



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for April 24th

8 Apr – Update on Camille Marino

On Saturday, February 4th, while attending a peaceful anti-vivisection demonstration and commemoration of two monkeys who were tortured to death at the University of Florida, Camille was arrested on charges related to her campaign against notorious vivisectionist, Donal O’Leary, an animal experimenter at Wayne State University in Michigan. She is currently awaiting trial and we’ve included an update from Camille below.

MORE:

I have been deeply troubled that all of the energy being focused on my court case threatens to divert attention from the animals if we do not use it effectively. I am humbled by the dedication and loyalty of my immediate team and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from our extended community. But I want everyone to understand that the most meaningful way in which anyone can support me is to liberate animals wherever we can, take on their tormentors personally, initiate aggressive and targeted local grassroots campaigns, and adopt an attitude of defiance in the face of the enemy. This is about the animals, not me. Let’s use my trial to shift the attention back to them where it belongs...

Great effort has gone into redirecting the publicity surrounding my case into raising awareness for the animals. A vivisection campaign has been launched against Wayne State University and an open records request has been filed to obtain the vet records of a given “researcher” who experiments on dogs. On May 2 this initiative will move to the streets outside the Detroit courthouse.

The Trial

The vivisector whom we all know at WSU was granted a Personal Protection Order (PPO) by the Michigan Courts in October of last year to compel me to remove his information from NIO. I am charged with 3 counts of criminal contempt for allegedly failing to comply. My trial will begin at 1:30 pm on May 2. I have not entered a plea on the charges because we hold that the underlying PPO is invalid on the grounds that:

Michigan has no jurisdiction over me; and,
the material in question is constitutionally-protected speech.

So, while we have filed an appeal to challenge a previous ruling on jurisdiction, on May 2 we will argue First Amendment issues and that there was no “true threat.” Therefore, the PPO is invalid.

The Demonstration

I was surprised by the media attention this case got when I appeared in the Detroit court after my extradition. And we suspect there will be even more coverage when we go back to court next month. The nameless vivisector at Wayne State has done an extraordinary job of facilitating a smear campaign against me and, simultaneously, raising my public profile tremendously. So now it’s up to all of us to exploit his efforts to advance our agenda.

Activists have been focused on implementing a strategic long-term campaign against WSU. On May 2, Negotiation Is Over (NIO) Michigan intends to seize control of all the media attention the “researcher” in question has generated for us and redirect the publicity squarely back at him and the animals that die at his hands. Please go to the event page and hit the street in Detroit with us!

NIO Florida and NIO Michigan urge activists everywhere to take on your local university. We will support your

efforts.

9 Apr - Contact information for Jeremy Hammond

Jeremy Hammond is accused of the Lulz Sec hack of stratfor as well as hacks of well-known neo-nazi websites. The website FREEHAMMOND.com is legit, and he can be written to at:

**Jeremy Hammond 18729-424
Metropolitan Correctional Center
150 Park Row
New York, New York 10007**

9 Apr - Did a Member of Congress Order Environmentalist Tim DeChristopher Into Isolation?

Environmentalist Tim DeChristopher was moved into the Special Housing Unit of FCI Herlong last month, and placed in isolation. The question remains: Why was a prisoner with no disciplinary history sent there? According to DeChristopher's support crew, "Tim was informed by Lieutenant Weirich that he was being moved to the SHU because an unidentified Congressman had called from Washington DC, complaining of an email that Tim had sent to a friend."

MORE:

Environmentalist Tim DeChristopher was moved into the Special Housing Unit of FCI Herlong last month, and placed in isolation — a practice that human rights groups have decried as cruel and inhumane treatment and tantamount to torture. After thousands of supporters called the Bureau of Prisons and members of Congress, DeChristopher was released from "the hole." But the question remains: Why was a non-violent prisoner, with no disciplinary history, sent there?

According to DeChristopher's support crew, "Tim was informed by Lieutenant Weirich that he was being moved to the SHU because an unidentified Congressman had called from Washington DC, complaining of an email that Tim had sent to a friend."

In this email, DeChristopher said he was distressed to learn that a major donor to his defense fund was planning on moving jobs overseas. He said he would send a letter to the owners explaining his concerns, and that "this letter will include a threat to wage a campaign against them if they don't reverse course and keep the plants open."

In other words: a member of Congress sought retribution for a non-violent activist promising to protest a corporate supporter.

There's no shortage of politicians who might be concerned about DeChristopher's effective advocacy. So here's an idea: Call your members of Congress and ask them directly if they requested that Tim DeChristopher be placed in isolation. And go to <http://youtu.be/KPm7TPzn6bc> to watch a video to learn more.

9 Apr – New Information in Midwest Prosecutions

Here's a news item regarding eco-prisoners, informants, and ongoing prosecutions in the Midwest.

MORE:

On April 9th, 2012, Frank Ambrose was [resentenced](#) to 70 months in prison. This is a significant reduction in his sentence, which was originally 108 months. Ambrose's projected release date is now December 2013. This reduction in sentence is NOT the result of an appeal. Rather, the reason for this unusual reduction in sentence midstream is Ambrose's continued "substantial assistance" to the government in "investigating or prosecuting another person." While we don't have any documented evidence of exactly who Ambrose has been snitching on, we do know the context in which his resentencing has occurred.

In December 2009, the government filed – then immediately sealed – an indictment against Jesse Waters for his alleged involvement in an arson of logging equipment in Mesick, MI in January 2000. This is one of the two

actions to which Marie Mason eventually ended up pleading guilty. Frank Ambrose also admitted his involvement in this action. In the government's motion to [unseal](#) the indictment against Waters in March 2011, they stated: "one of the Government's anticipated witnesses was actively assisting the FBI as a cooperating human source (CHS) in its conduct of another arson investigations [sic] in numerous other Federal judicial districts. In order to avoid compromising the identity of that CHS before his or her investigative utility was exhausted., the Government sought and obtained an Order sealing the case for an indefinite duration." They were unsealing the indictment because the CHS was scheduled to testify in another trial in the Southern District of Indiana on May 23, 2011, effectively outing them as an informant. Daniel Kruk's trial was originally set for this day in the Southern District of Indiana. It would seem that the same informant was operating in both of these cases.

On March 27, Daniel Kruk (who has been indicted for his alleged involvement in an arson at the Republican National Headquarters in Bloomington, IN in 2000) filed a Motion to Compel Production of Brady Materials. The following day, March 28, the government filed an Emergency [Motion](#) to Seal Kruk's Brady motion. At that point in time, Kruk's motion was removed from the docket. We don't know exactly what was contained in those documents. What we do know is that the government's motion to seal reads: "The above referenced pleadings should be sealed as they contain law enforcement sensitive materials, pleadings that were filed under seal and that remain under seal, and other materials for which there is a law enforcement need to remain confidential." In Kruk's [response](#) to the government's motion to seal, his lawyer wrote: "Defendant is completely unable to ascertain what information in his motion and brief constitutes sensitive material. For example, the documents related to Agranoff attached as exhibits can now be located on the internet. See <http://waronsociety.noblogs.org/?p=3657>. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons website advises that Agranoff is a federal inmate residing at a low security facility in Arkansas. Agranoff even maintains a blog site. <http://davidagranoff.blogspot.com/>."

On April 12, the court [ruled](#) on these motions, granting the government's motion to seal. The court also stated that Kruk has indicated he will be changing his plea. The order read, in part: "Accordingly, the Government's Motion for Protective Order [Dkt. Nos. 43 & 20] is GRANTED and Defendant's Motion to Compel [Dkt. Nos. 45 & 22] is DENIED, except that the Court will permit counsel for Defendant Kruk along with their client to review, but not to have possession of or make copies of: (1) the transcript of the sentencing hearing for Defendant David Agranoff conducted on January 13, 2012, before the Honorable Tanya Walton Pratt; (2) Agranoff's plea agreement [Dkt. Nos. 44-3 & 21-3]; and (3) the Agranoff pre-sentence investigation report [Dkt. Nos. 44-6 & 21-6], in order to fully prepare for the upcoming change of plea and sentencing hearing scheduled for Mr. Kruk, on the chance that said materials may prove relevant to rebut or distinguish the appropriateness of a sentencing enhancement sought by the Government." The fact that Agranoff's paperwork is referenced so consistently in Kruk's motions is troubling.

It seems that there is clearly a connection between the cases of Agranoff and Kruk. We also know that there are two case numbers listed on Kruk's court documents. One of them is the case resulting from Kruk's alleged involvement in an arson at the Republican Party Headquarters in Bloomington, IN in 2000. The other case, however, does not come up in any searches of court documents. This might indicate that the case has been sealed.

The court in Agranoff's case has also taken the unusual step of removing almost all the documents from his docket including the indictment and the plea agreement. They recently sealed the sentencing transcripts as well. We don't know who else might be involved in these cases or if there are people who have yet to be indicted. What we do know is that Agranoff and Ambrose have cooperated with the state in ways that are still unknown and may be continuing to cooperate with the state. There very well may be further indictments coming down the line and there also might be indictments already filed that have yet to be unsealed.

10 Apr – Center for Constitutional Rights Call to End Torture of Russell Maroon Shoatz
A revitalized campaign to get Russell Maroon Shoatz out of solitary confinement is under way. We're including not only the most recent letter from CCR, but also information on upcoming events and other ways to help.

