

UPDATES

February 16th – Greens Vs. FBI – An Interview with Hugh Farrell and Mary Sackley

So we're a little late on this one, but it was only recently brought to our attention. Back in mid-February, counterpunch.org published an article about two activists arrested and facing extraordinarily long prison sentences for opposing construction of the I-69 highway through Indiana. The interview provides insight into the motivations of industry groups and the federal government, through the lens of Hugh and Mary.

The "green scare" is in full swing, with COINTELPRO-style targeting of environmental and animal rights activists. The green scare, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights, is "the repression of environmental activists by designating them as terrorists."

The challenge for activists is to peacefully protest and avoid criminalization of their dissent. Nowhere is that situation more evident than in the case of two I-69 protestors, Hugh Farrell and Gina "Tiga" Wertz. After a nonviolent protest Wertz was charged with intimidation, a class A misdemeanor, two counts; conversion (unauthorized use of someone else's property), a class A misdemeanor, two counts; and corrupt business influence (racketeering), a class C felony. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

Farrell was charged with two counts of intimidation, two counts of conversion and corrupt business influence plus felony racketeering; his bond was set at \$20,000.

"Now that we're done with the case, we're trying to figure out the repression that was used against us."

All four misdemeanors are related to an alleged nonviolent action on July 9, 2007, in which activists removed the furniture from offices of two private, for-profit companies that had contracts with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to work on I-69. They posted eviction notices on the doors to protest the eviction of property owners and confiscation of land and homes in the highway's path.

In early March 2010 the judge dismissed the felony racketeering charge. That left the four misdemeanors, which carried a maximum prison sentence of four years. In the end, the defendants' attorneys worked out a plea bargain consisting of unsupervised probation for two years.

Mary Sackley is another local activist; she is one of 16 citizens who protested an asphalt company's participation in construction of the new-terrain highway with two lockdowns in 2008 at the asphalt company's headquarters.

Here Farrell and Sackley talk about what their lives are like today, two years after the protests.

LG: Hugh, how has your life changed since your case ended?

HF: I'm still under judicial control, which means that for another year and a half I'll have probation restrictions, which means I can't be arrested and am subject to additional surveillance.

LG: What happens if you're arrested?

HF: I have a two-year sentence, so if I get arrested, that immediately becomes unsuspended, and I'd do two years [of prison time] automatically.

Now that we're done with the case, we're trying to figure out the repression that was used against us. It was hardly against just Tiga [Wertz] and me; it was also against a number of other people in the movement against [the] I-69 [highway], and that's part of the national momentum targeting ecoactivists. A lot of people in Bloomington are trying now to get organized to support other people who have been in prison and facing repression and try to fight back. One specific situation is the civil suit, in which 16 people are facing legal harassment and what's called a SLAPP suit [Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation] by Gohmann Asphalt for impinging on I-69 profits.

MS: I can give a brief update on the civil suit. Basically it's kind of a long waiting game where Gohmann Asphalt can wait us out until our energy wears out. They have endless money. Gohmann recently won a \$7 million contract for the construction of I-69 through Pike County and through the Patoka National Wildlife Refuge, so they continue to be raking in the dollars. And still suing us for what could end up being over \$100,000. The most recent update is that in December I filed an anti-SLAPP motion, which is a motion within the lawsuit to basically prove that this lawsuit is a SLAPP suit under Indiana statutes. And we're very fortunate that Indiana has those statutes because a lot of states don't have these statutes, so it would be a lot harder to defend ourselves.

LG: Mary, what was your role in all this?

MS: I was present at both lockdowns at Gohmann Asphalt. I was arrested at the second lockdown. I was the police liaison at both protests. I was specifically targeted because I was providing communication in between the protestors and the police. I was actually talking to the police and the prosecutor of Gibson County, and I was seeking to say, "Okay, what do you want us to do? Here's what people are willing to do," and letting the police know about various medical conditions. They used pressure points and compliance holds.

LG: What's happening right now, besides what you said?

HF: On a related note, a long-term organizer and well-known community environmental activist here, Marie Mason, was arrested in 2008. We have to understand that her arrest was not only a response to her long history of resistance to environmental destruction across the Midwest, but an attack on the movement against I-69, which she participated in for 10 years, at a time when the state was gearing up to begin construction on the highway. She was arrested at the school where she worked in 2008. Many people in Bloomington are getting better organized to try to support her through her 22-year prison sentence.

LG: She's in solitary confinement, isn't she?

HF: She's in a "secure housing unit," which is an extremely repressive prison regime specifically meant to isolate and target political prisoners and prisoners who have been active in resistance of all kinds. It's also racist, frequently used to lock Muslim prisoners regardless of their charges. We're trying to get together support for her and make sure people know about her role in 20 years of environmental organizing and labor struggles and other projects.

