



## Growing Resistance!

Several members of Prison Lives Matter and local community members came out to help plant fruit trees and lay down the first roots on PLM's National Director, Kwame Beans Shakur, ancestral land in Terre Haute, IN on April 12th and 13th, 2024. This community garden is located in the Booker T. Washington community, where Kwame grew up and is one of five programs that will be offered through The People's Programs for Decolonization. The Booker T. Washington food Co Op is a program and an initiative to help rebuild Our community. Food is one of the basic necessities of sustaining life. For centuries and generations We've been dependent on other people for all of Our needs including food and agriculture. We have to educate this next generation to the concept of self determination in regard to food sovereignty. We hope to bring out the youth and elders of Our community to unite in this common goal.

FREE THE LAND!



\*\*We want to extend an extra thank you to Comrades Pastor Kieth Collins, Kev, Brittany, and Digs for traveling hundreds of miles to build with us, help this vision become a reality, and speak with local community member's on how they can be involved and the importance of the work being done. As well as Kwame's family for making the event so meaningful with their storytelling and their love for Kwame. Also, Comrades Jordan and Peggy S. for your hospitality and making it all happen smoothly.\*\*

Kwame. Also, Comrades Jordan and Peggy S. for your hospitality and making it all happen smoothly.\*\*

## PLM & Rights Behind Bars (RBB)

Rights Behind Bars (RBB) is honored to continue working with Prison Lives Matter on several important matters. First, in early February, we filed a case on behalf of Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, a PLM member and incarcerated journalist and activist in Virginia. Mr. Johnson had undertaken a hunger strike to protest retaliation he experienced for his writing, including being placed in solitary confinement. The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) denied him water while he was on his hunger strike, severely compromising his health. We sued about the retaliation he suffered and filed a motion for preliminary injunction to stop the VADOC from abusing him during his constitutionally protected hunger strike. In March, after 70 days on his hunger strike, Mr. Johnson and the VADOC reached an agreement that permitted Mr. Johnson to end his hunger strike, but not before losing about 20% of his body weight. We continue to fight the underlying lawsuit. But it is worth noting that any of our wins in this case have been possible only because of efforts by organizers and compassionate community members, who regularly called the VADOC to check on Mr. Johnson and who organized rallies and other public efforts. Thank you to all those who participated in this fight!

RBB is also involved in supporting PLM's Lawful Committee and in PLM's efforts to obtain 501(c)(3) status to facilitate donations for all your important programs. We're discussing some other matters with PLM members, including a case attacking the rampant and unremediated black mold in the Wabash Valley solitary confinement unit. We're excited about each of these partnerships and remaining involved with and supportive of PLM as much as we can!

Miriam R. Nemeth  
Deputy Litigation Director & Chief Counsel  
Rights Behind Bars  
[www.rightsbehindbars.org](http://www.rightsbehindbars.org)  
[miriam@rightsbehindbars.org](mailto:miriam@rightsbehindbars.org)  
Pronouns: she/hers  
Licensed in DC, New York, and Michigan



## Tribute to Ed Mead



The loss of Our comrade, Ed Mead, was one felt by all of Us in the movement who knew him, of him, or of his many great works and contributions. Ed is one of Our pioneers when it comes to the prison movement and being able to successfully connect the dots between Our struggle on the inside to that of the overall class struggle taking place on the outside. From the time he became fully politicized in the 1970s up until the time of his transition in 2023, Ed remained on the frontlines. After the assassination of George Jackson in 1971, Ed became a founding member of the underground organization, George Jackson Brigade. Along with others, Ed used this formation to advance the cause and amplify the voices of the most oppressed people in amerikkkas prison industrial slave complex. Ed was a co-founder of the publication, Prison Legal News, as well as California Prison Focus. These are only a few of his contributions over the course of 5+ decades in the movement. Despite being diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and given a year to live, Ed went on to fight for another 7 years while remaining active in the struggle, even forming Prison Lives Matter- northwest and becoming a member of Prison Lives Matter- National Coordinating Committee at the age of 79.

Like the recent loss of Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Russel Maroon Shoatz, and Sekou Odinga; We must use the loss of Ed Mead to further fuel Our fire and try to live by their example: **Turning theory into practice and action!**

## A Dream Between

A small patch  
of green  
amid the rubble

Is enough  
to bring  
in hope.

Dandelion and plantain,  
clover,  
dock and sorrel.

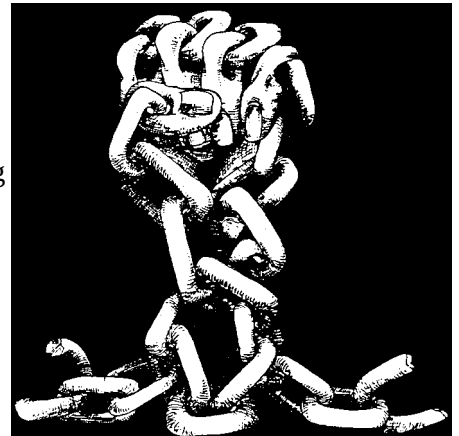
A space to dream  
of worlds  
between

To make  
believe  
and wonder.

digger

## Liberate the Caged Voices

Liberate Caged  
Voices serves as a  
portal between  
people experiencing  
legal slavery  
(commonly known  
as mass  
incarceration) and  
the general public.



Our campaign will introduce you to those New Afrikan Elders who organized and participated in the Historic California Hunger Strikes to end the torture of indefinite solitary confinement.

Go to: <https://liberatecagedvoices.wixsite.com/> for more information

In peace and struggle, Nube  
End slavery now!  
Free 'em All  
Kan't stop, Won't stop