MORE:

Russell Maroon Shoats is a 68-year-old prisoner at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) Greene in southwestern Pennsylvania, where he has been held in solitary confinement for 21 years. Maroon has spent nearly 40 years in the Pennsylvania prison system, 30 of them in solitary confinement. During this time, he has earned a reputation amongst prison staff and prisoners as a leader because of his consistent support for human rights inside and outside the prison walls.

Supporters of Russell Maroon Shoats have launched a campaign to have him released from his torturous solitary confinement. A letter-writing and [petition campaign](#) has been launched and supported by the [Human Rights Coalition](#), a prison abolition organization co-founded by Maroon, along with CCR and the National Lawyers Guild (NLG).

Please join us in calling on prison officials to end the solitary confinement torture of Russell Maroon Shoats by immediately releasing him into the general population of the prison. He has been unable to hold his children or grandchildren or interact with others in a humane setting during this entire time, despite not having violated prison rules in two decades. He has suffered severe psychological anguish and his physical health has been worsened by the stress of prolonged isolation.

Tax Payer's and Prison: A Fool's Paradise by Russell Maroon Shoatz

“The state administrated correctional system includes 26 correctional institutions, 54 they operated or contracted corrections centers and a motivational boot camp. Approximately 18% of the inmate population requires mental health treatment. 90% of offenders incarcerated and their commonwealths state prisons will eventually be released into the community, the Department of correction emphasizes programs that prepare inmates for responsible crime free community living.” —Governor's executive budget 2011 – 2012

Like Granny Hawkins told that outlaw Josey Wales: “Those big words don't mean squat!”

Across this entire country the lovely taxpayers have been bamboozled into believing that their hard earned tax dollars are helping keep them safe because the state and federal governments are each year spending tens of billions of their tax dollars to imprison individuals for years on end. While every statistic shows that those policies of mass imprisonment are a complete failure when it comes to their stated objectives to “repair inmates for responsible crime free community living.” Creating a revolving door system that does nothing to make community safer, but instead cause the lovely taxpayers to hemorrhage money and to keep in play an unworkable boondoggle. Nonetheless, every year politicians fight with each other over whether billions should be plowed back into their dysfunctional prison system, or go to other needy projects like education or to repair the infrastructure. All the while the taxpayers stand on the sidelines mesmerized by sensational TV coverage of crime, sports and celebrity scandals; trusting that the local police, courts, jails, prisons and politicians are serious about the way everything possible to keep “the barbarians” from their doorways. Even if the budgets of all those entities continued to grow it is without any real difference being delivered in solving the problem. Those taxpayers are living in a fool's paradise.

Outside of the total failure of the criminal justice system^[1] to show that they know how to do anything but lock people up, there's another cancer eating away at the taxpayers future that they remain totally oblivious of. Taxpayers are being purposely kept in the dark by a select group of cynical politicians and prison profiteers about what's being done with their tax dollars in regards to workings and failures of the criminal justice system. Politicians receive benefits by allowing and helping private prison operators and services to function and profit from the prison. Politicians use the fact that there are prisons in their voting district and claim to be bringing prison jobs into their districts, at the expense of the other taxpayers who don't have prisons in their areas. The cancer is the inability to financially sustain the criminal justice system. Thus the taxpayers must one day choose between trying to continue with the folly of supporting that bankrupt system until it saps all of the potential out of their communities or invest in something that works. Billions of dollars are being poured into the criminal justice/prison “hustle” risking our children's education and neglecting the crumbling roads of our neighborhoods, bridges, libraries, water and sewage systems. Our open areas, parks and housing options

continue to deteriorate. We must refuse to continue to allow tax dollars to be poured into that sinkhole, while searching for an alternative to the failed ways the state and federal government has been mishandling the situation.

As a prisoner who has been incarcerated for over 40 years, many may be put off by my background, and feel uncomfortable about considering my suggestions about ways to get out of this fool's paradise; but consider this: I've been around this sorry state of affairs longer than over 90% of those who the taxpayers are trusting to handle this problem. That means I must have learned something about its workings. Therefore I ask you to set aside your reservations about me, and first read and ponder my ideas before you judge whether they are self serving or otherwise.

But I'll save them for another follow up piece. Right now I'm sorry to inform you that you are living in a fool's paradise.

[1] police, court, jails and prisons

Campaign Launch to Free Russell

Saturday, May 5, 2012, St. Mary's Church, 521 West 126th Street (between Old Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues), Harlem, NY, 6pm to 8pm

This is Fred Ho. As I near the end of my life fighting a brutal war against metastatic cancer, there are only two things I seek to complete before my transition:

1. Freeing Russell Maroon Shoatz, brilliant and innovative revolutionary thinker-organizer, who has been imprisoned for almost 40 years, 30 of which has been in solitary confinement even though he has not had one infraction in the past 20 years! This is cruel, inhumane and brutal. The man is a revolutionary genius.

To find out for yourself, go to russellmaroonshoatz.wordpress.com and read his interview on topics of FOOD SECURITY, MATRIARCHY, and NEW REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZING.

Mumia wrote to me saying that we need to concentrate on getting Maroon into general population just as the movement has succeeded for him.

2. Elevating and consolidating Scientific Soul Sessions as the freshest example of 21st century revolutionary leadership!

The program, true to Scientific Soul Sessions equating politics and the arts, will feature many performers, **including myself (Fred Ho)!** There is no admission charge, but we will be fundraising!!

(Note: Maroon prefers the spelling of his last name to be Shoatz though legally his birth spelling is Shoats!)

10 Apr - Thoughts from Marie Mason on the Earth First! Journal

Earlier this year, editors from the Earth First! Journal received the adjacent artwork and following letter from eco-prisoner [Marie Mason](#), who is serving 22 years for ELF actions. We're also including the latest poem from Marie, titled "Titanic."

MORE:

"...Thank you so much for the work you do to make the EF! movement's voice heard everywhere. What a great balance; news, fiction, poetry, images, analysis—and the backbone, *campaigns!*



Anyone reading the Journal for the first time would clearly see that EF! is a dynamic, multi-generational, thoughtful and courageous movement. I do hope that it will continue to be a platform for hashing out debate on the tough points of diversity in the movement. Not in an irresponsibly disrespectful or vicious way (that always does the work of the Feds for them, cuz they *love* to feed and encourage ideological schisms)—but with an openness for diversity of approaches. And still not giving ourselves permission, ever, to be comfortable or complacent. The slogan's not No Compromise just to be slinging macho bullshit around—but I know you know all of that.

The graphics, the tone of this issue [Mabon 2011] captures that genuine greenfire that should burn in all of us.

It's been too many years away from the world now for me. I can't believe it's been a year and a half that I've been living in this tiny little isolated unit here at Carswell. But nothing's changed for me; my heart's still wild and free, and full of so much love and strength when I feel connected to all of you still out there fighting for the Earth. Thank you.

Until All Are Free,

Marie

Titanic

A hundred years of stories and it's not enough
To mark a date,
They will dredge the blue depths
And spare no expense.
(not for charity, make a note
not for Sudan's needed grain,
not Haiti's medicine)
But gain....
And details, dollars, samples for scholars,
The self-indulgence of a gilded clock
Stopped in time upon a marble mantel
Miles below the surface of the sea
This brittle allegory,
Sepulchre nestled soft in silt
That is the living ship
And feeds on corpses so long dead
The sea reclaims, reorganizes matter
And redecorates
With stalagmites formed by flesh.
Where the disposables still lie,
Buried with the sordid empty beer cans,
The refuse of a thousand useless cruises
And the castaways who slept in lower berths....
Titanic,
With what callous hubris,
Launched,
With what garrish decadence
Debauched,
Only to meet Nature sideways
And slide down.
Titanic,
Posted as a sign
For all of humankind

A hundred years.
And still
It is the poor who will
Perish down below in each disaster -
While those riding high above them,
Will carry only those that love them
As they fly away too soon
In exquisitely appointed
Spaceships
Headed for Newt's
Cities on the Moon.

10 Apr - Big Brother 'legal' in US: Mumia Abu-Jamal exclusive to RT

RT has become the first TV channel in the world to speak to former journalist and Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal since he was removed from death row in January. We've included the transcript of their interview.

MORE:

Considered by many to be a flagrant miscarriage of justice, the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal has gained much attention worldwide. The defense claimed Abu-Jamal is innocent of the charges as the testimony of the prosecution's witnesses was not reliable. For decades, supporters have rallied behind him. After spending almost 30 years on death row, Abu-Jamal told RT's Anastasia Churkina that "The truth is I spent most of my living years in my lifetime, on death row. So, in many ways, even to this day, in my own mind, if not in fact, I'm still on death row."

RT: If you were not behind bars and could be anywhere else in the world, where would you be – and what would you be doing?

Mumia Abu-Jamal: Since my earliest years I was what one would call an internationalist. That is paying attention to what is happening in other parts of the world. As an internationalist I am thinking about life lived by other people all around the world. Of course as an African American I would love to spend some time in parts of Africa. But it is also true that I have many friends and loved ones in France. I would really like to bring my family, my wife and kids to come see our street in Paris.

RT: Being behind bars you seem to be watching world affairs much closer than most people who are free to walk the streets. Which event of the last 30 years would you like to be a part of, if you could?

MAJ: I think the first would probably be the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Because of course once being South African, it was also global, because it was the touch point of white supremacy versus the freedom and dignity of African people. So South Africa would be a logical first choice.

But wherever the people are fighting for freedom, that wins my eye and gets my attention and moves my passion.

