

Updates for July 5<sup>th</sup>

### **21 Jun – David Gilbert Moved to Auburn Prison**

*David was transferred to Auburn on Tuesday, June 21st.*

His address is:

**David Gilbert #83-A-6158**  
**Auburn Correctional Facility**  
**Post Office Box 618**  
**Auburn, New York 13021**

One of his supporters spoke with him just after the transfer, but he couldn't stay on the phone long and there aren't a lot of details. He doesn't know why he was moved. The travel wasn't bad. First days of a move are hard. He said the hardest part is hygiene: no clean clothes, dirty cell, and no property. He hasn't been especially targeted or abused in connection with the move. Apart from that, he doesn't know how it will be for him there. It sounds like his phone access is more limited, at least for now, than at Clinton.

Another supporter was already en route to visit David at Clinton, but changed course and was able to visit at Auburn. So David had a visit right away, and he has more scheduled this week and next.

If you have visits or packages in the works, or urgent messages, you can get in touch with Naomi by phone-- 518.312.2174 or e-mail-- [naomi@nycap.rr.com](mailto:naomi@nycap.rr.com)

### **21 Jun – Summer Letter From Eddie Conway**

*Attached is the summer letter from Marshall "Eddie" Conway. The campaign for his release is moving forward and it's great to be able to read from his perspective on it.*

### **23 Jun – Herman Bell Moved to Comstock**

*The focus of our last letter-writing dinner, Herman Bell, has been moved to Great Meadow Correctional Facility. He is the fourth political prisoner in New York State to be unexpectedly transferred recently. One of the folks who wrote to Herman received a long letter in response; Herman expressed his appreciation for the support of NYC ABC and the folks who wrote to him.*

His new address is:

**Herman Bell #79-C-0262**  
**Great Meadow Correctional Facility**  
**11739 State Route 22**  
**Post Office Box 51**  
**Comstock, New York 12821-0051**

He will go before the parole board again in February 2012.

### **24 Jun – New Piece by Walter Bond: Green is the New Rage**

*We've pasted another of "Lone Wolf A.L.F" prisoner Walter Bond's pieces. It is as fiery as one would expect, no pun intended.*

#### **MORE:**

Please do not consider me a "Green Scare" defendant and please do not become scared to be "Green." Better yet, please do not be scared to be militant, or outspoken, or an activist for the legal aboveground or clandestine underground. Still better, don't give in to state-sanctioned fear.

Once you do, you're being reactive and that's what they're counting on. Also, you are giving the security forces

of animal exploitation too much power... power they don't deserve!

Instead of concerning ourselves with how big and scary the FBI is or how ruthlessly they target activists, we should be concerned with flexing our own muscle and shutting down animal use and abuse wherever it occurs.

At times, I fear that the bulk of the animal liberation "movement" has really and truly forgotten that this is a selfless cause. Our aim is to stop animal objectification, whatever it may take.

And as a movement, we need to be empowering each other to act... not scaring the shit out of activists under any pretext. It's a fact that the ALF, ELF, and aggressive legal activists are in the crosshairs of the power structure — not just here, but globally. The only way that will change is by becoming ineffective welfarists that never rock the boat and are literally in cahoots with abusers or by not compromising the animals' lives and keeping ourselves and our movement on the frontlines and in the trenches, kicking ass and taking names.

Or, I suppose you can also become one of the paranoia crowd and just throw the agent provocateur label at anyone that refuses to submit to fear. I hate repeating myself, but I guess I must. This is a War! I do not say that for the sake of drama or literary emphasis. One major flaw with many people within animal lib is the stuck-on-theoretical mindset. We see these abuses to animals in vivisection, meat, dairy, and eggs, or fur and then we start filing it away as "what this means in a social context and what tactics have the most universal appeal to other humans" when we should be asking ourselves practical questions like "how can I start fighting these abusers?" Or, "where can I have the most impact against these cruelties?"

How can I save an animal today or stop these atrocities now? Even for just a few critters. Because that's the context we so often miss. It's about animal autonomy, not about how the government turns on the people that care about the animals. But while I'm on the subject, it's nothing new!

Those in power abuse that power to smash resistance to the status quo. It's as old as the hills. Every single movement for progressive change has faced a system that has turned on them with vengeance and often violence. Look at the Black Panther Party. A mere 43 years ago, there were 150 Panthers, political prisoners, locked up in the prison system.

Various police and feds were executing these brothers and sisters because they were demanding an end to institutionalized prison racism that was destroying their communities and they were not going to back down, no matter what!

Also, amongst their own people, they were at times blamed for their hard stance bringing down the heat and making it hard on everyone else. Predictable. Within our own movement, it's nothing new. Antivivisectionists were actually called "terrorists" over 100 years ago! Ronnie Lee, the founder of the Animal Liberation Front, was being called a "terrorist" in a court of law in 1982.

In the larger context, these persecutions, whether of the individual or the entire movement, are only a landmark on the road to success, the only time they are in vain is if we stop fighting!

And I will tell you this-- we are only beginning the abolitionist movement for total animal liberation. How many more trials and tribulations will we endure before we will set the captives free? So don't be shocked or deterred because of what they do to me or any other political prisoner/POW. Of course, support us in our times of tribulation, but don't make our sacrifices in vain. Don't let this system use us to scare you! Speaking for myself, I knew what I was in for when I became an ALF operative.

Part of being an outlaw is accepting the consequences, or at least making peace with them before you ever act. A complete change in attitude is needed.

When our activists speak out and tell it how it is, the only repression they should face if from the enemies of our

Mother Earth and our animal nations and, then, that should be seen as the breadth of our right to free speech. That is, you have the right to say what is happening, you have a right to say what the solutions are, you have a right to your own opinions and you have a right to fight against murder, torture, and slavery.

You have those rights because you assert them, not because a government agency tells you that you do! So what's the proper response to “the Green Scare”? How about “the Green Rage”? Yes, that's it!

Consider me a prisoner of war and a proponent of the Green Rage! It's not 9-1-1 anymore and this is not FOXNews — so no militant Earth rights activist or self-respecting anarchist should be defending or limiting their actions in accordance with government witch hunts. If you look at the communiqués from the underground in the last 18 months, thousands of animals have been saved from death. The ALF was active in 32 countries and only 7 underground activists were caught (including myself) worldwide! In the above ground in America, vivisection and their associates are feeling the heat. From down South all the way to the west coast! It's time to bring back the good ol' days where solidarity was an action instead of a salutation... an idea that does not take the place of activism.

It's okay, the internet will still be there at the end of the day... after you've put your back into your beliefs. I promise!

And I'm sure millions of otherwise grown adults will still be arguing and gossiping on it like little angry children. They might even tear you down because you weren't around for ten hours to defend yourself. And who knows? After effecting real change, taking a real stand, or getting your face licked by an actual animal that's alive because of what you did, you may not even care what the arm chair generals and theoretical wizards were commenting on today.

