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Updates for January 3rd

19 Dec – History of the Green Scare and Statement by Sadie at Burning Books Event

As part of their December 7th event in solidarity with Green Scare prisoners, the folks at Burning Books in Buffalo, New York recorded a video of a presentation by Leslie James Pickering. The topic was a history of the green scare. Afterwards, he read a statement by Operation Backfire prisoner Sadie. The video was recently posted online and is available at:
<http://vimeo.com/33917656>

20 Dec - FBI Says Activists Who Investigate Factory Farms Can Be Prosecuted as Terrorists

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force has kept files on activists who expose animal welfare abuses on factory farms and recommended prosecuting them as terrorists, according to a new document uncovered through the Freedom of Information Act.

MORE:

This new information comes as the Center for Constitutional Rights has filed a [lawsuit challenging the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act](#) (AETA) as unconstitutional because its vague wording has had a chilling effect on political activism. This document adds to the evidence demonstrating that the AETA goes far beyond property destruction, as its supporters claim.

The 2003 FBI file details the work of several animal rights activists who used undercover investigation to document repeated animal welfare violations. The FBI special agent who authored the report said they “illegally entered buildings owned by [redacted] Farm... and videotaped conditions of animals.”

The animal activists caused “economic loss” to businesses, the FBI says. And they also openly rescued several animals from the abusive conditions. This was not done covertly in the style of underground groups like the Animal Liberation Front — it was an act of non-violent civil disobedience and, as the FBI agent notes, the activists distributed press releases and conducted media interviews taking responsibility for their actions.

Based on these acts — trespassing in order to photograph and videotape abuses on factory farms — the agent concludes there “is a reasonable indication” that the activists “have violated the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, 18 USC Section 43 (a).”

The file was uncovered through a FOIA request by [Ryan Shapiro](#), who is one of the activists mentioned. The file is [available for download here](#). [Please note that this document has additional redactions in order to protect the identities of the other activists, at their request.] Shapiro is now a doctoral candidate at MIT.

“It is deeply sobering to see one’s name in an FBI file proposing terrorism charges,” he said in an email. “It is even more sobering to realize the supposedly terroristic activities in question are merely exposing the horrific cruelty of factory farms, educating the public about what goes on behind those closed doors, and openly rescuing a few animals from one of those farms as an act of civil disobedience.”

When I testified before Congress against the AETA in 2006, one of the primary concerns I raised is that the law could be used to wrap up a wide range of activity that threatens corporate profits. Supporters of the AETA have repeatedly denied this, and said the law will only be used against people who do things like burn buildings.

So how do we explain that such a sweeping prosecution was being considered in 2003, under the law’s somewhat-narrower *precursor*?

One possibility is that FBI agents lack training, education, and oversight. They are spying on political activists without understanding or respecting the law.

Another explanation is that this document is no mistake, nor is it an isolated case. *It is a reflection of a coordinated campaign to target animal rights activists who, as the FBI agent notes, cause “economic loss” to corporations.*

At the state, federal, and international levels, corporations have orchestrated an attempt to silence political activists, and a key target has been undercover investigators. For example:

- An [“Ag Gag” bill has been introduced in Florida](#) to criminalize investigations. Its lead sponsor calls these investigations “terrorism.” Four similar attempts failed in other states this year.
- These state bills are similar to model “eco-terrorism” legislation [drafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council](#), a corporate front group.
- A recent [EUROPOL report on international terrorism](#) includes a section on undercover investigations by animal rights and environmental activists.
- [12 Spanish activists](#) have been charged with terrorism for their investigations.
- [Two activists in Finland](#) faced similar charges.

The FBI makes clear that the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act is not about protecting public safety; it is about protecting corporate profits. Corporations and the politicians who represent them have repeatedly [lied to the American public](#) about the scope of this legislation, and claimed that the law only targets underground groups like the Animal Liberation Front. The truth is that this terrorism law has been slowly, methodically expanded to include the tactics of national organizations like the [Humane Society of the United States](#).

This document illustrates how the backlash against effective activism has progressed within the animal rights movement. However, if this type of legislation is not overturned, it will set a precedent for corporations to use this model against [Occupy Wall Street](#) and anyone else who threaten business as usual.

20 Dec - Justin Solondz Pleads Guilty

One of the few remaining alleged fugitives from the Operation Backfire cases, Justin Solondz, has taken a non-cooperating plea deal. Sentencing is currently scheduled for March 16th. We’ve included a corporate news article, and a report from prisoner supporters in the northwest, about the case.

MORE:

The man accused of building the firebomb used by Earth Liberation Front radicals to torch the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticulture in 2001 pleaded guilty this morning in U.S. District Court in Tacoma.

Justin Solondz, 32, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and arson under a plea agreement with federal prosecutors, who agreed to recommend a seven-year prison sentence when Solondz is sentenced on March 16.

A former student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Solondz was arrested July 6 in Chicago after his expulsion from China, where he had been serving a prison term for selling drugs.

Solondz was a purported member of a cell of radical environmentalists known as “The Family” who are believed to have participated in a string of arsons and other sabotage that caused \$80 million in damage in Washington, Oregon, California and Colorado. Prosecutors claimed that Solondz built a firebomb in a “clean room” behind a home in Olympia, transported it to Seattle and served as the getaway driver the night of the [UW arson](#).

The firebomb was planted in the office of UW professor **Toby Bradshaw** at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Bradshaw was targeted because the arsonists believed, mistakenly, he was genetically engineering trees.

Damage from the arson was estimated at more than \$6 million.

In June, Solondz's former girlfriend, **Briana Waters**, [pleaded guilty](#) to charges of arson, conspiracy to use a destructive device, possessing an unregistered destructive device and the use of an explosive device in a crime of violence in connection with the arson. She agreed to testify against Solondz.

Two other women, **Lacey Phillabaum** and **Jennifer Kolar**, pleaded guilty to the UW arson and were sentenced to three and five years, respectively.

Also charged in the UW arson was **William C. Rodgers**, who committed suicide in an Arizona jail in December 2005.

Solondz was indicted in Washington state and California in 2006. The FBI issued a \$50,000 reward in late 2008 for information leading to his arrest. At the time, the FBI said he might be in Canada, Europe or Asia.

He surfaced in Dali, a Chinese city popular with Western tourists, using a phony Canadian identification and an altered appearance. He was arrested in a drug investigation in March 2009 and was [sentenced to three years in prison](#).

