

February 28, 2026

Saritza Legault / Melvin Herring

Library Services Administrators
Florida Department of Corrections
Literature Review Committee
501 South Calhoun St.
Tallahassee (Florida) 32399-2500
USA

To the Literature Review Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Committee's recent decision to uphold the impoundment of three issues of *The Militant*—nos. 4, 5 and 6, dated February 2, 9 and 16—by authorities at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida. The reasons cited for this measure are that the front-page articles advocating a labor-led fight for amnesty for immigrant workers in the United States are “dangerously inflammatory” and pose a threat to institutional security.

Such a characterization profoundly misrepresents the content and intention of the articles. Far from inciting disorder or unrest, these texts call for disciplined, collective, and democratic participation in defense of immigrant workers' rights—an endeavor squarely rooted in the principles of solidarity and civic engagement.

The ban constitutes a blatant violation of the constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals to receive and read publications of their choice and to form their own opinions, as well as of *The Militant's* right to reach its readers. As PEN America and the Florida Press Association have already emphasized, these actions impose an unwarranted restriction on freedom of the press and on prisoners' rights to access information and ideas.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider this decision and lift the impoundment of the three issues in question. Upholding the rights to read, to think critically, and to engage with divergent perspectives remains essential to both democratic life and rehabilitation efforts within the correctional system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for ensuring that constitutional principles guide the Committee's decisions.

Cordially,



David Lefrançois, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Educational Sciences
University of Québec in Outaouais