



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for December 4th

19 Nov – Chris Monfort gets TV in isolated cell

Christopher Monfort, accused of killing a Seattle cop in 2009, will become the first inmate at the King County Jail to have his own television set. Jail officials say the decision was made to combat Monfort's severe isolation.

MORE:

Paralyzed and in a wheelchair, one of King County's most notorious jail inmates has posed a unique set of challenges for the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

Like others designated an "ultra-security" inmate, a group that includes the most high-profile, most violent and those potentially facing the death penalty, Christopher Monfort spends 23 hours a day in isolation, said Claudia Balducci, director of the county's detention system.

But the other ultra-security inmates are housed in individual cells and have fellow inmates in neighboring cells. They can talk, play cards with each other under their doors and even watch television during their one hour a day outside their cells.

Monfort, on the other hand, is housed away from the other ultra-security inmates because he is paralyzed from the waist down and requires special care, authorities said.

His lawyer, Carl Luer, said the "effects of the isolation have had a severe impact" on the 44-year-old inmate who is accused of killing Seattle police Officer Timothy Brenton three years ago.

Jail staff members believe they have come up with a way to ease Monfort's isolation: They're giving him his own television.

In the next few days, Monfort will become the first King County Jail inmate to have his own small, color television in his cell, Balducci said. The TV won't be fancy — not a large wall-mounted flat screen — and will offer "less than basic cable" options, she said.

And he won't be able to watch late-night TV; it has to be off at lights-out, she said.

"We were looking for ways to provide some type of interaction, some way of being involved with other human beings. All of the other inmates have that and he does not," Balducci said. "Our job is to keep people stable and to keep them safe so they can get through their court cases. In doing that we try to provide as humane environment we can."

Luer, the defense attorney, and King County prosecutors said the decision was made without their knowledge. Balducci said that Monfort did not request the TV.

Luer said TV "is a reasonable response to a medical necessity."

"He's far more isolated than any other inmate in there," Luer said. "The jail health staff realize that."

Seattle Police Officers' Guild President Rich O'Neill calls the decision to give Monfort what he termed special treatment "appalling."

"This is the anniversary month of Tim's murder. This is just terrible," O'Neill said. "I received a phone call [Friday] from Tim's brother, who couldn't agree more that this is appalling. [Monfort] is lonely and he needs a TV. Tim's family is lonely."

The Police Department also released a statement Friday opposing Monfort receiving a TV.

The head of the King County Corrections Guild could not be reached for comment.

Monfort is charged with aggravated murder in the fatal shooting of Brenton and attempted first-degree murder in the wounding of Britt Sweeney on Oct. 31, 2009.

Brenton, 39, and officer trainee Sweeney were in their parked patrol car in the Leschi neighborhood when, police say, Monfort pulled up alongside and opened fire. Authorities say Monfort had intentionally targeted officers.

According to prosecutors, the shooting came nine days after Monfort allegedly firebombed four police vehicles at a city maintenance yard. Police said one of the makeshift bombs was set to go off as police and firefighters arrived to investigate the initial blasts.

A note left behind at the arson railed against police brutality, police said.

On Nov. 6, 2009, the day of Brenton's memorial service, detectives went to a Tukwila apartment complex after a tipster reported seeing the gunman's car in the parking lot.

Monfort pulled out a handgun and pointed it at police, but the weapon misfired, according to prosecutors. Montfort was shot in the face and abdomen when he tried to flee, they said. He was left paralyzed from the waist down. His right eye is half-closed, possibly from the bullet wound to his face.

Monfort is scheduled to be tried next September. If he's convicted he could face the death penalty.

While neither Luer nor jail staff would go into details about Monfort's injuries and his mental condition, Luer said what his client is enduring is far worse than loneliness.

"Calling it lonely is like calling a severed limb an 'owie.' The long-term effects go simply way, way beyond being lonely."

19 Nov - Update on Court Case for 3 of "NATO 5"

Chicago's People's Law Office, who are defending NATO 5 defendant Brian Church, wrote an update on the case that we've included below.

MORE:

Brian Jacob Church, Jared Chase and Brent Betterly, three of the "NATO 5" appeared today in Cook County Criminal Court. The three activists were arrested in a midnight raid in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood in the days leading up to the NATO Summit. They were subsequently charged with terrorism charges and several other felonies, which all three have plead "Not Guilty" to.

People's Law Office attorneys Michael Deutsch and Sarah Gelsomino represent Brian Jacob Church, one of the activists who had planned to march against the NATO Summit in May. The three defendants have now spent over six months in custody at Cook County Jail, each on an unreasonably high bond of \$1.5 Million.

Today's court date addressed the status of discovery, which was scheduled to close one week from today, November 26, 2012. Thus far, through the course of the discovery phase, the prosecution has provided thousands of pages of documents and dozens of discs. However, there are numerous items which attorneys for the three defendants have specifically requested which have not been provided. In addition, there is content from several computers and electronics seized from the raid which has been placed on a 2 terabyte hard drive. A mirror image of that hard drive has yet to be turned over to the defense counsel.

The prosecutors from the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney made a motion to extend the discovery deadline and Judge Wilson complied with that request. The Judge ruled that the new discovery deadline is February 25, 2013, which extends the timeline for the case schedule. The judge then scheduled a new trial date of September 16, 2013, one day before the two year anniversary of Occupy Wall Street.

The defense lawyers are disappointed and upset by the fact that the defendants will continue to sit in jail facing an insurmountable bond as the case proceeds as a result of the prosecution's inability to comply with the judge's original pre-trial schedule. However, in order to provide the best possible defense, it is crucial to obtain and review all the potential information and evidence that is in the State's possession.

The next court date scheduled in the case is a status hearing set for January 2, 2013 at 10am in front of Judge Thaddeus L. Wilson (Court Room 303) at the Cook County Criminal Courts Building at 2650 S. California.

People's Law Office and other attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild continue to defend the three activists against these trumped-up, politically motivated charges. People's Law Office is involved in this case as part of a long-standing commitment to defend activists who the government seeks to discredit by labeling them as "terrorists."

19 Nov - PFC Manning accepts responsibility for WikiLeaks docs

Army Private First Class Manning recently informed the military court that they were, in fact, the source of information published by WikiLeaks. While the 24 year old Intelligence Analyst, effectively, took responsibility for transferring classified documents, in violation of military regulations, maintained innocence in regards to the other 22 charges that have been filed.

MORE:

"PFC Manning has offered to plead guilty to various offenses through a process known as "pleading by exceptions and substitutions," explained Manning civilian defense attorney David Coombs on his blog. Manning is "attempting to accept responsibility for offenses that are encapsulated within, or are a subset of, the charged offenses.... PFC Manning is not pleading guilty to the specifications as charged by the government," added Coombs. Nor is he "submitting a plea as part of an agreement or deal with the government."

"Pleading by exceptions and substitutions" is very rare--so rare that most observers of the proceedings were thoroughly confused. Some media outlets incorrectly reported that Manning was "seeking a deal", "pleading guilty", or trying to nullify a life sentence--or even the death penalty. It's important to clarify that no deal is being sought, Manning no longer faces the death penalty, and his plea doesn't prohibit the maximum sentence of life in prison. Manning's plea confused many, simply because the truth isn't usually offered up in such proceedings without something in return. But that is what happened.

Why would Manning accept responsibility?

Manning needed to accept responsibility, so that he could move forward with his defense as a whistle-blower, ahead of the scheduled, February 4, 2013, start of his court martial at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Supporters of Manning have long hailed him as a young man, with a conscience, who heroically uncovered evidence of war crimes and government corruption. Yet, many cling to the narrative of Manning, the disillusioned, unstable, gay soldier, serving precariously under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

Neither the defense nor the prosecution, believe Manning's difficulties in the Army are a primary aspect of what happened. Neither side has disputed Manning's motives, as summed up in this online chat, prior to his arrest: "I want people to see the truth... because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public... I was actively involved in something that I was completely against." According to the prosecution, Manning also provided the following note, to WikiLeaks, when he, anonymously, uploaded a cache of battlefield reports of the Iraq War: "This is perhaps one of the most significant documents of our time... removing the fog of war and revealing the true nature of 21st century asymmetric warfare."

While doing his job, Manning analyzed horrific surveillance videos of the bloody and chaotic Iraq War unfolding around him. In stark contrast to the "Aiding the Enemy" and Espionage Act violation charges the prosecution has painted him with, Manning is now free to explain how he was trying to do the right thing, expecting nothing in return, while sitting in that dark bunker at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

"God knows what happens now. Hopefully worldwide discussion, debates, and reforms – if not, we're doomed," Manning allegedly told a government informant before his arrest. Now with this plea offering, he's taken responsibility on the most favorable terms available to him.

At the conclusion of the "Article 32" pre-trial investigative hearing back in December 2011, Manning's attorney David Coombs explained that his goal was to show the court "why things happened, while the government was only interested in what happened." In that context, this plea doesn't represent a change of course for the defense.

What does such a plea actually change?

The plea offered by Manning doesn't change the charges against him, nor does it alter the possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

The presiding judge, US Army Colonel Denise Lind, may choose to reject Manning's plea on technical grounds (if so, technically, Manning will have to unaccept responsibility). If the plea is accepted, the prosecution is free to present its case as planned. Manning's plea offering only addresses three lesser aspects of a couple lesser charges, so the government could easily accept Manning's plea and still "upcharge" him.

Manning's plea could make the prosecution's job easier, if they are relieved of the burden of proving he accessed documents and transferred them to WikiLeaks. Without this new twist, Manning's court martial was expected to last at least six weeks, with possibly four of those weeks dedicated to testimony covering information technology-related forensic evidence--such as computer and router logs, login passwords, network access records, and hard drive images. The court martial might now become an expedited two or three week affair.

While the government's burden of proof may have been reduced overall, it is important to understand that Manning is only admitting to violating military regulations that cover the approved usage of secure computers and the appropriate handling of information. During previous pre-trial hearings, Manning's defense has shown that every member of his intelligence office in Iraq also violated these same regulations. While other soldiers didn't share documents with WikiLeaks, they did install unauthorized video games and software and they shared a library of bootleg music and movies on secure Army computers. As Manning is the only soldier charged with any of these violations, the issue of selective prosecution is raised.

Manning's defense team has had a year, now, to review, at least, some of the forensic evidence. As a courtroom observer, I've found the prosecution's data evidence compelling. It's likely that Manning's defense team doesn't believe there is a reasonable chance to prevail with a "you got the wrong guy" argument, at least not in front of Judge Lind and a jury comprised of Army officers and career enlisted service members. Or, Manning may simply want to be able to tell the truth, regardless of the strength of the evidence available to the prosecution.

Actual deal now less likely

Now that Bradley Manning has unilaterally offered to take responsibility for the transfer of information to WikiLeaks, the prosecution has less motivation to offer him any worthwhile deal, including a sealed maximum sentence, in exchange for a prosecution friendly "Stipulation of Facts".

A "Stipulation of Facts" is a document of agreed upon facts, by all parties, in a military court martial proceeding. The defense often agrees to facts favorable to the prosecution. In exchange, the defendant receives a sealed maximum sentence agreement opened by the judge only after sentencing. This "secret" agreement often reduces the sentence announced at the conclusion of a court martial. Given the extremely high rate of conviction by military trials, this is a routine defense counsel tactic.

Manning was pressured to cooperate with the government's efforts to indict WikiLeaks (and [Julian Assange](#) specifically) with nine months of brutal and illegal pre-trial confinement conditions at Marine Base Quantico, Virginia, from July 29, 2010 until April 20, 2011. It is unlikely that he'll change his mind now and cooperate after public outcry secured for him non-abusive confinement conditions at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Manning's demeanor in the courtroom during pre-trial hearings indicates that he's looking forward to making his case.

Late in the game?

Bradley Manning was detained in Iraq on May 26, 2010, and imprisoned a few days later--129 weeks ago. So why did he wait until "so late in the game" to accept responsibility?

In the normal calendar of a court martial, the investigative "Article 32" hearing, the pre-trial "Article 39A" hearings, and the start of the actual trial, are supposed to take place within 120 days of arrest. This is the "speedy trial" guaranteed by military law. US military court martial procedures are dictated by various "articles" of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), with additional guidance from the Rule for Court Martial (RCM) manual.

So while the proceedings are now taking place quickly, for most of the last two and a half years, Manning has languished in prison awaiting his day in court. This has gone on for so long that the defense will be able to make a compelling argument for dismissing all charges, at the December 10-14 hearing at Fort Meade, based on the government's violation of Manning's right to a speedy trial under RCM 707 and UCMJ "Article 10".