Northwest Prisoner Support Report

Today at the federal courthouse in Tacoma, Washington, prisoner comrade Justin Solondz appeared before the federal court in his first appearance in the United States. In 2006, the federal government accused him of several federal criminal charges in relation to Earth Liberation Front activities: conspiracy, arson, making an unregistered destructive device and using a destructive device during a violent crime.

The charges against Justin were based on the testimony of snitches related to "the Family" case within the FBI Operation Backfire. In particular, the federal case against him is largely based on the testimony of snitch Briana Waters, who chose to take a cooperating plea deal after hearing of Justin's plan extradition back to the United States. In the plea Water's provides information incriminating Justin in at least two acts of arson, although he is only pleading to one act, along with conspiracy. Justin's plea agreement recommends 7 years without the terrorism enhancement and over 6 million dollars in restitution.

Justin remained a fugitive from the law in China with false identification, living free until late 2009 when he was jailed by the authorities of China. He was extradited to the US in the summer of this year to be prosecuted for these charges.

He appeared strong, in good spirits, and when he spoke to the court about his crimes he did so without remorse. Smiles and winks were exchanged.

It's important to realize that of the four others who participated in the arson of the University of Washington Horticulture Center, William "Avalon" Rodgers remained non-cooperative until he took his own life in a jail cell. While the three others Lacey Phillabaum, Jennifer Koehler, and Briana Waters ALL took cooperating pleas incriminating others who participated in the action. Despite all of this betrayal, Justin has remained strong and has taken a firm stance against cooperating with the State, never turning on his comrades.

Justin's sentencing is scheduled for March 16th 2011 at 1:30PM at the federal courthouse, 1717 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, Washington. The attendance of all supporters is encouraged.

We are in communication with Justin and his family, a support website will be launched soon with regular updates on Justin's situation in prison.

Solidarity with all non-cooperating Green Scare prisoners!

Long Live Avalon! Your fire eternally burns in our hearts!

20 Dec - Denver cops clear Occupy Denver; protesters set shelters aflame, then take to streets

As #OWS encampments continue to suffer seemingly coordinated attacks across the country, some have become more militant in their defense. Such was the case in late December in Denver. As of today, the protesters are all out on bail, with some facing felony charges. We've also included other #Occupy-related news below.

MORE:

At midnight today, they Tebowed.

Occupy Denver protesters took a knee at Broadway and West 13th Avenue as Denver police officers lined up at the Denver Public Library, corralling them after pressing them from their weeks-old encampment.

Officers arrived at 11:30 p.m. Monday to remove the shelters at the eastern edge of Civic Center. Police Chief Robert White had earlier warned the protesters their time was up to remove structures from the park on their own.

They'd be removed forcibly if need be.

When the Tebewing was over, the crowd of about 40 protesters retreated south on Broadway, shouting pledges that the occupation was not over.

The clash had been intense and swift, with police shoving protesters and journalists alike with their batons, but it appeared only one protestor was taken into custody.

Afterwards, White said officers had hoped to ask the protesters a final time to remove their belongings, but when two protesters began setting the shelters aflame, officers and firefighters had to move it.

A firetruck moved in to douse the flames as a battery of police closed ranks shouting, "Move back!" to allow firefighters access.

Police said two protesters were arrested on arson charges and two were arrested on charges of failing to obey a lawful order.

"We certainly respect their First Amendment rights and it wasn't our intention to infringe on those rights," White said in an impromptu press briefing. "But also value the rights of other citizens who live our community."

The shanties had lined the sidewalks along the east and west sides of Broadway near the park, making it difficult to pass.

A police spokesman was not immediately available early this morning to provide any information about possible reports of injuries sustained by protesters or police.

White had issued an ultimatum Monday afternoon to Occupy Denver protesters, saying that time was up and the city would forcibly dismantle their encampment near Civic Center at any moment.

The notice given at a meeting behind closed doors at police headquarters was the latest development in the battle between the Occupy Denver protesters and the city over the permanent demonstration on sidewalks that border Broadway between Colfax and 14th avenues.

Rumors of an impending clear-out swirled throughout the encampment late Monday night as some protesters milled about warming fires set inside trash cans while others quietly made off with their belongings across snow-dusted streets.

By 11:15 p.m., little more than dropping temperatures seemed to nip at the 30 or so people at the park's eastern edge. A helicopter roared by at about 11:20 p.m. Then at 11:25, several police cars blocked off Broadway. The removal was about to begin.

Protesters have built shelters, arranged tarps, set down sleeping bags and even tied a kayak to a tree, against violating a city ordinance that forbids "encumbrances" on public rights of way. They've tried to state their case in federal court, to no avail.

"A decision was made that that needs to occur. They were asked to do it. And they decided they weren't going to do it," White said earlier Monday. "Now it is on us to make that happen."

The protesters left the meeting disgusted, calling the meeting "incredibly unproductive" and asking if they could take the crackers, fruits and veggie trays that were provided back to their protest.

Said White: "Of course."

Patricia Hughes splits her time between Occupy Denver and being a nurse. She said the structures are shelters for people with nowhere else to go.

"You take away the structures, you are sentencing people to death," she said.

Occupy Houston Indicted On Felony Charges

Seven Occupy protesters were indicted on felony charges by a grand jury in Houston on Tuesday, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office says, in connection with their demonstration at the local port as part of a national day of action by the movement.

The decision comes nearly a week [after a judge initially dismissed the charges](#), saying the protesters could not be charged with possessing or using a "criminal instrument" – a felony in Texas – for their use of PVC pipe.

The protesters -- three from Austin, four from Houston -- put their arms through the pipe and used latches on it to connect together, making their arrest more difficult but not preventing it, said one of their attorneys, Daphne Silverman, of the National Lawyer's Guild in Houston. Donna Hawkins, a spokeswoman for the District Attorney's Office, confirmed the indictment.

"They are feeling, 'wow,' is the word. ... They're in a lot of shock. They were very happy with the justice's decision last week, they believed in her, they believed in the justice system," Silverman said. "These people ... are not criminals. These folks are out there attempting to make the country better for all of us."

Silverman, who noted that she believed the law had been wrongly applied by the prosecutor, said it's likely the protesters will be back in court in January to talk about the next step, such as negotiations or to go to trial. If convicted, they face up to two years in jail.

