



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for January 22nd

8 Jan – Southern California FBI Alert

As a heads up for folks who know Southern California activists, revolutionaries, and radicals. The Federal Bureau of Investigation showed up at an activist's home in Los Angeles in the early afternoon on Tuesday January 2nd, 2013 regarding an alleged arson in the Los Angeles area.

MORE:

Be on the lookout for federal agents and keep our community safe! One of the things we need to do in order to ensure the safety and security of our community is to simply refuse to talk to law enforcement of any kind. If an agent knocks, you don't need to come to the door. If you do happen to answer the door you don't need to and never should answer a single one of their questions, even "innocent" ones.

Make sure you talk to your friends and family about these situations and fill them in on their rights and encourage them to exercise them! And as always...remember to practice security culture! For more information on protocol for when the FBI shows up to your house follow the link below.

<http://ccrjustice.org/ifanagentknocks>

8 Jan - Chaos in Oakland court — Occupy activists arrested

On January 8th, a comrade in Oakland appeared in court to be sentenced and remanded. About fifty supporters filled courtroom and before the afternoon was over, four of them were arrested. We're including a mainstream media account of what happened as well as a statement by Jack's supporters.

MORE:

The scene has played out dozens of times in Oakland courtrooms in the past 14 months. An Occupy activist, arrested during a demonstration, makes a court appearance as supporters look on from the gallery. Sometimes the supporters sit quietly, obeying the strict rules set out by the court, and other times they shout disapproval, or chant slogans, and get the boot.

On Tuesday, three of them got arrested, authorities said.

It happened in Department 11 of the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, during the 8:30 a.m. sentencing of 24-year-old activist Jack Rusk of Oakland. Earlier, he had pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault in a deal with prosecutors that called for a year in jail. Prosecutors dropped a slate of charges — including assault on a peace officer and possessing explosives — that stemmed from an Occupy anti-police rally Jan. 7, 2012.

Deputy District Attorney Teresa Drenick, an office spokeswoman, said Rusk was indeed sentenced in a brief hearing and remanded into custody by Alameda County sheriff's deputies.

Sgt. J.D. Nelson, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Department, said some audience members then shouted at Judge Carrie Panetta, who ordered one woman to be arrested for contempt. He said that as deputies arrested the woman, two other people interfered and were also taken into custody on suspicion of obstruction. The arrestees, who were jailed, were not identified.

One of Rusk's attorneys, Jeff Wozniak, said there were about 30 supporters in the courtroom, and that after the sentencing they began to chant, "Jack, Jack, Jack." When Panetta ordered sheriff's deputies to clear the court, Wozniak said, the supporters started chanting, "F— the police" and "F— the courts." As people filed out, he said, Panetta ordered the arrest of the woman, who was within a thick crowd, and chaos followed.

“By the time I got out into the hallway, they had Tased someone, taken out their batons and arrested four people,” Wozniak said. “It was a very unfortunate series of events.”

Nelson said he did not know whether deputies had deployed a Taser.

“Whenever there’s any courtroom disruption, our deputies are going to be there to handle it,” he said. “If a judge orders a person to be arrested, they’re going to be arrested.”

January 10th – Statement regarding January 8 courtroom chaos

This past Tuesday morning, nearly 100 people gathered at Oscar Grant Plaza to say goodbye to Jack. Jack was arrested on January 7, 2012 during the very first FTP march in downtown Oakland. This march was called as a response to OPD and the local Oakland state apparatus' repression of all rebellious elements in Oakland with brute force in the wake of Occupy Oakland. After clearing the encampment at Oscar Grant Plaza twice, a struggle over territory in Oakland's downtown became a near daily event. Some would try to hold on to Oscar Grant Plaza as a zone where struggles could be coordinated and actions organized. A twenty four hour vigil continued even as the camp was gone. After many brutal arrests and regular brawls with pigs over control of downtown turf, a Fuck the Police march, that ended up becoming a weekly tradition for months, was called for the first Saturday of January. It was at this demonstration on January 7 that Jack was arrested and given bullshit charges – multiple felonies for assaulting a police officer and a made up “possession of an explosive device” charge that would eventually be dropped due to lack of any evidence. A year long court battle eventually resulted in Jack taking a plea deal: 1 year at Santa Rita Jail (though with “half-time” and “good behavior” he’ll be out in six months) and multiple years of probation.

Together with our comrade and his family leading the way we walked quietly in the street some eight blocks to the court house. About 50 of us somberly filed into the courtroom. Jack was called before judge Carrie Panetta (daughter in law of former CIA director Leon Panetta) who rambled about the length of his sentence. She banned our friend from ever making contacts with “his victims” (as though pigs can be victims!) otherwise known as officers of the Oakland Police Department. After agreeing to the year long sentence, with only half to be served, the judge ordered the bailiffs take Jack into custody. Almost immediately dozens of people were clapping and hissing. Screams filled the air. “Burn the prisons!” “Fuck the police!” “Death to pigs!” “Hang the Judges!” “Pig Fuckers!” “Brick by brick, tear this court to the ground!” People stomped on the ground, cursed the judged, and brought smiles to the dozen or so inmates being sentenced that day. It was a modest yet appropriate response to a system that tears loved ones away from each other and reproduces the laws that defend the horrors in this world Jack was resisting in the first place.

After a minute or so of yelling we decided on our own accord to leave the court. By the time half of us were in the hallway the bailiffs had been ordered to arrest at least one person. These court-pigs rushed into the crowd with tazers and extendible batons. By the end of the pig-initiated melee four people were in custody and dozens of others were fleeing the courthouse. Family members of other prisoners were pleased with our disruption and shouted, “Fuck the police!” from passing cars. Another person leaving the courthouse in the aftermath of the fight nodded in approval and stated “I want friends like y'all”. We do not mention this to inflate our egos or position ourselves as a vanguard. This is merely evidence to prove that the people of Oakland continue to identify the courts and pigs as the enemy despite media representations to the contrary.

Oakland experienced a social explosion in 2011, an explosion no anarchist could have foreseen. One that soaked our wettest dreams. Inspiration drawn from concurrent struggles throughout the United States and across the world fed the naivety of even the most seasoned street fighters. Oakland seemed to be in the midst of an insurrectionary moment. It would not be long before the consequences of a year long social rupture caught up with us.

A wave of repression continues to crest over the West Coast. In the Bay Area alone many dozens of our comrades are in jail, on probation, or facing charges. Squats have been evicted and our social centers are under the gun. From the Bay to Seattle houses have been raided, grand juries have been convened, comrades are in

prison, others have fled, and some have cowardly turned their backs on us in cooperation with the State. We acknowledge our stories are not unique. This wave of repression has crashed down on multiple cities across North America and the world.

Sometimes we drown in our collective hopelessness. We take cover in our homes. We cradle ourselves with distractions. We cope with silence. Last Tuesday we spontaneously chose a different path. We grieved loudly. The reality of yet another loved one ripped from us proved to be too much. If only for a moment their halls of justice were graffitied with disruptive screams and we brought the Oakland Commune to our enemy's pig pen. We hope memories of yesterday will bring strength to our friends behind bars. This time the gavel did not delay our resistance. Our hopelessness has again turned into rage. May our struggles reflect such a turn.

Fire to the prisons. Fuck the police.
Freedom to our comrades. Freedom to all prisoners.

Postscript: As of Friday January 11, all four comrades arrested in the courtroom melee have been released from Santa Rita. Only one has appeared in court and his charges are not being filed at this time by the DA. Hopefully the same will be true with the other three who have court in February.

8 Jan – New writing by Alex Hundert

2010 Toronto G20 "main conspiracy" prisoner Alex Hundert regularly writes for a blog. We've included his latest below.

MORE:

January 8th - Solidarity Against Capitalism, Solidarity Against Colonialism

"We were to undergo our hunger strike also in solidarity with Spence and the Idle No More Movement and some of us will still be undertaking a 24 hour fast on January 11th with that in mind. We invite others outside this prison to join us."

On January 11th more than a dozen imprisoned people at Ontario's Central North Correctional Centre were to stage a one-day hunger strike against provincial austerity measures, specifically the cutting of the Community Startup and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB), a grant provided by Ontario Works for people in immediate need of resources for housing costs and assistance re-establishing themselves in the community. This cut inherently targets imprisoned people and people getting out of other institutions as well as people who are trying to lead a peaceful household and any poor or marginalized people trying to avoid finding themselves without a home.

On December 27th, in response to months of campaigning by community activists, the Liberal government announced that two-third of the funding that was to be eliminated is now to be spared. For now, our action here is being called off as the most severe CSUMB cuts have been averted, at least in scope. However, the situation is still dire. Responsibility for these funds is being abdicated by the province and downloaded to municipalities. One third of the monies are to be permanently eliminated.

The CSUMB remains cut and 2013 is to be is to be a "transition year" before the new Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is scheduled to come into effect in 2014. The CHPI is, at best, an inadequate patchwork of decreased stop-gap funding. Absent a province wide strategy or mechanism to alleviate homelessness and dire poverty, both will inevitably continue increasing in occurrence and severity in this current and coming era of austerity.

In the wake of the Liberal announcement, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty released a statement entitled "Mobilization to Save Community Start-up a Big Victory But a Long Fight Ahead". That statement recognized partial victory in a battle that is part of the war against austerity, capitalism's newest front, and that community mobilization and protest remain effective strategies and tactics. And while they're right that it is to be understood as a victory — though partial — they also know that we will not be appeased by partial victories.

