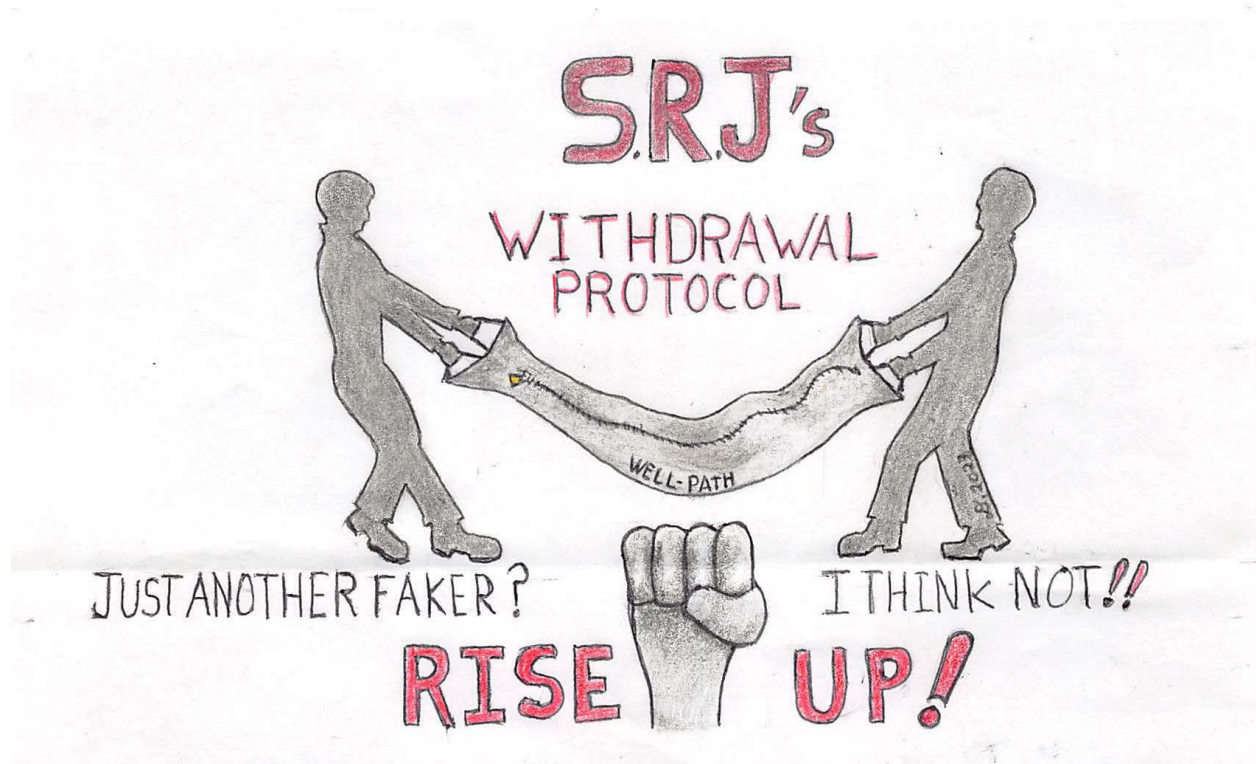


# WITHDRAWAL PROTOCOL

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SANTA RITA JAIL FREEDOM COLLECTIVE

“There’s no question in my mind that rights are never won  
unless people are willing to fight for them”  
~ Eleanor Smeal



Elizabeth Laurel died at the Santa Rita Jail (“SRJ”) on Monday, February 13, 2023. The most recent to die at SRJ was 33-year-old Candice “Cody” Vanburen on February 28, 2023.

I often wonder why there has been so much silence in my former community of activists and freedom fighters. Has everyone become desensitized and accustomed to the regular and constant loss of life at this modern-day gulag?

Or, perhaps, at this moment in time, we are in the calm before the storm?

On Saturday, Elizabeth was arrested on a warrant. She had a history of struggling with substances – you mean to tell me that the deputies had NO IDEA she may be suffering from withdrawal? Former Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern trained his deputies to view these people (like Elizabeth) as “another gamer or faker trying to get drugs.”

The worst symptoms of ‘kicking’ opiates starts within 24 hours. After 48 hours, things start getting extreme; painful cramps, can’t eat, sleep-dehydration gets bad.

By the time Monday came when she could have seen a real doctor, it was too late. The last hours of Elizabeth’s life must have been torture!

I have personally begged and pleaded with Class Counsel attorneys and legal workers from Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld (“RBGG”) to schedule visits at the jail on the weekend at off-peak hours.