LG: What does support consist of?

HF: Making sure that on her birthday (Jan. 26) and every other day she gets letters of support because she has very little contact with the outside world otherwise and making sure she's supported and that she's able to stay in touch with people and not only with people who are her good friends. What she wants is wider contact with other people who care about the world, not just her good friends. Making sure she's not isolated and trying to refuse the State's effort to isolate prisoners and better control them that way and scare the rest of us.

I think public displays and shows of support for her are really important. Showing support for Marie is also a way of taking a public position on environmental destruction and against the kind of interests that railroaded her and made sure that she'd receive five times the normal sentence that an arsonist would get. Linking together support for her as well as opposition to ongoing environmental degradation and also against repression by the prison system against political prisoners and all communities that are targeted by the prison system.

LG: What have you done that's public to support her?

MS: There was recently a speaking event at Boxcar Books. That was pretty well attended. Some folks from Cincinnati and her support crew there came to speak.

HF: I feel really good about that. I felt that what we need to start doing is having a dialogue, an open conversation, and a place like Bloomington, even though it's a small town, can often feel very isolating to people; there's been a lot of fear because of what happened to her.

LG: Have you had any problems with FBI informants?

HF: The assumption now is that the government should have the prerogative to insert infiltrators and every sort of watching eye in any group of people involved in social struggles, and it's incredible what kind of extensive network they've built for surveillance (not just human infiltrators, either; Facebook has been cited extensively in several recent cases), but at the same time it's important not to be intimidated by that.

What they want is to spread paranoia and fear and prevent communication between people. They have such an extensive operation of surveillance of infiltration of repression, so the challenge is to avoid responding the way they us to, which would be shutting down.

LG: Do you assume that nobody is an informant, or are you just really careful?

HF: I think the opposite. My goal always is to try to relate to people and try to develop relationships of affinity and friendship and mutual understanding. The exciting thing about encountering people you don't know is that they are different from you, that they're coming from a different place and thus it's impossible to "be really careful" with them.

If we work to develop the most intense connections possible, connections where we can begin to strategize and talk about the worlds we want to live in, and how to concretely reach them -- It's very difficult to fake that. Those are the kinds of connections that are important for resisting both infiltration but also paranoia and isolation.

LG: What are you doing now? Are you doing any activism besides Marie's support network?

HF: Reading a lot, working on a community garden project, which, hopefully, will be part of a wider network of community gardens.

LG: Mary, do you have anything to add at this point?

MS: I look forward to people in Bloomington continuing to keep their eyes open to the repression in this state, both that which is faced by people resisting I-69 and others. To continue to think about the repression in the state of Indiana and to continue to think about how that what we face as political activists isn't unique, and it's very much as the system operates.

Linda Greene can be reached at lgreene@bloomington.in.us

March 15th – Demonstration in Support of ALF Lone Wolf Walter Bond Cancelled

On Thursday, March 31, in Times Square, there was supposed to be a support demonstration for A.L.F Lone Wolf Walter Bond, currently serving a 5-year sentence for burning down The Sheepskin Factory in Denver, Colorado almost a year ago. Walter still faces charges for other acts of sabotage directed at animal enterprises doing business in Utah, including the arson of Tandy Leather Factory's Salt Lake City store. On March 31, Tandy was scheduled to make a presentation at a conference being held at the Westin Hotel. On March 15th, Tandy's invitation was rescinded due to "security concerns." In other Walter bond news, he has been transferred into the federal prison system. He is currently in a transfer facility in Oklahoma City. We don't know how long he will be there, but whatever mail you send him should eventually catch up. His current address is:

**Walter Edmund Bond #37096-013
FTC Oklahoma City
Post Office Box 898801
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73189**

And one more piece of Walter Bond news: On March 22nd, he wrote that he's recently come back into contact with his estranged mother and asks that folks send her words of support as she grapples with her son being imprisoned. In his statement, Walter writes: She is very proud of me and calls me her "Warrior Son". I'm very happy to be corresponding with her again and happy that she's doing well. I sense that she could use a little moral support as she is dealing with not only my imprisonment but my brother snitching me off. To quote my mother "I hope your brother chokes to death on his 35,000 pieces of gold". My mother is a little brown woman of 61 years of age. She is an anti-civilizationist that lives in the Alaskan wilderness in a cabin, complete with a hand pump and bucket for water and an outhouse. She lives with her husband Clay and their two wolves "Lakota" and "Tá Té" (wind in Sioux). They have no television, internet or electricity because that's how they like it.

