

## **RESOLUTION ON NON-COLLABORATION WITH GRAND JURIES**

WHEREAS: The United States government is based on and dedicated to preserving white supremacy, hetero-patriarchy and imperialism.

WHEREAS: the US uses its various government agencies to implement its policies and crush political resistance.

WHEREAS: These forces include the US military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ICE, Joint Terrorist Task Force, state and local police, fusion centers, foreign governments and corporate-governmental collaboration on an expanding surveillance network.

WHEREAS: The FBI has been used as a tool of repression since its inception in 1908 when it was established to fight “anarchists.” Its history includes the infamous Palmer Raids, the McCarthy era, COINTELPRO and the current labeling of so-called “Black Extremists.”

WHEREAS: The police have served as an occupying internal army in Black and Brown communities as well as a colonizing force against indigenous communities and against people’s movements.

WHEREAS: Any form of judicial interrogation is used to gather information not only of those being interrogated but to intimidate and destabilize popular movements for social justice and transformation.

WHEREAS: In any period of increased activism the state has used grand juries against destabilize people’s radical organizing and movements.

WHEREAS: Grand Juries have been used historically to prosecute political activists and force them to testify before secret proceedings. The Justice Department and the FBI use the subpoena power of the federal grand jury, coupled with compulsory immunity, to jail radicals who refuse to cooperate with government investigations. A recent example of this is the case of Chelsea Manning.

WHEREAS: Grand Juries have, in effect, become a form of Political Internment.

WHEREAS: It has been shown that the best defense against these forms of repression is to remain silent.

WHEREAS: The National Lawyers Guild has a long history of supporting those who refuse to testify before the grand jury. These include Puerto Rican Independentistas, members of the Black Liberation movement, and more recently the Midwest 23, the LA8 and the San Francisco 8.

WHEREAS: The National Lawyers Guild has a principle of abolition of police and prisons.

WHEREAS: The National Lawyers Guild has the right and the responsibility to help build a culture of noncooperation and resistance in opposition to the State.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the NLG formally adopt a principle of non-collaboration with Grand Juries. Furthermore, the NLG will educate its members in order to encourage and support all those who choose this form of resistance.**

Implementation:

The SF/Bay Area NLG will work with the national office to gather materials for attorneys, legal workers and activists in support of non-cooperation and non-collaboration. These include written materials, webinars and videos. In addition the SF/Bay Area NLG will work with other chapters and projects of the NLG. We will also do this work in consultation with many of our movement allies who have requested trainings in this area.

Consultation:

We have consulted with the national office and also spoken to our movement allies who have agreed to work with us on this issue of immediate importance.

*Submitted by Judith Mirkinson (mirk2@comcast.net) on behalf of the NLG SF Bay Area Chapter.*