Protester Dustin Phipps -- who is not one of the seven charged -- said it was a "strategic move" by local police to discourage others from participating in civil disobedience.

"We definitely plan on fighting it," said Phipps, 28, a pre-medical student at the University of Houston. "We're going to move forward ... with faith and determination because we understand we have the rights and the upper hand, and we're going to make sure justice is served."

The protesters had joined with other Occupy outfits across the country that were conducting port shutdowns on Dec. 12 to economically disrupt what [they called](#) "Wall Street on the waterfront."

Arrests on felony charges were occurring in other cities, such as [Denver](#) and New York. Civil rights lawyers have [suggested](#) the use of felony charges was another form of crackdown on the movement.

The Houston Police Department has used the "criminal instrument" against protesters on previous occasions, according to Attorney Randall Kallinen, who is representing one of the seven protesters. The charge usually does not hold up in court in such cases, but because it is a felony charge it has a chilling effect on would-be activists, he said.

"We've been seeing more of them (felony arrests), especially beginning of November," said Gideon Oliver of

the lawyers guild in New York. The police and the district attorney's office have discretion in determining the charges, "and so there are two sort of steps in the process where ... the police or the DA, if they conducted a reasonable investigation, I think, in a lot of these cases would realize that they're overcharging."

Jericho Movement Open Letter in Support of the Occupy Wall Street Movement

The Jericho Amnesty Movement (JAM) is in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement (OWS)! We come to you at a time when the corporations, which run our government, place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality. As we gather together in solidarity to express opposition to mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We want all the people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world to know that we are your allies. We acknowledge the reality that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and that upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect our own rights, and those of our neighbors. Corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth. No true liberty is attainable when the process is determined by corporate economic forces.

Those who are imprisoned are locked up because of the same economic forces that fund Wall Street. For example there are private prisons and ICE detention centers that are run by companies such as GEO Corporation who are funded by big banks such as Wells Fargo. There is also a struggle to free people who are incarcerated for their political beliefs and actions and who have resisted this monstrous economic system. And it is the same economic system that locks them up. This is our struggle for u.s.- held Political Prisoners (PPs) and Prisoners of War (POWs) and invites your participation.

OWS has and will continue to have Political Prisoners itself as long as there is a state to repress THE PEOPLE! OWS has taken the initiative to confront the state head on just as the PP's and internal POW's who fought and continue to fight from captivity the good fight for Indigenous rights, Black Liberation, Puerto Rican independence, Chicano/Mexican people, Hawaiian sovereignty or Earth and Animal Liberation. These revolutionary causes all intersect in confronting state repression and addressing racial and socio-economic inequalities. Just as today's bankers and corporate/political elite are committing a grave injustice by turning a blind eye and deaf ear to the grievances of the 99%, the majority of the Amerikkkan body politic did the same thing to those young people who were at the forefront of the popular revolutionary movements of the 60's, 70's and subsequently. It is time to right those wrongs.

The Americas have been colonized for the past 500 years. In other words Wall Street itself has already been colonized. This means that the indigenous lands of the Native people also have a first priority. We decolonize because we know this land is already occupied. We decolonize because communities of color have been on the front lines of the 99% here and globally for centuries. We decolonize because the system is not broken; it is working exactly the way it was intended. We decolonize because any movement that doesn't acknowledge this replicates oppression. International law recognizes people's right to struggle for decolonization.

10-15-2011 marked the 45th anniversary of the date Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton wrote the first draft of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense (BPP) 10 - Point Program and platform. That program became representative of the aspirations of many revolutionary groups of that era who were fully committed to eradicating the rampant injustices inherent in the bogus Amerikkkan capitalist system as they were dedicated to ushering in a social order of genuine peace and prosperity for all children, women and men transcending all class, cultural, ethnic and racial distinctions. They were driven by a set of standards and values rooted in genuine brotherhood and sisterhood. Likewise, they were motivated by a desire for an equitable distribution of wealth and a fair economic, political and social system; not, at all, unlike the one envisioned by those who are part of today's OWS movement. Some lost their lives in that struggle in the u.s. domestic war known as COINTELPRO, such as Fred Hampton. Others were forced into exile, such as Assata Shakur. Others have been imprisoned for decades, such as Leonard Peltier, Oscar Lopez Rivera and Sundiata Acoli.

The role of the police in many of the occupations and related actions has been one is one of brute force, bullying,

tasing and jailing. We have seen them carry out, as ordered, various forms of brutality, political repression and other forms of state sanctioned terrorism. Although the police are working people, for the state, we must remember that there might be potential allies within the police and intelligence services and probably a good number of them would rather not be doing their jobs. Perhaps they would rather be farmers, ranchers, or small storeowners. Moreover, all are not unconscious of the difficult moral and psychological sacrifices they make to carry out their job. They really are human, despite the uniform that many hide behind. We can only hope that those people will break their own shackles and rid themselves of the galling yoke of capital. And we must help them do that by defending our own human rights and those of others locked down during previous periods of struggle for equality, justice and human rights!

OWS has rightly refused to tie its movement to one or another demand that the system could try to satisfy while ignoring the fundamental problems that produce such symptoms. However OWS would be justified in raising the demand for freedom of those who have tread the path of resistance and, remain, to this day, unjustifiably imprisoned for pursuing the very same basic human rights that are at the center of the platform of today's popular movement. We express our deep sense of mutual support and the spirit of mutual aid.

We are our own liberators! Free all Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War!
The Jericho Amnesty Movement 12/16/11

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Occupy Seattle House Raided

As Central District News [reported](#), police last night raided a house at 19th and Spruce, **arresting three men** for charges including "Criminal Trespassing, Property Damage and weapons violations. Other criminal charges may be forthcoming."

According to the SPD's account, the raid was in response to a 911 call that afternoon that alerted them about "multiple male and female subjects who had unlawfully entered and occupied a residence. ...Preliminary investigation indicates that the suspects entered the house and subsequently **damaged the interior of the house with graffiti**. They also left garbage, open containers of food, and were cooking inside the house on a portable, gas-operated stove."

The house had been bought out of foreclosure in August by Mountaincrest Credit Union, according to CDN. The way the CDN story reads, the house was under renovation and the occupiers were interrupting progress and damaging it—and they'd broken in.

But that story doesn't match what I learned in a meeting just now with two of the 10 or 12 occupiers who had been in the house for about two weeks.

