

UPDATES

February 24th – Border Patrol 6 Trial Begins

On May 21st, 2010, over 40 folks in Tucson, Arizona took to the streets in protest of border militarization. Many ended up locking down to the US Border Patrol Headquarters. Their trial began and was then continued until March 22nd.

BACKGROUND:

TUCSON – Protesters who locked-down at Border Patrol headquarters in Tucson were in court on Wednesday. In the streets, two more protesters were arrested as O’odham and others demanded an end to border militarization, racist laws in Arizona and the US government’s reign of terror.

More than 40 protesters took to the streets and two were arrested, while six people who locked-down and occupied the US Border Patrol Tucson Headquarters on May 21, went on trial to fight charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct.

Indigenous in the struggle for justice released a communiqué calling for an end to the reign of terror on the border created by the US government and carried out by the Border Patrol and immigration agents.

“This terror manifests with the bones of thousands – making the southern Arizona desert a graveyard, where the hopes and dreams of migrant families are stomped into the ground by border patrol agents, National Guard, Minutemen, and profiteering coyotes. Through the military strategy of terror and fear the state maintains power and control,” stated the communiqué.

O’odham, whose graves and communities have been desecrated and destroyed by border militarization, sent this message to the Border Patrol: “We are not afraid.”

March 1st - 4strugglemag issue 18 is now online! Prison resistance, global struggle

Toronto ABC is proud to present issue 18 of 4strugglemag - check it out at <http://4strugglemag.org>.

Introduction from editor Jaan Laaman

Hey, fellow activists, Freedom fighters, friends, readers. Welcome to issue 18 (early Spring 2011) of 4strugglemag. We remain a major voice of political prisoners in the U.S.

March 8 is International Women’s Day and 4sm stands in strong support of women and their struggles for justice, equality and a revolutionary future. We are proud to have Lynne Stewart on our cover, as an excellent example of a sister in the struggle. Lynne, 70 years old, a grandmother, a lawyer, a political prisoner, is a lifelong activist and fighter for justice, freedom, human rights and a new revolutionary future. Check out her article and the update on her situation.

We begin with a section on global struggle, with articles on Tunisia, Egypt, Bradley Manning—Julian Assange and WikiLeaks and more. In that section check out the article on the founding of the Brown Riders Liberation Party.

Our next section is on struggle in the U.S., with news and updates on many issues. We begin this with information on important bi-coastal anti-war rallies in April—everyone needs to check this out. We also have information from and on long held Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Then we have

information on the Georgia state prisoners strike, the biggest prisoners strike in U.S. history, and many other issues.

The section on analysis and reviews includes an interesting interview with the rapper Testament. We also have information from and on the Jericho political prisoners movement. Bill Dunne has a major essay that continues 4sm ongoing discussion on nationalist and internationalist strategies for revolutionary struggle. People will want to check out Jared Ball's review of the film, "Cointelpro 101."

We are always interested in your thoughts and feedback, so take part in ongoing discussions and/or send us information or analysis on revolutionary questions and struggles. Everyone who can, should try to take part in the East and West coast April 9th anti-war rallies.

We'll see you in issue 19, out in July, with a section on Black August (readers are welcomed and encouraged to send us some BA thoughts, your plans for activities, poems, etc.). We'll also have news on the 2011 Running Down the Walls, which more prisoners and folks outside should think about joining this year (RDTW is usually held in Aug. or Sept.). I want to leave all of you with the Revolutionary Spirit of the Freedom Struggle rolling out of Tunisia, Egypt and on.

Jaan Laaman, editor

March 2nd – Why Black and Afrikan History by Sundiata Acoli

Sundiata Acoli recently released a piece he wrote for Black history month. His attempts to organize a Black history event at FCI Otisville were bureaucratically foiled, with little or no formal explanation. Below is some background and a new piece he has written.

Black History Event at FCI Otisville

After having the approved date for the first Black History Event at FCI Otisville in 12 years moved from Feb. 10, 2011, to Feb. 17, to Feb. 21 and finally to Feb. 24th, the frustrated 5 potential outside guests regrettably but understandably ran into scheduling conflicts which forced them to cancel their appearances. As a result the Black History Event was done with prisoners only.

Akbar Pray opening remarks energized the audience. Raheem acted as moderator and introduced the following events: A skit by Boo, Al-Tariq, Shane, Jaws, T.I. and Tim in which the youngsters learned the importance of Black History from the O.T.'s (Old Timers,) T.I. then recited a inspiring poem: "God, Why Did You Make Me Black?," Shane and Jaws Jason did a sizzling conscious rap song and would reappear several times during the later program to do other raps, Sebastian Abu Williams did a great Call and Response poem: "Because You Already Know," Melvin did an impromptu introductory speech, Rauf did 3 of his classic poems, the main one being "Uncle Sam's Dope Habit," Joe Gerald held the audience spellbound with his story: "My Life: Why I Became Interested in History," Supreme Magnetic enlightened all on the "History of Clarence 13X of the 5% Nation," Sundiata spoke on "Why Black and Afrikan History "(printed below,) Black Warrior spoke on the "Life of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad" and Righteous Born Everton closed the program out with and very conscious and rousing oration on "The History of the Elders Passing Knowledge Down to the Youth!"

Why Black and Afrikan History?

by Sundiata Acoli

There's an Old Proverb that asks: "What happened to the people of Sumer, for ancient records show that these people were Black." And the answer was: " They lost their history, so they died."