In his September 19, 2012, motion, Manning's attorney, David Coombs, explained:

"With trial scheduled to commence on 4 February 2013, PFC Manning will have spent a grand total of 983 days in pretrial confinement before even a single piece of evidence is offered against him. To put this amount of time into perspective, the Empire State Building could have been constructed almost two-and-a-half times over in the amount of time it will have taken to bring PFC Manning to trial."

This seems "late in the game" because the government changed the rules to extend the game by a factor of eight. During this seemingly endless game, the prosecution benefited from limitless resources, while the defense team got by on funding from a grassroots support campaign. It is precisely during the "Article 39A" hearings, finally underway, that motions and plea offers, such as Manning's, are made and litigated.

The real defense

Manning's attorney has long contended that the defense will show that the release of these documents brought little to no harm to U.S. national security, and that Manning's motives were to expose crime, fraud, corporate malfeasance, and abuse. They hope to show that this was, indeed, the outcome. The prosecution's position will remain that Manning's motives and the actual outcomes are irrelevant during the guilt phase of trial.

Some members of Congress and media pundits have called for Manning to be lynched because "lives were put in danger", and informants possibly killed. Yet the government has not named a single individual, anywhere on Earth, who was physically harmed as a result of the WikiLeaks publications—now over two years after the fact.

Every indication is that the "harm" was limited to the U.S. State Department being embarrassed by some diplomatic cables released; however, embarrassment has never been a legitimate justification for classifying a document—and certainly not the thousands of documents which we now know were inappropriately classified in the first place. Meanwhile, the Iraq War has ended (more or less), and we're told that the Afghanistan War is nearing an end.

Command influence led to trial by judge alone

In another aspect unique to court martials, Manning, last week, opted not to be tried (and possibly sentenced) by a military jury, but by judge Colonel Lind alone. She will decide guilt or innocence on all charges and, if needed, determine sentencing at the conclusion of the punishment phase of court martial.

During an exchange, captured on video, President [Barack Obama](#) declared that Manning "broke the law", at a campaign fundraiser in San Francisco on April 21, 2011. Echoing the Commander-in-Chief, General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that Manning "did violate the law" at a press conference a couple of weeks later. Major General Michael Linnington, the direct overseer of Manning's court martial (referred to as the "Convening Authority"), reports directly to the Pentagon. So it's no surprise that the defense has little confidence in being able to find a jury untainted by this command influence. This type of influence is specifically prohibited under UCMJ "Article 37"; however, there is no indication, thus far, that the government will face any consequences.

Will Judge Lind be able to ignore the influence of her Commander-in-Chief and Pentagon superiors and, if so, will she then be moved by Manning's arguments, and to what degree? Regardless, it is safe to say that Manning's arguments, that he was following his conscience, will be more compelling before, and not after, the prosecution makes its case with forensic evidence.

Ensuring drama, to the very end of this court martial, Judge Lind will have nearly limitless leeway, when announcing punishment, if Manning is found guilty. While the maximum sentencing, on all 22 charges, amounts to a couple of lifetimes in prison, there are no minimum sentencing requirements. Manning could be found guilty of only one charge and receive life in prison, or be found guilty of all charges and sentenced to a few years or less.

The goal of “military justice” is not actually justice, but military discipline. Many factors, including public opinion and the “reputation of the military”, are key ingredients in determining what discipline is appropriate—more so than in civilian legal proceedings. If Judge Lind understands that a significant section of the American public is sympathetic to Manning, the odds greatly improve that she’ll find “middle ground” favorable to Manning throughout these proceedings.

Conspiracy of abuse at Quantico

Bradley Manning’s defense team is scheduled to argue another motion to dismiss all charges November 27th through December 2nd. This motion delves into great detail on how Pentagon-level Lieutenant General George Flynn secretly ordered extreme and unlawful confinement conditions for Manning at Quantico, Virginia. These conditions were so severe that United Nations Chief Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez condemned them as “cruel, inhuman and degrading” in his official report.

While the UCMJ “Article 13” prohibits all pre-trial punishment any more rigorous than required to insure that the accused appears at legal hearings, Manning was subjected to solitary confinement, prohibited from undertaking any meaningful physical exercise, and subjected to around-the-clock harassment—including being stripped and made to stand naked during some roll calls.

The military doesn’t deny that the mistreatment occurred, but argues that it was for Manning’s well-being and safety. Brig authorities claimed that mental health assessments dictated these extreme “Maximum” measures and “Prevention of Injury” protocols for Manning alone out of all brig detainees and prisoners.

In emails, long hidden from the defense, it was exposed, in September, that Manning’s treatment had absolutely nothing to do with his health. Lt. Gen. Flynn, while serving as the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, illegally ordered Manning’s solitary confinement. These illegal orders were then carried out, down the chain of command, without much questioning. The only exception appears to be the mental health professionals, on staff at Quantico, who spoke up against Manning’s treatment. They were threatened with losing their jobs if they persisted with their objections.

Military law would appear to favor Manning’s motion to dismiss, based on these “Article 13” violations. Common sense, however, indicates that Judge Lind will be under unimaginable pressure not to do so. If Judge Lind doesn’t dismiss charges, the defense, in its court filings, suggests the more common remedy of multiple days of confinement credit for every day of mistreatment. The defense will argue for ten days credit, while the prosecution will likely ask for “one for one”—in other words, no additional credit.

If Judge Lind agreed to the defense’s credit position, Manning would receive nearly seven and a half years credit for his time at Quantico plus another couple of years credit for “appropriate” pre-trial confinement. In this situation, Manning might walk out of prison very soon, even if he were sentenced to ten years confinement. If Manning is sentenced to 100 years in prison, then this potential decade of confinement credit becomes meaningless.

If confinement credit, for being tortured, becomes worthless, Judge Lind would be giving the military a free pass to mistreat all pre-trial U.S. military personnel, if there were no actual consequences for doing so. This could be the point where the distinction between foreign “Enemy Combatants” at secret prisons facing tribunals, and our limited, but well established, guarantees of due process for U.S. military service members, as outlined by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, are forever blurred.

Many have chosen not to take a position, regarding Army PFC Bradley Manning, because they were not comfortable supporting someone for something they may, or may not, have done. Now is the time to get off that fence.

November 28th - WikiLeaks Suspect Manning Mistreated by Military, Psychiatrist Says

The psychiatrist who treated the [WikiLeaks](#) suspect, [Bradley Manning](#), while he was in custody in the brig at Quantico has testified that his medical advice was regularly ignored by marine commanders who continued to impose harsh conditions on the soldier even though he posed no risk of suicide.

Captain William Hctor told Manning’s pre-trial hearing at Fort Meade that he grew frustrated and angry at the

persistent refusal by marine officers to take on board his medical recommendations. The forensic psychiatrist said that he had never experienced such an unreceptive response from his military colleagues, not even when he treated terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo.

"I had been a senior medical officer for 24 years at the time, and I had never experienced anything like this. It was clear to me they had made up their mind on a certain cause of action, and my recommendations had no impact," Hoctor said.

The psychiatrist was testifying at Manning's court martial for allegedly being the source of the massive leak of hundreds of thousands of confidential US government documents to the whistleblower website WikiLeaks. The 24-year-old soldier, who worked as an intelligence analyst until his arrest in Iraq in May 2010, faces 22 counts and possible life in military custody.

Manning's defence lawyers are attempting to have the charges thrown out or any eventual sentence reduced by seeking to prove that the soldier was subjected to unlawful pre-trial punishment at Quantico. During the nine months he was in custody at the marine base in Virginia he was put on suicide watch and a "prevention of injury" order, or PoI, that kept him in solitary confinement and exposed him to extreme conditions that were denounced by the UN and Amnesty International as a form of torture.

Hoctor began treating Manning from the day after he arrived at Quantico on 29 July 2010, seeing him initially every day and then later once a week. At first he recommended that the soldier be put on suicide watch - the most stringent form of custody - given that he had mentioned killing himself while previously held in Kuwait and that nooses that he had made were found in his cell.

But within a week of seeing Manning he changed his recommendation, reporting to officers that in his medical opinion the soldier could be put on the lesser PoI status. His advice was ignored for a couple of weeks, Hoctor told the court. "At Quantico they often did not immediately follow, or sometimes did not follow at all, my recommendations."

The failure to act on the doctor's recommendation was an apparent violation of the instructions under which marine installations operate. The regulations state that "when prisoners are no longer considered to be suicide risks by a medical officer, they shall be returned to appropriate quarters."

By 27 August 2010, Hoctor testified, he had spent enough time with Manning to recommend a further easing of conditions. From then on he advised in a regular weekly report that Manning should be taken off PoI altogether and returned to the general brig population.

"I was satisfied he no longer presented a risk. He did not appear to be persistently depressed, he was not reporting suicidal thoughts, in general he was well behaved."

Specifically, Hoctor was convinced that Manning no longer needed to be subjected to restrictive conditions that included: no contact with other people, being kept in his cell for more than 23 hours a day, being checked every five minutes, sleeping on a suicide mattress with no bedding, having his prescription glasses taken away, lights kept on at night, having toilet paper removed.

Only on two occasions did Hoctor report that Manning appeared upset and should be put temporarily under close observation. The first incident occurred in December 2010 when Fox News erroneously reported that Manning had died, and the second in January 2011 when the soldier broke down in tears while in the exercise room.

Yet the psychiatrist's recommendation that other than these isolated incidents Manning should be treated like other inmates was consistently ignored. The soldier was kept on PoI throughout the rest of his time at Quantico.

The blanket denial of his expert opinion was unprecedented in his quarter century of practice, the psychiatrist said. "Even when I did tours in Guantanamo and cared for detainees there my recommendations on suicidal behaviour were followed."

Hoctor said he openly protested about the thwarting of his expert opinion at a meeting with the commander responsible for the brig, Colonel Robert Oltman, on 13 January 2011. At the meeting Oltman informed the doctor that Manning would be kept on PoI "for the foreseeable future".

Hoctor said that the marine commanders should no longer pretend they were acting out of medical concern for the detainee. "It wasn't good for Manning. I really didn't like them using a psychiatric standard when I thought it clinically inappropriate," Hoctor said.

The court heard that Oltman replied: "You make your recommendations, and we'll do what we want to do."

Earlier the court martial heard from Oltman himself, who told the judge presiding over the proceedings, Colonel Denise Lind, that he had chosen to overlook Hoctor's advice because he didn't fully trust the doctor. A few months before Manning arrived at Quantico, an inmate of the brig, Captain Michael Webb, had killed himself while under Hoctor's care.

"I did not have the utmost confidence in Captain Hoctor," Oltman testified.

When that lack of trust was put to Hoctor by Manning's defence lawyer, David Coombs, the psychiatrist replied: "If they felt that way they should have got another person to do the job."

Despite the unprecedented conditions that Manning was held under, Hoctor said the detainee coped quite well. "Most people would have found it very difficult, being watched every five minutes, but he did better than expected – I think he decided he was going to be strong."

20 Nov - Three of the Cleveland 4 Sentenced

We're including a corporate media story about the sentencing of Brandon Baxter, Connor Stevens, and Douglas Wright. They are appealing their sentences. Ten days later, former co-defendant turned snitch, Tony Hayne, was sentenced to six years.

MORE:

Three men were sentenced Tuesday to years in prison after admitting to taking part in an unsuccessful plot to bomb a highway bridge in Ohio with what turned out to be a dud device provided by a government informant.

The father of one of the defendants, 21-year-old [Connor Stevens](#), complained to the judge that his son had been entrapped.

"My son is guilty," James Stevens said, "and so is the government."

Prosecutors had described the suspects as self-proclaimed anarchists who acted out of anger against corporate America and the government.

All three defendants — Stevens, 27-year-old [Douglas Wright](#) and 21-year-old [Brandon Baxter](#) — apologized in court. Their attorneys said the sentences would be appealed.

Wright, an Indianapolis man authorities called the ringleader, received the toughest sentence, 11 1/2 years. He apologized to his family and the community, saying he was an addict and needed help for substance abuse, not just prison.

Baxter, of Lakewood in suburban Cleveland, was given nearly 10 years in prison. Connor Stevens, of Berea, the least involved of the trio, was sentenced to more than eight years.

"These defendants were found to have engaged in terrorist activities and will spend nearly a decade in prison," U.S. Attorney [Steven Dettelbach](#) said. "These sentences should send a message that when individuals decide to endanger the safety of our community, they will be held to account."

U.S. District Judge [David Dowd](#) had ruled last week that the men should be sentenced as terrorists, making them subject to harsher prison terms. After leaving prison, all three will be on supervised release for the rest of their lives.

A fourth defendant is being sentenced Wednesday, and a fifth is undergoing a psychiatric exam.

Stevens' mother, Gail, broke into tears and stopped reading a prepared statement. She portrayed her son as a gentle soul who shooed flies out of the house instead of killing them.

