

Updates for August 14th

Black August, a month for reflection, struggle, sacrifice and resistance

As this is the first of two letter-writing nights in August, both sending cards to Black liberation prisoners, we decided to include this recent piece on the continued importance of Black August.

MORE:

For me Black August means many things. It is the beginning of Haiti's revolution. It was in August that the first Black indentured servants/slaves landed in Jamestown that began our long journey of horror in what became known as the United States. It is about Nat Turner's slave uprising and Gabriel Prosser's attempt at the same.

It is a month of reflection on the losses that we as a people have suffered in that month. It is a month of courageous struggle and sacrifice. It is a month of resistance. It is a month of high elation and extreme sorrow – elation for our resistance, sorrow for our losses.

For me, the three most significant events of August are Jonathan Jackson's raid on the Marin County Courthouse in 1970, the August 1971 liberation of the San Quentin Adjustment Center by Comrade George Jackson and Nat Turner's slave uprising.

Jonathan's "audacity, audacity and more audacity" describes the move of Aug. 7, 1970, in which he liberated William Christmas, James McClain and Ruchell Magee for a short time before being shot dead. Jonathan's raid was an attempt to free not only those brothers, but in taking hostages he sought to have bargain chips to later trade in for his brother's freedom.

Of course, it was not just about the freedom of George, but it was also about freeing all George's comrades. To me, Jonathan is a hero. His heroic act had the impact of making many of us inside even more committed to the struggle and willing to give up our lives to the revolution. His act was totally inspiring!

In my opinion, Nat Turner and George Jackson are forever linked by events that took place 140 years apart. The day that George was shot in the head by prison officials as he laid wounded on the ground just happened to be the same day that Nat Turner began his insurrection.

If Comrade had chosen that day to liberate instead of having it forced upon him by prison officials in their initial attempt to assassinate him, he could not have chosen a better day. They both were about making revolution in their lifetime. Nat sought to end Black slavery by rising up and killing the slave owners, thereby freeing the slaves.

Comrade George sought to end neo-slavery by educating the people to the evils and inhumanity of a racist, oppressive capitalist system and to show that resistance is always possible as long as you have the will and the courage to do so. He showed that if you could come together, you could do some things; you could make some changes.

He gave his life to the struggle for self-determination, which to him was more important than life itself: "I don't care how long I live. Over this I have no control, but I do care about what kind of life I live, and I can control this. I may not live but another five minutes, but it will be five minutes definitely on my terms ... I'll never, never trade my self-determination ... control over the circumstances that surround my existence is of the first importance to me," he wrote in "Soledad Brother."

Comrade hated the capitalist system; he hated how it played workers off against one another and how it turned people against themselves. He knew that those who govern have a responsibility to the rest of us to represent us by providing from the cradle to the grave an "equitable share of wealth and privilege." "Meaningful social roles, education, medical care, food, shelter and understanding should be guaranteed at birth," he said.

He knew that wealth, land and resources should be held in common for all. There should not be a hierarchy that stood above us all. In his personal life, George would share with others whatever commissary that he had. He didn't have to know you. He truly believed in looking out for those who did not have. He was a true example of what a revolutionary "who is guided by true feelings of love" does in practice.

Personally, for me it is a time of painful remembrance. The memory of Jonathan Jackson's raid on Marin County Courthouse is painful. William Christmas I knew personally; I had chopped it up with him on the yard at San Quentin on several occasions. On the morning of his death, as he was in the foyer area, I joked with him and he didn't respond. This was not like him. Later on, I realized that he most likely had something heavier on his mind. I personally knew Ruchell Magee, who still languishes in a California prison 42 years later.

Remembering Aug. 21, 1971, when Comrade George Jackson had his life snuffed out, is painful. To know that prison officials got away with murder on that day and have never paid any dues for the crime that they committed against one of our greatest teachers, resisters and leaders is painful. In fact, in court they lied about how he died, thereby covering up his murder.

It was a day of brutal beatings and nigger callings, of lying naked on the grass while hogtied. It was a day of extreme humiliation, of being forced to crawl on one's elbows and knees, and listening to prison guards singing songs about "George Jackson laying arotting in his grave." I am sure that Nat Turner experienced worse as he waited to be hanged.

It was also a day of vengeance, where prisoners took revenge against their tormentors, prison guards, slaying three of them along with two trustees, who unfortunately were in the wrong place at the wrong time. I am sorry for them.

Out of the events of that day, six prisoners, Hugo Pinell, Fleeta Drumgo, Luis Talamantez, David Johnson, Johnny Spain and Willie Sundiata Tate were singled out for punishment by the state and became known as the San Quentin Six. In 1971, legal proceeding were initiated against the six.

On Aug. 12, 1976, our trial ended with acquittals for three of us. David Johnson and Hugo Pinell were convicted of assaults. Johnny Spain was convicted of conspiracy to murder. Johnny was released many years ago.

It is only Hugo who remains locked down in the SHU at Pelican Bay. We all faced assaults by prison staff, but none of us faced the kind of torture on a daily basis that Hugo Pinell suffered. That brother had clubs stuck up his ass and was assaulted as he travelled back and forth from San Quentin to court in Salinas, California, where he was a defendant on another case.

Hugo knows what pain is. Sometimes, after he returned from court, he would have blood dripping from his face and, occasionally, there would be a tear in his eyes. He never complained. He silently pushed on. He was and is a soldier. But it is time for him to come home. Other than prison medical personnel or prison guards, he hasn't touched another human being since 1976.

In a letter written in 2007, Hugo says, "As you know, I haven't had a contact visit since December 1970." He says further, "My point is that, with this isolation and with the board having so much juice, my situation is deeper because they can keep using more BS to say I'm not suitable for release. Thus I'm really doing life without (the possibility of parole) even though my time was completed long ago."

This brother wrote this after he had already done 43 years. At present he has been locked up 47 years. Speaking on his conditions of confinement, he says: "In the SHUs, you can't have much of anything. More importantly, you can't have contact visits, period! In 2009 I was given a 15-year denial ... I would be bullshitting you if I didn't admit this hurt. It has hurt me all along, especially not being able to touch mom, grandmom and others."

The recent hunger strikes in the segregation units of several California prisons was an attempt to address some of the issues that Hugo has spoken of in many of his letters. The sensory deprivation, as you can see from Hugo's words, clearly is one of the worst things that you can do to another human being. It is considered inhumane by international standards.

How can this continue to happen in the US of A? It is just the same as when police in our inner cities decide to murder innocent people without due process of a trial. This happens throughout the US of A and has been condemned internationally. How many cops have served time for such murders? It is almost unheard of.

The criminal justice system is biased against us and all people of color as well as the poor. In today's atmosphere, where working and poor people are catching hell all over the landscape, it is interesting that those on the very bottom of society – prisoners – are rising up, being fed up with living a torturous existence and trying to do something about it.

It is only fitting that we who are also suffering stand up and fight against those who want to hold us down while profiteering off the sweat of the working class. The downtrodden will rise and so will working class and poor people.

13 Jul – Camille Marino bail revoked, updates

We recently reported that at a bail revocation hearing, Camille Marino not only didn't have her bail revoked, but was also cleared to resume work on the activist campaign that allegedly got her locked up to start with. Somewhere in the mix, we missed her being rearrested and having her bail increased from \$25,000 to \$500,000. We've included a corporate news article below.

MORE:

A judge on Friday ordered a Florida animal-rights activist to stand trial on allegations of stalking a Wayne State University researcher and sent the woman to jail for violating bond.

Camille Marino, 48, was handcuffed to a chair in 36th District Court after Judge Lynise Bryant-Weeks ruled she hadn't been complying with a court order barring her from posting about WSU professor Donal O'Leary on social media sites.

The Wildwood, Fla., woman is charged with aggravated stalking and unlawful posting of a message with aggravating circumstances. Each felony charge carries a penalty of up to five years in prison. Marino is also charged with a 30-day misdemeanor offense of trespassing.

Prosecutors allege Marino was harassing O'Leary and posting comments and his home address on a "Negotiation is Over" blog and social media sites. Defense has argued Marino has a right to political speech which is protected under the First Amendment.

Bryant-Weeks said Marino's actions exceeded politically protected speech and "went to direct threats."

In court Friday, prosecutors also produced a July 2 post on Marino's blog that links to an article by another animal activist that brings up a picture of O'Leary being killed. The judge in June ordered Marino to stop posting on the website.

O'Leary testified Friday that the photo depicted him with his eye gouged out and buried in sand with his mouth sewn shut.

The judge increased Marino's bond from \$25,000, 10 percent, to a \$500,000 bond, 10 percent.

"It was a direct violation of my order," Bryant-Weeks said following a short bond hearing. "She has proven to me that she has no regard for the law. Today it is going to cost her."

Marino's attorney, Matt Savich, did not comment after the hearing and could not be immediately reached later Friday.

O'Leary, who does research that involves animals, filed a personal protection order against Marino in late October. She was arrested in Florida in February and later extradited to Michigan after she violated the order.

