



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for July 17th

2 Jul – Bittersweet week and the future by Lynne Stewart

Here's a writing from Lynne Stewart about her health and the Second Circuit decision upholding her 10 year sentence.

MORE:

The past week has confronted me with changes both bitter and sweet and I want to share with all of you my outlook. On the "sweet" side (because as progressive leftists, we always try to assuage the bitter !) the best and most important news is that I have had my long awaited surgery, more problematic than the Doctor expected, spent a few days in hospital in Fort Worth and at Carswell prison and am in a slow recovery back in my unit. I have been given a walker to insure that I don't have a fall as the operation left me anemic and I sometimes am a little dizzy and weak...BUT THE GREAT THING IS THAT I AM CURED AND AM FUNCTIONING NORMALLY, with a rebuilt bladder and an absence of discomfort from a distended uterus. (I know that this is more information than many of you want -- my male supporters particularly!!!) I feel better and stronger every day and am, of course, determined to deal with healing naturally. I am not here to praise the great care I received (still had my feet shackled, belly chained and cuffed; no contact with anyone who might be worrying about me etc. from the Bureau of Prisons; I can tell plenty of horror stories about the care of the women in here); but I have come through and am ready to soon resume STRUGGLE. Ralph paid me an unscheduled visit this weekend gave me a real boost and will be more than happy to report further on this positive health development!!!

THAT SAID, the bitter occurrence was of course, the snide and unsubstantiated opinion of the Second Circuit (posted on my website) denying any relief from the draconian sentence change imposed the second time around. A blow, but not mortal. We will do an appeal to all of the Judges of the Second Circuit sitting en banc, to reverse. Hopefully and we always hope, those Judges will take a different viewpoint. In reading the opinion there is a hypocritical view expressed that the first Judge Koeltl sentence and opinion is all wrong but the second sentence and opinion (as orchestrated by their remand) was all right. Will the real decision maker please stand up?? Also, the moral underpinning of their entire prosecution is now more questionable with the newly elected President of Egypt demanding the return of my "terrorist" client Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. If he is a hero of the Arab Spring than my aid was a positive thing --yes??? Certainly not the criminal support the US government gave to the 40 year Dictator Mubarak!!!

In any event, we also go forward after the en banc to the next "legal" stage of the case...the certiorari petition for my entire case to the United States Supreme Court. As should be remembered, from that April day in 2002 when Attorney General Ashcroft rode into NY and announced a "significant arrest and indictment", this is the case that has the Bill of Rights affronted on almost every issue. As my colleague and brother, Attorney Michael Smith said to me then; there are First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth Amendment violation and that's just for starters. We are going to confront the Government and the Supremes and hopefully raise the awareness of the legal and the community at large to the terrible infringements and danger to all if my case is not reversed. Back Now to the fundamentals and as Ralph says----"We've got them right where we want them"!! We fight on.

In closing I have to say that any weakness in my body should not be mistaken for a weakness in my spirit or will. When I signed on for this struggle back in 1962, to rescue my country and all its people from the powers that would ruin, twist and destroy us all, it wasn't for a week or a day but always--until we win. I welcome your support and love.

4 Jul – Jordan Halliday on Independence Day

Grand jury resister Jordan Halliday is scheduled to be released in another couple of weeks. He wrote the following on the 4th of July.

MORE:

As I sit staring out the bars of my prison window watching the local firework display at the nearby water park. I get a sick feeling in my stomach at the irony of it all. A firework display, using fireworks most likely made by underpaid children in china working in horrible conditions. A display meant to symbolize the founding of our great nation and the principals it represents... Freedom... ha... Freedom from persecution based on your beliefs... the right to be whoever you want to be... to say whatever you want to say... Freedom... From my prison cell I watch the local firework display and it makes me sick.

Happy Independence Day.

Love,

Jordan

5 Jul – Nate Buckley needs our help

Our comrade Nate Buckley recently went to trial for events surrounding an April 2011 anti-war protest. A mistrial was declared and now Nate has to start the whole process over, including retaining council. Here are a few ways to help.

MORE:

First here's the easy one: Sign this. Email this and Facebook it to everyone who might sign it:

<https://www.change.org/petitions/district-attorney-drop-the-charges-against-nate-buckley>

—and join the facebook group- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/natebuckley/>

Second: Fundraising

—This trial will be more expensive than the first. We were so lucky to have Leigh Anderson for the first time - an incredible trial lawyer and generous individual - but she does have her own work and responsibilities she has to focus on now.

—The final details of Nate's representation are not worked out, but it looks like he'll need around \$5000 for transcript fees and the like.

—If anyone has any fundraising ideas or would like to be on the fundraising committee, send an email to us at - natebuckleydefensecommittee@gmail.com

—Thank you all for everything!

5 Jul – reflections, parts one and two by Mandy Hiscocks

Here's another couple of blog entries from 2010 Toronto G20 prisoner Mandy Hiscocks.

MORE:

june 20th, 5:45am

today is the summer solstice. through the tiny crack in the frosted covering of my cell's window i can see little bits of pink in the sky. it's all i'll see of the sunrise, and later it will be all i'll see of the sunset. usually i would try to spend this entire day outside. . .but how do i celebrate the longest day of the year in a place like this? i have such a limited relationship with the Earth these days - with weather, temperature, light and darkness, cycles and season. our time outside is short, our glimpses of the outdoors are constricted and brief, our cell lights are off for daytime "quiet time" but are on all night, our unit is air conditioned. i've been plucked right out of nature and dumped into a zone of extreme alienation.

i am still connected to the seasons in one important, albeit kind of backwards, way. the solstice falls at a significant time in my sentence: in two days i will be exactly halfway through the time i expect to serve. from that day onwards i'll no longer count the months i've put behind me with a celebration on the 14th (my

sentencing day) but instead i'll be counting down the months left to go and celebrating every 3rd which is my december release date. so as the days get shorter and you all prepare to say goodbye to the freedom of long, warm days, my sentence will be getting shorter and i'll be preparing to be free once again. it's comforting to think of things this way, to feel like even in this institutional, in-between place the movement of Sun and Earth through space-time is still relevant to my daily life.

1:00pm

i'm back again in my cell, looking out the window crack once again. i can see the treetops over the wall and they're blowing in the breeze. there are a couple of sluggish clouds in the sky. it looks muggy and i've heard that it's very hot.

