



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for August 28th

15 Aug – Prisoner Support Defined by Abdul Haqq

Animal Liberation Front prisoner Abdul Haqq lays out his ideas on prisoner support below. If you are less familiar with prisoner support, this is a good start.

MORE:

In this technological era of instant communication it's easy for the internet activist (oxymoron intended) to lose line of sight with what is, and what is not, support for imprisoned activists. Here is a brief explanation of good prisoner support and why it's important to the convict and the movement of Total Liberation.

-THE BIG FOUR-

As a prisoner there are four things that make all the difference in our lives. These are: money, letters, pictures and books/magazines and print media.

1. MONEY- While we are given the bare minimum in prison and jail to survive, funds make all the difference. Just as in the world outside of the walls and razor wire personal clothing like shorts, sweatshirts and even quality underwear cost money. Decent hygiene costs money. Food (other than that given to you at meal time, which is not adequate, no matter what your diet, but especially on a Vegan one) costs money. As do stamps, sending and receiving emails, downloading music, phone calls etc. But unlike the outside world prisoners have no way to make money. Even with a prison job which if you have a good one might pay 50 dollars a month (maximum) the prison system gets to take up to 100% of that if we owe any restitution or fines. Therefore a few bucks is always appreciated by prisoners.

2. LETTERS- Prisoners have no way to stay in the loop, keep current on events, or know that anyone cares at all unless we get a letter. In this day and age thousands of people may visit a support site or Facebook page. But in places like the CMU (communications Management Unit) for political prisoners we are not even allowed to receive printouts of those nice blurbs of support in our snail mail. Ask yourself, am I posting this to be part of an online community or because I support this person in reality? If so then send it in a letter. Remember while federal inmates have limited access to email we have NO access to the internet.

3. PICTURES- As a prisoner our world is visually depressing. Gray paint, concrete, doors, walls, bars, cages and razor wire. We see the same people every day, no changes. Pictures of animals, nature, cities, yourself definitely are appreciated. I have a photo album and two cork boards in my cell. I pin pictures of nature to them to have some makeshift scenery on my walls and from time to time I flip through my photo album to remember what vegans and animals look like.

BOOKS/MAGAZINES AND PRINT MEDIA- prisoners have more time to focus on books than anyone else on the planet! But if they don't get sent in there is nothing of interest to read. Most jails and prison libraries stock used romance and fiction novels nothing of substance. A book or magazine will not only get read by the person you send it to but every prisoner that can get their hands on it! Books have a captive audience in prison. I remember when I was going to court in Salt Lake City books that I read and placed on the book cart quickly made the rounds and were read by hundreds of inmates. Most of these books are still circulating in that jail long after I have left.

This 'Big 4' is what you can do to support those of us that have lost our freedom, fighting for the freedom of the Earth and animals. Prisoner support is vital for the P.O.W. that receives it but more importantly for the future of resistance. The reality is that jail and prison is simply the occupational hazard of Earth and animal warriors. It's important that would-be and future liberators know that if, or when they face government oppression they will be

supported and remembered as long as they spoke or fought for Mother earth and the Animal Nations and NEVER INFORMED ON OTHER ACTIVISTS. This is the circle that keeps Liberation a living struggle and not merely an idea or ideal. we're in here for the Earth and Animals, you're out there for us!

15 Aug - Letter from Mario "Tripa" on the latest frame-up

Pre-trial Mexican anarchist prisoner Mario "Tripa" López has written about the recent state repression anarchists are facing around the globe.

MORE:

About the new set-up

Reading the press bulletin released on the 11th of July 2012, I started to feel a sense of worry from the anarchist "movement" about a probable repressive wave, such as a police set-up. This type of offensive strike are now "popularly" known and an everyday occurrence in the three countries of the Mediterranean with the most anarchist presence, and also in the south of the American continent where anarchist action stands out, particularly in Chile.

In the year 1996, a repressive anti-anarchist operation took place simultaneously throughout diverse regions of Italy, with 50 anarchists being detained. Finally, 8 compañer@s were sentenced to between 6 and 50 years in prison. In each moment, the compañer@s in question, with their clear convictions, pointed out that the "juridical process" being carried out against the anarchists was a set-up, as they were being accused of belonging to an imaginary "criminal organization" (R.I.A.O "Revolutionary Insurreccionalist Anarchist Organization") which, for a question of ethical principles and for the methods of organization and action that they proposed, would never be part of.

Alfredo Bonanno, Pipo Stasi, Maximo Passamani and the compañero Constantino were among the most well known of those arrested. To illustrate this particular deed, I widely recommend a text by Bonanno titled "Montaje" and that, from an anarchist point of view, without mediation or dialogue, analyzes this type of repressive strategy implemented by the system of domination. This particular set up of the repressive forces of the Italian State is known in our circles as the "Mirini process", alluding to the prosecutor Antonio Mirini who pulled the whole confused fictitious conspiracy out of his sleeve, like something out of Hollywood. On the 28th of July 2004, another creation of this type would be re-edited in Italy, this time it was known as "Operation Cervantes", where again they invented a "set-up" so impetuous that in the end it fell under its own weight. In this occasion they kidnapped the compañer@s Simone del Moro, Davide Santini, Marco Ferruzi and Sergio Maria Stefani. Recently, the Italian compañer@s have been hit again by the repressive authorities with the so called "Operacion Osadia", which surely will end being known as another one of the Italian State's set-ups against anarchist agitation.

In Chile, following the unfortunate death of the compañero Mauricio Morales, the Chilean State carried out a giant repressive operation known as the "Bombs Case", in which 14 anarchist and anti-authoritarian compañer@s were involved, in a clear and well armed set up that has currently been waning. The common denominator in those countries is the activities of the anarchist groups and individual action of anarchists of praxis. The same is true in the case of Mexico, where Anarchy is becoming more and more evident, which is why libertarian organizations and collectives, that have always worked openly are being "criminalized", with the invention of complicities, alliances and criminal links which for us in the reality translate to friendships and companionships based on an affinity of ideas. All of this "thriller"- version Mexico- is being put into practice from the instant of my detention, with the purpose of "dismantling" an obviously inexistent "radical-criminal" organization. For this they are using me as a starting point for a witch-hunt of anarchists, I don't doubt that at all. Based on my personal relationships, my networks of companionship and friendship, they are trying to mount a media circus very similar to those seen after the tragic accidents of the compañero Mauri and the compañero Tortuga, a vulgar set up built on my friendships, affinities and my solidarity. In my understanding of the anarchist ideal and in my insurreccionalist anarchist practice, there exists nothing more far-removed than the anarchist idea than the conformation of a formal and well structured organization, that restricts freedom and individual autonomy and

reduces the capacity to support other particular struggles or that of the anarchist struggle itself. I have never had a leader and I can't even remotely imagine accepting the orders and mandates of one, even less can I imagine aiming to be one, in fact, as anarchist we hate them. As anarchists think for ourselves and act accordingly. In showing solidarity with the fellow prisoners in Mexico and the world, I am only responding to my anarchist ethic- a necessary and indispensable condition of the fight- and not out of some structural connection that denotes the existence of their supposed "criminal organization."

What is happening now is predictable because we have already lived it in the past and we know how they work in the dark labyrinths of power. Once again we find ourselves face to face with the enemy. A set up or a repressive operation is a calculated and well-planned strike from within the entrails of domination, destined to obstruct and eradicate anarchist activity and demoralize the anarchic individuals.

Faced with this new attack, the struggle must continue, as solidarity is more than a written word- it is our best weapon to confront them and to extend the Anarchist Insurrection.

Compañer@s, supporting themselves on my position, on my intransigent anarchist praxis, in the "crimes" that they accuse me of and based on my declarations, they are trying to eradicate anarchist action and fracture even more the already divided anarchist "movement", widening the differences and deepening the divisions between the "good" and the "bad", the "adapted" and the "maladapted", the "violent" and the "non-violent", the "legalist" and the "illegalist" and how many other dichotomies that can be established taking my action as a starting point. Strong and consistent. Face to face with the enemy!

Solidarity with the anarchist prisoners in Mexico and the world.

Solidarity with Billy, Eat, Gabriel, Marco, Stella Anoniu, with the Bolivian anarchists in prison: my mind and my heart is with you.

The Anarchist Insurrection is inevitable. Social war on all fronts!

Health and Anarchy!

15 Aug - Chris French released on bond

NATO protest arrestee Chris French has been released on bond and we've included the statement written by his supporters below.

MORE:

As of about 9pm on last Wednesday 8/8 Chris is free(er)!

After receiving several large anonymous donations, and a long bus ride, Chris was able to return to Atlanta.

This update comes a bit late because we have been extremely busy dealing with other legal issues Chris is facing here in Atlanta.

For now, the conditions' of Chris' bond have forced him to return to Chicago. His lawyers are working on loosening the conditions of his bond as much as possible. We will keep supporters updated.

Without the mutual-aid and material support of anarchists around the country, especially in the midwest and southeast, it is unlikely that Chris would be out of jail yet and it is probable that his time inside would have been much worse off.

Thanks and love forever.

17 Aug - Murder anniversary brings sorrow and controversy in COINTELPRO case

August 17, 2012 is the 42nd year after the launch of COINTELPRO to imprison the Omaha Two

MORE:

The bombing murder of patrolman [Larry Minard, Sr.](#) in Omaha, Nebraska, forty-three years ago, August 17, 1970, still haunts the Midwestern city. The killing of Minard was blamed on the Black Panthers and two of its

leaders, [Ed Poindexter](#) and [Mondo we Langa](#) (formerly David Rice) were convicted and continue to serve life sentences at the maximum-security Nebraska State Penitentiary. However, the prosecution of the case was [tainted by withheld evidence](#) on the identity of the 911 caller who lured Minard to his death in a booby-trapped vacant house. The order to withhold a lab report came from J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as a part of a massive, illegal, clandestine counter-intelligence operation code-named [COINTELPRO](#).

