



# DECARCERATE LOUISIANA

## Resistance is growing to the new slavery

*“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the States, United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” – 13th Amendment*

Change is gonna come through mass participation on the inside in the hunger strike, work stoppage, and boycott of the prison farm plantation system. Change is gonna come when we drag the barbaric, inhuman department of corrections into the press and expose it for all the world to what it really is: Slavery By Another Name! Change is gonna come where we see the interconnectedness of our struggles from inside to outside the prison walls supported by large-scale marches, rallies, demonstrations, vigils, lawsuits, documentaries, music, poetry, graphics, drawings and painting all condemning prison slavery as nothing but a historic demand for capital and white supremacy. Let’s do it to show solidarity with the August 21 national work stoppage and boycott in protest of prison slavery. Do it to show solidarity with voters across America who overwhelmingly support prosecutorial reform and in support of new prosecutors committed to reducing mass incarceration and racial bias in the criminal justice system. Do it for the tens of thousands of poor people across the country who are thrown in jail because they don’t have money to pay fines for minor offenses.

*“State governments, with the historic complicity and support by the federal government, continued a prosperous trade in African American forced laborers, though in the new and more orderly fashion mandated by the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution.”*

– Douglas A. Blackmon

*“Already, whites realized that the combination of trumped-up legal charges and forced labor as punishment created both a desirable business proposition and an incredibly effective tool for intimidating rank-and-file emancipated African-Americans and doing away with their most effective leaders.”*

– Douglas A. Blackmon

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Do it for the juvenile lifers who have served several or more years and are still being harassed and persecuted by racist legislatures, rebel judges, and pro-incarceration prosecutors. Do it to show solidarity and support for the National Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners who have been wrongly persecuted and prosecuted by the government. Do it to show solidarity and support for all prisoners who have been wrongfully convicted and are actually innocent or otherwise legally innocent. Do it in commemoration of the Angola 3 whom racist prison guards on Angola B-Line refused to let out of lockdown because they were afraid of their leadership abilities to organize people to demand justice. Do it in honor of and in commemoration of all prisoners who have been directly or indirectly killed by prison guard neglect, torture, use of excessive force or outright murder. Do it for Colin Kaepernick and to show solidarity with the stand that he took when he kneeled and refused to sing the national anthem to protest police violence, racial inequality, and injustice suffered by racial minorities. Do it to show solidarity and respect for human rights and human dignity. Do it because you disagree with the status quo and believe that community reinvestment is a better anti-crime strategy than relying on jails and prisons to solve failures in government. Do it to show solidarity with the Decarcerate Louisiana Anti-Slavery, Freedom, and Liberation Act of 2020.

The exception clause in the 13th Amendment is a loophole deliberately concocted by slave traffickers and venal politicians to continue the institution of slavery by another name. The Criminal Codes are the new Black Codes designed for the systemic criminalization and re-enslavement of Black Americans and other marginalized groups. The American Criminal Justice System is the legal structure created and necessary for (1) ensuring criminal convictions and fulfilling the 13th Amendment’s mandate for prison construction; (2) assisting the states in building an economy with cheap slave labor at its foundation; (3) maintaining subjugation and control of African-Americans and extending the historic view of Blacks as slaves and the essential proof of privileged white men’s royal status.

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