Vanier doesn't care that it's the solstice, apparently, because we didn't get yard today. lately we've been going out almost every day, it's much better than it was during the early days of my sentence. still yard is a very limited version of "outside" because we can't see over or through the grey cinder block walls. there's air, wind and sky, the smell of cut grass or manure sometimes, the occasional bird or birdsong, and a few bugs here or there. for some reason i find it very unsettling that i don't know how to orient myself away from the complex and the highway and towards the woodlot that i know lies just beyond the outermost fence. i don't like that i don't know how far the nearest river is or even in which direction. it makes me feel ungrounded.

but today is muggy and hot, so maybe we'll get a nice storm later. . .that would make up for being forced to spend the longest day of the year indoors. even the concrete walls and sealed, frosted windows can't keep out a good storm. the couple we've had since i've been in here were a welcome reminder that i am still part of a living, breathing planet. that feeling is not something i'm likely to take for granted every again.

i miss rivers, and the woods, and the rain, and the moon and the stars - i miss the night! by the time i get out of here i won't have been outside in the dark for almost 11 months. i miss the bigness of the world, how far away the horizon is, how much there is to see. i miss life that isn't human. these are the deprivations that tug at my soul; this is the only separation that really, really hurts. the small amount of space i can use to put up pictures in my cell is filled with pictures of nature: photos of a squirrel and an owl from Ottawa, a Toronto ravine in the spring, sunlight shining through the trees in an English woodlot, a sunflower; a beautiful watercolour of the Guelph arboretum. there are no photos of friends or family, none of the amazing street protests in Montreal - although people do send those things and i keep them in an envelope. i can stay in touch with people through letters and calls and visits, and i've found some ways to stay involved in organizing and to be productive, but there is just no real way to stay connected to nature. so i look at the pictures, and remember.

if, like me, you love the outdoors. . .if you still marvel at the amazingness of the stars, would rather watch clouds and birds rather than TV, and prefer bikes to cars. . .if you love to walk barefoot in the woods and sit beside rivers, and feel infinitely better in the wind and rain than in the air conditioning and fluorescent lights. . .then jail will take away a big part of who you are. it's something to think about and to be prepared for, because while it's not intolerable it's certainly not easy.

the flip side, of course, is that i appreciate the natural world even more now. i've spent a lot of my adult life fighting for wild spaces in one way or another - it's part of the reason i'm here in jail. now that i know what it feels like when those spaces are taken away, when there's nowhere natural to go, i'm just going to fight even harder when i get out.

8:05pm

i'm back at the desk in my cell, finishing this post while i wait for the sun to set. it's been a nice one to write - it's always good to reflect on what's important - and i think it was a pretty good way to spend the solstice, all things considered.

to wrap up, i want to tell you about a tree i've befriended. sometimes on the way to a visit we stop off at Unit 3 to pick up a medium security inmate. there's a window in the hallway there that i would stand beside all day if i

could because it looks out onto a huge, beautiful oak tree. i've been reading about oak trees recently, and why they have never been domesticated despite their tasty and nutritious acorns that have been both a staple and a fallback food for humans for thousands of years. the author defines plant domestication as "growing a plant and thereby, consciously or unconsciously, causing it to change genetically from its wild ancestor in ways making it more useful to human consumers." domestication of oak trees would involve selecting for "mutant" trees - those that produce a high proportion of acorns without the bitter tannins that need to be ground or leached out before they can be eaten. three reasons are given for humans' failure to accomplish this:

- 1) slow growth. it takes ten years or more for an acorn to grow into a productive tree;
- 2) by burying acorns squirrels disperse them far and wide, and when they forget to dig them up some will grow. because of all that wild, unmanaged planting going on humans would have an incredibly difficult time selecting only for the trees we want;
- 3) acorn bitterness is controlled by many different genes as opposed to a single dominant one. getting rid of a trait with diverse genetic causes is very difficult, so most acorns on any given tree would be bitter despite humans' best efforts to manipulate them.

i see an analogy to effective resistance here. slow and steady growth, wide and unmanaged spread of ideas ensuring that some take root, decentralized movements and diversity of tactics. . . i think the mighty oak might have a lesson for us! i like to think about this kind of thing as i admire the tall, ever wild tree outside the window. at the moment it's surrounded by concrete and fencing but it have never succumbed to human domination.

i hope it lives to see this jail crumble to dust.

friday, june 22

today is my halfway day. in a few hours i'll have served exactly five and one third months and will have exactly five and one third months to go. 162 days. it's time to assess and reflect. in a post entitled [liberation](#) i talked about my right to apply for early parole and my reasons for waiving it. had i applied and been approved, i could be walking out of here today. i know i made the right decision but i can't lie, i've been thinking a lot about it lately especially now that Leah is so close to getting out and i'll be stuck here until winter.

i've been thinking a lot about freedom lately, imagining my first walk along the river and through my neighbourhood, picturing seeing people i haven't seen in far too long, thinking about the job that's waiting for me, dreading opening up my email account, and planning the holy-shit-i'm-out party tour in my head. it's nice to daydream, but perhaps a bit dangerous - i still have a long way to go. time is passing quite quickly but i've heard that once you start getting impatient the days begin to drag. "short but shitty" is how the last part of the sentence is often referred to in here.

so enough talk about the future! this post is for taking stock of my time so far and where things are at these days.

people always want to know how i am doing and i always say "fine" or "good" which is true, but probably not the kind of answer people are looking for. i'll try to do a little better here, with apologies in advance if this is too much information for those of you who don't really know me.

before i came here, i honestly didn't know how i would handle jail. i'd spent a month at Vanier in the summer of 2010, but for most of that time i was among friends (my co-accused) and this stay would be almost eleven times as long. i think i managed to come off as pretty confident but i remember a shitty few days back in November - when our group decision on the plea deal was made and couldn't be taken back - that i spent feeling physically ill from nervousness and anxiety and thoughts of "oh, crap, what have i done?" all quite unnecessary as it turns out, because it's really not so bad and looking back in the first half of my sentence i think i've done surprisingly well. i'm in good physical health for one thing, far better than i was on the outside. regular sit down meals, lots of time for exercise, no rushing commuting or to meet deadlines. i sleep well and wake up early

without an alarm clock. the regular headaches i've experienced for years have all but disappeared, probably because i'm not staring at a computer screen for large parts of the day. now don't get me wrong, i'm not suggesting that i love it here. . .but there are some specific ways that it's much healthier than the stressed out, high pressure lifestyle of a much too busy political activist and organizer.

i'm pretty relaxed most of the time and usually in a pretty good mood. i don't have any close friends on the range at the moment but there are a couple of chess opponents and quite a few people i enjoy chatting with. i have no real enemies and manage to stay out of range drama - except for some recent conflict over how much soccer can be watched i get along with everyone here. it's true that i spend a fair bit of time in my own little world of blog posts, mail, projects, work-outs, books, and the newspaper. on the one hand i've been starting to feel a bit anti-social lately and i'm trying to set aside more hang-out time, but on the other i take it as a good sign that i can still enjoy my own company.

i feel like the same person when i came in, for the most part. one thing i've noticed is that i speak more bluntly now - i've lost some of that white middle class fake politeness that prevents me from saying what i really think, and from ever saying no. that's probably partly because that's how other people are here, and partly due to the fact that i've sussed this place out and i'm comfortable here now. it's no longer strange and intimidating like it was for the first few months. paradoxically, while i feel more able to speak my mind there are more situations in which i'm much less inclined to do so. it's advisable to mind your own business in here and that's not a bad thing - petty arguments and rivalries escalate quickly and it's best to ignore them. but far too often staying out of a situation means not speaking up for people who are getting treated like shit (sadly, more often than not by other inmates as opposed to guards). i don't like this about the culture here and i don't like that i play into it, but the thought of going up alone against some of the folks i'm forcibly confined with is frightening. the power dynamics are not what i'm used to, to say the least, and i find them difficult to understand and navigate.