Is that just talk or can a people really die from losing their history?- and how do they lose it? Well it usually happens when a people have been invaded, conquered and subjugated in war...and we all know that TRUTH is the first casualty in war ...and that history is always written by the victors who usually portray themselves as noble, courageous and wise while slandering the defeated as cowardly and stupid savages -- or they simply write them out of World History altogether. Those missing pages are a defeated peoples' lost history until they regain knowledge of it. Marcus Garvey said: "A people without knowledge of their history, origin or culture is like a tree without roots." ...and a tree without roots dies!

So the question is: Have we, Blacks in the u.s., lost our history?...and could we die as a result? Afrika was invaded and overthrown 2500 years ago from which it/we have yet to recover. Our libraries at Alexandria, Egypt, in Afrika, were looted, books taken back to the western world and Library burned to the ground. Our history was rewritten to make our conquerors look noble and us look like ignorant savages - and our real history was left out of World History altogether. Thus we have lost our historyso the other question is:" Can we die from it?"

We're told we're free and equal yet we continue to be discriminated against . Also we continue to be hit with every lethal affliction in the book: AIDS, crack, abortions (now the #1 killer of Blacks, i'm told,) gang warfare, police, prisons, death penalty, obesity-diseases, Katrina, you name it.... and both you and i know it's only a matter of time before there is an outbreak of some new affliction more deadly than the ones before... and that it will "just happen to" kill more Blacks than anyone else. That's just too many coincidences; they look more like "campaigns" to me than "coincidences". And frankly there's no guarantee that we can keep surviving these deadly attacks, the next affliction may wipe us out completely. So yes, it's possible that Blacks in the u.s. could die just as the people of Sumer did...unless we do something.

SANKOFA, and Old Afrikan Proverb, says" Go forward by going back to fetch it." Fetch what? Our lost Afrikan history!: our collective memory, our mind! We use Our History, and History period, as a starting point to go forward, to go where we still must go, to get free and be whatever we choose to be.

Malcolm X said: "Of all our studies, history is best qualified to reward our research." It's also best qualified to provide solutions to our problems. Again Malcolm: "And when you see you've got problems, all you have to do is examine the historic method used all over the world by others who have problems similar to yours. Once you see how they got theirs straight then you know how you can get yours straight."

History is where a people go to learn, research or regain past knowledge about themselves and the world, to find solutions to problems in their lives, and go forward. That's why we need History, why we study History and how we use History.

If you would like to write Sundiata please send your letters to:

Sundiata Acoli (Squire) #39794-066
Post Office Box 1000
FCI Otisville
Otisville, New York 10963-1000

Funds supporting his legal defense are always appreciated and can be sent to:

SAFC

**Post Office Box 766 Harlem Station
New York, New York 10027**

Checks and money orders should be made out to The Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign
<http://sundiataacoli.org>

March 3rd - 22 New Charges for U.S. WikiLeaks Suspect Bradley Manning

The U.S. Army Wednesday notified Pfc. Bradley Manning, a prime suspect in the WikiLeaks case, that he now faces 22 more charges in connection with allegedly downloading secret information from computers in Iraq.

MORE:

The most serious new charge alleges that he aided the enemy by making this information public. That charge is punishable by death. A news release from the Army said the prosecution team "has notified the defense that the prosecution will not recommend the death penalty," but technically it is up to the commander overseeing the case to make the final decision about the death penalty.

All told, Manning, a military intelligence analyst from Oklahoma, now faces a total of 34 charges in the case, including:

- Wrongfully causing intelligence to be published on the internet
- Theft of public records
- Transmitting defense information
- Transferring classified data onto his personal computer
- Disclosing classified information concerning the national defense.

Manning's lawyer, David Coombs, would not comment on the new charges, but posted a statement on his blog Wednesday evening:

"Over the past few weeks, the defense has been preparing for the possibility of additional charges in this case."

U.S. military officials have said that Manning is the prime suspect in the leak of many thousands of classified documents that ended up on the WikiLeaks website. However, WikiLeaks is not mentioned in the charge sheets.

Last August, Coombs said he'd seen no evidence tying Manning to the WikiLeaks case.

Even though the investigators filed the new charges, there are still several legal steps that would be taken before any decision will be made on which charges, if any, Manning would actually face in a court-martial.

One of those steps involves determining Manning's mental capacity. That step is expected to take two to six more weeks.

Manning is currently being held in the brig at Quantico Marine Base south of Washington, D.C. There has been a push by friends and supporters to have the rules about his confinement conditions eased. They say his confinement, in a one-man cell with only one hour a day outside of the cell for exercise, is unfair. More information at: <http://www.bradleymanning.org>

March 3rd – The Jericho Movement’s 2011 Fundraising Drive is On

Their fundraising letter is printed below.



Dear Supporters, Interested Parties, and all Peace Loving People,

Warm revolutionary greetings!

I, Jihad Abdulmumit, and Paulette D’auteuil, are co-chairs of the National Jericho Amnesty Movement, which has been representing political prisoners in the US for over 14 years. We fight for the freedom of hundreds of people who dared to stand up for peoples’ basic human rights and dignity from the 1960s to the present. Their stories are actually a part of all our lives because their work in the movements of the past helped push the *system* to make careful reforms, allowing for more opportunities for all people today.