January 11th also marks the beginning of what might be a second month in the hunger strike of Chief Theresa

Spence of Attawapiskat and the date that Prime Minister Harper has announced he will meet with her and other indigenous leaders. Our action here in the prison was to be taken in recognition of, and with respect to Spence and the Idle No More Movement as well. Several of the would-be hunger strikers are Indigenous people and while most of us are settlers, myself included, we recognize that solidarity against capitalism is meaningless without solidarity against colonialism.

We recognize that the CSUMB cut, like many aspects of colonial government austerity measures, will disproportionately impact Indigenous people. We were to undergo our hunger strike also in solidarity with Spence and the Idle No More Movement and some of us will still be undertaking a 24 hour fast on January 11th with that in mind. We invite others outside this prison to join us.

As imprisoned people, we know that it is necessary to recognize that the CSUMB cut also targets women and children trying to leave abusive households and violence and with respect to that we also have to recognize the responsibility we each have as individuals to challenge and combat the normalization of the pervasiveness of violence against women in patriarchal cultures, an endemic feature of both capitalism and colonialism.

As imprisoned people, it could not be more obvious to us that both the austerity and so-called “tough on crime” agendas symbiotically constitute an intentional attack on poor people and communities of colour. Consequently, our hunger strike was not to be a protest just against yet another heartless austerity cut, but also in opposition to capitalism and racism, two defining features of Canada’s colonial culture.

With the December 27th announcement and subsequent statement from OCAP, we have called off our anti-austerity action – for now; however, we do very much see the provincial Liberal Party convention upcoming at the end of the month. It is still too soon to know exactly what the cuts and the downloading of responsibilities to municipalities will mean, though some things appear more likely than others, if not certain.

With total spending on homelessness or loose intervention being drastically decreased, rates of homelessness will rise and it will become more difficult for people to access social assistance. Fewer people in already targeted communities and fewer people coming out of prisons and other institutions will be eligible. For example, Toronto has already announced to factor it’s part in a new patchwork- only people who have been imprisoned or hospitalized or in rehab or otherwise institutionalized for longer than six months will be eligible for the funding that will replace the CSUMB. This means that many people getting out of various kinds of hospitals or serving short prison sentences will be tossed out onto the streets.

As one imprisoned person put it, “This means guys will end up pleading guilty to more serious offenses (and staying in prison longer than necessary) just to be eligible (for something) when they get out, because it only takes a month or two for us to lose our housing in many cases and Community Start-up is the only support many of us get for a chance at a different kind of life.”

There are potentially also serious concerns for how this cut will impact communities in Northern Ontario, where municipalities are much less likely to have their own existing infrastructure for dispersal of such funds and neither the downloaded responsibilities of the transition year nor the new CHPI have funds earmarked for “Community Start-up costs”.

A hole in the patchwork in Northern Ontario is but one example of how this provincial cut will disproportionately impact indigenous people despite the fact that provinces see a tremendous share of the government’s profits from stolen land and broken treaties. Coupled with the disproportionate rate of over-incarceration for indigenous people, this is yet another example of how capitalism and colonialism continue to work in tandem to entrench wealth and privilege in the hands of settlers at the expense of indigenous peoples.

Austerity reveals that, at least in the Canadian context, capitalism and colonialism have become inextricably linked even though resistance against one necessitates effective resistance against the other.

Austerity is premised to an extent on covering the cost of bailing out the capitalist system after the economic “crisis” of 2008. And while that may be a specious excuse for a classical systemic attack on those already bearing the brunt of capitalists obsessed with colonial domination, I wholeheartedly agree with the call coming from OCAP’s campaign against austerity: “Stop the war on the poor, make the rich pay.”

January 17th - “I’ve been put in the hole...”

“I’ve been put in the hole, charged with something along the lines of “inciting a disturbance and jeopardizing the safety and security of the institution.

It was a peaceful protest on Unit 5 against the ongoing degradation of the quality of life inside, specifically against early lockup following a week of having been on lockdown for part or all of every day.

The sole demand was to reclaim 30 minutes at the end of the day (lockup at 7 instead of 6:30) so people could have more time to use the phones to call their families when the rates are significantly cheaper. That is also when relatives and friends are home from work and can take calls.

The protesters had indicated they would voluntarily return to their cells at 7:00 but at 6:50, fifty to sixty guards stormed the range and forced everyone into their cells. One guy was tackled, assaulted and dragged off the range in cuffs.

Once everyone was back in their cells, the guards came back and charged me, took me to the hole and I’ve been here since Saturday night.”

January 18th – Live from the Hole: Resistance to the Colonial Dungeon

Update: Alex has been moved back to general population.

Yesterday I was found guilty of inciting a disturbance likely to endanger the security of the institution, for my role in the protest and direct action that occurred on January 12th on Unit 5 at the CNCC. Once again I have been labelled as a ringleader. Since the incident I have been on the segregation unit here, in solitary confinement, more commonly known as ‘the hole.’ The protest was against the ongoing degradation of our living conditions here, which was a culmination of dissent after a week where we had been locked down for all or part of every single day. The direct action was to take back half an hour of our day; several months ago our nightly lockup was moved from 8:30 to 6:30 PM. That extra half hour is valuable to imprisoned people, as after 6 PM is the only time that many people can call their families—phone rates can be prohibitively expensive during the day, which is also when many of our family members are at work or at school. The existing policy is one that discriminates against poor people, who are already disproportionately targeted for imprisonment. The action consisted of all of the people on most of the cell blocks on Unit 5 refusing to lock up in their cells at 6:30 PM as per the regular routine. The confrontation occurred on cell block 9A, when the guards were met with defiance from all of the people imprisoned there who refused to move when ordered. The sergeant arrived and the spokesperson informed the white shirt that there were units in lockup in protest of all that has been taken away from us lately—from access to our cells during the day, to the two hours every evening—we were finally taking something back. Even having been informed that our intention was to voluntarily return to our cells at 7 PM, at ten to 7, fifty to sixty guards were brought onto the range to force us into our cells. Despite our spokesperson explicitly saying that we were not interested in escalation, ours was to be a peaceful protest, the sergeant decided that it was worth risking the safety of imprisoned people as well as corrections officers in order to ensure that the guards finished their shifts on time. Management had told me that despite appearances, the reason we lost the 2 hours, though having to do with “shift alignment,” was not as a result of the funding cuts causing cutbacks on staffing. While claiming it has nothing to do with austerity, no other explanation has been provided. When the guards stormed the cell block, one imprisoned person was assaulted and taken down to the floor, where he was kned repeatedly before being handcuffed and taken off the unit. He too is now in the hole, just a few cells down from mine, waiting to be taken to the hospital for x-rays.

Down the hall from me in the other direction is another imprisoned person who is fighting back against the injustice of this institution. David Cedeño, 29, is on day 12 of a hunger strike. While my contact with him has been very limited by the circumstances of the segregation unit, I can say that his demands include proper medical treatment, the opportunity to continue with highschool coursework, resolution regarding a complaint he filed against a guard, and consideration for all the time he has spent in segregation as a result of incidents related to those complaints. Cedeño has underlined concerns about the way the jail is run, and emphasises that his related demands are more important than those concerning himself. He recognises that the combination of this

facility's size and systematic funding issues results in a pervasive pattern of unaccountability and indifference while coming from a minority of the staff, running unchecked with no available effective grievance process. He has been disregarded by management, by the folks at Offender Issues, also known as the "Client Conflict Resolution Unit" who told him his hunger strike is an internal issue with this facility, and by the always useless provincial Ombudsman's Office, who said that it isn't their problem. I heard a sergeant tell him that his concerns can only be addressed by the Deputy Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Why the Superintendent did not address them—I would think that she would at least meet with him—I don't know. If the way this facility is run is any indication, perhaps it is due to incompetence, or maybe it's just another instance of institutional indifference. Cedeño's demands for the broader facility include better quality food, better air filtration, the ability for imprisoned people to purchase and use phone calling cards which might make calls affordable, access to existing facilities such as the gym and library, and improvements to the conditions in segregation. He has not eaten a thing in 10 days. The institution's negligence in this case, I would think, is verging on criminal. Cedeño lives with sleep apnea and requires a machine to breathe at night. The jail's unwillingness to responsibly accommodate his life-threatening condition is what led to conflict with the guards in the first place, and in turn the circumstances he now finds himself in. Given that, perhaps he's being naive in thinking that even a hunger strike is capable of breaking through such systemic injustice. I would prefer to think of him as courageous and principled. To the extent that I have been able to speak with him, he wanted to make it clear that the stand he is taking is not just for himself but for all imprisoned people in here. Rarely have I witnessed such a spirit of resistance here in the state's darkest of dungeons.

While I do want people to know that I have been unscathed by my time in segregation, my mind, heart, and spirit remain strong, this place—the hole—is truly quite horrendous. The hallway is filled with cries of rage, anguish, and pain, and the near-constant sound of people tapping on the doors of their cells. To even talk to the person directly across the hall, we have to yell through the cracks between the iron door and its frame, people's faces visible only through a window about 4 inches wide and often partially or totally covered with a metal screen on the exterior; by yelling to each other, the words barely audible, it merely contributes to the noise. I try not to be troubled by the overwhelming racket, remembering always that I am in solidarity with those imprisoned people whose last recourse is to scream and bang on the door. If I were not aware of how unpleasant it is for other people in this very frightening place, I would join them in their protest. It is clear that this segregation unit largely imprisons people living with severe mental health issues, suffering from having to live with them in prison. My heart wrenches from some of the things I have seen and heard in the week I have been here. While in truth many of the guards on this unit treat most people with a reasonable degree of care and decency, no amount of care could make up for these intrinsically utterly indecent conditions. My cell is covered with graffiti, some of violent and nasty, some of it pained and laden with hopelessness, and stains also cover the walls.