They held up the house key. An anonymous "elf" had come by the Occupy Seattle encampment at SCCC a few weeks ago and **handed them the key and the address**, they said. (A different anonymous donor also gave them a sailboat that they'll begin using and painting in the spring.) Inside, they'd begun painting **a forest landscape**, and planned a waterfall down the staircase; they titled the house "Water." They denied doing damage or being a haven for any kind of destructive activity and said they didn't know of any complaints from neighbors. Instead, they saw the house as a home base for adding art to the immediate neighborhood. To that end, **they'd completed a mural nearby** yesterday, on Fir Street between 14th and 15th, on a garage wall offered to them by a resident. Also yesterday, another donor gave them furniture: a futon, bookcases.

Two of their fellow occupiers are still in jail, set to be released on bail this afternoon. The third person arrested was not part of the occupation and never had lived in the house, they say. He, along with about **50 other protesters against the raid**, had come to show his support, and when he stepped onto the grass, he was arrested, the occupiers say. He is the one charged with weapons violations, they say: He had a pocket knife in his pants pocket, which he then offered to the police, for which they booked him on the weapons charge.

The **police did not give the squatters 72 hours eviction notice**, and when Cammi Morgan, one of the occupiers, asked whether the police had any contact with the property owner, they said no, she says. It is unclear why the scenario at 19th and Spruce is so different from the other house where Occupy Seattle is squatting, [at 23rd and Alder](#)—where anarchist squatters have a court date December 28 and have had plenty of notice of removal.

"This house **wasn't about anti-police at all**," Morgan says. "Our intention was to show that we could give back to the community. It wasn't about having a roof over our heads—we're all pretty resourceful. We were excited to use the house as a pathway to create art for everyone. We'd offered to touch up the fading murals at the food bank at Saint Mary's. I wanted to offer guitar lessons at the boys and girls club near there."

Neil Vandervloed, creator of the cartoon hand signs that have been [the most visible graphic for Occupy Seattle](#), was bringing community dinners cooked by his wife to the house each night.

"I'm really disappointed," Vandervloed said. "Especially this *type* of reaction. There were something like 13 cop cars and 30 cops there, **with assault rifles, shotguns, and handguns out and drawn—to arrest two artists on Christmas Eve**. The neighbors made us hot coffee and stood in solidarity with us as the police raided."

20 Dec - G20 protester unapologetic as she heads to jail for 10 months

Leah Henderson, who we wrote to last time, said "All you need to know about me is that I am a person of conscience. I came here from a place of morality. I stand here guilty of breaking your laws, not the laws of justice," she said. "I submit to your jails because you hold the weapons, but that will not always be so." This is from an article we've reprinted below along with an article about soon-to-be imprisoned G20 defendant Mandy Hiscocks.

MORE:

A G20 protest organizer was sent to jail for 10 months at a noisy sentencing hearing Tuesday.

Supporters packed a suburban Toronto courtroom as Leah Henderson, 27, was sentenced for encouraging vandalism at the summit in June of last year.

Like other organizers prosecuted in the wake of the summit, Ms. Henderson was unrepentant as she addressed the court.

Court heard that Ms. Henderson, a native of Alberta, moved to Toronto in recent years and quickly became involved in various activist causes. She identifies as an anarchist.

Crown attorney Jason Miller said Ms. Henderson is a licensed paralegal and a talented mediator, and that she has no criminal record.

"She has a degree of maturity that is beyond that of the others we have dealt with," he said. "This cuts both ways: Ms. Henderson ought to have known better."

Mr. Miller argued that jail time was necessary to deter others in future from encouraging protest vandalism, and that Ms. Henderson's politics were irrelevant to the case.

On several occasions, Ms. Henderson's supporters snickered and made disparaging comments as Mr. Miller spoke, drawing a rebuke from Justice Lloyd Budzinsky.

"Any type of disruption in the court takes my attention away from the submissions of the crown and the submissions of the defence, and really undermines the power of their comments," he said.

Justice Budzinsky accepted 10-month sentence, which had been agreed to by both crown and defence.

As Ms. Henderson was led away in handcuffs, supporters jumped to their feet and chanted her name.

Ms. Henderson was one of several organizers rounded up on June 26th, following an 18-month long undercover investigation by police.

The 17 remaining defendants accepted a plea agreement that will see six sent to jail while 11 others walked free. Three were sentenced last month.

Two more, Alex Hundert and Mandy Hiscocks, will be sentenced in January.

Guelph G20 activist says, ‘These aren’t my first criminal convictions and they won’t be my last’

Guelph activist Amanda Hiscocks expects to be before the courts again in connection with her advocacy efforts — even after she’s sentenced next month for her role in organizing protests at the G20 summit in Toronto.

That’s one of the revelations Hiscocks shared recently with Mercury reporter Rob O’Flanagan in a question-and-answer exchange, conducted via email. O’Flanagan pursued the Q & A session with Hiscocks and fellow Guelph activist Monica Peters after their participation in a plea-bargain agreement last month. It resolved the prosecution of a Crown case against them and more than a dozen other individuals described as the Toronto G20 ringleaders.

In that deal, Hiscocks, 37, pleaded guilty to counselling others to commit property damage and to counselling to obstruct a peace officer.

Charges facing Peters, 27, and 10 other co-accused individuals, were dropped in the Nov. 22 deal.

It was never proven that any of the people whom the accused counselled to commit such crimes actually did so, although windows were smashed and police cars were torched during the June 25 to 27, 2010, G20 summit, according to agreed facts presented in the court case.

Prosecutor Jason Miller and defence lawyers have already agreed the defendants who entered guilty pleas should receive terms ranging between three and 16 months on top of pretrial custody. Those sentences have not been confirmed by the court. Hiscocks is to be sentenced Jan. 13.

Following is an abbreviated version of the Q & A interview with Peters and Hiscocks.

Q: What is your cause? What do you stand for, and do you think your cause was helped or hindered by your arrest and the publicity that surrounded it?

Peters: I think that we need to find new ways of living on this Earth. The current order of things, the state and capitalism, are facilitating the destruction of this planet. Those who stand up for the freedom and the health of this planet are threatened with imprisonment. We need to learn not to be immobilized by fear, and can draw inspiration from those who do stand up for the benefit of us all.

Q: What have been the consequences nationally from what happened at the summit — the police action, the destruction, the scale of the protests? Has it changed the country, has it encouraged the protest movement?

