

Updates for September 27th

7 Sept - Grand Jury Resister Jordan Halliday's Appeal Date Set

Jordan's appeal will be argued orally at 9:00am on November 15th, 2011 at Byron White United States Courthouse in Colorado before 10th circuit court of appeals.

8 Sept - Imprisonment of Leonard Peltier in new UN Human Rights Council report

A new report to the UN Human Rights Council from Special Rapporteur James Anaya states that imprisoned Indian activist Leonard Peltier is in poor health and placed in substandard conditions in the maximum security prison in Lewisburg, Penn.

MORE:

The United Nations human rights report focuses on abuses of indigenous peoples around the world, including the threats to the safety of individuals and dangers to the land and environment of indigenous peoples.

Anaya's report states that Peltier, an indigenous activist serving life sentence, suffers from severe health problems.

"According to the information received, Mr. Leonard Peltier, aged 66, an indigenous Anishinabe/Lakota activist, had been serving two life sentences in a United States federal prison, after being convicted in 1977 for the murder of two FBI agents. Over the years, Mr. Peltier has maintained his innocence, asserting that he was politically persecuted for his activities as a member of the American Indian Movement. Mr. Peltier reportedly suffers from severe health problems that require urgent and immediate medical treatment. In addition to his health situation, Mr. Peltier reportedly lives in substandard conditions at the maximum security prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The Lewisburg prison is allegedly known for violence among inmates," according to the statement dated July 2, 2011.

In the US, the report includes the plan to violate sacred San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, Arizona, with snow made from wastewater. The report also includes the case of the need to protect sacred Sogorea Te (Glen Cove in Calif.)

The international cases of human rights abuses in Anaya's August report include the Wixarika (Huicholes) in Mexico struggling to protect their sacred lands from mining, along with cases from indigenous peoples in Guatemala, Chile, Israel, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Malaysia and Thailand.

The UN Human Rights Council report was issued as protests increased against the tar sands in the US and Canada, with 1, 252 arrests at the White House during the past two weeks."

According to the information received, the TransCanada Corporation has obtained permission from the Alberta Utilities Commission to build the pipeline, in the absence of the Lubicon Lake Nation's consent or recognition of the Nation's asserted rights of the area. This has also been carried out in the absence of adequate consideration to the Lubicon's concerns over the health, safety and environmental impacts of the project. In addition, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern over allegations about the broader issues of the land rights and social and economic conditions of the Lubicon people," Anaya said.

9 Sept – Help Richmond, Virginia Anarchist Jeremy

On September 2nd, Richmond Anarchist Jeremy Hawthorne was arrested at the end of a night of Copwatching by the VCU and Richmond Police. He has since been charged with Felony Destruction of State Property worth more than 1,000 for allegedly cutting the tires on VCU cop cars and other vehicles. More information about that night and arrest can be found online at www.wingnutrva.org

MORE:

After the arraignment on the morning of Tuesday, September 6th (to which several people from the city showed up in solidarity), Jeremy was released on a \$5000 noncommittal bond, and a court case was set for September 27th, at 11 AM. We encourage anyone and everyone who takes umbrage with not only VCU Police, but all police everywhere, to show up to this and any subsequent court cases Jeremy might have to endure. These charges are publicly about a few car tires, but privately there is a deeper trend of police oppression at work. We believe that this trend must be brought to light, and must be talked about openly among all communities in this city, not just those with an anarchist message.

Jeremy is currently exploring other avenues of legal help, and has a couple good leads, but unfortunately a good lawyer for a serious charge is almost never cheap. Jeremy has requested any form of support that interested or sympathetic parties might be willing to donate, be it spreading the word about the case in your home town, sending a kind word or relevant literature to the Wingnut, and of course monetary donations towards legal fees would be greatly appreciated as well (we have a convenient PayPal button on the website... if you tell us exactly where you want your donation to be used, we will make sure it is allocated accordingly.)

11 Sept – “The World Weeps” by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We've pasted Mumia's September 11th column below:

As the U.S. performed its semi-religious rites in memory of 9/11, it does so with little real question of why 9/11 happened--at least among average Americans.

For they have been ill-served by the media, primary educational systems and even many universities, which teaches approved lessons designed to instill and reinforce U.S. nationalism, while turning a blind eye to the real American history of the CIA and the military as it wreaks sheer havoc abroad.

For while these agencies often engage in secret carnage, their attacks are seldom secret to those who have borne the brunt of their mega-violence.

For them, for the vast majority of the people in the world, 9/11 sparked an Imperial temper tantrum; wars against nations that had nothing to do with 9/11; wars that have left them shattered-- shadows of their former selves.

Rome called its aggressions against foreign nations "Pax Romana" (Latin for 'the Peace of Rome'), which really meant the destructive peace wrought by the Roman sword.

Scholars today speak of "Pax Americana", which means something quite similar to the Roman version.

War--unrelenting, for empire.

As the Empire spends more and more on war, it closes factories, schools, hospitals and homes (through foreclosures, for example).

All must serve empire.

The nation must sacrifice itself to such an infernal dream.

While the rest of the world weeps.

12 Sept - New Eric McDavid T-Shirts are Available

We just wanted to let you know that new Support Eric shirts are now available for purchase online at:

<http://plpress.bigcartel.com/product/support-eric-mcdavid-t-shirt>

14 Sept – Former AETA 4 Defendant Joseph Buddenberg Arrested

Joseph Buddenberg, a former [AETA 4](#) defendant, was arrested on September 14th in Santa Cruz for alleged burglary. It is unclear whether the alleged crime is related to his activism. As of 11:30am, September 15th, Joseph has been released on bail. We'll update as appropriate.

14 Sept - Animal-Rights Activist Arrested at Gunpoint at Marine Center in Florida

While allegedly taking pictures of the Marine Mammal Conservancy, Chris Lagergren was held at gunpoint by an off duty cop, eventually being arrested. Chris posted bond and has been released from jail. He is currently trying to raise money for an attorney. We've pasted a corporate media story and then one with more accurate analysis and insight into the actual police reports.

From Corporate Media:

A Miami police officer arrested animal rights activist Arnold Christopher Lagergren, 41 outside the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Florida on Saturday. The off-duty officer detained Lagergren at gunpoint after phone calls to police accused the man of taking pictures of the facility and tampering with a fence along the property.

Lagergren is charged with four misdemeanors for incidents at the marine center. Police reports accuse Lagergren of affiliation with the Animal Liberation Front.

