



Activity: Prisoner Unity and Organizing

Learning Style: Active Listening / Critical Thinking

Overview: This activity encourages participants to connect historic prison struggles with the present while engaging a variety of media formats.

Duration: 1/2 Day

Intended Audience: High School or College Seminar

Purpose: Participants will practice critical thinking and active listening while engaging the centrality of prisoner unity in struggles to advance prisoner rights.

Instructions: Listen to the audio clips, “We are all together” (00:01:00) and “Soledad Brothers” (00:01:05). Then read and annotate the article, [“Pelican Bay Hunger Strike: Four Years and Still Fighting,”](#) and discuss among small groups. Possible discussion questions:

- What is the significance of unity across racial lines in prisons?
- What historic strategies did prisoners draw from during the 2011-2013 hunger strikes?
- What made the hunger strikes successful?
- What stands out to you in George Jackson’s description of unity in the two audio clips?
- How has George Jackson’s legacy influenced prison organizing today?

Materials:

1. Audioclip, [George Jackson: We are all together](#) (Length 00:01:00)
2. Audioclip, [George Jackson: Soledad Brothers](#) (Length 00:01:05)
3. Article, Claude Marks and Isaac Ontiveros, [“Pelican Bay Hunger Strike: Four Years and Still Fighting,”](#) *Counterpunch*, July 9, 2015.