Peters: The exposure of police brutality is one main thing that came out of the G20 summit. With over 1,000 arrests, the incredibly inhumane conditions in the detention centre and a huge budget that inflicted martial law upon Toronto, I think that people are starting to see the fascist nature of the state.

Q: Have the personal sacrifices, the notoriety, the consequences to personal reputation and finances been worth it?

Hiscocks: Absolutely. This past year and a half has shown me how strong and how resilient our communities can be when we stick together against the divide-and-conquer tactics of the state. It's an amazing feeling and gives me a lot of hope.

Peters: I strive to live my life in such a way that I am accountable to future generations. And when I look at things that way, of course it is worth it. Because it is not about "my little life," it is about the well-being of this planet. We need to do everything we can do to change the course we are heading in, toward a life-sustaining society.

Q: What will you do next in terms of both activism and in life generally?

Hiscocks: I'm expecting to be sentenced to 16 months in jail on Jan. 13. My short-term plans in terms of activism are to do whatever I can to improve conditions for people in jail and to help demystify the prison system for people who have never been incarcerated. I also hope to be able to keep up-to-date with the news and the environmental and social-justice work people are doing on the outside, so that I can join in and be useful when I'm released. I imagine my life will be pretty much the same when I get out — I plan to live in Guelph and get back to work.

Peters: I will continue on with my life. I will continue to try to have inspiring conversations with friends and strangers about how to stand up with this Earth. I will continue on, and I will not give in to the state's attempt to silence us, because this Earth needs us all to stand up.

Q: Do you think the G20 summit actually achieved anything positive in the world, in terms of international relations or global economy?

Hiscocks: No. The very existence of the G20 perpetuates the global capitalist system, which is directly related to colonialism, environmental degradation, war, poverty, displacement and so on. The only positive thing the G20 could do is dismantle this economic system, but its leaders and its rich benefit so much from it that that will never happen.

Peters: The G20 summits resulted in austerity measures that are now being felt across the world, and are being met with resistance everywhere. I cannot look into the future enough to say if something is having a positive effect or not, but when I see people standing up all over the world, I feel inspired. People all over are increasingly demanding that things change, this voice will not go away and it will not be silenced.

Q: Do you worry about the long-term consequences for you of these criminal charges and subsequent convictions?

Hiscocks: No. These aren't my first criminal convictions and they won't be my last. I've known for a long time that if I'm going to do this work, which opposes power structures and capitalism, there will be consequences. I walk in this world with a lot of privilege, and so the consequences for me are far less severe than they would be for others, which makes it my responsibility to continue this work regardless of any potentially negative effects it could have on my life.

Peters: We may not all agree, this is where the beauty of our diversity comes from. So let us have conversations about how we differ. Let us come together and talk about strategy as we dream up the world we are working toward. Let us support one another, and find our strength in the resilience of our connections and friendships.

Loving friends, brothers, sisters, daughters and sons are going to jail for daring to believe that we can create a better world. Please support them. Guelph Anarchist Black Cross is collecting donations to cover collect phone calls, gas costs to visit friends in jail and canteen costs. You can visit their website at: guelphprisonersolidarity.wordpress.com.

20 Dec - Court Update for CeCe

Transgender self-defense defendant CeCe McDonald had a court appearance on December 20th and we've

included the report from it below.

MORE:

Yesterday, CeCe had an important court hearing that had important effects on her upcoming trial. Most importantly, her trial date is now set for *Monday, April 30th at 9am*!

Mark your calendars now and start thinking about all the ways to support her between now and then. The prosecutors expect her support to die down as the pre-trial proceedings drag on, but we'll show them that we won't let up any pressure or support until they do the right thing and drop the charges against CeCe!

The delay is for a number of reasons. One, the toxicologist who will testify about the chemicals in the bloodstream of Dean Schmitz (the attacker killed after the racist, transphobic attack against CeCe) will not be available in January. Two, the judge ruled that a letter that the Star Tribune, a leading local newspaper, quoted in several articles has to be provided in full to both the prosecution and the defense. The prosecutors now have the responsibility to prove that it came from CeCe while she was in jail. We expect them to pursue this aggressively through handwriting analysis and to argue that the letter should be used against her at trial. The judge has also not yet ruled on several motions from the previous court date, so there are other pending legal issues that will affect CeCe's trial as well.

While the legal outcome of these decisions and motions is unclear, the prosecution's continued scrambling to build a case against CeCe is clearly an attempt to justify the way in which the criminal legal system is continuing the racist, transphobic attack against her. Our continued support and fight against these systems of oppression only becomes more important as these pre-trial proceedings continue to drag on.

While the trial date has been pushed back, CeCe still remains on house arrest with severely limiting restrictions on her freedom. The judge granted her the ability to leave the house to get a job, but ruled against her going back to school. We are glad that CeCe will have more mobility in the near future even though we are dismayed—but not surprised—that the criminal legal system's routine repression of poor people of color has affected CeCe once again.

Stay tuned for more last-minute court dates as we work our way to trial and for exciting opportunities to show support and solidarity for CeCe!

21 Dec – Please Sign a Petition for the Nebraska Two

An online petition has been started in an attempt to call upon politicians and other authorities holding power to free the Nebraska Two. Despite our lack of faith in such petitions, the time it requires is minimal. Please write to Mondo and Ed to let them know you signed.

MORE:

<http://chn.ge/tDP26p>

Ed Poindexter #27767/David Rice* #27768

Nebraska State Penitentiary
Post Office Box 2500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542-2500

NOTE: Address Mondo's envelope to David Rice and the enclosed letter to Mondo Eyen we Langa.

21 Dec - First of May Anarchist Alliance Statement of Solidarity with CeCe McDonald

This statement by an anarchist collective in the Midwest provides a decent history and analysis of her case.

MORE:

An important case demands our support. Crishaun "CeCe" McDonald, a young Black transgender woman faces two counts of second degree murder for defending her friends and herself from physical attacks by a group shouting ugly racist and homophobic insults.

Please contact the Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman and demand he drop the charges against CeCe:

612-348-5540 fax * 612-348-2042 * citizeninfo@co.hennepin.mn.us

Please bring this case before local GLBTQ groups, Black Community organizations, Unions and community groups, Occupy assemblies and anywhere people are struggling for freedom and justice. An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

According to the Support CeCe website <http://supportcece.wordpress.com>:

“Around 12:30 am on June 5, CeCe and four of her friends (all of them black) were on their way to Cub Foods to get some food. As they walked past the Schooner Tavern in South Minneapolis, a man and two women (all of them white) began to yell epithets at them. They called CeCe and her friends ‘faggots,’ ‘niggers,’ and ‘chicks with dicks,’ and suggested that CeCe was ‘dressed as a woman’ in order to ‘rape’ Dean Schmitz, one of the attackers.”