RT: You turn 56 at the end of the month, which means you will have to spend more than half of your life behind bars. Most people cannot even begin to imagine that. What is it like? How has it changed you?

MAJ: The point and fact is I have spent most of my life, the bigger percentage of my life on death row. And it cannot but have had a profound effect on consciousness and on the way one sees and interacts with the world. I like to tell myself that I actually spent a lot of that time beyond the bars, in other countries and in other parts of the world. Because I did so mentally. But mental can only take you so far. The truth of the matter is that I spent most of my living years in my lifetime on death row. So, in many ways, even to this day, in my own mind, if not in fact, I am still on death row.

RT: Your story has really become a symbol for many of a flawed justice system. Do you personally have any faith left in a fair and free justice system? Considering your life has been so much affected by it?

MAJ: When I was a teenager and in the Black Panther party I remember I was going to downtown Manhattan

and protesting against political imprisonment and incarceration and threats facing Angela Davis... When Davis attacked the prison system, she talked about perhaps 250,000 or 300,000 people imprisoned throughout all the US as a problem to be dealt with, a crisis, a situation that bordered on fascism. Fast forward 30-40 years to the present, today more than 300,000 prisoners in California alone, one state out of fifty. The imprisonment in California alone exceeds that of France, Belgium and England – I could name 4-5 countries combined. We could not perceive back then of what it would become. It is monstrous when you really look at what is happening today. You can literally talk about millions of people incarcerated by the prisoner-industrial complex today: men, women and children. And that level of mass incarceration, really mass repression, has to have an immense impact in effect on the other communities, not just among families, but in a social and communal consciousness way, and in inculcation of fear among generations. So it is at a level and at a depth that many of us cannot even dream of today.

RT: You talk about so many important social and economic issues in your work; do you have a dream today? If you could see one of those aspects changed which one would you pick? What do you wish you could see happen in the United States?

MAJ: There is never one thing... Because of the system of interconnectedness and because one part of the system impacts another part of the system, and because, what Antonio Gramsci called hegemony of the ideological system impacts other parts of the system. You cannot change one thing that will impact all things. That is one of the lessons of the 1960s, because the civil rights movement was talking about integration and changing the schools. In point of fact if you look at the vast majority of working class and poor black kids in American schools today, they live and spend their hours and their days in the system profoundly as segregated as that of their grandparents, but it is not segregated by race, it is segregated by race and class. The schools that my grandchildren go to are worse than the schools I went to when I was in my minor years and my teenage years. That's a condemnation of a system but because former generations only concentrated on one thing or one side of the problem. The problem has really got worse and worse and worse. And while there is a lot of rhetoric about schools, American schools are a tragedy.

RT: You were monitored by the FBI at the age of fourteen, now with laws such as NDAA being passed in the United States when people are watched, detained and can be held, that has become easier than ever, do you think Big Brother has officially shown his face in this country?

MAJ: If you look back it is clear that FBI and their leaders and their agents knew that everything they did then was illegal and FBI agents were taught and trained how to break into places, how to do, what they called, black bag jobs and that kind of stuff, how to commit crimes. And this is what they were also taught, you'd better do it and you'd better not get caught, because if you get caught you are going to jail and we act like we don't know you, you are on your own. What has happened in the last twenty and thirty years not just NDAA but the so-called Patriot Act has legalized everything that was illegal back in the 1950s-1970s. They legalized the very things that the FBI agents and administrative knew was criminal back then. That means they can look in your mail, they certainly can read your email, they tap your phone – they do all of that. But they do it in the name of national security. What we're living today is a national security state where Big Brother is legalized and rationalized.

RT: You have described politicians once as prostitutes in suits giving your apologies to honest prostitutes. It is election season in the US right now and we want to ask who do people trust, who would you vote for?

MAJ: Nobody. I have seen no one who I could in good conscience vote for today. Because most of the people that are out there are from two major political parties and all I hear is kind of madness – a wish to return to days of youth to the 1950s or they talk about the perpetuation of the American empire, imperialism. What is there to vote for? How many people consciously go to the polls voting for imperialism, for more war or voting for their son or daughter or father or mother to become a member of the armed forces and become a mass murderer?

RT: You seem to have endorsed the Occupy Wall Street movement that has sprung out the US this year. Is this the type of uprising that you think could change America and do good to the United States?

MAJ: I think it is the beginning of this kind of uprising. Because it has to be deeper, it has to be broader, it has to address issues that are touching on the lives of poor working class people... It is a damn good beginning, I just

wish it was bigger and angrier.

RT: You are the voice of the voiceless. What is your message to your supporters right now, to those who are listening to you?

MAJ: Organize, organize, organize. I love you all. Thank you for fighting for me and let's fight together to be free.

11 Apr - Sundiata Acoli is Up for Parole Again and Needs your Letters of Support

Attorney Bruce Afran's appeal of Sundiata Acoli's parole denial and 10 year hit resulted in the New Jersey Appellate Court's remand to the NJ Parole Board that its 10 year hit be cut to 3 years. However, Sundiata still needs you. Please see below for how to help.

MORE:

Sundiata has become immediately eligible for a parole hearing again. The Appellate Court must still rule on Sundiata's 2010 denial of parole but meanwhile he's preparing to go before the parole board again for his newly won 2012 parole hearing. In that regard he would greatly appreciate any and all letters sent to the parole board urging that he be released.

Sundiata is 75 years of age and has been in prison 39 years resulting from a stop of his car by state troopers on the NJ Turnpike in 1973, which erupted in gunfire that resulted in the death of his passenger, Zayd Shakur, and a state trooper, Werner Foerster. The other passenger, Assata Shakur, was critically wounded and captured on the scene where another trooper, James Harper, was also wounded. Sundiata was wounded at the scene, captured in the woods 40 hours later and subsequently sentenced to life in NJ State prison.

Sundiata is now the longest held prisoner in New Jersey's history of similar convictions. He has maintained an outstanding record in prison and has had only a few minor disciplinary reports over the past 30 years and none during the last 16 years. He's also maintained an excellent work and scholastic record and has always been a positive influence in prison, particularly in mentoring prisoners toward becoming crime-free benefactors to the community upon return to society and thereby break their cycle of recidivism.

Sundiata is a 75 year old grandfather who has long been rehabilitated, has long satisfied all requirements for parole and has no or "little likelihood of committing another crime:" which is the main criterion for parole in New Jersey. Sundiata is an old man, in declining health, who wishes to live out the rest of his days in peace tending his grandchildren.

Send letters urging the board that "39 years is enough! Release Sundiata Acoli! NJ #54859/Fed #39794-066" Address the **INSIDE LETTER'S HEADING** to: The New Jersey State Parole Board, P.O. Box 862, Trenton NJ 08625, **BUT ADDRESS/MAIL THE ENVELOPE TO:**

Florence Morgan, Esquire
120-46 Queens Boulevard
Queens, New York 11415

and the letter will be forwarded to the parole board after a copy is made for SAFC files.

Thank you for your support. Please keep in touch with SundiataAcoli.org at The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Page to stay abreast of Sundiata's parole situation and additional ways you can express support/solidarity with his parole effort. Sundiata and his Freedom Campaign, SAFC, send their sincerest condolences to the family and comrades of Christian Gomez, the prisoner who died in the California Prisoner's Hunger Strike - and we send our warmest shout out of solidarity and strength to all those participating in or supporting the California Prisoner's Hunger Strike.

11 Apr - Update From Jordan Halliday

Grand jury resister Jordan Halliday recently sent out an update that we've pasted it below.

MORE:

April 11th, 2012

Dear friends,

I figured it would be appropriate to send an update on how I am doing. Although mail has been slow lately. I am trying to stay positive. I am now working in the Laundry Department, which I am thankful. I was absolutely dreading the possibility of having to work in the kitchen dealing with all the meat, dairy, egg and animal products. Sometimes the smell from those things alone is enough to make me ill. Usually they put people in the kitchen to start as well. So I was fortunate. I was working as an orderly in the Laundry Dept. making \$5 a month. But, I was just recently promoted this week to one of only 2 drier operators in the entire compound. I now make 12 cents an hour as well. The days seem to be going by faster now and in the spare time I am reading a lot. I am able to play the guitar out at recreation and I also have started playing table tennis. I think I am getting pretty good. When I am not doing those things, I try to run around the yard track about 30 minutes to an hour every night as well. Thank you to everyone who has been showing support by writing letters, sending books, and donating money. I'll leave you with some recent quotes I have read in books that have made me smile and helped me get through the tough times.

With Love,

Jordan Halliday #15922-081
FCI La Tuna
Post Office Box 3000
Anthony, New Mexico 88021

"Under a Government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison." -Henry David Thoreau

"I would say that the best of us always comes out when we are against the wall, when we feel the sword dangling over head. Personally, I wouldn't have it any other way." -Don Juan Matus

You can write Jordan at the address above and/or donate with PayPal to the email xwritejordanx@gmail.com

12 Apr - Jalil Muntaqim Needs Our Support!

Jalil Muntaqim has a parole hearing coming up and folks are organizing to support the effort to get him free. Below are some ways you can help.

MORE:

BIOGRAPHY

Jalil Abdul Muntaqim (formerly Anthony Bottom) was 19 years old when he was arrested. He is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, and is one of the longest held political prisoners in the world.

Jalil was born October 18, 1951, in Oakland, CA. His early years were spent in San Francisco, where he actively participated in NAACP youth organizing during the civil rights movement.