West Omaha with its tony new subdivisions and shining shopping centers is a world away from the remnants of the Near-Northside, Omaha's "ghetto", where weedy vacant lots are more common than houses. On North 24th Street the remains of a neighborhood still in the clasp of crime, fear, and poverty are evident. The new Omaha has forgotten Larry Minard and moved on, while the Near-Northside, Minard's former beat, still remembers the fallen officer. But Minard is not remembered for his heroism, instead, he is remembered as another victim of Hoover's [COINTELPRO](#) plot to destroy the Black Panthers.

Ever since the controversial April 1971 trial that convicted Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa, now known as the [Omaha Two](#), doubt about their guilt has openly surfaced in the Near-Northside. Just last weekend an event was held at the Malcolm X birthplace featuring the new film *COINTELPRO 101* and a discussion about the [Omaha Two as political prisoners](#). Meanwhile, new Omaha it seems, just doesn't want to know of such things. Earlier this summer the Omaha City Council voted not to even hear a request to reopen the Minard murder investigation which was based on new information not available at trial about J. Edgar Hoover's tampering.

J. Edgar Hoover conducted his own secret war on political activists he deemed subversive. The COINTELPRO operation lasted fourteen years, was nationwide in scope, and consumed vast amounts of FBI resources. Many of the COINTELPRO misdeeds were illegal had a lethal ferocity. Hoover hated no group as much as the Black Panthers and personally commanded the secret activities of his agents.

In Omaha, the FBI director was particularly upset at the lack of "imagination" against the Black Panthers and chided Special Agent-in-Charge Paul Young for a lack of results. Minard's murder provided the FBI with a [perfect scenario](#), pinning the crime on the Black Panther leadership. Young sprang into action the day of the bombing and proposed to Assistant Chief of Police Glen Gates that the FBI take custody of the incriminating 911 recording which captured the voice of a killer. Two days later, before Larry Minard was even buried, J. Edgar Hoover gave the order to FBI Crime Laboratory director Ivan Willard Conrad to not issue a report on the identity of the 911 caller. Hoover let the anonymous caller get away with murder to make a case against the Omaha Two.

The jury that convicted Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa never got to hear the crucial 911 tape or even know of its existence. The jury also never knew about the existence of COINTELPRO in Omaha and the jury was never informed of Hoover's orders to get the Black Panther leadership off the streets.

Every August the anniversary of Larry Minard's murder brings an unheard call from Omaha's Near-Northside for justice and the date brings annual sorrow and controversy.

17 Aug - in case you or a friend are planning to join me. . . by Mandy Hiscocks

Toronto G20 protest prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has written a couple of new blog entries that we've pasted below.

MORE:

in case you or a friend are planning to join me. . .

kelly was sentenced to 11 months in Vanier July 19 for her participation in the anti-capitalist, anti-colonialist, pro-justice actions that happened during the 2010 G20 summit in Toronto. she's been put across the hall on 2A so i can see her now and then and sneak in an illegal wave. there are some really nice folks on 2A, and i have no doubt she's doing just fine. since her release on bail almost two years ago she has been under a condition not to communicate with the G20 Main Conspiracy Group, so we haven't spoken. if we could have, i would have shared some of the things i've learned about jail with her before she came in. instead i'll share them with you, in

case you (or a friend) ever find yourself looking at a stay in the lovely Milton Hilton. For what it's worth, my top five pieces of unsolicited advice:

- 1) **be okay with it**
- 2) **take care of yourself**
- 3) **set goals and do stuff**
- 4) **don't expect too much of yourself**
- 5) **be a bridge**

let me explain.

1) **be okay with it**

so you broke the law. big deal. In the wise words of Sioux Woman [Mary Crow Dog](#), "The thing to keep in mind is that laws are framed by those who happen to be in power and for the purpose of keeping them in power."

one reason i haven't experienced long bouts of negativity is that i don't regret what i did to land myself in jail. i'm proud of what we accomplished in the summer of 2010 and the lead-up to it, i think the kind of organizing that landed me on a police surveillance list is important work, and i'm comfortable with the decision my co-accused and i made to negotiate with the Crown. sure, i made mistakes, but when i look back on the past few years i'm thinking about how to do it all better next time – not wishing i'd never gotten involved in the first place. it makes a huge difference. it's rough for the inmates here – and there are many – who are kicking themselves over a stupid decision or lapse of judgement, and who desperately wish they could take it back and undo the damage to themselves, to others, and to their relationships.

as political activists, anarchists, and community organizers, we need to be able to justify our actions to ourselves and the people we're accountable to. it's completely irrelevant what the state, with its unjust laws and arbitrary enforcement of them, thinks about what we do. the fact is, however, that the state has a lot of power to punish those who dare step out of line. so we need to think hard about the shape our work will take, the consequences it could have, and if, we can live with them.

for folks on the outside: if you support a prisoner's politics, their actions, or the stand they took, let them know. words of solidarity have done wonders for my morale in here – hearing that people have been inspired by my words and have my back really can make a difference in how i feel about being in jail. i have been getting tons of support since i got here and i hope other prisoners are as well :)

2) **take care of yourself**

what is this, you're asking, mandy hiscocks talking about self-care? BUSTED. it's true, i take care of my health and well-being way more in here than i ever did on the outside. maybe it's because getting sick in here is so awful – you want to lie down for a bit? not allowed. you need peace and quiet? not happening. you'd like a painkiller? well, okay, but you'll have to wait for the nurse's rounds and you'll only get one. getting really, seriously ill and having no control over the medical care you receive is a horrible, frightening thought. similarly, spiralling into any kind of depression with no close friends around for support sounds terrible, and if it gets serious you can wind up in medical segregation. so prevention is key! another reason i've been taking better care of myself is, quite simply, that i have the time. how sad is that? go to jail! get well!

here are some things i do:

[eat the healthiest food i can](#)

this has been a challenge, because although the meals are healthy enough the proportions are huge and there's too much bread. it's hard to throw food away and it bothers me a lot, but it has to be done. before i was sentenced i got a prescription for a multivitamin, which is probably a good idea because the vegetables are often overcooked. if you decide to go on the vegan diet vitamins should be easy to pull off, since everyone seems to think that vegans are all malnourished. on top of the huge meals, there's the challenge of canteen, through which you can order chips, cookies, chocolate and candy. if you're like me and eat when you're bored, frustrated,

unhappy, antsy, stressed, frustrated, pissed off, etc., you don't want that stuff around because chances are you'll be feeling those things on a fairly regular basis. then again, if treats actually make you feel better and not worse, go for it!

exercise

some jails have gyms, they do on TV anyway. Vanier has a gymnasium that Unit 2 can't use, and i've heard that outside there's a volleyball net and some sports equipment that we also can't use. instructors come in and run aerobics and yoga classes but alas not for us. on maximum security, if you want to work out, you need to know exercises that don't require mats or equipment of any kind. so be prepared! learn some in advance or ask someone to send you suggestions (with photos or diagrams) through the mail. the classics are push-ups, dips, squats, lunges, crunches, burpees, plans and so on. make sure you know how to do them properly and how to stretch well too, because an injury in here would be a huge pain in the ass. in terms of cardio there aren't too many options – the yard is small and running isn't allowed inside, and anyway the shoes are cheap flats made in China that have no support (the jail pays less than \$3 per pair – they're almost certainly made in a sweatshop). i walk fast along the upstairs level and down and up the stairs at either end, over and over again. some people do step routines on the bottoms steps, and i've seen people practicing kickboxing and Tae-Bo. i do yoga in my cell before bed and hand-stands in the yard. i've not followed a solid exercise program for years, but it's easy to stay motivated in here. i'm sure the fact that we're in jogging pants and t-shirts all day every day doesn't hurt!

go outside

i prioritize yard. as soon as it's called i put down the broom/phone/pencil/newspaper and make for the door. i always feel better afterwards. fresh air is hard to come by in this sealed, climate-controlled environment so even 20 minutes not quite every day makes a difference it almost certainly doesn't cut it in terms of vitamin D though. my doctor foresaw that, and prescribed supplements before i came in – smart man! i wasn't convinced they'd give them to me because that would imply everyone should be getting them or the time outside needs to be increased. . .but they do. i imagine vitamin D supplements would be especially important if you suffer from seasonal affective disorders.

sleep

there's a lot of time to sleep here, but the conditions are not ideal. the mattresses are thin and not very comfortable – some are better than others, which means that whenever someone with a good one leaves the range there's a scramble to switch – and there aren't enough pillows to go around, so not everyone has one. it's never dark, you can't control the temperature or get an extra blanket or a window, and to top it off there's a stranger sleeping a few feet away. i've discovered that a lot of people snore, some loudly enough to wake me up which is quite impressive. Finally, and perhaps most irritatingly, you can't turn on a light – once the guard decides to dim the overhead that's that. it's too dark to write, and although i can still read it's probably really bad for the eyes so i try not to read for too long. so there's not much to do after lights “out” which is between 8:30 and 9:30pm) except the little yoga that i know and sleep. i highly recommend yoga at night – it helps me to feel relaxed enough to go to bed. still, it can be hard to get tired enough to sleep so early and in such a shitty environment. here are some other things i've found useful:

-get up early;

-lots of exercise;

-fresh air whenever it's offered;

-spending as much time on my feet as i can. i walk back and forth while reading the paper, and talk on the phone standing up;

-avoid napping during the day. we're locked in our cells between noon and 2pm, and 5 and 6pm. the lights are usually dimmed which makes it darker than you'd think - the frosted windows don't let light in. it's tempting to nap after meals, but that makes for a shitty sleep later;