As you well know, most of our veteran civil rights political prisoners have been in prison for 30+ years. While many of us recognize this as a deliberate and unconscionable attack on our community, what is more unconscionable is that they lack our political and economic support. As freedom fighters of our community’s human and civil rights struggles, our political prisoners should not have to concern themselves with securing community political and economic support. Such detachment and community aloofness towards their plight sets a poor example for our young people who are expected to continue on with the struggle to guarantee human rights and dignity for all people.

It has been a significant year.

In 2010 the National Jericho Amnesty Movement was able to establish an interim Steering Committee to make significant changes in its structure, redo its Operating Manual, and clarify its focus, mission, and goals. On the weekend of November 6th and 7th, Jericho held its National Annual Planning Meeting in Richmond, Virginia, propelling itself energetically into 2011.

This letter is a call to help us build a fund to support our political prisoners. It is also a call to awaken and enliven our communities to share some responsibility in the noble efforts to free our own freedom fighters, aging through time, but still alive. It is a matter of immense historical significance not to abandon those who gallantly fought against overt racism, unfettered exploitation, social injustice, and political repression, and helped pave the way for the freedoms and respect we all relatively enjoy today.

We do not take lightly this fundraising call to action, and respect everyone’s hard earned dollars. Please be encouraged to know that a small contribution of \$5, \$10, \$25 or more makes a big difference and goes a long way, and directly supports all efforts to free our political prisoners. No Jericho staff or steering committee member receives any pay.

We hope that we can count on you to help us support our political prisoners.

Help the National Jericho Amnesty Movement continue pushing forward by making a donation.

With your contributions Jericho will be able to more effectively address the personal and medical needs of each political prisoner, organize support networks, establish Jericho Chapters, and programs to educate

communities across America about the reality and plight of political prisoners, and politically and legally petition for the complete amnesty of each political prisoner!

Please send your contribution as a check or money order to IFCO/Jericho. IFCO is our 501(3)(c) fiscal sponsor. Therefore, all contributions will be tax-deductible. Please send these donations to:

**National Jericho
Post Office Box 2350
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201**

As National Jericho Co-Chairs, and all our political prisoners, we would like to thank you in advance for any contribution you can make.

In solidarity,
Jihad Abdulmumit
Paulette D'auteuil
Jericho Co-Chairs
<http://thejerichomovement.com>

March 5th - The Egyptian Youth Uprising By Jalil A. Muntaqim

Jalil Muntaqim has a new piece out about the still-unfolding events in Egypt. I've pasted it below. In other news relating to Jalil, on March 4th, he was moved from a single occupancy cell into a double. After having been recently moved from another prison, and for having a history of organizing against double occupancy cells, he viewed this as punishment and a strategy toward putting him in solitary and eventually transferred to another prison. After a few days of active phone campaigning, he has been moved back into a single cell, though the warden is clearly pissed.

The Egyptian Youth Uprising

The Youth movement in Egypt has been defined as a revolution, but to me it resembles more of an uprising against tyranny. This historical uprising in many respects reminds me of the type of Black youth uprising that occurred in the United States against the tyranny of Jim Crow segregation. Although the civil rights movement is often referred to as a Black bourgeois revolution challenging segregation laws and policy, it was not until Kwame Toure (formerly Stokely Carmichael) of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), announced that the struggle is for "Black Power", that the civil rights movement evolved into a Black liberation struggle for young people. As a result of the growing militancy of Black youth, the federal government under the auspices of the FBI-Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) began to violently suppress the growing militant youth movement. That movement was mostly represented by the Black Panther Party, which became the principle target of the FBI Cointelpro activities, actions that included framing members for imprisonment, running them into exile and assassination.

The Black Panther movement evolved out of the political struggles of the civil rights movement to further demand control of the socio-economic and political institutions controlling the oppressed Black community in the United States.

To date, the youth uprising in Egypt resembles more the democratic demands of the civil rights movement under the leadership of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., and the united front operations of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Urban League, Congress for Racial Equality, National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, and Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, each of which had specific responsibilities in coordinating the civil rights movement. The Egyptian youth movement

has yet to evolve into a coordinated leadership of a united front, and because of this weakness the uprising is being defined and motivated as no more than a struggle for regime change.

The ideals of demanding democratic freedoms are laudable, but whether prospects of true democracy will manifest depends on more than simply open elections. This is especially true when the U.S. government continues to sponsor the government, especially the military, which now controls the government. Therefore, any electoral process will result in the selection of a neo-colonial representative of U.S. interests in the region. Hence, the Egyptian youth uprising will result in regime change, cosmetic change in government operations and a nominal redistribution of some of the wealth to address the most pressing issues of poverty to appease unemployed youth. In other words, the face of the regime might change but fundamentally oppressive structures will remain intact.

Very similarly, the civil rights movement in the United States initially created conditions for a more representative government, that has led to the election of the first Black president. Obviously, the U.S. civil rights movement failed to change the fundamental conditions of oppressed peoples of color in the United States. This is especially significant when considering the economic disparity between blacks and whites. The disparities that existed between blacks and whites during the civil rights movement have been exacerbated by the realignment of wealth continuing to be accumulated by 1% of the American population. The rich are getting richer and the poor are growing in numbers. Ultimately, this means there needs to be a fundamental change in the capitalist system, a system that is being emulated in Egypt especially through the military's control of the major industries in Egypt, a military that the U.S. government supports with over a billion dollars in subsidies and payments. The ouster of Hosni Mubarak will not end the military's control of the wealth of the nation nor ensure a clear severance of this insidious relationship between the U.S. and the Egyptian military, the true rulers of the nation.