earlier in my stay i wrote that i was worried i'd become cynical and bitter in here... thankfully that hasn't happened. i feel sadness and outrage, of course, about a system that takes some of the most fucked over people in society and does everything in its power to make their lives even harder. but it's countered by the little things i see every day: the ability and determination of people to show kindness, to laugh and comfort, to share what they have and to remain generally positive. i've said this before and it's still true: i'm amazed and inspired by the resilience of folks who find themselves in incredibly challenging situations. it's also hard to feel cynical and bitter with all the support and solidarity coming in from the outside for which i feel both honoured and grateful. one of the worst things that can happen to a prisoner - perhaps the worst of all - is that they get forgotten. i have never for one second felt forgotten, or neglected, or worried that i might be in the future. so thank you for the letters, the visits, the phone dates, the updates and for trying to keep me involved. i do still feel a bit disconnected and out of the loop but unlike at the start of my sentence it doesn't really bother me anymore. i'm confident that i am still a part of our community and will be welcomed back and brought up to speed when i get out. i don't feel like i've been left behind.

so there it is: "how are you doing?" answered. now when i tell you i'm "fine" or "good" you can know that i really am. this is more satisfying than you can possibly know. it is a big fuck you to the state. in the words of George Herbert: "living well is the best revenge."

6 Jul - Joint Solidarity with Mario López Hernández communique

In late June, a comrade in Mexico City was arrested under suspicion of having explosives. The police and media have portrayed him as a terrorist, while the former have denied him access to his family, loved ones, or legal counsel. Below is a statement of solidarity from several groups in Mexico. We've followed that with a statement by Mario himself.

MORE:

There was an explosion in the early morning of June 27th at the corner of Vicente Guerrero and Londres streets in the Del Carmen neighborhood of Coyoacan, Mexico City. Our compañero Mario Antonio López Hernández was found there with several burns across his body. He was put in an ambulance and transported under police custody to hospital Rubén Leñero, where his arm and leg were operated on.

At no point was his family allowed to see him, let alone was he able to consult with a lawyer that he trusted to make a statement regarding the accusations that he was facing. On the contrary, members of Mexico City's judicial police hounded him with questions, pressuring him to respond and to accept responsibility for other actions, specifically an explosion which occurred hours before at a bank machine for Federal Electricity Commission, even though our compa was in no physical condition to make a statement as he was still anesthetized from surgery.

It wasn't until a day later, after pressure from several compas, that he was able to communicate with his lawyer and family. The compañero's family's home was searched and nothing relating to the allegations was found. Since the morning that Mario was found injured, the mass media has published articles portraying him as a dangerous terrorist.

We have confirmed that the police are trying to link more people to the actions, Felicity Ryder in particular, whose name has appeared in various mass media outlets as Mario's supposed accomplice, to the point of even declaring that she's been detained; this, however, has not been confirmed by the PGR (Attorney General of Mexico).

We condemn these wrongdoings, not because we believe in laws and legality, which only serve to sustain this predatory system, but because we think it's important to be vocal about the Mexico City Government and Judicial Police's attempt to stage a media trial against Mario in particular and the anarchist movement in general. We are certain that the Government is trying to make a scapegoat out of Mario, creating a case that attempts to link him to other actions and changing his charges, the last one being "Attacking the Public Peace", and furthermore they're beginning a hunt for anarchists. The PGR has demonstrated that it's incapable of restraining the offensive of anarchist action groups and is thus trying to take advantage of a compañero's accident in order to make an example of him and strike fear into anarchist groups. We also know that the police have a list of names and organizations that they are investigating.

We the members of different organizations and collectives in the anarchist movement declare:

- Our total solidarity with our compañero Mario through these difficult times. We embrace him and await his prompt and thorough recovery.

- That solidarity among anarchists is more than just a word, as we will take action to disseminate information about the compañero's situation as well as to demand his immediate liberation.

- We demand the presentation of Felicity Ryder. In an article from June 29th in the daily paper Excelsior, it is mentioned that she has been detained, but this has been neither confirmed or denied by the PGR.

- We reject and condemn the Government's crude attempt to turn our compañero into a scapegoat while he is incapacitated.

- We call on all independent, autonomous and anti-capitalist organizations to be vigilant about the Government's attempts to provoke an anarchist witch-hunt. We are sure that this new "leftist" government will continue the politics of persecution and litigation of any political expression that doesn't adhere to their plans.

- That the social inequality which sustains this system of domination and exploitation is much more violent than any protest, and violates the innate right to a dignified life, hindering individual freedom, preying on nature, subjecting people, stripping them and casting them into the ever more numerous penitentiaries of this prison-society, is why we will continue organizing ourselves and building a new world, founded on freedom, mutual aid, solidarity and free association.

For Mario's Freedom!
For anarchy!

Cruz Negra Anarquista de México
Federación Anarquista de México-DF-Edo. Mex.
Grupo Anarco Comunista
Colectivo Acción Libertaria
Biblioteca Social Reconstruir
Federación Ecatepec Anarquista
Centro de Información Anarquista
Ediciones Hormiga Libertaria
Espacio Anarcofeminista Ni Ama Ni Esclava
Libertas Anticorp
Sin Medios Producciones
Regeneración Radio
Proyecto Rhabdovirus
2HAK Hip Hop Libertario
Escarlata Revoltoza
Centro Social Okupado Casa Naranja

Mario's Statement

Hello dear comrades, as you already will know (inside and outside of Mexico) I find myself hospitalized due to injuries to my shin, leg, and right arm. At the moment I'm "ok" given the situation, I am concerned about my health and am also concerned about several things which I'll expand upon in a few points.

First the fact of writing now and not later.

Well, this is easy because physically I have the ability to do so and because in the future when they charge or sentence me the control will be greater and communication will be more difficult.

ABOUT MY HEALTH

Well, I have three fairly serious burns, the first on the right leg, the second is a hole from one side of my arm to the other, and the last is on the right shin. Bad if one day I go back to practicing Muay Thai. In the hospital the nurses and doctors are behaving great, including nicknaming me "bombiux" and I have hope in saving my leg.

ABOUT THE LEGAL SITUATION

Here the problem is that another person is now implicated because we made the error of carrying in the backpack which remained at the scene her ID and because of that they identified her and linked her with a video of the area. Yesterday (June 28) they told me that she was detained, or rather with their words: "now we've got your girlfriend" ... they said she made a statement against me and well, the same story. First, they wanted (and want) me to claim the attack on a bank in Tlalpan: "I do not accept this," then they would say it was my comrade (now that she was identified) who did it: "I do not accept this," and finally they wanted me to name more people who did it and obviously I did not accept this. Regarding my comrade they came to corroborate her physical information and all of this in front of a state lawyer.

ABOUT ME

I stated that I did everything from beginning to end and that I was individually responsible for this act (or attempt), of course this statement was made under pressure, with the army, with the marines, with the military camp #1 and also I was in a state of physical and psychological weakness as a result of the analgesics and the surgery on my leg. Even so, I maintained this declaration with the goal of not directly involving more comrades in my problem.