In March, she was ordered to remove any threatening statements about O'Leary from her social media sites.

Prosecutors levied criminal charges in May after she chained herself to the front door of the university's undergraduate library to protest being banned from the campus.

Marino was arrested on the school's campus in Detroit on the same day she'd been expected in court over O'Leary's protection order.

Marino has said she is convinced that scientists like O'Leary are secretly subjecting animals to unconscionable acts by conducting experiments on them.

Matt Lockwood, a spokesman for the university, said officials were satisfied with the judge's decision.

"We're pleased that she agrees that threats of this sort are not tolerable," he said. "We'll continue to support Dr. O'Leary and his research."

UPDATE 1: Camille Marino refuses plea deal, has bail reduced

Camille Marino refused a plea deal offered by prosecutors at the pre-trial conference held this morning in Detroit Michigan. Marino declined the prosecutors' proposal of a prison term of 3 months, with 5 years probation, in exchange for pleading guilty to charges of [Aggravated Stalking and Posting A Message](#). Instead Camille Marino will go to trial in November.

After the conference, Camille Marino released the following statement to Negotiation Is Over:

"Amendments to stalking laws have been manufactured by the vivisection state complex to squash dissent and infringe on our first amendment right to protest."

"I could have been done with this in a few months.... and I am not taking the potential consequences of going to trial lightly... but the artificial and contrived laws behind which vivisectionists hide need to be challenged by someone."

"When I walked into the courtroom this morning, I decided that I would only plead guilty to aggravated stalking the day that the vivisectionists plead guilty to being mercenaries and terrorists."

"I'm going to trial November 14 at 9 a.m. I should be back in Florida next week and will be on house arrest there until that time."

At a bond-lowering court appearance held a week ago, Marino's bond had been lowered from [\\$500,000](#) to \$35,000, with an added condition of house arrest.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the trial, starting on November 14.

23 Jul - The American Way of Massacres, by Mumia Abu-Jamal

We've pasted a new piece by Mumia below, based on his reaction to the recent shooting in Aurora, Colorado. .

MORE:

And here we go again.

A man armed with semi-automatic weapons unleashes his pent-up rage and alienation on his fellow Americans. He kills nearly a dozen people – men, women and babies – and wounds scores of others.

It need not be said that he is American. That is presumed. And while events such as these occasionally occur in other lands (as in Norway a year ago), they are most often an American expression.

Now, Aurora, Colorado joins the parade of death, of Columbine, of Virginia Tech and other points of massacre.

According to police accounts, the accused dyed his hair red, and called himself "The Joker", a mad villainous character from the comic book-made-movie series figure, "Batman".

"The Joker" slays a dozen people.

What next, the Penguin?

How utterly American!

There is something dark and foreboding in the American soul. A lust for violence that has not been sated by the genocide of Indian tribes, nor centuries of the legalized terrorism waged against Africans; nor the numerous wars waged abroad.

It is in our religious hymns, our national anthem, our entertainment and in our psyches.

War

Violence

Death

Destruction

It is in our Imperial foreign policy, and in our domestic policy (think prison industrial complex), as well.

And now, like a tennis championship title, a new name is etched on the memory of millions of Americans.

Aurora, Colorado.

Score: 12 and 59.

We're No. 1!

Again.

26 Jul – Sundiata Acoli denied parole

It certainly hurts to have to relay the news that once again Sundiata Acoli has been denied parole. His case has been referred to a panel of three people to determine the amount of time he will have to serve before becoming eligible for another hearing. Sundiata is now 74 years old and has served nearly 40 of those years in federal prison. Please take a moment to write him a card or letter.

MORE:

Clark Squire #39794-066

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1 Aug – Update on raids and grand jury subpoenas in the Pacific North West

There has been a lot written in the wake of recent raids, arrests, and grand jury subpoenas in Seattle and Olympia, Washington and Portland, Oregon. We're including some of it below.

MORE:

Our Passion for Freedom is Stronger than the State's Prisons

This statement was given by grand jury resisters this morning at a press conference in Portland, OR:

Hi my name is Dennison. I will be reading a statement on behalf of Dennison Williams, Leah-Lynn Plante. The two of us were subpoenaed to the secret grand jury to begin meeting on Thursday investigating anarchists.

We are releasing this statement to make clear our intention to resist the grand jury. We will not co-operate with their investigation. If we appear before the grand jury, we will not answer any questions other than our names. If

we are asked additional questions, we will invoke our First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendment rights. Under no circumstances will we talk about other people.

This grand jury is a tool of political repression. It is attempting to turn individuals against each other by coercing those subpoenaed to testify against their communities. The secret nature of grand jury proceedings creates mistrust and can undermine solidarity. And imprisoning us takes us from our loved ones and our responsibilities.

But our passion for freedom is stronger than the state's prisons. Our refusal to cooperate with the grand jury is a reflection of our own desires for a liberated world and our support for others who are working to bring that world into being. We support the efforts of all those who will be resisting this grand jury.

If you would like to join us, please visit: <http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com>. There you can find out how to sign on to a solidarity statement, donate money to our defense and support campaign, and write us should we be imprisoned.

More importantly, though, you can show your solidarity by refusing to co-operate with any police force and encouraging your friends and families to do the same. The police do not protect us, and do nothing to bring justice to those who have been hurt by others. If we want real safety, and real justice, we need to begin creating liberatory alternatives to the state's institutions.

Political Convictions?

Federal Prosecutors in Seattle Are Dragging Activists into Grand Juries, Citing Their Social Circles and Anarchist Reading Materials

On Thursday, August 2, at roughly 12:45 p.m., a small woman with long black hair and a red cardigan sweater stood on the lawn of Seattle's federal courthouse, surrounded by a few friends and around 75 protesters. On the steps behind her, a few dozen law-enforcement officers watched as she nervously spoke into a megaphone, announcing that she would not cooperate with the federal grand jury proceedings taking place inside. She said she would go into the courthouse, give the jury only her name and date of birth, and refuse to answer any further questions. "Under no circumstances," she said, speaking for herself and another recipient of a subpoena, "will we talk about other people."

The woman, a 24-year-old from Portland named Leah-Lynn Plante, was prepared to go to jail for refusing to talk about who may have been involved in the politically motivated vandalism in downtown Seattle on May Day, when activists smashed out the windows of several banks and stores—including Wells Fargo and Niketown—as well as a federal courthouse door.

Refusal to testify at a federal grand jury, especially on political grounds, can result in jail time for contempt of court. (Video journalist Josh Wolf, for example, served seven and a half months in 2006 and 2007 for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury and turn over his footage of a protest in San Francisco.)

In a follow-up interview with *The Stranger*, Plante said she wasn't even in Seattle on May 1 and is neither a witness to nor a perpetrator of any related crimes. She is, however, a self-declared anarchist and thinks the FBI singled her out because of her political beliefs and social affiliations.

"We support the efforts of all those who will be resisting this grand jury," she said quietly into the megaphone on the courthouse lawn. The crowd cheered.

"We love you, Leah!" somebody shouted. Plante smiled wanly. Then she walked up the courthouse steps past the line of officers, hugged two friends, wiped some tears from her eyes, and pushed her way through the revolving glass door. She was headed to a courtroom where she was not allowed to have an attorney to represent her or a judge to mediate—just a jury listening to a prosecutor who is looking for an indictment. (Because grand jury proceedings are secret, the US Department of Justice was unable to comment on any elements of this story.)

Plante had been summoned to Seattle by a federal subpoena, delivered to her in the early hours of July 25, when the FBI raided her home—one of several raids in Seattle, Olympia, and Portland in the past couple of months. FBI agents, she said, smashed through her front door with a battering ram with assault rifles drawn, "looking paramilitary." According to a copy of the warrant, agents were looking for black clothing, paint, sticks, flags,

computers and cell phones, and "anti-government or anarchist literature."

The warrants for the related raids used similar language. One warrant for an early morning raid at a Seattle home also listed black clothing, electronics, and "paperwork—anarchists in the Occupy movement." In effect, witnesses in Portland and Seattle say, federal and local police burst into people's homes while they were sleeping and held them at gunpoint while rummaging through their bookshelves, looking for evidence of political leanings instead of evidence of a crime. (For the record, I executed a quick search of my home early this morning and found black clothing, cans of paint, sticks, cloth, electronics, and "anarchist literature.")

"When I see a search warrant that targets political literature, I get nervous," said attorney Neil Fox, president of the Seattle chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. (The Seattle chapter released a statement urging the FBI and the US Attorney to end the raids and drop the grand jury subpoenas.) Raids like those can have a chilling effect on free speech, he said, and a long-term "negative effect on the country—you want to have robust discussions about political issues without fear." He also has concerns about the scope of the warrants: "'Anti-government literature' is so broad," he said. "What does that include? Does that include the writings of Karl Marx? Will that subject me to having my door kicked in and being dragged in front of a grand jury?"

