

Updates for November 8<sup>th</sup>

## **18 Oct – Jalil Muntaqim: Occupy Wall Street Protest and Political Prisoners**

*Supporters of Black Panther political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim have posted his latest blog entry and we've pasted it below.*

### **MORE:**

Friends and Supporters:

I feel compelled to offer these concerns and sentiments due to perceived challenges and opportunities. Over six months ago, I urged NYC activists in support of political prisoners to begin the process to resurrect the old civil rights tactics of occupation/sit-ins, picket-line strikes and demonstrations. Specifically, I suggested that Harlem State Office Building where the State Division of Parole maintains an office should be identified for this kind of action. I argued that it was time for the NYC progressive activist community to take the initiative to challenge the system, and employ age-old tactics of putting feet on the pavement to challenge the system to free our political prisoners. Unfortunately, there was no interest to “up the ante” and build a visible opposition to the current prison and parole situation.

When considering the impressive level of support cultivated and organized to spare the life of Troy Davis, we political prisoners in NYS can only wonder what kind of impact that would have had on NYS DOCS and Division of Parole on our collective condition. Although the state of Georgia failed to spare the life of Troy Davis, there is no doubt they were under tremendous pressure. I sincerely doubt, if such pressure was directed on NYS in support of our issue, NYS would be unable to deny our demands. This is especially true when considering there would be no finality to our issues. When considering the extent of support and attention given to California Pelican Bay hunger strikers, that will eventually force major changes in SHU prison policies, we need to ask why NYS activists are perceptually silent on prison and parole issues?

These concerns virtually speak to a weakness in political leadership and organization in NYC and NYS in the progressive community. It points the finger to the debacle of sectarian divisions and perceived personality arrogance stifling or prohibiting united and uniform action. This kind of praxis needs to come to an abrupt halt. There needs to be a complete and utter change in political attitude and practice among NYC and NYS progressive communities, one of cooperation and unity.

Since 1998, the Jericho Amnesty Movement has consistently represented the existence of U.S. political prisoners. No doubt, after the passing of Sister Safiya A. Bukhari, Jericho suffered in direction and leadership, although the organizational determination and ideal was kept alive. Now, under new leadership, the Jericho Amnesty Movement has taken a bold and giant leap forward by sponsoring the building of a National Confederation and the implementation of a five-year strategy. Again, NYC and NYS progressive activist communities are found recalcitrant in their failure to join and support this potentially historic forward development in support of U.S. political prisoners. In my amazement, despite my own idealism, it is obvious to me that young people in this country are ready and prepared to take matters to the streets. Where those who have decades and years of political experience are failing to take bold and courageous action, young people are ready to act, to resurrect the age-old tactics of the civil rights movement of occupation, sit-ins and demonstrations. In essence, the more “liberal left” has stepped ahead and in front of the “old guard” progressive left community and gone “postal”. They are mad as hell and not taking it anymore!

Here, I humbly urge NYC and NYS progressive activists to read my essay “Toward a New Amerikan Revolution” and determine for yourself if it speaks directly to the issue of “Occupy Wall Street.” If you agree that it does, I ask that if be printed and distributed at Occupy Wall Street. If possible, if each of you could distribute a hundred copies asking the recipient to do the same, as in a chain distribution, perhaps it will serve to offer broader insights on its organizational potential and determination. If there is going to be an opportunity to prohibit the Occupy Wall Street demonstration from becoming a flash in the pan protest, and ensure it evolves into a mass and popular movement that challenges the foundation of this capitalist-imperialist system, we need

to introduce and interject revolutionary ideals and politics. I believe we will agree the Occupy Wall Street demonstration is not anti-capitalist, it is not anti-imperialist, although these sentiments are a trend within the demonstration it is not revolutionary. The “liberal left” and non-profit entities sponsor and are giving expression to the demonstration. When the winter weather sets in the physical and visible demonstration will dissipate, leaving in its wake a spirited but divided demonstration that will probably dissolve into electoral protest movement. Needless to say, “Toward a New Amerikan Revolution” addresses these concerns, and presents an alternative political vision for a mass and popular movement.

Just as importantly, NYC and NYS progressive activists must introduce and rally Occupy Wall Street to recognize the existence of U.S. political prisoners, and to demand the amnesty and release of our numbers. I personally ask that the Jericho Amnesty Movement and the building of the National Confederation be introduced to Occupy Wall Street in furtherance of strengthening and uniting the initiative to forge a mass and popular movement that includes U.S. political prisoners in the national debate.

Friends and Supporters, from this cell in Attica Correctional Facility, on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in incarceration, I offer these reflections and concerns with the hope this will be received with kindness and generosity. Needless to say, we are in troubling times, and it is expected that it will get much worse before it gets any better. We, the progressive activist community, can no longer operate in sectarian division, lacking courage to take decisive action, but rather, we must resurrect a revolutionary determination of human rights and international solidarity with workers around the world.

Check [www.freejalil.com](http://www.freejalil.com) to read “Toward a New Amerikan Revolution.”

Respectfully,

Jalil

### **23 Oct - Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Now: 30 Unconstitutional Years on Death Row are Enough!**

*Dave Lindorff and Linn Washington, Jr. have a new article following Mumia Abu-Jamal's sentence to death row formally vacated.*

#### **MORE:**

With Mumia Abu-Jamal’s sentence of death now formally vacated, thanks to the Supreme Court’s decision last week not to consider an appeal by the Philadelphia District Attorney of a Third Circuit Court panel’s ruling that that sentence had been unconstitutional thanks to flawed jury instructions from the trial judge and a flawed jury ballot form, many of those who have long called for his execution are now saying, fine, let him rot in prison for the rest of his life.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the leading newspaper in his hometown of Philadelphia, in more genteel language, said essentially the same thing in an unsigned October 13 editorial, opining that with the death penalty vacated, the default sentence of life in prison without parole was “appropriate” and “in the best interest of justice.”

The editorial urged DA Seth Williams not to exercise his right within the next 180 days to seek to obtain a new death sentence by asking for a new jury trial on the penalty only. The paper made this plea not because the editors felt such an effort to re-sentence him would be unseemly, but because of the cost to the struggling city of Philadelphia.

But hold on here. Putting aside for a moment the matter of whether Abu-Jamal was even fairly convicted in a trial that was viewed as a shameful farce at the time in 1982 even by the editors of the *Inquirer*, is it really “in the best interest of justice” or in any way “appropriate” for Abu-Jamal to simply be switched over from a death sentence to a sentence of life in prison without parole, now that, as the *Inquirer* correctly noted in its editorial, “four federal judges have ruled that Abu-Jamal’s 1982 death sentence was unconstitutional,” and that “he was denied a fair sentencing at his original trial.”

No. It is manifestly *not* just or appropriate!

The unconstitutional sentence of death voted out by confused jurors back in 1982 has meant that Abu-Jamal, for nearly 30 years, has been held in a Super Max death row prison called SCI-Greene in western Pennsylvania, where he is confined in a tiny windowless cell in solitary confinement, separated at all times from even other inmates. It means that unlike other prisoners, as a death row inmate he has for all those years been unable to have any physical contact with friends and loved ones -- even his little grandchildren, or his late mother, whose funeral he was barred from attending. Death row prisoners, on the rare occasions when they are allowed to see visitors, are brought, cuffed and manacled despite the impossibility of escape, to a "visiting room," and must communicate through a thick plexiglass window. Abu-Jamal was even kept in this hellish condition during the last 10 years, after Federal District Judge William Yohn, in December 2001, initially overturned his death sentence, because the vindictive and sadistic then DA Lynn Abraham asked the court to keep him there for the duration of the appeal process on that issue. Yohn's decision was never overturned in all that time, yet even now that Yohn's ruling has been finally confirmed by the Supreme Court and can no longer be challenged, Abu-Jamal remains in that death row cell, thanks to the continued vindictiveness or political cowardice of Abraham's successor.