After the assassination of Dr. King, Jalil began to believe a more militant response to racism and injustice was necessary. He began to look towards the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense for leadership and was recruited into the BPP by school friends who had since become Panthers.

Two months shy of his 20th birthday, Jalil was captured along with Albert “Nuh” Washington in a midnight shoot-out with San Francisco police. When Jalil was arrested, he was a high school graduate and employed as a social worker.

Later, it was uncovered that Jalil was a victim of the FBI's illegal COINTELPRO program designed specifically to neutralize and disrupt social movements working for racial and economic justice. Jalil was named specifically as a person to be targeted, and was subsequently charged with the murder of two NYC police officers. His conviction rested upon false evidence and perjured testimony.

Jalil is currently incarcerated at Attica Correctional Facility outside Buffalo, New York. He is 60 years old, and has been behind bars for 40 years. Despite an exemplary prison record and a continued commitment to the struggle for racial justice, Jalil is consistently a victim of harassment and targeting at Attica. He is up for parole for the 5th time this June.

WHY PAROLE JALIL?

While in San Quentin prison in California in 1976, Jalil launched the National Prisoners Campaign to Petition the United Nations to recognize the existence of political prisoners in the United States. Progressives nationwide joined this effort, and the petition was submitted in Geneva, Switzerland. As a result, the International Commission of Jurists then reported that political prisoners do in fact exist in the United States.

Jalil was one of the founders of the Jericho Movement in 1997. Over 6,000 supporters gathered at the Jericho 1998 march in Washington DC and thousands more at a rally in the Bay Area to demand amnesty for US political prisoners on the basis of international law. The Jericho Amnesty Movement aims to gain recognition by the U.S. government and the United Nations that political prisoners exist in this country, and that on the basis of international law, they should be granted amnesty because of the political nature of their cases.

Jalil has filed numerous lawsuits on behalf of prisoners. After many years of being denied the opportunity to attend college, Jalil graduated with a BS in Psychology and a BA in Sociology in 1994.

During his imprisonment, Jalil has become a father and a grandfather. Jalil has worked as an educator of other inmates and practices organizing and advocacy whenever possible to ensure the most adequate, humane treatment for all people. He has been repeatedly punished for these activities, through physical abuse, formal discipline, and numerous prison transfers.

Jalil is up for parole for the 5th time this June. After 40 years of incarceration, it is time for him to be free! Jalil is one of us.

This is not a history lesson. The same struggles continue today.

HELP RELEASE JALIL SO THAT HE CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE US FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Send a personal letter in support of Jalil's release to:

Andrea W. Evans

Chairwoman of Parole

New York State Division of Parole

97 Central Avenue

Albany, New York 12206

Commissioner Brian Fischer

New York State Division of Parole

97 Central Avenue

Albany, New York 12206

Please include Jalil's DIN number 77-A-4283, and refer to him by his given name, Anthony Bottom. If possible, a copy of this letter should also be sent to freejalilmuntaqim@gmail.com to be kept on file.

Letters of support can be as in-depth as you like, and should clearly express support for his release on parole to Buffalo this June.

2. Sign the petition on Change.org - Release Jalil Muntaqim

3. Spread the word! Tell others about Jalil's case, and educate them about the importance of releasing him this June.

4. Write Jalil to express your support, and ask him directly how you can help.

A. Jalil Bottom 77-A-4283
Attica Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 149
Attica, New York 14011-0149

For more information about Jalil and how you can support him, email freejalilmuntaqim@gmail.com or visit his website: www.freejalil.com

12 Apr - Judge gives another break to FBI informant Frank Ambrose

A judge has cut more than three years off the prison sentence of a former radical environmentalist who set a major fire at Michigan State University and burned down new homes before becoming a government informant. Here's a corporate news story about it.

MORE:

Frank Ambrose was rewarded again for his substantial assistance to the government, which means he's apparently still helping authorities while in prison. U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney didn't elaborate Monday after cutting his sentence from nine years to just under six years.

The prosecutor and Ambrose's attorney have made five sealed filings in the case since January. The Associated Press recently asked the Kalamazoo-based judge to make the documents public, but he declined.

"The interests of confidentiality outweigh the interests of this stuff being public," Assistant U.S. Attorney Hagen Frank said Wednesday, declining further comment.

Ambrose has been in federal prison since 2008. A message seeking comment from his attorney, Sol Wisenberg, was not immediately returned.

Ambrose, 37, was a radical environmentalist who identified himself with the Earth Liberation Front, known as ELF. On New Year's Eve 1999, he and wife Marie Mason set a fire at Michigan State University's Agriculture Hall to protest plant research, causing \$1 million in damage. He also spiked trees in Indiana and burned homes under construction in Michigan.

But the FBI didn't catch him until 2007 when agents got an extraordinary break: A man foraging for wood in a Detroit-area trash bin found Ambrose's writings, a gas mask, an M-80 explosive and other possessions.

Ambrose subsequently became an informant, cooperation that helped when he was first sentenced in 2008. The prosecutor at the time called his assistance "nothing short of remarkable." Ambrose had turned on his wife and secretly recorded conversations at gatherings of radical environmental groups.

In 2009, Mason was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison.

14 Apr – a series of unfortunate events by Mandy Hiscocks

2010 Toronto G20 prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has a few more blog entries that we've pasted below.

MORE:

the past few days have been the worst yet. since i got here, i've been putting a lot of effort into a few specific things: my health, a daily routine, responding to mail, working on the blog and other projects. those things have been keeping me pretty grounded and okay. and now, one by one, they have all been dealt some pretty serious blows.

first, i got sick. i probably brought this upon myself by writing in a couple of letters how crappy it would be to get sick in here. 'knock on cardboard,' i joked, 'knock on paper bag, that hasn't happened yet.' hah hah. a few days later i come down with the Unit 2f cold, waking up in the middle of the night with a headache i can feel behind my eyes, in my ears and into my teeth. <sigh> should have knocked on pencil i guess. anyway, as predicted, being sick in here is really not fun. there is no getting away from the noise of thirty people plus one blaring television, for one thing. and you can't just ask for painkillers when you need them. the nurse won't even give out over-the-counter cough syrup. someone requested something for a cold once. 'what did she say?' i asked. 'she said "stay sick, bitch."' heh. i am sure that's not what she really said, but it does seem to be the attitude around here at times. i hope i don't ever come down with anything serious. knock on pencil.

at the same time i got sick, i got a new cellie. she is great, really nice, but she goes to bed very late and doesn't sleep well. the beds are a couple of feet apart and we're locked in a small space with a light on all night. that means i also go to bed very late and don't sleep well, which means i don't get up early, which means i don't do the stretch and workout routine before breakfast.

on march 15, while i was 1) sick and 2) dealing with this new not really sleeping thing, there was a search. the general consensus on the range (which does not make it true) was that it was because a couple of inmates had been caught smoking or about to smoke something in their cell the night before. so, despite the fact that we had all been hauled off the range a week ago for a strip search while guards searched our cells, we had to do it all over again.

-LADIES! up against the wall, you're going out.

there is much grumbling, but it turns to happy chatter once we realize it's nice outside and remember that yard hadn't been called that morning. most of us make a beeline for the corner of the yard furthest from the door, hoping to go in last. due to the splitting headache i pass on the customary hand-stand-against-the-wall contest (get a bunch of girls together and eventually there will be gymnastics) and close my eyes and soak up the sun instead. searches are a pain but at least we get yard today!

eventually it's my turn and i have to go in. the guard who strip searches me looks like it's the last thing in the world she wants to be doing and, frankly, i can relate. after the search i join the rest of 2f in a program room that looks suspiciously like a grade school classroom, and we wait. and wait. . .and wait. it's getting hot and people are getting cranky – it's taking forever. what are they doing to our stuff in there? it's been so long that the guard at the door takes pity on us and asks if we want to go back outside. yes indeed, we certainly do.

so we go outside to wait for more, people's hopes of squeezing in that last phone call before dinner fading along with the sunshine. and then:

-HISCOCKS!
(oh, shit.)

two white shirts are waiting for me inside. the male speaks:

-remember that conversation we had last week?

-yep, you told me to keep no more than a week's worth of letters. 50-60. i did that, and i sent a bunch of stuff to my property.

he denies that this is what he said. it is, in fact, what he said.

-you're going to go up there and get rid of most of your stuff. here are the guidelines for what you can keep. he hands me a piece of paper. this is what's on it:

APPROVED CELL CONTENTS:

- Health and beauty aids as posted in each wing.
- Books/magazines and photographs (up to a maximum of six, none of which may be of that or any other inmate in the facility) as posted in each wing.
- Games as posted in each wing.
- Stationary as posted in each wing.
- It should be noted that due to ongoing security concerns these items and allowable amounts may be amended.
- All excess items will be considered to be contraband and will be removed. Also, containers (eg. Shampoo bottles etc.) that have been used to hold something other than the printed contents will be considered to be contraband.
- Any contraband items that have been removed from a cell will be noted on a Search Report and/or Occurrence Report.
- clothing as designated by the Unit Rules for each area.

none of this is very useful since i am being escorted straight to my cell by a guard, and – obviously- that is not where the "Unit Rule as posted in each wing" are posted. but the paper does have one interesting piece of information, right at the top:

POLICY

in an effort to minimize the amount of personal property or items that sometimes accumulate in inmates cells and to make searching of inmates cells more expedient the following is a list of approved cell contents.