Grand juries, Fox explained, were originally conceived as a protection for citizens against overzealous prosecutors and are enshrined in the Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution. A petit jury—the more familiar kind, from 6 to 12 people—determines innocence or guilt during a trial. A grand jury is larger, from 16 to 23 people, meets with a prosecutor but no defense attorneys, and determines whether there's enough evidence to indict someone for a federal crime.

Nowadays, Fox said, grand juries are often used by prosecutors and investigators who have run out of leads. But grand juries are secret, so it's difficult to know what the prosecutor is really doing. And the effects of raids and subpoenas like the ones in Seattle and Portland may be more about putting on the dramatic public spectacle of dragging people through the mud than investigating a crime.

Doug Honig, communications director at ACLU of Washington, echoed Fox's concerns: "If it's not carefully conducted, it can end up becoming a fishing expedition looking into people's political views and political associations."

Journalist Will Potter, author of *Green Is the New Red*, who has written extensively about US law enforcement and its relationships with political dissidents from the 1990s onward, said such investigations don't just incidentally chill free speech—in some cases, he believes, they're *trying* to do that.

"Sometimes, law enforcement believes this knocking-down-the-door, boot-on-the-throat intimidation is part of a crime-prevention strategy," he said. But a more pernicious goal may be social mapping. The anarchist books and cans of spray paint can be sexy items to wave around a courtroom, he said, but "address books, cell phones, hard drives—that's the real gold."

During the raid at her home, Plante said, some of the agents were initially hyperaggressive, but seemed "confused" by finding nothing more sinister than five sleepy young people. "It seemed like what they expected was some armed stronghold," she said. "But it's just a normal house, with normal stuff in the pantry, lots of cute animals, and everyone here was docile and polite."

"That's a really important point," Potter said when I mentioned that detail. "There's a huge disconnect between what the FBI and local police are being told and trained for, and what the reality is. There are presentations about ominous, nihilistic, black-clad, bomb-throwing, turn-of-the-century caricatures—the reality is that many anarchists are just organizing gathering spaces, free libraries, free neighborhood kitchens."

He directed me to a 2011 PowerPoint presentation from the FBI's "domestic terrorism operations unit"—posted on his blog—that described the current anarchist movement as "criminals seeking an ideology to justify their activities." Following that logic, the very presence of anarchist literature could be construed as evidence that someone has motivations to commit a crime. And it makes attorneys, journalists, and others who care about First Amendment protections nervous about a law-enforcement practice that conflates political beliefs with criminal activity.

Forty-five minutes after Plante pushed through the revolving door at the courthouse, she reemerged. She smiled shyly while the crowd of protesters cheered. Plante told the crowd that she gave the grand jury her name and her date of birth, refused to answer any other questions, and was released.

But Plante's ordeal isn't over—the court issued another subpoena for her to return on August 30. Whether she cooperates, and whether she faces jail time for noncooperation, remains to be seen.

Court documents detail searches for May Day riot suspects

A bandana, a pair of Nikes, a sex offender's chat with his corrections officer and tips from the public.

All have led police to narrow the search for those they say are responsible for the [Seattle May Day violence](#).

Recently released police reports detail the investigation thus far. The detectives' statements also show just the cost of the May 1 riot.

Niketown repairs totaled \$52,825.74; the Wells Fargo bank at Fourth Avenue and Seneca Street had at least \$25,978.13 in damage and a Verizon Wireless store had \$1,905.30 in damage.

Several other businesses, including American Apparel, Home Street Bank and Bank of America had thousands of dollars in damage. Damage to city property and the old federal courthouse also cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Police say one suspect was identified after her sex offender boyfriend admitted to his corrections officer he was at the protest.

Investigators said the pair was photographed during the demonstration, though prosecutors have yet to charge either. Because the sex offender acknowledged being at the protest as a street medic and because he had red paint spatter on his clothing, "it is reasonable to believe he was either present or involved with the property damage," a detective wrote in a search warrant affidavit.

An initial search of their bedroom turned up a bandana and backpack matching the description of the one worn by the girlfriend during the May Day riot, according to the recently released search documents. A bandana and backpack were among items taken later that day after Seattle police received the warrant.

A separate suspect who had his residence searched weeks later – a man who allegedly wore Nikes while shattering a Niketown window – was identified after two people who knew details about him called police on the May Day tip line, according to the recently released public documents.

With that information, investigators say they verified his address from previous contacts with the suspect.

During a search of his residence, police say they confiscated a pair of Nikes they suspect the 27-year-old man wore while damaging the downtown Seattle Niketown. It was one of at least three searches in Seattle related to the May Day investigation.

Though some of the May Day vandalism suspects have been charged in federal court King County Superior Court, none of the suspects affiliated with three recent searches have had their cases forwarded to prosecutors.

"This is still very much an active and ongoing investigation," Sgt. Sean Whitcomb said Thursday, noting there are additional suspects police are investigating. "Our task force with several detectives is still in place and we are working diligently to identify all those responsible for crimes during May Day and hold them responsible."

The first of the three known Seattle police searches was May 24 at the sex offender's Shoreline home, where his girlfriend also was. The second search was June 15 in Ballard at the Niketown suspect's residence, and the third was July 10 at the Judkins Park rental home of at least one other suspect.

While some details of those searches have been reported, several details of what exactly led police to those homes and how specifically they gained authorization for the searches have not been.

Corrections officer helped identify suspect

During the first search on May 24, police were looking for clothing and clear plastic goggles they think the registered sex offender wore during the May Day violence.

That man pleaded guilty to communications with a minor for immoral purposes in September.

Investigators say footage reviewed by the May Day Task Force shows his girlfriend throwing a projectile at police, which hits an officer in the head before deflecting onto the head of another officer.

Law enforcement officers familiar with the sex offender's case recognized that 21-year-old woman, police documents show.

The man's corrections officer reported searching a bedroom dresser and finding a black bandana that appeared to be the one worn by the woman during the officer attack. A backpack the girlfriend also wore that day was also inside the home, according to police.

Detectives took their case to a Superior Court judge who reviewed police statements and photos of both the sex offender and his girlfriend allegedly at the May Day protest before authorizing the search. Police seized a black jacket, a backpack, black pants with red paint, two pair of goggles, two bandanas and a greensweatshirt.

Police: Vandalism suspect wore Nikes at Niketown

The 27-year-old man who police say wore a pair of Nike's while vandalizing Niketown was known to officers for multiple previous contacts, according to investigation documents.

On July 12, 2011, he was suspected of shoplifting from a Ballard 7-Eleven, but was never charged. The following September, the man was a passenger in a young woman's BMW when it was involved in a Magnolia crash.

The third incident was Oct. 16 when police say the man, who was with other Occupy Seattle protestors at Westlake Park, shoved an officer in the chest and fled. He also was not charged in that incident.

But investigation documents show two people spoke to Seattle police on the May Day tip line, giving the man's name and details about his home.

Investigators say video shows the suspect, who wore a purple undershirt and black jeans, running from the crowd to damage a Niketown window. They also report having footage of him jumping on the rear window of a car during the riot, frightening the driver.

"Multiple photographs of (the suspect) were obtained using various databases/sources and after reviewing the images I can say with certainty (he) is the subject seen in the video and still images located by the May Day task force damaging property throughout the downtown shopping district of Seattle," [Detective Wes Friesen](#) wrote in an investigation document.

Detectives say he also was seen striking a Bank of America window with a garbage can lid. The suspect failed to break that window, but another person spray painted an anarchist symbol on the bank. Later footage shows the Nike-clad suspect shattering a window at the Verizon Wireless store near Sixth Avenue and Olive Way, police say.

A King County Superior Court judge approved a search of his three-bedroom Ballard home.

Police seized a purple shirt from his bedroom, black jeans, two purple scarves, alleged anarchist solidarity paperwork, a backpack, two belts, a notebook, a Washington driver's license and an envelope with the suspect's address.

Police say they also took the pair of black Nike's with red spots he's suspected of wearing while vandalizing Niketown.

Third search

During the May Day riots, the third suspect who had his home searched kicked an officer in the way "that someone would do when trying to blow out a knee," Friesen wrote in an investigation document. The 23-year-old man allegedly kicked the officer as his attention was directed to a hostile crowd and investigators believe it was done to cause significant injury.

"There are multiple images of (the suspect) throughout the day's events on 05-01-2012 attempting to

change/alter his identity by using different variations of his clothing," Friesen wrote. "It should be noted that multiple detectives reviewed a very large quantity of footage and at no time was any other subject seen wearing the unique clothing that (the suspect) was seen wearing."

That 23-year-old is believed to have fled from American Apparel wearing black goggles, police said.

Police authorized surveillance from outside the suspect's home in Judkins Park more than two weeks before their June search.

Investigation documents show the items seized during the July 10 search were: black goggles, a black sweatshirt with white strings, a pink scarf, a notebook, a black bandana, a black stocking hat, paperwork about anarchists in the occupy movement, a black glove and paperwork about a strike on May 1.

