

# FREE BATTERED WOMEN

Working for Justice and Freedom for Incarcerated Survivors of Domestic Violence

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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## BATTERED WOMEN RELEASED FROM STATE PRISON CELEBRATE THEIR FREEDOM

### Domestic Violence Survivors Who Have Served Decades in Prison Fight for Other Survivors' Release

Seventeen battered women who have been released from California's state prisons are holding a community event to celebrate their freedom and to call for the release of others who remain in prison. The women served between three and 28 years in prison, the majority for killing abusive partners when defending themselves or their children from ongoing violence and abuse.

Most of the women served life sentences and were released on parole by Governor Schwarzenegger and the parole board. Others were freed after successfully challenging their convictions in court under a unique California law that allows domestic violence survivors to petition for new trials if they did not have expert testimony on battering and its effects when their cases originally were prosecuted.

**WHO:** Free Battered Women (a statewide advocacy organization that works for justice and freedom for incarcerated domestic violence survivors), formerly incarcerated survivors of domestic violence, family members of former prisoners, attorneys, and others who have worked for their freedom.

**WHAT:** A community event, *Our Voices Within*, which uses visual art, music, dance, and testimonies to celebrate the freedom of domestic violence survivors released from prison and call for other survivors' release. The program features art and crafts by currently incarcerated battered women.

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Doors open at 1:30pm for media and at 2:00pm for the public. The program is from 2:30 – 5:00pm.

**WHERE:** Humanist Hall, 390 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street (between Telegraph & Broadway), Oakland, CA.

**WHY:** The majority of women in prison experienced domestic violence before going to prison, and many are serving life sentences for crimes directly relating to their experiences of abuse. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, *Our Voices Within* educates the public about the experiences of battered women in prison and calls for their release.

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