“As they were shouting, one of the women smashed her drink into the side of CeCe’s face, slicing her cheek open, lacerating her salivary gland, and stinging her eyes with liquor. A fight ensued, with more people joining in. What happened during the fight is unclear, but within a few minutes Dean Schmitz had been fatally stabbed. CeCe was later arrested, and is now falsely accused of murder.”

The coroner’s report showed Schmitz had a large nazi swastika tattoo.

CeCe now faces a Justice system that is anything but. African-Americans are imprisoned in Minnesota and the U.S. at rates far disproportionate to the population. Black defendants incur greater rates of conviction and harsher sentences than whites, especially when the alleged victim is white. In fact the CeCe Support Committee has documented four separate recent instances when the local Hennepin County Attorney has declined to press charges when a white person killed an alleged attacker.

Likewise the Criminal Justice system is grossly discriminatory against transgender defendants. Trans people are routinely placed in isolation and/or subjected to increased sexual violence, harassment, and abuse at the hands of prisoners and corrections facility staff. CeCe herself “was kept in solitary confinement “for her own protection”; she had no say in this matter. Finally, she was transferred to a psychiatric unit in the Public Safety Facility. It was nearly two months before she was taken back to a doctor to check up on the wound on her face, which by then had turned into a painful, golf ball-sized lump”, according to the CeCe Support Group website.

The Hennepin County Attorney, Mike Freeman, is the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party politician responsible for prosecuting CeCe. Previously Freeman unsuccessfully prosecuted an Anti-Racist Action activist for defending himself from a neo-nazi at an anti-fascist demonstration in 1993. Freeman’s office also led the racist railroading of the young African-American men known as the “Minnesota 8” for the shooting of a police officer in 1992.

CeCe had every right to defend herself and her friends from this assault. Black folks, queer folks, and trans people deal with enough insult and abuse from bosses, the police, school, and other official institutions without having to worry about physical attacks just for being who they are. Racist and transphobic violence cannot be tolerated. Silence and inaction will only aid the perpetuation of white supremacy, sexism, homophobia and transphobia inherent in the structure of this oppressive and exploitive system. The necessary unity to defeat this system requires the solidarity of all of us – not just lowest common-denominator unity that favors the most privileged – but defense of the most oppressed and exploited. As the social crisis sharpens, the need for self-defense from both individual bigots and from a system built on white supremacy and patriarchy will only increase.

A strong support group, based among young transgender activists and including anarchists, has come together to defend CeCe. First of May Anarchist Alliance pledges our solidarity as well. We will work to make this case well known among working class activists and organizers and help to raise the costs for the prosecutor and the system he represents for carrying out this injustice.

23 Dec – David Japenga Released Early!

It's a Winter Solstice miracle! Comrade David Japenga was cut loose on December 23rd. He still faces the possibility of his supervised release being revoked. Otherwise, he's relatively in the clear.

25 Dec – New Benefit T-Shirts for Kellie and Victor

This long-awaited benefit t-shirt is illustrated by artist Matt Guack and is now available for only \$25 each. Text reads "Respect Existence or Expect Resistance." E-mail curedollyyy@aol.com to order.



28 Dec – Eddie Conway Update

We got an update from Eddie Conway, including recent developments regarding his appeal campaign.

MORE:

Revolutionary Greetings, to all my family, friends, and supporters.

The last few months have been a very busy time for me. I am very happy to report that some progress has been made in several areas. The best news to date is the progress with my parole situation. Since my last update letter, my lawyer filed a request for a parole hearing for me. I had the hearing on November 30, 2011. I met with two commissioners and they decided to advance my case to the next level of the parole process for persons with life sentences. That level requires a psychological evaluation, which means that sometime in the near future I will be transferred to another institution for a three month evaluation. This whole process is called a Risk Assessment, and once this level is completed the case goes before the full body of the parole commission. There are ten commissioners and a majority vote is required before the case can be sent to the governor who has the final right

to approve or deny.

Thanks to all of you who wrote support letters or sent cards. One of the key reasons for moving my case forward was the enormous amount of community support reflected by those letters and cards. You all really helped, thank you once again. For those who did not know that this process was underway, it happened fast, but there is still time for you to write. The case will go before the full commission and the members will once again read the letters of support. So please continue to send letters requesting parole to:

Mr. David Bloomberg
6776 Reisterstown Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

My lawyer, Phillip Dantes and his legal team have committed to filing my case in court by the end of this year 2011. As of this writing, that schedule is still being honored. We are looking forward to being in court sometime in 2012. Once we have a date, I will make you all aware via facebook and an update letter. We will be organizing a fundraiser in the spring to help with legal and court costs.

Since my last letter I have had the opportunity to speak at a number of events. I spoke with students and activist at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of California at Riverside, and Students Against Mass Incarceration at Howard University. I also spoke at several community events and book readings of *Marshall Law The Life and Times of a Baltimore Panther*: the Urban Network in Detroit, MI., Internationalist Books in Chapel Hill, N.C., and readings in Chicago, Ill., and in Baltimore, MD. Some of these events also included large groups from Occupy Riverside, CA. and Occupy Chicago, plus students from University of North Carolina. In October I participated in a conference of community leaders and activists like Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle organized by Dylan Rodriguez with the American Studies Association; their annual meeting was held in Baltimore. I also had the opportunity to meet and speak with National Black United Front members who visited me and offered some encouragement for the survival of our community.

The work we are doing with the Friend of a Friend (FOF) mentoring organization is going very well. The organization has developed so many positive community leaders and mentors that I can no longer keep up with all the new people around the system and out in the community; that is a good thing and I am happy with both the group's growth and direction. The (FOF) prison project is expanding into another prison- with one more wanting the program; it is currently in five Maryland prisons.

I will never be able to thank the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for taking on this task and helping us save hundreds of lives and put many positive activists back into the community. We are now organizing our families outside with the support of a local church, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church and Pastor Heber Brown. Members of a Friend of a Friend are working with a local school to help provide guidance to youth; they are starting a Freedom School in 2012, and are also speaking at colleges in the region.