But Abu-Jamal should *never have been there in the first place!* The federal courts, since 2001, have established, over and over, and now with finality, that the jury back in 1982 was misinformed by trial Judge Albert Sabo about the absoluteness of the "life without possibility of parole" alternative to death. They were further confused by the jury ballot form he gave them, which a series of federal courts has established likely confused them about the rules on "mitigating circumstances" that they might consider would argue against voting for a death sentence.

In order for someone to be sentenced to death, it is not enough that someone simply kills another person. Rather, a jury must unanimously find at least one "aggravating circumstance" in the commission of that murder. But for there to be at least that one "aggravating" factor, the law says all 12 jurors must agree to it. They cannot say it exists if there is a single dissenting vote. But in the case of mitigating factors, which might lead a juror to decide *against* death and for life without parole, the rule is that any single juror can find one, and can then apply it to his or her own decision. The jury form, the courts found, improperly made it sound like they had to also agree unanimously about the existence of any mitigating circumstance before any one of them could consider it. The likelihood is that at least one of those 12 jurors could have felt there was a mitigating circumstance, such as that Abu-Jamal had no prior convictions, or that witnesses testified that he was a good father to his small children, etc. But thanks to the flawed jury form, and flawed instructions from Sabo, they did not feel they could legally take any of that into consideration because others didn't agree.

So because of these unconstitutional flaws in the penalty phase of his trial, Abu-Jamal spent not a month, not a year, not two years, but *30 years* on death row, all the time waiting for the state to kill him. That is a heavy punishment for any man.

It might be one thing if this error had been corrected in a short time following his trial, but instead, the D.A.'s office has fought tooth and nail every step of the way over three decades and right up to the Supreme Court against the finding of error, and has even fought to keep him on death row after a federal judge had rendered his decision overturning the sentence.

It's not "appropriate" at this point, now that the error has been confirmed, to just say, "So what?" and to convert the sentence to life in an ordinary prison without the possibility of parole, as though nothing worse had happened.

Justice demands that there be some kind of recognition of the fact that Abu-Jamal has been put through 30 years of a true hell that he did not deserve, and that, moreover, his death sentence was *unconstitutional*.

Many convicted murderers in the United States have been released after far less than 30 years in jail. It would be appropriate at this point for the D.A. to admit that this particular prisoner has suffered not just enough, but more than was constitutionally appropriate, and to ask the court to release him on time served.

Meanwhile, if he is not released and is instead "left to rot" in jail for life, his new legal team, headed up by Christina Swarns of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, would have to discover new avenues for further

challenges to his conviction. The difficulty for Abu-Jamal is that all the constitutional challenges to his original trial, and to the corrupted appeals process to which he was subjected, have already been rejected by the federal courts. In order to win a new trial at this point, then, he and his legal team would have to discover evidence of innocence which he “could not reasonably have been expected to have discovered earlier through due diligence.” Such evidence might include recanting witnesses, newly discovered witnesses, or perhaps more crime scene photos that raise questions about the original evidence. But they all would face that high hurdle of being either new, or not earlier discoverable, if they are to be grounds for a possible new trial.

On the other hand, as [I wrote earlier](#) [1], if D.A. Williams is brash enough or pressured enough by groups like the Fraternal Order of Police to attempt to retry the penalty phase, there is a much easier route for Abu-Jamal to bring in new evidence of innocence. Since many of the alleged witnesses to the shooting incident that led to Faulkner’s death were also used by the prosecution to portray the crime as a kind of a cold-blooded execution, those witnesses -- at least the ones who are still alive -- could be subpoenaed to appear at a penalty hearing by the defense, where their veracity could be challenged. At that point evidence such as [ballistics tests](#) [2] to show that it would have been impossible for Abu-Jamal to have fired directly downward four times at Officer Daniel Faulkner while straddling him, hitting him only once, without there being any bullet marks in the surrounding sidewalk. Or evidence--photographic and otherwise--that there was never any taxi cab parked directly behind Faulkner’s squad car, where purported eye-witness Robert Chobert said he was parked when the shooting occurred. Or perhaps a new witness decisively claiming that there was never a confession shouted out by Abu-Jamal in the Jefferson Hospital ER, or that the prosecutor hid exculpatory evidence at trial.

Should any of these things happen during a new penalty phase trial it could be a whole new ballgame in terms of the conviction itself.

That would be the best outcome at this point. It is what Amnesty International, in a Feb. 17, 2000 report on the case which only merited a one-paragraph notice in the *Inquirer* at the time, concluded when it called for a new trial, saying that the first one has been “in violation of minimum international standards that govern fair trial procedures.” Clearly the *Inquirer*’s current editorial writers don’t bother to check their paper’s own morgue. If they had, they’d have seen that back on July 16, 1995, their predecessors had editorialized during a Post Conviction Relief Act hearing on the case that was being held before the original trial judge Albert Sabo, that the “whole truth” of the case may “never be found.” Those same editorial writers wrote back then that the behavior of the Judge Sabo at the 1982 trial was “disturbing,” and in the 1995 fact-finding PCRA appeal Sabo “did not give the impression to those in the courtroom of fair-mindedness.” How one gets from there to saying his current fate is in any way “appropriate” or “in the best interest of justice” we cannot fathom.

If DA Williams wants to do the right thing here, but does not have the political courage to just release Abu-Jamal on time served, given the huge political power of the FOP, which has been unethically lobbying for, and even bribing judges to execute him for years, he could short-circuit all of this, as Linn Washington [wrote earlier in ThisCantBeHappening!](#) [3], by offering Abu-Jamal an Alford Plea deal.

Under the terms of an Alford Plea, a convicted person may continue to claim her or his innocence, while conceding that the prosecutor probably has the evidence to convict. Upon being freed, the individual remains a convicted murderer, but both sides can claim to have won on some level.

It would be a messy end to a very messy case, but it would be far more “appropriate” and would be far more “in the interest of justice,” than just throwing Abu-Jamal into Graterford Prison for life without possibility for parole after he has already unconstitutionally endured 30 agonizing years on death row.

## **25 Oct – Police Brutalize, Dismantle Occupy Oakland Camp, Arrest Over 70**

*Occupy movements all over the country continue to get raided, often resulting in multiple arrests. Oakland has responded better than most, quickly reclaiming their space and taking thousands to the streets. This led to a November 2<sup>nd</sup> general strike that shut down a port and created space for a diversity of tactics, including property destruction targeting financial institutions. We’ve pasted some relevant articles below. **REMEMBER:** If you or your comrades are arrested, please have them get in touch with either the National Lawyer’s Guild or the NYC*

*People's Law Collective. The latter can be reached at [info@nycplc.info](mailto:info@nycplc.info)*

**MORE:**

*October 25<sup>th</sup>*: This morning at 5am over 500 police in riot gear from cities all over central California brutally attacked the Occupy Oakland encampment at 14th & Broadway. The police attacked the peaceful protest with flash grenades, tear gas, and rubber bullets after moving in with armored vehicles. Apparently the media was not allowed in to document this repression, and the police established barricades as far apart as 11th and 17th. Over 70 people were arrested and the camp gear was destroyed and/or stolen by the riot police.