Given this reality, a good look at what is happening in Egypt can be characterized as a bourgeois democratic movement inspired by Egypt's youth. Although the middle class, as unrepresentative as they may be of the Egyptian population, is supportive of the youth seeking regime change, there is no call for ending the military control over industries, a radical redistribution of wealth or a change in the geo-political allegiance towards the United States and Israel. Hence, what is happening in Egypt cannot be characterized as a revolution.

What is the potential for revolution? Indeed, if the youth uprising post Mubarak's ouster decides to align itself with those who want to end the U.S. neo-colonial relationship with the Egyptian government, to control the means of production, and strengthen support for the independence of Palestine, forging a united front similar to what existed in the United States during the civil rights movement, revolution is possible. Naturally, just as happened in the United States, such a development will expect to confront the full force of the government police and military to suppress the movement as was done in the United States. Therefore, it can only be hoped that the youth uprising in Egypt, builds a popular mass movement that will not be satisfied with regime change. Just as disenfranchised youth in the US cannot be satisfied merely with the election of a Black president.

In closing, permit me to say I am inspired by the youth of Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, the struggle is hard and arduous, but from generation to generation our victory is certain. Rise-up young people, the future is calling you!

To learn more about Jalil A. Muntaqim please check his website www.freejalil.com

March 5th - update 24 hours of repression against the anti-cop demo in Seattle

At 7pm on March 4th in downtown Seattle, a small demonstration was held against the police. This was organized by Seattle Cop Watch, its intent to spread information, rather than confront the cops as demonstrations in previous weeks had. During the demonstration, three people were arrested, while on the sidewalk. The next morning fourteen folks showed up to bail them out. Once the arrestees were released, the entire group was detained for alleged trespassing, and those not willing to provide identification were arrested. They had a court appearance Wednesday, March 9th at 9am that lead to a continuance.

BACKGROUND:

Since their embarrassment at demos previous few weeks, the Seattle Police Department changed their strategy of reacting to demonstrators and are now taking preventative measures to try to stamp out the collective rage that has been on the streets of Seattle in relation to police violence.

The police had mobilized in expectation of another physically aggressive march with a black bloc (see 2/12, 2/18, 2/26), but this demonstration had been organized at the last minute by Seattle Cop Watch and the general approach was to spread ideas, have a continued presence in the streets, and not initiate physical confrontation.

The police mobilized about seventy uniformed officers on horse, bike, and foot, as well as an unknown level of plainclothes deployment. The officers immediately began ticketing demonstrators for minor offenses such as littering (throwing fliers or dropping cigarette butts) and not having bike lights. They pushed the march onto the sidewalk almost immediately and kept it corralled, while riding horses into the march to trample, push and separate people.

After about twenty minutes of marching and handing out fliers on the sidewalk surrounded by a sea of pigs, the cops decided to arrest someone for no apparent reason. The protesters reacted by yelling, demanding his release and moving in closer. Two more arrests were immediately made; one individual was repeatedly punched in the face, head, and back during the arrest behind police lines. The demonstration dispersed.

In recent weeks there has been lots of media attention put on Seattle anarchists; it comes as no surprise that last night the media parroted the police reports.

Today 14 people went to the jail to post bail for those arrested last night and wait for their release. While people were waiting in the lobby, jail guards called police, although nobody knew this. The cops did not arrive until the arrested person was released and everyone was walking away. Four cars of cops detained the whole group and more cops arrived for total of fifteen donut-loving cowards. People were told that they were being detained for trespassing at the jail and asked for identification. Recognizing that this was an attempt by the police to identify people involved in the recent anti-police activities, everyone refused to identify themselves. Six individuals were arrested, presumably based on photographs and information that the police were checking. One of the detained had an anxiety attack and was taken by ambulance to the hospital accompanied by a friend. The remaining six detained told they would be released if they provided identification, which they did. They are not "permitted" to be on jail property.

It's been five hours since the six arrested individuals were seen entering the jail in cuffs, and they have not yet been booked.

This is an attempt by the police to counteract anti-police activity through identification, harassment, and intimidation.

In this effort we must ensure their epic failure.

Update:

The person taken to hospital (and harassed by the cops in the ward) was released at 6pm. the arrestees were all out by about 1:30am saturday night/sunday morning, after a 7-hour booking process and about 5 hours upstairs. The six were repeatedly referred to as "protestors" and banned from the jail for one year. They had a court appearance Wednesday, March 9th at 9am that lead to a continuance.

March 7th – United States Supreme Court Will Not Hear SHAC 7 Case

The Supreme Court announced today that it will not review the case of the SHAC 7, a landmark First Amendment case in which a group of animal rights activists were convicted as “terrorists” for running a controversial website.

BACKGROUND:

The campaign of the SHAC 7 didn't involve anthrax, pipe bombs, or a plot to hijack an airplane. They ran a website. On that website, they posted news about the campaign — legal actions like protests and illegal actions like stealing animals from labs — and unabashedly supported all of it.

For this they faced a slew of conspiracy charges, including conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection Act and commit “animal enterprise terrorism.”