A blog report about the search by The Dissenter said the sweatshirt belonged to the suspect's girlfriend and a pamphlet taken was something that could have been picked up at any Occupy action. That blog also reported a pair of sunglasses was taken, but that is not listed in the search warrant return, which is a public document.

2 Aug - Bond Denied for NATO Protester Recharged in Chicago

NATO protester Danny Johnson initially had his charges thrown out at a preliminary hearing. Now, three months later, the State's Attorney has pushed for the charges, plus an additional felony, to be reinstated.

MORE:

NATO opponents are accusing State's Attorney Anita Alvarez of severely distorted priorities after her office steered a grand jury to reinstate charges against NATO protester Danny Johnson, whose case was thrown out by a judge at a preliminary hearing in May for lack of probable cause. Johnson was then secretly indicted by the State's attorney's Office on June 29 with an additional felony charge. Johnson had originally been accused of only one count of aggravated battery of a police officer during a May 15 immigrant rights protest held in conjunction with the week of NATO-related protests. Now Johnson is charged with two counts of aggravated battery for a crime that both Johnson and eyewitnesses refute.

Johnson, who is currently in jail, was denied bond in Cook County Circuit Court today. The case is scheduled for a bond hearing on August 7.

Johnson is a member of Occupy LA and Occupy Walk USA, a national walk-a-thon from the west coast to the east coast to advocate for economic justice. In February, he began walking from San Diego to New York with other participants as part of the campaign, and was in New York when he learned about Alvarez' move to recriminalize him.

Because Johnson had no permanent address at the time of his surprise indictment, a bench warrant was issued against him. He returned to Chicago and surrendered to authorities in mid- July after hearing of the indictment and bench warrant, where authorities took him into custody.

"Danny Johnson returned to Chicago to turn himself in because he is innocent and wants to fight these charges," says Micah Philbrook of Occupy Chicago, which participated in organizing NATO-related protests. "It's both telling and outrageous that State's Attorney Alvarez is willing to criminalize dissent – and re-criminalize a peaceful protester – at the same time that she refuses to hold the police officers who killed Rekia Boyd and Stephon Watts responsible for their crimes. Johnson should be immediately released."

The National Lawyers Guild is representing Johnson, and is committed to fighting the charges against him. Occupy Chicago has formed a committee to support those charged with serious crimes during the NATO week of actions. In particular, the so-called NATO 5, most of whom were charged with state terrorism crimes, are fervently supported and receive regular jail visits. For information on this efforts, visit: <http://nato5.occupychi.org/>

"Why are we wasting resources persecuting political activists when our city is mired in a crisis of police

accountability?" asks Joe Iosbaker of the Committee Against Political Repression. "The police are still patting themselves on the back for brutalizing demonstrators during NATO, while the State's Attorney's office refuses to prosecute the crimes of police officers against torture victims and targets of police brutality – including people the police have murdered. Where are our priorities?"

2 Aug - Update from CeCe in St. Cloud: July, 2012

Several of CeCe McDonald's supporters have been able to visit her over the past weeks. We've included an update written by one of them and based on CeCe's thoughts on a number of issues.

MORE:

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 the U.S., 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 trans people 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.

3 Aug - it's official: MAIL FAIL by Mandy Hiscocks

G20 political prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has another blog entry and we've included it below.

MORE:

well this is embarrassing.

i am sorry to say that in spite of my good intentions and my best efforts, it's no longer possible for me to answer all of your letters. i'm so sorry. i've been deluding myself for months that i'll be able to catch up but no matter how hard i try, the pile of unanswered mail keeps growing – and sooner or later i am going to lose it all in a search.

of course, this is a testament to how awesome you all are! i would love to keep hearing from you as long as you won't be offended if i can't write you back. but if you're looking for a more balanced relationship with an incarcerated pen pal, i suggest contacting your local prisoner correspondence project or prisoner solidarity group or google jail pen-pals. there are a lot of inmates who would love to get letters and who will be able to put the time and energy you deserve into replying. with [Prisoners Justice Day](#) coming up on August 10th, this is a perfect time to spread the solidarity around.

i feel pretty terribly about having to retract my promise to answer every letter, but i never would have imagined getting this many and with only four months left to go i need to be realistic. . .i hope you understand and won't hold it against me. as always i am grateful for and honoured by all of your support.

3 Aug - Shadows by Marie Mason

Here's a new poem by Marie Mason. If you plan to write Marie, this is a great place to start a dialog with her.

MORE:

Sometimes when the paper holds a ghost
before the colors touch the page,
and shadows rise to the surface
of collective conscience,
and apparition fast-appearing
whole
like Venus rising in the foam or,
Athena's agile form
Sword-swinging a surprise entrance on Olympus,
compelling an attention, and
Intention forms, flows, suggests,
Knowing that we
Planaria Imperious
armed with thumbs
and our species' strange mythology of eminent domain,
Still eat images like microbes do, instinctual amoebas all.
And where dialogue has been defeated
We are still seduced by color and the body's biophilia.
The shadows stories build an Elegy,
A Requiem for Nature
And maybe more -
A memory consumed from mind to mind direct
As planaria connect
To say in fact across the generations
Look and love the light,
The light that casts these shadows on the wall.
For ' love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
Love never fails'
To recreate the world in its own image
And force the false constructions of Tyranny's diseased display
To collapse in dust, like Ozymandias
And wash away like chalk in summer rain.

3 Aug - PFC Manning update

Here's the latest roundup of updates regarding alleged Army whistleblower Pfc. Manning.

MORE:

Petition for Bradley Manning nears 20,000 signatures. In just a few short days, Daniel Ellsberg's petition to free Bradley Manning - also endorsed by the Bradley Manning Support Network and the Center for Constitutional Rights - has well over 15,500 signatures, a number that continues to rise precipitously.

Sign the petition today! Click

here:http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Save_human_rights_whistleblower_Bradley_Manning/?cCTAqdb

Bradley passes 800 days in prison without court martial. Though case law suggests a much shorter pretrial confinement and civilian law affords only 120 days without trial, the military has held Bradley Manning for more than 800 days without starting his court martial, and doesn't plan to do so until at least February 2013. That would make his pretrial confinement well over 1,000 days. The Blend marks the 800th day.

Pretrial confinement abuse to be argued in October; Bradley likely to testify. David Coombs explained the motion, which at Bradley's last hearing he said would "shock the conscience of the court," at his blog [<http://www.armycourtmartrialdefense.info/2012/07/unlawful-pretrial-punishment-motion.html>]:

The Defense is requesting the Court to dismiss all charges with prejudice owing to the illegal pretrial punishment PFC Manning was subjected to in violation of Article 13, UCMJ and the Fifth and Eighth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

The motion was originally scheduled to be argued on 27 through [31 August 2012](#). However, the motion was delayed due to the Defense just receiving additional information that impacts the Article 13 issue. The new information will require additional witnesses to be called and for the Defense to file a supplement to its motion. **The rescheduled dates for the unlawful pretrial punishment motion will be 1 through [5 October 2012](#).**

Then Coombs published two filings:

- 1) Defense Requested Witnesses: Article 13 Motion; and
- 2) Defense Motion to Compel Production of Witnesses and Evidence for Article 13 Motion

Coombs will post the Article 13 motion in full as soon as he's given permission. In the meantime, Kevin Gosztola has written up these filings, focusing on the fact that Bradley himself will likely be called to testify regarding his illegal conditions at Quantico.

Kevin Gosztola filing FOIA requests to challenge military secrecy. The government has made the rather absurd claim that because FOIA requests are available to reporters and the public, the military is not required to make a transcript and basic documents from Bradley Manning's pretrial proceedings publicly available. One of the problems with this logic is that the government sometimes takes months or even years to respond; another is that Josh Gerstein's FOIA request was denied, maintaining the secrecy with which the military prosecutes Bradley Manning for no reason at all.

To counter this secrecy, Kevin Gosztola is getting thousands of supporters to sign on to his FOIA requests, to highlight the clear public interest in Bradley Manning's case. He filed one request yesterday, August 2, for Judge Lind's decisions and will file more in the near future.

6 Aug - Chris French beaten by guards

We have gotten word that NATO protest arrestee Chris French has been severely beaten by prison guards.

MORE:

Sometime in the past week, Chris was pulled into a room by 2 prison guards who handcuffed his arms behind his back and used their batons, fists, and boots to beat him for an extended period of time. They also used pepper-spray at point blank range for several minutes while holding his eyes open. This was done in response to Chris

not tucking in his shirt, supposedly.

This is unacceptable. Although incarceration is always terrible, this type of treatment is torture.

Chris is in need of solidarity. Please write him letters of support and encouragement. It is probably best not to mention the beating in the letters because he may not receive them if you do.

Christopher French 2012-0522081

Cook County Jail

Post Office Box 089002

Chicago, Illinois 60608

Furthermore, any gestures of solidarity could greatly lift Chris's spirits.

