

*Summing Up The 2008 Work of the  
Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (CMPP)  
Jan. 17, 2009*

**General Objectives of the CMPP**

The goals/objectives of the CMPP are:

- (1) Raise the social political consciousness of Raza prisoners so that they join the struggle rather than return to prison or committed crimes against their own Raza
- (2) Raise the social political consciousness of our communities to the role prisons play in our oppression and the maintenance of capitalism/colonialism.
- (3) Expose to the world, the role of prisons within the borders of the U.S.
- (4) Fight for the human rights of all prisoners, especially political prisoners.

All the work of the CMPP attempts, in some form, to meet its objectives.

**Review/update on key activities of the CMPP Jan-Dec 2008**

1. The CMPP met regularly, with very few exceptions, every second of the month at the Chicana Perk, coffee shop located the corner of 25th and Imperial, San Diego, Califaztlan. The average attendance of each meeting was 6 people.
2. Three issues of *Las Calles y La Torcida* were produced (Jan-March, April-June, and July-December 2008). Each issue had a major political piece, a historical article, cartas from la pinta section, and announcements.
3. In March, the CMPP produced organizational T-shirts and pens to use for propaganda and fund raising; the shirts and pens were prepared for sale at the annual Chicano Park Celebration (held on April 20, 2008).
4. We receive an average of 30 letters from prisoners per month, requesting legal assistance or being place our mailing list.
5. We have maintained and update web page with newsletters and announcements.
6. The CMPP attended every RRC meeting, paid most of its monthly dues, and was represented at 3 of the 4 asambleas. It also had representation at all RRC activities (marchas, pickets, and 16 de Sept Celebration)
6. The CMPP (Ernesto Bustillos and Francisco Romero) presented at the MEChA State-Wide Conference Sacramento 3/21/08. The title of the workshop was "Education, Youth, and The Growing Imprisonment of Raza. The workshop was well attended, with over 70 people present. Excellent dialogue took place and our literature was disseminated throughout the conference.
7. On May 31-June 1, 2008. Francisco Romero, Ernesto Bustillos, and Xristian Carbajal, presented at a workshop at the "StopMax" Conference in Philadelphia. There were more than 30 people at the workshop and we had good discussion. About 600 people attended the conference. One of the keynote speaker was the author Jimmy Santiago Baca.
8. On June 7, Cathy Espitia and Ernesto Bustillos presented a workshop titled "Youth Violence and Its Relationship to Education" at the Memorial Middle School Parent Conference (located in Barrio Logan). About 250 people attended the conference.
9. June 28, 2008, the CMPP held its' annual (12<sup>th</sup>) conference on Raza Prisoners and Colonialism. Over 50 activists attended the CMPP conference, which was held in Oxnard, Califaztlán, and organized under the theme of "Raza Fighting Against Prison Terror, Genocide, and Colonialism". The keynote speaker was Alex Sanchez, of Homies Unidos (Los Angeles). The conference was dedicated to the legacy of Raul Salinas, poet, prison activist, and ally of the CMPP.

10. The CMPP, co-organized with MEChA City College, a forum on the presidential elections. It was titled "We Need Power To The People, Not To Politicians!" and part of the RRC's campaign, Ni Democratas, Ni Republicanos -Solo El Poder del Pueblo Vencera! Over 40 people attended, mostly students. Presentations were given by representatives from MEChA City College (Freddy Rivas), RRC (Adriana Jasso), Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (Ernesto Bustillos), and ARSO (African Revolutionary Student Organization) Lincoln High (Sakeena Shabazz)
11. Cathy Espitia represented the CMPP and spoke on a panel on "Alternative/Grassroots Politics Summit", held in Oxnard, CA, Sat., Oct. 25, 2008. The summit was held at Oxnard Community College (Oxnard, Califas) and was organized by the Committee On Raza Rights and MEChA.
12. The CMPP held a "Pinto Art Show" on Sat. Nov. 15, 2008. The Art Show was held at the Centro Cultural de La Raza. Over 200 pieces of art were on display, along with lowrider cars and motorcycles. Over a hundred people attended the art show. We had food, DJ, and a speaker's panel that included: Victor Ochoa (artist/muralist), Ariana "Tita" Gallegos (Xispa Radio Show) Teresa Zaragoza (Prison Rights Activists and Danza Cuauhtémoc/Norwalk, Califas) Ernesto Bustillos (Chicano Mexicano Prison Project). Key organizer of the Art Show was Monica Bernal.
13. Monica Bernal and Cathy Espitia facilitated a workshop at the annual MEChA H.S. Conference SDSU. The title of the workshop was "Police Brutality, Prisons, and Raza Youth".
14. On Friday, Dec.19, the CMPP held its annual "Xmas/End of the Year Social" at the home of Cathy Espitia.