**Occupy Oakland and the events of the General Strike**

On November 2nd, 2011, a re-invigorated Occupy Oakland gathered en masse at the now famous intersection of 14th and Broadway. Throughout the day speeches were given by members of Critical Resistance, IWW, Union workers, the Black Panthers and more, lunch was also served compliments of Peoples Grocery while people continued to stream into the city center. Early this morning the area was blocked off in anticipation of the coming General Strike. Businesses closed in support or necessity of the strike, often posting signs which read "We stand with the 99%" and other slogans. As has become the milieu of Occupy Oakland, communities from all corners came together on this particular day to show their solidarity with Occupy Wall Street; workers, students, and the rest of the 99% came to express their dissent and discontent of the current socio-economic conditions.

As the sun pulled through its midday heights, the atmosphere was jubilant and hopeful, a hope that none has seen the likes of in years, if not a lifetime, where all peoples stood side by side under a common goal: freedom and prosperity. This hope carried on through the day, through free lunch and onto the streets to the Port of Oakland. Where, in solidarity, the protesters of Occupy Oakland joined with the Longshoremen of the Oakland Ports to shut down the capital flow at the fifth largest U.S. port. The majority of the action left Oscar Grant Plaza at 4pm while other factions streamed in just hours later to descend upon the Port.

Initially the protesters intended to shut down the port prior to the 7pm shift start, yet maritime bosses pushed the shift back to 8pm in an effort to evade the picket lines of the thousands occupying the area. However, waves of protesters continued to stream into the port, amassing to some 5,000 people and successfully shutting down the ports for the entirety of the night. Although protesters left around 8:30pm (only after an announcement of its closure), the port remained closed. Thousands lingered at the Ports, on train cars, on trailers, horns blaring, playing music, and holding memorials for victims of police brutality.

After the official shut down, the masses crossed the overpass once again to descend upon 14th and Broadway; music pulsed through the city center as thousands swarmed the surrounding blocks. Eventually the movement began to spread about the city center in smaller epicenters of music, speeches and discussions. The most forceful of such factions moved to 520 16th street, between Telegraph and Broadway to reclaim the Traveler's Aid Society. The Aid Society was a public, non-profit government organization which provided aid to the local homeless population, however due to the economic crisis and at the hands of private lenders, the building was foreclosed. So in a moment so appropriate for this movement, a moment of reclamation and economic justice, Occupy Oakland took it back. The building was taken as an intended space for winter occupation, a library and a community center for the area, however on into the night, the police had different plans.

In the tallest hours of the night, the anger bubbled to the surface in shows of physical force. Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Burger King, Rite Aid and others were significantly damaged via paint or broken windows. Unfortunately, these intentional attacks on local branches of such large corporations bled over onto local businesses that initially supported the strike during the day and even a youth center in the area (Men's Warehouse and First Place for Youth).

The hangover of the General Strike was messy. The Plaza was littered with garbage, the intersection smelled of spray paint; but those camped in the Plaza remained un-touched if not a bit sleepy. As the General Strike came to a violent conclusion, Oakland Police, Alameda police, Contra Costa PD and others showed up en masse,

weapons in hand to quell the night's activities. So once again, somewhere between 60-80+ protesters were arrested that night, accosted with rubber bullets, tear gas, and flash-grenades in an attempt by the police to beat the protesters into submission; including one, unarmed homeless man. As expected, much of the media and the people in the streets turned a sharp eye to Jean Quan, who claimed she would not engage local officers in another violent repression of dissent, yet fissures between Quan's office and OPD have surface via an open letter to the citizens of Oakland and the Mayor on the website of the Oakland Police Officers' Association; leaving it unclear who was ultimately responsible for the violence.

While the world remains confused on what side Quan really sits on, the protesters of the Occupy Oakland encampment have not been deterred or distracted by the night's violent conclusion. The majority of its participants remain optimistic and wish to remind all those watching of the incredible show of force by Oakland's community members. Nearly 10,000 people gathered in the city center to voice their opinions which have been so systematically ignored by the mass media and general government. The citizens of Oakland have arrived, they are pissed off, and they aren't going anywhere.

### **Protesters arrested in Nashville for second day**

NASHVILLE, Tenn (Reuters) - Twenty-six protesters against U.S. economic conditions were taken into custody in Nashville early on Saturday, the second consecutive day that police swept through their campground to enforce a curfew.

The 72 troopers moved in at 12:10 a.m. local time, ordering the protesters to vacate the campsite. Those who refused to leave were taken to jail where state troopers gave them misdemeanor citations for trespassing.

But also for the second day in a row, Night Court Commissioner Thomas Nelson told state troopers that there were no grounds for charging the protesters.

Friday morning, 29 protesters were dragged from the campsite they had occupied for about three weeks and taken to jail, and Nelson said then there was no cause to book them.

The 10 p.m. local time curfew, supported by Republican Governor Bill Haslam, was imposed Thursday as a way to clear the Legislative Plaza at the foot of the State Capitol and other nearby state property being used as a campsite.

Friday morning the Night Court commissioner told troopers that the protesters had not been given enough time to vacate the property after the curfew was imposed. Saturday morning he questioned whether any such curfew was legal.

But the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security disagreed, with its spokeswoman Dalya Qualls saying that troopers had "enforced revised state policy that makes the Legislative Plaza, War Memorial Courtyard, and Capitol grounds areas closed to the public from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. daily. The revised policy also states there shall be no overnight occupancy of state properties."

One protester also was charged with public intoxication.

The protests in Nashville are part of the so-called "Occupy Wall Street" movement, which began in New York City last month to protest economic disparities, high unemployment and government bailouts of major banks.

It has spread to cities around the country and overseas. Several cities have become impatient with the protesters camping out in public areas and a few have tried to evict them, including Atlanta and Oakland, California.

The demonstrations have been peaceful except for a confrontation with police in Oakland on Tuesday which left an ex-Marine badly injured.

### **26 Oct – Preview of Upcoming Marshall "Eddie" Conway Documentary**

*A documentary about political prisoner Marshall "Eddie" Conway is in production, though a release date has not been announce. You can watch a five minute clip of the film at <http://youtu.be/AVB1yQyScnA>*

## **28 Oct – PP/POW Birthday Calendar Available**

*Comrades in North Carolina have released the political prisoner birthday poster for November and December. As always, please post this poster publicly and/or use it to start a card writing night of your own.*

### **MORE:**

Our newly updated zine catalog is finally finished, and can be viewed on our resources page. It includes a number of new titles, including many texts available for the first time after being compiled and laid out by collective members. New pieces like “Every Crook can Govern,” “Notes on the Arab Spring,” and “Eye of the Hurricane (on Sam Melville and Attica)” complement older texts we’ve pulled from the archives like George Jackson’s “Blood in My Eye” and the Zapatistas’ “6th Declaration from the Lacondon Jungle.” While cutting several titles that were old or out of date, we’ve also made large additions to the Spanish and Earth Liberation sections.

We’ll be trying periodically to post these new texts on our resource page, so that the pdf’s are available to other folks supporting prisoners’ organizing and political education. If there’s a specific title you wish to have a copy of, feel free to email us at [prisonbooks@gmail.com](mailto:prisonbooks@gmail.com)

## **29 Oct – Kellie and Victor are Out on Bail!**

*Kellie Rose Marshall and Victor VanOrden (from Austin, Texas), who were arrested on October 10th, 2011 while allegedly trying to free mink from a mink ranch near Stone State Park in Iowa, have been released on bail pending trial.*

### **MORE:**

Please keep in mind that the charges against them carry a 12-15 year sentence and they really need money donated to their legal fund asap so that they can fight these charges.

Please consider donating \$5 or \$20 today to their legal fund, because every little bit really starts to add up. Visit <http://supportkellieandvictor.blogspot.com> for updates and ways to help.