The Marine Mammal Conservancy treats stranded dolphins and whales. The organization has come under criticism for turning two stranded pilot whales over to Sea World back in May.

Monroe County Court Judge Regan Ptomey set bonds totaling \$30,000 on the four charges, according to court records.

"This is a very politically charged situation, obviously," said Richard Wunsch, Lagergren's defense attorney.

"It does raise concerns," Wunsch said. "Anybody would wonder how you get hit with a \$30,000 bond on four misdemeanors..."

Animal rights groups [have criticized](#) Sea World for its part in the captive whale and dolphin entertainment industry. The for-profit animal amusement park has been cited for abuses of captive animals at its facilities.

New Information + Police Report:

Some new information is coming out about the allegations against the man arrested on vandalism and trespassing charges at the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Florida. News reports have been vague, but have indicated that Chris Lagergren was arrested tampering with a fence in an attempt to free a captive whale. The [police report](#) sheds more light on the allegations, which include, among other things:

*The FBI alerted local police that Langraam was in town, was "affiliated" with the Animal Liberation Front, and was going to "attempt to release any caged animals/mammals into their natural habitat".

*Police had observed Lagergren "for the past two weeks standing on the Hampton Inn property, video taping the Marine Mammal property and its staff".

*Lagergren and another unidentified male were observed by police vandalizing the whale holding area by "damaging and taking apart the fence which was in the water. The males pulled several PVC pipes and metal rebars out of the water and threw them on the rocks, causing damage to the pieces. Their intentions were to make a hole in the gate to the fenced area".

The full text of the [police report](#) reads as follows:

“On 08-21-2011 at approximately 0416 hours, I responded to the Marine Mammal Conservancy located at 102200 Overseas Highway in Key Largo, Florida in reference to a criminal mischief.

I met with complainant, R.Lingenfelter who stated the following: On today’s date at approximately 0200 hours, he was working at the Marine Mammal Conservancy. His position is the director of stranding operations and helps rehabilitate injured mammals so they can be released back into their respective habitat. Currently, him and his team of volunteers are rehabilitating a 1,100 pound whale which was stranded months ago. He stated every morning, he redirects the whale from the holding area, to the rehabilitation area. These areas are part of the Florida Bay, however they are sectioned off with gates and cages to keep unwanted animals/mammals out. R.Lingenfelter walked over to the rehabilitation area at approximately 0200 hours to get the area ready. He observed two white males on the rocks by the Hampton Inn. The males were damaging and taking apart the fence which was in the water. The males pulled several PVC pipes and metal rebars out of the water and threw them on the rocks, causing damage to the pieces. Their intentions were to make a hole in the gate to the fenced area. The two males saw R.Lingenfelter after pulling up approximately 10 pieces of the gate, and fled the scene on foot.

R.Lingenfelter stated prior to the males running away towards the Hampton Inn, he recognized one of them to be “Chris Langraun”, a late 20’s early 30’s year old white male. R.Lingenfelter told me he was provided a picture of this male by an F.B.I. agent a short time ago. The F.B.I. agent told him that Chris is affiliated with the animal rights group, “A.L.F.”. He further stated that Chris is in town and is going to attempt to release any caged animals/mammals into their natural habitat.

R.Lingenfelter stated he has seen Chris for the past two weeks standing on the Hampton Inn property, video taping the Marine Mammal property and its staff. From the Marine Mammal Conservancy property, it is divided from the Hampton Inn by the rehabilitation area and mangroves. R.Lingenfelter stated, Chris’ intentions were to release the whale from the area, only he didn’t know the whale was not there yet.

R.Lingenfelter was unsure of the spelling of Chris’s last name, therefore I was unable to locate his information through various investigative programs such as D.A.V.I.D. or MCSO MNI. I conducted a canvas of the Hampton Inn and surrounding area and was unable to locate the two males described to me as follows:

Chris Langraun – white – male – late 20’s early 30’s – thing build – brown hair – 5’10” – 160 lbs. – blue jeans and a t-shirt

unknown male – white – male – 20’s – black shoulder length hair – 5’10” – 170lbs. – “Gothic looking”.

No further information at this time.

On 08-25-2011 at approximately 2130 hours, I met with Sgt. J.Ortiz (Miami police department) at the marine mammal conservancy in reference to a followup on the original complaint of trespassing and criminal mischief. Sgt. Ortiz stated he volunteers at the marine mammal conservancy regularly. He told me that for the past several weeks, other volunteers including the original complainant R.Lingenfelter, had numerous negative encounters with Chris on their property. Sgt. Ortiz provided me with the correct spelling of Chris’s last name as well as his true and full name. He stated that he goes by his middle name Christopher. His true name is Arnold Christopher Lagergren, date of birth 08-21-1970.

A records check confirms Arnold Christopher Lagergren is a resident of south Florida (1800 North Bayshore Drive #1502, Miami Florida 33132). It also confirms a criminal history which includes prior convictions of burglary, criminal mischief and larceny.

Sgt. Ortiz provided me with a photograph taken by a volunteer a few weeks ago of Arnold Christopher Lagergren on the Hampton Inn property while holding a camera near the Marine Mammal Conservancy property. He also provided me with a photograph taken on the same day of Arnold Christopher Lagergren

leaving from the Hampton Inn parking lot in his dark colored Ford Mustang bearing Florida tag "PBZ5T". A records check confirms he is the sole registrant of this vehicle.

R.Lingenfelter stated Arnold Christopher Lagergren has been told several times over the past few weeks to leave the property and most of the representatives have knowledge of, and could identify him. Most of the times he refused to leave, however volunteers did not call the police.

Based on updated information on true name of suspect Arnold Christopher Lagergren, as well as witness statements obtained by this officer, I am submitting arrest warrants for one count of trespass on property other than structure/conveyance F.S.S. 810.09 and one count of criminal mischief more than \$200 but less than \$1,000(actual damage \$500) F.S.S. 806.13.

All statements and two photographs were turned in with a copy of this report at Monroe County Sheriff's Office."

15 Sept – Leonard Peltier moved to Coleman, Florida

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Leonard Peltier has been moved from Oklahoma City to the U.S. Penitentiary at Coleman, Florida. The United States Penitentiary I in Coleman is a high security facility located in central Florida approximately 50 miles northwest of Orlando, 60 miles northeast of Tampa, and 35 miles south of Ocala. This is nearly 2,000 miles from Leonard's Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, in North Dakota.