The defendants lost at the trial level, and were sentenced to between one and six years in prison. Upon appeal, the Third Circuit issued a sweeping ruling. It held that SHAC's fiery rhetoric constituted a “true threat” (even though they were never accused of destroying property, or violence, or inciting such activity) because illegal conduct has taken place in the same campaign.

To put it another way, the court held that the First Amendment rights of a group of people could be restricted based on the past actions of others.

For instance, one of the defendants, Josh Harper, gave two speeches in which he talked about the campaign, and also his personal, theoretical support for the Animal Liberation Front and “black faxing.” The appellate court noted:

Harper's personal conduct does not cross the line of illegality; to punish him simply on the basis of his political speeches would run afoul of the constitution. However, his conduct... does provide circumstantial evidence from which a jury could have reasonably inferred that Harper was involved in a conspiracy to violate the AIEA.

The Supreme Court has denied writ of certiorari in the case, which means the case will not be heard. In short, the appeals court ruling stands, and this is the end of the line for the SHAC 7.

The chances of a case being heard by the Supreme Court are incredibly slim, of course. But I'm a bit surprised the court will not hear the SHAC 7 case. The Supreme Court recently ruled that Westboro Baptist Church (the “God Hates Fags” folks) have the right to protest military funerals. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote that their conduct “is certainly hurtful and its contribution to public discourse may be negligible,” but it is protected, nonetheless.

All but one of the SHAC 7 defendants have been released from prison, so this ruling was not about prison time. It was about the precedent that this type of ruling may set, particularly in the context of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. And it was about whether that label, “terrorist,” should follow these activists for the rest of their lives.

Even if you do not agree with the SHAC campaign, or animal rights campaigns in general, the Supreme Court’s refusal to hear this case has chilling implications for all activists of all social justice movements.

March 9th – Four Part Story on Omaha Two Begins

Journalist Michael Richardson recently published a four part article on the history of two political prisoners in Nebraska known as the Omaha Two. The articles can be found by going to: <http://www.examiner.com/omaha-two-story-in-national>

March 12th – 10 Arrested in Montreal At Anti-Austerity Demonstration

On March 12, the Alliance Sociale held a demonstration against austerity measures in downtown Montreal. In the midst of this, 12 anarchists wearing black were arrested and 10 of them were charged with criminal conspiracy and possession of weapons. Conspiracy charges have recently been used in to jail anarchists. The conspiracy charges have been dropped, but they remain charged with possession of weapons. They were released with the following conditions: Unless people live together, they may not communicate with one another in any way, except in the presence of a lawyer to discuss their case; they may not carry tools in public; they may not possess weapons; and they must “keep the peace.” Their next court date is April 29.

BACKGROUND:

A STATEMENT ON YESTERDAY'S EVENTS, WRITTEN THE EVENING OF MARCH 13

On March 12, the Alliance Sociale held a demonstration against austerity measures in downtown Montreal. In the midst of this, 12 anarchists wearing black were arrested and mainstream media later reported that 10 of them have been charged with criminal conspiracy and possession of weapons. Conspiracy charges have recently been used in to jail anarchists, releasing them under cruelly restrictive conditions (like non-association with their friends and loved ones), and otherwise disrupting their lives and their ability to act.

Those wearing black were specifically targeted as people to arrest. Riot cops and cops on horses invaded the demo and proceeded to brutally arrest people. A few escaped before the police could form a protective cordon to prevent any intervention on the part of bystanders. This is, of course, what the police are paid to do: repress dissent. Yet union marshals also helped in the process by taking the side of the police, forming an outer ring around the cops, and basically acting like cops themselves. An article released yesterday on CMAQ by Michael Lessard gives the impression that bystanders were united in their opposition to the actions of the police. This is simply untrue. Who knows how many of the onlookers sympathized with the arrestees, because no one took any action to help them. Of course, even if they had wanted to do so, their task would have been made significantly more difficult thanks to the self-important marshals in their brightly-coloured vests.

Once the anarchists were taken away, the rally proceeded as planned. Everyone walked obediently from point A to point B, listened to union bureaucrats and left-wing politicians give speeches, and in the end nothing happened to disrupt the functioning of capitalism. Perhaps a few more votes will go to the Parti québécois in the next election, replacing the neoliberal government of Jean Charest with the neoliberal government of Pauline Marois. Either way, austerity measures will be implemented, as they must be. Austerity is the only way the capitalist system can survive the current crisis. To actually fight austerity,

we must fight capitalism. And to actually fight capitalism, we must fight the police that protect this system and ensure that no demonstration ever becomes a threat. And fighting the police means fighting those who collaborate as well.

It should go without saying that, if there had been more willingness to resist the police as well as the marshals, there may not have been any arrests. And if there had not been any arrests, maybe that demo would have been something more than it was.

In a short matter of hours, a small group of people managed to organize a demonstration with over 100 people in attendance for 9pm that night. The callout had gone out over email less than 3 hours before this time, but through Facebook and telephone calls, many people quickly organized themselves and met at métro Guy-Concordia. A few short speeches were given and then people marched on the police station, taking half the street and disrupting traffic. We caught the police by surprise, and we were amused as they tried to quickly gather their forces to defend themselves. For a while, we chanted and made noise in front of the police station. People were angry.