Animal Liberation, Whatever it May Take!

### **26 Jun - Taking AIM and Wounding Justice Through the Incarceration of Leonard Peltier**

*On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1975, federal agents entered the Oglala Sioux reservation, under the pretense of questioning a crime suspect. In reality, they were there to intimidate American Indians on their own land. What eventually happened that day is examined in the documentary “Incident at Oglala.” To mark the importance of this date, a new article came out by Karla Fetrow; we've pasted it below.*

MORE:

#### **The Elements of Special Prosecution**

June 26th. marked the anniversary of one of the greatest infamies committed in contemporary times by the U.S. Government against its own First People. On that day, in 1975, federal agents entered the Sioux Reservation, purportedly to question a crime suspect. Their invasion dissolved into mayhem and overt violence. Their primary motivation, however, was as it has been since 1870; to coerce or persuade the property owners to sell their land for industrial and natural resource development; primarily in heavy minerals, including Black Hills gold. A gunfight broke out and two of the F.B.I. agents were killed. Three of the inhabitants were later arrested and charged with murder. Two of the defendants were acquitted through a self-defense plea. One was not. He was tried, found guilty, and given two consecutive life sentences. His name was Leonard Peltier.

Attempts to free Leonard Peltier of the charges that occurred under the same circumstances with the same anxiety to defend his own life, have repeatedly failed. His initial arrest and confinement caused a flurry of interest in Native American affairs. “Free Leonard Peltier” posters decorated the homes of political activists, protests lined the streets of major Universities, and a copy of “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee” lay on the coffee table of every informed household.

What does the book, which is a historical account of the 1870 s US Government's battle with the Sioux Nation

have to do with Leonard Peltier? Quite a bit. In the late 1960s, frustrated by decades of discrimination and intrusive federal policies, Native American community activists led by George Mitchell, Dennis Banks, and Clyde Bellecourt met with 200 other tribal members to discuss these issues and the means of taking over their own destiny. Together, they created a new entity, a powerful voice speaking out against slum housing, joblessness and racist treatment among the First People. They became the foundation for the American Indian Movement (AIM).

The American Indian Movement opened the K-12 Heart of the Earth Survival School in 1971, and in 1972, mounted the Trail of Broken Treaties march on Washington, D.C., where they took over the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in protest of its policies, and with demands for their reform.

According to the Minnesota Historical Library, “The revolutionary fervor of AIM’s leaders drew the attention of the FBI and the CIA, who then set out to crush the movement. Their ruthless suppression of AIM during the early 1970s sowed the seeds of the confrontation that followed in February, 1973, when AIM leader Russell Means and his followers took over the small Indian community of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in protest of its allegedly corrupt government. When FBI agents were dispatched to remove the AIM occupiers, a standoff ensued. Through the resulting siege that lasted for 71 days, two people were killed, twelve wounded, and twelve hundred arrested. Wounded Knee was a seminal event, drawing worldwide attention to the plight of American Indians. AIM leaders were later tried in a Minnesota court and, after a trial that lasted for eight months, were acquitted of wrongdoing.”

Wounded Knee is part of the eight district Pine Ridge Ogala Lakota Reservation. Leonard Peltier traveled to the reservation in 1975 as an AIM member to help try and bring a peaceful end to the violence. He became caught up in the conflict when the two FBI agents entered the reservation in search of a Pine Ridge resident named Jimmy Eagle, who was wanted for questioning in a robbery and assault.

The invasion of federal officers, which lasted well into the late nineteen seventies, continuing after the arrest of Peltier, is referred to by the Lakota tribe as the reign of terror. Fifty-six names are listed on a memorial page honoring the Pine Ridge members who had lost their lives during this modern day battle with US Government sponsored land grabbers. Fifty-six names that did not make the headlines, whose deaths were not investigated to discover the culpable, whose voices were not heard by the American public. The fight Leonard Peltier joined in was the same as the seventy-one day siege at Wounded Knee, the same as the one that silenced forever fifty-six members of his community, the same as the one in which two other men were arrested on charges of murder and later acquitted through a self-defense plea.

According to the Leonard Peltier Defence Committee website, “Key witnesses were banned from testifying about FBI misconduct and testimony about the conditions and atmosphere on the Pine Ridge Reservation at the time of the shoot-out was severely restricted. Important evidence, such as conflicting ballistics reports, was ruled inadmissible. Still, the U.S. Prosecutor failed to produce a single witness who could identify Peltier as the shooter. Instead, the government tied a bullet casing found near the bodies of their agents to the alleged murder weapon, arguing that this gun had been the only one of its kind used during the shootout, and that it had belonged to Peltier.

Later, Mr. Peltier’s attorneys uncovered, in the FBI’s own documents, that more than one weapon of the type attributed to Peltier had been present at the scene and the FBI had intentionally concealed a ballistics report that showed the shell casing could not have come from the alleged murder weapon. Other troubling information emerged: the agents undoubtedly followed a red pickup truck onto the land where the shoot-out took place, not the red and white van driven by Peltier; and compelling evidence against several other suspects existed and was concealed.”

### **The Poet Behind the Bars**

Leonard Peltier is behind bars, but his voice has not been silenced. His book, “Prison Writings; My Life is My

Sun Dance”, has received International acclaim, attracting even the attention of Britain’s Queen Elizabeth of Britain. Archbishop Desmond Tutu called it: “A deeply moving and very disturbing story of a gross miscarriage of justice and an eloquent cri de coeur of Native Americans for redress and to be regarded as human beings with inalienable rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution. We pray that it does not fall on deaf ears. America owes it to herself.”

His list of achievements has been extraordinary:

- In 1992 he established a scholarship at New York University for Native American students seeking law degrees.
- Instrumental in the establishment and funding of a Washington (state) Native American newspaper by and for Native young people.
- Has been the sponsoring father of two children in Childreach, one in El Salvador, and the other in Guatemala.
- Has worked to have prisoners’ artwork displayed around the country and the world in art galleries in hopes of starting art programs for prisoners and increasing their self-confidence.
- Has sponsored several clothing and toy drives for reservations.
- Distributes to Head Start and halfway houses, as well as women’s centers.
- Every year he has sponsored a Christmas gift drive for the children of Pine Ridge, SD. Organized and emergency food drive for the people of Pohlo, Mexico in response to the Acteal Massacre.
- Serves on the board of the Rosenberg Fund for Children.
- Donates his artwork to several human rights and social welfare organizations in order to help them raise funds. This most recently includes the ACLU, Trail of Hope (a Native American conference dealing with drug and alcohol addiction), World Peace and Prayer Day, the First Nation Student Association, and the Buffalo Trust Fund.