(as in, the highly suspect "fire hazard" story i've previously been given is quite possibly bullshit. in any case it's not mentioned here. they just want easier searches.)

the white shirt made sure to let me know that 'the reason we're singling you out is that on this entire unit you have the most stuff.' those of you who know me and have seen the state of my home and/or storage locker know, and i don't deny that this could be true. in this case, however, it's not. a lot of people here have a lot of stuff – i shared a cell briefly with a woman who had at least 20 books. but they were religious, and the articles in my room and the pages of notes and drafts i'm working on are political. the jail might want me to sit around playing cards and watching mindless television all day but i prefer to be more productive with my time. is this a problem? apparently so.

we get to my cell. it's a mess, it looks like there's been a break and enter which i guess there sort of has. letters have been ripped from envelopes and are all over the bed. papers that were neatly organized into folders are strewn about randomly, notes and drafts for different projects are all mixed up (they all look the same: pencil on lined paper). articles sent in by friends, legal documents, blank paper – everything is everywhere.

now let's be clear: everything i own in here (including clothes, books, toiletries, scrabble) can fit on a small shelf and in a Tupperware about the size of a bankers box, with room to spare. we're not talking a lot of stuff here. but it's everything i have and everything i have to do. needless to say i'm slightly devastated; the guard is unmoved.

- keep only what you really need, put the rest in these property envelopes.
(yes, well, that would have been a lot easier if you hadn't mixed everything all up, now wouldn't it?)

i'm overwhelmed by the chaos, and very cognisant of all the people waiting to be let back inside – waiting only for me to be done. it's my fault they're still out there. it's faulty logic: i know we don't blame the black bloc for police violence; i can't blame the inmates who were caught last night so what is happening to me because of this search; i shouldn't blame myself for what the guards did to my cell. but still i can't help feeling that the amount of time it's taking is all my fault so i rush. it doesn't help that the guard is standing in the doorway watching – she's being very nice about the whole situation but she's stressing me out. so i throw stuff into envelopes kind of randomly- it's hard to pay attention because i am shaking with helpless rage and frustration at the stupidity of all of this – i realize later that some really important things are missing. did the guards take them without telling me (that's not allowed) or did i mistakenly put them into the property envelopes? only one way to find out: i ask if i can take a quick look through the envelopes before they're taken to property. the first answer is “i don't see why not, they're still sitting on the desk.” then, five minutes later: “you're going to have to fill out a request form with exactly what's missing.” <sigh> how very efficient. and how very unlikely to actually work.

i fill out the form anyway.

“this is what i am missing from the search: at least 20 PAID FOR stamped envelopes (Canadian, International and US) and a green folder from the social worker containing work in progress and paperwork from my lawyer. i know exactly what these things look like so it would be easiest if you gave me 15 minutes with the property envelopes i hastily assembled on March 15th. thanks :)”

later on the male white shirt from before comes in with the request form, to tell me that the guy who can deal with me is away until tomorrow, and this might all take some time. it's amazing how simple things can be made complicated here.

it's hard to explain why this has all been so difficult. i'm not a particularly emotional person but that night i found myself struggling not to cry at the table and eventually i just had to find a corner away from the masses. it's embarrassing because what do i really have to cry about? compared to the stories i hear every day on the range my life is wonderful – even in here. i guess clinging to a predictable routine gave me some sense of control, making sure i answered all my mail made me feel like i am still part of a community, and having projects to work on made me feel less useless in here. it makes sense that in control, connected and valuable is not how our jailers want us to feel.

i have to admit that i feel targeted. i try to keep the-world-is-against-me feelings in check in this place because that could really get out of hand. i try to give the people who work here the benefit of the doubt, so i tell myself that maybe it wasn't political, maybe i need to calm down with conspiracy theories. sure, there are other people with a lot of stuff in their cells that didn't get treated like this; sure, i'm still on maximum security for no good reason, but. . .

but in fact it is political. this morning the female white shirt involved in the search went into my cell. i assume she's checking that i got rid of enough stuff, which i definitely did. she calls me in. oh for fucks sakes, what now? she's got a problem with the political prisoner calender page up on my wall.

-this has to go into your property.

-why?

-because of the message. it's the anarchy symbol.

-there's no circle A on here.

(the picture is a pile of shoes with a pair of boots standing out conspicuously.)

-it's the message it sends. send it to your property.

this is the text: “with undercover agents, infiltrators and informants/ the state tries to undermine our movements/ because we resist, because we are strong.” shockingly subversive, isn't it? This is how threatening are movements are to power.

tuesday march 20.

well it's been a few days now and i'm over it. i'm not sick anymore, my sleepless nights have ended because my cellie moved to minimum security, and i had two really nice visits. i put up a beautiful poem (thanks Adam!) that i'd managed to salvage from the wreckage, called Imagine the Angels of Bread by Martin Espada. here's my favourite part:

This is the year that those
who swim the border's undertow
and shiver in boxcars
are greeted with trumpets and drums
at the first railroad crossing
on the other side.

isn't that an amazing image? i read the poem every morning to give myself hope for what the world could be. and i've learned my lesson from this latest bout of bullshit:

- 1) don't expect that behaving reasonably in here means i will be treated reasonably in return;
- 2) be flexible! don't rely on one routine that i'll never be able to completely control;
- 3) don't be so attached to things – they can and probably will be taken away.

sunday march 25.

on march 21, i get called out of afternoon lockup. “what have i done now?” i ask the guard, and he replies: “it's hard to know around here sometimes.” waiting for me in a little room just outside the range are the white shirt who didn't like the message of the political prisoner calender, and the Deputy Superintendent, who is caught a bit off guard when she introduces herself and i stick out my hand. (why did i shake a jailer's hand? no idea. force of habit, i guess. and i haven't lost the expectation of being someone's equal, even in here). she tells me that tomorrow she'll arrange for me to look through the things i lost to the search. this is very exciting, and also completely unexpected – i really didn't think they'd bother dealing with my request.

the next day she's stuck in meetings so it doesn't happen. i know how that feels, too many meetings, poor woman. but what i wouldn't give for a meeting to go to right now!

on march 23, it actually happens. i'm brought to a small room and all of the property envelopes are brought in with me, along with a pile of mail i was never given with the “RECEIVED ON” stamps dating back to february 28. a couple of the letter are addressed to Leah – apparently our mail is read by the same security people. i'm told i can look at but not keep the three magazines that were sent to me: The Peak's Criminalization of Dissent Issue (vol. 51, issue 4), the march/april 2012 issues of The Dominion (#81) and the january/february 2012 issue of Briarpatch (vol. 41 #1)

- why can't i have them?
- because we don't want them being passed on to other inmates. you can't perpetuate an opinion. (it's okay to share the Globe and Mail, but apparently progressive ideas are to be kept in check).

i flip through the Briarpatch.

- what's wrong with this one?

she looks through it, seems unsure.

- it's the discretion of the Superintendent. she's not willing at this point to allow it in your cell.
- i'd like a reason, preferably in writing, why i can't have this.

she leaves and comes back.

-she doesn't want to give you a reason at this time. (indeed. she hasn't thought of one that sounds remotely reasonable yet, no doubt.)

i look at the pile of stuff from the search, and notice that the green folder i had asked about is not in a property envelope. i'd been starting to suspect it wasn't actually in my cell when i was brought in to clean up, because despite my angry, slightly shell-shocked state, i'm pretty sure i would have noticed putting something that green, that big and that important into property.

-why is this not in the property envelope?

-some things were placed in there for security to review.

and there we have it. the truth comes out. security went through things that i was told to send to my property "because there was too much stuff in my cell." some questions remain, among them:

- 1) did security take the folder before or after i cleaned up the room?
 - 2) what else did they look through?
 - 3) was everything returned?
 - 4) was the entire search a cover for security to go through my stuff. . .?
- (see, there go the conspiracy theories, getting out of hand again).

so, now that it's all over, i have the stuff back that i needed and my reactions to the entire fiasco seem, in hindsight, overly dramatic. but it wouldn't be fair to share my experiences with you through the lenses of rationality and perspective, would it? it would make me look better but it wouldn't be real.

i learned another important lesson: don't blame the guards unless i know for a fact they're the ones making the decisions. in my case, the shit seems to be trickling down from the top – the guards are not the real problem here. blame, and credit, where they are due.

one last thing: i was forced to store a lot of letters that i hadn't had a chance to respond to yet. if you've been expecting a letter from me and haven't received one, that's why. to check to see if i've mailed you something, or if i received anything from you you can email mandyjailmail@gmail.com. i'm really sorry about this – basically, you're all so amazing and write me so much that i can't keep up! i'm going to try harder to stay on top of it.

love (and quite a lot of rage this time),
mandy :)

All Out for Byron (20 Apr)

ALL OUT FOR BYRON! ~~April 23~~, DATE TBA 361 University Avenue, Toronto.

note: since this post was published, Byron's verdict was pushed back another couple of weeks. Please **do not show up on April 23rd** as there will be NO court.

hi everyone,

first of all, thank you so much for all the birthday wishes! i had a great day and i am going to tell you all about it in my next post.

today, though, i want to talk about Byron Sonne. Byron was arrested on all kinds of serious (not to mention seriously trumped up) charges related to the 2010 G20 summit. for background information on the case, check out the excellent website freebyron.org.

like myself, Byron was arrested before the summit got started – but while i was granted bail after one month, he spent close to a year in pre-trial custody. and while half of the “guilty” “co-conspirators” have already done their time and gotten out, Byron is still waiting for a verdict almost two years after his arrest.

now it's time.

on the morning of april 23rd the verdict will be read at the Ontario Superior Court, 361 University Avenue in Toronto. i'm not sure of the time but 9am is always a safe bet. the courtroom will be posted on free byron.org that morning. you can always find that out at the desk beside the main floor escalators.

so let's pack the courtroom and show our support! for obvious and frustrating reasons, i'll be there in spirit only :)

the cops and the crown have tried to tie Byron to the G20 conspiracy case, but i didn't know him before. i don't think any of us did. i went to a couple of his court dates, though, and saw for myself the ridiculous nature of the “evidence” and the desperately vindictive tone of the crown's “case”. i also was able to see for myself what i had only read of before: the strength, dignity and sense of humour with which Byron has dealt, with the arrest, the detention, and the severe effects on his personal life. so while i didn't know Byron Sonne before, i am very happy to know him now. he's been quite the inspiration.

the state's paranoid fabrication of conspiracies and sinister plots where none exists makes good sensationalist media and helps justify massive and expensive police operations. it's pathetic, really – and anyway it backfires, because we keep meeting great people in their police stations and jails and courthouses. so thanks for that, state. all my respect and solidarity to you, Byron. and the rest of you, all out to the courthouse!