Please write her letters of support at:

**Mickie Shaw
Post Office Box 1098
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556**

March 16th – Marie Mason is Being Denied Visitors and Mail in a Special Prison Unit

This is from a new piece by Will Potter at greenisthenewred.com. Marie Mason was arrested three years ago and charged with destroying genetic-engineering research and logging equipment. Her crimes did not cause any physical injury. Leading up to her sentencing, the FBI had warned that "terrorists" might attend the hearing. She was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison. Since being transferred to FMC Carswell, she has been denied all visitors except immediate family and, for months she has not been receiving mail.

MORE:

As I wrote at the time, [Mason's sentence was twice that of violent racists](http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/marie-mason-sentenced/1023/) <
<http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/marie-mason-sentenced/1023/>> who assaulted African Americans on the night Barack Obama was elected president.

From the outset, Mason—a mother of two—was facing the longest prison term of anyone associated with the Earth Liberation Front. Then in August, 2010, she was transferred to FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, TX, which is described by the Bureau of Prisons as providing “specialized medical and mental health services to female offenders.”

Since being transferred to FMC Carswell, she has been denied all visitors except immediate family. Every single request by non-family has been turned down. In addition, for months she has not been receiving mail (prison officials say they have not officially refused any correspondence). Marie Mason is not being held in solitary (as she was previously at FCI Waseca), but she reports that she is being housed away from the general prison population, in a special prison unit.

Special Prison Unit

At least one other political prisoner is also housed there. In 1984, Helen Woodson and others entered a Missouri nuclear missile silo with sledgehammer and jackhammer. They said they were inspired by the Book of Isaiah, which says “They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” Woodson is scheduled for release in September, 2011, after 27 years in prison. [Update: To clarify, that 27 years has been cumulative. Woodson was briefly released from prison during that time, but she committed additional non-violent political crimes and was sent back.]

I have written extensively on secretive prisons called [Communications Management Units](http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/tag/communications-management-units/) <<http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/tag/communications-management-units/>>, which radically restrict prisoner communications with the outside world. Daniel McGowan, an Earth Liberation Front prisoner, and Andy Stepanian, of the [SHAC 7](http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/tag/shac-7/) <http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/tag/shac-7>, were both imprisoned in a CMU. (These prison units were recently covered by both [The Nation](http://www.thenation.com/article/159161/gitmo-heartland) <<http://www.thenation.com/article/159161/gitmo-heartland>> and [NPR](http://www.npr.org/2011/03/03/134168714/guantanamo-north-inside-u-s-secretive-prisons) <<http://www.npr.org/2011/03/03/134168714/guantanamo-north-inside-u-s-secretive-prisons>>).

The Bureau of Prisons has not responded to my inquiries about the CMUs, nor about Mason’s conditions at FMC Carswell. However, Mason’s supporters and attorneys report that federal officials have repeatedly denied that FMC Carswell is a CMU.

Disproportionate Treatment

Whether or not that is true, it’s clear that Mason is being singled out for harsher treatment than other so-called “eco-terrorists,” and harsher treatment than other prisoners at that facility. Her restrictions on visitation are actually more extreme than those for CMU prisoners, who are allowed non-contact visits with family and friends.

Mason’s case truly puts on display the unaccountable, unchecked power that the government has acquired in the name of fighting “terrorism.” Like many other defendants, Mason was labeled a “terrorist” from day one, and that label has followed her into the courtroom, through a draconian sentence, to these disproportionately harsh prison conditions.

As the president [backpedals on his pledge to close Guantanamo](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/07/guantanamo-bay-trials-restart) <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/07/guantanamo-bay-trials-restart>>, and alleged Wikileaks conspirator [Bradley Manning is inhumanely being held naked and shackled](http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/mar/16/hear-bradley-manning-because-chains) <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/mar/16/hear-bradley-manning-because-chains>>, it should be clear that this is fundamentally about a lack of checks and balances on government power.

“An evening like this”

Marie Mason’s support committee reports that she has faced these three difficult years with

strength and courage, and she continues to do so. She has been particularly interested in her artwork and poetry. Here is an excerpt of [one of her poems](http://supportmariemason.org/texts/poem-2/)<http://supportmariemason.org/texts/poem-2/>, dated August, 2008:

An evening like this: summer sunset...

The air no cooler than my blood, and still, so still

The tiny humming of mosquitos hovering in my line of sight

I will remember this when I cannot see the sun for days on end.

Please visit supportmariemason.org to write her a letter and donate to her support fund.