By donating his paintings to the Leonard Peltier Charitable Foundation, he was able to supply computers and educational supplies such as books and encyclopedias to libraries and families on Pine Ridge.

By donating his paintings to the LPCF, he was also able to raise substantial supplies for the people of Pine Ridge after last year’s devastating tornado hit and caused a multitude of damage on the reservation.

He has been widely recognized for his efforts and has won several human rights awards, including the North Star Frederick Douglas Award, Humanist of the Year Award, and the International Human Rights Prize.

### **America’s Third World Citizens**

Understanding Peltier’s passion requires understanding the conditions of the Pine Ridge Reservation. The 11,000-square mile (approximately 2,700,000 acres) Pine Ridge Reservation is the second-largest Native American Reservation within the United States. It is roughly the size of the State of Connecticut. According to the Oglala Sioux tribal statistics, approximately 1,700,000 acres of this land are owned by the Tribe or by tribal members.

The topography of the Pine Ridge Reservation includes the barren Badlands, rolling grassland hills, dryland prairie, and areas dotted with pine trees.

The Pine Ridge Reservation is home to approximately 40,000 persons, 35% of which are under the age of 18.

The latest Federal Census shows the median age to be 20.6 years. Approximately half the residents of the Reservation are registered tribal members of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation.

The median income of the Pine Ridge Reservation is \$2,600 to \$3,500 a year. The unemployment rate averages around 83-85% and can be higher in the winter when travel is difficult or even impossible. The average life expectancy for women is fifty-two years, for men, it's forty-eight. The rate of diabetes and tuberculosis are eight hundred times the U.S. National average. The rate of cervical cancer is five hundred times the U.S. National average.

It is reported that at least 60% of the homes on the Pine Ridge Reservation are infested with Black Mold, *Stachybotrys*. This infestation causes an often-fatal condition with infants, children, elderly, those with damaged immune systems, and those with lung and pulmonary conditions at the highest risk. Exposure to this mold can cause hemorrhaging of the lungs and brain as well as cancer.

A Federal Commodity Food Program is active but supplies mostly inappropriate foods (high in carbohydrate and/or sugar) for the largely diabetic population of the Reservation. A small non-profit Food Co-op is in operation on the Reservation but is available only for those with funds to participate.

In most of the treaties between the U.S. Government and Indian Nations, the U.S. government agreed to provide adequate medical care for Indians in return for vast quantities of land. The Indian Health Services (IHS) was set up to administer the health care for Indians under these treaties and receives an appropriation each year to fund Indian health care. Unfortunately, the appropriation is very small compared to the need and there is little hope for increased funding from Congress. The IHS is understaffed and ill-equipped and can't possibly address the needs of Indian communities. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Living conditions are crowded. As many as seventeen people live in two and three bedroom homes, while homes built to contain six to eight people will have up to thirty inhabitants. Many of the homes lack adequate furniture, use their cooking stove for heat, and some have only dirt floors. Thirty-nine percent of the homes are without electricity. Sixty percent of the reservation families have no land-line telephones. Computers and Internet connections are rare.

Efforts to improve their living conditions by investing in businesses have been met with frustration. Currently there are no movie theaters, only one grocery store, one motel and a few scatter bed and breakfast arrangements. Several of the banks and lending institutions nearest to the Reservation have been targeted for investigation of fraudulent or predatory lending practices, with the citizens of the Pine Ridge Reservation as their victims.

Many wells and much of the water and land on the Reservation is contaminated with pesticides and other poisons from farming, mining, open dumps, and commercial and governmental mining operations outside the Reservation. A further source of contamination is buried ordnance and hazardous materials from closed U.S. military bombing ranges on the Reservation.

Scientific studies show that the High Plains/Oglala Aquifer which begins underneath the Pine Ridge Reservation is predicted to run dry in less than 30 years due to commercial interest use and dryland farming in numerous states south of the Reservation. This critical North American underground water resource is not renewable at anything near the present consumption rate. The recent years of drought have simply accelerated the problem.

Scientific studies show that much of the High Plains/Oglala Aquifer has been contaminated with farming pesticides and commercial, factory, mining, and industrial contaminants in the States of South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

### **Silent No Longer**

The conditions of the Sioux reservation are not unique. To varying degrees, these conditions exist on nearly all

the U.S. reservations. It is to this plight that Peltier and others like himself would address our attention. It's not an appeal to assimilate into a society that rejects their cultural heritage, but an appeal to accept them complete with their culture. It is not an appeal for hand-outs but for fair business practices. It's not an appeal based on abandoning their old ways, but one of incorporating modern technology and education for a new nation. For over a hundred years, Pine Ridge has defended itself against self-interested groups that sought to establish themselves from within. Now they are encroached upon by these same interest groups from without. They have been harmed. They have lost their means of livelihood, their health, their clean water, and yet they keep gathering. The community grows as their urban cousins leave the cities to join them. They gather because they must. Their desperation is a call to all who have been swept aside as unimportant, unsubstantial, inconvenient. They will be heard.

Silence, they say, is the voice of complicity.

But silence is impossible.

Silence screams.

Silence is a message,  
just as doing nothing is an act.

-Leonard Peltier-

Leonard Peltier was born September 12, 1944. In 1977, at the age of thirty-three, he was sentenced to prison. In 2009, he was granted a full hearing before the United States Parole Commission. His parole request was denied. Peltier's next scheduled hearing is set for July, 2024. Should he live that long, he will be eighty years old. He has already spent more than half his life in prison for a crime that began as a crime against the Native American people and that amounts to selective prosecution, suppression and the concealment of vital evidence. In the time he has spent behind bars, he has contributed more to the good of his country than most of our Senators, Representatives, Congressmen, diplomats, business owners and billionaires. He is a humanitarian, yet the humanitarian compassion of the US public has not freed him. He is an author, a poet, a craftsman, a spokesperson for human rights. History will not remember him as a murderer, but as a man who sought equality. The wounded hearts, suffering under the tyranny of corruption, will embrace him.

Whatever debts he owed society, Peltier has more than adequately paid them. Society owes him a debt in return. It owes him the safe guarding of the rights of America's First People to thrive. It owes him recognition of his worth, which cannot be measured in terms of war against the Government of the U.S., or in personal wealth, but in his deeds. It owes him his freedom.