14 Apr - 3 Arrests After Melee Outside NYC Starbucks

We're including a couple of news accounts relating to an anti-police brutality street demonstration that happened after this year's anarchist book fair. Please keep the source in mind as you read these accounts.

MORE:

Police say a mob of 25 anarchists fought with officers and tried to use eight-foot-long metal pipes to smash windows of a Starbucks in the East Village on Saturday.

The incident happened around 8:45 p.m. at the Starbucks on the corner of Astor Place and Lafayette Street. Customers were sent diving under tables during the attack.

The mob was unable to smash the thick protective plexiglass windows and there ended up being no damage to the store.

Police arrested three men. All three men face multiple charges. Two officers sustained minor injuries in the melee.

Police said a crowd, some wearing masks, stormed out of an Anarchist Book Fair at Church across the street from Washington Square Park. Many participants at the sixth annual event tipped garbage cans and spray-painted anarchist symbols on businesses in the area.

Police made another arrest at an after-party at the 6th Street community center. Officers were also attacked at that location as they tried to remove the suspect from the building.

Update from Metro.US: Reports that the crowd was as strong as 150 and that officers were assaulted with pipes, rocks and bottles. “One man was arrested and charged with assault and inciting a riot after Saturday's incident, cops said.

Another man was also arrested and charged with assault and inciting a riot, and a third was arrested and charged with criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.”

From Gothamist:

At least two men were arrested in front of the [Sixth Street Community Center](#) around 10:00 p.m. after the NYPD responded to a call that bottles and projectiles were being thrown off the building's roof. "The police just came and brutalized two guys who were standing outside the stoop," an employee of the community center who declined to give their name said. Another witness, Marc C., said the two men were beaten by the police before being taken into custody. "It was ten cops on two guys, just kicking and punching them. They were plainclothes officers, so it just looked like a fight on the street. Then the patrol cars showed up."

The community center was hosting an after party for the [Anarchist Book Fair](#). Around an hour before police showed up, [Tompkins Square Park was shut down](#) after reports that a large crowd [vandalized storefronts and was congregating in the park](#). Attendees of the after party say the two events were completely unrelated. "I heard that they had to close the park because of some Occupy stuff," the community center employee said, "But they were just looking to settle what happened in the park, and saw people outside our event that fit the description."

As of this writing, the NYPD press office had no information regarding the arrests.

A security guard at 630 Sixth Street, Marc Adorno, described the two men who were arrested as, "Two guys, two big guys with tattoos and backpacks. While the cops were cuffing one of them, he screamed, 'What are you arresting me for?' " Police initially attempted to gain entry to the community center before the manager was called to take them up on the roof. "Impossible. It would have been impossible for people to get up there. When the cops got up there, nobody was there," the community center employee said.

"It may have been the neighbors who complained," Adorno said. "They always complain. But it wasn't very noisy tonight." He added, "The cops got up on the roof across the street and started shining the light over to the other side, to see if anyone was hiding."

Sixth Street was closed to vehicles for around an hour, and pedestrian traffic was halted. As the attendees of the party exited the community center, [the NYPD officers watched them silently as they left](#). A total of around 30 NYPD officers remained on Sixth Street during the ordeal. "We're not gonna arrest you unless you do something illegal," one white-shirted officer said to the groups leaving the building.

The police remained facing the community center for the better part of an hour. Shortly before midnight, one of the white-shirted supervisors announced, "They're just [having a band here](#). Let's go."

"There were ten cops screaming and pounding on my window," said a neighbor who declined to be named because they're employed by the city. "They storm into my building to get on the roof and they won't tell me why, they won't tell me what they're doing. They lie to me and say they're checking on something that's wrong with the roof." The officers had entered the city employee's building across the street to shine a spotlight on the roof across the street.

"They even left the door open," the neighbor added. "I work for the Bloomberg administration. I work for the Department of Health and Human Services. And I'm filing a complaint." The neighbor continued, "I'm glad the community center is there, it's a good thing for this block. But it's unacceptable for the police to just storm into buildings late at night chasing someone who they think is across the street throwing bottles."

16 Apr - Norberto Gonzalez Claudio Seeks Release on Bond

We're including a corporate news article about Norberto Gonzalez Claudio's bid to be released on bond in the lead up to his upcoming trial.

MORE:

A 66-year-old Puerto Rican nationalist awaiting trial in a record-setting 1983 robbery has asked to be released on bond, saying that the conditions of his detention are restricting his communication with family and trusted advisers as he considers his defense strategy.

Norberto Gonzalez Claudio, who was arrested by the FBI last May, said in documents filed Sunday that he would honor a promise to appear for trial. His attorneys named eight people in Puerto Rico who are willing to

co-sign a bond and said Gonzalez has a son in Stratford, Conn., willing to act as his father's custodian.

"He understands fully that a willful failure to appear would result in very serious consequences to his family, and he will not allow that to happen," his attorneys wrote to the judge in U.S. District Court in Hartford.

Thomas Carson, a spokesman for the Connecticut U.S. attorney, said prosecutors will respond to the motion in court.

Gonzalez is accused of aiding the 1983 robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo armored car depot in West Hartford, Conn., that was orchestrated by Los Macheteros, a group that claimed responsibility for robberies, murders and bombings in the 1970s and '80s in the name of Puerto Rican independence. At the time, it was the biggest cash robbery in U.S. history.

He has been detained at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Rhode Island, where he complained last year about treatment by "imperialist abusers." He says his time outside his cell has been severely restricted and he has not been allowed to meet in-person with visiting relatives.

In the court filing, he said monitoring of his prison visits and phone calls -- part of the restrictions he describes as punishment for his political viewpoints -- keep him from consulting in confidence with his family and political advisers.

"He thus has no space whatsoever to explore with those closest to him -- and in his own language -- how to best approach his defense," his lawyers wrote.

Gonzalez has pleaded not guilty to federal charges including bank robbery, conspiracy and transportation of stolen money.

He and his brother, Avelino, lived as fugitives for more than two decades before they were both arrested in recent years. Avelino Gonzalez Claudio is serving a seven-year prison sentence after pleading guilty in 2010 to his role in the heist.

The robbery was allegedly carried out by Victor Manuel Gerena, a Wells Fargo driver recruited by Los Macheteros, and authorities say other members of the group including Norberto Gonzalez helped to smuggle the money out of the United States. Prosecutors have said they believe the money was used to finance bombings and attacks in their push for independence for the U.S. Caribbean territory.

17 Apr - Torturous Milestone: 40 Years in Solitary for "Angola 3" inmates

On the world stage, Guantanamo may well stand as the epitome of American human rights abuses. But when it comes to torture on US soil, that grim distinction is held by two aging African-American men, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox.

MORE:

As of today, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox have spent 40 years in near-continuous solitary confinement in the bowels of the Louisiana prison system. Most of those years were spent at the notorious Angola Prison, which is why the pair are still known as members of the Angola 3. The third man, Robert King, was released in 2001—his conviction was overturned after he'd spent 29 years in solitary.

Wallace and Woodfox were first thrown into the hole on April 17, 1972, following the killing of Brent Miller, a young prison guard. The men contend that they were targeted by prison authorities and convicted of murder not based on the actual evidence—which was dubious at best—but because they were members of the Black Panther Party's prison chapter, which was organizing against horrendous conditions at Angola. This political affiliation, they say, also accounted for their seemingly permanent stay in solitary.

For four decades, the men have spent at least 23 hours a day in cells measuring 6 x 9 feet. These days, they are allowed out one hour a day to take a shower or a stroll along the cell block. Three days a week, they may use that hour to exercise alone in a fenced yard. Wallace is now 70; Woodfox is 65. Their lawyers argue that both have endured physical injury and "severe mental anguish and other psychological damage" from living most of their adult lives in lockdown. According to medical reports submitted to the court, the men suffer from arthritis, hypertension, and kidney failure, as well as memory impairment, insomnia, claustrophobia, anxiety, and depression. Even the psychologist brought in by the state confirmed these findings.