I, as an anarchist, comply (as far as possible) with the consequences and responsibilities derived from my individual act. Therefore, I declared myself responsible for this act from beginning to end, my comrade was only there at the moment when the device exploded and the most serious error was having her ID with us.

ABOUT THE SOLIDARITY FROM COMRADES

Yesterday I almost cried (and today while writing this letter) when the lawyer told me that everyone was outside. It gave me goose bumps that independent of the differences of how we see things, the paths to follow, the means, etc. It showed me that relationships are also built through mutual knowledge. Some take one path or decisions, others others, but at the end of the road is absolute freedom.

ABOUT HOW I'VE IDENTIFIED MYSELF

Since the bomb exploded I have identified myself as an anarchist in spite of the "consequences" that my way of life, struggles and ideas can lead to.

The federal police arrived and tried to turn me and of course I did not accept it. Three years less in jail for being a snitch is not worth it, not even if it was 30.

Regarding the motives that led me to carry out this action, they are more than my futile and contradictory statements to the prosecutors who never stopped pressuring me. In short, as an anarchist, I don't consider that this type of situation or political moment should be the starting point for projecting our struggle, as building-destruction is the daily construction of our persons and of our goals. I only consider it necessary to draw a clear line regarding political parties without contradicting the above statement. Even more so in these times where populist discourses (democratic left or right) can be confused with our proposals and ideas of freedom.

The IFE (Federal Elections Institute), PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), are a couple more institutions that are just like a bank or a police station that conform to the machinery of the system.

This is my statement to the comrades and not to the muddling and manipulative questions of the police, who, without any form of counsel made me fall into unbeneficial positions for my case...but you are the ones who are most important.

I identify myself as an anarchist enemy of any kind of State and of capital, each chooses the methods or means according to their criteria, but the struggle is a daily one, inside and outside of the prisons.

To the comrades in solidarity and to the Anarchist Black Cross, a strong, combative hug and thank you for being with my mother, she understands the situation.

Greetings to Luciano Pitronello!

Solidarity with all prisoners of war and political prisoners in the struggle!

Solidarity with the comrades who are prisoners in Italy!

For the destruction of the prisons!

Social war on all fronts!

Long live anarchy!

The claim of responsibility begins!

Mario, Tripa

7 Jul - Doug Wright (Cleveland Five) begins hunger strike

On July 11th the support group received a message from Doug stating that he began a hunger strike on Saturday, July 7th. The transcribed message is below.

MORE:

The Fascist Pigs here at Trumbull County Jail have thrown me in solitary confinement for some completely bullshit "charges", including "having 2 or more books". I never heard that rule, and I've asked for an inmate handbook on several occasions. Also, "hoarding Personal Hygiene". I didn't know you could have too much soap, too much being more than one bar. WTF??! I have sent a letter telling my lawyer of this and I want people to call him a lot till this injustice is righted! I've also let him know that I'm going to refuse my food until

this is made right! When I refuse food they will take away phone calls and ability to write letters, someone that's been in here a while told me this before. So, this might be my letter for a while, until this is fixed.

8 Jul – Raising funds for a documentary on Bo Brown

A new documentary, called “The Gentleman Bank Robber” is in the works, but needs funding. You can help via the crowd-sourced fundraising website, kickstarter. We’ve included information on the project below.

MORE:

The Gentleman Bank Robber: The Life Story of Rita Bo Brown will be a short documentary film that tells the story of Bo Brown, a white working-class Butch from rural Oregon and a member of the revolutionary **George Jackson Brigade**. The film is collaboration among three friends and supporters of Bo who live in Portland, Oregon: **Lydia Bartholow, Erin McNamara, and Julie Perini**.

The people who make social movements happen and change the course of history do not always have time to document their activities for the benefit of future generations. Bo's life stories are too important to leave untold: she participated in struggles for queer liberation in the 1960s and 1970s; she is a former social prisoner now organizing to support other people in prison through her work at the Prison Activist Resource Center in Oakland, California; and she was a member of the George Jackson Brigade, a militant, revolutionary, prison abolitionist group based in Seattle, Washington in the 1970s. As a member of the George Jackson Brigade, Bo became known as “The Gentleman Bank Robber” for combining her butch style of dress with a polite way of demanding funds from bank tellers, one of the ways the Brigade funded its militant activities to protest military aggression, injustice, and exploitation in the United States and around the world. There is so much we can learn from people like Bo: let's start learning now.

We are looking to fund our trip to Oakland this summer to interview Bo and document her life, and to create a DVD to distribute the documentary. Please join us in making this important project happen by **donating to our Kickstarter campaign--** <http://kck.st/N7bNpG>. This may become part of a larger project about Bo and the George Jackson Brigade, in which case we'll look forward to your participation again. Due to current health issues, Bo asks that questions about and support for the project be directed to one of us working on the project - Lydia Bartholow, Erin McNamara, and Julie Perini. You can reach us at the general email address for the project, **gentlemanbankrobber@gmail.com**. Find out more about the project at **<http://gentlemanbankrobber.tumblr.com/>**.

All of your support counts and every contribution comes with a rad reward like a copy of the DVD, a screenprinted T-shirt, books about the George Jackson Brigade, and more. Thank you in advance!

8 Jul – The Handshake by Jalil Muntaqim

Here's the latest blog post by Jalil Muntaqim. If you plan to write Jalil, this is a great place to start a dialog with him.

MORE:

On June 27, 2012, the Queen of England shook hands with the former Commander of the Irish Republican Army, Martin McGuinness. Martin McGuinness was alleged to have been in command of the IRA when an IRA unit killed Queen Elizabeth's cousin, Earl Mountbatten. The armed struggle of the IRA against British colonial rule in Northern Ireland left many Irish revolutionaries dead, imprisoned and exiled, not to disregard the many British soldiers and loyalists who were killed during “The Troubles.”

Watching the historic handshake between Queen Elizabeth and Martin McGuinness, I began to reflect on the revolutionary movements in this country in the late Sixties and early Seventies. It brought to mind the advent of the FBI's 1967 implementation of its Counter Intelligence Program that declared war on the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army and various other revolutionary groups. The FBI's COINTELPRO actions resulted in over 40 deaths of BPP/BLA members, such as Bunchy Carter in Los Angeles, Lil Bobby Hutton in Berkeley, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago, Frank Fields in Florida and Twyman Meyers in N.Y.C.;

the exiling of revolutionaries like Assata Shakur, Nehanda Abibun, the late Donald Cox to name a few, and the imprisonment of hundreds.

I thought about how the Senate Church Committee in 1975 conducted Senate hearings on the FBI COINTELPRO actions and concluded the FBI's actions were unconstitutional. However, the Senate Church Committee failed to create remedies for those who were victims of the unconstitutional FBI COINTELPRO actions. So, 30 to 40 years later we still have COINTELPRO victims in exile, and at minimum, 100 political prisoners languishing in prisons across the country.

