

# This Human Rights Day, Knocking on Prison Doors

## #SetThemFree from COVID-19

### For immediate release

Press Advisory 12.9.2020

**WHAT:** Traveling vigil at prisons across San Diego to highlight the spread of pandemic and prisoner to call on state officials to #SetThemFree

**WHY:** To lift up the voices of those trapped inside the cages of our criminal justice apparatus with COVID-19, over-crowding, and depleted medical services.

**WHERE:**

Co-sponsors/speakers include:

- Peace Resource Center of San Diego & The Treat MI; Don't Mistreat Initiative  
Cheryl Canson, 619.633.6400
- Annie Rios, Attorney for Cheryl Canson
- We are Their Voices  
Dawn Marie, [ddsocal75@gmail.com](mailto:ddsocal75@gmail.com); 619.821.5340
- All Of Us Or None  
Curtis Howard, Lead Organizer 858.302.9795

#SayTheirNames:

Jeovani Jackson, Pelican Bay;

Jordan Jackson, New Folsom Prison

and the thousands more in our state prisons, detention centers, juvenile halls, metropolitan jails, re-entry facilities. Locked away yet at the same time in close contact with the pandemic.

Cheryl Canson is an advocate for those inside prison walls – because her sons are inside. Both were convicted of charges stemming from familial mental illness. Jeovani Jackson spoke with his mother, Cheryl Canson yesterday. They are waiting to hear about his COVID-19 test results.

“I feel like they’re starving us. We haven’t gotten our stores [purchases from the commissary] for two months. Tomorrow, I’m putting in a sick call to see a psychiatrist. Because it is too much.”

Jordan Jackson, the younger son, is also in quarantine. He contracted COVID-19 in New Folsom Prison. He was told he tested positive on his birthday, and relocated immediately to the 1A module, with other prisoners with COVID-19. After that news, little information has been forthcoming from the prison staff. He is dipping into depression again.

COVID 19 is in full swing across the prisons, carried in by guards and prisoners. His quarantine is intensified, because he can’t call home as much as he did before his relocation. His world is closing in

with little or no contact with those of us outside, as the prison system replaces visits with “video-conferencing” and phone calls. Even the traditional education courses have been side-lined. Prison is more than ever “4 Walls & a Bed” in response to the COVID rampage and restrictions.

Ms Canson wants to see “my sons released, for treatment for their mental illness and for COVID-19. I want to see them in a safe place. Guards are coming into work with the illness and bringing it into the prison too. I will take them home, take care of them. I just need the prison to release them.”

Antonia Davis, an immigrant-rights advocate and artist, suggests that the national experience with COVID restrictions helps us feel what prisoners go through in their social distancing. “These enforced rules gives us a glimpse into what incarceration is like; living with COVID, with that feeling of disorientation, few freedoms, and new rules for human interaction – what prisoners must feel every day.” Her art explores themes of freedom running through lives of oppression. The Monarch Butterfly is her favorite motif of personal freedom and is often depicted near those who have been killed by US Border Patrol. Her visual representation of these victims is joining the Car-avan Vigil, to remind us of the human cost of state violence.

### **Schedule & Route:**

Start time: 9am

- Las Colinas Detention & Reentry Facility 451 Riverview Pkwy, Santee, CA 92071

Speakers: Cheryl Canson, Curtis Howard

- Juvenile Hall, 2801 Meadow Lark Dr, San Diego, CA 92123
- CoreCivic (2727 Boston Ave, San Diego, CA 92113)
- Otay Mesa Detention Center,
- Donovan Prison 480 Alta Rd, San Diego, CA 92179
- George Bailey 446 Alta Rd #5300, San Diego, CA 92158
- Juvenile Hall, 446 Alta Rd #6100, San Diego, CA 92158

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### **Action Call**

**Contact: Kathleen Allison, CDCR Secretary**

<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/about-cdcr/secretary/>

**Our Plea: #SetThemFree to families during COVID. Stop the pandemic spread through incarceration.**

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More information & updates can be found at

- [www.prcsd.org](http://www.prcsd.org)
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/3599767223436721>