You can write Marie at:

Marie Mason #04672-061

FMC Carswell

Post Office Box 27137

Fort Worth, Texas 76127

March 17th – Part 7 of Omaha Two Story Published

At our last letter-writing dinner, we announced that a multi-part story about the Omaha Two had been published. We had no idea that the article amounts to a book, with new chapters released every few days. The count is now up to the twelfth part, which was released on Monday. For the full story, visit:

<http://www.examiner.com/cointelpro-in-national/michael-richardson>

March 18th – Mt. Hope Infinity: 2 Portland-area Queers Have Their E-mail Accounts Subpoenaed

On Wednesday, March 16th, Google was forced to hand over the email accounts of two queer activists from Portland, Oregon-- Oliver Hayes and Kat Enyeart, to the evangelical Mt. Hope Church in Lansing, Michigan. Both Portlanders are subpoenaed because of their alleged ties to the Bash Back. However no factual evidence has been produced to support such a relationship existing and both deny membership in the organization.

MORE:

They issued this statement:

“Today Google will have to comply with a subpoena to release our private email correspondence to a hostile far-right anti-gay organization. These emails were subpoenaed by Mt. Hope Church — a virulent and dangerous anti-gay mega church based in Lansing, MI. The subpoenas are part of a civil suit wherein Mt. Hope is attempting to sue people they allege to be part of an organization called “Bash Back.” Three years ago a group of people using that name engaged in a non-violent protest and political theater display against the anti-gay rhetoric and actions of Mt. Hope. During this non-violent protest no person was hurt and no criminal charges were filed as a result. Now, however, Mt. Hope (under the guise of the Alliance Defense Fund) is attempting to sue anyone they believe to be connected to Bash Back. In a sickening twist of fate, they are suing under the FACE Act — a law meant to protect women seeking abortion services. It is ironic that a legislative attempt to protect women’s reproductive rights is now being used to target and

harass queer rights activists.

We believe that the actions of Mt. Hope are morally deplorable. While we may have political differences with Bash Back, we stand in solidarity with them in the face of this attack. We view Mt. Hope's actions to be a direct attack on queer people across the nation, an attempt to silence queer activists, and to push back on queer voices, visibility, and spaces of self-determination. The ADF's own literature presents these legal actions as part of their fight against gay rights.

We further find these subpoenas, and legal case behind them, to be baseless, to be unsubstantiated, and to have dangerous implications. They are baseless because we have had no formal past or current membership in Bash Back. Getting email updates about an organization — any organization — is not sufficient grounds to violate our right to private correspondence. Mt. Hope's lawsuit proceeds according to the logic of guilt-by-association, reminiscent of McCarthyist witch-hunts.

Furthermore, the accusations are unsubstantiated. There were no criminal charges filed, and Mt. Hope's clinic provides no abortion services to its members. This law suit is not about seeking justice for clinic patients, but about denying justice to queers and activists. It is a legal attempt to silence queers who have the audacity to confront virulent hate — the kind of hate that has destroyed the lives of many queers; that has isolated vulnerable youths; and that has pushed some to choose suicide rather than cope with the pain of a homophobic world.

Finally, these actions are dangerous invasions of privacy. Anybody's email account normally has hundreds of personal emails and information about friends and community members that is reasonable to not want shared with belligerent reactionary anti-gay organizations. According to the law, Mt. Hope will be required to keep the contents of our email accounts private. But what real guarantee do we have that they will not be used to aid their campaigns of harassment against queer people? How do we know that our friends won't be forcibly outted, harassed, and physically targeted?

Today we ask our friends, neighbors, and community members to support us in our struggle against this subpoena and any future actions by Mt. Hope Church. We realize that this attack by Mt. Hope is aimed at picking off the most visible and out members of queer community and for that reason we feel it is imperative that we firmly tell Mt. Hope and anyone else with an anti-gay agenda that we will not be silenced and intimidated and we will not go away. We will fight them every step of the way to ensure that gay and queer people across the country can have full, safe, and visible lives.”

March 18th - Duane Martin Sr. Denied Right to Bond by Oglala Government

In the continuing violation of civil rights for Duane Martin Sr., today he was denied a motion to dismissal and has also been denied bond without ever seeing the courtroom. In another startling act of political retaliation, Oglala Tribal Government Attorney Rae Ann Red Owl personally appeared before the judge and recommended a denial of bail for the well-known warrior leader who has led the protection of elders in the 15 day old peaceful protest occupation of the Porcupine Elderly Meals building. Red Owl stated that Duane Martin Sr. was a “threat to the

community”, when in fact he is a direct threat to unveiling the graft and corruption that characterizes tribal government programs. Supporters consider Martin to be a political prisoner.

MORE:

Oglala Lakota Attorney General Rae Ann Red Owl Retaliating Against Elder Occupation
BREAKING NEWS from the Elder’s Occupation, Porcupine Elderly Meals Building, Pine Ridge Reservation, SD – In the continuing violation of civil rights for Duane Martin Sr., today he was denied a motion to dismissal and has also been denied bond without ever seeing the courtroom.