I remembered in 1978, the Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, made the political blunder of telling the truth on a mission in Paris, answering a question asked by a journalist that perhaps the United States had thousands of political prisoners. Because of his truthfulness, then President Jimmy Carter had Andrew Young resign his U.N. post.

The historic handshake in Belfast made me reflect on the historic handshake between Nelson Mandela and W.P. Botha leading to Mandela's presidency after 27 years of imprisonment. Such historic events in South Africa gave way for Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu to conduct the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a process to heal the country's turmoil.

Yet, here, despite acknowledging the FBI COINTELPRO actions were unconstitutional, 100 victims of COINTELPRO languish in prisons 30 to 40 years later. Dr. Mutulu Shakur, stepfather of the late Tupac Shakur, has been calling and petitioning for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission here in the U.S., as he and other political prisoners languish in prison.

Our struggle during the same period as the IRA struggles in Ireland and the ANC struggles in apartheid South Africa, has not been similarly acknowledged, as the U.S. continues to deny the existence of political prisoners.

Therefore, no one here is prepared to shake hands and grant amnesty, releasing our imprisoned COINTELPRO victims. To learn more about U.S. political prisoners, visit www.thejerichomovement.com.

9 Jul - Amelia Nicol Legal Update

Our comrades in Denver ABC have provided an update on Amelia Nicol, accused of felony second degree burglary after police raided an anarchist squat on October 23rd of last year.

MORE:

Amelia had a hearing today at the Van Cise-Simonet court building downtown. She was in custody, as she has been for months since being arrested at a Wal-Mart blockade in Loveland in early December, and represented herself in court.

Friends, family and observers were in court as well. Several charges were added, although none of them were read aloud and only referred to as "counts." A trial date was set for August 21st.

Please take a moment of your day to write and mail a letter of support and love to Amelia as she makes preparations for her trial.

Amelia Nicol #0000762401
Denver County Jail
Post Office Box 1108
Denver, Colorado 80201

Strength and solidarity to Amelia! Empty the prisons!

9 Jul – Update on Alex Hundert

2010 Toronto G20 prisoner Alex Hundert has been transferred and also just started writing a blog. We've included his post, new address, and updates below.

MORE:

No Books for Prisoners: An Open Letter to the MWDC .

To whom it may concern:

I arrived at the Metro West Detention Centre one week ago. Other than a few Bibles and Korans I haven't seen a book since I got here. When I requested to have the library cart sent to the range so I could borrow a book, the guards told me they haven't seen the cart in ages. The guys on the range tell me they haven't had access to books in almost five months. There seem to have been a few sightings of either the cart itself or the volunteers who push it, but those feel something akin to Sasquatch sightings.

It would appear that their so-called "Corrections System" is not interested in the literacy of those they have in prison. As one inmate put it, they want us to stay stupid. I've spent most of my first week here trying to look into this. I've questioned several guards, a few captains, and some of the long-term or frequent inmates. I've even had people make inquiries from the outside. Here is what I've been able to figure out: The MWDC does have a library, though in reality it is likely just a closet where a cart stacked with some books is held. The actual librarian was laid off nearly a decade ago due to funding cuts. That's around the same time they started sleeping three to a cell, with the third man on the floor having to roll up the mattress every morning.

Since then, access to books has depended on the student volunteer program. There have been some sightings, but from what I can gather, it would appear that the students stopped showing up –at least, on the general population ranges — about four or five months ago. Since then, those of us locked up here, most not yet having been convicted of any crime, have had no access to books to read.

I have no idea why those in charge of the system would want to deny people books. I would think Corrections would encourage literacy in here, especially when so many of those incarcerated are so young and undereducated. I've been assured by captains that the library program has not been cancelled and that there's no active plan to deny people books, but they do confirm that there has been no access. And while it may be true that the library program has not been formally terminated, other things I've heard suggest that there is indeed some malicious intent.

...

About a month before I landed at Unit 2A, there was a raid in which every single book was confiscated from the range and from people's cells. Not only books and magazines from the "library", but also books and magazines that were people's personal property bought through the canteen. All gone. The raid seems to have been in response to the corrections officers finding a crudely made plastic shank on the range – for which someone already sat many days in the hole. Regardless, when the guards turned the range, they not only threw out all the books and magazines, they actually went so far as to throw a Bible and two Korans into the garbage; an obvious sign of malice and spite. So, given the reported sightings of the book cart somewhere up on the first floor, there is a possibility of the absence of books being a specific punishment.

However, inmates from other ranges also say that it's been ages since they've had access to the library , captains have confirmed the no volunteer narrative and calls to the prison from the outside have not contravened that. On other ranges I've heard there are "remnants" left. That is to say, some people still have some books from the last time the cart came around months ago. However, as raids are a predictable monthly occurrence on every range in the building, and every time they search their cells, they almost always take or toss something, whether there is some reason or not it seems inevitable that sooner or later there will literally be no books for prisoners in the MWDC.

Making matters worse is that due to budget cuts or malicious reasons, the cable package for televisions in this jail have been cut, and all the educational channels – History, Discovery, etc. – are no longer available. It seems they really do prefer to keep us as uneducated as possible. Making matters worse, it is an unfortunate reality that the less intellectual stimulation there is where it needs to engage with, the more violence there is in this shockingly overcrowded jail. In many ways, to use the old cliché, this place feels like a powder keg waiting to explode.

...

The rules seem to say that to get books sent in from the outside requires specific permission from the superintendent and then someone on the outside might be able to coordinate and also order the books direct from the publisher. Most people in jail don't have access to people like that or necessarily the negotiation skills to deal with the superintendent. Regardless, the guards always have free reign to prevent that meeting from happening and also to confiscate whatever they want. Including books which have been sent in from the outside. This means that whatever few books make it in from the outside are unlikely to be read by more than a few prisoners before the books get taken away.

Getting the library program running again seems to be the solution to the no books for prisoners problem. From my conversations on this matter with the captains, commonly referred to as "White Shirts", it would appear that if there were a new crop of volunteers to push the book cart, then people in here could, in theory, have access to books again. Nobody can tell me what happened to the old volunteers, other than the fact that they were students. Why inmates from the work range, where prisoners who work kitchen, laundry, and janitorial duties are held, can't push the cart, I don't know.

What I was told by a White Shirt is that the library program is not run through the John Howard Society or the Salvation Army but directly through the MWDC Volunteer Coordinator's office. It would appear that all people would have to do to get the library program running again would be to call the jail, ask to volunteer for this program and then pass some degree of security screening. It is also possible that the story about no volunteers is bullshit and that the guards and captains are telling lies. If this is true, a little bit of pressure exerted from both the inside and the outside may be enough to get the right to read reinstated for prisoners in the MWDC.

Denying people books feels like somewhat cruel and unusual punishment. But regardless of whether it is easier for people on the outside to volunteer or simply exert a little bit of political pressure, I hope someone decides to do that. Because while I'm content reading my newspaper every day, which I've been able to get in here, it seems to me that at a community and societal level it is in all of our best interests to ensure that inmates' right to read is respected and to make sure that books are available to prisoners who want to read them.