Brandon Baxter's father, Andy Baxter, challenged the government's case and mentioned his own battle with

alcohol abuse. He told the judge his son had "a heart of gold, and please make this as light as possible."

Stevens, Baxter and Wright pleaded guilty to conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction, knowingly attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to damage property with explosives. There was no plea deal that would have reduced their sentences.

Last week, Dowd backed a government request to consider stricter sentences based on a "terrorist enhancement" for the trio. The ruling that the three were trying to intimidate the government expanded possible sentences from five or six years to 15 to 30 years or more.

The men were arrested by the FBI and had targeted a bridge over Cuyahoga Valley National Park between Cleveland and Akron. The FBI has said that the public was never in danger and that the device was a dud provided by an informant.

The defense called the case entrapment, with the informant guiding the way, and said the plot was more an act of vandalism than anti-government terrorism. They asked for sentences in the range of five years.

The government said the plot "was meant to convey a message to the civilian population, the corporate world, the financial system, and all levels of government."

21 Nov - Eco-Saboteur Prison Release and Party

We've included information below about this Friday's holiday and welcome home party for Daniel McGowan. *These events are happening all over the country and the Eugene Weekly wrote an article that we're including below.*

MORE:

Eco-saboteur Daniel McGowan, the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary film *If a Tree Falls*, will be released from the secretive prison where he has been held for the past several years on Dec. 11. The Civil Liberties Defense Center, which has worked to expose and oppose the Communications Management Units where McGowan was held, is sponsoring a fundraising event at Cozmic Friday, Nov. 23, support to help McGowan after he is released.

McGowan was charged in federal court with arson, property destruction and conspiracy for his participation in ecologically motivated arsons in 2001 with the Earth Liberation Front in Oregon. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, and Judge Ann Aiken applied a "terrorism enhancement" to his sentence. Many of McGowan's years in prison were spent in CMUs in Terre Haute, Ind., and Marion, Ill., where his communications were restricted and monitored and he was not allowed to physically come in contact with his visitors.

McGowan's wife Jenny Synan says that since entering prison in July 2007, McGowan has lost around 40 pounds, none of his pre-prison clothes will fit him and he will need professional attire for when he starts work in New York City. She says, "We hope that money and gift cards raised at this time will help ease him back into the outside world, with the least amount of stress possible."

The Cozmic event will feature a screening of *If a Tree Falls*. The film focuses on McGowan and features many local Eugene activists, including videographer Tim Lewis and attorney Lauren Regan of the CLDC. The event, which starts at 7 pm, costs \$7 and will also feature the bands the Alder Street All Stars and Closely Watched Trains.

Also in civil liberties news, at 6 pm Tuesday, Nov. 27, the CLDC, the Survival Center and the Cascadia Forest Defenders are hosting a "resist the grand juries teach-in" at the Bascom- Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library. The "know your rights training" will be followed by a panel and Q&A with previous grand jury resisters.

21 Nov - Camille Marino Pleads Guilty

Outspoken animal liberation activist Camille Marino recently plead guilty to charges of unlawful posting of a message and trespass, both relating to her campaign against vivisection at Wayne State University. We've included a corporate news piece about it below.

MORE:

An animal rights activist who targeted a Wayne State University professor with blog posts calling for him to be tortured pleaded guilty Tuesday to two criminal charges.

Camille Marino is to be sentenced Dec. 5 in Wayne County Circuit Court for unlawful posting of a message with aggravating circumstances and trespass, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said.

Marino, 47, was arrested in May on WSU's campus after she chained herself to the undergraduate library doors. She had been banned from campus following a series of graphic blog posts about Donal O'Leary, a WSU medical school professor who conducts research on shelter dogs, that included descriptions of how he should die and the publishing of his home address and phone number.

O'Leary was granted a personal protection order from Wayne County courts ordering Marino to remove his home address and phone number from her posts.

Marino's first post about O'Leary -- titled "Donal O'Leary: Federally-Funded Sadist Tortures Shelter Dogs to Death at Wayne State" -- was published Oct. 22, 2011. It included his home address and phone number, along with his WSU e-mail address, phone number and address.

The same day, she sent O'Leary an e-mail at his WSU address that included a link to her blog, court records show.

"I hope you die a slow painful death comparable to those you forced your victims to endure," the e-mail said, adding: "Please don't interpret this as a threat. It's merely my most fond wishes for you."

O'Leary's personal protection order was granted Oct. 31, 2011, and bars Marino from posting O'Leary's home information. It was served to her in Florida on Nov. 3, 2011.

Hours after being served, Marino republished O'Leary's home information, records show. "You are a war criminal," that post said. "Laws that protect you at the expense of the innocent are unjust and are, therefore, null and void."

At a preliminary court hearing in June, O'Leary testified Marino's words frightened him and his family. Calling the e-mail a "demented missive," O'Leary read parts of it in court.

The e-mail included threats to strap O'Leary down and cut off his limbs with rusty saws, rip his teeth out one-by-one with pliers and feed his limbless body to starving dogs.

Marino argued the posts and e-mail were federally protected free speech and not stalking. She also said she never intended to act on the violence she described in the e-mail.

"We're pleased that Ms. Marino is being held accountable for her irresponsible behavior," WSU spokesman Matt Lockwood said Tuesday. "Wayne State continues to support Dr. O'Leary and remains dedicated to the protection of its faculty."

22 Nov - Statement From Leonard Peltier for National Day of Mourning

Thanksgiving is a national day of mourning, including American Indian Movement prisoner Leonard Peltier, who wrote the following statement.

MORE:

Greeting my relatives, friends, and supporters,

It is with great honor that I get a chance to speak with you even though it's a written message that someone has to read.

I'm saddened that we have to call this a Day of Mourning, but we must take every opportunity to remind this nation when it comes to keeping their word about treaties, about human rights, about the environment, about excess pollution - that it has failed miserably on all of those concerns. Also want to remind the major religions that speak about peace and love and brotherhood and are celebrating this thing called Thanksgiving, that we the native people of this land realistically overall have nothing to truly be thankful about regarding the arrival of the

pilgrims.

And I would also like to remind the major various religions of this country that in all their teachings it says you reap what you sow. And if that is a true statement, if that is the law given by the Creator, then you have to only look around at the news of the day to see that that statement is coming to pass. This country is not keeping its solemn word under god that it gave regarding our treaties. And they don't keep their own Scriptures that say not to bear false witness or lie. They've tried to keep us from honoring our fathers by destroying our culture. They violated their word where it says "thou shalt not kill", violated every one of their commandments regarding our people in this land. And they will truly reap what they sow.

I also want to say that in the spirit of compassion and reason, and fairness, and forgiveness, that its never too late to turn things around. Actually I should say that's not quite correct, it can be too late. There's an old Cheyenne saying that a nation is never destroyed until the hearts of its women are on the ground. And if you look around you will see the decline of America. And it is entirely possible that that teaching is not far off. One thing as a people that we do have to be thankful for and thankful to the Creator only, we are still alive we are still a people. And we still know who we are, we still have a commitment to the Creator to protect this land, we still have a commitment to protect the laws of nature that were given unto us, to our ancestors. We are probably the only people on this continent that would be better off if this whole system fell apart. Because we possess the knowledge, the teaching and the culture to live in harmony with that which the Creator has given us.

I want to encourage all the young people, to always remember your health and the health of the earth are the most important things that you possess. And that self-discipline is the most important thing that you can learn. And taking responsibility for ourselves and our future is the most empowering thing that we can do. Right now you are listening to my words the words of a man in prison for 30 something years. A man who has had limited contact and yet I am able to speak to you now. And the reason I am saying this is because with all the freedom that you do possess you could do so much more. Educate yourself to our true history, educate yourself to what is really going on today, and educate yourself as to what needs to be done to make a better tomorrow for yourselves and your children's children, our future generations.

Again I want to say I am just an ordinary man caught up in extraordinary circumstances. There is nothing that I have done or said that you cannot do or say and much better because you possess more freedom than I do. We need each other. If I am ever to be free, I need you. And the truth is, none of us are truly free right now, because any people who is afraid of their government, is not free. We all need to be warriors of one. Each needs to know how to defend themselves on any level. And as I've said before we need to recapture the freedoms we've lost and protect the ones we still have.

In closing I want to encourage each and every one of you to stand up in your own way in whatever way you can for what's right, try to right what's wrong and know that in my heart and in whatever way I can help you, that I will be with you. We need each other, you need each other, and we need the help of all peoples to correct this great damage that is taking place throughout the earth. Our battle is not with a race a people or a color, our battle is with ignorance and greed that is ruling the governments of men today.

Again I want to thank you and in the spirit of crazy horse and all those beautiful people that have stood up for what's right in the past, and the ones standing up now. Stay strong and support one another.

22 Nov - Bail Hearing Outcome & Update on Jeremy Hammond Case

Anonymous and Lulzsec hacktivist Jeremy Hammond was again denied bail. In other news, it turns out the husband of the judge in Jeremy's case was one of the folks who had their information leaked in the Stratfor hack, in which Jeremy is being accused of participating. That seems like a clear conflict of interest.

MORE:

The judge at Tuesday's bail hearing, Loretta A. Preska, portrayed Jeremy as a terrorist more dangerous than murders and sexual predators, denied his bail and, before Jeremy and a gathering of his friends and family, announced the sentence he would face if found guilty: 360 months to life. It is very difficult to find the words to express the pain we feel after the court's decision Tuesday to deny bail for Jeremy Hammond. It is an

inconsolable sadness that relates those that share it to one another and solidifies our commitment to Jeremy's cause. Jeremy, only 27 years old, has spent most of his young life contributing to charitable efforts and acting on his principles to right what he perceives as wrong. Jeremy could, if found guilty, spend 30+ years in prison.

We will seek the truth and find justice in unjust laws and the unjust rulings of an unjust State. Hacktivists are not criminals! Jeremy is alleged of a crime that has exposed the corruption and exploitation of the very State prosecuting him. Where is the justice when those whom she has anointed are just as guilty as those they are prosecuting? Jeremy has been demonized to such an extent that those whom know him can not even recognize the person prosecutors portray him as in court while the very person responsible for securing the sanctity of his trial is herself directly associated with the crimes Jeremy is accused of having committed. The truth is great and and wants to be known. The truth is, Jeremy has done no wrong and those determined to prosecute him are guilty. The State is guilty of protecting their own interest, especially in their pursuit to prosecute those they consider dangerous to their agenda.

Update on Jeremy's case:

This is what we know for certain surrounding the unfortunate circumstances of Jeremy Hammond's ongoing prosecution. A time line published only days after Jeremy's arrest suggests that Operation AntiSec was orchestrated by the FBI through the agency of FBI informant Hector Monsegur.

As if this were not unfortunate enough, new evidence suggests that Loretta A. Preska, the federal judge currently presiding over Jeremy's case, has an undisclosed conflict which could potentially influence her decisions regarding Jeremy's trial. Loretta A. Preska is the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and a former nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Preska is married to Thomas J. Kavalier, with whom she attended law school. Information leaked from the very hack Jeremy is being prosecuted for having committed show that Thomas J. Kavalier is affiliated with Stratfor. Sensitive information belonging to Kavalier was leaked along with the sensitive information of more than eight hundred thousand other Stratfor users and millions of internal emails. With this being said, we beg to argue, what right does Loretta A. Preska have to preside over Jeremy's bail hearing while documents leaked from the very hack Jeremy is accused of having committed show that her husband, Thomas J. Kavalier, was himself a client of Strafor.

We demand that Loretta A. Preska, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, excuse herself from Jeremy case immediately. We demand that all previous rulings made by Chief Judge Preska be dismissed. We demand an investigation into the tactics used by law enforcement officials to entrap hacktivists. We demand an investigation into the circumstances which allowed for Chief Judge Preska to preside over Jeremy's case. We demand a fair trial for Jeremy Hammond! We will not be silent in the presence of such great injustices. **If those prosecuting Jeremy deny him a voice, they will hear ours!**

Rallies were held in New York and Chicago

Before Jeremy's court date in NY, large groups of people showed up in front of the jails to show support for Jeremy, to protest political repression, and to say hacktivism is not a crime! In Chicago, people spoke out on behalf of NATO5 and CLEVELAND4, who were set up by FBI infiltrators and arrested prior to the NATO summit in May. The importance and value of prisoner support was discussed and encouraged. [Punks Against Apartheid](#), [Anonymous Solidarity Network](#), [NATO5 Solidarity Network](#), [Cleveland4 Solidarity Network](#), and [Anarchist Black Cross](#) all came out with banners. People brought buckets, drums, many instruments and noise makers to marched around the Cook County Jail (the largest jail in the United States.) People playing music and chanting "We'll be marching in the streets, until everyone inside is free!" and raised fists for all the people trapped inside who saw us from windows and danced and raised fists too. In New York, the Jeremy Support Network organized a protest at Foley Square, and friends made speeches on Jeremy's behalf, and then marched to the courtroom.