Chris has another hearing soon. If you are anywhere near Chicago, please consider attending. The location of the hearing, unfortunately, will not be released until the last minute – according to Chris's legal counsel. Please check <http://freedomforchris.wordpress.com> for more updates as they come in.

6 Aug – Lynne Stewart update

We've pasted a short update on Lynne Stewart by her husband.

MORE:

Thank you for all of this outpouring of solidarity and support.

To compound the recent appeal denial, Lynne after a 3 yr delay had surgery.

When I attempted to visit afterwards, I was denied entrance because allegedly my x-ray paperwork regarding my recent shoulder implant operation had to be updated. And now, we learn Lynne has been sanctioned for 45 days for 'helping' inmates with their court papers. This means no email, no phone calls, no commissary, no visits etc. for 45 days.

This conveniently occurs at time when she needs to be in communication regarding her own court papers. Lynne has always told me she would rather be in solitary confinement than stop being who she is, i.e. helping others. To quote Lynne, "I know why I do what I do, therefore, the government's response, although sometimes more horrific than at other times, is to be expected."

Every day that she stays who she is - is a victory against this fascist government. So write Lynne, write Lynne, write Lynne because Lynne is right.

Ralph Poynter

Lynne Stewart Org.

6 Aug – Dr. Mutulu Shakur update

We've received an update from Dr. Mutulu Shakur regarding his parole and pardon processes.

MORE:

THURSDAY THE 26 OF JULY I HAD THE PAROLE BOARD HEARING AT 8 AM, BOTH ATTORNEYS WERE THERE: JAMES SIMMONS AND NANA GYAMFE FROM LA.

WE WERE ABLE TO EXPAND THE RECORD AS TO THE NEW DISCLOSURE THAT DISPROVED THE COMMISSIONS FINDING ON MANY ISSUES. THIS HEARING WAS A STATUTORY INTERIM HEARING AND THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO DEMONSTRATE NEW INFORMATION OR LAW THAT WAS NOT ON THE PRIOR RECORDS.

I BELIEVE THAT I ACCOMPLISHED SAID GOALS, BUT THE EXAMINER WAS NOT WILLING TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN THE CASE.

ALL ISSUES AS TO MY STATUS MUST BE RULED ON IN WASHINGTON BY THE NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD, SO A FINAL DECISION IS FORTHCOMING. THEY HAVE NOT RULED IN MY FAVOR IN THE PAST, BUT WE HAVE PUT A SUBSTANTIAL RECORD FOR THEM TO REVIEW.

WE ARE STILL IN THE 2ND CIRCUIT WAITING FOR A DECISION FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT JUDGE A RULE 35A TO CORRECT THE SENTENCES.

WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A PARDON APPLICATION TO PRESIDENT OBAMA.

SO AS YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE STILL POSSIBILITIES TO GET SOME RELIEF, FOR WITHOUT STRUGGLE SURELY WE CAN'T EXPECT TO HAVE VICTORY ... SO I THANK YOU ALL WHO HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO HELP ME IN THIS FIGHT FOR MY FREEDOM.

WE WILL NOT LOSE FAITH IN OUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME INJUSTICES.

AIM HIGH AND GO ALL OUT!
STIFF RESISTANCE!

THANK YOU ALL
MUTULU SHAKUR

7 Aug - Final thanks from Jordan Halliday

Former grand jury resistance prisoner Jordan Halliday has written a note of thanks and we're sending it on.

MORE:

Hello friends,

I just wanted to express my gratitude towards all of you who have supported me and shown continued solidarity through all of this mess.

I wanted to say thank you for all the letters and books I received while I was in prison.

I'll never be able to express in words how important those letters and books were to me.

I am still readjusting to "free" life, outside of prison. But, slowly getting back into the groove of life.

As I have expressed countless times, we need to know our rights and read up on the grand jury system and how it is used as a tool for political repression. It is only a matter of when, not if, someone in our communities will be effected by a grand jury subpoena.

Recently the FBI has conducted a series of raids and subpoenaed many radical individuals in Seattle, Olympia, and Portland.

This shows that my case is not an isolated incident and it can and will happen more in the future.

While I am celebrating my release from prison. Please, keep other political prisoners in mind.

Thank you all again,
Jordan Halliday

7 Aug – U.S. media ignores political prisoners by Linn Washington

Journalist Linn Washington has written a new piece on the willful ignorance of corporate media regarding U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war.

MORE:

With Olympics mania, more mass shooting mayhem, presidential election antics and withering heat dominating recent news coverage it's easy to understand how the American media could miss the mission of one man currently kayaking across the Caribbean Ocean.

This man known as "Tito Kayak" is on his solo paddle voyage to protest against political prisoners held in the United States, particularly one Puerto Rican nationalist languishing in prison for more than thirty-years.

This political prisoner topic — driving Puerto Rican environmental activist Alberto de Jesus into making his cross-Caribbean trek in a tiny kayak during hurricane season — is not a subject of interest for the American media which concentrates inordinately on covering celebrity in political, financial, sports and entertainment circles.

The rare times most American news media get interested in coverage of political prisoners is when those political prisoners are held by enemies of the United States.

Political prisoners in Cuba or Iran — the U.S. news media affords coverage.

Political prisoners in Pennsylvania prison cells, like Philadelphia's MOVE 9 and Mumia Abu-Jamal — not news fit to broadcast, print or post by most mainstream American news entities.

"Tito Kayak" is paddling to increase awareness about the plight of elderly Puerto Rican nationalist Oscar Lopez Rivera who received a 70-year sentence in the early 1980s following a conviction for conspiring to overthrow the governments of the United States and Puerto Rico — the Caribbean island considered by some as a U.S. colony.

Many Puerto Ricans, including Rivera and the thirteen colleagues convicted with him, want Puerto Rico to become an independent country.

Other Puerto Ricans favor statehood within the United States for their island nation, while many like the current status of Puerto Rico being a commonwealth connected to the United States.

Oscar Lopez Rivera's offense, according to federal officials, was his membership in FALN, a Puerto Rican nationalist organization seeking independence for the country by any means necessary, including arms.

Federal authorities linked FALN to a series of bombings but did not specifically tie Rivera to any of those bombings, resting instead on the elastic, easy-to-win-conviction charge of conspiracy. Rivera continues to deny having any role in bombings or violence.

In 1999, then-U.S. President Bill Clinton granted clemency to Rivera and 11 of the 14 people convicted with him. Rivera refused the clemency offer citing the offer not covering all 14 and his disagreement with post-release restrictions.

The United Nations, in 2006, called for the release of Rivera. A U.S. congressional subcommittee and Amnesty International have criticized the prison conditions endured by those FALN inmates including assaults and denial of medical attention.

In March 2011, authorities slapped down Rivera's parole request ordering Rivera to wait another fifteen years before permitting him another parole hearing.

Recalcitrant, manipulative parole procedures also mark the case the MOVE 9 — persons serving sentences arising from an August 8, 1978, incident involving the death of a Philadelphia policeman that dismissed evidence strongly indicates they did not commit.

The MOVE 9 (now 8 due to the in-prison death of one) have served the minimum of their 30- to 100-year prison sentence, but state parole authorities routinely reject their parole requests on specious grounds.

Parole authorities, for example, rejected the release requests of two imprisoned male MOVE members citing their failure to take anger management training when that pair had both taken the training and were instructing other prisoners in anger management with the approval of prison officials.

The topic of political prisoners in the U.S. is apparently taboo for most American mainstream news media.

In the late 1970s, for example, the U.S. news media routinely carried stories of Amnesty International adopting political prisoners held in torturous conditions by Soviet communists.

But in the late '70s when AI released its first-ever list of American political prisoners, the U.S. news media all but blacked out that news.

That list included one Philadelphian, Imari Obadele, a Black nationalist and reparations advocate then serving a federal prison sentence arising from a conviction secured through misconduct by federal prosecutors and FBI agents — misconduct proven through detailed FBI documents grudgingly released years after Obadele's trial.

Philadelphia news media ignored that AI report listing Obadele.

The news media's general "see-no-evil" coverage practices regarding rights denials/injustices involving politically active non-whites extends across the Atlantic Ocean.

During last year's rioting in England — which began in London on August 6 — British media was in lock-step with the view of British Prime Minister David Cameron who angrily declared rioters represented "mindless criminality, pure and simple."

During the height of that August 2011 rioting, a BBC interviewer created controversy by castigating respected Black journalist/activist Darcus Howe for correctly showing that some of the rioting was an "insurrection" by young people upset with police abuses and economic deprivations similar to the Arab Spring.

The BBC later publicly apologized to Howe for the tacky behavior of its interviewer.

Howe, an elder statesman in London's Afro-Caribbean community, said during a December 2011 Philadelphia Tribune interview, that his "opposing the political line of the BBC" produced the interviewer's "insult."

Tito Kayak's 1,400-mile trek from Venezuela to Puerto Rico, stopping at islands along the way, has news value from just showing one man covering such a distance.