## **30 Oct – Angola 3 Newsletter**

*This issue of the newsletter is subtitled "Inching Towards Justice: Dedicated to the 99%." We've pasted it below.*

### **MORE:**

As we witness the torturously slow path to justice in the cases of Albert and Herman, we applaud and stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement. At long last, the people awaken! Wherever A3 supporters are we urge them to join and support their local efforts while encouraging the inclusion of a complete overhaul of the criminal injustice system as part of the list of demands. Occupy Everywhere!!!

Please take the time to read Louisiana's Attorney General, Buddy Caldwell's recent statements on the Angola 3 case. We wonder after 40 years and in a state filled with crisis, why so much attention remains focused on keeping Albert and Herman behind bars?

### **Obsession?**

This month Attorney General Buddy Caldwell has been busy digging into his second term in office after winning reelection by default when his only competitor withdrew from the race. In his first term he issued over 900 opinions and hundreds more cases undoubtedly await, but fighting to keep Herman and Albert in prison is still right up at the top of his priority list.

Caldwell, who in a 2008 Pulitzer Prize winning [NPR series](#) on the case, characterized Albert as "the most

dangerous person on the planet," says he continues to [give personal attention](#) to the case "because federal judges just keep turning this guy loose and giving us work to do."

### **News From Federal Court - Motion to Disqualify Dismissed!**

On Monday, Judge Brady heard oral arguments and summarily dismissed the State's latest attempt to impede justice--a motion to disqualify the attorneys from Albert's criminal case and the civil case. We are waiting to see how Judge Jackson handles a similar motion filed with regards to Herman's case. A big thanks to the legal team for all their hard work and to the many supporters who again filled the courtroom on A3's behalf.

### **Discovery Victory!**

Last month, Judge Brady ordered that emails requested by the defense over a year before must be turned over within 5 days. The State took the drastic move of appealing the matter to the 5th Circuit as a mandamus and through the Louisiana Department of Justice. On Monday Judge Brady ordered again that the State must turn over the emails in question or possibly be found in contempt of court and face sanctions. Only minutes before his order would have taken effect, the State turned over the documents.

### **Albert's Hearing Rescheduled**

Originally set for this past September, Albert's hearing on discrimination in the selection of his grand jury foreperson it is now tentatively rescheduled for May 2012. We will update everyone once the schedule is confirmed, but remain hopeful that justice delayed will not be justice denied.

### **30 Oct – DABC Update from 3 Weeks of Social War in Denver, Colorado**

*As we reported last time, shit got hairy in Denver for some comrades, following both a lively anti-police terror march and subsequent violent raid on a squatted house there. Folks from the Denver Anarchist Black Cross have provided us with an update.*

#### **MORE:**

It's 10:36pm, and things at the 27 Social Centre are busy and anxious.

We've been solidly working since DABC members on the ground reported at around 2:45pm that Denver Police had started to attack the crowd at Civic Center Park who assembled to re-take the park for Occupy Denver.

The legal line has rang pretty steadily for the last several hours, as we've been working intake for 18 arrestees. A 19th person is hospitalized, though charges are expected to be filed once he is released from the hospital. There may be more arrestees from earlier tonight, though we think that if there are more, that number probably won't exceed 20.

That said, in 20 minutes, Civic Center Park will officially "close" and it is unclear if DPD or other law enforcement will attempt to enforce the park curfew and further endanger and arrest those occupying the park.

Street medics affiliated with DABC reported dozens of injuries, mostly from pepper spray, pepper balls (paintballs filled with OC powder), and blunt force trauma from police batons. Several people were taken away by ambulance, and many others were treated on site in a makeshift field clinic set up by seasoned street medics.

Today's actions, hot on the heels of the intense police repression at Occupy Oakland earlier this week, shows clearly that the ruling class isn't taking this new movement lightly. They will order their foot soldiers from local law enforcement agencies to do what it takes to break the back of this young, yet growing and vibrant movement.

As we move forward, DABC will do everything it can to ensure that the proper support is given to Occupy Denver and the multitude of other local movements, projects, and initiatives struggling to destroy predatory

social, political, and economic systems.

The only way we can do this is with your support. We've been able to raise over \$5000 to cover bond and bail expenses for arrestees. We've been able to work with the National Lawyers Guild to ensure that (as of now) 73 defendants have free legal representation. We've been able to work with the Colorado Street Medics to help provide on the ground medical care for injured and wounded demonstrators. We've been able to provide meals, housing, and other needed support for our arrested and injured comrades. And we've only been able to do this with your amazing support.

We probably don't need to remind people that support for Occupy Denver is not the only work that our dozen member collective is involved in. We also support many long term political prisoners held captive by the U.S. We provide self defense trainings to social movements and projects in the Denver area. We help with courtwatch and visitation for those facing deportation through the horrendous ICE system in the U.S. We help provide childcare and children's activities to various social movement programs in the Denver metro. We work to support the struggles of prisoners organizing within state facilities in the Colorado area.

### **30 Oct – Drop the Charges Against Hunger Strike Protesters**

*On October 14, four people conducted non-violent civil disobedience protests in support of the prisoners' hunger strike – Larry Everest, Joey Johnson and Maryann, in front of CDCR Headquarters in Sacramento, and Keith James at the State Building in Los Angeles. They were all arrested and now are calling on us to sign a petition to have the charges dropped.*

#### **MORE:**

They called for the prisoners' demands to be met, and an end to retaliation against prisoners who were still on hunger strike or who had taken part in the hunger strike. All were arrested. While the system prosecutes protesters engaging in non-violent civil disobedience, the CDCR is allowed to retaliate against non-violent hunger strikers and continue to hold prisoners in conditions of isolation and solitary confinement amounting to torture. This, too, is outrageous and we demand that any legal action against these individuals be dropped immediately! Sign the petition at [http://j.mp/CDCR\\_Petition](http://j.mp/CDCR_Petition)

### **1 Nov – Oso Blanco in Need of Internet Assistance**

*Yona Unega / Oso Blanco / Byron Shane of Chubbuck Clan lost his web admin recently (the persyn handling it needs some time away from activism to get his shit together), and is in need of someone able to host / maintain his support site. If you know of anyone with time and skill (and interest!) enough to do this, PLEASE talk to Joe ASAP. If he's not here tonight, ask one us and we'll put you in touch.*

### **1 Nov – New Writing By Eric McDavid**

*Eric asked us to share this piece with you about his experiences. It's covers a lot of ground - from the time of his arrest, through his time at Sacramento County Main Jail and past his sentencing. We're told that Eric always loves to hear feedback from folks about his writings. The formatting is per his support site.*