Leonard's new address is:

Leonard Peltier #89637-132
USP Coleman I
Post Office Box 1033
Coleman, Florida 33521

Tell the Federal Bureau of Prisons that the only acceptable transfer is one to a medium security facility in close proximity to (within a 500-mile radius of) his family and Nation. Ideally, Leonard should be moved to the medium security facility at Oxford, Wisconsin.

Dr. Thomas Kane, Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
320 1st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534
Phone: (202) 307-3250 (Director); (202) 307-3198 (Switchboard)
Fax: (202) 514-6620

15 Sept – Anti-Police Demonstrator Amelia Nicol's Final Charges Dismissed!

Thursday September 15th, Amelia was scheduled for a discovery hearing for her ongoing legal case. To the surprise of everyone in attendance, the hearing did not take place as scheduled. Instead the prosecution filed a motion for dismissal of the remaining charges, citing the fear that not enough evidence existed to win a trial. Amelia's charges were dismissed by the judge, her bond released, and the possibility of prison time lifted from her head.

16 Sept - René González Motion to Return to Cuba Denied

Cuban Five political prisoner René González was denied a motion that sought to modify the conditions of his supervised release such that he be permitted to travel to and reside in Cuba, rather than serve his term (3 years) of supervised release in the United States after his release from prison next October 7.

MORE:

The Judge found that Defendant's Motion is premature because a term of supervised release does not commence until an individual is "released from imprisonment", and some amount of time on supervised release needs to pass before the Court is able to properly evaluate the characteristics of the defendant once he or she has been released from prison.

20 Sept – Protesters Violently Arrested at Occupy Wall Street

Eye-witnesses are claiming police brutality accompanied three arrests in New York City's Zuccotti Park. NYPD sought to tear down tents and stop Livestream. Since then, there have been over ninety arrests, including those of close comrades at a Troy Davis solidarity march on September 23rd. We're pasting in several updates below.

MORE:

Watched in real time by an international audience, New York's police officers moved in on Zuccotti Park. It was 7.20am, on September 20th 2011, and a light rain was falling over the 200-300 people camping out there. They had been there for four days, as part of the [Occupy Wall Street protest](#). What began as a request from police, to remove tents and tarpaulin, ended in seven arrests. Onlookers claimed these were too violent.

The Global Revolution Livestream captured much of the incident, channeling the [footage in real time](#) to its 3000 plus viewers. In addition, some protesters were filming the arrests, then they uploaded their videos onto YouTube.

Why Were People Arrested in New York City's Zuccotti Park?

The Occupy Wall Street protesters had erected tents and draped tarpaulin over themselves and their supplies. Of particular concern was the food, water and electrical equipment, which could have been damaged in the rain. A police officer gave them five minutes to remove these covers, complaining that they constituted illegal structures. An on-site legal advisor informed demonstrators that this was only true of shelters which were attached to the trees. Police also demanded that signs be taken down.

An impromptu General Assembly was held, involving a straw poll on whether to co-operate with police on this matter. But while that was happening, other protesters were already removing the offending tents and tarpaulin. As the speaker recommended that anyone not wishing to comply leave up their shelter, in an act of civil disobedience, he became the first to be arrested.

Onlookers chanted, "The whole world is watching", then, as the tussling started, the message changed. Committed to a peaceful demonstration, protesters gave peace signs and spoke in unison, "Courtesy, professionalism and respect." The tents and tarpaulin were all taken by officers.

Was Police Brutality in Evidence As Protesters Were Arrested on September 20th 2011?

Protester Jason Ahmadi was filmed being dragged by his feet across the pavement by uniformed officers. His head was protected by his rucksack, which had been thrown upwards by the force of inertia. But his hands were cuffed behind him and they were shown grazed and bleeding by the camera. That wasn't the only problem. His face was ashen, but his one hand was growing purple, as the handcuffs cut too tightly.

"I could really do with some new cuffs here." He told anyone who would listen. "My hands hurt. I can't move my hands." Fellow protesters tried to intercede on his behalf, calling out to NYPD officers to loosen or change the handcuffs. They were still saying it as he was hoisted between two policemen and dragged, his legs sliding across the tarmac, into the van.

Asthma Sufferer Screams 'I Can't Breathe!' As Police Arrest Him

Meanwhile the camera had been distracted to the desperate cries of another, unnamed boy. He had been sitting on the tarpaulin, which covered the media equipment - the cameras and video equipment, which were used to

send footage to the Livestream. A single police officer stepped towards him and he flinched away. Suddenly another six officers were grabbing and pulling him off the blue sheet. He started to struggle, but it wasn't merely another person resisting arrest. He was suffering an asthma attack.

Mary-Ann McSherry rushed to help him, but was arrested herself. Meanwhile his voice held a tone of panicked hysteria, "I can't breathe! I can't breathe! I'm having an asthma attack!" Each sentence was punctuated by gasps. "I need my inhaler!" He was wrestled to the ground and two officers are clearly seen on film pressing down upon him.

In the crowds around, voices were raised in protest. "You're killing him!" Shrieked one, while an incredulous man demanded, "Is this why you wanted to wear a badge? To deny a kid his inhaler? Is it?" A police officer assured onlookers that the boy would get his medication, as he joined colleagues in attempting to clear a space. A moment later, the boy was handcuffed and then came the call for his inhaler from an unidentified woman kneeling beside him. He was shown fervently catching his breath, sitting on the pavement, before being taken into the police van.

What was the Response of Police to the Accusations of Protesters in New York?

A spokesperson for NYPD commented that only one of those arrested required medical treatment. This was a minor leg injury, sustained while he allegedly resisted arrest. He was treated by paramedics at the police station. There was no comment upon the condition of the others. Meanwhile, OccupyWallStNYC Tweeted that their information was that an arrestee had been transferred to hospital.

The police spokesperson added that most of those arrested had been given a court summons for disorderly conduct, then released.

These arrests followed police action, on the evening of September 19th 2011, wherein the gas supplies and generator were confiscated. These had been used to power equipment used in transmitting film footage to the Global Revolution Livestream. The news scrollbar, on the stream, also stated that food deliveries had been denied access to the site.

22 Sept - FBI Arrests Suspected LulzSec Members For Sony, PayPal Hacks

On Thursday, September 22nd, The FBI arrested three suspected members of the hacker group LulzSec in connection with cyber attacks earlier this year against the computer systems of Sony Pictures and PayPal. There are not a lot of details, so we've pasted an article from the corporate media:

MORE:

Cody Kretsinger, 23, of Phoenix, was arrested and charged with helping LulzSec attack Sony's servers between May 27 and June 2. The group's hack [compromised the personal data belonging to one million Sony customers](#), which the group then posted online.