Huge thanks to everyone who came out to support Jeremy at both rallies, especially those who travelled across multiple states. Even though Jeremy's bail was denied, we are still going to be speaking out against the unjust

charges put against him, and other accused whistleblowers and anti-war activists.

November 30th - Activists Demand Replacement of Judge in Hacker Case, Citing Conflict of Interest

Lawyers for accused hacker Jeremy Hammond plan to file a motion next week asking the federal judge in the case to recuse herself; but Hammond's supporters are already calling for her removal from the case.

Journalists, lawyers and human rights advocates gathered Thursday in front of the federal courthouse in New York City where Jeremy Hammond is to stand trial, demanding that Chief US District Court Judge Loretta Preska recuse herself, following recent revelations that her husband was a victim in the expansive computer hacking incident.

Hammond, 27, is accused of hacking into Texas-based Stratfor Global Intelligence Service and turning over 5 million emails to the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks. The charges against the longtime Chicago activist also include the electronic theft and distribution of credit card information for more than 850,000 clients of Stratfor; he is [accused](#) of using credit card numbers to make charges of at least \$700,000.

The pilfered documents included communications by Preska's husband, Thomas J. Kavalier, an employee of Stratfor client Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, the international law firm where Preska herself was once an associate.

"We are not asking today for very much," wrote Hammond supporter and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges, in a statement read by Natalie Wahlberg of Occupy Chicago and the Jeremy Hammond Solidarity Network. "We are asking for a fair hearing in a court of law. We are asking that Jeremy Hammond be permitted to present his case before a judge who does not have a personal involvement in his alleged activities, a personal involvement that will clearly prejudice the outcome. Hammond has enough stacked against him already."

Among the ways the odds have been stacked, Hammond supporters cite Judge Preska's denial of bail, which Gideon Oliver, president of the New York chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, characterized in a prepared statement as "the latest in a series of egregious failures of the state to uphold basic constitutional principles.

"The court regularly releases people accused of crimes more serious than the crimes Jeremy is accused of," Oliver stated. "Jeremy's continuing pre-trial imprisonment will severely hamper his attorney's ability to prepare a defense and defend Jeremy at trial."

Journalist John Knefel, who recently covered the pre-trial hearing of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed at Guantanamo Bay, placed the Hammond case in the context of the broader expansion of the American government secrecy regime.

The lead prosecutor at Gitmo, said Knefel, argued that the five codefendants' "thoughts, experiences and memories should be treated as presumptively classified," under which circumstances, "it is only through non-traditional methods of seeking transparency [such as those of which Hammond stands accused] that we learn what our government is doing."

Among the information revealed by the Stratfor document dump: apparent [civil liberties violations](#) by the New York Police Department and spy regimes set up to monitor Occupy Wall Street and other activist groups. Those include the culture-jamming filmmakers The Yes Men, one of whom was on hand to give a statement.

"If Jeremy had anything to do with the release of the Stratfor emails," Andy Bichlbaum said, "I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart. Whoever released these emails performed a function that's an integral part of democracy, as surely as voting or running for public office."

Supporters had hoped Judge Preska would recuse herself voluntarily once the revelations of her husband's involvement came to light, but no such action has been forthcoming. Hammond's lawyers' motion to compel her recusal is expected early next week.

22 Nov - Oscar Lopez Rivera Statement to the American Studies Association in Puerto Rico

The American Studies Association, a progressive educational organization, recently met in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Panels included the participation of former Puerto Rican political prisoners Rafael Cancel Miranda,

Elizam Escobar, Lucy Rodriguez, and Luis Rosa. Following is a statement written to the conference by Oscar Lopez Rivera:

MORE:

The U.S. government categorically denies it has political prisoners in its gulags. It does it primarily to cover up the nefarious, barbaric and even criminal acts and practices it carries out against us and other regular prisoners, and to do it with impunity. It uses the denial as its license to violate our most basic human rights by subjecting us to isolation and sensory deprivation regimens that are nothing less than cruel and unusual punishment. It uses it to hoodwink its own citizens to believe that it doesn't criminalize dissenters or opponents of its wars and other imperialistic practices. It does it to perpetuate the lie that it's the ultimate defender of freedom, justice, democracy and human rights in the world. And it uses it at times to further criminalize the political prisoners and/or our families and to disconnect us from our families, communities, supporters and the just and noble causes we served and try to continue serving.

During the many years I've been in the gulags, I've met and shared ideas, time and space with different political prisoners who struggle for just and noble causes like the one I've chosen to serve. Some were with me at USP Leavenworth, where we were labeled "notorious and incorrigible criminals" and targeted by the FBI, jailers and informants/provocateurs in their attempts to criminalize us further. In my case the same evil forces even used my medical condition as fodder for the escape conspiracy plot they hatched that added fifteen more years to my sentence.

There were political prisoners with me at USP Marion, where we were subjected to isolation and sensory deprivation regimens, and labeled "predators, the worst of the worst," and even "animals" by Dr. Urban, the head of the psychology department of USP Marion. Amnesty International went as far as defining the barbaric conditions in that gulag as a "legal crime." Sensory deprivation and isolation regimens cause a plethora of mental illness/problems, including PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) — the same mental disorder war veterans suffer.

And there were political prisoners with me in the gulag known as ADX Florence. There some of us were subjected to a sleep deprivation regimen that was pure and simple torture. I experienced it for 58 days and my sleeping patterns were so badly damaged that I still have serious problems sleeping. In these two gulags political prisoners were also the targets of constant harassment such as cell searches, confiscation of reading and art materials and placement in hot cells where there was contraband in order to issue us infractions, send us to the hole, and force us to start the "step-down" program all over again.

Since I have been in the gulags all of my communication has been intercepted and monitored, including my legal mail. My family has been persecuted and criminalized. Three days after I was sentenced my brother José was fired from his job at Northeastern Illinois University, and before that sent to prison for 11 months for refusing to testify before a grand jury. My mother, at age 70, was made my co-conspirator. Anyone who knew my mother knows she would rather have died than to engage in any criminal activity. The FBI has even tried to destroy good community programs that at one point in time I was associated with. The last 14 years I have spent in this gulag, Terre Haute. And the harassment has not stopped. Several times my art materials have been confiscated or lost, art work destroyed, family visits stopped, and I still have to report to the jailers every two hours. In those 14 years, in spite of all the provocations and harassment, the jailers haven't been able to accuse me of committing any infractions. But that doesn't stop them from doing what they've been doing to me for the past 31 years. And I'm fairly certain the other political prisoners continue experiencing the same treatment and conditions.

It could be argued that government's denial of our existence has worked. But our wills and spirits are strong enough to continue resisting and struggling.

22 Nov – Final Blog Entries by Mandy Hiscocks

2010 Toronto G20 "main conspiracy group" prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has written prolifically while in prison. She was released yesterday, December 3rd. We're including the past of her prison writings below.

MORE:

November 22nd - I'm filing a human rights application today against Vanier

today i'm filing a Human Rights application against the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and Vanier Centre for Women. i hope to initiate some changes in their security classification system, which is opaque and discriminatory and contains no fair grievance process.

in previous posts i've tried to describe the difference between the maximum and medium security units but i probably haven't done it justice. you'll have to trust me on this: the freedoms i enjoy now may seem limited and the privileges minor, but they make a world of difference. so who gets to live in which world and what are those decisions based on?

in my case the decision seems to be political, although i can't say for sure because nobody here has ever told me the reason. i was kept on maximum security (Unit 2) for seven and half months. i never had a misconduct, was never sent to the hole, was occasionally argumentative and sarcastic with guards but never violent or aggressive towards them, and i had no run ins with other inmates. i tried for months to find out why i wasn't being given a chance on a medium security unit but my questions went unanswered by Classifications, the Superintendent and the Regional Director. eventually i was told that it might have been something i once said to a social worker - this shocked me, because during our one conversation i'd told her i was uncomfortable with her question and she'd gone to great lengths to assure me that everything was confidential. i've since learned that "don't trust the social worker" is fairly common knowledge in here, but i didn't know that then. in august i was told by the head of Social Work that she'd find out what it was that i'd allegedly said. to this day i haven't heard back from her, but i was moved to medium security (Unit 4) about a week later. i don't believe there ever was a good reason to have kept me on Unit 2 for so long. this process (or lack thereof) is unacceptable - there should have to be a clear reason and inmates should have the right to know it and grieve it under a fair process if we disagree. this is something i hope can be addressed at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

another concern that i hope will be addressed is the way the classification system discriminates against groups of people who are already marginalized in society. this happens in a few different ways: by refusing medium security eligibility to certain groups as opposed to evaluating individual circumstances and behaviour (this is true for people detained on an immigration hold), or simply because the institution is unable to accommodate inmates' needs (for example, the medium security units are not wheelchair accessible). finally, the rating system used by provincial institutions to give inmates a security designation is stacked against certain groups: women, poor and indigenous people and people of colour to name a few. what it boils down to is that those who are privileged on the outside continue to be privileged on the inside. at Vanier, Unit 2 is full of migrants, people with disabilities, people of colour and the poor while Unit 4 is a predominantly white, younger, relatively better-off crowd.

i realize that this is merely one injustice among many, and that in a system that is fundamentally rotten it may not seem like the biggest deal. but it's one injustice that i'm in a position to do something about. prisoners are deprived of liberty but shouldn't also be denied basic human rights and equal treatment.

December 2nd – so this is it folks...

November 21 - Aries - Life is good and about to get even better. You can't quite believe that ? Well you will when you begin to see that everything is going your way at last. Keeping a positive attitude is easy when so many positive things are happening.

it's been snowing lately, and the air blowing through the window frame is cold. now it really feels like i've been here for the better part of a year; i've watched all the seasons go by. it's strange because instead of the approaching winter, i feel the onset of spring - that excitement about spending more time outside, the plans and hopes and sense of new beginnings that usually come with the longer days and warmer winds. i'm getting ready to leave this place! i can hardly believe it. only one day left now to finish all the books i'm reading (according to jail superstition, if you leave an unfinished book behind you're destined to come back to finish it. you'll also come back if you write on the walls and if you don't point your shoes towards the cell door when you take them off you'll never leave). soon i'll be packing up, throwing out or giving away all the little things that have made this place a bit more comfortable: the poster of Marilyn Buck taped to the cardboard back of a pad of paper and propped against the wall at the end of my bed and the photos - of nature, a burning cop car, my friends' dog -

taped to laundry detergent boxes, because nothing can be taped to the walls here or the guards come and rip it down. the pencil holder made of a toilet paper roll on my desk, the orange peel potpourri in a flattened out meds cup on the shelf. the empty chip bags and mr. noodles cups for food storage, the old newspapers waiting to be burned in the Native Sisters' Fire, the chessboard, the articles and short stories people have sent in the mail. i can't say that i'll miss this place, but i might miss having to make do with so little such that every small possession is a prize.

i also know that i'll miss a lot of the people that i've met. there are some good folks here, and the past week or so has felt a bit like the last few days of high school with the exchanging of contact information and the preparation for sad goodbyes. i'm trying not to have too many regrets, but one big one is that i didn't get to know more people better, that i didn't choose to spend more time in the common room just listening to their stories and hanging out. it feels like a wasted opportunity. i'm also realizing as i pack up and sort through folders of half finished projects and incomplete blog posts just how much didn't get done - not to mention how much mail went unanswered. still, all in all, i'm happy with the time i spent here.

of no small importance is that i made it through this sentence unscathed! and for that, many thanks and much love to you all for your support. i'm not leaving here bitter and i don't regret the decision i made to do this time, or my involvement in organizing against the G20 back in 2010. i'm no more afraid of the state than i was before, i'm no longer afraid of prison, and i certainly don't intend to put up and shut up when i get out. if anything, my time at Vanier Centre for Women has taught me a lot about how injustice and oppression play out in the cop shops, courts and jails of Ontario. i wasn't much of a prison justice organizer before but i will be now. so thanks to you, state, for giving me some of the information and tools i need to be more of a pain in your ass. and to those of you who do this work: i might have knowledge, contacts or experience you can use, and i'm really inspired to help. please use me as a resource! ask me anything. don't worry about bringing it up, nothing terrible happened to me here - this is an experience i want to remember, not forget.