#### **MORE:**

November 1, 2011

Putting this critique out of my head & dn on paper comes w/the kind of sigh that loosens your shoulders & unravels your stomach, catching you off guard w/the guttural vocalization coming out w/that flow of Wind... the delusion that fed my waiting was the possibility of my writings making an already shitty situation of prosecution even worse... Hind-sight always comes w/a sting = my charges topped out at 2 decades – only 5 more months than i received... naiveté came N2 play elsewhere = despite stay'n true 2 my understanding of entrapment (where a gov'n't agent uses coercion & manipulation, while providing all the materials, 2 direct & manifest an act deemed illegal by the state), had i done more research there would've been no way N western culture i would've utilized that defense... it's on the verge of ludicrous 2 think the system would impede a mechanism bringing N

such vast amounts of \$, fueling the bureaucratic fascism that defines gov'n 2day (remember the bonds we can post 2 get bailed out? ever wonder what happens 2 them if we remain imprisoned? not 2 many others do either – where R the majority of bonds w/N the financial system? yep, bound & traded on the market; this B'n 1 scheme amongst numerous others)... don't get me wrong – i harbor no regrets about my choice of go'n 2 trial; part of me is curious of what difference a necessity defense would've made... here we go... woken long B4 U're rested, it's cold w/concrete everywhere, called out by the speaker above the steel door, patted dn & escorted 2 the elevator, never know'n where or why, the door opens 2 the chaotic jingle of chains, shouting cops, waiting 4 others – a marshal's list 2 fill, patted dn, the pinch that only comes from shackles & cuffs attached 2 a waist chain, Ur jingle adds 2 the cacophony, processed & packed, 12 N2 the 10 bk seats of a van... the outsd world through the windows holds every1's tongue, despite B'n early the goings on R enough 2B a sensory overload = people walking, driving, riding bikes, eating breakfast on the run, smoking, drink'n coffee, talking 2 each other on phones – the marshals have the radio on some corporate station still play'n the same songs when I stopped listening over 5 yrs ago... parked behind N the secured garage, moved, stored, caged & still bound 2 Urself, some1 asks “got the time, marshal?” “6:30ish,” hearings B4 10am R rare, most = much later... coming from the concrete grayness, steel metal bars, placid white walls, 2 step out N2 mahogany everywhere, deep reds, soft blues, business attire & hairdos, stenograph, briefcase, pens & notepads... chained 2 Ur own body N oversized shirt, pants, paper shoes = neon orange... eyes immediately turn 2 the bk of the room & R flooded by the benches behind the defense – friends & family bringing a rush of nutrients that cannot B put 2 words; i could barely keep still know'n that i was sharing the same air & only w/N arms reach of their embraces... it was such a contrast 2 what lay B4 me on this SD of the Bar... standing B4 that 1st black robe, the separation was disorienting, the language & process was that of another world... bail denied – flight risk = knowledge of standing on the SD of the road w/thumb out, knowledge of boarding locomotives when they slow or stop = flight risk; no family ties = traveling w/out a cellphone & unable 2B contacted by family = no family ties... after the sardine-van ride bk 2 the gulag, it's bk ? 2 the cell & wait 4 the visit i knew was coming... 'never knew if it would B my Partner & family or my attorney who would B 1st... the attorney visits were N closed booths w/little stainless steel stools & table top w/a slot under the plexi-glass window sized 4 paperwork... i could feel the presence of microphones N the false ceiling above us – seemed ridiculous 2 believe they weren't there... Mark's communication skills w/N the court room were pretty damn good – but N any other circumstance = extremely lacking... i got 2 the point of having 2 put him through grounding techniques at the beginning w/reminders throughout “Mark, what did U hear me ask? R both Ur feet on the ground? can U feel them?”... i needed 2 make a list of questions just so i wouldn't get wrapped up N his whirlwind of energy... the handshakes through that slot N the table top was the extent of humyne humyn contact during the 28 mo of confinement N that jail... now, visits w/my Partner & family were a bit different... next 2 the attorney booths was a continuous stainless steel tabletop w/the plexi-glass window running all the way dn the middle... each booth was separated by a partition of plexi-glass, & 2 communicate w/your visitor a phone receiver is used... 2 deter visitors by causing frustration & raise stress levels, the volume was lowered or a static background noise made hearing the other persyn near impossible at times & perfectly clear the next... knowing each word & sentence were 2B scrutinized by any # of 'intelligence' agencies wasn't 2 big of a step – but i've never acclimated 2 not B'n able 2 touch those i love... have'n those visits kept me alive as much as the oxygen i was breathing, & getting others perspectives on the proceedings N court helped 2 make sure i wasn't the only 1 baffled by what was go'n on... the courts i experienced eviscerated any ideas regarding a jury trial B'n the last oasis of justice w/N the system; where a jury is provided all the facts & info., & B'n free 2 their interpretation w/justice as the intent & end... if that were the case, i wouldn't B N this cell, nor hearing time and again stories from folx N here reflecting my own... throughout trial i was dumbfounded by the blatant ways (2 me) the jury was held N contempt by the judge & lawyers – at the same time regarding them as some porcelain doll the lawyers and judge didn't want 2 tip over... throughout the proceedings my eyes would wander over 2 those folx sat off 2 the SD, occupying that space of audience, the passive observer... 1 or 2 dozing, most w/the impartial looks of random thoughts= bills-work-family-etc., 'reminded me when i was a kid at church with the pastor speaking of famine, drought, floods, the starving of children & elders N economically colonized lands = there was this blanket of something over or behind people's expressions = “a higher power is at work here”... i remember get'n called 2 jury duty & duck'n it like the plague; forced 2 accept pennies on the dollar after drive'n at least an hour through bumper 2 bumper each morn'n & night, 9-3 sit'n N uncomfortable chairs, "we're all stuck here, so the smoother we make this = the faster we can

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all go home,” “follow the lead of the professionals, they've been do'n this a long time & know what they're do'n; after all, justice is their business”... by the time the jury instructions were handed dn, they were so deluded, confused, & malleable – it took hardly a nudge 2 direct them dn the prescribed path... i'm at a loss of words due 2 a couple of reasons = 1) the jury didn't C it & didn't do anything about it; 2) i saw it & didn't do anything about it... this is a jumble of curiosities= how can truth & justice B found w/out open understanding of all parties & honest, authentic communication? R they even meant 2B there N the 1st place? how would a political prisoner go about getting a jury of their peers? how could a jury B impartial if they're confined 2 perceive & relate 2 censored info only from a deliberate perspective chosen by a person paid by the state whose superiors maintain their status & the status quo?... 'hear that N the middle of my trial the judge won the judge of the yr award? weird, eh?... the day of the verdict i can remember sitt'n N the cage on the 10th floor... the court room & attached juror room were upon the 14th & i sat there imagining positive energy flowing N2 the latter... when a marshal showed up 2 take me up the elevator i knew it was 2 early... as every 1 was settling N & waiting on the judge, a juror caught my eye & gave a small shake of their head – i had 2 give my self a small smile 4 perceiving the outcome... it didn't surprise me any more than the sentence handed dn by the judge... he'd made his intent known throughout the trial; at 1 point turning 2 Mark & i 2 give us a small nod & smile when a juror asked the precise question which would lead them all 2 perceive the confidential informant as not B'n a govn't agent when i 1st met her... this was actually the pivotal point during the deliberations as stated by a couple of the jurors N letters they wrote 2 my attorney... at sentencing the presentencing officer recommended 13 yrs, the prosecution 20, & the judge mentioned someth'n like wish'n that he wasn't bound by the limit put on him bc it was a conspiracy case & couldn't give me the 293 months the charge carried otherwise. the impact on loved ones racked me harder than the time handed dn, & somehow i had more confidence N the appellate courts (social programming is a pain N the ass)... i was way 2 excited know'n i'd B out of that county jail & solitary confinement... so far as my experience w/the sacramento county gulag, we'll have 2 start at the beginning... 1 more time = bright Winter mountain morning, sit'n on the trunk of the car soaking N the brisk blue Sky, “did i seriously leave my pouch of tabac at the house?,” here come the other 2, 'click,' screeching wheels N all directions, i fixate on the suburban B4 me, less than a bus length away, both SD doors open B4 it stops, out come 2 shouting ninja turtles w/the nozzles of their AR15s leading the way, a quick pan @ soaks N the other vehicles, shouts, guns, & stop on her eyes staring at me N the rear view mirror, that 'click' B4 the screeching tires registers as the auto-lock 4 the doors of the car she's sitting N... dominoes tumble btx my ears as i slowly raise my hands & get dn 2 knees, stomach, arms out-reached, the asphalt doesn't exist under my cheek, nor the 2 knees N my back, i'm bk by the time i'm cuffed & stood ?, hands leaping N2 my pockets looking 4 a key that isn't there... shock has set N & the contradiction of B'n me rides the torrent of adrenaline N2 a state of calmness & clarity; there is no tremor N my breath, nor shaking N my hands; i can feel the embrace of cool morning air moving @ me, the warmth of the Sun on my skin, N my eyes the full green of Trees & deep blue of Sky sinks N, “this is go'n 2B the last time my eyes hold them 4 a while,” i give out a silent thanks w/a sigh... a small crowd has gathered 2 watch, i'm taken N2 the bk of a durango rental, the other 2 R N separate cars, JTTF driver (c.h.p. or sheriff's dep.), fibby hops N beside me, short ride dn the hill 2 a suburb satellite compound N citrus heights i never knew was there (lived w/N 5 miles of it since jr. high), during their attempt 2 debrief my property was logged & headlamp stolen by the fibby “i'll take this as evidence,” yes i'm still pissed, “U got anything 2 say?” “U got an attorney 4 me?,” bk N the durango & headed dn town, just B4 we pull N2 the underground garage of the gulag = “We always go easy on the 1 that turns 1st” “U're fuck'n kid'n me,” sit'n on a concrete bench under the gulag, paper wk B'n processed, i'm soak'n everything up while look'n bored as fuck = there's double doors on every exit, scrubbed concrete i can tell has been spattered from countless struggles coming 2 late – once U're N the bowels surviving digestion is the only viable possibility i can C... there R no windows, ultra-violet lights at measured distances break up the heavy doors – be they steel or bullet proof plexi-glass, feels like i'm wait'n N line 4 some twisted roller-coaster ride... a young look'n agent w/an ATF windbreaker sits next 2 me, “recognize me?” “not really” “U know how hard it was 2 keep up w/U?” “no” “we'll have 2 have a beer when U get out” “U're buy'n,” behind the sliding door, uncuffed, patted dn, handkerchief and hoodie taken, cuffed, wait, 2 jug heads escort me 2 a room the size of a phonebooth & uncuff me, “strip & put clothes outSD,” they step away, i notice the small window of a box housing a camera has a yellow post-it 4 a cover & i quickly remove it - if they come at me it's go'n 2B on film... i can't say i was ready 4 this form of psy-op.s (can U ever B ready 2 experience something U've only read about?) but i did know it 4 what it was= an attempt 2 make the oppressed feel like they R

