



Study Questions for *The Thread* Episode 1:

Kinetik Justice interview:

- Why do the state and prison officials need the compliance of people behind bars? What role do prisoners play in “major institutions?”
- Why did people in the Alabama prisons go on strike? How can protests like the one at Holman Correctional Facility give prisoners agency?
- How did the prison administration respond to the strike?
- Are there ways that the strikers could have prevented retaliation or strikebreaking?
- What does the 13th Amendment say, and what does it mean? Did everyone know that the 13th Amendment does not totally outlaw slavery?
- What is the “Freedom Bill” written by the FAM? Are there similar policy recommendations written by people in prisons near us? Could we research the Freedom Bill or other similar policy suggestions?
- Where and how did Free Alabama Movement start? Was this a spontaneous movement?
- How did they go about organizing inside? Can we learn from them anything about organizing on the outside?
- How is the Free Alabama Movement connected with organizers at other prisons and on the outside?
- Part of the organizing was creating the Mothers and Families nonprofit on the outside, to support the activities going on inside the prison. Are there groups in our area that do this, are there ways we could support prison organizing?
- Are there any disagreements with the tactics of Free Alabama Movement?
- What are ways to build the movement, to get more people to be organizers against mass incarceration?

Cheri Honkala interview:

- Why did Front Line Human Rights Defenders say that Cheri was one of the top 13 people in danger in the U.S. for defending human rights?
- Where did Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign get their model for organizing? What does it look like? Are there comparable organizations in our area?
- What is the “nonprofit industrial complex?” What is the problem with nonprofits, foundation money, and social change? Why don’t they get to the root of the problem?



- Do people have examples of large, well-funded nonprofits taking credit for other people's work? Can people work with non-profits or at non-profits and still seek revolutionary change?
- How can activists and organizers fund their work if they're not getting grants?
- Do you agree that there's not enough progressive, independent media? What is the best news source you have?
- What are some examples of how independent movements are "bought off" by the powers that be? How can we protect our movements against this?
- Is there a problem with scarcity in society? What did they mean by "manufactured scarcity?" Is there enough to go around?
- What did the occupation of the PA capitol remind you of? What was the government reaction to the occupation tactic?
- What finally led Cheri to break with the Democratic Party? Do you agree with her assessment? Have people had similar experiences with betrayal of the Democrats?
- Are there any disagreements with Cheri?
- Who controls the presidential debates?
- Using Cheri's Green Party campaigns as an example, what are some radical issues that can be raised in an electoral campaign? Are there benefits to running and raising these issues, even if you think you can't win?
- Could we travel to or support the March4OurLives on July 25?

Feedback for The Thread:

- Do you have feedback on the Working Principles?
- What unresolved questions or feedback did you or your group have about this podcast?
- Are there follow up topics/issues you'd like to see explored in future podcasts?
- Can someone from your group post feedback at defeatmassincarceration.com or send to brokenonallsidesintern@gmail.com or 419 Johnson St. Suite 102, Jenkintown, PA 19095?