

## Harold H. Thompson Anarchist Prisoner



Harold H. Thompson is an anarchist prisoner serving life plus sentences in Tennessee, USA. He became interested in anarchism at an early age from listening to the political debates of his father and visiting friends. His affinity to anarchism was solidified by a stint of military service during the Vietnam war in which he was discharged after being wounded. He then became active in the anti-war movement, associating with Viet Nam Veterans Against the War during the 60's and 70's era of mass civil disobedience and struggle in America. From the late 60's onwards Harold was repeatedly in conflict with the cops and the legal system, raising money for survival and political activities outside the law. Several of these expropriation activities resulted in him doing time in Wisconsin, Ohio, Georgia and Tennessee prisons. Harold has two sons (with different mothers), the mother of his eldest son was murdered in 1978. Her killer, Walter Douglas Crawley was sentenced to life imprisonment but then released on an appeal bond after becoming a police informant. On the same day as his release Crawley was overheard threatening to murder Harold's son and another child who had testified against him during his trial. Crawley boasted how he "had nothing to lose" since he'd already been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. In Chattanooga, four days later in October 1979 Crawley was shot whilst drinking in a bar, his unmasked assailant escaped and sped off in a waiting car into the night. Ten days later, after a large scale manhunt for Harold he was arrested and charged with the murder of Crawley. Harold was also charged with expropriating money for political activities from a jewellery store. For these incidents he was given life plus 50 years after a series of farcical trials. Later Harold was given an additional 21- 75 years for a second shooting incident which occurred in Cleveland Ohio. Around this time Harold also had a stroke leaving him in a coma for 3 weeks. Following

brain surgery he was diagnosed epileptic. In November of 1986, Harold started a 5 year, 4 month stint in maximum security /solitary confinement after a failed armed escape attempt while in an East Tennessee prison. He was charged with the attempted murder of three guards, kidnap of a hostage guard, Possession of explosives, Possession of a dangerous weapon and attempted escape. The judge sentenced Harold to an additional 31 years.

Behind the walls, Harold is well known for his work as a 'jailhouse lawyer' and says he copes with prison by fighting for his fellow prisoners in the courts for some semblance of real justice. His legal work mainly consists of other prisoners appeals, drafting their legal briefs for submission to the courts, filing civil rights complaints on behalf of prisoners who have been abused and had their rights violated. He helps file proper grievances in the prison system and courts.

Such activities have brought Harold intense provocation and harassment from prison guards, especially because he has frequently helped black prisoners with legal a problem, which in the South doesn't go down too well with the racist establishment. On October 14th 2005 Harold was the victim of an unprovoked attack by 5 to 6 Aryan Brotherhood thugs. While working in the N-5 Law Library Harold was attacked from behind, knocked to the ground and repeatedly punched and kicked in the head and body. His fingers were also stamped on. Harold did manage to fight back and recognized some of his attackers. After the attack Harold was spitting up blood and was badly bruised. His left hand is damaged and his fingers may be fractured. Harold was taken to the hospital wing but was released and then moved to the High Security Annex. The prisons response to this attack was to move him to another prison.

Write to Harold at :

**Harold H. Thompson #93992**

West Tennessee State Penitentiary

**PO Box 1150, Henning, Tennessee 38041 - 1150, USA**

For more info visit Harold's web site:

**<http://www.haroldhthompson.uwclub.net/index.htm>**