-accomplish something during the day. this helps me to feel satisfied that the day has been somewhat worthwhile and it's okay for it to be ending.

some people are quite lucky when it comes to being able to sleep, but if you're not one of them here are a few other things to consider. if you take over-the-counter sleeping pills, be ready to have no access to them here. in the crusty words of one of the nurses: “we don't provide those. insomnia won't kill you.” if you use prescription sleeping pills they're far more likely to give them to you, although not necessarily the ones you're used to. if you need total darkness, practice sleeping with a towel or t-shirt over your eyes; if you need total silence, with toilet paper stuffed in your ears. finally if you have a bad back or an injury, or if there's any other reason you need a double mattress, make sure it's on your medical file somewhere and that your doctor will vouch for you. the medical staff here are wary of being scammed and they can be overly skeptical.

meditate

i started to meditate because i realized that it's one of the few things i'll be able to do if i ever get sent to the hole. but it's probably a good thing to do regardless as a way to stay grounded and maintain some perspective. i wish i'd learned some techniques before coming to jail but i didn't, so i requested and received some exercises through the mail and i practice every few days in my cell. who knows if it's doing me any good? i figure it certainly can't hurt! here are a few things i do outside which may or may not qualify as meditation:

-stand still, eyes closed. relax. feel the sun and the breeze;

-deep breaths: 4 counts in, 4 counts hold it, 4 counts out, 4 counts wait, repeat. this can be done standing still or walking the length of the yard;

-the “quietest sound”: a friend told me about this recently and i love it. you close your eyes and listen for the quietest sound you can hear in front of you, behind you, to your left and your right, above you and below you. it's like digging through the layers of sound – in my case it means tuning out the constant chaos of all the different conversations, then the sound of the highway until i can hear birdsong.

stay connected to life on the outside

jail is really isolating and pointless, and the description of incarceration as “warehousing” is exactly right. but as i hear people telling each other all the time, “this too shall pass.” i had a life before this and i'll have one when i get out, and it's helpful to me to know that there's continuity between the two. so i write to people and read their stories, and we talk on the phone. and i try to stay in the loop with what's going on in their lives and in the community. i read the newspaper and as much alternative media as people send me. i think about the house and neighbourhood i'm going to be moving into, and make plans for the work i'll be doing in the job that's waiting for me (this one (link) has been in my head for weeks now). and i think about the organizing i'll be doing when i get out and how and where i'll plug in. and, of course, i imagine seeing all the people i've missed. people have suggested that it would be too hard to have a foot in both worlds but i haven't found that to be the case. for sure it's important not to get impatient or to focus only on the future because then time drags. but i think it's just as important for me to be reminded that there's a place i belong that isn't Vanier Centre for Women.

when it comes down to it you know what you need to feel healthy and okay. my suggestions might not be helpful at all, but i hope they've at least given you something to consider.

3) set goals and do stuff

if you're the kind of person who likes to relax and sleep a lot, who isn't picky about what you read, who enjoys playing cards and chatting and watching TV, jail will be okay for you. i'm not like that. i can't be happy unless i'm busy – i need to feel like i'm accomplishing something and have goals that i'm working towards. i know for a fact that many of you who read this blog can relate, so here are some tips and suggestions for staying productive.

take on some projects

writing this blog and replying to mail are my two big ongoing projects, and they're both very rewarding. the blog is so widely read and the feedback is so positive that it feels like one of the more useful things i've done in quite a while. staying in touch with people is the best way to break the isolation of being locked away – replying to letters is a favourite on prisoners' “recommendations for staying sane” lists. it's also been very satisfying to work on projects that have a distinct beginning and end. so far most of these have involve writing pieces for other people and doing interviews. an amazing one that ended recently was the Peak Magazine's august issue,

[Dispatches from Ontario Prisons](#). it involved working with people on the outside as well as other inmates, which was a great experience, and although i haven't seen it yet (the jail won't let it in) i hear it turned out really well. at the moment i'm focusing on putting together a zine about anticipating and navigating the conflicts and tensions that inevitably arise when activists/anarchists/organizers choose to work with lawyers, and on developing a workshop on power dynamics in anarchist and other non-hierarchical groups (based on the Power and Anarchy chapter in [Uri Gordon's book Anarchy Alive!](#)). also in the works are some sort of Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual and an Orientation to Vanier Handbook. as well, i'm part of a reading group whose participants meet monthly on the outside. i send my input on the readings through the mail and am sometimes able to call in to the discussions. and speaking of reading... before coming in i set myself up with nine independent reading courses:

Indigenous History in North America

Treaties, Policies and Law

Decolonization and Solidarity

Environmental Issues

Rebellion, Resistance and Revolution

Alternative Economics

Progressive Politics and Social Structures in Science Fiction

Colonialism and Post-colonialism in Science Fiction

Environmental Thought in Science Fiction

i highly recommend doing something like this, and creating your reading lists before you come in if you can. at Vanier, if you're a student, you can get the books you need for schools sent in. because books from the outside are not normally permitted unless they've been donated, screened, and approved for the library, this is a great way to get reading material in that actually interests you. even if you're not an official student, you could still pull together a list that friends could send you one chapter or article at a time. a jail sentence is a really good opportunity to learn about things you've always wanted to know about but haven't had the time to get into on the outside. it could also be a good opportunity to take on one huge project – for example, if i didn't have the blog and my studies, and hadn't taken on all the other small projects, i probably could've written a book by now!

work on a skill

i've been working on my French, which has gotten quite rusty. the Vanier library has some books in languages other than English and you can ask for some to be brought onto the unit. my French-English dictionary (available on canteen) and i just finished Albert Camus' *L'Étranger*. you could get chapter of “teach yourself _____” books sent in if you're really ambitious – maybe you'd even find someone on the range to practice with. i've also been practicing handstands: staying up for longer, doing them one-handed, spinning around, walking, and so on. some guards get nervous and tell me to stop in case i hurt myself (infantilizing? yes) but most don't care. in my cell i juggle with balled socks. juggling is a great way to pass the time when you're tired of sitting. i'd suggest learning to juggle three ball tricks to practice while you're here. i also just received some drawing exercises in the mail from an art teacher, and i'm trying to become an okay chess player. most of these things aren't particularly useful but it just feels good to be getting better at something, and it makes passing the time feel less like wasting time.

set goals

i had set myself up with some goals before i got here. i wanted to feel physically fitter and healthier by december. now i'm aiming to be in good enough shape when i get out that my nagging minor injuries won't bother me so much and i can go rock climbing :) some people have very specific fitness goals, like being able to do 100 pushups or becoming a burpee monster. personally, i want to be able to go down into full splits again. why? i don't know... it's a thing. in terms of learning goals, i wanted to take the time to learn about Indigenous histories and to get a handle on the treaties i should be living by. and to research and think about my role in (de)colonization. obviously i could spend years on that, and intend to, but i do feel like i'm getting somewhere slowly but surely. finally, i had some goals for the inside: make it so that newspaper are allowed on the unit (done!); make the same canteen items available to inmates in male and female jails (that has been done for me – we just got a new provider and a new system); improve the book selection (it's actually much better than it was

in 2010. i'd still like to make it so that people could send us books directly though). goals are good, as long as you realize it won't always be possible to achieve them. sometimes just accomplishing a day-to-day goal like "today i'll be sociable" or "today i won't get frustrated with people" or "today i will work on one thing i've been putting off" is enough to make me feel like i've done something worthwhile.

get into a routine

it's been said by many a prisoner that it's crucial to maintain some sort of routine and i couldn't agree more. it's easy for people like me who love having a structured schedule and a mostly predictable life. for the more spontaneous about you, the folks who thrive on change and spontaneity and unexpected challenges, it will be more difficult. that's where coming up with your own tasks and projects will help – routine is going to be imposed on you anyway so you might as well take a bit of control. the days are partly structured by the institution: get up, breakfast, clean cell, range time, lunch, cell time, range time, dinner, cell time, range time, cell time, lights "out". repeat. repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat. the phones start working at 9am, if yard's going to be called it'll be called in the morning, the visit slots are at specific times every day. but the rest is up to you – how will you fill your time? what will you do when? having the autonomy to choose between different activities, set deadlines and decide how i'm going to meet them, and occasionally say "fuck the routine, i'm going to read A Game Of Thrones all day" makes me feel more free, not less. one thing i've learned – the hard way – is that it's important to be flexible because while the general structure of the day never changes little things can wreak havoc on a strict routine, and they are rarely things you can control. if you cling to working or lockdown or visit from a shit head intelligence agent at that time is going to really piss you off (yeah okay, that last one's going to piss you off no matter what time it is). if there are things absolutely have to do between 6 and 7am and you get a cellie who keeps you up until 2am, you're going to be really frustrated. my routine is constantly being tweaked to accommodate these kinds of things. also, sometimes you just need to cut yourself some slack! your body doesn't want to do pushups, or your brain doesn't feel like writing or thinking too hard. you're already a prisoner in jail – you don't want to become a prisoner of your routine, too.

i read an article about incarceration early in my sentence ([The Caging of America](#), The New Yorker, 30 january 2012) and one part stuck with me:

It isn't the horror of the time at hand but the unimaginable sameness of the time ahead that makes prisons unendurable for their inmates... What prisoners try to convey to the free is how the presence of time as something being done to you, instead of something you do things with, alters the mind at every moment... time becomes in every sense this thing you serve.

i see how this could be true, and how it is true for a lot of people here. i don't feel that way at all. back in february i talked about stretching every activity out so it would last longer and doing one thing at a time to fill up the days. now it's no longer a matter of filling the time, it's a matter of finding the time. just like on the outside!

