



Saritza Legault and Melvin Herring
Library Services Administrators
Florida Department of Corrections
Literature Review Committee
501 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

4 March 2026

Re: Impoundment by Taylor Correctional Institution of several issues of, *The Militant*, 2 February 2026 (Vol. 90, No. 4); 9 February 2026 (Vol 90, No 5); and 16 February 2026 (Vol 90, No. 6)

To the Literature Review Committee:

In February 2025, Taylor Correctional Institution (Taylor CI) authorities impounded several issues the publication, *The Militant*: Vol. 90, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 from 2 February, 9 February and 16 February 20206 respectively. Amnesty International USA is calling on the Literature Review Committee to overturn the impoundment decision by Taylor CI authorities of these issues of *The Militant*.

The exclusion of these issues of the publication without sufficient demonstration of security risks infringes upon prisoners' rights to freedom of expression and violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, otherwise known as the Mandela Rules, (Rule 63). Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19(2), "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." Furthermore, Under the *Mandela Rules*, Rule 63, "Prisoners shall be kept informed regularly of the more important items of news by the reading of newspapers, periodicals or special institutional publications, by hearing wireless transmissions, by lectures or by any similar means as authorized or controlled by the prison administration." The maintenance

of awareness of developments in the outside world is important for those who will one day be reintegrated into society upon release.

According to the Notices regarding impoundment for each of the three issues 2 February 2026 issue (Vol 90, No 4); 9 February 2026 (Vol 90, No. 5) and 16 February 2026 (Vol 90, No. 6) authorities at Taylor CI identified articles in each edition that start on the first page and continues onto several internal pages and states that the publication contains inadmissible subject matter. The Notices for each of the impoundments cite Rule 33-501.401(15)(i) (“is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules”), as the criteria for the impoundments. While prison authorities have a responsibility to maintain security and order, which can restrict access to certain materials such as those actually calling for violence, rioting or insurrection, there is nothing contained in the specific articles from the banned issues of this publication that would amount to such a call.

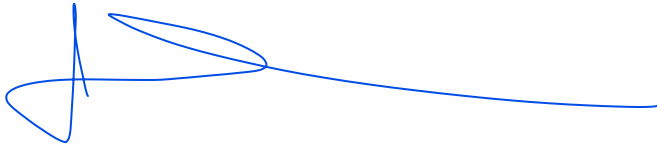
The articles in question: “Amnesty for immigrants to unify the working class!” (Vol 90, No. 4); “Join fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the US!” (Vol 90, No. 5) and “Fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the US!” (Vol 90, No. 6) - document current national events of the heavy-handed immigration enforcement taking place in cities such as Minneapolis and the protests that erupted there and across the country in response. The articles further detail the role of unions in the fight against these tactics, the need for solidarity across groups and classes and calls for the government to provide amnesty to those undocumented immigrants in the USA. However, reading the plain language of the articles, they do not contain language or descriptions of current events that would present a call for “rebellion” or “riot”. In fact, the articles merely provide updates related to ongoing protests against government action – information that squarely relates to individuals’ rights to freedom of expression. The act of informing subscribers about events of the outside world and a call for class solidarity in and of itself and without more should not be a means to violate prisoners’ freedom of expression.

We therefore urge the Literature Review Committee to overturn the decision to impound the Vol. 90, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 issues of *the Militant* at Taylor CI without demonstrating

specifically how the noted articles violate the protocols and regulations cited so that subscribers may maintain their connection to the outside world during their incarceration.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Justin Mazzola
Deputy Director, Research
Amnesty International USA