If Tito Kayak paddled to show strength from drinking bullion broth and not the plight of political prisoners he'd receive featured network and cable news coverage.

8 Aug – Urgent funds needed for Cleveland 4 legal defense

We're including a call for donations to the Cleveland Four legal defense as well as a report back from the

hearings on motions to suppress post-arrest statements, and a call for an August 31st day of solidarity with the Four.

MORE:

This year, the FBI has decided to go after the Occupy movement, to shut down this vibrant community and halt the social change we're working for.

After brutal, coordinated police evictions across the country, the FBI ratcheted up their attacks in Cleveland, Ohio, where the FBI entrapped five Occupy activists. On May Day, these guys were arrested and accused of plotting a series of bombings in the area, including a commuter bridge in a national park. The FBI was infiltrating the Occupy protests in Cleveland as early as last fall, picked their targets and spent months orchestrating this trap. Their timing was perfect, so that, instead of May Day headlines covering Occupy actions around the world, the U.S. media was greeted with sensational stories about "terrorists from the Occupy movement, caught in the act."

We know how the government operates to attack social movements, from labor movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, to civil rights movements, to environmental movements to peace movements: disrupt, discredit, and destroy. But we can stop these ploys and strengthen our movement, by mobilizing a strong, unified defense in the media and in court this September. We need to raise \$80,000 to pay for legal fees, and get the truth in media outlets across the country. Let's match the FBI's federal budgets with a national response – the power of the people!

We face challenging odds. Media coverage has been superficial and biased.

And so far, we've only been able to raise \$12,000, mostly from our own savings. Worse, at the end of July, one of the five took a plea deal with the government. Please join us in supporting the remaining Cleveland 4, to help Brandon, Connor, Doug, and Josh get home to their families and loved ones.

However, this case is truly scandalous, and, with a decisive victory in court, this could be a turning point in the FBI's use of this strategy of attacking the left. Help us turn this against the FBI and expose them in the national eye, all while saving our friends from spending the rest of their lives in prison, branded as terrorists.

More information is available at <http://www.cleveland4solidarity.org>

Please contact us at cleveland4solidarity@riseup.net -- we'd love to hear from you! You can also donate via our website or by sending checks to Conveyor Belt Collective c/o Cleveland 4 Justice, Post Office Box 602117, Cleveland, Ohio 44102. If you'd like to hold a fundraiser or a media event in your area, contact us for an organizing kit.

Cleveland 4 Hearings on Motions to Suppress Post-Arrest Statements

8.6.12

9 am: Doug's hearing (about 1 hr)

It was suggested in court that Doug's interrogation lasted just under an hour. However, the video recording lasts closer to two hours, leaving it unclear how much of that time was spent in interrogation. The motion to suppress the post-arrest statement was denied but the video and audio of the post arrest statement were suppressed due to faulty recording. It was also made clear that Doug did not make any incriminating statements against his co-defendants. Special Agent Ryan M. Taylor (3 years with the FBI) took the stand. With Agent Taylor's statement, it was referenced in open court to threats that had been received. Taylor testified that in his post arrest statement, Doug stated that he went to the bridge that night because his girlfriend was being threatened and he was afraid of what would happen if he didn't go (this is in the audio recording). The joint motion that Vegh submitted was not ruled on. The motion was to suppress incriminating statements made by the co-defendants. Judge Dowd wanted to wait until all of the individual hearings had occurred and wanted briefs submitted pertaining to the Bruton rule as it pertained to one or more co-defendants and an entrapment defense.

8.6.12

1 pm: Connor's Hearing (about 3 hrs)

Connor's post arrest interview was over 4 hours long. Gilbert argued that during the interview, the FBI violated Connor's 6th amendment right to counsel and his 5th amendment Miranda rights. Therefore, any statements made by Connor during the interrogation were involuntary and inadmissible in court. Gilbert stated that there was expressed as well as implied coercion. The motion was not ruled on yet. The prosecution and defense have a little over a week to submit some more information the judge requested. Special Agent Jared Ruddy (8 years with the FBI) took the stand. The agent engaged Stevens in discussion for 14 minutes before the review of Miranda rights. He stated things like: "you know we have some things we need to cover," before advising Connor of his rights and making statements that sounded like the agent was alluding to promises if Connor agreed to talk. The agent also continued to question Connor after he made statements like: I'm not in any condition to talk about this sh*t right now. I'm exhausted, I'm lost, I'm cold, I'm tired, I'm lonely. I'm not in a good state. I don't want to incriminate anybody else or myself any more than I already have. Judge Dowd had many questions for the agent asking him why he continued to ask questions after Stevens stated that he was in no condition to continue. Again the judge mentioned needing more information about Bruton and entrapment.

8.7.12

9 am: Joshua Stafford Hearing (1 hr)

Joshua's post arrest statement was about an hour long. Joshua's hearing was not much of a hearing at all, but rather mostly just both counsels speaking in private to the judge. It was made clear that there were many problems with how the govt. conducted his interrogation, such as not signing a Miranda waiver, continuing to ask questions and proceeding with interrogation after Joshua explicitly stated that he did not waive his rights. Joshua's lawyers withdrew the motion to suppress his post arrest statement on the condition that the govt agreed not to use the statement. The only exception to this, which Judge Dowd pointed out, was that if in his own testimony (if he testifies) Joshua says something that contradicts the post arrest statement, the govt could use it during cross examination. It was also pointed out by the prosecution and the defense that Joshua said nothing incriminating about himself or others and that in fact, much of the interview could be exculpatory evidence (favorable to the defendant) if admissible.

8.7.12

11 am: Brandon Baxter Hearing (3.5 hrs)

Brandon's post arrest statement was about 2 hours long. This was a very emotional hearing. Brandon took the stand to give a testimony sharing that he was dazed, confused, nervous, terrified and intimidated. He felt that if he didn't do what the agent wanted he didn't know what would happen to him. He stated that he felt like they were giving him an offer, that things wouldn't be as bad if he did what they wanted. He knew about the Indefinite Detention clause of the National Defense Authorization Act, stating that the government could make people disappear. He felt like he was being pressured to sign and stated that he was afraid for his life. He also stated that Shaquille Azir, the FBI informant, had provided him with alcohol the night he was arrested and previously supplied him with Adderall. John Pyle, Brandon's lawyer, also pointed out that this investigation and interaction with the FBI informant was happening when Brandon was still a teenager (he turned 20 just days before being arrested).

The judge denied the motion to suppress his post arrest statement stating that there was substantial compliance with Miranda on the agent's part who was conducting the interrogation. Although he did make it a point that this reading of the waiver should have happened first, before making comments regarding the case or anything that would persuade him to incriminate himself. The agent, Daniel Molina (over 15 years with FBI) who took the stand, made statements like: I'll tell you why you are here...we have a lot of info. to support that... We want to talk to you to give you a chance to be truthful with us... and we can pass that along to the prosecution and take that into considerations...info. about other parties involved. You are looking at 20-30 years in prison. The judge also stated that the statement was "not involuntary" and that the agents had a legitimate concern for the safety of the public (other actions i.e. Chicago). The motion was dismissed in its entirety. The government

also mentioned that they had not decided if they would use any of the post arrest statements, but that if they did there was a high likelihood of using Brandon's.

National Day of Action for the Cleveland 4

On Friday, August 31st, join your comrades around the country in raising legal support funds for the Cleveland 4, who were entrapped by the FBI and face up to life in prison because of their politics and association with the Occupy movement. The defendants need to raise \$80K to create the best defense possible against the government's sensational prosecution based on manufactured crimes. You can find out more at <http://cleveland4solidarity.org> and donate online at <https://www.wepay.com/donations/cleveland-5-justice-legal-fund> or by sending checks or money orders made out to Conveyor Belt Collective to Post Office Box 602117, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

Arrested in Cleveland on April 30th in a calculated move designed to disrupt May Day protests and celebrations everywhere, five people initially faced charges for an alleged conspiracy to destroy a bridge. These five are Brandon Baxter, Connor Stevens, Douglas L. Wright, Joshua Stafford, and Tony Hayne. On July 25th, Tony accepted a cooperating plea deal with the government. He pled guilty to all three charges and agreed to testify against his co-defendants in exchange for a minimum sentence of 16 years in federal prison. His cooperation has directly increased the danger his co-defendants are facing and harmed our struggles for social justice.

The Cleveland 4 need our support now more than ever! With trial scheduled to begin on September 18th, time is running short and money is urgently needed for investigation costs, testimony from expert witnesses, and other legal expenses.

On August 31st, the Cleveland 4 will be preparing for one of the biggest moments in their lives from their jail cells. Their lawyers will be working fervently to secure their acquittal and release. And the prosecutors will be finalizing their plans to lock up these activists for life, as a threat to all of us to abandon our struggles for a better world—or else.

What will you be doing?