Also on Thursday, the FBI arrested two other men with suspected ties to the hacker group Anonymous for allegedly crashing a county-run website in California, authorities said.

The arrests were the latest in an ongoing effort by authorities to crackdown on the hacker groups who have exposed widespread security lapses in government and corporate computer systems. In July, authorities [arrested 14 suspected members of Anonymous](#) for allegedly bringing down PayPal's website over four days in retaliation for the company suspending payments to the whistle-blower site Wikileaks.

In June, British authorities [arrested Ryan Cleary](#), 19, for his suspected involvement in a cyberattack by LulzSec on the CIA website. He was charged with building a botnet, or a network of remotely-controlled computers to overwhelm websites with traffic.

Authorities say Kretsinger, also known by the online nickname “recursion,” is believed to be a current or former member of LulzSec, which has also taken credit for hacking the website of PBS. He has been charged with conspiracy and the unauthorized impairment of a protected computer, the FBI said.

To carry out the attack, Kretsinger allegedly used a proxy server to disguise his computer's IP address, then obtained confidential information from Sony's network using an SQL injection - a technique used by hackers to exploit vulnerabilities and steal information, according to the FBI. The indictment also alleges that, in order to avoid detection by law enforcement, Kretsinger erased the hard drive of the computer he used to conduct the attack.

Kretsinger was scheduled to appear Thursday before a federal magistrate in U.S. District Court in Phoenix. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Meanwhile on Thursday, authorities also charged Christopher Doyon, 47, of Mountain View, Calif., and Joshua John Covelli, 26, of Fairborn, Ohio, with bringing down the website of Santa Cruz County last December. Doyon and Covelli were allegedly assisting the People's Liberation Front, which has been associated with Anonymous, in a denial of service attack, which floods a website with so much traffic that it crashes, authorities said.

The attack, which was nicknamed “Operation Peace Camp 2010,” was in retaliation for the Santa Cruz police [cracking down on a protest last summer outside the county courthouse](#). The protesters were supporting the homeless and hoping to ban a city ordinance that prohibited camping within city limits, according to the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. Several protesters were charged with misdemeanors during the protest, including Doyon, the paper reported.

For the attack against the county's website, Doyon and Covelli were charged with conspiracy to cause intentional damage to a protected computer, causing intentional damage to a protected computer, and aiding and abetting, authorities said. They both face a maximum of 15 years in prison.

Covelli has also been charged with participating in a cyberattack that brought down the PayPal website last December, authorities said.

23 Sept – Irvine Eleven Convicted of Disrupting Speech

Ten Muslim college students from Southern California who, with one additional student, are collectively known as the Irvine 11, were convicted on September 23rd of unlawfully disrupting a speech by Israel's ambassador to the United States last year. This conviction puts in stark relief the illusion of free speech in the United States. We've included a corporate news piece and analysis from a “progressive” weekly newspaper.

MORE:

The verdict followed two full days of deliberations by a six-man, six-woman jury in the so-called "Irvine 11" case, which touched off a furor over free speech rights at the University of California at Irvine.

Spectators began wailing in the packed courtroom in Santa Ana, California when the verdicts were read by a court clerk, and about 50 people left the courtroom visibly upset.

The defendants, who are all in their early twenties, were convicted of one count each of conspiracy and disturbing an assembly and could face jail terms of up to a year, probation or community service at sentencing.

Charges have been tentatively dismissed against the 11th defendant.

"We're going to continue fighting this. We're going to appeal this decision," supporter Marya Bangee, 25, told Reuters outside the court.

"These men to us represent our struggle for civil rights in this country and for them to be found guilty and sentenced for speaking their minds is devastating for us all," Bangee said.

The case stems from a protest organized by the Muslim Student Union at the university of a February 8, 2010 speech there by Michael Oren, the Israeli ambassador to the United States.

Prosecutors say the students interrupted his appearance by yelling such insults as, "It's a shame this university has sponsored a mass murderer like yourself."

The Orange County District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting the case, has said the students -- rather than exercising their own free-speech rights -- were interfering with the right of Oren to be heard.

But the charges against the students drew an outcry from civil liberties advocates and Southern California's Muslim community, who say the students were unfairly singled out for prosecution even though similar protests are common at universities and do not result in prosecution.

Erwin Chemerinsky, the dean of the law school at UC Irvine, has also criticized the criminal charges as heavy-handed.

The Muslim Student Union was suspended by the university for an academic quarter and put on probation for two years.

Who's Gagging Whom In the Irvine 11 Case?

The First Amendment, academic freedom and Islamophobia collide in an OC courtroom

In her closing arguments for what has come to be known as the Irvine 11 case, defense attorney Reem Salahi offered a personal story. Displayed on the projection screen was a black-and-white photograph of a man with his mouth taped shut.

"I talked to my cousin in Syria," she began. Before she could go any further, however, the prosecution objected, saying the tale didn't relate to evidence in the case. Judge Peter Wilson agreed.

"Well," Salahi said. "I guess I can't tell you my story. I got shut down."

The packed courtroom exploded with laughter and cheers. After the jurors stepped out, the judge admonished the crowd for its outburst. "This is a court of law," Wilson said sternly. "It is not a spectator sport."

The irony was not lost on anyone. A decision would soon arrive in the historic Irvine 11 trial, one that has ignited an unusual debate over First Amendment rights at public events.

The case centers on an incident during a Feb. 8, 2010, speech by Israeli ambassador Michael Oren at and sponsored by UC Irvine. Members of the Muslim Student Union (MSU) stood up and shouted scripted messages relating to the 2009 attack on the Gaza Strip—such as "You, sir, are an accomplice to genocide!" and "Murder is not free speech!"—before being escorted out by police. The university suspended the MSU and ordered the group to collectively complete 100 hours of community service.

A year after the protest, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas filed criminal misdemeanor charges against 11 students, eight from UCI and three from UC Riverside, who became known as the Irvine 11. The 10 current defendants are Mohamad Mohy-Eldeen Abdelgany, Khalid Gahgat Akari, Aslam Abbasi Akhtar, Joseph Tamim Haider, Taher Mutaz Herzallah, Shaheen Waleed Nassar, Mohammad Uns Qureashi, Ali Mohammad Sayeed, Osama Ahmen Shabaik and Asaad Mohamedidris Traina. (Charges against Hakim Nasreddine Kebir will be dropped if he completes 40 hours of community service by next month.) "In our democratic society, we cannot tolerate a deliberate, organized, repetitive and collective effort to significantly disrupt a speaker, whom hundreds assembled to hear," Rackauckas said in a statement.