4) don't expect too much of yourself

i came to jail with a long list of goals and projects, and a huge reading list. i really, honestly thought i'd be bored (hence the name of this blog) so i made arrangements to keep myself busy. somewhere along the way i seem to have forgotten the reason i gave myself all this work, which was just to make sure i had something to do, and started stressing out about the fact that there's no way it will all get done. i've even caught myself thinking "argh! There's no time! December is coming too quickly!" (which i suppose is much better than watching the clock and impatiently crossing days off the calendar for the next four months). the fact is that there's far less time than i thought there would be in which to do meaningful work. for one thing i didn't expect to be held on maximum security where we're forced to spend half the day out on the range, where it's loud and distracting. there are also two people per cell. on the other unit you have a cell to yourself and can go in and out of it at will. the second thing is that i'm trying to strike a balance between working and socializing. i came here wanting to learn about the prison system and the people it affects most – it's hard to do that if i'm constantly reading and writing and not hanging out. so anyway, the projects won't all get finished and i'll barely have made a dent in the reading list. .and i'm trying to remember that that's okay.

i had a vague and in retrospect naive notion back in january that i would “use my privilege to make people's lives a bit better.” to some extent i've been able to do that, but only in very small ways. when i look around the range i see people reading the newspaper i get delivered every day, and doing the puzzle page. there are folks playing the Scrabble and Chess games i bought off canteen. i can always spare a pencil, some paper, some toothpaste. I've helped people with parole application, letters and i once even helped someone with her taxes. i add up people's canteen order costs for them and at times i feel like the official 2F dictionary. i know people on the outside who have cell phones and internet access, and who are more than willing to send a message or look things up. those are all good things. but when it comes to offering any significant help or making any significant changes i've been completely useless. the challenges people face here are huge. very few people are able to take their cases to trial so my knowledge of the criminal “justice” system is not valuable. most people are stuck in the revolving door world of guilty-plea-probation-breach-repeat, or are dealing with Immigration Canada – all unfamiliar territory to me. besides, there is already a body of knowledge in here because some people have been dealing with these systems and this institution for years. finally, while there are some changes i would love to make and some ideas i'd love to see implemented, i've yet to figure out how. information on how to do that is impossible to come by, any staff or volunteers who might be interested are inaccessible to people on maximum security, and there is no organizing culture amongst the inmates on my range. i try not to feel too badly about my lack of success, and chalk it up to unreasonable expectations.

one thing i do feel badly about is the mail. i originally promised that i would answer every letter. . . i have failed spectacularly. i really had no idea that i would get this many, that support would be so widespread and ongoing. a word of advice to future prisoners: don't make foolish promises you may not be able to keep!

in fact, i'd suggest not making any promises at all and keeping your goals vague until you get here and see what it's like and how you react to it. your needs and capacities could be different than what you're used to on the outside. it's true that as a political prisoner i've definitely felt a sense of responsibility to learn, to do good work, to make use of all the attention. but when it comes down to it the only thing anyone – including yourself – can really ask is that you get through it and come out okay. anything on top of that is just gravy.

5) be a bridge

i just finished a novel in which one of the characters described prisoners as “the meat in the ghastly sandwich between an uncaring society and a vengeful state.” what a perfect image. it often seems overwhelming to tackle the vengeful state, but there is something we can do about the uncaring society.

if you ever find yourself in jail, try to bridge the gap between the inside and outside worlds. it's so important! as i've learned from people who read this blog, there's a serious lack of information out there about life in jail. and as i learned when i was working on The Peak's special issue on Ontario prisons, people in here really want to share their stories. the lack of dialogue is a huge barrier to society's understanding the real causes and consequences of incarceration, and it's one people like us can do something about.

Maybe you know a blogger, a volunteer at a newspaper or magazine, or a friend of a friend who hosts a radio show. Or perhaps you know of activist/advocacy groups working on issues of poverty, police brutality, migrant justice or prisoner solidarity. Those kind of connections are few and far between in here, so your presence on the range could make a huge difference, make the most of it!

so there are my top five things to consider for those of you who may wind up in jail some day, and or those of you who are doing (or will be doing) jail support.

in related news, Alex was sentenced on june 26 to 13 ½ months – you can read about it and check out his statement to the community. Alex is the last of the G20 Main Conspiracy Group “guilty” to go in. this is a good time for me to point out that while there are a lot of similarities between provincial jails for men and women (the food, the routine, the general feeling of isolation and so on) i'm sure there are also some significant differences. the culture and power dynamics on the range, and the interactions between inmates and guards come to mind. It's something to keep in mind when you read my posts. maybe Alex will write about his experiences in his blog.

between Alex's and Kelly's sentencing hearings, Leah got out. i saw her walk off the unit smiling on the morning of July 10, which pretty much made my day. there's really nothing better than watching people get out of here. i hope you're enjoying your freedom Leah! soon enough i'll be joining you :)

Danger is Better Than Jail

The following story is based on informal conversations and an interview with an inmate being detained by Immigration Canada and not for any (alleged) contravention of the Criminal Code. Unless I refer to myself personally I wasn't a witness to any of the events described. I wrote her story as it was told to me and she approved the final draft. The language barrier was quite a challenge, and I'd like to thank the other Russian-speaking inmates on our range for their help with translation.

I should point out that for safety reasons I had some misgivings about printing the person's real name, but after a long discussion she assured me that she really wanted it to be there. After thinking about it more and in consultation with people on the outside, I decided to change the name after all. It's been done without her knowledge or consent and I still feel conflicted about it.

On June 4, 2012, Tatyana arrived at Lester B. Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Ontario on a flight from Latvia. She came to Canada with a valid passport and a letter she'd had translated into English, explaining that she was seeking political asylum. At the airport she was sent to the office of the Canadian Border Services Agency, who questioned her, took her passport, and then left her to roam the airport overnight. The next day she met with them again, and was questions some more. There was no lawyer present during these meetings; sometimes an interpreter was provided (over the phone) and sometimes not. The June 5 encounter ended with her in handcuffs, and she was put into a car and driven to Vanier Centre for Women. She wasn't told she was being taken to jail – although the handcuffs were an indication something was wrong – and to this day she doesn't understand why she's here. I asked her what she expected would happen when she stepped off the plane. “I thought I would speak with someone, an official, about political asylum and they would say yes or no. If they said no, I would buy a ticket and go back.” She suspects that maybe Immigration Canada thought she'd try to stay illegally “but that is not my way. I told them I'd go back.” At the airport she wasn't a prisoner, she was left to wander – so they obviously couldn't have been that worried.

At Vanier, worrying is policy. “Immigration Holds for Removal or Extradition” are one of four categories of inmates who cannot be moved off maximum security, ever. Regardless of circumstances or behaviour they are seen to be a flight risk. Tatyana was placed on 2F where there are currently a lot of women dealing with immigration issues, many of them from Eastern Europe.

Immigration Canada came to speak with her three times during her detention. The first time no lawyer was present; the other two were the only times her lawyer came to the jail to visit her. She described the opportunity to speak with counsel in private as “very brief” and her overall experiences with her lawyer as frustration and confusing. She was unsure where the lawyer came from or how she was assigned to the case – it seems she just showed up one day with the people from Immigration Canada. I asked Tatyana how her relationship with her lawyer was and she said “There was no relationship. She didn't do anything. Every time I tried to call her I could never reach her.” On June 14 during her second meeting with Immigration Canada, she signed a document that withdrew her claim for refugee protection, essentially signing off on her own deportation. I asked her why, and she told me that she believed that in Canada refugee protection and political asylum were not the same thing. Her lawyer was present at that time and said nothing, except that she should be on her way home within a few weeks.

Confused about the reason for her detention and seeking help and information, Tatyana had tried to call the Latvian embassy. Unfortunately all calls from jail are collect and the embassy (like many embassies and consulates, shockingly) does not accept them. So she asked her Vanier social worker for help, hoping to place a call from her office. Instead she was told the social worker would make the call herself. She doesn't know if that ever happened, but in any case nobody from the embassy got in touch. Not knowing what to do, on June 22 she began a hunger strike. She put a note in to management explaining that she would refuse to eat until she could speak to the Latvian embassy. The guards either couldn't care less that she wasn't lining up for meals, or they were openly hostile. I watched one male guard freak out and scream at her: “TAKE YOUR TRAY! I don't care what you do with it, but I have to put it in your hands. SO TAKE IT FROM ME!” Covering his ass, basically,

while not bothering to give a fuck about why she wasn't eating. In cast it wasn't until the fourth day that a guard actually came in to talk to her about it. At the end of the conversation she was escorted to her cell by the guard and a white shirt, told to pack up her stuff, and then escorted off the range. I asked her where they were taking her. She didn't know. "That's not your concern," I was told, to which I replied "Actually it is my concern."

For one thing, we were worried about her. People get punished for protesting here, and seg is no doubt a rough place if you don't speak fluent English. In addition she had asked me to get in touch with her lawyer somehow to tell her about the hunger strike and to keep her posted should anything happen. Anyway, later I was taken off the range and given a talking to by both the guard and the white shirt. When they do this they make you stand with your back against the wall and then they stand way too close. I was told to mind my own business and not to be concerned with the business of others. "Well that's the whole problem with the world, isn't it?" I say. "That everyone's only concerned with themselves. I don't play that game." (Shit, I'm thinking, I hope I don't get thrown in the hole for this.) I was told that if I'd interfered with an inmate removal when it was "about something important" I'd have gotten a misconduct. I suppose we'll call that the Giving A Shit misconduct, shall we?