If you would like to read the messages of Leonard Peltier, go to <http://lpdctexas.blogspot.com/2007/09/message-from-leonard-peltier.html>

**Resources:**

[http://www.mnhs.org/library/tips/history\\_topics/93aim.html](http://www.mnhs.org/library/tips/history_topics/93aim.html)

<http://www.leonardpeltier.net/theman.htm>

<http://www.nativevillage.org/Messages%20from%20the%20People/the%20arrogance%20of%20ignorance.htm>

<http://www.leonardpeltier.net/>

**26 Jun – Oglala Commemoration, Pine Ridge, South Dakota by Leonard Peltier**

*There are several new developments with American Indian Movement prisoner Leonard Peltier. The following is a letter he wrote before inexplicably being placed in solitary confinement the next day.*

**MORE:**

Hello my friends and relations,

I always try to come to you full of good spirit and vigor. But I cannot lie. There are days when the ugliness of my situation weighs me down. I swear I never thought this could happen. I never believed law enforcement and

the government of this country would go so far for so long to keep their dirty laundry hidden away

Over the years, you my dedicated friends and believers have kept a vision of justice alive. That really is something special. Because of you, we have learned of hidden evidence, coerced testimony, and outright lies by the FBI and prosecutors. Because of you we have been able to uncover thousands of documents the government wanted to stay secret. And yet they have been able to squirrel away thousands more pages of their biggest secrets about me, about the theft of Indian land, their motives behind murder, and their operations to silence people like me. I am living proof that my case is about squashing Indian rights and Indian sovereignty, otherwise why would I be serving a sentence so much longer than what is normal for my so-called conviction?

Those that believe in law and order should be the loudest voices calling for my release! The fact is the day I walk free is the day they are forced to deal with my innocence, and they are so very afraid of doing just that! No matter what they say, the dirty little secret underneath all of this is America's fear and loathing of Indian people. In over five hundred years, they have not yet learned how to deal honorably with us.

The burden is great sometimes, but the encouragement I get from you helps me to keep my faith that freedom will one day come my way. No matter what happens, on the day I draw my last breath I will be proud to have taken my place alongside my ancestors, knowing I did all I could do, and gave all I could for my people. For those FBI agents and prosecutors in my case, their last moments will include shame.

So remember all of you my friends and relations, this case is about much more than me. If you believe in truth, justice, honor, freedom, all of what is supposed to make America great, then help me open the door to my release. If you believe in Indian sovereignty, join my cause and in doing so help yourself. Take your place in the struggle and do all you can to eradicate injustice.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for your work. Thank you for your love.

Aho! Mitakuye Oyasin!  
Doksha,  
Leonard Peltier

### **26 Jun – Father's Day Letter From Norberto González Claudio**

*We focused on recently-arrested Puerto Rican political prisoner Norberto González Claudio during Pro Libertad's Freedom Month not long ago. For father's day, he recounts a visit in the letter pasted below.*

#### **MORE:**

A Fathers' Day Visit:

“And grandfather, why can't I be there with you?

The visit by some of my children, grandchildren and my wife should have been one of beautiful sharing, of beautiful family sharing. And it was that way, to some extent . . .

My girlfriend, wife, lover and comrade (my favorite young person) and more to my daughters and sons, arrived from the Puerto Rican Nation, to visit a husband, father and grandfather to an imperialist prison: Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility. And, do you know what happened? That already the grandfather, father, husband, comrade, Political Prisoner, has been condemned – without trial, without due legal process and without committing any infractions in that prison – in fact I arrived to go directly to solitary confinement – and treated like a complete “criminal” that has to be shut away and isolated for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in a solitary jail cell. In absolute solitude! In absolute solitude! But I am strong and combative even under these conditions. Long live love! Long live life! Long live the class and freedom struggle of our Puerto Rican working class!

In a solitary cell, in solitude and combative. We talked about Fathers' Day. Between 9:30 and 10:00 in the morning, the prison guards came to tell me that I had visitors – in fact, they congratulated me for being a father – they handcuffed me and we went to another cell where they removed my handcuffs and shackled my feet. I sit in a chair, pick up the telephone and in a small computer monitor my family appears. They have to take turns to be able to see me and for me to be able to see them and speak with them.

“And grandfather, why can't I be there with you?” This is the question that my small grandson asks me in his pure and childlike innocence. It is likely that this question reflects the dehumanizing and cruel nature that characterizes the current system in the United States. A visit that should have been one to raise the spirits of a prisoner – that hasn't been tried or condemned – can become another form of torture. And that's the way it is, yet another form of torture, cruelty and insensitivity. It is this type of behavior that one is referring to when you explain or say that the U.S. Empire is cruel, brutal, bloody and dehumanizing. It is clear that we do so without forgetting the invasions, deadly bombings against other nations and the looting and ransacking of these.

“And grandfather, why can't I be there with you?” This points out clearly the insensitivity and cruelty of these invaders and abusive imperialists.

When I informed my “counselor” Devonis that on the weekend my family would come to visit and asked if something could be done for me to be able to see my family more closely, the response – cutting and clear – was that nothing could be done.

That is how you live and die in the nation of supposed great democracy and civil and human rights of the first order. Or, who knows, if it's second or third order . . . Democracy or the falsehood of democracy? Civil and human rights or the falsehood of civil and human rights?

A human being that is accused but not convicted is in solitary or as we say out there, in the hole. Without being convicted but being simply accused. YES, SIMPLY FOR BEING ACCUSED! For being a POLITICAL PRISONER! FOR BEING A PO-LI-TI-CAL PRI-SO-NER!

It's astounding! THE EMPIRE'S STENCH! IT STINKS AND SEEKS TO MAKE US INSIGNIFICANT AND SMALL . . . IT BRUTALIZES AND TRIES TO DRIVE US MAD!

That is how you live and die in a dehumanizing empire at its hands and at all costs. An empire of terror, of lies and deceit. An empire whose days are already numbered to the benefit of all human beings and for the benefit of humanity and the good of the Planet Earth, OUR LARGER HOME!

May peace, love and wisdom always accompany us! ALWAYS!

Norberto González Claudio, 09864-000

Husband, father, grandfather, comrade to many men and women, worker, and POLITICAL PRISONER.

WE WILL SEE ONE ANOTHER SOON!

### **27 Jun – Leonard Peltier Moved to Solitary Confinement**

*Our concern is two-fold. First and foremost, Leonard must not be railroaded by prison authorities as has happened in the past. Second, Leonard's age and health status are a concern. Leonard suffers from diabetes and other health conditions. He must have the means by which to monitor his blood sugar. He must receive the proper diet. Leonard otherwise must continue to receive his prescribed medications. He must immediately be returned to the prison's general population. A Call to action has since been issued (see below).*

### **28 Jun – Screenings of the Daniel McGowan Film, “If A Tree Falls,” Extended Again!**

*IF A TREE FALLS showing for another week in NYC!*

**MORE:**

In case you missed *If a Tree Falls* last week, don't worry! The IFC Center has extended its run for another week, and you still have time to see it. Check out some of last week's fantastic reviews, in which the film was hailed as "an exemplary piece of reporting" in the NY Times, "fascinating and remarkably fair" at Salon.com, and then praised by the folks at Entertainment Weekly who really seemed to enjoy the ride: "the film sweeps us up like a thriller!" In case you don't trust reviewers either, you should know that Michael Moore saw it at the IFC last week, and he really liked it, too. Just sayin'! SO GO SEE IT!