The students are charged with disturbing a public meeting and engaging in a conspiracy to do so. If convicted, each faces up to a year in jail.

The defendants, silenced by a gag order, are at the center of a political maelstrom, as people around the country watch YouTube videos of the demonstration. They've been called martyrs, bravely speaking out against injustice in the Middle East. They've been called pawns in a trial brought on for political gain. They've been called thugs, unwilling to engage in civil dialogue and very willing to squelch dissent at any cost.

But lead prosecutor Dan Wagner called them "guilty," writing the word on an easel pad in bold red letters.

"Who is the censor in this case?" he asked the jurors. "Right there—10 of them."

He added, "Free speech is not absolute. It does not include the right to suppress or cancel another person's right to free speech. If it did, then no one would have the right to free speech."

In his prosecution, Wagner tried to prove the defendants "willfully disturbed" a lawful meeting by presenting a series of emails that were sent in the days leading up to the protest. Obtained from Google by search warrant, the messages discussed plans for a disruption similar to a 2009 incident at the University of Chicago, where about 30 demonstrators stood up in the crowd, one by one, to protest a lecture being given by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

One email contained the minutes from an MSU meeting, which stated that the goal of the protest was to "send the speaker a message" and show him that "he can't just go to a campus and say whatever he wants." Included were plans to "disrupt the whole event" and "shut down with individual disruption."

Rabbi David Eliezrie, president of the Rabbinical Council of Orange County, sat in the courtroom in support of the prosecution. He attended Oren's speech last year and described the disruptions as "frightening for anyone who believes in the Constitution."

"If they wanted to go outside and walk around with signs, that's their right," he told the *Weekly*. As for the way the students protested, he called it "everything just short of violence."

Wagner included as evidence several warnings and scoldings from UCI Chancellor Michael Drake and professor Mark Petracca throughout the event.

The defense, in turn, tried to get jurors to look at the incident in the greater context. "College students protest," said attorney Jacqueline Goodman in her closing arguments. "Protest is messy, but it's beautiful. This is how democracy survives."

During the trial, attorney Lisa Holder explained the students were speaking out against violence, that they "modeled their behavior after revered leaders they had studied at UC Irvine," including Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. The defense team had brought in several witnesses who had experienced student protests, all of which ended without arrests or sanctions. Goodman projected a photograph of Representative Joe Wilson and his infamous "You lie!" in reference to his outburst during President Barack Obama's September 2009 health-care address. She compared the disruptions by the defendants to comedy-club heckling: "Rude, not illegal."

Both Wagner and defense attorneys showed conflicting pie charts breaking down how much time Oren actually had to speak after disruptions by the protesters, subsequent cheering and jeering, plus remarks by university officials were subtracted.

Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, called the trial "political theatrics."

"When dissent is questioned in a court of law, one may argue it's the beginning of the death of democracy," he said.

Throughout the trial, the elephant in the courtroom has been Islamophobia, an issue that many Irvine 11 supporters have raised because the incident took place on a campus with a history of tensions over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as because the students are Muslim.

"If these kids had been Christian or Jewish, we wouldn't be sitting here," said Hussan Ayloush, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Los Angeles, in an interview. "There's some political gain for the persecution of Muslims, especially in right-wing circles."

The courtroom audience overwhelmingly consisted of Irvine 11 family members and supporters. During breaks, a few women in multihued hijabs would kneel down in the corner of the hallway, then start bowing and murmuring prayers.

Kifah Shah, spokesperson for the Stand With the Eleven Campaign, warned them to not do so. "Go pray outside," she said.

Shah has said that in pursuing this case, the district attorney's office has "set a very dangerous precedent of stifling critical discourse across college campuses." Hassun Chaudhry, a UC Irvine alum and friend of the defendants, agrees, believing the prosecution of the Irvine 11 may send an open invitation to the government to selectively quell dissent.

"They're using the anti-Muslim sentiment to get people to fight these kids' liberties, and then they can use this case to trump other liberties," he said. "It can be used against environmental groups or people who are anti-corporation. It's just gonna bite everyone in the ass."

23 Sept – New Orleans - First Person Sentenced to Jail Time Over Krewe of Eris Arrests

The charges against Willy Watkins were ludicrous, and fortunately there was clear video evidence showing Willy's arrest-- showing that at no time was he anywhere near the officer whom he's alleged to have shoved, a shove that was the basis for all three of the charges he faced -- battery of a police officer, simple criminal damage, and resisting arrest. Unfortunately, Willy got a bad judge and the lack of evidence did not matter. The judge rolled her eyes and looked away in boredom-- closed her eyes, even, during the presentation of evidence. She sneered at Willy, berated his lawyers, and huffed in impatient adolescent exasperation at each motion or objection from the defense. As soon as protocol permitted, she declared Willy summarily guilty on all three counts. Willy, with a clean record, was sentenced to 45 days in jail for three bullshit misdemeanors. Tonight, we're sending him a card.

MORE:

On March 6th, 2011, a second-line parade, marching under the banner Krewe of Eris, took to the streets of New Orleans. An unpermitted march, it was set upon by the New Orleans Police Department shortly after it ventured away from Bourbon Street. Cops badly beat several revelers and ultimately made a dozen arrests.

For Willy, the lawyer presented the case well, and then NOPD took the stand and contradicted themselves and each other and their own written reports, and the video showed it all unambiguously, and the lawyers summed everything up in their closing arguments.

The lawyers pleaded for clemency in sentencing, citing Willy's clean record, and the judge shouted at them some more and bared her teeth like a cornered possum and gave Willy 45 days in the House of Detention for his three bullshit misdemeanors. He was cuffed right where he sat, his lawyer was given the chance to take off Willy's bowtie and empty Willy's pockets, and then we were all kicked out the courtroom, just because, and Willy went in shackles down the back stairway to the prison bus with all the other poor orange-jumpsuited bastards who had the misfortune to be in Judge Robin Pittman's courtroom that day.

I know we all know the system is fucked, it's unfair, etc., but I really do need to specially mention that Robin Pittman is vile and literally, medically, provably insane. She is not just a "mean judge," she is a mean judge who is off her rocker. Her jaw-dropping displays of viciousness, paranoia and immaturity, her talking on her cell phone and reading her bible during trials, her ugly, unprovoked and unprofessional insults towards the defense (not just Willy's, everyone's) and above all her histrionic savagery towards the human wreckage dragged before her in chains daily make Pittman not merely a bad judge, but a sad, bad, mad judge, the most pathetic and repugnant specimen among the whole twisted pantheon... the unhinged and monstrous Queen of Hearts holding forth in her bizarre, Kafka-like crawlspace courtroom, a "blind and aimless Fury" ruling the rafters of our criminal courthouse's nightmarish Wonderland.