One of the things about this segregation unit that troubles me most is the policy that I understand to have been very recently implemented. Even on LOAP, which stands for Loss of All Privileges, people imprisoned here have traditionally been entitled to a bible or Qur'an—scripture, as the Chaplain calls it—now, however, the policy is that even for people not on LOAP, no books other than scripture are allowed. On the cart which we'll pass on the way back to our cells from the showers, which we are supposed to get every other day, there are books we are able to select from and have one in our cells. However, there are no books on the cart other than bibles and evangelical Christian books of various sorts. What atheist, non-Christian Indigenous people, or any people of non-Abrahamic faiths are supposed to read is unclear. Perhaps they are just supposed to suffer. As a person registered in the system as Jewish, I'm obviously entitled to a bible. As a person with a religious studies degree I can actually find interest in any religious text. I have been fine. But my concern regarding access to books for imprisoned people has never been about me. And in the hole, I can not imagine a place where a good book could do more good for a person than here. The implication of this policy in practice, that the only books available to people are evangelising Christian books, is the perfect, almost cliched example of the way that the prison functions as a colonising institution. This tactic normalises the hegemony of Christianity while hegemonising its normalization. The other person from my range who was thrown in the hole for the protest on Unit 5, is a non-Christian, Oji-Cree Indigenous person from Fort Hope First Nation. He is stuck either reading a book that is designed to convert people to Christianity, or the bible, or nothing. This, given the circumstances, is

a direct and explicit violent act of colonialism. Needless to say this should not be permitted. A few months ago before this new policy was in place, another person I know who has recently discovered Indigenous heritage, was put in the hole on LOAP. When he asked for a bible, he was told that he was not entitled to one because he had been attending the daily smudge ceremonies provided through the Native Institutional Liaison Office. That denial was a racist form of punitive discrimination, and also a gross colonial, settler ignorance that fails to recognise that government institutions, from schools to prisons, have for more than 200 years been institutions of violence to Christianise Indigenous people and that many Indigenous people are of both Indigenous and Christian faith and yet to force a person to choose between them is itself yet another act of colonial violence. What happened to that person as far as I know could be an isolated incident, but it is not the only incident of racism against Indigenous people that I am aware of in the prison, and also part of a broader societal pattern of settler ignorance manifesting as colonial violence. The situation my friend from Fort Hope currently finds himself facing is itself systemic and institutional. This needs to be stopped, and the policy needs to change. In this place, in the hole, we should be allowed to read to preserve our sanity. Here, like in all parts of this institution, imprisoned people should have access to reading material, because books have the power to repair people's spirits, expand their minds, and to change their lives.

Colonialism is not something that is experienced only by Indigenous people. This Western culture and its institutions colonise many minds and bodies in many ways. For example, the prison system violently enforces the binary gender paradigm, one of this culture's primary components, an act of colonial violence against trans people. Disablism is a dis-abling of people with de-normalised bodily or mental health needs, is another face of colonialism, one that hegemonises a particular mode of productive functionalism that peripheralises anyone who does not conform, and it is seen viciously in the prison system, particularly in segregation units like this one. The disproportionate presence in this place by people disabled by inadequate cultural and structural support for their mental health needs, and the horrible state of existence for them here in the hole, literally screams out, signalling a dire need to build better grassroots mental health support in our communities, as well as build a total and holistic resistance against all the many faces of colonialism. As I have said, don't worry about me, I have remained well in here. Remarkably, as I have written, I have rarely felt such a spirit of resistance as here in this dungeon. I am inspired and honoured to be imprisoned alongside people like David Cedeño, my friend from Fort Hope, and many others who are constantly smashing their cages with unrelenting rage against this unjust institution in solidarity against the colonial system.

8 Jan - Repression Against Anarchists Intensifies/PNW Grand Jury Resistance Update

Another person has been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury investigating anarchists in the Pacific North West. We've included updates about that case below.

MORE:

Two recent developments indicate an intensification of the government's campaign against the anarchist movement in the Pacific Northwest.

In late December, the three grand jury resisters being held at the Sea-Tac Detention Center for their refusal to testify were moved into solitary confinement. No explanation has been given for why they were moved.

In a letter describing the situation, Kteeo wrote:

"Prison is incredibly fucked up even at the best of times, but that doesn't mean people can't create community within these circumstances. We do. When I was in my unit I was part of a community. I gave support and received support. I learned from people and I taught. My unit doesn't have educational opportunities so we created our own. I taught math, reading, and lead a workout group. I was part of something, part of laughter and part of tears; part of a shared experience (not that any of us want to be part of a this). I was a part of growth, part of a community that comes together again and again as our units make up changes. But I am no longer in that unit, no longer in that community."

The Committee Against Political Repression is calling for the discontinuation of the use of solitary confinement for any purpose, and for the immediate release of Matt Duran, Kteeo Olejnik, and Maddy Pfeifer.

In an unrelated case, in Portland, a young man accused of firebombing an empty police car was released on bail, under the condition that he have no contact with any anarchist organizations. He was specifically ordered not to have contact with Resist the NW Grand Jury or the prisoner support group Anarchist Black Cross, clearly indicating that prosecutors want to prevent him from receiving legal, political, or personal support that would aid in his defense.

These developments come after a year which has seen, in addition to the grand jury hearings, SWAT raids against activists in Portland and Seattle, a grotesque inflation of charges in a Portland case involving small-scale vandalism, and indictments against five people accused of participating in a Seattle May Day demonstration where government and corporate property was attacked. Similar events have played out simultaneously in the Bay Area, and elsewhere in the country, forming what critics have called a Federal anti-anarchist witch hunt.

CAPR believes that the governments most recent actions confirm what we have said all along: The state is using the legal system to target the anarchist movement, in the process criminalizing a set of political beliefs and associations. We decry the use of inquisitorial tactics such as secret hearings, coerced testimony, guilt-by-association, and torture in the form of solitary confinement.

January 9th - Never Surrender: Kerry Cunneen subpoenaed to the NW grand jury

Portland anarchist Kerry Cunneen has announced their refusal to cooperate with the grand jury investigating the May Day attack on the Nakamura federal courthouse in Seattle. Kerry's subpoena, which was delivered on December 14th, stated that they were required to appear just 5 days later on the 19th. Their lawyer successfully got the date pushed back until January 3rd, when Kerry declined to even enter the grand jury room. Kerry has stated that they will never under any circumstance cooperate with this or any state in persecuting themselves or others:

I have been subpoenaed to the grand jury in Seattle investigating Anarchists in the Pacific Northwest. I was called to testify on January 3rd at 9am. I did not appear before the grand jury. I will not cooperate with this grand jury nor will I in any way aid the state in its efforts to imprison people.

I stand firmly in solidarity with the actions taken against the Nakamura Federal court house during the May Day demonstration and all action taken against the state and capital towards the goal of a more liberated society.

I am in solidarity with the May Day 5, with Maddy, Matt and Kteeo, and everyone else who has met repression with resilience. To all whose solidarity has come in some form of action, it is inspiring and must continue.

never surrender,
Kerry Cunneen

CAPR supports Kerry's bold refusal to even enter the grand jury room. Although for some, resisting a grand jury may be a display of commitment of civil liberties, free speech, or freedom of association, it can also be a method to further the spread of insurrectionary tactics. To be blunt, it is easier to break windows or act against the state in other ways that are necessarily illegal when there is a culture against snitching among anarchists. We oppose the state in its entirety – we are against its courts, its prisons, its judges, its prosecutors, and every manifestation of the law and their justice. The Committee Against Political Repression is encouraged by attacks against the existent, including the May Day attack on the Nakamura federal courthouse.

The May Day anti-capitalist march in Seattle signaled a broad and growing antagonism to hierarchy and domination, and the state's heavy-handed response to it (three house raids in Portland, at least nine grand jury subpoenas, and three people currently sitting in prison for refusing to testify) signals just how dangerous the state perceived it to be. As an anonymous author writes in [*We Are Contagious: a gift to those who desire social revolt.*](#)

What was special about May Day wasn't the black bloc, impressive as it was in its coordination and preparation. What was special was that the hundreds of people clustered around the black bloc probably had a good idea of exactly what was going to happen when the anti-capitalist march left Westlake...and they liked it. They stayed close the bloc anyway; a few even joined in on the fun. Others screamed in joy. Some, who

only months ago might have tried to prevent the property destruction or would have later denounced it, simply smiled to themselves and moved on down the road. Perhaps most importantly, a fair number of these people will return to the streets, better prepared to act themselves.

Broken windows are an easily replicable tactic that is capable of rapid generalization. Although broken windows are certainly not the anarchist end-goal (there is no single anarchist end-goal), the tactic of breaking windows is a way for people to directly attack (and cause financial damage to) institutions to which they are opposed, and build affinity in the streets. The state logically must do whatever it can to control, disrupt, recuperate, or liquidate that which presents a threat. While we are angry about this grand jury (and all grand juries, and the existence of the state, period), it also shows that anarchists have been doing something right – anarchists are posing a threat that can't be ignored.