Some people began to feel less comfortable when the police had blockaded both sides of the road. At this time, there was some confusion. Anticipating mass arrest or forced dispersal, one group of people attempted to cut across a parking lot with the intention of taking Sainte-Catherine. At this point, a firework went off, to the cheers of everyone. There was a confrontation at an intersection where people were hesitating about where they should go. While some people yelled at their comrades to move faster, others blocked police vehicles to prevent the group from getting divided. One woman doing this was hit by a police van that quickly sped up into her. Some others kicked the van and threw rocks at it before it got away.

Meanwhile, others had remained. The breakaway contingent returned and explained better the reasons why they had left. Eventually, people reunited and returned northward up Guy to turn east on Sainte-Catherine. People marched for several blocks, disrupting traffic and chanting loudly. Some graffiti was thrown up and some people in the street spontaneously joined us. There were small efforts to put barricades in the streets. Eventually, the demo dispersed.

There were some incidents. For one thing, people dispersed in a panic. In a very short amount of time, some people attempted to turn up a side street towards Maisonneuve, a much wider street than Sainte-Catherine. Then there were police sirens and car alarms going off, and suddenly a lot of people were running. While no was arrested, this was a potentially dangerous situation. Earlier in the march on Sainte-Catherine, a very drunk person who had joined the march threw a bottle into the crowd; it didn't hit anyone, and they were quickly chastised by their friends and some people from the demo. There were a number of issues around communication, particularly for those fluent in only one language. And here we will cut to the words of a comrade:

“It’s always difficult to find a unity of direction in such a diverse group of people. We respect the different ways in which people choose to act, but it does bring up concerns. Was it the loudest people who had the most say in the direction of this demonstration? Did some of our friends feel silenced or isolated by the dynamics that emerged in this less-ordered demonstration? These concerns are not something we wish to ignore, but are conversations we hope to have, and hope others have as well, with some of the people involved. Although no formal group ever claimed leadership of the march, many of us knew one another, and we hope discussions emerge through these existing relationships.

“On the other hand, what we did have was a unity of purpose. Everyone who showed up knew why they were there, and none of those people were friends of the cops. Some people also joined the demonstration because this purpose was understood and stated clearly. We want our friends returned to us, and we want the police out of our lives.”

Since last night there has been another demonstration, during the day, at the rue Guy police station, which took place without much incident; the police were also much better prepared, which suggests they may be watching Facebook and other forms of social media more closely. By the time this article is posted on various websites, it is also possible that a demo marching to the courthouse will have taken place; the meeting place is scheduled for 9am at métro Saint-Laurent on Monday morning.

Solidarity is a weapon. It shows the pigs that our comrades are not isolated and that we will not sit on our asses when repression occurs. It communicates the true nature of this society, transmits signals of disorder. When we act together in the streets, as our comrades would want us to, we are gaining experience and cultivating relationships that will help us in the long struggle ahead.

And let's not forget one last thing: Tuesday is March 15. The police would like to think they've killed our fighting spirit by arresting our "ringleaders" or some other such nonsense. Let's not make things so easy. Now is the time to escalate the struggle, keep the pressure on, and fight hard. Remember, solidarity means **ATTACK**.

UPDATE:

The conspiracy charges have been dropped, but they remain charged with possession of weapons. Our comrades will be released with the following conditions. Unless people live together, they may not communicate with one another in any way, except in the presence of a lawyer to discuss their case. They may not carry tools in public. They may not possess weapons. They must keep the peace. Their next court date is April 29.

Although the arrestees have all given their names at this point, this is not a green light to spread information about who was arrested. The arrestees have not had a chance to explain what they'd like to do about the situation yet.

Thank you so much to the people who showed up to support their friends these last few days either at the SPVM's Centre opérationnel Sud on rue Guy, at the Palais de justice, or in the streets. Thank you so much to those who contributed time, money, and energy into this solidarity effort.

March 11th - Warrior Society Leader of Elder Protest Occupation Illegally

Porcupine Elderly Meals Building, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota – At 7:30 pm on March 11th, Strong Heart Warrior Society leader Duane Martin Sr. was illegally arrested by Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Tribal Police on unknown charges. Martin and the Strong Heart organization were asked by a group of elders to lead the occupation of the Porcupine Elderly Meals Building and protect the elders from further harm. Martin was not told charges while being arrested or transferred to the Pine Ridge Jail.

The police refuse to release what charges, if any, he is being held under at the jail to Mr. Martin's advocates. Currently he is classified as "unbondable" and allegedly will appear before a judge at a yet undetermined time.

Occupation members believe Martin's arrest is considered to be a retaliatory move by the tribal government. The peaceful occupation in its seventh day has been protesting elder abuse and corruption in the Oglala Tribal Government's elderly meals program. The Oglala Tribal Government, that up to this point has publicly denied any allegations of elder abuse, may believe the occupation will end now that the warrior society leader is in jail. Further fanning the belief that the arrest is retaliatory, the Oglala Sioux Tribe has just received a letter from the U.S. Administration on Aging asking for a response to the numerous allegations of elder abuse and neglect, and a specific action plan to address these abuses.

The arrest is also illegal due to Martin's treaty status. He has publicly withdrawn from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Oglala Sioux Tribe that illegally exists under puppet status to the United States Government in violation of the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the 1969 Vienna Convention on Treaties, and the 2007 United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights. He, along with over 250 individuals, have renounced their relationship with the tribal government and are asserting sovereign status as a free Lakota Nation under traditional Lakota customary law. Martin is an official diplomat of the free and sovereign Lakota Nation and is recognized by the League of Indigenous Nations of North America and the International Parliament for Safety and Peace, an intergovernmental organization of States founded in 1975 with over 130 parliamentary and diplomatic delegations in more than 130 Nations.