Our Neutral Grounds project has opened up a snack and beverage stand to demonstrate our concept of **“Do for Self”**. Since unemployment is highest among people of African descent and even higher among former prisoners we have to think of ways to employ ourselves, and create our own economic opportunity. My family is okay in general. However, I recently lost a brother-in-law; he was married to my sister for thirty-nine years. Many of the family are planning a large holiday dinner and I plan to call in to the gathering. I am still struggling with high blood pressure, but I am exercising and trying to eat right, but prison food only allows so much right eating.

One thing I wish I could do better is write everyone as soon as the mail comes in, it's just not possible, but I greatly appreciate every letter - thank you all. I am looking forward to the coming year, and hope to see positive changes in the world. 2012 is an important year for our community and as the economic picture continues to change and capitalism collapses, food and basic needs will be in greater demand for the most vulnerable people in our communities. We need to learn and teach everyone how to grow our own food in local city gardens, and

meet our needs collectively. Block by block - help rebuild the community- grew something to eat!

**In Struggle,
Eddie Conway**

29 Dec - George Wright will not be Extradited

In the case of former US citizen, George Wright, Portugal's Supreme Court ruled to deny an appeal made by the US Justice Department. With its appeal, registered four weeks ago, the USA was seeking the extradition of the former Black Panther Party militant.

MORE:

A court in Lisbon had already refused extradition, November 17, 2011. The court's refusal was based on Wright's valid Portuguese citizenship. Wright has been living with his Portuguese wife for more than 20 years near Lisbon, under the name Jorge Dos Santos and has two adult children. The refusal was also based on the fact that, in the meantime, the USA's penal claims have surpassed the statute of limitations.

The Supreme Court found no legal error in this reasoning and confirmed the extradition refusal. "The Supreme Court has informed me today of its decision," declared Wright's defense counsel, Manuel Luis Ferreira, last Friday to Associated Press. There were no further details from the court, because, in Portugal, extradition cases are conducted in secret. The USA has recourse to appealing to Portugal's Constitutional Court. The US Attorney General has not yet made his next step known.

Jorge Dos Santos, today 68 years old, was born George Wright in Detroit, Michigan. In 1970, he and three other inmates escaped from Bayside State Prison in Leesburg, New Jersey, and joined an underground political wing of the Afro-American liberation movement. At the time of his outbreak, he had served seven of a 15 – 30 year sentence for a robbery of \$70 in 1962. The gas station owner, Walter Patterson, was shot and killed by an accomplice, who was subsequently sentenced to "life." He has long since been freed.

The Wright case, the FBI's high-profile manhunt target, made international headlines, when he was tracked down in Portugal, at the end of September, following his 41 year-long odyssey through the USA, Africa, and Europe.

Since his arrest, the Justice Department has not been the only one to exert pressure on Portuguese authorities, to have Wright extradited to serve the remainder of his sentence. Politicians, such as Senator Frank Lautenberg (Dem. NJ) have directly intervened to the government. "George Wright is guilty of the murder of Walter Patterson," writes Lautenberg in his dispatch to the Portuguese Prime Minister, Passos Coelho, "and has yet to serve out his full sentence for that heinous crime in the United States."

In his letter, Lautenberg omits that the 19-year-old Wright, at the time, was only an accomplice and had accepted the prosecutor's plea-bargain. With his acceptance not to defend himself against the charge, he sought to avoid being sentenced to death. Had he not been under the threat of the death penalty and had had an appropriate defense counsel, he would not have had to escape from prison in 1970. He would have received a short sentence and been freed on parole already within a few years.

31 Dec – 4Strugglemag Celebrates Issue Number 20

This issue is a little different. Most of it is a [retrospective](#), a look back at some of the issues, information and dialogue 4sm has brought forward. They are reprinting select articles from issue 1 through 19. Download it and help keep it available to the 400 prisoners who currently subscribe at [4strugglemag.org](#)

MORE:

We also have a short reminder (with the name of the article, issue and page numbers), of some of the detailed and theoretical pieces, including entire booklets, 4sm has printed.

We think these writings have continuing value, especially for all the righteous activists and occupiers putting the issue of social and economic justice out loud and strong, to the country and the world. These longer pieces are worth checking out or checking out again.

We do have some new words, including material on the Occupy movement, an update of the struggle from Pelican Bay State Prison, and more.

This issue is coming to you about one month later than scheduled. When you read my words, “Death,” you will understand the delay.

Issue 21 will be coming out in March. Remember we welcome your ideas and insight — from prison cells to occupy sites and beyond — the Freedom Struggle is what 4strugglemag does.

RED Season’s Greetings, Kwanzaa Greetings, and positive and healthful New Year’s Greetings of struggle, to each and everyone of you! From 4sm and its People,

Jaan Laaman, editor

1 Dec - Over 200 in the streets for NYC NYE Noise Demo

Below is a report-back from the New Year’s Eve noise demo in NYC. This was part of an international night of similar demonstrations outside of prisons and jails that took place in at least 20 other cities. We’ve also included the flyer that got handed out to about 500 people in lower Manhattan.

MORE:

When some of [NYC ABC](#) arrived early to prepare for the [New Year's Eve noise demo](#), there were already folks there. By 9:00pm, our numbers had grown and we had enough potential noise to reach the prisoners inside MCC New York-- a federal Metropolitan Correctional Center cemented into a maze of other city, state, and federal buildings. Though organized by NYC ABC and not an OWS event, it was posted by [OccupyWallSt.org](#) on their front page and this drew ever more folks. In the high rise prison, [cell lights flickered](#) on and off as silhouetted prisoners showed their connection to what was going on outside.

Whereas critics of the demo questioned the effectiveness of protesting with noise on the noisiest night of the year, this was not an appeal to authority. We were not there to change policy, nor to sway opinion. We were there in solidarity with those locked up, to let them know that they were neither forgotten nor alone. As the demo grew louder, more revelers made their way into the street, the noise bringing more people who in turn brought more noise. By 9:30, amid chants of "[you are not alone](#)" and "[Occupy Wall Street is in town! Burn the prisons to the ground!](#)" the crowd fell silent and, via call and response, the following statement made its way to the prisoners:

"To many it feels like we live in a time like no other with surveillance and repression at every turn, but also resistance, rebellion, and open revolt. This is neither the new golden nor dark age, it is simply another moment in time where we can collectively force conflict with a fundamentally fucked system.

