

ANGOLA 3

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**36 YEARS OF SOLITARY
CONFINEMENT IN THE US
- A WORLD RECORD**

1972



2008

Albert Woodfox and **Herman Wallace** have spent the past 36 years in solitary confinement in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, USA. They are serving sentences of life without parole as a result of convictions for the 1972 murder of a prison guard. **Robert King**, the third member of the Angola 3, **proved his innocence** and was released in 2001, after spending 29 years in solitary confinement.





King, Woodfox and Wallace were activist prisoners who risked their lives by standing up against racism, prison rape, and violence at Angola Louisiana's slave plantation turned prison farm.



In 1972, the prison was **racially segregated** (more than 80 percent of the prisoners were and still are African American), had an all white staff and was known for terrible brutality. At this time, the prison was dubbed "The Bloodiest Prison in America" by Colliers Magazine.

FREE THE ANGOLA 3



King, Woodfox and Wallace, along with many other prisoners, responded to these conditions by organising themselves, establishing political education programmes among prisoners, and organising **civil disobedience** such as work stoppages and hunger strikes, many of which won improvements. Woodfox and Wallace founded a chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense inside the prison, to the dismay of their keepers.



Herman Wallace

#76759 CCR U/D Cell #14,
Louisiana State Penitentiary,
Angola LA 70712, USA



Albert Woodfox

#72148 CCR L/B Cell #3,
Louisiana State Penitentiary,
Angola LA 70712, USA



Robert King

2008 New York Ave.,
Apt. B, Austin, TX 78702, USA.
kingsfreelines@gmail.com

CONTACTS:




When white prison guard Brent Miller was found stabbed to death inside the prison in 1972, **Woodfox** and **Wallace** were immediately placed in solitary confinement and charged with the murder, despite evidence they were nowhere near the scene.

The prison administration unleashed a reign of terror on the black prisoner population, including beatings, forcible shaving of Afro haircuts and mass solitary confinement.



The state prosecuted **Woodfox** and **Wallace** by using the testimony of **prison snitches** – a notoriously unreliable form of evidence. At their separate trials, different snitches – telling different stories – testified against the two men. Since the trials, new evidence has emerged that these witnesses were **coerced or bribed** with pardons, early releases and free cigarette rations. For **Wallace**, this resulted in his first evidentiary hearing in 35 years, which resulted in a magistrate's recommendation that his **conviction be overturned**.



A black and white photograph showing a narrow window in a prison cell. The window is framed by dark vertical bars. The wall on either side of the window is a light, textured material, possibly concrete or plaster. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

All but one of the state's witnesses have now admitted that they lied under oath and have recanted their testimony against Woodfox and Wallace. Others have come forward to identify the prisoner, now dead, who actually committed the murder. The courts are now considering appeals that present this new evidence of innocence.

While they wait for the courts to grant them the justice they have sought for 36 years, **Woodfox** and **Wallace** continue to spend at least 23 hours of every day alone in 6-by-9 foot cells. A federal civil rights lawsuit alleging that these conditions are cruel and unusual punishment and that the men have been denied their constitutional right to due process is expected to be decided in their favour in 2008.

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國際特赦組織

ww.amnesty.org

"Amnesty International calls for a review of the cases of **Albert Woodfox** and **Herman Wallace** who are imprisoned in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola and are held in permanent lockdown in conditions that can only be described as inhumane and degrading. Amnesty International is concerned by evidence that their trials did not meet with international fair trial standards and that their convictions were based on the tainted evidence of prisoner informants.

Amnesty is further concerned that Woodfox and Wallace may have been targeted because of their political activism in prison."

**Do something - don't let this
injustice continue!!**

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