We regularly purchase books PP/POW’s request from us. People who work in bookstores, especially used bookstores could be of great help in this area. Especially helpful toward this end would be progressive bookstores who can commit to sending specific titles to PP/POW’s when they are requested from one of our offices.

For the most part, PP/POW’s do not have a reliable source they can depend on to take care of the many things their imprisonment forces them to be dependant on. The above mentioned are just a few areas of concern. The ABCF has worked to meet these needs and build reliable subsistence programs. Contact us with your questions or comments.

## **ABCF.NET**

**\*ONLY STATE PRISONERS CAN RECEIVE FOOD OR CLOTHING PACKAGES**



**P**olitical Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW’s) are members of our movements. Many of us speak in support of them and some of us even work in support of them. However while we speak in defense of and print supportive articles about PP/POW’s, most of them are left in prison without the means to survive. Indeed, as anti-authoritarian POW Bill Dunne has expressed, “*Political Prisoners are representatives of the larger outside struggle. They’re being left to languish in the enemy’s dark concrete corners without support does not go unnoticed and unremarked. People question what kind of movement does not look out for the people that fight for it and reap injury and repression in its service and can only conclude it must suck. A movement whose advocates have plenty of literature, but not a cup of coffee or a stamp to share will be seen as an academic exercise in futility rather than one that can fulfill the needs of those it must attract. No one joins anything to deteriorate his or her lot.*”

The outside movements need not only to work and build the movements that our PP/POW's were snatched off the front lines of, but we need to, as the PP/POW's saying goes; *"remember we're still here."* Building subsistence programs will ensure that we do.

## Subsistence

### Program Fact Sheet:

Subsistence is defined as:

**Subsistence: Real being, existence; the condition of remaining in existence.**

A subsistence program is the application of organized activity to meet the daily needs of the PP/POW, who as a prisoner, is forced to be dependant on others.

Through all the support PP/POW's receive in our publications and literature, most would believe that the PP/POW's from our movements receive support in "remaining in existence." The fact is that for the most part, this is not the case. This needs to change. Indeed the fact that we print such supportive literature, when we aren't building subsistence programs, or trying to, misleads people into believing PP/POW's are receiving support. We need to stop pretending, and paint a more realistic picture. If we fail to acknowledge where we are, we will never get to where we need to be. Building subsistence programs will be a positive step forward. Different areas a subsistence program should cover are;

- ❑ Organizing regular financial support for the PP/POW
- ❑ Organizing visitation programs with the PP/POW

- ❑ Organizing food package drives for the PP/POW\*
- ❑ Organizing clothing package drives for the PP/POW\*
- ❑ Regularly obtaining news subscriptions for the PP/POW
- ❑ Regularly obtaining reading material the PP/POW requests

With a small membership, resources and limited support outside of our support base, the ABCF has had great success in organizing such subsistence programs. While larger groups enjoying larger memberships, resources and support bases have failed to organize any subsistence programs, or aid us in organizing ours. In addition, the vast majority of prisoners we support with these programs come from outside of the anarchist community. This clearly illustrates that the prisoners we support do not receive subsistence support from the groups who politically align themselves with such prisoners and their movements. And as anarchist POW Ojore Lutalo has correctly stated: *"Any movement that fails to support its political internees is a sham movement!"*

We realize that not every group can do everything. And that in these times where there are few stepping forward to work, and when so much work needs to be done in every field of our struggles, it is difficult to organize such programs. Subsistence programs indeed take much time, energy and physical commitment from outside activists. However to neglect these programs is to neglect our responsibilities, to neglect the PP/POW's, and to neglect our movements.

Since 1995 the ABCF has worked hard to develop such programs in the face of much need. While our achievements in this area are noteworthy, the need still far outweighs our capability. As the only group we know attempting to organize such programs on a non partisan basis for all revolutionary PP/POW's, we suggest the following to groups who claim to support PP/POW's:

1. That groups who are ideologically affiliated with movements prisoners come from develop their own subsistence programs for such prisoners. The ABCF will gladly supply groups who do so with information and our experience in organizing subsistence programs.
2. If your political group does not wish or can not develop such subsistence programs to benefit the prisoners that come from your movements, that you aid us maintaining and expanding our subsistence programs that offers non-partisan support to all revolutionary PP/POW's.

Subsistence programs the ABCF offer to PP/POW's are:

### Organizing regular financial support for the PP/POW

The Warchest Program; Founded in 1994, the Warchest Program is designed to meet the very specific need of financial support for PP/POW's. It is constructed to meet two separate support roles. Monthly checks and emergency support.

**REGULAR SUPPORT;** The Warchest sends monthly checks of up to \$60 to those PP/POW's who, to our knowledge, receive the least financial support. By collecting regular contributions from our own groups internally, and external supportive groups

and individuals, we raise funds to provide consistent financial support to PP/POW's. Current prisoners being supported regularly by the Warchest are Sekou Odinga, Ruchel Cinque Magee, Herman Bell, Marilyn Buck, Ricardo Jiménez, Richard Williams and Dylica Págan.

**EMERGENCY FUND;** This secondary Warchest fund exists to provide immediate financial support to the PP/POW who may not need monthly support, or an emergency supplement to the funding they receive, for a specific need. For example, New Afrikan POW Sekou Odinga was given additional funding to his monthly check so that he could help his daughter visit him across the country. On two separate occasions, New Afrikan PP Jalil Muntaqim was given funds to purchase two separate pairs of gloves and two winter coats after the prison administration transferred him two separate times in the middle of the winter. They conveniently lost his coat and gloves both times. Anti-Imperialist PP Jaan Laaman was given funds to assist him in paying for college classes at Leavenworth Federal Prison. Anti-Imperialist PP David Gilbert was given funding to help pay for legal research in his pending cases against double bunking. Puerto Rican POW Carmen Valentín was given funding on two separate occasions. Once to purchase a portable radio after hers was broken, the other to help pay for her grand daughter's school tuition. Other prisoners to receive Emergency Funds are New Afrikan Anarchist POW Ojore Lutalo, New Afrikan POW Sundiata Acoli, Black PP Hanif Shabazz Bey, Black PP Bashir Hameed and Anti-Imperialist PP Tom Manning.