Get tickets here:

<http://www.ifccenter.com/films/if-a-tree-falls-a-story-of-the-earth-liberation-front/>

Nationwide dates and locations: Most of these are one week runs, but check with the theater for details. New theaters will be added, but if you don't see your local indie cinema on the list, go ahead and give them a call to request they show the film!

Dates updated here: <http://www.ifatreefallsfilm.com/screenings.html>

**29 Jun – Border Patrol Six Trespassing Charge Dropped, New Trial Date Scheduled**

*The six protesters who locked-down and occupied the United States Border Patrol (BP) – Tucson Headquarters on May 21, 2010 are returning to trial to fight the remaining count of disorderly conduct “with serious disruptive behavior” charge. Last February the six also stood trial for a charge of criminal trespassing, but their defense team discovered that the trespassing charge was incorrectly filed by the State. The defense then filed a motion to dismiss the charge of criminal trespassing, which the court granted. The six returned to trial on June 29, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the Tucson City Court while simultaneously calling for renewed action against border militarization. UPDATE: The six were found not guilty on the remaining count of a disorderly conduct “with serious disruptive behavior” charge. The legal defense, William G. Walker and Jeffrey J. Rogers, argued that the remaining charge of disorderly conduct did not apply because it did not meet any of the statutes of the charge. After three hours of deliberation, the judge found the six not guilty.*

**MORE:**

In addition to the kick off of the trial, the border patrol occupiers called for renewed action against border militarization. More than 40 protesters took to the streets, with banners reading, “Indigenous Resistance, Protect Sacred Places”, “Free Movement for People Not Commerce, Tear Down the Wall” and chanting “No Borders, No Border Patrol.” Two protesters were arrested. A banner reading “Border patrol out of O’odham land” was also suspended from the “Snake Bridge” that morning before court. At one point they rallied in front of the streamline courtroom. Operation Streamline, started in 2005 is a “zero tolerance” rapid court process that prosecutes hundreds of migrants a day, sometimes in shackles. Constitutional rights are also not granted and what would take multiple hearings is often a less than a two-day process of arrest and deportation.

O’odham Elders attended the court proceedings to demonstrate their support.

Alex Soto, Tohono O’odham, and one of the arrestees states, “It was good to see all the support last February for our initial trial proceeding. We need to continue to build, and remember this action was a prayer, and the dismissal of trespassing reaffirms that the Border Patrol troops are the real trespassers, not us. How can I, a Tohono O’odham person, be trespassing on my own land?”

“Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Border Patrol, Immigration Custom Enforcement and their corporate backers such as Wackenhut, are the true criminals. Troops and paramilitary law enforcement, detention camps, check points, and citizenship verification are not a solution to ‘issues’ of migration. Indigenous Peoples have existed here long before these imposed borders, and Elders inform us that we always honored freedom of movement. Why are Indigenous communities and the daily deaths at the border ignored? The impacts of border militarization are constantly being made invisible in and by the media, and the popular culture of this country.

Even the mainstream immigrant rights movement has often pushed for “reform”, which means further militarization of the border, leading to increased suffering for Indigenous communities. Border militarization destroys Indigenous communities.” stated Soto.

Kevin Jose, Akimel/Tohono O’odham, and member of O’odham Solidarity Across Borders states, “During the time of this action, my thoughts ran so deep as to what else we could do and what we can make happen. Singing for them at this action was powerful and their hearts were stronger than ever. What the state does on the control of free movement along our traditional lands is like a choke hold to our throats. The push to militarize the border does not just affect the Tohono O’odham who live in the border region, it affects all O’odham. In Tohono, it comes in the form of a border wall, in the Gila River Indian Community; it comes in form of a freeway”.

Currently the state of Arizona is pushing for the construction of the South Mountain Loop 202 freeway extension on Akimel O’odham land (Phoenix Area). The Loop 202 is part of the CANAMEX transportation corridor, which is part of the larger NAFTA highway project. The two proposed routes will either result in a loss of approximately 600 acres of tribal land, and the forced relocation of Akimel O’odham and Pee-Posh families or would gouge a 40-story high, 200-yard wide cut into Muadag Do’ag (O’odham name for South Mountain), which is sacred to all O’odham and Pee-Posh.

“Neo-liberal projects such as CANAMEX and NAFTA are attacking O’odham communities. All these attacks are connected. Support our nawoj (friends) on June 29th for their trial” stated Jose.

The creation of the current U.S./Mexico border, 45 O’odham villages on or near the border have been completely depopulated.

According to the migrant support group No More Deaths, from October 2009 to April 2011 there have been more than 338 deaths on the Arizona border alone.

1,200 National Guard troops have been stationed along the southwestern border since June 2010.

Additionally, the state of Arizona recently passed a bill which will allow for Arizona to build its own border wall. The law goes into effect July 20 of this year.

Actions toward ending border militarization and the decriminalization of our communities:

- Immediately withdraw National Guard Troops from the US/Mexico border
- Immediately halt development of the border wall
- Immediately remove drones and checkpoints
- Decommission all detention camps and release all presently held undocumented migrants
- Immediately honor Indigenous Peoples rights of self-determination
- Fully comply with the recently signed UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Respect Indigenous People’s inherent right of migration
- End NAFTA, FTAA and other trade agreements
- Immediately end all CANAMEX/NAFTA Highway projects (such as the South Mountain Freeway)
- Immediately repeal SB1070 and 287g
- End all racial profiling
- No BP encroachment/sweeps on sovereign Native land

- No raids and deportations
- Immediate and unconditional regularization (“legalization”) of all people
- Uphold human freedom and rights
- Uphold the rights of ALL Indigenous People – repeal HB 2281, support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- Support dignity and respect
- Support and ensure freedom of movement for all people

Put this message into action and help end the attack on Indigenous and migrant communities. Take these messages to the streets, wherever you are. If you can, join us inside and outside the court room in Tucson at 2:00pm on June 29, 2011.

Tucson City Court is located at 103 E. Alameda St. Tucson, AZ.

Additional ways to take action in your community, and bring awareness to the impacts of border militarization and the criminalization of our communities:

1. Directly intervene by:

- Protesting institutions and agencies directly responsible (a brief list available at: <http://www.survivalsolidarity.wordpress.com>)
- Being part of (or starting) Border Patrol, ICE, National Guard, Minutemen watch groups in your community
- Stopping ICE vehicles from deporting migrants - Providing aid for migrants crossing the border

2. Pressure political officials:

Janet Napolitano  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
 Washington, DC 20528  
 Comment Line: 202-282-8495

3. Organize or attend awareness or benefit event:

4. Donate to Border Action Defense Fund:  
<http://www.borderopposition.blogspot.com>

5. Support local Indigenous struggles for self-determination and freedom of movement.

In particular, bring awareness to Indigenous communities on the US/Mexican border that have been militarized.