UPDATE: In fact, the rule about new books sent directly from publisher/bookseller is still in place. Inmates ARE allowed to receive these books provided they are considered "appropriate" in content. It may be necessary, however, to exert pressure if senders learn that books are not getting through.

Alex Hundert
Central North Correctional Centre
1501 Fuller Avenue
Penetanguishene, Ontario
L9M 2H4
Canada

9 Jul – CeCe McDonald update

Since last letter-writing, there has been a successful call in campaign to insure CeCe is getting the prescribed dosage of medication. We've also included a report back from a recent visit.

MORE:

Dear CeCe Supporters,

Two of CeCe's friends & community organizers got to see CeCe this weekend which was wonderful.

She is still in St. Cloud (a men's facility). Although technically off of reception status she has not yet been formally placed. This means that she now has an approved visitor list of 24 people (before she could only have two visitors). She has her own cell in a general population unit. They finally gave her a bra and a t-shirt, as opposed to the oversized button-up shirt she was required to conceal herself with because the administration is afraid of her breasts.

She is fairing fine - that is, she is kicking ass and taking names. She easily gets along with the other prisoners; it's the guards and administration that are fucking with her relentlessly - and they say it's for her "safety" against the rest of the prison population. All of her issues thus far are with guards and admin trying to control and regulate her gender as if it is outlaw. We could say more here, but she is promising to send out blog entries to post so I'd prefer to let her tell it in her own words.

After three weeks of not receiving her hormone treatments (which are mandated by the court for her to receive, at the dosage level she was prescribed prior to intake), she finally got her first dose this week....but it was for 6 milligrams as opposed to the 20 milligrams that she is prescribed. This was like a slap in the face, and she has asked us to begin a call-in campaign to demand that her medical treatment be respected and accurately followed.

She is avidly reading, most recently a couple of books by Mumia Abu Jamal. She has a book wishlist on Amazon if you are interested in sending her books. <http://supportcece.wordpress.com/get-involved/send-cece-books/>

And of course, keep writing. She is catching up on replying to letters, now that she has pencil and paper. But she is still getting used to the regulations around sending mail (as well as many other rules), so please be patient about getting responses from her. <http://supportcece.wordpress.com/get-involved/write-cece/>

Keep checking her blog and her facebook, tumblr and twitter pages for updates.

The Call-In campaign for CeCe to get her correct dosage of hormones was an incredible success! The prison's health administration were so "inconvenienced", they were compelled to clear the issue immediately.

CeCe is doing fine and looking fabulous. She is steadily devouring the books that everyone is sending - currently she is reading Angela Davis and is totally inspired.

She spoke a bit about the push from some supporters to launch large-scale campaigns to get Gov. Mark Dayton to pardon her, and/or to have her moved to a women's facility. She talked about how these campaigns would not only **not** benefit her, but how they exceptionalize her in a way that she doesn't want.

The pardoning process would not only be painful for her, but were she even to get considered, it wouldn't be until after she served her sentence. She thinks about people incarcerated for much longer terms than she, and for incredibly minor offenses (mostly drug related). **Even if** the emotional hardship of the process was something she felt up for, and even if the slim chance of it working actually succeeded, the outcome of her getting a pardon while others sat in prison is antithetical to her values and the whole reason she is struggling against this racist system in the first place.

As for being transferred to a women's facility, her thoughts are: Prison sucks. Period. CeCe is not safe in any prison, women's or men's. **Prisons are not safe for anyone.** Period. CeCe asserts (as do we) that incarcerated individuals should be able to decide for themselves where they would be safest within the system. For now, CeCe is fine being in a men's facility. For supporters to push for her to be transferred from one hell to another only serves the purpose of misdirecting energy away from the real problems of incarceration in america, and the problem of the Prison Industrial Complex as a whole.

To sum it up: **CeCe does not want supporters to launch long-term campaigns on her behalf that exceptionalize her situation..** Also importantly, these specific campaigns: a pardon from Gov. Dayton and getting transferred to a women's facility, **wouldn't actually be beneficial to her at all.** Short term campaigns such as call-ins to administration, and media blasts, are targeted efforts that let the DOC know that CeCe has widespread support, and it sends a message that we are watching them and will respond to prisoner's needs - CeCe's today, and other incarcerated transpeople tomorrow.

CeCe sends her love and gratitude to everyone who called-in on her behalf. She wishes that every wrongly incarcerated person had the same incredible support that she has, and prays for a world without bars, a world without cells.

9 Jul – Imam Jamil Al-Amin in need of support

We recently received the following from the Imam, via a comrade. We've included a sample letter that you can use when attempting to insure he regains phone and mail rights.

MORE:

"I am currently being denied telephone calls and my mail is being diverted (some). If you would, can you get some people to call the warden at ADX and Eric Holder to inquire as to why this action is being done. I don't have any institutional violations and have not been informed as to why this is being done."

Don't forget the Imam's number: 99974-555

Warden Charles Daniels
USP Florence ADMAX
Post Office Box 8500
Florence, Colorado 81226
Phone: 719.784.9464
Fax: 719.784.5290
E-mail address: FLM/EXECASSISTANT@BOP.GOV

Eric H. Holder, Jr
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
US Dept. of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001
Phone: 202.514.2001
Office of the Attorney General Public Comment Line: 202.353.1555

Feel free to use it as the basis for your letter.

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I have just written Mr. Charles Daniels, Warden of USP Florence Admax and am also enlisting your help on behalf of one of the prisoners there. I am writing to urge you to do everything in your power to assure that Imam Jamil Abdulla Al-Amin (99974-555) receive all telephone calls and his mail. He has not committed any institutional violation and has not been told why he is not being accorded the right to communicate with the world outside the supermax prison in which he is confined.

Further, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Mendez, has stated that solitary confinement is tantamount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The treatment afforded Imam Jamil Abdulla Al Amin currently violates the United States' obligations under the Convention Against Torture and can only reinforce the need for the kind of prison reform politicians and others are demanding.

Throughout his long ordeal in solitary confinement, Imam Jamil Abdulla Al-Amin has shown extraordinary resilience and courage. Over the years, he has had an exemplary disciplinary record. Indeed, many international human rights advocates, among them the Chair of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, Mr. Massoud Shadjareh, have spoken out on behalf of Imam Jamil Al-Amin .

Now more than ever it behooves all of us to be vigilant in doing all we can to assure that every individual receives fair treatment under the law. Indeed, At the very least, Imam Jamil Al-Amin should be accorded the right to letters and phone calls.

Sincerely,

10 Jul – Leah Henderson released!

Leah Henderson was released from jail in Milton, Ontario on the morning of July 10th. Leah served 204 days in custody for counseling to commit mischief at the G20 in Toronto in June 2010.

12 Jul – Pfc. Manning treated more harshly than terrorists

Defense lawyer filed a motion that 'aiding the enemy' charge Manning faces is stricter against US soldiers than it would be against terrorists. We've included a corporate news article below.

MORE:

The lawyer defending [Bradley Manning](#) against charges that he "aided the enemy" by disclosing state secrets to the whistleblower website [WikiLeaks](#), is arguing that US soldiers are being treated more harshly in application of the law than terrorists.

