

# Attica prisoners statement

*(The following is a statement drawn up by the inmates of Attica prison in the week following the massacre. It was given to lawyers who were able to get into the prison to see the inmates and released September 22.)*

ATTICA, New York (LNS) — We are making this statement to expose the vicious political machine that exists in all New York State prisons. We at this time intend to clog the wheels of that machine. The inhuman conditions at Attica, as well as other New York State prisons have in the past been whitewashed and covered up from the general public by prison officials and unscrupulous politicians. In the past all prisoners' pleas for justice have been ignored by all public officials and jailkeepers.

To Attica Liberation Faction came into being in May, 1971, for the sole purpose of prison change in a democratic manner. A 28-point "manifesto of demands" was drawn up on July 2 and submitted to numerous state officials, including Gov. Rockefeller, Commissioner Oswald, and Assemblyman Arthur E. Eve. On or about Sept. 2, Commissioner Oswald and two of his aides visited Attica prison for interviews with Frank Lott, Chairman of the Liberation Faction and other inmates. Superintendent Mancusi was present. Commissioner Oswald assured Mr. Lott that changes were being immediately made on issues

that didn't require legislation. Mr. Lott went on to state that as long as Warden Mancusi and his racist administration were allowed to supervise the men at Attica, trouble would follow. Mr. Lott called for the removal of Warden Mancusi; Dr. Williams and Dr. Steinburg, prison doctors; and one food service manager; all in the presence of Warden Mancusi.

Prior to Sept. 9, the Attica Liberation Faction had moved to higher ground. A body of men in each block were assigned to teach other men English, math and history. Frank Lott, Donald Noble, Herbert Blyden, Peter Butler, and Carl Jones El are among the men that donated their time to aid men in all phases of education — something that Mancusi failed to do. As long as there are jailers like Mancusi, Vincent LaValle, DeLong, Bergan, Fritz, and the likes of them there will always be unrest in our prison system. They have all the answers. Their policy is them against us — we don't want to hear it. New York must set up rehabilitation programs in the prisons.

We are not criminals, nor are we enemies of the people. Government and public institutions are established to serve and promote the needs and welfare of the people. Why must they subjugate and exploit us through the labor process and oppress the people of America through increasing taxes, paying for emergency

health care, transportation, housing, food, etc. when everything is "pay on the spot" or credit with interest. Looking at this objectively this capitalist system creates opposing tendencies among ourselves; examples: racial, religious and class biases. Our job as concerned people is to expose the system, which is really run by approximately 400 families (DuPonts, Rockefellers, Fords, Mellons, etc.) and show that these people, a minority, are only a breed infected by money and have no concern whatever for the people in general. True, we have truth representatives in our government. However, they are puppets whose strings are pulled by that monopoly of families.

We have discovered, as Madame Binh no doubt knows, the frustration of negotiating with a political system bent on genocide. Killings are being committed not only in Viet Nam, but in Bengla Desh, Africa, and South America. Is it not so that our Declaration of Independence provides that when a government oppresses the people, they have a right to abolish it and create a new government? And we at "Attica" and all revolutionaries across the nation are exercising that right! The time is now that all third world people acknowledge the true oppressor and expose him to the world!!!

Fascist control has been instituted through various devious means in all concentration camps here in Attica and all through New York State. For instance: even though black and Puerto Rican brothers number conservatively 85% of the total population of these contemporary plantations we are collectively allotted only 1% of the controlling inmate positions.

Just as Hitler instilled fear in his concentration camps, so has Rockefeller, allowing and sanctioning the same tactics to be perpetrated here; the fascists deal with fear and psychological control, such as not allowing grown men to talk when we walk down the halls; marching us to and from each meal; segregations of facilities, such as black and white Ice!

The fascist regime can only exist when fear is the controlling factor. But when intelligence is used, then the fascist pigs must resort to violence to cover up their atrocities against the poor people.

In conclusion: those brothers whose lives were taken by Rockefeller and his agents did not die in vain. Why?

Because the uprising in Attica did not start here, nor will it end here!

Moreover, the storm trooper-like tactics of Rockefeller's gestapos again proves to the third world that the Nazi element in this racist system will stop at nothing to eliminate the forces who are the oppressed masses, who are struggling for human recognition and are crying for Freedom, Justice, and Equality.

In Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the human communities,  
In Peace/Power and Brotherhood

ATTICA