PLEASE CHECK THIS VIDEO TOO!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqPib3Lgrh4>

To view the occupation video and for additional resources please visit:

<http://www.oodhamsolidarity.blogspot.com>

<http://www.survivalsolidarity.wordpress.com>

**1 Jul – Call to Action for Leonard Peltier**

*On June 27, Leonard Peltier was removed from the general population at USP-Lewisburg and thrown in the*

hole. Little else is known at this time. Due to his age and health status, please join us in demanding his return to general population. We've included a sample script.

**MORE:**

Make reference to Leonard Peltier #89637-132 and contact:

Thomas Kane, Acting Director  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
E-Mail: info@bop.gov  
Web Site: www.bop.gov  
Phone: (202) 307-3198  
Fax: (202) 514-6620  
Address: 320 1st Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20534

**Sample Phone Script**

*Caller: Hi, can I please speak with Mr. Thomas Kane?*

*Prison: May I ask who is calling.*

*Caller: My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling in regards to Leonard Peltier. He is a prisoner and his prison number is 89637-132.*

*Prison: Just one moment.*

*(Or more likely) He is not available. Can I take a message?*

*Caller: Hello Mr. Kane. I am calling to strongly encourage you to move prisoner Leonard Peltier from solitary confinement and back into the general population. He is in bad health due to kidney problems and diabetes and being in solitary confinement will only worsen these conditions. There has been no explanation for why he was placed there and under the Eighth Amendment prisoners are entitled to adequate medical care. I think moving him back into general population is without a doubt the just and right thing to do and I hope you take immediate action to ensure his well being. Thank you for your time.*

**9 Jul – Solidarity Demonstration with California Supermax Hunger Strikers**

**WHAT:** Solidarity Demo with the Pelican Bay Prison hunger strikers

**WHEN:** 1:00pm-2:00pm, Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Harlem State Office Building (corner of 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard).

*Look for the "Burn the Prisons" banner! Spread the word!*

*(The demo itself was called by Campaign to End the Death Penalty, but we would love to see a more radical/anarchist contingent and perspective).*

Taken from: <http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com>

**MORE:**

The prisoners at Pelican Bay Security Housing Unit (SHU) have begun their hunger strike to end tortuous conditions.

The indefinite hunger strike will start July 1, 2011 and is an organizing effort initiated and led by prisoners against torture and imprisonment. In the Spring of 2011, prisoners inside Pelican Bay State Prison contacted prisoner rights and anti-prison activist organizations announcing 50-100 prisoners would be beginning a rolling hunger strike on July 1st, and that they needed support making sure their voices and demands were heard and acted on outside prison walls.

This courageous action falls within a long legacy of prisoner-led resistance throughout the world, including inside both men and women's prisons in the US. As such, these struggles are connected to global struggles against inequality and powerlessness, for self-determination and liberation.

## **1 Jul – California Supermax Hunger Strike Begins**

*For those who don't know, one of the most notoriously inhumane cell blocks in one of the country's most restrictive prisons began a hunger strike in protest of their conditions. Momentum has quickly built and the current estimate is that 1,000 prisons are on hunger strike throughout California's supermaximum prison units. A call has been issued for solidarity action to happen on this side of the wall. We're pasting an article on the hunger strike below.*

### **MORE:**

#### **Hunger Strike in the Supermax: Pelican Bay Prisoners Protest Conditions in Solitary Confinement**

As Americans prepare to celebrate Independence Day, inmates in solitary confinement at California's Pelican Bay State Prison are standing up for their rights in the only way they can—by going on hunger strike. The prisoners, who are being held in long-term and often permanent isolation, have sworn to refuse food until conditions are improved in Pelican Bay's Security Housing Unit (SHU).

Built in 1989, [Pelican Bay](#) is the nation's first purpose-built supermax prison, and remains one of its most notorious. Constructed to house 2,280 of California's "most serious criminal offenders," Pelican Bay [currently holds](#) more than 3,400. About a third of them live in the X-shaped cluster of buildings known as the SHU, which CDCR [describes as](#) "a modern design for inmates who are difficult management cases, prison gang members, and violent maximum security inmates."

NPR's [Laura Sullivan](#), one of the rare reporters to be granted entry to Pelican Bay, described the SHU in a 2006 report:

Everything is gray concrete: the bed, the walls, the unmovable stool. Everything except the combination stainless-steel sink and toilet. You can't move more than eight feet in one direction...The cell is one of eight in a long hallway. From inside, you can't see anyone or any of the other cells. This is where the inmate eats, sleeps and exists for 22 1/2 hours a day. He spends the other 1 1/2 hours alone in a small concrete yard...

Although all the inmates are in isolation, there's lots of noise: Keys rattle. Toilets flush. Inmates shout to each other from one cell to the next. Twice a day, officers push plastic food trays through the small portals in the metal doors...

Those doors are solid metal, with little nickel-sized holes punched throughout. One inmate known as Wino is standing on just behind the door of his cell. It's difficult to make eye contact, because you can only see one eye at a time. "The only contact that you have with individuals is what they call a pinky shake," he says, sticking his pinky through one of the little holes in the door. That's the only personal contact Wino has had in six years.

When conditions at Pelican Bay were challenged in a 1995 lawsuit ([Madrid v. Gomez](#)), the judge in the case found that life in the SHU "may press the outer borders of what most humans can psychologically tolerate," while placing mentally ill or psychologically vulnerable people in such conditions "is the equivalent of putting an asthmatic in a place with little air to breathe." Yet since that time, the number of inmates in the SHU has grown, and their sentences have lengthened from months to years to decades. Hugo Pinell, a former associate of George Jackson who is considered by some a political prisoner, has been in Pelican Bay's SHU for more than 30 years.

Many residents of the SHU have been sent there on questionable grounds and have little hope of ever leaving. A majority of the men in solitary confinement in California are there because they have been ["validated" as gang members](#), and given indeterminate sentences in the SHU. According to [Corey Weinstein](#), a physician and prisoners' rights advocate, the "single way offered to earn their way out of SHU is to tell departmental gang investigators everything they know about gang membership and activities including describing crimes they have committed. The [CDCR] calls it debriefing. The prisoners call it "snitch, parole or die." The only ways out are to

snitch, finish the prison term or die. The protection against self-incrimination is collapsed in the service of anti-gang investigation.”

