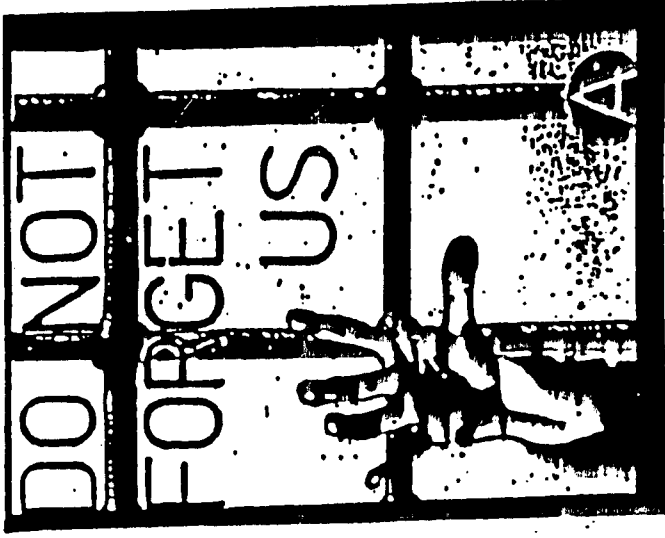


What Will ICOPA IX Be Like?

The ICOPA IX planning committee is still in its early stages. Every ICOPA has 3 groups helping in its planning:

- **Local Organizing Committee** that has the main responsibility for organizing and planning
- **Regional Planning Committee** that meets 2 to 4 times, gathering input from anyone within easy travelling distance. Our first Regional Meeting is in Toronto on November 13th and 14th. Contact us at 416-538-6900 if you are interested in coming.
- **International Planning Committee** with representatives from major regions around the world who help promote the conference.

Our plans so far are to join the international theme of Jubilee for the year 2000 - forgiveness of Third World Debt and erasure of the huge economic barriers that divide us. Specific topics will include transformative or healing justice, corporate crime, and the role of racism and classism in the system.



International Conference On Penal Abolition



For more information contact:

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ICOPA c/o

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ICOPA IX

Toronto, Ontario
Canada

May 2000

Sponsored by ICOPA and Rittenhouse
416-538-6900, fax 416-538-2655

What is ICOPA?

ICOPA is a worldwide movement to challenge the existing revenge approach to criminal justice, and seek healing for all: victims, offenders, their families and the whole community.

ICOPA was founded in 1983 by the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice, a Toronto group dedicated to prison abolition. The first conference attracted 400 people: ex-prisoners and their families, academics, activists, and progressive people who work in the system but see through it.

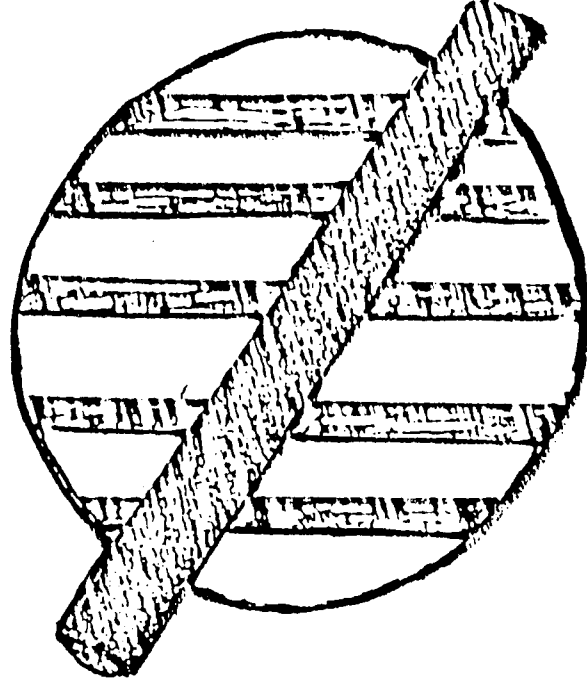
Since then **ICOPAs** (International Conferences on Prison or Penal Abolition) have been held every two years in: Amsterdam (Netherlands), Montreal (Canada), Poland, Indiana (USA), San Jose (Costa Rica), Spain, and Auckland (New Zealand).

In 1987, ICOPA broadened its goal from prison abolition to penal abolition, because if we abolish prisons but keep revenge as our goal, something equally offensive will follow. We have to abolish the spirit of revenge behind the penal system.

ICOPAs are the only continuing international conferences challenging the whole sick injustice system!

What Do We Gain From Participation?

- **ICOPAs**, wherever they are held:
 - Enable abolitionists to talk with each other about the pressing real issues of the day
 - Force the system people and the media to consider the real questions for a change, instead of backward facing false ones



- Enable us to build more creative community supports for integration of all
- Challenge the racist, classist, sexist basis of "justice", bringing out the primary role of corporations as criminals, and of the "justice system" as a means of maintaining the existing status barriers
- Create stronger networks among us
- Promote dissemination of exciting literature and support for current causes
- Increase our energy: most of us often feel isolated in our own places. At **ICOPA** we find the power of being part of a world wide movement.

