

Montreal, Canada
February 26, 2026

Literature Review Committee c/o Saritza Legault/Melvin Herring
Library Services Administrator Florida Department of Corrections
501 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

RE: Ban of *The Militant* issues dated Feb. 2, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16
DC 143824
Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com
Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com
VIA E-MAIL

Dear Literature Review Committee,

My name is Félix Vincent Ardea, and I am president of division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

I am writing to you to request you lift the ban placed on three consecutive issues of the *Militant* newspaper dated Feb. 2, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16 by the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry Florida. This ban is an attack on both the freedom of the press of the *Militant*, and that of the workers behind bars reading it, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US constitution. As workers, we have a fundamental right to our own press organ.

Contrary to what is contended by the prison authorities, nothing in the cited articles is “inflammatory” or advocates for any kind of violence. On the opposite, the *Militant* champions a course of peaceful, *lawful* protesting led by the unions in order to fight for immigrant rights. For example, in the Feb. 9 article by Helen Meyers titled “Join fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the US! Unions need to lead to unify the working class”, the author underlines that “The union’s role in the march ensured its disciplined, peaceful character.”

Peacefully protesting for your rights is at the core of the liberties protected by the United States’ constitution, and reporting or reading on such protests is not cause for accusations of violence.

I therefore request that you lift the ban on the aforementioned issues of the *Militant* and distribute the confiscated papers to the subscribers of the *Militant* incarcerated in the Taylor Correctional Institution.

Sincerely,

Félix Vincent Ardea
President of division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference

CC.: Seth Galinsky, *The Militant* newspaper