

Marie Mason

Marie Mason is serving the longest sentence (almost 22 years) of any [Green Scare](#) prisoner. Even though no person was injured in the acts of property destruction to which she admitted as part of her plea agreement, this sentence is similar in length to that given to killers. (Equivalent, but non-political, property damage would typically result in a much lower sentence.) Marie has just turned 51 and is a mother of two. In addition to environmental activism, she was also active in the labor movement.

Marie Mason #04672-061
FMC Carswell
Federal Medical Center
P.O. Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

For more information: supportmariemason.org

Manuel Salas

Manuel Salas is a 25 year-old vegan animal rights activist who is imprisoned for acts unrelated to his activism. In prison, he has had to fight for vegan food and has suffered penalties as a result of that activism. From behind bars, he has started the National Animal Rights and Anarchist Network (NARAN) and also has been active in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Manuel C. Salas #504212
Columbia Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 900
Portage, WI 53901

For more information: supportmanuel.com

Matthew Duran

According to the [Support Grand Jury Resisters](#) website, Matthew Duran "is a 24 year old Chicano anarchist currently being held in FDC SeaTac for refusing to testify at a Grand Jury investigating anarchists in the Pacific Northwest. Matt has worked on various projects, mostly around supporting survivors and popular education. He has given numerous free workshops on computer maintenance, positive masculinity, and feminism. Matt also helped start and participated in a feminist support group for people wanting to deconstruct masculinity. Matt spends most of his time working on computers, reading science fiction, riding his bike, working out, and making vegan food with his loved ones." He has had to struggle for vegan food in prison.

Matthew Kyle Duran #42565-086
FDC SeaTac
P.O. Box 13900
Seattle, WA 98198

For more information: supportresist.net

Eric McDavid

As stated by his support website, "Eric McDavid is a political prisoner, currently serving a 20 year sentence in federal prison for 'thought crime.' He was arrested in January 2006 (as part of the government's ongoing 'Green Scare' campaign against environmental and animal rights activists) after being targeted by an undercover informant who formulated a crime and entrapped Eric in it." In a recent letter from prison, he wrote, "w/N this cultural climate the Path is not easy or simple by any means – making it all the more important 2 find those unique, ever changing, beautiful & sustainable ways 2 aid & nurture each other."

Eric McDavid 16209-097
FCI Terminal Island
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 3007
San Pedro, CA 90731

For more information: supporteric.org

Instructions:

1. Follow any and all special instructions on the prisoner's support website. These will often include specific regulations of that particular prison or limitations on that particular prisoner. If in doubt, use ink on plain paper and envelopes, numbering and labeling every page.
2. Address the letter *exactly* as the address is listed on the prisoner support website (or this handout). Any departure from may mean that the prisoner does not receive your letter.
3. Write your name and full return address on the envelope. If you want to be sure that the prisoner has your address, include it on the letter itself, since letters and envelopes can get separated when the mail is processed by the prison.
4. Yes, a prison official may be reading your letter. Be mindful of that when deciding how much to share about yourself or your own life.
5. Obviously, do not write about illegal activities or ongoing investigations.
6. Number the pages of your letter and be sure to write the prisoner's full name and number on every page.
7. Don't affix stickers or anything else to the envelope or the pages. No glitter-glue either!
8. Don't include a photo or other enclosure unless you know for sure that this would be both allowed and welcomed. (Some prisoners have a limit on the number of photos they can receive and prefer to receive photos only from close friends and relatives.)

Tips:

From Sarahjane Blum (Support Vegans in the Prison System)

It's really hard being in prison. Not only are you locked away from everyone you know and love, the whole experience is tailored to make you feel like you are no longer "normal." There's no one thing that incarcerated people want to hear about (some people love stories about cats, others find cats dull), but every current or former prisoner I have spoken to about hearing from people on the outside tells me that they want to get a taste of "normal."

This doesn't mean that you should tell a total stranger your deepest darkest secrets, or go on a three page ramble about what you had for lunch—it just means that you should tell them about yourself in the same way you would if you were getting to know someone who wasn't behind bars. One strategy is to think of what you would talk to someone about if you were making conversation with someone you wanted to get to know who was in a class with you, or was sitting next to you at a party. Another is to think of the questions you want to ask the person you're writing to, and answer them about yourself.

From VINE:

One thing *not* to do is start your letter with some version of the phrase, "I am sitting here in a room and I don't know what to say." Prisoners don't need to know more about sitting in a room! Instead, write about what interests or fascinates you. Tell a funny story about your canine companion. Share a joke or a fun fact. Imagine that you're the one in prison: What might it be fun to receive a letter about? Make your letter unique by writing about the things you know best. That way, instead of getting a bunch of letters that all say the same vague things, the recipient can enjoy a range of stories, images, and ideas.

Please don't expect a reply. Some prisoners are limited in the number of people to whom they may write, and some may write only to people who have gone through an approval process. But if you are writing to a prisoner who may not get much mail, please do let them know whether or not you are open to a continuing correspondence.