Show solidarity for the Cleveland 4 by hosting a fundraiser for them—a show, a movie screening, a discussion, a noise demo and rally, a bake sale, whatever strikes your fancy. Have you been a part of the Occupy movement in your city? Pass the hat among your comrades and raise \$100 to support these defendants—every bit helps! Let us know your plans so we can add them to our calendar.

The case of the Cleveland 4 is not a story of misguided activists doing dangerous things. Rather, it is the story of a pattern of state repression focused on destroying resistance and undermining solidarity within the 99%. This is a story of an FBI agent provocateur who targeted activists, manufactured a plot to blow up a bridge, and coerced the defendants into going along with his scheme, all to keep himself out of prison.

This case is not an isolated incident, but one instance in an historic pattern of state repression. Just a couple weeks after the Cleveland 4, the Chicago police arrested the NATO 5, charging three Occupy activists (the NATO 3—Brent Betterly, Brian Jacob Church, Jared Chase) with conspiracy to make Molotov cocktails, Sebastian Senakiewicz with falsely making terroristic threats, and Mark Neiweem with attempted possession and solicitation of an incendiary device. These five were also targeted by provocateurs because of their political views and associations. We must defend them as we defend all other political prisoners and prisoners of war—their liberation is bound up with ours! Find out more at <http://nato5.occupychi.org> and check back for an announcement about an upcoming National Day of Action for the NATO 5!

As the national political conventions quickly approach, we should expect to see more provocateurs targeting activists and manufacturing plots in order to charge them with serious crimes and threaten them with decades in prison. We must show the government that we will not stand idly by while they attack our movements and imprison our comrades. We must put a stop to this pattern of infiltration, provocation and entrapment. And we

must step up to support our comrades around the country. So on Friday, August 31st, bring your community together to show your solidarity with the Cleveland 4!

8 Aug - Dear Friends by Kelly Pflug-Back

Recently imprisoned G20 prisoner Kelly Pflug-Back will be periodically writing for a blog/ We'll be sure to include her writings in future updates and have included her first entry below.

MORE:

Two years after the g20 summit in Toronto, my court proceedings have finally been resolved. I feel a huge amount of relief that i am no longer caught in legal limbo, and although i will possibly be in jail until February my heart is filled with joy and inspiration.

While i have no access to the Internet or a computer while I'm at Vanier, my wonderful friends and my partner Doug will be keeping this page updated with messages that I send through the mail.

Three of my new poems are now online at Counterpunch and an article I wrote has been published on Crimethinc. I also have a short story forthcoming from [Strange Horizons](#) and an article my partner and I co-wrote is coming up in the next issue of [Iconoclast](#).

Although it is so laborious to write in long-hand with a dull golf-sized pencil (the full-sized ones are, presumably, too easily weaponized), I am determined to keep writing throughout these months.

While institutional environments tend to numb the senses & discourage creativity, the womyn with whom I am incarcerated are such constant sources of strength, light and inspiration.

I send my unending gratitude to my friends, my family, my colleagues and the faculty at my school who have supported me through this all.

I do not need much in terms of support and I ask that people do not donate any funds to me personally — anyone who wishes to send money should contact my support committee (we.love.our.leader@gmail.com) or my partner, who needs money for transportation and phone calls so that we can still talk and see each other (albeit through irksome Plexiglass.)

I'm fairly busy in here at the moment, so I can't promise that I'll be able to answer all my mail, but I promise to try my best!

9 Aug - Occupier charged with terroristic felony for protesting in front of bank Lucia

A protester belonging to an Occupy Wall Street group in rural Pennsylvania is being charged with felony attempted bank robbery and a terrorism-related charge for holding signs up during a demonstration at a local Wells Fargo branch.

MORE:

David C. Gorczynski, 22, was charged on Tuesday with attempted bank robbery and terroristic threatening, both felonies, as well as one misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct. Police detained him after he walked into an Easton, PA Wells Fargo branch with a sign that read "You're being robbed" and another that said "Give a man a gun, he can rob a bank. Give a man a bank, and he can rob a country."

Gorczynski was at the Wells Fargo bank as part of a demonstration led by Occupy Easton, the small Pennsylvania town's OWS offshoot.

Easton is located around 60 miles outside of Philadelphia and has a population of only 26,800 according to the 2010 census.

The Express-Times reports that police were alerted to the branch after a bank teller hit an alarm that alerted the authorities.

"I think our guys did what they had to do in this instance," Easton police Chief Carl Scalzo tells the paper. "At the end of the day, if we get a report of a panic alarm at a bank, we're going to respond accordingly."

Chief Scalzo adds that Gorczyński's First Amendment right to protest freely can't trump any allegations that he may have been behind something more sinister.

"We can't allow the perceived idea of protesting to be a defense to criminality," Scalzo says in response to reports that the suspect was simply demonstrating Wall Street corruption. "People have to understand if they want to protest, there's a line."

Mary Catherine Roper of the American Civil Liberties Union tells the paper that the charges seem *"overzealous . . . especially given the clear political nature of the statements."*

Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli tells The Express-Times, *"I'm very on top of this"* and claims he is investigating whether or not the charges were justified.

"He is not the criminal. If the police were truly there to protect and serve the taxpayers, the banksters would be arrested and this man would be called a hero," the Occupy Easton group responds on Facebook.

Gorczyński was released on \$10,000 bond after a defense and bail fund established online helped bring in enough money to buy his freedom after his arrest.

11 Aug - Ramadan Riot 2010, Maplehurst CC by Alex Hundert

Another of the G20 prisoners has been frequently writing and we've included his latest below.

MORE:

This piece was originally intended to be released by August 1st. It was first drafted in late July. However, in accordance with the wishes of the interviewee, who, despite having used an alias to conceal his identity, fears recriminations for telling this story. It seems rather fitting to delay publication though, for this way, the release can be timed in conjunction with Prison Justice Day 2012.

When I write the words "Riot 2010", the last thing I expect comes to people's minds is the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. But shortly after I received my first bail, for the charges on which I am now incarcerated, in the same complex that first held myself and more than 16 others accused in the G20 main conspiracy group, there was a riot in Maplehurst. This too was a politically motivated riot, but of a very different kind than the one that reclaimed the streets of Toronto in June of 2010.

Almost 2 years ago, just days after Prison Justice Day 2010, what is now known as the Ramadan Riot went off on Unit 8 of the Maplehurst Correctional Centre in Milton, Ontario. The aftermath of that riot saw both Maplehurst and the Vanier Correctional Centre for Women on total lockdown for four and three days respectively and thirteen prisoners from Maplehurst sent to the hole for forty days before all being shipped out to various prisons across the province.

Fasting—from dawn 'til dusk during the month of Ramadan—is one of the five pillars of Islam. The federal and provincial prison systems are supposed to accommodate the religious faith of those people they have incarcerated. In order to accommodate Ramadan, Muslim inmates who wish to observe are supposed to be delivered their meals not during the day but just after sunset and again before sunrise. Given that one of the lessons of Ramadan's fast is to help adherents develop self-control and to overcome selfishness, laziness, and greed (amongst other temptations), one would think that the so-called corrections systems would wholeheartedly support the practices of the faith. However, the Ramadan Riot of 2010 and some subsequent experiences of adherents trying to observe behind bars have suggested that the prisons' efforts to accommodate the fast are often tokenistic at best.

NM, 23—whose name has been concealed to protect him from potential fallouts from this piece—was very reluctant to sit down with me to talk about what happened at Maplehurst in the summer of 2010. This, despite knowing that I too had been briefly held there that summer, though on a different unit. The unit that I and my co-accused were on had actually been cleared out of other inmates to make room for the G20 rioters who had

drastically escalated their street protests against the austerity agenda, which has since led to similar protests around the world. NM, like me, was labeled as one of the “ring-leaders” of a riot in the summer of 2010.

When I asked NM about observing Ramadan in jail, he tells me that “there is no difference where you are or your surroundings.” he continues, “The one thing that I can say about fasting in jail is that you get more of a reward because it is a harder environment to starve in.”

When I reflect on what NM has told me, I understand that it is harder because in here we are already starved for so many essential things—responsibility, affection, nature, freedom. His story of the riot and this sentiment that he has imparted to me will both be in my heart and mind among the things I will contemplate during my own fast on August 10 for this year’s Prison Justice Day 24-hour hunger strike.

In August of 2010, Ramadan started immediately after Prison Justice Day, and from the start, at Maplehurst it was obvious that the jail had no intention of taking seriously people’s right to observe their religious faith. The evening meals (which were supposed to be served hot) were arriving cold. On the second day, Muslim inmates spoke to the Imam who comes to the prison to lead prayers. According to NM, the Imam told them that unfortunately, in jail, “they don’t accommodate.”

On the third day of Ramadan, the Islamic inmates on Unit 8—all 20 of them—requested “blue letter” complaint forms that are the formal procedural means for filing grievances with the provincial ombudsman responsible for ensuring prisoners’ rights in all Ontario jails. However, in all my conversations with other inmates, I have never once heard a story of the ombudsman doing anything to rectify a complaint at the provincial level, not once. In this instance, the letters would have told the ombudsman about meal portions that were way too small and delivered all at once in the evening (instead of twice a day—once after sunset, and then again before dawn).