David Coombs, the civilian lawyer who has been representing the soldier for the past two years after he was arrested in Iraq on suspicion of being the WikiLeaks source, will be pressing his case in a military court next week. In a motion that he has lodged with the court as part of the lead up to a full court martial, he warns that unless the "aiding the enemy" charge is clarified it would leave Manning in a more onerous legal position than terrorists facing exactly the same count.

"It defies all logic to think that a terrorist would fare better in an American court for aiding the enemy than a US soldier would," [Coombs writes in the motion](#).

Aiding the enemy is the most serious of the 22 counts that Manning is facing. In the rank of military charges, it is rated very close to treason and technically carries the death penalty, though the prosecution in this case have indicated that they will not push for that.

The charge alleges that between November 2009 and 27 May 2010, when Manning was arrested at a military base outside Baghdad, he "knowingly gave intelligence to the enemy through indirect means". In court deliberations, it has been further clarified that the charge refers to the transmitting of "classified documents to the enemy through the WikiLeaks website".

The US government has added in later legal debate that the "enemy" to which it is referring is al-Qaida and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as well as a terrorist group whose identity has not been made public.

The allegations relate to the passing of hundreds of thousands of US state secrets, including embassy cables from around the world and war logs from Iraq and Afghanistan, that caused a worldwide sensation when they were published by WikiLeaks via several international news organisations led by the Guardian.

Next week the soldier and his defence team will be back in military court in Fort Meade, Maryland, in the latest of a succession of pre-trial hearings to hammer out the terms of the eventual court martial. Previous engagements have led to sparky interactions between Coombs and the army prosecutors seeking to condemn Manning possibly to spending the rest of his life in military custody.

The most significant discussion at next week's proceedings will revolve around the precise legal definition of what "aiding the enemy" means – specifically its allegation that Manning "knowingly gave intelligence to the enemy". The judge presiding over Manning's trial, Colonel Denise Lind, has ruled that the soldier must have had "actual knowledge" that he was giving intelligence to enemy for the charge to be proven.

Coombs will next week attempt to gain further clarification that would raise the legal bar much higher. In his motion he argues that it is a truism in the age of the internet, any posted material is potentially accessible to anybody.

To accuse Manning of having aided the enemy by transmitting intelligence to WikiLeaks that could then be accessed by al-Qaida would remove any sense of him "knowingly" doing so. He writes that this would "render the 'actual knowledge' element utterly toothless in all internet-intelligence cases."

Coombs highlights an apparent absurdity in the way the law is being applied. In cases where terrorist suspects are brought before military commissions, such as those at Guantanamo, and accused of the very same charge as Manning, the military prosecutors have to prove that the defendant "knowingly and intentionally" aided the enemy. Yet in the case of a US soldier, intentionality is not mentioned.

The defence calls this a "very troublesome absurdity". Coombs states: "For the exact same conduct, a terrorist would benefit from a friendlier mens rea [guilty mind] than a soldier would. Congress could not have intended to give terrorists a more protective mens rea than it gave to soldiers."

If the defence motion is successful next week, Manning would be held to the same standard as terrorists. In other words, the government would have to prove beyond reasonable doubt that he had transmitted state secrets through WikiLeaks knowing and crucially intending that they would be helpful to al-Qaida and other enemies of the US.

The trial is scheduled for September, but may be pushed back as a result of lengthy legal wrangling and the slow pace at which the prosecution has been [disclosing vital information to the defence](#).

12 Jul – Kayaker for freedom departs from Caribbean island of St. Lucia

An activist who goes by the name "Tito Kayak" is kayaking from Venezuela to Puerto Rico to raise awareness and campaign for the release of Oscar Lopez-Rivera.

MORE:

Puerto Rican activist Alberto de Jesus "Tito Kayak", currently traveling by kayak from Venezuela to Puerto Rico, departed from the northern end of the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia at about 8:30 this morning. Next stop in this quest is the French colonial possession of Martinique. Once there he will continue as he has done in every stop along his trip, with the campaign for the release of Puerto Rican prisoner of war Oscar Lopez-Rivera, imprisoned in the United States since 1981 as punishment for his unwavering commitment to Puerto Rico's independence. 69 year old Oscar Lopez-Rivera has spent almost half of his life incarcerated. In February of 2011, he was denied parole and rescheduled for consideration in 15 years

Tito Kayak, already famous for his direct actions for environmental protection, peace and justice since the 1990's, is kayaking the ancient maritime route of the Arawak peoples, hopping island to island from Venezuela to Puerto Rico, to bring international attention to the incarceration of López-Rivera.

12 Jul - Leonard Peltier's Sole Crime Was His Heritage

One of the founders of the Toronto Sun recently wrote an article for the Huffington Post about political prisoner Leonard Peltier and we've pasted it below.

MORE:

Over the years, individuals and groups have emerged and faded in efforts to persuade the U.S. justice system to parole or grant amnesty to Leonard Peltier, convicted of the deaths of two FBI agents, Jack Coler and Ron Williams, in South Dakota in 1975.

Peltier, now 68, has been in prison for 35 years. Since 1977, petitions and pleas on his behalf have been ignored; appeals by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, 55 U.S. Congressmen, and Canadian Parliamentarians, and members of the European Parliament Union.

For six consecutive years, Peltier has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, and is the recipient of over a dozen international human rights awards -- all because of the apparent injustice done to him.

The FBI and retired FBI agents have adamantly opposed anything resembling clemency for Peltier, even though his trial and conviction stunk like rotting fish, based as it was on fabricated evidence and perjury -- since admitted by many involved in his conviction. He's due for release around 2040, when he will be 106 years old.

The closest Peltier came to getting executive clemency was from Bill Clinton, but FBI opposition dissuaded Clinton, who had his own troubles at the time, especially with Monica Lewinsky. Clinton reneged on a previous commitment to Peltier's defense team.

Today, Peltier is in failing health; time is running out for possible freedom.

This year a new champion has emerged to urge executive clemency -- a group that is harder to ignore politically, but which the FBI association will oppose.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) represents all tribes across the U.S. and Alaska -- including the American Indian Movement (AIM) to which Peltier once belonged, and which was once a more radical rival to the NCAI.

Under the signature of its president, Jefferson Keel, the NCAI resolution notes that "appellate courts have repeatedly acknowledged evidence of U.S. government misconduct -- including knowingly presenting false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier...forcing witnesses to lie at trial, and hiding ballistic evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence..."

Further: "The United States prosecutor [Lynn Crooks]" twice admitted that "no one knows who fired the fatal shots." And an appeal court judge, Gerald Heaney, wrote the president urging amnesty as a gesture to restore decent relations with Indians.

The NCAI has [requested](#) a meeting with President Barack Obama to "secure a grant of Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier on constitutional, and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds."

America's Indians have psychological power in the U.S., if not political influence. When the two FBI agents were killed in 1975 on the Pine Ridge Reservation, it was a time of political turmoil with the Indians. The FBI erroneously branded AIM as a Soviet-backed communist subversive group when, in fact, it was an Indian-rights group.