So that's Pittman, and that's why Willy is in prison right now. I can't speak for Willy, but I would rather do 45 days in prison than have to spend a single day inside Judge Pittman's head. Being her is a terrible punishment, and it's HD video crystal-clear how deeply unhappy she is. She is not the smug patrician haughtily handing out hell, she is the deranged sufferer, the clawing ravening sufferer who is frenziedly punishing the rest of the world with every drop of power she's permitted. I don't believe in karma, but I do believe we have the means to make ourselves miserable, and Pittman is a horrifying living example of that-- raving and grimacing, shrieking and glowering, embarrassing and delegitimizing not only herself but any system that would make her its representative.

There is a great deal to be said about this whole Eris debacle, and how it's been handled (or not handled). I personally feel there is enormous and genuine goodwill towards the arrestees from the community at large, goodwill that has gone frustratingly untapped. There have been so many missed opportunities, to get help, to tell the paraders' side of things, to form alliances with the street musicians and Mardi Gras Indians and others who've been fighting this same battle for far longer. People WANT to help, people WANT to know what's going on, but they haven't been given the means, which compounds everyone's alienation... the result is the disempowering sense of being stuck outside a tragedy, unable to be of use. But that is a different topic.

Let's help Willy!

This sweet young man, a homeowner from Missouri who visited us for Carnival, who dressed as Peter Pan for Eris and doesn't have a mean bone in his body, has been absolutely screwed over by our system. He's certainly a lesser victim compared to the lives our justice system grinds up and throws away daily, but he's still a victim, and he's one I've gotten to know and like. He wasn't one of the "bad elements" using soap to draw penises on cars; he was just in the wrong place in the wrong time, and, as shown in the video, did nothing worse than turn and face one of the police officers attacking the crowd. For that, he was tackled, stomped, tazed, and falsely charged. Yes, he was foolish to turn and look at the police when the fleeing crowd had been commanded to face the other direction ("I don't wanna see no faces, I wanna see backs!") but it was only ignorance; he didn't know how our NOPD is.

Anyone who witnessed the quiet dignity, earnest goodwill and courage with which Willy conducted himself in the face of Judge Pittman's violent imprecations and bullying would be moved.

Now Willy's in prison, and will be for some weeks. As a visitor, he doesn't have a lot of close friends here. The House of Detention can be a scary place, and everything scary is worse when you are, or feel, alone.

If you could write him a letter, donate money towards his fines, and/or put some cash in his commissary so he can have an occasional magazine to read or a meal that isn't baloney sandwiches, you would be doing something worthwhile for a guy who needs it.

45 days isn't a long sentence until you're the one serving it, in the round-the-clock deafening, round-the-clock floodlit uniformly hard-surfaced moldering medieval cages of our parish prison, in windowless fluorescent-flickering metal crates where time and the cycles of day or night lose meaning, where there is only one harsh, cacophonously echoing endless eternal now, a blur of unhappy angry people in an untenable and inhuman

situation. Boredom, discomfort, hunger, thirst, heat, cold, fear, uncertainty, exhaustion, and nothing ahead but more of the same. What if they DON'T let you out when they're supposed to? What if someone attacks you, and you defend yourself, and you get hit with additional time? What if you get sick? What if one of the times you get stored down in the peeling-paint transitional cells in the basements where no-one can hear you, they forget about you?

The house of detention is no vacation, least of all for someone who lacks local connections and support networks. Willy needs our support.

WRITING TO WILLY

This would be lovely. Wouldn't you want a letter from the outside world, some personal note to let you know you're not as isolated as you feel? Something inane and friendly, cheerful and encouraging, something from a friend or from a stranger taking the time to let you know that you're missed and valued... think what that would mean to you.

You may send Willy mail at this address:

William R Watkin
Folder 2303771
3000 Perdido Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70119

There is a big list of what you *CANNOT* send Willy here:

http://www.opcso.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=58&Itemid=182
Basically, nothing but letters, money orders, and photographs (!) . No books, magazines, or 'zines, no toiletries, food, or tobacco, no clothing, no envelopes, no stationary, stamps or writing utensils... any of those things Willy wants, he must purchase, if he can, at exorbitant profiteering prices from the prison Commissary.

PUTTING MONEY IN WILLY'S COMMISSARY

Willy, an avid and ambitious leisure reader, can't be sent reading material besides personal letters. He will not have the means to write letters to his loving sweetheart back in Missouri or his frantically worrying parents, nor will he have access to remotely wholesome or even pleasurable, good-tasting food, unless money is put in his commissary account.

You can put money in his commissary by mailing Willy a signed money order with his name (William Watkins) and his folder number (2303771) on it, or more easily by visiting the Sherriff's office (that same "temporary" trailer behind the jail where you go to bail people out) and using one of their anti-ATM devices there on-site, or most easily of all by visiting <http://www.tigerdeposits.com/> and following the fairly straight-forward steps. "Watkins, William R." is of course in Louisiana >> Orleans Parish >> Orleans Parish Prison. Note that in accordance with the standard predatory capitalism of our privatized prison system, the helpful folks at "Tiger Correctional Services" will charge you a 7.0 percent fee.

If your experience with Tiger Correctional Services really turns you on, you'll no doubt be gratified upon the conclusion of your transaction at the opportunity to follow them on twitter or "like" them on facebook. They just posted a picture album of their staff enjoying fresh-caught trout at a fishing tournament. I bet that trout was delicious! Delicious, and yet not half as delicious as the roaring blackout nihilism viewing the photo gallery engenders.

DONATING MONEY TOWARDS WILLY'S FINES.

Judge Pittman assigned Willy a grand or so in fines and fees, but additionally, at the request of NOPD, she has sentenced him to pay reparations. Apparently Willy "shoving the officer" didn't merely send the officer to the

hospital and require the officer to take several days off, but the same single shove destroyed the officer's new and (apparently very expensive!) eyeglasses and police radio. So, Willy has to pay for replacements, which are hundreds of dollars.

Willy ain't got that kind of cash. Please make a donation via PayPal or credit card at <http://eris12.org>, or if that link doesn't work for whatever reason, or you don't want to use plastic or PayPal, you can email nolaanarcha@gmail.com and we'll figure it out. In the blessed but unlikely event that the amount thusly donated exceeds Willy's fines, it will be applied to the thousands of dollars of lawyer fees the other equally nice Eris arrestees have paid & still owe.

