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Contact: sbsurj@gmail.com



Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Barbara (SURJ SB) Supports Lompoc Prison Car Caravan Protest Against Inhumane Conditions for Prisoners

Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Barbara joins our fellow organizers on Sunday May 24 for a safe, social distance car protest in solidarity with prisoners, their families and loved ones against inhumane prison conditions at Lompoc Prison that threaten both inmates and our larger community. Along with the formerly incarcerated, families of those currently incarcerated and in solidarity with the wider community and the anti-prison movement, we specifically demand:

1. Home release of non-violent criminals so they can social distance
2. Improved sanitation
3. Access to proper medical treatment
4. Implementation of iPad communication with families for better mental health

Negligent leadership at the Lompoc Federal Correctional Institution has led the facility to have the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the entire federal system, currently documented as [900 \(and rising\) cases](#). “Nearly 70% of the inmates at Federal Correctional Institution Lompoc have tested positive,” which now account for about 47% of all the federal inmates who have tested positive nationwide.” ([Los Angeles Times](#)).

The negligence of the facility directors puts all of our community members at risk. Regional leaders such as Congressional Representative Salud Carbajal and California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris have repeatedly warned that “COVID-19 patients from the prison complex could overwhelm Santa Barbara’s hospitals.” ([Santa Barbara Independent](#)), and have sent [letters](#) to the Federal Bureau of Prisons demanding that this community threat be addressed immediately. Lompoc Prison has gained national attention for the alarming COVID rates and a [federal class-action lawsuit](#) has been filed. SURJ SB echoes the calls to action from these leaders, as well as the United Nations and other international organizations.

We invite the larger community to join us in speaking out against inhumane prison conditions. **Just because someone is serving a prison sentence does not mean they deserve a death sentence.** For information and data on prison strikes and protests visit Perilous Chronicle and Washington Prison History Project.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is a national network of groups and individuals working to undermine white supremacy and to work toward racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. SURJ SB is the Santa Barbara Chapter of SURJ National.

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