We can respond to this and all instances of repression by strengthening and escalating our projects of resistance. Kerry has stated that the best support they could ask for is action of some sort that is in resistance to state and capital. Indeed, that is the only way we'll come through to the other side stronger than before.

8 Jan – PFC Manning Update

There are a lot of updates regarding PFC Manning, not the least of which is a scheduled court martial date of June 3rd. We've included the latest below.

MORE:

January 8th - Military judge rules Bradley Manning was illegally treated, awards 112 days credit

After more than two weeks of intense litigation by Bradley Manning's defense, and hearing how Quantico brig staff blatantly disregarded Navy Rules, military Judge Denise Lind has confirmed that Bradley was punished unlawfully before trial by awarding 112 days credit. Instead of awarding 10-for-1 credit (or dismissing the charges altogether), which would severely reprimand the military and significantly impact Bradley's potential sentence, Judge Lind gave 1-to-1 credit for selected portions of his Quantico confinement.

Judge Lind has granted credit for the 7 days Bradley was kept on suicide risk watch against Navy Rules, 75 days from November 1 to January 18 when he was kept needlessly on Prevention of Injury watch, and 20 days from April 1-20 when he was forced to remove his underwear at night. Lind said Bradley's confinement was "more rigorous than necessary," and that it "became excessive in relation to legitimate government interests."

With this ruling, Lind affirms that both Brig Commanding Officers James Averhart and Denise Barnes abused their discretion in different ways. She said Averhart kept Manning on Prevention of Injury (POI) watch for too long against psychiatrists' recommendations, and said that after November 1 it was excessive. She said that the fact that Barnes removed Bradley's underwear for suicidal reasons but didn't put him on Suicide Risk was legally authorized, but she said it was egregious to do so for so long.

Earlier in the day, the government litigated its motions to preclude discussion of Bradley Manning's motive and of overclassification. The government says that Bradley's motive, even if pure and noble, is irrelevant to intent, which it says is whether he knew or had reason to believe that the information could be used to harm the United States if made public. But the defense differed on the distinction: Bradley's counsel David Coombs argued that motive does factor into intent at the time of the release. Coombs argued that the defense's evidence could show not that Bradley wanted information to be generally free, but that he selected documents to release knowing that they wouldn't cause harm to the United States. Coombs also argued that this motion was untimely: Judge Lind hasn't yet seen the evidence that the government wants to preclude, and this motion now compels the defense to make some of its basic arguments in court before trial begins.

The government has also moved to preclude evidence of overclassification, arguing similarly that whether too much information is classified has no bearing on whether the documents Bradley is said to have released were classified at the time. But Coombs contended that as an Army intelligence analyst, well versed in the Army's massive secrecy, Bradley knew that just because documents were classified didn't mean their publicity would bring harm to national security. Furthermore, he said he could bring witnesses such as Col. Morris Davis who could comment on overclassification and whether it would've been reasonable to conclude that the classified

documents at issue could bring harm to the United States.

Judge Lind will rule on those motions next week, at the January 16-17 hearing currently scheduled for the conclusion of the speedy trial motion. This hearing continues through Friday.

January 9th - Court martial delayed again, expected to start June 3

Just one day after Judge Denise Lind [awarded PFC Bradley Manning nearly four months credit](#) toward a potential sentence, the court-martial trial start date has been pushed back three months, from March 6 to June 3, 2013. By then, Bradley will have been imprisoned awaiting trial for more than three full years. The defense will conclude its motion to dismiss charges for lack of a speedy trial next week, January 16-17. At that hearing, Judge Lind will also rule on the prosecution's motions to preclude evidence of Bradley's motive and of overclassification.

The delay results from classification issues: the defense needs to determine which classified information will come to light in the trial and to interview government agency representatives before presenting that information to the government. The government then needs 60 days to review that information and determine if it will need to redact, summarize, or substitute classified portions of it, or alternatively if it will need to close the court from the press and public for that information to be litigated.

In the remainder of today's hearing, the defense asked the court to admit witnesses and the government asked the court to take judicial notice of several documents and facts.

Defense lawyer David Coombs wants to call Col. Morris Davis, a former Guantanamo Bay prosecutor who reviewed Detainee Assessment Briefs (DABs), and he could testify that the government has already released information in the DABs that Bradley is accused of releasing, and therefore Bradley had reason to believe the DABs wouldn't cause harm to the United States if given to WikiLeaks.

The defense also wants to call Yochai Benkler, who has conducted open-source research of WikiLeaks, to testify that WikiLeaks is a legitimate news organization, which edits and reviews information and isn't seen as a conduit for Al Qaeda. The government objected to this witness, saying that WikiLeaks' credibility is irrelevant to Bradley's intent at the time of the release. Judge Lind shot back asking, if we substituted the New York Times for WikiLeaks, would the government charge Bradley Manning in the same way? Yes, said government prosecutor Angel Overgaard.

The government asked the court to take judicial notice of a news article reporting that Julian Assange was in Iceland in February 2010 and a New Yorker profile of Assange published in June 2010. The government wants to use these to attempt to build a connection between Assange and Bradley before the release. Government prosecutors also asked to submit information declassified from Osama Bin Laden's compound, claiming they have a letter from Bin Laden to a member of Al Qaeda asking for Department of Defense documents.

January 9th - How the Government Hopes to Argue Bradley Manning's Alleged Leaks Aided Terrorism

In a process where the military judge can allow facts to be introduced into evidence for trial which are well known or can be proven, the government asked the judge to take notice of multiple pieces of evidence that show how the government intends to tie Manning's alleged leaks to aiding terrorism.

Al Qaeda and its affiliates—Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)—are all listed as terrorist organizations and “are in fact enemies of the United States,” military prosecutor Cpt. Joe Morrow stated.

He also stated Osama bin Laden of Al Qaeda is an enemy of the United States, which according to the government was declassified at the end of November last year. (Cpt. Morrow said something here about this being known to “the community” and actually the world.)

Morrow mentioned the government could provide the FBI's “most wanted” list, which he was on prior to his “death.” (He was executed by SEAL Team Six in a night raid. It wasn't like he just died. There's a film receiving wide praise that depicts this action.)

The government indicated to Judge Army Col. Denise Lind that it had “digital media found during the UBL raid.” There was a “letter from UBL to Al Qaeda requesting a member gather [Defense Department] information.” A response to that letter had CIDNE reports—war logs from Iraq and Afghanistan—and State Department cables attached. Bin Laden had these in his possession “at the time of the raid.”

Cpt. Morrow also asked the judge to take notice of the fact that Adam Gadahn is an enemy of the US. The government intends to present a video during sentencing where he discusses WikiLeaks and al Qaeda’s response to the leaks. This shows “possession of information by the enemy.”

Finally, the government urged the judge to take notice of Inspire magazine, a magazine the government described as a magazine that “promotes violent jihad” and the “ideology” of AQAP. Cpt. Morrow said the government had witnesses who could testify about the magazine.

The judge asked if the issue referenced anything disclosed by the accused. Cpt. Morrow responded the government has a Winter 2010 issue of the magazine that references WikiLeaks. It “post-dates the accused’s misconduct and references the leak to WikiLeaks by the accused.”

The court has previously ruled damage is not relevant during the merits portion—the trial. However, during sentencing, it would be possible for the government and defense to present evidence on damage. The government intends to bring up much of this information during that part to show there truly was some danger posed by Manning’s alleged acts.

This is perhaps the clearest and most bald-faced indication of how the government intends to make an example out of Manning to date.

Previously, during a pre-trial hearing in December 2011 before the charges were referred to a court martial, the government played an Al Qaeda propaganda video from Asaha, the media production house for Al Qaeda. It featured Gadahn talking about the value of the State Embassy cables and how the cables make “foreign dependencies” clear. In the video, he says many will rely on Allah to put their plan into action but no one should take any action “before relying on the wide range of resources on the Internet” now.

The government declassified this information to enter into the record for the prosecution of Manning the fact that Bin Laden wanted to have “national defense information” to aid in the selection of US targets for attacks. The usefulness of this maneuver hinges upon whether the leaks contain “intelligence” that an enemy could actually use to attack the United States.

During proceedings yesterday, the government offered a motion to preclude the defense from discussing the over-classification of information Manning is charged with releasing. This motion, if the judge grants the motion, could make it difficult to challenge whether the information is, in fact, “intelligence.”

The defense has witnesses like Col. Morris Davis, a former chief prosecutor for the Guantanamo military commission, who it wishes to call because he reviewed detainee assessment briefs Manning allegedly released. He also wants to call former US Ambassador Peter Galbraith, presumably to testify on the nature of US State Department cables. This would serve to challenge official original classification authorities (OCAs) taking the stand on behalf of the government to state the information was properly classified, sensitive and it could be used to injure the United States. But, the government wishes to block the defense from being able to challenge the statements of OCAs, who’ll offer testimony on charged information.

Strikingly, the judge had no objection to the government having witnesses come testify about a terrorist magazine. She did, however, question whether it was appropriate to allow someone like Col. Davis come and testify in court about the nature of the information released. That was less acceptable than people coming to court to hype the role and threat of terrorist propaganda, which mentioned WikiLeaks.