i know i've said this before, more than once, but i think it's worth repeating: people like me with good health and privilege, connections and resources and community support, can survive quite easily in a place like this. not only that, we can be an asset to other people here. not everyone can maintain a blog or afford a newspaper; not everyone has friends with landlines who are willing to send texts, emails messages; most people aren't in a position to file a human rights application or get answers to their legal or immigration questions from friends and allies who are also lawyers and paralegals; very few people are connected to independent media or know mainstream journalists who may be interested in what they have to say. those of us who can do those things can be a valuable resource in a place like this. not coincidentally, many of us have privilege on the outside that will translate to privilege on the inside. we are the people in the movement who should be out there risking our freedom. and we need to stop framing it as risking "losing an organizer" because there is a lot of work that can be done on the inside and a lot that can be done to develop better networks between prisoners and prison solidarity activists. so instead of holding back in the struggle (holding back the struggle?) because we're afraid of incarceration, we should do what needs to be done and see a jail sentence - if one comes - as an opportunity.

and not just a political opportunity either, under what other circumstances would i be able to put almost a year aside to step back from my life and get some perspective? jail takes everything away from you all at once, and by showing you what you miss shows you what you value the most. i'm grateful to have had the chance to reflect on what's really important.

this is my last post from jail and it's been hard to write. i'm far too distracted by the thought of getting out to pull together any grand sweeping ideas. what i can say is that being here has confirmed what i knew coming in: that jails aren't full of violent people society needs protection from, and that if we lived in compassionate, supportive communities where people's needs were taken care of there would be very few inmates at Vanier Centre of Women. the difference is that now i can put names and faces and stories to the stats and political theory - which makes it all more real, more sad, more urgent.

there is so much left to say. i want to write about the guards and the job they do, the gendered nature of prisons, the absolute lie that is "innocent until proven guilty" and the farce that is the "un-coerced" guilty plea, prison labour, the tension between prison reform and prison abolition but those things will have to wait. i'd also like to take some time to fill in the gaps, because while i've tried to describe the things i thought you'd want to know,

i'm sure there's much that i missed. if you have questions please send them to boredbutnotbroken@gmail.com and i'll do my best to answer them. for the most part though, as of the new year i'm hoping this blog will be written by other inmates. anyone with a prison experience to share can email it to boredbutnotbroken@gmail.com or send it to boredbutnotbroken, p.o., box 183, guelph on, n1h 6j6. please feel free to spread the word. and thank you for reading, and for your feedback.

so this it is, folks. in less than 24 hours i'll be out! i've asked so much of you over this past year and relied so much on your support, that it seems inappropriate to end with a request. . .but i'm going to anyway. those of you who know me know that i'm not really comfortable being the centre of attention. please don't treat me like some sort of "celebrity" - that will make things weird and awkward. i'm the same person i was a year ago, i just happen to know a little more about the prison industrial complex than i did before. and i really, really can't wait to see you :)

23 Nov - Letter from KteeO: Menstruation and Incarceration

We received this letter from KteeO, and she asked us to share it publicly.

MORE:

I have some thoughts I would like to share if you would like to read:

I must confess that until I was facing incarceration I hadn't thought much about menstruation in prison; but once I realized that I was going into lockup it became a worry that was always nagging at the back of my mind.

Now that I have spent an entire menstrual cycle in prison (and am half way through another) I realize that my worries were not unfounded. I have found, as have so many others, that bleeding in prison is truly a messed up experience.

It is an experience that either intentionally works to degrade inmates, or degrades us as a result of cost-saving measures; either way, the results are the same. Prison makes us hate a part of our selves; it turns us against our own bodies.

Look, I really hate to overstate things, I don't like being dramatic, so please understand that I'm not trying to do either of those things when I talk about the effects of prison in combination with menstruation, let me explain.

First, the pads we are given, when they are not out, are inadequate (before I got here there was a time when folks weren't given pads for two weeks); they are small and don't have wings and we are given a fixed amount. So what about tampons? There are no tampons at the FDC. If you had the money, one used to be able to purchase over-priced tampons on commissary, but not anymore. They have been out for the first five weeks I have been here, and now without warning, they have been taken off the commissary list.

Okay, so to add to that, we can't do our laundry and most of the folks here aren't super comfortable sending down bloody clothes or bedding.

So the result, regardless of the prisons intention, is that even if you embrace your period, it becomes a degrading and limiting experience (speaking of degrading, don't even get me started on getting strip searches while menstruating, especially without a tampon...) Most people in here describe having your period in prison as one of the worst things about being locked up. It creates stress and uncertainty due to the conditions that we have to deal with.

There is so much more I could say on this topic, but I think I am going to stop for now. I just know it wasn't something I thought much about before my incarceration, and I wish I would have, so I thought I would share.

I also hope that ya'll don't mind that these are a huge stream of consciousness and not my most eloquent thoughts. And a huge thank you to my friend who wades through my horrible spelling and handwriting...

I want to let ya'll know that I'm still doing just fine. I'm getting to know my new friends better; it's always exciting when friendships start to become more than just surface. I'm still not a very good card player, but I'm pretty good at volleyball.

I have also been working out and reading a fair amount. I want to thank ya'll for your incredible support, and

again, I am sorry to those I haven't written back yet. Your words mean so much to me.

Well anyway, keep smiling, keep struggling; in solidarity,

Kteeo

PS: A huge shout out to the incredible humans that are taking care of my cat friend; I miss her every night and every day, but knowing how much love she is receiving makes everything feel somewhat better.

After writing this, Kteeo has mentioned that pads have become better, and that tampons will return to commissary at some point in the near future

23 Nov - Letter from anarchist Mario "Tripa" Lopez about recent incidents of social war

Mario "Tripa" Lopez is an injured anarchist imprisoned in Mexico after being accidentally harmed by an incendiary device he was carrying.

MORE:

Watching the latest news on TV and in the printed media, I have been able to see a series of events which, if we see them as an isolated manner could seem insignificant, but when seen as a whole, from the view of a conflict – even given the political discrepancies- we are met with a wider panorama of a social war in course, of a conflict which advances and that each time control seems to slip through the state's fingers just that little bit more.

Starting with a news item from last Thursday, if I'm not mistaken, when a group of *encapuchadxs*¹ stormed the representation of the state of Michoacán in Mexico City and occupied their offices for an amount of time² Last week a group of approximately fifty hooded people with *cohetones*³ blockaded *Insurgentes* Avenue, around the *La Bombilla* park, a clash with the police ensued and it was transmitted live and direct. One week before of all this, the news talked of clashes between Federal and State police and the *normalistas*⁴ in various points in Michoacán, who from some time ago have carried out blockades and taken buses by force as a pressure strategy. The images that were transmitted showed the clashes, with tear gas being thrown from one side and molotovs from the other. There were many buses burnt in the process.⁵

Also there were two police cars burnt and more than 100 detained, of which only eight were imprisoned; before this there was a report of three police cars burnt throughout various points in Mexicali, Baja California, seemingly with Molotov cocktails.⁶ In September, the news spoke of the actions which happened during the week of solidarity with prisoners of the Social War. In their reports they noted some of the communiqués, explicitly speaking about the actions – police cars burnt, banks bombed, attacks with firearms against the police etc. – that were lead in "protest" against the imprisonment of anarchists in Mexico and other countries. It also mentioned that these actions represent a response to acts considered "repressive" against a supposed network of international anarchist terrorism.

This response, by what is understood, was at an international level, which represents an indisputable qualitative growth in the fight against Power. A necessary response to the government's offenses against the anarchists, nihilists, libertarians, fighters and social rebels who represent in some form a danger for Power and for the societies based on their norms and values. An anti-authoritarian response which transmits much strength, energy and support.

Now, the governor of Michoacán is trying to make us believe that the so-called (by him) "ultra radicals" aren't residents of the state, but instead people belonging to groups outside of Michoacán and the *normalista* schools. According to him they are militants of opposing political parties as part of social groups, or "ultra radical elements" from Mexico City or belonging to the group denominated "*Tenochtitlan*" (the same "ultra-radicals" from Mexico City belonging to this inexistent group that are said to have attacked the offices of the Federal Commission of Electricity with explosives? Actions which they are trying to accuse me of?) Or do they now want to pull the "radicals" of the Oaxacan conflict of 2006 out of their sleeves- supposedly having now moved to Michoacán to create a climate of "instability" in the state? At all costs the government is seeking to justify their reaction fronted by a conflict that has "escaped from their hands".

Personally, from my reading of the events – from the bombs to the barricades – all of these forms of

confrontation form part of necessary action which reflects the incrimination of an anti-authoritarian conscience and of the growing refractory attitude, although Power would like to present it to us as “glitches in the system”. In the specific case of Mexico City, all of these attacks are against the supposed “social peace” that the social democratic PRD government wants to sell us. According to the logic of Power, the Marginal neighborhoods with the high rate of “crime” have to be razed, when – with all our decisive critique against voluntary servitude- we have to recognize that these people are defending their vital and sustaining space.

Casually, I find myself in the same court as the 20 guys detained following the riots in the *Tepito* neighborhood on the day following my accident, and on hearing their stories it is clear to me that what happened there was nothing more than an action in self-defense against the every day theft of their lives, a well deserved violent response to the violent acts committed day by day by the police. It’s for this reason that, the same as for me, they are faced with the accusations of “attacks against the public peace” as well as attempted murder of police. Accusations which mean they are faced with sentences of between 7 and 47 years in prison. What do they want to achieve with this? An example punishment? Without a doubt, and guarding our distances, this reminds me of the riots in the marginal neighborhoods of Paris in 2006, regularly criticized but little understood.

All of these moments of conflict, whether politicized actions or not, not only make it obvious the inexistence of the system of supposed social well being, but also they show us that if it really existed, we would still fight against it, because we recognize that Power is the real enemy of all of us who aspire for Total Freedom.

However, even given the imminent state of control, there are still those who aren’t frightened, those who by day or by night, alone or collectively, with fire, fire-works, blockades, explosives or firearms, show that this is not the life we want, that – at least from our perspective- this system must be totally destroyed. Their damned social peace is a myth that they attempt to impose on us. Only conflict exists. The peace imposed by the system is the peace of cemeteries that they use to try to extinguish the anti-authoritarian fight. The acts of insurrection make it clear that it is necessary to keep on doing “something more than words”, that the conflict must extend. We must take the step from the “unconscious” insurrection to a conscious and generalized insurrection, propagate attack, put up barricades, destroy the economy, attack trade, conform dozens, hundreds, thousands of affinity groups. It’s clear that we have to take control of our lives and our spaces; to be able to achieve it there is no other way out than Social War.

This permanent conflictivity which I emphasize, part of our individuality, is a “counter-value” that is sparked when fronted with the values of the system, and that constructs itself day by day to question ourselves as individuals and to confront this concrete reality. It is to maintain standing a devastating critique against the system, re-appropriating once and for all our own lives. To live, to be, to relate to ourselves in a different way, to maintain ourselves in conflict with the existent, is to revolutionize every moment. *An ¡Ai Ferri Corti con la vita!* But also we have to translate the permanent conflictivity into a constant and fierce attack against the system of domination. That tension and the daily confrontation against a system which tries to reduce us to mere merchandise, that consequent practice – at least for me- is much more integral than the simple occasional “rebellion”, than the temporary protest, than the revolutionary pose. It is the moments of conflict which give expression and sense to our lives.

This permanent conflictivity can never be assimilated by the system of domination, and much less recuperated in the reconstructive cycle of Power, because it is the natural scaffolding of Anarchy. From the moment we are born the state expropriates our lives and with that it also expropriates our critical capacity and our natural resource of self-defense; turning violence into a monopoly for the unique and exclusive use of Power, so that when the excluded and the self-excluded use it they can call it “terrorism”. Anti-systematic action, anti-authoritarian attack and permanent conflict make it clear that violence is also revolutionary, and that it necessarily has to be used at the moment we face the violence of the State.

Compañer@s, sisters and brothers of affinity, here inside prison – somewhat limited – I have no other way to contribute to the anarchist struggle other than by inciting agitation. In this sense, many of my letters, notes and communications are directed.

For the moment, I have nothing more than to add other than an enormous greeting of strength and solidarity to all the anarchist compañer@s prisoners in Mexico and around the world. A strong embrace and a cordial

invitation to keep moving forward, not one step back. Agitation!

For Anarchy!

For the extension of the every day conflict!

For individual insurrection!

For generalized insurrection!

Not one millimeter backwards... 9 millimeters in the heads of Power!

Social War on all fronts!

With love and Anarchy

Mario Antonio López Hernández

Anarchist Prisoner

Reclusorio Preventivo Sur, Classification and Observation Centre, Xochimilco, Mexico City

29 of October, 2012.