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participating N a demoralizing act - having seen a wrong is bad, having a wrong done 2 U is worse, doing a wrong 2 Urself is the worst ever, knowledge B4 hand dissolves the power dynamic necessary 4 them 2 oppress... they return, quickly glancing at the camera, 1 goes through my clothes while the other spits directions w/cold concrete under my feet = show hands, under armpits, behind ears, SDs of mouth, under tongue, lift balls, turn @, lift rt foot, left foot, bend over, spread cheeks, cough, get dressed, no laces N my boots; then the shuffle begins – continuous displacement from 1 tank to another (more psy. ops.) , this 1 so full there's only standing room, the next it's just me & the camera, always a camera & a phone, a toilet & thick boarded benches against the walls, this 1 fills & empties, moved B4 this 1 fills all the way, time vanishes, only wondering, is there an undercover N here, a plant, an informant, dominoes tumble once again = solitary will B the only escape from violent coercion – abuse could only come from those who have the keys... not wanting 2 provide the fibbies w/any tools 2 sway my decision 2 go 2 trial – i could easily picture myself during trial w/a face marred by a fight, while my attorney layed out my non-violent past & non-existent criminal record 2 a jury full of raised eye-brows & smirks – i requested solitary confinement... i was persynally prepared 4 what came w/isolation, having done the necessary wk on myself = the internal exploring, healing & nourishing needed 2 survive & dance w/the trauma of B'n raised N this culture; w/the effects from the shock & continuous trauma of B'n caged all i would've had 2 fall bk on would B those culturally programmed traits we're all raised with, such as identification w/the oppressor, mob mentality, & submission 2 authority... my receiving those weekly stacks of mail did wonders which i'm perpetually grateful 4, but w/out the anchor of knowing, loving, & B'n aware of who i am – how could i've stayed true 2 the intentions of my Heart?... through the Spring and Summer a once dear friend of mine survived iso. & continuous harassment – his folding just B4 Fall was like my Heart breaking N my hands... i tried 2 do all i could 2 aid him N maintaining some semblance of a foundation that he could utilize – of course (here's that familiar sting), it's not something which can B given, only found... he was released as soon as he signed his plea deal; 2 prep him 4 the stand it took 3 consecutive days of 9-5... while on the stand they used something like 'rehabilitated' 2 describe him = now working 35-40 hrs/week, helping his dad w/the rent, & having a girlfriend... when he flipped i didn't think the pain could've gotten worse... what i saw & heard were the scared responses of some1 B'n led along on a tight leash... lauren was almost the inverse = ze turned rt away & when i found out over the Summer i was devastated... btx the time of our arrest & the trial ze'd apparently recovered some – despite the influences @ hir & the meds they put hir on... it was subtle, but lauren's words ended up aiding my defense more than the prosecution... the c.i., 'anna,' wore business attire, mimicking the professionalism exuded by her fibby handlers... it twisted me up & down 2 hear the distance N her voice i recognized as always B'n there... at the end of 'anna's' testimony the gov'n't resorted 2 character assassination by way of a blatant lie, pitting their authority vs. my word... their story was that on the last night i walked out N2 the living room 2 wave an 8 inch knife over 'anna's' sleeping face (a knife i never possessed, nor did they remember 2 plant N the evidence), which woke her & her calmly saying “go bk 2 bed”... somehow the surveillance cameras weren't recording during this event, which is weird bc they're supposed 2B N whatever room the c.i. occupies (but of course fibbies testified 2 their witnessing the event on their monitors), nor was there a 302 filing 4 that night (an event description form 4 the fibbies 2 write dn a narrative of what they see on the monitors w/the corresponding times)... 2 say i was disgusted doesn't even begin 2... .. so, biased as it is, i've acquired the belief that moving w/a political intent brings about quite a bit of predisposition from the courts (yes, i'm B'n sarcastic, their response was more like that 2 a deadly virus = stamp out & lock away)... it's further supported by a recent case N sacto where some1 burnt dn a wal-mart, a good portion of an upscale mall, & his grandma's house; & after the actions were deemed not politically based (by the same prosecutor N my case), that persyn got sentenced 2 10 yrs... my case was 1 more notch N the belt 4 the fibby's cointel tactics – creating monsters 2 fuel fear, while vilifying a pattern of social relation based upon mutual aid, authentic relation, voluntary association, & the realization of desires... this pattern of relation was something i'd found N every place i touched N a yr & a 1/2 of traveling off the grid - Seatle 2 Ft. Lauderdale, NY 2 San Fran. & numerous places Nbtx... throughout those times i moved w/an authentic intent, finding a reciprocity, a mutual respect that accompanies the unconscious (or conscious) recognition of some 1 sharing their true self - something deep w/N saying = "this isn't 1 of the culturally cordoned masks"... & everywhere i went i found others moving w/the same intent - living off the streets, wk'n small jobs, go'n 2 school; these aspects B'n secondary 2 who they R... it's the relation 2 themselves & 2 those N their communities which took precedence= what nurtured them on their paths... & not 1 was perfect, & had no intention 2B, but they were true 2 themselves N nurturing who they wished 2 become - not some