From this move by the government, one can see the argument the government intends to make during trial is that Manning provided material to WikiLeaks. WikiLeaks, an info-terrorist website, posted material that was accessible to the enemy because it was online. Manning caused it to be posted online. He created the scenario where it would be easy for Al Qaeda to use the information to attack the US. (Of course, that all presumes that the information contained actionable intelligence that could be used to endanger the US. Current troop

movements and locations were not in the war logs.)

Cases where soldiers are charged with “aiding the enemy” have always involved individuals going to the “enemy” and physically handing over information. There were some Civil War-era cases where people published newspaper stories with codes that the “enemy” could read and those individuals were prosecuted. There has never been a case like this one where a soldier allegedly handed over information to a media organization and that organization could be considered guilty of aiding the “enemy.”

If the government succeeds in entering all this as fact and the judge accepts this argument as reasonable, it quite clearly opens the door to prosecuting WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Julian Assange, the organization’s staffers and volunteers and others tied to the organization. It, in effect, makes permissible all efforts to target the organization’s right to publish because the government will have convinced a military judge that by publishing documents it helped aid terrorist organizations.

The government does not think there must be any intent to aid the enemy. Individuals who disclose information without authorization, especially classified information or “national defense information,” are to be criminalized and prosecuted for committing a capital crime.

Update: This afternoon, during the hearing, testimony further informed how the government is likely to proceed.

As the defense was explaining what witnesses the defense wants to call for the trial and sentencing, the judge interrupted Manning’s defense lawyer David Coombs and asked, “What is the relevance of how WikiLeaks was viewed? What’s the difference between WikiLeaks and the *New York Times*?” The defense agreed. With a little grin, Coombs said the defense would argue there is no difference.

The defense intends to call Professor Yochai Benkler, who wrote [“A Free Irresponsible Press: WikiLeaks and the Battle Over the Soul of the Networked Fourth Estate.”](#) Coombs said he had done research and was an expert, whose work had been peer-reviewed, and his testimony could undercut argument that by giving to WikiLeaks he would have knowledge of providing information to the enemy. Benkler’s work indicated at the time of Manning’s alleged leaks WikiLeaks was understood to be a legitimate news organization and wasn’t considered a terror organization that aided enemies of the United States.

The judge asked if the govt was planning to present any evidence about the nature of WikiLeaks. Is that somehow different from the *New York Times*? Does the government have a theory it is somehow different? To which the government replied during sentencing it would have a witness testify, who would “characterize” WikiLeaks.

Again, the judge asked, “If we substituted *New York Times* for WikiLeaks, would you still charge Bradley Manning in the way that you have?” Without hesitation, the government answered yes.

January 18th – Transparency isn’t treason

Last week in Fort Meade, MD, government prosecutors said that if PFC Bradley Manning had released documents to the *New York Times* instead of WikiLeaks, they would still charge him with indirectly ‘aiding the enemy,’ which carries a life sentence.

This would be unprecedented: never before has a soldier been sent to jail for ‘aiding the enemy’ as a result of giving information to a news outlet. Government prosecutors argue that Manning needn’t have intended to aid the enemy; merely that he knew Al Qaeda *could* use the information is enough. This would turn all government whistle-blowing into treason: a grave threat to both potential sources and American journalism.

Following this contention in court, the Los Angeles Times called on the government to drop the ‘aiding the enemy’ charge, [writing in an editorial](#), “That charge strikes us as excessive in the absence of evidence that Manning consciously colluded with hostile nations or terrorists.”

Since then, even higher-profile media members have condemned the military’s pernicious claim and the precedent it would set. In an email in which she explained she couldn’t speak on behalf of her newspaper but could comment as a lifelong journalist and a former newspaper editor, *New York Times* public editor Margaret

Sullivan said,

“The implications for press freedom in the Bradley Manning prosecution trouble me, as does the federal government’s unprecedented targeting, in recent years, of whistleblowers and those who leak to the press. The issues certainly aren’t black and white, but if the public expects the press to do its crucial job in our democracy, people ought to be more worried than they apparently are. And I agree with the Los Angeles Times editorial that the “aiding the enemy” charge, which could result in a life sentence, is excessive.”

New York Times columnist and former executive editor Bill Keller said, “I think the treatment of Manning feels heavy-handed and out of proportion to actual harm done.”

In Michael Calderone’s story for the Huffington Post, [“Manning Case Raises Troubling Questions For Journalists,”](#) about the implications of this argument, the Washington Post’s Dana Priest said, “they don’t want other people to get the idea that they should be doing this,” and that it’ll have a “chilling effect on sources.”

Glenn Greenwald [wrote for the Guardian](#), “[the government’s argument] can be – and almost certainly will be – just as easily applied to the vast majority of leaks on which investigative journalism has always relied.”

Mainstream news outlets, Greenwald said,

“might want to take a serious interest in this fact and marshal opposition to what is being done to Bradley Manning: if not out of concern for the injustices to which he is being subjected, then out of self-interest, to ensure that their reporters and their past and future whistle-blowing sources cannot be similarly persecuted.”

So why does the government continue to prosecute this way? Keller said, “It’s been clear from the outset that the government decided to make a lesson of Bradley Manning,” and that “the extreme conditions of his early confinement and the aiding-the-enemy charges suggest a deep animus toward Bradley.”

As the government works to discourage future leakers and to tighten security, it also classifies [exponentially more documents](#) every day. This harms the very people Bradley Manning wanted to inform in the first place: the American people.

13 Jan - Today Marks 7th Year Anniversary of Eric McDavid’s Arrest

January 13th marks the 7th Anniversary of Earth Liberation Front prisoner Eric McDavid’s arrest. We’ve included his latest writing and that of his partner on this somber anniversary. NOTE: Eric also goes by “D.”

MORE:

7 yrs... i can’t say it’s easy 2 put these words dn on paper – that it doesn’t pain me 2 look bk over these past 7 trips around the Sun... w/the process of the courts continuing n the final appeal stages; it’s end yet 2 show up on the horizon = no illusions, while still Dancing w/wishes... Love & Joy have also made their presence known = the overwhelming support from all over the Earth ~ i wish 2 Thank every persyn/grp that has written & supported me along this journey – Ur intents, N which ever forms they’ve taken, have aided & nourished me N remembering who i am N a situation & environment bent on unraveling, dismembering & remolding... along w/all the communal Solidarity, i’m grateful 4 the support of friends & family – & how i’ve been buoyed by the Love and Passionate Patience of my Partner = i Love you J, you R my Joy... ... i’m unable 2 adequately express my feelings of Respect & Solidarity 4 all the folx Dancing w/the overt repression across the continent while staying True 2 their Hearts... 2 the folx Dancing w/Grand Juries = bide Ur time, this is 1 of the few circ.s where time is on the SD of the oppressed... w/N this cultural climate the Path is not easy or simple by any means – making it all the more important 2 find those unique, ever changing, beautiful & sustainable ways 2 aid & nurture each other... i’ll close wishing that each of U continue 2 explore & heal Ur Hearts & communities; may U find the space & time over the coming yr 2 let Ur minds play w/new & safe communication skills, & Ur bodies w/self-defense...

Stay safe & have fun finding Ur Joy

N Solidarity

w/much Love
D

January 12th – A letter from Eric's partner

Hello friends,

Tomorrow, January 13th, marks the 7th year of D's arrest. It's strange how life really does move in cycles. Glancing at the note I sent you all last year my eyes are greeted by good news. After his move to Terminal Island last year – right before the New Year – D and I were finally allowed to hold hands during our visits for the first time since his arrest. After 6 years. It was a reminder of how precious such seemingly insignificant acts can be – and to remember to never take them for granted.

On New Year's Eve this year I spent the day visiting D at Terminal Island. The visit started normally – a much awaited hug and kiss, slowly moving to our chairs, but letting our hands linger – fingers intertwined as we reached across the tiny table between us. That lasted about 30 seconds. They called D up to the podium where they sit and watch...I heard a flurry of voices with undertones of urgency, although never hostility. When he came back he told me they weren't allowing us to hold hands anymore. He tried once more to get them to check their own rules, but to no avail. After over a year of being granted this glorious privilege, it was yanked from underneath us.

So many things have been taken from us.

A million thoughts swim through your head at times like that. I knew this might happen. It's always in the back of your mind – what they can/might/will take one day. I'm more prepared for it now than I used to be – which is to say it's slightly less devastating when it happens.

I spent much of the car ride home thinking about loss. Sometimes it feels like my heart has broken so many times that the thing I am mending bears no resemblance to the original. That thought scares me. But then I think of the alternative. A friend recently told me that she always felt like love should be a safe space... I wish I could agree. But that has never been my experience. With love we throw our hearts wide open – which means everything gets in. The good, the bad, the ugly. And sometimes that means we hurt like hell. But other times that means we get to experience so much joy and beauty that we almost can't stand it. And that is what I have experienced with D. And I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

D is an amazing individual. His heart is bigger than any I've ever known and his mind powerfully creative and beautiful... and his commitment to his friends, his family, and struggle is rock solid. Being his partner has been the most amazing, beautiful journey. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Even with all of the loss.

Sometimes my heart gets so heavy... but then I remember our friends and comrades who have followed similar paths. Many of whom are now out here with us, again. And then I remember all of you – who have been a part of this struggle. Who have been here with us every step of the way. And together we inch closer to that light at the end of the tunnel...