In another startling act of political retaliation, Oglala Tribal Government Attorney Rae Ann Red Owl personally appeared before the judge and recommended a denial of bail for the well-known warrior leader who has led the protection of elders in the 15 day old peaceful protest occupation of the Porcupine Elderly Meals building. Red Owl stated that Duane Martin Sr. was a “threat to the community”, when in fact he is a direct threat to unveiling the graft and corruption that characterizes tribal government programs. Supporters consider Martin to be a political prisoner.

In just the fifteen days since the elders and warriors peacefully entered and began occupation of the Elderly Meals Building, the tribe now faces an investigation of its Elderly Meals Program from Indian Health Service (IHS), which uncovered a large store of spoiled and rotten food in the Porcupine Building on Monday.

The clock is also ticking on the Tribal Government who face an April 7th deadline to respond to Health and Human Services Administration on Aging (HHS/OA) concerns about the elder abuse and other allegations. The HHS/OA letter, dated March 8th, has been sent to Oglala Sioux President John Steele, and seeks a fact-finding investigation on the elder’s complaints as well as an action plan to resolve these issues by the April date.

Duane Martin Sr. is currently being held illegally on a seven false charges that were initiated by relatives of Porcupine District representative Beverly Tuttle and are intended to separate the warrior leader from the elders in the occupation. The Porcupine representative to tribal council repeatedly refused to meet with elders prior to the March 4 Occupation and a protection order has been entered into Oglala Judiciary to bar Tuttle from retaliating against elders or in Martin’s legal proceedings.

Supporters allege multiple violations of Mr. Martin’s civil rights in accordance with Section 1302 of the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. §§ 1301-03) including violations of due process, equal treatment, unlawful warrant, denial of bond, and freedom of speech.

Another occupation elder, Lorraine White Face Eagle Elk, has been threatened with retaliatory arrest if she steps outside the occupation boundary.

Numerous human rights organizations have been contacted to act on Martin and the elder’s behalf. The United States Attorney’s Office has also been contacted since the Department of

Justice provided over 1.6 million dollars to the Oglala Sioux Government last year alone, for law enforcement and judiciary processes.

Information on the elder-led protest occupation in Porcupine can be found at “Lakota Oyate” on Facebook or www.lakotaoyate.net.

March 20th – Lynne Stewart Message to Left Forum Panel

Last weekend at the Left Forum, there was a panel on Political Prisoners and American Imperialism. Lynne Stewart’s partner read a statement she wrote for the panel. You can read it in full below:

In the USA we hope we are experiencing that groundswell of a time when events and history come together; that the protest against what is happening to civil service workers will result in such a wave of people power that change will start breaking out for all of us. (It should be noted that this outpouring of people's outrage is not INSTITUTIONALIZED -- not led by the unions or the established Left but mainly by outraged individuals and students, who are not coming out for a rally on the weekend and then resuming life as usual -- the plasma tv, the remote control, beer, sports and the SUV. No, People seem to be ready to make it happen this time. The Common Good.

We need it and mostly we need it for our Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. This group of morally incorruptible and creative and clear political thinkers, dating from the righteous struggles of the '60's; some of whom have been in the depths of dungeons for more than a lifetime, and others, who are relative newcomers (like me, Bradley Manning, of Wikileaks; and Tim DeChristopher, the man who bid on the Utah oil leases and disrupted Bush's last environmental gifting to the financially elite.)

Of course, officially there are "no political prisoners in the US"; just like officially, the government is now trying to say, they always supported the anti-Mubarak forces and democracy for Egypt. History says differently, and we must be ready to seize the moment to pressure for release of the unjustly imprisoned 100+ men and women, known to be incarcerated for their espoused political motivations. (This number sadly does not include the Muslims, but that's a struggle for another day.)

We do not deserve to be called a movement if we do not rescue our own. Their absolute and abiding faith in us to do so remains the litmus test of our dedication and belief in solidarity. It is stronger than any religious belief I know of.

We must recognize that COINTELPRO has now morphed into the outrageous entrapment tactics of FBI informants targeting mosques and youth of color. It is hard to believe that juries are swallowing the swill served up to them by the Government -- but the history of America says differently. How many Black men were lynched and more lately convicted of rape because it was an easy kill -- racism + sex = GUILTY? Then it was communism and anarchism -- Sacco and Vanzetti -- the deportation of Emma Goldman followed by McCarthy and the witch hunts of the 50's. Then the 60's and the attacks on the Black Panthers and Black Liberation Army and any

movement that sought real change.