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prescribed mold produced by another... w/that - the recognition of material objects B'n non-permanent translated N2 a free sharing or gifting of whatever i happen 2 possess N the moment 2 fullfill a need U're experiencing rt now (eg.- i'm not going 2 have this pouch of tobacco 4ever; there R numerous ways of acquiring more; & if U don't have any & would like some= why wouldn't i help a member of my community?)... these folx came 2gether as long as it nurtured each individually; communicating their persynal & social needs & wishes w/the group - moving towards the benefit of the whole, & there4 themselves... i've seen & experienced these grps last for hrs, days, weeks, months, yrs; when pple felt they were no longer nurtured or out grew what the grp was providing, most left w/out animosities & usually w/friendships lasting a lifetime... 2 me, a paramount aspect of authenticity is B'n authentic w/myself & recognizing my shadow as a necessary part of who i am (how can i watch out 4 my shortcomings & negative tendencies if i don't know what they R?); it's also helped 2B aware that others share N the wounds inflicted by B'n of this culture, regardless of the niches they currently find themselves w/N... ... this same trauma some structures use 2 keep folx fearful of the unknown, afraid of others, scared of change, worried for the future, & thereby reacting N ways which maintain the culture... any relation that doesn't bring about those results must B demonized - thus, the "crazy bomb throwing anarchist" motif... what better way 2 dissuade the exploration of ideas than 2 portray those associated w/them as lunatics, dreamers out of touch w/how the world really works... somehow i survived the indoctrination of schooling up 2 college, worked a couple of careers until i saw what i would become N those B4 me, then it took 1 more indoctrination bout w/the intent of teaching 2 finally C this culture beyond the veils of comfort, medication, & socialization... i came 2 recognize the cultural tools provided 4 me - manipulation, coercion, chauvinism, kill or B killed, walk on those below U, destroy all competition – as B'n socio-pathic (defined as traits which kill healthy, nurturing communities); & after that point of reference was acquired, there was only 1 remaining action= the choice... ...

### **1 Nov – A Message from Walter Bond**

*The following message is paraphrased from a telephone conversation:*

*On October 16, I got into verbal altercation with guards and was thrown in solitary. As of this afternoon, I am still in lockdown, but my phone privileges have been restored for one hour a day.*

*I deeply appreciate all of the letters of encouragement and support that I continue to receive and promise to respond to each one. At the moment, however, I am in a precarious position and don't have pencils readily available so it is taking a bit longer than usual.*

*I am doing well and may be here for several more weeks.*

*Animal Liberation Whatever It May Take!*

### **2 Nov – Eric McDavid Transferred to FCI Terminal Island**

*Eric has arrived at Terminal Island in Southern California. Terminal Island is a low-security facility and we are hopeful that this will mean some improvements in Eric's living situation. Please write Eric and let him know you are thinking about him. He can now be written at:*

**Eric McDavid #16209-097  
FCI Terminal Island  
Post Office Box 3007  
San Pedro, California 90731**

### **4 Nov - National Congress of American Indians unanimously supports freedom for Leonard Peltier**

*During its annual conference this week in Portland, Oregon, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) unanimously passed a resolution in support of freedom for Leonard Peltier.*

#### **MORE:**

An innocent man, Native American activist Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted in connection with the

shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1977.

Imprisoned for nearly 36 years currently at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida Peltier has been designated a political prisoner by Amnesty International. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release. Widely recognized for his humanitarian works and a six-time Nobel Prize nominee, Peltier also is an accomplished author and painter.

The NCAI has adopted resolutions on behalf of Leonard Peltier in the past. In 1999, the NCAI also supported the Assembly of First Nations in Canada in an historic joint resolution.

"It's long past time for the healing to begin between Indigenous Nations and the U.S. government with regard to the Peltier case, as well as other tragic incidents of the past. The NCAI is eager to work with the Obama Administration to work towards that end," said a spokesperson for the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee in Fargo, North Dakota. The Peltier case has been examined by renowned author Peter Matthiessen ("In the Spirit of Crazy Horse") and by a documentary film produced and narrated by Robert Redford ("Incident at Oglala"). Although the courts have acknowledged evidence of government misconduct including the coercion of witnesses, the intentional use of false testimonies, and the concealment of ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence Peltier has been denied a new trial.

The power to commute Peltier's sentence of two life terms rests with President Obama.

"Mr. Peltier is 67 years old and in poor health. This is the very time for renewed commitment and unity. We're very pleased that the Indigenous Nations have taken this action on Mr. Peltier's behalf and are actively involved in securing his freedom."

The Peltier resolution was unanimously approved in committee on November 2 and presented in the plenary session earlier today.

Informed of the NCAI's decision, Leonard Peltier stated, "This means so much to me. I'm grateful for the support of my People. I thank the NCAI for their efforts."

### **6 Nov – Spirit of Freedom November 2011 Out Now**

*ELP is an international eco-prisoner support network founded, in Britain, in 1993 to support jailed eco-activists. "Spirit of Freedom" is ELP's international monthly prisoner listing which is circulated by e-mail.*

#### **MORE:**

Welcome to the November 2011 edition of Spirit of Freedom. ELP has some great news this month. Mexican eco-prisoners Fermín Gómez Trejo and Abraham López Martínez, who were both accused of ELF style activity, have also been released from prison. Also the British animal rights activists, Natasha Avery & Greg Avery, who were sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for their involvement in campaigning against Huntingdon Life Sciences, have also been released.

Also a Finnish activist, who last year was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for an arson against a fur shop, has won their appeal to the High Court and their conviction has been overturned.

Plus, as ELP supporters will be aware, in October 2011 two Americans, Victor Van Orden and Kellie Marshall, were arrested near a fur farm and accused of releasing animals from that farm, as well as other charges. Both were originally remanded into custody, but both have now been released on bail.

It is great to see our prisoner lists getting shorter again but there are sadly always new prisoners coming in, some of who may not be as famous or as well known as others. Activists who could easily serve an entire sentence

without anyone even hearing of their case. But these people are as much in need of our support as the famous and well known activists.

One such unknown prisoner is currently sitting in an American jail. A few years ago she was dragged before a Grand Jury which was investigating a well known American Animal Rights & Environmental activist. She refused to testify to the Grand Jury and was jailed for contempt. Happily that sentence ended, but the same woman now finds herself imprisoned again but for a different reason.

The woman has not been imprisoned for a political earth or animal liberation reason. But this didn't stop the FBI from visiting her in prison and offering her a deal: inform on Animal & Earth Liberation activists and you'll get out of prison type deal. She once again refused and so once again she finds herself sitting in a prison cell. The woman is well known to ELP as a dedicated prisoner support activist who has always strived to help others.

The woman does not want her name published as she is not proud of the reasons she is now inside. But ELP recognises that she is partly inside because she has refused to inform on others to the FBI. Therefore we have launched a support campaign for her asking people to send letters of support to Anonymous American starting your message "Dear friend". E-mail your messages to [elp4321@hotmail.com](mailto:elp4321@hotmail.com) and we'll forward them to her friends who have agreed to print the messages off and pass them onto her.

Remember not all of the prisoners listed in this newsletter are as famous or as well known as some of the others who are also listed in the newsletter. However, all of the prisoners deserve our support and all welcome letters of support. So please, no matter where you are in the world, no matter what language you speak, support the eco-prisoners. And no compromise in defence of Mother Earth!

One final thing. ELP is now on Facebook (despite an attempt by someone to close our page down). Please search of Earth Liberation Prisoners on Facebook and you'll find a complete Earth & Animal Liberation prisoners listing.

