

POLITICAL PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Send a birthday card to these political prisoners. It's an easy way to help remind these freedom fighters that they aren't forgotten. If you make one, remember—*don't use anything like white-out, stickers, tape or glitter on it.* We also recommend that you put your name and address and their name and prisoner number on the card, lest the authorities "lose" the envelope and forget where it is going. If you would like to add a birthday or sign up for our poster mailing list, email us at ppbirthday@riseup.net. Brought to you with love by *The Chapel Hill Prison Books Collective*. prisonbooks.info



GERARDO HERNANDEZ

#58739-004
U.S.P. Victorville
P.O. Box 5300
Adelanto, CA 92301
July, 4 1965

Gerardo Hernandez is one of the Cuban Five who are in U.S. prison, serving four life sentences and 75 years collectively, after being wrongly convicted. The Five were falsely accused by the U.S. government of committing espionage conspiracy against the United States, and other related charges. But the Five were involved in monitoring the actions of Miami-based right wing terrorist groups, in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country of Cuba. The Five's actions were never directed at the U.S. government. They never harmed anyone nor ever possessed nor used any weapons while in the United States.

www.freethefive.org

ANA LUCIA - LUCILLE - GELABERT

#384484
Sky View Unit
P.O. Box 999
Rusk, TX 75785
July 6, 1938

Ana Lucia Gelabert is a U.S. citizen of Cuban national origin. Born in 1938 in Central Cuba, she came to the U.S. for the last time in 1961 and has been in a Texas prison since 1984, serving 2 life sentences, concurrent and "non-aggravated" after an incident with Houston police in which only she was injured. Root cause of her offense was the State of Texas trying, and succeeding, to strip her of parental rights to her own 3 children. To this day, Gelabert vows that if it happened all over again today, still she would fight for her children regardless of cost or consequences. She is a prolific political comic artist.

www.realcostofprisons.org/comix/gelabert/

GARY TYLER

#84156 ASH-4
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Angola, LA 70712
July 10, 1959

On October 7, 1974 students at Destrehan High School, Louisiana, were sent home earlier than usual due to racial disturbances. As the buses carrying black students back to their homes were leaving the school they were attacked by a group of 200 white people throwing stones and bottles at the buses. Timothy Weber was standing near the buses. A shot was heard and he fell wounded; he died a few hours later in a hospital.

Gary Tyler was one of the black students on the bus from which the shot was allegedly fired. This was not his regular bus but he had got into it as the situation had become increasingly dangerous. All students were ordered to get off the bus by police and male students were thoroughly searched immediately; girl students were searched later at the police station. The bus was searched on two different occasions for over three hours and no gun was found. The bus was then taken to the police station along with the students.

At the police station the students were questioned and released. One of them, Nathalie Blanks, stated that she had been seating next to Tyler and had seen him fire a gun into the crowd; she indicated to the police the exact place where she had been seating. It was after Blanks' testimony that the police "found" a .45 automatic gun stuffed inside the seat, through a long, clearly visible tear in the seat. The seat had been previously searched, shaken and turned upside down several times and nothing had been found.

Gary Tyler maintains his innocence.

freegarytyler.com

PATREESE JOHNSON

#07-G-0635
Taconic Correctional Facility
250 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507
July 18, 1988

On August 18, 2006, seven young African American lesbian women from Newark, New Jersey came to Manhattan's West Village for a night out. Although they were all familiar with harassment about their sexual orientation, none of them anticipated their night out would end as a nightmare. A male bystander harassed and assaulted the young women, making sexist and homophobic comments to them as well as lewd advances and telling one of the women that he would "F—k her straight." When the women defended themselves, a physical altercation ensued. It ended with all the young women being arrested. After a hellish year-long trip through the legal system, three women took plea bargains and the other four were convicted of crimes and given shocking prison sentences in April 2007. Three of the women have finished their sentences. However, Patreese Johnson, who was 19 at the time, remains. She was sentenced to an unbelievable 11 years.

freenj4.wordpress.com

UNTIL EVERY CAGE IS EMPTY