VISITING WILLY

After fruitless hours on the phone and web, I have been unable to nail down exactly how to visit Willy, because he's not in the state system yet the way he needs to be for me to get the ball rolling on visitations. This may be because he has not yet been assigned a DOC number, and may still be down in holding rather than up in the 96 tiers of the prison itself.

Rest assured, I will figure this fucking shit out (or the lawyers will, and will let me know). In the meantime, if you'd like to visit Willy, email Nola Anarcha. One proactive step you could take is writing to Willy and giving him your full name so that he knows to put you on his visitor's list. Willy gets along with just about everyone, so don't be shy! I am sure he would love to see you, whoever you are, just for the chance at being reassured in person that people here in New Orleans know and care about his situation.

Thanks for your time, and perhaps your money. Willy may be a stranger to most of us, but he is the first of the arrestees to get actual prison time. I hope he is the last. I hope the whole rotten prison cracks open like an egg, RIGHT NOW, and that all the unjustly imprisoned human beings inside can return to their families and loved ones. Willy doesn't deserve to be in there.

25 Sept – Kickstarter Campaign to Fund “New York 21” Documentary

"New York 21": The Black Panther Party - New York Chapter & Struggles of Sundiata Acoli is a documentary exploring the Black Panther Party Movement and the climate in New York, including the states' most expensive trial in its history, commonly known as the New York 21. You can pledge to support the making of this film by going to:

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/newyork21/new-york-21>

MORE:

The jury acquitted all defendants on all 156 collective counts. After their release, many of the activists were forced underground by the acts of law enforcement agencies and the COINTELPRO. This film pays homage to the cadre and introduces the Liberation Movement. This exploration is highlighted using the struggles of Sundiata Acoli, New York's Lt. of Finance. Acoli shares his story through the depths of hell and back in the Liberation Movement in America; and brings into focus blatant cover-ups by a government who turned its back on justice.

The plot is navigated by the conversation between a grandmother, played by Irma P. Hall (*Meet the Browns, Soul Food*) and grandson, played by Omar Wiseman (*Disney Channel*), as she teaches him about the BPP NY Chapter in a game of chess. An exploration of Acoli's life is revisited. Mutulu "M1" Olugbala (*dead prez*) portrays Sundiata Acoli. Through the narratives, the film shares diverse and independent voices that have never been heard, but written about in many books and periodicals.

All monies raised using Kickstarter will go towards the last production expenses, which includes, but not limited to; filming, props, actors, editing, stock footage, color corrections, audio, fees, marketing, etc. Although we set our minimum at \$5,000, there is no maximum amount of resources pledged that we won't use in this production. Since this is a SAG film, it is eligible for awards not typical of standard films and can be distributed through a

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major network. Our efforts will ensure every door is knocked on to give a major network an opportunity to showcase this never-seen before footage.

26 Sept – California Prisoner Hunger Strike Resumes

Oakland – On Monday, September 26, 2011, prisoners at both Pelican Bay and Calipatria State Prisons will resume hunger strike that lasted most of last July, in continued protest of the inhumane conditions of their confinement, including long term solitary confinement and the widely-condemned practices of gang validation and debriefing. Despite international public outcry as well as legislative intervention in California, prisoners have stated CDCR has yet to make any substantial changes to their policies and has failed to keep up negotiation promises made when the strike was suspended in July. Call Matthew Cate, Secretary of the CDCR, and urge them to negotiate with the prisoners and honor their demands. We've provided a sample script.

Matthew Cate: (916) 323-6001

Governor Jerry Brown: (916) 445-2841

CDCR Public Affairs Office: (916) 445-4950

Sample Script:

"Hi my name is _____. I'm calling about the statewide prisoner hunger strike that began at Pelican Bay.

I support the prisoners & their reasonable "five core demands."

I urge the CDCR to negotiate with the prisoners immediately & in good faith. Thank you."

MORE:

"This is far from over and once again, hopefully for the last time, we will be risking our lives via a peaceful hunger strike on Sept 26, 2011 to force positive changes" writes Mutope Duguma (aka, James Crawford), a prisoner in the Pelican Bay SHU and a representative of the hunger strikers, "for 21 1/2 years we have been quietly held in Pelican Bay State Prison solitary confinement under some of the most horrible conditions known to man. So we continue to struggle to be treated like decent human beings."

Prisoners in the Pelican Bay SHU will be joined on strike by prisoners in the Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg) Unit at Calipatria State Prison, located in California's southeast-most county. Ad-Seg Units are similar to SHUs in that they place prisoners in solitary confinement for long periods of time. In addition, prisoners at Calipatria are also subject to the same gang validation and indeterminate sentencing practices at the center of this past summer's strike. Many prisoners marked as gang members at Calipatria are kept in Ad-Seg units for years before being transferred to Pelican Bay. "Several hundred prisoners in Administration Segregation Units at Calipatria State Prison have been validated or given an indefinite SHU term and majority of the men have been waiting three to four years in administration segregation to be transferred to the Pelican Bay SHU," says Kendra Casteneda who has a family member at Calipatria, "The men at Calipatria are striking because the same conditions that exist at Pelican Bay exist in prisons throughout California."

California Department of Corrections (CDCR) officials seem to be preemptively cracking down on prisoners in anticipation of the strike and have publicly said they were preparing to take harsh actions against strikers. Illustrating the CDCR's hard-line stance, Undersecretary of Operations Scott Kernan said in a recent interview, "If there are other instances of hunger strikes, I don't think the Department will approach it the same way this time around." Lawyers who have recently visited Pelican Bay have taken testimony from SHU prisoners who have been retaliated against by prison officials for their participation in this summer's strike. "Prisoners are receiving serious disciplinary write-ups, usually reserved for serious rules violations, for things like talking in the library or not walking fast enough," says Carol Strickman, a lawyer with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, "It's clear that prison officials are trying to intimidate these men and to make them ineligible for any

privileges or changes that may be forced by the strike.”

This summer’s hunger strike saw widespread participation across the California prison system with at least 6,600 prisoners participating in more than a third of the state’s 33 prisons. National and international support led to a legislative hearing in the state’s capitol, where conditions in California’s Security Housing Units were scrutinized by state legislators and condemned by experts. Family members, advocates, and organizations have vowed to continue to support the prisoners in resuming their strike, and to help them in winning their demands.