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Notes:

1. "Hooded ones"

2. Photos here: <http://www.publimetro.com.mx/noticias/fotos-grupo-de-encapuchados-toma-representacion-de-michoacan-en-el-df/mljx!HFv6eEfm2nZ/>

3. Firewords launched as missiles

4. Education students

5. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4Hnik7pP-Y> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-p8ijMBfRU>

6. <http://www.noticiasdigital.net/index.php/noticias/parte-de-guerra/item/285-prenden-fuego-desconocidos-a-patrullas-en-mexicali.html>

7. Tepito is known to be one of the most dangerous suburbs of Mexico City. See:

<http://www.razon.com.mx/spip.php?article128003> View video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMIUc3YVybA>

23 Nov - "The parole board is bullshit" by Alex Hundert

Alex Hundert, another of the 2010 Toronto G20 "Main Conspiracy" prisoners has been writing from prison and we've included his latest.

MORE:

On November 8th my application for parole was rejected. Two older white men in suits who constituted the Parole Board that day said in their written reasons that "while the two considerations before [the] Board are the threat [I] present to public safety and the efficacy of my release plan to manage [my] risk in the community... these considerations cannot and must not be in isolation [sic] as they must be balanced against the nature and gravity of the offences [I] committed and [my] degree of responsibility for the events." They went on to say that "given the degree of violence seen on the streets of Toronto [during the G20 summit] and [my] responsibility in regard to this violence" it was decided that I am "not a suitable candidate for parole and [my] request for parole [was] denied."

To be fair, there was a decent chance that I was not going to accept parole even if it had been granted, and there are two reasons for that. First, I am not sure that I am willing to agree to wear the electronic tracking device that having fastened to one's ankle has become a standard condition for parole in this province. And second, because parole is somewhat of a sham anyways.

There are several reasons that parole is inherently problematic. The parole system of releasing people from prison but continuing to incarcerate them through house arrest and/or other conditions actually extends the duration of people's incarceration, and makes them especially susceptible to re-imprisonment. Thirdly, the provincial system does not, despite legislation that mandates they must, actually provide people with a "fair

hearing” or reasonable opportunity to “earn” parole. And finally, the Ministry of Correctional Services gives an absurd amount of discretionary power to officials who are selected by the unelected Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The “offences” to which I pleaded guilty were for a production of a list of places to protest in downtown Toronto during the G20 summit (or “one count of council to commit indictable offence of mischief”) and for facilitating a series of workshops that prepared people for what they would face on the streets during the summit (or, “one count of council to commit indictable offence of obstruct peace office”). As part of a plea bargain that saw charges dropped against 11 co-accused, I received a sentence of 20 months imprisonment for these offences.

At my sentencing hearing, justice Budzhimski said that I had “counselled and promoted violence” and that “what [made] these actions so serious [was] the focus on destruction.” MSSRS Reynolds and Sturgeon of the Parole Board seem to have agreed that we were part of a global resistance against the destructive austerity agenda of the G20 states and against the violence police forces employed to protect the so-called leaders who promote this agenda. If this is a considerable factor for this so-called justice system so be it.

In the provincial system, unlike the federal system, the vast majority of imprisoned people who apply for parole are rejected (despite the fact that they have necessarily been convicted of lesser “offences”). I was but a predictable one of many.

Vanny Thach, 25, also recently passed the one-third point of his sentence, making him eligible for parole. He is serving a maximum provincial sentence of two years less a day. I asked him why he was denied parole.

Van tells me that the Parole board rejected his application because he “didn’t have counselling lined up for when released and had completed no institutional program.” They must have meant the “rehabilitative programming” offered by the Ministry of Correctional Services, because Van has actually completed multiple secondary school credits (through the education program which is contracted to the Ministry of Education) since being imprisoned here and he continues to attend the maximum number of possible classes every day, functionally making him a full time student. He has planned to finish his high school diploma courses at an adult education centre if paroled.

With respect to what they wanted him to have had set up in order to be considered a “suitable candidate” for release, Van tells me “they wanted me to have drug counseling and something like Connections” – Connections being the standard attitude adjustment programing that most imprisoned people seem to be assigned to – “because without counselling and a job set up you are not seen as a manageable risk in the community,” he says, explaining the logic presented to him by the Board.

There are (at least) two problems with what the parole board told Van. The first is that he in fact did apply for the prison’s “rehabilitative programs” months ago but has been stuck on the institutional waiting list. And second, programs outside of prison will not actually enrol a person until after they are released.

Van told me that “the person from the hospitalized substance abuse program said that what the parole board is doing is messed up—telling people they need counselling set up before getting parole because people can’t get spots until they are released...everywhere I’ve called.” He tells me, “they say ‘we can’t give it to you ‘cause you’re still in jail.’”

When it came time to trying to get into the institutional programs here (which are unfortunately laughably inadequate especially considering that people receive certificates upon completion), Van says, “I’ve been to see the ILO (institutional liaison officer). I’ve been to see the substance abuse councillor and the social worker three times, and because I have a long sentence they say I am not a priority.” I too have spoken to ILOs and I have been told that indeed the program’s policy is to not schedule people for counselling until the end of their sentences, which is framed as prioritizing people who are about to be released. Given the superficial nature of the programs, one can easily infer that this policy is structured as part of allowing the institution to do the bare minimum necessary in order to claim that they are “rehabilitating” the people they have imprisoned. In true warehouse modality the certificates granted after these brief programing sessions—Substance abuse, Anger management, Connections, Healthy Relationships—are essentially nothing more than stamps applied to people, institutional tags before they are shipped out the door. But without a stamp, apparently one is “not a suitable

candidate for parole.”

“It’s bullshit,” says Van. “They’re giving me reasons of why I can’t leave, they’re telling me ‘you can’t leave ‘til you do this’ but when I try to set that up, they’re telling me, ‘you can’t do that ‘til you leave.’” So Van will be here for another eight months, most likely. But he was an excellent candidate for parole in my opinion, and keeping him in jail is nothing but either unnecessary punitive incarceration or simple arbitrary indifference. Either way, it is an abuse of power.

Van doesn’t have a problem with “substance abuse,” nor does he need “anger management.” Nor does he need five 60-90 minute attitude adjustment sessions in a room full of disinterested imprisoned people. At least that is what I think. However, he intends to dutifully take each one of these programs and to do so with genuine sincerity and then reapply for parole, and I wish him the best of luck.

In my case, the parole board said that while I “have confirmed employments and will be continuing counselling for [my] personal health issues...there is no offence-related counselling in [my] release plan.” I guess that begs the question, “where do I apply for political re-education anyways?”

I am likely all the better for having not been granted parole. The aforementioned electronic tracking device is but one reason. Here is another: section 36 of Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services Act says the following: “The [Ontario Parole] Board has exclusive jurisdiction to examine into, hear, and determine all matters and questions arising under this part [of the Act], and as to any matter or thing in respect of which any power, authority or discretion is conferred upon The Board, and the action or discretion of the board therein is final and conclusive and is not open to questions or review in any court, and proceeding by or before the board shall be restrained by injunction, or other process or proceeding in any court or be removable by application for judicial review or otherwise into any court.”

In short, given that a later section of the Act says that the parole board can revoke parole thereby re-imprisoning a person based on mere suspicion, section 36 essentially says they can do whatever they want and that there is nothing that any constitutional or judicial process can do about it.

In my case, what this means is that despite the fact that I probably have a decent basis for a human rights complaint, it would not have any impact on their decision, and the complaint would be rooted in the fact that what they told me throughout my hearing implied that because they disagree with my politics and because I have not volunteered for some kind of formal political re-education program I should continue to be imprisoned. To my mind, this probably violated the right laid out in, amongst other places, the Ontario Human Rights Code guaranteeing “equal treatment with respect to,” amongst other things, “creed.”

But this is definitely not the only way the prison system has violated my formal rights on that basis. However, I will get into all that at another time. For now, on the subject of provincial parole, I want to give the last word to Vanny Thach. When I asked him at the end of our discussion if he has anything further to add, here is what he said: “The parole board is bullshit.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.

25 Nov - Update on Chris French

It’s been a long time since we’ve updated folks about the situation surrounding Chris. Unfortunately, things have taken a turn for the worse.

MORE:

Chris is not facing four months in boot camp if they were to take a guilty plea to four counts of felony aggravated battery, and one count of felony resisting arrest, as the lawyers first told us. Chris is facing two years in prison – with a recommendation for four months in boot camp, then an additional two years of probation. There is no guarantee they would get the recommendation. There is a 402 conference on November 28th where the judge may make another offer. *[That date has come and gone and we haven’t seen another update. --NYC ABC]*

The situation has only become more and more precarious and it is becoming absolutely necessary to engage in a strategic engagement with this repression. Please keep your ears to the ground for updates on public meetings and further updates.

28 Nov - Charges Filed for Seattle May Day Vandalism

King County prosecutor Dan Satterberg has filed charges against five individuals for participating in the May Day smashup in Seattle. We're including an article from a so-called alternative news outlet about the charges.

MORE:

Charging documents accuse five of riot, fourth-degree assault, and malicious mischief "against the peace and dignity of the state of Washington."

The accused are: Phillip Neel, Kellen Linnell, Meaghn Gonzales, Matthew Erickson, and Jason Michaels. Two have priors for crimes such as marijuana possession, obstructing a police officer, and harassment. Three have no known priors.

Police identified the suspects by articles of clothing and tattoos that showed up on camera footage, officers' reports from May Day, and search warrants of the suspects' homes. Officers also received some anonymous tips and say they recognized some of the suspects from Occupy protests. Officers also say they gleaned information from cell phones and other electronic devices that were taken and searched.

These charges are not part of the current federal grand jury that is ostensibly looking into May Day, and Emily Langlie from the US Attorney's office says she has "no idea" whether the five might be called before the grand jury.

It has also come out, in documents filed in October, that FBI agents followed some Portland activists up to Seattle where they participated in May Day demonstrations.

29 Nov - Rebecca Rubin Surrenders

Just as Daniel McGowan prepares for release from prison, another of the FBI's "Operation Backfire" targets has surrendered. We're including a couple of articles that provide a little clarity. Until we know more, in terms of court documents and the like, we're playing the waiting game to figure out her motivation.

MORE:

November 29th – *Globe and Mail* article

Exhausted after more than a decade as a fugitive, a Canadian woman sought in what officials have called the largest eco-terrorism case in U.S. history has surrendered in Washington State.

One of her lawyers said Rebecca Rubin, 39, will eventually plead guilty on some charges.

Ms. Rubin turned herself in to the FBI at the border at Blaine, Wash., on Thursday as part of an agreement with U.S. authorities, said her Canadian lawyer, Ian Donaldson.

The former North Vancouver resident is facing charges of arson, conspiracy and use of a destructive device targeting a ski area, wild horse and burro facilities, and a forestry company in Oregon, Colorado and California between 1997 and 2001 linked to the activities of the Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front. On Thursday, her wanted poster on the FBI website had a "Surrendered" banner on it. The poster had noted that Ms. Rubin might have returned to Canada and declared a \$50,000 reward for her arrest, adding "Should be considered armed and dangerous and an escape risk."

"She was tired of life passing her by. She had been living in a prison without walls. It was time to face the music and move on with her life," Mr. Donaldson said.

"If you can't have a normal life, you get tired."

"Discussions with the Americans had been going on for a very long time," said Mr. Donaldson, who noted he has been communicating with Ms. Rubin by phone and in person for quite a while.

He said he was not fully aware of where Ms. Rubin, who is single and has no children, has been living.

While she has family in B.C., he said she was not living with them.

Rich Troberman, Ms. Rubin's lawyer in Seattle, said there is the "framework of a plea agreement" with the three states in which Ms. Rubin is alleged to have committed her crimes.

While she will initially enter a not-guilty plea, he said she will eventually plead guilty to some charges and face a sentence linked to negotiations in the jurisdictions where she was sought.

Mr. Troberman said a plea agreement was nearly struck three years ago, but one of the jurisdictions balked.

More recently, talks yielded some agreement. He said the case will be tried in Oregon.

On Thursday, Ms. Rubin made a court appearance in Seattle where she was advised of the charges and waived a removal hearing.

She will be transported to Oregon for her next appearance.

Mr. Troberman said Ms. Rubin has not been co-operating with authorities in terms of helping investigators find two others accused in the case.

In a statement on Thursday, the U.S. Department of Justice said Ms. Rubin was part of

the "largest eco-terrorism case in United States history," accused of a role in the arson of a federal wild horse and burro facility in Oregon and the attempted arson of a forestry company.

In Colorado, she is accused of eight counts of arson that occurred in 1998, which destroyed buildings in a ski area.

In California, she is accused with conspiracy, arson and "using a destructive device" in an October, 2001, fire at a wild horse and burro corral.

In 2007, 10 other defendants in the case received sentences of between three and 13 years.

The overall investigation, dubbed Operation Backfire, drew the investigative attention of U.S. agencies including the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Police.

November 29th – *The Oregonian* article

Canadian **Rebecca Rubin**, one of the three remaining fugitives in the nation's largest eco-sabotage case, surrendered Thursday at the Washington border after years on the lam.