Fast Forward to Now and we have countless “terrorist” plots by men and women who can't even do the math or who have been lured by dollar or glory promises, and grand jury subpoenas for Green terrorism and supporters of righteous movements abroad.

Many of our U.S. political prisoners are well known internationally. Mumia Abu Jamal epitomizes the best among us politically and as a racial champion. His brilliant insights collected weekly by Noelle Hanrahan for broadcast and his courage as he toughs it out on Death Row must bring a deep commitment from all of us not to allow them to subject him to his state-contrived death. He is the best of the best. Likewise Leonard Peltier, a warrior who enlisted in a war that has been waged for 400 years against the U.S. planned genocide of native people. Both men are innocent of the crimes for which they continue to rot in prison. And the State knows it. At this time there is little hope for relief for either man through legal channels. No! Their freedom depends on whether, we, the People can be organized, rise up and demand it. May it happen. We challenge a wily opponent, one who in the sixties was able to buy our movement and con people with notions that poverty pimping was organizing for change. We know better. There is a new generation. The freedom of our own must be realized and it must be soon. We cannot be deterred.

We ask and resolve that the international community join us. This struggle is a dire one because of the age of our captured heroes. We must Free Mumia! Leonard shall be returned to the Lakota and all native peoples! Free All Political Prisoners! Free 'em all.

Lynne Stewart #53504-054
FMC Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

March 21st - International Week of Action for Jock Palfreeman

Jock Palfreeman is a 23 year old Australian who, on the 27th of December 2007, had the courage to stand up against 16 fascist hooligans on a night out in Sofia, Bulgaria.

He witnessed the fascists chasing and attacking two young Roma boys. Jock ran to the boys' aid, he did his best to keep the fascists at bay by waving a knife at them but they attacked him. Jock was left with nowhere to run and had no choice but to defend himself. Andrey Monov, one of the racist gang, was stabbed and killed and another, Anton Zahariev was injured. The Roma boys ran away. Jock has since been tried and sentenced for murder and attempted murder. His supporters are calling for an international week of actions in support of Jock, from April 11th through the 17th.

He has been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and has been fined 375,000 Australian dollars. Jock has spent much of the time he has already served in isolation due to a legal loop hole used by the prison authorities.

Continuing the campaign for Jock:

Andrey Monovs father is well known in Bulgaria and at the funeral there were a mixture of judges, police and politicians. Jock's trial was (not surprisingly) a complete sham – yet another example of corruption and secret handshakes in the judicial system. The prosecution's case was built on the witness statements made by the other Nazis that were there that night, all claiming that Jock randomly attacked the group and chased them with the intent of killing somebody. Key people and possible witnesses for Jock's defense were never interviewed by police and the CCTV footage from the scene miraculously went missing. Many of the statements made at the time were not the same as the statements submitted to the court by the prosecution.

Jock's statement has remained consistent from the night in question. You can read Jock's official statement at www.freejock.com You can also watch a documentary about his case that contains interviews with Jock at the following links:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8rLrOW1g1k&feature=related>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdhA9UzRGqo&feature=related>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8NRJF5x-D0&feature=related>

Jock appealed against his sentence and few court hearings took place between October 2010 and January 2011. Despite police officers confirming his version of events, one of the fascists making totally incoherent statements in court trying to explain why he changed his original testimony, mounting evidence of judicial errors during the initial trial and all other factors pointing to his innocence his sentence of 20 years was upheld. For Jock's statement about this please go to: <http://anarchistsolidarity.wordpress.com/2011/02/23/jocks-sentence-upheld-after-an-appeal>

He has one last chance of appealing against that decision. It is now more important than ever that we collectively put as much pressure on the Bulgarian authorities as possible to accept Jock's final appeal.

From the 11th to the 17th of April there will be another International week of action for Jock. The more creative the actions the better. Don't let Bulgarian state bury this courageous man alive in prison! Don't let them think that they can get away with it!

If you are short of ideas why not try one of the following:

Organize solidarity actions outside Bulgarian Embassies and Consulates etc. (for a list of the Bulgarian Embassies and Consulates please see, http://www.buldir.com/bulgarian_embassies_abroad.html). Phone the Bulgarian Embassies and Consulates with your protests.

Help us to bombard the Bulgarian Authorities with letters of protest and requests for Jock's appeal to be accepted. (please see below for a list of addresses).

If you want us to help promote your events send us the details at anarchosolidarity@yahoo.co.uk

Ideally protest letters are best written in your own words BUT we have provided a sample letter (attached) that can be sent if you do not want to write your own. Just print it out, sign it and post it, it's as simple as that. Feel free to reprint it and distribute it to anyone you think may send a copy.

We need to get the pressure up and keep it up.