If anyone notices any of ELP's prisoner details is out of date or we do not list a prisoner who we should list, please let ELP know as soon as possible. ELP is run by a small group of volunteers and although we try to ensure our lists are accurate, we admit we do make mistakes. So help us help keep the lists accurate by letting us know of any changes we need to make.

### **12 Nov – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Freedom Dance: Party with a Purpose**

**WHAT:** Benefit Dance Party Honoring Cisco Torres of the San Francisco 8

**WHEN:** 9:00pm-2:00am, Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Nova Bar + Grill, 884 Pacific Street (Between Underhill and Washington Avenues), BK/NY

**COST:** \$20, all proceeds go directly to political prisoners

*DJ Revolution will be keeping folks moving all night. This will be a fun time, but only if folks show up to make it one.*

#### **MORE:**

If you cannot make it the dance, but would still like to donate, you may purchase a ticket here and your money will go to the support of political prisoners. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/207355>

### **14 Nov – NYC ABC and Book Thug Nation Host Certain Days Calendar Release Party**

**WHAT:** NYC Release Party for the 2012 Certain Days Calendar with folks from Toronto ABC

**WHEN:** 7:00pm, Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Book Thug Nation, 100 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue)

**COST:** Free. There will be calendars for sale at the event.

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The theme for this year's calendar is "COINTELPRO: Repression and Resistance, Then and Now" and folks from Toronto Anarchist Black Cross will give a brief presentation on the calendar project. For more information about the calendar, head to [certaindays.org](http://certaindays.org)

### **15 Nov – NYC ABC + Book Thug Nation Host "Crimethinc. Presents: Capitalism & Resistance"**

**WHAT:** Crimethinc. Presents: Capitalism & Resistance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**WHEN:** 7:00pm, Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Book Thug Nation, 100 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue)

**COST:** Free. There will be copies of the *Work* book for sale at the event.

**NOTE:** If you can't make it on this date, the same folks will be at ABC No Rio the next night.

After so much technological progress, why do we have to work more than ever before? Why is the old labor movement powerless to stop the new assault on workers? Can capitalism survive another century of crises? And how do we get out of this mess?

Please join us for a high-energy discussion of these questions and more. We'll focus on the ways capitalism has changed over the past few decades, and scrutinize recent examples of resistance in the US and overseas to propose anti-capitalist strategies for the 21st century.

### **23 Nov – Time is Running Out. Support the New York 21/Sundiata Acoli Film on Kickstarter**

**"NEW YORK 21: THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY-NEW YORK CHAPTER AND STRUGGLES OF SUNDIATA ACOLI"** is a dramatic documentary exploring the Black Panther Party Movement and the climate of the times in New York, including the longest and most expensive trial in the state's history. To finish the film, producers need to raise \$5,000 by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Go here to help fund this important documentary: <http://kck.st/os375L>

### **2 Dec – Wall of Solidarity for Peltier**

**WHAT:** Human Wall of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

**WHEN:** Sunrise to sunset, Friday, December 2nd

**WHERE:** White House Tribal Nations Conference, 1848 C Street NW, Washington, District of Columbia

#### **MORE:**

Bring your group and join The Jericho Movement and the Leonard Peltier Offense Defense Committee at their third year at the Human Wall of Solidarity.

### **7 Dec – CCR + Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan Panel Discussion + Raffle**

**WHAT:** Panel discussion with Robert Meeropol, Will Potter and Jenny Synan with an introduction by Rachel Meeropol plus an *AMAZING* raffle

**WHEN:** 6:30-8:30, Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Community Church of New York (40 East 35<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park and Madison Avenues)

**COST:** Free entry; raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5

On the sixth anniversary of the first wave of Operation Backfire arrests, including that of friend to NYC ABC Daniel McGowan, the Center for Constitutional Rights and Family & Friends of Daniel McGowan are hosting a panel discussion and raffle. The panel will discuss the Red Scare, the Green Scare, and ongoing repression of political dissidents in the United States.

Raffle prizes are being added daily, but currently include:

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- \*\*\*Books by Brian Tokar ("[Toward Climate Justice](#)" and "[Agriculture & Food in Crisis](#)")
- \*\*\*2012 [Justseeds/Eberhardt Press Organizers](#)
- \*\*\*Books from [Eberhardt Press](#)
- \*\*\*Books from [Combustion Books](#)
- \*\*\*Books from [Burning Books](#) (Buffalo, New York)
- \*\*\*[Green is the New Red](#) book donation and signed posters
- \*\*\*A pair of tickets to the [Spectacle Theater](#)
- \*\*\*Two gift certificates to [Book Thug Nation](#)
- \*\*\*1 acupuncture session with Famous
- \*\*\*<http://www.akpress.org/2010/items/windsfrombelow>
- \*\*\*[Team Colors](#) Posters
- \*\*\*1/2 Gallon [Wilder Brook Farm](#) Maple Syrup
- \*\*\*DVDs from Whispered Media ([Boom](#) and [We Interrupt This Empire](#))
- \*\*\*Art by [Elektra KB](#)
- \*\*\*Support Daniel McGowan [T-shirt](#)
- \*\*\*[Support Daniel McGowan](#) Water Bottle
- \*\*\*[Certain Days](#): Freedom For Political Prisoners 2012 Wall Calendar
- \*\*\*One year subscription to [4StruggleMag](#)

### **17 Dec – Send Love Through the Walls – Holiday Party with SSS, SB ABCF, RnB, & NYC ABC**

**WHAT:** Send Love Through The Walls Holiday Card-Writing For Political Prisoners

**WHEN:** 3:00-9:00pm, Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**WHERE:** 263 Eastern Parkway, Apartment 5D (Direction Below) *phone:* 718.783.8141

**COST:** FREE (Donations to cover the cost of stamps greatly appreciated)

*In what many prisoners have told us is their favorite event of the year, Resistance in Brooklyn and NYC Anarchist Black Cross again join forces to bring you the annual holiday card-writing party for U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war. This year, we're joined by Scientific Soul Sessions and South Brooklyn ABCF. This event is always a lot of fun, the food outstanding, the camaraderie lively, and the handmade cards flat out amazing. This year will be no different. So plan to bring your friends, your creativity, and a healthy appetite. We'll have updates on the pp/pow campaigns as well as paints, markers, crayons, and envelopes.*

#### **MORE:**

##### **Directions:**

Getting to 263 Eastern Parkway is simple:

From the [2/3/4/5](#) or [Franklin Avenue Shuttle](#):

##### **Franklin Avenue Stop:**

Walk west on Eastern Parkway (away from Franklin Avenue, toward Classon Avenue). We're about half a block down on the north side of the street. When you go into the building, take the elevator to your left.

For more information, contact:

**Resistance in Brooklyn**– [mmmsrnb at igc dot org](mailto:mmmsrnb@igc.org)

**NYC Anarchist Black Cross**– [nycabc at riseup dot net](mailto:nycabc@riseup.net)

**Scientific Soul Sessions**— [scientificsoulsessions.com](http://scientificsoulsessions.com)

**South Brooklyn ABCF**-- [sbrooklynabcf at riseup dot net](mailto:sbrooklynabcf@riseup.net)

### **4 Feb 2012 - International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier**

*Yes, this is VERY EARLY, but we're encouraging folks to start planning their protests now. The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee calls on supporters worldwide to protest against the injustice suffered by Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier. Gather on February 4, 2012, at every federal court house and U.S. embassy or consulate worldwide to demand the freedom of a man wrongfully convicted and illegal imprisoned for 36 years.*

Compiled by NYC ABC

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**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](http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info).