As it turns out there was no real need to worry after all. The guard was indeed concerned and being helpful. (the first one in four days!) and Tatyana was seen by a doctor and finally given the opportunity to speak to someone at the embassy – 22 days after she was detained at the airport. The embassy told her they would oversee the deportation procedures. Within a week Tatyana was back on 2F.

On July 8, she signed a waiver of application for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment. I asked her what that meant, and she didn't know. "They told me to sign it for my deportation." She had no idea what the text of the waiver said – neither Immigration Canada nor her lawyer ensured that it be translated for her – but she was told it would make her ticket home come faster. So she signed, "because I didn't want to keep sitting in jail."

On July 17 Tatyana received notification from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) that her ticket had been booked. She would fly back to Latvia on July 19. On July 18 she was told the flight had been canceled. She got angry; she yelled; she was sent to the hole. She's back on 2F now, with a new deportation date of July 22. She doesn't know if it's for real this time.

She is still bewildered by what's happened to her. Why could she not just have bought her own ticket back if Canada wouldn't grant her political asylum? Why did she spend a month and a half in jail waiting to be deported? Why didn't her lawyer explain things? She's glad, after all the waiting and uncertainty, that something is happening. I once asked her if she'd be in danger if she went back. "Yes. But danger is better than jail." So what will she do? "I'm looking for another country now. Because I can't stay in Latvia."

* * *

Tatyana left the range on July 22. Presumably she was taken to the airport. Tatyana, if you're reading this, I hope you're okay and I wish you all the best. Thank you for sharing your story. Again, I'm sorry for using a fake name, but I would hate for something shitty to happen to you because of this blog post.

17 Aug - Nuclear warhead factory shut down by protests

The Y-12 Uranium bomb-making plant was closed for two weeks after anti-nuke peace activists breached security and redecorated the place a bit last month. The three activists are facing about a decade in prison if they are found guilty.

MORE:

On August 9, a federal grand jury returned a [three-count indictment against the Y-12 protesters](#), consolidating the previous charges lodged against them and adding another felony count of "depredation" of government property, involving cutting, painting and defacing that resulted in damages exceeding \$1,000.

The new charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. All three have pleaded not guilty.

The indictment supersedes previous complaints filed against the three defendants — Sister Megan Rice, 83; Michael Walli, 63; and Greg Boertje-Obed — and a new trial date has set for Oct. 10 in front of U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Phillips.

The protesters, who labeled themselves the “Transform Now Plowshares,” infiltrated the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in the predawn hours of July 28, finding their way to the plant’s highest-security area.

According to court documents, they used bolt cutters to get through three fences, tripping alarms in the process. They told acquaintances in the peace movement that they spent more than two hours inside the restricted area. The action culminated in the protesters spray-painting and throwing blood on the walls of the white fortress-like HEUMF structure.

The protest was in response to the preparations for building of a new multibillion-dollar uranium processing plant at Y-12.

Anti-war protesters have rallied at the gates of Y-12 for decades around the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Some deliberately trespass or block traffic to provoke arrest and call more attention to their cause. Some years, authorities have tried to deprive them of the notoriety by refusing to prosecute. Sometimes they go to federal court, but the stiffest sentence ever meted out was less than a year in prison.

This time, federal prosecutors have thrown the book at the three protesters.

“That’s the reaction to the embarrassment,” said Ralph Hutchison, of the loose-knit Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance.

Previous protests around the plant — including one less than three months after 9/11 — have led to millions of dollars of security upgrades. But those haven’t prevented repeated lapses.

“We’re paying all that money for an illusion of security — and you really can’t secure the plant,” Hutchison said.

On New Year’s Day 2002, a dozen protesters marched onto the Y-12 facility carrying 14-foot flags and lighted candles. They stopped three times for prayer services, but were arrested only after being spotted by a passing motorist who reported them to guards.

Since then, more guards have been added, concrete barriers have been built and other security measures taken to meet protective standards described as three times tougher than before 9/11.

But security miscues have persisted. For example, Seven guards were caught napping at Y-12 between 2000 and 2008.

21 Aug - Scholars, Artists, & Activists Oppose Recent FBI Raids & Grand Jury Repression

The Committee against Political Repression asked a series of scholars and movement veterans what they think about the recent FBI raids, the grand jury subpoenas, and the refusal to testify in the Pacific North West. We’ve collected their responses below.

MORE:

Noam Chomsky: “Unacceptable Violations of Elementary Civil Rights”

From the reports so far available, the FBI raids appear to be unacceptable violations of elementary civil rights. And insofar as the Grand Jury is being convened as a device of intimidation, refusal to cooperate with it would be quite justified in my opinion.

Michael Novick: “We Must Raise Our Voices in the Streets”

Resistance to grand jury repression and witch hunts is a vital aspect of building a fighting solidarity movement that can break the teeth of state repressive efforts through unity and silence.

Grand juries have historically been a tool to spread fear and create isolation and division within the peoples' movements. The lessons of the Puerto Rican and Mexicano grand jury resisters of the 1970s, and numerous other cases, is that the best response to grand jury repression, the one that defeats such efforts and lays the basis for ongoing principled resistance and counter-organizing, is non-collaboration.

The corollary of freedom of political speech is freedom of political silence in the face of an inquisition. The grand jury is designed specifically to take away the one right the forces of repression have been forced to turn into a byword — “the right to remain silent.”

Grand juries incarcerate and attempt to criminalize people for their silence. This is the new McCarthyism, an attempt to get people to name names and to be more concerned about individual consequences than collective and social survival and liberation.

We must raise our voices in the streets — and stand with those who maintain our silence in the star chambers — to defeat such repressive fishing expeditions.

David Graeber: “To Resist is an Act of Principle that Benefits Everyone”

What we have been experiencing since the beginning of the repression of Occupy in November is a calculated, coordinated campaign against the very principles of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly — principles that, it should always be remembered, were themselves only established by mass popular mobilization of exactly the sort which our increasingly militarized US police and criminal justice system are now trying to suppress.

At a time when America's liberal class seems to have decided that civil liberties are no longer worth defending (at least, when a Democrat is in office), it is left to anarchists to actually do something to fight for the principles that everyone claims to believe in.

Nothing could be more important than halting the effort to turn the United States into just another police state — if only because oppressive regimes around the world look to the US as a model for what they can get away with at home. “If they can arrest 700 non-violent protestors for marching on a bridge in America, how can you possibly object to our doing it here?” “If they can round up radicals and put them on trial just for their ideas in America, why not here?”

This is an attack on the very idea of human freedom and to resist it is an act of principle that benefits everyone.

Eric Laursen: “A New Star Chamber”

The grand jury system in the U.S. has become a new Star Chamber, a way to intimidate and force politically committed people to testify and name names against the causes they've devoted their lives to.

The FBI, in collaboration with the Criminal Injustice System, is clearly attempting to intimidate activists and tamp down protest in advance of the establishment-sanctioned Democratic and Republican national conventions. It won't work. The protests will go on anyway. But the larger issue is freedom of speech, and the outrageous infringement of people's human rights.

During World War I, activists were arrested merely because they were anarchists, and subsequently deported from this country and otherwise disappeared. Today, the FBI raids people's homes in search of “anti-government or anarchist literature or material.” Back then, these actions were called a “Red Scare.” Now, they're business as usual.

Please support the Committee Against Political Repression and the National Lawyers Guild in defending the victims of these attacks. Next time, it could be you.

Michael Parenti: “Yet Another Instrument of Repression”

Once more the instruments of state force and violence are being used to suppress legitimate protests. The

protestors are exercising their rights to assemble and resist, voicing their opposition to the criminal wars and other exploitative policies perpetrated by the state. The protestors' actions have a name: "democracy." The grand jury should act as an instrument of that democracy rather than serving the police and courts as yet another instrument of repression.

Claude Marks: "Resist at Every Turn"

The US government is busy eliminating the right to dissent, surveiling and criminalizing those of us who dare to object to illegal US wars, racism and oppression. It is not only our right but a responsibility to resist at every turn — whether it be the agent at the door or the grand juries that threaten to imprison the unyielding.

22 Aug - Privilege and conflict at the CNCC by Alex Hundert

G20 "Main Conspiracy" prisoner Alex Hundert has written another interesting blog post that we've pasted below.

MORE:

The Central North Correctional Centre (CNCC) is a prison where it is practically impossible to discern who is in charge. The CNCC is also a prison characterized by the arbitrary abuse of authority by various levels of staff throughout the institution. And though the abuses may often be subtle, they do seem to be pervasive.

The struggle I've engaged in to try and get access to quality reading material is a perfect example of this dynamic. But that drama is still playing out and therefore is a story best left for another day. Today, while my memory is still fresh, I am writing about my brief stint on the "education range" before I was sent back to unit five. I was kicked off of unit 6 for making a formal complaint about the behaviour of the guards. It seems we are not supposed to do that.

On August 1st along with eight others I was transferred from unit five to unit six, the education and work ranges. When we arrived we were sat down by a pair of guards and delivered an infantilizing lecture about how unit six is the "lowest security" unit in this maximum security prison. We were told to consider ourselves "privileged" just to be there.

After being told how lucky we should feel, and that the guards on this unit are supposedly "more mature" than on others, we were led to our respective ranges to get settled in our new cells.

On August fifth I was kicked off of unit six for allegedly having a "conflict of interest" with the guards. That conflict was constituted by merely making a formal complaint about "dishonesty, rudeness and the arbitrary abuse of authority" that I witnessed and experienced from the guards on unit six. Filing a complaint through the proper channels in the institution was essentially deemed as deviant enough behaviour on my part to cost me my status as a "privileged prisoner."

I am, however, quite fine with the end result of this interaction. That is because I did not like the idea of having "privilege" dangled in front of me in a concerted effort to elicit some kind of conditioned behaviour; using it as a proverbial carrot, hung in front of me as an attempt of "correction."