In April, prisoners in several corridors of the SHU announced their intention, on July 1, to “begin an indefinite hunger strike in order to draw attention to, and to peacefully protest, 25 years of torture via CDCR’s arbitrary, illegal, and progressively more punitive policies and practices.” In a notice authored by inmates Todd Ashker and Danny Troxell “on behalf of themselves and similarly situated participants,” the group of prisoners—which supporters say cuts across racial lines—issued [five “core demands.”](#) The demands are remarkable for having been penned by a group of prisoners whose communications with one another and with the outside world are severely limited. They are also far from radical.

The hunger strikers are asking for “individual accountability” to replace “group punishments,” and for an end to the system of “debriefing.” According to the prisoners, “Debriefing produces false information (wrongly landing other prisoners in SHU, in an endless cycle) and can endanger the lives of debriefing prisoners and their families.”

In outlining their desired changes to conditions in the SHU, the strikers turned to the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons, a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission which issued a 2006 report on conditions of confinement in U.S. prisons and jails. Among its primary findings, the commission recommended that prisons “make segregation a last resort,” “end conditions of isolation” within segregation units, and avoid long-term solitary confinement.

Beyond this, the strikers want the CDCR to “provide adequate food,” and “provide constructive programming and privileges for indefinite SHU status inmates.” Among the modest privileges the prisoners want are one phone call per week, longer visiting hours, exercise equipment, art supplies, wall calendars, and more TV channels.

Nevertheless, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation seems already to have dug in its heel when it comes to responding to the hunger strikers. “It’s appropriate for the CDCR to review the demands, but they’re not going to concede under these types of tactics,” CDCR spokesperson Terry Thornton told [California Watch](#). “It remains yet to be seen whether they’re actually going to initiate a true hunger strike,” she said; if they do, the prison will monitor their health, but “if an inmate decides he’s not going to eat, we can’t force him to eat.”

In preparation for the start of the strike on July 1, [California Prison Focus](#) and other members of the [Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition](#) have hosted a rally and [press conference](#) in the Bay Area and issued an [online petition](#). Among the groups expressing support of the strikers’ demands is the [Prison Law Office](#), known for mounting the lawsuit that resulted in the recent [Supreme Court decision](#) mandating a reduction of California’s prison population.

### **5 Jul – Update on Anti-Police Terror March Prisoner Amelia Nicol**

*Amelia Nicol, the arrestee from the May 6th March Against Police Terror, had a second arraignment on Monday June 27th in courtroom 5G of the Lindsay-Flanigan Courthouse in downtown Denver. During the short public hearing, supporters crowded the court room to show solidarity with Amelia as she continues to face one felony charge of possession of explosives, two misdemeanor counts of assault on a law enforcement officer, and one misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest.*

#### **MORE:**

During the arraignment, Amelia’s attorney waived the right of a public reading of the charges, and continued to push for a resolution to this case before the end of the speedy trial period, which would occur in December.

A discovery hearing was scheduled for August 22nd at 8:30 am in the same courtroom. At the discovery hearing,

the prosecution will present any evidence they will present at the trial, and after hearing arguments from both sides, the judge will rule as to what evidence may or may not be admissible in court. This will be an important and interesting hearing for those who attend, as we will finally have a full picture of all the evidence in the case (of which we are certain, after the preliminary hearing on June 9th where over half of Amelia's charges were dismissed by a judge, that little, if any, evidence exists.)

A trial date was set for Tuesday October 4, at 8:30 am in the same courtroom. If the case is not resolved by October 4, Amelia will face a jury trial for the felony and three misdemeanor counts.

In other news related to this case, an ad-hoc coalition has called for another march against police terror, set for this upcoming Saturday, July 9th. July 9th marks the one year anniversary of the murder of homeless street preacher Marvin Booker at the hands of deputies in the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center. The march will convene at the Denver Skatepark at 20th and Little Raven at 11:30 am. The march will then proceed through downtown to the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, where the Colorado ACLU and local leaders of Denver area black churches will be hosting a memorial service for Reverend Booker.

In other Denver ABC news, if you live in the Front Range area, Denver ABC will be hosting our annual Running Down the Walls 5k solidarity run on Saturday July 30th. We're looking for runners, volunteers, and donors. More information can be found at: <http://denverabc.wordpress.com/2011/06/23/running-down-the-walls-2011/>

For case updates and news on state repression worldwide, continue to check the Denver ABC blog at [denverabc.wordpress.com](http://denverabc.wordpress.com).

Thanks to all the comrades across the world who have stood in solidarity with Amelia! Big ups and solidarity to comrades in France, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Greece, New York, and all those in other countries, cities, villages, and communities who have staged solidarity actions!

### **6 Jul - "Freeing Silvia Baraldini" screening in Harlem**

*Freeing Silvia Baraldini, comes back to Harlem for a special screening dedicated to Geronimo ji-Jaga (Geronimo Pratt) who passed away on June 2nd. Winner of the Best Documentary at the 2010 Harlem International Film Festival, the film tells the captivating story of Silvia Baraldini, an anti-war, anti-racist activist who was arrested in 1982 and sentenced to 43 years in prison, in part for her participation in helping to free Black Panther, Assata Shakur, from prison. Freeing Silvia Baraldini revisits the decisive events, political and personal, that forged the young, Italian immigrant into an American radical.*

#### **MORE:**

Freeing Silvia Baraldini

Dir. Margo Pelletier & Lisa Thomas, 2010, 102 min.

In the 1980's when hundreds of politically-minded people folded back into the comforts of American society, Silvia deepened her commitment to revolutionary struggle. She became the National leader of the May 19th Communist Organization, a radical group of White North Americans and a key element in a fragile alliance of revolutionaries, Black, White and Puerto Rican, who united to fight for what they viewed as a true equality and justice for all. Silvia has been described as everything from an international terrorist to a modern-day Rosa Luxembour; her legacy embodies the enduring human spirit within the international resistance movements.

Q&A with the filmmakers, Margo Pelletier and Lisa Thomas to follow screening.

MAYSLES CINEMA

343 Malcolm X Blvd / Lenox Ave

(Between 127th and 128th Streets)

## **11 Jul - Solidarity Raffle for Marie Mason & Eric McDavid Has Been Extended!**

The [Rooftop BBQ and Raffle](#) for the [June 11th International Day of Solidarity with Marie Mason and Eric McDavid](#) was a great success— despite the rainy and windy conditions! However, the inclement weather did prevent quite a few people from participating, so the organizers decided to postpone the raffle drawing to July 11th! This means that you still have time to buy tickets that will benefit two long-term anarchist Green Scare prisoners that are each serving over 20 years in federal prison AND the chance to win a great prize while you do so! We have tickets for sale tonight or you can read below for how to buy them online.

### **MORE:**

#### **Raffle tickets are ON SALE NOW!**

Available for purchase online at [supportmariemason.org](http://supportmariemason.org) via Paypal. Raffle ticket confirmation numbers will be sent to your e-mail address upon payment. Online tickets will only be sold in threes. Also available for sale in person at events throughout the city! Check [supportmariemason.org](http://supportmariemason.org) for a list of events and locations TBA!