Addresses to post, fax and email your letters of protest to:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

2 Aleksander Zhendov Str

Sofia 1040

BULGARIA

Tel: +359 2 948 2999

<http://www.mfa.bg/en/contact/> (ready form for sending messages from their website, very helpful)

Bulgarian Consulate General

121 East 62nd Street

New York, New York 10021

Tel. 212.935.4646

Fax. 212.319.5955

E-mail: consul@consulbulgaria-ny.org

Consulate General of Bulgaria in Chicago

737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2105

Chicago, Illinois 60611

Tel. 312.867.1904

Fax. 312.867.1905

E-mail: genconsbul@sbcglobal.net

Consulate General of Bulgaria in Los Angeles

11766 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 440

Los Angeles, California 90025

Tel. 310.478.6700

E-mail: bgLAconsulate@adelphia.net

The Bulgarian Embassy

Consulate at the Embassy of Bulgaria

1621 22nd Street, NW

Washington, District of Columbia 20008

Tel. 202.387.7969; 202.387.0174

Fax. 202.234.7973

E-mail: consulate@bulgaria-embassy.org

Finally, please write to Jock, even if it's only a 'good luck' postcard. Any letters and postcards help to keep Jock feeling positive and high spirited and all are gratefully received. You can write to Jock at the following address:

**Jock Palfreeman,
Sofia Central Prison
21 General Stoletov Boulevard
Sofia 1309,
BULGARIA**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to Australian National Jock Palfreeman. Mr. Palfreeman is currently imprisoned in Sofia Central Prison in Bulgaria. After defending two young innocent boys from a viscous attack by a group of drunken football hooligans, and later being forced to defend himself against the same assailants, he was sentenced to twenty years incarceration under charges of murder and attempted murder. He is clearly only guilty of causing accidental death while using self defense.

Mr. Palfreeman witnessed the gang (of around 16 men) attacking the two boys and ran to their aid. While trying to keep the gang at bay he suffered a viscous attack and was left with no choice but to defend himself. His version of events has remained consistent since the night in question and is supported by numerous witnesses. All of whom are prepared to testify in his defense.

It has since transpired that at his trial, to my astonishment, key people and possible witnesses were never interviewed by police, the CCTV footage from the scene went missing and many of the statements that were submitted to the court by the prosecution were not the same as the statements made (by the same people) on the night in question.

Anything working in favor of Mr. Palfreemans' defense was completely disregarded by the judge and the prosecution's case was built on the witness statements made by the football hooligans that initially attacked the two boys, all claiming that Mr. Palfreeman randomly attacked them and chased them with the intent of killing somebody.

The trial was a farce!

I ask that the Bulgarian Authorities grant him his appeal and release him from those absurd charges!

Mr. Palfreeman selflessly saved the lives of two young boys, risking his own safety and costing him his own freedom. He should be deemed a hero, not a cold blooded killer!

Signed

March 21st – Scott DeMuth Moved

Scott has been moved to a transitional facility in Leavenworth, Kansas. This is apparently a private facility and not connected to the Prisons at Leavenworth; those facilities have no record

of him at this time. He is likely to be moved at least one more time before the end of his term; please update your mailing addresses accordingly, resend any mail that was recently sent and returned, and keep an eye out for further updates from us.

Scott's new mailing address is as follows:

Scott DeMuth #11246-030
c/o Leavenworth Detention Center
100 Highway Terrace
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

MORE:

At his new prison, he's in complete lockdown for 22 hours a day. Every other day he gets let out of the cell for meals. He does have a cellmate, who he describes as a good guy, but his wheelchair takes up most of the space so there's not really any room to stretch or work out. There is, however, a window in his cell, which he's extremely happy about.

And unlike the last place he was in, he can get books and pictures! Read the mailing regulations for details:

“Envelopes with mail must include the inmate's name and federal register number. Those without a number will be returned to sender. Inmates may receive photographs, but they must not show any nudity, penetration, crime, gang signs, drugs or drug usage. Stamps, blank paper, envelopes, blank cards, self-addressed stamped envelopes, calling cards, credit cards, stickers of any kind, cards with sound and fake cash are not accepted and should not be mailed in. All publications must be sent directly from a nationally recognized publisher or book store. Receipts must accompany all books/magazines mailed into the facility. No used books/magazines will be allowed. No more than three books and/or magazines may be received in any one shipment. These rules are meant to be representative, not all-encompassing. For more specific information, you may call (913) 680-6860, (913) 727-3246 or (913) 680-6804.”

Thanks so much for all of your support so far, and please keep it coming!