During the Pine Ridge troubles, 60 Indians were murdered -- with no arrests or convictions made by the FBI. Paramilitary groups ran amok. The same day Coler and Williams were shot, another Indian, Joe Stuntz, was shot and killed -- again, no FBI investigation.

At Peltier's extradition from Canada, Myrtle Poor Bear testified she witnessed Peltier shooting the agents when, in fact, she was nowhere near Pine Ridge and had never met Peltier. The FBI wrote her script -- and at Peltier's trial, the defense was denied the chance to cross examine her, by which time she had recanted, and was deemed mentally incapable.

Not generally realized is that despite declining crime rates, the U.S. prison population is said to have grown six-fold. The number of older prisoners is growing at a faster rate than the total federal prison population. Between 2000 and 2009 the number of prisoners over age 51 grew from 14,275 to 25,160 -- a 76 per cent increase.

With age comes increased medical problems -- with no increase in the budget to address these problems. So by necessity, aging prisoners get sub-standard care.

As for Peltier, he's in failing health, has been for years. He's endured a stroke which left him nearly blind in one eye. He's had a serious debilitating jaw condition for years, that leaves him unable to chew. An offer of free corrective surgery by the Mayo clinic was [rejected](#) by prison authorities.

In addition, Peltier has diabetes, high blood pressure and a heart condition. He is susceptible to kidney failure. Yet repeatedly, he's been denied adequate medical care. This has earned the U.S. a rebuke from the UN for inhuman conditions.

It is undeniable that the FBI wants Peltier to die in prison -- not necessarily because they believe he is guilty of murdering two agents, but because they want someone, anyone, identified as responsible for the deaths of two agents.

Often forgotten is that two Indians initially charged and put on trial for the murder of the two FBI agents -- Bob Robideau (since deceased) and Dino Butler -- were found not guilty, but acting in self-defense. The FBI made sure Peltier was denied any defense.

I visited him three times when he was in Leavenworth. I had initially written editorials in the *Sun* supporting the FBI, until deeper examination of the case revealed their deceit.

When I first met Peltier, I confessed that I had supported the FBI, not wanting him to be under any misconception. I was startled when he laughed: "My own mother believed the FBI would never lie, so how can I blame you for believing them?"

We got on fine after that. Being a model prisoner was no help. He was constantly harassed. I recall at one meeting in prison he was agitated because he'd been sharing a cell with a recently admitted inmate, whom he found to be pleasant fellow -- and then discovered he was a serial killer. Peltier was genuinely shocked that he'd have to share a cell with someone who was a dangerous criminal.

It reinforced the view that whatever Leonard Peltier was, or might have been, he was not a criminal, not a murderer, but an activist for Indian welfare and rights who got caught up in the politics of the times and has been a scapegoat ever since.

Peltier does not belong in prison -- never did, because all evidence against him was tainted, corrupted, falsified, invented, fabricated on non-existent claims.

That's the way it is with scapegoats. The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee has since moved from Kansas and Missouri when he was in Leavenworth, to Fargo, North Dakota.

13 Jul – Daniel McGowan being denied mail

This gets a little weird, as we're reporting in the updates and announcements about a prisoner being denied copies of this very document. Earth liberation prisoner Daniel McGowan has received rejection notices for the last five editions of our every-other-week compilation of updates and announcements, while having received upwards of 30 previous, similar packets.

MORE:

Folks from [NYC Anarchist Black Cross](#) have heard from [Daniel McGowan](#) regarding the every-other-week collection of [updates and announcements](#) we compile. These updates are typically about U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war and add up to 25-35 pages each time. They are available online and are also sent by our collective to nearly a dozen prisoners. Daniel has received about thirty of these compilations, rarely having them denied. Until recently, that is.

Daniel tells us that he got another mail rejection dated July 10th, most likely related to the July 3rd set of updates. It is obvious that they are quickly rejecting any/all mailings from NYC ABC at this point, as it only took 2 days to reject. This is the fifth rejection in a row. Daniel spoke to the warden about this on July 10th and gave him a pages long detailed "cop out"-- a regularly used standardized form filled out by prisoners to make a written, formal request to a prison staff member. To Daniel, it seems they are rejecting things without the warden's review and that is against policy. Daniel filed a BP-8, or cop out, about the latest rejection, too.

NYC ABC will appeal the rejections, though we don't expect much as we're dealing with the state on its terms, under its rules.

This is one example of the seemingly small, but persistent ways by which the strategy to keep prisoners disconnected from their communities is carried out.

23 Jul - Solidarity Rally & Court Support for Jeremy Hammond

WHAT: Rally + court support for Jeremy Hammond

WHERE: Foley Square, New York, New York

WHEN: 2:30pm, Monday, July 23rd

COST: Free

MORE:

On the 23rd July 2012, the Jeremy Hammond Support Network will sponsor a rally in NYC to show support for the accused hacktivist. Friends, family, and supporters of Jeremy Hammond will gather at Foley Square for a brief march to the Metropolitan Correctional Center where we will pack the courtroom in solidarity with Jeremy Hammond.

We wish to make clear our intent to peacefully fill the courtroom. We are there to support Jeremy, and the more people that actually make it into the courtroom, the better. We have been told that in the past, individuals have been denied access to the court for wearing Anonymous-related emblems. Jeremy wishes to make it clear that he encourages people to wear their Anonymous gear if they so wish.

The event will be covered live on irc.anonops.pro #freeanons via sms-irc, courtesy of the the Freeanons Solidarity Network (www.freeanons.org).

Jeremy is accused of taking part in the compromise of Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (aka “Stratfor”) computer systems, and providing information to the website Wikileaks. This information, released by Wikileaks under the name “The Global Intelligence Files” (<http://wikileaks.org/gifiles/>) revealed even further corruption within the U.S. intelligence community – including plans to target and infiltrate domestic popular movements such as Occupy.

A social activist himself, Jeremy was deeply involved in some of the very movements targeted. While organizing demonstrations against the NATO Summit in Chicago, Jeremy was arrested for involvement in the Stratfor hack, based on the testimony and actions of FBI informant, Hector Xavier Monsegur. Monsegur himself was facing 105 years in a Federal Penitentiary if he could not assist the FBI in identifying and apprehending other alleged members of Anonymous and Lulz Security (<http://dc406.com/Monsegur-Hector-Xavier-Information.pdf>).

There is ample evidence to show that the Stratfor hack was organized, planned, and orchestrated by the FBI, through the agency of Hector Monsegur, for the expressed purpose of entrapping alleged Anonymous hacktivists. We understand that Jeremy's years of organizing for social justice show him to clearly possess a more noble character than that of his accuser, Hector Monsegur, best known for hacking into the website of an online casino and using his former employer's credit card in 2010 to make \$15,000 in unauthorized purchases clearly shows that he is not a reliable witness or person of good moral character.

We demand all charges be dropped against Jeremy Hammond! We demand an investigation into the tactics used by the FBI to entrap alleged members of Anonymous and Lulzsec!