It is important to recognize that this is not a strategy unique to the so-called corrections system. And it is not just the "carrot or the stick approach" to "corrective" behaviour modification that is typical of systems of authority, but the specific practice of dangling privilege in front of people with the intent of making them fall in line.

On a broader level, the very same system that employs prisons, courts, and cops as the hardened sticks of capitalism and white supremacy has always dangled privilege in front of people to get them to fall in line. Privilege is used as a bribe to keep those with access to it from complaining about exploitation, from questioning authority, from organizing for solidarity, and from challenging oppression and oppressive societal structures.

I had wanted to include a transcript of the “inmate statements form”—constituting my formal complaint that I submitted on August 4th—however, I still have not received a copy of the paper work, and so below is the rundown of the incidents.

On August 2nd the newspaper subscription that I carry while imprisoned—something inmates are entitled to do at every provincial prison—did not arrive on my range, on unit six, like it had almost every single day I’d been on unit five. I mentioned it to a guard who said he’d try to have it brought over from unit five where it had likely been delivered. This seemed reasonable; it seemed obvious that it might take a day or two for the mail system to catch up with me—not necessary, but obvious.

The next day again the paper didn’t come and again I mentioned it to a guard. This guard assured me that he’s checking with the mail clerk and will get the paper delivered.

August 3rd was Friday, which is also the day that our “canteen” order arrived at CNCC. A brief word about canteen: every week, inmates who have people on the outside who can put money into their account—having access to people with money being real privilege—are entitled to spend up to sixty dollars a week on things like stationery, chips, or candy bars, hygiene items, magazines etc. These are ordered through a form-based system and fulfilled by a third party contractor. Until recently, Aramark—a nasty union busting company—held the provincial contract now held by Compass Group (I don’t know anything about that company). On the Friday in question those of us who had been moved from unit five did not receive our canteen orders like everyone else who had placed one. We were assured, however, that they would be delivered to us before the end of the day. No need to worry, we were told.

Unfortunately, by the end of the day we’d been fed several different stories about when they would arrive and why they hadn’t already. By evening lockup the order still had not been delivered and we were worried. Because my newspaper also still had not arrived I was frustrated and decided to press the matter. In doing so, I caught the guards backtracking over one of the day’s previous stories, and called them out for lying to us. Instead of getting an apology, or at least some honesty, I was yelled at, insulted, and ordered to my cell in a way that carried an implicit threat of being thrown in the hole if I did not comply, perhaps accompanied by physical violence. Rather than see this situation escalate further I marched back to my cell as I’d been ordered. That night I wrote a request to the Unit Manager (also known as a captain, white shirt, or officer in charge) to “discuss [the day’s] interactions with the guards.”

The next morning I eventually got to speak to a unit manager (UM) who, I have to admit, was courteous and professional. When I explained to her that my concern was not with the fact that the paper and canteen still had not been delivered but rather with the conduct of the guards on the unit, she gave me yet another explanation as to why the canteen still hadn’t shown up. This explanation seemed reasonable but had no correlation with what we’d been told the previous day and confirmed that much of what the guards had said had been outright lies. I told her that I had serious concerns with the way the guards apparently think that because it has been deemed a “privilege” to be incarcerated on unit six, inmates therefore have neither a right to expect access to things which we are entitled according to institutional and provincial policy, nor should we expect to have a right to complain when our rights are disregarded by prison staff. Apparently they don’t think we even have the basic right to be told the truth. I told her that while the initial problems in all this might have been relatively trivial, the attitude and behaviour exhibited by the guards on unit six was nonetheless unacceptable and I couldn’t in good conscience let it simply pass. I asked to file a complaint that I could sign my name to.

Within thirty minutes of asking the UM to bring me an inmate statement form, the previous day’s newspaper showed up. When it did, it arrived to a round of applause from the range. I gather from conversations that people rarely bother to stand up for their rights here. It seems like that is because people don’t want to risk losing “privilege.”

Less than half an hour after I submitted the inmate statement form, our canteen order showed up too, along with that day’s paper.

The next morning the UM came back and called me off the range. Once on the other side of the glass that separates the ranges from the central area of the unit—all units and so-called super-jails are panopticons—I was surrounded by guards. I was informed by the UM that because I had filed a complaint against the guards on that unit it was now a “conflict of interest” for me to stay on the range. I was told that I was lucky to be going back to unit five instead of to administrative segregation, more commonly known as the hole. I was also told that it was not a “punitive” measure. I was even told that they didn’t want to let me back onto the range to pack up my own stuff and that I had to leave immediately. Obviously they didn’t want me to tell other inmates about the consequences that were to be faced for trying to hold the guards accountable. However, I guess the UM knew she was pushing her luck because it took little protest to convince her to let me back to my cell to pack my own belongings. I was given two minutes and accompanied by three guards who prevented anyone else from joining me in my cell while I packed. I was strip searched before being returned to my old range on unit five.

In all fairness two things need to be said. First is to note a distinct difference between the attitude and behaviours of the guards on unit six from the ones on unit five. On unit six, the guards carry themselves as if they have a sense of entitlement to impunity, an attitude that I think is not only abusive but dangerous. On unit five, on the other hand, I have not witnessed this kind of behaviour from the guards. Most of the time they are fairly professional and several of them have even been nice to me.

Second I also have to admit that the UM who oversaw all this may actually have thought she was doing me a favour. One of the things I said to her (on the Saturday) was that if being on an allegedly “lower security” unit was going to be constantly held over my head as a privilege that could be taken away as a form of punishment, I’d rather volunteer to go back to unit five on my own terms.

In retrospect, while the phrase “arbitrary abuse of authority” may seem like somewhat overstating the severity of the initial conduct, in the end that conduct foreshadowed the eventual outcome. The guards only lied because they have decided that we are not entitled to honesty from them or that policy should not guide their behaviour. I’m not willing to let them get away with that. I will be contacting the provincial ombudsman about this incident because at the end of the day, while the institution may have chosen to call it a “conflict of interest,” I got kicked off the education range for filing a complaint about rude, dishonest, and abusive guards.

Conclusion/update (Aug 18):

Today I had a long chat with one of the CNCC unit managers. The conversation was a follow-up to the filing of the inmate statement form, but we also spoke about the looming OPSEU contract negotiations and the impact the talks will have on guards and inmates as well as “management.” We also spoke about the library program here and policy regarding receiving books from the outside. All in all it was quite civil.

I signed off on a brief summary of the inmate statement form to be delivered to the Deputy Superintendent. When asked what I hoped the outcome to be I replied that I had not been looking for anything other than to raise awareness about the conduct, my perception of it as being a problematic ongoing dynamic. I said that I would be happy simply knowing that someone in the Superintendent’s office would actually read the statement I submitted. She said that she’d see to it and made a note of it on the summary to which was stapled the original of the form.

Tomorrow I should be getting the photocopy of the statement. Sooner or later I will post it, as an addendum to this piece. The captain also mentioned that she’d read a copy of the [Prisoner Justice Day statement](#) we put out. She said that she was impressed with the writing and hoped that I considered tutoring while I am here, which was something I had been trying to arrange for (with the education coordinator). We will see what happens.

22 Aug - ELF prisoner Jesse Waters to be released soon

Last fall, Jesse Waters—a man from the Detroit area—was sentenced in Grand Rapids for his role in an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) activities in the early 2000s (the same activities that got Marie Mason over 20 years in prison). According to the BOP, he is set to be out on September 5th. But it’s not too late to send him a letter welcoming him back to life outside.

MORE:

Jesse William Waters #15854-040
FCI Elkton
Post Office Box 10
Lisbon, Ohio 44432

In the most recent issue of *Fifth Estate* there is an article (“Snitch Gets Reduced Term: Another Prison Sentence in Marie Mason Case”, Spring 2012) about the case by Waters’ Attorney. We’re happy to report that Waters took a non-cooperation plea agreement and has not participated in any briefings with the government nor will he assist them in any investigations into environmental activists.

Sadly, despite the weak nature of the government’s case, Waters was essentially forced to plea because the principle snitch in Marie Mason’s case—Frank Ambrose—provided information on Waters. Another co-defendant in the case, Stephanie Fultz, also chose to sell out her co-defendants and cooperate. Moreover Waters was facing a minimum prison sentence of five years if convicted and a “terrorism enhancement” that could have increased the sentence to 22 years.

We’d encourage everyone to write letters to Jesse Waters as it’s important that we show those in prison that they are not forgotten.

Waters’ lawyer, who is also the head of a local National Lawyers Guild (NLG) chapter, says that there are two main lessons that we can draw from this prosecution:

1. If any activist has been involved in, or might be accused of having been involved in a possible crime while engaging in political activism, the time to consult with an experienced NLG lawyer is now. Also, “DON’T TALK TO THE FBI!”
2. All activists should be cautious about whom they trust. If someone suddenly shows up and wants to talk about legally questionable activities from the past or suggests crimes, get away from that person immediately.

23 Aug – Robert Seth Hayes is receiving medical attention

At the last letter-writing night, we told you about Robert Seth Hayes not getting suitable medical attention. Well, good news! All the calls and letters the prison and the state received were listened to. Seth was seen about his fingers and is going to get some therapy. Seth is very thankful for everyone who took the time to call and write, from feedback he said it made the difference. Seth's wife wanted to thank everyone individually who called, every call and every letter helped.

24 Aug – IndieGoGo and National Day of Action for Cleveland 4

We recently received an e-mail from the Cleveland 4 support crew and are passing on the relevant information. More than anything, right now the four need money to secure decent council. Please tell your friends and family about <http://www.indiegogo.com/Cleveland4Justice> and try to draw more attention to funding their defense.