Rubin wore a white cardigan for her appearance in federal court in Seattle. She breathed deeply as a prosecutor read the indictment and smiled briefly as the judge greeted her.

Rubin was involved in five arsons across the West, according to federal documents:

Nov. 30, 1997: An arson at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse Corrals near Burns.

Rubin was recruited at the last minute. She and co-defendant William Rodgers obtained material to make timing devices, the documents say. Rodgers later committed suicide while in custody.

That day, Rubin and four accomplices traveled to a staging area near Burns, where they assembled the incendiary devices and tested the radios they carried, the government alleges. They then drove to the corrals. A co-defendant cut the front lock with bolt cutters and radioed the others in the van to drive in. Once inside, Rubin and others got out and carried the devices, set them up at three spots in the barn and next to and inside a new tractor parked near the barn. They then released the horses.

After driving out and placing a new lock on the gate, the group poured acid on their clothes, shoes and bolt cutters, then buried them.

A co-defendant wrote that the arson was "to help halt the BLM's illegal and immoral business of rounding up

wild horses from public lands and funneling them to slaughter."

Damage to the barn, equipment and building was estimated at \$193,098.30.

Oct. 11, 1998: An attempted arson of the BLM Wild Horse Corrals in Rock Springs, Wyo.

Rubin was one of seven people accused of attempting a horse release and arson at the holding facility.

About 1 a.m., the local sheriff's office got a report that several horses were running loose near the corrals. Ruben had prematurely opened one of the gates before all the incendiary devices were set up and the horses got out, the documents say. Because of the disruption, the group aborted its plans. They hurried to leave and left behind sponges and full containers of fuel. Ruben and others buried some of the incendiary components at a remote location overlooking the highway near Rock Springs.

The BLM spent \$2, 426 to round up the escaped horses. Both the Animal Liberation Front and the Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility, saying they targeted the corrals for "slaughtering horses for foreign dinner plates."

Oct. 19, 1998: The Vail Ski Resort arson in Colorado.

Eight fires left a mountain lodge, two restaurants, several other buildings and ski lifts in smoldering ruins.

Rubin helped assemble timers for the arson and took gasoline and diesel to the mountain in a confederate's truck, the government alleges. They had to stop part way up the mountain because the truck got stuck in the snow. They unloaded the fuel containers and placed them in white trash bags to conceal them in the snow.

Rubin returned to Oregon with four others after they decided to temporarily delay the plan because of the difficulties involved, but two returned to Vail to plant the gas cans around the buildings and ignite them.

ALF and ELF claimed responsibility, calling the ski resort a "greedy corporation" that trespasses into wild areas.

Losses to Vail Associates amounted to \$24,500,485.28.

Dec. 26-27, 1998: An arson at U.S. Forest Industries in Medford.

Co-defendant Kevin Tubbs recruited Ruben as the fourth person to help him in the arson at the private forest products company, the documents say. Ruben and another person carried the incendiary devices to the office, where another set them up while Ruben stood watch.

An ELF communiqué said the fire "was done in retribution for all the wild forests and animals lost to feed the wallets of greedy" corporations.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$990,220.

Oct. 15, 2001: An arson at the BLM Wild Horse Corrals in Litchfield, Calif.

On Oct. 11, Ruben, a resident of Canada, and a co-defendant illegally crossed the border into the United States near the Cultus Lake region of Canada. Two accomplices picked them up. With a fifth collaborator, they planned the arson in a Seattle home. Ruben gathered backpacks, flashlights, pepper spray and other tools for the crime, federal officials allege.

Two days later, Ruben and two others drove to Olympia and joined up with several more accomplices. They then drove to Eugene and on to California.

About midnight on Oct. 15, they dressed in black, with socks over their shoes and wearing gloves. Ruben cut and removed part of the horse corral fences and used a rope and plastic tarps to funnel the horses out.

A plastic bucket containing gas and a heavy petroleum distillate ignited and destroyed a hay storage barn, causing \$207,497.60 in damage.

A message on the ALF website criticized the "slaughter" of wild horses.

30 Nov - Grand Jury Resistance in Santa Cruz, California Animal Liberation Investigation

An activist who has been subpoenaed to a grand jury in California investigating the animal rights movement says she will exercise every right to oppose it and that "using grand juries to harass activist communities does not serve justice, it is simply a means of political repression."

MORE:

Brittany Kenville is [one of several activists](#) who have been subpoenaed to the grand jury, which appears to be investigating a 2008 fire at the home of an animal experimenter at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In a statement Kenville noted that grand juries have historically used the pretense of a crime, such as the 2008 arson, as justification for threatening activists with jail time if they do not testify about their political beliefs and political associations.

"Grand juries operate in secrecy, and witnesses who choose to testify are not allowed to have a lawyer present when doing so," Kenville says. "In cases like this, grand juries are used as a tool to strike fear in and intimidate activists, and also to neutralize them from action. They spread seeds of mistrust throughout activist movements, and they operate under the assumption that people in activist communities are inherently guilty by association. I am adamantly opposed to these proceedings. I believe that they are unjust and an appalling misuse of prosecutorial power."

Kenville has previously been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury, and may be asked again to appear. If she refuses to answer questions about her personal beliefs or her friends, it is possible that she would be imprisoned for the duration of the grand jury.

This looming threat is made more real against the backdrop of another grand jury currently convened in Seattle, Washington. A series of Joint Terrorism Task Force raids in the northwest targeted local anarchists. [Two anarchists are currently imprisoned](#) for refusing to take part in what they call a political witch hunt. A third, Maddy Pfeiffer, is scheduled to appear again in December ([after refusing to answer any questions previously](#)).

In some instances, this threat of jail time is enough to persuade activists to turn on their friends and testify. This is certainly the case when prosecutors subpoena individuals who don't know their co-defendants well, if at all, and don't consider themselves particularly active in "the movement."

When I spoke with Kenville recently, what struck me was that she had no interest in any of these kinds of justifications; she said she would oppose the grand jury and has the full support of her friends, other activists, and most importantly her family.

Brittany Kenville's full statement is below:

My name is Brittany Kenville. I have been subpoenaed as a witness to the grand jury convened in San Francisco in relation to events that took place in Santa Cruz, California in 2008. Grand juries exist to determine whether there is enough evidence for a person or persons to be indicted. Subpoenas are used to force the appearance at grand juries by anyone the prosecution feels may provide evidence in support of their case.

Grand juries operate in secrecy, and witnesses who choose to testify are not allowed to have a lawyer present when doing so. In cases like this, grand juries are used as a tool to strike fear in and intimidate activists, and also to neutralize them from action. They spread seeds of mistrust throughout activist movements, and they operate under the assumption that people in activist communities are inherently guilty by association. I am adamantly opposed to these proceedings. I believe that they are unjust and an appalling misuse of prosecutorial power. Using grand juries to harass activist communities does not serve justice, it is simply a means of political repression.

I have been working with an attorney, and I plan on exercising every right that I have in response to my subpoena. I have the complete, unfaltering support of my family, my friends and my fellow activists. I encourage anyone else who is subpoenaed to reach out, seek counsel, do research, and learn your rights in these proceedings. I hope everyone reading this will learn more about the grand jury system and join me in standing up against its use as a tool of harassment.

1 Dec - Cuba pushes swap: its spies jailed in US for American contractor held in Havana

Of all the peculiar places, NBC's Today Show ran a piece on the Cuban Five and an accompanying article which we've pasted below.

MORE:

It seems straight out of a Cold War spy movie. A group of Cuban undercover agents sneak into the U.S. and set up a secret pro-Castro network in south Florida — receiving instructions in code through late night radio transmissions from handlers in Havana. But the FBI gets wind, tails the agents, intercepts their messages and busts them, sending the agents off to federal prison, their ringleader for life.

Today, the story of those spies -- called La Red Avispa, or the Wasp Network — rolled up by the feds 14 years ago is barely known in the United States. But its members, now known as the Cuban Five, are national heroes in Cuba – the subjects of mass demonstrations, their pictures on billboards and posters – and their petitions for freedom are championed around the world by Nobel Prize winners, celebrities like Danny Glover, even former President Jimmy Carter.

And they may now prove key to the tense impasse between Havana and Washington over the fate of jailed American contractor Alan Gross, arrested three years ago Monday for distributing sophisticated satellite equipment to Cuba's tiny Jewish community and later sentenced to 15 years in prison for "acts against the independence and/or territorial integrity of the state." (Gross says he was only bringing Internet access to Cuba.)

While the U.S. is demanding that Cuba release Gross, who visitors say is angry and frail, having lost 110 pounds in prison, Cuban officials say they are willing to do so only if President Barack Obama will release the Cuban agents.

"I understand what Mr. Gross is going through," Gerardo Hernandez, 47, the Cuban Five ringleader, said in an exclusive interview with NBC News in October at his current home --a federal prison outside Victorville, Calif. "I understand his sufferings and that of his family. ... If an agreement can be reached, to stop the sufferings of six families, then I welcome it."

The idea of a swap—the release of Gross for Hernandez and his confederates among the Cuban Five — faces legal and political hurdles.

An Obama administration official told NBC News that the "imprisonment of Alan Gross, an international development worker, is not comparable in any way to that of the five Cuban agents," noting that the Cubans were afforded their "due process rights" and convicted of serious crimes.

Members of Congress have denounced Cuba for holding Gross "hostage" to the release of the Cuban Five. "The Castro regime has no regard for human rights or international law," said Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and frequent critic of the Castro regime. "The Cuba Five should serve their sentences for spying."

And Hernandez, who sports a trim goatee and displays a hearty laugh despite 14 years in prison, might not make the ideal candidate for a pardon or commutation from Obama — a precondition for a swap to take place. Asked if he regretted any of his actions, he smiled and said, "I regret that I got caught." In a follow up phone interview, Hernandez readily acknowledged that "we violated some U.S. laws" — mainly failing to register as foreign agents with the U.S. Justice Department. "We came here with fake passports. Fake identities." But, he added, "We act out of necessity."

As Hernandez and Cuban officials tell it, the Cuban Five was not sent to spy on the U.S. government. In fact, the members weren't accused of stealing any U.S. secrets (although they were convicted of conducting surveillance

of U.S. military bases.) Instead, the mission of the Wasp Network, they say, was to infiltrate anti-Castro exile groups in South Florida who Havana suspected of plotting terrorist attacks inside Cuba. Among those attacks: the notorious bombing of Cubana Flight 455 over the Caribbean in 1976, killing 73 passengers (including teenage members of a Cuban national fencing team) as well as a string of hotel bombings in Havana in 1997 that killed an Italian businessman and were believed to have been aimed at disrupting Cuba's nascent tourist industry.

"Cuba doesn't have drones to neutralize the terrorists abroad," said Hernandez. "They need to send people to gather information and protect the Cuban people from these terrorist actions. ... I think it's the same feeling that Americans have that defend their country and love their country when they go to infiltrate al-Qaida and send information here to avoid the terrorist acts. And the U.S. has to understand that Cuba has been involved in the war against terrorism for 50 years."

While admitting his role in spying on anti-Castro exiles —"I would do it again," he said -- Hernandez adamantly denies the most serious charge against him: conspiracy to commit murder. His conviction on that count, which has earned him a life sentence, was based on his alleged complicity in the February 1996 shoot-down by a Cuban fighter jet of two Cessna planes flown by members of the Cuban exile group Brothers to the Rescue, killing four men.

The anti-Castro group had provoked Cuba by dropping anti-government leaflets over Havana. At the trial of the Cuban Five, prosecutors introduced messages between Hernandez and his controllers in Havana suggesting he had prior knowledge of the shoot-down. But Hernandez insists that prosecutors misinterpreted the messages and he knew nothing that wasn't already public.

"No, sir, absolutely not," Hernandez replied when asked if he knew in advance about the incident. "All I knew was what everybody knew: that Brothers to the Rescue through the years has violated many times Cuban air space, that there have been 16 diplomatic notes from Cuba complaining over that situation."

Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly (the Parliament) and a longtime Castro confidante, said this week in Havana that "the Cuban government publicly, front page in our papers, months before that incident had warned that we are not going to allow any more intrusions into our air space. ... The order, the decision (to shoot down the planes) came from the highest level. Fidel Castro himself had said that publicly, that he was responsible for that decision."

U.S. Appeals Court Judge Phyllis Kravitch of Atlanta concluded in 2008 that prosecutors never proved their case tying Hernandez to a plot to shoot down the planes, but she was outvoted two to one and his conviction on the murder conspiracy charge was upheld. Now Hernandez and his lawyers are appealing on another ground: that hundreds of thousands of dollars in secret U.S. government payments to anti-Castro journalists in Miami -- newly discovered through Freedom of Information Act requests —inflamed the Miami community against the Cuban Five and made it impossible for them for them to get a fair trial. The payments were mostly made for appearances on Radio Marti, a TV and radio operation funded by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, an independent agency that oversees international broadcasting sponsored by the U.S. government.