In solidarity,
the Scott and Carrie Support Committee

March 21st – New Petition for Oscar López Rivera

People of conscience throughout the world were outraged by news that the U.S. Parole Commission refused to parole Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera after close to 30 years in prison for his support of Puerto Rican independence. Thousands of people, including members of U.S. Congress, religious leaders, artists, scholars, and community members support his immediate release.

MORE:

MARCH UPDATE/CALL TO ACTION!

The Parole Commission's inhumane decision, issued on February 18, ignored both the specifics of Oscar's case and the broad-based international humanitarian support for his immediate release. The Commission, basing its unjust decision on falsehoods and inaccuracies, ruled that Oscar must remain in prison another 15 years or until the duration of his sentence, whichever comes first.

Though this represents a significant setback, the National Boricua Human Rights Network (NBHRN) has no doubt the campaign for Oscar's freedom will be victorious. The Puerto Rican people and their allies have succeeded in winning the release of three generations of political prisoners, an unparalleled accomplishment. This campaign will be no different.

After consulting with Oscar and the campaign for his release, his attorney will ask the Parole Commission to reconsider its wrongheaded ruling. Activists and leaders from the U.S., Puerto Rico and abroad have started to aggressively plan and launch the next phase of the campaign.

There are many ways to contribute to this campaign:

You can sign the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign's NEW online parole petition based on the NBHRN letter: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/olrnewparole/>

ProLibertad will be mailing out a hard copy of the petition to Chairman Fulwood every time we reach a multiple of 100.

March 25th – Action Needed For Leonard Peltier

Today, and until further notice, please call, fax and e-mail headquarters for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in Washington, DC.

- 1. Do this to request that Leonard be transferred to FCI-Oxford in Wisconsin or FMC-Rochester in Minnesota. Either of these facilities can adequately accommodate Mr. Peltier's medical needs.*
- 2. Yesterday, another prisoner was moved into Leonard's cell. This raises issues surrounding Leonard's safety, in particular as he was a victim of a violent assault in 2009. Demand that the BOP comply with its responsibility to safeguard Leonard while he's in government custody and that the other prisoner be moved to another cell without delay.*

Contact information for the BOP is below:

Federal Bureau of Prisons
E-Mail: info@bop.gov
Phone: [\(202\) 307-3198](tel:(202)307-3198)
Fax: [\(202\) 514-6620](tel:(202)514-6620)
Address: 320 1st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

April 3rd – Meet Mumia’s New Legal Team

Mumia Abu-Jamal has a new legal team. Attorneys Christina Swarns and Judith Ritter have both argued before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals for Mumia. They are now formal co-counsel representing him in the ongoing appeal of his murder conviction and death sentence. On April 3rd, The International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the NYC Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition are hosting a public meeting and talk with the new team. We have flyers for the event as well.

Details below:

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL COALITION (NYC)

In conjunction with THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH PRISON MINISTRY
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

MEET AND HEAR FROM MUMIA'S NEW LEGAL TEAM

Christina Swarns, Esq., Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF)
Criminal Justice Project

Judith Ritter, Esq., Professor, Widener Law School in Wilmington, Delaware

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 4–7 pm

RIVERSIDE CHURCH ROOM 9T

4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Private reception

\$10 advance purchase of tickets required

Call 212 330-8029 to order tickets

5:30–7:00 pm

Presentations by attorneys

FREE ADMISSION

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), as the premier legal organization in this country fighting for racial justice, has committed itself to “sweep the grave injustices embodied in this case into the dustbin of history.”

April 15th – Save the Date: Roses and Bread/Benefit for the Scott Sisters

Roses and Bread is an annual event organized and hosted by radical women and transgender folks. This year’s event will be on April 15th. This is a women and trans only event and they are seeking folks to help organize and/or perform at the event. Details and contact information are below:

Roses and Bread

Friday, April 15 - 6:30 - 9:00 PM

At the Commons, 388 Atlantic Avenue (bet. Bond & Hoyt Streets) in Brooklyn

Women and trans only

To benefit the Scott Sisters (for background, go to <http://freethescottsisisters.blogspot.com>)

To perform or organize, call **718-783-8141**.

April 16th – Documentary Screening: From COINTELPRO to Homeland Security

703 South 12th Street, Newark, New Jersey

4:00 – 7:00pm

Discussion and Q & A to follow each screening. We also have flyers for the event.

April 30th – Book Tour: An American Radical by Susan Rosenberg

From a blurb about the book: "Candid and eloquent, Susan Rosenberg's powerful memoir is a profound indictment of the U.S. prison system, as she recounts her journey from the impassioned idealism of the 1960s to life as a political prisoner in her own country—and reflects on America's turbulent coming-of-age over the past half century."

Weds. April 30, 2011, time TBD

PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature 2011

Cooper Union, New York, NY

<http://www.anamericanradical.com>