Every day there are revolts of varying scale, most of which you never hear about. For those captured in revolt, we come together in protest and celebration. Through the din of revelry and rage, we tie ourselves to those who suffer systematized white supremacy and war against the working class, behind steel bars and safety glass.

Prison is a means of social control to be absolutely destroyed.

Here's to the total destruction of a prison-based society!

Tonight we bring with us the courage of [Sundiata Acoli](#), the ferocity of [Joe-Joe Bowen](#), the wisdom of [Mutulu Shakur](#).

We remember in every act of rebellion against the state, our deceased comrades- [Marilyn Buck](#), [Lefty Gilday](#), [Geronimo Pratt](#)-- your legacies will never be forgotten.

We hold in our hearts comrades soon to be or recently imprisoned: [Tim DeChristopher](#), [Norberto González-Claudio](#), [Leah Henderson](#),

[Mandy Hiscocks](#), [Peter Hopperton](#), [Alex Hundert](#), [Erik Lankin](#), [Adam Lewis](#), [Breanna Manning](#), [Joy Powell](#), and [Justin Solondz](#).

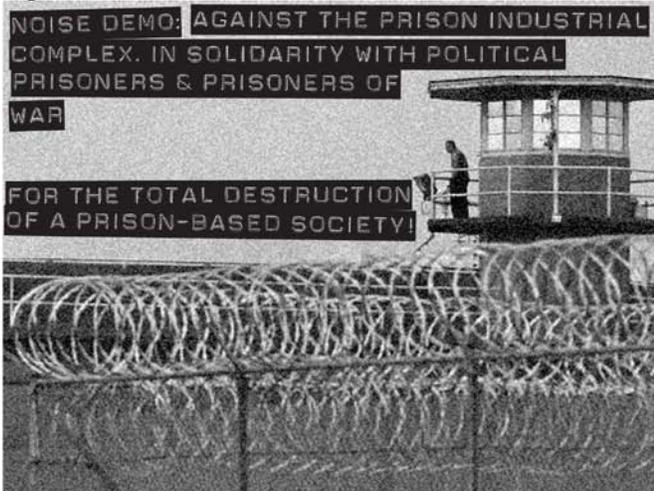
YOU. ARE NOT. ALONE."

As the chants and noise restarted, it was clear folks were getting antsy. Within ten minutes, we took to the street. Heading against traffic, and with cops either busy with Times Square or expecting us to head to Zuccotti Park, we were able to make our way to a crowded intersection, that leads onto one of the city's high traffic bridges. At that point, still 200 strong, the chants, dancing, flyer-bombing, and noise took over. "A-Anti-Anti-Capitalista" rang through the streets, folks on foot, on bike, and in cars took flyers to figure out what this was all about. Some came off of the sidewalk and joined in. After holding the intersection for fifteen minutes, it was time to move on.

NYPD showed up and were deftly outmaneuvered. As they tried to race around the narrow streets of Chinatown, we surged. A lone cruiser made the mistake of rushing up, two slack-jawed buffoons jumped out, and as quickly as they had gotten out of their car, they were shouted down, told to get the fuck out and hopped back in. They turned the block and were gone. We moved on, though cops on foot and in more cruisers were making the situation tense.

All told, we suffered four arrests, the last being a bicyclist who was tackled and pulled to a waiting van for riding the wrong way on a largely deserted one way street. After a few minor clashes with cops, calls were coming in that still more folks had arrived at MCC and were asking that we rejoin them. As we made our way back to the prison, there were in fact 50-75 folks already there. We rejoined the demo, made more noise, and eventually scattered to the wind.

May this simple night of noise-bringing carry momentum into a new year of open conflict with the state and capital.



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[MORE INFORMATION AT NYCABC.WORDPRESS.COM](#)

4 Jan - George L. Jackson-Mumia Abu Jamal Political Prisoner Letter Writing Dinner In Harlem

WHAT: Monthly Letter-writing to political prisoner and prisoners of war

WHEN: 6:00-9:00pm, Wednesday, January 4th

WHERE: The Guillermo Morales- Assata Shakur Center, City College of New York, NAC - Building: Room 3-201, West 138th Street (Between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues)

COST: Free!

This month letters will be sent to Mumia Abu-Jamal.

4 Feb 2012 - International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

WHAT: International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier!

WHEN: 2:00-6:00pm, Saturday, February 4th

WHERE: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive (120th and Claremont, Manhattan)

COST: \$5 to \$10 Donation (Nobody turned away due to empty pockets!), delicious homemade food for only \$5

For more information: nyclpdoc@gmail.com • nycjericho@gmail.com • 718-325-4407

MORE:

Leonard Peltier is a Native American activist wrongfully accused in 1975 in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Government documents show that, without any evidence at all, the FBI decided from the beginning of its investigation to 'lock Peltier into the case'.

U.S. prosecutors knowingly presented false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the U.S. The statements were signed by a woman who was forced by FBI agents to say she was an eyewitness. The government has long since admitted that the woman was not present during the shootings.

Meanwhile, in a separate trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr. Peltier's co-defendants were acquitted by reason of self defense. Had Leonard been tried with his co-defendants, he also would have been acquitted.

Unhappy with the outcome of the Cedar Rapids trial, prosecutors set the stage for Mr. Peltier's conviction. His trial was moved to an area known for its anti-Indian sentiment—Fargo, North Dakota. The trial judge had a reputation for ruling against Indians, and a juror is known to have made racist comments during Mr. Peltier's trial.

FBI documents prove that the U.S. government went so far as to manufacture the so-called murder weapon, the most critical evidence in the prosecution's case. A ballistics test proved, however, that the gun and shell casings entered into evidence didn't match. The FBI hid this fact from the jury. Mr. Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms. According to court records, the United States Attorney who prosecuted the case has twice admitted that no one even knows who fired the fatal shots.

Leonard Peltier is 67 years old and in poor health. An accomplished author and artist, Mr. Peltier is renowned for his humanitarian achievements. In 2009, Leonard was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the sixth consecutive year.

Although the courts have acknowledged evidence of government misconduct—including forcing witnesses to lie and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence—Mr. Peltier has been denied a new trial on a legal technicality. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Mr. Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release.

The Courts may not be able to act but Barack Obama, as President, can. Please join with us to free an innocent man. On February 4, 2012, tell Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Scheduled events will be announced and details provided at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.