Over the past decade, as news of their situation spread, the Angola 3 has become an international cause célèbre. They have thousands of supporters and their case has been taken up by several major human-rights and civil-liberties organizations including Amnesty International, which intends today to deliver a 65,000-signature petition to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, demanding that Wallace and Woodfox be released from solitary into the general prison population.

Angola warden Burl Cain said he would keep Woodfox in lockdown regardless of his crimes: "I still know that he is still trying to practice Black Pantherism."

The Angola 3 have been the subject of two documentaries. In the *Land of the Free*, narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, came out in 2010. A brand new doc, *Herman's House*, premiered at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival this past Saturday. It tells the story of Wallace's collaboration with a young artist—via letters and phone calls—to design the "dream house" he envisioned from his prison cell. The BBC also launched a radio documentary last week in anticipation of the anniversary, and the story has received international coverage, some of the earliest and most comprehensive coming from Mother Jones. (See [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

In each man's case, a federal judge has supported the claim that they did not receive fair trials. And although the state successfully appealed these decisions, the men are not through fighting to overturn their convictions. Meanwhile, a team of distinguished lawyers is pushing forward on a lawsuit claiming the men have been subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the Constitution. In 2009, a US magistrate judge allowed the suit to proceed. A few years earlier, the same judge had noted that Wallace and Woodfox had been isolated for "durations so far beyond the pale that this court has not found anything even remotely comparable in the annals of American jurisprudence."

The civil suit also claims First Amendment violations, based on the contention that the men are being held in solitary for their political beliefs. By all accounts, it represents the pair's only hope of making it out of solitary alive. Elderly and frail, with decades of essentially clean disciplinary records, it's hard to imagine that Wallace and Woodfox could present any threat to prison safety. But they may present a threat to the reputations of two men who are powerful fixtures in Louisiana politics.

Burl Cain, the warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola—profiled [here](#)—holds power over the lives of more than 5,100 men living at the notorious plantation prison, which occupies a piece of land the size of Manhattan. Widely celebrated in Christian evangelical circles for having brought thousands of incarcerated sinners to Jesus, Cain has stated that he believes the only true path to rehabilitation is Christian redemption. Those who follow his lead and become born again see their freedoms and opportunities expand at Angola, while those who defy him are dealt with harshly.

In a 2008 deposition, attorneys for Woodfox asked Cain, "Let's just for the sake of argument assume, if you can, that he is not guilty of the murder of Brent Miller." Cain responded, "Okay, I would still keep him in CCR [solitary]...I still know that he is still trying to practice Black Pantherism, and I still would not want him walking around my prison because he would organize the young new inmates. I would have me all kind of problems, more than I could stand, and I would have the blacks chasing after them...He has to stay in a cell while he's at Angola."

The following year, in a deposition for the Angola 3's civil case, Cain was pressed for his views on the Black Panther Party. "It's a militant party," he told lawyer George Kendall, who went on to recite some Black Panther tenets:

Q: How about this, "We want full employment for our people"?

A: That's great.

Q: No problem with that?

A: No.

Q: "We want end to the robbery by the capitalists of our black community"...Is that militant in your eyes?...

A: It is.

Q: How so?

A: Because the capitalists are divisive in the country. It's too general, capitalists don't go rob a group of people.

Q: There are plenty of people at Wall Street at this moment that—

A: When he said "our people" he's talking about black people, so they robbed everybody, me too. We've got to get away from this race stuff.

Cain also seemed to suggest that solitary confinement could be preferable to life in the general population. When he had to move a group of prisoners out of solitary and into a high-security dormitory, he told Kendall, "It shocked me when some of them didn't want to come out of the cell. Honestly, I couldn't believe that. He continued...

"It turned out they were comfortable where they were and they liked their little privacy, they liked their little room, they liked their little box, they liked that nobody had to deal with them. And then I got the complaint over in the dormitory that they didn't like being with those other people because they just felt like they wanted their privacy. So it taught me a lot about humans, just that little dormitory."...

Q: Is there such a thing as people, if they stay in their cell too long that they have trouble living....

A: It wasn't trouble, it wasn't trouble. It was that they liked it, they got used to it and they liked it.

Q: They're more comfortable in the cell than they are in the dorm.

A: Well, in prison it's privacy. How do you like to go to the bathroom with 10 other people maybe at the same time and you're sitting right beside them, versus having your own private little bathroom, your private little toilet...Now where would you really rather be?

In fact, both Wallace and Woodfox were eventually moved to separate prisons, perhaps in an effort to dispel the Angola 3 mystique and to ensure that if they are eventually released from solitary, they will never be housed together. Wallace now resides in a maximum security prison near Baton Rouge while Woodfox in a remote lockup in the northwestern part of the state. Both remain in solitary, in conditions some of their supporters say may be worse than those at Angola.

After Woodfox's conviction was overturned, the state allegedly emailed the neighborhood association where his niece lived to warn that a murderer would be moving in.

If there is any man more opposed than Burl Cain to releasing Wallace and Woodfox from solitary, it might be James "Buddy" Caldwell, Louisiana's attorney general. An ambitious Democrat-turned-Republican known for his Elvis impersonations, Caldwell took office in 2007 and was re-elected last year. He has characterized the Angola 3 as political radicals and called Woodfox "the most dangerous person on the planet."

In the fall of 2008, after Woodfox's conviction was overturned, a federal court judge ordered him released on bail pending the state's appeal. Caldwell opposed the release "with every fiber of my being." Woodfox planned to stay with his niece, but his lawyers uncovered evidence that the state had emailed the neighborhood association of the gated community where she lived to say that a murderer would be moving in next door. Caldwell soon convinced the conservative 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals to revoke Woodfox's bail. He also brought Woodfox's habeas case to the full 5th Circuit, which reversed the lower court ruling and reinstated his conviction.

Woodfox and Wallace now likely face their last chance for new trials. Wallace's habeas claim is under consideration by a federal court, while Woodfox's lawyers have mounted a fresh challenge, claiming racial discrimination in the selection of his jury's foreperson—a key evidentiary hearing is scheduled for May. The men's civil case, meanwhile, might finally go to trial this year. Assuming it moves forward as expected, it stands to set precedents that could one way or another affect the fates of some 80,000 people now held in solitary confinement in US prisons and jails.

20 Apr – Notes from Leah Henderson

Here are a couple of writings by 2010 Toronto G20 prisoner Leah Henderson.

MORE:

Why Me?

So, this can't normally be said in jail: everything has changed.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Mandy's co-accused and I've been on a maximum security range at Vanier for the last 100 days. I've been approximately 50 feet from Mandy (though not allowed to nor able to communicate with her) and the day-to-day that you've read about on this blog is very similar to what my experience has been.

Today, I was going about my regular routine when, after lunch, during quite time, I was brought out of my cell (which is not normally done during lockup) to see a social worker. She informed me that I would be moving to Unit 3, a medium security work-range for sentenced people. Now I am sure many of you were wondering what I was: Why now, half-way through my sentence? I will get to that part of the story in a minute. However, the question I hope we can all ask, often and loudly, is: Why me?

Why me? When women here on immigration matters are kept on maximum security?

Why me? When women here, for protecting themselves against domestic abuse are criminalized and kept on maximum security?

Why me? When Mandy is here for 6 months longer than I am?

Back to the story of how this all happened.

All of this started to move and shift last week when my mother phoned the jail. That's right, this started with my mom. I think it is important to note here that our social justice movement histories are often started and impacted by mother's actions. So, my mom called the jail and enquired as to why Mandy and I were still being held on maximum security. The same day, an advocate with Elizabeth Fry started asking the same questions. On the way to a doctor's appointment a classification staff stops me.

CS: I understand you are confused about why you are on maximum.

Me: Not really.

CS: Well, I've told you, it is the nature of your charges.

Me: What does that mean?

CS: You came as part of an organization.

Me: What organization?

CS: The G20

(to which i laughed to myself, because i would not be here if i was a G20 Nation State)

Me: What? (confused look)

CS: You were part of a group.

Me: What group, and how do you know this information? My statement of facts, read in at my sentencing hearing, didn't identify me as part of any organization.

CS: Well, it must have been in your pre-sentencing report. I read it somewhere.

Me: I didn't have a pre-sentencing report.

(silence)

Me: I think Mandy and I are being discriminated against because of our political beliefs, that is a human rights violation.

(Ding, ding, ding. Oh, magic legal words)

That was pretty much the end of the conversation.

Back to today.

After the social worker informed me that I would be going up to 3, she told me that the administration knows I won't work, this is true. I am a prison abolitionist and i will not help run this place with my labour. The legislation states that sentenced inmates have to work, here women work for 2 days in "cook chill," the kitchen, and are "payed" a bag of chips and a chocolate bar, this is unacceptable.

Many women here would like to work, it passes the time, and if it was done better, we could even learn some transferable skills, but they deserve to have a choice beyond maximum security or working and they deserve proper pay for their labour. If the state is going to continue to criminalize poor people of colour, indigenous people, queer people and people with disabilities, they need to pay for it – literally. Maybe then, they will reconsider the cost analysis of their next super-jail.

So, here I am on medium security, the lights go out out night, your window opens, you have your own cell, and the door doesn't lock. I am here because I have the power of a movement, that can get the media's attention, I am here because of my mothers' persistence, I am here because of the colour of my skin and where i was born – my privilege. And I am here, and Mandy is not, because she has this blog – and everyone that runs this jail is terrified of what she will expose.