In court papers, lawyers for the Cuban Five have cited articles by some of the journalists, including one that denounced the "genocidal character" of Castro's regime and another that speculated that the real purpose of the Wasp Network was to introduce "chemical or bacteriological weapons" into south Florida. "This information was spread throughout the Miami area and helped inflame the community against these guys," said Martin Garbus, Hernandez' lawyer. "It was total madness. ... When the case was brought, the anti-Castro feeling in the Miami area was at a fevered pitch."

Slideshow: US and Cuba: A long tense relationship

U.S. prosecutors dismiss as "implausible" and "unfounded" the idea that the Radio Marti payments were part of a U.S. government effort to influence the jury in the Cuban Five case.

"The jury (in the case) was carefully selected, following a searching voir dire (jury selection process) that the appellate court deemed a high model for a high-profile case, and that the trial comported with the highest standards for fairness and professionalism," wrote Caroline Heck Miller, an assistant U.S. attorney in Miami, in

a court filing in July asking a judge to reject Hernandez' motion for a hearing into the payments to the journalists. She also noted, as federal prosecutors have repeatedly done when the issue has come up, that "no Cuban-Americans – the audience (Hernandez) hypothesizes as the target of the government campaign he imagines—served on the jury."

Unless Hernandez can somehow persuade a court to reopen his case – or barring a prisoner swap with Gross -- he would seem to have few options.

Rene Gonzalez, another member of the Cuban Five who was not convicted of the conspiracy-to-commit-murder charge, was released from federal prison on probation late last year, but has not yet been allowed to return home to Cuba to live.

The Cubans are doing their best to ratchet up the pressure. Just as Judy Gross has launched a public relations campaign in the United States to free her husband, appearing at a National Press Club press conference on Friday, this week the Cubans made Hernandez wife, Adriana, available for an interview with NBC News. A chemist in the food industry in Havana, she wept as she described the pain of separation from her husband – and how it has left her unable to bear children. "Every detail, every single moment reminds me of him," she said. "I believe there are many people in the U.S. and the American people as a whole, who could convey to President Obama that there is a woman here suffering."

Hernandez, too, says missing his wife is the hardest part of his life in prison. And he has few illusions about his prospects of being freed. "The only thing I know for sure with me is that I have two life sentences and live with that every day," he said. "And to keep your sanity and your mind, you have to be realistic. But I would be dishonest to say that I don't have hope."

1 Dec – Obama Redux '12 by Jalil Muntaqim

We've written this before, but seriously, if you are looking for a basis on which to start a discussion with a political prisoner, start with Jalil Muntaqim's periodic articles for jalilmuntaqim-behindthewalls.blogspot.com. We've included his latest below.

MORE:

America's Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans and poor whites resurrected the ideal of "HOPE" espoused by Barack Hussein Obama. For the most part, the color divide in the country raised their collective voice in the form of participatory democracy by re-electing Obama to the Presidency. Some pundits say the election gave Obama a mandate, others say it is a referendum opposing the extreme right. In either case, there is an overarching question to be asked of the Obama Presidency—"What Have You Done for Me Lately?" This question begs the question, in accord with the maxim by Frederick Douglass, that "power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will ..." What demands have been made of the Obama Administration in the last 4 years? It is easy to come to terms with this reality. Void a national political determination or agenda, the ideal of "HOPE" evolves into a mystical presumption.

For example, the young Hispanic community became vocal and mobilized demanding the implementation of the Dream Act. They petitioned, demonstrated and lobbied for immigration reform on this issue. While they did not accomplish everything they wanted during the competitive election year, Obama did sign into law a compromise immigration law giving immigrant children greater opportunity to not be deported. Similarly, the disproportionate disparity between the criminal penalty of possessing small amounts of crack cocaine compared to powder cocaine was narrowed, modifying the sentences of many Black and Hispanic prisoners who were suffering long prison sentences for crack cocaine convictions.

These examples indicate that, when an issue is made part of the national public political debate, the potential exists to influence and change public policy. Given this understanding, what should be made part of the national Black agenda when 13 percent of Blacks are unemployed compared to 7 percent of whites? This has created a greater drop in income since 2007 than any other racial group. Hence, Black household wealth, which had been concentrated in home ownership, had dropped to its lowest level in decades. This has led to 28 percent of Blacks as a whole and 37 percent of Black children poor, compared to 10 percent of whites as a whole and 13 percent of white children.

Although Obama managed to pass the Affordable Care Act into law, Blacks account for 44 percent of new HIV infections since 2009. Just as disturbing, according to a *New York Times* article titled “How Prisoners Make Us Look Good” by Sam Roberts:

“According to federal data, 3.1 percent of Black men were in state and federal prison at the end of 2010, compared with 0.5 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 1.3 percent of Hispanics. Among Black men 30 to 34, 7.3 percent were serving a sentence of more than a year. (A total of 748,000 adults were in local jails, 1.5 million were in state or federal prisons, 840,000 were on parole and 4 million were under supervised probation.)”

These facts speak directly and specifically to significant problems confronting a substantial portion of the general voting population that re-elected President Obama. But without a national political determination and agenda, there will not be a comprehensive and sustained demand made of the Obama Administration. Therefore, the answer to the question “What have you done for me lately?” is “What have you demanded I do for you?!”

President Obama has made it explicitly clear he does not represent Black America, despite overwhelming support and expectations of him. I believe he no longer deserves a pass, if he ever did. It is more than time for a Black national agenda to forge public policies that address the myriad problems that continue to keep Black Americans at the bottom of socio-economic development and prosperity, and in the disastrous throes of marginal existence.

3 Dec - Support the ACAC 19

On October 6th, 19 anti-colonial, anti-capitalist comrades were beaten, arrested, and subjected to a media smear campaign by the San Francisco Police Department. A group of Bay Area radicals have come together to organize support for them.

MORE:

The arrests occurred during the Saturday action in a series of demonstrations on Columbus Day weekend against current forms of colonization and empire, as well as the racist celebrations of genocide and conquest that is Columbus Day. The actions were organized in solidarity with indigenous struggles: from the East Bay fight to protect sacred sites to the ongoing struggles in Mexico and Canada against the mass destruction caused by industrial resource extraction and logging. The weekend’s demonstrations also marked the eleven-year anniversary of the Afghanistan war and occupation, a brutal example of contemporary empire building.

Nearly 200 took to the streets of San Francisco’s financial district in an anti-colonial anti-capitalist march on that Saturday afternoon while warplanes flew overhead as part of the annual Fleet Week. Demonstrators were immediately confronted by a very large police mobilization that included multiple squads on bicycles and motorbikes, as well as lines of riot police and many police vehicles. Officers quickly tried to box in the crowd and beat it on to the sidewalk. Some in the crowd refused to leave the streets but SFPD had clearly decided to crush the march within the first blocks. The police attacked a random section of the crowd towards the back of the march and those who were unable to run away were brutally beaten to the ground, surrounded and arrested. Multiple comrades suffered a range of injuries including blows to the head, a broken nose and a split chin.

Once booked, those arrested were not cited and released as is standard practice in almost all San Francisco mass arrests. Instead, all 19 were slapped with the same selection of felony charges including felony conspiracy to riot. Their phones were immediately confiscated and they were all subjected to interrogation. Those who were unable to be quickly bailed out were held in jail for four or five days and were released only after agreeing to have their bodies searched for tattoos and allowing photographs to be taken.

Meanwhile, SFPD released a statement to the media which recklessly stated that all those in the march “identified themselves as members of the Criminal street gang, Black Blok”. The statement also claimed that those arrested were responsible for September’s clashes between demonstrators and police in the Mission district the previous month following a police shooting. SFPD simultaneously released all the arrestees’ mug shots along with their full names and birth dates. Much of the corporate media published SFPD’s statement nearly word for word and included the mugshots which spread across the internet.

A warrant has been issued to seize all information within the confiscated phones using the justification that the case involves conspiracy charges and potential street gang involvement. Subpoenas have also been issued for two Twitter accounts allegedly connected with those arrested. All of these unusual forms of police repression against demonstrators in San Francisco are directly connected to the involvement of the SFPD Gang Taskforce in the crackdown and investigation. This powerful police unit regularly cooperates with the federal government and is usually reserved for criminalizing poor and working class communities of color.

While we are not surprised that the state is actively working to crush all forms of resistance and organizing amongst anti-capitalists, anarchists and other radicals, we feel this case is a particularly important example of one avenue this repression can take. The same tools that are designed to oppress and control marginalized communities and neighborhoods, such as gang task forces and gang injunctions, are gradually making their way into the repertoire of repression deployed against social movements in the Bay Area. The intersections and connections that exist between these communities and movements represent the greatest threat to the state and the repression we are seeing is a direct attempt to crush any organizing of that kind.

We see this as one manifestation of the broader crackdown unfolding across the country— from the FBI entrapment cases against Ohio anarchists to the ongoing federal grand jury targeting anarchists and radicals in the Pacific Northwest. Each of these cases illustrates a different form of contemporary repression yet each has an identical end goal: eliminate any resistance or opposition to the status quo of capitalism, the state and all forms of domination and exploitation. We stand in solidarity with all those working to counter this repression and those who have been directly targeted by it. We see these struggles as intimately tied with those of all marginalized and oppressed peoples who share a common enemy and are organizing towards liberation.

All members of the ACAC 19 have either been bailed out, cited and released or released on their own recognizance. All of their charges have been reduced from the initial array of felonies yet multiple charges are still being pressed against each arrestee. Please show your solidarity and support for the ACAC 19 by emailing this statement to friends and comrades, reposting it online, donating to the support fund and calling the San Francisco DA to demand all charges be dropped.

3 Dec - Avelino Gonzalez Claudio goes home this week!

Only three weeks after his brother was sentenced to five years in prison, Avelino Gonzalez Claudio will be returning to Puerto Rico this Thursday, December 6th, 2012, to complete the remainder of his sentence. Afterwards, he will be completing his probation time. Welcome back, comrade!

6 Dec – Meeting for the campaign to free Russell Maroon Shoatz

WHAT: Meeting of the Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoatz

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, December 6th

WHERE: A.J. Muste Room (3rd Floor), 339 Lafayette Street, Manhattan

COST: Free

MORE:

For more information, contact freemaroonshoatz@gmail.com

7 Dec – Homecoming Holiday Party for Daniel McGowan

*Daniel McGowan is a Brooklyn-born environmental and social justice activist, political prisoner and the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary film, *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*. Family & Friends of Daniel McGowan have marked the anniversary of Daniel's arrest on December 7, 2005, with a variety of events in the past. This December, Daniel is finally getting released from prison and coming to a halfway house in Brooklyn. To celebrate, we are having a straight up PARTY.*

MORE:

Please come join our celebration the evening of Friday, December 7, 2012, 7:00-11:00 pm at The Commons.

We'll have music, snacks, and drinks, and lots of fun holiday surprises. Whether you're a long-time supporter or

joining us for the first time, you're more than welcome and you don't want to miss it! We are accepting cash donations and gift cards. (see below)

Friday, December 7th, 7-11pm
@ The Commons
388 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11217

**Please also consider helping Daniel by contributing towards some of the things he will need for his transition back home. We have created a special online registry for those items needed:
<http://www.simpleregistry.com/welcomedanielhome>

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to give a gift card, please choose from the following stores:

Apple store
Amazon
Century 21
H&M
JCPenney
MooShoes
REI
Red Bamboo (NYC veg restaurant)
Staples
Target
Uniqlo
Whole Foods
Zappos

<http://www.supportdaniel.org/morehelp/welcomehome.php>

21 Dec - International Remembrance for Avalon

In remembrance of Avalon, to celebrate the release of political prisoner Daniel McGowan and to educate the community on issues of Earth liberation, we ask that collectives, organizations, groups, bookstores, and student clubs organize an event on or around December 21, 2012.

MORE:

Environmental and social justice activist and political prisoner Avalon (state name William C. Rodgers) died on December 21, 2005. A casualty of the "green scare," he committed suicide in jail, writing the following:

"To my friends and supporters to help them make sense of all these events that have happened so quickly: Certain human cultures have been waging war against the Earth for millennia. I chose to fight on the side of bears, mountain lions, skunks, bats, saguaros, cliff rose and all things wild. I am just the most recent casualty in that war. But tonight I have made a jail break—I am returning home, to the Earth, to the place of my origins. Bill, 12/21/05 (the winter solstice.)"

To add your event here, please contact Kim Socha at kimberlyannsocha@gmail.com