MORE:

We’ve been working with folks here in the Cleveland 4 support group. We’re doing the best we can, given the ridiculously fast scheduling of the trial, and Tony snitching out. We’ve been so appreciative for the support and attention NYC ABC and other groups have been raising. Right now, with the trial rapidly approaching, we’re working on getting any additional funds together we can for the legal team. With that said, we’re organizing an emergency national day of fundraising on or about August 31st. We’re asking folks to do whatever makes sense for you -- do an event, pass a hat at a meeting, spend an hour calling people to get pledges, busk... If anything’s possible, it’ll be a big help.

Second, we've launched an indiegogo: www.indiegogo.com/Cleveland4Justice

We need to get a lot of people to view the indiegogo, and if possible make even small donations of a few dollars. The more visitors it gets, the more people share the link on facebook or tweet about it, and the more contributors, the more it'll be featured on indiegogo's site and the more random people will be exposed to it. That's the idea. If you can get people on there, it'd be awesome. We've got a bunch of flyers on our site, and one of them is just a tiny 10th of a sheet that has the indiegogo link -- can you help give these out to folks?

Finally, we'll be doing more media outreach soon. If you have any media contacts, would you be able to help distribute our audio pieces and op-eds or hook us up with reporters who might want to write something about the case?

24 Aug - The Secret Scheme to Sabotage Mumia Abu-Jamal's Appeal Rights

Mumia Abu-Jamal thwarted a Philadelphia judge's secretive court order that could have eliminated his future appeal rights when he filed a last-minute motion on August 23rd challenging that order sentencing him to life-without-parole.

MORE:

Most supporters and detractors of Abu-Jamal had been expecting the formal conversion of his controversial death sentence to life-without-parole in the wake of a federal appeals court's second and final rejection of requests from Philadelphia prosecutors to keep Abu-Jamal on death row back in April 2011.

What was unexpected by Abu-Jamal supporters were the procedures surrounding the secretive court order, which appears to have violated a number of Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Abu-Jamal's Pro Se Motion for Post Sentence Relief and Reconsideration of Sentence referenced Rule 720 of Pennsylvania's Criminal Procedure which states in part that defendants shall "have the right" to make post-sentence motion but that motion must be filed "no later than 10 days after imposition of sentence."

That secretly issued resentencing order occurred on August 13, 2012, exactly ten days before Abu-Jamal filed his motion.

If that ten-day filing period had expired, undiscovered due to secrecy-shrouded issuance of the resentencing order about which no public notice or notice was provided to Abu-Jamal and his legal team, his legal ability to challenge his continued confinement would have been damaged, including his probable loss of future appeal rights.

Court rules and common decency require notice of court actions -- both pending and actually taken.

"This is the same backdoor stuff that's always done to him," a Mumia attorney, Rachel Wolkenstein, said during an interview outside of Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Center after delivering Abu-Jamal's motion.

Wolkenstein, who has worked on Abu-Jamal's case for over two decades, uncovered that secretly issued judicial order.

She became aware of it during a routine inspection of Philadelphia court records checking to see when a resentencing would occur.

Wolkenstein immediately informed Abu-Jamal and his legal team, all of whom were unaware of the order.

Wolkenstein then made two trips to the Pennsylvania prison holding Abu-Jamal, the last trip to bring Abu-Jamal's Motion to the Philadelphia court house a few hours before that ten-day filing deadline expired.

Rule 114(b)(1) of Pennsylvania's Rules of Criminal Procedure states that a "copy of any order or court notice promptly shall be served on each party's attorney..." -- procedures apparently not followed in this resentencing of Abu-Jamal.

Another provision of those Procedures, Rule 704, states the sentencing judge must advise a defendant “of the time within which defendant must exercise” their right to appeal and other post-sentencing matters.

“A number of death sentences have been reversed in Pennsylvania and the person's given life sentences. As far as I know each of those persons received more formal proceeding than what happened here,” Wolkenstein said.

Rule 114(A)(2) of Pennsylvania’s Criminal Procedure states that “all orders and court notices promptly shall be placed in the criminal case file.”

Yet Wolkenstein said when she asked Philadelphia court clerks for the resentencing file days after the order’s issuance, court clerks told her there was no file containing a record of that resentencing.

Philadelphia Court Clerk officials, when contacted for comment, requested that questions be made in a written format for review by their lawyers. Those officials did not reply to the submitted questions by the time of this article’s posting.

Another factor further obscuring that resentencing order, Wolkenstein said, is that the court docket captioned under the birth name Abu-Jamal -- Wesley Cook -- hasn’t been used since the late 1960s.

The majority of court files and court rulings (state and federal) list the name Abu-Jamal not Cook, thus persons examining court files generally look for Abu-Jamal and not the name Cook.

The perverse procedures swirling around that resentencing order were not unusual, given the legal improprieties and other irregularities that have stained Abu-Jamal’s case since his December 1981 arrest for killing a Philadelphia policeman.

Philadelphia’s President Judge, Pamela P. Dembe, resented Abu-Jamal to life-without-parole on August 13th, according to sketchy Philadelphia court docket documents.

Those documents state that Dembe was acting in accordance with a December 2001 order from a federal district court judge who voided Abu-Jamal’s death sentence after ruling that the judge at Abu-Jamal’s 1982 murder trial had incorrectly instructed the jury on how to conduct its death penalty deliberation.

“Nothing in that federal ruling says it’s OK for no notice and no record in the resentencing,” Wolkenstein said, questioning the legality of the resentencing.

Abu-Jamal, despite having his death sentence vacated in 2001, remained in death-row isolation until December 2011 because the federal judge that eliminated his death sentence granted a punitive request from Philadelphia prosecutors to keep Abu-Jamal on death row while they appealed that judge’s ruling -- a process that took ten years.

Abu-Jamal's Motion cites the fact that he wrongfully spent nearly thirty-years in death row isolation on a sentence federal courts ruled was illegal. His supporters, like Wolkenstein, cite that illegal death row incarceration as fact enough to release this man whose published six critically acclaimed books and over a thousand commentaries while on death row.

Philadelphia prosecutors pursued two unsuccessful appeals in federal appeals court seeking unsuccessfully to reinstate the death sentence that was vacated in 2001. There were also two efforts going up to the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to uphold an execution.

In early December 2011 Philadelphia prosecutors announced that they were no longer appealing those federal appellate court rulings, thus ending their effort to execute Abu-Jamal.

But Pennsylvania prison authorities, instead of removing Abu-Jamal totally from solitary confinement in compliance with those long-delayed federal court rulings at that point, initially simply shifted him from death row to the more draconian isolation of administrative custody.

Prison officials advanced ever-changing rationales for keeping Abu-Jamal in administrative custody, including the Kafkaesque claim that they needed legal clarification that courts had formally replaced Abu-Jamal's death sentence with life in prison.

Prison officials, in January 2012, facing international protests, finally relented and released Abu-Jamal from isolation into general population.

Judge Dembe's secretive resentencing is in concert with earlier improprieties that have stalked all facets of Abu-Jamal's arrest, trial, appeals and imprisonment.

Philadelphia police, for example, right from the moment of Abu-Jamal's arrest at the scene of the shootings, failed to perform the standard test to prove Abu-Jamal had even fired the pistol that police said he used to kill the officer.

One of the gravest yet least examined improprieties occurred on the eve of a pivotal 1995 appeal hearing when then Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge issued a death warrant on Abu-Jamal.

That warrant was issued because lawyers in Ridge's office had secretly and unlawfully intercepted correspondence between Abu-Jamal and his lawyers, and discovered the date they planned for the filing of their client's appeal.

That Ridge-issued death warrant severely disrupted Abu-Jamal's appeal proceeding, forcing Abu-Jamal's defense team to fight the warrant while simultaneously preparing for the appeal hearing.

The execution date was also used by the appeal hearing judge -- Albert Sabo, who had also been the judge at Abu-Jamal's original murder trial -- as a justification for unduly speeding that hearing. That gratuitous rush Sabo ordered further constrained defense efforts by limiting their ability to locate and bring in witnesses.

Additionally, issuance of that death warrant was improper because Abu-Jamal had a constitutional right to that 1995 appeal of his death sentence before an execution could take place.

Federal and state courts have persistently ignored that glaringly improper intervention by Ridge, which effectively robbed Abu-Jamal's of a key step in his appeal rights -- the right to have a fact-finding review of his flawed 1982 trial and to introduce new evidence of innocence.

Significantly, Judge Dembe is the same jurist who years ago rejected compelling evidence that the judge in Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial had made a racist, prosecution-favoring admission on the eve of the proceeding.

A court stenographer had come forward and announced that she had, back in 1982 during the jury selection phase of the trial, overheard that trial judge, the infamous Albert Sabo, declare to his court aide that he was going to help prosecutors "fry the nigger," a clear reference to Abu-Jamal.

Racist and/or pro-prosecution bias by a judge is forbidden by Supreme Court rulings and by Pennsylvania's Code of Judicial Conduct, not to mention basic principles of Common Law.

Yet, Dembe refused to take testimony from the stenographer to determine the veracity of allegations from that woman, who hails from a family of police officers.

Dembe, in a ruling exhibiting ridiculous reasoning, claimed Sabo's racist, pro-prosecution rant was immaterial to Abu-Jamal's conviction because, she opined, a jury not Sabo convicted Abu-Jamal.

Dembe's fundamentally flawed assertion pretended that Sabo, as trial judge, did not influence the course of the trial in a series of sabotaging actions like stripping Abu-Jamal of his right to represent himself at trial just days before testimony began (and sending his defense into a tail-spin), withholding favorable Abu-Jamal evidence from jurors, and even selecting a juror for duty who had honestly admitted to being solidly biased against Abu-Jamal.