Information on the elder-led protest occupation in Porcupine can be found at "Lakota Oyate" on Facebook or www.lakotaoyate.net

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The Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota is the size of the state of Connecticut. Due to decades of abuse, corruption and colonial enforcement, Pine Ridge faces epidemic rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, elder abuse, and poverty. Life expectancy for Lakota men is below 40 years of age. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Lakota people have lost their language, and the traditional language is on the verge of extinction in Pine Ridge. The reservation has one of the highest rates of unsolved murders. These unsolved deaths are widely attributed to violent retaliation against those seeking an end to corruption and assertion of traditional Lakota sovereignty.

Cante Tenza Okolakiciye also known as the Strong Heart Warrior Society of the Lakota Nation is an ancient Lakota warrior society as well as a broad-based civil rights movement that works to protect, enforce and restore treaty rights, civil rights, and sovereignty of Native people and their communities across Turtle Island. In addition to activist efforts to protect the land and people, each year Cante Tenza collects and freely distributes shoes, winter coats, school supplies, food, and other support to Oglala Lakota elders, children and families. www.lakotaoyate.net | "Lakota Oyate" on Facebook

March 14th –Alvaro Luna Hernandez Facing Censorship and Threats

Texas political prisoner ALVARO LUNA HERNANDEZ (<http://www.freealvaro.net>) needs mobilized support and solidarity to protest the unlawful censorship of his mail by HUGHES UNIT prisoncrats and mailroom officials. Because of Alvaro's persistent criticism of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and because of his insistence on having his First Amendment Rights respected, Hughes Unit mailroom officials are now threatening to place supporters of Alvaro on a "negative mail" list to be censored/blocked from correspondence with him. Already, Hughes Unit, among other prisons, has a de facto policy of obstructing legal publications such as Prison Legal News for the purpose of keeping prisoners powerless against abuses.

This is a major attack on the rights of political prisoners and must be dealt with swiftly by all freedom and justice loving people. If we fail to respond to these attacks then we are simply paving the way for more repression. Alvaro deserves our solidarity and support!

Please make PHONE CALLS to Hughes Unit and the TDCJ and tell them what you think: 254.865.6663 and 800.535.0283

Please send LETTERS OF PROTEST to Hughes Unit Warden Edward Smith and express the following:

Edward Smith
Hughes Unit Senior Warden
Route 2, Box 4400
Gatesville, Texas 76597

Dear Warden Smith:

I am writing to you to express serious concerns regarding possible violations of inmates' constitutional rights at Hughes Unit prison by mailroom officials.

On 18 February 2011, Alvaro Luna Hernandez (TDCJ-CIN #255735) was denied the right to receive a book, *Defying the Tomb*, sent to him by the publisher, Inside Out Books, on the grounds that pages 112-113, and 120-121 of the book violated prison mail rules because the said pages were allegedly "construed and written solely for the purpose of communicating information designed to achieve the breakdown of prisons through offender disruption, such as strikes, riots or security threat activity..." (TDCJ Denial Notification Form, 2/18/11).

However, within a matter of several days, Inside Out Books mailed Mr. Hernandez actual copies of the said pages, which were received by Mr. Hernandez without incident or restriction, illustrating the arbitrary and unjust nature of the original censorship of the book. Moreover, the said pages did not at all bear resemblance to the initial claims made by mailroom officials. Additionally, Inside Out Books was never served with a "notice of denial of publication"—an inaction which is a flagrant violation of federal law.

Worse yet, in response to Mr. Hernandez's filed complaint, Mailroom Supervisor, G. VANDIVER threatened further First Amendment violations against Mr. Hernandez, noting that his correspondents may "be put on a negative mail list" ostensibly as retaliation for Mr. Hernandez's criticism of mailroom policies, and more broadly, his continued human rights activism directed at enforcing the constitutional rights of prisoners.

I strongly urge you to conduct an investigation into this matter, and to swiftly terminate mailroom officials Y. MCDONALD and G. VANDIVER for their egregious incompetence and for the malicious and unlawful threats issued against Mr. Hernandez for exercise of his First Amendment Rights.

I trust you will ensure that inmates' constitutional rights are upheld and that any and all recalcitrant and unprofessional employees of the TDCJ and Hughes Unit in particular are dealt with accordingly. I will continue to follow this case and am confident in your commitment to carry out your duties in accordance with all state and federal laws.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
(signature)

PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES TO:

Brad Livingston
Executive Director, TDCJ
3009A Highway 30 West
Huntsville, Texas 77340

936.437.4271

TDCJ Office of Inspector General
Post Office Box 4003
Huntsville, Texas 77342
936.437.8035
fax: 936.437.8067
email: ombudsman@tdcj.state.tx.us

CID Ombudsman Office
Post Office Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77342
936.437.6791
fax: 936.436.6669
email: ci.div@tdcj.state.tx.us

Reagan Duncan
Access to Courts Dept.
Program Supervisor II,
2405 Avenue I, Suite J
Huntsville, Texas 77340
936.437.5374

TDCJ Director's Review Committee
Post Office Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77342

March 19th – Political Prisoner Panel at Left Forum

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT A PANEL AT THE LEFT FORUM AT PACE UNIVERSITY IN MANHATTAN!

