

TAKE ACTION!

Marissa Alexander's trial begins on December 8th.
Here are some ways that we can help her win...

1. **Donate & fundraise for the Marissa Alexander Legal Defense Fund.** Legal costs are estimated to be \$250,000, even with a pro bono legal team. Donations have been critical, paying off her bond and the cost of her ankle monitor. If you are an organization or business, aim to raise at least \$200 before the trial! Donate at tinyurl.com/MarissaDonate, or shop at the Free Marissa store: tinyurl.com/MarissaStore
2. **Make your solidarity visible!** Create a Free Marissa sign and put it in your window, your organization, or your workplace. Change your profile picture on social media to reflect your support.
3. **Organize** rallies, teach-ins, speak outs, vigils, and court watch gatherings to engage communities about Marissa's case and what 60 years will do to the right of domestic violence survivors to defend themselves.
4. **Organizational Statements:** Urge local or state domestic violence organizations, anti-mass incarceration/police violence groups, reproductive justice & health organizations, and others to release statements to the press and community that support Marissa's freedom.
5. **Make Media:** *We must make some noise.* Blog, tweet, facebook, and write op/eds. Make sure Florida knows that the world is watching.
6. **Write to Marissa, let her know that you are with her!** Address: Marissa Alexander, PO Box 23872, Jacksonville, FL 32257
7. **Local/Global Courtwatch:** We are working with social justice journalists and the local Jacksonville community to engage in a courtwatch for Marissa's trial. We plan to engage supporters around the world through live-tweeting the trial, doing daily updates, and analysis.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Website: freemarissanow.org; **E-mail:** freemarissanow@gmail.com

Social Media: facebook.com/freemarissanow;
twitter.com/freemarissanow; freemarissanow.tumblr.com

CALL FOR MOBILIZATION:



**MARISSA ALEXANDER TRIAL:
DECEMBER 8TH
FREEMARISSANOW.ORG**

OCTOBER: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



OCTOBER: MONTH OF RESISTANCE TO MASS INCARCERATION & POLICE VIOLENCE

Who is Marissa Alexander?

Marissa Alexander is a black mother of three from Jacksonville, FL, a loving daughter and sister, and a survivor of domestic violence. Nine days after giving birth to a premature child, her estranged husband attacked her and threatened to kill her. To defend her life, Marissa fired a single warning shot upwards into a wall to halt the attack by her abusive partner.

Facing 60 Years in Prison for Standing Her Ground

Despite the fact that Marissa Alexander caused no injuries and has no previous criminal record, and despite the fact that Florida's self-defense law includes the right to "Stand Your Ground," she was arrested by Jacksonville police and charged with aggravated assault. In 2012, Marissa was found guilty and sentenced to a mandatory 20 years in prison. She successfully appealed the trial in 2013, but State Attorney Angela Corey insists on prosecuting Marissa *again*. Marissa Alexander's new trial is scheduled to begin on December 8, 2014. **If found guilty, Marissa Alexander faces a mandatory sentence of 60 years in prison.**

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Domestic Violence & Mass Incarceration

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and it's also the Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration & Police Violence. **Marissa Alexander's case shows us how these issues are connected.**

The vast majority of people in women's prisons are survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence. Like Marissa, many domestic violence survivors have been imprisoned for defending themselves against their abusers. Raising awareness about domestic violence must include raising awareness about mass incarceration. Resisting mass incarceration and police violence must highlight the specific ways that women, especially black women, are policed and imprisoned, and include the work of developing **real solutions** to ending domestic violence.

FACTS:

- The United States is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons or jails — a 500% increase over the last forty years. (The Sentencing Project, 2014)
- 85-90% of women in prison have a history of being victims of violence prior to their incarceration, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse. (ACLU, 2011)
- Incarcerated domestic violence survivors report engaging in criminalized activity in response to experiences of abuse, the threat of violence, or coercion by a male partner. (Beth Richie, 1996)
- Black women are about three times more likely to die at the hands of a current or ex-partner than members of other racial backgrounds. In 2010, black women were incarcerated at nearly three times the rate of white women. (Violence Policy Center, 2011; The Sentencing Project, 2012)
- In California, a prison study found that 93% of the women who had killed their significant others had been abused by them. That study found that 67% of those women reported that they had been attempting to protect themselves or their children when they wound up killing their partner. (California Sin by Silence Bill, 2012)
- 70% of people in women's prisons are mothers. The number of mothers in prison in the US increased by 122% between 1991 and 2007. (Council on Crime and Justice, 2006; The Sentencing Project, 2009)

Marissa Alexander's Life Matters

Marissa saved her own life four years ago.
Now she needs our help in another fight for her life.

We call on anti-domestic violence advocates, anti-prison/police violence activists, feminists, racial justice organizers, reproductive justice activists, survivors of prison and domestic violence, and all people who believe that #blacklifematters to join the movement to FREE Marissa Alexander!