I urged them to slide through Intake & Reception (or “ITR”) on Saturday or Sunday at 5 a.m. and ask those in holding cells how long they’ve been there and how they are doing. This has not happened.

U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel Cousins gave out millions of dollars to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Adult Forensic Behavioral Health, and RBGG.

As the deaths of our sisters and brothers continue to pile up at SRJ, the words of civil rights attorney, Yolanda Huang rang absolutely true: What’s going on here is nothing but a “sham” and a “sweetheart dance” between those violators of the public’s trust who occupy the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and these modern-day snake oil salespeople who work at SRJ. We’ve been sold a “bill of goods.”

The arms-length approach being utilized by the so-called expert monitors in the Babu case, has been an utter failure. Those with serious mental illness and disabilities have no true advocate.

This is not to say that Class Counsel is not representing any of the Plaintiffs' interests. However, their representation needs to rise to the level of a true advocate for the Plaintiffs. Because they are being paid by the Defendants, and more specifically Alameda County, there appears to be a conflict of interest, in that their advocacy efforts appear to be limited and not a lot of push back when severe issues arise. In making this statement, there is also the roadblock of the Stipulated Protection Order (Babu Docket #30) which protects Alameda County and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office from producing specific requested documents and recordings relating to grievances of civil and constitutional rights. This Stipulated Protective Order was also agreed to by the DOJ.

Thus far, the U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division which appointed a special team (Alameda Team) to investigate the abuses of civil and constitutional rights violations at SRJ have done nothing more than sat on their hands.

The FBI ain't coming to save us. We must unite against these oppressors and save ourselves.

There were two prisoner deaths toward the end of October 2022. In January 2023, Stephen Lofton died here and just a few weeks later Elizabeth was found unresponsive in a cell.

If you can't prove via a legal prescription that you should receive Methadone or another medication that will help you cope with withdrawal symptoms, you will get no help at SRJ.

Our last hope is newly-elected Alameda County District Attorney, Pamela Price and her newly-formed Public Accountability Unit.

I am pleading with our free world allies and friends to assemble in front of Pamela Price's office ASAP. We need Pamela Price to come and kick in the doors at SRJ and force some "act right" out of these deputies.

Since the decision by the court to implement the Babu Consent Decree, it has only been attorney Yolanda Huang and maybe one or

two others that have not abandoned us and consistently fight these oppressors on our behalf.

My advocate friend, Gale Sanders of Destination Freedom, was talking about the FBI's civil rights division investigating two deaths at Harris County Jail in Houston, Texas.

Including 2018, there have been 32 deaths at SRJ (which includes the 4 deaths so far in 2023 - [https://www.independentnews.com/news/regional\\_and\\_ca/fourth-inmate-dies-while-in-custody-at-santa-rita-jail/article\\_1fa8307c-bdc5-11ed-8959-07b61e42c4e0.html](https://www.independentnews.com/news/regional_and_ca/fourth-inmate-dies-while-in-custody-at-santa-rita-jail/article_1fa8307c-bdc5-11ed-8959-07b61e42c4e0.html)).

Gale and I are sick of the games being played by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

In the spirit of our beautiful anarchist sister, Jen Angel, we at SRJ Freedom Collective beg the following organizations to rise up now in solidarity in order to collectively call for a stop to the neglect and abuse which is literally and figuratively killing our spirit and bodies at SRJ.

Here is a list of the original OBJECTORS to the Babu Consent Decree:

- Critical Resistance Legal Services for prisoners with children;
- National Alliance on Mental Illness;
- Anti-Police Terror Project;
- Faith in Action;
- National Lawyers Guild;
- Psychologists for Social Responsibility; and
- Alameda County Families Advocating for the Seriously Mentally Ill.

One thing that has been missing from the SRJ is meaningful oversight. With that in mind, I'd like to end this piece with quote from an excerpt of an article written by an East Bay Times journalist named Robert Salonga:

“A corrupt accountability system leads to serious undermining of trust within an organization that leads to decreased moral and a lack of respect for leaders and command. And when the public learns that an agency has two systems of accountability depending on relationships and political support, it further undermines trust in law enforcement and its ability to police itself.”

Once again, we plead with all of you and request that you forgive us for any real or perceived wrongs done in the past.

Sisters and brothers, for those who have an ear, let them hear. Our battle cry shall be “CARE, NOT DEATH.” Please amplify our voice and our struggle.

**WE ARE THE SANTA RITA JAIL FREEDOM COLLECTIVE!**