For more information about the strike and for ongoing updates, please visit www.prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com

29 Sept – Remembering Our Political Prisoners Book Fair & BPP Film Fest Reception

The third annual Black Panther Film Festival opens on Friday, September 30th. There are always films directly relating to political prisoners and prisoners of war. This year is no different. In fact, the theme of this year’s festival is “Remembering Our Political Prisoners.” On Thursday there will be an opening reception and book fair. We’ve included details below.

WHAT: BPP Film Festival Opening Reception and Book Fair

WHEN: 7:00-9:00pm, Thursday, September 29

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center (310 West 43rd Street New York, New York 10036)

COST: Free

MORE:

We’ve listed the screenings directly relating to political prisoners and prisoners of war. For more information, go to <http://www.mayslesinstitute.org>

Friday, September 30th: 7:00pm – “Voices of Political Prisoners”

Saturday, October 1st: 4:00pm – “Justice on Trial: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal”

Saturday, October 1st: 5:30pm - Q&A with producer Johanna Fernandez, Pam Africa and live telephone Q&A with Political Prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal

Saturday, October 1st: 6:45pm – “Sekou Odinga”

Friday, October 7th: 7:00pm – “Voices of Political Prisoners”

Friday, October 7th: 7:45pm – “Free ‘Em All”

Friday, October 7th: 8:45pm – “Legacy of Torture: The War Against the Black Liberation Movement”

Saturday, October 8th: 4:00pm – Interview Excerpt with Assata Shakur

Saturday, October 8th: 4:20pm – “A Visit with Kamau Sadiki”

Saturday, October 8th: 4:30pm – “Eyes on the Rainbow” *Post screening panel with moderator Cleo Silvers, Rosemari Mealy (BPP), Pam Hanna (BPP) and her daughter Ksisay Torres and granddaughter Youri*

Saturday, October 8th: 7:30pm – “In the Land of the Free”

9 Oct – Benefit for Black Panther POW Sundiata Acoli

In Recognition Of The 45th Anniversary Of The Founding Of The Black Panther Party for Self Defense; The Safiya Bukhari-Albert Nuh Washington Foundation Presents a N.Y.C. benefit for 38 year long held panther political prisoner of war Sundiata Acoli. All proceeds to benefit the Sundiata Acoli freedom campaign legal expenses and the “A Power Sun” film project.

MORE:

WHEN: 2:00-6:00pm, Sunday, October 9th

WHERE: The Brecht Forum, 451 West Street (between Bank and Bethune Streets) New York, New York 10014

COST: "Free Will Donations" (Please Bring Your Check Book)

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The event will include

- a panel with members of the Sundiata freedom campaign & Sundiata's Former Black Panther Party/BLA Comrades
- Spoken Word By: Autumn Ashanti
- Film Preview: "A Power Sun - The Sundiata Acoli Story" Starring M-1 of Dead Prez
- Live Musical Performances

Directions: (A,C,E,L) Trains to 14th Street (walk south on 8th Avenue, right at Bethune Street, west toward the Hudson River, left on West Street)

Information: (212) 242-4201 or (212) 650-5008

Organized By: The Safiya Bukhari-Albert Nuh Washington Foundation & The Brecht Forum

13 Oct - Attend Walter Bond's October 13th sentencing in Salt Lake City!

It sounds really stupid, but popularity counts in courtrooms. It is very important that people show up in person to these hearings to show support for the safety of the accused...The lawyers who have been interviewed... said that judges do not like being watched... and if you show they are being watched, they behave differently....pack that courtroom with family and friends to make the judge know he/she will be watched every step of the way. Lawyers interviewed about this also said it was important to pack the courtroom to humanize the accused past an identity solely reliant on the accused crime. In court, they automatically label the plaintiff the "victim," etc. and it is very manipulative language use.

WHEN: Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 3:00 pm

WHERE: Room 142, 1st Floor, U.S. District Court, 350 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah

MORE:

Join other supporters in the Salt Lake City courtroom where Walter Bond will be sentenced for A.L.F. actions targeting 2 businesses that profit from animal torture and death!

This is an opportunity to stand by prisoner-of-war Walter Bond, observe courtroom proceedings first-hand, and show the press that abolitionists support Walter 100%.

15 Oct – COINTELPRO 101 – A Benefit for Sekou Odinga

WHAT: Benefit for Sekou Odinga

WHEN: 6:00-10:00pm, Saturday, October 15th, 2011

WHERE: Riverside Church (490 Riverside Drive, Manhattan)

COST: Donations plus \$5 for Dinner

We have palm cards for this event. Please take and distribute them.

Panelists: Anochi Odinga, Jill Soffiyah Elijah, Andrew of NYC ABC, Others to be Announced

Invited Guests: M1, Bilal Sunni-Ali, George Edward Tait

MORE:

Beginning in the 1950s with a focus on the Puerto Rican independence movement and continuing through the 1960s and into the 1970s when much of its focus had shifted to the Black Liberation, Chicano Liberation and American Indian Movements, COINTELPRO racked up a number of assassinations, false imprisonments and ruined lives. No government official was ever punished for actions taken under the program's auspices. The film by Freedom Archives details this history through the artful use of still photos and moving images of the period covered. Films of police attacks and protests; still photos of revolutionary leaders and police murders graphically remind the viewer of Washington's willingness to do whatever it takes to maintain its control. Organizers who began their political activity during the time of Cointelpro discuss the effect the program had on them and the

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organizations and individuals they worked with. Indeed, several of the interviewees were themselves targets and spent years in prison (some under false accusations, as in the case of Geronimo ji-Jaga Pratt) or on the run.

Former Black Panther member Kathleen Cleaver states toward the end of the film that Cointelpro represented the efforts of a political police force making the decision as to what is allowed politically and what is not. Anything outside the parameters set by this force was fair game. Nothing that was done by government officials or private groups and individuals acting on the government's behalf was perceived as wrong or illegal. As Attorney Bob Boyle makes clear in his final statement in the film, Cointelpro is alive and well. The only difference now is that most of what was illegal for the government to do during Cointelpro's official existence is now legal. The PATRIOT Act and other laws associated with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security have insured this.

Cointelpro 101 is a well made and appealing primer on the history of the US police state. Produced, written and directed by individuals who have themselves been the target of tactics documented in the film, it has an authenticity and immediacy that pulls the viewer in. Although too short to cover the history in as full detail as some may desire, the film's intelligence and conscientious presentation of the historical narrative makes it a film that the student, the citizen and the activist can all appreciate.