On the fourth day, the letters went out in NM’s words saying, “The food was cold, no one is helping us, we’re starving.” He tells me that each day they had tried talking to a different captain, but “no one cares [because] you’re Muslim,” he says. That night, when one inmate became irate, he was taken to the hole. The next day, NM tells me, “we rioted.”

The initial plan had not been for a riot. Those who had instigated the protest initially called for it to be “peaceful,” whereby they would sit down on the range and refuse to go back to their cells until the captains agreed to bring them the appropriate food at appropriate times. Evidently, though, on one range—E block—people were too upset for that degree of restraint, and their response to the plan was, “we’re rioting.” On A block, the inmates refused to participate, saying that it would all be futile because “they” would merely “smash you up and ship you out,” “they” meaning the guards.

On the fifth day of Ramadan, August 15 2010, when lockdown was called for, “E block went off.” As NM describes it, the guys were all “masked up” as they massed at the wall-sized windows that separated prisoners from the guards in the panopticon formation that is the boiler-plate design for both the Maplehurst and Penetang superjails. When the guys on other ranges saw this, “then everybody went off.”

On three separate blocks of Unit 8, inmates refused to go into their cells, and started to cover the cameras and windows in their ranges. When the captains came to try to talk down the prisoners, NM tells me that they were told that they’d been warned. When the first captain stepped onto E block, he got knocked out cold, as did one of the guards who trailed him.

The response from the guards was swift and violent on E block, as nearly 100 corrections officers poured onto the range. When the other ranges saw their fellow inmates getting brutalised by the guards, most stopped rioting and tried to return to their cells.

One of the things that stands out for me, from NM’s telling, is while on the one hand it was not just Muslims who were rioting, on the other, guards were beating people who weren’t themselves actually participating, as well as those who were. When I ask him about this further, he tells me that “people were rioting because jail is bullshit; people understood that Muslims were getting mistreated.” One of the lessons here is that whether it’s within the confines of an institution or out on the streets, solidarity will always be a major factor in any riot.

That's part of why the state and its institutions will always attempt to systemically break down solidarity between individuals and between communities.

In the end, NM and 12 others were taken to the hole. He tells me that while they were dragging him there, the guards banged his head off nearly every pillar along the way, one of them taunting him with racist slurs each time. He spent the fifth night of Ramadan naked in a cell with two other battered prisoners. It was only in the following days that they were gradually given back some clothes and mattresses to sleep on, and moved into their own solitary confinement cells. They spent 40 days in the hole—a month of punishment instead of a month of prayer—before being shipped out to other prisons. I imagine though, that without prayer and faith, that time in the hole would have been even more punishing. But it was bad. While in the hole, their food came drenched in urine, says NM. It was so bad that as they were leaving Maplehurst, some of the guards actually apologised.

At Maplehurst the next year, apparently Ramadan was handled with more care. There was more food, and it was served hot and at the right times, according to the Imam, NM tells me. Unfortunately, he also tells me that here at Penetang, "it's garbage." They don't get enough food, and he has to rely on food items ordered from the canteen to get by. He told the Imam, who NM says, "is looking into it." But people are angry, he tells me.

I ask him if he thinks this is a problem of systemic racism, and I'm actually surprised at his response. He says that it is "laziness" more than racism, and also a genuine "lack of understanding." In my analysis, ignorance can be a kind of racism. But for NM it is simpler than that. "They don't care," he tells me. "At super jails, there are so many inmates, they don't care."

When I ask why he's been so reluctant to sit down and do this interview, he gestures out the window and tells me, "they'll do your time." By this he means that there is, according to him and others, a pattern of behaviour here whereby guards target prisoners for excessive punishment if they are viewed as troublemakers or making too much noise.

At this point, I need to state that so far I haven't personally witnessed much malicious behaviour from any of the guards here, especially when compared to the Metro West Detention Centre where particular guards are notorious for brutal violence and even for killing several inmates there. Here, though, so far, the guards have treated me decently (other than the whole keeping me locked up situation), and with professionalism. I hope they don't now decide, as NM puts it, to "do my time."

The last question I asked NM is, "what would it take for things to get better?" His response—"a riot."

Post-script: As I wrote a preliminary draft of this piece, well after dark one night, food for Muslim inmates was delivered nearly an hour after the day's fast was supposed to have been broken. At that point, there were still 3 weeks left of Ramadan, and Prison Justice Day was still 2 weeks away. When we got off lockdown the next day, NM told me that the morning meal never came at all. Things need to change around here.

12 Aug – Robert Seth Hayes needs our help

We just heard from a comrade in NYC Jericho that Robert Seth Hayes needs help to get medical attention for an injury he sustained nearly two months ago. We've pasted information on how to help below.

MORE:

I went to visit Robert Seth Hayes, one of our Prisoners of War, at Sullivan CF today. Seth had hurt his left hand at the end of June, and is having a very hard time getting medical attention for this problem. As many of you know, Seth is a diabetic and has to receive insulin shots daily. It is well known that injuries to the hands and feet of diabetics are a serious medical problem.

Despite the fact that Seth's left hand is still quite visibly swollen, the medical staff has essentially been ignoring this problem. When Seth first hurt his hand, he received x-rays. First, he was told that the index and middle fingers were both broken. Then he was told that only the index finger was broken. Afterwards, he was told that there was only a hairline fracture of his middle finger, and that there is nothing wrong with his index finger. The

only medical attention he received was the placement of a tongue depressor as a splint on the index finger (without first aligning the finger in its proper position).

Seth has been in constant pain for more than a month and has never actually seen the doctor for this injury, only the physician's assistant. I am a former medical emergency technician, and can certainly say that Seth's left index and middle fingers are both visibly swollen, as well as the back of his hand. The middle finger is actually less swollen than the index finger. The index finger is extremely swollen, especially around the knuckle in the middle of the finger, indicating a possible dislocation of the knuckle joint. Normally a dislocated knuckle will heal on its own in a matter of days or weeks, but proper initial treatment is critical to ensure that the knuckle heals correctly. Failure to do so can result in medical complications and even disfigurement.

Seth is asking people to call and write the Superintendent at Sullivan CF and Commissioner Brian Fischer to demand that he be taken to an outside hospital for proper diagnosis and treatment. Don't forget to say you are writing and/or calling regarding Robert Seth Hayes #74-A-2280.

Patrick Griffin, Superintendent
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 116, 325 Riverside Drive
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116
845.434.2080

Commissioner Brian Fischer
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2050
518.457.8126

It is absolutely disgusting that one of our freedom fighters has to endure more than a month of unnecessary pain due to the total lack of quality medical care in the New York State Department of Corrections. It is really urgent that we make phone calls and write letters to both the Sullivan Superintendent and to Commissioner Fischer. Seth's wife, Sheila, has already called Albany several times and has been getting the runaround from the Commissioner's office.

Please take the time to write letters to both Superintendent Griffin and Commissioner Fischer, as well as calling both of them. Please also let us know what type of response you receive from them. Send us an email at nycjericho@gmail.com or call 718.325.4407 and leave a message. Thank you ahead of time for your assistance in helping Robert Seth Hayes receive adequate medical care.

23 Aug – Black August solidarity fundraiser for Sekou Odinga

WHAT: Rally + court support for Jeremy Hammond

WHERE: The Amarachi Lounge – 325 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

WHEN: 6:00pm-11:00pm, Thursday, August 23rd

COST: \$15

MORE:

The Sekou Odinga Defense Committee hosts a Black August solidarity fundraiser for the legal defense fund of our freedom fighter, Sekou Odinga. Let's dance, listen to some live music, enjoy some poetry, and raise some money! There will be light refreshments and a cash bar.

Live performances by legendary saxophonist Bilal Sunni Ali and Last Poet Abiodun

For more information, visit sekouodinga.com, call 718.512.5008 or e-mail sekouodingadefensecommittee@gmail.com.

8 Sept – Benefit for Leonard Peltier, The Cuban 5 and the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

WHAT: Fundraiser for PP/POW commissary accounts

WHEN: 6:00pm-9:30pm, Saturday, September 8th

WHERE: Riverside Church, Room 411 – 91 Claremont Avenue New York, New York

COST: Free, but this is a fundraiser for commissary for the Political Prisoners/POWs. Be prepared to be generous!

MORE:

Happy 68th Birthday, Leonard Peltier!

Free the Cuban 5: 14 Years of Unjust Incarceration

Viva Puerto Rico Libre! 13th Anniversary of the Release of the Puerto Rican PPs/POWs

Speakers and Performers:

Attorney Michael Kuzma; Others to be Announced

For more information:

nyclpdoc@gmail.com • nycjericho@gmail.com • 718-325-4407

Co-Sponsored by: Riverside Church Prison Ministry,
NYC Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Ctte., NYC Jericho Movement,
ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5