I won't stay if they make me work, I will be placed on a misconduct and brought back to max security, I don't know if I will have that battle, or if they will leave me in limbo, or if they will leave me alone. I will keep you updated and now that my daily life is different than Mandy's I will tell you more about what medium security looks like if I get the chance to see it for at least a few days.

Maximum to Medium (to Maximum)

this entry was originally sent as a letter, however, the prison administration refused to mail it and returned the letter to Leah

I've been asked a lot recently about the differences between medium and maximum security at Vanier. In visits, letters, even a whisper in the hallway from Mandy... "What's it like?". After 10 days, here are some of my observations...

Let's start with the physical. Gone are the tall ceilings and one loud echoing room where, apart from your cell, you do all of your living in maximum security. In medium security you get your own cell (no cellies) in a hallway. Your 'wing' attaches to another wing which share one small communal room, which is about the same size of a large living room in a house. Your cell door never locks. Instead of having a toilet in your cell you can

walk to a communal washroom. The walls are painted a sunshine yellow and instead of cinder block walls, smooth fairly normal-looking walls exist in most places here. The TV isn't so high up that you can't touch it, and in your cell, while you can't really see out your window, it does open - fresh air!

The theatre of jail is an important part of the incarceration process. How the stage is set matters, and psychologically can have big implications. I was shocked that I even noticed the lack of cinder block walls in my cell. I didn't know or realize I was aware of them when I was on maximum security

Apart from the setting another difference between medium and maximum security are the 'comforts' they try to give you. This falls into the classic 'reward and punish' system. On medium security you have access to a fridge - but 'misuse' the fridge (I'm still trying to figure out how someone 'misuses' the fridge) and it will be taken away. We just got our fridge back after it was gone for 2 weeks because someone put a muffin in the freezer.

There is an element to medium security that reminds me of house arrest. You can feel amongst the inmates the threat of 'being bounced' - moved back to maximum security. With that threat comes an element of self-policing. Are we too loud? Can your door be open right now? Is it worth the risk?

Other comforts include being able to go to the gym; you have a larger yard that isn't a concrete box that has grass, trees, and soon-to-be baby geese. More stage-setting psychological punishment for those on maximum than anything that has to do with 'security'. There is a library the size of a large closet, though it really just resembles the book carts we get on maximum, and every Saturday night, in an effort to teach 'healthy leisure', we have a movie night and there's yoga class on Wednesdays. There is also a beauty parlour where you can get your hair and make-up done - I've yet to go, I doubt I will. The food is the same, visits are the same (I still can't have touch visits), but in medium you can keep as many pieces of mail in your cell as you want (not so in maximum) and your magazines can have staples in them.

So apart from the physical surroundings and the 'comforts', another way to have more power over inmates is through fear. The more fear, the less likely for rebellion. If you have to ask 'pretty, pretty, please' for a clean set of clothing you will remain dependent, thus, more fearful. In maximum security you get two sets of clothing and you hope they have enough on clean laundry day (there are often shortages, deprivation is a powerful tool). On medium security, when you get here you are given a week's worth of clothing and access to do your own laundry several times a week. You can also get a toothbrush, toothpaste, and other supplies when you need them without asking.

But none of this is as noticeable to me as the identity of inmates on maximum versus medium. From what I can tell, based on conversations and observations, the make up of inmates who come to and stay on medium security, is whiter, less visibly queer, and less noticeably (physically or behaviourally) disabled.

In jail, if many women of colour hang out together they risk being labeled a gang, and therefore a security threat and so they stay on maximum. On top of this, a majority of guards are white and while the racism can sometimes be more subtle, the results are the same - a disproportionate racial identity make up, with white inmates benefiting from white guards continuing the systemic racism of the prison-industrial-complex.

If you're visibly queer and find someone while you're here, chances are you'll get busted or be assumed to be breaking the 'no fooling around' rule (which I haven't actually seen written down anywhere). If you have a close friend, regardless of whether they are your lover or not, the assumption is that you're breaking rules, and, you guessed it, you are bounced back to maximum security.

Medium security is not wheelchair accessible. If you have a mental health disability that has you processed differently, need to ask a lot of questions, have highs or lows, or just generally do not fit in to the 'good prisoner' model, well, you're shit out of luck too. Stay on maximum. You're 'hard to manage'.

My time in medium security was short-lived. Ten days after being brought there I was bounced back to

maximum security and placed on a misconduct for disobeying a direct order. I was ordered to go and work in the kitchen, and I refused.

I'm back on maximum with the queers, (self-identified) freaks, and the migrants. It's louder, we are locked up more often, and we can't be trusted with a fridge, but every day I witness moments where we reach out to each other in support which is in itself an act of resistance.

21 Apr – Remembering Ricky by Jaan Laaman

On the sixth month anniversary of his death, Jaan Laaman remembers his son.

MORE:

My Friends, peregond,

All of us who loved and liked Ricky, this might be a particularly hard - sad weekend. This Saturday, April 21st, is 6 months, six stupid months since our Ricky Michael Emilio - my Ricky Chan, died.

Every Friday is kind of heavy, here for me -- I'm sure for Barbara too and Susan and... today - 182 days - 6 months tomorrow. Seems like a moment to stop or say something.

I know we all have been impacted, in our own ways, maybe daily, certainly daily for me, for Barbara. It doesn't get any "easier" or "better", it just gets on, this day and the next.

I loved my son every day of his life, and I love him just the same every day since his death.

You may remember the 'Closing Prayer' (call and response) of his funeral:

"At the rising of the sun and at its going down,

WE REMEMBER HIM.

At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter,

At the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring,

WE REMEMBER HIM.

At the blueness of the skies and the warmth of summer,

At the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn,

WE REMEMBER HIM.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,

WE REMEMBER HIM.

As long as we live, he too shall live;

for he is now part of us,

as WE REMEMBER HIM."

and six months -- and also the 42nd Earth Day weekend...

My son, my beautiful son -- we love you - we miss you so...

con abrazos to each of you -- jaan

27 Apr – "Black & Brown Unity" Original Panthers & Young Lords Speaking Event

WHAT: Black & Brown Unity, Yesterday...and Tomorrow?

WHEN: 6:30pm, Friday, April 27th

WHERE: Rebel Diaz Arts Collective – 478 Austin Place, 2nd Floor, The Bronx

COST: \$5, suggested donation

MORE:

ASHANTI OMOWALE ALSTON: Original Black Panther Party Member, Former Black Liberation Army POW, Revolutionary Anarchist Speaker & Writer

ESPERANZA MARTELL: Noted Human Rights Educator And Political Prisoner/POW Activist, Original El Comite & Latin Women's Collective Member

ROSEMARY MEALY: Original Black Panther Party Member, Human Rights Speaker, Educator And Author Of "*When Malcolm Met Fidel*"

CARLOS ROVIRA: Original Young Lords Party Member, Revolutionary Artist, Speaker and Coordinator For "*The Culture Is A Weapon Hip Hop Tour*"

CLEO SILVERS: Original Young Lords & Black Panther Party Member, Labor/Community Organizer, Speaker & Political Prisoner/POW Activist

1 May – Join the Puerto Rican Contingent for May Day

WHAT: Puerto Rican Political Prisoner/Prisoner of War Contingent at May Day March

WHEN: 5:00pm, Tuesday, May 1st

WHERE: Union Square (14th Street and Broadway) – Look for the Puerto Rican Flags

MORE:

Join the Norberto Gonzalez Claudio Puerto Rican Contingent for May Day 2012! Norberto is a Puerto Rican Socialist/Independentista/Internationalist Political Prisoner incarcerated by the U.S. government for three years for fighting for Puerto Rican Independence!

We are calling for a Strong Powerful Puerto Rican Contingent to march in solidarity with all workers this May Day! Puerto Rican workers, both on the Island and throughout the Diaspora, have been fighting against privatization of education/social services, demanding new [jobs](#), union rights, and housing; just like other workers' have throughout the United States, Latin America and the world!

FOR DECADES, Puerto Ricans have stood proudly and firmly with our undocumented brothers and sisters; demanding their legalization and an end to their harassment!

Let us continue in our proud tradition of internationalist solidarity with the workers' of the world!

11 May - An Evening with AIM Member Lenny Foster

WHAT: An evening with Lenny Foster

WHEN: 6:00-10:00pm, Friday, May 11th

WHERE: Casa de las Américas - 182 East 111th Street (between Lexington and 3rd Avenues)

MORE:

Lenny Foster of the Diné Nation is the Director of the Navajo Nation Corrections Project and the Spiritual Advisor for 1,500 Indian inmates in many state and federal prisons in the Western U.S. He has co-authored legislation in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado that allows Native American spiritual and religious practice in prison and results in significant reductions in prison returns.

He is a board member of the International Indian Treaty Council, a sun dancer and member of the Native American Church. He has been with the American Indian Movement since 1969 and has participated in actions including Alcatraz, Black Mesa, the Trail of Broken Treaties, Wounded Knee 1973, the Menominee Monastery Occupation, Shiprock Fairchild Occupation, the Longest Walk and the Big Mountain land struggle. He was a 1993 recipient of the City of Phoenix Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award.

Lenny will speak on five Native American issues: the illegal imprisonment of Leonard Peltier, land and resources taken from Native peoples by the U.S. government, stripmining, uranium mining and the pollution of the land, air and water, Native American freedom of religion and the demand to honor Native treaty rights.