U.S. Imperialism, Political Prisoners Past & Present, and the Anti-War Struggle

E324, G. Panel Session 3—Saturday, March 19, 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

- * Anne Lamb—NYC Chapter of the Jericho Movement for Recognition & Amnesty for US Political Prisoners
- * Matthis Chiroux—Disobedient
- * Pam Africa—Free Mumia Coalition, MOVE
- * Ralph K. Poynter—Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, New Abolitionist Movement, Green Party
- * Ralph Schoenman—Take Back WBAI
- * Ramsey Clark—Former Attorney General of the US
- * Suzanne Ross—Free Mumia Coalition

March 21st – Farm Sanctuary Know Your Rights Training

Farm Sanctuary is organizing a know your rights training, geared towards activists. Among other things, you'll learn what to do if a cop approaches you while tabling and what your rights are if a manager tells you to leave while you're flyering their store. Details below:

In the United States, we are privileged with the freedom to advocate for animal protection. But have you ever wondered what to do if a police officer approaches you at a tabling, or a manager asks you to move away from their storefront during a leafleting? Come out and learn the information every activist should know. You'll come away from this Know Your Rights training with a better understanding of your constitutional rights to free speech and freedom of association. Meet us in New York University's Kimmel Student Center, room 907 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

What: Know your rights training

When: 6:30-8:30pm, Monday, March 21st, 2011

Where: Room 907, NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South

Cost: Free

March 23rd – Vigil/Rally at Spofford to Close it Down

Spofford Juvenile Detention Center is slated to be closed down on April 1st. Folks working on the campaign to shut it down have heard this before. So, to insure the closing, they are organizing a rally on March 23rd. Details below:

We are excited to know that the city is planning to close Spofford Juvenile Detention Center on April 1, 2011. We think they need a little push, just in case they change their minds like they did last time!

We will be holding a rally and march on March 23, 2011 starting at the Hunts Point #6 train station at 3:30pm. Please be there at 3pm if you would like to help make signs and posters. We will march at 3:30 to Spofford for our bye-bye/shut 'em down vigil and rally.

Please let me know if you can make it and bring a few dozen of your friends, family and community. Please spread the word and ask people to join up. NO! to the caging of our communities!

We are winning!

March 31st – NYC Demonstration in Support of ALF Lone Wolf Walter Bond

On Thursday, March 31, in Times Square, there will be a support demonstration for A.L.F Lone Wolf Walter Bond, currently serving a 5-year sentence for burning down The Sheepskin Factory in Denver, Colorado almost a year ago. Walter still faces charges for other acts of sabotage directed at animal enterprises doing business in Utah, including the arson of Tandy Leather Factory's Salt Lake City store. On March 31, Tandy is scheduled to make a presentation at a conference being held at the Westin Hotel. The demonstration will take place during the event's lunch break.

Please join an upcoming demo in support of:

A.L.F. Lone Wolf Walter Bond!

When: Thursday, March 31, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (RAIN OR SHINE)

Where: Westin New York Hotel, 270 West 43 Street, corner of 8th Ave

Why: Express outrage and distain for TANDY LEATHER FACTORY

Please attend! Let's make this a big event! We'll be expressing our outrage at the terrible victimization being perpetuated by Tandy Leather Factory, showing our support of Walter Bond and the underground liberators and strengthening our resolve to do whatever it takes to end the speciesist holocaust.

Please R.S.V.P. so I have an idea of how many posters to make. (OK to bring your own signs and literature.)

Thanks... hope you can make it!

Elizabeth Tobier

[718-833-1420](tel:718-833-1420)

elizabethtobier@gmail.com

April 3rd – Meet Mumia’s New Legal Team

Mumia Abu-Jamal has a new legal team. Attorneys Christina Swarns and Judith Ritter have both argued before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals for Mumia. They are now formal co-counsel representing him in the ongoing appeal of his murder conviction and death sentence. On April 3rd, The International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the NYC Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition are hosting a public meeting and talk with the new team.

Details below:

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL COALITION (NYC)

In conjunction with THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH PRISON MINISTRY

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

MEET AND HEAR FROM MUMIA'S NEW LEGAL TEAM

Christina Swarns, Esq., Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) Criminal Justice Project

Judith Ritter, Esq., Professor, Widener Law School in Wilmington, Delaware

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 4–7 pm

RIVERSIDE CHURCH ROOM 9T

4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Private reception

\$10 advance purchase of tickets required

Call 212 330-8029 to order tickets

5:30–7:00 pm

Presentations by attorneys

FREE ADMISSION

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), as the premier legal organization in this country fighting for racial justice, has committed itself to “sweep the grave injustices embodied in this case into the dustbin of history.”

April 15th – Save the Date: Roses and Bread/Benefit for the Scott Sisters

Roses and Bread is an annual event organized and hosted by radical women and transgender folks. This year’s event will be on April 15th. This is a women and trans only event and they are seeking folks to help organize and/or perform at the event. Details and contact information are below:

Roses and Bread

Friday, April 15 - 6:30 - 9:00 PM

At the Commons, 388 Atlantic Avenue (bet. Bond & Hoyt Streets) in Brooklyn

Women and trans only

To benefit the Scott Sisters (for background, go to <http://freethescottsisisters.blogspot.com>)
To perform or organize, call **718-783-8141**.