Watch the raffle drawing **LIVE** with host Annie Nonymous on Monday, July 11th, at 8pm Eastern. <http://www.ustream.tv/user/nycjune11>

**Tickets are \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00.**

Win prizes from:

[Spectacle Theater](#)

[Book Thug Nation](#)

[Champs Family Bakery](#)

[Autonomea](#)

[Black and Red Books](#)

[Mooshoes](#)

[Lula's Sweet Apothecary](#)

Acupuncture by Famous

[Sparrow Media](#)

Prints by [Molly Fair](#)

[Arissa Media](#)

[Kingsland Sandwich Shop](#)

[Green is the New Red](#)

[Bluestockings](#)

Amie's Vegan Truffles

Local Artists

& many more!!

For more information, visit:

[june11.org](http://june11.org)

[SupportMarieMason.org](http://SupportMarieMason.org)

[SupportEric.org](http://SupportEric.org)

or e-mail:

supportmariemason [at] gmail [dot] com

nycabc [at] riseup [dot] net

## **12 Jul - Mysterious Rabbit Puppet Army Roadshow Comes to NYC**

**WHAT:** Roadshow Against the Prison Industrial Complex

**WHEN:** 7:00-10:00pm, Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Book Thug Nation (100 North Third Street, Williamsburg)

**COST:** A hat will be passed

Join NYC ABC and the Mysterious Rabbit Puppet Army for a one of a kind event. Some of these folks are the same ones who put out the monthly Political Prisoner Birthdays Posters each month.

**MORE:**

The Mysterious Rabbit Puppet Army are coming through your town on July 12th.

We will be performing a compelling shadow puppet show of a history of the Prison Industrial Complex from slavery to where it is today. There will also be some other road show elements and presentations as well as a few anti-capitalist fairy tales using rod puppets.

All of our shows are non sub-culturally specific and child friendly. We are comfortable performing with just us as the only act or performing with bands or other puppet shows or circus acts or whatever.

We are using this tour to promote awareness about the Prison Industrial Complex, its effects, and to talk about some of the things we're doing against it and want to talk to other people about what they're doing and ideas they have.

We also love doing matinee shows for free schools or day care co-operatives if there are any around.

You can also check out their blog at: [mrapuppetarmy.wordpress.com](http://mrapuppetarmy.wordpress.com)

**Bonafides:**

We are members of the Chapel Hill Prison Books Collective ([prisonbooks.info](http://prisonbooks.info))

You can see our big hit here:

<http://www.crimethinc.com/blog/2009/04/25/security-culture-the-puppet-show>

**31 Jul – Running Down the Walls 2011**

**WHAT:** Running Down the Walls (Solidarity run with PPs and POWs)

**WHEN:** noon-4:00pm, Sunday, July 31st

**WHERE:** TBA

**MORE:**

On Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at noon, the New York City Anarchist Black Cross will host a 5k run/walk/jog/bike. This run/walk/jog/bike is designed to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF Warchest program, and an as yet to be named local organization.

Funds will be divided between the two programs:

**ABCF Warchest:**

The ABCF Warchest program is now almost 17 years old; funds for the Warchest are divided and distributed through monthly stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to cover the basic necessities of everyday living. These funds have been used by prisoners to pay for stamps, shoes, clothes, as well as assisting their families with what little they can.

**Second Group To Be Determined****Solidarity Runs:**

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. In Sync with each other, we will collectively pound the pavement with our feet and bike tires as we exhibit our strength and stamina as examples of our tireless effort to free our imprisoned comrades. In past years we had runs in: Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland, (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Connecticut River, Dannemora (NY), Denver, (CO), Detroit (MI), Elmore (AL), Guelph (CAN), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Mexico City (MEX), Los Angeles (CA), USP. Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Sandstone (MN), Tucson (AZ), USP Tucson (AZ), and Toronto (CAN)

**Raising Funds:**

The Warchest program was created in November of 1994. Its purpose is to send monthly financial support to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POWs) who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment.

**Support the Struggle:**

We must remember that many of those arrested in the past or present are not far from us. Many of them were and are community and labor activists, queer, and environmental activists; people who decided to speak out against various forms of oppression and paid the price of their freedom for their actions. We must remember that anyone of these people could have at one time stood beside us in a demonstration, at a speak-out, or even at an organizing meeting. At any given moment it could be us who finds ourselves in this situation, so it is imperative that we ensure that a strong enough community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our movement is determined by how much we support our fallen comrades. As Anarchist and former POW Ojore Lutalo says, "Any Movement that does not support its political internees, is a sham movement." So please help us, help them! Help us help you!

**We encourage people to participate in helping us raise funds for the Warchest, which can be done in the following ways:****Be a runner:**

We are asking people or groups who are running to collect as many sponsor for the run as possible. Remember the money received is going to help imprisoned comrades who need your help. The person who collects the most amount of funds will be given a prize for their involvement and dedication to helping our fallen comrades.

**Sponsor a runner:**

This can be done through a flat donation to the runner of your choice, each flyer is a sponsor sheet. We ask from those who wish not to run to actively support those who are running in hopes of collecting as much for our comrades as possible.

**Sponsor Running Down the Walls:**

Any amount helps. Contact the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross if you wish to simply donate money to the cause.

**Donate to:****-The Warchest:**

Send funds directly to the NYC ABC (Post Office Box 110034, Brooklyn, New York 11211) or to the Philadelphia ABCF (Post Office Box 42129, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101) Make checks or money orders out only to Tim Fasnacht.

**Get involved in the planning of Running Down the Walls:**

We always need help with organizing the event and we encourage people to contact us if they would like to get involved. You can do this by contacting the NYC Anarchist Black Cross, [nycabc.wordpress.com](http://nycabc.wordpress.com), [nycabc@riseup.net](mailto:nycabc@riseup.net)

-Jaan Laaman, UFF Political Prisoner Statement of Solidarity

"Thank you for running at this special event that means so much to many of us all over the world, both free and imprisoned. In a relative way, we are all political prisoners because it is the politics of this system of things that is exploiting, crushing, imprisoning, and destroying the masses all over the world and the earth itself. Then there are those who know this and take actions against those who seek to deny us our rightful place on earth as common human brethren. Those are the ones we run for and seek to help... whom sacrificed their family, freedom and lives, so that our lives may be better! The fact that you ran with us is a sign that when the red-hour comes, you will not be caught asleep. You are conscious and you too are willing to represent. The potential in you is great. Thank you for running for the cause!"

"As we ran we were thinking and talking about all the runners in Los Angeles and how we'd love to be out there running with them. We also spoke about the other political prisoners who were running with us in at least some other prisons."