Tomorrow is the 13th. I'll be driving down to visit D again. He called me the day after our last visit to tell me they found the "memo" that allows us to hold hands. How strange that a piece of paper can dictate my interactions with my partner of 7+ years. And that someone misplacing that piece of paper can be such a cause for panic, sorrow and reflection. I'm glad they found it. But D has told me it doesn't seem to have fixed the problem... either way, I'm not holding my breath. Nothing is ever certain. And even if they don't have it fixed...I know that nothing can stop us. Because we have each other. And we have all of you.

To all of our friends and comrades who have experienced so much loss this year – our unending love, support,

and solidarity. You are never alone.

And to our friends and comrades who have gained their freedom – or at least pieces of it – welcome home.

P.S.

Eric has been in prison a long time...and he has a lot more to go. Please let him know that you are still thinking about him! Letters, books, donations, fundraisers and support events are still always needed. For more information on how to write Eric a letter or how to donate to his support fund, please visit: www.supporteric.org

14 Jan - The Accidental Terrorist

Operation Backfire defendant Rebecca Rubin has been transferred, again. We're including her new address, as well as an article written about her for counterpunch.

MORE:

Rebecca Rubin #770288

Multnomah County Detention Center

1120 SW Third Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97204

MCDC is a County level lock-up with space leased by the feds. Since it was designed for people awaiting trial rather than long term housing, it doesn't offer much in the way of amenities. Also, the frequent transfers Rebecca has been enduring are tough in federal custody, prisoners are "black boxed," during transit, a process where your arms are locked across your stomach in a steel device that is then attached with chains to your waist and ankles. Her existence is likely not a very good one these days, so please take 15 minutes and send her a letter. You have no idea how nice it is to get mail when you are behind bars, get writing!

January 14th – The Accidental Terrorist

"people's movements of resistance against deprivation, against unemployment, against the loss of natural resources, all of that is termed 'terrorism.'" --Edward Said

The only known photograph of Rebecca Rubin is a headshot that looks like it was taken for her driver's license. She's wearing a plain gray sweatshirt, her long brown hair is unkempt, and her expression is careworn. But splashed across thousands of 'Wanted' posters across the country, her face aligned next to those of serial murderers and bank robbers, the headshot sends a message that she is someone to be frightened of. This, though Rubin -- aliases "Kara" and "Little Missy" -- has never harmed a soul.

According to the FBI, Rubin, 37 years old, belongs to an ultra-radical group known as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which along with its sister organization, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), authorities describe as "the most active extremist elements in the United States." In the late 1990s, Rubin is alleged to have participated in a spree of arsons that caused upwards of \$55 million in damages. As recently as 2008 FBI spokesman Richard Kolko described the loose-knit confederacy of eco-guerillas as "what we would probably consider the No. 1 domestic terrorism threat."

But those who know Rubin best will point out, correctly, that while she has perhaps destroyed property, she has never harmed nor even deliberately targeted a human being. They will tell you, also correctly, that the FBI's Most Wanted poster, which warns Rubin is "armed and dangerous," is false, since no member of the ELF or ALF has ever wielded a firearm to further their cause. They will argue that the acts of "terrorism" Rubin and others are accused of came after many years when protests and boycotts failed to prevent the logging of old-growth forests, or to deter polluters from violating environmental regulations, or to protect animals from being abused in the name of medical science. They will say that radical animal and environmental rights activists like Rubin -- who has not been accused of any further crimes since she went underground five years ago -- are being redefined as terrorists in a post-9/11 era of increased surveillance and hobbled due process.

Rubin grew up in the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, surrounded by a wilderness of forests and mountain

peaks. Nearby Vancouver Island is so wild it's believed to have the world's highest concentration of mountain lions. Her parents divorced when she was young, and she grew up with her mother, a nurse. As a girl Rubin was quiet, at times painfully shy, with a lifelong affinity for the outdoors and wildlife. According to friends, she lived for some time in a cabin in Canada's Kootenay region, east of Vancouver, with only her cats for company. She worked odd jobs but mostly she volunteered at wildlife sanctuaries. She studied at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University, but was soon itching to be in the field. When renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall came to guest lecture there, Rubin was so inspired that she trekked to East Africa and spent time on a gorilla reserve. She dreamt of someday starting her own wildlife rescue facility.

In 1994, 20-year-old Rubin was back in Canada, protesting a landfill project proposed for Burns Bog, a spectacular peatland in Vancouver, when she met David Barbarash, a fellow Canadian animal rights activist based in the Pacific Northwest. They began dating amidst the spirited and often combative environmentalist movement emerging in the region at the time. Barbarash was drawn to Rubin's earnest devotion. "The thing with the radical fringe," says Barbarash, "is it attracts people who are isolated in society for whatever reason and are looking for something to belong to. Rebecca was intelligent and she didn't have emotional problems. She was one of the true people in the movement -- she was in it for the right reasons."

At the time environmental and animal rights advocacy was increasingly generating results. The activists were organized, capable, uncompromising. They built tent cities and chained themselves together to thwart loggers. In California a woman named Julia "Butterfly" Hill lived for 738 days in an ancient redwood nicknamed Luna, in order to prevent the tree from being logged. In Oregon, activists blockaded police and loggers for nearly a year at the Warner Creek area of the Willamette National Forest, until they secured an agreement from the Clinton Administration that no logging would be permitted there. The four days of mass protests surrounding a meeting of the World Trade Center Organization in Seattle in 1999 emboldened the movement and infuriated industry interests.

But the movement itself was no monolith. Among the ranks of anarchists, vegans, hippies, misfits, and intellectuals, there were those who were more hardcore than others, who argued that corporations and the government could not be reasoned with. It was this militant faction that would take up the banner of the ELF and ALF, and it was to this more militant strain that Barbarash belonged and to which Rubin was soon drawn.

Barbarash, who for several years was the North American spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, already had a history of run-ins with the law. Two years before hooking up with Rubin he'd served four months in prison for releasing cats from a University of Alberta lab -- cats that had been earmarked for use in medical experiments. By 1994 he and a fellow member of the ALF, 24-year-old Darren Todd Thurston, were the subject of an investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with a number of threatening letters that had been sent anonymously to Vancouver game hunters. Inside were razor blades, which the letters alleged had been smeared with rat poison and HIV-infected blood.

In March 1997, police executed a series of raids that targeted Thurston and Barbarash, including one on the home of Rubin's stepfather, Douglas Taylor, where Rubin was living at the time. According to RCMP records of the raid, Barbarash "ran from the rear door away from the [Taylor] residence, without shoes or a jacket, and fled the area." The police continued their surveillance of Barbarash and Thurston for another year, before finally arresting them in March 1998 for the threatening letters. Police also picked up Rubin, and charged her with possessing packaging for batteries, which they claimed she was going to use to build an incendiary device. "Poor Rebecca," recalls Barbarash's attorney, Michael Klein. "She was this bewildered woman, going 'What am I doing here?' There really wasn't much evidence against her." The following year, after revelations that Canadian authorities had dispatched undercover officers to incite Barbarash and Thurston into burning down a barn -- with the undercover cops going so far as to provide the gasoline -- the charges against all three were thrown out.

Barbarash says the intense scrutiny from the Canadian authorities brought him and Rubin closer together. After the raid on Rubin's house, which he says left her parents none too pleased, the pair rented a tiny apartment in Vancouver. "We were both feeling under siege and paranoid," he said. But ultimately, within six months, Rubin had broken up with Barbarash, packed her things and moved out. Barbarash says the relationship was a casualty of stress; he regrets their parting. "I was in love with her," he said.

Yet investigators claim it was during this period of intense scrutiny that Rubin stepped up her involvement in the radical animal rights movement and began traveling into the United States to commit acts of sabotage on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front. According to the FBI, in October 1997 Rubin was involved in the illegal release of 2,000 minks from a farm in Palmer, Idaho, where the ALF claimed the minks were being electrocuted and skinned alive. And a month later, the FBI contends, Rubin and several other members of the group traveled to a horse corral in Burns, Oregon, where it was rumored that wild horses, captured in wilderness areas managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, were being auctioned off (to slaughterhouses, the ALF maintained). Rubin was apparently a last-minute recruit for the action, which involved releasing the horses and burning down the barn using timed explosives. She was given the task of “obtain[ing] the necessary items to make the timing devices,” which she allegedly helped assemble and carry to the barn. On a frigid winter night, the group released the horses, set the barn ablaze, locked the access road gate to prevent fire trucks from getting in, and then buried their clothes after dousing them in acid. The next morning, BLM employees arrived to find the barn a smoldering heap, the damages totaling some \$200,000. The ALF issued a statement claiming responsibility and denouncing the BLM’s policies as “genocide against the horse nation.”

Jacob Ferguson, a former ALF member who would later become an FBI informant, describes Rubin, whom he knew by her alias “Kara,” as a reliable partner. “She wasn’t super athletic, but she was really smart, and she was really good,” he said. Rubin would take elaborate routes to the site of a planned arson, he said, making multiple transfers on buses to ensure she wasn’t being followed. She always kept her long hair in a tight bun, he recalls, “so she wouldn’t leave any evidence.” But, he adds, “She wasn’t really into doing arson. She was into setting animals free.” Still, after calling it off with Barbarash, Rubin linked up romantically with Kevin Tubbs, a longtime animal rights activist who would later confess to participating in at least 14 arsons, among them a handful at which he said Rubin was present.

