

Resolution to Endorse Demonstration at CTF Soledad

Motivated by Racial Solidarity Committee

Whereas prison was born as a means for the ruling class to control Black people after the end of slavery and also to control the impoverished working class that grew amidst 19-century capitalism;

Whereas mass incarceration continues to disproportionately affect communities of color and the working class more generally; [very few wealthy people serve prison sentences and white collar crimes virtually go unpunished](#); therefore, mass incarceration functions as yet another system of oppression targeting communities of color as well as the working class,

Whereas post-Emancipation and following the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, incarceration essentially served a manner of continuing the involuntary servitude of Black people, and to this day, prisoners -- most of whom are Black and Brown -- serve as a source of cheap labor for capitalist entities,

Whereas as Socialists, we must recognize the manner in which mass incarceration serves to uphold racial and class hierarchies, and we must strive to abolish the carceral state,

Whereas East Bay DSA previously endorsed the demands of the [2021 National Shut'em Down Demonstrations](#).

Whereas on [July 20, 2020, at approximately 3:30 AM, a violent raid was carried out at CTF Soledad](#) which resulted in approximately 200 Black prisoners being rounded up,

Whereas the raid may have [intentionally exposed some of those people targeted in the raid to COVID-19](#),

Whereas a class action lawsuit is being pursued because of those event,

Whereas a rally and press conferences at CTF Soledad, organized by the Bay Area chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild, in support of the prisoners abused during the above mentioned raid, was originally planned as part of the National Shut'em Down Demonstrations for August 21s, but now is taking place over the Labor Day weekend,

Whereas the events of July 20, 2020, represent some of the worst elements of the carceral state, and we must stand firm against such indignities,

Therefore be it resolved that East Bay DSA endorses the events planned for CTF Soledad rally over the Labor Day weekend,

Therefore be it further resolved that East Bay DSA will promote the event at CTF Soledad by adding the event to the local calendar, promoting it on social media, and encouraging other DSA chapters to participate.