The injustice in Abu-Jamal's long-running case has elicited condemnation from numerous entities as diverse as Amnesty International, the NAACP and the City Council of Munich, Germany.

The injustice evident in Abu-Jamal's case is consistent with the injustice exhibited daily by some Philadelphia police, prosecutors and judges.

The same day Abu-Jamal filed his resentencing-challenging motion, a Philadelphia judge convicted Philadelphia broadcaster Jeff Hart of disorderly conduct for a minor incident arising from Hart's observing police brutality during the arrest of a suspect near Hart's house.

Hart said the false disorderly conduct charge followed his politely asking a Philadelphia policeman to not use profanity repeatedly when ordering Hart and another man from the arrest scene.

Abu-Jamal, an award-winning broadcast journalist at the time of his 1981 arrest, frequently reported on this kind of rampant police abuse in Philadelphia.

25 Aug - Alert! FBI Agent Visited Southern California Activist

A Southern California animal rights activist was approached Thursday, August 23, by an FBI agent who asked about her knowledge of an illegal activity which occurred in the Southern California area. As usual the agent tried to be friendly and asked all sorts of questions. If you know activists in the SoCal area, give them a heads up. Most importantly, make sure they say nothing and call an attorney.

29 Aug – National call-in day to support grand jury resisters

We are asking for people to call the US Attorney again this Wednesday, August 29th and have included details below.

MORE:

Call Jenny Durkan at **(800) 797-6722** and leave a message with the person who answers the phone. Last call in day, they tried to send people to a voicemail box. If they attempt to do that, tell whoever you are talking to that you would like to leave a message with them and not a voicemail.

An example of what you might say:

“Hi. I am Jolene Seaside. I am calling about the grand jury being impaneled in Seattle tomorrow, August 30th. This case clearly shows that the FBI and government are persecuting political dissent in our country. It is despicable that US attorney and the government are harassing and intimidating this group of people for their political beliefs. I demand that the grand jury and investigation be ended immediately, that the government's repression of social movements stop, and that any items seized in the raids be returned. Thank you for taking my comments.”

When you call the U.S Attorney's office, please let them know that you are speaking for yourself and not the individuals resisting the grand jury subpoenas. Be aware of how the things you say will impact the people you are trying to help. If you make a call, please email us (nopoliticalrepression@gmail.com) and let us know how what kind of response you got from the Attorney's office.

On August 2nd, we overwhelmed the US attorney's office in Washington with phone calls demanding an end to the grand jury. We want to keep up the pressure and make sure the US attorney knows we are still standing firmly in solidarity with those resisting the grand jury.

Thursday, August 30th: Come to Seattle to stand against the Grand Jury witch hunt! There will be a demonstration in solidarity with those affected by the raids and subpoenas starting at 12:00 pm The demonstration will be at the federal court house, 700 Stewart St., in Seattle.

Can't make it to Seattle? Plan another event or demonstration in solidarity! Please email us at nopoliticalrepression@gmail.com to tell us about your event

or attend one of these solidarity events:

Portland, Oregon: Come show resistance to state repression and solidarity with those whose backs are against the wall. 12:30 to 3:30 pm at the Federal Court House (1000 SW 3rd Ave).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/401156179937499/>

Minneapolis, MN: A rally in solidarity with Northwest/Midwest grand jury resisters and local Occupy Homes organizers. 12-1pm at City Hall (350 S 5th St).

<http://twincitiesantirepression.tumblr.com/post/30111358127/a30-solidarity-against-state-repression>

Please donate! There is a “Donate” tab on our website <http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com/>. We are trying to raise legal fees for all of those affected. We also are trying to provide material support for those that are resisting the grand jury.

Please keep checking our website for updates: <http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com/>. If you have questions, email us at nopoliticalrepression@gmail.com.

2 Sept – Running Down the Walls 2012 in Prospect Park

WHAT: Running Down the Walls – 5k Run/Walk/Jog/Bike

WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 2nd

WHERE: Prospect Park– Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge (see the below map for exact location)

COST: \$10 registration (includes food and drinks afterwards)

MORE:



Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity events with Running Down the

Walls. Last year, we had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Denver (CO), Elmore (AL), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), New York (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Tucson (AZ), and Toronto, Ontario. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. NYC ABC's goal with this year's run is \$2,000.

This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 2nd at 2:00pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time.

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

To raise our goal of \$2,000, we need your support.

* Run/walk/bike/roll in the 5k – We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Take the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form.

* Volunteer for the run – We need folks who are willing to staff a registration/literature table, hand out water, bike the route as street medics, and help chalk the route beforehand.

* Donate to the run/sponsor a participant – If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to:

NYC ABC

Post Office Box 110034

Brooklyn, New York 11211

Your donation of \$10 or more entitles you to the celebratory picnic after the event.

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year's partner group will be the **People's Survival Program**.

The Warchest Program:

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. It's purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. For more information, visit:

<http://www.abcf.net/abcf.asp?page=warchest>

People's Survival Program (PSP)

The People's Survival Program (PSP) has the mission to advance the vision and legacy of the Black Panther Movement, including know your rights trainings, cop watch patrols, food and clothing shares, and cultural & education programs.

8 Sept – Benefit for Leonard Peltier, The Cuban 5 and the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

WHAT: Fundraiser for PP/POW commissary accounts

WHEN: 6:00pm-9:30pm, Saturday, September 8th

WHERE: Riverside Church, Room 411 – 91 Claremont Avenue New York, New York

COST: Free, but this is a fundraiser for commissary for the Political Prisoners/POWs. Be prepared to be generous!

MORE:

Happy 68th Birthday, Leonard Peltier!

Free the Cuban 5: 14 Years of Unjust Incarceration

Viva Puerto Rico Libre! 13th Anniversary of the Release of the Puerto Rican PPs/POWs

Speakers and Performers:

Attorney Michael Kuzma

The Kasibahagua Taino Cultural Society

Rebel Diaz

For more information:

nyclpdoc@gmail.com • nycjericho@gmail.com • 718-325-4407

Co-Sponsored by: Riverside Church Prison Ministry,

NYC Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Ctte., NYC Jericho Movement,

ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5

14 Sept - Stop Mass Incarceration, Free Mumia & All Political Prisoners

WHAT: Panel discussion and book signing with Angela Davis, Cornel West, Pam Africa, Jazz Hayden & more

WHEN: 5:00-7:00pm, Friday, September 14th

WHERE: The Nave at Riverside Church - 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027

COST: \$10

MORE:

Featuring:

~Book signing by program participants

~Literature tables

~A petition signing for the closing of Attica

~Media interviews

~Keynote speakers

~Panel discussion on the anti-mass incarceration movement

The panel discussion will feature Angela Davis, Michelle Alexander, Marc Lamont Hill, Cornel West, Pam Africa, Asha Bandele, Suzanne Ross, Soffiyah Elijah, Juan E. Mendez and Jazz Hayden.

24 Sept – National Call-in for anti-war and international solidarity activists

Two years after the September 24, 2010 FBI raids and grand jury repression that targeted 23 Midwest anti-war, Palestinian and international solidarity activists, the Committee to Stop FBI Repression is urging activists around the country to take action.

MORE:

Call Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas at **312-353-5300 x 68027**

Tell him to "End the investigation of anti-war and international solidarity activists."

Two years is enough! It is time for the Chicago U.S. Attorney's office to say, once and for all, that this investigation is over.

After two long years, the activists who faced raids and subpoenaed are still being threatened. This needs to be taken seriously. In late July 2012, Northern Illinois Assistant U.S. Attorney [Barry Jonas](#) refused to return much of the material seized in the FBI raid on the home of [Hatem Abudayyeh](#), citing the ongoing "material support for terrorism" investigation.

Barry Jonas is well known for participating in one of the worst violations of civil liberties in the past decade. He

played a leading role in prosecuting the leaders of the Holy Land Foundation while he was trial attorney for the Department of Justice Counter-terrorism Section.

The Chicago U.S. Attorney's Office has told lawyers representing the anti-war and international solidarity activists that they are preparing "multiple indictments of multiple people." Barry Jonas' refusal to return Abudayyeh's papers is the latest confirmation that the investigation has not ended and that the Justice Department is continuing its vendetta against those who are working for peace with justice. In a number of "material support of terrorism" cases, there has been a gap of one to three or more years between the FBI raids and indictments.

Most of the activists targeted in this case, including Abudayyeh, helped organize the massive protest at the 2008 Republican National Convention in Saint Paul, Minnesota. At that time, an undercover law enforcement officer, going by the name of "[Karen Sullivan](#)," infiltrated the protest efforts and stuck around to spy and lie about many of the 23 activists.

That Barry Jonas is now the lead prosecutor for the international solidarity activists is troubling. Jonas is a pro-Israel ideologue whose work in prosecuting the [Holy Land case](#) exposed his politically motivated willingness to trample on the rights of accused Palestinians. As the lead prosecutor in the Holy Land case, Jonas used secret witnesses (the defense never got to find out who the witnesses were), hearsay evidence and the introduction of evidence that had nothing to do with the defendants in the case - such as showing a video from Palestine of protesters burning an American flag - as a means to prejudice the jury. The result was that five men, who did nothing wrong, are sitting in prison with sentences that range between 15 and 65 years.

The U.S. is becoming a more repressive place. Hundreds of Arabs and Muslims have and are facing unjust prosecutions, or have already been put behind bars. Also, a grand jury is threatening political activists in the [Northwest](#); criminal proceedings are taking place against [NATO protesters](#) in Chicago; and the Occupy movement has faced a wave of police violence.

Through our collective action, we were able to win a victory against the FBI frame up of veteran Chicano activist [Carlos Montes](#).

We need to continue the fight to against all political repression. Together we will win!