A year after the Oregon arson, Rubin participated in an arson at a stable in Rock Springs, Wyoming. But the action didn’t go as planned. As the devices were placed near the barn, Rubin prematurely opened the gate to release the horses. In the chaos that ensued, the action was abandoned and the group fled. The ALF nonetheless issued a press release decrying the “slaughtering of horses for foreign dinner plates.” Though the operation was a bust, the crew was already onto their next act, which unfolded just a week later.

The October 1998 arson at the ritzy Vail Mountain ski resort in Colorado -- a high-end getaway frequented by celebrities and moguls -- catapulted the ALF to national attention. Angry over a planned 4,100-acre expansion, which they believed would endanger the local lynx population, the group assembled to take out their most visible target yet. According to court records, Rubin was dispatched to help construct several incendiary devices and was also among a handful of participants assigned to drive to a staging area on the mountain to drop off canisters of gas and diesel fuel. As the group made their way to their destination, however, their truck got stuck in the snow, and Rubin and the others were forced to bury the canisters and drive back down the mountain, with the plan of returning a few days later to finish the job. For reasons of scheduling, however, only two individuals returned to the Vail site; Rubin was not among them. Nonetheless, she was inextricably connected to the events that followed, as one of her confederates retrieved the fuel she helped to bury and placed the firebombs she helped to build next to several buildings along a one-mile span on the ridgeline.

Just before dawn, explosives ignited Vail Mountain in an inferno that engulfed a radio tower, the resort’s elaborate Two Elk Lodge restaurant, and four ski lifts. More than a hundred firefighters from ten different battalions converged on the scene to battle the blaze -- an effort hampered by the rugged terrain and a lack of water on the slopes. All told, the damages exceeded \$25 million. At a press conference the next day, Vail Resorts President Andy Daly told reporters, “I’m very grateful that no one was up there.” In fact, the group had gone to lengths to avoid human injury, setting the fires at night when the resort was closed, and avoiding a cabin where they discovered a pair of sleeping hunters. Nevertheless, even as the resort burned, the ALF issued a press release warning skiers to steer clear of Vail until it “cancels its inexcusable plans for expansion.”

By this point the FBI had launched a probe into the string of arsons in the region. John Ferreira headed up the bureau’s investigation, initially dubbed “Arson Heat,” a moniker that agents found so objectionably lame that it was changed to “Operation Backfire.” The case wasn’t an easy one. Ferreira, now retired and the owner of a

sports memorabilia shop in Eugene, said the groups' raids were carefully executed, leaving almost nothing in the way of clues. The case languished, evincing little attention outside Oregon and Colorado, where the arsons were concentrated, and mustering few additional funds and manpower from FBI headquarters. As if sensing the FBI's impotence, the ELF and ALF launched action after action. Rubin was spotted at several of these, including one in August 1999, where she was reportedly the getaway driver during the release of 55 beagles implanted with human pacemakers at a medical research laboratory in Orange, California.

But then came the attacks of September 11, 2001, which gave the federal government a mandate and an influx of cash to track down homegrown terrorists of every stripe. The decisive break came in 2003 when agents were able to gather enough evidence to summon Jake Ferguson before a grand jury. He would later admit to at least 15 acts of sabotage and agree to cooperate in exchange for leniency. Central to that agreement was the concession that he would wear a wire, and the conversations that he taped with his friends and fellow activists enabled the FBI to link Rubin and a dozen other individuals in a grand conspiracy case that covered twenty acts of eco-sabotage. "Rubin came to our attention because of Jake," Ferreira said. "We had no idea who she was before that."

In truth, many of the participants barely knew each other and weren't even involved in the same events. But under the definition of conspiracy laws in the U.S., they were all linked into a group dubbed "The Family" by law enforcement, and held liable for every arson. This spurred law enforcement to devote serious manpower to apprehending the various members of the ALF and eventually to put Rubin on the most wanted list.

The last arson to which Rubin is linked came in October 2001 -- the burning of another government-owned horse corral, this one in Litchfield, California. According to a participant who asked not to be named, the group was jittery about the operation, fearing that security would be tighter in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Still, they proceeded as planned, with Rubin illegally crossing into the U.S. in the company of Darren Todd Thurston. Rubin and Thurston were picked up by two other participants and driven to Seattle. The following day the pair washed down the truck to be used in the operation, and wiped clean the equipment they'd need-- backpacks, water bladders, flashlights, pepper spray-- to remove any traces of fingerprints. They then drove to Eugene, Oregon, to pick up Rubin's boyfriend, Kevin Tubbs, before continuing on to Litchfield, where they set up camp. The following night, dressed in all black with socks over their shoes to avoid leaving identifying footprints, Thurston and Rubin cut and removed part of the fence and used a rope and plastic tarp to funnel the horses out of the corral. The others set up handmade incendiary devices attached to buckets of fuel. The operation would cause approximately \$200,000 in damages.

After the Litchfield arson the participants scattered and the arsons stopped. By now a series of grand jury subpoenas had been handed down in connection with the arsons, and the group was spooked by a fear that the FBI was closing in. Rubin returned to the work that had inspired her at the outset -- protecting animals. She went home to Canada and finished her undergraduate degree in April 2002, majoring in geography. A few months later she started as an intern at the Island Wildlife Natural Care Center on Salt Spring Island, near Vancouver. Jackie Ballarone, a longtime employee, recalls Rubin as "dedicated and passionate," but said "she had a very veiled past and didn't reveal anything about herself." A background check conducted during the interview process at the wildlife center yielded no evidence of her previous life, and Rubin didn't offer details. Given what they know about her now, said Ballarone, the organization doesn't want any association with Rubin. Neither do other groups that hired Rubin, like the Ventana Wildlife Society in California, where she spent six months in 2004 as an intern working with endangered California condors. Current Ventana employees wouldn't comment, but a former colleague, Curt Mykut, says that while Rubin was at Ventana she showed no evidence of her tumultuous past. "She was one of the more dedicated employees," he said. "It's a very solitary job, mostly hiking in the park to keep tabs on the birds." To feed the condors Rubin would often be tasked with hauling carcasses of stillborn calves deep into the forest. "She never complained," said Mykut. She was also taking ornithology courses online and talked about a future devoted to rehabilitating wild birds. "I think she probably [viewed the job as] an opportunity to leave her past behind and really make her way in the field," he said.

It was not to be. In December 2005 the FBI made a series of sweeping indictments in the Operation Backfire case. The indictments, which named 18 people, decimated the radical environmental and animal rights underground in the U.S., and ended any chance of a quiet redemption for Rubin. Most of the accused were

captured or turned themselves in, and pled guilty. One of the group's leaders, William Rodgers, who went by the alias "Avalon," asphyxiated himself with a plastic bag in his jail cell. The others, most with the threat of domestic terrorism charges looming over their heads, made the wrenching decision to give confessions that implicated their compatriots. Kevin Tubbs, Rubin's former boyfriend, was sentenced to 13 years in prison. Darren Thurston served three years in prison before being deported to Canada. Rubin, along with three others, fled the U.S. and became fugitives.

Jacob Ferguson, the ALF member turned FBI informant, laments that everything they burned down was rebuilt, bigger and better. If anything, Operation Backfire has benefited industry groups that have for decades sought to classify radical environmental and animal rights activists as eco-terrorists. The term "eco-terrorism" has been in circulation since the early 1980's, coined by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, a group backed by mining and timber interests, property rights advocates, off-road vehicle clubs, and conservative think tanks. In 1988 the group drafted what came to be known as the "Wise Use Agenda," which called for opening 70 million acres of federal wilderness areas to commercial development, mining in national parks, old growth forest logging, and increased oil exploration in Alaska wilderness areas. A few years later an organization known as the "Alliance for America" was formed by similar groups, who defined themselves as those "who view big environmental groups as a threat to their livelihood and way of life."

Their efforts came to full fruition when Congress passed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act of 2006, which effectively made it a crime of domestic terrorism for individuals to interfere with any animal-related company, including medical researchers, grocery stores, even zoos. The measure amended a 1992 law known as the Animal Enterprise Protection Act with changes in language that were subtle but crucial: The term "economic damage," which in the old legislation referred exclusively to physical property damage, became "economic disruption," a broader category that covered a company's loss of profits, both "real and projected" -- an important caveat because sentencing guidelines are based on the dollar amount of financial damages. The term "animal enterprise," which previously covered only businesses directly related to animals -- such as laboratories, zoos, furriers, circuses, and grocery stores -- was expanded to include third party companies doing business with animal enterprises, such as accountants, investors, and securities firms. Most important, disrupting any of these animal enterprises or causing "reasonable fear" amongst their employees would now be a crime of terrorism--a designation that, in addition to ratcheting up potential prison terms, brought with it an array of enhanced investigative and surveillance authority.

The law itself was largely inspired by a March 1997 documentary, "It's a Dog's Life," which aired on Channel 4 television in Britain and depicted the treatment of test animals at Huntingdon Life Sciences, then the largest contract animal testing company in Europe. Shot surreptitiously over two months by an animal rights activist working undercover as a technician at Huntingdon's laboratories in Cambridge, England, among the footage captured were images of beagle puppies being kicked and punched in the face by laughing workers when the animals cried out and wriggled during blood tests. The film sparked an international animal rights campaign called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, whose aim was to shut Huntingdon down through protests and the "secondary targeting" of the company's clientele, investors, and business affiliates. In an effort to quell the outrage, Huntingdon moved its corporate headquarters to New Jersey, but activists in the U.S. continued the campaign through a website that published the home addresses of Huntingdon's corporate officers, who were then visited by protestors shouting "murderer" and throwing red paint at their doors. By 2000 Huntingdon had lost major investors, was nearly bankrupt, and was delisted from the New York Stock exchange.

But Huntingdon, courtesy of Congress, had the last laugh. In 2003, with protests against the company in full swing, a little known lobbying organization called the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), jumped into the fray. Bankrolled by major corporations, among them big pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer that pay up to \$25,000 in annual dues, ALEC has had proven successes in getting pro-business legislation passed and environmental regulations rolled back (the Natural Resources Defense Council denounced the group as "corrosive, secretive, and highly influential"). It counts among its members 2,400 state lawmakers, nine former governors, and 80 congresspersons, who draft over 1,000 pieces of ALEC-drafted legislation each year, 17 percent of which are passed. Working closely with members of Congress ALEC managed to draft the language

for the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, right down to the proposal to impose penalties based on financial damages and a suggestion to put defendants into a terrorist registry. The group noted that the preceding legislation was “overly narrow,” and argued that existing laws, such as the Patriot Act, were of no use in these cases because “the federal definition of terrorism requires the death of or harm to people, an element not characteristic of eco-terrorists.” It was a key concern: Domestic terrorism needed to be redefined to mean harm against corporate persons, not just flesh and blood persons.

The resulting legislation, which passed in a secret roll call vote by overwhelming majorities in both houses, covers not just acts of vandalism, but virtually anything that can affect the company’s bottom line, and as such has been criticized by activists, including the Humane Society of North America, for having a “chilling” effect on a wide array of legitimate forms of protest. In 2006, the same year the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act was passed, the Patriot Act was amended to allow for the wiretapping of individuals suspected of “animal enterprise terrorism,” meaning any suspected activist -- even one never convicted of or charged with a crime -- could be monitored and placed without notice on a terrorist watch-list that circulates among both local and federal law enforcement.

The AETA has already been put into action under the Obama Administration. Last year three activists from Northern California were charged under its auspices for having picketed a biomedical researcher’s home; they now face five years each in prison. Critics say the kinds of undercover investigations once mounted by groups like the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals are now prosecutable as terrorism offenses. PETA’s website, for example, has an archived video of an investigation in a hatchery where baby chicks have their beaks cut off, and another of a farm that supplies Land O’Lakes, where farmers drive spikes into the spines of cows too weak to get up. Pus drips from open sores near the udders that are giving milk.

Although ELF/ALF activists like Rubin were well aware they were breaking the law, none could conceive the impact that the terror attacks of 9/11 would have on their situation or the precedent their case would set. Even the lead FBI agent who investigated the Operation Backfire arsons was loathe to put Rubin and her peers in the same category as Osama bin Laden. “We never imagined they’d be called terrorists,” said Ferreira. His colleague, Jane Quimby, sounded sympathetic when discussing Rubin, whom she described as a “low-level participant” in the arsons -- someone who “really walked the walk, and talked the talk” when it came to helping animals. “I guess under the law she is considered a terrorist, but philosophically does she meet the standard-- No,” said Quimby.

Recently I went to see Rubin’s ex-boyfriend, David Barbarash, who works as a film curator and lives in a remote coastal town near Vancouver that’s only accessible by ferryboat. Barbarash, now 45 years old, says he himself was spared prison only because he’d been deported from the U.S. and was in Canada during the time the arsons were committed. As he spoke about Rubin he was on the verge of tears. He told me that though they had remained friends after their breakup, the last time he’d spoken to her was in 2005, around the time she disappeared, just before the first round of Operation Backfire indictments were handed down. “The thing I wonder about is, if she was arrested and convicted along with all the others, would she be out of jail now?” said Barbarash. “What’s happened to her is harsher in a way. It’s a sentence in exile.”

After visiting Barbarash I went to see Rubin’s mother and stepfather in Vancouver. They live in a large, modern, wood-frame house overlooking the city’s glittering downtown. I wondered at the pain and frustration Rubin’s absence had caused them. In 2007 Rubin’s mother traveled to Bangladesh as part of a Canadian non-profit group that had sponsored a nursing clinic in the city of Dhaka. It seemed the kind of trip a mother would have wanted to take with her idealistic daughter. Instead, any visit from Rubin with family and friends means legal jeopardy for all involved. By turning herself into a fugitive, Rubin had not just made herself disappear, but silenced herself as well. When I knocked on the front door, Rubin’s stepfather, Douglas Taylor, answered but did not invite me in. “The charges are unmitigated baloney,” Taylor told me. “I could tell you why, but I’m not allowed to talk about it because I’m fairly convinced they’re listening.” He pointed to the ceiling to signal the place was bugged. Then he said goodnight and politely shut the door.

15 Jan - US Government denies motion for disqualification of Judge in Hammond Case

The US Government Court systems has presented their argument for denial Jeremy's motion to disqualify Judge Preska's proceeding over this case. The conflict of interest does not seem to be of interest in the eyes of the State, who have returned a formal response to the request. It basically says that even though Loretta's husband, Thomas Kevelar, email was released, along with many clients of his law firm Cohill Gordon, in the Stratfor hack, and that they are listed amongst the victims affected by the hack, it is not considerable as a conflict of interest or bias in the eyes of the State.

17 Jan - Lynne Stewart's Health Deteriorating

Lynne Stewart's breast cancer is spreading to her lungs and shoulders. She needs immediate treatment NOW. The prison authorities have known this since September.

MORE:

Lynne's breast cancer has returned. Lynne was successfully treated, we had hoped, two years ago and given a clean bill of health, as much as such diagnoses can be counted on. But a single spot was found on one lung a few months ago. Now another has appeared on the other lung and others in her upper back, all associated with her original breast cancer.

Her husband Ralph Poynter told me today that Lynne's condition was still very treatable and that a cure was not at all to be ruled out and especially so if prison officials allowed her the expert treatment afforded her previously in a prominent New York City hospital. Lynne's request to be moved to that facility was denied. She is to be treated in a prison related facility, but fortunately under the direction of and using the protocols of her doctor/daughter, who is expected to be with Lynne at any moment.

We are still hopeful for a positive outcome, even under the most difficult conditions.

Meanwhile, Lynne's appeal preparations for a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court are now in progress, with Lynne having assembled a first rate team of attorneys including members of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild.

Lynne campaigned for Mumia's freedom for the several years that she was free on bail and traveling the country in her own defense. She was present at Mumia's court hearing in Philadelphia and appeared on Democracy Now!, with Mumia phoning in in her defense.

I urge you to carefully read the material below and lend a hand. The stakes are high. We will continue to demand the finest medical treatment for Lynne and, of course, continue to campaign for her freedom and immediate release.

Lynne, a prominent civil rights attorney of 30 years, was the victim of a government-orchestrated 2005 frame-up trial that was riddled with violations of fundamental legal principles. She was convicted on five counts of conspiracy to aid and abet terrorism. This was based on the government's charge that her public issuance a press release on behalf of her client, the "blind sheik" Omar Abdel Rachman, an Egyptian cleric who was similarly framed up and imprisoned for life on "terrorism" charges, was illegal.

Ironically, Rachman's freedom is today being demanded by Egypt's new President Mohamed Morsi.

Lynne, 72, was originally convicted and sentenced to 28 months in prison, but this "light" sentence was contested by the reactionary U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and her sentence was outrageously increased to 10 years, by the compliant Federal District Court trial judge, John Koeltl.

I urge you to write to Lynne and convey your love and solidarity. She toured the Bay Area several times in previous years, always speaking to admiring and stunned audiences, who realized that Lynne's case was central to everyone's civil liberties. Lynne's conviction was a message to all attorneys that defense of the unpopular, defense of democratic rights and especially defense of Muslim victims of government persecution, was dangerous. Lynne's conviction and extended sentence served to massively chill the defense bar.

Lynne's freedom and life itself in large part depends on our solidarity.

Write Lynne at:
Lynne Stewart 53504-054
Federal Medical Center Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

Send your generous contribution payable to:
Lynne Stewart Organization
1070 Dean Street
Brooklyn, New York 11216

20 Jan - Brandon Baxter (Cleveland 4) in solitary confinement (SHU)

*Brandon is in the SHU at USP Canaan, for a number of bureaucratic reasons. He'll be there for four to six months. In the meantime, he wanted to pass along this message:
"If you wrote me before New Years and I haven't replied, chances are I lost your letter on my move to Segregation. My deepest apologies - I had even begun to write a number of you back."*

22 Jan - Veronica & the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal

WHAT: Book release
WHEN: 7-9pm, Tuesday, January 22nd
WHERE: Bluestockings Bookstore and Cafe – 173 Allen Street (between Stanton and Rivington Streets)
COST: Free

MORE:

Save this date! More Than a Book Release event featuring Valerie Jones telling the story of her courageous sister, Veronica Jones. Veronica was a witness who falsely testified at the 1982 trial of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Fourteen years later she came forward in court risking heavy charges to right this wrong. For taking this stand the state arrested her right out of the witness box. Later, while very sick, Veronica related her experiences to Valerie, who in turn put them into a book, 'Veronica and the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal'.

Also featuring Pam Africa as a guest speaker and a legal update on Mumia's case.

9 Feb – International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier

WHAT: Screening of "Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier"
WHEN: 2:00-5:00pm, Saturday, February 9th
WHERE: Riverside Church – 91 Claremont Avenue, New York, New York
COST: Donation at the door

MORE:

For more information, e-mail nyclpdoc@gmail.com